2nd Lt. Cameron had charge of the two guns of the captured at Elmdon Laagte, with its detachment of Horse Artillery (who had fought up to now) brought them into action on Observation Hill; he had an escort of sappers. The wheels were so thin that they broke the only man who managed to get one gun into action.
from headquarters to speak of, & no one ever told us where the enemy’s guns were. Then we could all see how hopelessly the French had failed to make any use at all of all his cavalry. So Geo White rode up to Colonel Coxhead on the way back & said “The one pleasing feature of the day, is the splendid behaviour of the Field Artillery, their support of the infantry was magnificent.” One episode I will mention as this diary is strictly private. Campbell has a young civilian cousin who has enlisted as a trooper in the L.H. He was on picket on some small kopje all alone during the retirement, when suddenly three of the 60” rifles came upon him as they were in full retreat, they threw down their rifles, thinking he was a Boer, & said “Don’t shoot, we’ll surrender.” This to a single man! This shows what a hopeless spirit animated some of our infantry on this memorable & disgraceful day. In justice to the 60”, it must be said that they got into a very bad place & nearly 60 men, were fired at from all sides & even have got away but for the 13” & 53” batteries. However they might have rallied in order, & the loss of over a company of them taken prisoners costs very bad. We got back to the Gun Park about 4 p.m. weary to death, & expecting another fight.
We got great news in Ladysmith for the day. It was quite embarrassing to meet a cavalry officer; for as soon as he heard one was in the 21st Battery, he grew absurdly effusive and said we had saved all their lives. Everyone's admiration of the 13th & 53rd; in fact all the limmers was unbounded. One staff officer went old Blenheit's hand the next day and told him with a husky voice that 'The sight of those batteries under fire, made him proud to feel he was an Englishman.' It was really rather absurd, to just because one branch did their duty without muddling it!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Men</th>
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<th>Sir. J. Whitelaw's note of 18th Jan.</th>
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<td>Killed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wounded</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>Prisoners</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>917</td>
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<td><strong>53</strong></td>
<td><strong>1220</strong></td>
<td><strong>1273</strong></td>
<td><strong>343</strong></td>
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Tomorrow. Tonight in general orders the battle is described as "a reconnaissance in force, which accomplished its object, but unfortunately, two regiments of the mountain battery has not yet returned." The General published an order that "the gallant behaviour of the Royal Field Artillery conducted greatly to the successful (sic) issue of the day. To our chins may we hear that the men stationed on Gun Hill, Lombards Kop and Bulwana are being retired to these hills left unoccupied because some talk on the staff says the Bows could not possibly get guns onto them & they would be out of range of the town if they did. Oh for a little tonight! The men having heard what the miserable staff officers had said at the beginning of the retreat, are fully convinced they are all heroes & have saved the army during the retreat. Certainly the Field Artillery did their duty well & will gain much credit by this day. The men have behaved splendidly."

Sunday 31st October 1899. All is quiet today, as the Bows ask for 24 hours time to bury dead & attend the wounded. Many civilians are leaving Ladysmith for Kimberley as the Bows have not yet cut the line & do not appear to have occupied Bulwana or Lombard's Kop. Today is a sad day of funerals.
At 11 o'clock we start off to bury poor Macdonal,
Bn. Morgan & 4 summers of the 42nd bat'y, as only
one shelf for a coffin is obtainable, only one gun
carriage can be used & Macdonal is carried on this,
while all the others are taken down in an A+S cart.
The bodies are seen up in blue flannel, wrapped
round with the Union Jack. Macdonal charger is
led behind with his sword & appointments, his hel-
met on the saddle & boots reversed in the stirrups.
As it is "war time" no firing party is allowed.
We proceed to the cemetery having fetched the
bodies from the Farm Hall (used as a hospital and
mortuary.) As we proceed to the cemetery, we
pass a squadron of the 5th D.C's trotting past to
recommence. To my intense disgust, the officer in
charge never takes any notice of the funeral,
never even calling his men, who were riding easy
or smoking, to attention. We pass them twice & they
take no notice, so I presume the 5th D.C's are
a peculiarly slack regiment, or their officers
ignorant of the most elementary customs &
observances of the service. I may mention that a
Troop of 5th Lancers we passed were very rightly called
to attention & eyes rigidly as they passed & their officers
all saluted, but they, of course, were a pretty smart regiment. We wait nearly an hour for the parson to come, but as he does not turn up, the Colonel reads the service, & his reading of it struck me as being more genuine & heartfelt than that of any army chaplain's would have been. We each in turn sprinkle our handful of earth over the remains of our late comrade & the gunners of our two batteries & when we have finished the sad ceremony, I think we are most of us husky & a little watery about the eyes. Poor old MacCharry, in the short time I had known him I had taken a great liking to him, he was of an exceedingly quiet, condescending gentlemanly disposition, and one of the best natured fellows I've ever met. One couldn't help feeling that he was probably the most fitted of any of us to suddenly die. Batman, Douglas, Hawkins, & myself carried the body to the grave on a stretcher. The men also were all greatly affected by the loss of their comrade. We trotted home, banishing gloomy thoughts as much as possible, but one could not help thinking "How many more, & who will be next?" Bennet Burley of the Daily Telegraph leaves by train for
Among them were,
James (Times)
Maxwell (Standard)
Stevens (Daily Mail)
Pears (Morning Post)
Melton Prior (Illustrated London News)
Mand (Graphic)
Goldman (South African Review)
Mitchell (Local press but correcting Maxwell)

† I heard afterwards that he wrote uncompromising things about the Artillery, but as all the other papers as all the other branches of the Service were fulsome in their praise to say nothing of Sir Leo White's complimentary order, his account must have simply made him look foolish & given away the fact that he wasn't true.
Maritz bug, as he has no intention of being twanged.
I hear he wrote an manpower, slashing article about
the fight before everyone from Sir George
downwards, but it was stopped by the Prime
Minister. The cause of his ize was really, that he had never
been informed where the main part of the fight was
lost, so he went out to murder Spreti he never
saw a sign of it, except the episode of Wing's battery
& the Volunteers parading, holding down a hill on
Bulwana. So, if he did write an account, it was all
"hearsay". Several London correspondents elect to
stand a siege. The Dublin Fusiliers and Natal Field Battery are sent away to Colenso. We are
tually expecting to have the time cut & to have to
stay here a shot while till reinforcements arrive
from Durban, as we are swiftly numerically too
weak to drive the Boers back to the bay, as yet.
We do not however expect the here a month.
Kings Post, Junction Hill & Helpmakaar ridge are
still garrisoned & held by infantry, also the two
Maxim Nordenfelds captured at Elandslaagte together
with the 2 remaining mountain guns, are put up
on Helpmakaar ridges. The balloon goes up to observe
the Boer movements. They seem quiet. Lt. Evans of the
Indian ammunition column is attached to us via Manley.
Wednesday 1st November 1899

Afterwards A few shell expended between Long Tom and the Naval guns. But after that quiet as the Boro appear still to be burning. I am not too extra
ordinary (but always absurdly hopeful) run on
fly round town. This town will soon become the city of lies. We seem to be doing absolutely nothing, I have not even sent troops to hold Caprona Camp as yet. Cavalry and Mounted Volun
teeers seem hopelessly useless. The line is still open & people leaving the town. It looks like a siege as we don't attempt to move. The Boro are reported to be moving round towards Colmea to cut us off.

* * *

Thursday 2nd November 1899

General French takes cavalry brigade & 1 battery of 10th Bde. Div. out Busto direction to cut off commando of enemy moving round towards Colmea. The cannon shell the Boro larger successfully, but the cavalry do nothing but capture about 20 Boro prisoners. French is sent down to
mainly buy 3 trains get through today, being fired on from cover slopes of Balwana, but the line is cut tonight. All Boro prisoners have been sent South.

11.40 a.m. order for cavalry to turn out & join from Col Knox on St Helena road. 53rd on duty to assist. Orders cancelled however before they start. Col Cox head ordered to take out 2 battalions into
Scout below Carcan Camp, with an escort of Volunteers to proceed across railway to engage enemy's guns on the undergrounds of Bulwana. 21st & 42nd start out across Iron Bridge, wind through scrub. We expect an angry reception when we emerge from the scrub. The Colonel called a council of war, orders the lot going on with range finders and ground scout. He gets a lot of shell at him—but is unhurt. We remain here in a trailing scam till 5 p.m., with a dead cool a few yards off poisoning the atmosphere, when we are ordered to return to camp, as the fact that their guns would be out of range of ours has the has penetrated the brains of the staff, besides no one knowing where the dense tree guns are firing from, the scrub being so thick.

Friday 3rd November 1899. 1st "Bozrah Stunt" affair.
The line is cut & the Boors are all round us now. The Boors have a long range gun on top of Bulwana, about 16 p.m., which shells the balloon right over our camp in the morning. Just after breakfast, the battery is ordered to turn out, with the Cavalry brigade, under Gen. Broadhurst, to cut off another Boor commando reported to be advancing from the State into beyond Blaumberk. We start off, with 5th Lancs, 19th Hussars & Imperial Light Horse, across from Bridge & Baird Range Post.
Fiets Pogglahurst Affair

About 2 miles to 1 mile.
and proceed along the Deep Valley in line. We are
greatly elated, as we fancy we are going to do wonders.

Today I tell Capt. Ellis that he is "horse artillery," for
the first time in his life. We advance along the road
leading to South of Lance Hill in line at a trot, the
cavalry disappearing to cull the hawks & keeping a respectful
distance from the battery. We are followed by a squadron
of 14th for an escort. We trot along at a good swinging
pace & I am beginning to wonder when we shall
see any sign of Mr. Dabelman, when from a hill in
front of us (Lance Hill) we see a puff of white smoke
and about 10 seconds after, why comes a shell about
50 yards short of the battery. When we see we have

got a smoky gun to compete with almost a half
of joy goes up from the battery. At last we shall be
able to locate our target, however cunningly he may be
hid in gun pits or dungeons! We advance another mile
before we come into action — meanwhile our little friend
(evidently a gun of about our own calibre) sends six shells at
us, all of which but one twist either short or
beyond us on the percussion. His one time shotnel is
burst such a height in the air that the bullets batter
harmlessly around us. I notice with pride what perfect
crossing the guns are keeping as we first into action, this beautifu
Sunny morning, and it strikes me we are in for an enjoyable fight today, as for the first time we can see where our enemy is, besides his exact whereabouts.

Evans section is on the right, Ramden on the left, and I have my own seven section in the centre. We come into action at a first range 3000 yards, the right hand gun is off almost at once, and the left guns are brought supply of the German batteries. The left Dernaite then opens in sight of the range. The Major ranges the battery to perfection today, and after our first shot the Dutch gunners Cox heart and shoot wide of the battery. The Major finds the shot range with 4 shots, but our little friend shots up as after the 3rd, the right section open again with time Shrapnel 6 we are at battery fire 10 sec intervals after 10 shots. We proceed to disperse our fire along the crest of Lancers Hill, which is the only hill which has given any signs of holding Durnos yet. We fire several shells into what we take for their camp, but which turns out to be a devoted to this knoll, and can see the Shrapnel raining clouds of dust. We see several Bows running on from between Lancers Hill and Hussar Hill, others fly to the right rear of the hill, behind Blampain. The 5th Lancers have meanwhile mounted and the men sent half up onto light troops to
held it and half-up to hold End still on our left flank, both of which are unoccupied by Boers, the remainder of the 19th Steersmen have been galloped to C where they are dismounted & remain useless & inactive under Blaeberry the rest of the day. If they had been taken through the neck at B now, they would have had a fine chance to cut off lots of Boers in the open, but there they sat all day perfectly useless like a lot of stuffed baronets. God knows what they came out for! We appear to have driven the Boers off Lancers Hill now, not knowing (having never been given any maps as yet) that the Hill extended a long way back (think we must have done so, though in reality most of the Boers had only retired back from the crest out of the way of our Shrapnels. A Major in Charge of a squadron of the right Horse comes up to Blaeberry, and asks if he may take his squadron up & take the Hill from the left & rear. Brocklehurst does not appear or issue any orders. The Major bids him do so by all means, & arranges only to fire on the right side of the Hill so as not to hit his men. They gallop up & dismount under Huszar Hill clearing Stein pooni in a dune & are lost to sight. A very sharp rifle fire breaks out immediately from Lancers Hill & shortly after from Huszar Hill. The Major turns the two left guns onto Huszar
Hill kept down this fire considerably. We took in rain
for our men to appear on Lance's Hill, and one very careful
not to hurt our Sharpshells over the crest for fear of hitting
them, where we might have, had we known, done much
damage to the Boers. No manage is sent back by the 14th,
as to how they are progressing, that we learn afterwards
that on finding the Hill strongly held they got into a deep
between it & co. remained thus covering off their rifles till
they retired. They suffered hardly any loss (one or two
men hit), Major Taunton killed.) that we thought they
were having a frightful time, as one of their doctors galloped
back very pale saying they were in an awful fix, that 3
squadrons must be cut to pieces & asking for reinforcement.
They were the only people who attempted to make any
sort of an attack, this idiotic day. About this time, a
long range gun opens away to our right rear & starts
making excellent practice at our wagons, which are
about 200 yards to our rear in the spars (which is dry).
Theenemy sent carriers up to know if he shall shift their
position a bit as the gun had got their range perfectly &
had wounded two horses. As he reaches the battery a
thing occurs, which I must put down, as I wish this to be a
full & truthful account, although it is the only occurrence
that reflects any discredit on the battery during the war.
The wagons who are now in the midst of a hot shell fire, right now cease to trot to the rear to take up a fresh position, without orders. The Farrier is immediately sent galloping after them, brings them back. Meanwhile we are all thunderstruck as to what can have caused his extraordinary movement, to the Major thinking that possibly they had received orders from some staff officer that we were being attacked in rear, orders so to say we have our case shot magazine stripped ready. Also a gun away on our left has started shooting time shot, right up over End Hill, miles up in the air, the men on End Hill are firing shot at, so the Boys are evidently trying to turn our left and cut us off. General Do Brocklehurst tlie A.D.C. Lord Crickton now rides up to Bluntt, says he fancied the Boys are reinforcing very strongly seem like trying to cut us off, so we'd better retire, suggests his retiring the battery at once. Bluntt says "Good God man you're not going to leave those fellows in the hills on that hill, I'm not going to take my battery away till they are extricated." Brocklehurst rep: his "Oh I'd forgotten, what had I better do?" Bluntt says "Do; why send up some of those Cavalry to reinforce I suppose what did you train them out for?" Brocklehurst thanks him quite humbly for
the suggestion, and says he will send back to Ladysmith for two more batteries + reinforcements. This Blumenthal is strongly opposed to as he doesn't see any point in it if we are going to do nothing, so, but old Brocklehurst does so. Some of the 5th Lancers gallop up + get into the angle with the 1/4th, but there is no more sign of any attack than before. Very shortly, the 42nd 53rd batteries arrive out + some volunteers, having ladded + galloped the whole way fancying we must be in distress. The 53rd come into action alongside of us + help to pound away at Lancers Hill, the 42nd after silencing the gun to our right rear come in to action in the nick at B, + knock over several Bows galloping to reinforce from the north & effectively put a stop to this reinforcing. This of course should have been done by the 19th, two hours ago, as the Bows were simply galloping over the plain, but their colonel (Wolsely-Jenkins) turned afraid + to show up in the nick where the battery went. The volunteers to come out, dismount + reinforce End Hill + occupy Middle Hill. Brocklehurst now orders a retirement + the 1/4th + 5th Lancers come galloping back in two ottens from Lancers Hill amidst a fairly hot but very distant rifle fire, our two batteries meanwhile covering Humus + Lancers Hill with
Sheapwell. I think one man was hit only; one trooper horse was shot she was cutting it back about 2000 yards from the enemy's fire without anyone taking any notice of him, when an officer pulls up & catches a horse for him & mounts him on it & they gallop in. There was nothing particularly venturesome in this owing to the great distance from the enemy & the hollowness of their fire, yet a picture of the incident drawn by hand (who was not there) appeared in the graphic entitled "a gallant candidate for the V.C." Meanwhile the 42nd have mounted & galloped home & the 62nd Battery follows them at a trot. [Extract from Wolseley's pocket book page 390, edition 1898]

"When artillery are retiring with cavalry before an enemy, the changes of position to the rear should be executed by guns at the fastest possible pace. The Cav. retiring, as laid down in regulations, at a walk, but never faster than a trot."

I might mention that we never seen a cavalry in three affairs do anything but gallop home, & the artillery have very often walked, but never moved faster than a slow trot.

We move off first, the 14.H. 45th Lancers having collected home and at a gallop, to position E to cover End Hill with our guns till all the volunteers & cavalry are off it, The 53rd remaining in action at A.\n\n\nLt. Higgins shot a team bringing a gun into action
on the now deserted left tropie, & laying everything his own
guns, breaks it out observing three horses & two men so
down to the shot. They then took part us to a position
between E + F + cover End Hill. As soon as all men
have left End Hill we took to F + come into action Utne
against End Hill, Two guns opening fire from Lance
Hill as we retire on us, evidently the old one and another
whilst two guns to our left (same retir. i.e. the north)
open on us & burst their shell marvelously close.
These German + Dutch gunners watch us like cats from
a safe place away from their guns, & as soon as we Limbo
up, they rush back to their guns + open a rapid fire.
The top of End Hill is now covered with Boxes, but a few
shell from us soon silence them, whilst our men retire
from Middle Hill. The 53rd has meanwhile retired along
the road at a walk ready to come into action again, when
the Colonel rides up to Blumert & tells him to retire as
everyone that the two battalions have already gone home. The
Ambulance has us going out, & they say one of them was
fired on by the Boxes. One dead Lance is carried passed
on a stretcher. We retire behind the 53rd in shattering column
along the road, Shelf after shelf whizzy just over us
or just short from guns on our left. As we cross Sign
Pest ridge we come into view of Pemberton & get one or two
Long Tom 9.6 p.m., two of which barely miss our heads. When we cross Rowe Port we walk down the road to camp. We come under a heavy fire from Bulwana, but though shell of the shell lands within a few yards of the two Baltoros not as one is hurt. As we approach the Iron Bridge we are met by the Col. who turns us off into the somut two go round to where we lay on the day before followed by shell, but the guns cannot see us to safely now. Being very hungry + tired I am incisely disgusted, as I assume that we are going out to some outpost to ward off an attack. However we are halted & the guns are trotted singly across an open space + across a drift in the river behind the commissariat + then a back to camp, to one great joy & relief, at 5 p.m. The reason of this was that the guns on Bulwana had got the range of the Iron Bridge to a nicely + it was not safe to cross. They had shelled the 42nd 653d when they came out + when our weapons had returned under the parier had dropped 3 shell right amongst them on the bridge, but luckily none no damage beyond wounds 2 horses. Thus ends this idiotic day, total nil beyond waste of over 500 rounds of gun ammunition which is now very precious. The whole seems to have been got up for Brucklinsaidification, (a trigger foot than whom I've never seen although a charming man to talk to). When we
I found out after (16th Feb 1900) that I somewhat misled
the 12th. One troop did go forward to attack the kopje, the
rest remaining in the donga. They came under a very hot
fire and had to retire losing 5 men and 2 Officers. This was
the only attack made. 

D.T. G.
lack this tempestuous the "Bruckelhurst Affair" I should call it the "Ruggleshurst Affair." This name got about Ladysmi-
the subsequent affair of a similar nature have been
known by no other name ever since. Major Tamplin
was killed at a 5½ Lance trophy, the 144 had two men
wounded & this was all our casual trio. The Boers may,
with luck, have lost a dozen men. We saw only man
all day the fell, the 42nd account for two or three, the
53rd Saw two tall; but as the Boers always leave the
crew as soon as we fire, if not under cover behind, as
we were, according to orders, fired along the crest all day,
we probably did not hit more than a dozen. The Cavalry
& Volonters say they don't think they've hit a man all
day. The talion which was up, told us afterwards that
the Boers retreated 200 yards back & sat there all the
time we were firing. They might have run out the field telepho-
& let us know all this sort of thing. And yet a local
paper described it as a most gallant action & said
the dry valley was stiunn with dead Boers. This got
copied into the London papers!!! I have since seen Brod-
khurst described in a London paper as one of our ablest
generals! He is the Eashing-Stod of Ladysmith! Poor old
Cotton (19th Jammes) whom I met the next day was almost
in tears on the subject he said, "We're the laughing stock of Ladysmith, you are the only fellows who'll get any kind of out of this war." It's not their fault, poor chaps, but the fault of the fools that lead them & don't know their work. Yet I'll bet the cavalry are the heroes of the war! The R.A. unit as they never push themselves into notice like some regiments, who send carthorse jocks & photo to every illustrated paper & abound little anecdotes about some individual's action on some occasion or other. When we got home the Major has the 6 corporals up to investigate the disgraceful affair of the wagons. They all swear they thought some Staff Officer had ordered the wagons to take up a fresh position in rear, & it doesn't transpire who was the first to start the movement. The Major gives them the most awful telling off, & says that as long as he has any connection with the battery will be promoted, he also tells us to put very steady drivers in the head of our wagon teams. It all happened because there was no one in charge & some driver said he'd heard an order given. There ought to be a 4th subaltern in a battery to take charge of the wagons when the Capt'n is not there. The next time the battery goes out, the Major talked at a sharp lesson by walking it very slowly in a close formation under a heavy & very accurate sharpshoot fire.
from a gun at a close range to the battery's flanks. But this will be described in the "Second Pugilistic Affair."

Saturday 4th November.
Fairly quiet, not much bombardment. We rise at 3.30a.m. Day morning and kept pretty busy all day.

Sunday 5th November. Not a shot fired. Apparently the Boers disapprove of shelling on Sunday. We can however see a big emplacement being put up on Bulwana, which turns out to be another lorry Tom (sometimes called Bulwana Bill or Puffing Billy). This lorry can over look the whole town and camps and is 8000 yards from Royal Port. Guns are made a road up to Caesars Camp by Maiden Castle. Walker has already constructed a wonderful zig-zag trench line east. It is possible for field guns. We have an ambulance till 12 mid to remove sick & wounded to a hospital camp at Intendi Spuit, the neutral ground, half way between Caesars Camp & Bulwana. One train out in early morning & one back at night allowed. Of course Boers promise not to shell it, but send in for medicines occasionally & sometimes send in patients. Remains of a successful fight at Colenso, (chie of course)

Monday 6th November 1899. Very little shelling
Town is as usual full of wildest romans. We call them Caenarians as most originate from there gentlemen.
Tuesday 7th November 1899. As we stand by hoisted in early morning, the major stands going down to the river by the show-yard drift, at what we call "Blumer's Post", early morning to watch for attacks and an opportunity of bringing battery into action there, also to spot the Bovn guns on Guns Hill, Bulwark etc. He spots 14 guns including Long Tom and two 4.7" howitzers which he cannot locate. The 42nd guns are sent up to Caesar Camp in gun pits, their horses left here. Caesar's Camp & Maiden Castle is very slightly shelled by these guns & the Manchester. Lt. Cooch is hit by a rifle bullet on the arm up there, fired from Colenso ridges, but no damage done.

Thursday 9th Nov. 1899. [Prince of Wales born 1841]

First Boer Attack on Ladysmith.

Heavy bombardment commences this morning at 5am. By 7am. there is sharp rifle fire in direction of Kings Pot. Bullock goes up & reports two large commands, NE of Kings Pot & S of Caesar's Camp. 10am. the 42nd are in action on Caesar's Camp. 11am. we are told an attack is expected on Happers field. Both villages are huddled in a wood and are ready to go out to Blumer's Post. 12 noon. our Naval guns fire off all round for two or three minutes & we hear cheers all round taken up by different camps in turn, wonder what
on earth it can be, suppose relief column is sighted or
Pretoria captured by A. Powell. Staff officers riding past like
us it is H.R.H's birthday & that was a salute of live shell into
the Boer camps. We take off our helmets & cheer it to mad.
Hope the enemy have heard all the cheering. Hear that
a Long Tom has taken off Egypton's legs (German hint
of Powerful). They say the poor fellow said "Well this one
put an end to my cricket" & asked for a cigar as they
were carrying him down. He was working the 4.7 on Junction
hill at time. I hear E. C. Egerton died under amputation.
Poor chap it is hard, as from today the Long Tom gives up
shooting back at the Navy, as they are too well protected by
parapet & confines his attention to the town. [He was
killed casually during the year, & nearly only killed, yet
he could have been spared. E. C.] I hear that congratulation are
to be sent to H.R.H by special runner to the wired home. Make
everyone sincerely patriotic! Lunch by detachments, the men
eating by their horses. 2.30 p.m. the Colonel reports attack
on Helpmakaar imminent (turnout to be held up, cos
they'd seen). Both Batteries (21st & 51st) mount & proceed into the
Road in column of route. Col & Plume is to run down to view with
9mg & signposts & ground signals to await the physical moment
for the advance. We all expect a very warm time from Long Tom
& the smaller guns & howitzers on Bulwana, to which we can't reply.
We wait & no orders come, so men allow to dormant & stand by. We find a house opposite our gun park apparently devoted and sit in the garden in wicker chairs reading stale journals & waiting the summons to go out. None arrives, as no attack occurs. The owner Mr. Andrews (surveyor) returns about 6-30 as enemy's shelling has ceased, it appears that he & the rest of his household, consisting of Mr. Wright, Carson & Davis, went down to shelter in the river bank like all the civilians & at day-break & remain under cover till shelling ceased. We apologise for using his house & make great friends. He was a true friend to us all the siege, giving us fruit & twice a bottle of whiskey, & taking me into his house when I was eloping. Every morning now, a string of men, women & children pass our gun park at day-break carrying their days fare, chains sometimes & domestic facts, going to the river bank beyond the commissariat, where they had dug holes for shelter, to be out of the way of the shells. Poor things, it is said to see the women & children. At 5 p.m. we hear attacks are off & enemies retire turn to camp. Hear that Boers only made a half hearted attack coming up to weapons & losing off their rifles from Caesar's Camp they did see one party advance in the open under a red flag (supposed to be the Irish Brigade), Douglas got a shrapnel amongst them & they fled. Our Casualties very small. Hear that tells communication with the hill.
Friday 16th December 1899. Bows do very little shooting, mostly
they with dead & wounded. Play stump cricket in morning.
All sorts of wild rumors again. eg
(i) Baden-Powell has taken Pretoria.
(ii) Dublinio get into Bows at Colenso with bayonet.
(iii) An coward, we have retired from Colenso & Bows have
destroyed the bridge.
(iv) Reliefs are at Maritzburg & the Bows advancing on it.


Sunday 18th Dec. 1899. As usual quite quiet. Bows send in
a call for chloroform & chlorodyne which we foolishly give them,
& reject it later. Hear they are dying of dysentery. Currie is attached
to 42nd. Vice Macdonald killed in action. Runners.

(i) Elroy will probably arrive in few days with 3 brigades.
(ii) Bully at Kimberley with 5000 Troops.

Monday 19th Dec. 1899. Enemy's guns start at 5-20 am. No news.
All rather gloomy at inaction, but suppose we are playing the
right game. Navy do their only bit of good shooting to-day,
and a gun on Surpin Hill. Play stump cricket daily, some-
times get a shell very near where the ball should be.

Before continuing writing propose to give a brief account
of the siege.

Explanations of Figures on Plan opposite.

2. ... 42nd ... ... Guns on Caesars Camp.
3. Mule transport lines of R.F.A.
4. Ammunition Column.
5. Line of 53rd Bty. R.F.A.
6. Original position of all Officers tents, shelled and moved to
9. Mens Tents 53rd. R.F.A
10. House of Mr. May (late Staff - Major 18th. Innan.)
11. House of Mr. Hayden, where James, Maxwell, Goldmann Cur.
15. Church and House of Archdeacon Barker.

This Plan is of the South end of Ladysmith and shows the Camps of the 2nd Bty. Div. 'A' Royal Field Artillery, the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, Commissariat 7th. Bty. and all the Volunteers (1/4 H. B.M.R. N.M.R. and N.C.) It was in this portion of the town that most of the shell from Gun hill & Bulawayo fell. The Gordon camp had about 100 in it (up to end of 1899) R.F.A. mule lines about 50
Old position of African tents about 30. Mary's garden about 12. RE Camp about 30. House 53 feet of ammunition Column Camp about 40. Naval Canteens and RE. Anderson's house about 50. About a dozen houses in the road between the Commisariat and the Church. The Church had one through the patch. The II.H. a weathering place in front got about 50. BMR. an NMR one, Int. Cap. Tathiani's garden got 3. The Commisariat a round lead-covered got most of all, at least 150. Altogether over 1000 shell must have fallen in the ground shorn in this plan up till end of Dec. 1899.

During the first month or a half of the siege, the shell fire did marvellously little harm to life, although a good deal to property, so much so that by the end of November we had begun to consider at a hundred pound shell fired with high explosive as a great joke, and many marvellous were the escapes from injury. I have myself seen several times one of these shell drop within a yard or in a direct line behind a hare and never hurt it. But by the end of Dec. three or four dreadful calamities so upset everyone that shell began to be treated with great respect. Up till the middle of Dec. I had never heard of a Boer shell doing more than wounding or killing individuals, (excepting 1 in the Town Hall Hospital) but the three or four terrible shells in the Canteens, Gloucester, Devon & 52nd Light
made everyone alter their opinions of them. Who then it was that the ground had set hard by them from much drought or whether these shell all struck something that burst them before they reached earth or thus caused the damage, it is hard to say. However the majority of boys trying to turn themselves in the ground, burst with a terrific explosion, dust at a few pieces which often flew right up in the air so one could see and dodge them as they fell, did no harm. If one hit on the hard road it was much more dangerous, yet we yet one in the midst of the battery one day at Rancel Post, right on the metal road, which burst with a tremendous explosion (just over than 2 yards in front of me) & only woman did one hear scream & cut several more slightly (including old brick), but never touched a man, though we were all splitting out dust hit by stones at & I was después for 4 days in one ear. An average of 1 shell in ten failed to explode entirely, falling blind. There was a great mania for wishing to pick up the bits when they burst, and a lot of money would be paid for a whole shell fallen blind. People would ask us to get the fuses & burning charge out for them, but knowing too well by experience the great danger of tampering with live shell, the Co. forbade us to fetch them. They used them to try themselves or get a
sailor to do it, but one more eye blown out & two sailors blown to pieces, put an effective stop to this. During
the opening weeks of the siege the civilians, naturally
terrified, used to seek shelter in holes in the river bank
beyond the commissariat from dawn till evening, but
gave this up gradually as they got accustomed to
the shelling & they took to leaving the town alone
& shelling the camps at the South end. Later in the siege
most of the gardens (especially those of the South end) had large
holes dug in the gardens with earth thrown up towards the
gun, into which they could get if necessary. The Commisariat
always had enormous shelters & a native on watch for the
smoke of the gun on Balawara. The Cantoniers had large
shelters close to two trumpeters on watch all day, after
their casualties. The Gordons went under cover of the
rain, & to & from early in the siege when their camp was
shelled, & we did the same from 19th Dec, the men
being ordered to stay there till gun ceased firing for time-
being. Altogether the Boers have had 5 long tons found us
(mean more than 3 at a time). I see this up. I trust.
I was taken off towards 9 COlno. I was taken to meet Buller
early in Feb 9 & 10 still going (middle of Feb 9). They have
had about 4 howitzers 4-7 inch calibre throwing a 40
lb shell and about 20 30 lighter guns, which have usually
R.A. v. Press last match.

Read from left of group:

- Bill Cannon
- Turner
- Hayden
- Turner
- Stevens
- Cameron
- Wilson
- Thompson
- Maxwell


(Unfortunately, several had left before group was taken by Goldman.)
confined their attention to the outlying hills we held.
The Loy Toms is a powder gun of 6 inches calibre with new 96th
shell (about 18 inches long). It has two kinds of shell and
interior shrapnel which travels only on percussion, six very
hammer and a common shell, probably filled with molotov
which breaks up into huge pieces which broaden all the
damage. The 4.7 inch howitzer threw such a short shell
that it seldom caused any harm. They had several 16 pr.
field guns with an extraordinary range (up to 7000 yards).
Those guns were always protected by enormous parapets of
sandbags (that on gun hill was 30 feet thick and 6 feet high)
and our Naval guns were unable to do them any harm as
the long time fire over the parapet was lost out of
sight when not firing or directly. They saw one of our guns
fire, also the shooting of the Navy was frightfully erratic,
shot going near the target and the next falling hundreds of
yards short or over. Well up to the middle of December we
were all in great spirits, played cricket, polo, football,
and two papers were edited. One by the troops people called the
"Sadysmitha Bombshell" and one by the war correspondents
called the "Sadysmitha Dyne". The first was edited by poor
Stevens (Daily Mail) who chiefly in bulk was illustrated
by Melton Pinn (I. London News) and Macdon (Graphic) and contributed
to by Maxwell (Standard), James (Times), Goldman (S. Africa
Review)
and Mitchell (who assisted Maxwell) who also died of
influenza. However, by the end of December, what with
the heat, entirely dynesty, want of food and exercise,
weakness and general depression, all forms of amusement
died out completely, so we lived a tedious existence.
We did pretty well for food till the end of December,
our own mess stores running out then; what we had to
eat by Feb. 1 will be found in the Diary. Shops were
always open in the town, some part of the day, and during
the beginning of the siege it was the evening as the
Boers stopped shelling early. It used to be a fashionable
evening promenade down town to hear the latest news,
visit the shops & see one's friends. The Boers however
found this out through their spies, and started shelling the
town at that hour. By the end of January, about the
only things you could buy were tooth brushes, pens, books,
and ladies underwear. All ladies stockings had been
cut down to make socks out of. The Boers stated in one
of their papers that they knew their shell must be
destroying a lot of damage, as they could see men rushing
to pick up the dead & wounded wherever one looked. This
however was the rush for bits of shell, not men. We
gunners made great friends with the war correspondents
of the named above, and used to have great cricket matches