

# BRITISH AMBUSHED WHILE RETREATING.

## Six British Guns and Convoy Captured.

### THEY WERE CAUGHT IN A DEEP SPRUIT.

### Col. Colville's Division Now Shelling the Enemy,

In an Effort to Recover the Guns and Convoy—The Canadians are With Colville—Reports of the Battle at Karree—Sick Canadians Sent Home—British Preparing for a Winter Campaign—Funeral of Col. Gough—Sick Boer Prisoners—More Boers at Paardeberg—Hope for Mafeking.

London, March 30.—The War Office has issued the following from Lord Roberts to the Secretary of War:—

"On March 30, 2.25 p.m.—Owing to the activity of the enemy on our immediate front, and their hostile action towards the burghers who surrounded them on the terms of my proclamation, I found it necessary to drive them from some kopjes they had occupied near the Karree siding station, a few miles south of Brandfontein.

"The operation was successfully carried out by the Seventh (Gen. Tucker's) Division, assisted by the First and Third Cavalry Brigades, under Gen. French, and the Galt's regiment of mounted infantry.

"The enemy retreated by Brandfontein, and our troops now hold the kopjes.

"Our casualties were: Killed—Captain Gough, Scottish Borderers. Wounded—Captain Sadler, Lothians; Peckles, Carabineers; and Edwards, Lieutenant-Colonel and French, and about 100 rank and file."

Canadians in Netley Hospital.

London, March 30.—Telegraph Cable.—News of the Canadians at Netley Hospital were brought here from South Africa on account of having received wounds in any of the engagements. All of them are suffering from illness, and are progressing favorably, with the exception of Pte. Fred E. Weir, of the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto, who has developed fever. Corp. W. R. Ferguson, of the 93rd Camberland Battalion, is suffering from deafness.

Latest From Mafeking.

Lord Roberts to-day reported to the War Office that he had received news from Colonel Baden-Powell at Mafeking up to March 10th, which is the great health of the garrison and its spirits were good. The locally made gun, searchlight and ammunition were working well, the food was holding out well, and the morale excellent, which the British commander had been very satisfied.

Steyn's Movements.

From Cape Town comes reports that President Steyn had gone to Pretoria after issuing an order that all British burghers refusing to join the Boer army should be shot. The stories of refugees, however, are not reliable. The news from Kimberley is generally good, though the last reports from Natal indicate the speedy clashing of the opposing armies.

The Boer Story.

Kroonstad, Orange Free State, March 30.—General Smuts to-day engaged the British at Mafeking, south of Brandfontein, and held them at bay for six hours. The burghers fought hard, the casualties were heavy, but the Free State Rand will assemble at Kroonstad April 2nd.

Kitchener's Return.

London, March 31.—The actual situation west of Kimberley is still not clear, explained. The Morning Post's correspondent at Bloemfontein says that Gen. Kitchener and his staff crossed the temporary bridge at Norval's post, Wednesday night. He considers that the rebellion is crushed, though the fire may smoulder for some time. Gen. Kitchener had 4,000 men under his command. He left 700 at Priska. It is not apparent where the remaining 2,300 are. It is not stated whether they are accompanying Gen. Kitchener, who presumably went north to Bloemfontein.

THE BRANDFONTEIN FIGHT.

Boers Had Ranges Marked and Fought Hard.

Bloemfontein, March 30.—The attack upon the Boers holding the kopjes near the Karree Siding Station, a few miles south of Brandfontein, was made by Tucker's seventh division, with the co-operation of French's cavalry. The attacking troops included a large force of Australians. Col. Knight, with four hundred New South Wales mounted infantry, included in Le Gallais's brigade, attacked the right flank. A long chain of kopjes was held by the Boers, and there was severe fighting all along the line of attack. The approach was very steep, like a fortress, and the troops were unable to make headway until the infantry made an attack upon the front. The cavalry went around the right flank of the Boers, and used their Vickers-Maxims freely.

Had to Quit Hospital.

An army hospital was established in a cottage, under the shelter of a large kopje. The Boer shells came right over the kopjes and landed near the hospital, which it was found necessary to evacuate.

the Winniepo, it is likely a mistake for Alliston.

Review of Situation.

London, April 2.—News from the seat of war is still scanty. The most striking is the capture of a British convoy and guns, of which only a brief account has been received.

Bushman's Kopje, which place the news comes, is probably the Boersman's kopje which appears on the War Office map, about 19 miles east of Bloemfontein. Apparently the Boers, strong forces of whom temporarily evacuated. Ladybrand, turned back after getting their convoys into safety to attack the small British force.

The news generally, such as it is, further confirms the reports that the Boers are facing Gen. Roberts and Gen. Methuen, and that they have greatly recovered their morale.

The correspondents vary regarding the value of the battle near Karree Siding, some claiming that the 200 casualties were fully recompensed by the clearance of the road to Brandfontein. Other reports, however, indicate that the Boers' despatch probably indicates its value, he stating that it will prevent marauding on neighboring farms. Moreover, it opens a further stretch of railway towards the north.

Spenser Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, says:—

"The attack on Thaba Nchu and the convoy is a sample of the mode in which the Boers will try to conduct the war. It is a legitimate means and the most effective for Boer purposes. So long as the Boer army keeps the field, such attacks will be necessary to get rid of the difficulty of a swift advance and decisive blow against the main Boer army."

Hope of Recapture.

London, April 2.—Lord Roberts' own report of the ambushing, if yet received by the War Office, has not been published, and no account of the capture of the British public except the despatch from Bushman's kopje. Nothing can be said, therefore, regarding the exact extent. Evidently Col. Broadwood thought it necessary to retire in haste from Thaba Nchu, and he marched on through Friday night, apparently followed by a considerable force of the enemy. The convoy and guns had been taken to a deep spruit, which the Boers had occupied.

Six of twelve guns, comprising two batteries, all the wagons, and it is feared, many men, fell into the hands of the Boers.

The hope is expressed here that Gen. Colville will recover the convoy and guns; but this is hardly likely in such a difficult country, and it is probable that the Boers will have to send a stiff fight. Gen. Colville has extricated Col. Broadwood from his difficult position.

It is possible the affair may revive Boer hopes. Gen. Botha, who has been appointed by the Boers of the new command-in-chief, Gen. Botha, who has made his reputation wholly during the preceding campaign. Foreign officers serving in the Boer army have expressed surprise at his clever tactics.

The proof of continuing activity in the Free State will compel greater activity on the part of the British, and will probably result in the defeat of Lord Roberts northward. Detailed accounts of the fight at Karree siding estimate the Boer force variously from 3,000 to 5,000 men.

The Battle of Karree.

Bloemfontein, March 30.—There was a long range, wide and extended fight among the irregular hills beyond Karree siding to-day.

Gen. Tucker took his troops to the bridge on Tuesday night, Wednesday, and the Boers, who were camped near Gen. French, Le Gallais's mounted infantry held the intervening position before Brandfontein. This place proved to be occupied by the Boers, particularly at night, which was held by a commando of 700, with one 7-pounder, which controlled the railroad.

The mounted infantry drew a steady Mauser fire, while the British "pom-poms" were engaging the hill gun. Men fell on both sides while struggling for possession of this hill, which was the key of the position.

Gen. Chermisoff engaged from noon until 5 o'clock, when the Boers evacuated the hill and the main ridge. Then Gen. French attempted to outflank the Boers to the west and they were seen retreating to the north.

The fighting showed that a minority of the Boers did all the work, the majority having fled from one position to the next, and were engaged for the purpose of drawing the British fire.

A Boer pacifier who has returned from north of Glen says there is anxiety at Kroonstad as to the whereabouts of Groenland's and Lennart's commandos, which are now in the southeast country. North of Glen the country is grassy and watery, and the horses become more fit each day.

The Boers' Strong Position.

Bloemfontein, March 30.—The Boers' position was one of great natural strength. Only the turning movement of Gen. French and Major Le Gallais, the latter commander of the mounted infantry, on either flank, ensured the British success. The Boers' right flank consisted of a long hill with wooded sides connected with the main position by a long, low ridge, thickly wooded. The rest of the position, towards the left, consisted of broken kopjes, all connected by a high ridge.

Major Le Gallais moved round the Boers' left and engaged them, first freely using his Vickers-Maxims and gradually forcing the Boers towards the centre, where they made a good stand.

Major Le Gallais was unable to move until late in the day, while Gen. French moved early. The latter made a wide detour towards the rear of the Boers, but was unable to complete the movement before the Boers perceived his intention and abandoned the position. They retired in good order between Gen. French and Major Le Gallais, where the main body of the Boers was found to hold an excellent position on the edge of a deep donga, whence they shelled Gen. French.

The infantry attack was delivered at midnight. The Boers opened the light by seizing the lower slopes of an ugly kopje. Steadily they worked their way to the crest of the hill, where a hot engagement ensued. The Boers' position on the hill on the right, protecting the 18th Battery, which dragged its guns up the hill with the greatest difficulty, and opened a heavy fire at close range.

Meanwhile, the City Imperials, getting in touch with the Boers, the remainder of Tucker's division advanced across a semi-circular basin through which a railway ran. It was very open ground, and the Boers from the detached kopje and ridge delivered a heavy fire, in spite of this, however, the British moved steadily as if on parade. The advance was protected by guns, which vigorously shelled the Boer positions.

About 4 o'clock the British advanced simultaneously and occupied the Boers' position. From which an excellent view could be had of Brandfontein, 15 miles distant, across the open plain. The Boer loss is unknown.

Methuen's Proclamation.

Barkly West, March 29.—When the advance guard of Gen. Methuen's column reached Bloemfontein, en route for Griquatown, it was ordered to return to Kimberley, where it was found a proclamation had been posted by Gen. Methuen, reading:—

"I have received instructions that if a disturbance occurs west of the Vaal River my force will return and punish the rebels immediately."

Boer Transports Delayed.

Cape Town, March 31.—The first batch of war prisoners were to have started for St. Helena to-day.

# VICTORIA'S COMING VISIT TO THE EMERALD ISLE.

## Life Guards and House Paraphernalia Already Gone Forward.

### QUEEN WILL LEAVE IN A FEW DAYS.

Much Gossip Over the Visit—It Overshadows the War Just Now—The Queen's Health Good—Her Hundreds of Pans and Pots—Newsboy Nuisances to be Stopped—Dukes Going to Fight for the Empire—Lady Somerset Flattered—Theatrical Notes—General News of the Kingdom.

London, March 31.—The Life Guards, couriers, carriages, pots and pans and other royal paraphernalia have already gone to the Emerald Isle, which eagerly waits for Queen Victoria to follow. How Her Majesty will be received and her doings in Dublin have quite overshadowed all other topics, even in a week which has been marked by the annual inter-variously boat race, the resignation of the Duke of Norfolk as Postmaster-General, the announcement of the Delagoa Bay Railroad award, and the rumors of possible war in the far east. Great Britain's own war in South Africa has almost been forgotten, so uninteresting has been the progress of peace in the Orange Free State compared with the stirring accounts of battles which the British people had grown accustomed to read daily.

Queen's Health Good.

The Queen is said to be in excellent health, and will be able to bear the strain of the trip to Ireland. She will begin her journey on April 2nd, and will sleep on board the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, landing at Kings Quay on April 4th. In anticipation of Her Majesty's progress through the city the streets of Dublin are already gay with flags and decorations.

The Pots and Pans.

A curious feature of the preparations at the viceregal lodge, where the Queen will stay, are the pots and pans already referred to. Her Majesty is very particular about her kitchen arrangements, and those at the viceregal lodge were found to be quite below the royal standard. Consequently, no less than 300 copper, iron and brass pans, 81 saucepans, 50 copper cooking pots and many other varieties of cooking utensils have been sent to Dublin especially for the visit.

The Earl of Denbigh, who goes to Ireland as chief of the royal entourage and lord-in-waiting, holds three Irish titles, and is going by air to Cork to meet the Lord Lieutenant.

Newsboy Nuisances.

London, or rather that great residential part of it which is outside the city proper, has been relieved this week from a grievance almost as great as the war itself. For months yelling newsboys have been a nuisance at all hours, day and night, with endeavors to hawk "extras," often with nothing in them. The London County Council has now stopped this nuisance, and any newsboy shouting his wares is liable to arrest.

Norfolk's Action.

The almost unprecedented action of the Norfolk Regiment in the field during the Boer war, has been the subject of much discussion. The Norfolk Regiment has been the subject of much discussion. The Norfolk Regiment has been the subject of much discussion.

Down With the English.

London, April 2.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Nice says that about 30 French sailors from the fleet now at Villefranche, led by petty officers, to-day made a hostile demonstration against the British. Pro-Boer speeches were made, and then the sailors marched to the British Consulate, where they shouted, "Down with the English!" There was no violence. A formal complaint has been lodged with the authorities for transmission to the Admiralty.

Mafeking Not Neglected.

East London, April 1.—The Mayor of the city has telegraphed to General Roberts appealing to him to hasten to the relief of Mafeking, where the troops consist almost entirely of residents of the colony, led by British officers. General Roberts replied that he was pleased to assure the citizens of East London that the relief of Mafeking was engaging his most earnest attention.

Visited by the Queen.

The London Daily News, received in the latest mail, thus describes the Queen's recent visit to the Herbert Hospital in Woolwich:—

...made a kindly remark. "Are you still suffering?" "The pain had to bear?" "Were you long on the battlefield before the ambulance arrived?" "The Queen was some of the questions put by the Queen to herons of Colonel Spion Kop and Magerfontein. The brave fellows seemed to have nothing but reassuring answers to make. "I'm quite well, now, your Majesty," was the usual answer often heard by the bandaged limb or pale face. "I am very sorry," the Queen would say when the patient was compelled to speak of a broken arm, a bullet in the chest, or the pangs of suffering on the battlefield. Then, again, when testimony was borne to a rapid recovery, the Queen would smile and say, "I am so glad."

"She spoke as if in a low tone," said one, "but every word she said was quite distinct." She is the kindest lady I have ever talked to," said another. A third was amazed at the Queen's penetration.

"First she asked me what my name was, and I told her it was Woods, and then she said, 'Are you an Irishman?' Now, how could she have known that?"

"But Woods was not the only one to whom this inquiry was addressed. The Queen found many Irish soldiers during her tour of the wards, and they were all objects of particular solicitude.

"The Queen presented each soldier with one of the bouquets she brought from Windsor, and this was proudly dwelt upon by the men."

Renaming the Railways.

Cape Town, April 1.—Army orders were issued to-day declaring the abolition of the title "Free State Railways" and superseding this by the title "International Military Railways."

Death of Col. Gough.

Bloemfontein, March 31.—There was an impressive military funeral this morning of Col. Gough, late of the 14th Hussars. The body was brought here from Norval's Post this morning. Gen. Lord Roberts and staff attended, and the military bands played dirges. The residents with bare heads witnessed the funeral procession passing through the streets.

The 8th Division to Go North.

Orders have been received at Cape Town for the 8th Division to be disembarked and sent north immediately on its arrival here.

Roberts Consoles Kruger.

Bloemfontein, March 30.—Gen. Lord Roberts has sent a telegram of condolence to President Kruger on the death of Gen. Joubert.

Rudyard Kipling has written a poem on Joubert's death, which appears in The Friend of the Free State.