LETTERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

EN ROUTE TO MAFEKING.

A private of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, writing from Warrenton, on April 21st, says - We were on the lines of communications for a few months. We have fine sport catching "rebels" and putting them in front of the guns and blowing them to pieces; they are a great deal worse than the Boers. I was sorry to hear that you were not coming out with the Militia. It is nothing but duty here night and day. Bully beef and biscuits are the daily food. We get scarcely a night a week in bed, and then we have to sleep with our clothes on, and 100 rounds of ammunition. We must be ready to turn out at a moment's notice. We have to go into the trenches every night; one of our men was killed the other day, on account of his looking through a loophole. We are going to the relief of Mafeking, where we will likely lose some men. We are getting used to the bursting of shells, and whistling bullets. We expect to go home shortly, when we shall be stationed on the Curragh Camp.

TREATED LIKE DOGS.

Private M. McL., of the Munster Fusiliers, writing from Cape Town, on April 22nd, says—We had a fine passage out, all the other regiments were treated well but us. We were treated like dogs. They made us sleep in our boots all night, with no bed nor bedclothes. At night we should go to bed at eight while the others could stop on deck. We got very bad usage from the officers. We are on fatigue duty all day long. I hope we will have a better time at the front.

MATCHES AT A PREMTUM.

A private of the North Cork Militia, writing on April 10, in the course of a letter to his mother, says—We are badly off for tobacco here. We are upon top of a mountain where we cannot get a box of matches, if we paid a shilling for it. I would send you some money, but I cannot get a Postal Order. We expect the war to be over in six weeks more and hope to be here no longer
then. Times here are very hard. Only a few of our men died out here since we arrived. A man from Mallow was killed by a train. He was on outpost duty and fell asleep on the rails. We cannot get a loaf of bread if we paid five shillings for it.

Irish Examiner, Thursday, May 24th, 1900
Boers firing from their trenches at the siege of Mafeking 1900

Royal Munster Fusiliers in the Trenches
Getting ready for the war, Curragh Camp 1900
Royal Munster Fusiliers, Tropical Kit Issue, Curragh Camp 1900

Weapons Training at the Curragh Camp