

THE MAFEKING MAIL

Special Siege Slip.

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TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 113

Monday, April 9th, 1900.

179th Day of Siege

THE Mafeking Mail.

MONDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

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

Telegram from A. D. E., Bulawayo, dated 2nd April, 1900:—Rouxville and Thaba Nchu are occupied by British. Rebels cleared from Prieska by British troops. Commandant General Joubert died at Kroonstad on 27th March. Government announces that 50,000 troops and six batteries of artillery, under General Carrington, are coming to occupy Rhodesia.

Telegram from A.D.E. Bulawayo, dated 3rd April:—Joubert's death confirmed. A fight is reported to have taken place at Brandfort. Boers admit 113 casualties. A British column is now marching on Van Wyk's Vlei to deal with Colonial rebels.

Universal celebrations are projected in connection with impending relief of Mafeking.

A Telegram from Cape Town received to-day states that the boys of Charter House, past and present, have subscribed £1,000 for Mafeking sick, wounded, widows and orphans.

Adelaide (Australia) cables "Congratulations on heroic defence, self and brave garrison."

It is rumoured that a column under Lord Methuen met with a reverse at Fourteen Streams, but no official information to this effect has been received.

Lord Roberts entered Bloemfontein on March 13th with Generals French, Kelly-Kenny and Coville (with the Guard's Brigade). They were received with great signs of joy from the Free Staters, who sang "God Save the Queen" and hoisted the Union Jack. There was a grand march-past.

Capetown, March 16th, (Reuter).—800 Free Staters surrendered. Edenburg surrounded. Cavalry found no Boers between Modder River and Bloemfontein. Three quarters of the Free Staters in the South have returned to their farms. General Clements has occupied Springfontein. Gen. Gatacre, with a mounted force, entered Bethulie. Gen. Pole-Carew has established a juncture with Gen. Gatacre.

Bloemfontein, March 17th.—The Boers have blown up all the culverts and bridges north of Brandfort. Lord Methuen has returned to Kimberley, after occupying Boshoff, where he captured 170,000 rounds of ammunition. The Diamond Fields Horse has been left at Boshoff as part of the garrison. Lord Methuen has started to relieve Mafeking and has got to Warrenton.

Bloemfontein, March 19th.—Lord Methuen was in time to prevent the deviation bridge at Warrenton being completely destroyed and has secured a pont on the Vaal. It is said that the Transvaal officials have evacuated Vryburg and Taungs.

Kimberley, March 19th.—A sharp engagement took place at Fourteen Streams.

A smart artillery duel took place on the banks of the Vaal yesterday, the enemy had four guns and they were all silenced. The river can only be crossed by swimming. The Boers North of Kimberley have fled to Christiana. Gen. Brabant is arresting prominent rebels at Herschel. Lord Kitchner occupied Prieska on the 19th and all the rebels gave up their arms. He has now gone to Kenhardt.

Sir George White was at Capetown on March 19th, and is probably going to England as he is very delicate and overdone.

General Warren and his division are on their way to join Lord Roberts' advance and Buller, except patrolling all the Drakensburg passes, will not go further at present.

Sir W. Lockhart, Commander-in-chief in India is dead.

Mr. Rhodes has sailed for England in the *Norman*.

Sir A. Miiner and the Attorney-General left Capetown on March 19th, evidently for Bloemfontein.

NEWSPAPERS.

To-morrow, at the Court House, there will be more *Daily Graphics*, and another *Cape Times* for February, also a later *Bulawayo Chronicle*.

Notices to Subscribers.

243, Brown, 61 to 109 are ready packed up if you will kindly send for them.

The POLITE LETTER-WRITER.

(For the use of Commanding Officers at the front. Framed after the latest pattern.)

(From Punch)

I.

From General A., investing town of X., to General B., in command of defending force.

MY DEAR B.,—What delightful weather this is, to be sure! I hardly ever remember to have seen the crops looking better at this time of year. You and your men are in the best of health, I trust? Possibly the mosquitoes may be troubling you; in this case I would recommend the application of a little ammonia. As your game-larder may be not particularly full just now, I am sending you five brace of ostriches; please accept them with my warmest compliments, and believe me, most sincerely yours, A.

P.S.—I almost forgot to mention that some of my fellows mean to drop a few shells in your direction about 5 p.m. to-day. Would that hour suit you? I do hope the noise will not disturb you, but you will understand that I am bound to give my men a little occupation now and then.

(Reply).

MY DEAR A.,—Our best thanks for the ostriches, safely to hand. Thanks also for your kind enquiries; all of us are in the best of health. Would you think me very rude if I asked you to put the shelling an hour earlier? The fact is, that five o'clock is our tea-time, so that we might miss seeing your performance, which would be a real pity. There's nothing we enjoy so much as to watch your guns ploughing up the earth half-a-mile or more away—it's as good as a play, and simply convulses us all with laughter. So do begin a bit earlier, and oblige, yours very sincerely, B.

P.S.—Some of my chaps complain that they're getting a bit bored here. So, just to humour them, we shall make a little sortie to-night, if you've no objection. Unless I hear

from you before then, you may expect us about ten o'clock.

II.

From General A. to General B.

DEAR SIR,—As you are aware, I have carried on this siege with the utmost regard to etiquette, and so far my courtesy has been reciprocated. The fact increases my regret at the grave breach of this principle which was committed by your force in last night's attack. In a word, Sir, some of the ruffians under your command actually employed the bayonet, with the result that no less than five of my men were severely injured! I cling to the belief that this outrage was committed without your cognisance; but none the less you must be held in some degree responsible. My Government, at my request, is telegraphing a formal complaint to each of the European Powers. And I must insist on a full and immediate apology from yourself. Yours faithfully, A.

P.S.—It would simplify matters if you would surrender at once.

(Reply).

SIR,—If your fellows choose to get in front of my men's bayonets, they must take the consequences.

Yours truly, B.

P.S.—Why don't you all run away at once. You'll have to, sooner or later.

III.

General A. begs to inform General B. that, in spite of his protest, another outrage was committed yesterday by General B.'s force. A shell was fired by them which actually burst. None of the ammunition employed by General A. behaves in this way. The time for apologies is past, and General A. must now insist on a prompt and unconditional surrender.

(Reply).

Go to blazes.

(At this point the correspondence terminates.)

A.C.D.

MAFEKING GARRISON.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 9TH APRIL, 1900.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Tuesday, the 10th April, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.; Member: C. G. H. Bell Esq., C.C. & R.M.

Signallers at Cannon Kopje.—While doing duty at Cannon Kopje No. 54, Signaller I. Flaherty, Prot. Regt., and No. 57, Signaller C. Hall, Bechd. Rifles, are attached to the B.S.A.P. for discipline and field accommodation.

Horses: Out Rations.—With reference to General Order No. 6, of 12th March, 1900, no further Oat issue will be made, for the present, for horses. The horses lately fed up are to be kept up as far as possible by an issue of Cut Grass at night. O.C.'s are authorised to employ natives to cut grass at the rate of 9d. per horse of those authorised to be fed.

As more horses will shortly be required for food, O.C. Corps are requested to state how many horses they desire to cast as unlikely to be fit for further service.

Horses: Contagious Diseases.—As certain contagious diseases of the horse are transmissible to man, all horses killed for human food must be inspected by Veterinary Lieut. W. D. Smith, A.V.D., Protectorate Regt., and must be certified by that officer as "fit for consumption" before being issued to the Soup Kitchen.

Copying Orders.—General Order No. 5, of the 5th inst., will be in abeyance for the present, a further supply of paper having been obtained.

By order,

E. H. CECIL, Major,
Chief Staff Officer.

NOTICE.

Donkeys Brought in.

FIFTEEN Donkeys have been brought in to-day by Colonial Contingent which may belong to people in town, but have strayed towards the enemy's lines.

Claimants must produce satisfactory proof of ownership to Captain Ryan, D.A.A.G.(b), before 12 (noon) on Wednesday next, otherwise, notice is hereby given, that any animals, the claims to which are not thus substantiated, will be slaughtered for soup kitchen purposes.

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