

performed with a cheerful readiness deserving of all praise.

9. During this period Commander Brackenbury was ably supported by Commander Romilly of the "Boadicea," and by Captain Phillips, R.M.L.I., commanding the Marines of the Brigade, and the bright and cheerful manner of these officers could not fail in its effect upon the officers and men under their orders. Brigadier-General Clarke was frequently testified to the great support and assistance he derived from the officers and men of the navy during this trying period.

10. During the occupation of Fort Chelmsford several reconnaissances were made for the examination of the different drifts for the passage of the Emlalazi river, in which Commanders Brackenbury and Romilly, Sub-Lieutenants Startin and Smith-Dorrien, took part. These reconnaissances were made under fire.

11. On the 17th June General Crealock advanced from the Tugela, and crossed the Emlalazi river on the 22nd without opposition.

12. The division encamped on the Emlalazi plain on the coast, at the position known as Port Durnford, and on the arrival the following day of the "Forester" with the surf boats and store ships for the purpose of opening communication with the shore at that place, the services of the brigade were immediately put in requisition for this operation, and so well was the work done that in three weeks time over 2,000 tons of commissariat and ordnance stores had been landed on the open beach, to the entire relief of the land transport.

13. On the 7th July Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived in camp to assume the chief command of the army, and intelligence having been received of the victory of Lord Chelmsford at Ulundi, the General informed me that the services of the naval forces on shore would no longer be required, and accordingly, on his return to Port Durnford from his meeting with Lord Chelmsford at St. Paul's, he inspected the brigade on 21st July, and with the exception of the "Boadicea's" crew, who remained to work the landing, they were embarked the same day for return to their ships, the "Boadicea's" following on 27th.

14. In my despatch of the 11th April, I mentioned the name of Commander Brackenbury (and enclosed the report of that officer, who commanded at the action of Ginginhlovo) of Lieutenants Carr, Lindsay, and Kingscote, R.N., and of Captain Phillips, who commanded the marines of the brigade, and who was ably seconded by Captain Burrowes, R.M.A., and the other officers of the Royal Marine Regiments.

15. Where all did good service and were animated by an excellent spirit, it is not possible for me to mention every officer individually where so many were engaged, but I enclose for their Lordships' consideration a complete list of all the officers who took part in the operations on shore during the war.

16. A finer and more efficient body of men than were paraded by Captain Fletcher Campbell on the plains of the Emlalazi, for the inspection of Sir Garnet Wolseley on the completion of their service, could not have been seen.

17. Of the services of Staff (now Fleet) Surgeon Norbury, Staff Surgeons Longfield, Shields, Grant, and the other medical officers of the Brigade, I cannot speak too highly.

18. Lieutenant Commander Smith, Sub-Lieutenants Bouchier-Wrey, Theed, and the officers and crew of the "Forester," performed most excellent service on the coast, and by their careful survey contributed mainly to the complete success of the landing operations at Port Durnford, which

were effected without accident to any of the vessels employed on this dangerous and imperfectly surveyed coast.

19. The transport arrangements at Durban and Port Durnford have throughout been most ably conducted by Captain Twiss, R.N., principal transport officer, and the officers of his department, Commander Caffin, Lieutenant Gardiner of the "Shah," and Mr. Ramsay, paymaster. The operation of disembarking so many thousand men, horses and mules, and thousands of tons of stores, at the exposed anchorage at Durban, where ships are continually rolling to an inordinate degree, and conveying them over the heavy bar, has been conducted with the most complete success, and without a single accident from first to last.

20. I have received the most cordial assistance throughout from Captain Bradshaw of H.M.S. "Shah," who has also conducted the duties of senior officer at Durban during my absences at the front.

21. Captain Adeane, of H.M.S. "Tenedos," acted as senior officer at Simon's Bay from February until the departure of the "Tenedos" for England on the 20th June, and has rendered the best service during the great strain thrown upon the resources of the Navy in coaling and forwarding the many transports arriving almost simultaneously, and in expediting the clearing of the colliers.

22. The work done at Simon's Bay dockyard during the long continued strain upon this small establishment has been immense, and the cheerful and continued assiduity shown by Staff Commander Rowe, Mr. White, chief engineer, Mr. Fynmore, storekeeper, and Mr. Gillham, carpenter and superintendent of repairs, commands my highest admiration.

23. During this war it has been necessary for the complete efficiency of the service, that I should keep two offices open, the one at Durban and the other at Simon's Bay. The clerical labour has been very great, and communication and arrangement of details of transport and other services between Durban and the Cape, and with the military authorities, has been incessant. The telegraph was constantly at work, and in this duty the services of Mr. Carlisle, my secretary at Durban, and of Mr. Trew, assistant paymaster at Simon's Bay, have been invaluable, and I have much pleasure in recommending both these officers to the most favourable consideration of their Lordships.

24. I cannot conclude this despatch without referring to Lieutenant Archibald Milne. His name has been frequently mentioned by me before in connection with the highly interesting and intelligent reports which he has from time to time furnished me during the war, some of which I have deemed of sufficient importance to forward direct to their Lordships. Lord Chelmsford, in writing to me of this officer, characterises him as being a most useful and intelligent aide-de-camp, and I have much pleasure in saying that a more useful and intelligent representative of the Naval Service at Head Quarters could not be desired. Lieut. Milne was directed by Lord Chelmsford to keep me fully acquainted with the progress of events during the war, and I feel sure that their Lordships will agree with me that he has ably carried out his instructions.

25. The officers and men of the ships left on the Natal coast, short of hands, deserve notice. Anxiously desiring to be at the front, their duty kept them in Durban Roads for many months, rolling on an average through an arc of 30 degrees, the vessels being always held in readiness to put to sea at short notice on the approach of