

they were engaged, and were not inside the square as quickly as I wished, this prevented my opening fire with the infantry.

As soon as the enemy had been repulsed by fire from the square, the cavalry were sent out in pursuit. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the 17th Lancers on this and all occasions when they have been engaged; this, however, was the first opportunity they have had of a pursuit, and their lances proved to be a very efficient arm. The Zulus lie down when pursued, and by this means frequently escaped swordsmen. Colonel Lowe's conduct on this day was in every way deserving of high commendation. He was wounded whilst waiting in the hollow square, but this did not prevent his leading the cavalry when the moment came for the pursuit. He has given me the greatest assistance ever since he has been with my division, and is a very valuable officer. All the officers behaved gallantly, but I would also bring to notice the dashing manner in which Major Boulderson led his squadron against the enemy.

Captain Shepstone's Basutos and Captain Bettington's troop of Natal Horse behaved well. The Basutos are good fighting men, and are excellent scouts. Both of the above-named officers are deserving of notice. I enclose Colonel Lowe's report upon the action. Lieutenant-Colonel Harness, R.A., was in command of the artillery of the division during the day. On the right rear angle of the square two 9-pounder guns were in action, at first on a slight rise of ground outside the square; as the enemy advanced, they were drawn back into the line of infantry, and were served with great effect during the action, under the direction of Lieutenant French, R.A., whose conduct on the occasion was especially deserving of commendation. All the officers and men of the artillery were particularly steady under fire. I enclose a report upon this arm from Colonel Browne.

With regard to the infantry, I am able to make a most satisfactory report. The fact that the average number of rounds fired by men actually in the ranks was only 6.4 rounds per man, and that, with this small number, the determined attack of the Zulu army was repulsed, speaks for itself. The men were very steady and the firing was well controlled. Volley firing by sections was generally practised, and although for a short time, this degenerated into rapid independent firing, it was soon restrained, and volleys were resumed, which is highly creditable both to officers and men.

The effect of the volleys was most satisfactory on the left of the 2nd Battalion 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers. The enemy were coming up in great numbers. The ground enabled them to creep up to within about 80 yards without being under fire. The long grass there nearly concealed them, a steady volley from the left of the 2nd Battalion 21st at a critical moment (for it was necessary to wait until the smoke had sufficiently cleared away) completely repulsed the attack. At this point Major Hazlerigg, who was in command of the 2nd Battalion 21st, was most active and zealous in attending to the steadiness of his men during the action.

The 58th Regiment occupied the rear half of the right face of the square. Lieutenant-Colonel Whitehead commanded his battalion well. The right of his regiment especially was under a very heavy fire, and the conduct of the men and officers was all that could be desired. The firing was very good. The 94th Regiment occupied the rear

face with its left adjoining the right of the 2nd Battalion 21st, and also the left face of the square. Colonel Malthus commanded his battalion most efficiently. The companies in the rear face were under the command of Major Anstruther, whose conduct during the whole day is deserving of high commendation. The Adjutant of this regiment, Lieutenant Brooke, and also the Adjutants of the 2nd Battalion 21st and 58th, Lieutenants Lambert and Lovegrove, rendered great assistance.

The Infantry Brigade was commanded by Colonel Glyn, C.B. I received every assistance from him during the action, and enclose his report. The officers on the staff of my division have given me great satisfaction on this occasion, and, indeed, ever since the formation of the division, although warfare in South Africa was new to most of them, they have diligently endeavoured to carry out their duties. I would especially mention Captain Lane, Rifle Brigade, my Aide-de-Camp, who is a most useful staff officer under fire. He is cool and courageous, and on the march he is always first to give a helping hand wherever he can make himself useful. Major Robinson, Rifle Brigade, Assistant Adjutant-General, Major Gosset, 54th Regiment, Assistant Quartermaster-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery, Scots Guards, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, and Captain Sir W. Gordon Cumming, my Extra Aide-de-Camp, all worked hard, and were present during the action. Captain the Honourable S. Cotton, Scots Guards, not being required for transport duties, acted as my orderly officer during the engagement.

The duties of the Commissariat Department have been most ably and satisfactorily performed by Deputy Commissary-General Morris.

The medical officers performed their duties well in the field. I enclose a report from the principal medical officer. I regret to say that there is a long list of wounded officers and men: 57 in all, the greatest proportion of which are dangerous and severe. I also lament the death of Captain Wyatt-Edgell, 17th Lancers, who was shot through the head whilst leading his troop. Five men were also killed. The nominal list of killed and wounded has already been forwarded to you. The number of horses killed was 18, and wounded 29.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD NEWDIGATE, Major-General,  
Commanding 2nd Division, South African  
Army.

P.S.—The 2nd Battalion of Natal Native Contingent acted in reserve during the action. This battalion has been well commanded by Major Bengough, who is a very good and active officer. His battalion has done very good service in outpost and scouting duties during the whole time they have been in the field. E.N.

July 7, 1879.

P.S.—I omitted in my report furnished yesterday to bring as prominently forward as I had intended the name of Captain Shepstone, commanding the Basutos. This officer, at great personal sacrifice, raised a regiment of Basutos, who, under his able leadership, have on every occasion rendered me very valuable assistance; they are brave soldiers and excellent scouts. He is deserving of the highest commendation.

EDW. NEWDIGATE,  
Major-General.