

I enclose a list of casualties in the Naval Brigade during the engagement at the River Dah.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. N. W. HEWETT,  
Commodore.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Medouma,

January 29, 1874.

SIR,  
IN compliance with orders received last night from Colonel McLeod, C.B., covering the advanced guard, I this morning moved the Naval Brigade to take part in the reconnaissance of the village of Borborassie, situate about six miles S.W. by W. of Kiang Boassu, preceded by a company of Russell's Regiment, and supported by Head Quarters of 23rd Welsh Fusiliers, we started at 8.15 and, after traversing a very narrow bush path, arrived at this village at 10.40, the Brigade immediately coming into action with the Ashantis who were in considerable force under a general of some note.

The village was soon cleared, the Ashantis retreating into the bush, but not until Captain Nicholls had been killed, and two seamen of the brigade, and some men of Russell's regiment wounded. Fourteen prisoners, eight-and-twenty muskets with accoutrements, and thirteen kegs of powder, a chief's umbrella, &c., fell into our hands; the muskets and powder were destroyed before leaving.

On our return to our camp, which we reached at 3.30 P.M., the 23rd Regiment formed the advanced guard, and a brisk fire was kept up between them and the Ashantis, who were blowing their horns and shouting in all directions. A guide was killed close to the head of their column. The rear was brought up by the Naval Brigade, and A Company, in charge of Lieutenant Pipon, of Her Majesty's ship "Active," was much harassed in rear and both flanks for upwards of an hour. The men behaved very steadily, killing a considerable number of the enemy, with loss to themselves of one seaman only, badly wounded.

Colonel McLeod expressed himself pleased with conduct of the Naval Brigade, and I have great pleasure in testifying to the good behaviour of the officers and men under somewhat trying circumstances. Dr. Fegan, as usual, was unremitting in his attention to sick and wounded.

I have the honour to enclose a list of the casualties to the Brigade. The loss of the enemy I should roughly estimate at fifty.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. HUNT GRUBBE,  
Captain Commanding Naval Brigade.

To Commodore Hewett, V.C.

Report of Proceedings of Naval Brigade at the Attack on Amoaful on the 31st January.

Amoaful,

February 18, 1874.

SIR,  
IN compliance with orders, I moved the Naval Brigade yesterday morning from Ahquonknessie to Egginassie in two divisions, the left under the command of Acting Captain Luxmore, and the right, which I accompanied myself, under that of Lieutenant Noel, of Her Majesty's ship "Active."

At 8 A.M., Colonel McLeod, C.B., who commanded the left rank, directed me to cut through the bush in a line parallel to the Coomassie road. A party of cutters, under Captain Buckle, R.E., assisting, we had cut about forty yards, when a heavy fire was opened by the

enemy from the left, and Captain Buckle was mortally wounded. I then commenced cutting to the hill from which the fire came, and succeeded in clearing a space on the top and turning their flank. Major Russell's Regiment then came to our support, and leaving him to guard the flank, which still kept up a heavy fire, I recommenced, by Colonel McLeod's orders, cutting in a northerly direction; and after about two hours we reached the main road. The same heavy fire was kept up the whole time, and the thickness of the bush was such that at no time during the day could I see our opponents. From 2 P.M. until 5, we lined the road in skirmishing order, occasionally replying to the fire of the Ashantis, who had closed in from the right flank, after the splendid rush of the 42nd had cleared the centre, and were endeavouring to gain the road to Bequoi. I have great pleasure in reporting that the Brigade behaved extremely well.

I enclose, with Captain Luxmore's report, a list of our casualties.

At 6.15 I marched to Amoaful and billeted the men.

Our entire strength was 200 officers and men.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. HUNT GRUBBE.

Report of proceedings of Left Wing of Naval Brigade attack on Amoaful.

SIR,

February 7, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to give you the following information relative to the proceedings of the wing of the Naval Brigade under my command on 31st January: The wing with the other troops on the right flank of attack, under command of Colonel Wood, V.C., having cut a short distance into the bush, the enemy opened a very heavy fire, which was replied to. Colonel Wood was wounded shortly after the action commenced, and the command of the right flank devolved upon myself.

We had to remain in this one place for some hours, the enemy continuing to pour in a very heavy fire. At last their fire becoming slack, the Engineers cut into the bush and the enemy retreated. I then passed into the main road, and thence I again cut into the bush, 300 yards east, and then due north, so as to reach Amoaful.

In doing this, we passed through a very large encampment, in which the fires were still burning and great quantities of provisions had been left. Having reached the road just below Amoaful, the Brigadier-General ordered me to go on to the village and billet the men.

I need hardly state that all the Officers and men did their duty thoroughly. Dr. Fisher was unremitting in his attention to the wounded. My best thanks are due to Lieutenant Bell, Royal Engineers, and his men, for the manner in which they carried out their dangerous work of bush-cutting under the fire from the enemy.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) PERCY P. LUXMOORE,  
Acting Captain.

Captain Grubbe, R.N.

Casualties of Royal Naval Brigade at the Battle of Amoaful.

Officers.

Captain Hunt Grubbe, very severely.  
Lieutenant McLeod, slightly.  
Acting-Lieutenant Maltby, slightly.  
Sub-Lieutenant Mundy, very dangerously.  
Sub-Lieutenant Rawson, very severely.  
Midshipman Ma, slightly.