

GATACRE TELLS THE STORY

Miscalculation of Distance Lands the British Column in an Impossible Position.

THE NORTHUMBERLANDS MISSING NUMBER 366

High Praise for Artillery—Irish Fusiliers Distinguish Themselves—The Canadians at Belmont—Gen. French's Troops Still Hold Arundel

(Associated Press.) London, Dec. 12.—The almost complete absence of news from the theatre of war up to this afternoon has increased public anxiety, so deeply stirred by Saturday's disaster.

Movements in Natal. A strange item of news reached here from Boer sources announcing that the Waschbank bridge was damaged. This was taken in some quarters as a possible confirmation of the suggestion that the British had made a wide sweep by way of Helpmaakar and were preparing to take the Boers north of Ladysmith in the rear.

French Holds Arundel. A message to-day from Naauwpoort, dated Monday, 11th, shows that Gen. French had no inclination to withdraw his advanced troops at Arundel, as had been feared might be the result of Gen. Gatacre's defeat. Gen. French reported that his artillery on December 11th forced an advance post of the Boers, south of Coleburg, to evacuate its position and seek refuge beyond Vant Kop.

Advance of Rhodesians. The Rhodesian force advancing to the relief of Mafeking reached Gaborone Port on December 2nd and found the Boers had evacuated the place. The Rhodesians are repairing the railroad as they advance.

From Mafeking. The latest news from Mafeking shows that Col. Baden-Powell has been forced to reduce the rations of the garrison and inhabitants. Water is plentiful, however.

An Expert's Opinion. The military expert of the Morning Post in this morning's issue has this to say of the reverse: "How so large portions of the two regiments chiefly engaged were captured by the enemy is impossible to say. They had lost only an insignificant number of men killed and wounded, and the serious character of the reverse can only be accounted for by the fact that the men were worn out."

Boer Tactics. New York, Dec. 12.—London has waited eagerly, but in vain, for a further explanation of the cause which led to General Gatacre's defeat, and in their disappointment have turned their attention to speculating on the effect of the reverse. The fact that some of England's best fighters, such as the Northumberland Fusiliers and the Royal Irish were among the defeated, makes the pill doubly hard to swallow. These regiments were considered well high invincible in the eyes of the country, and to see them ambushed and captured is a sight the average Britisher never thought of beholding.

A spirit of hope, however, pervaded the masses when it became known that on Saturday reinforcements, consisting of the first three battalions of the Sixth Division, would be dispatched. The military experts see in the outcome of the attack on Gatacre's advance

sent the following details of the fight at Stormberg Junction:

"The British, with six cannons, attacked the Boers under Swanepeel and Olivier, and stormed the Boer's entrenched position on the kopjes.

"After a severe fight they were compelled to surrender."

Reported Fighting on the Modder. Capetown, Dec. 12.—It is reported that heavy fighting was heard all day yesterday in the direction of Modder River.

THE CANADIANS. Col. Otter Reports Their Safe Arrival at Belmont.

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—The following cable was handed to Dr. Borden by Gen. Hutton to-day:

"Belmont, Dec. 11.—Canadian regiment here, line of communication. All well."

(Signed) OTTER. Transport Ashore. Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Dec. 12.—The British transport Denton Grange, with war munitions on board, en route to Cape Colony, is ashore on the south side of the harbor and making water.

London, Dec. 12.—General Gatacre has not yet forwarded the promised message and the correspondence has prevented the correspondents from explaining the matter.

Stormberg is described as a stronger position than Laing's Nek. The only road winds through lofty hills and reaching it is impossible. Coleburg is also said to be an almost impregnable position, and as no troops are available to reinforce the columns acting in those directions, it becomes evident that General Gatacre's misfortune or error will delay the invasion of the Free State for perhaps some weeks. It is exceedingly probable he will be compelled to retire on Queenstown and to wait for reinforcements, which can hardly reach him until the Boer's capture of Stormberg, on Saturday next.

Even if General French is not compelled to retreat he will be obliged to pause in his advance.

From Capetown comes the announcement that the Boers have succeeded in repelling the Bloemfontein bridge between Stormberg and Burgersdorp, which the British destroyed on retiring.

Commandant Swanepeel, who commanded the Boer's capture of Stormberg, has been replaced by a Scotchman named Robertson.

Another Division. The seventh division, which is being mobilized at Aldershot, will probably be sent to South Africa.

No news has yet been received confirming the Boer's capture of 50 prisoners from Lord Methuen's column.

British Casualties. It is just two months since the Transvaal ultimatum was delivered. Nine engagements have been fought; the British have lost 560 killed, 2,027 wounded, and 1,977 missing or prisoners.

For Wives and Children. The War Office has issued a notice that after January 1st a deduction will be made from the pay of the soldier serving in South Africa, in the cases of private four pence per day for wives and a penny for each child; in the cases of sergeants eight pence for wives and two pence for each child. These amounts have thus far been paid by the government.

Boers at Coleenso. Free Camp, Natal, Dec. 11. (Monday) 7 p.m.—The British cavalry reconnoitered to-day abreast of Coleenso and exchanged shots with parties of Boers who fell back across the river.

The kopjes were observed to be thickly occupied by the enemy. The railway bridge at Coleenso has been completely destroyed. Two stone pillars were blown up last night. The highway bridge is intact.

A Boer Report. Pretoria, Dec. 11.—In the fighting at Modder River yesterday evening General Cronje maintained his position and captured 50 British soldiers.

The Canadians. Toronto, Dec. 11.—The Globe's war correspondent with the Canadians, Frederick Hamilton, wires from Orange River, under date of Dec. 7th:

"Canadians arrived from De Aar at Orange River to-day, Thursday."

London, Dec. 13.—The following dispatch from General Buller is published by the War Office:

Dispatch from General Buller, dated December 11, says:

"Last night Colonel Metcalf and five soldiers captured a Boer howitzer on a hill. They reached the place without being discovered, drove off the enemy and then destroyed the howitzer with gun cotton."

"When retreating Metcalf found his retreat barred by the Boers, but he forced his way through, using the bayonet freely."

"The Boer losses were considerable. The British losses were the following: Lieut. Ferguson and eleven men killed; Capt. Pals, Second Lieut. Davouport, Second Lieut. Bond and forty-one men wounded."

Press Comments. The Times, while praising Colonel Metcalf and his brilliant feat at Ladysmith, expresses the opinion that relief being now so near, such casualties are rather perilous, and it would be better for

General White to avoid them as far as possible.

The Morning Post again endorses to arouse the British people to a recognition of the serious nature of the struggle and of the grave position in which matters now stand."

Shelling Mafeking. A War Office dispatch reports that Mafeking was shelled up to Dec. 4th, but that the Boers had shelled the town since Nov. 27th, with increased effect. Rations had been considerably reduced, meat by half a pound and bread by a quarter of a pound, in view of a probable long siege.

Afraid of Bayonets. The Boers fear the British bayonets. This is illustrated in the full accounts now arriving of previous sorties. It seems that in the evening of the 11th, the Boers suddenly aroused from their sleep, rushed to the edge and opened an infernal fire upon the British. But just before the British secured a footing on the top of the hill, some one among them shouted, "Fix bayonets and give them cold steel." At this the Boers turned and fled into the darkness.

Some Notes. Albert S. Hay, son of Secretary Hay, and United States consul by appointment to Pretoria, leaves to-day by the steamer St. Louis for South Africa via England.

A special dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez says a Boer telegram from Mafeking announces that Lady Sarah Wilson, aunt of the Duke of Marlborough, while acting as a correspondent of the London Daily Mail, has been exchanged for a Boer woman who was a prisoner at Mafeking.

Lord Mayor Newton, the alderman of the city of London and other prominent officials of the corporation, together with high military authorities, will attend the memorial service to be held in St. Paul's cathedral for the men who have fallen in the war.

General Gatacre's reverse at Stormberg was joyfully greeted on the streets of Berlin, but the newspapers for the most part are reticent on the subject.

The Vossische Zeitung comments in a strain almost friendly, saying: "After the soldierly virtues which the British have shown in this war, it may well be believed that General Gatacre's troops fought as if on the parade ground."

Daniel Tolan, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, presided at a meeting of the corporation yesterday called to protest against the Transvaal war. The clerk declared that there was no quorum, but the Lord Mayor insisted on making a statement in which he declared that the war was "wasteful and unprovoked aggression, undertaken by Mr. Chamberlain and capitalists against a handful of farmers." He further declared that America was "opposed to this iniquitous war."

In the meantime members present shouted "no quorum" and "order" and the tumult in the galleries drowned all the speeches. Finally the Lord Mayor left the chair with the galleries cheering for President Kruger.

Menelik's Menace. He is Reported to Be Moving Towards British Possessions in Egypt.

French and Russia Envoys Urge Him to Commence a Campaign Against Britain.

(Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 12.—A cable from London to the Journal and Advertiser says that dispatches received there from Cairo and Rome indicate that certain European powers are endeavoring to embarrass England in her fight against the Boers.

A Cairo dispatch is quoted as saying: "Emperor Menelik, of Abyssinia, is moving menacingly towards the British possessions on the White Nile. His camp is now near Adisababa."

"French and Russian envoys are with him endeavoring to rouse him to an energetic campaign against British interests, urging him to assert his rights over the Soudan, which the envoys declare rightfully belong to his domain."

SIR G. KILPATRICK DEAD. Former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario Passes Away This Morning.

(Associated Press.) Toronto, Dec. 13.—Sir George A. Kilpatrick, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, died at an early hour this morning. He had been ailing for about two years.

Kingston, Dec. 13.—The death of Sir George Kilpatrick at Toronto causes deep sorrow in this city, his old home. He was beloved by all classes of citizens. The funeral takes place to-day at the cemetery, where his remains will lie alongside those of the late Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Alexander Campbell.

GOOD ROADS. (Associated Press.) Toronto, Dec. 12.—Fifty representatives of municipal councils throughout the province met yesterday to discuss the good roads movement.

METHUEN HAS ANOTHER BATTLE

Desperate Fighting Near Modder River Where the British Are Entrenching Themselves.

GENERAL WAUCHOPE KILLED

The Boer Trenches Were Shelled on Sunday and at Day-break on Monday the Troops Advanced to the Attack.

THE BRITISH CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY

Buller is Now Marching Towards Coleenso—Serious News From Capetown—Alleged Disloyalty of Cape Ministers Governor Milner About to Take Action.

(Associated Press.) London, Dec. 13.—Gen. Methuen's general assault on the Boer positions on Monday, as reported, shows that the anxiety of the public regarding the result occasioned by the ominous silence of the war office was amply justified.

The engagement was evidently of considerable magnitude, and the list of killed and wounded will be proportionate, without the compensation which a victory would have brought, if indeed the affair does not turn out to be a more serious defeat than Gen. Methuen admits.

Storming Boer Positions. The Highlanders, it is believed, must have stormed the Boer position more than once, while the fact that the Guards were ordered to support the Highlanders' rear, looks as though the Boers may even have outflanked their attackers.

One report declares that Gen. Cronje attacked the British.

Near the Enemy. The only compensation the British have been able to discover in the disheartening story is in Gen. Methuen's story that he maintains his position close to the Boers, thus arousing the hope that he will retrieve the situation.

Trenches Reoccupied. Apparently the bombardment of Saturday and Sunday did not shake the Boer's grip on their position, and it seems certain that they merely withdrew their guns and riflemen under cover, while Gen. Methuen indulged in the usual artillery preliminaries on Monday, and that when the British guns were obliged to cease firing, owing to the danger of hitting the advancing troops, the Boers speedily reoccupied their trenches and overwhelmed the Highlanders with their terrible rifle fire, probably accompanying this by an attack on the British right flank and rear.

Some alarm is expressed at the situation of Gen. Methuen.

Abusing the Government. The Westminster Gazette says: "If England ever needs a victory it is now, and it is to Buller that the country looks for this victory."

The other papers abuse the government for its "complacent optimism" and inability to grasp the strength of the enemy.

Situation Grave. Considerable significance attaches to Gen. Methuen's statement that he is entrenching himself, indicating the fear that the Boers may follow up their advantage, adopt the offensive and attack him. Indeed the gravity of the situation from a British point of view can hardly be over-estimated.

Gen. Methuen's long lines of communication to De Aar are most vulnerable. Should they be cut, Gen. Methuen would find himself in a very tight place if only from lack of supplies.

More Troops Needed. The Morning Post's military expert in to-day's issue refers thus to Gen. Gat

acre's defeat: "We urged a month ago that a second British army corps should be sent slowly. The fifth and sixth divisions have been put in motion, but the former will arrive too late to render effective help at this crisis."

Gatacre's Troops. The latest advices from Gen. Gatacre show no anxiety is felt for the safety of his remaining troops, who have been withdrawn to good positions along the railway south of Moltene. It is said Bushman's hook is impregnable.

The Boers decline to furnish the names of killed or wounded. They say they buried the dead, and are sending the prisoners to Bloemfontein.

Boer Losses. The Boer loss on Sunday is reported to have been four killed and nine wounded. Probably this is correct, as no genuine attack was delivered by Gen. Gatacre's troops, who were completely surprised while in column.

The British apparently rushed up the nearest hill without orders or knowing where the enemy was, and being exhausted from long marches, they were unable to accomplish anything.

Buller's Advance. Gen. Buller's advance in the direction of Coleenso seems to have actually commenced.

The military attaches have left Capetown to join Gen. Buller via Durban.

Fever at Ladysmith. Gen. White reports, under the date of Tuesday, Dec. 12th, that there are 32 cases of enteric fever at Ladysmith.

Cabinet Crisis at Capetown. There are renewed reports of a cabinet crisis at Capetown, where it is said that Governor Milner is about to act in consequence of disclosures involving the ministry's loyalty.

Sailing of a Transport. The White Star steamer Majestic sails from Liverpool to-day for South Africa with 2,000 troops on board. The White Star line steamer Cymronic has been chartered for use as a transport.

Military Circles Alarmed. As the day proceeded and the dribbles of information leaked out, the extreme gravity of Gen. Methuen's position was more fully recognized, and the possibility of his isolation created alarm in military circles.

It is thought in some quarters he would retrace his steps to the Orange River before his lines of communication were seriously severed.

Exchange Depressed. The stock exchange closed to-day grave and anxious, and there were rumors of further failures. Consols were weak and Kafirs more depressed than at any time during the present year.

Feeling at the Clubs. There was little excitement noticeable at the war office, but at the clubs and hotels there was considerable gloom

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