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### The Mafeking Mail

MAFEKING, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

#### FURTHER DETAILS OF THE GLENCOE AND ELANDSLAAGTE FIGHTS.

#### BOERS KEEP WHITE FLAGS READY IN THEIR TRENCHES.

The *Cape Times* of Monday, October 23rd, gives a detailed account of the battle of Glencoe, from which we cut the following:—

At dawn on Friday (20th) the enemy had got their guns into position on the top of Dundee Hill overlooking the town. At 6 o'clock the first shell was fired. Our No. 2 Battery took up a position south of the town and after a quarter of an hour's magnificent fire silenced the enemy's guns on the hill. The Boers by this time were swarming over Dundee Hill, behind Smith's farm and on Dundee Koppie to the south. They crept round on the north side of the Koppie and ensconced themselves under cover of the Native kraals, rocks, bushes, &c., and our artillery fired direct on them. At the same time the Boers showed themselves in strong force at the top of Dundee Hill, our artillery limbered up and moved to a height close by. The Boers had an almost impregnable position. Our men were cool as could be and the officers led them with conspicuous gallantry under a heavy artillery fire. The hill behind Peter Smith's house was stormed by our Infantry and carried with marvellous bravery, the incline being steep as a house, and the Boer forces at the top were estimated between six thousand and eight thousand, while we had only two thousand Infantry. The Dublin Fusiliers were engaged in the thickest part of the fight. The Leicesters protected the west. The King's Royal Rifles advanced on the hill while the Royal Irish Fusiliers supported their left. When the top was finally reached the Boers displayed a white flag at the end of a bamboo pole and the victory was won. The other force of Boers then went in full retreat towards Landman's Drift. We captured some prisoners and a quantity of shells. Numbers of Boers, wounded and dead, were seen; it is estimated their loss was quite three hundred killed. We lost over a hundred. The battle lasted over eight hours. Amongst our killed was Capt. M. H. K. Pechell, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps—a brother, we are informed, of the gallant officer who fell in the attack on Cannon Koppie.

What will be known as the Battle of Elands Laagte was fought on Saturday, October 21st. The Boers were posted at the base of a sugar loaf hill almost two miles southeast from Elands Laagte, in a series of kopjes beyond Modderspruit, which is some ten miles north from Ladysmith, on the Newcastle Road, with an opening for retreat in the direction of Wessels' Nek. They had three big guns posted high on the kopjes commanding the country. The Boers opened the ball by shelling the armoured train. Our artillery had not sufficiently long range to be of any use. About a hundred of the enemy were seen riding to another point some two miles further on. Two squadrons of Lancers and a squadron of Imperial Light Horse were escorting the 42nd Battery of Artillery towards the spot. They speedily opened fire on the ridge behind which the enemy had taken cover and in a few minutes drove them out and back to the main body. At half-past two our forces moved forward. About three o'clock the enemy began firing from the ridges. The Infantry composed of the Manchesters, the Devons and the Gordons, along with the Lancers, the Light Horse and the Dragoons, proceeded to march up the rise. The 42nd and 21st Batteries of Artillery brought up the rear. No sooner did our Cavalry attain the summit of the rise than the enemy's artillery opened fire on them. Our artillery then galloped into action and within twenty minutes the enemy's battery was silenced and our force proceeded to take up a position on the crest of the ridge immediately facing the enemy. Again the Boers' big guns opened fire with shrapnel and Maxims on our advancing squadrons and once again our artillery galloped forward to take up a fresh position, the 42nd posting on the enemy's left flank, and for two solid hours and a quarter an artillery duel was fought. Our shells must have been fearfully effective. The first firing was about five thousand yards from the first ridge and about three thousand yards from the second ridge, the rapid artillery movement being excellent. During the deadly hoarse rattle and roar of big guns and maxims, our Light Horse and Lancers were advancing, and by a quarter to six the Gordons and Manchesters and Light Horse were ready to storm the position from the enemy's front and left flank and the signal for the bayonet charge was made. Then was seen one of the most splendid pieces of storming possible to conceive. The Devons took the lead, closely followed by the other three regiments, all in the face of a tremendous and killing fire. They charged and were

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