

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 84

Friday, March 2nd, 1900.

141st Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1900.

By the courtesy of Captain More, Railway Division, we are able to publish the following extract from a letter he received, dated February 19th, 953½ Miles, i.e., 85 miles North of Mafeking. His correspondent is Mr. H. Wallis.

"Last Sunday night (Feb. 11th) Colonel Plumer made an attack on the Boer fort, in which I volunteered to attempt to blow up their 12½ pounder. We left camp at 11 o'clock and marched all night slowly. We had about 200 men. I had about six with dynamite fuse, caps, hammers, etc. It was going to be a bayonet job. We all marched to within 60 yards of the fort and the front rank advanced, cheering, up to the walls of the fort, but the wily Boer was on the wait and gave us a perfect hailstorm of Mauser bullets and discharged three shells amongst us. One exploded a few yards to my left and a big stone caught me on the posterior, but did no harm other than to cause me to lie down. Captain French was killed and four others, with 23 wounded, two of whom died afterwards. After 20 minutes' Mauser hailstorm we were ordered to retire; we did this under shelling and Mausering. I didn't feel funky but it sobered me for several days. It was two days after before I began to look on war as a big joke again. Major Straker was shot through the breast, but the bullet did not touch the lung, and he is getting on. Col. Harry White was shot through the thigh. The Boers shell us pretty frequently and so we do. There they have a laager with a big gun, three Maxims and a small Maxim, just between Ramoutsa and the Notwani River, and they occupy the hills facing Crocodile Pools Siding, whilst we occupy the hills right and left of the Metsimasuane 100 ft. bridge. The Boers have on their fort a 12½-pound Maxim - Nordenfeldt, and a 1-pound Nordenfeldt, which fires dear little shells. I have any amount of 12½ pounder shells which I picked up. Only yesterday a shell base fell six yards from me and I picked it up about five minutes after it fell. It wasn't as hot as one might have expected after such a long aerial journey. Col. Plumer is a regular brick, and is a first-rate soldier to my idea. Day before yesterday a patrol of ours stumbled across a big party of Boers at the little kopje to the West of Crocodile Pools Siding, who had evidently come out to attack us. Lieut. Blunt was wounded and another man shot through the shoulder."

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 1st MARCH, 1900.

In continuation of yesterday's General Order, commending the behaviour of the men in charge of horses under enemy shell fire yesterday, Captain Marsh—who himself took a conspicuous part in helping to drive the horses in—highly commends the pluck and good work of Tpr. Webb,

Cape Police, and Trooper Paxton, "B" Squadron, Protectorate Regiment.

The new Howitzer, made at the Ordnance Foundry, under the direction of Major Panzera, went through most satisfactory trials yesterday. The Colonel Commanding sanctions the issue of a special gratuity of £5 to Foreman Conolly, and other proportionate sums to the members of his able staff, as a mark of his appreciation of their good work in improvising the Foundry and successfully turning out both ammunition and this useful addition to our defensive armaments.

Food-stuffs (Declaration of).—As it appears that several stocks of Food-stuffs have been overlooked by owners in making their declarations, a further opportunity is now offered for them to declare any that was omitted before. The penalty for non-declaration will be a heavy one.

Vegetables (Safeguarding of).—As it is necessary for our food supply that the crops of Mealies and Vegetables should be strictly preserved, every officer and man should give his help in the Natives to keep away thieves from the crops and shoot anyone, white or Native, who trespasses in a field. And, any thief or trespasser, white or black, will be liable on conviction to be flogged.

Persons possessing Cattle.—Persons possessing Cattle and desirous of selling the same are requested to communicate with Capt. Ryan, D.A.A.G.(b); their application will be passed to the Government Buyer, who will inspect the cattle and report on them.

MAFEKING, 2ND MARCH, 1900.

Ordnance Staff.—With reference to yesterday's mention of the ability of the Railway men working in the Ordnance Shops, the Colonel Commanding wishes to express his appreciation of the good workmanship and zeal of Assistant Foreman Coughlan, without whose skilful and ready assistance the work could not have been so successfully carried out.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Saturday, the 3rd March, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Lieut.-Col. C. B. Vyvyan. Member: Major F. W. Panzera.

Assessment Committee.—The Assessment Committee will meet on Sunday, the 4th March, at Dixon's Hotel at 10 a.m. Owners attending at the above place and hour will be informed about what time the Committee will arrive at their respective houses.

Promotion.—Private Godson, Railway Division, is granted the acting rank of Corporal while in charge of the Hotchkiss Gun, to date from 1st instant.

By order,

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

CORRESPONDENCE.

Surrey Hotel,
Mafeking, Feb. 28th, 1900.

To the Editor Mafeking Mail.

SIR,—As a late member of the "City of London Volunteers" I feel it my duty to

take up the gauntlet which you, doubtless unconsciously, threw down in your leaderette in last night's slip.

I should like to point out to you that the term "City of London Volunteers," as known at home, and which was no doubt meant in Reuter's telegram, comprises the 1st, 2nd and 3rd City of London Rifles and the 1st City of London Artillery. The term must be taken quite separately from the "Metropolitan" or "London Volunteers," which is a term used for the official name, "The Home Districts Volunteers." Out of the four Corps I have mentioned three are recruited entirely from the lower or working classes, and the other one is composed for the main part of young men in first-class City houses, (i.e., business men) and not the sort of men who (volunteering for active service in foreign parts) would miss their toilet clubs (if ever they belonged to one) or their tooth-picks either. Of course I know that amongst the "London Volunteers" there are certain Corps which recruit chiefly from the "Johnny" class, but I can, if necessary, recount some of the work done by these Corps, while at Aldershot, for their yearly training, which would lead you to alter your opinion even if you "enlarged" your term to "London Volunteers." I trust, that out of justice, which is due to my old Corps and the other Corps comprising the "City of London Volunteers," you will publish these few lines in your valuable columns.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. HOFMANN,

(Late 1st City of London Rifle Brigade.)

[We did not know the term "City of London Volunteers" applied to others than the City of London Rifles, the 1st Brigade of which we had particularly in mind at the time of writing; indeed that is the only Corps we had any special acquaintance with—an acquaintance which was obtained through having belonged to the Cadets thereof. Certainly, we could not do other than recognise the merit and worth of all the London Volunteers, and honour them for volunteering for South Africa, besides, is it not a matter of common knowledge that the "dandiest" are amongst our very best soldiers?—ED.]

AUCTION SALE

On Sunday, 4th March, 1900

ALDRED & ROSS,

Duly instructed, will sell WITHOUT RESERVE, the following articles:—

Lee-Metford Rifle, with Ammunition, 1 D.B. Shot Gun, 1 Revolver with Cartridges, Blankets, Tinware, Furniture, Second-hand Clothing, Portmanteaus, Bags, etc.

Also Without Reserve:

Absolutely New Shirts, Pyjamas, Trousers, Underclothing, Boots and Shoes, Shawls.

DON'T FORGET,

SALE COMMENCES AT 9-30 SHARP

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