

# HAS GEN. JOUBERT FALLEN IN BATTLE?

## Rumor Several Days Old Without Confirmation.

# RELIEVING FORCES AT ESTCOURT

West Yorkshire Regiment Reported There—Boers Said to be Along the Line to Chieveley—Heavy Firing Heard in the Direction of Ladysmith on Monday—War Office Knows Nothing as to Truth of Rumor of Joubert's Death—Relief of Kimberley to be Attempted Soon—Activity at De Aar—Boers Re-name Dundee "Myersdorp."

London cable: The veil of mystery surrounding recent happenings in the war area of South Africa is still unlifted, and nothing has been heard from any important point later than Nov. 9th. Some surprise is expressed at the censor allowing Father Matthews' story of the surrender at Nicholson's Nek to pass. It is contended that such a grave allegation is practically a charge of cowardice, and ought, under the circumstances, to have been silenced until an official inquiry could be held and the accused officers given a chance to reply.

### GEN. JOUBERT DEAD?

Rumor That Boer Commander Has Fallen in Battle. London cable: A despatch received here today from Pietermaritzburg dated November 11th, says it is rumored there that General Joubert, commander-in-chief of the Boer forces, has been killed in action.

London, Nov. 10.—The most startling news from the seat of war today is the report of the death of Gen. Joubert, the commander-in-chief of the Boer forces. The report lacks confirmation, but many people believe it to be well founded, as the general's death is said to have occurred Nov. 9th, when the Boer riflemen were understood to be within 1,500 yards of Ladysmith. Severe fighting between the British and the Boers the same day has since been reported, and it is regarded in some quarters as quite possible.

Gen. Joubert, always noted for his personal courage and coolness, may have dangerously exposed himself in a personal reconnaissance of the British position. Even Gen. Joubert's most bitter enemies admit that he fought squarely and fairly, and his action when Gen. Symons died, in expressing his sympathy, elevated him to the high regard of all soldiers. It is claimed that the death of Joubert would be likely to lead to the adoption by the Boers of bolder and more active tactics, as he had considerable difficulty in restraining his hot-headed followers.

The batch of news this morning brings the information that Ladysmith was still undergoing on Sunday bombardment from six 40-pounders. The British naval guns were silent. The Boers, therefore, have got more heavy guns into position, while either the British ammunition has given out or the British guns are simply reserving their fire, in view of the poor practice made by the besiegers.

The reports that the Boers have penetrated southward from Colenso to Chieveley, where they are said to have cut the railroad, shows that they are adopting a proper strategical plan to impede the advance of the British relieving force. Perhaps this may turn out to be General Schalk Burger's force, which, when last heard from was

### FADING ZULULAND.

This force, it is asserted, may not

be heard of south of Estcourt, which they will probably attempt to take before further reinforcements arrive. Indeed it is already reported that a Boer force was seen in the neighborhood of the line north of the Mood River.

According to the latest advices from British sources at Estcourt, the Boers are suffering from LACK OF SUPPLIES, though the large stores the British left when they evacuated New Castle and Dundee, must have been of great assistance to the Boer commissariat. But the task of maintaining a complete investment of Ladysmith is probably proving onerous. Ladysmith seems to be well provisioned, and the entrenchments are daily being strengthened. The Boers have renamed "Meysdorp," after Gen. Lucas Meyer, whose forces fought those of Gen. Symons there.

It is said this morning that 200



COL. MURRAY.



GENERAL SIR REDVERS BULLER, V. C., G. C. B.  
The Commander in Chief of the British forces in South Africa.

wounded of Gen. Meyer's force arrived at Pretoria the next day. There are signs that a forward movement for the relief of Kimberley may be expected shortly. There is great activity at De Aar,

where the advance appears likely to be made. There is, it is said, no urgent reason for this unless food and supplies are getting low, but the moral effect would be good for the British. The greatest enthusiasm was shown this morning at the departure from Newporth of a mountain battery of the Royal Artillery, consisting of six guns. Thousands of people lined the streets, cheering and singing, and the battery had difficulty in reaching the train through the dense crowd. This was the last mountain battery remaining in England, eight others being in India and the tenth having been captured by the Boers at Nicholson's Nek.

Nothing is known at the War Office of the reported death of Gen. Joubert.

ARMED UP A CULVERT. The armored train on its return reported that the Boers had blown up the line between Colenso and Chieveley. Not much damage was done, but the rails were bent and a small culvert was destroyed. On seeing the British patrols the Boers retired. Every day lessens the chances of the Boers coming further south.

Kaffirs report that a force of 400 to 500 Boers, with wagons, is going in the direction of Colenso. This is said to be the foraging party previously sighted. The Kaffirs also report that Gen. White's cavalry had an engagement with the Boers at Bester's Station. The result is not known.

A message from Ladysmith gives a few details of the occurrences of Wednesday, Nov. 8th, when the Boers' shell-fire was increased during the afternoon. It is asserted that they spent to aim deliberately at the convent on the hill, in the center of the town, where there were only the sisters and wounded several of them. The building was twice hit in spite of the Geneva flag flying. The Boers attempted a demonstration against the western defenses, but the groups appearing at long range were scattered by the fire of a machine gun.

### THAT SURRENDER.

Chaplain Matthews Gives the Story in Detail. Lorenzo Marquez cable: I interviewed Chaplain Matthews, of the Fusiliers, who was captured with the squadron and taken to Pretoria, but later released and obtained from him a detailed account of the capture of the two British battalions and the mountain battery at Nicholson's Nek. After explaining that General Buller promised to release him, but did not do so, sending him on with the others to Pretoria, where Secretary Reitz set him free, Father Matthews said:

"We were sent to occupy the position with the object of preventing the two Boer forces from joining. We started at 8.30 Sunday night, and marched ten miles. We got to the hill at 1 a. m. The first mishap was when the mountain battery stamped and scattered a whole lot of mules. We formed up again, and gained the top of the hill. The guns were going, but not all the ammunition. I do not know what stamped the mules, but they knocked me down. I was pitched dark at the time, and we had one hour's sleep.

"Firing began just after daylight. It was slack for some time, but the Boers crept around, and then the firing became furious. Our men made a breastwork of stones. After 12 o'clock there was a general cry of 'cease fire' in that direction. Our fellows would not stop firing. Major Ayle came up and confirmed the order to cease firing. Then the bugle sounded 'Cease fire.' There was a rumor in our ranks that a white flag had been raised by a young officer who thought his batch of ten men were the sole survivors. We were 900 strong, having started out with perhaps 1,000. I think that many of the mountain battery men escaped. Our men and officers were furious at surrendering. The Boers did not seem to be in great numbers on the spot, but

Natal Mounted Rifles	1	2	—
Hussars	2	0	160
Gordon Highlanders	24	71	—
Mounted Infantry	1	—	—
Natal forces	—	—	—
Imperial Light Horse	7	38	—
Natal Volunteers	8	50	39
Border Mounted Rifles	2	10	—
11th Lancasters	3	7	—
Medical corps	9	38	—
Natal Police	5	23	38
Tenth Mounted Battery	9	38	89

London, Nov. 16.—The London newspapers are again without news from South Africa, except the announcement of the arrival of transports at Cape Town.

The Standard, enquiring at the War Office regarding despatches from the seat of war, was informed that a number of despatches had been received from the Cape, but as they dealt with military details, they were not likely to be published.

Gen. Buller, says the Standard, "is not at Cape Town, but up the country to the north. He has completed plans for the relief of Ladysmith, and the additional troops which are now arriving will be utilized according to the plan of campaign prepared before the general left England."

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Durban, dated Nov. 11th, says: "Lord Methuen and his staff took a train going north in the direction of Ladysmith to-night."

THE PRESS CENSORSHIP. It is claimed, although there has been no official announcement to that effect, that the British authorities have imposed three days' delay on all telegrams allowed to come through from South Africa. As a matter of fact, most of the messages offered for transmission are peremptorily refused by the censor. It is stated that this action has been taken because, early in the campaign, when the correspondents and others were allowed considerable liberty, apparently innocent messages conveyed secret information. There is now a block on the cable, but telegrams passed by the censors are promptly forwarded.

FREE STATERS WITHDRAWING? Related despatches from Ladysmith, dated Nov. 7th, tell of an intended bombardment, and a native rumor that the Basutos are on the warpath, which is supposed, according to one correspondent, to have had the effect of inducing some of the Orange Free State troops to abandon the siege and to return to their own territory, and also to be accountable for the slackness of the attempts on the Ladysmith defenses.

Another correspondent says it is reported that in the attack on the Free State forces at Dewdrop, the Boers had 300 killed and wounded.

COLENSO DESERTED. Railway Cut a Mile South of the Town. Estcourt, Natal cable says: An armored train, manned by an engineering squad and a company of the Durham Fusiliers, under Capt. Hensley, returned here to-night. It reports that it found the stores at Fere looted, apparently by Kaffirs, and met cyclist patrols who reported that the Boers were on the Springfield road, five miles away. The train proceeded cautiously and found the Bluespruit bridge intact. The train frequently stopped, and Capt. Hensley examined the road ahead before proceeding. Nearing Colenso, Capt. Hensley inspected Fort Nicholson, and proceeded.

FOUND THE LINE CUT. A mile south of Colenso. Two lengths of the rail on each side had been lifted and placed out of gauge. From information obtained from Kaffirs, it appears that the Boers left the vicinity of Colenso early this morning, proceeding in the direction of Buluwan Mountain.

A balloon was observed for several minutes hovering over the Boer position in the mountains. It was, presumably, a British balloon from Ladysmith.

London, Nov. 11.—The following additional announcement was made by the War Office this afternoon: Gen. Buller reported Nov. 8th, that the bombardment of Kimberley, Nov. 7th did no damage, and there were no casualties.

The Basutos continue faithful to the British, and have refused to rejoin the Free State troops, which are retreating. London, Nov. 11.—The last infantry battalions under orders for South

Africa left England to-day, and the last of the Hussars also sailed, leaving the Household Regiment and only cavalry still to be despatched, and last, but not by any means least, the last battery of the howitzer artillery has started. Great things are expected of the howitzer battery, of which there are only three in the British army. These five-inch breech-loading guns are claimed to be of a superior character, and are expected to be particularly serviceable in removing the Boers from the hills.

MANY WAITING. The entire absence of news of any importance from Ladysmith is having its effect on the nerves of the country, and reference in the censored despatches of abnormal losses heightens the anxiety. It is pointed out that the absence of serious news in such despatches as have been received from Gen. White, greater nothing for the general, is not likely to send anything unpleasant or indicative of anxiety by pigeons, which are so liable to fall into the hands of the Boers. There are signs that the great ing between Ladysmith and Colenso, but the stories are so contradictory that it is impossible to assert that absolutely. If true it is pointed out that while it eases Ladysmith, the

RISK TO THE BOERS is also great, for it will give General White a great chance to intercept their retreat when Lord Methuen's division advances from the southward. unless, in the meanwhile, Gen. Joubert succeeds in causing the Boers to complete preparations for a series of desperate attacks on Gen. White's position. It is not doubted, and heavy fighting may be heard of, that the Boers must be enduring a daily ordeal which will hardly improve their fighting efficiency, and the danger of the shortness of ammunition looms up largely.

WHAT MAY HAPPEN. On the development of the situation at Ladysmith in the immediate future depends, probably, the length of the war. It is pointed out that if Gen. White can maintain his position until Nov. 26th or Nov. 28th, the British authorities will be fully satisfied that all the danger in Natal will be over.

THE BOER FORCE will be caught between two British forces and compelled to retreat over the difficult Tintwa Pass or Livershook, after abandoning its guns. The Boers have expressed the intention of capturing Ladysmith and then marching on the capital of Natal, and the fact of their retaining Tugela bridge intact places confidence in their ability to execute such a plan. Gen. Schalk Burger's flanking movement, via Zululand, most shortly develop, if it is to be effective, but the experts here

THE SUGGESTION that, with the reinforcements already there and the big naval guns continually arriving at Pietermaritzburg, there can be any serious danger. There is nothing corroborative of the rumor of a non-combatant disaster to a British troopship. The Admiralty has no knowledge of any such occurrence.

SUNSHINE SO BRILLIANT that it compelled Queen Victoria to resort to a sunshade for protection greeted Her Majesty's return to Windsor this morning, when she inspected three detachments of the Household Cavalry, bound for South Africa. The Royal Horse Guards and the Second Life Guards had journeyed up from London, joining the First Life Guards. Amid scenes of

GREAT ENTHUSIASM the troops formed in two lines, unmounted in black uniform. An immense crowd of people witnessed the assembly. Brigadier-General Trotter, the district commander, with his full staff, conducted the inspection. The Queen's farewells to the soldiers was as follows: "I have called you here to-day, my soldiers, who are always near me, to say farewell before you cross the seas to a distant part of my Empire to assist your comrades who are fighting so bravely for your sovereign and country. I know you will always do your duty, as heretofore, and I pray God to bless you and give you a safe return."

BOERS ARE INACTIVE. The Dutch allies have become inactive all along the line at the critical stage in their fortunes, when they have no time to lose. They have not advanced from Colenso, nor have they in the invasion of Cape Colony from the southern frontier of the Orange Free State, and their campaign on the western border remains undecided.

THE WOMEN ARE PLUCKY. A Daily Mail despatch from Estcourt shows that the women of Ladysmith are possessed of real grit. In replying to Gen. White, who requested permission for non-combatants to leave the town, Commandant Joubert replied that the women and children might go under the Boer guns to Umbakane for protection. The reply was read at a public meeting, and the women unanimously resolved to form a larger rather than accept protection from the Boers.

WAR NOTES. There is no confirmation of the report of Gen. Joubert's death. Six of Signor Marconi's assistants have gone to the Cape at the request of the British Government with sets of instruments to send the latest news no plant either directly or indirectly to the Transvaal.

THE ADMIRALTY has engaged the fast steamers Genl. Norman, Donnis, Cassin and Avondale to embark the greater part of the fifth division of 10,000 troops at Southampton for the Cape. The Commercial Cable Company last evening issued the following notice: "We are advised that the cable between Mozambique and Lorenzo Marquez has been repaired."

Estcourt, Natal, Nov. 13.—Non.—The West Yorkshire Regiment has arrived here. The bombardment of Ladysmith has been resumed. Heavy firing was heard early this morning. An armored train was sent out on a reconnaissance towards Colenso.

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