

The Daily Morning Telegraph

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NO. 46.

BULLER FIGHTING AGAIN.

The Canadians Are In the Very Front Rank.

GEN. METHUEN HAS ENTERED KIMBERLEY.

General Buller is Now in a Fair Way to Relieve Ladysmith, Having Captured Hlangwane Hill—War Office Will Not Make Announcements But Information Has Been Given Out by a Member of the Cabinet.

London, Feb. 17-4.45 a. m.—General Buller, with a start of a day or two, is seemingly in full retreat from Lord Roberts, moving northward. General French, with the cavalry, simply stayed over night in Kimberley, and then pushed on to get in touch with the retiring enemy. A long Boer wagon train is moving toward Bloemfontein, followed, presumably, by a large force of British infantry. In their last departure the Boers left quantities of supplies and ammunition. Military opinion here is that Lord Roberts will not push after the Boers immediately, because of transport problems and the need of rest for the troops. He has to feed 70,000 persons in his army and the whole Kimberley population. He must rebuild the railway from Modder River to Kimberley and revictual the latter. General French lost a few men only in action; but the forced marches and heat have probably made many ill. Lord Roberts has a genuine preliminary success and the impression is that he has done enough for the present. He will need to prepare for another strike. All over England there have been evidences of public joy over the news. The newspapers are editorially rejoicing. Those who have read the news closely see only one disturbing factor in the Cape situation and that is the pressure of the Boers toward Lord Roberts line of supply through De Aar, which was never more important than now. The Boers are making a persistent effort to penetrate to the railway. They have pushed General Clements back to Arundel and have outflanked him. All are within 60 miles, or two hard days march of the central railway. Doubtless Lord Roberts has left considerable forces along the line and can send back more if necessary. In the lobbies of the house last evening it was rumored that General Buller had again crossed the Tugela. A special despatch, dated two days back, says that an important move was being pending there, although contrary indications are found in the fact that 750 ambulance bearers have been temporarily disbanded, and the further fact that traction engines are arriving at Durban from the front to be sent to Lord Roberts. More artillery is being sent to Lord Roberts from Cape Town.

DETAILS OF THE ADVANCE. Outside Jacobsdal, Orange Free State, Thursday, Feb. 15—The British are now in possession of the British. Yesterday a small cavalry patrol entered the place and found it full of wounded, including several British from Besslers. The place was occupied by only a small force, which fell back before the patrol. After a series of small skirmishes a battery of artillery shelled the environs and drove out the last of the Boers. Early this morning a large force of Boers from Coloberg with ten guns attacked a convoy of 200 wagons at the Riet River, shelling vigorously and doing damage. But strong reinforcements have been sent hence, and it is hoped they will bring in the whole enemy in safety. General French's division seized three drifts on the Modder River. At the third drift the Boers were fairly strongly entrenched. General French bombarded them and drove them off. Today he moved rapidly in the direction of Kimberley. The Boers have left Alexanderfontein, which the British occupy. General Roberts is in excellent health and spirits. The hardships and rapid marching appear to agree with the whole army, who are in splendid spirits under the leadership of "Bobs."

ROBERTS DESCRIBES THE ADVANCE. London, Feb. 16, 9.30 p. m.—The following despatch from General Lord Roberts, fills in the gaps in the earlier despatches:—Modder River, Feb. 16.—The sixth division left Waterburg early yesterday morning and marched here, going on the same evening to Rondevaal drift to hold the crossing of the Modder River and leave General French free to act. Shortly after arriving here the mounted infantry visited Jacobsdal and found it full of women and children, with four of our wounded men, doing well. On the way back the mounted infantry were attacked and nine men wounded. Col. Henry and Major Hatchell and seven men were missing. Both officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal slightly wounded. The cavalry division is moving in a northerly direction and has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, and Kekewich signals the enemy has abandoned Alexanderfontein and that he has occupied it.

abandoned Alexanderfontein and that he has occupied it. French has advanced as far as Abensham with slight loss, and is pushing on the posts, his rear being held by mounted infantry. General Roberts adds:—Clements, having been pressed by the Boers, has retired to Arundel to cover Nauwpoort. The war office points out that the word "Here" in the above despatch means some point on the Modder River other than the Modder River station.

FRENCH RELIEVED KIMBERLEY. London, Feb. 16, 7.44 p. m.—The war office makes public a despatch from Field Marshal Lord Roberts, saying:—"Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—The following from General French was received this morning:—"I have completely dispersed the enemy from the southern side of Kimberley from Alexanderfontein, and am now going to occupy their ground. Have captured the enemy's larger and store depot supplies and supplies of ammunition. Casualties about 20 of all ranks wounded. Kimberley cheerful." "Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—I have good reason to believe the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned and that the Boers are endeavoring to escape. General French is scouring the country north of Kimberley. One of General Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a large Boer convoy moving towards Bloemfontein."

BOER REPORTS OF THE ADVANCE. Pretoria, Thursday, Feb. 15.—The Transvaal government has made public the following official despatch:—"Yesterday at Rondevaal Drift, in the neighborhood of Jacobsdal, the federal troops were engaged in a severe fight with 2,000 British who were trying to reach Kimberley. "Commandant Delany continued the engagement until this morning, the federal casualties being five wounded. "After another two hours of hard fighting, it is reported that the British retired, leaving Col. Henry dangerously wounded. Col. Henry, with his servant, were taken to Jacobsdal. "An official despatch from Coloberg says that fighting was resumed on Tuesday (Feb. 13) and that the British had 80 killed and wounded and lost 80 captured. The federal forces had no casualties during the fighting. "FOUNDED THEM AS THEY LEFT. Outside Jacobsdal, Orange Free State, Thursday, Feb. 15.—The road between Modder River and Jacobsdal is now open. The distance is only nine miles. The road is available for sending reinforcements and supplies. "When the Boers evacuated Jacobsdal they were obliged to pass over a ridge where they afforded a splendid mark for the British guns, which showed shrapnel upon the retreating enemy. "The convoy, which was attacked at Riet River, had been commandeered, but the order did not arrive in time and the experience was a very warm one, although the Boers did very little material damage. "As General French, with the strengthened division, pushed forward toward Kimberley, he found the beleaguered Boers deserting their position at Alexanderfontein, thus allowing a portion of the Kimberley garrison to occupy and entrench the place. "TROUBLE AT COLBERG. London, Feb. 16.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Nauwpoort telegraphing Wednesday says:—"The Boers losses around Coloberg on Monday are reported extremely heavy."

CONDITIONS IN LADYSMITH. London, Feb. 16.—The Associated Press correspondent who escaped from Ladysmith, says that, except for two slight attacks of fever, which never incapacitated him, Sir George White, the British commander in Ladysmith, has been in excellent health throughout the siege. "The total number of people within the British lines is 17,000, all of them troops. London, Feb. 19, 4.50 a. m.—It is now except 3,000 civilians and 800 blacks. "What the associated press correspondent left, the stock on hand included 4,000 horses, 700 mules and 650 cattle; and the British had no fear that the necessities of life would be exhausted for some time to come. "QUIET AT LADYSMITH. Head Lager, Near Ladysmith, Wednesday, Feb. 17.—The British from Cheveley have been bombarded by the Boer forces at Blaauw Krantz, east of Colenso, since yesterday afternoon the bombardment continuing throughout the night. "The Boers responded with rifle fire. Particulars are lacking. All is quiet around Ladysmith. "HEAVY FIGHT AT RENSBURG. London, Feb. 17.—The Daily Telegraph has the following despatch from Nauwpoort, dated Feb. 15, and delayed in transmission:—"Very severe fighting occurred on both our flanks near Rensburg. The enemy greatly outnumbered our troops, being about 4,000 in number. They attacked the Worcester's regiment on their right and with desperate determination, charged home, only to experience such a heavy Maxim and rifle fire from our men that the death roll of the assailants must have been considerable. "A patrol of the Inniskillings Dragoons was surrounded by some 500 Boers and about 4,000 in number. They were losing a man; but a company of the New South Wales Mounted Infantry was unfortunately annihilated, most of the men being wounded. The remainder of the regiment of sanguinary conflict with their foes. "Col. Conyngham was shot through the heart at the outset of the engagement. The enemy close the time of the moon. "The Boers were in the front line, and their absence not being noticed on the parade, they were eventually cut off. "The despatch to the Daily Mail from Nauwpoort, dated Thursday, says nothing of the return of the Witwaters. "A despatch to the Daily Mail from London, dated Wednesday, Feb. 15, says:—"Heavy fighting has occurred at Ramatsoa (Ramatsa) in the Free State, not far from Hope Town, Cape Colony. The Boers say they held all the important positions. The British finally retiring."

BOER REPORT ON MAPEKING. Pretoria, Tuesday, Feb. 13.—A smart rifle and artillery duel took place at Mapeking on February 12. There was no Boer loss. The British attacked Fort Eloff, south of Mapeking, at daybreak, February 12, but the Johannesburg men under Vonderweyde, forced the Boers to retire, leaving six dead and four wounded on the field. "Friend was among the killed. The Boers suffered no casualties. "FLOUR AT LORENZO MARQUES. Cape Town, Thursday, Feb. 15.—The American ship Sea Witch, Captain Howes, from Wallaroo Dec. 3, has arrived at the Cape. It is carrying 1,000 tons of flour. She evaded the British warship until within three miles limit. "CABLES TO KIMBERLEY. New York, Feb. 16.—The Commercial Cable Company at 2 o'clock this afternoon sent out the following notice:—"We are advised that telegrams can now be accepted for Kimberley, South Africa, at the sender's risk, and not exceeding three words. "Montreal, Feb. 16.—The Canadian Pacific railway's telegraph announce that messages for Kimberley, South Africa, can now be accepted, at sender's risk, messages must not exceed twelve words. "FROM OTTAWA. Stowaway from Moncton on the Laurentian—Strathcona House Notes. Ottawa, Feb. 16.—A batch of letters was received here today from the steamer Laurentian sent by Cape Verde. A letter in the Citizen evidently written by Editor Morrison, who was one of the officers of "D" battery, says:—"Stores of all sorts were served out to the batteries by the quartermaster sergeants, and it is due to the militia department to say that they were of excellent quality and nearly everything requisitioned for to bring the batteries up to a war strength, seemed to have been supplied by Col. Macdonald and his department. "Two stowaways were found on board after the Laurentian was three days out. One was an infantryman in uniform from Moncton. Both were attached to "E" battery and made to do duty. "A large number of members visited the

Strathcona contingent in their quarters at the exhibition grounds today. J. Hobson, son of the chief engineer of the Grand Trunk, who has had experience as a rancher, is here trying to enlist. Lieut. Col. Myles Cotton, R. C. A., has been appointed in charge of the Maxim guns with the Strathcona Horse. "The position of the Boer army at Spytfontein being untenable, General Cronje ordered a retreat. At the moment this despatch was written it is uncertain whether his whole force or only a portion has gone toward Bloemfontein. It is possible that a part is going north of Kimberley. It is supposed that a 29-ton gun is still in the neighborhood of Kimberley. The road from Jacobsdal to Modder station is now open. "Jacobsdal, Saturday, Feb. 17.—Further details of the Boer retreat show that the enemy has been fighting a good rear guard action, and occupying successive kopjes in order to allow the moving of the train and the dust storms and thunderstorms that all experienced. The animals appearing to be in a very low state of health. "The latest reports show that the Boers in the neighborhood of Kalkkraals Drift are undoubtedly disheartened. "General French's magnificent march is still the subject of admiration, especially in view of the dust storms and thunderstorms that all experienced. Their work of shelling the Boers proceeded vigorously. Owing to the state of the air, however, they were obliged to leave the kopjes. "HARASSING THE REAR. London, Feb. 18.—The correspondent of the Times at Modder River writing yesterday, says:—"General Cronje's army of 10,000 men, with a thousand wagons, is in full retreat toward Bloemfontein, hotly pursued by General Kelly-Kenny. It is probable that the Boers will be forced to retreat toward Bloemfontein. Our cavalry has already returned from Kimberley to join in the pursuit."

AUSTRALIANS DIE TO A MAN. London, Feb. 19.—A despatch to the Times from Nauwpoort describing the retirement to Arundel draws attention to the devotion of twenty men of the Victoria Mounted Rifles, who were killed and died to a man fighting to their last. "THE NEWS STORY OF THE MOVEMENT. London, Feb. 19.—The Daily News publishes the following despatch dated Sunday morning, Feb. 18, from Modder River:—"Our sudden appearance seems to have astounded the enemy and thrown them into a panic. All their positions were hurriedly evacuated and the big guns at Magersfontein and Kimberley were left behind. "General Cronje moved his transport, consisting of many hundred wagons, along a line of kopjes north of the Modder toward Kofffontein. It got past our mounted infantry, but owing to weariness failed to stop. Thereupon our riflemen moved forward and the Boer force kept up a running fight the whole day vainly trying to escape. "Each time their advance guard sought to move off our mounted infantry galloped round and checked them. We never attempted to stop their main movement, contenting ourselves with trying to check them. "Their position at Kofffontein is said to be very strong. They entertain a high opinion of their own strength and more quickly than they do themselves. We hope to be in Bloemfontein shortly. "The Daily News has another despatch from the Modder River military camp dated Sunday morning, which says:—"At dawn on Friday the Boers were observed moving wagons along the kopjes toward Kofffontein. Our mounted infantry was sent out from Kimp Drift, but was driven back and the enemy's wagons passed. "General Knox's Twelfth Brigade, however, quickly attacked the enemy's main body and severe fighting went on all day over a line which was very extended. The enemy, making a desperate attempt, finally escaped, owing to the serpentine nature of the river. "The mounted infantry suffered from the trying flanking movement. Our force has now been reinforced. "PROCLAMATION TO THE FREE STATE. Cape Town, Feb. 18.—Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation to the Burghers of the Orange Free State, saying that he feels it his duty to make known to all the British as well as to do all in his power to terminate the devastation caused by the war; and that he issues the proclamation in order that, if the Burghers continue fighting, they may not do so ignorantly, but with a full knowledge of their responsibility before God for the lives lost in the campaign. "The proclamation goes on to say:—"The British government believes that the war and unjustifiable invasion of British territory was not committed with the general approval of the people of the Free State, with whom the British government has lived in complete amity for 50 years. It believes the responsibility to rest wholly with the government of the Free State, acting not in the interests of the country, but under mischievous influences from without. "Great Britain therefore wishes the people of the Free State to understand that it hears them not ill will and that so far as it is compatible with the successful conduct of

the war and of the re-establishment of peace, it is anxious to preserve them from the evils brought upon them by the wrong full action of their government." "In conclusion Lord Roberts warns all Burghers to desist from further acts of hostility toward her majesty's government and troops and he gives directions regarding requisitions and complaints. "BRITISH SUCCESS NEAR STORMBERG. Brits River, Saturday, Feb. 17.—The position near Dorrecht now is that the Boers occupy a strong hill north of the town and that the British hold a commanding post to the south. Both are maintaining a brisk exchange of shells over Dorrecht. "General Brabant's horse, 2,000 strong, commenced the march from Pen Hook Thursday morning over a trackless veld and through a mountainous and difficult country. "Early on Friday they were fired upon and the firing continued all day and well into the night, the British occupying the Boers out of successive positions under terrific rifle fire lasting eight hours. "Towards midnight Friday the British moved the Boers at the point of the bayonet out of their last position, an important one overlooking Dorrecht. The artillery duel was continued today, many were killed, including Captain Crahan and Lieut. Chandler, and eight wounded. "The Boers captured some prisoners and a quantity of forage and provisions. "HOW THE BOERS MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT. Pretoria, Friday, Feb. 16.—It appears from further reports of yesterday's fighting at Jacobsdal, that 2,000 British troops got through the federal position at Modder River and entered Kimberley. The Boers intercepted the rear guard of the British and captured good booty, many men and a number of prisoners. "WORKING TOWARD LADYSMITH. Cheveley, Wednesday, Feb. 15.—The Boers have been moving steadily eastward since this (Wednesday) morning. Lord Dundonald, with cavalry, infantry and artillery, occupied Hlangwane Hill, five miles north of Cheveley. The infantry entrenched the hill. "General Lyttelton worked around to the right and Sir Charles Warren in front to the left. "The Boers were heavily entrenched (Hlangwane and Monte Cristo hills). "A steady independent fire, with occasional volleys, was maintained for so long and the enemy's trenches were vigorously shelled. "The Boers had one gun in action during the early part of the day, but we began shelling, they moved it across the river. They had no success in the afternoon. Our casualties were few. "BULLER RECEIVES NO REPLY. Free Camp, Feb. 16.—The Boers have abandoned several laagers. General Buller renewed bombardment of Naledan position without eliciting a reply. A further movement is regarded as imminent. "MESSENGER FROM LADYSMITH. Ladysmith, Thursday, Feb. 15.—The following message was received from General Buller:—"Well, I wish you had been kind enough to shoot me lower down. "After the retirement of the British force the Boers held a prayer meeting and thanked Heaven for their successes. They separated into small parties and moved to their various outposts, chanting hymns as they went. "Captain Longhurst says that he was much impressed by their considerate treatment of the British wounded. "LAURENTIAN AT CAPE TOWN. Cape Town, Feb. 17.—The British steamer Laurentian, Captain Nunan, which sailed from Halifax, Jan. 21, with the first artillery section of the second Canadian contingent of troops for service against the Boers, arrived at this port today. "The troops were welcomed by Major John Hanbury-Williams, military secretary to the governor of Cape Colony and the British high commissioner in South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner, on behalf of his country. "A CABLE FROM THE MAYOR. St. John, N. B., Feb. 19, 1900. Oatley, Canadian Artillery, Cape Town: Congratulations; bless you. "SEARIS, Mayor. "THANKS FROM LANSDOWNE. Toronto, Feb. 17.—Mayor Macdonald today received the following cable from Lord Lansdowne, secretary for war, in reply to a cable sent yesterday, congratulating the government on the relief of Kimberley:—"Receive to know that the Queen city shares the feelings with which we have heard the good news. Please convey our cordial thanks to your citizens. Permit me to say how proud I am of the name in which Canada is standing by us."

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war office, having been selected for special service in South Africa. "VOLUNTEERS OFFICERS' COURSE CLOSED. Kingston, Feb. 18.—Owing to the fact that so many Royal Military College officers are either doing special service or are likely to be needed by the military department at any time, the course of volunteer officers which was opened some ago has been adjourned indefinitely. Most of the officers have left the city. "FISHERMEN IN RESERVE. St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 17.—The paper prepared for the meeting of the colonial legislature on Monday shows the names of nearly 1,200 fishermen enrolled for naval reserves. It is expected that a regular session of the legislature in April the British government plans give practical effect to this scheme by ready for submission to the legislature. Well informed authorities expect that number of the reserves will be drafted into warships next spring when these vessels reach the coast for fishery protection. "SMUGGLING POWDER. London, Feb. 18.—A despatch from a South African border, dated Friday, Feb. 17, says:—"The Boer agent at Besslers has been maintaining regular communication with Delagoa Bay via Swaziland. Two coolie carriers have been heard of, supposed to contain half a dozen pounds of powder. An examination it was found that the sacks contained gunpowder. "WORKING TOWARD LADYSMITH. Cheveley, Wednesday, Feb. 15.—The Boers have been moving steadily eastward since this (Wednesday) morning. Lord Dundonald, with cavalry, infantry and artillery, occupied Hlangwane Hill, five miles north of Cheveley. The infantry entrenched the hill. "General Lyttelton worked around to the right and Sir Charles Warren in front to the left. "The Boers were heavily entrenched (Hlangwane and Monte Cristo hills). "A steady independent fire, with occasional volleys, was maintained for so long and the enemy's trenches were vigorously shelled. "The Boers had one gun in action during the early part of the day, but we began shelling, they moved it across the river. They had no success in the afternoon. Our casualties were few. "BULLER RECEIVES NO REPLY. Free Camp, Feb. 16.—The Boers have abandoned several laagers. General Buller renewed bombardment of Naledan position without eliciting a reply. A further movement is regarded as imminent. "MESSENGER FROM LADYSMITH. Ladysmith, Thursday, Feb. 15.—The following message was received from General Buller:—"Well, I wish you had been kind enough to shoot me lower down. "After the retirement of the British force the Boers held a prayer meeting and thanked Heaven for their successes. They separated into small parties and moved to their various outposts, chanting hymns as they went. "Captain Longhurst says that he was much impressed by their considerate treatment of the British wounded. "LAURENTIAN AT CAPE TOWN. Cape Town, Feb. 17.—The British steamer Laurentian, Captain Nunan, which sailed from Halifax, Jan. 21, with the first artillery section of the second Canadian contingent of troops for service against the Boers, arrived at this port today. "The troops were welcomed by Major John Hanbury-Williams, military secretary to the governor of Cape Colony and the British high commissioner in South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner, on behalf of his country. "A CABLE FROM THE MAYOR. St. John, N. B., Feb. 19, 1900. Oatley, Canadian Artillery, Cape Town: Congratulations; bless you. "SEARIS, Mayor. "THANKS FROM LANSDOWNE. Toronto, Feb. 17.—Mayor Macdonald today received the following cable from Lord Lansdowne, secretary for war, in reply to a cable sent yesterday, congratulating the government on the relief of Kimberley:—"Receive to know that the Queen city shares the feelings with which we have heard the good news. Please convey our cordial thanks to your citizens. Permit me to say how proud I am of the name in which Canada is standing by us."

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