

Cunningham, midshipman) and men worked well throughout.

I have, &c.,

ERIC BACK, Lieutenant.

Captain John Bearcroft, R.N.,
Commanding Naval Brigade.

Naval Brigade, Leeuw Spruit,
20th July, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Philomel's" detachment remained at Sandspruit until 10th July, everything during that time being quiet.

On 10th, this detachment proceeded by train to Standerton, leaving all the transport behind.

On 12th, I borrowed two gun-teams, drivers, harness, &c., from Major Guinness, 86th Battery, R.F.A., and proceeded to experiment on the possibility of horsing the Naval guns.

Finding everything satisfactory, I took them to Headquarters, and paraded them before Sir Redvers Buller, Colonel Parsons, C.R.A., being present.

That afternoon I received orders to send our gun, horsed, to Katbosch, in company with a section of a field battery, escorted by cavalry.

They returned the following day, not having been in action. Everything had worked satisfactorily, and the carriage was not in any way damaged or strained.

On 16th, I received orders to proceed to Waterval by train, to join General Clery's Division. The guns were horsed by 86th Battery.

We arrived that evening at Waterval Camp, and were given wagons for baggage, &c., the following morning.

We shifted camp that day about 1 mile to the eastward.

The force trekked to Irenedale on 18th. Before arriving in camp, the Boers fired several rounds from a high-velocity gun into our left flank infantry. We trotted into action and returned their fire. They then ceased fire, and removed their gun.

Next day we moved on to Leeuw Spruit, about 12 miles north of Standerton, where we are at present camped.

There was desultory rifle firing during this march. The Boers lighted a grass fire in rear of our rearguard, under cover of which they came up in some force and sniped, but retreated when our infantry turned about.

The health of the Brigade has been very good.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR HALSEY, Lieutenant,

Commanding Naval Brigade.

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

Naval Brigade, Greylingstad,
1st August, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the enclosed report from Lieutenant Clutterbuck.

Lieutenant Burne returned from leave on 27th July, and resumed command of the "Tartar's" guns, one of which is in position on Grass Kop, and the other at Opperman's Kraal.

Since my last report the "Philomel's" Detachment trekked back with the column to this place, arriving on 24th, without opposition.

On 26th, part of this column moved to Suikerbosch, covering the repair of the railway towards Heidelberg, and returned to Greylingstad on 30th. The railway is now complete to Pretoria.

Lieutenant Clutterbuck rejoined my detachment.
No. 27293. C

ment yesterday. He reports the "Tartars" are all in good health.

The health of this detachment has been excellent.

I have, &c.,

A. HALSEY, Lieutenant,

Commanding Naval Brigade.

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

SIR,

Gras Kop, 25th July, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday, 22nd inst., we marched from Zandspruit with the right column, under General Talbot-Coke, at 9 a.m., and took up a position on Cavalry Ridge.

At 10 a.m. we opened fire, and shelled the top of Gras Kop, covering the infantry's advance, who took the position at about 12.30 p.m.

At 1.30 p.m. I got orders to remove my guns to the top of Gras Kop as quickly as possible, as the enemy had opened fire on our infantry on top of the hill with several field guns. I came into action on top of Gras Kop at 3.30, and shelled the retreating enemy with one gun, my other gun having been delayed by the forepart of its limber breaking away from the axle. This gun arrived on the hill at 4.30 p.m., but did not come into action as the enemy were out of range.

My two guns are now in position on Gras Kop.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS A. CLUTTERBUCK, Sub-Lieutenant.

Commanding "Tartar" Detachment.

Lieutenant A. Halsey, R.N.,

Commanding Naval Brigade with
General Buller's Army.

Royal Naval Brigade at Brugspruit Station,
2nd August, 1900.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to report as follows:—

On 20th July a telegram was received, through the G.O.C. 11th Division, from the G.O.C. R.A., directing the transfer of the guns and stores to the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Naval Brigade to return to Pretoria when relieved. These orders were countermanded almost immediately by the Chief of the Staff.

22nd July.—The Brigade left Eerste Fabricken and proceeded to Donkerhoek, 5 miles.

23rd July.—Marched to Diamond Hill (Kleinfontein), a distance of 3 miles, where the guns were held in readiness to be brought into action if required.

The country being clear of the enemy the march eastwards was resumed at 7 a.m. on 24th July, and the Brigade, in company with the Guards Brigade and Royal Field and Garrison Artillery, camped for the night on Brockdhurst Spruit, about 6 miles south of the railway, at 5 p.m. Distance, 13 miles.

25th July.—Marched at 6 a.m., arriving and camping at Hartebeestfontein at 5.30 p.m. Distance, 16 miles.

26th July.—Marched at noon 3 miles to Honingkrantz, camping at 2.30 p.m.

27th July.—Marched at 6 a.m. Arrived at Brugspruit Station at 5 p.m. Distance, 16 miles.

30th July.—The camp was moved, and the 4.7-in. guns placed in position for defence $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Brugspruit Station, where the Brigade remains.

Heavy rain was experienced, with a high wind on the night of the 25th.

The 12-pr. guns under Lieutenant Back rejoined on the 26th, and I enclose that officer's report of his proceedings during the time he was detached.