

be gratified if favourable notice could be taken of their services.

The Commandant-General, L. Botha, directed the action from the top of Babanango by helio and mounted orderlies. Two messages, picked up on the Itala, are attached.

Casualties.

7. Ours.—Killed: officers, 1; men, 21; mules, 4. Wounded: officers, 5; men, 54; horses, 222. Missing: officers, nil; men, nil.

Boers.—Reliable eye-witnesses say 128 dead; wounded, 270 about.

Amongst their killed are Commandants Scholtz, H. J. Potgieter, and the latter was killed by revolver shot from Lieutenant Lefroy, 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Ammunition Expended by our Force.

8. Guns—63 shrapnel. Lee-Metford—70,040 rounds.

A. J. CHAPMAN, Major,
Royal Dublin Fusiliers,
Officer Commanding Troops.

M'Kandhla,

30th September, 1901.

Lieutenant Fielding, Royal Army Medical Corps, reports that nothing could exceed the kindness and courtesy of General Chris Botha to the wounded, it was only his presence and influence which restrained his burghers from robbing the wounded, and on several occasions he struck burghers for trying to do so.

A. J. CHAPMAN, Major,
Officer Commanding Troops.

30th September, 1901.

Report on the Defence of Fort Prospect, Zululand, 26th September, 1901.

I have the honour to forward the following report of the action at Fort Prospect, 26th September, 1901:—

About 2 a.m. on the morning of the 26th, it was reported to me that firing could be heard at Itala; at 2.30 a.m. a rocket went up. I at once reinforced the trenches and made ready for an attack. About 4.15 a.m. a Kaffir came in and warned me that the Boers were coming to attack the post in hundreds. By this time I had provisions, water, and extra ammunition placed in all the trenches. At 4.30 a.m., under cover of a mist in the donga, the Boers made a very severe attack on the north and west of my position, the brunt of the attack fell on two sangars held by the Durham Company of Artillery; the Boers broke through the wire and got to within 20 yards of these sangars, but they both gallantly held their own and I, with the aid of the Maxim, was able to repulse this attack. By 6.30 a.m. the Boers drew off from this flank. They then commenced a very severe attack on the rear of my post, but by 10 a.m. it was repulsed. About this time a party of Zululand Native Police, gallantly led by Serjeant Gumbi, broke through and reinforced me; he brought with him 13 men and had marched 4 miles from his own post to reinforce me.

The Boers now had completely surrounded the camp, but contented themselves by keeping up a heavy fire chiefly directed on the Maxim Fort. This fire was kept up all day, gradually lessening towards evening, when the Boers drew off about 6 p.m.

My casualties were one killed and eight wounded, which, considering the severity of the fire, is very little. I consider it was owing to the excellent cover afforded by the forts and trenches, as we were subjected to very heavy

firing for 18 hours. I estimate the strength of the Boers at from 500 to 600 men, and they belonged to the Ermelo or Carolina commandos.

The casualties of the Boers are unknown, but two dead were buried at Potgieter's Farm. The prisoners who were taken at Itala say that the Boers own to having had 60 killed and wounded on the attack on Fort Prospect. I picked up 30 dead horses next morning, also 2 rifles and 20 saddles.

I cannot close the report without mentioning the gallantry displayed by all ranks, especially by the Durham Company of Militia Artillery. I wish to bring to your notice the following names of those who did very well:—

Durham Artillery.

Lieutenant R. G. M. Johnson commanded one of the sangars where the brunt of the attack fell, and helped me to organise defence.

1. No. 1332 Bombardier J. Marsden commanded the other stone sanga after Bombardier Gilligan was wounded and refused to surrender.

2. Serjeant F. Doyle commanded rear trench and repulsed Boer second attack.

3. No. 1817 Gunner J. White when wounded went on fighting, and when dressed returned under fire to his trench.

4. No. 2913 Bombardier G. Gilligan commanded stone sanga until wounded.

Dorsetshire Regiment, "B" Company, 5th Division, Mounted Infantry.

1. No. 2196 Company Serjeant-Major W. Young greatly aided me in the defence.

2. No. 3122 Private J. Bowering, wounded severely in the head, returned after a few hours to work in the trenches.

3. No. 4991 Corporal H. Whitney commanded Maxim gun section, which did good work all through the day.

4. No. 5170 Corporal Kerrins for great coolness in action, and for good work during the attack.

No. 7 Serjeant Gumbi, Zululand Police, for gallantly reinforcing me during the fight.

I have, &c.,

C. A. ROWLEY, Captain,
Officer Commanding, Prospect Post,

Prospect Post,
29th September, 1901.

Deputy Adjutant-General, Natal,
Forwarded.

The defence was a gallant one against great odds.

I trust those mentioned by Captain Rowley may be brought to notice.

Captain Rowley himself is a reliable Officer of considerable experience, and I think deserves great credit.

I have, &c.,

H. POWELL, Major,
Officer Commanding, Zululand.

Melmoth,
30th September, 1901.

Commander-in-Chief,

I quite agree with above, and recommend Captain C. A. Rowley, Dorsetshire Regiment, for brevet promotion; Lieutenant R. G. M. Johnson, Durham Artillery, for the Distinguished Service Order; the non-commissioned officers, mentioned in report, for the Distinguished Conduct Medal; and Serjeant Gumbi, Zululand Police, for such reward as is deemed suitable.

It is eminently satisfactory that so much credit was earned by the Militia detachment.

The comparatively slight loss seems to indi-