

Captured By British

Eight Hundred Boers Reported to Have Been Made Prisoners.

Rumors That Lord Roberts Has Asked For Ninety Thousand More Men.

Dundonald's Reconnaissance Supposed to Be a Prelude to Renewed Activity.

(Associated Press.) London, Feb. 2.—There is no official news from Gen. Buller's headquarters, and the only information which has reached London in anyway supporting the reports that he has recrossed the Tugela river is found in the Associated Press dispatch announcing Dundonald's reconnaissance, which is taken to indicate a prelude to renewed activity.

As the dispatch is three days old and Dundonald found no difficulty in crossing the river, it is not impossible Buller may have moved in the interim and public anxiety is again concentrated on the Upper Tugela.

Sensational rumors are current that the Militia Ballot Act will be put in force on February 14th and that Gen. Roberts, the commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, has cabled for ninety thousand additional men which, it is added, the government has promised to give him, sending 50,000 militia and volunteers and 40,000 militia reserve.

Inspection of Yeomanry. This morning at the Life Guards Barracks, Regent Park, the Prince of Wales inspected another contingent of Yeomanry volunteers prior to their departure from London to South Africa.

Plumer's Force at Gaberones. Lorenzo Marquez, Feb. 1.—A dispatch from Gaberones, dated January 23rd, describing a reconnaissance of some of Col. Plumer's forces around the Boer laager southward, seems to dispose of the story that Mafeking has been relieved. On that date the Rhodesians captured two Transvaal flags and drove off the Boer outposts before returning to Gaberones.

BRITISH ARMY IN AFRICA. (Cheering News From the Front.) New York, Feb. 2.—It is to be seen in the mass of cable matter printed here this morning that there is a decidedly more cheerful feeling in London.

few days will have 213,000 men in Africa.

Surrounding Ladysmith and confronting Buller. In the recent fighting movement Buller lost 1,855 men, but the pieces are fixed. The Boers have no means of replacing the lost men with fresh soldiers. Looking at the matter in this light it is inevitable that Buller will be beaten, as it was that Gen. Buller would take Richmond.

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Important Statement in the British House of Commons. London, Feb. 2.—In the House of Commons to-day the under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Wm. St. J. Brodrick, replied to a question concerning the accuracy of the statement of Count von Buelow, the German minister of foreign affairs, in the Reichstag as to the British engagements regarding the searching of vessels.

Wherever it is attacked it can cut an entrenched front. According to Mr. Churchill there are 7,000 Boers watching Ladysmith, the same number held ready to resist.

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Spton Kop continue to arrive. All testify to the terrible Boer fire.

Several estimates are that the total losses of Gen. Buller's turning movement will amount to something approximating 1,500.

When reinforcements arrived the troops were much cramped on the top of Spton Kop. Preparations were made below to secure the position. Guns were on the way, and engineers had been ordered up to strengthen the entrenchments.

A curious incident is related of the fighting on January 24th. One of the Lancashire while firing from a prone position had his head taken clean off by a shell.

The correspondent of the Times at Lorenzo Marquez, telegraphing yesterday, says: "Information has been received here from the Transvaal that the war department, continued that it would be useless to storm Ladysmith, and that the bombardment will continue ineffective, has decided on a change of tactics.

London, Feb. 1.—In the Morning Post to-day Mr. Spencer Wilkinson discusses a long dispatch from Winston Churchill, dated at Pietermaritzburg, and describing the situation in Natal. He says: "This dispatch deserves to be closely read. It is an appeal to the public at home, and as it has been passed by the censor, may be taken to represent the feelings of Gen. Buller.

London, Feb. 2.—Private F. C. Page, who is with the first Canadian contingent at Belmont, Africa, writing under the date of Dec. 22nd, says: "The Boers are very much afraid of Canadians on account of reports they heard that a first contingent was composed of the first and the best sharpshooters in the world."

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reputation was never lower, and even now the government failed to grasp the seriousness of the war.

Mr. George Wyndham, parliamentary secretary for the war office, who followed, admitted that the war office had not been impregnable, but he argued that the government had done its best, considering the limitations of the military system, and welcomed criticism for the country would thus be enabled to turn to better account the tide of patriotism and the lessons of the war.

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for North Louth, joined in, asking: "Why doesn't Sanderson (naming Edward J. Sanderson, Conservative member for North Armagh, son of the Orange leader Col. Sanderson) go to the front?"

The debate on the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, was then resumed.

Mr. James Bryce, Liberal member for the South division of Aberdeen, had severely censured the government for "provoking an unjust war," and Mr. Geo. J. Goschen, Conservative member for North Armagh, son of the Orange leader Col. Sanderson, had followed him in a similar strain.

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Casualties at Spion Kop

Boers Reported to Have Lost Over a Thousand Men Killed.

British Flying Column is Causing the Burgers Considerable Anxiety.

London Paper Says Buller's Orders Were to Advance This Morning.

(Associated Press.) London, Feb. 3.—The war office is silent as regards Buller, but there is reason to believe he is continuing movement upon Ladysmith.

Those who are in a position to know confirm his reported recrossing of the Tugela River, and believe he was engaged yesterday.

The news from Ladysmith on Thursday saying the Boer forces were leaving again, and that the besieging force was considerably diminished, tends to confirm this.

Highlanders Prisoners. Roberts notified the war office that 40 Highlanders, who were previously reported killed at Magersfontein, are prisoners at Pretoria.

Boers at the Tugela. Major Bathurst, who was wounded at the battle of Colenso, arrived at Southampton to-day on board the Servia. He says there are 20,000 Boers at the Tugela River, but that Gen. Buller can go through if he is prepared to sacrifice five or six thousand men.

Field Cornets Killed. A dispatch from Ladysmith, undated, via Spearman's Camp, Feb. 2nd, says native hunters report the following field cornets killed in last week's fighting: Leonard of Waterburg, Gobelair of Breucersdorp, Opperman of Pretoria, Daniel Erasmus of Magaliesberg and one Free State cornet.

The British artillery broke seven Boer guns. The Boer casualties were approximately one thousand, though information is not confirmed officially.

BOER CASUALTIES. Even Hundred Killed and Six Hundred Wounded—Free Staters Refuse to Fight.

Sterks Spruit, Jan. 29.—Commandant Olivier, of Orange Free State, in a speech to the Boers at Lady Grey said his men were almost surrounded at Stormberg, and unless recruits were forthcoming he would be compelled to abandon the position.

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