

negligible and controlled by our Naval guns. The day was fearfully hot, the sky cloudless, the atmosphere sultry and airless, and the country waterless in most parts.

Colonel Bullock, 2nd Devons, behaved with great gallantry; he did not receive the orders to retire; his party defended themselves and the wounded of the two batteries till nightfall, inflicting considerable loss on the enemy, and it was only when surrounded that he consented to surrender, because the enemy said they would shoot the wounded if he did not.

During the progress of events that I have been describing, the mounted men under Lord Dundonald, supported by two guns of the 7th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, and two battalions, 6th Brigade, were heavily engaged with a considerable force that attacked my right flank, and which they repulsed. The other four guns, 7th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, were enfilading the Colenso position.

I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which the Mounted Volunteers behaved.

I attach a list of casualties. It is, I regret to say, heavy, though luckily a large proportion are slight.

We were engaged for eight hours with an enemy occupying commanding selected and carefully prepared positions—positions so carefully prepared that it was almost impossible for Infantry to see what to aim at, and I think the force opposed to us must altogether have equalled our own. We had closed on the enemy's works, our troops were in favourable position for an assault, and had I, at the critical moment, had at my disposition the Artillery I had, as I believed, arranged for, I think we should have got in. But without the immediate support of guns, I considered that it would be a reckless waste of gallant lives to attempt the assault.

Considering the intense heat, the conduct and bearing of the troops was excellent. I especially noticed the Royal West Surrey, the Devonshire and the Border Regiments, but all were good.

I am unable to give an estimate of the enemy's loss. They were extremely well concealed, but, judging from their fire in places, their trenches must have been very full of men, and our shell fire was constant and very accurate. Among the many conflicting accounts I have received, I incline to believe those, and they are the majority, which state that the enemy's losses were heavier than they had thought possible.

I have, &c.,

REDVERS BULLER,
General.

List of Casualties.

Action at Colenso on 15th December, 1899.

KILLED.

Imperial Light Horse—Other ranks, 3.
South African Light Horse—Other ranks, 4.
Natal Carbineers—Other ranks, 4.
7th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Other ranks, 1.
14th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 5.
66th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 3.
Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 4.
1st Battalion Border Regiment—Other ranks, 6.
1st Battalion Connaught Rangers—Other ranks, 24.
2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment—Other ranks, 9.

2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 38.

1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 17.

2nd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers—Other ranks, 2.

2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers—Other ranks, 12.

2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment—Other ranks, 1.

2nd Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment—Other ranks, 3.

Royal Army Medical Corps—Officers, 1. Total—Officers, 7. Other ranks, 136.

WOUNDED.

Royal Navy—Other ranks, 3.

13th Hussars—Other ranks, 2.

Imperial Light Horse—Other ranks, 7.

South African Light Horse—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 19.

Natal Carbineers—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 6. C.R.A.—Officers, 1.

1st Brigade Division Staff, Royal Artillery—Officers, 2.

7th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 8.

14th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 16.

64th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 2.

66th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 11.

73rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Other ranks, 5.

1st Division Ammunition Column—Other ranks, 1.

Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry—Officers, 3. Other ranks, 27.

5th Brigade Staff—Officers, 1.

1st Battalion Border Regiment—Officers, 3. Other ranks, 42.

1st Battalion Connaught Rangers—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 103.

2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment—Officers, 6. Other ranks, 60.

2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers—Officers, 3. Other ranks, 148.

1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry—Other ranks, 2.

1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers—Officers, 10. Other ranks, 76.

2nd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers—Officers, 1. Other ranks, 20.

King's Royal Rifle Corps—Officers, 1.*

Rifle Brigade—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 6.

2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers—Other ranks, 2.

2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers—Other ranks, 20.

2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment—Other ranks, 31.

2nd Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 89.†

1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers—Other ranks, 3.

2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment—Officers, 1. Total—Officers, 47. Other ranks, 709.

MISSING.

South African Light Horse—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 11.

14th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 3. Other ranks, 40.

66th Battery, Royal Field Artillery—Officers, 2. Other ranks, 24.

1st Battalion Border Regiment—Other ranks, 1.

*Since dead.

†Four since dead.