

On the 31st January the battle of Amoaful was fought, full details of which have already been forwarded.

On this occasion the conduct of the whole Brigade was most creditable. My best thanks are due to Captain Percy Luxmore and Lieutenant Gerard Noel, who commanded the left and right wings respectively, and to the Officers under them, for the manner in which the men were taken into action and the steadiness shown under a heavy fire. Dr. Fisher accompanied the left wing and Dr. Turton (Staff), of the Army, the right, and our numerous wounded were, by them, on the field treated with the greatest skill and care.

Lieutenant Angus McLeod on this occasion, through the temporary indisposition of Lieutenant Deane, commanded his company of Marines throughout the day, and was highly spoken of by Captain Luxmore.

On the following day the Brigade was again engaged in the destruction of Bequoi, having 1 man killed and 2 wounded. On this occasion Lord Gifford states, that "but for Lieutenant Pipon's Company, his scouts would have suffered most materially." The forward march was resumed on the 2nd February, the Brigade forming the rear guard, which position it retained until the occupation of Coomassie, occasionally detaching a portion for the purpose of protecting convoys.

The night of the 3rd was marked was by incessant rain, with thunder and lightning, the men being without shelter having left the baggage packed at Agomana to facilitate the rapid forward movements. On the morning of the 4th the battle of the Dah was fought, of which I have already furnished details. On this, as on every occasion, the Brigade evinced the same steadiness and good conduct.

On February 6, at 6.30 A.M., we left Coomassie as advance guard, and after a very fatiguing march reached Agamama, distant about seventeen miles. The recrossing of the Dah was effected with great difficulty, the bridge being two feet under water. The Blue jackets and Kroomen here showed great skill in strengthening the buttresses and placing handrails.

From this time the health and strength of both officers and men became much impaired, and I regret to say that several serious cases of dysentery arose, many of which have since terminated fatally.

We reached Prahsu on the 12th, leaving next day for Yancoomassie (Assim), en route, by regular stages, to the coast.

The strength of the Naval Brigade on arrival at Cape Coast was as follows:—7 officers, 78 seamen, 32 marines.

I especially wish to recommend the following officers to your notice:—

Lieutenant Gerard Noel who has been landed since 27th November, 1873, and who is a most deserving steady Officer.

Lieutenant W. F. S. Mann, of whom I cannot speak too highly. He has been Adjutant to the Brigade, and is a most smart and energetic Officer.

Staff Surgeon Second Class Henry Fegan, has been night and day unremitting in his care of sick and wounded, his conduct has been beyond praise.

Sub-Lieutenant Wyatt Rawson, the efficient manner in which this Officer conducted the Transport, not only for the Naval Brigade, but in assisting the Control has been very noticeable. He was wounded at Amoaful.

Mr. Gladstone, Midshipman, served as my Aide-de-Camp and made himself of great use.

I have desired the different Officers who commanded companies to bring to the notice of their respective Captains, those petty officers, seamen, and marines whom they may think to be deserving.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) W. HUNT GRUBBE,  
Captain in Charge of Naval Brigade.

Commodore W. H. W. Hewett, V.C., R.N.,  
Her Majesty's ship "Active."

Royal Engineer Office, Cape Coast Castle,

SIR, February 20, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Naval Carpenters, as per margin,\* placed at my disposal some weeks ago by your kindness, have been paid up to date, and ordered to rejoin their ships this evening.

I have much pleasure in reporting to you the universal good conduct of these men; their readiness in performing every duty they were called on to perform, no matter whether like pickaxe and shovel work they had no training in it, their cheerfulness under all difficulties, often very great, and their readiness to help in every way, gave me the greatest satisfaction, and they were really most important and valuable assistance, more especially in the construction of the Prah bridge, made before the arrival of the 28th Company Royal Engineers. Where all have done their duty it is an invidious and unpleasant task to make selections, but those who more especially attracted my notice were Carpenter's Mate William Hansom, Shipwright Joseph Parminter, Carpenter's Mate James Salter; I need not say that when under fire all these men behaved most admirably.

I shall be very glad if these mens' services receive some recognition.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. HOME, Major,  
Commanding Royal Engineers.  
West Coast of Africa.

The Commodore  
Commanding the Squadron.

"Active," at Cape Coast.

SIR, March 4, 1874.

IN my letter of the 3rd March, I abstained from touching upon the individual services of the Medical Officers of the Squadron, as I felt that they demanded my special attention, and that I could not have done justice to them excepting in a special Despatch.

\* List of Men.—"Active"—William Hansom, Carpenter's Mate; Richard Windsor, Shipwright; Thomas Hawse, Carpenter's Crew; James Cooper, Carpenter's Crew; Thomas Hoar, Carpenter's Crew. "Druid"—James Salter, Carpenter's Mate; James Llewellyn, Caulker's Mate; Thomas Richards, Carpenter's Crew; Joseph Parminter, Shipwright. "Amethyst"—William Weeks, Carpenter's Mate; Joshua Short, Shipwright; John Osborne, Shipwright. "Argus"—R. Netherway, Caulker. "Encounter"—George Saunders, Carpenter's Mate.

Thomas Hoar, joined the detached party of Carpenters working with the Royal Engineers, from the Naval Brigade about 7th January, 1874, together with Saunders.