



SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
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FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1879.

*War Office, May 2, 1879.*

**A** DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from the Lieutenant-General commanding Her Majesty's Forces in South Africa:—

*Head Quarter Camp, Lower Tugela,  
March 25, 1879.*

SIR,

THANKS to the prompt despatch of reinforcements from England, I shall, in three days' time, be able to advance with the strong column, (strength as per margin, A), to relieve the garrison of Ekowe, which has now been holding that post for upwards of ten weeks.

As none of the Major-Generals ordered out have yet arrived, and Colonel Pearson who at first commanded the column on this line is shut up in Ekowe, and as there is no other senior officer available for the duty, I have decided to take command of the relieving column myself, assisted by Colonel Pemberton, 60th Rifles, and Lieutenant-Colonel Law, Royal Artillery.

The column will not advance by the road which Colonel Pearson's column took, but by one which runs nearly parallel to it, but nearer to the coast: the advantage of this line is that the road runs through an easy, open country for three-quarters of the distance, whereas by the other line the road runs through bush country nearly the whole way.

The force will advance without tents, and with only a blanket and waterproof sheet for each man.

Notwithstanding, however, this reduction of weight, the convoy, carrying one month's provision for the garrison and ten days' supplies (without groceries) for the relieving column, will consist of 44 carts and about 100 wagons (enclosure B).

With such a length of train, the greater portion of which is drawn by oxen, it will be impossible to do more than about 11 miles in the day; and even this distance, according to the calculation of the colonial transport conductors, will require nearly all the hours of daylight to accomplish, if due regard be paid to the interests of the oxen, who will not work well in the heat of the day, and who require at least three hours for feeding.

I am desirous of bringing the transport difficulties prominently to your notice, as, unless they

are fully realised, it will be difficult to understand the apparent slowness which must characterise the movements of the relieving column.

It is probable that the column will be attacked when moving along the last 10 miles of the road between this place and Ekowe.

The track, according to the information of those who know the country, runs along a narrow but open ridge, with deep ravines on each side, and is only wide enough for one wagon: it twists and turns considerably, and is reported as being favourable for the attack of an enterprising enemy.

I have suggested to Colonel Pearson, by sun-signal, that he should be prepared to make a diversion in support of the relieving column with every available fighting man that can be spared from the defence of the post.

I should feel no doubt about being able successfully to convey the convoy and fresh garrison into Ekowe, and to bring out the present garrison with its train of empty wagons, were the transport of different quality.

A force moving, however, with ox transport through a difficult country is heavily hampered, if attacked determinedly by large numbers; and whilst feeling every confidence in the ability, courage, and determination of those under my command, I trust that, should our efforts fall short of what is no doubt expected of us, this circumstance may be duly taken into consideration.

I have, &c.,

CHELMSFORD,

Lieutenant-General.

**A.—Ekowe Relieving Column.**

1st Division of the Column. Lieutenant-Colonel Law, R.A., Commanding.

Naval Brigade of H.M.S. "Shah" and "Tenedos," except the Royal Marines of the "Shah," 350 men; 57th Regiment, 640; 2 companies the Buffs, 140; 5 companies 99th Regiment, 430; 5 battalions of Natal Native Contingent, 1,200; mounted infantry, 70; mounted volunteers, 30; mounted natives, 130; native foot scouts, 150; Commissariat and Transport Department; Medical Department; total, 1,660 whites, 1,480 Native Contingent: grand total, 3,140 fighting men.

Artillery: two 9-pr. guns, two 24-pr. rocket tubes, 1 Gatling gun.

There will accompany this division of the column the train of supplies for Ekowe (a month's supply for 1,200 men, about 25 wagons); a train of supplies for both divisions of the Column for 10 days: about 25 wagons.

2nd Division of the Column. Lieutenant-Colonel Pemberton, 60th Rifles, Commanding.

Naval Brigade of H.M.S. "Boadicea," 190 men; Royal Marines, "Shah" and "Boadicea," 100; 60th Rifles, 540; 91st Highlanders, 850; 4th Battalion Natal Native Contingent, 800; Commissariat and Transport; Medical Department; total, 1,680 whites, 800 Native Contingent: grand total, 2,480 fighting men.

Artillery: two 24-pr. rocket tubes; one Gatling gun.

Recapitulation: 3,340 whites; 2,280 natives: grand total, 5,620 fighting men.

J. NORTH CREALOCK, Lieut.-Colonel,  
Assistant Military Secretary.

B.—Transport of the Relieving Column.

72 pack mules, two for each of 36 companies. Each mule to carry 1,500 rounds on pack saddle.

36 company carts, one for each of 36 companies, the number of companies in the relieving column.

8 carts for the ammunition and intrenching tools of 8 pieces of ordnance (viz., two 9-pr. guns, four 24 pr. rocket tubes, two Gatlings).

Total, 44 carts.

36 company wagons, one for each of 36 companies.

About 25 wagons, holding together one month's supply for 1,200 men, the next garrison of Ekowe.

About 25 wagons, holding together the provisions for the relieving column (5,600 fighting men for ten days), except what is carried in the company wagons (see below):—

About 4 wagons for the Native Contingent, two for each of the two battalions.

1 wagon for the mounted infantry.

3 ambulance wagons.

Total, 44 carts, 94 wagons: grand total, 138 vehicles.

Company cart, maximum load 1,000 lbs.

Detail of contents.—5,400 rounds, 9 boxes, 720 lbs.; intrenching tools, 240 lbs.; 2 stretchers (14 lbs.) 28 lbs.: total, 988 lbs.

Company wagon, maximum load 3,000 lbs.

Detail of contents.—3,000 rounds, 5 boxes, 400 lbs.; blankets, waterproof sheets, camp kettles, officers' overcoats, 726 lbs.; provisions, about 1,800 lbs.: total, 2,926 lbs.

A. P. FITZROY HART, Captain,  
Staff Officer to Lieutenant-Colonel Law, R.A.

The following Returns of Casualties have been received from Colonel Bellairs, Deputy Adjutant-General, &c., South Africa:—

*Further Return of Casualties.*

*Durban, March 31, 1879.*

12th March, 1879, at Intombe River.

**KILLED.**

Conductor Whittington, Commissariat Transport Department.

One Driver, Commissariat Transport Department.

**MISSING.**

Conductor Goss, Commissariat Transport Branch.

Seven Drivers, Commissariat Transport Branch.

Seven Leaders, Commissariat Transport Branch.

W. BELLAIRS,

D.A.-G.

*The Military Secretary, Head-quarters.*

*Imperial Return of Casualties by Disease, from 1st January to 31st March, 1879.*

Private J. Jellie, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, fever, 10th January, Fort Pearson.

Private A. Sampson, 80th Foot, bronchitis, 21st January, Pietermaritzburg.

Private W. Dyeball, 80th Foot, dysentery, 29th January, Lydenburg.

Private W. Linner, Royal Marine Light Infantry, sunstroke, 30th January, Fort Tenedos.

Private J. Williams, 24th Foot, dysentery, 5th February, Rorke's Drift.

Private C. Bennett, 13th Foot, dysentery, 10th February, Utrecht.

Private Moore, Naval Brigade, diarrhoea, 11th February, Greytown.

Private W. McLeod, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, diarrhoea and fever, 13th February, Ekowe.

Private G. Davis, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, fever, 13th February, Greytown.

Private J. Edge, Army Hospital Corps, dysentery, 14th February, Helpmakaar.

Private T. Harris, 90th Foot, fever, 14th February, Kambula Hill.

Private J. White, Army Hospital Corps, pneumonia, 15th February, Greytown.

Private J. England, 13th Foot, fever, 16th February, Utrecht.

Private E. Oakley, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, diarrhoea and fever, 18th February, Ekowe.

Sapper J. Russell, Royal Engineers, fever, 20th February, Rorke's Drift.

Second Lieutenant W. Franklin, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 21st February, Helpmakaar.

Private W. Knee, 99th Foot, drowned, 21st February, Ekowe.

Private J. Shields, 99th Foot, Dysentery, 21st February, Ekowe.

Lance-Corporal T. Taylor, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, dysentery, 21st February, Ekowe.

Sapper F. Belts, Royal Engineers, fever, 20th February, Helpmakaar.

Private C. Young, 13th Foot, fever, 21st February, Utrecht.

Private Newbury, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, fever, 23rd February, Utrecht.

Private G. Evans, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 23rd February, Rorke's Drift.

Private G. Macey, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, fever, 24th February, Utrecht.

Private J. Whittaker, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, consumption, 24th February, Pietermaritzburg.

Private T. Cronin, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, Dysentery, 24th February, Greytown.

Private J. Fowles, 1st Battalion 13th Foot, fever, 26th February, Utrecht.

Private J. Jones, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, fever, 27th February, Utrecht.

Driver W. Beckett, Royal Engineers, fever, 28th February, Helpmakaar.

Sapper H. Thompson, Royal Engineers, fever, 28th February, Helpmakaar.

Private T. Allen, 13th Foot, fever, 28th February, Pietermaritzburg.

Private J. Clarke, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, fever, 28th February, Fort Tenedos.

Private C. Coles, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, fever, 1st March, Helpmakaar.

Sapper H. Thompson, Royal Engineers, fever, 1st March, Helpmakaar.

Private J. McCarthy, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 1st March, Helpmakaar.

Private W. Ottaway, 2nd Battalion 4th foot, fever, 2nd March, Utrecht.

Private C. Baden; 99th Foot, fever, 2nd March, Fort Pearson.

Private M. M. Moreton, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, consumption, 3rd March, Ladysmith.  
 Private J. Jones, 99th Foot, fever, 3rd March, Fort Pearson.  
 Private F. Gooding, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, fever, 4th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Private Farr, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 4th March, Rorke's Drift.  
 Private C. Foster, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 6th March, Rorke's Drift.  
 Private D. Weightman, 1st Battalion 13th Foot, fever, 6th March, Utrecht.  
 Drummer F. Maudy, Royal Engineers, fever, 6th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Private J. Kennedy, 1st Battalion 13th Foot, fever, 7th March, Kambula Hill.  
 Private P. Murphy, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, fever, 8th March.  
 Private T. Swaffer, 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot, fever, 9th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Driver Bracken, Royal Artillery, fever, 9th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Private T. Jones, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 10th March, fever, Rorke's Drift.  
 Sergeant D. Jones, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, 10th March, fever, Rorke's Drift.  
 Lance-Corporal C. Frower, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, 12th March, fever, Rorke's Drift.  
 Colour-Sergeant W. Cuthbert, 2nd Battalion 24th Foot, fever, 12th March, Rorke's Drift.  
 Private H. Halliday, 2nd Battalion 4th Foot, dysentery, 16th March, Greytown.

Quartermaster-Sergeant J. Cooke, Royal Artillery, fever, 16th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Lieutenant A. S. C. Davison, 99th Foot, fever, 27th March, Ekowe.

W. BELLAIRS,  
 D.A.-G.

Durban, Natal, 31st March, 1879.

*Colonial Return of Casualties by Decease from 1st January to 31st March, 1879.*

Trooper Dixon, Newcastle Rifles, drowned, 12th January, Rorke's Drift.  
 Lieutenant John P. Griffis, Natal Native Contingent, dysentery, 20th January, Fort Tenedos.  
 Sergeant J. Lyons, Natal Native Contingent, dysentery, 22nd February, Stanger.  
 Trooper H. Smith, Natal Mounted Police, suicide, 27th February, Helpmakaar.  
 Private Schaal, Wood's Irregulars, fever, 2nd March, Van Standen's Farm.  
 Private J. B. Hay, Natal Carbineers, fever, 4th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Captain Gubbins, Natal Native Contingent, fever, 5th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Trooper Nagles, Natal Mounted Police, fever, 17th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Trooper P. Hayes, Natal Mounted Police, fever, 20th March, Helpmakaar.  
 Lieutenant W. Murray, Natal Native Contingent, dysentery, 25th March, Pietermaritzburg.

W. BELLAIRS,  
 D.A.-G.

Durban, Natal, 31st March, 1879.

*War Office, May 2, 1879.*

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Soldiers of Her Majesty's Army, whose claims have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, for their gallant conduct in the defence of Rorke's Drift, on the occasion of the attack by the Zulus, as recorded against their names, viz. :—

Regiment.	Names.	Acts of Courage for which recommended.
Royal Engineers ... 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Lieutenant (now Captain and Brevet Major) J. R. M. Chard Lieutenant (now Captain and Brevet Major) G. Bromhead	For their gallant conduct at the defence of Rorke's Drift, on the occasion of the attack by the Zulus on the 22nd and 23rd January, 1879.  The Lieutenant-General commanding the troops reports that, had it not been for the fine example and excellent behaviour of these two Officers under the most trying circumstances, the defence of Rorke's Drift post would not have been conducted with that intelligence and tenacity which so essentially characterised it. The Lieutenant-General adds, that its success must, in a great degree, be attributable to the two young Officers who exercised the Chief Command on the occasion in question.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private John Williams ...	Private John Williams was posted with Private Joseph Williams, and Private William Horrigan, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, in a distant room of the hospital, which they held for more than an hour, so long as they had a round of ammunition left: as communication was for the time cut off, the Zulus were enabled to advance and burst open the door; they dragged out Private Joseph Williams and two of the patients, and assailed them. Whilst the Zulus were occupied with the slaughter of these men a lull took place, during which Private John Williams, who, with two patients, were the only men now left alive in this ward, succeeded in knocking a hole in the partition, and in taking the two patients into the next ward, where he found Private Hook.

Regiment.	Names.	Acts of Courage for which recommended.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private Henry Hook ...	These two men together, one man working whilst the other fought and held the enemy at bay with his bayonet, broke through three more partitions, and were thus enabled to bring eight patients through a small window into the inner line of defence.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private William Jones and Private Robert Jones	In another ward, facing the hill, Private William Jones and Private Robert Jones defended the post to the last, until six out of the seven patients it contained had been removed. The seventh, Sergeant Maxfield, 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, was delirious from fever. Although they had previously dressed him, they were unable to induce him to move. When Private Robert Jones returned to endeavour to carry him away, he found him being stabbed by the Zulus as he lay on his bed.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Corporal William Allen and Private Frederick Hitch	It was chiefly due to the courageous conduct of these men that communication with the hospital was kept up at all. Holding together at all costs a most dangerous post, raked in reverse by the enemy's fire from the hill, they were both severely wounded, but their determined conduct enabled the patients to be withdrawn from the hospital, and when incapacitated by their wounds from fighting, they continued, as soon as their wounds had been dressed, to serve out ammunition to their comrades during the night.

## MEMORANDUM.

Lieutenant Melville, of the 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of the gallant efforts made by him to save the Queen's Colour of his Regiment after the disaster at Isandlwana, and also Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of his heroic conduct in endeavouring to save his brother officer's life, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived.