

NOTICE OF SALE.

To James Wolverton of the Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton in the Province of New Brunswick, Blacksmith, and Alice M. Wolverton his wife, and all others whom it may concern:

TAKE NOTICE that there will be sold by Public Auction in front of the office of D. McLeod Vince, Barrister-at-Law, on King Street, in the Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, on THURSDAY the ELEVENTH day of OCTOBER next at the hour of three of the clock, in the afternoon, the following lands and premises namely:—All that certain lot piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the said Town of Woodstock, on the East side of Richmond Street, and bounded and described as follows, to-wit:—“Commencing at an iron stake placed in the South West angle of a Lot leased by the said R. E. Guy Smith to one Amaziah Wright by Indenture of Lease dated that first day of June A. D. 1894, thence Easterly along the South line of said Wright lot to the River Saint John, thence South-easterly along the said River to the North line of land owned and occupied by H. N. Payson, thence Westerly along the North line of said Payson's lot to the East line of Richmond Street aforesaid, thence Northerly along East side of said Street to the place of beginning, Excepting and reserving out of said lot the right of way across the said lot of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Ferry Road.” Together with the buildings and improvements thereon.

The Above Sale will be held under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in a certain Assignment of Lease by way of Mortgage bearing dated thirtieth day of October A. D. 1895 and made between the said James Wolverton and Alice M. Wolverton his wife of the one part and Sarah Hazen of the said Town of Woodstock, Spinster, since deceased and Elizabeth Chipman Hazen of the said Town of Woodstock, Spinster of the other part which said Assignment of Lease by way of Mortgage is Registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in and for the said County of Carleton in Book U Number Three of Records on pages 753, 754 and 755, default having been made in the payment of the money thereby secured.

Dated this First day of September A. D. 1900.
ELIZABETH C. HAZEN.

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**WARREN'S FRIGHTFUL
SPION KOP BLUNDER.**

LONDON, Sept. 8.—Douglas Story writes in the Daily Mail: To those of us who know the working of the war, the publication of a summary of Sir Charles Warren's reported explanation of the battle of Spion Kop must bring much food for reflection.

In considering this terrible engagement no British commentator has yet seized upon the crux of the whole matter. Briefly stated that is—Spion Kop at no time was the key to the Boer position, and was from the outset demonstrably untenable.

It is true that it was a bastion hill, a position of enormous value to the Boers holding the long lines of hills from Acton Homes to Spion Kop and from Spion Kop to Vaal Krantz. But it was a wholly untenable position for a force that did not hold the commanding hills to right and left.

Louis Botha himself told me that had the British succeeded in holding the mountains over the night of the 24th, had they managed to drag the naval 12-pounders to the summit, and had they marched their reinforcements there it would only have made his victory the greater.

THE INITIAL ERROR.

To understand his reasoning is simple in the extreme. The science of war is the application of common sense to a specific military purpose, and to explain any military position it is not necessary to encumber oneself with technicalities or cumbersome terminology.

The British theorem was that, since Spion Kop was a high hill forming the point of an angle between two lines of hills of not superior height, it would be possible from there to enfilade those two ranges. It did not occur to the preliminary council of war that if upon those hills one had a superior force of artillery it would be possible from them to enfilade the position of Spion Kop. Since those hills possessed much greater area and better facilities for cover, the superiority of force must always lie with the troops occupying them.

For five days General Buller's army had assailed one of those lines of hills, and had been forced to retire on the 22nd. It was evident, then, that the positions were strongly held, and the British commander-in-chief was in possession of all the salient factors of the case when he consented to an attack upon Spion Kop.

THE BOER ARTILLERY.

Upon Spion Kop, before the dawn of the 24th, the Boers had trained a Crucesot 94-pounder, four Krupp 12-pounders, and three or four bomb Maxims. Those were aimed to hit a writhing mass of 5,000 men upon an exposed plateau five acres in extent.

Our soldiers were without exception riflemen, and had not so much as the moral support of a bomb Maxim with them. They had to stand like dumb driven sheep against a fire that raked them from the north, east and west. Occasionally from the south the British batteries pitched a shell among the herd to signify that no mercy existed anywhere on earth for them.

Theoretically, then, our soldiers were marched to a hopeless death when General Woodgate led them up the steep sides of Spion Kop on the night of January 23 last.

Arrived at the summit, General Woodgate committed the same blunder Sir George Colley made at Majuba Hill nineteen years before. He occupied the geographical instead of the military crest of the hill. It is one of the elementary rules of tactics that where a hill has a top, a short dip, and then a long steep descent, the crest commanding the long approach is that to be occupied by the defending force.

By neglecting this crest on the night of February 26, 1881, General Colley allowed Nicolaas Smit with seventy men to advance under its cover and to attack him from its rim on the morning of the 27th. By neglecting an exactly similar crest on the night of January 23, 1900, General Woodgate allowed Sarel Oosthuizen with forty men of the Krugersdorp commando to climb up under its cover and to attack him from its rim on the morning of the 24th.

In this way a position originally untenable through its known exposure to a terrible enfilading and converging artillery fire was turned into a shambles by the Boer sharpshooters, who had been permitted to occupy good cover 300 yards from the packed mass of British troops.

COLONEL THORNEYCROFT'S PART.

For neither of these fatal errors of judgment and ordinary military competency was Colonel Thorneycroft in any sense responsible. The blame lies with the chiefs who designed the attack.

To emphasize this it must be remembered that, although Sir Charles Warren speaks of "the arrival of reinforcements of British artillery," not one gun ever commenced the ascent of the hill—such guns as could have been sent to the summit could never have stood against the Boer 94-pounder, and would have been outranged by the Boer Krupps.

Mr. Winston Churchill, who is not naturally considered a timorous man, or one

afraid of a bold enterprise; says, speaking of the project to haul up two long-range 12-pounders: "I do not believe that the attempt would have succeeded, or that the guns could have been in position by daylight."

I do not desire in this article to distract attention from the bald essentials of the case by any reference to detail. But in justice to Colonel Thorneycroft and defence of his determination to save "six good battalions rather than to await a mop-up in the morning," I would point out that he has a reputation second to none throughout South Africa for reckless bravery; that he had received no single order from his chief from his assumption of command until after he had ordered the retreat; that his signallers had been killed, his heliograph instruments smashed, and his signal lamps unprovided with oil; that no staff officer climbed the hill from dawn to dusk, and that Sir Charles Warren's "principal aide-de-camp" was Mr. Winston Churchill, an intrepid newspaper correspondent, but not a responsible military officer.

THE BOERS WHO FLED.

In connection with Sir Charles Warren's contention that the Boers were in full flight, and if the position had been held over night it need never have been abandoned I have something to say.

That section of the Boers forces commanded by General Schalk Burger was in full flight is undoubted. Their weak-kneed command did not draw rein for forty miles. But this was only a force acting in support of Louis Botha.

I have talked over this matter with the Commandant-General, and I understand that he would have been glad enough to withdraw his men from the summit and so give freer play to his artillery, but men like Oosthuizen, who fought on with three wounds in his body, refused to retire.

After all, the fate of Spion Kop was sealed by the big guns on Thaba Myama and Jantjes.

It now remains for me to attract attention to a phase of the fight which has never yet been referred to in print.

No provision was made for a possible withdrawal of the troops from Spion Kop. The enterprise was from the outset a desperate one, and yet the chiefs of the army never stopped to consider how they could extract their men should they find the position untenable.

Theoretically it was impossible to withdraw a single man from Spion Kop in the face of the Boer batteries.

"As the infantry retired the enemy would have commanding ground from which to assail them at every point. We all prepared ourselves for a bloody and even disastrous rearguard action. Buller arrived on the field calm, cheerful, inscrutable as ever, rode hither and thither with a weary staff and a huge note-book, gripped the whole business in his strong hands, and so shook it into shape, that we crossed the river in safety, comfort and good order, with most remarkable mechanical precision, and without the loss of a single man or a pound of stores. . . A successful retreat is a poor thing for a relieving army to boast of when their gallant friends are hard pressed and worn out. But this withdrawal showed that this force possesses both a leader and machinery of organization, and it is this, and this alone, that has preserved our confidence.

Mr. Winston Churchill says on this point:

And yet away up there on the kopjes Louis Botha stood silent and pale, his strong jaw firm set, and beside him four 12-pounder Krupps trained on the pontoons, the defeated army was wearily dragging across. The Boer gunners strained at the runnions eager for the word to fire. I tell the tale exactly as it was told to me by Colonel Ricciardi and Captain Rosseger, who commanded the Boers' Italian scouts:

"We and other foreign officers rode over to General Botha and demanded that he should fire the guns he had trained upon the pontoons. He was very pale and spoke slowly, saying: 'If you please, gentlemen, I am in command here. Will you leave me alone?'"

"We retired, but it was impossible to stay there and see so great an opportunity thrown away. We again went to him and begged him to fire. Again he turned and merely said 'No.'"

"It was too much, so we approached him again. This time he sprang at us as though he would strangle us: 'For God's sake gentlemen will you be silent! My strict orders, heliographed from the Commandant General this morning, are not to fire a shot at a fleeing man.'"

And so the unmilitary humanity of a Boer general saved Spion Kop from being an Austerlitz, but it did not save the British commanders from their responsibility in leading their army into so terrible a position.

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Happiness grows at our own firesides and is not to be picked in strangers' gardens.—Douglas Jerrold.

There is hardly any malignity so intolerable that it may not be overcome by repeated favors.—Dion.

He only confers favors generously who appears when they are once conferred to remember them no more.—Johnson.