



SECOND SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

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MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1879.

War Office, April 21, 1879.

DESPACHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State for War from the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces in South Africa:—

*Durban, Natal,
March 20, 1879.*

SIR,

IT is my sad duty to report to you that on the morning of the 12th March a convoy of wagons halted on its road from Derby to Luneberg, on the left bank of the Entombi River, was attacked by the Zulus, and, with the exception of some 10 men who escaped by swimming the river, the whole of the escort who were within the wagon laager on that bank are reported to have been killed.

The officer in command of the detachment on the right bank, Lieutenant Harward, 80th Regiment, appears to have done his utmost to assist his comrades in their unequal struggle, as soon as he was aware of what was occurring.

I have the honour to forward the report from this officer, and that of Major Tucker, 80th Regiment, commanding at Luneberg.

I have desired Colonel Wood to make further inquiries into the matter. His report, when received, shall be forwarded.

As I am leaving for the frontier at the Lower Tugela to-morrow, I have desired my Deputy Adjutant-General, pending the arrival of a general officer, to forward you any reports that may arrive during my absence.

The reports enclosed are printed, as I considered it advisable to communicate the reports received to the public through the press.

I have, &c.,

CHELMSFORD,
Lieutenant-General.

SIR,

Luneberg, March 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows from the camp from Intombe River, where an escort of

the 80th Regiment, under Captain Moriarty, were laagered on the 12th March, 1879:—

Being awake during the night I heard a shot fired in the distance. I got up and ordered the sentry to rouse the detachment on the side of the Intombe Drift nearest Luneberg, and to apprise Captain Moriarty of the fact, and ask for his orders; these were that the escort should remain under arms. I afterwards found that this shot was fired about 4 A.M.

I retired to my tent close by, where I waited, dressed, and about an hour afterwards I heard "Guard, turn out!" I instantly turned out and saw, as the fog lifted, a dense mass of Zulus about 200 yards from the wagon laager, extending all across the valley with a front of some two or three miles apparently. I immediately put my men (35 of all ranks) under a wagon near our tents, and directed their fire on the flanks of the enemy, who were endeavouring to surround our wagon laager on the other side of the river. I next observed that the enemy had gained full possession of the camp, and were driving off the cattle. Our men were retiring on the river, which was now full of human beings. On seeing this, I directed my fire entirely with a view to covering the retreat of our men. This fire was well sustained, and enabled many to get over the river alive.

The enemy were now assegaing our men in the water, and also ascending the banks of the river close to us; for fear, therefore, of my men being stabbed under the wagon, and to enable them to retire before their ammunition should have become exhausted, I ordered them to retire steadily, and only just in time to avoid a rush of Zulus to our late position. The Zulus came on in dense masses and fell upon our men, who being already broken gave way, and a hand-to-hand fight ensued.

I endeavoured to rally my men, but they were too much scattered, and finding reformation impossible, I mounted my horse and galloped into Luneberg at utmost speed, and reported all that had taken place,