

These men, who had been previously dragging their guns over heavy ground and then through the three hours' fight, arrived with their wounded officer about eleven o'clock that night at Trinkitat. So anxious were they not to miss the advance on Tokar, that they started off again about four o'clock the next morning, arriving at El-Teb in good time to take their share in the severe toils of that day.

This is merely an illustration of the gallant spirit that animated the entire Naval Brigade, from its Commander to the last man.

I beg to be allowed to express my high admiration, and that of the force I have had the honour to command, at the thoroughly cordial co-operation of the Royal Navy throughout the expedition. Nothing could exceed the courtesy and readiness of Admiral Sir W. Hewett to meet all our requirements, and the work of loading and unloading the ships under Captain Andoe, R.N., proceeded smoothly and swiftly, the Officers and men of both services working cordially together.

I beg to attach to this Despatch a letter received from Admiral Sir W. Hewett\* in reply to one of mine thanking him for the great services rendered by the Royal Navy to the expedition.

In concluding this Despatch I wish to express my deep sense of the admirable spirit in which the duties that have fallen to the Officers and men have been carried out during this short but arduous campaign.

The shifting of the base from Trinkitat to Suakin entailed severe fatigues and labours, as owing to the dangerous character of the coast, ships could only move by day, and the time at my disposal being short, it was necessary to hurry on the operation of embarking and disembarking men, horses, camels, stores, &c., so that the work had to be carried on day and night. Officers and men understood this and worked cheerfully. They also bore the toils and privations of long marches in the desert under a burning sun with a necessarily short supply of water.

On the night preceding the action at Tamai there was little sleep, as the enemy were firing on us continuously from past midnight to dawn. This, too, was borne silently and without flinching.

As regards strength and endurance I beg to point to the remarkably low sick rate (less than 2 per cent.), and to the fact that not one man was lost by sickness.

The distances marched under a burning sun were also creditable. On the return from Tokar to Trinkitat the distance marched was about 16 miles, and the two return marches to Suakin from the front were about the same distance. On all these occasions the troops marched in easily with scarcely a man falling out, though there were many cases of blistered feet from the burning sand.

It is true that many men were prostrated by the intense heat during the march out on the first day of the last advance, yet the same men, with few exceptions, advanced cheerfully the next day towards Tamanieb.

Late that afternoon I had to call up the Royal Highlanders and Royal Rifles in expectation of resistance, and the men marched cheerily to the sound of song and pipe, not a man falling out when the next move was to bring them in presence of the enemy.

This could not have been accomplished without a thoroughly sound system of interior economy in the regiments, battalions, and corps composing the force; and the greatest credit is

due to the regimental Officers who kept their men in such a high state of efficiency. Considering the way in which the hardships were borne, and the obstacles overcome, also that the foe was far from being a despicable one, it is in no spirit of boasting I venture to submit that, although containing many young soldiers in the ranks, and although hurriedly got together, partly composed of troops on passage home from India, who had to be equipped from local sources, the force sent on this expedition has shown itself worthy of the British Army.

I have, &c.,

G. GRAHAM, Major-General,  
Commanding Expeditionary Force.

#### Sub-Enclosure No. 1.

Evidence of Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, 19th Hussars.

HAVING been wounded through my left arm and side, and my horse having been killed, I found myself on the ground surrounded by the enemy and by my own men, who were charging, and passed quickly over me. I held out my right hand, which was seized by Quartermaster-Sergeant Marshall, who stayed behind with me, and dragged me through the enemy, and took me back to the regiment. Had I been left behind I must have been killed.

Evidence of Officer Commanding "E" Troop, 19th Hussars.

I have the honour to bring to notice the name of the undermentioned non-commissioned officer, who distinguished himself at the battle of El-Teb:—No. 1384, Quartermaster-Sergeant Marshall, "For leading Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow out of action under a heavy fire and frequent charges of the enemy, Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow being severely wounded at the time.

J. C. A. WALKER, Lieutenant,  
Commanding "E" Troop 19th Hussars.

True copy,

K. S. BAYNES, Captain,  
Assistant Military Secretary.

I concur with the above remarks.

D. R. APTHORP, Captain,  
Commanding 2nd Squadron, 19th Hussars.

#### Sub-Enclosure 2.

From the Brigadier-General Commanding the Troops, Handoub, to the Chief of the Staff, Head-Quarters.

SIR, *Handoub, March 21, 1884.*

WITH reference to your Memo., dated Camp, Suakin, 19th March, 1884, I have the honour to forward the attached return of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the troops under my command, who have distinguished themselves in the field since landing at Suakin.

I beg to bring to your notice the gallant conduct of Lieutenant P. S. Marling, of the King's Royal Rifles, during the battle of Tamai. In my humble opinion the attached evidence proves this Officer to have behaved in a manner entitling him to the reward of the Victoria Cross; and I beg, therefore, most favourably to recommend him to the notice of the General Officer Commanding for this distinction.

I have, &c.,

HERBERT STEWART, Brigadier-General,  
Commanding Cavalry Brigade and Troops, Handoub.

\* See Enclosure marked "D."