

IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

TIMARU BOY'S EXPERIENCES.

Seaman H. (Bert) Walker, aboard H.M.S. ---, writing to his mother, Mrs F. Walker, of Gibson street, Timaru, says:— “We have been on the go since we arrived here. A tribe of savages called Langistanis are the cause of most of the trouble. They are something like the Afridis and twice as cruel. Any of our people they get hold of they massacre. After the first landing at Delwa we went back in a few days to where we lost a lot landing on August 13. A party of about 20 from our ship landed for the purpose of destroying some dhows, and returned to the boats without a single casualty. When the boats were returning a crowd of the enemy came down to see what had been done, and as we had been shooting at the dhows, we had the range to a nicety, and forthwith landed a few shells amongst them, and those that were left soon scattered. I saw one shell down three of them. While lying off Bushire we landed a party for field exercises, and they were billeted in the navy house. On September 9 we were going to practice firing over the town when a message was received that the enemy were in sight. Our party was ordered to defend a ridge about six miles away. We were about first in the field, and after a brief skirmish we got three maxims into position and succeeded in checking the enemy's advance long enough to allow our main body to arrive. Petty-officer Gentry, and Yeoman of Signals Woods were killed in this undertaking, and several wounded. About 11 a.m. the Indian troops made a bayonet charge, and then the 13th Lancers (native troops) charged through and through, leaving piles of dead in their tracks. There were about 100 lancers and the enemy numbered about 600; out of those about 150 got away. The Lancers lost two white officers among their killed, and these poor fellows were terribly mutilated. The Indians lost about 130 killed, and a lot wounded. The next day we buried our two petty officers in the English Cemetery at Bushire. I think these Langistanis have had a severe lesson, and will not be eager for another scrap. Things have settled down for a few days past, but it doesn't last long, as there is always some row or other cropping up. The weather is terribly hot up here still. We have had an epidemic of boils, which are very common in this climate. I quite forget what rain is like. I haven't seen any since leaving East Africa, as it scarcely ever rains here.”