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VOL 36

CHARLOTTETOWN P. E. ISLAND, MONDAY JANUARY 29, 1900

NO 24

Hundreds and Hundreds OF Desirable Remnants

Went on sale this morning at nine o'clock.

Promptly on the stroke of the hour the sale commenced, and the counters were lined with busy buyers just as promptly. Hundreds of remnants yet awaiting your choice—nice

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WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS

From Position North of Tugela.

NOT A MAN LOST DURING THE MOVEMENT.

Boers Say British Loss Was Heavy IN THE SPION KOP FIGHT.

They admit they also suffered greatly—No list of the casualties issued from the War Office—Buller's Army now on South side of Tugela—Text of the official despatch

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE EXAMINER.

BULLER'S DESPATCH.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The following is the text of General Buller's despatch dated Spearman's Camp, January 27th, 6.10 p. m.: "On January 20th General Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crests of the high tableland extending from the line of Acton Homes and Hogsport to the west of Ladysmith hill. From then to January 25th he remained in close contact with the enemy.

The enemy held a strong position on the range of small kopjes stretching from the northwest to the southeast across the plateau from Acton Homes through Spion Kop to the left bank of the Tugela.

The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance as the southern slope was so steep that General Warren could not get an effective artillery position and water supply was a difficulty.

On January 23, I assented to his attacking Spion Kop, a large hill—indeed a mountain—which was evidently the key of the position, but was more accessible from the north than from the south.

On the night of January 23rd, he attacked Spion Kop, but found it very difficult to hold as its perimeter was too large, and water which he had been led to believe existed in this extraordinary dry season was found very deficient.

The crests were held that day against a severe attack and a heavy shell fire.

Our men fought with gallantry, especially the conduct of the Second Cameronians and Third King's Rifles who supported the attack on the mountains from the steepest side, and in each case fought their way to the top, and the Second Lancashires, Fusiliers and Second Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British army throughout the trying day of January 24th, and Thozoreff's mounted infantry who fought throughout the day equally well alongside of them.

General Woodgate, who was in com-

mand at the summit, having being wounded, the officer who succeeded him decided, on the night of January 24th, to abandon the position, and did so before dawn on January 25th.

I reached General Warren's camp at 5 a. m., January 25th, and decided that a second attack upon Spion Kop was useless, and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it. Accordingly I decided to withdraw the force south of the Tugela.

At 6 a. m. we commenced withdrawing train, and by 8 a. m., January 27th, (Saturday) General Warren's force was concentrated south of the Tugela without the loss of a man or a pound of stores.

The fact that the force could withdraw from—actual touch in some cases the lines were less than a thousand yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did, is I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops that they were permitted to withdraw our cumbersome ox and mule transport across a river eighty-yards broad with twenty foot banks and very swift current unmolested is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers."

THE WHITE FLAG.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The following despatch has been received in London from Pretoria:

"The Government here is advised that after heavy fighting near Spion Kop, some British on the kop being stormed hoisted the white flag. One hundred and fifty prisoners were taken. God be thanked, although we also had to give brave and valuable lives."

A BOER STATEMENT.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The War Office does not give any idea of the casualties of the British in taking and holding Spion Kop, but the report from Boer headquarters, near Ladysmith, via Lorenzo Marques, says that 1,500 British dead were left on the battlefield. This number is thought to include the wounded.

The same report also said that General Buller has been down with fever, but had recovered.

In the Boer statements of the attack the Boers are reported as carrying the first trenches and taking 150 prisoners.

STRATECONA'S HORSE.

OTTAWA, Jan. 29.—The total of Lord Strathcona's force will be 531. It will sail from Halifax the last week of February.

LEYDS LIONIZED.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—Dr. Leyds, the Transvaal agent, is being lionized in Germany.

NEW YORK JOURNAL REPORTS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—The Evening Journal's special from London says: It is learned from a reliable source that General Roberts has advised the abandonment of Ladysmith.

A Journal special from London says that General Warren's ammunition got out in Wednesday's fighting.

Mrs. Blair Ill.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.]

OTTAWA, Jan. 29.—Mrs. A. J. Blair is very ill. Since the death of her son she has been suffering from nervous prostration and afterward was affected with pleurisy. It has developed into pneumonia and although passing a favorable night she is not out of danger.

Prominent Citizen Gone.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.]

HALIFAX, Jan. 29.—Robert Taylor, head of the shoe manufacturing company of this city, died on Saturday.

FROM THE GENERALS.

Despatches to War Office by Mail.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The Gazette today publishes a number of despatches from General Buller to the War Office criticising reports from Generals White, Hildyard, Methuen and other generals regarding their various operations, but containing nothing later than the record of occurrences to the middle of December.

A despatch from General White, dated November 2, says:

"I was so greatly impressed with the exposed position of the garrison of Glencoe that I determined October 11 to withdraw from there and concentrate all the troops at Ladysmith. But the governor represented that this step would involve such grave political results that I determined to accept the military risk of holding Dundee as the lesser of the two evils."

General White then proceeds to describe the subsequent attack by 4,000 Boers of whom about 500 were killed or wounded, three of their guns being left dismounted at Talana Hill, but he adds there was no opportunity of bringing them off. He also describes how the Boers were seen streaming away in bodies of 50 to 100, on whom artillery could have inflicted great loss. But the Boers displayed a white flag and the British refrained from firing. After describing the desperate fighting at Elandsplaag, culminating in the bitter, protracted fighting before the capture of the Boers' final position. The general continues:

"At length the guns reached us and the captured end of the ridge was gained from which the whole of the enemy's camp, full of tents and horsemen, was fully exposed to view at a fixed range. A white flag was shown in the centre of the camp and Colonel Hamlyn ordered 'cease fire' and some of the British moved in the direction of the camp. For a few moments there was a complete lull. Then a shot was heard, followed by a deadly fire from a nearby kopje. The British momentarily fell back, but charged and recaptured the position."

General Methuen reports similar white flag incidents.

BATTLE OF TUGELA.

General Buller, commenting on the action at Zwartkop's drift, December 13th, says: "I suppose the British officers will learn the value of scouting in time, but in spite of all one can say our men seemed to blunder into the middle of the enemy. When I heard of the disaster to Long's artillery I believed the six naval guns had shared the same fate and I decided immediately that it was impossible to force the passage without guns. Long was dangerously wounded and I was unable to obtain explanations. I had personally instructed him where to go into action and with the naval guns only, but Long advanced so fast that he left the infantry escort and naval brigade behind. I believe that but for the failure of the artillery we would have carried the crossing."

FOR VICTORIA CROSS.

General Buller recommended the Victoria Cross for Captains Congreve and Reid, Lieutenant Roberts and Corporal Nurse, all in connection with the attempts to save the guns.

General Methuen, in a despatch, dated December 1, with reference to the battle of Modder river confesses that he believed the force in his front was only fighting a retiring action. He had no idea that 8,000 Boers had been brought from Spionkop to oppose his advance.

Commenting upon the difficulty of conveying orders, General Methuen says: "The truth is that no one can be on horse back with safety within 2,000 yards of the enemy." And he admits that he, himself, most of the day, was in positions where he had no right to be, because, unless he went to the front, he could not see how the fight was progressing.

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