

"The Maine"	Thames	Atlantic Transport Company	2	285
"The Lismore Castle"	Durban	Admiralty Transport Dept.	2	289
"The Avoca"	"		4	1,131
"The Dunera"	"		2	539
"The Orcana"	"		3	548
"The Nubia"	"		2	543
"The Simla"	"		3	816

My thanks are due to Khem Bahadur Dhanjibhoy, a Parsee gentleman, long resident in the Punjab, who presented tongas for ambulance purposes. These tongas were horsed and fully equipped with drivers and all necessary gear. They proved most useful.

Nursing Sisters.

I find it difficult within the limits of a short paragraph to give expression to the deep feeling of gratitude with which the Nursing Sisterhood has inspired all ranks serving in South Africa. The devotion, skill, courage and endurance displayed equally by the Army Nursing Service and by kindred organisations from the Colonies, have excited my admiration, and fully justified the opinion I have held for years as to the necessity and economy to the service of an ample nursing service for our army. Some of the nurses who have been the most helpful have been lent to the Army Nursing Reserve by the great hospitals in the United Kingdom.

I propose, in a later despatch, to bring to your notice the names of some of the most deserving.

Army Chaplains Department.

I gratefully acknowledge the services rendered by this department, under Rev. E. H. Goodwin. The devotion to duty of the several chaplains, civil as well as army, throughout the campaign, especially during the siege of Ladysmith and in the hospitals, have been frequently brought to my notice.

Army Ordnance Department.

This department has had an immense amount of work during the campaign, and under the capable direction of Colonel R. Noel Clarke has carried it out in a very satisfactory manner. The military operations covered a vast area, and only two single lines of railway were available, and these were so congested with troops, horses, and material of all sorts, that to get stores to the front in good time was always a matter of uncertainty.

That they were able to cope with these difficulties and keep the Army supplied with all the various stores that are dealt with by the department, reflects great credit not only on Colonel Clarke, but also on the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men under him.

The following brief statement, showing the duties which the Ordnance Department have had to carry out will give some idea of the work devolving on this department:—

- (1.) Receiving stores from England at four different bases.
- (2.) Forwarding the stores along the lines of communication to 13 ordnance depôts.
- (3.) Issuing the stores to the troops as required.

(4.) Forseeing the needs and providing for the replenishment of stores by demands from home, and by local purchases in South Africa, which up to July, 1900, amounted in value to over £1,000,000.

(5.) Establishing local workshops for the repair of arms, vehicles, harness, camp equipment, &c.

The personnel of the department consisted of 70 officers, 968 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, and 735 civilian subordinates, in addition to a large number of native labourers.

The following are a few of the stores that passed through the Ordnance Department.

Ordnance: 6 spare batteries of Field Artillery, 2 spare batteries of Horse Artillery.

Ammunition: 1,031,000 rounds of Artillery ammunition of 7 different calibres from 6in. to 12pr., 122,000,000 rounds of rifle and machine-gun ammunition.

Stores: 50,000 tents and marquees, 865,000 blankets, 385,000 waterproof sheets, 40,000 sets saddlery, 4,500 sets transport harness, 275,000 sets picketing gear, 140,000 horse rugs, 2,000,000 pairs horse and mule shoes.

Clothing: 716,514 khaki frocks, 825,902 pairs khaki trousers, 897,076 pairs boots, 827,500 shirts, 1,647,200 pairs socks.

The Army Pay Department.

The work thrown on this department has been out of all precedent with that which it has ever been called on to perform in previous campaigns. And it has been carried out under circumstances of great difficulty by Colonel W. B. Wade and his assistants to my entire satisfaction. At the commencement of the campaign there were only three field paymasters. There are now nine; and whereas the monthly accounts in September, 1899, only showed a total of £42,404 16s. 1d., they had reached in September, 1900, a total of £2,750,350 12s. 2d.

Such an expansion of business required an equal increase in personnel, which was not always forthcoming, the result being a considerable increase of work on those who were present.

Army Veterinary Department.

This department, under Veterinary-Colonel I. Matthews, has performed good work. The peace establishment being too small for the requirements of a large war, necessitated the employment of 123 civil veterinary surgeons, who, however, soon adapted themselves to the conditions of active service, and did much good work. Great assistance was afforded by the excellently-organised field veterinary hospitals so kindly lent by the Government of India. These hospitals leave nothing to be desired as regards supplies and equipment, and the personnel of Native N.C. officers, shoeing smiths, and trained attendants rendered most valuable service. There has been a notable immunity from contagious and ordinary diseases, except glanders, of which there have been five hundred cases, all of which the department was fortunately able to quickly suppress. There has also been an exceptional freedom from horse sickness; under 200 deaths out of more than 210,000 horses and mules.

Remount Department.

The calls made upon the Remount Department, under Major W. Birkbeck, 1st. Dragoon Guards, and H.S.H. Captain Prince Francis of