

reserve ammunition could have reached the guns during that day.

On 7th June, the 11th Division, including the Naval Detachment, marched to Christinen, about 8 miles east of Pretoria on the Middelburg Road, where the camp remains.

During the march from the last camp, near the Race Course, the undermentioned men of H.M.S. "Tartar," who were taken prisoners on the 15th November last, reported themselves to me as having escaped, and they have been taken on the strength of the Brigade:—

George Moog, A.B.

Waller Thompson, A.B.

Christopher Connor, A.B.

E. J. Reed, A.B.

Both officers and men have stood the strain of the long forced march well, and the gun mountings do not appear to have suffered materially. The brake blocks of the 4.7-in guns were completely worn, and have been renewed, and the bushes of the gun wheels are showing signs of wear.

The health of the portion of the Brigade present is "very good," and the general conduct of the men has been very good indeed.

I have, &c.,

JOHN E. BEARCROFT, Captain.

Rear-Admiral Sir Robert H. Harris, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Commander-in-Chief.

Royal Naval Brigade, Pretoria,

17th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report as follows:—

In pursuance of orders from the G.O.C. 11th Division, the two 4.7-in. guns were moved on the 11th June at 3 a.m. to a position commanding some high kopjes held by the enemy at and near Pienaarspoort.

The guns were in position at 6.30 a.m., and remained there all day, prepared to cover the advance of the troops. At 4 p.m. five rounds were fired at the enemy's position, which could only be reached with extreme elevation.

The two 12-pr. guns in charge of Lieutenant Back were detached and moved with the Guards Brigade. A report of his proceedings up to the date of his rejoining is enclosed herewith.

12th June.—At daylight the 4.7-in. guns were moved to a kopje about 3,000 yards in front of yesterday's position, and brought into action at 9 a.m., at ranges varying from 5,000 to 9,000 yards.

Firing was continued at intervals during the day, and ceased at 4 p.m., 56 rounds being expended, and the men bivouacked round the guns.

13th June.—The guns remained in position without being brought into position.

14th June.—The Brigade, with the 4.7-in guns, marched at 7 a.m. 3 miles towards Pretoria, and camped to await orders.

15th June.—The 4.7-in. guns were moved into camp between Koodoospoort and Pretoria, where the 12-pr. guns rejoined, and a standing camp was formed.

There were no casualties in the Naval Brigade during these operations.

The shooting on the 11th and 12th was very good, and reflects great credit on the captains of guns, who were mentioned in my letter of the 9th instant.

The health of those present is very good, and the general conduct of the men is very good indeed.

The portion of the Brigade under my immediate command remains encamped near Pretoria.

I have, &c.

JOHN E. BEARCROFT, Captain.

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

Commander-in-Chief.

Naval Brigade Camp, Pretoria,

16th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report of proceedings of the 12-pr. Battery under my command, which was operating from the 11th instant to the 15th instant, in conjunction with the 83rd Battery R.F.A. and the Guards Brigade, under the command of General Inigo Jones.

At 6.30 a.m. on the 11th instant the above force moved to within about 5 miles of the enemy's position at Pienaarspoort, and on the following day advanced to support General Hamilton, who was attacking on our right flank.

At about 2 p.m. No. 1 12-pr. gun came into action (having been dragged by hand up a small kopje), and shelled the enemy's position, whose artillery fire was silenced at the first few rounds.

At 2.45 p.m., acting on orders received from the G.O.C., I directed Lieut. French, R.M.L.I., to place No. 2 gun on a position some 200 yards to the left, and to enfilade with shrapnel the positions occupied on our right front by the enemy's riflemen, and to assist General Hamilton's advance, which had been temporarily checked.

At 3.15 p.m. orders were received to "cease fire," as our infantry were advancing on to the line of fire from the right. Shortly afterwards the G.O.C. signalled that the 12-prs. were to advance and rejoin the Guards Brigade, which had in the meantime moved forward towards the long ridge occupied by the enemy.

Owing to the difficult nature of the ground, it took over an hour to reach the foot of this ridge, on the top of which a severe engagement was taking place. As it was getting dark, I was directed to remain under cover of the ridge. The troops remained during the night in the positions which they held.

There had been no casualties among the 12-pr. Battery during the day. Ranges varied from 3,700 to 6,000 yards. Satisfactory results were obtained with the long-range fuses supplied to field artillery for trial, and borrowed from them for trial with the 12-pr. gun. Shrapnel shells were by this means burst over the Boer "sangars" at a range of 5,900 yards.

12th June.—At 5.30 a.m., in accordance with orders received from the G.O.C., the guns were placed on the top of the ridge, in the position occupied on the previous night by the 82nd Battery (under General Hamilton), and which was from 2,500 to 3,500 yards from a further ridge then held by the enemy.

The guns were in position by daylight, but it was found that the enemy had retreated during the night, and left us in possession of the entire ridge, which was an extremely strong and extensive position.

The Brigade under General Inigo Jones remained at Donkerhoek (west of ridge) during the 13th and 14th, and on the 15th marched to the camp of the 11th Division 2 miles east of Pretoria, where the 12-pr. Battery rejoined your command.

The officers (Lieut. French, R.M.L.I., and Mr.