

ANOTHER BOER LEADER KILLED

Lord Methuen Surrounds a Force of Burghers and Makes Many Prisoners.

BRITISH SOLDIERS OVERWHELMED.

Five Companies Captured by the Enemy Near Bethany—Lord Roberts's Official Dispatch—A Notable Soldier of Fortune.

(Associated Press.)
London, April 6.—The British war office this morning discloses nothing, and correspondents at Roberts's headquarters have not been heard from for two days or more.
The lapse of time has not rendered the military situation in the Orange Free State less secure.
This is the twenty-fourth day since Roberts's arrival at Bloemfontein, and the absence is beginning to make the British public rather fretful. Two conjectures are favorites. One is that the silence covers an important British attack, the presumption being that Roberts is already in the field. The other is that he

Enforced Inactivity
is on account of the lack of draught and saddle animals, and must continue for some days, and therefore nothing is happening.
The situation so far as London goes, is as it was two days ago. Boers in unknown numbers are hovering around Bloemfontein out of range of the British guns.
This quiet telegram comes from Kimberley: "April 5.—Since the departure of the main body of troops, Lieut.-Col. Chamier remains in command of garrison here."

The departure of any considerable body of troops has heretofore been unmentioned in the censored cables. Lord Methuen was last reported at Kimberley ten days ago, and the supposition is that he has
Advanced With His Main Force
from Kimberley and gone to the relief of Mafeking.
Mr. W. P. Schreiner, the premier of Cape Colony, and R. Solomon, Q.C., attorney-general of the colony, are reported from Capetown to be engaged in serious controversy with the other bondholders, and the premier's resignation is looked upon as being a possibility.
The Duke of Marlborough has gone to Delffontein, south of De Aar. Uptington has been occupied by the British.

LATEST FROM THE FRONT.

London, April 6.—The war office at about 4 p.m. posted a dispatch from Lord Roberts announcing Lord Methuen's capture of fifty-four Boers and the killing of General Villebois Mareuil, the chief of staff of the Boer army.
A few minutes later a second telegram was bulletined reporting the loss of five companies of British infantry.
Both dispatches were issued in time to be printed in the last editions of all the evening papers.

The lost companies are probably part of the force guarding the railroad from Bethany, thirty miles south of Bloemfontein.
The Boers are evidently operating in Force Near the Railroad
and there is a possibility of the line being interrupted for a brief period at any time.
In the death of Gen. Villebois Mareuil the Boers lost their best instructed soldier in continental methods of warfare.
As the late General Joubert's chief of staff his brain devised the Boer doings against Gen. Buller's advance at Ladysmith. He was the best notable of all soldiers of fortune serving the Boers.
As the captured British soldiers were in a position to defend themselves for nearly twenty-four hours and were then forced to surrender, the

Fighting Must Have Been Severe.
The Boers were in force yesterday 60 miles south of Bloemfontein. They had a brush with the British patrols.
Advices from Springfontein, dated 6 p.m., April 6th, announces that the Boers have been sighted west of the railway.
It is officially announced that the British companies in the Boer ambush near Sannas Post, total up 450, including 174 missing.

BOERS MADE PRISONERS.

London, April 6.—A rumor was current this afternoon that Lord Methuen

has gained a victory over the Boers, but the war office was unable to confirm the report.
London, April 6.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, April 5th: "Methuen telegraphs from Boshof, in the Orange Free State a little northeast of Kimberley, as follows: 'Surrounded Gen. Villebois Mareuil and a body of Boers to-day, none escaped. Villebois and 7 Boers killed, 8 wounded, 50 prisoners.'
"Our losses were: Killed—Captains Boyle and Williams, both of Yeomanry, and two men of Yeomanry. Wounded—About seven men.
"The attack lasted four hours. The corps behaved very well. Our force was composed of Yeomanry and the Kimberley mounted corps, and the fourth battery of artillery."
Mareuil was chief of staff of the Boer army. He was fifty years old and is said to have been responsible for many Boer successes. It is said that he entered the Boer service merely because war was his trade. He went through a number of campaigns in the French army.

FIVE COMPANIES CAPTURED.

London, April 6.—Lord Roberts reports that five companies of British troops have been captured by the Boers near Bethany.
London, April 6, 4:08 p.m.—The following is the text of Lord Roberts's dispatch to the war office announcing the capture of five companies of his troops: "Bloemfontein, Thursday, April 5.—Another unfortunate occurrence has occurred, resulting, I fear, in the capture of a party of infantry consisting of three companies of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and two companies of Ninth Regiment of Mounted Infantry near Reddersburg, a little eastward of Bethany railway station, within a few miles of this place. They were surrounded by a stronger force of the enemy with four or five guns. The detachment held out from before noon on April 5th, until 9 a.m. on April 6th, and then apparently surrendered, for it is reported that the firing ceased at that time.
"Immediately after I heard the news, during the afternoon of April 5th, I ordered Gatacre to proceed from Springfontein, his present headquarters, to Reddersburg, with all possible speed, and I dispatched the Cameron Highlanders thence to Bethany.
"He arrived at Reddersburg at 10:30 yesterday, without opposition, but could get no news of the missing men.
"There can be no doubt the whole party has been made prisoners."

BOER PRISONERS ESCAPE.

Capetown, April 7.—A determined attempt to escape was made by Boer prisoners at Simonstown, and fourteen of them succeeded in getting away.
Later.—In the confusion one of the prisoners was killed and another wounded. One man was recaptured but 14 are missing.
Sentries have been placed at different parts of the town, and the station is under military supervision.
A Letter of Sympathy.
The Hague, April 7.—Queen Wilhelmina has sent a personal letter of sympathy to Gen. Joubert's widow.

FRENCH WON THE RACE.

London, April 6.—The Times publishes extracts from the letters of a British cavalry officer, who accompanied Gen. French throughout the march from Modder River to Koodesdrift. He says: "On the night before the start, Roberts told the cavalry that they were about to have an opportunity to uphold the cavalry traditions of the British service. General French's men were surprised at their task. They had expected to be employed on General Cronje's communications, while the rest of the army worked around to Kimberley, but Roberts told them that the situation at Kimberley had become desperate, while Lord Kitchener added that they must get through if it cost half their forces. With these words ringing in their ears, they started on the most exciting ride of the war. It was a race for the drift on the Riet, which

General French secured by a clever feint and by hard galloping he won by only five minutes.
"The last day's work before Kimberley was relieved also put them to severe test. Soon after starting they found that the positions on their front, left front and left rear were held by an unknown force of the enemy, and that they were almost surrounded, but General French's quick eye discovered a gap in the left about 13 miles away. Through this gap he launched two Lancer regiments, who were received with a heavy fire, and before the dust had cleared he let everything go in after them. It was a piece of splendid daring which might have failed, but it succeeded completely, and by its success raised the siege."

A DESPERATE STAND.

London, April 6.—The Capetown correspondent of the Standard gives details, hitherto obscure, of the surrender of a squadron of Kitchener's Horse on Feb. 15th. This was the day of the relief of Kimberley.
The squadron had been left to guard a farm on the Riet River, while French advanced to the besieged town. The object of leaving them on the river was to hold a well pending the arrival of another column. The latter, however, never came, and the troopers found themselves besieged for four days by a body of 400 Boers.
There were but 50 men, but they pierced loop-holes in the walls of the farm house and made a desperate stand for three days. They fought gallantly and without food, but on the fourth day they caught a goat, which they devoured. There was not a blade of grass on the veldt, and their horses died of starvation.
On the fourth day General Dewet sent a messenger calling on them to surrender within a few minutes. The situation was hopeless. The Boers had two 12-pounders with them, and the squadron was in the last stage of exhaustion. Seeing that there was no chance of relief, they agreed among themselves to surrender.

HONEYMOON IN A LAAGER.

New York, April.—The World correspondent at Pretoria, Howard Hillegas, has sent a long letter in which he gives an interesting and thrilling story of the case in which the Boer women are helping their husbands, sons and brothers in war. The World knows no finer example of heroism than that exhibited by 14 women on one of the five days fighting at Spion Kop, he says. A strictly family party of Boers, 14 men and their wives, were entrenched in one position, and held it with amazing bravery against a small force of British. For a long time the men fought incessantly and kept their wives busy loading their rifles. Finally 50 British soldiers with fixed bayonets charged on the entrenchment. As they came closer, closer, the Boer men crept over the earthworks, and, while the wo-

men began shooting with the butts of their rifles began to hammer the British soldiers. Before their wives' eyes every one of the fourteen Boers were killed, bayoneted or shot. The fourteen women, so quickly widowed, never thought of surrender, but fought most valiantly and bravely for half an hour until the British surrounded them.
"Try to imagine a bride and groom going to war on their honeymoon. When I left Pretoria for the front a friend introduced me to a young Boer couple who were going on the same train and who had been married but a week. I thought my friend was joking when he told me they were going to fight the British, although both the Boer man and wife had Mauser rifles and each wore three bandoliers, two over the shoulders and one around the waist. When the train reached the end of the line, a short distance north of Ladysmith, Mme. Boer alighted with her husband, assisted in taking two horses from the last car of the train and rode away toward one of the laagers in the distance.
The presence of the women puts spirit into the men and keeps them from becoming homesick or despondent. These warrior women were the first to insist that the Transvaal should resist England. Now they are sharing the burden.
Raad Adjourned.
Pretoria, April 4.—The Free State raad adjourned sine die after passing the President's speech. Twenty-six members were present.
Rhodes in England.
Southampton, April 6.—Cecil Rhodes, who sailed from Capetown on the 21st of March, arrived here to-day.
Col. Otter's Report.
Ottawa, April 6.—Lieut.-Col. Otter's report covering the battles in which the Canadians were engaged and giving a description of the wounds received by the Canadian soldiers has reached the militia department. It is being typewritten, and will be published in militia orders. The report also gives a list of the killed.
There is very little that has not been covered by letters from the front, yet the documents is, nevertheless, an interesting one.

LOSSES AT REDDERSBURG.

London, April 7.—Roberts's report to the war office is as follows: "The casualties at Reddersburg were: Officers—Killed, Capt. Casson and Lieut. C. B. Barclay, of the Northumberland; 2 wounded, 8 captured; non-commissioned officers and men, killed 8, wounded 22. The rest were captured.
"Our strength was 167 mounted and 424 infantry. The enemy was said to be 3,200 strong, with five guns."

INSURGENTS CAPTURED.

Carnarvon, Cape Colony, April 6.—It is reported that 200 insurgents, who were not aware that Sir Ohas. Parsons had occupied Komarand, rode into that place and were captured by the British troops.
The Canadian artillery has returned here from Van Wyksjeil.
STEYN NOW LEADER.
London, April 7.—All the news regarding the affair at Reddersburg which has been allowed to come through was contained in Lord Roberts's dispatch. It is impossible to form an opinion as to what has happened.
Meanwhile the British public is beginning to realize the immense difficulty to be overcome before Pretoria is reached, and is revising premature ideas with respect to the time when the war will be over. No one now believes that it will have ended by the beginning of June.
The latest event more particularly illustrates the heavy work involved in holding the railway. This body of some five hundred British troops, without guns, which disappeared so completely within 35 miles of the great British army, had for its business to guard a section of nearly 90 miles of railway between Bloemfontein and Springfontein.
It is said that the Boers belonged to Olivier's command. If so he has not retired north and hopes are expressed that he
May Still be Cut Off.
It is asserted that 4,000 rebels surrendered during Clement's march northward.
The Boers will do their utmost to hold Ladybrand and Thaba Nchu, both being rich ground and productive districts.
The Morning Post correspondent at Springfontein telegraphing on Thursday, says he is glad to be able to report that increased precautions have been taken in patrolling the railway. He says most of the prisoners captured are foreigners.
The reports that Mr. Steyn has been appointed to the command of the Free State and that the Free State has arranged a loan from the Transvaal for war purposes, are both confirmed.
Another Boer version of the fighting with
Col. Plumer's Force
says that thirty men were taken prisoners at Ramathabama. It appears that the names Cecil and Granville, which were supposed to indicate two of the officers captured at that time, should

BOERS NEAR ROUXVILLE.

Alwal North, Cape Colony, April 6.—The colonial division at Wepener has captured five prisoners and four hundred rifles.
The Royal Irish Rifles are falling back on Beestkraal from Rouxville.
The Boers are reported to be moving east and west of Rouxville, and a number of them are reported sixteen miles down the Orange River.
A town guard is being formed here.

THE RELIEF COLUMN.

Boers Hoisted White Flag and Then Killed a British Officer.
London, April 7.—Telegraphing from Boshof on Thursday the Daily Telegraph correspondent says: "Lord Methuen's Mafeking relief column was concentrated here to-day. The Boers are in force a few miles distant on the Vaal river. This town is practically deserted, all the men being with the commando under Commandant Duplessis who controls the district. Lord Methuen commanded in a spirited little action a few miles to the southeast, where he surrounded the Boers on a kopje. Not a man escaped. We took 54 prisoners, 60 horses and a quantity of baggage. Gen. De Villebois Mareuil was killed during the action. A Boer hoisted a white flag and then fired immediately after, killing a British officer. The murderer was instantly shot."

MOVING TO THE SOUTH.

Twelve Thousand Burghers Reported by British Scouts.
London, April 7.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph telegraphing on Thursday, says: "A serious meeting was summoned by Transvaal emissaries for to-day at Leonberg, but nobody attended.
"Boer patrols from Brandfort have cut the telegraph wires between here and Boshof.
"The British troops reported yesterday that a force of some 12,000 Boers had been seen beyond Bosman's Kop moving from Thaba Nchu to the south. The enemy by appeals and menaces are vainly trying to induce the burghers to take the field again."
Ordered From the Transvaal.
Lorenzo Marquez, April 5.—All British subjects have been ordered to quit Pretoria and Johannesburg immediately, except some 400, who are permitted under law to remain in the Rand. Those who are expelled number six hundred.
Sharpshooters Sail.
London, April 6.—Dunraven's Sharpshooters started for South Africa to-day amid the usual scenes of enthusiasm. Lord Dunraven at the last moment decided to accompany the force, and has been posted as a supernumerary captain on the battalion staff. The corps is formed of men chosen for their shooting capabilities. In one company alone seven of the men had figured in the final stage of the Queen's prize at the Bisley shooting tournament.
Colonial Advance Guard.
Toronto, April 6.—A Star cable from Bloemfontein dated April 4th, says there has been a reorganization of the Mounted Infantry corps of the army under Lord Roberts, a new division thus constituted being put under the command of General Hamilton. One brigade of this division is formed of Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and other colonial units, and has been placed under command of Lieut.-Col. Hutton, late commanding officer of the militia forces in Canada. A second brigade, made up of regular and volunteer imperial troops will be under command of Major Midley.
They will act as an advance guard of scouts patrolling and clearing the country in advance of the main army.

THE CANADIANS.

Wounded British Columbians—The Report on Battle of Paardeberg.
Ottawa, April 6.—Col. Otter's reports on the Paardeberg fight were read in the House this afternoon and greatly applauded.
The details of the British Columbia wounded are as follows:
Fifth Regiment—Andrews, left thigh, slight; Beach, thorax, serious; Dickson, discharged from hospital; Finch-Smith, thigh, slight.
Sixth Regiment—Lohman, face and chest, serious; Niebergall, leg, slight; Thompson, shoulder, serious.
The parade state of the regiment for March shows: "Effective, 748; killed in action, 25; died of wounds, 8; transferred, 4; still in hospital, 134; on command, 33."
Toronto, April 6.—Mr. Hamilton, the Globe correspondent with the first contingent in South Africa, sends a letter giving a detailed account of the battle of Paardeberg which shows that the Canadian ranks had been pretty well depleted since leaving Halifax. The regiment landed at Capetown 1,039 strong; sickness reduced the number so that it left Belmont only 890 strong, and when it entered the field at Paardeberg there were only 872. "A" Company had but two officers, Capt. Arnold, of Winnipeg, and Lieut. Hodgson, of Nelson, B.C. Lieut. Blanchard, of Victoria, was left behind at Klip Drift with a strained tendon, and Lieut. Layhorn, of Winnipeg, had joined Col. Broadwood's Mounted Infantry force as quartermaster.

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