

We cleared the enemy out of two or three schantzes before the Infantry came within range, and saw considerable numbers falling back apparently to other positions.

Finally we located a pom-pom at 10,000 yards, and after a good deal of firing, induced it to move just before dusk.

We ceased fire, our men having advanced nearly up to our limit of range.

About 8 p.m. I received orders that my guns were to be got to the bottom of the hill during the night. We limbered up and proceeded to the top of Nek. There was a dense fog and it was bitterly cold.

Here, by putting every man I possessed on the drag-ropes, I eased the waggons one by one down the hill—a most arduous piece of work, as the men had to climb the hill again after each. They worked splendidly, however, and we got everything down to the drift at the bottom at 4 a.m.

I consider this the best night's work our men have done during the whole campaign.

At 8 a.m. we were ordered to a position near Yellow Boom Farm, and soon after we arrived there, to go on with General Coke's Brigade through Botha's Pass. We arrived there and bivouacked at 6 p.m.

Next morning—10th—we advanced at daylight with the Division towards Gransvlei.

Lieutenant Halsey's 12-prs. came into action in front with the artillery twice during the day.

We arrived near Gransvlei and bivouacked about 4 p.m.

On the 11th, at 5 a.m., we advanced with the artillery and took up a position, whence we fired a few shots at the enemy on the hills in front of the line of advance.

At 11 a.m. we again advanced and came into action on a ridge 5,000 or 6,000 yards in front of Almon's Nek, from where the enemy had just commenced to shell our troops.

About 1 p.m. the infantry advanced to attack the position, General Coke's Brigade taking the hills on the right of the Nek and General Hamilton's Brigade those on the left.

The enemy's guns and pom-poms had by this time been silenced by the artillery and Naval guns.

My guns being on the right, with the artillery on the left, I confined my attention to the hills on the right. The guns appeared to make good practice, and I was afterwards informed by General Coke that they did considerable execution and materially assisted the attack.

I observed that the Howitzer Battery made excellent practice.

The storming of the hills by the Dorsets and Dublins I thought a very fine performance.

Late in the afternoon the Commander-in-Chief directed me to fire on some hills away on the right, where I was unaware any of our men were attacking, but after a few shots I observed our men had got the lower slopes and that the Boers were retreating off the top; so, after shelling till the last of them had disappeared, and sending a few shells over the hill after them, I ceased fire.

Next morning we moved on towards Zandspruit with the column, coming into action at noon with the 4.7's on a ridge and firing a few shots at some retreating Boers on the hills in front; but they were soon all out of range.

In the afternoon we continued the advance with the 11th Brigade, and bivouacked for the night 5 miles from Volksrust, and came on to our present position in the morning,

The officers and men, one and all, worked with the greatest keenness and energy throughout the whole of the operations.

I desire particularly to mention Lieutenant Hunt ("Forte"), who acts as chief of staff for me, and gunnery officer. His ability in a tight place, energy, and hard work are beyond all praise.

Lieutenant Melville, second in command, was also indefatigable in his work.

Mr. Ledgard, midshipman, my A.D.C., was also most useful, and guided the 12-prs. during the night march on Van Wyk.

Of the P.O.'s and men I would specially mention Chief Armourer John Restall ("Tartar"), who on two occasions worked all night repairing broken gun-carriages and limbers—and to him and the men who worked with him, viz:—

George Hooper, Armourer's Crew ("Forte"),  
Wm. Antony, Ldg. Seaman (Natal Naval Volunteers),

Thos. Druce, A.B. (Natal Naval Volunteers),  
and

Octavius Hart, Armourer's Mate ("Tartar"), is entirely due the fact that the 12-prs. were ready to come into action on the morning of the 8th.

Alexander Munro, C.P.O. ("Tartar") was conspicuous in his zeal and ability in charge of a 12-pr.

Benjamin Stephens, C.P.O. ("Forte"), and T. Weatherhead, P.O. 1. ("Philomel") were conspicuous for their good shooting and general utility.

T. Ball, Yeo. Sig. ("Forte") and E. Waring, Yeo. Sig. ("Philomel") for the excellent look-out they kept and smartness in discovering the enemy, &c.

In my general appreciation of the efforts of the Brigade of course I include Lieutenants Anderton and Barratt and men of the Natal Naval Volunteers.

The officers' previous experience of trekking in the country was very useful to me.

I have, &c.,  
E. P. JONES,  
Captain, R.N.,  
O.C. Naval Brigade.

Naval Brigade, Heilbron,  
1st July, 1900.

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to report my proceedings since 2nd June for your information.

The guns were placed in pits, with ready magazines and connected by a trench, on the brow of the hill above the town on arrival. All ammunition was unloaded from the waggons and placed in a trench. During our stay the enemy has been entrenched round the town in varying force, and sniping between the picquets has been more or less continuous from day to day. On the 15th they were reported to be about to attack in considerable force with many guns, and all transport was moved into the town under cover.

Movements of troops and engagements have been frequent in the vicinity, both on the part of external columns and of troops detached from this Brigade.

June 20th.—Moved out No. 2 gun at 8 a.m. with the Seaforths, two R.F.A. guns, mounted troops, and two companies of H.L.I. as gun escort, 3½ miles to N.W., to cover the entrance of a convoy escorted by Lord Methuen. Found enemy in position with several guns between Lord Methuen and ourselves. Opened at from 8,000 to 10,000 yards and drove the enemy