

CAVALRY AND MOUNTED INFANTRY

An Explanation and a Comparison of Their Difference.

ARE NOT ALL THE SAME.

Conditions of Efficiency in Each Described by an Expert.

Probably few Canadians know the distinction between "mounted infantry" and "cavalry." Everybody knows that the second Canadian contingent is (to use the words of the militia order) "to be composed of field artillery and cavalry or mounted infantry." But most persons who read this likely thought—as, indeed, the improper use of "or" instead of "and" would actually imply—that cavalry and mounted infantry are all the same thing.

This is not so. Mounted infantry and cavalry are quite different, both in accoutrement and in their use in the field, and it is a mistake to confound them. The differences between the two are well pointed out by the military expert of the London Daily News in a recent article in that paper.

The point is that the cavalry man in his proper capacity is essentially a Centaur—a creature composite of man and horse. Whenever he is cut in half as it were, and becomes man fighting and horse held or tethered somewhere else he ceases to perform his proper function, and passes into the other condition of "mounted infantry man." With this vast difference that a dismounted cavalry man is a fish out of water, whereas a dismounted "mounted infantry man" is like a fish that has been panting in shallow water half alive and has got back to his native element.

The lance is the prince of weapons for the true cavalryman; because in using it he delivers his blow with the full force and impetus of both man and horse. Even in using the sword, with which he is also armed, the cavalryman except in a melee—that is when the charge has spent its force,

in men riding or marching singly at some distance each from each, but all co-operating and working in harmony. In addition it wants to train all its men to have their wits about them to know country just as a hunting man does, and to see sharply what there is to be seen. At the same time, as with the infantry, but even more imperatively, it wants a smaller number of men trained in an exceptionally high degree to perform the duty of seeing for the rest. These in both instances are the "Scouts."

CHARGING "BOOT TO BOOT."

In addition to that the cavalry requires to be trained in the highest degree to extreme facility of manoeuvring. It wants to be able to charge, especially against Cavalry or against Mounted Infantry caught by it on

their horses, "boot to boot," that is to say, the men jammed together in line so closely that boot touches boot.

That is the most deadly form of the Cavalry charge, because, properly pressed home, nothing but a deadly fire of Infantry, case shot from Artillery, or Cavalry on the move, equally orderly in its movement as itself, can stop it. The momentum is what tells, but it must be the momentum of the whole body acting together, not the loose stroke of single men that have separated out so that, though pace adds to momentum, pace is a poor advantage if it leads to disorder.

So much is this the case that some of the most successful charges in history, including the marvellous success the charge of our heavy Brigade at Balaklava, have been won not at a gallop but at a trot. Some of the finest Cavalry leaders that the world

MESSAGE FROM GEN. BULLER

Gen. Warren's Forces Withdrawn to the South of the Tugela.

Spion Kop Was Difficult to Hold For Want of Water, and the Officer Who Succeeded Gen. Woodgate Decided to Abandon It—Buller, to, Thought a Second Attempt Useless—The Boer Story of the Bloody Retaking of Spion Kop.

London, Jan. 29. — The following is the text of Gen. Buller's despatch dated Spearman's Camp, Saturday, Jan. 27, 6.10 p.m.:

"On Jan. 20 Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crests of the high table lands extending from the line of Acton Homes and Honer's Poort to the western Ladysmith hills.

"From then to Jan. 25 he remained in close contact with the enemy.

"The enemy held a strong position on a range of small kopjes stretching from northwest to southwest to southeast across the plateau from Acton Homes through Spion Kop to the left bank of the Tugela.

"The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance as the southern slopes were so steep that Warren could not get an effective artillery position and water supply was a difficulty.

Spion Kop Unsuitable.

"On Jan. 23 I assented to his attacking Spion Kop, a large hill, indeed, a mountain, which was evidently the key of the position, but was far more accessible from the north than south.

"On the night of Jan. 23 he attacked Spion Kop, but found it difficult to hold, as its perimeter was too large, and water which he had been led to believe existed, in this extraordinary dry season, was found to be very deficient.

Crests Held All Day.

"The crests were held all that day against severe attacks and a heavy shell fire. Our men fought with gallantry. Would especially mention the conduct of the Second Cameronian and the Third King's Rifles, who supported the attack on the mountain from the steepest side, and in each case fought their way to the top, and the Second Lancashire Fusiliers and Second Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British army throughout the trying day of Jan. 24 and Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry, who fought throughout the day equally well alongside of them.

Decided to Abandon It.

"Gen. Woodgate, who was in command of the summit, having been wounded, the officer who succeeded him decided on the night of Jan. 24 to abandon the position and did so before dawn Jan. 25.

"I reached Warren's camp at 5 a. m. on Jan. 25 and decided that a second attack upon Spion Kop was useless and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it.

The Force Withdrawn South.

"Accordingly, I decided to withdraw the forces to the south of the Tugela. At 6 a. m. we commenced withdrawing the train, and by 8 a. m. Jan. 27 (Sunday) Warren's force was concentrated south of the Tugela without the loss of a man or a pound of stores.

"The fact that the force could withdraw from actual touch—in some cases the lines were less than a thousand yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did is, I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops, and that we were permitted to withdraw our cumbersome ox and mule transport across the river eighty-five yards broad with 20 foot banks and a very swift current unmolested is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers."

THE BOER STORY.

How the Boers Say They Recaptured Spion Kop After It Had Been Taken by the British.

Boer Headquarters, Modder Spruit, Upper Tugela, Wednesday, Jan. 24.—(Midnight, via Lorenzo Marquez, Thursday, Jan. 25.)—Some Vryheid burghers from the outposts on the highest hills of the Spion Kop group rushed into the laager saying that the Kop was lost, and that the English had taken it. Reinforcements were ordered up, but nothing could be done for some time, the hill being enveloped in thick mist.

Boers Attack the Kop.

At dawn the Heidelberg and Carolina contingents, supplemented from other commandos, began the ascent of the hill. Three spurs, precipitous projections, faced the Boer positions. Up those the advance was made. The horses were left under the first terrace of rocks.

Scaling the steep the Boers found that the English had improved the opportunity and entrenched heavily. Between the lines of trenches was an open veldt which had to be rushed under a heavy fire, not only from rifles, but of lyddite and shrapnel from field guns. Three forces ascended the three spurs co-ordinately under cover of fire from the Free State Krupps and a big Maxim.

English Went Down.

The English tried to rush the Boers with the bayonet, but the infantry went down before the rifle fire as before a scythe.

The Boer investing party advanced step by step until 2 p.m., when the white flag went up and 150 men in the front trenches surrendered, being sent as prisoners to the head laager.

The Boer advanced continued until two kopjes east of Spion Kop. Many Boers were shot, but so numerous were the burghers that the gaps filled automatically. Towards twilight they reached the summit of the second kopje, but did not get further.

It Was an Awful Fire.

The British Maxims belched flame; but a wall of firing Maxims held the English back. Their centre under this pressure gradually gave way and broke, abandoning the position.

The prisoners speak highly of the bravery of the burghers, who, despite cover, stood against the sky-line edges of the summit to shoot the Dublin Fusiliers, sheltered in the trenches. Firing continued for some time, and then the Fusiliers and the Light Horse, serving as infantry, threw up their arms and rushed out of the trenches. The effect of the abandonment of Spion Kop by the English can hardly be gauged as yet, but it must prove to be immense. An unusually high proportion of lyddite shells did not explode.

BOERS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

When Woodgate's Forces Climbed Hill and Won Western Crest.

Spearman's Camp, Friday, Jan. 26.—About 2 o'clock on the morning of Jan. 24 (Wednesday), when heavy clouds rested upon the kopjes, the main point of the Boer position, Tabanyama, was stormed by the British infantry under General Woodgate. Our forces crossed over a ravine and climbed the mountain side steadily, getting within 30 yards of the enemy's first line of trenches.

The Boers, who had been asleep, decamped, leaving everything behind, and the British, with ringing cheers, climbed to the summit.

The Boers opened fire from several points, but it was apparent that they had been taken completely by surprise, and their resistance was dispirited. The western crest of the hill was soon won, and the infantry crept along the top of the hill.

British Were Staggered.

At daybreak, however, the Boers from a high point on the extreme east sent a withering fire among the British, which momentarily staggered them. The Boers had the range fixed to a nicety, and their artillery sent several shells right to the top of the crest, forcing the infantry to take cover. The Boer Nordenfeldt also was worked with great precision.

The British held the position against great odds. At 10 o'clock strong reinforcements were sent up the hill, and advanced in skeleton formation, the enemy being driven back to the extreme point.

MAFEKING IS RELIEVED.

Reported on Good Transvaal Authority That Relief Came on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Lorenzo Marquez, Delagoa Bay, Friday, Jan. 26.—It is reported on good Transvaal authority that Mafeking was relieved on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Mafeking was besieged by the Boers on Oct. 15. Col. Baden-Powell, with a force of about 1200 irregulars, defended the town with great courage and ability. Col. Plumer, who was stationed at Fort Tuli, Rhodesia, started a few weeks ago to march south to the relief of Mafeking. He was reported to have about 2000 men. When last reported he had reached Mochudi, 100 miles north of Mafeking. A Boer patrol had withdrawn before him, destroying the bridge at that point.

Gen. French Touches Gatacre.

London, Jan. 29.—There are signs of important movements developing in the North of Cape Colony. General French has succeeded in getting in touch with Gen. Gatacre, possibly presaging a combination of the two columns and the commencement of a concentration of the forces, which is believed to be the groundwork of Lord Roberts' plan of campaign.

"BRITISH DEAD 1,500."

According to a Despatch From Boer Head Laager at Ladysmith on Thursday.

Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Jan. 25.—(6 p.m.)—The British dead left on the battlefield yesterday numbered 1,500.

150 British Were Taken.

London, Jan. 29.—The following despatch has been received in London from Pretoria, dated Jan. 25, via Lorenzo Marquez, Jan. 28: "The Government is advised that, after heavy fighting near Spion Kop, some British on the Kop being stormed, hoisted a white flag. One hundred and fifty prisoners. God be thanked, but also had to give brave and valuable lives."

The Terrible Casualties.

The War Office does not give any idea of the casualties in taking and holding Spion Kop, but a report from the Boer headquarters near Ladysmith, via Lorenzo Marquez, says that 1,500 British dead were left on the battlefield. This number is thought to include the wounded. The report also said that General Buller had been down with fever, but had recovered.

IS THIS TRUE?

Did the Defence Committee Order White to Surrender Ladysmith or Cut His Way Out.

New York, Jan. 29.—Whilo little,

if any, credence is to be placed in the alarmist despatches from London published by the sensational papers in this city, it is noteworthy that all refer to a rumor current in London that the Committee of National Defence, which held a meeting in London on Saturday, had decided to order Gen. White to surrender Ladysmith or to make an effort to cut his way out.

LEYDS WANT MEDIATORS,

But Again He Says the Transvaal Will Not Seek Peace First.

London, Jan. 29.—The Berlin correspondent of The Daily Mail says: "Mr. Leyds is a popular lion here. He is being welcomed with an enthusiasm ordinary extended only to most favored envoys. I have ascertained from unimpeachable evidence that he is trying to induce Germany to mediate."

Leyds Talks Again.

Berlin, Jan. 29.—The Deutsche Tages Zeitung publishes an interview with Dr. Leyds, which represents him as having said: "The war with certainty last a very long time. The Transvaal will decidedly not be the first to seek peace and will refuse any proposals on the basis of the status quo."

Bravely Scaled the Height.

London, Jan. 29.—A special despatch from Spearman's Camp, dated Friday, and supplying additional details of the operations of Wednesday says: "The British made a most successful movement to-day. They deployed to Gen. Warren's right flank and reinforced the troops in possession of Tabanyama. They were subjected to a heavy Boer shell fire, but stood their ground nobly. Part of Gen. Lyttleton's Brigade extended on the plain in front of Mount Alive and within two hours scaled the height of Spion Kop under a heavy fire. One rifleman, who reached the summit before his comrades, proudly stood on top."

Bethune's Infantry Surprised.

A special from Colenso, dated Wednesday, Jan. 24, says that Commandant Lucas Meyers' command surprised and surrounded a strong body of Gen. Bethune's Infantry, killing or wounding 23 and capturing 15.

Another List of Casualties.

The War Office yesterday issued a list of casualties. This included two killed, six severely wounded and four slightly wounded at Rensberg on Jan. 25, and four deaths from disease.

Dr. Jamieson Wounded.

Head Laager, near Ladysmith, Thursday, Jan. 25.—(Via Lorenzo Marquez, Jan. 26.)—It is reported here that as the result of "Long Tom's" practice on Monday, Dr. Jamieson was wounded in the leg. President Steyn has visited this Laager.

SENT DOWN FOR 20 YEARS.

Arthur Cardinal Receives a Heavy Sentence for Attempted Murder—The Queen's Chocolate at Wundberg.

A man named Daignault fell off a C.P.R. train at Hochelaga, Que., on Sunday evening and was killed.

W. O'Malley of St. Henri, Que., being despondent, committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver on Sunday.

Arthur Cardinal has been sent by Mr. Justice Rose at Toronto to Kingston Penitentiary for attempting to murder John Hughes, a fellow convict in the Central Prison.

Lionel H. Clarke will not oppose James McMullen, M.P., in North Wellington again. The Conservatives will call another convention to choose a candidate.

Police officers at Quincy, Ill., on Saturday night killed two expert safe blowers and wounded another man, who refused to give the names of either himself or his pals.

The boxes of chocolate sent to the troops by the Queen have been distributed to the wounded soldiers at Wundberg, Cape Colony. The boxes already command a high premium.

An attempt was made on Friday night to burn down the Chinese theatre at Vancouver, B.C., when there were probably 400 persons in the building. It is said revenge prompted the deed.

A committee of prominent writers and artists has been delegated by the French admirers of John Ruskin to go to England this week, bearing a magnificent wreath to be placed on his tomb.

Hon. G. E. Foster in an address in Massey Hall, Toronto, on Sunday said the temperance fight in the new century must continue along educational lines. He himself had been a teetotaler since his 13th year.

Abraham E. Elmer of Utica, N.Y., celebrated his 118th birthday anniversary on Saturday. Elmer is blind and deaf, but his mental faculties are unimpaired. He was born in Warren, Herkimer County, in 1772, and served in the Fourth Regiment at Sackett's Harbor during the war of 1812. Col. Bellinger was his commander.

A Brakeman Killed.

Ottawa, Jan. 29.—J. T. Hyles, a brakeman on the Canada Atlantic Railway, was killed while engaged in shunting in the yards of the company here yesterday morning. He was an unmarried man.

French Nationalists Routed.

Paris, Jan. 29.—The election of 99 Senators yesterday resulted in a practical rout for the Nationalists, only three out of their thirty candidates being elected.



BATTERY OF ROYAL ARTILLERY.

and friends and enemies are intermingled in close combat—depends for the power of his cut on the power conferred by the movement forward of his horse.

WHERE THE DIFFERENCE LIES.

Naturally, where cavalry meets cavalry, it is of importance that the arm that is most powerful in a charge shall be the one that is used. That is beyond question the lance. But also the same is true wherever cavalry can catch mounted infantry on horseback. Under those conditions, the cavalry has all the advantage.

That, however, needs some comparison of both arms, to be intelligible. The essence of the "Mounted Infantryman" is, what is implied in his name, that for fighting purposes he is an infantryman purely and only. His horse is merely the vehicle that transports him rapidly to the place where he is to fight again. All his training for fighting is infantry training. He is equipped for fighting on foot, and with us is dressed with shoes convenient for walking in, and either breeches and gaiters or breeches and "putties"—that is to say, with a long roll of cloth bound round his long socks, either being convenient both for mounted work or dismounted.

The cavalryman, on the other hand, has his equipment adapted for riding and for riding only. He has long boots and breeches with jack-spurs. The training of good cavalry is one of the most delicate and difficult operations that concerns the business of peace preparations in an army. The cavalry must be trained to be the eyes and ears of an army—that is to say, it requires to be able to "skirmish" just as much as infantry requires to learn to skirmish.

In each case the principle consists

has ever seen have believed that Cavalry at a trot would always ride down Cavalry at a gallop, because of the greater order and regularity of a charge at a trot.

With all fighting it is nearly always the last reserve thrown in that wins. With Cavalry that is pre-eminently so. For Cavalry that has been brought to a halt by collision with other cavalry has lost its great power—that of momentum. Quite a small body of fresh Cavalry, therefore, thrown into a melee becomes decisive of the action.

In the great Cavalry encounter which took place between the French and Germans during the battle of Mar La Tour, the greatest Cavalry engagement of that war, and so far as my memory carries me the greatest purely Cavalry action, numerically, of the century, including all the wars of Napoleon, two German squadrons, which joined in unexpectedly when returning from a distant reconnaissance, decided the struggle.

TRUE VALUE OF CAVALRY.

Therefore, and because also the stroke of Cavalry coming with momentum upon the flanks and rear of other Cavalry, which, even though charging at a good pace and in order, has no momentum in that direction to oppose to them, is deadly, it is the continual effort of a good Cavalry leader to be bringing in fresh squadrons unexpectedly in a new direction. The fact that "the insect man," and even the man and horse, together find the features of the earth on which they tread far greater than they are even when the ground seems to present few irregularities, greatly facilitates such action.

Boer prisoners say that the rifle fire of the English, though good, might be much better.