

Engineers Edgar H. Ellis, and Charles C. Sheen, have rendered most valuable and arduous services in the mounting of the 4·7 guns, Mr. Ellis being stationed at and sharing the fighting of the 4·7 gun at Cove Redoubt, previously mentioned.

Mr. Sheen has erected three condensers at the railway station, whereby 6,000 gallons of distilled water are supplied daily to the troops.

He also was one of the party under Mr. Sims, gunner, employed in mounting the 4·7 gun on Waggon Hill, on Saturday, 6th January, and was actively engaged all that day in the defence of that position against the Boers, receiving a slight wound in the face from a shrapnel shell.

Mr. Sims, gunner, is a most capable and indefatigable officer, and of great ability. I understand his gallant services on Waggon Hill, 6th January, have been reported to you by Colonel Hamilton.

Messrs. John R. Middleton, Henry T. Hayes, Robert C. Hamilton, Hon. Ian L. A. Carnegie, Alick Stokes, Edward G. Chichester, and Charles R. Sharp, midshipmen, have all behaved with great coolness under fire, and satisfactorily carried out the duties allotted to them.

Mr. Carnegie has had charge of a 12-pr. gun at Caesar's Camp since 27th November, 1899, which he has fought successfully under, at times, a hot fire.

All the Petty Officers and men have behaved well both in action and in carrying out the various duties connected with the defence of the position, assigned to the Naval Brigade; but I specially mention the following, who, being captains of guns, have had the best opportunities of distinguishing themselves for coolness under fire:—

Henry W. C. Lee, P.O., 1st class, captain of 4·7 gun at Junction Hill and Waggon Hill.

Philip T. Sisk, P.O., 1st class, captain of 4·7 gun, Cove Redoubt.

Archibald C. Pratt, leading seaman, 12-pr., Leicester Post.

Albert G. Withers, P.O., 1st class, 12-pr., Gordon Post.

Samuel E. Hemmings, leading seaman, 12-pr., Manchester Camp.

Iee, in addition, was specially noticeable for his gallant behaviour at Waggon Hill, on Saturday, 6th January, himself shooting a Boer, whilst assisting in the retaking of the hill.

I have, &c.,

H. LAMBTON, Captain, R.N.

Lieutenant-General

Sir George White, V.C., G.C.B., &c.,  
Commanding at Ladysmith.

Ladysmith,

SIR, February 28, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Powerful's" Naval Brigade, consisting of 283 officers and men, two 4·7, three 12-pr., one 12-pr. 8 cwt., and four Maxim guns, landed at Durban, Sunday evening, October 29th, and arrived here in two special trains about 8.30 Monday morning.

The battle of Lombard's Kop was then in progress. Fifty spans of oxen were obtained for the long 12-prs., and after consultation with Colonel Knox, R.A., C.B., I proceeded with them, and a company of blue-jackets in support, to a position about half a mile to the west of Limit Hill.

However, before arriving there, the order for

the left of the line to fall back was received, and during the slow return along the Newcastle Road, the teams of oxen afforded a tempting target to the Pepworth gun, which, after about half a dozen good shots, burst a shell under the leading gun, overturning it and disabling the gun's crew, and stampeding the cattle and drivers.

Fresh oxen were obtained, and the gun brought in.

In the meantime, the other two 12-prs. took up a position on the flats in front of Gordon Post, and opened fire on the Pepworth gun at a range of about 7,000 yards, making good practice, and the Boer gun soon ceased firing for the day.

Gordon Post was assigned for the Naval Brigade to hold, and the 12-prs. and Maxims were distributed along that position.

November 1st, one 4·7 gun was mounted at Junction Hill, and the other on Cove Redoubt on Friday, November 3rd.

During the progress of the siege some variations in the disposition of the guns became necessary; amongst others, one 12-pr. being permanently stationed on Caesar's Camp, and the Junction Hill 4·7 gun being occasionally moved to Waggon Hill, and finally to Caesar's Camp, to meet the probable moves of the enemy.

I have already, in my letter of January recommending officers and men to your notice, entered into details of the expenditure of ammunition and the damage believed to have been done to the enemy by my guns, and have nothing further to add.

The conduct of the brigade has been excellent.

I regret that in common with the large majority of the regiments of the garrison there has been much sickness amongst my officers and men, 2 officers and 25 men having succumbed to wounds and disease, chiefly enteric and dysentery.

To have had the good fortune to participate in your memorable defence of Ladysmith will always be a pride to the "Powerful's" Naval Brigade, and on behalf of my officers and men I take this opportunity of expressing my recognition of the cordial kindness we have received from the gallant army under your distinguished command.

I have, &c.,  
H. LAMBTON, Captain, R.N.  
Lieutenant-General  
Sir George White, V.C., G.C.B., &c.,  
Commanding at Ladysmith.

Enclosures to Letter No. 202 of 15th March, 1900, from the Commander-in-Chief on the Cape of Good Hope Station.

Naval Brigade,  
Nelthorpe Camp, near Ladysmith,  
SIR, March 2, 1900.

I BEG to report on the operations leading up to the relief of Ladysmith, more especially the part taken by the Naval Brigade.

On Monday, 19th February, I left Chieveley Camp at 5 A.M., with two 4·7-inch guns, and moved to a position on Green Hill, where we came into action about 5 P.M.

At this time the troops had taken Cingolo Hills and Monte Christo, also Hlangwani, and were driving the remainder of the Boers across the Tugela. The enemy were shelling our troops from their positions across the river, all our guns being used to keep their fire down.