

- November 4th 1899 Embarked for Cape Town on board Kildonan Castle. 3 Officers, 34 NCOs & Men 3 wagons. 3 wagons crowded out & shipped on Pembroke Castle. 1st consignment of tubes together with acid & gas and a small gasometer left the London Docks on Nov^r 3rd in "Afrikander".
- Nov^r 22nd Arrived in bay outside Cape Town at 10. A.M. Came alongside wharf 7 P.M. unloaded stores & wagons all night
- Nov^r 23rd Marched to Greenpoint and encamped alongside 26th St by R.C. & Field Park R.C.
- Nov^r 24th to } In camp at Greenpoint overhauling
 Dec 4th } stores, fitting wagons & establishing
 gas factory at Fort Knokke etc
- Dec 5th Ordered to proceed to De Aar by 5.25 P.M. train if possible & warned that the section would probably be sent on direct to the front at Modder River - "Afrikander" came alongside & commenced to unload at 10 a.m. Men worked very well and we got away in good time - strength on train
 3 Officers 3 Officers Horses.
 34 NCOs & men 6 wagons. 98 big tubes
 67 mule tubes.
 Train Stopped at Wellington 8.40 p.m. for tea

were brought to camp for transport

Dec 10th

Spent the morning trying to arrange 4 teams out of the fragments received the night before. At last managed to make up 1 ten span of mules & horses for balloon wagon & one 14 span of oxen for 1 tube wagon, borrowed two 10 span team of mules from A.S.C. - Packed at 2 pm and moved off at 3 pm with flying column - wind too strong to tow out the balloon inflated, it fell calmer later but G.O.C. decided not to fill till ordered next. Bivouacked about 4 miles from camp - heavy rain & thunder storm during the night.

Dec 11th

Beautiful calm morning - filled balloon Titania with 19 tubes and made ascents for observing purposes for several hours. Capt Jones & Lt Grubb made one ascent and saw Kimberley in the distance - afterwards only put one man in the car messages were sent to G.O.C. but the position was so well taken up that it was almost impossible to locate it or to estimate number of the enemy. Advanced slowly during the morning - About 2 pm the wind freshened too much for observing though some short ascents were made. The balloon was

Maagersfontein
Engagement

the patches had torn. Received orders to retire but while doing so the balloon was ripped up past repairing. Saw C. S. O. at 9.30 am who cancelled the order to load wagons on railway & settled to send to the Air for the section transport complete. Heavy dust storm blowing in camp. Lord Methuen stated that he considered the reports sent from balloon while up in the camp as most valuable & gave the O/C. BS a free hand to make ascents at all times within the outpost line. At 6 pm packed up balloon torn & put the 8000 in its net in case of its being required.

Dec. 10th

The tube wagon & equipment wagon what had been sent back to Orange River by the Railway officials arrived in the station and were brought back to camp. Wire to Cape Town asking if any tubes had come since our departure and when the gas factory would be to start work. Verbal authority from Lord Methuen to use gas etc as we like provided that one balloon is always ready to go out on an expedition.