

Contingent with the columns across the border, beyond those of some two or three hundred mounted men. I am still in hopes, however, that the authority of the Colonial Government, will be asserted, and will prove sufficient to fill up these battalions, the officers and non-commissioned officers of which are still on the frontier, where they will be available for frontier defence at least.

8. Such is the position of affairs in the Colony. Every effort will be made to procure reinforcements.

Captain Buller, Rifle Brigade, one of my Aides-de-Camp, has started for the Free State with a letter to the President from H.E. the High Commissioner, with the view of procuring mounted men, both white and black. A force of 200 mounted men is already being raised at Port Elizabeth, and a draft of 50 mounted men from the Cape Colony for the Frontier Light Horse, arrived yesterday.

9. Mr. Sprigg, the Colonial Secretary, Cape Colony, has shown every desire to assist us at this emergency; he despatched at once the three Companies of the 2nd Battalion 4th Regiment from Cape Town, they have arrived at Durban and are on their march here. The head quarters and 4 companies of the 88th Regiment will shortly arrive from King William's Town, their place being taken by Volunteers.

10. Every effort will be made to reinforce Colonel Wood's Column, in view of enabling him to resume active operations from that side.

11. The refitting No. 3 Column will, of necessity, take some little time, as the road (160 miles) from this to Helpmakaar is very much cut up by the rains.

12. I have not yet received from Colonel Hassard, C.B., C.R.E., the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry ordered to assemble regarding the loss of the camp on the 22nd ultimo; neither have I received from Colonel Glyn, C.B., Commanding No. 3 Column, an official list of the casualties on that occasion.

I regret also to state that I am still without an official report from Colonel Glyn of the details of the gallant defence made on the 22nd and 23rd ultimo by the Company 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment of the post at Rorke's Drift.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHELMSFORD,
Lieutenant-General.

Enclosure A.

THE ACTION AT INYEZANE.

COLONEL PEARSON'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

From Colonel Pearson, Commanding No. 1 Column to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the High Commissioner.

Etshowe, Zululand,
January 23, 1879.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to report my arrival here at 10 A.M. this day, with the column under my command, and, I am happy to state, without a casualty of any kind—except, of course, those which occurred in the engagement of yesterday, of which I have already duly informed you by telegram, despatched yesterday evening.

Yesterday morning, the mounted troops which preceded the column under Major Barrow, had crossed the Inyezane River—which is about four miles from our camping ground on the previous night—when I received a note from him to say that he had selected a fairly open space for a halting place, which he had carefully vetted. I at once rode forward to reconnoitre, and found the

ground covered with more bush than 'seemed desirable for an outspan; but as there was no water between the Inyezane and the places where we bivouacked last night—four miles further on, and with several steep hills to climb—I decided upon outspanning for a couple of hours, to feed and rest the oxen, and to enable the men to breakfast.

It was then just eight o'clock, and I was in the act of giving directions about the pickets and scouts required for our protection, and the wagons had already begun to park, when the leading company of the Native Contingent, who were scouting in front—personally directed by Captain Hart, Staff Officer to the Officer commanding that Regiment—discovered the enemy advancing rapidly over the ridges in our front, and making for the clumps of bush around us.

The Zulus at once opened a heavy fire upon the men of the company who had shown themselves in the open, and they lost one officer, four non-commissioned officers, and three men killed, almost immediately after the firing began.

Unfortunately, owing to scarcely any of the officers or non-commissioned officers of the Native Contingent being able to speak Kafir, and some not even English (there are several foreigners among them), it has been found most difficult to communicate orders, and it is to be feared that these men who lost their lives by gallantly holding their ground did so under the impression that it was the duty of the contingent to fight in the first line, instead of scouting only, and, after an engagement, to pursue.

I must add, however, that every exertion has been made by Major Graves, Commandant Nettleton, and Captain Hart, to explain to both the officers and men the duties expected of them. These officers, indeed, have been indefatigable in their exertions.

As soon as the firing commenced, I directed the Naval Brigade, under Commander Campbell, Lieutenant Lloyd's division of guns, and Captain Jackson's and Lieutenant Martin's companies of the Buffs, to take up a position on a knoll close by the road (and under which they were halted), and from whence the whole of the Zulu advances could be seen and dealt with.

Meanwhile, the wagons continued to park, and as soon as the length of the column had thereby sufficiently decreased, I directed the two companies of the Buffs, which were guarding the wagons about half way down the column, to clear the enemy out of the bush, which had been already shelled, and fired into with rockets and musketry by the troops on the knoll above-mentioned. These companies, led by Captains Harrison and Wyld, and guided by Captain Macgregor, D.A.Q.M.G., whom I sent back for this purpose, moved out in excellent order, and quickly getting into skirmishing order, brought their right shoulders gradually forward, and drove the Zulus before them back into the open, which again exposed them to the rockets, shells, and musketry from the knoll.

This movement released the main body of the Mounted Infantry and Volunteers, who, with the Company of Royal Engineers, had remained near the Inyezane, to protect that portion of the convoy of wagons. The Royal Engineers happened to be working at the drift when the engagement began.

When thus released, both the Engineers and Mounted Troops, under Captain Wynne and Major Barrow, respectively moved forward with the infantry. Skirmishers on the left of the latter, the whole being supported by a half-company of