

CAPITULATE TO BOERS.

British Troops Surrounded in the Hills and Surrender to the Enemy.

Awful Disaster in Natal--Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Gloucestershire Regiment, Together With a Mountain Battery, Captured After a Desperate Fight.

A despatch from London, says:—The following is the text of a despatch from Gen. White at Ladysmith to the War Office:

I have to report a disaster to the column sent by me to take a position on a hill, to guard the left flank of the troops. In these operations on Monday the Royal Irish Fusiliers, No. 10 Mountain Battery, and the Gloucestershire Regiment were surrounded in the hills, and, after losing heavily, had to capitulate. The casualties have not yet been ascertained.

A man of the Fusiliers employed as a 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.

FEELING IN LONDON.

While minor reverses were not wholly unexpected, no Englishman ever dreamed that anything like the staggering blow General Joubert delivered to General White's forces on Monday threatened the British arms in South Africa, and apparently the full extent of the disaster is not yet acknowledged. Enquiry at the War Office seems to indicate that the military despatches contain other particulars which it is deemed inexpedient to publish immediately, but the serious nature of which is not disguised.

A FEARFUL LOSS.

The story, as already known, however, is sufficiently bad. The loss in effective men must be appalling to a General who is practically surrounded. Two of the finest British regiments and a mule battery deducted from the Ladysmith garrison weakens it about a fifth of its total strength and alters the whole situation very materially in favor of the Boers, who, once again, have shown themselves stern fighters and military strategists of superior order. The disaster cost the British from 1,500 to 2,000 men and six seven-pound screw guns, and, as the Boer artillery is already stronger than imagined, the capture of these guns will be a

GREAT HELP TO THE BOERS.

Apart from the immediate loss in effectives, which will seriously cripple Gen. White's operations, the British defeat must have a most depressing effect on the balance of the Ladysmith forces, while it may be expected to have much weight with the natives, who are wavering as to which side to support, and it will immensely raise the morale of the Boer forces and bring crowds of recruits to their standard.

WHITE'S MANFULNESS.

Further news must be awaited before it is attempted to attach the blame where it belongs. General White manfully accepts all the discredit attaching to the disaster, which, apparently, was at least partially due to the stampeding of the mules with the guns.

From the list it will be seen that forty-two officers were made prisoners besides a newspaper correspondent, Mr. J. Hyde.

"AWFUL BRITISH DISASTER."

"Awful British disaster," yelled newsboys on Monday and all London stayed its course and read the extras containing the official acknowledgment of the British reverse. The announcement appeared at the hour when shoppers crowded Regent and Oxford streets and Piccadilly. Women stopped their carriages in the streets and hailed the boys. Out of fashionable stores women ran for papers. They stood stockstill in the crowded streets scanning the pages of the extras. Having read of the reverse, such as does not exist in the memory of living British subjects, the men set their teeth and walked on with hardened troubled faces, while some women cried.

RUSH FOR THE WAR OFFICE.

Then there was a rush to the War Office, which by noon, was surrounded with private carriages and hansoms, while many of the humbler class of people came on foot, all waiting for the possible posting among the lists of dead of the names they held dear. By noon gloom and bitter sorrow prevailed throughout the British metropolis.

At the Government office no effort was made to conceal the feeling of dismay prevailing. One official said to a representative of the Associated Press: "It is inexplicable, and I am sorry to say that its moral effect is inestimable. We have lost heavily in many wars and have had regiments almost wiped out, but to have regiments captured, and by the Boers—it is terrible."

EXCUSES FOR GEN. WHITE.

The manliness of General White's

avowal that it was his fault has awakened the deepest sympathy.

An official of the War Office said to a representative of the Associated Press:

"It is more than likely due to the craze of our younger officers to distinguish themselves, obtain mention in the despatches and earn the Victoria Cross than to the fault of that splendid Indian veteran, General White, in spite of his pitiful avowal."

CAUSE OF THE DISASTER.

A later despatch from Gen. White says:—"I took out from Ladysmith a brigade of mounted troops, two brigade divisions of the Royal Artillery, the Natal Field Battery, and two brigades of infantry to reconnoitre in force the enemy's main position to the north, and, if the opportunity should offer, to capture the hill behind Farquhar's farm, which had on the previous day been held in strength by the enemy. In connection with this advance a column, consisting of the Tenth Mountain Artillery, four half companies of the Gloucesters, and six companies of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the whole under Lieut.-Col. Carlton and Major Ayle, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, was despatched at 11 p.m., on the 29th, to march by night up Bell's Spruit and seize Nicholson's Nek, or some position near Nicholson's Nek, thus turning the enemy's right flank.

"The main advance was successfully carried out, the objective of the attack being found evacuated, and an artillery duel between our field batteries and the enemy's guns of the position and Maxims is understood to have caused heavy loss to the enemy.

"The reconnaissance forced the enemy to fully disclose his position, and, after a strong counter attack on our right, the infantry brigade and cavalry had been repulsed, the troops were slowly withdrawn to camp, pickets being left on observation.

"Late in the engagement the naval contingent, under Captain Lambton, of H.M.S. Powerful, came into action and, with their extremely accurate fire, the enemy's guns of position.

STAMPEDE OF BATTERY MULES.

"The circumstances which attended the movements of Lieut.-Col. Carlton's column are not yet fully known, but from reports received the column appears to have carried out the night march unmolested until within two miles of Nicholson's Nek. At this point two boulders rolled from the hill, and a few rifleshots stampeded the infantry ammunition mules. The stampede spread to the battery mules, which broke loose from their leaders, and got away with practically the whole of the gun equipment and the greater portion of the regimental small ammunition. The reserve was similarly lost.

"The infantry battalions, however, fixed bayonets, and, accompanied by the personnel of the artillery, seized a hill on the left of the roads, two miles from the Nek, with but little opposition. There they remained unmolested till dawn, the time being occupied in organizing the defence of the hill and constructing stone sangars and walls as cover from fire.

"At dawn a skirmishing attack on our position was commenced by the enemy, but made no way until 9.30 a.m., when strong reinforcements enabled them to rush to the attack with great energy. Their fire became very searching, and two companies of the Gloucesters, in an advanced position, were ordered to fall back. The enemy then pressed to short range, the losses on our side becoming very numerous.

AMMUNITION GONE, BRITISH CAPTURED.

"At 3 p.m. our ammunition was practically exhausted, the position was captured, and the survivors of the column fell into the enemy's hands. The enemy treated our wounded with humanity, Gen. Joubert at once despatching a letter to me, offering a safe conduct to doctors and ambulances to remove the wounded. A medical officer and parties to render first aid to the wounded were despatched to the scene of action from Ladysmith that night, and the ambulance at dawn next morning.

"The want of success of the column was due to the misfortune of the mules stampeding and the consequent loss of the guns and small-arm ammunition and the reserve.

"The official list of casualties and prisoners will be reported shortly. The latter are understood to have been sent by rail to Pretoria.

"The security of Ladysmith is in no way affected."

General White's account shows that the disaster is not so serious a one as reported at first. Neither the Gloucesters nor the Fusiliers were present in full strength, as previously imagined. The four half companies of the former regiment would nominally only total 250 men, the six companies of Fusiliers 750 men, and the artillerymen 125 men, or an aggregate of 1,125 men.

300 KILLED AND WOUNDED.

General Sir Stewart White has cabled the War Office, that in the engagement on Farquhar's farm, near Ladysmith, on October 30, when Lieut.-Col. Carlton's column was compelled to surrender, six officers were killed and nine wounded. Among the non-commissioned officers and men the casualties were 54 in killed and 281 in wounded. Gen White promises a list of the missing later.

THE DEAD OFFICERS.

Lieut. J. T. McDougall, Royal Artillery.
Major W. T. Meyers, King's Royal Rifles.
Lieut. William Chapman, Natal Mounted Rifles.
Major Edward Gray, Medical Corps.
Lieut. H. S. Marsden, King's Royal Rifles.
Lieut. T. L. Forster, King's Royal Rifles.

WOUNDED OFFICERS.

Major John Dawkins, Royal Artillery, slightly.
Lieut. Harold Belcher, Royal Artillery, severely.
Major Henry E. Buchanan-Riddell, King's Royal Rifles, severely.
Lieut. H. C. Johnston, King's Royal Rifles, severely.
Captain G. B. H. Rice, Royal Irish Fusiliers, severely.
Captain W. B. Silver, Royal Irish, severely.
Captain S. Wilcox, Gloucestershire, severely.
Captain B. Fyfe, Gloucestershire, severely.
Captain F. S. Stayner, Gloucestershire, severely.

Late Thursday the War Office received a despatch from the Governor of Natal, Sir Walter Francis Hely-Hutchinson, announcing that communication with Ladysmith has been interrupted since half past two o'clock Thursday afternoon.

The War Office issued the following despatch:—
Chief of Staff, Ladysmith, to War Secretary:

Ladysmith, Nov. 2.—Lieut. Egerton, H.M.S. Powerful, dangerously wounded this morning by a shell, left knee and right foot, life not in danger at present.

It was inferred from this despatch that the artillery duel between the Boers and British continues, as Lieut. Egerton was a gunnery lieutenant with the big naval guns.

Another list of casualties at Dundee was issued by the War Office Thursday morning. It gives eighty-two non-commissioned officers and men of the Dublin Fusiliers missing, indicating that the Boers captured as many Fusiliers as they did Hussars.

The War Office received a telegram despatched from Ladysmith at 9.25 Thursday morning, saying that General White was well and holding his position.

BOMBARDMENT RENEWED.

Special despatches from Ladysmith dated Tuesday, give further details regarding the renewal of the bombardment. The Boers, having recaptured their old positions remounted big guns. Their firing was accurate, but almost harmless. Some of the troops were slightly injured by splinters.

Lieut. F. G. Egerton, and his men from the Powerful did splendid work and quickly silenced the Boer guns. The Boers acknowledged having suffered heavy losses in men and horses in the previous battle.

General Jan H. M. Kock, who was second in command in the Transvaal forces, and who was wounded in the battle of Elandslaagte, died in the hospital at Ladysmith on Monday night.

EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS.

A despatch from London, Friday, says:—All was quiet at Bulawayo, in Rhodesia, according to despatches received this morning, up to October 27. There has been some skirmishing on the border.

Apparently extensive preparations are in progress at De Aar, Cape Colony, for the concentration of Lieut.-Gen. Buller's army. Thousands of mules are corralled in that neighbourhood, and transport material is being hurried up from the south.

According to another despatch, the naval brigade at Ladysmith has mounted four more guns from Durban.

The report comes from Rome that Portugal will permit the landing of British troops at Lorenzo Marques. This coincides with the view strongly prevalent in some quarters here that the British invasion of the Transvaal will be made from that point.

BRITISH LOSSES TO DATE

The total loss to British arms since the war actually commenced with the bombardment of the armoured train near Elandslaagte, twenty-one days ago, is 216 killed and 721 wounded. This does not include the captured, which will swell the total by 1,000.

TOTAL BRITISH KILLED—216.

Colonels 4
Majors 4
Captains 3
Lieutenants 14
Rank and file 191

TOTAL BRITISH WOUNDED—721.

Colonels 3
Majors 7
Captains 22
Lieutenants 31
Rank and file 658

BOERS MOUNT MORE GUNS.

The London Daily Mail publishes the following despatch from its war correspondent, G. W. Stevens, at Ladysmith, dated Wednesday morning:—"Matters to-day are quiet. The Boers are apparently mounting more heavy guns to the north and northeast, which are likely to give us trouble.

"A Boer contingent 1,500 strong, and clearly visible from the camp, is streaming away to the south. The inhabitants of Ladysmith continue to leave that town."

The accounts that continue to arrive regarding the fighting on Monday only confirm its seriousness and the narrow escape General White had. It now appears as if it were only the arrival of the naval contingent from the Powerful which prevented a worse disaster. It seems that when it was seen that retreat was imperative two Natal cavalrymen volunteered to convey a despatch across the Boer lines to Major Ayle, ordering him to retire, but the risk was considered too great, and flag signalling was employed instead. The distance was too great and rough for cavalry to go to his assistance.

According to despatches filed on

Tuesday, defensive works were being constructed on the hills around Ladysmith, and it was expected there that the big naval guns would be mounted the following day.

ATTACK IN FORCE WEDNESDAY.

The Boers were threatening to attack the town in force on Wednesday and Thursday, and the women, children, and other non-combatants were being sent by train to the south. Ladysmith is provisioned for two months.

It is believed that the Delagoa bay route, if not already restored speedily will be, thus giving quicker communication with the Cape.

BOERS FELL IN HEAPS.

A trustworthy correspondent of the Central News at Ladysmith, in a despatch dated Tuesday, 5.15 p.m., gives an account of Monday's fight. He says:—

"Although it was a bad day for us, it was positively terrible for the enemy. Our artillery fire was appalling. The Boers lost hundreds in killed and wounded. They fell in heaps where our shells burst.

"Commandant-General Joubert sent a formal written protest to General White against the use of lyddite, as inhuman. The British long-range guns are vastly superior to the Boer batteries.

"The captured column exceeds 800 men. We are sanguine and confident that we can hold our own."

A despatch from Colesburg, dated Nov. 1, announces that six police who were stationed at Colesburg bridge, were surrounded and captured. This is probably the origin of the story that the Boers had occupied Colesburg.

BOERS IN ZULULAND.

A despatch from Durban, Saturday says:—A letter from Eshewe, Eulund, reports that there are from 2,000 to 3,000 Boers, with several guns, to the northward of Zululand, and that they are ready to march.

The American-African line steamer Maria, which cleared from East London for Delagoa Bay, has been detained here pending enquiries as to her cargo.

The shipping agents desire an explicit definition of contraband of war in order to prevent the present inconvenience.

CONCENTRATED AT BETHULIE.

A despatch from Lorenzo Marques says: Five bodies of Boers, totalling 4,000 men, with field guns, are concentrated at Bethulie bridge, Cape Colony. They have collected much food.

BOERS' CREUZOT GUNS.

The Paris correspondent of the London Daily Mail, says:—

"I learn that the Transvaal and Free State Governments, before the war, placed large orders with the gun-makers at Le Creuzot, but that not all the weapons could be delivered owing to the suddenness with which hostilities began. The guns the Boers are actually using are Creuzots—75 millimetre quick-firers, and 155 millimetre siege and garrison guns, all mounted on light carriages, and adapted in every possible way for use over muddy roads. They had two months' firing practice under competent Creuzot agents. If they could have had another month's practice, no European artillery could have withstood them."

MORE AUSTRALIAN TROOPS.

A despatch from Sydney, N. S. W., says:—Tremendous enthusiasm was displayed on Friday on the occasion of the embarkation of the second detachment furnished by the colony of New South Wales for service in South Africa. The Colonial Government is seriously considering doubling the contingent. The Premier, Mr. Lyne, has communicated to the other Australian Premiers a suggestion that the colonies should despatch to South Africa another body of troops, to be called the Australian contingent. He says that if necessary 10,000 men could be sent.

MORE HOT BATTLES.

A despatch from London, says:—The following details of fighting at Ladysmith have been received:—

"Thursday, 2.40 p.m.—On Saturday some of the British guns were quietly placed in a better position, the naval brigade getting three of the Powerful's quick-firers on a high ridge close to the western side of the town. The Boers also dragged one of their forty-pounders to an excellent new position, and replaced their disabled guns with new ones in the old positions. They also placed a new battery on a hill four miles south-west of the town.

"Gen. White and his staff were astir before daybreak and important movements were effected. At 6.10 the bluejackets opened on the ridge, where the Boers had a forty-pounder, and a furious cannonade ensued. After four hours the forty-pounder was silenced. "Meanwhile the other batteries were busy, the British having the better of the fighting.

"Gen. French, with the Lancers, Hussars, Natal Carbineers, and Border Rifles, started at dawn and got within striking distance of the Boer camp on Bester's hill before the enemy noticed them. A field battery also managed to take up a position commanding the enemy's camp without molestation. The camp was a large one, surrounded by wagons and other obstructions. Bester's hill was well fortified, and there were good guns there.

"About nine o'clock the British opened fire. The Boers replied spiritedly, but their guns were not so well served and their fire was ineffective.

"The British fire was very good, for within a short time a 42-pound shell burst right in the midst of the camp, inflicting heavy loss and demoralizing the defenders.

"Then the cavalry suddenly charged and swept over the laager, driving everything irresistibly before them. The Boers fled precipitately, leaving many dead and wounded on the ground. The shell-fire had punished them terribly.

"The entire camp equipment fell into the hands of the British. The scheme was well devised and brilliantly executed. It is hoped that it will

considerably minimize the efficiency of the Free State Boers to the westward.

WAITING FOR GUNS.

The general belief in London is that the Boers are now waiting for more guns from Pretoria before attacking Ladysmith. The fact that Sir Redvers Buller appears to have ordered a retirement from Stormberg, and perhaps from other places, relieves to some extent the public mind, which would have been further alarmed. Confidence is felt in any measures that Gen. Buller may deem desirable. The knowledge that the pigeon post is working has also come as a relief to the great anxiety previously felt.

The third-class cruiser Pelorus has been ordered from Gibraltar to Durban, and the third-class cruiser Fearless from Port Said to the same point. Despatches from Cape Town and other centres in Cape Colony indicate that the Cape Dutch are becoming very restless in consequence of the continued Boer successes.

Considerable surprise is expressed at the constant bringing up of new guns by the Boers at Ladysmith.

WOMEN LEFT LADYSMITH.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—The Cape Argus has received the following from Ladysmith:—

"On the suggestion of Gen. White the women and children were sent south on Thursday evening. A large number of men left at the same time. Some of these behaved badly toward the women. Entire confidence is still reposed here in Gen. White and his staff, and it is expected that another pitched battle will dispel the lingering hope of the Boers that they will be able to take Ladysmith."

Another despatch from Ladysmith says the Boers have proclaimed the Upper Tugela division of Natal annexed to the Orange Free State.

The news of the losses at Ladysmith caused an unmistakable depression, especially when coupled with the fact that the Boers invaded the colony almost simultaneously.

The Dutch of the colony are showing themselves loyal to the British Government, and so far as has been ascertained, few of them have joined the Boers.

The Boer prisoners have arrived at Simonstown, near Cape Town, where they are well treated.

KIMBERLEY SAFE.

The Kimberley correspondent of the London Daily Mail, in a despatch filed November 1, forwarded by way of Orange river, says:—

"The Boers are still in force in this vicinity. On Saturday evening our patrol was fired on in the neighborhood of the Wessellton mine, the enemy expending a quantity of ammunition, ineffectually, however, owing to the long range.

"A Free State burgher, with a pass from the enemy has brought 200 oxen into the town. The enemy is reported to have three siege guns in position at Oliphantfontein, four miles from Wessellton."

Sir Redvers Buller has wired the War Office from Cape Town, under date of Sunday, that Col. Kekewich in command at Kimberley, reports under date of Oct. 31, that all the wounded were doing well.

HOSPITAL SHIP MAINE.

A despatch from London says:—The American women who are equipping the hospital ship Maine are putting forth particular efforts. The fitting out of the vessel is attracting wide attention in England, and the efforts of the American women are given the heartiest recognition. In accordance with the wish of the Prince of Wales, Mrs. Brown Potter has selected Nov. 18 as the date for the Cafe Chantant benefit for the Maine. Through the efforts of Sir Arthur Sullivan, Chadidge's hotel has been selected for the entertainment, and the Prince of Wales, the Princess Christian, and other royalties will attend. The performances will begin at 3 p.m., when all the leading United States actors and actresses in London will appear. Tickets will be a guinea each, and refreshments will be served in the interim, which, it is expected, will be an additional source of income.

GHASTLY REMAINS FOUND.

Prospector Perishes From Exposure Back of Rat Portage.

A despatch from Rat Portage, says:—Telegraph Foreman McLeod, of Ostersund, while out hunting on Lulu Lake, near Ostersund, came across the decomposed body of a man lying about fifteen feet from the shore. The clothes were nearly all rotted off the body, but a piece of a mackinaw coat and pants were found, and the man had on very fine light shoes, as if he were not equipped for rough bush work, such as prospecting or trapping. Mr. Belyea thinks the man may have had overboots on, but that they came off while he was immersed in the water. Another suit of clothes of a brown color were found about a hundred yards along the shore, but not a vestige of paper or pipe, tobacco, or knife were found. The name of the man or how he came by his death remains a mystery.

KILLED IN THE SHANTIES.

Ottawa Man Caught Between Two Logs and His Back Broken.

A despatch from Rat Portage, says:—A Frenchman named Fred Duplessee employed by Graham and Horn, and working in one of their lumber camps near Barwick, Rainy River, was deck ing logs, and was in the act of placing a large log on the skidway when the block gave way. Duplessee tried to jump out of the way, but was caught between two logs and got his back broken, death being instantaneous. The deceased came here recently from Gatineau Point, Ottawa.