

arms, prisoners, &c. Mr. Cannon, with detachment from Brigade taking part.

12th September.—Somersets and pompom remaining to garrison Potchefstroom, remainder of force marched at 11 p.m. along Ventersdorp Road. At 1.10 a.m. on the 13th the force bivouacked after marching 3 miles, the enemy being reported to be in position 1 mile ahead.

13th September.—Marched at 5.45 a.m. About 6.30 parties of Boers were sighted ahead.

Came into action and fired 11 rounds at 5,000 to 9,000 yards. Boers having bolted out of range, force proceeded (sending cavalry in chase) and bivouacked at 9.15.

Proceeded again at 1.45 till 5.15 p.m., when bivouacked at Frederikstad. Distance covered 16 miles.

The force remained at Frederikstad till the 19th. During this time the garrison was withdrawn from Potchefstroom, together with all prisoners and refugees, these being sent on to Welverdiend. Convoys were sent for supplies to Welverdiend and foraging parties sent out in the vicinity, troops being moved as necessary for their protection. Mr. Ball went to Welverdiend to obtain ammunition from Krugersdorp (50 rounds) and to arrange for a further supply being sent up from Bloemfontein.

Fighting took place every day a mile or more from the camp.

On the 14th a smart skirmish took place 1 mile to the southward; came into action and fired three rounds at 6,000 yards.

On 17th, at 3 p.m., the enemy commenced shelling the camp with one or two guns cleverly hidden in positions on a ridge 3,800 yards to the eastward.

Came into action and fired 35 rounds. After firing something under a dozen rounds, the enemy's guns ceased firing and bolted leaving 22 empty brass 12-pr. Krupp cartridge cases.

Difficulty was at first experienced in locating the enemy's gun as they used smokeless powder; but the flash once seen, the range was soon obtained, a lyddite shell burst within 10 yards of it, little damage was done in camp beyond a few horses and mules killed and wounded.

The enemy's position was much knocked about with lyddite and shrapnel, and they probably suffered some loss.

19th September.—All the force concentrated at Frederikstad.

At 5 p.m. moved all baggage (with five Naval Brigade wagons under Lord Graham) with two or three companies and two guns to kopje east of station. At 11 p.m. remainder of force crossed Mooi River, and at 1 a.m. marched west.

20th September.—Arrived at Witpootje, 12 miles, at 6 a.m. Found a good many Boers about, who fired on head of column from a kopje 800 yards off. Came into action.

Boers on kopje were shelled out by Field Artillery and the kopje occupied. Opened on parties of enemy 5,000 to 8,000 yards off, shifted position and opened again on more 4,000 yards off. Rounds fired, 17. Bivouacked for breakfast at 8 a.m., Yeomanry being engaged in a wood to the front; at 9 a.m. came into action and shelled wood at 3,000 to 5,000 yards, firing 15 rounds.

At 2 p.m. Boers, occupying a long, strong position, moved gun to kopje in front, Battery and Dublins proceeding to left, and S.W.B. turning position to right. Opened fire and shelled position, 2,300 to 5,000 yards range. Boers fled. S.W.B.'s occupied position.

Opened fire on retreating Boers at 8,000 to

9,000 yards. Fired 39 rounds; total for day, 71.

Returned to camp and bivouacked at 6 p.m.

The Boers had some killed in their position, and by good fortune suffered from the long shooting also.

21st September.—During the night Boers occupied a kopje 4,000 yards to W. and at daylight opened on our picquets. Came into action at 7 a.m. and fired 19 rounds, driving enemy away.

Column moved off at 10.30, and marched west.

At 1 p.m. came on enemy in considerable numbers in plain. Guns opened. Fired two rounds, a projectile then jammed in gun which necessitated ceasing fire till Boers were out of sight.

Proceeded, driving enemy ahead from ridge to ridge through broken country. 100 rounds having been left with baggage at Frederikstad, there were now only 47 rounds remaining with gun; the gun was, therefore, moved up, but fire reserved till necessity arose. The force bivouacked at 5.30 (having marched 13 miles) at Bulskop.

22nd September.—Marched at 6 a.m. Halted at 9.30 for three hours. At this place it was reported that 2,000 or 3,000 Boers, with two guns, a large laager, &c., were encamped to S.W., at Reitfontein. At 12.30 resumed march, deflecting to S.E., and sending to Frederikstad for convoy to come out and rejoin. Bivouacked at Welgegund at 3.30; convoy rejoining at 6 p.m.

The force again marched towards Reitfontein at 10.30 p.m., continuing the march until 4.15 a.m. on the 23rd, when a one hour halt was made.

On again proceeding at 5.15, two prisoners in a woman's laager and several hundred head of cattle were surprised and captured. Cavalry went ahead and force advanced, a good many Boers being about sniping. The Boer laager was surprised, but succeeded in getting away behind the hills before the guns could be brought up.

Put gun in position on a hill and fired five rounds at flying Boers at 5,000 to 8,000 yards. The enemy suffered a few casualties from our gun and rifle fire; one long shot effected about 12.

After breakfasting at 9 a.m., moved gun into camp and bivouacked at Eleaser at 12.30 p.m. Distance covered, 37 miles in 25 hours (by order). A few prisoners were captured.

24th September.—Marched at 9.30 a.m., 2 miles to Reitfontein. Bivouacked at 11 a.m. in Boers' old camp; sent out foraging parties.

Received orders to proceed to Krugersdorp.

25th September.—Marched at 5 a.m. 18 miles, to Potchefstroom (halting from 7.30 to 11, with gun in position), arriving and bivouacking at 4 p.m. On arrival in town the force marched past the Major-General Commanding in the Market Square. Captured a few prisoners.

27th September.—After resting one day, marched at 10 a.m., 15 miles, to Klip Drift, encamping at 4 p.m. Advanced guard had a skirmish, and captured one or two prisoners, 7,000 rounds of ammunition, &c.

28th September.—Marched at 6 a.m., 15 miles, to Leeuwspruit, halting from 9.30 to 1.15 and bivouacking at 3.45.

29th September.—Marched at 6 a.m., 8 miles, to Gamsbokfontein, halting from 8.30 to 11.30 and bivouacking at 4.15 p.m. On leaving the Gatsrand enemy attacked rear; guns halted,