

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

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Mafeking, November 7th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

MAFEKING, 7TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

BOERS AGAIN "CHOKED OFF." RAILWAY MEN IN ACTION. "BECHUANALAND RIFLES" IN THE FIELD.

One of Colonel Baden-Powell's nice little treats for the Boers was successfully carried out this morning under the direction of Major Godley. Between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning, under Major Panzera, two seven-pounders and a Hotchkiss were pushed forward on the west front, and with Captain Vernon, and C Squadron, Protectorate Regiment, took up a position commanding the enemy's trenches. Just before dawn the Boers' natives began preparing coffee. The light from their fires showed where shells were wanted, and a seven-pounder opened the ball. It fell short, but No. 2 gun immediately planted a shell right on one of the enemy's waggons. Several others followed on the same spot, utterly demoralising the Boers who were seen scurrying around, apparently unable to find their gun. A few men of the same Squadron, under Captain Sandford were entrenched in a hollow to the right of the guns and fired several volleys with good effect before being replied to. It was noticed the previous evening that although on the other sides of the town more Boers occupied the trenches than had previously been seen in them, those on the west were apparently less full than usual. A rush was made from their big laager to reinforce the entrenchments, but this move was checked by the firing of about twenty men of C Squadron, under Lieut. Holden, who were to the left of the guns, and some of Captain Cowan's Rifles on the extreme right. The Hotchkiss jammed after seven rounds were fired, and when the Boers got to work with some three hundred Mausers, a seven-pound Krupp, their one lb. quick-firing Maxim; and another gun, a perfect hurricane of bullets and shell peppered round our men. A retreat was made, still keeping up the fire. Four or five of our men got slight wounds, but no broken bones.

One gunner had a narrow escape, a shot from the one-pound Maxim took the sole off his boot. Something got wrong with the limbering-up of the Hotchkiss and the horses galloped away without the gun. The men didn't mean leaving that moment of the occasion for the enemy to exult over, so amidst a hailstorm of bullets and bursting shells. Gunners R. Cowan and F. H. Godson attached a rope and, assisted by Trooper Arthur Day, hauled the gun safely away, crossing the sky line, where every figure showed distinctly and might have been hit if the Boers were as good shots as they were supposed to be. Nothing daunted by the shower of lead, these ex-Railway men dragged the gun out of reach of the enemy's fire. If the Boers had intended to attack from that side to-day, while our attention was directed to the east by "Lively Sarah" and the other guns, they altered their mind afterwards. Two ambulance waggons and a couple of scotch carts had an hour's occupation between their trenches and their laager showing that at least some two or three dozen will not come "Mausering" again just yet.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Last night's General Orders contained the following:—

Court Martial.—A Field General Court Martial will assemble for the trial of Lieutenant G. M. Murchison, on Thursday next, the 9th instant, on such charge as may be brought before them.

PRESIDENT.—Colonel C. B. Vyvyan.

MEMBERS.—Major A. G. Godley, Prot. Regiment; Captain G. C. Wilson, A.D.C.; Captain A. P. W. Williams, B. S. A. Police; Captain C. M. Ryan, A.S.C.

IN WAITING.—Captain R. J. Vernon, Protectorate Regiment.

PROSECUTOR.—Lieutenant S. A. Minchin, "Bechuanaland Rifles."

JUDGE ADVOCATE.—Major Lord E. C. Cecil.

The Prisoner will be warned and all witnesses ordered to attend. The time and place to be fixed by the President, who will give due notice to all concerned.

Claims: Assessment Damages.—

Owners are requested when preferring claims to keep the damage done to any houses on separate forms, should such houses have been erected on different erven.

INTERCEPTED BIBLICAL MESSAGES.

From the President of the S. A. Rebelique to Come-and-don't Cronje "And ye shall smite every fenced city and every choice city and shall fell every good tree and stop all wells of water."

Come-and-don't Cronje to Commanding Colonial. "I will camp against thee round about and will lay siege against thee with a mount and I will raise forts against thee; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine, thus will I accomplish my fury upon them."

Commanding Colonial to Come-and-don't Cronje. "Pooh! likewise Bah!!

From Come-and-don't Cronje to President. "We have shot at them, Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon and we have laid them waste even unto Nophah" and still—they play music and let off fireworks on Sunday.

From the President of the S. A. Rebelique to Come-and-don't Cronje. "Therefore now flee thee thou to thy place. I thought to promote thee to great honour, but lo, the Lord hath kept thee back from honour.

POETS CORNER.

We're besieged by the blooming old Boer.

Air: We're off on a Jubilee Spree.

We're besieged by the blooming old Boers,
We're being shelled by their blooming old gun;
Sometimes we go out and snipe off a few
And we smile when we see the brutes run,
They've sent us in briefjes by scores
And insolent messages too,
Saying "Surrender," but the Colonel,
he smiles
And says to old Cronje: Pooh! pooh!

They've shot a few bushes and dogs
And played up Old Harry all round,
But we gave them cold steel and for
mercy they yelled,
And grovelled like curs on the ground;
The red lamp is a sign that they love,
Night attacks they adore one and all.
But look out old Cronje, the day is
close by
When you'll have a hell of a fall.

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