

4. What was the weather like then?—It had been raining during our passage down in the train, and had been raining in Wellington, but it was dry while we were going to the camp. We had no rain while we were in the saddle.

5. Did it rain that night in camp?—I do not think it did.

6. At what time did you get there?—I should say it was about 7 o'clock when we reached the camp.

7. Was there a meal there for you?—Yes, there was some cold meat.

8. Any tea?—I cannot say. As a matter of fact, I did not have any myself.

9. Was it there for you to have it if you wanted it?—Yes, there was something there.

10. How many men were in a tent?—In my own tent I had two other officers.

11. What about the men?—There were from six to eight in a tent. I do not think there were more than eight in any tent.

12. Did you see their tents?—Yes.

13. How were they off for straw?—I heard no complaints about the straw.

14. What do you think about it yourself?—I think there was ample. In my own tent there was more than I required, and if I had heard any complaints I could easily have given them some from my own tent.

15. Were your men located in a muddy part of the camp?—We were stationed up in the trees out of the mud. We had the best position in the camp.

16. Were your men on the hill the whole time?—Always.

17. What about the rations: had you any complaint made to you about the meat?—I cannot remember what days I heard complaints made, but about Tuesday—I think it was the second day that we were in camp—I heard there were complaints made about the cooking.

18. What about the quality of the meat?—It was about the cooking of the meat that I heard from my own subaltern, Lieutenant Morgan, who was acting as my adjutant. I was acting as battalion commander.

19. What was the nature of the complaint he made?—He told me the men were complaining a good deal about the cooking of the food—that it was not sufficiently cooked; that it was raw and not fit to eat.

20. Do you know whether the men got sufficient vegetables?—I cannot say.

21. Did you see the bread?—I saw half a loaf on one occasion, and some bread in one of the tents on another occasion. The half-loaf I saw was more like a cinder than anything else. It was a black mass, and not like bread at all.

22. Had it been knocked about?—It was burned hard and black.

23. Did you see any of the tea and coffee?—I had personal experience of them one day. It was a very wet day, and it needed consideration whether it was worth while going to the mess tent for what we could get; it was so muddy that we did not want to go unless it was worth while. Instead of going down to the mess-tent I thought I would go and get some bread and butter. I went into one of the men's tents to ask if they had any to spare. There were two men in the tent, and I sat down and had a piece of bread and butter. In their tent was a stretcher, which they were using as a table, and there were four large mugs of tea on it, apparently for themselves and their mates. I asked them if they wanted all the tea, and they said I could have some. I took three or four swallows of it before I stopped, and when I stopped I stopped for good.

24. Was it fit for the men to drink?—No. The men laughed when I stopped, and said it was better than a lot they had had. I put the cause down to the making of it in a 400-gallon tank with a fire under it. The tea was of a brown, purplish, muddy colour.

25. Was the water-supply in camp satisfactory?—No. One day, when the command of the camp fell on me in consequence of Colonel Sommerville's absence, it was reported to me that there was no water, and that the cooks could not do their cooking. I told off eight men to get it from the tap at the back of the park. I understood all the other pipes in the ground were broken. The next day, when Colonel Sommerville came out to the camp, I noticed the plumbers at work mending the pipes round the track.

26. Did you see the arrangements made for the cooking?—Yes; every time we went to the officers' mess we passed the cookhouse.

27. Tell us what conveniences they had for cooking?—There seemed to be one man acting as cook, and he had a temporary shed erection, with a sheet of 2 ft. wide iron stretched along the top for cover. The shed was about 15 ft. long. The fire was not under cover. In the covered-in place this man had a sort of shelf and a table for putting things on.

28. Where was the food cooked?—In front of this building there were trenches in which the men did their cooking. About 10 yards to the left was the men's cooking-place—an absolutely open trench with no cover at all. I am not sure whether they had railway-irons or not.

29. What was the greatest number of cooks you saw?—In the first cookhouse there was a man with a white apron on, and there were generally one or two others knocking about. Whether they were cooks or had simply brought things into the camp I cannot say.

30. How many men did you see cooking in the trenches you referred to?—There were something like five or six men knocking about there.

31. What was the state of the cooking-place as regards mud and dirt?—If you could have got one of those things you scrape the roads with you could have got to the solid foundation. There was 3 in. or 4 in. of good liquid mud. We had always to pass this place to get to the mess-tent. I wondered why they did not get a road-scraper and reach the solid ground underneath.

32. Was there any covering over the trench?—None at all.

33. Did not the want of it interfere with the cooking in any way?—Yes. I wondered how the men could cook there in such weather as they had.

34. In your opinion, should it have been sheltered in some way?—I made the remark several