

force, but no trace has been found of the other three, which presumably fell into the enemy's hands.

The force took up a position on Cainguba, which they strengthened with breastworks to some slight extent, and remained unmolested till daybreak. It was then found that the position was too large for them to adequately occupy, and that only the most pronounced salients could be held. The Boers appear to have gradually surrounded the hill, and after a fight extending over several hours, our men's ammunition began to fail owing to the ammunition mules having stampeded, as already described. The advanced parties holding the salients were driven back on the main body in the centre of the plateau, and the Boers gained the crest line of the hill, whence they brought a converging fire to bear from all sides on our men crowded together in the centre, causing much loss. Eventually it was seen that this position was hopelessly untenable, and our force hoisted a white flag and surrendered about 12.30 p.m.

11. Including under the head of "missing" those thus taken prisoners, our losses this day amounted to six Officers and 63 non-commissioned officers and men killed, 10 Officers and 239 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, and 37 Officers and 917 non-commissioned officers and men missing.

12. Next day, 31st October, General Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., G.C.B., &c., arrived at Cape Town, and assumed the command in the whole of South Africa. My independent command in Natal consequently came to an end, and I therefore close this Despatch with the events of 30th October. Subsequent events will be reported to the General Officer Commanding in South Africa in the ordinary course.

13. I desire to place on record my gratitude to the Government of Natal and to all departments under the Government, for the most willing and hearty assistance which they have afforded me in every matter in which their co-operation was required.

14. I desire to bring the following Officers very specially to your notice as eminently deserving of reward for the services rendered by them:—

The late Lieut.-General Sir W. Penn Symons, K.C.B.—I cannot too strongly record my opinion of the energy and courage shown by this distinguished General Officer in the exercise of his command, until he was mortally wounded in the action on the Talana Hill, near Dundee, on the 20th October last. In him the country has lost an Officer of high ability and a leader of exceptional valour.

Major-General Sir A. Hunter, K.C.B., D.S.O., Chief of the Staff.—The services of this Officer have been of the very highest value to the State. His zeal is indefatigable, and he has carried out the business of the force under my command so as to relieve me of all anxiety. He is equally good in the field, and has the gift of carrying with him all with whom he is brought in contact. I have every confidence in recommending this Officer for advancement as one fitted for the highest commands.

Major-General J. D. P. French, commanding the Cavalry, rendered me most valuable assistance. He commanded the troops engaged at Elandslaagte, where his dispositions resulted in the most decisive victory. I consider his services have merited very special recognition.

Brigadier-General J. H. Yule succeeded to the

command of the Dundee force when Major-General Sir W. Penn Symons was wounded, and had a difficult duty to carry out. He conducted the retirement of the force from Dundee to Ladysmith with marked success.

Brigadier-General J. Wolfe Murray, commanding Lines of Communication, is an Officer of great administrative ability, and has done his work excellently well. He has been specially selected for this most important post from the confidence felt in him, and, as it is one that entails hard work and is not as popular as employment in the front, I think the value of the service should be exceptionally recognised.

Colonel Ian Hamilton, C.B., D.S.O., has acted as Brigadier-General in command of a brigade since my head-quarters have been established at Ladysmith. I have made a special recommendation in favour of this Officer for the manner in which he led the Infantry at the action of Elandslaagte on the 21st October, and consider him an Officer of special ability who is well fitted for higher rank and command.

Colonel B. Duff, C.I.E., Indian Staff Corps, has been my Assistant Military Secretary, and has discharged the duties of the office with marked ability and success. His advancement will be a benefit to the Service, and he is well fitted for the highest staff appointments.

Brevet-Colonel E. W. D. Ward, C.B., A.S.C., A.A.G. (B).—I cannot speak too highly of this Officer. His forethought in collecting supplies in Ladysmith while railway communication was open with the sea at Durban has enabled me to occupy the position here with perfect confidence that the garrison could not be starved out. When the force originally at Dundee was thrown back on Ladysmith, having had to abandon the supply provided for it, Colonel Ward's provision was ample, even for the extra strain thus thrown upon the supply, as well as to meet the necessity of finding rations for the civil population. His power of work and resources are most marked, and he has won the confidence of all. I consider him an Officer of the highest administrative ability, and recommend him most strongly for recognition of his exceptionally valuable service with this force.

Colonel C. M. Downing, R.A., Commanding Royal Artillery, has been my adviser on all artillery matters in my command, and I count myself fortunate in having had the assistance of such an experienced and highly-educated Artillery Officer. I cannot speak in too high terms of the behaviour of the Royal Artillery on all occasions on which I have had to call upon them, or of the value of their services to the State.

Colonel W. G. Knox, C.B., Colonel on the Staff, Ladysmith, has, from the appointment he holds, been left in command of Ladysmith on all occasions when the Field Army has gone out. His services have been very valuable.

Colonel W. Royston, Commanding Natal Volunteer Force.—The services which Colonel Royston and the forces under his command have rendered to the State and Colony have been of the very highest value. In him I have found a bold and successful leader, and an adviser whose experience of the Colony and of the enemy has been of great value to me. Employed on arduous duty, from the commencement of the campaign in touch with the enemy, I have found him prompt and ready for every emergency. He and his force reflect the highest credit on the Colony of Natal.

Colonel J. G. Dartnell, C.M.G., Chief Com-