

WELCOME NEWS.

Accounts of Thursday's Engagement Have Turned Out to be Unduly Modest.

British Troops Not Merely Standing on the Defensive, But Executing Brilliant Sorties.

Ten Thousand More Men to be Sent to the Front as Speedily as Possible—A Second and Third Army Corps to be Mobilized.

WELCOME NEWS.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—Tonight's welcome despatches from the front have rent the veil of gloom enveloping Ladysmith, showing the British garrison not merely standing on the doggedly defensive, but executing a series of brilliant sorties. Accounts from different sources agree that the Laocian official description of Thursday's engagement as "an effective shelling of the Boer laager" was unduly modest.

It appears that Gen. Sir Geo. Stewart White sent a strong force of cavalry and infantry to attack the Boers at Fetham's farm, about 10 miles to the northwest, near Bester's, and apparently achieved a surprise, the Boers being caught on the open veldt and cut to pieces and their camp captured. Encouraged by this success, Gen. White decided to risk an even more important engagement on the following day, which was again justified by success. Ladysmith had been isolated and a Boer force had intercepted the railway between Ladysmith and Colenso. This force on Friday had descended upon Colenso, and, as shown by the despatches from Estcourt, having compelled a hurried abandonment of Colenso and a retreat of the British to Estcourt.

Gen. White had assumed that the Boers were attacking Colenso, but he was not aware of the British retreat. CAUGHT IN THE REAR. Gen. White's division caught the Boers in the rear and, after the hills had been shelled, the British infantry stormed the position. Meanwhile the British cavalry swept round the hills, and, as the retreating enemy descended into the plain with the British bayonets behind them, they were charged by the cavalry and seemed to have perished almost to a man.

The British then returned to Ladysmith without coming into touch with the Colenso garrison, which had retreated to Estcourt. Sunday's despatch from Estcourt, however, showed that an armored train had been sent back to Colenso to repair the line, and the next news may possibly be of the restoration of communication with Ladysmith.

INSIDE LADYSMITH. While the British troops were thus engaged in successful endeavors to wipe out the Nicholson's Nek disaster, the situation inside Ladysmith, as shown by an official despatch from Thursday last sunset, was most satisfactory, encouraging a hope that Sir Geo. White may yet completely retrieve his shaken reputation and that his forces may emerge triumphant from the ordeal through which it is now passing.

INVADED BY BOERS. DURBAN, Natal, Nov. 5 (Sunday evening).—The Boers have invaded Ingwavuma, Zululand, and looted and burned the public buildings and stores. The magistrates, police and other inhabitants fled toward Eshowe.

MORE MEN FOR THE FRONT. LONDON, Nov. 7.—The hospital ship

son's Nek, the British troops engaged the enemy. It is said that a hydride battery drove the Boers into a valley where the British cavalry charged through them. The Boer losses in this engagement are said to have reached 1,000, the British losses being only about 100.

According to a special despatch from Estcourt, the Boers on Thursday asked a day's armistice. Gen. White agreed to this on condition that they would make no movement. The British military balloon, however, detected the Boers massing to the south, and Gen. White thereupon renewed the attack.

Boer reports have reached Cape Town to the effect that on the arrival at Johannesburg of the news of the Boer reverse at Glendalagte, the whole Rand special police force was sent to the front with guns from Johannesburg fort, the fortress being left with only one gun and a garrison of twenty men.

POUGHT TO THE LAST. The men of the 18th Hussars who were captured at Dundee first took refuge in a Kaffir kraal, where they fought stubbornly only surrendering after four Krupp shells had exploded in the kraal.

LONDON, Nov. 9.—To the eyes of military experts the darkest page of the war is now being written. But that is illuminated with bright passages, such as Gen. White's victorious sorties. If he can keep the British flag flying over Ladysmith until he is relieved, the campaign will turn a fresh page, and, with the advance of Sir Redvers Buller's forces, the British public is promised more cheering reading.

FAITH IN GEN. WHITE. This feeling of relief, inspired by recent good tidings, is, nevertheless, tinged by a certain alloy of anxiety. Gen. White should again make some fatal miscalculation involving a repetition of the Nicholson's Nek disaster. Her Majesty does not share the anxiety, but she is now exercising sympathy with her husband in the trials and tribulations of the war.

THURSDAY'S BATTLE. DURBAN, Natal, Nov. 4, 5.55 p.m.—A native eye witness of Thursday's battle near Ladysmith says the Boers were caught on the open ground and raised several white flags. The British then advanced without firing to accept the surrender of the Boers, but were received with a volley at close range. Enraged at this treachery, the Lancers, Hussars and Dragoons followed by the infantry, with fixed bayonets, charged through and through the enemy and did great execution. A lot of prisoners and loot were captured.

FROM PIETERMARTZBURG. Escourt a Strong Camp. LONDON, Nov. 8.—The Daily Telegraph publishes the following despatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Saturday evening:

Since their occupation of Colenso, the Boers have attempted no advance further south. Estcourt is now becoming a strong and growing camp. Major Wolfe Murray is in temporary command. The enemy bombarded Colenso on Thursday last sunset, at the extreme range of his non-centimeter Krupp guns.

Confirmation has been obtained of the report that Gen. Schalk Burger is the Boer commander at Vryburg. A general Boer advance is not thought probable. Means have been taken to secure Pietermaritzburg against any possible attack, and also to relieve Ladysmith before the enemy can come further.

HEAVY BOER LOSSES. Widespread rumors of both Dutch and native origin have been current since yesterday that during a reconnaissance from Ladysmith northwards toward Matavans Hoek and Nichol-

son's Nek, the British troops engaged the enemy. It is said that a hydride battery drove the Boers into a valley where the British cavalry charged through them. The Boer losses in this engagement are said to have reached 1,000, the British losses being only about 100.

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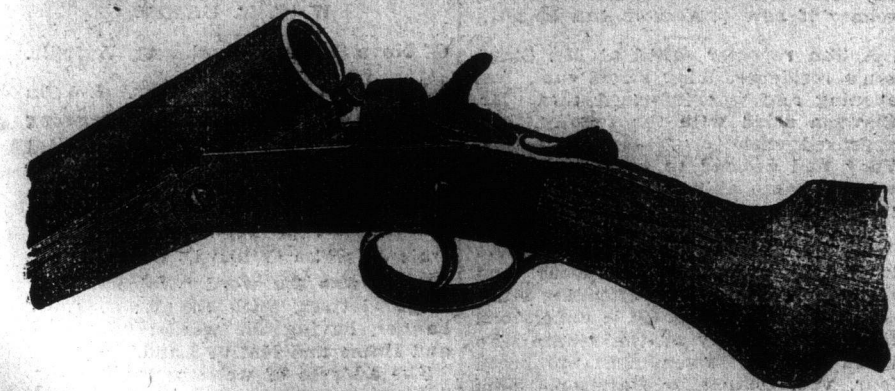
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