

THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR BEGINS

Brief History of the Progress and Chief Incidents of the South African Struggle.

London, Oct. 21.—A little over two years ago on Oct. 11, 1899, the British troops in the Transvaal territory and began the war. The British troops upon the spot, weak in number, were hard put to it to hold their own. In the second battle of Mafeking and Kimberley were at once invested by the enemy in overwhelming strength. In Natal, Sir P. Snyman was attacked by a large Boer force on Oct. 20. The enemy were defeated, and heavy loss was inflicted upon them, but the British general was killed. The victory was quite fruitless, as the troops had retreated to retreat, abandoning their baggage and wounded.

A day later, at Elandsfontein, the Boers were again defeated and severely handled, while on Oct. 23, at Bloemfontein, yet a third action was fought. Next day the British army in Natal effected its concentration, and was compelled to offer battle at Ladysmith on Oct. 30 against overwhelming strength. The issue of the battle was disastrous. The enemy cut off and captured 1000 men at Nicholson's Nek, and on Nov. 2 isolated Ladysmith.

On Nov. 12 the first troops of the army of the Transvaal, in which General Buller had decided to take part, were sent to the relief of Ladysmith. He divided his force, and took with him only 15,000 men, the remainder being held in reserve. The magnitude of the struggle was now becoming apparent to all, a fifth division had been mobilized in England on Nov. 11, and Sir C. Warren placed in command of it.

The Cape in Danger. Meantime in Cape Colony the position was anything but cheerful. The Boer force of 10,000 men was known to be profoundly disaffected. A bold advance would undoubtedly have carried the Boer flag into the heart of the Cape Colony. But for some unexplained reason, the Boers did not press forward. They crossed the Orange River, occupied the towns of Oudshoorn and Swartkops, but then remained inactive for some most critical days.

With the arrival of the first reinforcements at Cape Town, the Boers were driven back under the invaders. The first was placed under Lord Methuen, and the second under Buller. On Nov. 21, Lord Methuen, with 48,000 men, was ordered to advance on the Orange. He equipped with mounted men, it could do nothing but bar its route. On Nov. 23 it started the strong position of Belmont, with a loss of 100 men, and two days later repeated its achievement at Giesberg, with a loss of 134.

Magersfontein. The Boer general Cronje down from the siege of Mafeking to oppose it. The Boer force was placed in a line of 480 men. The Boers were ordered to disengage the Boer force, but the Boers refused to do so. The Boers were ordered to disengage the Boer force, but the Boers refused to do so. The Boers were ordered to disengage the Boer force, but the Boers refused to do so.

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