

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE EDITION.

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Thursday, November 30th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

THURSDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

### ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

"It is suggested that all 'Old Andrians,' past members of St. Andrew's College, Grahamstown, at present in Mafeking, should arrange to dine together next Sunday to celebrate the annual festival of their *alma mater*, as is customary all over South Africa. Old Andrians are requested to communicate with "V.S." at the office of this paper, when arrangements can be made."

### MY BRAVERY IN THE TRENCHES.

#### A True Incident of the Siege.

Drowsily I sank on to the ground wrapped in a kaross, whose grateful warmth soon restored comfort to my benumbed limbs, the misery of the two hours' picquet duty in heavy rain was forgotten in a sleep so sound, it more resembled stupor, the stupor of extreme fatigue. It only seemed to me that a few minutes had elapsed, although it was really some hours, when I heard the order given: "Stand to Arms." Scarcely had I gained my feet when the Colonel stood before me asking in stern tones why these strangers had been allowed to pass. Stammering some excuse that it was after I left the post, I looked in the direction of his pointing hand, to my horror saw in the darkness, not two hundred yards away, a scarcely distinguishable crowd which instinct more than my sense of sight told me were mounted Boers. Luckily I had carried my rifle and bandolier when I emerged from the trench where I had been sleeping, and hastily slipping in a cartridge I crouched outside of the breast work ready to fire, unceremoniously asking the Col. to call the other men. No, said he, "you and I must do this alone." I felt that to be rather a tall order, but implicit confidence in the man who was keen enough to be in the dead of night at the very spot at the very time the enemy approached, prevented my doubting the feasibility of his carrying through anything he undertook, and when he said we were to do it alone I felt at once an inspiration, a capability for heroism, which I must confess had never before manifested itself in my breast. Some hastily whispered instructions from the Colonel as he thrust a long Cavalry sword in my right hand and a lance quite twenty feet

long in the other and the next instant I had thrust the lance right through two Boers, the weapon entering the stomach of the first, coming out between his shoulder blades, and piercing the chest of the man behind him, the point protruding quite two feet out from behind his head. While with my sword I slashed large pieces off the heads of Boer after Boer. In the meantime the Colonel had been actively engaged in a most peculiar manner. He had taken off his large cloak and waving it on high, had caught two, sometimes three, Boers at a time, in its folds immediately plunging an assegai through them. On we worked in this manner till not a single Boer was left, all were wounded. I turned to ask the Colonel what reward he thought my bravery would bring me, when I was seized by the arm, shaken me till my teeth rattled, and I awoke as a voice of thunder roared in my ear, "Stand to Arms, you sleepy headed fool," and I did.

### SUMMARY COURT OF JURISDICTION.

Before Colonel Goold-Adams, O.B.,  
C.M.G., and Colonel C. B. Vyvyan,  
Mr. C. G. H. Bell, Esq.

John Murphy, on remand for the Court to consider whether he should be flogged, charged with being drunk at 10-30 a.m. on the 27th ult., was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour, the Court remarking that they were loth to give any white man the lash.

Charley, a Zambesi boy, was charged with stealing a vest, the property of Mr. Jenkins, who proved finding it amongst prisoner's things in prisoner's room at Ellis's corner. Mr. Jenkins said that after his place was shelled every mortal thing he had was stolen.

Remanded for further evidence.

Van Rooyen and Venter, charged with being suspected spies, were again brought up.

Jomanyane, the boy supposed to have conveyed messages to the Boers, denied having ever done so, but also denied nearly everything the other witnesses in the case had said. Was sure he is a Mokwena but didn't appear certain about anything else. Van Rooyen and Venter are to be retained in prison till affairs are settled, they in one voice declared, as did other three prisoners a day or two ago, "they were quite satisfied with the sentence." There must be something decidedly nice about jail life.

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