

5.45, after a hot march of 22 miles, in which two or three nasty spruits had to be crossed.

24th April.—Left Klip Kraal at 6 A.M., and proceeded in company with column to Waterworks (two miles). Crossed the Modder River at 2 P.M., and proceeded to the top of Mamena Kopje, where we arrived at 4.30, and where the guns were placed in position.

I regret to say one ox was killed by the gun when crossing Koorn Spruit, at Klip Kraal, and three others fell out on the march, these were, however, all replaced by others from the transport.

We remained at Mamena till April 30th, during which time nothing of importance occurred, though fighting was proceeding to the north and west on most days.

30th April.—Removed the guns from Mamena and proceeded in company with the G.O.C. and the Black Watch and Argyle's to Waterval Drift, where we bivouacked, at 2.30, the Seaforths and a howitzer battery being left at Waterworks (Sannah's Port).

This was a short march of under 10 miles, but the river had to be crossed twice, and a bad spruit. No. 1 gun capsized in a sluic at the side of the latter, but after allowing the transport to pass, was, with the assistance of the 7th Company R.E., and our escort, consisting of a Company of Argyle's, again on the march in 20 minutes.

We remained in position at Waterval till May 2nd, when the E.P.L.H., the Seaforths, H.L.I., and a field battery having joined the column we proceeded at 6 A.M. and marched to Fairfield (13 miles), arriving at 12.30.

At Fairfield we found the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, who were encamped on our left, and the 19th, 21st, and a Mounted Infantry Brigade on our right.

Parties of Boers in considerable strength with guns, were on this march and hereafter, reported to be on our flanks and rear.

3rd May.—The other brigades, under General Hamilton, together with our Field Battery (82nd), moved off at 6 A.M.; the G.O.C., with E.P.L.H., Highland Brigade, and ourselves at 9.30, when we marched to Pappe's Vallei (10 miles), arriving at 2 P.M.

4th May.—Left at 6 A.M. and marched till 9, when we came up with the advanced force engaging the enemy who were in position across our front.

The Highland Brigade were sent to attack a large, steep, flat kopje (Baboon Hill) on our right front, under cover of the naval guns firing at a range of 6,000 yards. Good practice was made and considerable loss, it is understood, inflicted. The enemy did not stand, but bolted soon after they had opened on the attacking infantry with rifle fire, consequently our loss in this attack was small, three wounded.

Limbered up and proceeded again about noon, when we marched to Susansfontein and bivouacked at about 2.30 P.M. immediately under Baboon Hill.

5th May.—Moved off at 7.45 and marched 11 miles to Roodepoort, where we arrived at 1.45.

Welcome Drift was crossed on this march; it was a nasty crossing.

6th May.—Moved off at 7.30 and marched 13 miles to Winburg, arriving at 1.15 after crossing the De Wet River.

7th May.—Placed the guns in position on the top of Railway Kopje, where we now remain.

The behaviour and endurance of the Brigade

under my command since leaving Bloemfontein has been most satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

W. L. GRANT,
Commander, R.N.

Captain J. Bearcroft, R.N.,
Senior Naval Officer.

Enclosures to Letter No. 697 of 5th September, 1900, from the Commander-in-Chief on the Cape of Good Hope Station.

Naval Brigade, Heilbron,

Sir,

1st June, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report my movements since May 9th as follows, for your information and that of the Commander-in-Chief, Simons Town.

The Brigade remained with guns in position on Railway Hill, Winburg, for the defence of the town, till May 22nd, one Maxim belonging to the Highland Light Infantry being attached to assist in the defence of the position.

The strength of the detachment was as follows:—

36 officers and 50 men.
3 conductors.
42 natives.
13 wagons.
3 carts.
Two 4.7-in. guns.
7 horses
290 oxen.

Three wagons and 48 oxen, with six natives, carrying small arm ammunition for the Highland Brigade, were also attached to the Naval Brigade during the following operations.

22nd May, 1900.—Left Railway Hill at 7 a.m. and marched with column to Sand River, 19 miles, arriving and bivouacking at 4, after halting one hour for dinner and crossing the river. During this march four oxen fell out from exhaustion, not including those which fell out from ammunition wagons attached.

Column was composed as follows, under the command of Lieut.-General Sir Henry Colville:—Highland Light Infantry, Seaforths, Eastern Province Horse in small numbers, 7th Company R.E., 5th Field Battery R.A., together with supply, hospital, and transport.

23rd May.—Marched at 6 a.m. to Roode Kraal, 15½ miles, arriving at 1.45. A bad drift had to be crossed, which delayed the column somewhat. Two oxen belonging to Brigade fell out.

The Black Watch and Argyle's, under Major-General Macdonald, joined the column at this place from Ventersburg.

24th May.—Marched at 8 a.m., and arrived at Blaauwbank, 18 miles, at 4.40. Three oxen fell out.

25th May.—Resumed march at 7 a.m. till about noon, when opposition being met with in front, the guns were brought into position, but, the enemy retreating, no rounds were fired, and march was resumed at 1 till 2.30, when Brigade bivouacked, having covered 16 miles.

Considerable opposition was met with on this day, and our force suffered some casualties. One ox fell out.

26th May.—Proceeded at 6.30. The road was bad and hilly, with many drifts and spruits. At 10.30 came into action at 3,700 yards against enemy in position on Bloemberg, 29 rounds being fired. Enemy having been driven off and position occupied by our infantry, after a flanking movement to right, proceeded with the guns about 12.20 and marched into Lindley,