

The Diaries of Private George William Tucker No. 2126
Our voyage to South Africa and Doings in Zululand from February 1879 to October 1879

By Gordon Tucker (Grandson)

This article represents the collective and unabridged account of Private Tucker's notes and diaries. His spellings are original. (Ed.)

3rd Battalion 60th Rifles (King's Royal Rifles)

Enlistment	5th November 1875 : Age 19 years	
Service	6 years in the Army and 6 years in the Reserve	
Date of Birth	5th May 1856	
Height	5 feet 6 inches	
Next of kin	Mrs. Mary Hopkins Tucker (nee Mitchell), Lily Hill Cottage, Ascot Road, Bracknell, Bks.	
Class of Shot	Marksman.	Education - 2nd Class

Dear Friends

I am about to commence and try to the best of my abilities to give you a descriptive account of our voyage to and doings in Zululand. You my friends know full well that I am a Private in the 3rd Battalion 60th Rifles and at the time of which this diary commences I was stationed with my regiment at Colchester, a pretty little town in Essex. I must not fail to mention that just at this time we were commencing to make ourselves happy and comfortable with the inhabitants and I think I can say with confidence that the whole regiment at large was well liked by all classes considering the kind way in which they treated us on leaving that place. But self praise is no recommendation; therefore I will commence our journey to the sunny shores of Africa. A great many of our men were enjoying their winter holidays when the awful news arrived of the massacre at Isandula(Isandlwana) and reinforcements were wanted as soon as possible. Consequently the order came for us to hold ourselves in readiness to proceed to that far distant land where so much blood had been so unmercifully spilt. The 19th February 1879 came at last being the day of our departure from Colchester to Tilbury Fort, there to embark on board the S.S. *Dublin Castle* she having been hired by Government for the express purpose of conveying us to our destination, Durban. After a substantial breakfast consisting of ham, bread, butter and coffee kindly give to us by the 2nd/10th regiment. We began to think about getting ready. At last 7.30 a.m. arrived the bugles sounded the dress call there was hurrying and hurrying by everyone to get their things together and to dress themselves. At last we were all ready the fall in sounded there we stood as true lot of English sons and I am sure everyone of us was willing and eager to go and meet their crafty foes in Zululand. Our band continued to pour forth their strains of music to the tune of Home Sweet Home. When the battalion was reported present by the Adjutant our Colonel gave the word of commend 'fours right quick march'. Then midst cheers of hundreds who had come to witness our departure, we stepped of to the beautiful strains of the 11th Hussars band playing 'The Minstral boy to the wars has gone'. We marched steadily along through mud and snow until we came to the entrance of the town which I shall never forget for it is rarely the town of Colchester has been in such a state of excitement as it was this Wednesday morning on the occasion of the departure of the 3rd Battalion 60th Rifles for active service at the Cape the streets was decorated with banners flags and suitable mottoes and amongst other things displayed were effigies of Zulus in course of chastisement. Our Battalion consisted of 472 non-commissioned officers and men and 20 officers it was proceeded by the band of 11th Hussars, 10th Regiment the 100th Regiment and the 6th Essex Colchester volunteers followed by an immense concourse

of people. On the way we was met by Major General Radcliffe C.B. the Commander of the Eastern District, who had with him Lieutenant Colonel Wetman aide de camp to the Queen and Colonel Somerset R.A.

On arriving at the Town Hall, the Battalion was met by the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough fully robed and the following address was read, which was greeted with deafening cheers from the many thousands of people present.

The address:

To Colonel Leigh Pemberton, the Officers, Non-commissioned officers and men of the 3rd Battalion of Her Majesty's King's Own Royal Rifle Corps, we, the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Colchester, while regretting your sudden departure from among us cannot do other wise than congratulate you on being selected for Active Service in Africa where in addition to the honours already achieved by your gallant regiment we trust may be added that of recovering the Colours so disastrously lost by the noble 24th Regiment. We know full well that the honour of this country is safe in keeping of yourselves and the brave but small army you are to join. We wish you a safe and prosperous voyage. We shall take the deepest interest in your future welfare and we are certain that your brave and patriotic efforts on behalf of a grateful country will meet with that success they so well deserve.

In the course of Colonel Pemberton's reply he said he hoped his Battalion not only merit the kind and good opinion of the Borough of Colchester but of the country at large. (Cheers on all sides) We then moved off by fours, through the densely crowded streets and beautiful decorations and suitable mottoes overhead, some of them I recollect were 'Go where glory awaits thee' 'Down with the Zulus' 'Success to the Scarlet and Green' and a lot more which I cannot recollect now. It was rather a painful scene at times for there were mothers taking perhaps a last farewell of their sons wives of their husbands sweethearts of their lovers and sisters of brothers. Yes what with the cheering and crying and leave taking, I can assure you for some it was a painful march. It was not so bad for me for I had no one to bid me goodbye, yet still my thoughts would wander home every now and then and I had a hard trial to prevent a tear starting into my eyes at any rate I did not cry. I knew I was supposed to be a British Soldier so I says here goes to try and prove myself one with a good heart. We at last arrived at the station, marched straight on to the platform and in a very few minutes was comfortably seated in the carriages. Although I bid no one good-bye, I was not forgotten. I had only been a very few moments seated in the carriage when two letters were handed to me. One from a cousin the other from my sister they were both very affectionate and wished me God Speed and a safe return. Even the inhabitants of Colchester did not forget us there for they very kindly gave each man a paper containing biscuits and cheese likewise a liberal supply of Christian tracks. It was then the whistle blew and our train rattled along at a good rate until we came to Tilbury Fort. There we was inspected by the Duke of Cambridge who wished us a safe and prosperous journey. We had to wait about two hours for our ship had not yet arrived. At the expiration of that time we saw her come steaming down the river and a very noble vessel she looked with her blue ensign flying at her helm. We soon commenced to embark by going out to her in small bodies on tugs it took a little time at last we were all safely on board and I shall never forget the hearty cheers that were given by the immense concourse of people who had assembled to witness our departure to the War in South Africa.

Well we were all safely on board, our arms and accoutrements and other things packed away we then dressed ourselves in our sea clothing consisting of a blue serge suit and a blue worsted cap with a red band around it we no doubt looked a motley group to what we had done an hour previous. We then had our evening meal a smoke, a look over the ship's side, it was then time to go to bed which was great fun for the greatest part of the men had never been on a ship nor yet seen a hammock slung, but with a little showing most of them got tolerably well, but the fun was to come for no sooner than most of them got in one side of the hammock they fell out the other after a while everybody got settled and were soon sound asleep for all were tired, the ship was steady, she being at anchor until the following morning. The morning of the 20th came in with a bright blue sky, at Reveille we all turned out, rolled and packed our hammocks away, for bear in mind on board ship there is a place for everything when not in use and it has to be kept there, but to British Soldiers who are used to keeping everything clean and tidy, it only came natural to us for the old proverb says use is second nature, having cleared up below we were allowed to go on deck and we could see we were getting well out to sea and had commenced a short life in our new home on the ocean wave. Our ship had started at 6 a.m. and continued to plough through the mighty deep. When the breakfast bugle

sounded, down we went below, had a hearty breakfast of biscuits and tea then got ready for roll call parade at 10.30 a.m. Having been dismissed we were allowed to ramble about the upper deck smoke our pipes, play cards, read, or anything we could to make our time pass away as pleasantly as circumstances would permit. Some were amusing themselves by looking at Old Englands shore as we passed Ramsgate, Margate and Dover and all those beautiful towns that are situated along our coasts although it was the first time I had passed down the English Channel I could not help wondering whether I should see those places we had passed again also whether I should see my dear old mother and sisters again. But I put my trust in the Lord and hope and trust I may live to see all the dear old faces once more. It is now time for beer or grog as it is termed on board ship each man gets one pint of porter one hour previous to dinner (i.e.) 12 noon. 1 o'clock came (dinner time) having consumed that we passed our time pleasantly away, much about the same as in the morning. Tea time came (4.30 p.m.) that over it was time to get our hammocks for the night. It was not so easy this night the ship was rolling about in a rough sea and a great many had not got their sea legs yet as the saying is. One thing I noticed symptoms of sea sickness was beginning to show itself more especially amongst the band boys. A 'Ding Dong' was got up amongst us for the evening until bed time which wound up by one of the men singing 'Good by Dolly I must leave you' and no doubt he was leaving her for the good old Dublin Castle was steaming the deep at a good rate.

Dear Friends I have given as correct a routine of one days existence onboard which will suffice for the remainder of the voyage, as every days proceedings were nearly the same with the exception of extra occurrences which I shall for the future confine my pen to for your information. The morning of the 21st saw us rolling and tossing about in a heavy sea. Sea sickness showing itself every-where in its true lights still we kept going ahead and soon we came in sight and ran into Dartmouth harbour to take in passengers and Mails. It was about 12 noon when we made fast to the wharf and a prettier place I never recollect having seen. I am sure everyone was the same opinion as myself. We staid only a short time but while we was there a great many people had assembled on shore and in small boats. The gun fired and we was off again for we had no time to waste knowing our services were required in Zululand. Cheer after cheer came wafting over the water to us from the boats and shore and we could hear sweet strains of music from the Volunteer band playing 'Auld Lang Syne'. With a farewell cheer to them all we went gaily out to sea by which by this time had become quite calm. Songs was the programme for the evening. One I noticed in particular was sung which had been composed by one of the 10th Regt. previous to our departure.

'We are going out to fight'

The 3rd Battalion 60th are going far away
And let us hope they will return after fighting in the fray
They are going away from Colchester from friends and kindred dear
But let us hope they will return to dear old Englands shore.

Chorus:

We are going out to fight and do the best we can
And we will let the Zulus know that we are Englishmen
We are going out to fight to do the best we can
For we have the hearts and wear the coats that makes the Englishman

But when they do leave Colchester to fight for Englands fame
They leave behind them in this town a wonderful good name
I also hope that we shall live to see them return again
And add another honour unto dear old Englands fame

But now kind friends I must away I'll not detain you long
I hope that I have pleased you all with this my little song
But one more night in Colchester the Rifles will remain
And if you call tomorrow night this song I'll sing again

On Wednesday night they leave this place to go out to fight
But in the battle we all know God will protect the right
And land them safe in Africa on Cetewayos shore
They have slaughtered up our 24th but we are going to pay the score

The morning of the 22nd was not a pleasant one it was very rough and I knew by the sea we were getting close to the Bay of Biscay for a storm was brewing over our heads the sea was running very high and they had commenced to batten us down below all with the exception of the Watch. We entered the Bay about 10 a.m. and the waves were continually washing over decks we could not see much of it as we were fastened down below. The Watch of course excepted for you must bear in mind that soldiers when on board have to help and do sailors duty. Yet we had many a laugh at one another falling about the deck and sea sick. Many a one laid all night where they fell endeavouring to swing their hammocks there was not much sleep that night and a great many longed for morning to appear.

The 23rd came at last which turned out to be a little finer and about 8 a.m. we were allowed to go on deck and get a little fresh air which was very beneficial to us all. The wind was blowing very hard and the spray flying about in all directions. A great many sheep died during the night through the severity of the storm. Also two horses one belonging to our Colonel and the other to the Adjutant. About 11 a.m. they were thrown overboard having previously deprived of their manes, tails and near fore feet which were put in pickle to be preserved as a trophy. The ship still ran on ahead admirably through the heavy sea and head wind. At about 2 p.m. we considered ourselves clear of the Bay and we gradually run into another water but it still continued squally. The evening passed pretty well under the circumstances also the night which I think a great many slept away. The morning of the 24th came in rough and squally yet I could see the men were getting rid of a great deal of their sea-sickness and a great many of them ventured on deck. We were now in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Spain and we had some good fun watching the porpoises play about in the water we also saw a whale although a small one it was large (to) those who had never saw one before. Our good ship still went gaily on and night rolled round once more which we passed away with songs until we retired to rest and sleep and awaking to find the morning of the 25th had dawned upon us which turned out a beautiful day and a calm sea. We all eagerly went on deck to smoke our pipes and converse about the War. We were in hopes of soon hearing some fresh news as we were fast approaching Maderia but we did not arrive there until 10p.m. at that time all were below in their hammocks with the exception of the Watch. But I was told there was some good fun going on by those who were on deck. The chief reason of staying there was to coal and to deliver and receive Mails. Today another horse of the Colonel's died not having recovered from the storm in the Bay. I must here mention that all the men are in good health and spirits. The 26th proved to be a very fine day and I could help noticing how we was ploughing through the deep for the wind was in favour of the good 'Dublin Castle' and no doubt she was making the best of it. Nothing of any consequence occurred to day. One thing I must mention we commenced to sharpen our swords (Rifle regiments had bayonets which were sword-like in appearance and length and were always referred to as 'swords') and many a hearty laugh and joke was passed amongst us with regards to the Zulus. The 27th came in fine, sea calm but during the day we had a few showers this day was allotted to us as a washing day. A great many made a poor job of it having never washed a shirt or anything in their life before. At any rate it was got through in a fashion as the saying is but I am afraid a great many were deficient of the things when they come to pick their own from the drying lines. I saw a great many myself blown overboard. The Pioneers and Armourer still continued to sharpen swords. The men I am glad to say ended another day light hearted and gay.

The 28th and last of the month came to light and all went on well until 2 p.m. when to our sorrow one of our poor fellows died with heart disease. He was the first since we left England. It casts a gloom over us all everything seemed so quiet and more I fancied a great many were downhearted. 6 o'clock was the time fixed to consign him to the deep all hands paraded a few minutes previous to the solemn ceremony being carried out... The Engines were stopped and work was dispensed with and all was silent as the grave. Our flag was flying half mast high now we could hear solemn tone of the watch-bell sound the death knell. His remains were brought on deck sewn with shot at his feet in a hammock and laid on the shoot(sic) prepared for that purpose covered with the Union Jack, the Band playing the 'Dead March in Saul'. The Chaplain having read the Burial Service they committed the body to the deep. One splash and a plunge and our task

was over, the waves rolled on as they rolled before and many a prayer hallowed the waves as he sank beneath a Soldier's Grave.

But hush my soul, nor dare repine
The time my God appoint is best
While here, to do his will be mine
And his to fix my time of rest.

Having been dismissed our pipes were produced as usual, all kinds of amusement for this night were dispensed with and everyone talked in a very low tone of voice, no wonder, for a death on board ship seems to take more effect than on land. We retired to rest at last to try and sleep away that dreary day and awakened to welcome the 1st March which was a beautiful morning, the sea very calm and more smiling were visible than the night previous. A great many flying fish now made their appearance which caused some amusement to all of us as had never seen any before. In the evening about two hundred formed a 'sing-song' party, which terminated very pleasantly.

March 2nd: Sea calm, troops all well and quiet it being Sunday morning. Church parade at 10.15 a.m. and a beautiful Service it was, the Band playing the Sacred Music and most of us joining in the singing, it sounded very nice on the poop of the good ship 'Dublin Castle'. After a short sermon we were dismissed and after dinner we received a liberal supply of tracks(sic) and books, it was a treat to see the men sitting about the decks reading and conversing together, the weather was fine and warm.

The 3rd March came in very hot and continued so all day.

The 4th came in very hot, sea calm. The heat now commenced to tell on us all, especially those that had never been under a tropical sun. Yet we were all happy.

March 5th very hot. We crossed the line about 3.30 a.m. Nothing occurred of any interest to day.

March 6th very hot, 16 men in hospital through the effects of the heat.

March 7th, sea calm, sun hot but fresh breeze blowing. Men merry and in good spirits.

March 8th, sea rough but very hot, slight breeze blowing. This was set apart to tell the men off in sections of fours for War Service, but each man was allowed to choose his own section, my meaning is four comrades were allowed to go together than otherwise, especially in the Battle Field.

March 9th, Sunday. Sea rough with plenty of wind, men in good spirits. Divine Service at 10.45 and 8.45 p.m., spent a pleasant day.

March 11th, sea rough, very windy with passing showers.

March 12th, sea very rough, passed a Mail boat bound for England. Our ship spoke to her by means of flags but we gained no particular news from her as regards the Zulus or of Colonel Pearsons hemmed in at Ekowe. We watched her out of sight and nearly ended another day.

March 13th, sea still rough. At 2 p.m. was only seven hundred and fifty miles from the Cape. All well.

March 14th, sea still rough and plenty of wind. Cape pigeons flocked around us in abundance also a great many Albatross which are very nice specimen of birds.

March 15th. Arrived at Cape Town harbour about 4 p.m., all well and jolly. I found it to be a very fine harbour and town, sheltered by a very high mountain called Table Mountain. It is very flat on the top and when the clouds descend low enough it resembles a large table with a clean white cloth covering it. The Band played several tunes and a great many visitors came on board and amongst them Lady Frere and

Colonel Brays of the 4th Kings. Lady and daughters. We commenced to coal our good ship as soon as possible for passage to Durban, this work was done by day by the natives, but they could not manage to bring sufficient, so at night fifty of our men finished it commencing at 7.30 p.m. and finishing at 2.30 a.m. the following morning, for which they were regaled with beer and bread and cheese and eight shillings per man.

March 16th, another Sunday but not at sea, but we expect to be very shortly. During the time we lay in harbour the men were allowed to land and go about the Docks which was a great treat after being nearly a month at cooped on board. I cannot say anything as regards the town for we were not allowed to leave the Dock. A great many visitors came to see us and we had barrels of grapes, water melons and apples sent on board to us by some kind lady from shore. At last the time came for us to proceed on our journey. At 3 p.m. the bugle sounded for us all to get on board and by the time we was all ready the Dock was crowded with people of all Nations to witness our departure. The Band struck up to the air of 'Auld Lang Syne', the ship began to move, the gun fired and we were off with a hearty cheer from both sides. We glided out of harbour, the Band playing 'God Save the Queen'. We were fairly out to sea ploughing the deep once more, so we smoked our pipes and watched the land as we passed along until dark which ended a very pleasant day.

March 17th, sea very rough, fish visible of several different species.

March 19th, sea very rough a heavy thunder storm in the evening with a great deal of lightning.

March 20th. Arrived at Natal about 6 a.m. All well, several English ships were lying at anchor including some man-o'-war. We soon began the task of disembarking, but it was 7 p.m. before all were landed. The last of the Rifles left the good 'Dublin Castle' midst the deafening cheers of her gallant crew which was composed of picked men on this occasion from the Naval Service and commanded by Captain Penfold who kindly volunteered to take command of the ship on the occasion being about to retire from seafaring life. I cannot dwell too much on the merits of Captain Penfold suffice it to say that a better and a kinder man I have never witnessed, the crew also I must give them a good name for they were a jolley lot of men.

We were now once more on land and had a two mile march in front of us to our camp. It was rather tedious for we had to carry all our kit and things we were possessed of and it was very hot, fire-flies were in were in abundance darting about amongst the trees towards dusk, but I was very tired and soon went to rest for I was fairly done up.

21st. Today we rested if so may it be called a rest yet we had plenty of work to do (viz) fitting boots and cloths and packing our spare kits away for we were only allowed to take a change of cloths with us. I was greatly amused with the antics of the natives for their customs are far different to any I had ever seen before. I was also greatly interested in the numbers of oxen they had to draw a loaded wagon as they have sixteen and eighteen to a waggon which I had never seen before, but since I've seen rather more than I wanted.

Trecking is done nearly all by oxen in this country. Horses are plentiful but they are chiefly for carriage and saddle purposes. I went out in the town of Durban this night but it was raining hard and very dark so I did not see much of it but it seemed to me a very nice and business like place.

I soon returned to camp to find it nearly washed out with rain. My tent was flooded with water but having no were else to go, I made the best of it and lay down, water or no water and was soon asleep and awoke the following morning with barely a dry thread on me.

March 22nd. Morning a fine one. After having breakfast we were served out with 10 rounds of ammunition per man and we marched to the railway station and rode some in carriages and some in trucks to Dackarine Valley about 17 miles where our transport was waiting for us ready to start the following morning. I turned out to be a wet night and very warm.

March 23rd. I awoke this morning with hardly a dry thread on me. We had our breakfast and by 4 a.m. we was on the road to the front. At 9 a.m. we halted for it was too hot to go any further. Here we had our dinner consisting of biscuits and preserved meat. We had a good rest and at 3 p.m. we marched again

through a very pretty piece of country until we came to an open plain. It being about 7.30 p.m. we pitched our tents, made tea and turned in for the night.

March 24th. We were up early this morning and struck our tents, had our coffee and leaving Victoria our camping ground by 5 a.m. Today I saw flocks of parrots pass over our heads as we marched along, halted at 8 p.m. on an open plain, had tea, pitched tents and lay down for the night, all well.

25th. It was a little cooler today, we marched a longer distance commencing at 4 a.m. and terminating at 5 p.m. We then had our tea and dinner together. Our rations consisted of 1 pound of biscuit and one of preserved meat and tea and coffee per man each day. I heard a great many of my comrades grumble at this but I thought to myself, we shall fare worse than this before we are done with campaigning or the Zulus and so we did which I will show you in its place.

26th. Struck tents, had breakfast and marched off again by 3.30 a.m. We now came to a pretty part of Kaffir land. Oranges, lemons and sugar-cane were growing in abundance. It was a treat for men to get such luxuries on a hot sultry day as this was, but we were daily getting more used to the heat and wet and not mind it so much as at first. We halted at 4 p.m.

27th Marched off at 5 a.m. and about 9 a.m. we arrived at Fort Pearson situated on the banks of the River Tugela which divides Natal from Zululand. Here we were met and inspected by General Lord Chelmsford who said we all looked well and hearty. We were then told off to pitch our tents, the remainder of the day was chiefly occupied by the troops washing their cloths. About 6 p.m. some sad news arrived in camp of one of our men named Philips having been drowned whilst bathing it was generally thought that an alligator seized him by the legs whilst in the water, for whilst he was sinking he was heard to cry out 'Oh, my legs', but before any assistance could reach him he was gone out of sight and no more was ever seen of him although a strict search was made for him. At last we were all compelled to give up all hopes of him and returned to camp and finding my Company was for outpost duty that night we were marched off and placed in commanding positions in sections of four. It was a miserable night and very dark with much rain. We kept a sharp look out all night and when daylight dawned we marched back to camp. We were not yet in the enemies(sic) country as we were on the Natal side of the river yet it was necessary to guard against a surprise from them, but nothing occurred worth noting.

March 28th. At 4 p.m. to day we crossed the Tugela in a pont and made ready for our march to the relief of Eshowe. We had a man flogged to day for being drunk when on the line of march. We are now in an enemies country, we have been served out with one blanket per man and no mistake we had to make the best of it for it is a fearful night raining in torrents. We have no tents to cover us and if we lie down it is in mud and water or stand all night. It was the most miserable night I ever experienced but have had a good many since.

29th. Gladly did we welcome this morning after a most miserable night. Our column called the Relief Column advanced early and was formed with such care, ability and secrecy that no one in the least thought that we should get through our task so easily or return so quickly without the loss of a single man out of Colonel Pearson's column except those who succumbed to sickness consequent upon their being detention and severe privations so gallantly borne since January 24th 1879. At Ekowe early the first move had been made by sending a small force of Infantry and mounted men forward to Andrews American Mission House which was fortified by them and held as a strong advance position from that time the rest of the troops which were to make up the relief column were all ready. It had been determined, so as to save trouble and transport, that no tents should be taken and only food enough for ten days. This food consisted of biscuit tin meat and tea and coffee, nothing else being allowed except what was specially put on the waggons or the relief of Ekowe. Even with these arrangements our waggons numbered 122 including carts and at the very best of time occupied a line two miles and a half long.

Before I proceed with any more details of the route to Ekowe I will endeavour to give a list of our number of troops forming the column. Lord Chelmsford commanded in person the whole force with Colonel Crealock M.S. as his Staff Officer and Captain Molyneux and Lieutenant Milne R.N.(?) his aides-de-camp. The Column consisted of two divisions the advance being under the command of Colonel Law R.A. who

had Captain Fitzroy Hart, 31st Foot as Staff Officer. The rear division was commanded by Colonel Pemberton 3rd 60th Rifles with Captain Buller A.D.C., attached to him as Staff Officer. The exact number in each division was as follows. Advance division: the 91st Regt. under Major Bruce, 5 Companies 99th Regt. and 2 companies 3rd Buffs under Major Walker 99th Regt. The Naval Brigade from H.M.S. Shah and ----- under Captain Blackenbury and Kingscote who had with them two nine pounder guns, two 24 rocket tubes and one Gatling gun. The mounted Infantry and Volunteers under Major Burrows 19th Hussars with Captain Courtney 20th Hussars as second in command. Also Jantyes troop of Mounted Native Contingents under Commandant Nettleton. Added to these were 150 of John Dunns men who under his own personal supervision aided by his head man Moore acted as scouts with great service throughout the whole march. These brought the number of our advance division to three thousand and three hundred and seventy fighting men, of whom 1850 were Europeans.

The rear division under Colonel Pemberton, although not quite so strong numerically was equally as servicable and consisted of the 57th Regt. under Colonel Clarke, 3rd Batt. 60th Rifles under Lieutenant Colonel Northney, the Naval Brigade of H.M.S. Boadicea under Lieutenant Carr R.N.NSD portion of Marines from the Shah and Boadicea with one gatling gun and 24 lb rocket tubes. The 4th Battalion Natal Native Contingent under Captain Barton, one troop Mounted Natives and a splendid troop of Mounted white men under Captain Cook completed the rear division and brought its number up to 2270 fighting men of whom 1470 were Europeans. The grand total of the fighting men of the column being 5620 of whom 3340 were Europeans.

Nearly all the natives were armed with the Martini-Henry rifle in addition to the above force we had a large Medical Staff under Surgeon Major Farrants also a number of officers and men employed in the Commissariat and Transport Departments both under the control of Deputy Commissariat General Walton. Our strength was in round numbers nearly 6000 men. Colonel Hopton 88th Regt. was left behind much to his regret at Fort Tenedos in charge of the Lower Tugela with about 500 men of all arms but consisting principally of his own regiment. The new Commodore of the Cape Station, Captain Richards R.N. of the Boadicea, also accompanied the expedition with Lieutenant Preedy R.N. as aide-de-camp. The principal reason of this step being the natural anxiety of the Commodore to see the brave Naval Brigade of the Active under Captain Campbell which were shut up in Ekowe.

I will now resume my notes of each days march and work as possible as it occurred.

Punctually at 5 a.m. reveille sounded and by 6 a.m. the advance division was en-route for Ekowe and at 8.30 the last lot of waggons had left Fort Tenedos. The General, Commodore and Staff followed by John Dunn and his men crossed over the Tugela at 8 a.m.. Having arrived at St. Andrews Mission House we left the direct road taken by Colonel Pearson to Ekowe and diverged to the right through the more open country and nearer the sea coast. The order of the first days march were Mounted Infantry in front as scouts followed by the 91st Regt., 19th Regt. and Naval Brigade of the Shah and Tenedos followed by the waggons which were flanked on both sides by the Natal Native Contingent. After these came the Naval Brigade of the Boadicea with Marines of the different ships, then came the 3rd/60th Rifles followed by the 57th Regt. and a troop of Mounted Natives, Captain Cook's mounted whites bringing up the rear.

The guns and gatlings were mounted and drawn upon their own carriages and inconvenient positions if required but the rocket tubes with their neat apparatus were carried in ox carts. Each Company of Regiments had a reserve supply of ammunition carried by pack mules in rear of each Company. In this way the whole Column advanced until we reached the Inyoni resting at times but never outspanning our oxen until we reached the site of our laager grounds, which the head of the Column reached about 2.30 p.m.. Throughout the day no signs of the enemy were seen, but to make sure none were lurking very near us, immediately we arrived on the Inyoni, mounted patrols were sent out in every direction for four or five miles and the picquets formed about half a mile off. The waggons were then laagered in as near a square form as possible with our fronts to the right and our rear facing Natal. About 20 yards distance from the waggons a trench was dug all round and between the trench and the waggons all the troops bivouacked, each Regt. having its own front with the Naval Brigade in each corner the guns, gatlings and rockets were

distributed between the four angles all the cattle, horses and mules were brought inside the laagar at dusk and remained until daylight.

March 30th. By half past two in the morning we were on the move again but were shortly brought to a standstill owing to the drifts over the Inyoni. This however was soon remedied and we did a good march this day to the banks of the Amathikula river by 2.30 p.m. It was necessary to make a larger laagar on this occasion for the one the night previous was too small for the number of horses and cattle. As we were now upon the outskirts of the Amathikula bush it was thought advisable to place our men four deep at night round the trenches instead of two and fill up the intermediate gaps with theme of the Natal Native Contingent. All passed off well this night without us being disturbed by the enemy. The advance Division crossed the river early and occupied a good position on the left hand side of the road overlooking the bend of the river and completely commanding any surprise from there or the front. They were supported by one battalion Native Contingent and our own part of the Naval Brigade. Our own side of the river to the left of the laagar rose a little hill commanding the drift below and also the valley into which the end of the Amathikula bush extended. This hill was lined by the 57th Regt. in extended order flanked by the Boadicea's men with a rocket tube on the right just above the river and Shah's Marines and Boadicea's men with one gatling gun on the extreme right of the line. Half of the 3rd/60th Rifles were left round the laagar so as to protect the waggons whilst the rest were moving off. The other half of the regt. with some mounted men and Natives were thrown back distance to the rear for the same purpose. The remaining battalion Native Contingent was divided one half helping the waggons through the river which was very deep and sandy, the other half stood to their arms in rear of the 59th Regt.. A great deal of good work has been done by a fatigue party the evening previous by cutting away the bushes and filling up holes with branches, etc. Consequently as little delay as possible in the morning when we started. The General and Staff crossed over early and rode on in advance to choose a site for our next laagar which was a couple of miles further on. He then returned to the banks of the river and personally directed the operations. The work began at 7 a.m. and owing to the energetic manner in which things were done all were got over safely by a little past one o'clock.

Whilst all this was being done a portion of our mounted men had been patrolling the country for miles around and upon returning reported small bodies of the Enemy had been seen but they had all run away. Major Barrows went himself over twelve miles and visited the kraal of Nino-quenda(sic) a chief., but saw no Zulus While Jantyes Horse scoured the bush to the left and burnt several large kraals. Signal fires were seen in several different directions by Captain Hay and others and some were especially noticed as being from a spot on the hills about 3 miles this side and below Ekowe. Our laagar on Monday evening was two miles beyond the Amathikula river. The distance we had accomplished up to this time may be roughly set down as follows. From Fort Tenedos to the Inyoni river 9 miles, from the Inyoni to the Amathikula river 10 miles and to our present laagar 3 miles, making 22 miles in 3 days. This we considered excellent work considering over a new road and through two rivers. We spent Monday evening pleasantly and quietly under the circumstances. April 1st. The first lot of waggons moved off at 7 a.m. preceded by the 57th Regt. the rear division this day having a reversed position with the advance much to the delight of those in the former as those behind always got into camp very late and after doing their share of trench digging, it is nearly dark before they can look after food or arrange for a little comfort for the night. The country hitherto which we had been marching consisted of rolling grass plains with gentle rises, small streams and wooded knolls here and there scattered about were a few deserted kraals and small patches of cultivated ground with crops of mealies ammalbe corn and pumpkins. The produce of which our men helped themselves to and enjoyed afterwards. This aspect soon changed for we got into a much more wooded part of the country with large patches of the high and strong tambookie grass bordering the road and many treacherous boggy spots which had to be avoided or got through as best we could. Several halts were made today to enable the column to close up and twice the advance Regt. was sent out in exztended order on our left flank to sweep through the long grass and clumps of bushes for although Barrow's men were a long way ahead of us on the high hills overlooking the Inyezane Valley we were not sure that an attack might not be made on our flank under cover of the long grass by the enemy who would be if hiding therein totally invisible to mounted men at a distance. Our advance now reached the new site now famous as Gingindholvo about 12.30 and the laagar was most carefully constructed as to size and regularity. A great deal of calculation had been excercised on the road to find out exactly what size laagar would give us proper room for our cattle and

waggons and with a proper space for defence. It was found after 3 days experience by Colonel Crealock that if it was made 130 yards square it would provide ample room for the natives to be placed in rear of the Europeans. The laagar was made in this way having its front overlooking the Inyezane Valley and facing Ekowe its right side facing an old military kraal its rear was facing the sea and on its left the Amathikulu bush could be seen some miles off. We had just completed our work when darkness set in and we had no time to cut down the long grass and clumps of bushes which surrounded us at about 130 yards distant. This was a pity as it turned out and gave the enemy a better chance than they could otherwise have had. During the afternoon we received news from the Tugela concerning Colonel Wood's Column, but we could not quite make out the actual result. We however gathered sufficient information to know that Colonel Wood had beaten an attack on his camp with a heavy loss to the enemy, also at a comparatively high cost to himself in officers and men. At 7.45 p.m. we had a false alarm and stood to our arms for some time. Nothing further occurred throughout the night to alarm us but several fires were seen on the tops of the hills on our left front. These as we afterwards found out were to fires of the enemy which attacked us on the following morning.

Battle of Gingindhlovu, Zululand

2nd April. The sun rose upon the scene about 5.15 am and shortly afterwards our Scouts and Mounted Natives were sent out patrolling. We were standing to our arms inside the laagar at 5.30 a.m. I then thought I heard a few shots fired in the distance, but none seemed to pay any particular attention to them. Preparations were then made for letting out the cattle to feed and a great many were employed getting water and lighting fires to get our breakfast ready. At a little before six o'clock I beheld a large body of Zulus coming over the hills at a rapid rate beyond the Inyezane Valley. I also heard several shots fired in succession. I stood watching them as long as I thought prudent, then I ran into the laagar. I was in none too soon for I had no sooner got in and taken up position in the trenches than it became apparent to me that it was two columns of the enemy coming straight on to attack us, driving in our Scouts and Mounted men before them.

The alarm was given and the necessary orders issued; we were ready for our crafty foe. A few shots went whizzing over our heads but doing no damage as yet. Our men were all shaking with cold at the time for we had had a very wet night and not one of us had a dry thread on us but we all soon got warm enough to give the Zulus a hearty although indigestible breakfast. The position of the different Corps inside the laagar were as follows. Our front face was defended by the 3rd 60th Rifles with Marines and one Gatling gun on the right front corner and the Boadicea's men with the rocket tubes on the left. The 37th Regt. lined the right rear corner facing towards the old Military Kraal with some of the Naval Brigade. The rear was held by the 91st Regt. with some of the Naval Brigade and two nine pounders in the rear corner and the 99th Regt. and 3rd Buffs had the left face from the corner were the Boadicea's men were stationed with their two rocket tubes. All the mounted men were behind these close by the waggons at the rear to the right angle of the laagar, while the Natal Native Contingent were gathered together at the left corner of the two nine pounders. The tops of the waggons were lined with Conductors and other non-combatants who were able to get a gun. Many a Zulu was laid low by a well-aimed shot from this advantageous position. Exactly at six o'clock, the enemy was seen crossing the Inyezane in two strong columns while the other two smaller ones were approaching. One from behind the Amathikulu bush and the other from behind the hill close to the old Military Kraal within ten minutes time the leading companies of the two strong Columns had deployed into the valley and the right and left flanks were immediately sent forward at a rush to encircle our camp. This was all done within a quarter of an hour. The enjoyment now began with the Gatling gun at a 1000 yards. A good chance was lost by us previous to this for while the enemy was deploying, if a rocket had been fired into the mass no doubt it would have resulted in a great deal of damage being done to the enemy, but no orders having been given to Lieut. Carr to fire consequently he had to wait for them. The time passed quickly enough for when the enemy got up to within 3 or 400 yards the firing was tremendous on both sides. Aided by the covers of the long grass and small clumps of bushes, the enemy still managed to creep up to the edge of the cover and there lay for a long time, our firing being too hot to allow them a chance to make a rush any nearer. A most determined attempt was however made on the right front corner and some of them actually did manage to get within 25 yards of the trenches notwithstanding the Gatling gun still kept playing on them. After the action five were found lying in a mass all mowed down together. Another attempt was also made in the rear but had to be given up. Then ensued a more steady style of firing on both

sides; it was during this period that most of our casualties occurred. Colonel Northey 3rd.60th Rifles was the first to fall wounded in the shoulder yet he would insist upon giving kind and encouraging words to his men to be steady which was generally thought brought on an hommhorage and was the cause of his death some few days afterwards, regretted by all that knew him for we lost a thorough good officer and right hand man when we lost him. Next was Surgeon Major Longfield hit in the shoulder, Captain Hinnman shot in the leg and Musketry Instructor Johnson 99th fell dead not a yard from his Commanding Officer, shot through the heart. One man named Pratt 3rd/60th was next shot through the head and fell dead in the trench. Lord Chelmsford was on foot going round the laagar with a red nightcap on his head and encouraging his men directing their fire and advising them to fire low and steady. The Staff were principally mounted and several had their horses killed or wounded under them. Colonel Crealock was slightly wounded in the right arm with a piece of iron which he afterwards (found) in his coat sleeve and many others had narrow escapes. About 6.45 Major Barrow received orders to charge the enemy from the rear face of the laagar. This was done, Major Barrow taking out his mounted infantry who were all armed with sabres. They were formed in two lines a few paces apart, himself giving instructions that the men in the rear rank should take care that no man who fell in the front should be surrounded and killed by the Zulus closing on him. It was a pretty sight to see them charge the enemy led by the gallant little Major himself. The Zulus fired a few shots at them and retired but were soon overtaken and quickly despatched, none of the mounted infantry being hurt excepting Major Barrows received a slight wound in the right thigh. Two horses were killed and a few wounded, this were the only casualties in killing over 100 of the enemy. When the effect of the charge was seen, the Natal Native Contingent under Commandant Nettleton were also ordered to charge from the right corner of our rear face. Then with a hearty cheer from all the English soldiers near and re-echoed all round the laagar. Out our Natives went helter skelter, the Officers having hardly time to get their horses. In fact Commandant Nettleton and Captain Hart were on foot the whole time and set the Natives a splendid example who followed them closely and pluckily. Notwithstanding that three of the first Company were shot dead by the enemy who fired one volley and then fled precipitately. After this the enemy ceased firing on our front right and left faces and joined in the flight across the open plain assisted with a few shells and rockets from our guns. It was a little after seven o'clock when the Natal Native Contigent received the order to charge and in half an hour there was not a living Zulu to be seen for miles around excepting a few that were wounded so bad that they could not escape. It was only in a few cases that our officers were able to rescue wounded Zulus from our natives who were so embittered against them that they killed nearly all they came across. The Zulus were the same with our natives and often tried as well as they could to stab them with the assegai.

Shortly after the engagement began our Medical Staff laid a large waterproof sheet down and commenced to pitch tents for the wounded as they were brought in, no difficulty was experienced in having them attended to at once. Doctors Farrant, Bolton, O'Neil, Harding and assistant Naval Surgeons working quietly but expeditiously had all the wounded as comfortable as could be shortly after the action was over. It was ascertained that our total casualties were 1 Officer 4 men killed, 3 Officers and 25 men severely wounded also 7 Natives killed and 10 wounded. Total killed 5 Europeans and 7 Natives, 28 wounded Europeans 10 Natives made 12 killed 30 wounded in all.

For a long time it was quite impossible to see what damage our fire had done. At first it was thought we had not killed more than 700 as we only buried 473 bodies lying within 500 yards of the laagar, but we found out afterwards that not only was the valley strewn with bodies but also that numbers had died of their wounds whilst escaping, in many cases miles away. We have since numbered very near 1200 and a great many must have escaped. Slightly wounded several prisoners were taken and from one of the first we gained information that the Impi which attacked us had been sent down on purpose from their King and commanded by Dubalamanze and Somays and that it numbered 115 Companies of over 100 men each equal to 11,500 in all. Five of the best and bravest regiments represented (viz) the Uve Tulwana Umeitza Umbonambi and the Mlobamakosi Regiments Dubalamanzi was present on horseback. We obtained information from some of the prisoners that King Cetewayo with his women and cattle had retreated to the Umvilicosi valley and had given command of the Impi Dabulamanzi to prevent our relieving Colonel Pearson at Ekowe and that the Impi had marched for two days with out food until they arrived at a spot on te old road to the Inyezane about 6 miles from our laagar and hidden from it by the intervening hills. There had been a dispute amongst them as to whether they should attack us that night the 1st or whether they

should wait until morning. They then agreed with Daubulamanzi to wait until the following morning, they then divided and attacked in the manner I have previously stated. About 8.30 am we noticed signals by flashes from Ekowe and having procured a looking glass, Signalmen were told off for duty and went to work receiving and transmitting messages. The first we received was from Colonel Pearson to Lord Chelmsford congratulating us on our victory and telling us that they saw the whole of the engagement from Ekowe heights quite plain. They also informed us about Colonel Wood's engagement and stated that another Impi of 20,000 men was approaching but had warned Helpmakar Newcastle and Utreck. We then sent them a list of our killed and wounded and informed them that we should start the following morning with part of our Column to get to and relieve them the same day and that when we were in sight under Ekowe, Colonel Pearson should come out of his prison and meet us.

Fatihue parties were notw told off the bury the dead Zulus and also to dig graves for our own poor men who were buried at noon. Lieut. Johnson and three Privates in one long grave and a Native in a smaller one alongside. The Burial Service was read by Major Walker, 99th Regt. Johnson was borne to the grave on a stretcher by 4 brother Officers and the Privates by their comrades. Some of the Zulus were fearfully mutilated I saw myself six lying in a heap, 3 with four shots through the head, one with seven shots through him and two with five - two in the head, three through the body. We buried them in three large holes dug for the purpose. It was a sickening sight and one I don't wish to see the likes again. In the afternoon arrangements were made for the despatch of a flying column to start in the morning for Ekowe. The force was to consist of the following troops. 57th Regt., 91st and 3rd/60th Rifles, part of the Naval Brigade with one Gatling gun, two rocket tubes, John Dunn's Scouts with two troops of mounted men. Our present laagar was to be made smaller and the outside trench levelled instead of which a bank was to be made up all round close outside the waggons so as to protect the men who were underneath from fire. This was garrisoned by the five Companies of the 99th Regt., two Companies 3rd Buffs and two Companies 91st Regt. The rest of the Naval Brigade with the Gatling guns and rocket tubes, both battalions Natal Native Contingent and one troop of Mounted men. All these were under command of Major Walker, 99th Regt. At night all were to retire inside the laagar including the soldiers and natives.

The Battle of Gingindhlovo (sic)

It was on the 2nd April 1879
The cruel and crafty Zulus attacked our British lines
We were going to Ekowe to set our comrades free
The Zulus tried to stop us but they found it all u.p.

Chorus Hurrah, Hurrah for the flag that floats so free
 Hurrah, Hurrah for the British Calvary (Cavalry?)
 For we'll avenge our comrades who at Isandlwana fell
 As we march upon King Cetewayo's Kraal

They all thought to catch us napping but they found us all awake
And to help their indigestion many a leaden pill they did take
There were our gallant Sailors with their little Gatling guns
The 57th and 91st their very best all done

The 3rd Buffs and 99th all helped to win the day
Also the gallant cavalry pursued them far away
The Rifles too were present proving how without a doubt
the Regt. as good as ever the way they fought it out

They were firm cool and collected in their ranks in courageous heart
And the General praised them grandly the way they done their part
They all thought of England's honour as their shots went true and free
And soon their fame was rafted home for miles across the sea.

To stop the relief of Ekowe their bold efforts they did fail

And very few returned to tell their King of the dreadful tale
They may all be fearless men their vain bloodshed value real
But if they want the Soldier's biscuit they must break through English steel.

They are all just as efficient as the Rifles come before
Who fought for King and Country on peninsula sunny's shore
To all who hear this simple ballad think well of the Rifles' fame
How nobly and how grandly they have always kept their name.

So we have gained another honour to our colours which have seen
Full many a hardy struggle and have always come out clean
So where ere your jolly Rifles are with a full bumper sing keen(?)
Always drink to England's fame and toast the Rifles and our Queen.

Composed by J.H. Caswell, 3rd. Battalion K.R. Rifles, S.A.

April 3rd. At 4 a.m. had a false alarm and stood to our arms until 5.30 a.m. it then being daylight. At 7 a.m. everything was got ready for our start to Ekowe and in half an hour we were all on the move in the following order. John Dunn's Scouts and a troop of mounted men, 3rd 60th Rifles, the Naval Brigade with rockets, following these were a few waggons. Next came the 57th Regt. and 6 companies 91st Regt. then the remainder of waggons and carts followed by the rear guard. Soon after starting we saw smoke issuing from Ekowe fort. It was Colonel Pearson's force burning all the old stores etc. which he could not carry away with him. The direction we took was straight to Inyezane. John Dunn guided the column personally and his Scouts were out round us. Major Barrow with some of his mounted infantry crossed straight over the river and worked along the hills on the opposite side where the enemy had come down and retired back the morning before. About 9.45 a.m. a mounted man rode up from the laagar with a message for Lord Chelmsford, which had (been) telegraphed from Colonel Pearson at Ekowe for 400 trek oxen with chain yokes and skeys complete to bring back all his waggons. The order was given by the General and Janties horse were told off to escort them up to us as quickly as possible. We had to cross a piece of very boggy land but we managed to get our waggons through it very well with the help of the men, who had to help pull them through with ropes, up to their knees in mud and water. After a halt of 3/4 of an hour we moved on again and soon came on the track of the Zulu army where it had marched on to attack us. The track was very distinct and showed that there had been a very large number present. There were eight tracks side by side which plainly convinced us that they had marched 8 abreast. At about 11.30 a.m. we crossed the river Inyezane with Lord Chelmsford, the Commodors, John Dunn, Colonel Crealock and other members of the Staff. We halted on the other side of the river and had a slight meal. We had not been halted long when a mounted orderly arrived with a note from Major Barrows who was then on a hill right in front of us and over-looking the old battle field where Colonel Pearson's column was engaged in which he said that the banks of the Inyezane lower down where his men had crossed were covered with shields, assegais, guns, blankets etc. and that everything betokened a complete rout on the part of the enemy. He also informed Lord Chelmsford that no Zulus were on our right at all and that if we guarded our left flank only that - that would be sufficient. When the column had all crossed over the river we went on again for about a mile and then halted in an open glade. We started again at 2.45 p.m. and our cattle having had a good feed we intended getting into Ekowe that night especially we knew there would be a moon at 3.15 a.m. We were going up to Onajies Kraal when we passed the spot where the men who fell in the Battle of Inyezane had been buried. In a very short time we had gained the top of the hill, here the road begins to run along in a winding manner on the top of the ridges of the hill Major Barrows mounted infantry and Volunteers joined us here and John Dunn's Scouts went on ahead. In ascending one of these hills, John Dunn pointed out to us down below a gorge or a spot in the middle of a large forest where evidently an Impi or Regiment had been encamped for some time no doubt waiting for Colonel Pearson to come out when they would have way-laid him in one of the defiles. In many places we came to where the Zulus had cut the road away so that we had to wait and cut a new one ere we could pass our waggons along the mountain side. Here we came across the first waggon left by Colonel Ely on his road up to Ekowe with a convoy. It bore the WD with the broad arrow and had written on it 'Commissariat Reserve'. It was very much damaged and its contents lay scattered around it. Further on just on our right was another '74' we came upon five others

marked numbers 4, 40, 15, 18, and 49. Some of these were not damaged in the least with the exception of a wheel being taken off. Furthest of all and nearest to Ekowe one waggon had been completely turned over and rolled down the precipice. At 4.30 p.m., as we neared Ekowe, we could see men on the hills above waving flags and making signals to us. Colonel Pearson came out to meet us and direct us to a short cut to the Fort made by his own men. The head of our column entered Ekowe at 8.15 p.m. and the remainder continued to come in up to midnight; the 3rd.60th. were leading the column.

For me to attempt to reproduce the scene that occurred on us nearing the Fort is impossible. It was most heart-rending to see the men and the shouts, cheers and congratulations on all sides I cannot describe. The only disappointment that was visible was when it was found by Colonel Pearson that the men of the 99th and 3rd Buffs were left behind and were not allowed to form part of the Column for both of the head quarters of these Corps had been imprisoned at Ekowe. But the disappointment was soon allayed when it was made known how near they were to them and how soon they would be reunited again.

The ramparts were manned and three hearty cheers were given when the General and Staff arrived and great excitement was also shown when the 91st Regt. in with their bagpipes playing. At last the rear guard arrived with hearty cheers awaiting them all was soon quiet, rations were issued but very little partaken of for all were thoroughly tired out, sleep soon overtaking all except those that actually had to be kept awake. Our march this day had been over 20 miles and nearly all up hill in the burning sun.

April 4th. Reveille sounded at 5 a.m. The beleaguered little garrison had been busy all day the previous in getting their waggons packed and everything ready to start today so that no time might be lost. They had some provisions in the fort owing to the extreme care with which they had been husbanded and eeked out by the plentiful supply of mealies and pumpkins from the surrounding Kaffir gardens. In fact if there had only been some passable slaughter cattle instead of old trek oxen which they were reduced to and a little sugar, the men would have been pretty well off. As it was, after Colonel Pearson had taken three days provisions out for his own force to return back to Fort Tenedos, just three days full rations remained and were handed over to Lord Chelmsford. There were a few articles left such as was not thought necessary to carry back so they were sold by auction and the prices they fetched were rather amusing and far exceeded their value as under

1 Ham	L6/10/-d	value at home	7/6d
1 box Sardines	10/-d		1/-d
1 bottle Pickles	1/3/-d		1/-d
1 tin Preserved Milk	1/-/-d		1/-d
1 tin Lobster	1/18/-d		1/-d
1 stick Tobacco	1/3/-d		1/2d
1 tin Dubbing	13/-d		6d

Colonel Pearson marched out of Ekowe with his forces and bivouacked down the hill towards Gingindhlovo where they arrived next day. Today it is Lord Chelmsford's intention to burn Dubalamanze Kraal six miles off and sleeping at the fort at night and after evacuation it next morning will return by a shorter route to our laagar atGingindhlovo About 10.30 preparations were soon made for the Mounted and Captain Beddow's Native Pioneers with John Dunn's Scouts to start on the expedition to burn Dubalamanzi Kraal, the remainder left behind had the day to themselves and amused themselves washing cloths; they were all pretty well and merry. The weather was very hot.

April 5th. Having had breakfast and everything ready it being 6.30 a.m., we started back for Gingindhlovo. It was very hot and sultry; it took effect of a great many men who had to fall out sick. We continued our journey until 4 p.m. when we halted in a bush for the night. I thought it a very bad spot to halt and to resist an enemy should they come, but they did not come. But about 3 a.m. on the 6th we had a false alarm.

April 6th. The morning was very dark and cloudy and turned an unlucky one for us as we had a false alarm at about 3.15 a.m. One company of ours was out on outpost duty and some of John Dunn's Scouts were out

in groups in advance of them about 150 yards. When for some reason not known of the sentries fired which instantly caused an alarm throughout the camp and more so in the picquet lines. The Natives commenced to shout 'Zulu, Zulu' and retired on the European picquet of which our men not knowing a great many of them properly for the darkness, thought that a large body of Zulus were on them and natural enough too they commenced to retire on the Laagar. By this time the Natives had got mixed up with ours consequently the men in the trenches inside the Laagar discerning blacks coming towards them with red jackets on which could be discerned before our black ones really thought the Zulus were rapidly advancing to attack us. Some few men less cautious than the rest and no doubt waking hurriedly up out of a sound sleep and scarcely knowing what they were doing, commenced to fire on them. None was killed except one Native. 5 or 6 were wounded, one of ours in the shoulder and two in the legs. The picquet should not have retired without an order from the Officer commanding the line, but some mistake or another no such order was given by him. Whether he was with his Company or not I cannot say, but it was generally thought he was not. At any rate the Colour Sergeant came in for share of the blame and was tried by General Court Martial and sentenced to five years penal servitude for cowardice which has since been all remitted through the influence of some kind friends who interceded for him. We arrived at Gingindhlovo about 5.30 p.m. and another painful task awaited us which was to bury our late Colonel Northey who had died while we were gone to relieve Ekowe. We were all very downhearted, particularly because he was the Regiment's right hand man and was respected by every man that knew him.

April 7th. As our Laagar was getting unhealthy, today we moved about a mile and a half to another hill which was a better position for the troops as we were to stop there for some time, we also buried one man who had died through the effects of the wounds received in the false alarm on the 6th inst.

April 8th. This morning we stood to our arms very early as it was reported that a great number of the enemy had been seen lurking very near us but they did not attack us. Daylight dawned at last, we then began to dig some good substantial trenches and such they were for it would have been impossible for the enemy to have driven us out without shelling us out and that these we knew the Zulus were not in possession of.

April 9th. My Company for outpost duty from 6 a.m. until 6 a.m. on 10th inst., everything very quiet but I am sorry to say that a great many (of) our men are commencing to fall sick.

April 10th. We are now waiting for troops and food and also orders from Lord Chelmsford who had gone back to the Tugela. Washing shirts and clothing is the order of the day, weather very hot.

April 11th. Still waiting for orders the enemy very strong in front of us supposed to be about 20,000 and we are keeping a sharp look out for them. This being Good Friday a great many are thinking about dear Old England and wondering where we shall all be on the next. The days are very hot and nights very cold and we begin to feel it with only one blanket and no tents wet or dry.

April 12th. A great many men suffering from dysentery, still waiting for orders yet enemy still in front of us very strong. Can see their fires by night very plain, weather still the same.

April 13th. Still waiting for orders .

April 14th. Company for outpost duty in front of the enemy but they do not seem willing to attack us.

April 15th. Done duty with the Natal Native Contingent in their own Laagar who I must inform you had one as well as us but it was deemed advisable to put one Company of each Regt. with them daily for although we knew them to be loyal to us it is always best to be on the right side. All passed off very well, very hot today night very cold.

April 16th. Still waiting for orders to advance. Today we erected a Malteas Cross at Colonel Northey's grave with an inscription at the head of his name and Regt. we also put a rustic work fence around when completed it looked very nice. Weather fine but rather warm.

April 17th. We are still waiting for orders and reinforcements a great many men sick with dysentery and fever.

April 18th. Today we received a fresh supply of provisions also a few additional Troops from Tugela which enlivened us up a little for now we are expecting to move further up the country to face our crafty foe, but to our sorrow we were not destined to move yet. Time rolled slowly on until the 22nd. when Cetewayo's brother Maquinda and his favourite wives and a number of Zulu followers gave themselves up as prisoners of war. He is a fine built man, his limbs are built in proportion to his body, his height about 5 feet 11 inches and is termed squint-eyed, his countenance in my idea betokens treachery. His wives numbering six are fine made women and were accompanied by an old witch and a more deplorable looking creature I never saw in my existence.

April 23rd. Today some more Zulus gave themselves up and I need not tell you we took great care and did not give them a chance of getting away again. We also deprived them of their guns and assegais and to make sure of them they were all burnt. Time rolled slowly on and now it was visible that fever and dysentery had fairly distributed itself amongst our men. It is really heart-rending to see the poor men I may say lingering away their lives as you may see a man strong and hale today and down with fever tomorrow and perhaps dead and buried next day. Yes it did seem hard times but we bore our trials and troubles manfully and patiently at least as well as circumstances would permit.

April 25th. Today to our joy we received orders to move further up country and you may imagine how pleased we was to leave this place for several reasons. Chiefly on account of the water which was very bad in fact I would not care to wash my hands in it but we were then glad to drink it as it was better than none yet we could smell the taint of dead Zulus who had fallen into the water wounded and died farther up the stream.

April 26th. We are now ready for marching up country but previous to starting we buried a man of ours that died yesterday. After a march of about six miles we halted and laid out a new camping ground and here we are to build a Fort to be names Fort Chelmsford and I think I am justified in saying that when it was finished it represented the finest and best built fort in Zululand. We remained here for some time and had continually to backwards and forwards with convoys to the Amattikulu river as this fort was to be the base of supplies and orders were issued that the fort was to be provisioned for 20,000 men for six months so one may guess it took us some time to complete our task. The distance from Fort Chelmsford to the Amattikulu is about 10 miles many a march we had to and fro but our hardships were not yet at its pitch.

I now pass over the space of a month as I have nothing to record worth mentioning as our time was passed away slowly in the manner I have previously mentioned doing outpost duty and convoy duty. Fever still very prevalent amongst our rank. From the 23rd May until 31st it was continually raining no tents or covering to shelter us. So you may just imagine us being wet through for three days and nights and up to our knees in mud and water the whole time. Sleeping was out of the question and we stood all in groups talking very seriously and looking very grave and careworn at each other and well we might for we were only had half pound of buscuit and half pound of flour daily. We had no fat or anything to mix in the flour and very often we could not get a fire to burn to cook it. There were several different modes of cooking it, some would mix it up with water and try to bake it in their mess tins which would get half burnt, others would make a kind of gruel of it but in general half of each man's half pound would be wasted which left him very little to eat and many a man I have seen trying for over an hour to cook it in some kind of shape to make it eatable and having in the end thrown it clean away from him with disgust although very much starving with hunger.

May 31st. This morning came in to our joy with a bright blue sky and soon the sun was up and shining very hot which gave us a chance of drying our blankets and clothes which we needed very much. Today we heard that King Cetewayo had sued for peace but this did not give us much pleasure for we thought we had not as yet given him punishment enough for the atrocious crimes he had committed. Some more Zulus also gave themselves up and reported that a great many of the enemy were dying for the want of food and shelter for .I must here mention that all their kraals we came across we burnt and destroyed everything belonging

to them and their grain supplied our own cattle with corn. This was one sure way we knew that would make them surrender.

June the 21st. We have been patiently waiting since 31st May for orders to move further up country at last they have come. The heat is excessive and we have a long march all day. We have halted for the night and a miserable(sic) it has been, raining all night. We continued our march for three days until we came Napolian hill close to the Umlalazi river.

June 24th. Here we are halted and a beautiful position we have got we have began to build a fort and it is to be called Fort Napolaon in memory of the Prince Imperial of France who was killed in this country whilst out with the Scouts. The weather is very hot with rain but we have got tents. Sometimes we use them and sometimes not as there is not enough for all since we have been here we were sent out 60th Rifles only. We went out over the river which had to be crossed by pontoon bridges. Reconnoitering we had a few skirmishes with a few Zulus but they would not stand so we captured about 3,000 head of their cattle beside some sheep and goats also a lot of poultry. We then marched back to Fort Napolaon. We were cheered by the remainder of the men has had been left behind to protect the camp and General Crealock gave us great praise also a day's rest which was very acceptable.

June 27th. Today we advanced and came in sight of the sea which was a treat to the eyes after being so long amongst the long grass and bush until the 30th when we halted on a large plain named Point Durnford. It is close to the sea and here it is intended to make a landing place for food and stores which will save a great deal of expence and marching and not so far to fetch it as we advance up country. So we have set to work and landed when the weather would permit a great many things and we have also put a great many sick men on board ship and sent them back to Durban and different places for the benefit of their health.

I must now go on with that as best I can for my time is so taken up with my work and my materials are all expended for keeping a correct diary, but I will do my best from recollection.

We stayed here until the morning of the 24th July: one man name O'Connor was drowned whilst bathing.

General Crealock has now left us and gone back to England and Lieut. General Sir Garnet Wolesley, GCMG, KCB, etc. had taken command of the whole Column. He gave all under his command praise for what they had done, but believe me this did not satisfy our hunger for we were not getting half enough to eat. It was here that several thousand Zulus surrendered themselves and arms which we took away from them and destroyed for our transport was quite enough without carrying all their old guns and assegais. The men as they did not want to fight any more were set at liberty as peaceable Zulus. We also captured several thousand head of cattle. It was here that we heard Lord Chelmsford had captured Nlundia(?) for which we fired a salute, but we were all very sorry we were not there for it was our ambition to be present at that battle; but no such luck we were doomed to be absent.

After the elapse of 20 days after the taking of Ulundi we received orders to march on to that place. On we went over mountains, through valleys, across plains and sometimes wading through rivers up to our breasts, but this we did not mind so much for we could see our men daily improve in health and strength and it was now, I think, that our Medical Officers found out that we had been marching through the most unhealthy part of Zululand. One night which I shall never forget while I live, we halted for two days and built a small fort and named it Victoria Fort. Well on this night we pitched our tents as usual and were all in them with the exception of the outpost and picquet sentries inside the Laagar. About 7.30 p.m. the thunder rolled, the lightning flashed tremendous and the rain came down in torrents. We had not been long in our tents before they were all blown down and it was of no use attempting to raise them again. Some did and no sooner than they were up they were blown down again. So we had to lie or stand in the rain and fare the best we could. One man died in the trenches during the night. The cooks tried to light their fires at 5 a.m. but did not get them to burn until about nine. But our cattle fared worse than us for the wet and cold took such an effect on them that they were dropping down dead two or three at a time. After the storm had abated a little we found 500 dead oxen besides several horses and mules. Our clothes, blankets and tents being soaking in wet, Sir Garnet Wolesley gave us a day's rest. In fact, I am sure we should not have been able to move far for after

so many oxen dying and the state the ground as well as the weight of everything was in with so much wet would have impeded our advance a great deal, but the next day we started on for Ulundi.

Having arrived at Ulundi a great many were disappointed, for instead of seeing a fine flourishing capital, it was nothing more than a very large circle in the centre of a large plain surrounded with hills. The circle was composed of Kraals 4 and 5 abreast. At the top centre was the King's Kraal surrounded with others belonging to his favourite wives and followers. All these were deserted, neither could we see so much of the late battle. Certainly we came across a great many skeletons of Zulus the most I saw in one lot was five. Occasionally we picked up a gun, an assegai or shield and inside some of the kraals I found some wooden spoons, strings of beads, they also left a good stock of mealies and Kaffir corn which we made good use of to feed our horses and cattle.

We marched past the Royal Kraal and halted, pitched our tents and, then having a good look round, I could see we had been marching through the worst part of the country. There is no mistake, it was a fine spot for a pitched battle. While we were there we made good use of our time for we captured the two guns that were taken at Isandula (Isandlwana). They were found in a donga and were not in the least damaged.

Our mounted men were now out in search of the King. Sir Garnet now issued orders for about 300 of the 60th Rifles were to follow them at least all them that were well enough to march. I went myself but I was not at the time fit for such a journey as I had the Fever for two days, yet I did not give in for I had a good mate with me and I must here mention that he done everything in his power for me which gave me more encouragement than anything else, so I told him I would try and manage the journey. I was glad I went for it quite got me round to my usual self again. So we started. We had two days march in front of us to the Black Umvolosi river. I forgot to mention but we crossed the White Umvolosi river about one and a half miles from the Royal Kraal at Ulundi. We took ten days rations and we were to keep a sharp look out for the King. We encamped in a rather curious spot that is in the centre of a large bush on the Natal side of the river. We could hear nothing but the shaking of the trees and howling of wild beasts for the first night and two large lions we actually seen which you may be sure caused everybody on duty to keep a sharp look out..

The story of the King's flight and capture and the incident of his last days kingship have not to a great many been fully told. I will explain as well as I am able. Suffice it to say that like Waterloo with Napoleon, Ulundi decided the fate of Cetewayo, for from the hour of that battle, the old loyalty of his Chiefs soon came below the fighting point and never rose again. The news spread like wildfire through the country and confusion reigned in every direction and Chieftanship the two months that followed must have been bitter and painful to the King. For he was hunted through his own lands and compelled to travel on foot from one Kraal to another seeking the shelter of Chiefs now grown too cold towards him to fight on his behalf. Yet still cherishing enough loyalty to screen him from being captured. Yet his lot could not (be) envied particularly when his habits of life and his corpulency of body would render his flight physically painful and difficult. The country through which he fled for the greatest part was infested with the tsetsi fly and is very troublesome to human beings and cattle, the road also was not trackable for horses as oxen on account of the thickness of the bush, hence the necessity the King was under to fly on foot. After the disastrous battle he first sought protection and shelter at the Kraal of his Prime Minister, Umnyamama, he having left Ulundi when burnt down by the English troops, but his Prime Minister declined to support him; he then went to Uzwtus(?) district. This Chief's Kraal failed to protect him and, Uzwtus having previously given himself up, the King, after 5 days, was obliged to fly further.

The King then went into the vast bushy country of the Black Umvolosi accompanied by a few of his more faithful followers. During this time, our Dragoons and Mounted Infantry, Jantyes(?) Basuto horse had completely circled the Black and White Umvolosi bush and were maintaining almost a complete cordon, passed right over the King or else he rather passed through their lines. It is a fact that for some time he was within a few yards of some of our mounted men who were asking the King's whereabouts of his own followers or subjects and almost in the presence of the King himself, making his backward movement into the Umvolosi forest from Nzwties Kraal and passing the British lines twice. The King made his way towards Inyome forest and for seventeen days he was pursued by Lord Gifford who at last repeatedly being put off the scent came to a spot near where he got positive knowledge of the King's position. This was at a

Kraal occupied by a petty Chief whose name is Umkosama and who is now in camp a prisoner with the King.

The mode adopted by the pursuers appear to have been to take all the cattle off each Chief on the route who sheltered the King or refused to give any information concerning him. Umnyamana had been fined and Umkosama as tributary Chief alleged that he was engaged in collecting cattle to pay this fine when captured. The Kraal at which the King was captured is situated only about 300 yards from the Nyome forest, a dense wood of tall yellow wood, sneeze wood and stink wood trees in which it would have been difficult to trace a fugitive with this at hand before him the Kraal on all other sides from which the pursuers could be expected commanded a view for five miles around and no spot could afford better chances of escape. It appears, however, the Lord Gifford had sent word to Major Marter commanding the Dragoons then on patrol across an arm of the forest, to keep a sharp look out for the King, not suspecting probably that the Major was all in a position to effect a capture. Major Marter, as far as I am informed, integrated (sic) the messenger who happened to know the King's actual whereabouts and while Lord Gifford was waiting three miles off for night fall, the Major dashed through the wood and about 4 p.m. came down upon the rear of the Kraal which contained the King.

The Kraal was invaded by Colonel and sixty Dragoons riding down a mountain cliff that the Zulus considered impossible for horse soldiers to go on. Reaching the ridge of the mountain the fearful character of the undertaking was realized. It was, however, resolved to make the attempt; two horses were killed and one Dragoon an arm broke.

When Cetewayo was asked to surrender he refused to come out. Preparations were then made to burn the roof off (the) Kraal which brought him out at once. He did not like the looks of Major Marter's sword but did not mind firearms. It is considered from the nature of the country had he displayed a genius for general warfare he might have kept the war open for another three years. He was asked by some of the men to come out of the Kraal on pain of being shot, in return he challenged them to shoot him at the same time remarking that he fully expected to be killed on being taken. After a time he came out of the Kraal and with Umkasana the Chief and Umshingwayo, Umsinan and Umtajasi three faithful chiefs who remained with him in all his varied fortunes, an Intombi girl and four of his women two of whom are said to be his wives, were also taken at the Kraal.

The King complained that the Major or those under him had kept all his trinkets such as snuff boxes and like personal effects he considered was a robbery.

During the time the mounted men were pursuing the King we were forming a reserve on the banks of the Black Umvolosi river, the evening of the 28th August we received news that the King was captured, we immediately sent a strong Company of Rifles to assist them to bring him and his followers on the following morning his Majesty was escorted into camp by the mounted men, 60th Rifles and Native Contingent about 10a.m. he walked into camp with a majestic air and a smiling countenance. A square was made for his reception and a raised platform for him to sit on. He is a fine built man standing about 6feet two inches, very stout, his limbs are made in proportion to his body; he has a very pleasing countenance and not one spark of treachery could I detect lurking in his countenance, at least no one would, to see him, believe that he had been the author of so many bloody actions as has been represented to us.

After a stay of two hours to allow him and his followers to get some refreshments on the occasion two of his own cattle were slaughtered, a large camp fire was lit in the centre of the camp and, he having chosen a portion of meat, one of his followers cut this meat in long strips which he threaded on sticks or twigs, one end stuck in the ground and the remainder leaning over the fire, in this way his meat was cooked. When done, it was placed before the King, he having turned it over several times refused to accept any himself but gave to his wives piece by piece until he thought they had had sufficient. The remainder was divided amongst the other two female attendants, Intombi girl and the rest of his followers. The favourite wife always sits next to him. I should class he No.1, No.2 sits next the Prime Minister and follow on in rear. Although he would not eat, I noticed he relished his Kaffir beer which was carried in an earthen vessel by No.2 wife on her head, No.1 carrying his drinking cup, the other two carried his bedding and domestic

articles. As he sat drinking, No.1 wife held his cup whilst No.2 poured out. No.1 hands it to the King and so on until he is satisfied; about 9 cups full satisfied him on this occasion, of a pint each. His wives then helped themselves, afterwards the vessel was handed to the others and so on until all was consumed.

Shortly after 12 o'clock we were all ready to commence our march back to Ulundi with our royal prisoner, that is A and G Companies of the 60th Rifles and Major Marter with his Dragoons and some of the Native Contingent. The order for marching was as follows in complete service order, 70 rounds of ammunition and one blanket and waterproof sheet accompanied with two days rations per man. It was a tedious march through a thick bush and over hills and untrodden ground. A few cavalry took the lead, then followed A Company of 60th Rifles, next a cart with six mules containing His Majesty and females followed on foot by his male followers. Next was another Company of 60th Rifles in fours followed by mounted men and Native Contingent flanked on either side by the Kings Dragoon Guards and Native Scouts. In some places it was necessary for the King and his females to walk on account of the uneven ground we were travelling over.

At about 9 p.m. we halted after a very fatiguing march of about 16 miles in the centre of dense bush. We formed a kind of laagar with troops with the mule-cart in the centre, having a large tarpaulin thrown over it. Under this the King and his wives retired for the night, his male attendants lay around the camp fire which Lieutenant Thorne, 60th Rifles, who was Officer Commanding, Royal Guard, extinguished on every one becoming quiet. The troops all received a dram of rum each and then lay down to rest excepting those who were actually on sentry at the time. Six sentries were posted around his Royal Personage at a respectful distance and were relieved every two hours during the night. I must here mention that Major Marter kept a very sharp look-out after his royal prisoner when on the march. He either had his sword drawn or a loaded revolver in his hand a few yards from him. Escape was impossible, but such he never attempted, he having no doubt become reconciled to his fate.

At 4 a.m. the following morning, reveille sounded and by daylight we were all ready for our march to Ulundi. The King walked all the way. About one mile from Ulundi Camp an aide-de-camp rode out to Major Marter, we then halted for about an hour. We were now on the Ulundi plains and had ample room to move and to arrange our order of march into Headquarters Camp which was as follows. Leading was a mounted Officer of Dragoons, next about 20 Dragoons 4 abreast, half a Company 60th Rifles in fours with fixed swords. Next the King himself walking with a stick with a mounted Officer of Dragoons on each side of him and Major Marter followed him close in rear with swords drawn followed by Lieut. Thorne, 60th Rifles, Commander of the Royal Guard. Next came his wives and female attendants, Intombi girl, Prime Minister and male followers carrying his domestic articles, in Indian file on either side and close to them, in file, marched the Guard followed by half a Company of 60th Rifles in fours and followed in succession by the same number of Dragoons four abreast as in front, the Native Contingent bringing up the rear. On either flank of the Guard marched, in file, at about 10 paces distant, remainder of the 60th and to complete the procession, the remainder of the mounted men equalized their distance from the front in file at about 30 yards on either flank. This is as near a description of our entrance into Ulundi Camp with the King and retinue.

Having handed him over at Headquarters all correct, we were dismissed to receive an additional dram of rum and days rations, likewise accompanied with a days rest on the following day.

After a few hours rest, the King was forwarded towards the coast in the greatest haste. It was expected he would be taken to Pietermaritzburg, but is not so. He was sent with an escort of 40 mounted men under Captain Poole, RA, who travelled at the rate of about 25 miles a day, conveying the King and party in a ten-mule ambulance wagon. When the party turned off at Fort Evelyn, the King and escort were led to believe they were going to Durban, but to their surprise they turned off again at the Umhlatusi river which left them in no doubt as to their destination. At Point Durnford, the deception was further kept up by the announcement that they were going to Mauritius. On the way down, the King stopped at the Kraal of his step-mother, Undini where he was allowed to get some domestic articles he wanted. As soon as he arrived at Point Durnford, preparations were made in haste for his embarkation. A surf boat was used for the purpose for at Point Durnford there is nothing in the shape of a pier or jetty and all embarking and disembarking is done by surf-boats and shelving beach in which no work can be performed in a southerly

wind or swell. The wind was shifting from the west to the south when the King was brought down and it was very fortunate that he was embarking just as he was for the serf was already running high when the boat put off. The King manifested considerable trepidation on being led to the temporary staging made for the purpose to embark him. At any rate this was successfully accomplished but he hesitated to go on board until all his retinue had gone first fearing do doubt that they would be left behind and hewould be brought to London in consideration of his fear all his people were embarked first. The inner shell of the serf boat was gaily decorated with flags but the King and his people appeared to pay little heed to these surroundings and suffered very much from sea sickness during the trip out to S.S. "*Natal*".

Having arrived alongside an attempt was made to fix a bridge between the boat and gangway but the vessel rolled so much that it was deemed unsafe; it was then taken down again. The boat was then brought alongside where two Officers stood to lift each of the party to the gangway. The women were brought up first and like the rest of the party were very timid and insisted upon going up the gangway on their hands and knees. One of the men, more fearful than the rest, lay down in the bottom of the boat when required to get on board and motioned to have his throat cut rather than go on board the ship. After a great deal of persuasion he was got aboard. The King, the last to get on the gangway, did so by crawling up as the others had done and when he landed safe on the deck of the steamer he gave vent to a sigh whether of despondency or relief could only be guessed. He would not go near the ship's side and grasped the Officer's hand to support him while standing on deck. He was asked to look and see the anchor weighed but declined although manifested a child-like curiosity about many things on board. Various trappings such as blankets and mats were brought on board, the King having two mattresses and two blankets supplied by the military and the men and women one blanket and mattress each. The prisoners soon became reconciled to the situation on board and began to manifest much interest in all they saw or heard. A kind of kraal about 12 feet was rigged up on the fore part of the poop deck where there was less motion to the ship and more breeze. The King, his women and servants were placed in here and were made as comfortable as possible. He retired to his kraal soon after coming on board and did not come out until the next day.

When shown through the ship by the Officers, he expressed his great surprise and admiration at many things he saw and was especially struck with the machinery but he would not venture into but gave a token of his wonder at the works of the white man by giving utterance to the peculiar Kaffir word 'W'koww' (?) which means 'surprised' He could not comprehend the use of many of the fixtures of the cabin and although he believed the account given to him of how the ship was made and the cost was a mystery to him. His first question was required to the ship was how old she was and how many cattle she cost.

He had a great objection to coming to the Cape as his spies and messengers had brought up evil reports of the land in past times. Cetewayo expressed his perfect resignation to his fate and said he knew from the first the war would terminate as it did and that he would, himself, be the sufferer. H blamed his young men whom he could not restrain at the beginning and also blamed the English for pursuing the war to the present condition.

On his arrival at the Cape a signal announced the arrival of the 'Forester' escorting the S.S. "*Natal*" with the Zulu King on board. By the time the "*Natal*" got into docks a crowd of two or three hundred people had assembled on the entrance pier where the vessel was moored and a considerable deal of curiosity was visible as regards the Zulu monarch. They were not kept in suspense as an escort of the 17th Lancers were ready to accompany him to the Castle, the carriages that were on the quay in readiness for the state prisoner and his attendants and in a few minutes after, His Majesty's women and men numbering nine came in view. The women, four in number, with an Intombia girl said to be his daughter were shown into the vehicles ready for them also the petty chief Umkosana with the King's three servants with their luggage and last of all came the King whose red and white blanket had been discarded for a tolerable well fitting suit of European cloth, the gift, we understand was from a Naval officer at Simons Bay consisting of a very respectable tile hat, a great coat and black trousers. He also had a cane presented to him at Simons Bay and he walked in a dignified way and self-possessed manner to the carriage unheeding the cheers that were raised by the crowd as he came off the ship. These cheers, though they were evidently not generally intended as such, would be understood according to Zulu manners in the light of a taunt, a circumstance to be regretted.

The Zulu King took his seat with the Interpreter with perfect ease and the cavalcade drove off at a rattling pace to the Dock road and Strand Street where the prisoners were all quartered in the wing of the Castle which join on to the row where the Commandant lives. Three rooms had been fitted up in the upper story for the King and his wives the former but in the western end, but His Majesty, on arriving, expressed his preference for the centre one, agreeable to the Zulu plan of laying out a kraal and his wish was acceded to. A bath and other conveniences are at the disposal of the prisoners who have access to the parapet which commands a view of Table Bay and of the country towards Wineburg and from the other wing of Table Mountain and of the tower. The rooms are provided with blankets and matting but no beds such articles being unknown in Zululand and domestic furniture. No one is allowed to enter the prisoners' apartments. The King will be detained here until instructions are received from the home Government.

Having written as much about the King as I am able, I must retrace my steps back to Ulundi where the 3rd 60th and 57th Regt. are still encamped. These being the only two regiments so far up in Zululand whilst staying here, Sir Garness Wolseley settled the territories of peace and appointed the different chiefs who were to rule the different districts in Zululand, John Dunn falling in for his share of the country. Also while we have been here some thousands of guns, rifles and assegais have been brought in by the Zulus who now seem quite friendly and I firmly believe that they are glad that Cetewayo is taken from amongst them and when asked who they would like for their Great Chief, they all wished for a white man.

It now came our turn to commence to quit Zululand, accordingly on the 2nd September we made a short march from Ulundi plains to the Mathkului river and crossed the White Umvolosi river our route lay via St. Pauls and Middle Drift through rivers and valleys, bush and over hills and uneven ground that a wheel had nor a white man had never been before. We had a march of about 250 miles in front of us before we could get to Pietermaritzburg, but that we did not mind as we all were bumped up with the hopes of returning to old England, but to our surprise when we arrived here we soon found out we were to be stationed here. Our column then which was under Brigadier Clarke, Colonel of the 57th Regt., these two regiments led into Pietermaritzburg after a very fatiguing and trying march of 32 days. On Friday morning the 4th October 1879 it was announced to then but half-awakened people our entrance into the city by the strange but truly martial strains of the Bugle Band of the 3rd. 60th Rifles which played in the column alternately with the merry fifes and drums of the 57th Regt. These two regiments will have a tale of arduous campaigning in South

that will assuredly prove of not less thrilling interest than the more brilliant exploits of the tight little column composed of the 1st/13th Regt. and 90th Light Infantry that followed Sir Evelyn Wood in his late dashing career. The 57th Regt. was the first to arrive of the welcome reinforcements of which the terrible lesson of Isandula (Isandlwana) revealed to us our severe(?) battle with the war-like hordes of Zululand could be successfully appeased. They came from Ceylon(now Sri Lanka) in the troop ship "Tamar" after being seasoned by a five year sojourn in the east. Brigadier Clarke was in command as Lieut. Colonel although but two years previous he held only the rank of Captain having in the mean time been advanced with rare rapidity by chiefly as a reward for his distinguished services in the field, I believe, in New Zealand. The arrival here of the 57th Regt. and 3rd Batt. 60th was soon followed by the 91st Highlanders; it was these three regiments conjoining with 99th and other troops already in the field that preformed the Ekowe relief. The column was attended by privations and risks such as seldom have to be encountered by an army in the field the duty that lay before them of the uttermost urgency (viz) the relief of a then beleagured host threatened with starvation and it brooked of no delay.

The column moved away from the left bank of the Tugela at the time of heavy rains without tents, without sufficient blankets and without the ordinary cumbersome commissariat train of snail-paced waggons, the necessity to escort to which had been the great drawback to a prompt and systemated prosecution of the campaign.

The history of that march has never yet been fully told but facts have come to our knowledge that justify us in characterizing it as one of the most thrilling episodes of the Zulu war. It was a forced march and the rains that fell in torrents for days and nights together could not be allowed to interfere with the advance. The route was supposed to be infested with the foe and the uttermost vigilance had to be exercised therefore to prevent a surprise, yet the column must press forward meanwhile, beating the country through on the flanks

of the column without shelter night or day, drenched to the skin and without the chance of a change and frequently on empty stomachs.

Then came the battle with foe at Gingindhlovo resulting in a brilliant, and to our forces, comparatively bloodless victory to the British. Then in a day or two after the task was achieved and Ekowe was relieved, subsequently the 57th Regt. and 3rd Batt. 60th formed part of General Crealock's Column and upon that officer retiring after the fall of Ulundi they were under the command of Colonel Clarke who then became Brigadier General; and on General Newdigate's division retiring to the border after the fall of Ulundi, Brigadier Clarke's column advanced to their occupation of the recent site of Cetewayo's Kraal this enabling the British General-in-Chief to direct the pursuit of the then fugitive King and dictate terms of submission to the surrounding Chiefs and to arrange for the further government of the conquered country from the ancient and renowned seat of Empire of the Zulu monarch. This accomplished, it fell to the lot of Clarke's Column to move back to Natal over an unbeaten track so far as the British Army is concerned, with a view to military demonstrations in a district where a British soldier no doubt had ever been seen before.

The Column left Ulundi immediately after the grand review at which Sir Garnett Wolseley took his leave of the now victorious army. We arrived at Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg with pleasure after a tedious and wearying campaign of six month and twenty seven days.

Out of this - I am now answering for myself - I had my clothes on night and day for 108 days and nights and slept in the open air about 160 nights with only one blanket and the canopy of heaven to cover me exposed to all weathers. Two thirds of this time the whole of my belts were on day and night.

Early on Saturday morning the 5th October, the 57th Regt. left Pietermaritzburg for Durban, there to embark for Malta. The 3rd/60th was also broken up. Two companies went on detachment to Girquand East, one to St. John's River, one to Durban, one to Greytown leaving three at Pietermaritzburg and we are shortly to get a ship. The one which went to Greytown has since returned, making four companies at Headquarters we are still stationed at Pietermaritzburg.

Now, dear Friends, I will bring this to a close at the same time thanking the Almighty for giving me my health and strength to enable me to go through the Zulu Campaign with the Coast Column.

3rd Battn. King's Royal Rifles, Abdin Barracks, Cairo, Egypt.