

	Days march- ing.	Miles.	Miles average march.
Enslin to Bloemfontein ...	14	169	12.1
Bloemfontein to Winburg ...	8	95½	11.94
Winburg to Shelbron ...	8		
8 days consecutive march- ing, with fighting on			
5 of them ...	...	127	15.9
Chasing De Wet ...	17	265	15.6
Potchefstroom Column ...	20	310	15.5
Total ...	67	966½	14.43

Marching to positions and fights, &c., and returning
to camp—about 70 miles.

Total ... 1,036.

In the De Wet hunt, 250 miles were covered in 15 consecutive days, giving an average of 16.7 miles.

The longest marches are:—

37 miles in 13½ hours, or 38 in 16 hours.

37 " 25 "

Fourteen of the days' marches included in the above were from 2 to 6 miles, and 9 more, 10 miles and under. Deducting these, 816 miles were marched in 44 days, with an average of 18.5 miles; of these—

3 were between 30 and 40 miles.

5 " 20 " 30 "

28 " 15 " 20 "

On the 25 different occasions in which the guns fired in action, counting the 8 or 10 days' fight at Paardeburg as one, 520 rounds were fired, 347 from No. 1 gun, and 173 from No. 2 gun (these figures are as near as can be obtained), the longest range being 9,000 to 10,000 yards, and shortest 1,900 yards, the average range being 4,200 yards.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the spirit, endurance, and behaviour of officers and men throughout the campaign has been beyond praise. Work, often under conditions of great hardship, requiring endurance and spirit to a very high degree, has been met throughout with the greatest spirit and cheeriness, and the smartness, discipline, and soldierly qualities they have displayed will, I am sure, ever be remembered to their credit and that of the Naval Service. In no single instance has Lieutenant Ferguson ever had to bring a man before me for any crime, neglect of duty, slackness, or any other offence whatsoever, and this for a period of nearly nine months.

The marching powers displayed by the men have been to me quite a revelation, and by no troops in South Africa have I seen them excel.

I have the honour to submit the names of the following officers and men for special favourable consideration, but in doing so would respectfully urge that recognition may be taken of the services of the whole body, every man having used his utmost endeavour equally for the furtherance of the work of the campaign.

Men specially recommended:—

"Doris."—B. Murphy, P.O. 1st Class.

R. Aitkin, "

I. Tabb, "

"Barrosa."—Higgins, P.O. 1st Class, Cap-
tain of Guns.

R. Hall, P.O. 1st Class, Cap-
tain of Guns.

Gardiner, Leading Seaman,
Captain of Guns.

"Doris."—A. G. Clark, A.B. Has been
doing Leading Seaman's
duties for three months.

J. C. Hartnett, A.B.

"Barrosa."—H. Widdicombe, A.B.

With regard to the officers, Lieutenant Ferguson has throughout thrown himself heart and soul into the work, always thoroughly to be relied upon, and always striving to maintain the credit and discipline of the force at the highest pitch. It is to a large extent to his example and to his unswerving enforcement of a very high standard of discipline and promptitude (ably supported by the other officers and petty officers), that the ready adaption of the men to their surroundings and to the Service duties is due.

Mr. Cannon and Mr. Ball, gunners, have equally rendered themselves of the utmost value, ably seconding the efforts of their superior officers and carrying out their respective duties with the greatest zeal.

In the absence of Lieutenant Ferguson during the month of September, a month of great activity, heaving marching and almost continuous fighting, these two officers carried out his duties with the greatest ability and judgment.*

It was with deep regret I had to report the death and invaliding respectively of Mr. Menzies and Mr. Lang, Midshipmen. They were young officers of great promise. I would respectfully submit the name of the latter as having been most useful, very hard working, trustworthy, and painstaking in a marked degree.

I am, &c.,

W. L. GRANT,

Commander.

Royal Naval Brigade, Simonstown.

SIR,

13th October, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows:—

The detachment of the Naval Brigade under my immediate command, with one 4.7-in. gun remained at Barberton, with the gun in position, until 30th September.

A suitable steel plate having been procured, the broken gun-wheel was repaired by S. Colwell, armourer, assisted by four artificers of the Royal Artillery, and the iron wheels replaced on the gun carriage on 29th.

Orders were received on 30th September from the G.O.C. to hand over the gun and equipment to an officer of the Royal Artillery, and proceed with the men to Pretoria, preparatory to returning to this port. At the same time I was informed that similar instructions had been sent to the detachments under Major Marchant, R.M.L.I., and Lieutenant Back, R.N., at Belfast and Komati Poort respectively.

The gun, ammunition, &c., were handed over on 1st October, and at 6 a.m. the detachment entrained for Avoca where, as the line was still under repair, about a mile and a-half was traversed by road to Avoca Station.

A start was made from Avoca at 7 p.m., and after proceeding about 8 miles the injector to the boiler was found defective. Fires had to be drawn and the men bivouacked by the train in a heavy downpour of rain, with thunderstorms lasting all night.

* I would also specially bring to notice the zeal and energy displayed during the march by Joseph Tuck, armourer's mate of H.M.S. "Barrosa." It was due to his exertions that the guns could be taken along every halt, day and night being utilised by him, aided by the crews, to replace nuts, &c.