

THE BATTLE UNDECIDED

Particulars of Yesterday's Engagement Between the British and Boer Armies Near Ladysmith.

TWO REGIMENTS ARE MISSING

After Several Hours' Fighting Our Troops Returned to Ladysmith—Naval Brigade Did Good Work—Artillery Duel.

London, Oct. 30.—A dispatch has been received at the war office regarding the fighting at Ladysmith. Gen. White's message, dated to-day, 6:30 p.m., was as follows: "I employed all the troops here except the obligatory garrison before the works. I sent a mountain battery, the Irish Fusiliers and the Gloucesters to take up a position on the hills to clear my left flank.

seeing that the troops on the right were somewhat pressed, sent to their assistance the whole centre column with the expectation of the Devonshire Regiment. The battle had then lasted four hours, during which the artillery fire on both sides had been almost incessant. The Naval Brigade, which landed at Durban, had arrived on the scene to ward the end of the fighting, and immediately brought their heavy guns into play. Their firing was magnificent. At the fourth shot the enemy's 40-pounders had been knocked out of action. The town is now, therefore, freed from apprehension of bombardment.

"We found this position evacuated, but our force was attacked with considerable vigor by what I believe were Gen. Joubert's troops. They had many guns and showed in great numbers. "Our troops were all in action, and we pushed the enemy back several miles, but did not succeed in reaching his laager.

The Naval Brigade. Ladysmith, Oct. 30.—(1:25 p.m.)—The Naval Brigade arrived this morning at 9:30, and has just commenced firing with six quick-firing guns, with great precision. The Boer 40-pounders, which had again begun to shell the town, were temporarily disabled at the third and fifth reports. Brisk firing is in progress on the right and left flanks.

Bombarding the Town at a range of over 6,000 yards. The advance was made at dawn with the object of shelling the Boers from the position where yesterday they had mounted a number of guns. On reaching the spot, however, it was found that the British continued to advance, and the movement developed into a reconnaissance in force. The enemy were posted on a range of hills, having a frontage of about 16 miles.

What London War Correspondents Say of Yesterday's Engagement. London, Oct. 31.—The Standard's correspondent with the British forces at Ladysmith telegraphing as to Monday's engagement says: "During the opening stages of the fight I attached myself to the centre column. We marched out before dawn and after covering three miles, halted under a kopje to await developments. In the attack, the first shot was fired at 5:20 a.m. It came from Lombard's Kop, a lofty eminence some five miles to the east of Ladysmith.

Gen. White's Plan of Operations was that as the movement developed the force constituting our centre, which was disposed under cover of a kopje about three miles from the town, should throw itself upon the enemy, while the left flank was being held by the Fusiliers and the Gloucesters.

Por Nearly Two Hours not a shot of ours was returned, save when Long Tom, the name our soldiers had given to the Boer 40-pounder, hurled a shell which was followed with anxious eyes towards the town of Ladysmith. "Presently the enemy's horses were seen streaming on a hill to our left sheltered by rising ground. They occupied a ridge on the left flank and there, hidden by the scrub and trees they could watch the turn of events in safety and await their chance.

A Heavy Counter Attack, and as they were in great force numerically, Gen. White gave orders for the infantry to be gradually withdrawn. The movement was carried out with great steadiness and deliberation, under cover of our guns, which made excellent practice.

The Story of Disaster to the battalions after the stampede of the Mounted Battery makes. "Sir George White, Sir Archibald Hunter and the staff of officers watched the artillery attack which gave the first promise of realization of Gen. White's Plans.

Gen. White, who was with the centre.

of the enemy's searching rifle fire.

time to time gave us an opportunity to judge of their numbers. "At the height of the engagement the noise was almost deafening. Above the rattle of the musketry could be heard the thud of the Maxims and the banging of the quick-fire guns which conspicuously added to the difficulties our men had to encounter.

The following account is from the Daily Telegraph's correspondent: "An indecisive reconnaissance occurred to-day. "Gen. Sir George Stewart White advanced before daybreak (Monday) with all the available forces from Ladysmith, moving towards Tinta Ingoni. Two brigades were under Colonel Ian Hamilton and Howard, and another with Gen. Sir Archibald Hunter went toward Bulwan, while two regiments guided by Major Adye marched on our extreme left beyond the old camp. The Boers were found to be in great force at all points.

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Two Thousand Men and Forty-two Officers Are Now Prisoners--British Loss Is Unknown.

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White May Retire to Pietermaritzburg--Second Army Corps Ordered to Be in Readiness--Commander in Natal Accepts Responsibility.

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"A man of the Fusiliers, employed as hospital orderly, came in under a flag of truce with a letter from the survivors of the column, who asked for assistance to bury the dead.

"I fear there is no doubt of the truth of the report.

"I formed a plan in the carrying out of which the disaster occurred, and I am alone responsible for the plan. There is no blame whatever to the troops, as the position was untenable."

List of Officers. General White, in a subsequent dispatch says: The following is a list of the officers taken prisoners to-day: Staff-Major Adie.

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Gloucestershire Regiment—Major Humphrey, Major Capelgure, Major Wallace, Capt. Duncan, Capt. Conner, Lieut. Bryant, Lieut. Nisbet, Lieut. Ingraham, Lieut. Davy, Lieut. Knox, Lieut. Temple, Lieut. Radice, Lieut. Bruel, Lieut. Hill, Lieut. Short, Lieut. Smith, Lieut. Mackenzie, Lieut. Bensley, Lieut. Gray. Of the above Captains Duncan and Conner were wounded.

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