

rockets cleared the bush." On this occasion he was struck by a spent slug on the knee, with such violence as to cause him to fall.

He was also with Lieutenant Barnard on the 2nd February, when the enemy were driven from the line of Annonu River.

He has since acted under Commander Larcom, in charge of artillery of the expedition, and on the return march has had charge of the loads and transport.

"Active," at Cape Coast,  
March 3, 1874.

SIR,

THE operations against the Ashantees being now ended, it becomes my pleasing duty to bring to the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the highly satisfactory manner in which the Officers, seamen, and marines of the squadron under my orders have, on all occasions, carried out their duties during the trying time they have been employed on the Gold Coast.

All indeed have realized my highest expectations; and in making special mention of any, who, under my own observation, especially distinguished themselves by their gallantry, zeal, or ability, I am anxious that their Lordships should not under-rate the value I set upon the services of those, who, lacking an opportunity, were not so fortunate as to render themselves conspicuous.

The manner in which Captain W. J. Hunt Grubbe, of Her Majesty's ship "Tamar," performed special duties which devolved upon him, throughout the period he commanded the Naval Brigade, is deserving of my warmest approbation, and I beg to call their Lordships special attention to the fact that, although severely wounded in the left hand at the battle of Amoafu, he would not relinquish his command until the campaign was finished.

The services of the Brigade itself are recorded in the enclosed letter from Captain Hunt Grubbe.

Of the Officers specially mentioned therein Lieutenant Gerard H. U. Noel, of Her Majesty's ship "Active" was landed on the 27th November, 1873, in charge of a party of fifty seamen and marines, who previous to the arrival of the European regiments were detailed to act as a guard to Sir Garnet Wolseley, on the occasion of his proceeding to the front to inspect the progress made in the construction of the road to the Prah.

Lieutenant A. B. Crosbie, Royal Marine Light Infantry, and Sub-Lieutenant Gerard R. Maltby, of Her Majesty's ship "Active," and Surgeon Henry T. Cox, of the "Amethyst," also landed with this party, and none of them rejoined their ships till the cessation of hostilities.

I regret to say that I have lost the services of Lieutenant Noel as Senior and Gunnery Lieutenant of this ship, he having been invalided for the preservation of his life, through the ill effects of this prolonged stay ashore.

Captain James W. V. Arbuckle, of the Royal Marine Battalion, who was appointed to take command of the Marines attached to the Brigade, having fallen sick, his place was most efficiently filled by Lieutenant Crosbie, who was present with his men in every engagement with the enemy, in one of which he was slightly wounded.

Mr. Maltby, who is temporarily filling the Lieutenant's vacancy caused by the deeply to be regretted death of Captain William Hans Blake, of the "Druid," (who landed in command of the Brigade), is a young Officer of great promise in

the service, and I am pleased at having the opportunity of bringing his name to their Lordship's favourable notice.

The services of Mr. Cox and the other Medical Officers of the Naval Brigade, will be brought to notice in a separate Despatch, in which it is my intention to lay before their Lordships the excellent arrangements of Staff-Surgeon Second Class Henry Fegan, M.D., of this ship (who landed in charge), for the care and comfort of the sick and wounded.

The steady behaviour of Lieutenant Robert B. Pison, of this ship, and his Company when returning from the affair at Bouborassie, on the 31st January, on which occasion the rear guard was greatly harrassed, has been specially brought to my notice; and on another occasion this Officer is mentioned as having, with his Company, rendered the most material aid to Lord Gifford and his scouts at the destruction of Becquah.

I have a high opinion of Lieutenant Pison's professional ability, and it is with much pleasure that I recommend him to the favourable notice of their Lordships.

Captain Hunt Grubbe informs me that the services of Lieutenant William F. S. Mann, of Her Majesty's ship "Amethyst," who acted as Adjutant to the Brigade, were most valuable. This Officer bears a reputation of being a smart and energetic Officer.

Sub-Lieutenant Wyatt Rawson, of Her Majesty's ship "Active," did very excellent work while attached to the Land Transport Service. His energy and tact did much to encourage the carriers, and as there was often very great difficulty in procuring people to transport stores and provisions to the front, the value of Mr. Rawson's services cannot be over-rated. There being a vacancy in the "Himalaya" for a Lieutenant, I gave this Officer an acting order to fill it, and he has proceeded to England in that ship.

Sub-Lieutenant Rawson was wounded in the thigh by a slug.

I notice with satisfaction that the services of Lieutenant Angus McLeod, of the "Barracouta," and Mr. Charles Gladstone, Midshipman of the "Druid," who acted as Aide-de-Camp to Captain Hunt Grubbe, are favourably recorded.

At the battle of Amoafu the left and right wings of the Brigade were respectively commanded by Commander Percy P. Luxmore (now acting Captain of the "Druid"), and Lieutenant Gerard H. U. Noel, already referred to, and the manner in which they led their men into action was highly creditable to them.

It is now my duty to place upon record the valuable assistance I have received in the conduction of affairs at the hands of Captain George Henry Parkin, of Her Majesty's ship "Victor Emanuel."

During my absence in the front, this Officer carried out the duties of the port most ably and efficiently, and for this, as well as for the activity and zeal he displayed in his superintendence of the re-embarkation of the troops, my thanks are due to him.

The landing of the several regiments was superintended by Commander Herbert F. Crohan, the principal Transport Officer afloat, assisted by Mr. H. H. Hannay, Navigating Lieutenant of the "Active," and the manner in which both these Officers carried out this important service reflects very great credit on them.

Their Lordships will easily conceive the heavy and responsible duties which have devolved upon Commander Robert Lowther Byng, of my pendant ship, during these operations, and it is with much satisfaction that I have to record the efficient and