

his palace and his capital, and march without a day's delay to the Coast.

I avail myself of this halt in Coomassie, the goal of our military enterprise, to bring before you the names of those Officers who have rendered signal service in the operations so far concluded.

It has seldom been a General's good fortune to be assisted by a staff so thoroughly efficient in all branches, as has been that body of carefully selected Officers forming the Staff of this expedition.

To my personal Staff I am deeply indebted for the manner in which they have performed their duties. Captain H. Brackenbury, my Assistant Military Secretary, a highly-educated Officer, has shown much practical ability in the field, and only requires opportunity for the development of great military talents.

Lieutenant Maurice, R.A., my Private Secretary, has carried on my correspondence with the Colonial Office, and I have brought his name to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Both Captain Brackenbury and Lieutenant Maurice have been with me from the first, and have worked indefatigably.

Of Colonel McNeill, who was my Chief of the Staff at the beginning of the war, I have already given my opinion in a previous despatch. His severe wound received in our first fight deprived me of his valuable services. His soldierlike qualities, his powers of mind and body render him an invaluable assistant to any General commanding a force. From the date of his being wounded in October until the 17th December, the duties of Chief of the Staff were ably carried out to my entire satisfaction by Major Baker, the Assistant Adjutant-General, to whose untiring energy I owe much of the success that has attended all our operations. In my opinion he possesses every quality that is valuable in a Staff Officer.

Colonel Greaves assumed the duties of Chief of the Staff on 17th December. His great knowledge of the Army, his experience as a Staff Officer, the zeal and ability he brings to bear upon his work mark him out as eminently qualified for the post he occupied. He has rendered me the most valuable service.

The topographical work was well carried out under Captain Huyshe, D.A.Q.M.G., whose death, at Prahau, on the 19th December, deprived Her Majesty of a gallant soldier. The surveys were made by him, assisted by Captain Buller, 60th Rifles, Lieutenant A. F. Hart, 31st Regiment, and other officers. Lieutenant Hart made nearly all the surveys north of the River Prah.

The duties of the Intelligence Department were most efficiently performed by Captain Buller, D.A.Q.M.G. He is an excellent Staff Officer, and I am much indebted to him for the information of the enemy's doings, that he supplied me with throughout the war. The extensive knowledge he acquired of the native tribes both in Ashanti, and in the territories allied to us, was invaluable to me in my dealings with the Kings and Chiefs.

The medical arrangements for the war were made by Deputy Surgeon-General Home, V.C., C.B. I have in a previous despatch recorded my high appreciation of the ability and energy with which he carried out his duty up to the date of his being invalided, and of the efficient manner in which he prepared for the medical requirements of the troops in the advance upon Coomassie. The organisation planned by him was well carried out by Surgeon-Major Mackinnon, C.B., who joined me on the march at Acrofoomu, and who has since continued to perform the duties of Principal

Medical Officer to my entire satisfaction. Of the Medical Officers employed I wish specially to bring to your notice the services of Surgeons-Major Woolfreys, Mosse, Waters, Jackson, and Turton, and Staff-Surgeon Irwin, R.N., also of Surgeon G. W. McNalty, who has had charge of the Head Quarter Staff since we left Cape Coast Castle on our march to Coomassie.

The Control arrangements have been energetically carried out by Deputy-Controller Irvine, C.M.G., with his usual zeal. I cannot award him higher praise than by saying that the men were well fed, and their wants carefully provided for throughout the campaign. The transport, that at one time caused me serious anxiety, was effectually organised by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Colley, 2nd Queen's Regiment. He was assisted by twenty-two Special Service Officers, and six officers of the Control Department. It was a happy circumstance that placed at my disposal the services of an officer of such well-known ability as Lieutenant-Colonel Colley. His great talent for organisation soon placed the transport upon a satisfactory footing. To him I confided sole charge of the line of communications. In a war like this it is absolutely necessary that the officer in command of the transport should also have charge of the line of communications. It was, therefore, necessary that these two most important duties should be discharged by a combatant officer.

Among the officers of the Control Department, all of whom have worked with much energy, I would wish especially to mention Commissary O'Connor and Deputy-Commissary Ravenscroft.

Throughout the second phase of the war I have received every possible assistance from Commodore Hewett, V.C., commanding the squadron on the African Station, who accompanied me on the march to Coomassie. I have had to make incessant calls upon him for naval services, and in every instance my requests have been complied with. He kindly placed at my disposal a naval brigade, consisting of 17 officers and 265 selected men, whose services have been of the greatest value, and who all have fought throughout the campaign with the dashing courage for which Her Majesty's Seamen and Marines are so celebrated. When my transport difficulties were greatest, Commodore Hewett helped me most materially by supplying Kroomen to act as carriers, and he allowed no regulations to stand in the way of his exertions to secure the ultimate success of this war, in which he and those under his command have played a prominent part.

Captain Rait has been the Officer commanding the Royal Artillery throughout both phases of this war. He organized a Houssa battery in a most able manner. The officers, English non-commissioned officers, and gunners attached to it worked indefatigably. In all the actions and skirmishes the gun and rocket fire has been most effective, notwithstanding the difficulties of the ground on which we fought. I consider Captain Rait to be one of the best soldiers I have ever served with.

In this force, where every white man has had hard work, and where especially previous to the arrival of the English troops, all the selected officers that I brought out with me, were untiring in their exertions, Major Home, the Commanding Royal Engineer, has had his full share of hard work, and most admirably has he performed it. Putting the troops, constructing fortified posts, making a road practicable for all arms up to within a few hundred yards of the