

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE EDITION.

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No. 20

Tuesday, November 28th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

### THE FOLLOWING WE TAKE FROM THE "BULAWAYO CHRONICLE" OF 11TH TO 16TH INSTANT.

LONDON, Oct. 31st.—The 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders and Scots Greys have sailed. The extra battalions mobilised will consist of the Sussex, Essex and Derbyshire Regiments.

PRETORIA, Oct., 23rd.—Commandant Bethel wires the following account of battle at Dundee on Friday (20th Oct.): A severe fight took place from 6 in the morning till noon. We (the Boers) were about 3,000 strong, the British about 6,000 Infantry and 2,000 Cavalry. Our positions were given up through some misunderstanding. Our loss is 100 and the British 500. To-morrow, by the will of God, we hope to be in possession of Dundee."

General Cronje has gone to the Diamond Fields. The attempt on Mafeking is now left to Commandants Snyman, Botha and De la Rey.

General Buller, on leaving England, is reported to have said within a month from the time I land, the Union Jack will be flying over Pretoria.

America warns the other powers to maintain a strict neutrality.

A hundred and twenty-five more men left Bulawayo on Saturday, 11th inst., for Magalapye.

PRETORIA, Oct. 23rd.—Amongst the 13 Mafeking prisoners brought to Pretoria last night was Lieut. Nesbitt, who is recovering from a face wound.

The chief instruments which will work the downfall of the Boers and eventually put them to rout will not be the cannon or the rifle but the bayonet and the sabre.

At Ladysmith, on October 30th, the Naval Brigade arrived with a 4.7 in. gun, carrying a 60 lb. projectile, and in three shots put out the Boers' 40 lb. "Long Tom."

The British have struck camp and returned to Estcourt. The Boers taking Colenso on the 2nd inst.

DURBAN, Oct. 6th.—The Boers have invaded Zululand. Eshowe is in laager.

The gun that did the trick at the Ladysmith battle was one landed from H.M.S. "Powerful." In twenty hours the Naval Brigade carried it by train 193 miles and got it in action. It is sixteen feet long, weights 48 cwt., and its Naval carriage 43½ cwt. Fires ten shots per minute, with a muzzle velocity of 2,188 feet per second, and its effective range something over seven miles.

If we had a toy like that wouldn't Snyman, Botha and De la Rey enjoy playing targets?

CAPETOWN, Nov. 2nd.—The following is the latest war news since our successes at Glencoe, Klandslaagte and Rietfontein:—

General Penn Symons died on 25th October.

On the 24th October Lieut.-Colonel Scott Turner made a successful reconnaissance from Kimberley, supported by an armoured train. Our loss was four killed. The Boers lost a considerable number and received a severe check.

On the 26th our forces were concentrated at the main camp at Ladysmith.

On the 30th October the Boers massed under General Joubert 2,000 strong, and commenced shelling Ladysmith with a 42-pounder from a strong position. General White and a strong force marched out from Ladysmith. Our artillery fire was excellent. The Naval Brigade from the "Powerful" soon silenced the enemy's 42-pounder. Our men fell back with great steadiness after holding the enemy in check for nine hours.

"The fact of the matter appears to be that the gallant defence of Mafeking has been to a large extent the saviour of Bulawayo"

Frank Gloesser, writing in the "Daily Mail," says, concerning the Boers, "he retains his extraordinary power of rapidly mobilising——his waste of ammunition is ridiculous. His method of fighting is semi-barbaric——A Boer commando will retreat in confusion if two men are killed. They invariably conceal the exact number of their loss and always underestimate it in subsequent reports. The seriously wounded are hurried off to the nearest farm house and the dead promptly buried or hurried away under cover of night."

## COL. PLUMER'S COLUMN.

### E Squadron in Action.

TULI, 29th.—After a skirmish on Thursday, 26th, E Squadron took up a position on the northern side of the kopje before described as Plumer's camp. The sole desire of the men was: "Let us have another slap at the Kopje." Colonel Sprekley granted permission to Col. White to take one troop and Capt. Glynn to take another with Lieut. Hutchinson as guide. The total number was 42 and their instructions were to reconnoitre and retire. In cover of darkness they advanced in Indian file through the bush. At dawn they discovered themselves within 200 yards of the Boers' position, but the bush was too thick for anything to be seen through it. Half of our small force was placed on the left front while Col. White reconnoitred to the right. Suddenly the latter's men were seen to be hotly engaged, and Capt. Glynn ordered his men to retire. Hardly had he done so when about 50 Boers darted out, evidently with the intention of out-flanking Col. White's troop. Up sprang Capt. Glynn's twenty men and twenty rifles poured volley after volley into the Dutchmen, who turned and fled. The Boers' shooting was awfully bad and not one of our 42 men was hit. No sooner than our men commenced their retreat than more Boers galloped up and commenced firing at about 50 yards range. While in the kopje, about 350 yards away, there were nearly 200 rifles hard at work upon our few. Our men had to cross some open ground and this was the Dutchmen's chance while our men were thus exposed. Four were wounded, three with Mauser and one with Martini bullets. This was Lieut. Hutchinson, who got his damage while dragging one of the wounded into a place of safety, the others were Corpl Calder, Corpl. Bulloch and Tpr. Friedmann. Wounds slight; all doing well.

The *Bulawayo Chronicle*, in a leading article on the 16th November, says: "Owing to the disgraceful neglect of the Imperial Government we should not be at all surprised to learn the news from Natal first *via* Kimberley and Mafeking.

We also have something to say upon the question, but having a fearsome dread of the unknown terriblenesses of Martial Law, we are afraid to say it just yet, although we will be quite prepared to reciprocate, at some future time, if the *B.C.* will kindly swear a few additional cusses for the *Mafeking Mail*.

Continuing, the *Chronicle* says:—

We believe the plucky border town will be relieved ere long. General Buller must already be on the march, and when he enters the Free State we imagine that he will produce a panic or schism in the Boer forces, and they will fall back on their own territory. It will be a proud moment for Colonel Baden-Powell and Mr. Frank Whiteley when—

We are sorry we cannot complete the extract, but just at this juncture

the paper we are quoting from were taken away from us.—*Ed. M. Mail.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Mafeking Mail*:

SIR,—Your correspondent, W. J. Pitt, is not correct in stating that Lieut. Nesbit was wounded at Koegas. It was Paarde Kloof. He is also wrong in the implication that he (then Inspector Nesbit) had any Boers under him. They were all Volunteers, of which the writer was one at the time and saw him ride into camp, wounded in the thigh. At Koegas there were some thirty Boers who had sought refuge in our camp and refused to go out on picket duty, much to the disgust of Inspector Nesbit, who threatened to kick them out. We had been on duty many hours continuously and had to take picquet go because the Boers would not. It took two hours to cajole and threaten them to assist our men by taking a turn.

I enclose my card and remain,

Yours truly,  
EX-VOLUNTEER.

## NOTICE.

SOMEONE left various parcels of Tobacco on the table at the office of the *Mail*. Had the owner also left his address it might have been forwarded; as he didn't do so we are afraid it will have to be called for.

TOWNSHEND & SON,  
PROPRIETORS.

## POETS CORNER.

### THE BLATHERMSKITE.

(REVISED.)

I'm a true born railway sailor, and I sail upon a train,  
Our sea way's rather shortened, but we'll open it again,  
Our figure head's a dummy, begorrah, now you'll laugh,  
The Boers there always hitting it, and the whole thing's only chaff.

It isn't always chaff you know, for now I tell you right,  
We gave them rather hello in a land-cum naval fight;  
They aren't quite sure which way to look, but they know which way to turn,  
And that's perhaps the only way we know a Dutchman's "stern."

The skipper shouted steam ahead, the Dutchmen made it so,  
Full steam ahead the other way as hard as they could go,  
They didn't think of schieting then but only thought of scoot,  
There were much too many bullets and devilish little loot.

So here's to the good old ironclad who creaks along the veldt,  
We've still got a good few thousand rounds with which the Dutch to pelt,  
A paradox as this may seem, of this you may be sure  
When all our rounds are finished, yet still we shall have "More."

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