

15th August.—De Wet being reported to be at bay 12 miles ahead, marched at midnight 13½ miles till 5.15 a.m., and again at 1.30, 2½ miles, to Rietfontein.

On arrival received information that De Wet had escaped N.E. through Oliphant's Nek.

16th August.—Received orders to march to the relief of Colonel Hoare at Eland's River Station. Proceeded at 8 a.m., 3 miles, but orders being cancelled, returned to camp at Rietfontein.

17th August.—Marched at 1 a.m. to join Lord Kitchener at Eland's River station. Halted at Tweefontein, 21 miles, at 9 a.m. for 5¼ hours, when proceeded on the march. After marching 3 miles, received orders to return to Tweefontein, where the force again bivouacked at 4.30.

18th August.—Marched at 6 a.m., 6 miles, to Leeuwfontein, bivouacking at 8.15.

At this place, the left gun-wheel of No. 2 gun being hopelessly unsafe, the gun was placed in a wagon for the rest of the march, but ready for mounting at short notice if required. The carriage thus relieved got along with little difficulty.

19th August.—Marched at 6 a.m., 17 miles to Vlakkfontein, halting from 9 to 10 for breakfast, and bivouacking for the night at 1.30 p.m.

20th August.—Marched at 6 a.m., and bivouacked at Syferfontein, 17½ miles, at 2.40 p.m., halting at 9 for 1½ hours for breakfast.

Enemy hovering on flank and rear during this march; they captured two or three wagons, and a few men and horses who were foraging. Two field guns fired a few rounds at Boers on left front.

21st August.—Marched at 6 a.m., 19½ miles to Rietfontein, halting at 9 for two hours, and bivouacking at 3.30.

22nd August.—Marched at 7.30, 11 miles, to Krugersdorp, arriving at noon.

On arrival at Krugersdorp, No. 2 gun was placed in the hands of a local firm for repair, which was effected by casting new bosses, the old ones being much worn, and placing a circular plate over the fracture on either side of each wheel. This gun should be completed by September 1st. With regard to No. 1 gun (left at Welverdiend), it being found impossible to repair it at that place, it was ordered to Pretoria, and there repaired and sent back to Krugersdorp on August 28th, when Mr. Cannon and his party rejoined the Brigade.

The number of oxen lost by the Brigade during the above march was 61.

I must bring to your notice the zeal and energy displayed during the march by Joseph Tuck, Armr's. mate of "Barrosa." It was due to his exertions that the guns could be taken along, every halt, day or night, being utilised by him, aided by the crews, to repair, replace nuts, &c.

The distances travelled by the guns, not counting going into positions, &c. (which should add another 30 or 40 miles) are as follows:—

Up to time of wheels showing defect,
No. 1: 423 miles.

Up to time of wheels showing defect,
No. 2: 502 miles.

Up to time of wheels being hopeless,
No. 1: 489 miles.

Up to time of wheels being hopeless,
No. 2: 582 miles.

Number of rounds remaining, 590.

The health of the brigade has been excellent; no men have been sick during the month.

Field state, 4 officers, 57 men.

No. 27293.

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Privates T. Holt and J. Huskin, R.M.L.I., were found at Pretoria and joined Mr. Cannon's party, who returned with them to camp and joined this Brigade. These men were released by De Wet at Berg on the Natal Border. Went to Lady-smith, and from there accompanied a column to Pretoria.

I have, &c.,

W. L. GRANT, Commander.

Welverdiend, September 7th.

The Brigade left Krugersdorp attached to General Hart's (the Potchefstroom) Column on August 29th, and has since been rounding in cattle, &c., arriving at this place to-day.

Two or three engagements have taken place, and the 4.7-in. guns fired with effect.

No casualties have, I am happy to say, been suffered by this party.

Lieutenant Ferguson, with 13 men, 4 wagons, and 280 rounds of ammunition, was left behind at Krugersdorp, the repairs of No. 2 gun not being completed.

No. 1 gun was repaired at Pretoria in precisely the same way as No. 2 at Krugersdorp.

Enclosure No. 3 to Submission No. 936, from Cape of Good Hope Station.

Sir, Krugersdorp, 29th August, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report my proceedings between August 29th and September 30th, as follows:—

On August 29th I was left here in charge of No. 2 gun (then under repairs), 12 seamen, one stoker, one wagon, one Scotch cart, and 94 oxen.

On the afternoon of the 30th shifted camp to the S. side of railway station, camping on the right flank of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

On the afternoon of September 3rd the repairs to the gun wheels being completed, the mounting was brought up and placed in position for mounting the gun. This latter operation was performed in 17 minutes.

The gun was then placed in position facing N.N.W.

On September 7th we marched at 6 a.m. in company with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Proceeding through the town and roughly due N., the gun was brought into action on a high and rocky ridge overlooking the plain, of which the Swart Kopjes form the opposite side.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers continued on to the plain and advanced in extended formation towards Van Ziel's Farm. Major-General Barton, in the meantime, with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, E.P.H., and details, had arrived on the plain by the Pretoria Road. At 9.5 we opened fire at 4,700 yards at a small kopje in the centre of plain, on which we could see several Boers who were obviously preparing to snipe the right column. They were dispersed after a few rounds, one man being killed. Two rounds were then fired at extreme elevation over Swart Kop, behind which the Boers were said to have their laager.

I was then ordered to shell Van Ziel's Farm, which we did at 5,900 yards, one shell passing through the house. The practice was very good, notwithstanding the fact that a strong and irregular wind was blowing at right angles to the line of fire. Twenty-four rounds in all were fired, as per margin. Nothing further of interest has occurred until September 30th, when the headquarters of the Brigade arrived here with Major-General Hart's column.