

FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Major Weeks, J. Matheson and A. Mellish.

XMAS ON THE VELDT

Volley Firing Abolished on The New Plan of Attack—Officers Position.

Extracts from a letter received by Col. Moore from Major Weeks:—

BELMONT.

CAPE COLONY, Xmas, 1899.

My DEAR COLONEL MOORE, If you will excuse this piece of soiled paper (which is all I have) I will write you a short note. In the first place to thank you so much for the beautiful Xmas box which you and the officers of P. E. Island have sent me.

The watch is a gem and I am proud to show it to my comrades here. It came in such an opportune time; the watch which I purchased in Quebec had just stopped owing to the sand getting into the works. In fact many other watches were destroyed for the time being in the same way.

Kindly tell any of the other officers when you may see that I shall write to them all, but not at the same time.

Well, we are on the sandy desert of South Africa, where we sometimes enjoy the luxury of a sandstorm, which fairly blinds us. The sandstorms are interspersed with a terrific thunderstorm. The heat is also excessive, ranging from 110 to 115 in the shade every day. We are stationed here at Belmont the nearest station to the troops in front. We are guarding the line of communication at this point and will continue to do so until the balance of the troops arrive.

Our chief work is to keep up a strong outpost line, mounted patrols, examining guards, etc., our outpost line is along one of the kopjes captured by the British last month. It is a horrible place—half buried Boers lying around. There is nothing but boulders and small stones and the only means of burial is to heap stones upon the dead. Here and there one can see a head or a foot sticking out. The dead horses have been just dragged away by order of the medical staff as the stench was likely to produce disease. Each company furnishes the outposts in turn. The duty commences at 3 a. m. and lasts until 6 a. m. next day, or 27 hours. The outposts is divided into two squads, each of which furnishes two groups, and these groups have each additional sentry. As the outposts is always



MAJOR W. A. WEEKS.

relieved in the morning, there are always 200 men on the outpost line at dawn. We are always prepared for a surprise and I think the Boers, who have as yet given us a very wide berth would get a warm reception if they came our way in any reasonable number. The officers all left their swords and belts behind at De Aar and we now carry a rifle, waist belt and bayonet like the men. We have been practicing the attack on a new plan as follows: Battalion in 4 Bat. column with the right half battalion supported by the left. The whole of the front rank of the right half advance opening out to 5 paces interval. This forms the firing line. The rear rank then follows in support at some interval, about 50 yards behind. Then the front rank of left half advances in support at same interval, followed by the rear rank, so that we have four successive lines of men coming on. As we advance to the decision point the rear ranks are absorbed into the front ranks. All advances being made alternately by rushes on a signal from officers commanding each line. The officers are all in the line with the men and every movement is made from signals. Volley firing will be out of the question. Each man as much as possible using his own judgement as to range and fire control. The kopjes seem to be almost unpraguable and it things were reversed and the British occupied them, all the Boers in South Africa, and all the armies of Europe could not turn them out. If you could see the places where the Highlanders stormed and the ground they had to cross, you would wonder how one could escape. No wonder the losses the British sustained at Modder River and Colenso with such a mode of attack. It may be magnificent, but it is not the kind of war we must fight. We want more artillery and mounted troops, and the infantry are helpless without them. If we can once get the Boers out of the kopjes on the veldt or open country then the finish will not be far off.

Besides our outpost and patrol work we have all kinds of fatigue—constructing works of defence around our camp unloading supplies from the cars for our station, cleaning up camp, &c. We are all getting tired of this inaction and it will be with a shout of joy from every one when we shall be ordered to the front.

We have had a pretty rough time of it. Our grub was pretty dry for a few days after we came here—dry bread and coffee without milk for breakfast; boiled mutton with bread or biscuit for dinner; anything we could scrape together for tea. We have company messes 4 to 5 officers at a mess. The men fare better than the officers. When we found that we were going to stay here for some time we sent down to Cape Town for some luxuries such as canned herring, canned meat, milk, and jam and now we can put up a pretty good meal. All the officers of the Battalion dine together this Xmas day at 4.30 p. m. on the station platform and we are going to make it as jolly as the nature of our position will permit. Everyone is in the best of spirits and full of fight and although we are not looking for trouble, yet if it comes this way we will give a good account of our selves and I feel sure that the Contingent will do honor to Canada. All the Island men are well. I have been transferred for a time at least to topographical and engineering work on the staff and Capt. McDonald is in charge of Co. G. I like the change in a way, but if there is any fighting it is understood that I can go back with the Company.

In making surveys of the kopjes beyond the camp I have seen many evidences of the Boer fight—dead horses, unused ammunition, saddles, half buried men, etc.

BULLER'S LATEST ADVANCE

Holds Good Position With Hard Fighting Ahead.

OTHER GENERALS TO ASSIST

Belief That He Will Succeed—Gatacre in Pursuit of Boer Artillery—To Protect Loyal Farmers—British Losses—Boers are Getting Short of Big Shells—Natives in Boer Army.

MONTREAL, Feb. 8.—(Special)—News was received today that the S. S. Pomeranian passed St. Vincent, Cape Verde.

All are well, but seven horses die on the passage.

PERSONAL—STOLEN MONEY RETURNED.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Gerald Balfour, a brother of A. J. Balfour is seriously ill.

The sum of £20,000 the balance of £60,000 stolen from the Paris Bank a year ago, was returned today mysteriously.

Prospects are brighter for the Conservative Government and the belief now is that one or two good victories will make things all right for them.

BULLER'S THIRD ADVANCE.

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Feb. 7.—6 p. m. General Buller commenced his third advance for the relief of Ladysmith on Monday.

There were two points of attack, one immediately in front of our position and the other on the extreme right, the first being a feint in which the naval guns took part, vigorously pounding the enemy for an hour.

ATTACK ON THE RIGHT. Meanwhile a vigorous attack was made on the extreme right, where the engineers expeditiously constructed a position. Several pieces of cannon half hidden among the trees on Zwart's Kop, bombarded the enemy heavily.

The British infantry advanced and the Boers were entirely surprised. At 4 o'clock, a high hill, known as Krantz Kloof, a continuation of the Brakfontein, had been taken.

BATTLE RESUMED ON WEDNESDAY.

The bombardment of the Boer position was resumed this morning.

The Boers worked a disappearing cannon from the high Doorn Kloof range on the right of the captured hill, but the British shells exploded its magazine and the gun was put out of action till late in the day.

THE ADVANCE CHECKED.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—A special despatch from Spearmen's Camp, dated February 7th, says:

Our advance is at present prevented as the Boers enfilade us from their positions, on Spion Kop and Doorn Kloof. Our casualties, although estimated at

250, are trifling considering the great importance of the movement just concluded.

HARD FIGHTING STILL AHEAD.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Buller holds his position and the relief of Ladysmith is now considered certain.

When the Durhams reached the top of Vaal Kvanz the enemy fled, over half of them being armed natives.

Several days hard fighting must be yet expected before Buller can reach Ladysmith.

BARTON AND WHITE CAN ASSIST.

The belief is that General Barton at Chieveley is strong enough to advance on the Tugela and render valuable assistance, as well as the garrison of Ladysmith, when the opportune moment arrives.

GATACRE GETTING TO WORK.

The Boers' attack on Gen. Gatacre ended in a fizzle and his cavalry are now in pursuit of the Boer artillery, which fled on the arrival of reinforcements.

PREPARING TRANSPORTS—LOYAL YEOMANRY.

At Cape Town ox wagons and drivers are being advertised for to use in the British advance from Colesburg towards Pretoria.

The loyal Yeomanry are being organized, one hundred men from each district in the Colony to protect loyal farmers.

RUNNING SHORT OF SHELLS.

The Times report that the Boers are running short of heavy projectiles and are making strenuous efforts to secure them all over Europe.

LATEST BRITISH CASUALTIES.

The British casualties in Buller's latest advance up to noon of Tuesday were two officers killed, 15 wounded, and 216 non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

FROM BELMONT AND COLESBURG.

Gen. Macdonald maintains his position at Koodesoberg Drift and is disconcerting the Boers and safeguarding the Belmont garrison's operations against Douglas.

The Boers were vigorously shelled from Rensburg this morning.

W. A. WEEKS.

The following extracts were taken from a letter received by Mr. J. T. Mellish:

BELMONT CAMP South Africa, Dec. 28th, 1899.

Christmas has come and gone and we have not the box yet. Is it not too bad? As to our fare we began Xmas day with some bread and coffee without milk; at 12 we had boiled beef and canned plum pudding; at 3, some lime juice; at 4, chicken; at 5.30, bread and tea and marmalade. And just think, that box was and likely still is at Cape Town. Dear knows when we will get it. There is a baboon in the camp—they are four times as large as the monkey, we see at home. Great fun showing it a looking glass; it



MAJOR GENERAL SIR W. GATACRE. Commanding Second Division of First Army Corps.

makes all kinds of faces and grimaces when looking in the glass. Rodd has just killed a lizard beside me in the tent as I am writing. He cut it in two with his bayonet. Last night we were picketed on the kopje. One of the sentries saw a man trying to sneak up. He challenged him three times and then fired, but the man got off in the dark.

During the day we were all turned out for an expected attack but the Boers did not come on. We have now in camp with us the Cornwallis, the Munster Fusiliers, the Royal Horse Artillery and Remington Scouts. A detachment marched off this morning to attack the Boers at Douglas, but we do not expect to be in a big battle before the 9th or 10th of next month. It was amusing to watch some of the Cornwallis, chasing a rabbit yesterday. They did not catch it, but of course they were allowed to fire only rocks not bullets. It would be quite a sight to look into our camp just now. The men are lying around sleeping after being on duty 26 hours. Col. Otter is not with us now; an English officer is in his place. He seems to be a hustler. The troops are all glad Lord Roberts has taken command. It will be great honor to fight under him, and the fact of his coming shows that it is really a great war. Several trains of wounded went to Cape Town to-day. We cannot tell where we will remove to, but we will start in a short time.

Mr. Mellish also writes under dates Jan. 1st and 5th, and reports all well.

Letter from James Matheson to his father in the P. E. I. Railway.

BELMONT, January 4th, '99.

DEAR FATHER:— I have written you and Thomas letters, but of course I have not received any answers yet, and do not expect any for a long while yet, as it takes two months to get an answer. The weather is very fine here and not very warm. It is about the same as our summer but the nights are a little colder. We have lots of duty here and not much sleep at night; but we can sleep in the day time. Our camp is weak just now and the Boers know it for part of the boys and two companies of the Cornwallis and a section of the Royal Horse Artillery are out to Douglstown—25 miles away. They had a fight with the Boers. They had with them two companies of mounted infantry. They chased the Boers out and took forty prisoners, killed twelve and I do not know how many were wounded. Our fellows work well under fire and none of them

Continued on the Fifth Page.

IS YOUR THROAT SORE?

There is Nothing so Good for Sore Throat, Swollen Cords or Stiff Neck, as Griffiths' Menthol Linctament. Here is the Proof.

Mrs. Edwards, 385 Princess-street, Kingston, writes: I have found Griffiths' Menthol Linctament a perfect cure for sore throat. Last fall I had La Grippe and my throat became very sore and much swollen. In less than an hour after using Griffiths' Menthol Linctament all soreness had disappeared. My neighbor, Mrs. Gilmore, used it in my house one afternoon for stiff neck, and in less than 15 minutes the stiffness and soreness had entirely disappeared. For any swelling or soreness use Griffiths' Menthol Linctament. Sold everywhere, 25 and 75 cents.

We wish our Customers one and all

A Happy and a Prosperous New Year.

We also desire to thank them for their very liberal patronage during the past year, making it the most successful we have yet had.

That our efforts to please has been appreciated is evident from our rapid increase in business. We will strive to merit still further your continued patronage.

W. N. TANTON

Great George St. 3rd door from Grafton Street.

TARTE IS VERY ILL

Both Parties Preparing For Election.

BOURASSA'S MOTION

Edward Blake's Boer Vote—Bank Robbery—Esterhazy's Protest.

OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Hon. J. I. Tarte is very ill, suffering from the wound of the operations in Paul last summer.

HE WAS INNOCENT.

The Government will release from St. Vincent De Paul penitentiary a Greek named Vandel, sentenced to two years ago for rape and now known to be innocent.

PREPARING FOR AN ELECTION.

The Government Redistribution Bill will be the same as last year.

A Conservative caucus appointed a committee on campaign literature and for other work in the expected general election contest.

BOURASSA'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. Bourassa who resigned and was re-elected, will move a resolution that the sending of the first Canadian Contingent is not to be a precedent but all Governments shall be free to act as they think fit.

"WHAT A FALL WAS THERE!"

A private cable shows that Hon. Edward Blake voted with the Irish members in concerning the war and urging Transvaal independence.

BURGLARS ROB A BANK.

DUNVILLE, QUE, Feb. 8.—(Special)—

Burglars blew open the safe of the Branch of People's Bank of Halifax here and secured about \$5,000, completely cleaning out the safe.

No clew has been found to the perpetrators.

ESTERHAZY PROTESTS.

PARIS, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Esterhazy has sent a strong protest against any proposal of leniency to him and even asks to be prosecuted.

You'd be surprised if you used Magnetic Dyes to see what splendid results can be obtained, with slight effort and at a cost of 10 cents.

Nurses' shoes—gk sole just received at R.K. Jos's.

9 11

Ladies' Slippers.

Just a word about our Ladies slippers, perhaps you need a pair. Every woman likes a pretty slipper, and they must be good fitting and comfortable. That's the kind we are advertising to-day. Pretty, neat, comfortable slippers, good wearers, and the prices are right.

- Dongola Slippers, plain toe 1.20
- Dongola Slippers, Tip toe 1.20
- Dongola Slippers, Strap and Buckle 1.55
- Chocolate Dongola 1.55
- Dongola Slippers, Steel Beads 1.75
- Fine Dongola, turned soles, flexible 2.25
- American Slippers fine dongola, turned sole, flexible, very neat 2.85
- American Slippers same as above with French Heels 2.85

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