

fire, and steadiness in maintaining a well directed fire in return, which, coupled with that of the Field and Garrison Artillery, silenced the enemy's guns, it is difficult to particularise, but I would especially bring to your notice for favourable consideration the following officers and men, viz:—

Commander Spencer de Horsey, of H.M.S. "Monarch," for the calmness, ability and energy displayed by him in preparing the 4.7-in. guns for action, and for the example set and encouragement given to the officers and men under him after he was wounded, and before he was carried off the field.

Lieutenant E. Back, R.N., of H.M.S. "Monarch," in charge of the two 12-pr. guns, for ability and courage in taking the guns across a plain exposed to rifle fire, and for care and foresight in selecting a position for them, to which I attribute the immunity from casualties of the guns' crews.

Major Peile, R.M.L.I., of H.M.S. "Doris," and Lieutenant Newman, R.N., of H.M.S. "Monarch," respectively in charge of the 4.7-in. guns, for coolness and care in directing and controlling the fire of those guns.

Fleet Surgeon James Porter, of H.M.S. "Doris," for the efficiency of the arrangements for attending the wounded with the limited staff at his command.

Mr. Lowe, Gunner (T), of H.M.S. "Monarch," for zeal and energy shown in keeping up an adequate supply of ammunition near the guns, and in looking after the safety of the remainder.

Mr. S. F. I. Wardle, Midshipman, of H.M.S. "Doris," who, acting as my A.D.C., was frequently exposed in carrying messages, and behaved with courage and coolness.

Captains of guns, for good and accurate marksmanship, and coolness and care in laying the guns under fire:—

Wm. J. Jagó, P.O., 1st Class, O.N. 127,684.

F. S. Barrett, P.O., 1st Class, O.N. 104,373.

Thos. Ashley, P.O., 1st Class, O.N. D/140,045.

R.M.A./4281, Sergeant Burroughs.

Charles Chapman, 2nd Yeoman Signals, O.N. 184,094, for quickness of eye and observation in discovering a few of the enemy moving to a convenient cover for sniping, and probably preventing many casualties by the timely warning.

I have, &c.,

JOHN E. BEARCROFT, Captain.

Rear-Admiral Sir R. H. Harris, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Commander-in-Chief.

Royal Naval Brigade, Pretoria.

9th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE to report as follows:—

On the 22nd May the brigade marched from Kroonstad with the 11th Division and camped at Honingspruit Siding at 6 p.m.

23rd May.—Marched at 6 a.m. for the Rhenoster River, where the enemy were reported as holding the drift. At 10 a.m. the country was reported clear, and the Brigade camped on south bank of the Rhenoster River at 5 p.m. Distance, 16 miles.

24th May.—Marched at 5.45 a.m., crossed the Rhenoster River without difficulty, and camped at Redefort Station at 5.15 p.m. Distance, 14 miles.

25th May.—Marched at 7 a.m., and camped at Groot Vlei at noon. Lieutenant Boyle was sent to Hospital suffering from enteric fever.

26th May.—Marched at 6 a.m. for Kreuseamm-

fontein. Camped at 5.30 p.m., having waited two hours for road across the drift to be prepared. Distance, 15 miles.

27th May.—Marched at 6 a.m. for Vereeniging. Crossed the Vaal River at Viljoen's Drift, without opposition, at 10 a.m., and camped 2 miles north of the town at 11.45 a.m. Distance, 12 miles.

28th May.—Marched at 5.40 a.m. At 9.30 the guns were placed in position and prepared for action. The enemy having retired, the march was resumed. Camped at Klip River Station at 6 p.m. Distance, 21 miles.

29th May.—Marched at 6.45 a.m. In crossing a bridge over a muddy stream No. 1 4.7-in. gun crossed safely, but No. 2 gun broke through the bridge with one wheel.

This entailed demolishing the bridge, and dragging the gun out of the bed of the stream, which was accomplished with the assistance of a company of Royal Engineers, after three hours' work, and the gun proceeded into camp at Germiston, which was reached at 7.45 p.m. Distance, 15 miles.

Meanwhile, No. 1 4.7-in. gun, which had been ordered to proceed and prepare for action if required, was, on the country being found clear of the enemy, ordered to proceed into camp, but missing the road, got into boggy ground while attempting to cross a small sluic at 5 p.m., remained in this position till the following day, with one wheel sunk to the axle, when, after some hours' work, and with the assistance of 80 oxen, and all available men of the Brigade it was extricated and reached camp at 11 a.m. on 30th May. Distance, 15 miles.

31st May.—The Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief entered Johannesburg, and the troops, including the portion of the Naval Brigade present, "marched past" through the town, and camped about 7 miles on the Pretoria Road. Distance, 12 miles.

The camp remained at this place till 3rd June, when the march to Pretoria was resumed at 6.45, camping at Waterval about 17 miles from Pretoria at 2 p.m. Distance, 12 miles.

4th June.—6 a.m., marched towards Pretoria. At 12.30 the Naval guns were brought into action and commenced shelling the enemy's position, forts, and the town, at ranges which varied during the engagement from 1,700 to 9,000 yards.

The details of the action have been made the subject of a separate letter.

The guns were under artillery and rifle fire for some time, and while placing them in position, and before a shot had been fired, Commander de Horsey was wounded on the left ankle. This was the only casualty in the Brigade; firing was continued till dusk, and officers and men bivouacked round the guns.

5th June.—The guns were prepared for action at daylight, but soon afterwards information was received that the town had surrendered at 10 p.m. on the 4th, with orders to prepare to march in.

The Field Marshal having entered the town, the troops followed and "marched past" through the market square, the 11th Division camping about 2 miles west of the town, near the Race Course, at 4.30 p.m.

7th June.—Major Marchant, R.M.L.I., who, with 27 men had followed from Kroonstad with reserve ammunition for the guns, arrived, and it is entirely due to his energy and arrangements that in the event of the action having been renewed on the morning of the 5th June, the