



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette
Of FRIDAY, the 21st of MARCH.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1879.

War Office, March 21, 1879.

THE following Despatch, with its enclosures, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford, K.C.B., Commanding the Forces in South Africa:—

From Lieutenant-General Commanding in South Africa to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War.

*Fort Pearson, Lower Tugela,
February 14, 1879.*

SIR,

1. THE letters to Colonel Pearson (a précis of which I forwarded to you last mail) safely reached him at Ekowe. One of the two messengers returned with a packet of letters, but unfortunately the second one, to whom was entrusted Colonel Pearson's answer to me, has not come in, and I have reason to believe he was killed. This is unfortunate, as I am not aware when or by which road Colonel Pearson will come.

2. I am glad to find from Assistant Commissary-General Healy that Colonel Pearson has supplies sufficient for his whole force until end of March.

3. My information also goes to show that there is only a force of some 5,000 Zulus between him and this place, so he can force his way through if he desires to do so.

4. Colonel Law, C.R. Artillery in South Africa, has just arrived from Helpmakaar to take command of this post until Colonel Pearson returns. Two companies of the 99th arrive here to-day from Stanger; the garrison here will then be—Imperial Mounted Infantry, 90; Natal Mounted Volunteers, 180; within reach patrolling the border: five companies the 99th; two companies the Buffs; and the detachment from H.M.S. "Tenedos."

5. The news appears well founded that the Zulu main army have returned to their kraals for a short time, but will be reassembled by the new moon, when, I have no doubt, fresh action will be taken by them.

Constant threats of raiding into Natal are received, which tends to alarm in Maritzburg, Durban, &c.

I consider a raid very possible.

6. No fresh news has been received by me from Colonel Wood since I wrote last.

7. The expected reinforcement to the Naval Brigade from H.M.S. "Boadicea" has not arrived, owing to outbreak of small pox on board, and it is very doubtful when it will be landed in Natal.

H.M.S. "Active," with the Admiral on board, is lying in sight off the mouth of this river, ready to assist in any way.

8. I shall remain here a few days longer in hopes of communicating with Colonel Pearson.

9. I have the honour to forward the report of Lieutenant Cochrane, 32nd Light Infantry, also a statement of a Zulu deserter, on the events of the 22nd January, which I would suggest should be appended to the documents already forwarded, relating to the Court of Inquiry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHELMSFORD,
Lieutenant-General.

Enclosure A.

From Lieut. W. F. D. Cochrane, 32nd Light Infantry, Transport Officer, No. 2 Column, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Head-Quarters, Pietermaritzburg.

Pietermaritzburg,

February 8th, 1879.

SIR,

IN compliance with your request, I have the honour to give the account of the battle of Sandhswana from my own personal observation, and from the information which I have received from reliable sources.

On the morning of the 20th January, 1879, No. 2 Column, to which I had been appointed Transport Officer, was stationed as follows:—

Nos. 1 and 3 Battalions of the 1st Regiment Native Contingent, and one Mounted Troop under Captain Cherry, 32nd Light Infantry, at Krantz-kop; No. 2 Battalion of the same Regiment,