

Recrosses The Tugela

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he is quoted as saying his presence in Berlin has nothing to do with politics. Regarding mediation, Dr. Leyds said the Boers had no occasion to appeal to any one. Everything was going splendidly. His personal opinion was that Great Britain would have to return a large portion of the territory she had gained from the Boers, and the Federal Republic would, of course, obtain every guarantee that not a hair of the heads of their kinsmen would suffer. "No words, he continued, need be wasted about the absolute independence of the Republic. Let us settle the matter and the British had to consume their own decisions."

London, Jan. 27.—A week's fighting has left the main Boer position intact and General Buller's army, 706 men weaker, according to the official casualty lists, which seemingly do not include the Spion Kop losses, as General Woodgate's wounded.

England is oppressed by a depressing sense of failures, although not a word in criticism of her generals and soldiers is uttered. Not much effort is made to place a happy construction upon General Buller's bare 18 words telling of his retreat from Spion Kop and there is an uneasy impression abroad regarding the news yet to come.

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, writes as follows of the Spion Kop loss: "This is a serious matter and an attempt will not be made to minimize it."

No Greater Wrong can be done to our people at home than to mislead them about the significance of the events of the war. The right way is to tell the truth as far as we know it.

But facts from the neighborhood of the Tugela are scantier than ever. The censorship now is simply prohibitive, and something is wrong with the cables. "More troops," is the only suggestion here as the way to break the Boer resistance. Mr. Wilkinson regrets that General Buller has not 20,000 additional men, declaring that if they would not make victory certain his enterprise without them is hopeless.

The Daily News referring to the resistance and what was necessary to overcome, alludes to a saying of Napoleon, that no position could resist 300,000 men.

The transport Assaye arrived at Capetown last Friday with 2,137 officers and men. The first portion of the Seventh Division is adrift, hence with the 10,000 men of this division and about 9,000 others now at sea it lies in the power of Lord Roberts to reinforce General Buller heavily. This course is advised by several military writers.

Although England's nerves are severely tried, her nerve is absolutely unshaken and probably nothing that can happen in South Africa will change in the slightest degree her intentions. She will continue to receive her news, if it comes, with dignity and will maintain her determination to win at last.

The morning papers editorially advise coolness and judgment and a careful avoidance of over-estimating the importance of the lost position.

The Times says: "The consequences of this latest setback may be very serious to the gallant Ladysmith garrison. It is impossible to estimate the next movement. It may be that General Buller will be compelled to retire from the ground he lately won, but in any event we may be sure that the British people will not show themselves wanting in fortitude and steadiness. The government would be well advised to—

Call Out All the Militia and to expedite the dispatch of the Eighth division and of the fourth cavalry brigade. No doubt Lord Roberts will strain every nerve to enable Gen. Buller to renew the attempt to relieve Ladysmith."

The military critic of the Times, discussing various possible explanations, dwells strongly on the terrible drawback to British generals involved in the absence of maps of this tangled hill country.

The Standard, which thinks still more troops will be required, and which comments upon the "astounding manner in which South Africa swallows up troops wholesale without any appreciable result," goes on to refer to the "confidential jubilation and to the predictions regarding Gen. Buller's check. It says: "It is humiliating to find that the Natal terrene has been more accurately studied in Berlin than at our own headquarters on the Tugela."

Official Dispatches. British Generals Report on Various Operations During the Campaign.

London, Jan. 25.—A number of dispatches are published in the Gazette today. They are from General Buller to the war office, reports from Generals White, Hildyard, Methuen and other generals regarding the various operations, but containing nothing later than the records of occurrences to the middle of December.

A dispatch from General White dated November 2nd, says: "I was so greatly impressed with the exposed position of the garrison at Glencoe that I determined on October 11th to withdraw from there and concentrate the troops at Ladysmith, but the governor represented this step would involve such grave political results that I determined to accept the military risk of holding Dundee the lesser of two evils."

General White then proceeds to describe the Subsequent Attack of 4,000 Boers, of whom about 300 were killed or wounded, three of their guns being left dismounted at Talama Hill, but he adds, there was no hope of bringing off. He describes how the British were seen streaming away in bodies of from 50 to 100, which the British artillery could have inflicted great loss, but the Boers displayed a white flag and the British refrained from firing.

After describing the desperate fighting at Elandsлагте, culminating in the bitter protracted fighting before the capture of the Boers' final position, the general continues: "At length the guns reached us and the captured end of the ridge was gained, from which the whole of the enemy's camp full of tents and

horemans was fully exposed to view at a fixed range.

The White Flag was then shown in the centre of the camp. Col. Hamilton ordered cease fire, and some of the British moved in the direction of the camp. For a few moments there was a complete lull, then a shot was heard, followed by a deadly fire from a nearby kopje. The British momentarily fell back, but charged and recaptured the position. General Methuen reports similar white-flag incidents.

Gen. Buller, commenting on the action at Zoutpans Drift, December 13th, says: "I suppose the British officers will learn the value of scouting in time, but in spite of all, one can say our men seem to blunder into the middle of the enemy."

Describing the battle of Colenso, Gen. Buller, under date of December 17th, says: "When I heard of the disaster to Long's artillery, I believed the six naval guns had shared the same fate, and I decided immediately that it was impossible to force the passage without guns. Long was dangerously wounded, and I was unable to obtain explanations. I had personally instructed him where to go into action, and with the naval guns only, but Long advanced so fast that he left the infantry escort and naval brigade behind. I believe that but for—

The Fallure of the Artillery, we would have crossed the crossing."

Gen. Buller recommended the Victoria Cross for Captains Congre and Reid, Lieut. Roberts and Corp. Nurse, all in connection with the attempts to save the guns.

Gen. Methuen in a dispatch dated December 11th with reference to the battle of Modder River, confesses that he believed the force in his front was only fighting a retiring action. He had no idea that the 10,000 Boers had been brought from Spytfontein to oppose his advance.

Canadian Killed. Toronto, Jan. 29.—J. K. Osborne, of the Massey-Harris Company, received today a telegram from the war office stating that his son, Lieut. J. W. Osborne, of the Scottish Rifles (Cameronians) had been killed in action in Tugela district January 24th.

Lieut. John Woodburn Osborne was the eldest son of Mr. J. K. Osborne, and was born in Bradford June 25, 1873. In 1891 he entered the Royal Military College, graduating in 1895. The same year he received a commission in the Scottish Rifles and since has been stationed at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, Aldershot and Glasgow. He was assistant adjutant of his regiment. Last fall he was appointed A.D.C. to the Earl of Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He came to Toronto and spent a few weeks with his parents. While here he learned that his regiment had been ordered to South Africa. He immediately resigned his appointment and proceeded to South Africa, reaching Capetown in November.

FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH. The correspondent of the Morning Post sends a dispatch from Spearman's Camp, dated January 23rd, which says: "There was heavy firing at Ladysmith yesterday. General White is attacking and making a diversion."

"After the Boer assault," Gen. White sent to Commandant-General Joubert for interment of 79 Boers killed in the British trenches.

The correspondent describes the operations from January 17th to January 23rd, and greatly praises the pluck, devotion and cheerfulness of the soldiers. He says that General Warren's gun fired 3,000 shells on January 20th. His left on January 21st moved up Bastion Hill, which opens a cleft in the enemy's lines. The object is no longer to turn the Boer right, but by introducing a wedge of infantry into the cleft to split the right from the centre. The wedge widened during the day and General Warren's right completed the capture of the whole edges of plateau and occupied the first line of Boer trenches, where he found about 200 who had been killed by the shell fire.

The correspondent forebodes that there is absolute confidence and determination throughout the army. "No anxiety, he says, is felt concerning the result."

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London, Jan. 28.—The following is the text of a dispatch from General Buller dated Spearman's Camp, Saturday, January 27th, 9:10 a.m.

"On January 20th, Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crests of the high tableland extending from the line of Acton Homes and Hongers Poort to the western Ladysmith hills. From then until January 25th he remained in close contact with the enemy."

"The enemy held a strong position on a range of small kopjes stretching from northwest to southeast across the plateau from Acton Homes through Spion Kop to the left bank of the Tugela."

"The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance as the southern slopes were so steep that Warren could not rest."

An Effective Artillery Position and water supply, was obtained with difficulty.

"On January 23rd I assented to his attacking Spion Kop, a large hill, indeed a mountain, which was evidently the key of the position, but was far more accessible from the north than from the south."

"On the night of January 23rd he attacked Spion Kop, but found it very difficult to hold, as its perimeter was too large, and water, which he had been led to believe existed, was not so plentiful as he supposed. It was found to be very difficult."

"The crests were held all that day against severe attacks and a heavy shell fire. Our men fought with great gallantry."

"I would especially mention the conduct of the Scottish Rifles, who supported the attack on the mountain from the steep east side in each case."

Fought Their Way to the Top, and the Second Lancashire Fusiliers and Second Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British army throughout the trying day of January 24th; and Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry who fought throughout the day equally well alongside of them."

General Woodgate, who in command at the summit, having been wounded, the officer who succeeded him decided on the night of January 24th to abandon the position and did so before dawn, January 25th.

"I reached Warren's camp at 5 a.m. on January 25th and found that the second attack upon Spion Kop was useless and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it."

"Accordingly, I decided to withdraw the force to the south of the Tugela."

"At 8 a.m. we commenced withdrawing the train and by 8 a.m. January 27th (Saturday) Warren's force was concentrated South of the Tugela without loss of a man or a pound of stores."

"The fact that the force could withdraw from actual trench—some cases the lines were less than a thousand yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did, is, I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops; and that we were permitted to withdraw our cumbersome ox and mule transport across the steep, slippery, rocky ground, with 20 foot banks and a very swift current, unobstructed, is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers."

CAPTURE OF SPION KOP. When the British Reached the Summit Boers Opened Fire From Several Points.

Spearman's Camp, Friday, Jan. 26.—About 2 o'clock in the morning of January 24 (Wednesday), when heavy clouds rested upon the kopjes, the main point of the Boer position, Tabyanama, was attacked by British infantry under Gen. Woodgate.

Our force crossed a ravine and climbed the mountain side steadily, getting within thirty yards of the enemy's first line of trenches.

The Boers, who had been asleep, decamped, leaving their camp and the British, with ringing cheers, climbed to the summit.

The Boers opened fire from several points. It was apparent that they had been taken by surprise, and their resistance was desperate. The western crest of the hill was soon won, and the infantry crept along the top of the hill.

At daybreak, however, the Boers from a high point of the extreme east sent a withering fire among the British, which momentarily staggered them.

The Boers had the range fixed to a sledge, and their artillery sent several shells flying to the top of the crest, forcing the infantry to take cover. The Boer Nordenfelta also worked with great precision.

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very evidently preparing a desperate coup in order to effect a junction with Gen. Buller's advancing army."

It may be regarded as certain that, in the confident hope of early relief, Sir George White has lately been issuing orders to the effect that the Boers were to be the exaggerated idea as to the length of time the provisions would last.

Even should it be decided to send Gen. Buller reinforcements and to attempt to reach Ladysmith by a route through the still more difficult country east of Colenso, it is extremely doubtful whether the garrison could hold out long enough, as such a movement would occupy at least a month to be successful.

The Times says: "The most carefully planned and executed movement of the whole campaign has entirely failed, and it can be hardly necessary to dwell upon the extreme probability that we shall have a little sooner or a little later, as a catastrophe almost without precedent in war history, a catastrophe indeed without a parallel except in the surrender at Yorktown. We are checked at every point of the campaign. In fact the campaign is still to begin. We wish we had clearer proofs that even now the government has any adequate comprehension of the situation. Heavy or light, the thing has to be done, and the government ought to prepare for the immediate

Dispatch of 50,000 Men. and take steps to send yet another 50,000 if those should be needed. The hopeless attempts to carry on the campaign with force widely separated columns, and unequal in its tasks, must be abandoned for a concentration of forces, and of purposes."

The Standard and other papers reflect the anxiety of the public to learn how much truth there is in the Boer reports of the fighting at Spion Kop. Gen. Buller's obscurity in his dispatches is rather bitterly criticised, as well as the evident fact that the censor is not only heavily delaying, but is concealing all important matters from the few newspaper despatches.

To judge with any accuracy of the extent of the disaster is virtually impossible. It appears that Gen. Buller had altogether five brigades wholly or partly engaged—Gen. Coke's, Gen. Hildyard's, Gen. Hart's, Gen. Woodgate's and Gen. Lyttonell's, and the 270 casualties already announced in Lyttonell's brigade are thus explained.

Much mystery still surrounds the retreat. It is possible that Gen. Buller has withdrawn his whole force, but it is generally assumed that Lyttonell's brigade and Lord Dundonald's cavalry and other troops are still on the north side of the Tugela.

Late arrivals of troops are due at Capetown during the week. There has been great activity in military quarters in all parts of England since Saturday morning.

The situation at other points is unchanged, but indications that Lord Roberts is preparing plans for an advance across the Orange River, come in a dispatch to the Daily Chronicle from Steynsburg, dated Jan. 25th, which says that Thebits, an important position near Steynsburg, on the Stormberg-Bosman line, is now occupied by the British, who are repairing the railways and bridges. The correspondent observes that this will facilitate communication between Gen. Gatacre and Gen. Kelly-Kenny.

War News.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Mail says: "Mr. Leyds is a popular figure. I have ascertained from an impeccable source that he is trying to induce Germany to mediate on the basis of a guarantee of the independence of the Boer republics, which would be granted some minor territorial concessions, but not at a port; this latter being left for future negotiations with a certain power having colonies in South Africa."

A correspondent at Pretoria writes under date of December 26th that the Boers have a new rise in fighting. They put great numbers of their best shots, using Mauser rifles and smokeless powder, on the flanks in the rifle shelters, and on advance hills they post men with Maxim-Henri rifles using black powder. A late day the artillery fire while the former shot down the infantry and cavalry at closer quarters.

Sir Alfred Milner has issued a proclamation to the effect that the British government will not recognize any forfeiture, fine or encumbrance placed on British property by the Transvaal republic or Orange Free State subsequent to October 16, 1899.

It is reported at the Boer head laager near Ladysmith that as the result of "Long Tom" practice on Monday, Dr. Jameson was wounded in the leg.

The war office on Saturday issued a list of casualties, including two killed, six severely wounded, and four slightly wounded at Rembrandt on January 24th, and four deaths from disease.

Spencer Wilkinson on the Situation.

London, Jan. 28.—Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, whose articles on the war situa-

tion have attracted much attention here and abroad, wrote the following review of this situation for the Associated Press at midnight, and after the war office had given out a telegram from Lord Roberts, dated at Capetown, Saturday, saying there was no change in the situation:

"The affair at Spion Kop appears very like a reverse at the decisive point of battle, according to Gen. Buller's telegram. Gen. Warren's determined to take the hill because it commanded the enemy's other positions. Having taken it Tuesday night he abandoned it Wednesday night, presumably because he was unable to hold it."

"The published words of Gen. Buller's telegram have the tone of a reverse as pronounced. When the mishap can be made good it is impossible to say. A general attacking has, to some extent, the power of making his own decisive point. Gen. Warren may yet best the enemy by success at some other point, or he may re-take Spion Kop and keep the battle now going on can be won, there is no probability of Ladysmith being relieved."

"Gen. Buller's army, unless successful, will be in a critical position, for its retreat would be a difficult operation. The main Boer force is as near to any point on the railway as is Gen. Warren's wing of Buller's army, and the Boers have the advantage of the important approach to relieve Gen. White. We may expect Gen. Buller to do his very utmost before giving up the attempt, and in this necessity lies the best hope of success."

"The American civil war showed how difficult reverse assaults are, and since then the range and rate of fire have been greatly increased, the prolongation of battles was to be expected, but without a fuller knowledge than the telegrams as yet afford, it is not possible clearly to interpret the episode of the unfinished fight."

The report from Boer sources that Mafeking has been relieved is creditable for Col. Plumer has been persistently working in that direction, and there has been time since he was last heard of near Gaberones for him to cover the intervening distance. Moreover, the Boers have wisely been concentrating their forces at more decisive points, but it requires a report.

Chinese Coup D'Etat. Ominous Rumors Are Current Respecting the Fate of Deposed Emperor.

Precautions Are Being Taken to Prevent Any Rising—Ministers Asked to Intervene.

(Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 26.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says: "The father of the new Emperor is the head of the great secret societies known as 'The Great Sword' and 'The Boxers,' extending over the province of Chi Li, Shan Tung and Ho Nan, which were responsible for the murder of Mr. Brooks, a missionary. Various edicts have been issued with a view of assuaging public anxiety, and ominous rumors respecting the fate of the ex-Emperor are spreading widely. It is alleged that his dethronement was decided upon at a council convened by the Empress Dowager on Tuesday. The Manchus can favor the change, but the Chinese proper oppose it and project a tremendous upheaval."

Appeal to Ministers.

London, Jan. 26.—The Dowager Empress has dismissed Jung Lu, generally known as the Chinese Emperor, on account of his supposed disapproval of the coup d'Etat. Other high officials have been superseded.

Extraordinary precautions have been taken at the viceregal capitals to prevent risings. The troops have been served with ball cartridges.

The interior of China is greatly excited, and progressive Chinamen are begging the American, British and Japanese ministers to intervene and restore the Emperor to power.

Official Announcement.

London, Jan. 26.—An official communication received here from Peking says: "Chu Chun, who has been appointed heir-apparent to the throne, has been given the status of a son of the last emperor. The statement that a new emperor has ascended the throne is premature, although it is believed the appointment is preparatory thereto."

Russia Taking Part?

London, Jan. 26.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says: "The news of the abdication of the Chinese Emperor has caused a strong desire in Russia to adopt stringent measures, as it is believed Russia is the leading hand in the coup d'Etat."

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION. Capture of Tagna Forts and Villages—Many Rebels Killed and Wounded.

(Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 26.—The British expedition against the rebellious Tagas, under Mat Sa'leh, in British North Borneo, has been entirely successful. Capt. Harrington, with one hundred Sikhs, after two days' fighting on Jan. 8th and 9th, against a thousand rebels, captured two forts and two villages blew up the rebel's magazine and killed or wounded 60 Tagas. The British had 4 men injured. The remaining villages of the disturbed districts submitted.

Broke Out in Sores. Any one troubled with sores or ulcers of the most malignant kind, that nothing else will cure, should try Burdock Blood Bitters. Its blood-purifying, healing qualities are unsurpassed.

Mrs. James Thompson, Corris P.O., Que., writes: "My little boy, 4 years old, got so run down in health that he broke all out in sores. The doctors could do nothing for him. A lady told me to try Burdock Blood Bitters. I am thankful I did so, for this remedy made a rapid and complete cure, and, I believe, saved my little boy from the grave."

Another Account.

The Daily News publishes a dispatch from Spearman's Camp, Wednesday afternoon, but held back, presumably by the censor, until Friday, January 23, 6:40 p.m. This says: "Having gallantly taken a portion of Tabyanama mountain during last night, Gen. Warren's troops are finding considerable difficulty in holding it. There has been heavy firing to-day. The Boer shells are splendidly directed, and in the face of the enemy's fire the further advance of our forces has been checked."

"Again and again attempts had been made to dislodge them by the enemy, and things began to look serious. Determined as had been their attack, however, the Boers had not succeeded in dislodging them."

"Meanwhile the King's Royal Rifles, approaching from the Potzeiter's Drift side of the mountain range, began the ascent of Spion Kop."

"The heights at the place where they arrived were precipitous, and their task was not light. They advanced, however, and apparently at first without knowledge of the Boers, but before reaching the top they became exposed to a flank fire from the enemy."

"The last part of the hill was even more precipitous than the road along which they had come, but the brave fellows scrambled up little by little until they reached the top and threw themselves down upon the ground with a cheer. It was grandly accomplished."

"There is still the serious difficulty of keeping this point without artillery. The position, therefore, now is that the British hold Spion Kop at the east end of the range. They also hold the west end."

"The Boers are entrenched in the intermediate part, besides holding other outcropped situations."

Boers Report Heavy British Casualties. "The war office does not give any idea of the casualties in the taking and the holding of Spion Kop, but a report from the Boer headquarters near Ladysmith, via Lorenzo Marquez, says that 1,500 British dead were left on the battlefield. "This number is thought to include the wounded."

"The report also said that General Buller has been down with fever but had recovered."

If Boer reports are to be accepted, the abandonment of Spion Kop was due to the inability of the British to resist the Boer attack, the Boers carrying the first trenches and taking 150 prisoners.

"Boer Head Leader, Ladysmith, Jan. 26.—The British dead left on the battlefield yesterday numbered 1,500."

London, Jan. 28.—A special dispatch from Spearman's Camp, dated Friday, and supplying additional details of the operations of Wednesday, says: "The British made a most successful

movement to-day. They deployed to Gen. Warren's right flank and reinforced the troops in possession of Tabyanama. They were subjected to a heavy Boer shell fire, but stood their ground nobly.

Part of Gen. Lyttonell's brigade crossed on the plain in front of Mount Alice, and within two hours sealed the heights of Spion Kop under a heavy fire. One rifleman who reached the summit before his comrades proudly stood on top.

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