For some years past a brisk trade in arms and ammunition had been carried on between Afghans and the warlike hill tribes of the northern frontier of India. From his early boyhood every man of these highland races has one great ambition, and that is to possess a rifle and ammunition and with it learn to shoot men and beasts with deadly accuracy. For the attainment of this object he will give all the money he possesses or cheerfully risk his life in hazardous raids on British outposts. From his rifle he derives his food, his clothing, and his sport; with it he decides the issue of his personal and family quarrels and the feuds of his tribe. The Afghans used to form small syndicates and purchase arms in the bazaars of Mascat on the Arabian side of the mouth of the Gulf, and so far the trade was legitimate, but the Afghan syndicates would subsequently ship the purchased arms on board sailing dhows and convey them across the Gulf to obscure landing places, chiefly on the Mahran coast on the Persian side. Here the cargo would be landed and stored in depots situated from six to twenty miles inland, whence the guns and ammunition were conveyed across Persia to Afghanistan and Northern India, as soon as sufficient transport and escort was collected. The Governments of India and Persia became anxious for many reasons to prevent this indiscriminate importation of arms, and measures were taken to suppress the traffic, the work of this falling upon the Navy in conjunction with an Indian military force. A blockade was established in 1909, and soon resulted in many captures of dhows laden with arms and ammunition. This blockade was necessarily carried out under circumstances of great hardship and privation. Early in 1910 native troops from India arrived as reinforcements, and were, with a Naval party, landed on January 25, near Jashk. No tents were taken by this force, clothing was on a summer scale, two months' sea rations and one month's field service rations for the
force were sent with it. Field service rations were packed in 40-lb. loads.

Drinking water transport consisted of: Ninety-four water tanks for mule carriage, holding eight gallons each, and 1,394 one-gallon canvas "chaguls." This allowed one to every man and every follower, and one spare to each. In practice, it was found that these canvas "chaguls" oozed water very freely for the first forty-eight hours and so made the men wet and cold. Subsequently, therefore, we filled and hung them up for forty-eight hours in order to let the canvas swell. There was then considerably less oozing, but even a slight dampness allows of rapid evaporation and makes the "chagul" unpleasantly cold. This constitutes a grave objection to an otherwise admirable method of transport of drinking water over country which is destitute of water of any kind. I should be glad to hear from officers present whether they have experienced the same difficulty, and how it was circumvented.

On the 26th this force met with opposition, and an action was fought, resulting in the capture of many rifles and large supplies of ammunition.

The force halted for the night, and then proceeded to the coast in two marches of 16 and 17 miles and at once re-embarked. There were no sick among the combined force, nor did any man fall out, in spite of having marched 53 miles in fifty-four hours over very heavy ground, mostly loose sand, with here and there rocky patches. One bluejacket lost his boots in the bivouac at the captured depot, and marched 15 miles in his socks without getting sore feet. His bitter indignation when ordered into a dhooly was expressed in terms too forcible to be repeated here. All the sailors, except this man, came back with blistered feet, but none subsequently incurred any bad effects from their trying experience. They had all been subjected to careful medical examination and selection, and their feet had been hardened, first by vigorous washing with soap and water, and then by soaking in Condy's fluid for an hour every evening for three days. The uppers of their boots were softened with neat's-foot oil, and they started with clean socks, the insides of which had been well soaped. Each man carried two water-bottles of distilled water, and when these were exhausted they were refilled by water filtered from a running stream through two germ-proof field filters, which were found to be most efficient. Every man was strictly forbidden to touch any water that had not been filtered, and although some of the native troops drank straight from the stream, the bluejackets did not follow their example. Each man
was furnished with a first field dressing, which he was made to sew on to his jumper. The column was attended by field stretchers and dhoolies. The former were meant to convey wounded merely from the fighting line to the first dressing station, and were manned by bearers told off from the troops themselves. It was intended that the dhoolies should transport patients from the dressing station to the field hospital, and thence to the landing place. Each was manned by six men, four of whom actually carried it, the other two being reliefs. The dhoolie consists of a stout pole, generally bamboo, 14 ft. long, and supported by thin bamboo cross legs at either end, and a light cot formed of a bamboo frame covered with canvas, slung from the pole, from which are hung waterproof curtains reaching to the edges of the cot. To carry a dhoolie satisfactorily requires much practice. The bearers in this case were quite unaccustomed to their work, since, for the previous two or three years, a two-wheeled ambulance had taken the place of a dhoolie in station hospitals in India, and seventy per cent. of the dhoolie bearers were thrown out of employment and disappeared, the remainder becoming wheelers of ambulances. In this march over rough and precipitous ground, dhoolies were the only possible means of transport for the sick and wounded. Four men carrying the dhoolie empty became quite exhausted after a very short distance had been covered. And when 100 lb. weight was put into it the bearers collapsed. When the use of dhoolies is contemplated it would seem a most important provision that trained bearers should be secured, otherwise they may prove disappointing encumbrances. Carried by trained men, it is to my mind more comfortable and efficient than any other method of transport of sick or wounded over rough or mountainous country.

On February 2, I went on board the "Hardinge" and saw the Indian Field Hospital, their drugs, instruments, apparatus and dressings, together with the various above-mentioned methods of carrying water on the march. Of these, the eight-gallon water tanks, carried pannier fashion, one on either flank of a mule, seemed most excellent in every way for mountain warfare or operations over ground too rough for wheeled transport, which would, of course, be a more economical method of conveyance where roads were available. These tanks are shaped to fit a mule’s back, and are covered with felt. They are, in fact, glorified Service water bottles, made of galvanized iron, or in some cases of aluminium, a pair of them carrying 17 gallons, making one mule load.

Another means of drinking-water transport, namely, the goat
skin “mashk,” carried by the bheestie, an old and well-tried comrade of British and Indian soldiers on the march, was to be seen in large numbers. Where wheeled transport cannot be used perhaps this method is in some respects the best, and certainly for supplying the firing line during a lull in a long action it must be quite unequalled.

On February 20, a mixed Naval and Military force again landed, but on this occasion no opposition was encountered or arms found. The force re-embarked in the evening. The total distance marched was 16 miles. Eight hours before landing all the men soaked their feet in Condy’s fluid and anointed the insides of their socks with a thin layer of boracic ointment. No man had on his return the slightest sign of sore feet, although after marching the first ten miles on the previous expedition all the men, except one, had developed blistered feet, in spite of the fact that their socks were carefully soaped beforehand. None of the men in this second expedition had taken part in the first or had any opportunity of landing since January 21, or even of wearing their boots on board. No further incident of importance took place until the landing at Lingah, in October, of a Naval force from H.M. ships “Fox” and “Odin,” Staff-Surgeon John Martin and Surgeon Drennan being the medical officers. Lingah is a prosperous but unprotected Persian town, which was at the time threatened by marauding bands exasperated by the interference in their gun-running pursuits. The population of Lingah, consisting of Persians, Baluchis, Indians, Arabs, and a handful of Europeans, numbers from eighty to ninety thousand. The streets are narrow and unpaved. There is no method for disposal of sewage, and it is almost impossible to walk about the open spaces of the town without stepping in human excrement. Drinking water is derived from tanks supplied through roughly cut canals or watercourses leading from a catchment area in the hills at the back of the town. These canals, far from being protected from pollution, actually perform such subsidiary functions as latrines and refuse gullies. The householder’s method of disposal of his waste water usually consists of knocking a hole in the wall near the ground and allowing the water to run through. So long as it is outside his house he cares not what becomes of it or what its effects may be. Very often where there was no fall it collected in a stagnant, stinking pool, which afforded excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes. The force from the “Fox” was lodged in three Arab houses vacated for the purpose by their owners. These buildings were on the outskirts of the town, and directly overlooked
the desert surrounding it. They became known as the Upper, Lower and Main Guard respectively. Each consisted of two or three rooms opening on to a compound, with walls some 9 ft. in height. The compound of the main guard was larger than the others, and in this was erected a large marquee with red lining and side curtains of similar material. A date-leaf shelter with side curtains was rigged in another corner. These, with the rooms in the house, provided ample accommodation for the number of officers and men (69) lodged here. There was also quite sufficient space in the other two houses for the number of officers and men told off to man them, viz.: Upper guard: 3 officers, 16 men, and 10 sepoys from the British Consular guard; lower guard: 17 petty officers and men. The Main guard stood on a slight elevation overlooking the bed of the river, which was quite dry. To the north-east and distant 60 or 70 yards, in the dry bed of the river, were a dozen or more wells, from which the washing water was drawn, and where at all times of the day the native women came to draw water. These wells are fairly deep and not very likely to harbour mosquito larvae. To the south-east and south were four "bourkahs" or tanks for the storage of drinking water. These tanks, of which there are a great number in and about Lingah, are circular, about 18 to 20 ft. deep, with vertical sides, and covered with high conical roofs of baked clay. At opposite ends of a diameter 20 ft. long are porches, which serve respectively to receive and supply the water. Many of these tanks were absolutely dry, with cracked clay bottoms when the "Fox's" force was on shore, as the dry season was then nearing its close. Some, however, contained a few inches of water, and in these mosquito larvae abounded.

A little to the south-west of the Lower guard and distant 500 or 600 yards were eight or nine "bourkahs," of which two contained a few inches of filthy stagnant water. The Upper guard had a well in the compound, and the overflow from this accumulated outside the wall until it was opened out shortly after the occupation and allowed to run away freely. The floors of the houses utilized for the force were simply dried clay or mud, and very dusty, harbouring sand flies and other voracious insects, which, with the mosquitoes, at night rendered sleep difficult, and covered the men's skins with bites.

Staff-Surgeon Martin alone took the precaution to provide himself with a mosquito net, and to this he ascribes his immunity from malaria.

For the first two or three days time was fully occupied in
the construction of latrines, shelters and advanced sangars. After this, short route marches in the early morning were carried out, and the men spent the heat of the day (10 to 4) in the shade.

Lime juice was issued daily, and rum each evening. From November 2, inclusive a quinine parade was held each day at 5 p.m., and every officer and man took quinine bisulphate 5 gr., with 5 gr. extra on Sunday. For a few days all went well, and the health of the force was excellent, but on November 1 the party living in the Upper guard began to form a sick list. The lieutenant in charge, who had been three years on the station, and had previously suffered from malaria, was the first case, and he was quickly followed by an able seaman. The next day three men were attacked, and on the fourth and fifth five men and one sepoy.

It should here be explained that the Consular guard, consisting of nine sepoys and one native corporal, were lodged in a room of the Upper guard, and, being Hindoos of high caste, were not interfered with in any way, special precautions being taken to avoid any offence against their religious prejudices.

On November 5, another man from this house was taken ill, and also a stoker P.O. from the Main guard. On November 6, two more sepoys went down with fever. Each patient was sent off to the ship, either in the early morning or late afternoon of the day on which illness commenced.

Seven out of the total of ten sepoys were attacked; but all recovered in two or three days. During the occupation of the town, altogether fifteen men out of a total of nineteen in the Upper guard were attacked, as against six from the Main guard and two from the Lower guard.

Cases continued to occur every day in spite of the quinine every man was taking. On November 7, all the white men were removed from the Upper guard and only manned the roof at night; but the sepoys were left there, and, as noted above, seven out of ten went down.

The after-history of this outbreak of fever is as follows: The "Fox" went to sea on November 15, and resumed her station on the blockade. Cases occurred steadily day by day after the return on board, and now men who had been lodged in the Main guard and Lower guard began to go down.

Some of those also who had had one attack in the early part of the month now had second attacks. Most of these recovered in a few days under quinine. Two men who had not landed at all were attacked, the first on November 16, and the second on December 1. Three had a second relapse, or third attack.
That the sepoys were the means of originating the infection seems more than probable, as nearly every native of India of that class is saturated with malaria, and the disease furnishes an enormous proportion of the sick list of the Indian army.

The manner in which the "Odin's" party was affected differs somewhat from the above.

The "Odin" landed seventy-five officers and men on October 28, and re-embarked them on November 10. Their quarters by day were commodious, fairly elevated, and a good distance from the native huts. During the night they slept in the open sangars or trenches on the outskirts of the town. Every officer and man had five grains of quinine every evening whilst ashore. All enjoyed excellent health during their occupation of the town, and looked like men returning from a health resort when they re-embarked on November 10. Between this date and November 23 there were fifteen cases of malaria, two officers and eleven men being attacked. Between December 4, and December 8, there were three second attacks.

The next incident in the blockade which is worthy of note is the landing at Ras Bris, on the Mahran coast, on November 2, of a party of bluejackets from the "Proserpine" under the command of Commander Marshall.

There was reason to believe that arms had been landed and concealed in the vicinity, and whilst search was being made the party was sniped at by riflemen well concealed in the adjacent scrub. Commander Marshall received a bullet wound on the left leg, the missile evidently entering on the outer side and passing obliquely downwards and inwards. The tibia was fractured transversely. Severe hemorrhage was controlled by plugging and a tourniquet. The patient was then taken on board his ship and the limb was put up on a Macintyre’s splint for four days, this being afterwards replaced by a box splint. Ecchymosis and great swelling extended from the groin to the ankle. The wounds, however, healed without suppuration. Massage was commenced on the 13th day. After seven weeks’ treatment on board the ship, the patient returned to full duty.

His messenger boy, who was standing close to him, was shot at the same time, first through the right calf, and then while lying on the ground through the left side of the neck, the bullet entering below the ear, and emerging in the middle line at the back of the neck. The wounds had to be plugged to arrest profuse hemorrhage; but they healed without suppuration, and the boy returned to duty on the twenty-eighth day with no evident disability.
A military officer of the Intelligence Department marching with the captain was wounded in the lower abdomen; he also received first-aid and was taken on board the "Proserpine." No sign of perforation of a viscus was observed, and the wounds healed by first intention.

The remainder of the party under the First Lieutenant advanced rapidly for several miles inland, searching for the snipers and for the hidden arms and ammunition, but met with no success. The following day, however, 370 rifles were discovered buried in the sand. On December 23, H.M.S. "Hyacinth" arrived at Debai, a town the inhabitants of which had formerly a great reputation for piracy, and latterly had been suspected of participating in the arms traffic, and information having been received that stores of smuggled arms were in the place, it was decided to search several houses. That night, therefore, preparations were made to land 100 officers and men for this purpose. In the light of subsequent events, it should be explained that similar house-to-house search expeditions had been quite common events during the blockade, and had invariably been accomplished without the slightest resistance, and apparently without any marked resentment on the part of the townsfolk concerned.

Therefore on this occasion also no resistance was anticipated, and all arrangements for medical assistance were declined, except the provision of the customary first-aid equipment. It was explained that, should any need for medical assistance arise, the landing party would all the time be so close to the beach that help could be readily summoned from thence and afforded from the ship. Moreover, the boats were already so heavily laden with military stores, that if the stretchers and a stretcher party were added, some of the boats might get aground on the bar. Lastly, it was confidently, and I think reasonably, expected that so large a party, backed up by the presence in the anchorage of the flagship, whose guns could, in a few hours, have utterly destroyed the crowded and defenceless town, would overawe the inhabitants and banish from their minds any thoughts of armed resistance.

At the same time it was considered that to make all preparations on board just as if fighting were intended, or expected, would be both prudent and instructive.

The carpenter was told to get up all the cots in the ship, eleven in number, and then all the stretchers, nine in number. The cots' frames were rigged with canvas covers, lashings, bed and bedding, including clean linen and blankets, from the carpenter's store. Two
iron swinging cots in the sick bay also were prepared in the same way, the others being unshipped and stowed away, so as to afford more room and air-space. The weather at this time was too cold and too unsettled to permit of patients being treated on the upper deck.

The petty officers’ mess on the cable deck, opposite the sick bay in the forecastle, was cleared out, and two cots hung there. The whole cable deck was scrubbed with Izal, and four cots were hung there between two large gun ports. The remaining five cots were hung in the admiral’s fore cabin and after cabin, which have a w.c. and bathroom separated from them by a lobby, and which are ventilated and illuminated by two skylights, a large gun-port on either side, twelve small ports, and a door leading on to the stern walk. A fracture bed was also manufactured by screwing trestles on to a small mess table 6 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. and put up in the admiral’s fore cabin. In the meantime 200 swabs of wool covered with cyanide gauze were sterilized, placed in bowls of 1 in 2,000 perchloride lotion, and covered with sterilized towels; all the available towels in the ship, not in use, were commandeered, twenty were sterilized by boiling and wrapped in dry sterilized towels forming ten bundles, each containing two towels. The haversack for landing parties was overhauled and restocked with sterile dressings and fresh solutions of morphia 1 of a grain to 1 dram or syringeful, and strychnine 1/11 to 1 dram.

The operating table was scrubbed with Izal and rigged with a new mattress covered with a blanket, sheet, and macintosh sheet. Temporary beds were made up on the cable deck of hammocks covered with mostig battist; and by each of the beds were placed drinking water, soap and washing water in a basin, a towel, and an empty cup for Bovril. The cook was instructed to have Bovril ready in large quantities at fifteen minutes’ notice. The value of these preparations was evident when, shortly after the landing party had commenced its search, it encountered armed resistance of a determined kind. Medical help was asked for by the party on shore, and a boat laden with stretchers, dressings and surgical appliances proceeded at once. The shore was reached without any casualties, although the boat was struck more than once. In an entrenchment was the body of a serjeant of Marines who had been killed by a leaden Snider missile, which had entered about the centre of the vertex and emerged about an inch above the nose. There was also a seaman in an almost moribund condition, who was found to have sustained a compound comminuted fracture of
K. C. Munday

the left side of the lower jaw, a severe wound of the neck, a wound of the right forearm with fracture of the radius, a wound of the left carpus and metacarpus with much comminution of the bones, and another wound of the muscles of the back between the shoulders, all of these being due to bullets. A stimulant was administered, and he was then left with head low and limbs raised on heaps of sand. In the meantime the sick bay steward was despatched with drinking water, which he served out to the remainder of the wounded in this trench, with the exception of one man, whom he reported as wounded in the abdomen. Of these the most urgent case appeared to be a Marine blanched with haemorrhage proceeding from a gaping ragged wound of exit 1\frac{1}{2} in. above the centre of the crest of the left ilium. Slitting up the trousers one found a small wound at the centre of the outer side of the left thigh. The upper third of the femur was comminuted. He had been shot by snipers from the houses on his left rear, while lying down replying to the fire in his front. Haemorrhage was now controlled by plugging the upper large wound with strips of gauze, morphia was injected, and the limb was roughly immobilized with his rifle and a couple of bayonets. The next case was that of a Marine bleeding profusely from small bullet wounds of the right axilla and shoulder. Here the surgical neck of the humerus was shattered. There was a good deal of shock, but no mental confusion. I mention this, because the scalp over the right parietal eminence was deeply grooved, probably by the same bullet. Morphia and strychnine were injected. The wounds were dressed with pads of cyanide gauze, the haemorrhage being at once controlled by the pressure of the bandages. A pad was placed in the axilla, and the arm firmly bandaged to the side. The abdominal case was then attended to. On cutting open his shirt I saw the leaden nose of a small-bore sporting bullet protruding from, and tightly grasped by, the lips of a wound in the right hepatic region, just below the costal arch 1 in. from the linea alba. The missile had entered in the right axillary region low down in the middle line. The eighth rib was fractured and respiration was embarrassed by a constant painful cough. Neither morphia nor water was administered to this patient. A pad of gauze was applied to each wound, and the left chest was strapped above, over, and below the fracture. This gave a good deal of relief. The lips of the wound grasped the bullet so tightly that a small incision was afterwards necessary for its extraction.
There remained one more case. He was still firing from the prone position, assured me that he was only grazed across the back, and said he required no assistance at present. Noticing his pallor and seeing that his tunic and shirt were torn and saturated with blood, I slit them up and discovered a gaping, jagged wound 8 in. long and 2½ in. wide running downwards and inwards from the angle of the left scapula. This was the exit wound of a bullet which had entered 1 in. above the spine of the left scapula, and apparently had passed between the scapula and the ribs without injuring either, but had ploughed up the muscles of the back to a serious extent. The large gaping wound had to be plugged to control the hæmorrhage. While the party landed on shore was being attacked, those men who had been left behind as keepers in the boats used for landing, and then lying close to the shore, also found themselves exposed to a heavy rifle fire. On reaching the pinnace I found several large holes on her port side, which was turned almost broadside on to the houses, and some lumps of lead embedded in corresponding holes on the starboard side. The line of fire had evidently been at an acute angle to the boat’s side. These lumps of lead were probably Snider bullets. The coxswain was lying dead in the bottom of the boat, with a wound in the pericardium, evidently inflicted by one of them.

One of the pinnace’s gun’s crew was lying under the gun with two very small wounds on each side of the abdomen, probably inflicted by a small-calibre high-velocity bullet, either Mauser or Lee-Metford. That which I suppose to have been the entrance wound was just below the centre of the crest of the right ilium, and the exit just above and a little anterior to the centre of the left ilium. Both wounds were practically closed. He complained of very little pain. His pulse was 64 and of good tension. First field dressings were applied and secured with a broad calico binder; a comrade was told off to sit by him, keep him perfectly still, and prevent him from eating or drinking.

Another wound, inflicted by the same type of bullet, was that of a young signalman on duty in the pinnace. The entry was immediately below the root of the right zygoma. Taking a downward and backward course the bullet emerged ½ in. to the right of the spine of the seventh cervical vertebra. There was very little hemorrhage and practically no shock, for with great pluck he stood up and signalled to the ship, until ordered to lie down in the bottom of the boat under cover from the severe cross-
fire. First field dressings were applied. This wound healed by first intention, and the patient soon returned to duty.

The remaining casualty in the pinnace was a bullet wound of the right ankle, remarkable as having no wound of exit. The man was standing up serving the 3-pounder gun when a .303 bullet first pierced the side of the boat and then entered the right ankle, base first, just below the internal malleolus, grooved that bone, and came to rest on the head and neck of the astragalus. It was afterwards located by X-rays and extracted. At this time there was a good deal of pain; morphia was injected and first field dressings were applied.

Passing on into the first cutter, which was moored astern of the pinnace, I found her coxswain also lying dead by his gun. He had been killed by a bullet which had shattered the whole vault of the skull, small pieces of it being afterwards found in various parts of the boat.

Attention was next drawn to a P.O., who had classed himself as slightly wounded, but was now very blanched and evidently exhausted. He had been firing the Maxim gun from the bows of the second cutter, when he was shot in the upper third of the right forearm, the bullet passing between the bones, apparently without injuring either them or any other important structure. A skiagram afterwards showed what are interpreted as splitting of the ulna and transverse cracking of the radius, without displacement. The bullet, which must have been of small calibre, either Lee-Metford or Mauser, entered on the extensor aspect, about 2 in. below the head of the radius, took an almost horizontal course, and emerged on the flexor aspect, about 1½ in. below the coracoid process of the ulna. The haemorrhage had been profuse, and was probably increased by the patient's intrepid action. The sights of his own gun having been shot away, and the men firing the 3-pounder in the pinnace having been either killed or wounded, he climbed from the cutter into the pinnace and proceeded to fire the 3-pounder until loss of blood rendered him too faint and exhausted to continue. The haemorrhage was controlled by direct pressure and elevation of the limb. The wound healed by first intention; but there remained slight numbness of the forefinger, some weakness of the extensor muscles, and of the muscles of the thumb; while there was slight and rapidly decreasing limitation of pronation and supination. The median and ulnar nerves seem to have entirely escaped injury. The function of the radial nerve was only partially and temporarily impaired, probably by the
Gun-running Operations in the Persian Gulf

proximity of the course of the bullet to the nerve. The posterior interosseous nerve would appear to have suffered considerable damage, but evidently was not entirely severed, for although all the extensors except the extensor carpi radialis longior were affected, they were not paralysed. There was no wasting of the muscles of the forearm; but those of the thenar eminence became flabby, although the thumb could be firmly flexed, abducted and adducted. He not long after returned to duty in the ship, and was promoted to C.P.O.

While first aid was being rendered to the wounded, preparations for the withdrawal of the force had been completed. The boats were brought in to the beach and the loaded stretchers were placed on the thwarts of the pinnace, which was towed by the steam cutter. It should be noted that none of the wounds sustained in the boats subsequently suppurated, while all of those inflicted on the men in the entrenchment afterwards became more or less septic. These men were lying in sand, which was very extensively fouled with the excreta of a town of 10,000 inhabitants, the sea beach being a sort of public latrine infested with myriads of flies. Those wounded in the boats also had the advantage of escaping the transport from the beach into the boats, and were hoisted literally straight from the place where they were shot into what was almost tantamount to the wards of a hospital ship. But it is to the fact that the transport from the entrenchment on the beach to the boats was of about only a dozen yards distance, and could be conducted with deliberation and care, that these five cases owe their lives. If they had received such severe wounds some miles inland, and if they had been transported, either by hand in a stretcher or by wheeled vehicles, it is certain that they must have died of the additional shock thus entailed. The rapid improvement in their condition after they had received morphia injections was most noticeable. Without it the passage in the boats back to the ship, in a heavy swell, must have been torture.

As each man was hoisted on board on his stretcher he was laid on the temporary bed arranged for him, to await his turn for the examination of his wound on the operating table in the sick bay, and his eventual disposal.

The men wounded on the 24th at Dei-I were subsequently transferred from the “Hyacinth” to the Indian Marine ship “Minto” for passage to Bombay, whence they were subsequently conveyed to England.

In conclusion I should like to draw your attention to a form of
pseudo-beriberi very familiar to all who have served in the Persian Gulf. I refer to a disease the only symptom of which is oedema of the legs, varying in degree from a swelling which is barely perceptible to an oedema which urgently demands treatment. No nervous symptoms are associated with it, but it is apparently peculiar to the Gulf and the conditions of life associated with that spot. Officers who suffered from it found that it was very much mitigated, if not banished, by any exercise obtained during the intervals in which leave was given when their ship was being repaired in harbour. Up to the present, as far as I know, the exact etiology of this condition still requires elucidation.