

COULDN'T GET A SHOT AT THEM.

Sergt. C. Reif, of the 2nd Devons, writing to his father at Strood, Kent, of the Mooi River fight, says:—"On Tuesday the Boers gave us a warm time of it, shelling us out of our trenches. By Jove! you should just hear those shells come screaming through the air towards us. It makes you feel all over alike. There was only my company holding this certain hill, and the Boers drove us out of our trenches on to the brow of the hill, when I'm hanged if another blessed gun didn't fire at us from the other side. It was just a tifle rapid, but thank God, not a single man was hit. I got praised by my captain for leading my section up again to the trenches when the others wouldn't go; but oh, it's dreadful! One can't explain it; it must be endured to realize it. We have been at it night and day. Last night we had to lie down in our trenches, and it literally poured. We were half covered with water. A week like that would kill a horse. I have not had my boots off since we left the boat, and we always have to sleep with our equipment either on or chance it and take it off. We came in from trenches about ten this morning soaked and had to turn out again before dinner to attack them. Just got back. They ran like deer; couldn't get a shot at them."

BOERS DEADLY FIRE.

Private Dutton writes of Magersfontien to his parents at Frodsham-bridge: "I was firing from behind a bit of a bush, on my stomach, for 11 hours. Every time I moved I was shot at. It was terrible. I got away dodging from bush to bush, until I was out of range of the Boers' shots. Three of us were behind a bush. A Black Watch man was shot in the neck. One of our officers crawled to him and bandaged him up. He crept back again, when he was shot in both hands; he got up and ran, and was shot in the leg."

RESCUING WOUNDED.

A Devonshire gentleman, serving with Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry as an officer, writes from Chieveley of the Tuelga battle:—"I had some extraordinary squeaks—a bullet through my loose, baggy breeches without touching me, and my helmet knocked off twice. I went to the front twice in retirement under a hot fire, and brought in two wounded men, one of whom was shot again when we were carrying him; also the man who was carrying him by the head (I was at his feet). We pulled the poor chap down into a donga, and then returned with two more men and carried in the man who was carrying No. 1 wounded man, when he was shot through the ankle. How I escaped in such a hail of bullets, God knows. I was thanked by my colonel."



THE GREAT DEFEAT OF THE CAVALRY AT COLENZO, THE SOUTH WALES MEN LYING ON THE GROUND AND FIRING AT THE BOERS IN ORDER TO COVER THE RETREAT. [From Boston Globe]

BOERS ARE SUFFERING.

Writing from Frere on January 4, The 'Times' correspondent says:—"Despite their activity, the condition of the Boers does not seem to be very prosperous. The week after the battle 120 Kaffirs, men, women and children, who had been working for the Boers, deserted and came over to us, many of them being in a starving condition. They complained of getting neither food nor money, and, above all, of the loud lamentations of the Boer women in camp for their husbands and relations who had been killed in the battle. All Kaffirs have a superstitious horror of illness of mourning in any form. They said the Boer loss had been heavy, almost entirely owing to the effect of the lyddite in the trenches. The power of these shells, they said, was terrific, several of them stating that they had been knocked down by the force of an explosion 200 yards away. The following week some more Kaffirs came in, telling the same story. On January 3 twelve Boer deserters came in. They, too, complained of lack of food and ill usage, and said that the Boers were short of both food and forage. All these point to the fact that the long waiting here is telling heavily on the Boers. "Many of them are without tents, a serious hardship now that the heavy rains are beginning, and the supply of rations to a constantly moving force must be exceedingly difficult."

Much has been said and written of late relative to the difficulty of locating the position of the Boers' guns, which are served with smokeless powder, except at night time. The flash of such explosion is practically invisible at the usual distance, the pale, mauve-tinted flame of each discharge being effectually stopped or masked by the yellow color of the sunshine or ordinary daylight. The flame color itself is chiefly due to the presence of metal potassium in the powder, and is powerfully marked when potassium picrate or nitrated gun-cotton, or trinitro-cellulose, subsequently treated with a solution of potassium nitrate, is an ingredient in the powder. Mr. W. Lascelles-Scott, an English chemist, has recently given considerable attention to the subject and states that such explosion-flames can be readily seen if care be taken to cut off all light proceeding from the red and yellow rays of the solar spectrum (and especially those of or the near so-called "D line" of the sodium flame).

HIT, BUT NOT HURT.

Mr. G. Baker, of Upton, Slough, has received a letter from a soldier friend at Colenso. Speaking of the battle, he says: "We got into the firing line, and, George, it was the awfulest day that ever I have seen. The Boers shells and bullets were flying about in thousands, and men were falling all over the place. . . . I had two narrow escapes—one at the start of the fight, when a shell exploded just in front of me, and a piece of the shell flew just over my head. The next thing I got was a bullet which hit me in the back but did not hurt me."

A GRATEFUL SOLDIER.

A letter from a private of the Royal Fusiliers to the secretary of the Committee at Warrington, this occurs: "I must say that I was very pleased to hear that you were doing your best for my wife and family. I was very uneasy about them and how they were going to live in my absence, but I am pleased to say that I feel more easy now that I know that your kind committee is doing what they can for them."

A QUERY ABOUT JOUBERT.

Where did Joubert get his military training? Inquiries have been made in the United States as to his antecedents, with a view of answering this difficult question. The Boer Commander-in-Chief is, it seems a native of Louisiana, belonging to one of the oldest families of that State, and having a brother and relatives still living there. They even saw that Joubert commanded a regiment in the civil war, and he is declared by an old-time comrade (who writes to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat have been one of Stonewall Jackson's most trusted soldiers. There was great friendship between the two, says this authority. After Appomattox, Colonel Joubert, as his rank was, left the country with General Loring and certain other kindred spirits, and took service with the Khedive. From there he drifted to South Africa and organized the Boer Frontier Police against native attacks. There is no doubt as to his subsequent career.

Winter caps at about half price, you want one come and get it, before they are all gone. Prowse Bros.

GENERAL BULLER ON THE FIELD.

A soldier in the Scottish Rifles speaks of the heat and thirst at Colenso as terrible. He managed to save his pint of water nearly to the last, when it was almost boiling. General Buller, he says, was here, there, and everywhere; one would have thought he was a young lieutenant trying to make a name, instead of a general with the responsibility of an army on his mind.

Dear Sir,—I was for seven years a sufferer from Bronchial Trouble, and would be so hoarse at times that I could scarcely speak above a whisper. I got no relief from anything until I tried your MINARD'S HONEY BALM. Two bottles gave relief and six bottles made a complete cure. I would heartily recommend it to anyone suffering from throat or lung trouble.

J. F. VANBUSKIRK, Fredericton.

TEMPTED FATE TOO OFTEN.

A cavalry "nom com," writing to his friends in Maidenhead, from Pietermaritzburg, says:—"Lieut. H— of ours was wounded in the leg at the first Ladysmith fight and came down here for treatment. He recovered and volunteered to go up to Frere for the last fight, but, poor fellow, this time he was shot right through the head. He is still living in the hospital here. The doctors took a part of his skull away and he is doing very well, but he won't be any use for soldiering again."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, explains that the contemplated visit of Dr. Leyds, the Transvaal representative, has been postponed because the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and his family are the guests of the Czar, but he says it is certain that the visit to St. Petersburg will be made at an early date.

WAR PICTURES.—"Glances of South Africa" which may be obtained at THE EXAMINER Office, form a splendid pictorial record of the war. Only a limited number are to be disposed of. See coupon in another column.



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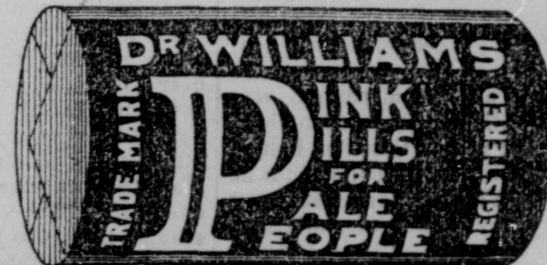
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