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BEACON HILL FIGHT.

Gen. Hildyard's Recent Success One of the Best Things of the Campaign.

Relieved the Tension of the Situation in Natal, and Brought the Relief of Ladysmith Within Measureable Distance.

Some Anxiety Being Felt in London as to the Whereabouts of the Ninth Lancers, Which a Berlin Paper States Were Captured—G. W. Steevens' Pen Picture of the Scene After the Battle of Elandslaagte.

BATTLE OF BELMONT.

LONDON, Nov. 25, 5 a m.—Thus far the special despatches describing the battle of Belmont bear a stereotyped character, proving that the hand of the censor has been at work upon them. They are too incoherent to enable the reader to form an accurate idea of the event or to place a proper estimate upon the value of the victory. All the accounts agree respecting the splendid fighting qualities exhibited on both sides. All admit, however, that the victory could not be properly followed up and utilized, owing to the want of sufficient cavalry.

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

ENGAGEMENT AT WILLOW GRANGE.

DURBAN, Nov. 24.—The Natal Advertiser confirms the report of fighting near Willow Grange. It says:

"Five thousand British left Estcourt Wednesday afternoon for a reconnaissance. They surprised the Boers at 3 o'clock Thursday morning and occupied the Boer position, bayonetting eighty of the enemy.

"At daybreak the Boers opened with quick firers. 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."

BOER LOSS OVER 500.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—The Daily Mail publishes the following despatch from Belmont, describing the battle: "The Boers held a position which British troops would hold against almost any force. The British victory is complete. My estimate of the Boer losses is 500 killed and 150 wounded."

WORD FROM GEN. WHITE.

Gen. White's despatch of Wednesday effectually disposes of all rumors of another sortie from Ladysmith, and of the defeat of the Boers. The situation in Natal remains unchanged.

The sortie from Estcourt to Willow Grange has effected little.

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

Gen. Buller's destination is kept a strict secret at Cape Town.

A despatch to the Times from Mooi River gives the British casualties in the Willow Grange affair as three killed and 44 wounded.

This is the first news of such a heavy loss, and if it is correct, suggests a repetition of Gen. White's unfortunate action of October 30.

UNITED STATES INSISTS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—Mr. Macrum, the United States consul at Pretoria, has been instructed by cable to impress upon President Kruger that in the view of this government the usages of all civilized nations sanction the ministration of a neutral representative in the interest of their 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. This is practically an announcement of the insistence of our government upon the execution of the trust it assumed to look after the interests of British citizens in the South African republic.

CESTRIAN CHARTERED.

BOSTON, Nov. 4.—The Leyland steamer Cestrian, Captain Thomas, which sailed from here Nov. 16 for Liverpool, and is due there tomorrow, was chartered today by the British admiralty for transport service in connection with the war in South Africa.

THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT.

TORONTO, Nov. 24.—The Telegram's special cable from London says: A private telegram from Cape Town states that the transport Sardinian, bearing the Canadian South African contingent, has arrived. A correspondent made enquiries at the war office but received no confirmation, nothing being known there of the Sardinian's arrival at Cape Town. The Canadian contingent will march through the town, and a holiday will be proclaimed in Cape Town in honor of the occasion.

COLONIAL TROOPS UNDER FIRE.

MONTREAL, Nov. 24.—The Star's special cable from London says: The New South Wales government being first to rally to the British cause in South Africa, their contingent was the first to taste blood. Today's Cape cablegram announces that a troop of the New South Wales Lancers was included in General French's reconnoitering force yesterday, which was fired upon by the Boers near Arundel.

LONDON, Nov. 27, 5 a. m.—No further news respecting Lord Methuen's advance has been received, and the absence of official details regarding his loss creates the greatest suspense, especially since the publication of the heavy sacrifices endured by the naval brigade. No alarm, however, is felt as to his position, despite the evidence that the Boers intend to contest every foot of the way.

DESPERATE FIGHTING.

The fact that in the Gras Pan action one British battery fired 500 rounds proves the desperate nature of the fight, and there is little doubt that the casualties were heavy.

Meanwhile the news from Natal is distinctly more hopeful from the British point of view. The details are rather vague, but it seems certain that the Boers are retiring, that every communication is being re-opened and that the British relief forces are joining hands. All this taken with General Buller's arrival at Pietermaritzburg, is expected to make matters move briskly very soon.

TROOP SHIPS ARRIVING.

The troopship Medic arrived at Cape Town yesterday with the Australian contingent. The Pindari and the Idaho arrived there Saturday, bringing three batteries of artillery. The Servia, with troops, has left Cape Town for Durban, and the transport Mohawk and Manchester Port have arrived at Durban.

SITUATION IN NATAL.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—The position in Natal remains full of perplexities, which the censorship has increased. Although a division and a half have now reached Durban, that place is practically powerless until supplies, with cavalry and artillery, and until these arrive the situation will undoubtedly remain grave. With three beleaguered garrisons in Natal, besides Kimberley and Mafeking, and no signs of succor in the immediate future, it is no wonder that the outlook is regarded as distinctly gloomy tonight, and that the most possible is made of Gen. Metheun's success, such as it was.

IN A BAD PLIGHT.

It will not surprise anyone greatly if the Boers are shortly again discovered in an entrenched position near the spot from which Gen. Methuen has just evicted them. From no other point can even a semblance of success be reported. Mafeking is apparently in worse plight than the Britishers have hitherto cared to admit, and it is difficult to see how it can be relieved for some time to come.

A Cape Town despatch received at a late hour tonight reports that the enemy has blown up a railway bridge between Rosmead Junction and Middleburg, with the object of preventing an advance from Port Elizabeth.

The effect of blowing up this bridge will tend to isolate Naauwpoort, which was recently re-occupied by the British and must delay the advance of the troops just arrived at Port Elizabeth.

BATTLE AT GRAS PAN.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—This afternoon the war office posted the following despatch, dated Cape Town, 12.20 p. m. today, from General Forestier-Walker:

"Lord Methuen reports that he moved yesterday (Saturday) at 3.30 a. m., with the Ninth Brigade, the Mounted Corps, the Naval Brigade and two batteries, the Guards following with the baggage. Near Gras Pan (about 10 miles north of Belmont, on the railway line to Kimberley) 2,500 Boers, with six guns and two machine guns, opposed him. The action began at 6 a. m. Our batteries fired shrapnel very accurately till the heights seemed clear. Then the naval brigade and infantry advanced to the assault. The fighting was desperate until 10 a. m., when the heights were carried. The Boers retreated on the line, where the Ninth Lancers were placed to intercept them. The result was not known at the time of telegraphing. The artillery took immediate advantage of the enemy's retirement.

REAR GUARD ATTACKED.

"Early in the action 500 Boers attacked our rear guard. The brigade met this and also protected the flanks. The Naval Brigade acted with the greatest gallantry and suffered heavily, but no particulars are yet known.

"The enemy showed the greatest stubborness and must have suffered greatly. Twenty were buried. It is known that 31 were killed and 49 wounded. More than fifty horses were found dead in one place. One battery fired 500 rounds.

"Our force must halt one day at Gras Pan to rest and replenish ammunition. The force worked splendidly and is prepared to overcome any difficulty. The naval brigade, the Royal Marines, the Light Infantry and the First Battalion of the North Lancashire Regiment especially distinguished themselves.

ABOUT THURSDAY'S FIGHT.

"Regarding Thursday's fight: 81 Boer killed are accounted for. Sixty-four wagons were burned. A large quantity of power, 50,000 rounds of ammunition and 750 shells were blown up. Commandant Albrecht (chief of the Orange Free State Artillery) commanded the Boer Artillery. Gen. Bolewy was in chief command."

WOUNDED DOING WELL.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—A further despatch from Cape Town, dated yesterday, says:

"The officers, non-commissioned officers and men in the hospital at Wynberg, are doing well, except a driver and a gunner, both of whom are seriously ill. Two privates have died of pneumonia. The Belmont wounded are due here tomorrow by the ambulance train. Lord Methuen is in heliograph communication with Kimberley."

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 26, midnight—The Boers occupied Stormberg, Cape Colony, Sunday morning.

THE BOER LOSS.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 26.—Reports received here of the brilliant success of Lord Methuen at Gras Pan say that the Boers had eighty killed and many wounded, and that the British took numerous prisoners.

On the arrival of the Belmont wounded with the Boer prisoners taken in that engagement, most of the wounded will be lodged in Beaufort hospital, where 125 beds have been prepared.

One of the Boer prisoners who was wounded in the Orange River engagement, on being asked what he thought of the British bayonet charge, answered: "Almighty! do you think I waited for that?"

GRAS PAN CASUALITIES.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—The admiralty is in receipt of the following despatch from Rear Admiral Harris, dated Cape Town, Nov. 26:

"I deeply regret to repont the following casualties in the action at Gras Pan yesterday:

"Killed—Commander Ethelston of the Powerful; Major Plumbe, of the Doris; Capt. Guy Senior, of the Monarch.

"Wounded—Flag Capt. Prothero, of the Doris, severely; Lieut. Jones of the Doris.

"The other casualties are not yet known. Commander DeHorsey, Capt. Morgan and Lieut. Wilson, all of the Monarch, have proceeded to join the naval brigade with Lord Methuen."

THE WHITE FLAG TRICK.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 26.—The Cape Argus says: Lord Methuen's letter to the Boer commandant warned him that the British commander would not recognize anything but a fair flag of truce, adding: "To place a white handkerchief on a rifle and to take advantage of your enemy is a cowardly action, which neither you nor I can countenance."

THE GUARDS LOST HEAVILY.

LONDON, Nov. 26.—At Wellington barracks, London, the following telegram, undated, was posted from Col. Crabbe of the Grenadier Guards, respecting the fight at Belmont:

"The Grenadiers on the right and the Scots Guards on the left, successfully carried a height east of Belmont. The battalion fully maintained the reputation of the regiment."

The casualty list show that, in addition to Lieut. Fryer, killed, and Colonel Crabbes, six other officers wounded, 21 men were killed and 88 wounded, with five unaccounted for.

SEIZED THE MAGAZINE.

CAPE TOWN, Saturday, Nov. 25.—A despatch from Queenstown says the mayor of Barkley East, who has arrived there, asserts that last Wednesday seventy well known Barkley East farmers seized the local magazine with 300 Martinis and 4,000 rounds of ammunition. They wore Orange Pugarees, made a lively demonstration and rode through Hartley's bar and billiard room. During the evening 130 Free State Burghers arrived and immediately joined them.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 26 (evening).—The Boer prisoners from Belmont arrived this evening. The wounded prisoners were sent to the military hospital at Wynberg, and the others to the convict station, which has been converted into a military prison. All appeared to have lost heart and were in a frightfully dilapidated condition.

War—Last.

SITUATION IN NATAL.

DURBAN, Nov. 26 (noon).—Telegraphic communication with Escourt has been restored.

DURBAN, Saturday, Nov. 25.—Sir Redvers Buller, looking the pink of health, arrived here this evening and immediately proceeded up country in the governor's car. He was enthusiastically cheered by the people.

ESTCOURT, Nov. 26.—Commandant Gen. Joubert is retiring from Mooi River on Ladysmith.

DURBAN, Saturday, Nov. 25.—Advices from Mooi River, say that a Kaffir brought in yesterday, who was impressed at Johannesburg and allotted to Gen. Joubert as a servant, asserts that General Joubert and four sons, with a commando are coming south. The Kaffir estimates the Boer strength at from 2,000 to 3,000 men. According to his story, the British smashed one or two of the enemy's big guns at Ladysmith. There was a heavy thunderstorm at Mooi last night. All is quiet there and two guns for the brigade have arrived.

DURBAN, Nov. 26 (noon).—Advices from Mooi River announce a reconnaissance in force with the troops still out.

CHARGE OF THE YORKSHIRES.

"The West Yorkshires were moving stealthily along and were within bayonet striking distance when a nervous private fired his rifle. This warned the Boers and they fled. The Yorkshires charged as best they could, clearing the Boers from the final position just at daybreak, with three ringing cheers.

"The Boers rallied and attempted to rifle the British down, but when the bugle sounded the charge and the British responded with cheers, the enemy fled and the position was won. The Boers left heaps of guns, ammunition, rifles and blankets, as well as thirty horses. The British took several prisoners.

"The object of the reconnaissance, which was to prevent the enemy taking up certain positions which overlook East Estcourt, having been attained, the column gradually retired to camp, while the artillery and some infantry held Beacon Hill. The British loss is estimated at eight in killed and forty-two wounded."

ESTCOURT RELIEVED.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—Special despatches from Pietermaritzburg announce the arrival of Gen. Buller there. He met with a splendid reception.

Railway communication between Estcourt and Mooi River has been restored by Lord Dundonald's forces and the Mooi River column entered Estcourt yesterday (Sunday), the Estcourt column immediately starting to advance toward Colenso.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—A special despatch from Estcourt, dated Sunday, says:

"The Mooi River column has joined Gen. Hilyard's forces and is bivouacking this morning at Frere, about midway between Estcourt and Colenso."

WILLOW GRANGE FIGHT.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—A special despatch from Estcourt, dated Thursday, Nov. 23, and describing the engagement at Willow Grange, says:

"Gen. Hilyard's plans were to attack Beacon Hill and the hill beyond with the bayonet. Both were occupied by the Boers in force, with entrenchments and with four guns in position on Beacon Hill, which is about 150 feet high. A column under the command of Gen. Hilyard marched five miles over undulating ground and then began the stern work of climbing the height. A heavy naval gun and battery of field artillery were dragged by sheer strength and with the greatest difficulty over the veldt and up the almost inaccessible eminence.

"The Boers retired on the off-side of Beacon Hill, while the British were climbing the near side. At this moment a terrific thunderstorm of torrantial rain and hail stones burst, continuing for hours. At 6 o'clock the weather cleared and a few artillery and rifle exchanges closed the day's operations, darkness falling and the prospect being very dismal. The heavy rain was renewed, but when the storm had spent itself, the British march was resumed, until, after several hours of dangerous and tedious work, climbing the hills and crossing swollen rivulets, the advanced pickets of the Boers were reached in the small hours of the morning.

FROM THE BOER LINES.

PRETORIA, Nov. 25.—An official despatch from the Boer head laager outside of Ladysmith, dated Friday, Nov. 24th, says:

"The garrison at Ladysmith was strangely quiet yesterday. The cannonade today hardly evoked a response. The balloon no longer soars. The third big cannon which the Boers have baptized "Suzerainty," was placed in position today. The German officers arrived last night.

"The Boer generals think they will encompass the fall of Ladysmith at the end of this week.

"There was a terrific thunderstorm last night. Four Boers guarding a cannon were struck by lightning."

A LETTER FROM JOUBERT.

BERLIN, Nov. 26.—The Deutsche Zeitung publishes a letter purporting to come from Gen. Joubert, and dated at Ladysmith, Oct. 24th, in which the writer says:

"Even if we don't succeed in preventing the concentration of General Buller's troops, the British army will be weakened from natural causes to such an extent that not more than 35,000 efficient troops, or 40,000 at the outside, can take the field. The others must be employed to protect communication. In this connection it is to be borne in mind that not only Natal, but Cape Colony, with a base of operations covering 435 miles, must be considered.

WILL CONTEST EVERY FOOT.

"Our bases of supply are at home and organized on the relay system in three directions. To protect these does not require 500 men. If one base should be seriously threatened, the supplies will be destroyed. A war of defence, of which we need not think for a considerable time, would present far greater advantages than an offensive war. We are at home in the highlands of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The British will have to contest every step under inconceivable difficulties and must be prepared at every moment to fight on two or three fronts.

A GUERILLA WAR.

"Then will begin a guerilla war which the British will not be able to endure. Already we have 50,000 men in the field. So we do not need to calculate upon a rising of the Boers in Cape Colony and Natal. Nevertheless, if the British stir up the natives and employ them to fight us, a rising of the whole of Afrikanderdom is certain."

FORMAL NOTIFICATION.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 26.—The Russian newspapers announce that the British charge d'affaires has informed the Russian government that Great Britain has been in a state of war with the Dutch republics in South Africa since October 11th.

The Svet, commenting on this, says: "England, in giving this notification, withdraws her declaration that she is not carrying on war, but is merely subjugating rebels."

The Novoe Vremya, which attributes far reaching importance to the British notification, says:

"The powers are now in a position to send not only Red Cross agents, but military agents as well, and they may judge this a fitting time to intervene, especially as the Afrikanders are going more and more to the Boer side."

BERLIN, Nov. 26.—The Reichs Zanzeiger announced that Great Britain has notified Germany that since Oct. 11 a state of war has existed with the two Dutch republics.

The Kolnisch Zeitung, commenting upon this, says:

"The announcement is of two-fold importance. In the first place, it proves that England receded from her former view point of regarding the Boers as mere rebels; and secondly, it imposes upon all Germans the duty of preserving strict neutrality."

PREPARING A WELCOME.

TORONTO, Ont., Nov. 26.—The Telegram's special cable from London, Nov. 25th, says: A despatch to the Daily Mail says the New Zealand contingent has been sent to Green Point camp to await the arrival of the Canadian South African regiment, when the two contingents will march through the city together. There will be an official welcome in Cape Town in front of the town hall, and a formal address will be presented them.

LONDON, Nov. 28, 4.30 a. m.—A fresh interruption in the East African cable service at this interesting moment has caused a cessation of war news. As yet the war office has not received Lord Methuen's detailed list of casualties, nor is any information at hand regarding the whereabouts of the 9th Lancers, who were sent in pursuit of the Boers from Gras Pan.

ANXIETY ABOUT THE LANCERS.

The Daily Mail says that a private telegram announces that the Lancers are still scouting ahead of Methuen's advancing column; but, as he announced yesterday that he was giving his men a day's rest, this is hardly possible. Indeed the greatest anxiety is felt, and more especially in view of the fact that a Berlin journal, the Deutsche Warte, which regularly prints Boer communications, announced yesterday, before it could have been ascertained from British sources, that the naval brigade lost one hundred men at Gras Pan, and that the 9th Lancers were captured.

It is understood that the government yesterday decided to proceed immediately with the mobilization of a sixth division of 10,000 men under a well known lieutenant general.

RELIEVED THE TENSION.

Gen. Hildyard's achievement at Beacon Hill is beginning to be recognized as one of the best things the campaign has yet shown as it has relieved the tension of the situation in Natal, and has brought the relief of Ladysmith within measurable distance.

Gen. Buller appears to be confident of Lord Methuen's ability and is devoting all his energy to Ladysmith.

LOSSES AT BEACON HILL.

DURBAN, Nov. 26.—The latest reports of Gen. Hildyard's losses at the Beacon Hill engagement show fifteen men were killed and seventy-two wounded. The Yorkshire regiment suffered heavily. Major Hobbs was captured and several men are missing. Despatches from President Kruger and Gen. Joubert, found on a Boer prisoner, said the Boer losses at Belmont were ten men killed and forty wounded. In order to reassure the burghers it had been deemed necessary to fall back on Warrentown. A pigeon message from Colonels Ian Hamilton and Duff at Ladysmith, undated, reports all well. Another naval contingent from the British first-class cruiser Terrible, with two 4.7 inch guns, started for the front tonight.

RAILWAY BRIDGE DESTROYED.

ESTCOURT, Nov. 26.—The railway bridge at Frere, spanning a wide stream, has been destroyed by the Boers, who are reported to be retiring rapidly. A general advance upon Colenso has been ordered and a flying column has left here to intercept the Boer raiding parties. A reliable messenger from Ladysmith says he gathered from Boers that they had proposed a combined attack all over the country for today. General Joubert is expected to stoutly dispute the passage of Tugela river.

CAPE TOWN, Nov 27 (afternoon).—It is reported that Gen. Methuen has captured Honeynest Kloop, ten miles north of Gras Pan, and two million rounds of ammunition.

"ALL THE WORLD HAD HEARD IT."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The British ambassador, Lord Pauncefote, has informed the secretary of state that, in view of a doubt, which appears to exist whether Her Majesty's government recognize that the hostilities now in course of progress in South Africa constitute a state of war between Great Britain and the two South African republics, he had been directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform the secretary of state as an act of courtesy that the South African republic and the Orange Free State having declared war against Her Majesty, the Queen, and having invaded the British colonies of the Cape and Natal, a state of war has actually existed since the 11th of October, between England and the South African republic and the Orange Free State.

CAME OUT UNINJURED.

OTTAWA, Nov. 25.—News from the British war office, just received by Justice Girouard, informs him that his son, Lt.-Col. Girouard, director of railways, South Africa, had come out uninjured through the Belmont skirmish on the 10th November. It will be remembered that the British force consisted of a reconnoitering party from Orange River to Belmont, and was composed of two squadrons of the Ninth Lancers, a battery of field artillery, and one and one half companies of mounted infantry under Col. Gough. The enemy occupied a good position, with guns about nine miles west of Belmont. The fighting lasted about five hours and the British were forced to retire to their camp, losing a few men. Lt.-Col. Keith Falconer was killed and Lt. Wood and others wounded during the engagement. Lt. Wood, who originally came from Halifax, N. S., died the following day.

A GENEROUS DONATION.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—Sir Thomas Lipton, in view of the fact that his steam yacht Erin cannot be utilized by the government as a hospital ship, has sent £10,000 to the Princess of Wales to be used at her discretion for the benefit of the soldiers and sailors. The executive committee of the American ladies' hospital ship fund has received an anonymous gift of £5,000 from the United States, together with a promise of as much more if it should be needed.

THE BIVOUAC.

After the Battle of Elandslaagte.

(Geo. W. Steevens in London Mail.)

LADYSMITH, Oct. 23.—Pursuing cavalry and pursued enemy faded out of our sight; abruptly we realized that it was night. A mob of unassorted soldiers stood on the rock-sown, man-sown hill-side, victorious and helpless.

Out of every quarter of the blackness leaped rough voices. "G Company!" "Devons here!" "Imperial Light Horse!" "Over here!" "Over where?" Then a trip and a heavy stumble and an oath. "Doctor wanted 'ere! 'Elp for a wounded officer! Damn you there, who are you fallin' up against? This is the Gordon Highlanders—what's left of 'em."

Here and there an inkier blackness moving showed a unit that had begun to find itself again.

But for half an hour the hillside was still a maze—a maze of bodies of men wandering

(Continued on Page Eight.)

STUDY FARMING

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