

Reporting Services of Officers and Men
belonging to H.M.S. "Terrible."

Ladysmith,

SIR, March 13, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the excellent manner in which the officers and men of H.M.S. "Terrible" serving with the two 12-pr. guns under my command from December 7th, 1899, till March 11th, 1900, performed their duties, in many cases of a particularly arduous and trying nature.

Mr. Williams, Gunner, R.N., is to be especially mentioned for the zeal and ability with which he carried out all his duties.

William Wiltshire, A.B.,
A. E. Reading, O.S.,
H. Harwood, O.S., and
G. Sears, Stoker,

also showed an energy and willingness under all conditions, which is thoroughly worthy of recognition.

I have, &c.,

F. W. MELVILL, Lieutenant R.N.,
H.M.S. "Forte."

To Captain E. P. Jones, R.N.,
Commanding Naval Brigade, Natal.

Enclosure to Letter No. 360 of 9th May, 1900,
from the Commander-in-Chief on the Cape of
Good Hope Station.

Naval Brigade, Elandslaagte,

SIR, April 12, 1900.

I BEG to report that at about 8 A.M. on 10th instant the enemy commenced shelling the camp from the hills across Sunday's River to the north and north-east, about 5,000 to 7,000 yards, and from the north-west a little further back.

The naval guns immediately came into action in front of the camp, and opened on four positions, which fortunately were very quickly located, one being silenced, and, according to native runners, destroyed. After a while the fire from the other positions was very much kept down.

The 2nd Brigade happened to be out, and were just about to take a kopje for exercise, when the cavalry patrols were driven in by the enemy.

The infantry occupied the kopje north of us, and it was held all day by the West Yorks, who were being continually shelled all day by a gun concealed by a ridge from any of our guns, and also by a pom-pom, which could not be silenced.

A number of Boers were all over the hills around, and there was a considerable amount of rifle fire also from the Boers in the river-bed and neighbouring dongas, but little damage was done.

As soon as possible after the commencement I had the guns separated, and placed some in epaulments that had been previously prepared for them, covering a frontage of about a mile, and also moved the ammunition wagons, &c., back to where there was a little cover.

I may mention that the Kaffir drivers and boys, as a body, excited my admiration. They got their oxen up from grazing, inspanned, and got them away with great celerity, although for a time, especially about their wagons, there was a very heavy fire indeed.

Lieutenant Steele, "Forte," who was assisting with the ammunition supply while waiting for his gun team, was wounded; fragment of shell, contusion right leg, slight.

One wagon and a gun limber were broken by

shell. A shell also passed through a box of 12-pr. ammunition, cutting some cordite cartridges in two.

The enemy made no attack except at long range, and after dark our whole force fell back to more protected positions amongst the Elandslaagte hills.

Soon after the West Yorks left their kopje, the Boers crossed the river and occupied it. They mounted a gun there, and for a little while yesterday shelled our cavalry.

The 4.7-inch guns are now in position on the top of a hill, the site of the Elandslaagte fight last October.

Lieutenant James, with two 12-prs, is two or three miles away on the right. The remaining two 12-prs. are on a ridge on my left, commanding the railway station and line.

I have, &c.,

E. P. JONES,

Captain Commanding Naval Brigade.

Rear-Admiral

Sir Robert H. Harris, K.C.M.G.,
Commander-in-Chief.

P.S.—I have just been informed that 25 Natal Volunteers are to be attached to my brigade, so I shall be now in a better position as regards men.

Enclosures to Letter No. 384 of 16th May, 1900,
from the Commander-in-Chief on the Cape of
Good Hope Station.

Naval Brigade, Elandslaagte,

SIR, April 30, 1900.

SINCE my last letter of 12th April there has not been a great deal to report.

On Saturday, 21st, soon after daylight, we observed large bodies of Boers on the move in different directions on the foot of the hills in front (north), and on both flanks. About 7 A.M. we opened fire on them with our guns. Two Boer guns, one on each flank, replied. One 4.7-inch smashed the one to the right (4,800 yards) after a short time, and the other one soon ceased firing. We continued firing at intervals all day on different bodies of the enemy that exposed themselves. There were no casualties, although they got the range of the 4.7-inch guns accurately.

I may mention that I received a letter from the Chief of Staff, expressing General Clery's commendation at the smart manner in which the Naval guns came into action on 10th, and kept the enemy's fire down when they shelled the camp. This letter I was requested to read to the men. It was the first time any of them, except the "Tartar's," had been under fire, and they acquitted themselves very well.

I have, &c.,

PITCAIRN JONES, Captain,

Rear-Admiral O.C. Naval Brigade.

Sir R. H. Harris, K.C.M.G.,
Commander-in-Chief.

Royal Naval Brigade, Smaldeel,
Orange Free State,

SIR, May 8, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows:—

On the 27th April communication was established with Commander Grant for the first time since his departure on the 25th. Surgeon Jeans was ordered to return to Blomfontein immediately, and reported himself on the 29th, proceeding to Simonstown on the 30th.

28th April.—Captain Morgan, R.M.L.I., and Lieutenant Poë, R.M.A., were sent to the base hospital at Blomfontein.