

THE WAR IN THE TRANSVAAL

Latest Despatches from South Africa, where Britons are Fighting Boers.

BOERS TO MAKE A STAND THERE

Gen. Hunter's success at Fourteen Streams - Withdrawal Helter-Skelter and Left Ammunition, Clothing and Personal Effects Behind - Railway Bridge Over the Vet River a Total Wreck

London, May 9. - The War Office has issued the following despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Smaldeal, May 8. Gen. Hutton, with mounted infantry, reconnoitered yesterday to the Zand River and found the enemy in considerable force.

Gen. Broadwood's brigade of cavalry, with Gen. James's infantry force, performed the same operation, with much the same result. Gen. Hunter reports that he occupied Fourteen Streams yesterday without opposition, owing to a great measure to the left bank of the Vaal River at Warrenton, where his artillery fire rendered the enemy's position practically untenable.

ROBERTS REPORTS BRIDGE GONE

That Over Vet River Has Been Hopelessly Damaged. London, May 9. - The following despatch from Lord Roberts has been received at the War Office: "Smaldeal, May 7. - The railway bridge over the Vet River has been hopelessly damaged. This delays supplies coming up. Every few yards charges of rickrack had been laid under the rails. This might have created loss of life, but was fortunately discovered by a West Australian infantryman. Winburg is occupied by the Highland Brigade."

GLOOMY TIDINGS

Making Felt Like Empty Stomachs and Pinched Faces - 4,500 Boers Surround the Place. London, May 9. - (4.10 a.m.) - Four thousand British cavalry watered their horses at Zand River Monday, 25 miles beyond Smaldeal, where Lord Roberts continues to date his despatches.

The scouts, who have been searching the country for miles along the river, have found no Boers south of the river. The enemy are laagered in unknown force on the north bank. Thus the British advance guard is within 45 miles of Kroonstad. The Free Staters, in the expectation that Kroonstad will speedily become untenable, are according to information from Lorenzo Marquez, preparing to transfer their Government to Heilbron, a little more than 50 miles northeast.

All the Boers are fighting. The proclamations of Lord Roberts appear to have little effect on the inhabitants of the invaded districts. Every farm is found deserted, except by the women and children.

TO FIGHT AT ZAND. Where Gen. Hutton and the Advanced Camp of the Colonials Are. Smaldeal, Orange Free State, Monday, May 7. - Gen. Hutton's advanced camp of the colonial regiments is to-night settled at Lodgelegen (Welgelegen) Siding.

According to reports, the Boers intend to make a big stand near the Zand River. The railroad has been repaired to the south side of the Vet River, and the engineers are busy making a deviation across the bed.

British at Fourteen Streams. Warrenton, Cape Colony, Monday, May 7. - A British camp is now being formed at Fourteen Streams. The old railroad bridge can be repaired in a week.

A Boer prisoner says the burghers, who number ten thousand men, are now on their way to Christina.

BOERS STRONGER AT MAFKING. Their Strength Around the Belonged Town 3,000. Lorenzo Marquez, May 6. - A despatch received here from Col. Plumer's camp, bearing date of April 26, states that the Boers around Mafeking have been gradually reinforced, and that their strength is estimated at 3,000.

Col. Plumer has succeeded in communicating with Mafeking by means of carrier pigeons, and is endeavoring to communicate with the southern relief column.

TO KILL LORD ROBERTS. Plot on Foot to Assassinate the British Commander in South Africa. London, May 9. - The Standard hears that information has been officially received of a plot to assassinate Lord Roberts. The latter was warned and that telegrams are now passing between the Cape authorities on the subject.

War Office Knows Nothing. The Parliamentary Secretary for the War Office, Mr. George Wyndham, informs the Associated Press that the War Office has no information to confirm the reports of an alleged plot to assassinate Lord Roberts.

Gloomy Tidings from Mafeking. The tidings from Mafeking are gloomier than ever. Everything there has an empty stomach, and a pinched face. The natives are no longer given even porridge, and the whites now have nothing but a quart of water and a pound of horse-flesh daily. Everything else eatable has gone. Insufficient food, wet trenches and cold nights are deadly to the health of the garrison. This information comes from reliable natives.

Boers Number 4,500. Lady Sarah Wilson under date of April 27, says: "The Boers number 4,500, including young Eloff, President Kruger's grandson, who has sent for six more."

GEN. FRENCH IS AT SMALDEEL.

Famous Cavalry Leader Joins the Main British Column - Boers Quitting the Zand River - Many Burghers Surrender and Deliver Mausers and Horses to the British - Mailer Advancing.

London, May 10. - A despatch to The Daily Telegraph from Smaldeal, dated Tuesday, May 8, says: "Stores are being accumulated here. Convoys are proceeding regularly to the north and also to Winburg. General Hutton's brigade, while skirmishing yesterday, took 60 prisoners."

British Nearing Vryburg. According to British advices, the British are nearing Vryburg, which is half way between Warrenton and Mafeking. Gen. Hunter is probably not in personal command of this relief column. His forces embrace 2,000 infantry, 1,000 to 1,500 horsemen, an army far greater than has hitherto been supposed.

A QUARTETTE LIST.

Canadians Who Disappeared from Bloemfontein and Have Not Been Seen Since the End of April. London, May 9. - (Toronto Telegram Special). - It has been reported to the War Office that Private W. Cooper, of the 62nd St. John Fusiliers; Private W. McIntosh, Royal Canadian Artillery; "E" Company, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry; Pte. George Keswick, 73rd Northumberland Battalion; "G" Company, and Pte. S. Tester, Second Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery, have been missing from Bloemfontein since April 30.

Canadian Wounded at Brandfort. London, May 9. - Pte. Brown, Canadian Mounted Infantry, was slightly wounded at Brandfort on May 5.

BACK FROM ST. HELENA. Canadian Transport Milwaukee Has Arrived at Halifax. Halifax, N.S., May 9. - The transport Milwaukee arrived at 6 o'clock yesterday morning from St. Helena. She had a pleasant passage of 20 days from the island to Halifax.

Captain Webster says that General Cronje was uncommunicative on the voyage from Cape Town to St. Helena, but showed no signs of being unduly cast down over the Boer reverses. The Milwaukee will go into dry dock here and be cleaned and overhauled, afterwards she will probably go to Montreal for a trans-Atlantic cargo.

Expect to Come Home in June. Kingston, Ont., May 9. - Sergt. W. Bruce Carruthers, writing from Bloemfontein, says the Canadians are expecting to start for home in June.

Only One Camp This Year. Ottawa, May 9. - The Militia Department has decided that there will be but one camp for rural battalions this year instead of the two held last year by General Hutton. The London camp will begin on June 12. The Niagara camp starts June 16. The period of 12 days' drill will be adhered to.

Opening of the Volksraad. Pretoria, Monday, May 7. - The official closing of the 1899 Volksraad, which broke up unofficially in September last, occurred this morning. The vacant seats of Gen. Joubert and Gen. De Kock and others were filled with flowers. The hall was crowded with a large number of ladies being present.

In the prayer of the chaplain an allusion to Gen. Joubert and his death was made. The prayer was read and adjourned until the afternoon, when the session of 1900 was inaugurated. The ceremonies were accompanied by the customary salute. President Kruger's speech at the opening was in a hopeful vein.

Hall Kneecapped Peasch Bud. Kingsville, Ont., May 9. - The heaviest hailstorm ever witnessed by the oldest inhabitant passed over here Monday night. Hailstones as large as marbles came down sheets and riddled the buds and blossoms from the peach orchards adjacent to the town suffered considerably, fully one-half of the buds being completely severed from the trees.

Harrow, Ont., May 9. - A heavy hailstorm passed over the southern part of Colchester South Township, taking in a strip of about one mile wide, Monday evening. Every peach tree which was out in bud was stripped.

Famine-stricken India. London, May 9. - The Secretary of State for India, Lord George Hamilton, has received the following message from the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon of Kedleston: "The conditions have materially improved in Madras and Mysore in consequence of the recent rains. In the remainder of the affected districts the distress is increasing in intensity, owing to the want of fodder and water and the increasing heat. The number of persons now in receipt of relief is 5,817,000."

Old Glory Over Tutuila. Auckland, N.Z., May 9. - Advice received from Samoa announces that the American flag has been hoisted over the island of Tutuila, and that the chiefs have made a formal cessation of the island to the United States. The inhabitants of Manua, it is also announced, request the formal hoisting of the American flag over that island, which will likewise be ceded.

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS. Toronto Section Canadian Press Association Wants Paper Duty Suspended and Postage Tax Removed. Toronto, May 11. - An emergency meeting of the Toronto section of the Canadian Press Association was held yesterday and the following resolutions were passed unanimously: "Resolved, that in view of the unfairness of the present law and of the great increase in the price of paper, resulting from the destruction of the mills, the Government be requested to recommend the Government to reduce the postage on newspapers and periodicals."

Resolved, in view of the great rise in paper prices, and in view of the scarcity of some mills, that the Government be requested to recommend the Government to reduce the postage on newspapers and periodicals.

Messrs. W. J. Douglas of The Mail and Empire; J. A. Cooper of The Canadian Magazine; and D. T. McAtamney were appointed a deputation to wait on the Government at Ottawa and press for action on the lines of the resolutions.

BATTLE AT HONNECK.

Montreal Star's Correspondent Tells the Story in Greater Detail - The Canadians Complimented by C. O. Braundfort, May 9. - (Montreal Star special cable). - The forces under Gen. Ian Hamilton, consisting of mounted infantry and Gen. Weir's Canadian Cavalry, including the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, attacked the enemy, which were located in force in the vicinity of Honneck, near Thabanchu, on Monday 10. The Boers occupied a strong position, their right flank holding Thabanchu Mountain, and their left a range of low ridges.

The British column attacked along the whole front of the Boer position, Steyns Expected a Big Battle. New York, May 11. - According to a despatch to the Herald from Zand River, via Johannesburg, President Steyn, in an interview with Richard Harding Davis last Monday, said: "We will fight to the end. Not one of my burghers is unwilling to fight. We have never considered abandoning the Transvaal. We will fight at Pretoria, light at the front, and afterwards in the mountains. We have nothing to gain from peace, everything by fighting. The British are now at Winburg and Virginia. We expect a big battle shortly."

Burgers Want to Fight. London, May 11. - A despatch to The Daily Telegraph from Welgelegen, dated Wednesday, says: "The burghers held a meeting recently, without the consent of President Steyn, at which the advisability of submission on the part of the Free State was discussed and of their women."

Pretoria, Wednesday, May 9. - President Kruger has received a telegram from a burgheress asking if the fine has not arrived for the formation of a corps of women. The burghers are anxious to take up arms in defence of the independence of the Transvaal.

Boers Move to Bethlehem. Maseru, May 6. - The Free Staters are moving in small parties, with their herds, from Ficksburg to Bethlehem, on their way to Harrisburgh or the Vaal.

THE ENEMY'S STRONG POSITION.

British Are Now Pursuing - Battle Lasted From Early Morning Till Afternoon - British Cavalry and Horse Artillery Pursuing Boers by Three Different Roads - Length of the Boer.

London, May 11. - The War Office has received from Lord Roberts a despatch dated Zand River Camp, May 9, saying: "I have a most cheerful telegram from Bader-Powell dated April 27."

Boers Leave Zand River. Lord Roberts telegraphs to the War Office from Welgelegen under date of May 9, evening, as follows: "Pole-Carew's and Tucker's division, Hamilton's column of heavy cavalry and Royal garrison artillery guns, and four brigades of cavalry marched here to-day. The enemy held the opposite bank of the Zand River. Their strength will be ascertained to-morrow, when I hope to be able to force a passage of the river."

New Across the River. Lord Roberts also reports to the War Office as follows: "Cable Cart Headquarters at the front, May 10, 9.15 a.m. We are now across the Zand River. The enemy are still holding a strong position, but we are gradually pushing them back."

Enemy in Full Retreat. The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Zand River, May 10, 12.30 p.m.: "The enemy are in full retreat. They occupied a position twenty miles in length. Ours was necessarily longer. With the widely-scattered force it will take some time to learn the casualties, but I am hopeful we have not suffered much. The enemy's horse artillery is pursuing the Boers by three different roads."

TWO MONTHS.

And Lord Roberts Will Be in the Transvaal Capital, Say the Optimists in the Imperial Column. London, May 11. - (4.05 a.m.) - Members of the House of Commons were freely letting in the lobby last evening, that Lord Roberts would be in Pretoria in two months. The Ministerialists are building confident hopes upon the comprehensive plans he has communicated to the War Office.

Pretorians are definitely made, he will enter Kroonstad next Monday, and it is believed that his advance is probably already reconnoitering in the vicinity of Vervorsburg, where the hilly country begins again. Be-botha and Gen. Dewet are reported to have hurriedly tried to escape. Lord Roberts is pressing hard against this force with 65,000 men and 140 guns, and 20,000 more men are easily available.

The alarmist tone of Lord Salisbury's Prime Minister's speech Wednesday has been much discussed in the lobby of Parliament, and the impression is that the apprehensions of the Premier are even more serious than he expressed. His utterances are ascribed to the recent successes of the Nationalists in France, hatred of England being one of the weapons of the campaign. The revival of military glory, one of the ideals set up in France, is regarded as dangerous to England.

Road Against Kruger. Pretoria, Wednesday, May 9. - The request of the Government for permission to sell mining rights for prices which should be approved by the Government, was rejected by the Raad by a vote of 12 to 9. The session is closed.

Boers Near Helpmakar Outflanked and Forced to Abandon. London, May 14. - A special despatch from Stone Hill Farm, Natal, dated to-day, says: "Stone Hill Farm, Natal, May 14. - Gen. Buller's advance commenced Thursday, when he left Ladysmith in strength. Within two miles of Helpmakar the Boers opened a heavy artillery fire, and the British guns replied, while a portion of Buller's troops worked round the Boer flanks. The British attack was pressed home Sunday. Bethune, on the right, outflanked the Boers, whose splendid defensive positions on the Biggarsberg were practically taken. Gen. Buller's march, subsequent to the attack, was carried out, without a hitch. The British are still pushing on."

WITHOUT A BATTLE.

Lord Roberts Enters Kroonstad Without Fighting. BOER FORCES DEMORALIZED.

Boers Held Strong Positions and Were Completely Demoralized by Lord Roberts' Tactics and Hurriedly Retreated - Steyn Names Lindley as His New Capital - His Men Refused to Fight for Him.

London, May 14. - The War Office has received the following despatch from Gen. Roberts: "Kroonstad, May 12. (2 p.m.) - I entered Kroonstad at 1.30 with-out opposition 10-day, when the Union Jack was hoisted amidst cheers from the few British residents."

Steyn Had Fled. "President Steyn fled last evening, after vainly endeavoring to persuade the burghers to continue opposing us. The Transvaalers said they would no longer fight on Orange Free State soil, and made off for the Vaal River."

The Free Staters accused the Transvaalers of having made use of them and then deserting. Many of the Free Staters have gone to their homes.

Entering the Town. "The procession entering the town was headed by my bodyguard, all of whom were colonials, and after my staff and foreign officers came the North Somerset Imperial division, followed by the Guards and the Eighteenth Brigade, Navals, and Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth and Eighty-Fifth Batteries, two five-inch guns, manned by the Royal Artillery Company and the Twelfth Engineers. The rest of the force encamped around the town."

Before leaving Kroonstad President Steyn issued a proclamation making Lindley the seat of government of the Free State. "General Botha and Dewet accompanied the Transvaalers."

EARLIER BULLETINS. Which Show the Steps Taken to the Big Result. London, May 14. - Lord Roberts telegraphs to the War Office under date of Geneva Siding, May 11, evening, as follows: "My headquarters, with Pole-Carew's division, marched twenty miles to-day and are now at Kroonstad and about six miles from Boschrand, where the Boers are holding entrenched positions. Gordon's brigade is in touch with them; Tucker's division is a short distance southeast and Hamilton's force is still further east."

Broadwood's brigade overtook a part of the enemy's convoy yesterday afternoon at Potgieter's Lager, southeast of Vervorsburg, and captured several wagons and some prisoners.

"French, with Porter's and Dickson's brigades and Hutton's mounted infantry, is some distance due north of this place. "We have taken nearly 100 prisoners during the last two days. All the Free Staters who could give an account of themselves have been disarmed and allowed to return to their farms."

"The nights are getting much cooler."

MORE DETAILS OF THE CAPTURE. Arrival of Lord Roberts at Kroonstad Hailed With Enthusiasm. Kroonstad, Orange Free State, May 14. - The arrival of Lord Roberts was hailed with enthusiasm by all the inhabitants. Three hundred Free Staters were anxious to surround the bridge to the south had not been destroyed, but the large number of the Irish brigade, with the Federals, on Friday burned the goods shed. According to the townspeople many of the Boers were drunk. The Boers are now trekking to the Vaal River, where they are encamped. Gen. French encamped northeast of the town, and despatched a force to cut the line. The project succeeded late at night, but unfortunately after the departure of the last train. Although the troops had marched 16 miles, they were in excellent form on entering the town. Many arrests had been made, chiefly of those who had maligned the British. It was found that many persons had been friendly to the British, and that they sympathized with the British.

Steyn Goes to Lindley. President Steyn has gone to Lindley, the new seat of the Free State Government. A number of the burghers are trekking homeward. The opposition in the Free State is practically over. All the prisoners in the hands of the Boers here agree that the quarrel between the Free Staters and the Transvaalers is so acute that the Transvaalers have decided to leave their allies, whom they accuse of cowardice and lack of patriotism. Most of the Transvaal prisoners think that if they are defeated at the Vaal River the Boers will retreat to Pretoria, but there appears to be a growing distrust in the Transvaal Government. In a word, the back of the Boer resistance seems to have been broken. Burghers are fighting without their previous stubbornness. They seem ready to retreat on the slightest pretext. The prisoners, even the Transvaalers, appear glad to have been captured. They say they are sick of a war which can have only one end. Several have exclaimed: "We have lost our liberty; but why should we lose our lives?"

GEN. BULLER'S SUCCESS. Boers Near Helpmakar Outflanked and Forced to Abandon. London, May 14. - A special despatch from Stone Hill Farm, Natal, dated to-day, says: "Stone Hill Farm, Natal, May 14. - Gen. Buller's advance commenced Thursday, when he left Ladysmith in strength. Within two miles of Helpmakar the Boers opened a heavy artillery fire, and the British guns replied, while a portion of Buller's troops worked round the Boer flanks. The British attack was pressed home Sunday. Bethune, on the right, outflanked the Boers, whose splendid defensive positions on the Biggarsberg were practically taken. Gen. Buller's march, subsequent to the attack, was carried out, without a hitch. The British are still pushing on."

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"THE WOMAN'S WORLD"

BRENTFORD, LONDON, W., ENGLAND. WAR PRACTICALLY OVER.

Boers Pictured as Utterly Demoralized and Distasteful by Lord Roberts' Unexpected Rapid Advance. London, May 14. - (4 a.m.) - The war is practically over, says The Daily Chronicle's Kroonstad correspondent, and in less definite terms this is the view to be gathered from all the correspondences. The picture is of a Boer army utterly demoralized and disheartened by Lord Roberts' unexpected rapid advance, and by his facile turning of the carefully prepared positions of the Boers.

There was practically no fighting, and there are no further details to give respecting the occupation of Kroonstad. The correspondent of The Daily Telegraph says: "The Union Jack was hoisted in the market place by Mrs. Lockhead, the American wife of a Scotchman. Most of the horses of the Boers are in a wretched condition, but President Kruger declares he will continue the war."

It appears that the Boers at Kroonstad had been reinforced by 3,000 men from Natal last Friday, and that altogether 10,000 men with 20 guns were at Kroonstad on the approach of Lord Roberts.

The Boers made an ineffectual stand at Boschrand and had elaborate entrenchments in front of Kroonstad, which offered great facilities for a rear guard action. This they did, however, and they were able to get away safely with all their guns and convoys which again they have successfully accomplished. The few stores they were unable to carry away they burned.

Steyn Frantic With Rage. President Steyn is represented as having been frantic with rage and as having kicked and cuffed the burghers after vainly imploring them to continue the fight. Lord Roberts, after a march which is regarded as worthy of being ranked with his famous march to Kandahar, has thus covered another stage of his campaign. Experience has taught the critics to be very chary in accepting reports of Boer demoralization.

The Times says: "The signs point to military breakdown on the part of the Boers, but after what has passed we cannot accept the reports of demoralization without reserve. The game of war must be strictly played out to the end."

THE NEW FREE STATE CAPITAL. "Lindley, the new Free State capital, is 45 miles southeast of Kroonstad, half way to Bethlehem, and was probably selected as a convenient rendezvous for the commandos now retiring before Gen. Brabant and Gen. Roberts. The town is in the district. Brabant has occupied Hoepelock, half way on the road from Thabanchu to Ladysbrand.

"There is not a word of news regarding Gen. Buller's movements or from the far western side. Nothing is known of the progress of the progress of Mafeking relief column."

FATE OF THE BOERS SETTLED. View of German Papers. Now That Roberts Has Kroonstad. Berlin, May 14. - The occupation of Kroonstad by Lord Roberts, without resistance, has caused the greatest surprise here. The military expert of The Local Anzeiger finds explanation in the fact that many of the Boers have deserted. He says: "Lord Roberts' advance was splendidly executed. It is worthy to be placed beside the Kandahar expedition. The situation is now changed so greatly in favor of the British that the fate of the Transvaal Boers is settled. President Steyn's movement eastward is interpreted as confirming the rumors of bickering between the Transvaalers and the Free Staters."

Visit of the Boer Peace Delegates. Paris, May 14. - The Matin, in an editorial article on Saturday, says the Boer peace delegates have chosen an unfavorable moment to visit the United States, since, according to the paper, the American ambassador in the Philippines what the British are doing in South Africa.

Cause of Johannesburg Explosions. London, May 14. - A despatch from Lorenzo Marquez says positive evidence has been obtained that the explosion in the Begbie Engineering Works at Johannesburg was due to the carelessness of incompetent workmen.

ANOTHER CANADIAN GONE. Three Wounded Also on May 10 - Dead Man Is A. G. W. Floyd of the 7th Fusiliers, London. Ottawa, May 14. - The Department of Militia has been notified of the following casualties in the Second Special Service Battalion on May 10: Killed—7,193, A. G. W. Floyd, 7th Fusiliers, London. Wounded—7,018, Pte. E. Armstrong, R.O.A., Quebec; 7,208, Pte. G. W. Leonard, 22nd Oxford Rifles; 7,227, Pte. A. R. McLean, 88th Durham Rifles.

MAKING TO BE BELIEVED. House Told That the Work Will Shortly Be Accomplished. London, May 15. - The Parliamentary Secretary of the War Office, Mr. George Wyndham, in the House of Commons yesterday declined to divulge Lord Roberts' plans for the recapture of Mafeking, but added significantly that he hoped that they would shortly be accomplished.



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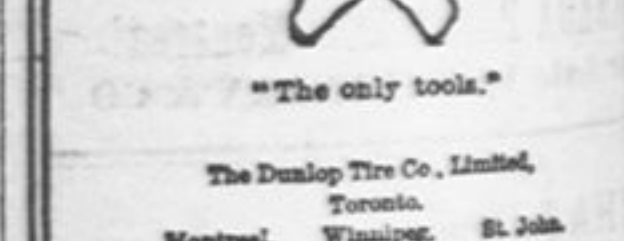
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