

"One man I saw climb right on to the rocky ledge where Big Jan Aldrecht was stationed. Just as he got there a bullet took him; and he staggered and dropped his rifle. Big Jan jumped forward to catch him before he toppled over the ledge, but the Australian struck Jan in the mouth with his clenched fist and fell over into the ravine below and was killed.

"We killed and wounded an awful lot of them, but some got away; they fought their way out. I saw a long row of their dead and wounded laid out on the slope of a farmhouse that evening—they were all young men, fine big fellows. I could have cried to look at them lying so cold and still."

#### HEROISM OF COLONIAL TROOPS.

A special correspondent at the front in South Africa writes thus enthusiastically concerning the Australian troops and their heroism:

"It seems but yesterday since Major-General Hutton commanded in New South Wales. Now he commands the Australasian Brigade in South Africa. A federal force at the front is an accomplished fact. The scattered Australasian units have been brought together, and welded into a very efficient fighting brigade. Much good ought to result from the new order of things. The fighting material was there; it needed but organization to put it into shape.

"The choice of a brigadier is a particularly happy one. Major-General Hutton knows his men—Australasians and Canadians. It has long been Lord Roberts' desire that the colonial troops, as a body, should form a distinct fighting unit. Innumerable difficulties stood in the way, but the genius of 'Bobs' overcame all in a manner that effectually quenched the slumbering fire of dissatisfaction. With any of the local Australasian officers in command there would have been trouble in store for the brigade, but no exception is taken to our ex-commandant's appointment. He is the old indefatigable Hutton—the tireless worker and keen administrator.

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