

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## Special Siege Slip.

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TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 143

Wednesday, May 16th, 1900.

216th Day of Siege

### THE Mafeking Mail.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MAY, 1900.

By the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding we are enabled to print the following:—

#### LATEST NEWS.

##### ACTION OF 12TH MAY.

A night-attack on the part of the enemy was not unlooked for, as every other kind of attack, except this, had been tried and failed.

The enemy selected the best line of approach available, that is via the Molopo Valley from W. and came on in strong force an hour before daybreak, making a feint with heavy rifle fire on the whole of the eastern front. The attack was guided by two of our deserters and some rebels.

Our piquets gave the alarm and stood aside to a flank as the advance party of some three hundred charged in a mass on the Stadt. The piquets fired into them from the flank and then closed across their path to prevent any support following them up, and Lord C. Bentinek, with part of his squadron, Protectorate Regiment, reinforced them. As soon as they were in the Stadt the enemy began burning huts as a signal to their supports to come on. The Baralongs took the same line as our piquets had done, and closed in on the rear of the enemy's advanced force. This force then became broken up into three parties, one of which, 150 strong, rushed on to the B.S.A.P. Barracks, in which were the Staff of the Protectorate Regiment, (three officers and 15 men). These, mistaking the Boers for their own men retiring on the fort, did not open fire upon them and were immediately surrounded in the open and disarmed.

The W. face of the Town was promptly manned by Town Guard, Bechuanaland Rifles and Railway Division, and the town was reinforced with wonderful promptness by the Cape Police D II, D. squadron, Protectorate Regiment, which first cut off the Boers in the BSAP Fort, a party of BSAP, etc.

The enemy now found themselves

stopped from further advance and at the same time

##### CUT OFF FROM THEIR SUPPORTS.

Various feints were made by the Boers from outside on different sides of the place with the intention of assisting them, but they found all the outlying forts manned as usual and ready for them.

The Cape Police, under Inspector Murray, and Lieut. Feltham's Troop, "C." Squadron, Prot. Regiment, now moved in between the BSAP Barracks and the Stadt and thus formed a barrier to prevent the parties of the enemy in the place from uniting.

Major Godley took charge of matters in the Stadt, and with "B" Squadron, and "D" Squadron, Prot. Regiment, under Captains Marsh and Fitz-Clarence and a 7-pounder, under Lieut. Daniel, assisted by some of the Baralongs, proceeded to locate and round up the Boers. One party of these took up a defensive position in a strong stone cattle-kraal, the other got into a strong rock kopje. They offered a strong resistance and the work took a long time to accomplish successfully. The kraal was first surrounded and the gun brought close up. The Boers were offered the chance of surrendering, but they declined. Our men then opened fire and in a short time, after losing one killed and three wounded, the

##### ENEMY PUT UP THE WHITE FLAG.

Twenty-five were taken prisoners. Major Godley then moved his men into position for attacking the kopje. The guns fired half a dozen rounds into it and the men working through the rocks scattered the enemy in among the huts of the Stadt, but as darkness now came on the difficulties were much increased. The enemy tried to retreat out of the Stadt and came upon "A" Squadron, under Lord C. Bentinek, who were waiting for them, and they thus came between our two fires. As there was now great danger of our men firing into each other, and as we had already as many prisoners and enemy still in the place as we could deal with, the order was given to Lord C. Bentinek to draw his Squadron to one side and let this batch get out under the pressure of Major Godley's two squadrons—and this manoeuvre was successfully carried out—the enemy, under a hot fire the whole time, losing many

killed, wounded and prisoners in the river bed.

In the meantime our men practically surrounded the BSAP barracks and by excellent marksmanship killed and wounded several during the day. Twice we offered them the chance of surrendering, but they declined it. It was found that Commandant Eloff himself was in this party. He sent off two despatch riders early in the day, but both of them were killed before getting away.

The wounded Boers were taken charge of and cared for by Miss Craufurd, the Matron of the Women and Children's Hospital, close to the fort. This lady and her sister, Mrs. Buchan, displayed the greatest heroism and devotion in remaining at their post in spite of the heavy fire around them, and in going out under fire to carry on their work of mercy. The wounded Boers were removed to our own Hospital, where they received every attention.

After nightfall a number of the Boers in the Fort endeavoured to escape, but the fusillade that met them on every side showed them that escape was impossible, and the remainder then surrendered, to the number of sixty six, including a number of French, Germans, Italians etc., as well as Boers.

Among the prisoners were Commandant Eloff, (grandson of President Kruger), Captain Von Weiss, Captain de Bremont, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Jacobs. Among the dead were Field-cornet Eckstein, Capt. Casunier (French), two Lotterings, etc.

Boer losses: Killed 10, wounded 19.

In addition to these the enemy took away a number of their dead during the night and their ambulance was out the following day picking them up in the Molopo River bed—so that they must have lost altogether about 50 killed and wounded.

Tuesday, 15th.—Runners arrived during the night with despatches to say that Relief Columns from North and South are both near at hand.

The Boers advanced party from Maritzani, arrived at the old S.W. Laager last night, and this morning the Boers are still in their



camps, but many of their waggons appear to have gone.

The Colonel Commanding hopes soon to be in a position to congratulate the Town and Garrison on the termination of the hardships and anxieties which they have borne with much exemplary courage and fortitude for the past seven months.

Copy of telegram from Lex to Bell, Civil Commissioner, Mafeking, 7th April, 1900:

"Telegrams of 1st & 10th received. Government desire to express their appreciation of gallant defence made by garrison at Mafeking. Sympathy for those who have been wounded, and earnest prayer that Mafeking may soon be relieved."

## MAFEKING GARRISON

### GENERAL ORDERS

By Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell,  
Commanding Frontier Force.

MAFEKING, 13TH MAY, 1900.

The whole garrison is to be congratulated on the brilliant success gained over the enemy yesterday.

The Boers have tried—and failed in—every other form of attack, essayed this one by night.

Credit must be given them and their leader, Commandant Eloff, for having made a very bold stroke to gain the place. By a rush they got through our pickets into the Stadt, but our Western posts then closed in on their rear and cut them off from their supports, while the Town Guard, Bechuanaland Rifles and Railway Division promptly manned the Western face of the town itself and checked their advance beyond the BSAP Fort.

The Cape Police, supported by "C" Squadron, Protectorate Regiment, and a detachment of BSAP, rounded up Eloff and his party in the BSAP Fort, while Major Godley, taking "A," "B," and "D" Squadrons, Protectorate Regiment, and one gun, drove the enemy into two corners in the Stadt and obtained the surrender of one and drove the other out of the place with loss. And after nightfall Commandant Eloff and his party surrendered also.

We have thus caused the enemy a loss of about 50 killed and wounded and 108 prisoners. Several killed and wounded were carried off by their friends during the night from the front of our forts. Among the prisoners were Commandant Eloff and four officers. Field-cornet Eckstein, two renegades, and a French officer, were among the killed.

Our losses were fortunately very light, and while deploring the loss of

the good men who fell, we have the satisfaction of knowing that they died in gaining a really telling success to our arms.

It was a hard fourteen hours' fighting for all and a great test, of cool-headedness and courage, but it only called forth the grand soldierly qualities that pervade this garrison. All ranks worked with alacrity and individual intelligence, as well as pluck and endurance, and the Colonel Commanding desires to congratulate every officer and man on this crowning success to all their previous gallant work in upholding Her Majesty's supremacy. He wishes also to mark his satisfaction of the good work done by the Baralongs in the Stadt, assisted by Silas Molema. The natives joined heartily in cutting off the retreat of the Boers and in holding them in.

In to-morrow's orders will be noticed some of the more prominent instances of gallantry, but the Colonel Commanding meantime places on record his high appreciation of the admirable work done by Maj. Godley, who assumed command of affairs in the Stadt and directed the operations of the "A," "B," and "D" Squadrons, Protectorate Regiment, and one gun, with the successful results above given.

And he desires to express his warm admiration of the heroism and devotion displayed by the ladies in charge of the Women's Hospital, namely Miss Craufurd and her sister Mrs. Buchan. These ladies, in spite of the heavy fire going on around them, remained at their post although they had the opportunity of coming away, and they took in and tended the Boer wounded, working under fire doing so.

The Boers themselves express the greatest appreciation of the courage and kindness of these ladies.

MAFEKING, 15TH MAY, 1900.

*Gallantry.*—With reference to his remarks on Saturday's defeat of the enemy in their attack on Mafeking, the Colonel Commanding wishes to place on record the following cases of gallantry and good service that have come to his notice:—

(a) When the Boers attacked the BSAP Fort they did so in a large body, of which 243 actually occupied the fort after they had taken it from 15 men of the Protectorate Regiment then holding it. Trooper Hazelrigg, Cape Police, in going to the fort with a message, was shot and mortally wounded. He was put into a small room near the fort, but our fire on the place was so heavy that no one was able to reach him till Veterinary Lieutenant Dunlop-Smith and Mr. Forbes went out under very heavy fire and got to him, dressed his wounds, and remained with him for two hours.

(b) Lieutenant C. Bridges was ordered by Captain Fitzclarence (when it was found that the enemy

were in the Stadt) to take a few men and go and remove the Reserve Ammunition from the magazine near BSAP Fort to a place of safety. Lieutenant Bridges took with him Farrier Corporal Robinson, 17th Lancers; Shoeing Smith Robertson, 17th Lancers; Trooper S. Duberly, Trooper Cullis, all of "D" Squadron, Protectorate Regiment, and Corporal Globensky, "A" Squadron. On arriving near the magazine the party found that the enemy had succeeded in occupying the BSAP Fort within 400 yards of the magazine. However, this in no way daunted them, and under a heavy fire, by which one of them, Trooper Duberly, was killed, they successfully removed six boxes of ammunition. Lieutenant Bridges was wounded later in the day when in action with his troop.

(c) Lance Corporal Saunders and Trooper Pike, "B" Squadron, did good scouting work in locating the position of the Boers in the Stadt, a most difficult and dangerous task among the huts and alleys of the native town.

(d) Trooper Francis, "B" Squadron, under a heavy fire, took a white flag to the Boers, who were making a stand in the Stadt Kopje, after a previous white flag had been fired upon.

(e) Trooper Adams, "C" Troop, "A" Squadron, behaved with special coolness when Lieutenant Waller's party of 12 men came under a very heavy fire from 100 Boers at close range when the Boers were trying to escape in the evening. Sergeant Phillips was killed and Trooper Adams was of great service in assisting his officer in getting the men away.

(f) Trooper Johnson, "C" Troop "A" Squadron, volunteered to carry a message to Lord C. Bentinck under circumstances that made it almost certain death to him.

*Prisoners of War.*—Maj. Hepworth is appointed Officer in charge of Prisoners of War from Sunday, the 13th instant inclusive. All requisitions and expenditure vouchers in connection with them will be signed by him.

*Town Guard—Sick Reports.*—All members of the Town Guard when reporting sick, should do so between the hours of 9-30 and 10 a.m., except in urgent cases. A sick report should accompany them, giving post to which they belong, etc. Forms can be obtained by Post Commanders on application to Town Commandant. If the man is admitted to Hospital his rations should be sent there as soon as possible by his Post Commander.

By order,

E. H. CECIL, Major,

Chief Staff Officer.

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