

THREE BATTLES FOUGHT AND WON.

Roberts' Strategy Too Much for the Boers.

HUTTON WITH THE MOUNTED CANADIANS

Dashing Crosses the Vet Under a Severe Fire.

MACDONALD'S FINE GENERALSHIP

The Black Watch Distinguishes Itself—Hunter's Division Victorious at Roodam—Hamilton Also Meets With Success—Boths and Meyer Both Disheartened—Hutton Captured Gun—Boers Retreating Northward—British Gladly Welcomed at Brandford—Kruiger in Bad Shape—Jan Hamilton Captures Winburg—Peace Delegates Talk—Irish Brigade With General Hunter.

London, May 4, 11:20 p. m.—The War Office this evening issued the following from Lord Roberts, dated Brandford, Friday, May 4th: "The mounted infantry have gone on to the Vet River. The rest of the force will march there to-morrow. The railway has been repaired to Brandford. Hunter reports very satisfactory news, that the passage of the Vaal has been carried at Winderton without opposition."

The Vet River is from ten to fifteen miles north of Brandford. The point where the railway crosses the river is about ten miles west of Winburg, where the Boers have claimed that a stand would be made. Winderton, on the Vaal River, is twenty miles north of Kimberley. Gen. Hunter's force is believed to be marching for Mafeking.

Hamilton Advancing Too. London, May 5.—War news is scanty, it being practically confined to General Roberts' despatches, but what has been received is all round distinctly favorable to the British. Gen. Roberts has now commenced his advance towards Pretoria, and by last night it was believed that he would be 60 miles towards his destination. Brandford, as was anticipated, offered practically no opposition, the Boers being outflanked on both sides.

General Hunter's entrance into Smithfield and the occupation of Jammersberg indicated a careful holding of the southeastern part of the Free State. It is expected here that Gen. Hunter's crossing of the Vaal River at Winderton by turning the Boer position at Fourteen Streams will force the burghers to abandon the latter place. It is presumed that General Hamilton (including the Canadian mounted infantry) has been advancing since Wednesday in the direction of Jacobsrust. He may by now have reached the Vet River, where he will be a day's march from the main column. This will afford great mutual support.

A Fierce Bombardment. Warrenton, Cape Colony, May 4.—A British 6-inch gun opened unexpectedly on the Boer laager yesterday at a distance of seven and a half miles, throwing hundred-pound shells with wonderful accuracy, and causing a heavy retreat of the burghers. The bombardment continued to-day at all points by howitzers and field guns, supported by two companies of the Munster Regiment, the Boers being driven from shelter and their guns being put out of action.

Canadians Invited Home. London, May 5.—The following non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian special service forces on active service in South Africa have been invited from South Africa to England: Sgt. A. J. Head, armourer-sergeant, militia store branch, Woolwich Hospital. Col. Sgt. F. W. Utton, R. C. R. L., wound in foot, Woolwich Hospital. Corp. W. Wallace, R. C. R. L., Woolwich Hospital. Lance-Corp. Walker, 16th Field Battery, Woolwich Hospital. Pte. H. Bingham, 35th Battalion, debility, Netley Hospital. Pte. M. Burgess, 93rd Battalion, debility, Netley Hospital. Pte. J. Cairns, 2nd Field Battery, Woolwich Hospital. Pte. W. Cox, R. C. R. L., Woolwich Hospital. Pte. Ferguson, 74th Battalion, influenza, ext. mentus, Netley Hospital. Pte. J. W. Hartnett, 3rd Batt., Woolwich Hospital. Pte. F. A. Kirkpatrick, 3rd Regiment, C. A., debility, Netley Hospital. Pte. A. Lockwood, 65th Battalion, Woolwich Hospital. Pte. F. Macdonald, R. C. R. L., rheumatism, Netley Hospital. Pte. J. McLeod, 71st Battalion, Woolwich Hospital. Pte. J. A. Mitchell, 4th Battalion, Woolwich Hospital. Pte. F. B. Strong, nil insanity, Netley.

A Former London Boy. London, May 4.—A cable has been received here from Mr. and Mrs. Houseman, of England, telling of the death, in South Africa, of their son, Arthur Houseman, who died of enteric fever while serving in an ambulance corps on active service.

been withdrawn within a fortnight. Grobler at Mafeking. Pretoria, May 4, 4:30 p. m.—Foreign Secretary Grobler has gone to Mafeking as commandant. It is now regarded as quite possible that Mafeking may be secured ere the Boers' Birthday. Cronje's Loss a Heavy One. St. Louis, Mo., May 3.—The correspondent of the Republic at Washington telegraphs his paper that Webster Davis, until recently Secretary of the Interior, has received from the United States Consul at Lorenzo Marques the following interesting letter, written to the Consul's wife by Mrs. Reitz, the wife of the Secretary of State of the South African Republic: "Pretoria, March 11.—Many things have happened since I wrote to you last. We did not mind losing Lady-smith and Kimberley much, but we were very sorry about Cronje. We knew him to be a brave man, and we all prayed God that it might please Him to restore him and his burghers to us. The President asked the people to pray for him on three successive nights on which we hoped that he might fight his way out. Will God utterly forsake us? Perhaps He will still hear us in His own good time. We cannot turn back now, and do not mean to. May God have mercy on us. "If God means the English to crush this, our poor people, I do not think they will find many men left. We do not fear the great number of English troops—they cannot shoot; but it is the cannon we can do so little against. "Will your people not help us? Perhaps your Government will not let them. I shall pray God day and night that they may be able to help us. President and lay such words in the mouth of Webster Davis as will go home to the people of America to make them listen to the cries of the

little child that is being murdered here by the big and strong man, as our President expressed it. The Panick-Stricken Suffolks. London, May 4.—The Gazette this evening contains General French's report of the disaster to the Suffolk Regiment in the Transvaal district, January 5th, which he attributes entirely to the fact that a majority of the four companies of the regiment engaged were seized with panic and fled. He says high tributes to the officers of the regiment and the men who remained with them.

Hutton's Brigade Took Brandford. London, May 5, 4:05 a. m.—The mounted infantry with Lord Roberts, among whom are the Canadians, have picketed their horses on the south bank of the Vet River, 18 miles north of Brandford. The head of Lord Roberts' column has thus advanced 32 miles from Karree Siding in two days, or 53 miles north of Bloemfontein. The correspondents supplement Lord Roberts' plain statements with a few details. As Gen. Hutton, with the First Mounted Infantry Brigade, drew near Brandford, he saw a body of khaki-clad troops. They opened fire upon the British, who replied heavily. They were the Irish-American brigade from Lorenzo Marques, and it is reported that the Irish lost several. The Boer flag was flying over Brandford as the British entered the town. Several British wounded were found in the hospital. Lord Kitchener arrived at Brandford at noon and Lord Roberts at dusk.

War Office List of Casualties. London, May 4.—The latest list of casualties in South Africa shows that 271 officers and 2,552 men have been killed, 694 officers and 9,225 men wounded, and 171 officers and 3,925 men missing. Sixty-four officers and 2,028 men have died from various diseases. The Exodus From the Transvaal. Pretoria, May 2, via Lorenzo Marques, May 4.—The forced exodus of British subjects from the Transvaal continues, and large numbers of them are leaving the Republic. The authorities, however, are exercising commendable discretion in many cases where leniency can be shown without detriment to the Government's interests. Boer Tribute to British Valor. Dundee, Natal, May 2, via Lorenzo Marques, May 4, 7 p. m.—The correspondent to-day made a personal inspection of this town and the surrounding villages. Everything was quiet. Except for the looting done last October, property, with a few exceptions, was undamaged. The graves of the British and Boers who fell in the fighting around this place are behind the Swedish mission, and they are neatly enclosed. Yesterday Gen. Lucas Meyer and his wife visited the grave of Gen. Penn Symons, and Mrs. Meyer placed beautiful flowers upon the distinguished soldier's resting-place. Boers Capture Native Spies. At the Front, Biggarsberg, May 2, via Lorenzo Marques, May 4.—The British camps below Mattown Hill are reported to be active. Two natives who were acting as spies for the British were captured yesterday in the vicinity of Glencoe. Boers Shift Their Guns. Ladysmith, May 4.—The Boers have shifted their guns on the range of hills facing the British in front of Elands Laagte, and have posted a "Long Tom" on a hill in the direction of Wessels's nek.

All Well April 29 at Mafeking. London, May 5.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Lorenzo Marques, dated Friday, says that the Boers admit that all was well with the British at Mafeking on April 29th. The despatch adds the only 4,000 Boers remain in Natal, 3,000 having

commander, but, Mr. Wyndham said, that was not the view of the Government, and the view of Gen. Buller, who was in the best position to decide. At this point Mr. John Dillon, Irish Nationalist, member for East Mayo, interrupted, saying he had never asserted that he wanted the despatches published. Mr. Wyndham continued: "But the gallant General has been applauded for saying he would stick to what he had written, and would have made a great show of candor if he thought no one would know what he had written."

This remark was greeted with cries of "Oh, Oh." Mr. Wyndham then said he thought Gen. Buller had merely been unlucky and that General Warren's services should not be overlooked, adding that while in publishing the despatches the Government had acted on its own responsibility, it had been confirmed in so doing by the opinion of Lord Roberts. The case for the Government was that the right course was to publish the despatches, and no more. He was persuaded that both Gen. Buller and Lord Roberts had sent the despatches home for publication. Did the House suppose harm was done to a commander by a despatch showing him to have been a good one, and ought to have succeeded, or by deciding five points in his favor while one point was criticized? Was it fair to leave 40,000 or 50,000 men at risk regarding what obscure causes had made all their efforts unavailing? Because Gen. Warren had failed in a large, independent command did not prove that he was unfit for other work. Will you, Mr. Buller, attempt to apologize for him would be a great insult to so great a man, who had deserved well of his country, and his troops would be glad to know his strategy was praised by Lord Roberts.

Mr. H. H. Asquith, (Liberal), and others adverted to the alleged intenable position of the Government, confidence in which, they asserted, had been so grievously shaken. Mr. John Gordon Swift MacNeil, Irish Nationalist, declared the only reason for withholding criticism of Lord Methuen was because he had been ordered to save Mr. Cecil Rhodes at all costs. Mr. Henry Labouchere (advanced Liberal) declared the Government was charged with deliberately undertaking to "cook" despatches for the British public, adding: "All honor to Buller, who refused to be a party to deceiving the public."

Mr. Balfour said Mr. Labouchere had made it a question of the honor or dishonor of a great public servant. He added that his speech was the culmination of a series of attacks by persons who had discovered the nearest and basest motives in the Government's action. The Government, he contended, was accused of favoring one general at the expense of another. It was said they meant to prepare the public for the dismissal of General Buller, and that the despatches simply followed precedent. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, said all Mr. Balfour could do was to appeal to mere party fidelity. The Government, he asserted, had no precedent for its action, and had departed from the immemorial practice of the army. He also claimed that its defence was utterly insufficient, and that the Opposition would now record its vote in condemnation of the conduct of the Government. Mr. Runciman's motion was rejected by 215 to 116 votes.

In the Lords. London, May 4.—In the House of Lords to-day the Earl of Portsmouth, Liberal Unionist, called attention to the publication of the Spion Kop despatches, which, he said, had aroused a depth and strength of feeling difficult to exaggerate. The Secretary of State for War, the Marquis of Lansdowne, in denying the publication of the despatches, said it was the only course open to the Government. Proceeding, he quoted the Queen's regulations relating to the publication of such documents, and pointed out that in the Afghan cases, where in certain despatches were published, adding that, in those cases, other employment was found for the generals. Regarding Spion Kop, the Secretary said he could not have the battle cost 1,600 casualties, and if the papers had been withheld, the reputations of the generals would have been damaged more than by their publication. The Secretary of State for War did not desire to divest himself of any responsibility, but if he had published the despatches without consulting the Secretary of State, it would have been a gross act of insubordination and disloyalty to him. He denied he had suggested that garbled accounts should be substituted, and claimed that what he did suggest was perfectly honorable and harmless. The censure of Lord Roberts on General Buller amounted to the charge that he had trusted too much to his subordinates. That was a very mild rebuke. After Lord Kimberley, the Liberal leader in the House of Lords, had declared the publication unjustifiable, Lord Rosebery asked if it were true that, as a consequence of the publication, General Buller had tendered his resignation, which was refused. Lord Lansdowne replied that the War Office had no knowledge of such a step. Lord Rosebery declared that General Buller had been placed in a cruel position, pointing out that after the relief of Ladysmith, the War Office had set to work to publish everything damaging, critical, and censorious upon Gen. Buller in order to satisfy public curiosity, of which no outward signs existed, and they were now compelled to wash their dirty hands in public. The Government, he further asserted, had impaired General Buller's authority, and had degraded his position, because they, the strongest Government of modern times, were unable to face the questions in the House of Commons. After a brief reply from the Duke of Devonshire, President of the Council, the subject was dropped.

Shot at Schreiner. Cape Town, May 5.—The South African News, in recording the fact that a policeman, who was guarding Premier Schreiner's house, was shot, adds that the Premier was smoking a cigar at the time and asserts that the bullet was evidently intended for

the Premier, who is an inveterate smoker. The Africa Bund papers are making a sensation out of the affair, declaring an anti-Dutch plot is on foot. Hamilton at Neuweltkop. London, May 5.—Lord Roberts' reports to the War Office under date of Brandford, May 4th, are as follows: "Hamilton advanced to-day to Neuweltkop. He was engaged with the enemy throughout the march. He speaks in terms of praise of the behavior of the troops, especially Broadwood's brigade of mounted cavalry and infantry."

London, May 6.—The War Office has published the following despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Vet River, Saturday, May 5th, 7:15 p. m.: "I marched here to-day with Pole-Carew's division, Headquarters and Wavell's brigade of the seventh division are two miles in the rear. Maxwell's brigade, of the same division, is the same distance on our right. "The enemy are in considerable strength on the opposite bank of the river. Our guns engaged theirs for some three hours without our being able to force a passage of the river. "Shortly before dusk, however, mounted infantry under Gen. Hutton, turned the enemy's right, and in a very dashing manner pushed across the river under heavy shell and musketry fire. "We are bivouacking for the night within three miles of the Vet River. "Our casualties, I hope, are not numerous. "Hamilton was in action yesterday and succeeded in preventing a junction of two Boer forces by a well-executed movement by some of the Household Cavalry, the Twelfth Lancers, and Kitchener's Horse, who charged a body of the enemy and inflicted serious loss. "The enemy fled, leaving their dead on the field and their wounded to be attended by our doctors. "Macdonald's Highland Brigade dislodged the enemy on the right bank under cover of the naval guns, in which operation the Black Watch distinguished themselves, and were very skilfully led. "Hamilton was advancing this morning to a difficult drift over the Klein-oet River. "Hunter reports that Barton's brigade was heavily engaged this morning two miles north of Roodam. The enemy's position was quite four miles long and strongly held. "He states that our men marched magnificently and carried ridge after ridge in grand style. "Casualties in this force, in Hamilton's and Hutton's will be reported as soon as possible. "Capt. Miller, who was taken prisoner near Thaba Nchu, has been sent to Ruddle's camp by the enemy, with a severe wound in the abdomen. "Brabant reports that one sergeant and three men were captured on May 2nd while on patrol, and that one of them, who had been brutally ill-treated and left for dead by the Boers, was found the following day. "Lieut. Lilly, Victoria Mounted Rifles, reported missing, was found at Brandford dangerously wounded, and has been most carefully attended by the Netherlands ambulance."

Fighting Continued Sunday. London, May 7.—With the exception of a report from Bloemfontein that the Boers had occupied Winburg, there is little to add to General Roberts' description of the advance of the British forces from Brandford to the Vet River. It is assumed here that the operations were continued actively Sunday, but no details have been received. The neighborhood of Thaba Nchu seems to continue to be the scene of active engagements, notwithstanding the northward advance. General Brabant apparently met with strong opposition at Thaba Patcho, near Thaba Nchu, for General Ruddle left the latter place Friday to assist him with the Seventeenth Brigade and two batteries of artillery. The British succeeded in ousting the Boers from their position on a kopje, but the subsequent operations have not been reported. Press telegrams from Warrenton represent General Barton's engagement at Roodam as being severe, although the British loss is stated to have been only five killed and 25 wounded. The Boers, who numbered from 2,000 to 3,000, awaited attack in bushy, hilly ground, and the fighting lasted from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. The British infantry was sometimes engaged at close quarters. It was, however, a movement, apparently by the Yeomanry, threatening the Boer retreat, that decided the day, and the burghers hastily evacuated their positions, leaving 13 dead behind them, but carrying off their wounded. The Yeomanry pursued the Boers for some miles, and a number of prisoners were taken. A Swedish ambulance was also captured, but was allowed to return. The Boers, it is now stated, have completely cleared out of the Winderton and Kipldam districts. "There are no reports from Natal indicating any movement of General Buller in co-operation with General Roberts' advance. A Boer account of the capture of Brandford says: "The Federal forces, although weak in numbers, offered strong resistance, but they were forced by the overwhelming force opposed to them to evacuate the town."

Hutton Captured a Gun. Vet River, May 6.—General Pole-Carew started at daybreak yesterday on a 10-mile march. He first came into contact with the Boers holding the river at 1 o'clock p. m. The British soon had two batteries in action, and later they added two naval nine-pounders, two 4.7 and 5-inch siege guns. The Boers fired with great accuracy, and the duel continued unabated with a terrible din until sunset, and even later there was desultory firing. It is marvelous that nobody on the British side was injured. General Hutton started early to find the drift on the west. When this was discovered it proved to be strongly held and protected by two guns. The British speedily engaged the Boers, who inflicted the dismounted firing a few minutes, but General Hutton pushed forward his own pom-pom and a galloping Maxim and forced the Boers to leave the river-bed. The encounter was terribly hot. Later, the whole British force crossed the river, threatening the Boer right. The Boers retreated during the night. The Boers must have received about the same time news of Gen. Hamilton's occupation of Winburg. About sunset, a detachment of 26 Australians, who had crept unseen toward the river bed, found themselves

near a kopje occupied by the Boers. After firing, they lived beyond an angle, capturing the kopje. All was done on their own initiative. Thus might feel. Early this morning it was discovered that the whole Boer force had fled. The British discovered yesterday at every hundred yards along the rail road concealed small packets of high explosive. The Boers had destroyed three bridges over spruits between here and Brandford, but in every case it was possible to make a detour. The Boers appear to be fighting with much less spirit. It is reported that they are commanded by Gen. Lucas Meyer. The bridge over the Vet River is completely destroyed. Gen. Hutton captured a Maxim and took twelve prisoners. Yeomanry in Pursuit. Thaba Nchu, May 5.—Gen. Ruddle, who has been pursuing the Boers with the seventeenth brigade, two batteries, and contingents of the yeomanry and mounted infantry, succeeded in reaching the river with his artillery, and forced them to leave their positions. The yeomanry are making a long detour in pursuit. The result is not yet known here. An All-day Battle. Warrenton, May 6.—Yesterday General Barton drove from 2,000 to 3,000 Boers from hilly positions at Roodam, where they awaited them. They retreated after stiff fighting, leaving a number of dead on the field. The British casualties were slight. General Barton is still pursuing. Winderton and Kipldam have been evacuated. General Paget's brigade is attacking the Boer position at Warrenton. The engagement yesterday was very severe, and lasted from 9 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. Most of the British infantry were obliged to engage the Boers at close quarters, and the Boers only retired when their retreat was narrowly cut off. The British losses were five killed and 25 wounded, mostly Welsh Fusiliers. The British took a batch of prisoners, including the Swedish ambulance, which they allowed to return. The Boers, in their hurried retreat, left 13 dead. To-day General Paget made a strong demonstration against the Boer position east of the bridge, thereby preventing Boer reinforcements going to assist in checking General Barton's advance. Welcomed the British. London, May 7.—Several correspondents send additional details of the occupation of Brandford, where, they say, the British were welcomed by the inhabitants in a manner similar to their reception at Bloemfontein. They declare that the Free State are wholly tired of the war, and that they continue fighting only under compulsion by the Transvaal Boers, being virtually prisoners. The British accounts represent the Boers as being completely surprised at Brandford. It is stated that they nearly lost their convoy of guns in the compulsory haste of their retreat. Especially unexpected was the arrival of a strong mounted force of Australians, Canadians and Zealanders to the eastward of the town. Several small kopjes, from which their advance might have been resisted, were unoccupied by the Boers, apparently because they did not suspect that the British were near. The advance was further aided by two of Gen. Pole-Carew's battalions of Guards seizing at night two hills commanding a deep spruit, the passage of which the Boers guarded daily. Finding that their position was untenable, the Boers relinquished their defence of the spruit, which allowed the passage of the whole British force without opposition. Another correspondent says that the conduct of the Irish brigade in firing on the first of the British troops to enter the town is keenly resented by the inhabitants, who regard their action as a wanton attempt to imperil their safety. British Capture Winburg. Vet River, Sunday, May 6.—General Ian Hamilton's brigade this morning occupied Winburg, twenty miles west of this place, and which was the base of supplies for the Boers in the Scherriesburg State. Yesterday Hamilton's force captured kopjes controlling the town, and this morning the enemy were found to have evacuated the place. Their retreat from Winburg was simultaneous with the retirement of the Boers north of here. Success at All Points. London, May 7.—Lord Roberts is making better progress than anticipated, and has met with success at all points. As the latest news of Gen. Hamilton's operations, dated Saturday morning, was that he was then preparing to force the difficult passage over Little Vet River on the Bloemfontein-Winburg road, there need be no doubt that the news of the occupation is accurate, although not officially confirmed. Gen. Hamilton's advance will prevent the Boer forces in the direction of Thaba Nchu joining their main army near Winburg. General Ruddle on Saturday had arrived in pursuit of the Boers seven miles north of Thaba Nchu, compelling the Boers to retire in an easterly direction. Mafeking Relief Column. London, May 6.—The Cape Town Argus reports the secret departure of a relief column for Mafeking before General Hunter's advance to that place began. It is said that General Hunter will operate north of the Vaal River, and General Methuen, south of that stream, in conjunction with General Roberts' movements. Mafeking Relieved? London, May 7.—From Lorenzo Marques come various rumors that Colonel Plumer has been reinforced, and is again advancing toward Mafeking. Another report says Mafeking has been relieved and General Lombard, with 3,000 Boers, captured at Fourteen Streams. The Laurensdorp pulp and saw mill at Grand Mre. Q. b. c. were destroyed by fire. The loss is about \$400,000. Printing paper is now no longer scarce there. There is no narrowness so narrow as the narrowness of a self-conceit.



COLONEL DALGETY. The Gallant Defender of Wepener.