

a corps of grass-cutters was formed and placed under the charge of Major W. J. R. Wickham, Assistant Commissary-General, Indian Commissariat Transport Department. This corps, which consisted of Indian refugees and Kaffirs, did excellent work, and collected grass under conditions of considerable difficulty.

43. I take this opportunity of publicly expressing my deep sense of the gallantry and patient endurance of hardships displayed by all ranks of all corps under my command.

The Naval Brigade of H.M. Ship "Powerful," under Captain the Honourable Hedworth Lambton, R.N., have rivalled the best of our troops in gallantry and endurance, and their long-range guns, though hampered by a most serious want of sufficient ammunition, have played a most prominent part in the defence, and have been most successful in keeping the enemy from bringing his guns to the ranges at which they would have been most efficient.

The Cavalry have not only performed their regular duties, but when their horses became non-effective have served as infantry, being re-armed with rifle and bayonet, and taking their regular share in holding the fortifications.

The Artillery have displayed their usual skill and gallantry, whether as mobile batteries or when used as guns of positions in fixed emplacements as became increasingly necessary during the latter portion of the investment.

The Royal Engineers, both Officers and men, have sustained the grand traditions of their corps, and whether engaged on the defences, in maintaining telegraphic and telephonic communication between all sections of the defences, in ballooning, or in any other work required of them, have done everything which they were called upon to perform in a manner which has afforded me the highest satisfaction.

The work of the Infantry especially, exposed day and night to all weathers on our lines of defence, almost continually under fire, and living latterly on a ration consisting of little more than a proportion of horse flesh with $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per man of inferior and scarcely eatable mealie bread, has been of the most severe and trying nature, and has been carried out without a murmur and with the most cheerful steadfastness.

Of the Imperial Light Horse, specially raised in Natal at the commencement of the war, I have already expressed my opinion. No praise can be too great for the gallantry and determination which all ranks of this corps have invariably displayed in action.

The Natal Volunteers have performed invaluable service. Their knowledge of the country has been of the very greatest use to me, and in every action in which they have been engaged they have shown themselves most forward and daring. The Natal Naval Volunteers have proved themselves worthy comrades of the land forces of the Colony.

44. The civil inhabitants of Ladysmith, of all ages and both sexes, have uncomplainingly borne the privations inseparable from a siege, and have endured the long-continued bombardment to which they have been exposed with a fortitude which does them honour.

45. In conclusion, I trust I may be allowed to give expression to the deep sense of gratitude, felt not only by myself but by every soldier, sailor and civilian who has been through the siege, to General Sir Redvers Buller and his gallant force, who, after such severe fighting, so many hardships, and notwithstanding very

severe losses, have triumphantly carried out the relief of my beleaguered garrison.

46. Finally, I desire to bring prominently to your notice the following Officers, Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers, sailors, soldiers, volunteers, and civilians, who have rendered specially good service during the four months of the siege.

Major-General Sir Archibald Hunter, K.C.B., D.S.O., who acted as my Chief of the Staff, is an Officer of well-known reputation. I cannot speak too highly of him, whether for the performance of Staff duties or for bold leading in the field. He is a most loyal and efficient Staff Officer, and I recommend him for advancement with the utmost confidence, being well assured that such a step would be for the good of the State.

Captain the Honourable Hedworth Lambton, R.N., commanding the Naval Brigade, reached Ladysmith in the nick of time, when it became evident that I was not strong enough to meet the enemy in the open field. He brought with him two 4.7-inch and four 12-pr. guns, which proved to be the only ordnance in my possession capable of equalling in range the enemy's heavy guns. Although the ammunition available was very limited, Captain Lambton so economised it that it lasted out to the end of the siege, and under his direction the naval guns succeeded in keeping at a distance the enemy's siege guns, a service which was of the utmost importance. Captain Lambton personally has been the life of the garrison throughout the siege.

Major-General F. Howard, C.B., C.M.G., A.D.C., Commanding the 8th Brigade and in charge of Section B of the defences, has proved himself a careful and able administrator. The works constructed in his section were exceptionally strong and well maintained.

Colonel I. S. M. Hamilton, C.B., D.S.O., Commanding 7th Brigade and in charge of Section C of the defences, has, during the whole of the operations of the defence, been in charge of the most exposed and most extended front, including the immense position of Cæsar's Camp and Wagon Hill, over 4 miles in perimeter. I cannot speak too highly of his indefatigable zeal in organising the defence of his front, and in keeping up the hearts of all under him by his constant and personal supervision. His leadership on 6th January was the most marked factor in the success of the defence.

Colonel W. G. Knox, C.B., Colonel on the Staff in charge of Section A of the defences, exercised the command entrusted to him with great zeal and skill. The works constructed on his front were models of semi-permanent entrenchment, laid out from the commencement on a plain which enabled him to strengthen them day by day until they became practically impregnable. He is an Officer of fine nerve and a strong disciplinarian. I trust his services may be adequately rewarded.

Colonel W. Royston, Commanding Natal Volunteer Forces and in charge of Section D of the defences. I can only repeat the high praise which I had the pleasure to bestow on Colonel Royston in my despatch of the 2nd December, 1899. He commanded Section D of the defences in an admirable manner, and with his force, though much reduced in numbers by casualties and disease, continued to the end to perform invaluable service. He is an Officer exceptionally suited to his important position as Commandant of the Natal Volunteer Forces, and I trust that he may receive some suitable reward.