

cising their sacred functions. Both these gentlemen, at their special request, however, accompanied the troops in action yesterday, to render the last rites of the Church to those requiring them.

Surgeon-Major Cuffe has been indefatigable in endeavouring to perfect the medical arrangements of this column. I consider he has made the utmost of the means at his disposal, and he possesses that great quality in an Army Medical Officer, of making the best of every available resource. He has worked incessantly.

In transmitting the accompanying report from Colonel Buller, I wish to record here again how much I owe to this officer. He has never failed to cover the column with his mounted men, for from ten to twelve miles in front, and on the flanks.

Constitutionally fearless, he is prudent in counsel, and though resolute, is very careful of the lives of his troops in action. He possesses, in my opinion, all the attributes of a perfect leader of Light Cavalry.

I have &c.,  
EVELYN WOOD,  
Brigadier-General.

*Camp, Umfelozi River, Zululand,*  
July 5, 1879.

SIR,

IN compliance with instructions, I have the honor to report that I marched from bivouac at 5.45 A.M., on the 4th July, with the Mounted Corps under my command and occupied positions covering the advance of the column to the ground I had selected the day before.

As soon as the troops had formed up we advanced towards the points where the Zulus were bivouacing.

We were soon heavily engaged on three sides, and the different corps retired independently upon the infantry square, with regularity and steadiness, and it was due to the personal exertions of the several commanding officers that this difficult movement was executed without the slightest confusion.

As soon as the Zulu attack wavered, Captain Brown and the mounted infantry moved out in support of the 17th Lancers, and the rest of the mounted corps went out in other directions.

The enemy were pursued with spirit; the Natal Native Horse, under Captain Cochrane, 32nd Light Infantry, specially distinguishing themselves, as, getting off with a flying start, they reached the Zulu reserve beyond Ulundi, inflicting great loss upon them with comparative impunity.

Having pushed the pursuit to the slopes of the hills forming the amphitheatre we were engaged in, we returned to the infantry, and then, by the direction of the Lieutenant-General Commanding, we burnt Ulundi and the military kraals near.

In this we met with no resistance. I estimate that during the day we inflicted a loss of at least 450 men upon the enemy. Our casualties were, I am thankful to say, very small.

Both the Lieutenant-General Commanding and yourself have from time to time been pleased to express approval of the operations of the corps under my command, and I take this opportunity to bring to your notice the fact that these operations would have been impossible but for the manner in which my efforts to secure the repose and safety of the flying column and to carry out your orders have been seconded by the officers and men serving under me.

Very few of these gentlemen have had the advantage of military training, but, as regards their executive duties, no ill effects have resulted from this want.

In the peculiar warfare in which I have been generally engaged the rough practical knowledge of the Colonist has proved more valuable than the trained service of military troops, while their cheerful self-imposed obedience has fully compensated for the absence of discipline.

In carrying out your wishes my task has been materially lightened by the efforts of the under-mentioned officers, Captain Lord William Beresford, 9th Lancers, my Staff Officer, who came from India for the Zulu war, has been of immense assistance to me. Energetic and untiring, he is always at hand when wanted, while his marked gallantry in the field and his pleasant address, secured the respect and ready obedience of the men.

Captain E. Prior, 80th Regiment, served for some time in the Frontier Light Horse until you were obliged to send him back to his regiment, then greatly in want of officers. I gladly availed myself of the first opportunity I had of regaining his services. He has been my orderly officer since the end of May.

Sir T. Hesketh, Bart., who is visiting Natal, volunteered his services to me as galloper, and has always been willing and anxious to do his best.

Captain Brown, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, commanding 1st Squadron Mounted Infantry, is an officer who can be thoroughly depended on, while his coolness and personal courage under fire render him an excellent troop leader.

Commandant Raaff, Transvaal Rangers, is a perfect type of a border soldier, brave, indefatigable, and deeply versed in African warfare. I have profited equally by his assistance and by his advice.

Commandant D'Arcy, Frontier Light Horse reckons neither personal inconvenience nor danger in the execution of any order, determined and bold; he has frequently shown great personal gallantry, and has always given a fine example to his men.

Commandant Baker, Baker's Horse, though not strong in health, is singularly happy in his power of leading men in action and of controlling them in camp.

Commandant Whalley, Natal Light Horse, is a brave, straight-forward gentleman, whom I have known for the last fifteen months, and who has always done well.

Captain Cochrane, 32nd Light Infantry, has commanded the Natal Native Horse throughout the operations; the corps has been most efficient, and this I attribute in a great measure to the tact and good management of Captain Cochrane.

In the above-mentioned corps are many excellent officers, whose names I hope hereafter to bring to the notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding; but Captain Alfred Blaine, Frontier Light Horse, deserves special mention. He has served under me for fifteen months, and has never failed in any duty. I had occasion to bring his name forward for gallantry during the Kaffir War, and again in the operations against Sekukuni, and he merits similar mention now.

Throughout the operations the sick and wounded of the mounted corps have had the advantage of the services of Civil Surgeons Connolly and Jolly. These two gentlemen have been alike remarkable for the readiness with which they have treated wounded men under fire, and for the kindness and attention they have paid to them in camp. During the retreat from Hlobana Mountain, on the 28th March, these two gentlemen not only remained with the rear guard to treat wounded, but, when not so employed, greatly assisted the rear guard, using the rifles of the wounded.