

THE BATTLE OF BELMONT

British Losses in Yesterday's Fight Were Two Hundred and Twenty Killed, Wounded and Missing.

BOER BULLETS FAILED TO STOP ADVANCING TROOPS

Cavalry Pursued Retreating Burghers-Joubert's Force Reported to Have Been Repulsed While Attempting to Capture Ladysmith.

(Associated Press.) London, Nov. 24.—The doors of the war office were besieged by troubled and anxious men and women of all classes long before they were opened, and when inquirers were finally admitted their anxious questions showed they feared yesterday evening's official bulletin, though black enough, had not recorded the full story of the British losses at Belmont.

Up to noon the government officials issued no further dispatches, so that the nervous distrust of the public, who are beginning to look with suspicion upon the stories of British successes so constantly accompanied by Boer advances, remains unrelieved.

Gen. Methuen's message leaves a great deal to be explained. According to all previous facts obtainable as to the relative strength of the forces, the Boers must have been in a decided minority, yet the total British loss of 220 killed, wounded and missing, proves the effectiveness of their resistance and amply justifies Gen. Methuen's tribute to the courage and skill with which the Boers fought.

Boers Retired in Good Order. The fact that no guns and only forty prisoners were captured by the victors and that the Boers carried off their dead and wounded, shows they retired in an orderly manner without precipitation or confusion, and that probably the Boer casualties were not so numerous, owing to the strength of their position.

Supplies Destroyed. The destruction of the Boer ammunition captured is taken as an indication that Gen. Methuen occupied the captured position at Belmont and destroyed the Boer supplies in order not to hamper the immediate advance of his flying column, which is marching in the lightest manner.

Way Clear to Modder River. The road is now presumably open to the Boer position on the Modder River, where the Guards, who apparently bore the brunt of yesterday's fighting, will in all probability have another chance to get at close quarters with the bayonets.

The News at Windsor. The news of Gen. Methuen's victory was enthusiastically received by the Grenadier Guards stationed at Windsor. The commanding officer addressed the men on parade and round after round of cheers were given.

Lieut. Blundell Dead. Lieut. Blundell, of the Grenadier Guards, who was dangerously wounded at the battle of Belmont yesterday, has since died of his wounds.

THE FIGHT AT BELMONT.

Guards and Northumberland Carried the Boer Position Amidst a Storm of Lead.

Capetown, Nov. 24.—From the few details which have reached here of Gen. Methuen's fighting with the Boers yesterday, it appears that the Boers, from Fieham's farm, shelled an advance body of the British on Wednesday, November

22nd, and the British artillery was pushed forward and shelled a hill which the British subsequently occupied, capturing two guns.

The Boer main column left Fieham's farm during the afternoon and camped five miles ahead.

At daybreak on Thursday the Boers fired from the hills, 1,000 yards distant, on the British advance force.

Other troops then pushed up and the engagement became general.

The British artillery made excellent practice and silenced the Boer guns.

Then two battalions of the Grenadier Guards and the Northumberland Regiment stormed the heights at the point of the bayonet, crossing the fire zone amidst a storm of lead.

The Guards and Northumberland pushed up the incline and reached the summit, doing great execution with their bayonets, and capturing a laager with guns, equipment, prisoners, cattle and sheep.

The entire position was carried by 8 o'clock, the cavalry, consisting of the Ninth Lancers and mounted infantry pursuing the flying Boers.

The Boers, it is estimated, numbered 3,500 men. Their loss is unknown.

Congratulations From the Queen. The Queen has sent Gen. Methuen congratulations "On the brilliant action of my Guards, the naval brigade and other brave soldiers."

A RUNNER FROM LADYSMITH.

He says the Boers Made Several Attempts to Capture the Camp, But Were Repulsed.

Mool River, Nov. 23.—The Boers have sent only an occasional shell into the British camp since this morning.

The range of the British guns is not sufficient for them to be effective.

An official native runner corroborates the report that heavy fighting has occurred northward.

The runner, who is from Estcourt, says he was captured by the Boers, who infest the heights northward. He adds that they searched him but failed to discover the dispatches.

The Boers are in strong force under the cover of a hill, on which are two guns.

When the British opened fire the runner escaped in the subsequent confusion. The same runner was at Ladysmith last week. He reiterates the statement that heavy fighting occurred there. The Boers, he claims, made several attempts to capture the British camp, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

The native explained the failure of assault by saying that every time the Boers approached the British set the whole country ablaze, killing every one within reach.

LASTED SEVERAL HOURS.

Boers Were Strongly Entrenched and Their Guns Were Well Served.

London, Nov. 24.—The War Office reports issued the following advice: "Capetown, Nov. 24.—(Afternoon)—General Methuen further reports this morning that the wounded are doing well.

"There are over 50 prisoners, including a German commandant and six head cornets. Nineteen prisoners are wounded.

"We are unable to estimate the Boer losses.

"Prisoners say yesterday's attack was a surprise, and is the only beating they have had.

"A large amount of correspondence has been secured.

"Reservists are doing well.

"Col. Pole Carew replaces Featherstonhaugh in command of the Ninth Brigade.

The Opposing Forces. "Special dispatches received here from Belmont say Gen. Methuen's force numbered 7,000 men and the Boers had 5,000 men.

The latter held an exceedingly strong position of a series of hills extending dozens of miles. They were strongly entrenched and their cannon were pointed strongly and were excellent well served.

"The battle began at 7 o'clock and raged for several hours.

"The Boers held the positions with great stubbornness and great courage. The British riflemen, forced to attack under a raking fire, carried superbly their position with superb dash, driving out the Boers with great slaughter.

"The engagement was really a series of battles, during which the Boers constantly carried off their dead and wounded.

STORY OF THE BATTLE.

Infantry Were Well Supported by Artillery and the Naval Brigade.

Belmont, Cape Colony, Nov. 24.—(10 a.m.)—The entire western division moved on the 22nd; never on Tuesday and Wednesday at Ladysmith.

Two companies of mounted infantry and a detachment of the Lancers were sent to hold St. Thomas farm. Their pickets prevented the Boers from advancing.

The Boers' first cannon, and the British artillery, arriving on the scene, silenced the Boers' fire.

At 2 in the morning the Guards' brigade moved steadily forward to a hill a few miles east of Belmont Station.

The Boers and Grenadiers advanced to within 50 yards of the base when the Boers poured in a scathing fire which staggered the Guards momentarily, but quickly recovering, they returned into the Boers.

The Guards continued firing half an hour when the artillery commenced, and the Boers evacuated the front position and fled to the south, taking the hill with their bayonets and lusty cheers.

The Ninth Brigade then moved forward in extended order, and the Boers started a terrible cross fire from the surrounding hills.

The Coldstreams, supported by the Scots, Grenadiers, Northumberland and Northampton, stormed the second position in the face of a constant, effective Boer fire.

The Ninth Brigade then advanced, the artillery in the meantime maintaining excellent practice.

The British Infantry Never Wavered, and when a tremendous cheer notified the success of the charge, the Boers fled, and succeeded in gaining a range of hills in the rear, in spite of the Lancers' flanking movement.

The infantry again gallantly faced the fire and the first brigade came into action for the first time, at a range of 1,800 yards.

The infantry was well supported by the artillery, and the Boers, unable to stand the death-dealing volleys, retired, and were again forced to obtain some minor positions.

The British cavalry charged the Boers and pursued them for five miles. Possession was taken of the Boer laager and Boer stores were destroyed.

The Boers hoisted A White Flag under the second position, whereupon Lieutenant Willoughby, of the Coldstream Guards, stood up and was immediately shot down.

The Boers twice repeated the same tactics.

BOERS REPULSED

The River is Now Reported to be Impassable Except by Boats.

London, Nov. 24.—The governor of Natal has forwarded the following dispatch to the colonial office: "Tugela Drift was attacked during the morning of Thursday, November 23rd, by from 250 to 300 Boers, who are believed to have advanced from Helpmaaker and Umvoti.

"The Mounted Rifles, under Major Leachars, and a small body of Natal police, totaling 140 men, posted south of the river bank, forced the Boers to retire after two hours' fighting. Our loss was a sergeant-major wounded.

"The Tugela rose during the day, and is now reported impassable except by boats."

Late arrivals from Pretoria estimate the Boer casualties at 1,000 men.

Half of Whom Were Killed.

They also say the race course is being prepared for a laager in the event of a siege, and the guns of the forts are trained on it in case the prisoners attempt to escape. A Maxim is placed at the gate of the race course.

From President Kruger down, every one is in favor of fighting. They believe they will succeed in annexing all beleaguered towns, and the flag of the Third Republic, now ready, bears the Orange cross.

The Boers expect the war to last from four to six months, and that then they will possess South Africa.

Churchill May Be Released. Pretoria, Nov. 24.—It is believed that the government will shortly release Winston Churchill as a non-combatant.

The prisoners from Mafeking and Lobatse are mostly railroad men. After they had taken the oath not to fight against the Transvaal, they were sent to Deagon Bay.

CAN MAFEKING HOLD OUT?

Boers Are Daily Drawing Closer to the Isolated Garrison.

Magalapa, Cape Colony, Sunday, Nov. 19.—A dispatch received here from Mafeking, dated Wednesday, November 15th, says: "The garrison is cheerful, but the position is daily growing more difficult.

"The Boers are always drawing their entrenchment closer and are incessantly plying the British with artillery and musketry fire.

"The garrison is living almost entirely in underground shelters, and the health of troops is suffering."

BOER TACTICS.

They Are Attempting to Isolate Portions of the Ladysmith Relief Column.—The Garrison Safe.

New York, Nov. 24.—The British soldier in South Africa are experiencing new sensations in fighting the Boers, says the London correspondent of the New York Tribune in today's issue, as the tactics of the enemy are new to them.

For a generation back the armies of England have been meeting in battle great masses of savages or semi-civilized foes, and it has unfitted them for massing their forces, who do not mass their forces and cannot be rushed.

The situation in low Natal offers a striking contrast to all the conditions of warfare to which the English people are accustomed. The Dutch allies, after investing Ladysmith,

have turned about to deal with the British relief column piecemeal, by dividing their forces into mobile bands, they are isolating one British detachment after another without making a decisive attack at any point, or concentrating their force to a supreme effort.

This is varied by such diversions as horse stealing, cattle raiding and looting on a large scale.

"John Bull" is naturally irritated by these irregular tactics, but he ought not to be amazed by them, for Gen. Joubert, in precisely the same way with one British detachment after another, and prevented a junction of the various commands. He then had the immense advantage of superiority of numbers, but Conditions Are Now Reversed,

for the British force in lower Natal will number ten thousand certainly, and possibly 20,000, when the last transport reaches Durban, with Gen. White's garrison of 13,000 troops, still unharmed, in reserve. Moreover, Joubert, while blocking the advance of the relief column by separating the various links in the chain, is scattering his own forces without obtaining any marked advantage.

While the situation in Natal was most confusing yesterday, several points were clear at midnight. The Ladysmith garrison remained Safe and Cheerful

at the end of last week, as was shown by the Star's special dispatch from Capetown, based upon a message brought by a runner; General Hildyard was not helpless at Estcourt, for he had made a bridge was resolutely held by Barton's battalions at the Mool River after two days' skirmishing, and there were guns garrisoned and fresh infantry, Dragoons and naval guns had been put on shore at Durban. Gen. Buller, moreover, was not showing any signs of uneasiness or panic, for the only force sent from Capetown to Durban yesterday was a small body of Dragoons.

Milner's Proclamation. Capetown, Nov. 24.—Sir Alfred Milner's proclamation to the people of Cape Colony, which draws attention to insubordination given by the Queen that she does not favor one race at the expense of another and gladly recognizes that a majority of the Dutch have remained loyal and proved worthy of Her Majesty's confidence, will, it is believed, have a good effect.

Premier. Schreiner heartily endorses it, and has directed magistrates to give it the widest publicity. He also invites clergymen to disseminate it to their congregations.

Will Last Six Months.

Toronto, Nov. 24.—Lieutenant-General G. E. Sarnford, who has been in the British Indian service for many years, is visiting here. He is not inclined to minimize the seriousness of the war in South Africa, and is of the opinion that it will last at least another six months.

Boer Losses At Belmont

It Is Estimated That 500 Men Were Killed and 150 Wounded.

British Soldiers Surprise the Burghers Near Estcourt and Capture Position.

London, Nov. 25.—Dispatches describing the fighting at Belmont agree respecting the splendid fighting qualities displayed on both sides.

Nothing could have exceeded the steady courage and pluck of the British infantry in the face of a terrific fire, while the Boer guns were splendidly served, the gunners standing to them with dogged determination, exposing themselves until the very last moment, and only becoming wild in the accuracy of their aim during the charge of the British infantry. All admit, however, that the victory could not be properly followed up and utilized owing to the Want of Sufficient Cavalry.

The pursuit of the defeated enemy by the Boers was evident, not very effective, and, curiously enough, while all the correspondents report the capture of Boer guns, Lord Methuen's own report omits any mention of such an achievement.

On the whole, it almost seems safe to assume that the Boer guns were not captured, but the striking proof afforded of the excellent material Gen. Methuen has in his brigade was, however, a matter of great satisfaction in London.

One statement says: "The remnant of the Boer army sought to escape toward the Orange Free State territory."

The Times correspondent at Belmont says: "After the struggle the laager was burned and the ammunition destroyed. Cavalry and mounted infantry on both sides were unable to overtake the retreating Boers, who got away with their transport. The Boer rout was complete and their losses are believed to equal ours. They used some dum-dum bullets. Everything was in their favor. It is rumored that there have been some threats of assassinating recalcitrant burghers who are tired of war and are deserting."

Boer Losses.

London, Nov. 25.—The following dispatch from Belmont describing the battle appears in the Daily Mail: "The Boers held a position which British troops would hold against almost any force, but notwithstanding this they were routed completely.

"Many estimates of the Boer loss is 500 killed and 150 wounded.

"Mr. Knight, correspondent of the London Morning Post, was wounded.

"The Boer prisoners are ignorant, dirty and wretched. They say that half of their commanding staff of war, will refuse further service.

"The force of the fearful fight was borne by the infantry, who were obliged to climb 500 feet straight into a terrific stream of missiles.

"The Ninth Lancers pursued the enemy with great vigor, but the Boers, well mounted and familiar with the hills, melted before them.

"Possibly, however, the victory would have been even more decisive had Methuen possessed more cavalry."

Methuen Addresses the Troops. Capetown, Nov. 24.—After the battle of Belmont, Gen. Methuen addressing his troops said: "Comrades, I congratulate you on the complete success achieved by you this morning. The ground on which we had to fight presents exceptional difficulties and we had an enemy who is master in the tactics of mountain fighting. With troops such as you, a commander can have no fear of the result.

"There is a sad side to all this, and you and I are thinking as much of those who have died for the honor of their country and of those who are suffering as we are thinking of our victory."

AN EARLY MORNING FIGHT.

Boer Position Carried by British Troops From Estcourt.

Durban, Nov. 24.—The report of the fighting near Willow Grange is confirmed by the Natal Advertiser, which says: "Five thousand British left Estcourt Wednesday afternoon for a reconnaissance.

"They surprised the Boers at 3 o'clock Thursday morning and occupied their position, bayoneting sixty of the enemy.

"At daybreak the Boers opened with quick-firing guns. The British artillery was unable to reach the Boers and the British position therefore became untenable and was evacuated.

"Subsequently the artillery was brought into action and the Boers fell back, their object having been attained, the British returned to Estcourt."

Three Killed, Forty-Four Wounded.

London, Nov. 25.—A dispatch to the Times from Mool River gives the British casualties in the Willow Grange affair as three killed and forty-four wounded.

respondent describing the same affair says the British surprised the Boers, carried their position, captured all their equipment and returned to Eastcourt in safety. Gen. Hildyard was well satisfied with their work.

Ladysmith and Mafeking.

Durban, Nov. 24.—An official message from Gen. White of Ladysmith dated November 22nd, says: "Situation unchanged. Troops well and cheerful."

London, Nov. 25.—Gen. White's dispatch of Wednesday effectually disposes of all the rumors of another sortie from Ladysmith, and of the defeat of the Boers.

The position of Mafeking is beginning to be regarded with anxiety in view of the impossibility of Lord Methuen being able to reach the town for some time to come.

Churchill Interviewed.

Pretoria, Nov. 24.—The correspondent of the Associated Press has, through the courtesy of the Transvaal authorities, visited Mr. Churchill at the model school which serves as a prison and hospital for the captured officers. Beyond a slight bullet wound in the right hand, he seemed well and looked hearty, although naturally chafing under enforced idleness. In the course of an interview he said: "The Boers have treated us with much kindness. This was the case from the first. They praised our defence of the train and expressed surprise that the locomotive was saved from becoming a hopeless wreck, as they expected, under their artillery fire. We were then marched through a pouring rain to Colenso, proceeding the next morning to the Boer camp near Ladysmith and then going by rail to Modder's Spruit, finally arriving here on November 18th.

"On the journey great numbers of burghers, crowded to see us, but there was only one who made insulting remarks, the others offering us cigarettes or showing such marks of attention."

Mr. Churchill said the confinement in the model school was close and severe, but under all the conditions he had no grounds to complain.

When asked regarding his general impression he said he had had many discussions with the Boers as to the rights of the war, and had been most impressed by the number who could speak English. He had found that most of them regretted the conflict, asserting that it had arisen as the result of misrepresentation. So far as he could learn, however, the spirit of the Boers in the field, despite their privations, was one of determination, and there was no chance of any early peace. "I fear," said Mr. Churchill, "that the struggle will be bloody and protracted."

Notes.

Gen. Buller's destination is kept a strict secret at Capetown. Some reports say that he has gone to Durban as already cabled.

The Leyland line steamer Cetra, which sailed from Boston on November 16th for Liverpool, and is due there today, has been chartered by the British admiralty for transport service in connection with the war in South Africa.

The London Daily Mail's correspondent at Naauwpoort says: "An open unsigned letter, smuggled through from Colesburg, says Commandant Grobbler has arrested two prominent Englishmen and threatens to shoot them if any harm is done to Van Rensburg, ringleader of the Colesburg rebels."

The Capetown correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, says: "I am told that Mr. Cecil Rhodes keeps a big balloon ready at Kimberley to escape, if driven to that extremity."

Mr. Macrum, the United States consul at Pretoria, has been instructed by cable to impress upon President Kruger that in the view of the United States government the usages of all civilized nations sanction the administration of a neutral representative in the interest of the citizens and captives of one of the parties to a war, and he must further insist upon performing the sacred duties imposed by all considerations of humanity.

TO PICK OFF OFFICERS.

Orange River, Cape Colony, Friday, Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m.—In all 107 wounded, including several Boers, have arrived here from Belmont.

One Boer, a boy seventeen years old, was compelled to take up arms with his father, who is a prisoner.

A wounded Boer said twenty men were selected from each Boer section to pick off the British officers, but on the advance of the British force, the Boer marksmen were bowled out as it was impossible to distinguish the officers, who wore the same equipment as the men.

The marksmen were also unable to make out the sergeants and other non-commissioned officers, whose stripes had been removed.

The Kaiser Offered to Mediate. New York, Nov. 25.—A cable to a morning paper, dated Berlin, 24th, says: "The Brussels telegram to the Telegraph says the Independence Bells asserts it has trustworthy authority for stating that the Kaiser's interview with Mr. Chamberlain turned on the absolute necessity for terminating the Transvaal war. The Kaiser offered his mediation to achieve this object.

"Mr. Chamberlain informed the Kaiser of the conditions of peace, which Great Britain would propose at the end of the war."

Insulting the Queen.

Paris, Nov. 25.—The anti-English caricatures in connection with the Transvaal war, have culminated in a grossly obscene drawing, inscribed Queen Victoria in La Caricature, entitled "English correction." The police seized it to-day, probably as the outcome of representations by the British embassy.

Advertisement for 'VICTORIA' medicine, listing various ailments like 'Castoria', 'Shredded Codfish', and 'H. Ross & Co. Goods'.