

# BLOODY BATTLE FOUGHT

## Methuen's Column Drives 8,000 Boers From Their Position Near Kimberley.

### Desperate Fighting for Ten Hours Without Food or Water--British Losses Are Very Heavy--One of the Hardest Battles in the Annals of the British Army.

Gen. Methuen reports:—"Reconnoitred at 5 a.m. on Tuesday enemy's position on River Modder, and found them strongly entrenched and concealed. No means of outflanking, river being in full flood.

"Action commenced with artillery, mounted infantry, and cavalry at 5.30. Guards on right, Ninth Brigade on left.

"Attacked position in widely extended formation at 6.30, and supported by the artillery, found ourselves in front of the whole Boer force, 8,000 strong, with two large guns, four Krupp's, etc.

"The Naval Brigade rendered great assistance from the railway.

"After desperate hard fighting, which lasted ten hours, our men, without water or food, and in the burning sun, made the enemy quit his position.

"General Pole-Carew was successful in getting a small party across the river, gallantly assisted by 300 sappers.

"I speak in terms of high praise of the conduct of all who were engaged in one of the hardest and most trying fights in the annals of the British army. If I can mention one arm particularly, it is two batteries of artillery."

#### RESULT OF THE BATTLE.

As regards the actual result of the battle, the London Morning Post military critic, who, it has been generally proved, has keen foresight, says:

"It does not seem too much to presume that it was won by the British, though the despatch retains scrupulously from referring to a victory. The enemy was forced to withdraw from his position, which may mean a falling back of the advance to the interior lines, or the abandonment of the bridge head defences."

"The critic assumes that there was a bridge, and that the Boers at the outset were defending the southern approaches to it.

The former is the more plausible, since General Pole-Carew was crossing with the help of sappers, which would negative the hope that the bridge was in the hands of the British. The sappers were undoubtedly pontooning.

Complaint is beginning to be heard against the employment of so many sailors for purely soldiers' work so far from the coast. The complaint is based on the ground that the navy cannot afford to lose men whom it takes so long to make and replace.

There are also loud complaints that more artillery and cavalry have not been furnished to General Methuen. It is argued that at the start of his march he did not have sufficient cavalry for pursuit and to clinch the victories gained, and that branch must now be so overworked as to be practically worn out.

The London Daily News says:—"Whatever comes, we must brace our nerves to meet it. Certainly, to-day looks as if we had before us a very stern and earnest struggle before we see our way clear to final victory."

#### BOERS' RETREAT FROM ENSLIN.

The London Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Orange river says that after the engagement at Enslin he climbed the kopje where the enemy's main battery has been. He found that a gun pit had been constructed of ironstone boulders, which practically commanded the railway. Fragments of British shells were everywhere.

On the hills were a dozen horses, all of which had been killed by shells.

Inside the fort there was evidence of a hasty Boer retreat. Saddles, overcoats, rugs, and cartridges were abandoned.

A British cavalry cap was found in the fort on the next kopje, where there were over a hundred dead horses.

The correspondent adds that it is impossible to estimate the Boer losses, as they carried off many of their dead, but there was evidence that the British guns had done terrible execution, nearly all the Boer wounded were injured by the shell fire. Packages of dum-dum cartridges were found in several places.

The Daily Mail's correspondent says that the wound caused by a dum-dum bullet is small where the missile enters but where it leaves the body the wound is the size of a five-shilling piece.

#### BRITISH LOSSES REVISED.

A despatch from London, says:—"A revised list of the British casualties at Belmont shows:—Officers killed, 4; wounded, 22; non-commissioned officers and privates killed, 46; wounded, 225; of which number the Guards had 85 killed and 159 wounded.

The revised list of casualties sustained by General Hildyard's forces in their sortie from Estcourt, Natal, at Beacon Hill shows:—Killed, 19; wounded, 64; missing, 1; prisoners, 8.

#### LANCER SHOT BY WOMEN.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Enslin says that on Sunday a patrol of the Ninth Lancers rode up to a farm. A number of women outside the house directed a heavy fire against the troops, killing one of them.

#### CASUALTIES AT MODDER RIVER.

A despatch from London says:—"The casualties in the Modder river battle on Tuesday, so far as known, were four officers killed and nineteen wounded.

The losses among the rank and file have not yet been announced by the War Office, and no despatches concerning the battle from war correspondents have yet come through.

#### LORD METHUEN WOUNDED.

The War Office announces that Gen. Lord Methuen was slightly wounded at the battle of Modder river. A bullet struck him in the thigh, inflicting a flesh wound.

The officials state that the general's wound is very slight, and that he will probably be all right in a few days.

It is probable that the wound will prevent his being in the saddle, and there is great anxiety to know whether he will be compelled temporarily to abandon the personal direction of affairs. His next in command is Col. Colville, commanding the Guards Brigade. He has a reputation as an excellent officer.

#### METHUEN'S PROBABLE FORCE.

The original arrangement of Buller's troops by divisions and brigades has been materially altered by the exigencies of the military situation. Ladysmith's early peril led to plans being made to send the whole first division, under Lord Methuen, to Durban, whence it should move northward to relieve General White. For some reason, possibly the belated arrival at Cape Town of some of the troops comprising the first division, this idea was given up. Lord Methuen was put in command of the Kimberley relief expedition, and General Clerly, who was originally intended as the leader of the second division, went to Durban to direct operations designed to push Joubert's army back.

Of the original first division most of the second brigade was sent to Durban, while the first brigade, comprising the Guards, went north to the Cape Colony border to form the nucleus of Methuen's command. The only clues to the composition of the rest of his force are found in the newspaper and official despatches. Apparently the column is made up about as follows:—

#### INFANTRY.

First Brigade—Second and Third Grenadier Guards, First and Second Coldstream Guards, First Scots Guards.

Ninth Brigade—Second Yorkshire Light Infantry, First Northumberland Fusiliers, Second Northamptonshire, First Loyal North Lancashire, Second West Yorkshires.

#### ARTILLERY.

At least three batteries, including the Seventh and probably the Fourteenth.

#### CAVALRY.

Ninth Lancers.

#### NAVAL BRIGADE.

Bluejackets from Cape fleet, Royal Marine Light Infantry.

#### NEWS FROM MAFEKING.

Colonel Baden-Powell, under date of Mafeking, November 20, has sent the following to the War Office through General Forestier-Walker at Cape Town:—

"All well here. Cronje has gone with a commando, and with about 20 wagons, to Richters, Transvaal, leaving most of the guns here with the Marico and Lichtenberg contingents, with orders to shell us into submission.

"Bombardment and sniping continue with very small results.

"The enemy's sentries drew us out Saturday by making a show of going away and leaving a big gun apparently in a state of being dismantled. Our scouts found the enemy hidden in force, so we sat tight.

"The enemy's 91-pounder became damaged, and has been replaced by another more efficient.

"I am daily pushing out our advance works, with good effect.

"The health of the garrison is good. No casualties to report."

#### "GOING STRONG" ON THE 24TH.

Capt. Wilson, in a message from Mafeking, under date of November 24, says:—

"We are going strong. We are still beleaguered. There is intermittent shelling."

#### DID SOME HUSTLING.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—"While everybody is talking about the good work of the Naval Brigade now fighting with Gen. Lord Methuen, it may not be amiss to tell how they hustled to the front. During the train journey northward there was a serious collision on the Victoria road. Considerable damage was done, and it was necessary to transfer the baggage and heavy guns to a relief train. The marines and bluejackets went to work and made the transfer within four hours. Then they made another start, and reached Belmont in time for the battle.

#### ANOTHER BRITISH DIVISION.

A despatch from London says:—"Speaking on Thursday at a dinner given by the Scottish corporation, Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of the British army, said he had no intention of criticising anything that had taken place in South Africa, but he would say that

this evening it was decided to call out one more division of the second army corps. Perhaps before the week was out, certainly before four or five days, it would be on the way to South Africa.

#### RECEIVED WITH SATISFACTION.

As men are needed in all directions, Lord Wolseley's announcement that a new division will be embarked without delay has been received with the greatest satisfaction. The transports will soon be returning from the Cape and it is hoped that the men will be despatched speedily.

On this point the Morning Post says:—

"The sooner we can make up our mind as to the magnitude of the work on hand the sooner it will be accomplished."

#### A HEAVY WAR CARGO.

A despatch from London says:—"The steamer Karama sailed on Friday for South Africa, taking one of the heaviest war cargoes on record. It includes 40,000,000 rounds of small arm ammunition, 7,000 shrapnel shells, 4,000 ly-dite shells, 851 boxes of fuses, 40 boxes of pistol ammunition, and a large number of star shells for discovering the enemy's position at night, and for signalling. Each of these shells contain six magnesium light stars which burn for 14 seconds, and seven stars, which burn from 34 to 36 seconds.

#### BRITISH LOSSES.

A despatch from London, says:—"A full official list of the British casualties at Belmont has not yet been received, and it is awaited with uneasiness, as it is feared that it will exceed the first estimate.

The estimated losses at Belmont, with 195 casualties at the battle of Graspan, or as it is officially called Enslin, brings the total numbers of British killed, wounded, and missing since the beginning of the war up to 2,945 of all ranks.

#### KRUGER'S PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

A despatch from Berlin says:—"The Deutsche Zeitung, claims to have received the following despatch from a diplomatic source:—

"President Kruger and President Steyn instructed Generals Joubert and Cronje, the commanders of the Transvaal and Orange Free State forces respectively, not to split the beleaguering forces, but to strike vigorous blows. Gen. Joubert concentrated three corps, the first at Ladysmith, the second at the Tugela river, and the third to the eastward of the Pietermaritzburg-Estcourt railway to cut off the British retreat.

"Gen. Cronje is operating at Kimberley and Modder river, and in General Lord Methuen's rear."

#### BOERS KILLED BY BOERS.

A despatch from London, Wednesday, says:—"The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph cabling under date of November 27 from Naauwpoort, says that a Dutchman living near the scene of the skirmish of November 23 declares that a party of Boers dressed in khaki, while approaching their own position, were fired on by their comrades, who mistook them for British soldiers. Five or six of them were killed.

#### RESERVES RESPOND WELL.

A despatch from London says:—"Lieut.-General Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, it is reported, will be the commander of the 6th division.

The latest phase of the mobilization of the reserves has proved as satisfactory as have former calls. Out of 9,786 men summoned, 9,553 have rejoined the colors.

#### STATUS OF THE BOERS.

The action of Lord Pauncefoot and other British Ambassadors in notifying the powers that a state of war had existed since October 11 between Great Britain and the South African Republic has prompted enquiries by the various London Embassies regarding the nature of the hostilities. It is officially stated that the notification has in no wise changed the British views as to the Boers' status.

The Government maintains that giving the Boers belligerent rights does not constitute an acknowledgment of their claim to independence, evidencing as proof of this contention that both foreign Governments and the Government of the United States treated the Confederates as belligerents.

#### THE KAISER DEPARTS.

Prince and Princess of Wales Bid Farewell to Their Majesties.

A despatch from London, says:—"The Emperor and Empress of Germany left Sandringham on Tuesday and took a train at Wolferton for Port Victoria at 10 o'clock. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke of Cambridge, and other members of the Royal family, preceded their Majesties to the railroad station, the approaches to which were lined by crowds of people assembled from the surrounding country. A strong force of constabulary guarded the route. The Emperor and Empress affectionately bid farewell to the Prince and Princess of Wales in the waiting-room of the station. The Prince of Wales conducted the Empress, who wore a lavender costume and violet bonnet, to the Royal saloon carriage, and the Duke of York accompanied the Emperor, who wore plain clothes, a dark overcoat, and a derby hat.

The Empress smilingly acknowledged the bows of the few privileged persons who were admitted to the platform.

After their Majesties had entered the train the Prince and Princess of Wales stood at the door of the carriage repeating their farewells. They embraced the Emperor and Empress and the train moved off amid the acclamations of the officials and villagers. The Duke of York accompanied their Majesties to Port Victoria, where they boarded the Imperial yacht Hohenzollern.

## Sole Survivors of The Brussels Ball.

Near Kilkenny, Ireland, on the banks of River Nore, lies Woodstock, the vast estate of Lady Louisa Tighe, and here, surrounded by every luxury and loved and honored by all who know her, lives the daughter of the Duke of Richmond, who almost a century ago buckled on Lord Wellington's sword when he left Brussels on the campaign which amazed the world.

Dominated by its superb baronial mansion of granite, hewn and carved on the estate, Woodstock extends over a circuit of forty miles, and its walks, roads and drives, extend five hundred miles. Connected with the estate are some curious privileges, among which is the right of tenants to lay all their grievances or disputes before the lord of the manor—not entering the house to do so, but standing in a courtyard directly outside of the study window.

At a fixed hour every morning, Sundays excepted, the late Colonel Tighe always made his appearance, being under unwritten bonds never to refuse the request of the widowed or the fatherless, while the tenants were pledged to abide by his decisions, as they now are by those of Lady Louisa, well aware that so considerate and humane a "châtelaine" can only decide for their present good and future welfare.

Twice a year Lady Louisa has the right to free two criminals, even at the very gallows steps, and she has always exercised this privilege wisely. How she deals with dishonest persons is shown in an instance in her own household a few years ago.

As was the yearly custom at Woodstock, Lady Louisa was entertaining members of the royal family, and had a large house party in their honor. Conversation turned one evening upon some of the very curious and rare gems which had come to Her Ladyship from the Duke of Richmond, especial reference being made to a black diamond, the only one of its kind in the world. The guests expressing a desire to see this diamond, the steward was sent for the cases—rarely opened—in which it and other unique jewels reposed. The man trembled and turned pale, but brought the cases, only to have it discovered that the black diamond, the Duke of Richmond's watch, an heirloom of inestimable value, and several other rare and historic gems were missing. Further search revealed that the silver chests had also been tampered with.

The suspected man broke down and confessed his guilt, but, throwing himself on Lady Louisa's well known clemency, he was punished only by dismissal and an injunction to leave that part of the country forever.

The drive from Innistagh to Woodstock is over a fine country, richly timbered and prosperous. Miles of stone terraces and several lodges are passed before the grand gateway, surmounted by a lion and griffin, is reached. Passing the fine lodge, an avenue two miles in length, leads to the mansion, an immense granite structure, its countless windows giving character to the somewhat severe lines, and the entrance suggesting a royal welcome.

Within, the grand hall and stairway form a sumptuous setting for any scene, and in summer, when the gardens are ablaze with almost tropical bloom, the lower doors and windows reveal a scene which a Claude or Verne might have been glad to depict. In these famous Woodstock gardens are terraces upon terrace, and bank upon bank of lavish color, while each stone in the marble terraces is from designs of Daniel Sullivan—each different, and each representing some striking or famous scene in different nations of the earth, while far as the eye can reach billows of green and bloom extend, with walks laid out in every fashion, reaching to what are known as the "Silver" and "Gold" sand beaches viewed by old Lady Louisa from her library window, and near which is an exquisite fountain.

Not far away is a tree of enormous growth, which the Society of Forestry takes pride in, as it is the only one extant in the European world. It was brought from Egypt, and in Oriental lore is known as "The True Lovers' Tree," from a peculiarity in the foliage. On being touched the leaves curl up softly, as though in gentle response to the hand caressing them.

Nearby is the shooting tower, a building overlooking the wide preserves. Though deer are killed by the hundred, only the right side of the animal is ever cooked and eaten at Woodstock. It is supposed this custom arose from the fact that in generations gone by a favorite animal was accidentally wounded on the left side, and its owner declared that henceforth in the length and breadth of Woodstock no deer should ever be shot or harmed unless the sportsman touched the right side.

On this portion of the grounds alone two hundred men are employed, and on what is called the "Home Farm," adjacent, three hundred men work daily in all seasons, while more than one hundred women and girls are hired simply to gather the fallen leaves and weed garden beds, Lady Louisa being, even in her extreme old age, ardently interested in her own sex. These workers, in order to preserve a picture effect, are costumed at Her Ladyship's expense in a uniform of green and white, made in the most becoming peasant style. The skirts, of shamrock green, are pinned back over skirts of a darker hue, and the bonnets are of plaited straw of the quaint cottage pattern, tied under the chin.

In all of the six lodges at Woodstock, the persons employed have been chosen with a direct view toward giving them especially appropriate occupations. Wo-

men who are compelled by loss of fortune to become self-supporting are installed, while the various buildings erected on the grounds also typify Lady Louisa's philanthropic mission in life.

Red House, one of these dwellings, is kept entirely for the use of privileged sightseers, who, however, must arrange their dates some time in advance and have their names duly registered. They are received in a fashion unknown to any other show place I have ever visited. A luncheon is served. They are waited upon in every way, and should they desire it can take a skiff and go out upon the water.

Near by is Tiddington Cottage, where the gamekeeper resides—well cared for like all others in Her Ladyship's employ. Beyond is the woodranger's, near which is a stream, which is carried five miles to supply Woodstock with water.

Not far away is a curious spot, known as "Lizzie's Lawn." Here stand on a rich sward four arbor vitae of enormous size, which can be seen for miles around, towering high above the branches of the forest itself. These were named for the four sisters of Colonel Tighe.

Turning down this leafy walk or that one comes upon exquisite bowers, all appropriately named—the Lennox, the Richmond, etc.—and all testifying to the fondness of Colonel Tighe for his lovely and high born wife. There is also the Silver Spring, a bubbling well of water, justifying its name, icy cold, pellucid and singularly refreshing, and from which each morning two painful are carried three miles for Her Ladyship's use. To maintain Woodstock costs £3,000 every day.



THE PAARDE KRAAL.

The stone-kraal is a monument at Krugersdorp, a small town 22 miles from Johannesburg. It bears the inscription: "To the memory of those who died in the service of the Republic." This has reference in the first place to the Boers who under Andries Pretorius defeated Dingaan, the Zulu king, on the Umhlatoozi river, December 15, 1838. Dingaan had raided the settlements of the whites, and with only 400 mounted Boers Pretorius went to get satisfaction. They encountered a Zulu army of 12,000 men and after an obstinate engagement totally defeated them, the Zulus leaving 3,000 dead on the field.

When preparing for the rising in 1880 every Boer who passed into Krugersdorp vowed that he would only retrace his steps homeward a free man. In commemoration of his oath, each one took up a stone and threw it on a certain spot. By the time the commanding was ended, the pile of stones had assumed colossal proportions. It remained until the close of the war, when the Boers erected the monument, associating it with the victory over the British at Majuba, and as commemorating the "independence of 1881." The annual holiday of the Republic, when the Boers repair to the Paarde Kraal to make speeches and fire guns, is therefore often termed by them "Majuba day," though it is always celebrated on "Dingaan's day," the 15th of December.

#### PUT A BULLET IN HIS HEAD.

J. Turner-Routledge, Son-in-Law of Sir Hugh Allan, Commits Suicide.

A despatch from Montreal, says:—"A sad occurrence took place at Georgeville, in the Eastern Townships, on Monday. Amongst the most prominent residents of this summer resort were J. Turner Routledge, a young Englishman of good family, who came to Canada several years ago and married the youngest daughter of Sir Hugh Allan, of Montreal. Routledge for a number of years was engaged in ranching in the North-West, but had lately been living quietly at the family's summer home at Georgeville. Monday he was found dead at his residence, and it was found that he had committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. He leaves a widow and young child.

#### WOULD GO AFTER IT.

During the last Transvaal war, by some chance or another, the Boers managed to capture a flag from the English. Of this feat they have always been extremely proud, and have never lost an opportunity of boastfully showing the same to any English who might be visiting the Transvaal. During the Queen's Jubilee of 1897 an opportunity presented itself to the Boers of making known their magnanimity. President Kruger, on behalf of his countrymen offered back the flag which had been taken from the English in the last war. In reply the English government thanked the Boers for their courteous offer, begged to say that when they regained their flag they would go and fight.