

ANOTHER REVERSE.

An Armored Train from Estcourt Derailed by the Boer Artillery.

Lost and Missing Estimated to be About Ninety of the Durban and Dublin Fusiliers.

Gen. White Reported to be Doing Well at Ladysmith—More Transports Arrive—Rumor of Gen. Joubert's Death is Discredited.

LONDON, Nov. 15 (4.30 a.m.)—There is no additional news regarding the progress of hostilities in South Africa this morning, except a despatch from Mafeking, forwarded by a runner, dated Oct. 31, which says that during the afternoon Gen. Cronje, the Boer commander, sent an envoy to Col. Powell, under a flag of truce, to declare that he did not consider the Geneva convention authorized the flag of the Red Cross Society to fly from several buildings at once in the town and that in his opinion the employment of natives against whites and the use of dynamite mines were both opposed to the rules of the Geneva convention.

Col. Powell replied that the Geneva convention did not stipulate as to the number of Red Cross stations permissible, and that the Boers were only required to respect the convent, the hospital and the women's laager, all of which were beyond the town limits. The British commander also pointed out that the mines were recognized adjuncts of civilized warfare and that the defenses of Pretoria were extensively mined. Moreover, he reminded Gen. Cronje that the Boers had fired upon natives, burned their kraals and raided their cattle, and that the natives only defended their lives and property.

THE MAJESTIC CHARTERED. LONDON, Nov. 14.—The admiralty has chartered the White Star line steamer Majestic to convey troops to South Africa immediately after she returns from her present trip to New York. The Majestic sailed from Liverpool November 8 and is expected to arrive in New York tomorrow.

LORD SALISBURY PROTESTS. LONDON, Nov. 15.—Lord Salisbury has written to the newspapers, protesting against Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's misquotation from his recent speech at the Guildhall banquet, and again declaring that he does not wish to discuss "arrangements which, under conditions that are yet in the future, the government may think desirable."

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS. ST. LEONARD'S STATION, Nov. '99. To the Editor of the Sun: Sir—Would you kindly state in next issue how many men there are in a regiment; also how many in a battalion, a company and a brigade? By so doing you would oblige a number of the Sun's readers. Yours, etc. D.

AN ANSWER. A company's ordinary strength is 100, but at war the strength is increased to 125. When a battalion is not liable to be sent abroad for some time, the strength of a company is very often much below 100. There are eight companies in a battalion, each commanded by a captain, except the two senior companies, who are majors. Each company has also a lieutenant and 2nd lieutenant, four sergeants and four non-commissioned officers. Eight companies constitute a battalion, commanded by a lieutenant colonel, with the major as second in command. A regiment is composed of two or more battalions, and under the territorial system

It was intended that one battalion should be on foreign service and the other at home. The Boer army is estimated to be 15,000 men, and in many cases the battalions are of 100 men. The Rifle Brigade and the King's Royal Rifle Corps each have four battalions of 500 men. In addition every regiment has two or three militia battalions. There are also volunteer battalions. Those who are not in uniform and officers from one of the regular battalions are sent to the front. A battalion on a war strength therefore consists of 1,000 men, but the battalions now on the South African front number 1,117, of which 98 are left at the base. Four battalions constitute a brigade under command of a major general, with a staff of 24 officers. In two brigades, with cavalry, artillery, and engineers in addition. A battery of Royal Horse Artillery is 105 officers and men, and a battery of Royal Field Artillery, 110. Each soldier carries 100 rounds of ammunition on his person. In addition to this there are 200 rounds on mules accompanying the battalion, with 100 rounds more in reserve, making a total of 300 rounds per rifle on first taking the field. Four battalions constitute a brigade, with a staff of 24 officers. In two brigades, with cavalry, artillery, and engineers in addition. A battery of Royal Horse Artillery is 105 officers and men, and a battery of Royal Field Artillery, 110. Each soldier carries 100 rounds of ammunition on his person. In addition to this there are 200 rounds on mules accompanying the battalion, with 100 rounds more in reserve, making a total of 300 rounds per rifle on first taking the field.

LONDON, Nov. 15, 5 a. m.—The most interesting, and in fact the only news of the day comes from the western front. The British were enabled to retain Baden-Powell's brilliant exploits at Mafeking formed quite lively and encouraging reading. Trench work is quite novel in Boer tactics, and some curiosity is excited as to who will be directing and as to what is still to be shown. Nevertheless, both at Mafeking and Kimberley, conditions seem altogether favorable, and a naive rumor that the British were about to make a dash for the town is dispelled by the fact that the Boers had 300 killed and wounded. If the reports that the Free State burghers are tired of the affair and are going home should prove true, the fact would be a most important one. It would probably compel Gen. Joubert to withdraw northward.

ADVANCE FROM DURBAN. The statement that the Boers are entrenched so closely to Ladysmith is held in some quarters to indicate that the Boers are making a dash for the town. All Gen. Buller's arrangements for the advance from Durban, it is rumored, are practically completed, and news of it may be expected in a few days. The war office has received a despatch from Durban, dated Nov. 14, which contains military details, but it is not likely that these will be published. The whereabouts of Gen. Buller is not publicly known, but he is believed to be at some point on the advance.

SITUATION AT LADYSMITH. CAPE TOWN, Nov. 15.—A despatch received here from Ladysmith, dated Nov. 9, says the reports received there from Ladysmith said heavy cannonading started at daybreak, that some of the Boer forces were within 150 yards of the town. The Boers were firing at the town, but the cannonading ceased and rifle fire commenced. The Pretoria despatch also announced that all was quiet at Mafeking and Kimberley.

MORE REINFORCEMENTS. LONDON, Nov. 15.—The troopship Hawarden Castle, with the second Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, has arrived at Durban, bringing a number of reinforcements that have landed there up to 5,237. Five other troopships are now en route from Cape Town to Durban.

NOT INSPIRED. LONDON, Nov. 15.—Cardinal Vaughan's letter to the pope, pointing out the evil effect which attacks upon England appearing in the Vatican organs are having upon British opinion, has already borne fruit. This evening the Observer's Romano publishes a paragraph declaring that it is the official organ of the holy see in announcements of fact only and that its comments upon the war in South Africa are not inspired by the Vatican. It says that the holy see will not take the side of either party in the hostilities.

LONDON COMMENTS. LONDON, Nov. 15.—If the news contained in the Pretoria despatches of Nov. 9, by way of Cape Town Friday, Nov. 10, is correct, and there is every reason to believe it is accurate, as the Boer despatches have almost invariably hitherto rendered fairly accurate accounts, it is claimed here that it implies that a general assault on Ladysmith was pending when Gen. Joubert's report was sent off. Attention was called to the fact that the date, Nov. 9, is assumed to be the date of the Boer's last pigeon post message announcing the receipt of the bombardment, since which nothing has been received except rumors from Estcourt that the bombardment was sus-

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stood that the war office has news that he is still directing affairs. It is also rumored from Pietermaritzburg that the Boer losses at Ladysmith on Thursday were heavy, and included General Lucas Meyer, who was either killed or wounded.

According to the Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the London Outlook, rumors are current in the Natal capital that the Boers contemplate a retreat. It is needless, however, to attach importance to such reports, which are spread in all probability with a view of luring Gen. White, if possible, to abandon his defensive attitude.

HEAVY BOMBARDMENT. LOURINZO MARQUES, Delagoa Bay, Nov. 15.—A local newspaper reports that Ladysmith was subjected to a very heavy bombardment all day yesterday, and that at midnight all the cannon on the hills surrounding the town opened fire simultaneously, pouring shells from all points of the compass. Several buildings are afire, the newspaper asserts, and could be distinctly seen from Bulwa Fort.

ESTCOURT ADVICES. LONDON, Nov. 15.—Special despatches from Estcourt estimate the wounded and missing of the armored train contingent at from 100 to 150. The missing include Captain Haldane. It is hoped that some escaped over the veldt and will return to Estcourt in a few days.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—A despatch from Pietermaritzburg says a letter has been received there from Lloyd, commissioner of agriculture, dated Ladysmith, Nov. 8, asserting that all was well, that the bombardment continued daily but without damage and that the residents occupied caves during the day. There has been no fighting reported since the 2nd inst.

ESTCOURT, Nov. 15, 10 a. m.—A missionary, a native, not a reliable man, who arrived here yesterday from Ladysmith, reports that a big fight took place on Friday, Nov. 10. He says that the volunteers went out in the early morning and drew the enemy from their positions on to a flat, where the regular troops, under Sir Buller, were waiting to receive them. The Boers were completely routed, suffering crushing defeat and inflicting great loss.

More than 200 Kaffirs, the missionary says, were employed by the Boers to bury their dead. Two trains carrying away the wounded were captured by the Boers. The Boers were destroying the train their scouts pushed in and exchanged shots with the British. It is a few miles from Estcourt. It appears that the Boers were in ambush. As soon as the train had passed by they emerged from cover and discharged the sleeper bolts.

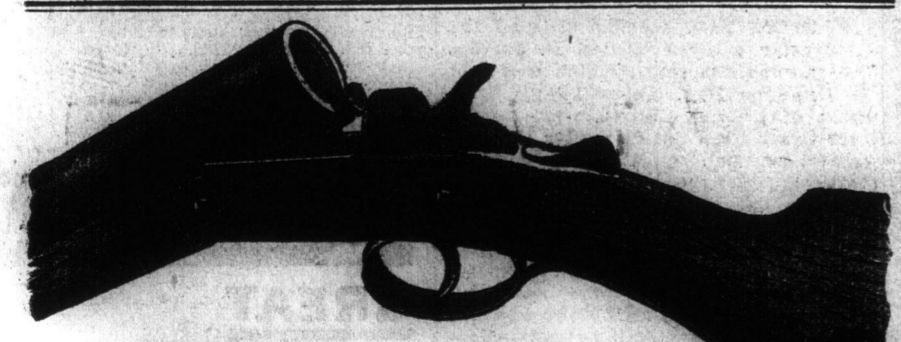
ESTCOURT, Natal, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 9.30 p. m.—At 6 o'clock this evening the Red Cross train returned. Dr. Brister reported that on meeting the Boer patrol he was halted and asked what he wanted. He replied that he had come with the train to remove the killed and wounded. The Boers told him to make his request in writing, and Dr. Brister complied.

After waiting for two hours another Boer came and informed Dr. Brister that as General Joubert was very far away, no answer to the request could be furnished until tomorrow morning. The Boer said that if Dr. Brister would then return with a white flag he could count upon a reply from Gen. Joubert. Dr. Brister inquired whether there were many wounded. The Boer replied that he had heard there were about seven. He declined to give any information regarding Lieut. Churchill.

It has rained all day and is still raining.

UNCONFIRMED RUMOR. LONDON, Nov. 15.—A despatch received here today from Pietermaritzburg, dated Nov. 11, says it is rumored there that General Piet Joubert, commander-in-chief of the Boer forces, has been killed in action.

(Continued on Page Eight.)



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