

retreat of three trains of troops that approached Nefiche, and the abandonment of a fourth at Nefiche, a very remarkable result considering the place was only seen from the tops, and the range was 4,000 yards.

In the afternoon I opened communication by placing two canal boats across the Sweet Water Canal, stern to stern.

In the fighting line itself a party of R.M.L.I. held the shelter trench by the canal, where also was the signalling station. The Marines also held the group of houses by the railway, and the bluejackets held the remainder.

In the evening, having been reinforced by some 140 marines (R.M.A.), they were posted along the high canal, as a support for our fighting line.

At night we posted sentries 300 to 400 yards to our front and went rounds, and in the early morning Major-General Graham came in with part of his Brigade, and bivouacked in our rear.

In conclusion I would draw your attention to the very efficient and willing manner in which all of your party did the work of entrenching, and the aptitude they showed for such work.

I have, &c.,

T. FRASER, Major,
Brigade Major, R.E.

Captain H. F. Stephenson, C.B.,
Commanding H.M.S. "Carysfort."

REPORTING PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUEZ CANAL 19TH TO 21ST AUGUST, 1882.

H.M.S. "Ready," at Ismailia,
August 22, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report my proceedings in carrying out your orders dated 19th August, in connection with the occupation of certain points on the Suez Canal. Learning that it was very important that the dredger stationed at the ninth mile should be secured, I placed Lieutenant Davies of the "Penelope" with 20 men in charge of her. Proceeding up the Canal, I informed all vessels bound to Port Said, also the garekeepers, that it would be necessary for the ships to remain in gare until they received further instructions. I detached Sub-Lieutenant Blomfield in "Tourmaline's" steam cutter with six additional hands, to ensure the above instruction being complied with, having previously obtained a promise from the English shipmasters that they would obey them. After occupying Kantara as instructed, I detached Lieutenant Barnes-Laurence in "Iris" torpedo boat to ensure the canal being kept clear. He reports that on his return to the gare at Kilo No. 34, he found the Messageries Maritimes steamer "Melbourne" leaving, and that on remonstrating with her captain, he was informed that the steamer should only be stopped by armed force, and that the first man stepping on board would be signal to let go the anchor and leave the ship in his hands.

Lieutenant Barnes-Laurence not considering that his instructions warranted the use of force, left to report to me, and sent the "Tourmaline's" steam cutter to warn ships coming up from Port Said.

Shortly after leaving, he observed the British steamers "Ross-shire" and "Counsellor" weigh and follow the Messageries steamer, upon which he chased them, and compelled them to haul into the next gare, and having cautioned the masters, who reiterated their promise, he left to rejoin me. Mr. Blomfield informed me on his return, that directly the "Iris" torpedo boat was out of sight, the English ships appear to have again left the gare, as he met them steaming down the Canal at a point where it was useless to stop them. The other duties assigned to the party under my

No. 25145.

B

command were all punctually executed, and on Sunday, the 20th instant, all who could be spared were employed lightening the steamer "Kaiteur," aground in the Canal, but she could not be moved.

In conclusion, I beg to express my thanks to all the officers, especially Lieutenant Barnes-Laurence of the "Iris," Sub-Lieutenant R. G. H. Blomfield, of the "Tourmaline," and Mr. A. H. Freeman, Midshipman of the "Monarch," for their zealous attention to my orders, also my great satisfaction with the behaviour of the men during nearly 48 hours of continuous hard work.

I have &c.,

H. H. EDWARDS, Commander.

To Rear-Admiral A. H. Hoskins, C.B.,
Second in Command.

DETAILS OF A PARTY EMPLOYED UNDER COM- MANDER H. H. EDWARDS IN THE SUEZ CANAL, FROM 19TH TO 21ST AUGUST, 1882, INCLUSIVE.

Boats.

"Iris," steam torpedo-boat.—Lieutenant L. Barnes-Laurence.

"Monarch," steam picket boat.—Lieutenant R. H. L. Risk, Midshipman A. H. Freeman.

"Penelope," steam pinnace.—Mr. J. Symes, Chief Officer, Coastguard.

"Tourmaline," steam cutter.—Sub-Lieutenant R. G. H. Blomfield.

Small-arm Companies.

"Penelope."—Lieutenant F. H. Davies, 2 Coastguard Officers, and 59 petty officers and men.

"Northumberland."—Lieutenant H. B. Dillon, Sub-Lieutenant C. E. Tower, Midshipman E. A. Day, and 36 petty officers and men.

H. H. EDWARDS, Commander.

PROCLAMATION.

H.H. the Khedive having given the Admiral commanding the British Fleet authority to take charge of all places in or near the Maritime Canal as may be necessary for operations against the rebels, Rear-Admiral Hoskins, commanding the British vessels in the Maritime Canal, now takes possession of Port Said for the purpose indicated, and trusts that all the inhabitants will assist him, as far as lies in their power, in maintaining order and protecting life and property.

The Governor, Ismael Pasha Hamdy, appointed by H.H. the Khedive, will resume his office, and conduct his duties as formerly.

The Captain of H.B.M.S. "Monarch" will act as Military Commandant of the garrison, and be responsible for the defence of the town against the rebels, and the support of the Khedive's civil authorities against any attempts that may be made against life or property.

The police patrols, which will consist of English soldiers and Egyptian police, will at once arrest all persons causing disturbances, more serious crimes being dealt with by martial law.

The Rear-Admiral trusts that all business will be conducted, and the affairs of the town go on in the ordinary course, under the rule of His Excellency the Governor.

A. H. HOSKINS, Rear-Admiral,
Commanding H.B.M. Ships in the
Maritime Canal.

H.M.S. "Monarch,"

SIR,

Port Said, August 21, 1882.

IN pursuance of your orders, dated the 19th instant, that at 3.30 A.M. on the 20th, I was with