

SIEGE OF KIMBERLEY BEGUN BY THE BOERS

Capture of Cecil Rhodes Believed to Be the Main Object of the Invading Army From the Transvaal.

Shots Are Exchanged Between Patrols and Burghers Near Ladysmith, but an Attack on the Town Has Not Been Attempted.

Special Cable to The Call and the New York Herald. Copyrighted, 1899, by James Gordon Bennett.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—The Daily Telegraph this morning publishes the following dispatch from its special correspondent.

"LADYSMITH, Sunday, Oct. 15.—All is quiet along the front. The Boers are on the western side of our lines, but are still keeping near the passes, although within the Natal border. Fine weather and moonlight nights may induce a forward movement on their part, or at any rate, some raids.

"The only shooting thus far has consisted of an interchange of shots between patrols on the Dundee side and a party of Boers who had crossed Buffalo River, but no casualties occurred. Boer scouts are out upon the Natal side of Buffalo River.

"I have learned that a number of Transvaal Boers are with the Free State Boers on the south side of Bothnas Pass.

"Ladysmith Camp is in a splendid defensible situation. It is a healthy place, and our men and horses are thoroughly fit. Boer patrols have been seen occasionally, but they were twelve miles from camp."

The Daily Mail's Cape Town correspondent, telegraphing Sunday evening, says:

"Kimberley is besieged and the Boers are massing in force. No details, however, are obtainable.

"The Boers have cut the railway at Belmont, have seized the Spytfontein Railway station and

constructed fortified earthworks. There are strong defending forces at Modder River and the Orange River.

"The object of these energetic operations is believed to be the capture of Cecil Rhodes. Kimberley is now isolated, both railway and telegraphic communication being cut."

The state of affairs at Mafeking can only be conjectured. The occupation of Newcastle by the Boers was prepared for and expected, the place having been abandoned by the British.

Very heavy rains and snows are reported, which hamper the Boer movements, and they are finding that they began too late to easily obtain the initial successes counted upon. They evidently find the advance upon Ladysmith difficult, either from the north or west, as General Sir George Stewart White's reconnaissance seems sufficient to deter them for the present.

The peaks of the Drakensberg Range are covered and the storms which have occurred must have caused the Boers great discomfort, which probably explains their failure to attack General White. Masterly inactivity characterizes the operations of both sides.

Persistent rumors are in circulation that the Schreiner Ministry to Cape Colony has been dismissed and that Rose Innes had been asked to form a Cabinet.

net. These rumors, however, are without foundation.

Sir Alfred Milner has wired to Mr. Chamberlain the text of an inflammatory circular, which Field Cornet Viljoen circulated in Johannesburg some weeks ago with a view of incensing the Afrikaners on both sides of the Orange River against England.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—The Daily Mail's Glencoe correspondent under date of Sunday says:

"A force under Commandant Viljoen from Spitzkop occupied Newcastle Saturday afternoon and, it is reported, planted their flag over the town hall. It is rumored that the Boers have captured a police patrol of six men at De Jagers Drift, on the Buffalo River."

Lord Salisbury has issued a summons for a Cabinet meeting to-morrow. The Government has secured the steamer Arava, which was to have sailed from Avonmouth to-morrow for Montreal with 1000 passengers. The Australian Government has secured the White Star line steamer Medic, now at Melbourne, to convey the Australian contingent to South Africa.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have each subscribed £200 to the Mansion House fund for the relief of South African refugees.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Morning Leader telegraphing Sunday night says:

"It is reported that fighting began at Kimberley this morning. The railway has been cut at Belmont."

A special dispatch filed at Dundee, Natal, Sunday afternoon, reports that Commandant Viljoen's force had left Newcastle for Dannhauser, where the Transvaal flag has been hoisted over the town hall.

INVESTMENT OF LADYSMITH NOT YET ATTEMPTED

DURBAN, Oct. 15.—The following official statement has been issued:

"The general officer commanding at Ladysmith issued forth on Friday morning with a strong flying column and occupied a position covering Ladysmith. He reconnoitered for the enemy, who showed no disposition to advance. They are reported to be inside the Berg at the foot of Tintwa Pass in force, with a second command at Olivers' Hoek. The troops are reported to be inside the Berg at the foot of Tintwa Pass in force, with a second command at Olivers' Hoek. The troops are reported to be inside the Berg at the foot of Tintwa Pass in force, with a second command at Olivers' Hoek.

It is reported from Glencoe that a large commando, believed to be Free State Boers, under Commandant Viljoen, is at the foot of Bothnas Pass, one and one-half miles on the Natal side of the border.

The Transvaal flag has been hoisted at Charlestown and Commandant Viljoen has sent a message to Newcastle saying the Boers would hoist the Transvaal flag there on Saturday, but that the people need not be afraid, as everything the Boers take will be paid for. They want to slaughter the cattle. Many people are left in Newcastle, including women and children.

A train of wagons, five or six miles in length, was seen descending Mills Neck toward Doornkop, north of Woolsdrift.

BOERS CAPTURE NEWCASTLE AND KAFFIRS JOIN THEM

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—A Journal cable from Dundee, Natal, says: I came here from Newcastle on an Friday night, leaving that town, from which most of the inhabitants had already fled. Early in the morning two Kaffir scouts came in and reported seeing a large body of Boers at Spitzkop making into Natal. Later it was ascertained that the enemy was only a strong reconnoitering party. But the information caused much anxiety among the inhabitants remaining, and Inspector Pelley and Railway Superintendent Littlejohn telegraphed to headquarters. They received orders to evacuate. The post-office and railway station were closed quickly, while the inhabitants assembled and boarded trains. Crowds of natives begged to be taken along. Many were accommodated.

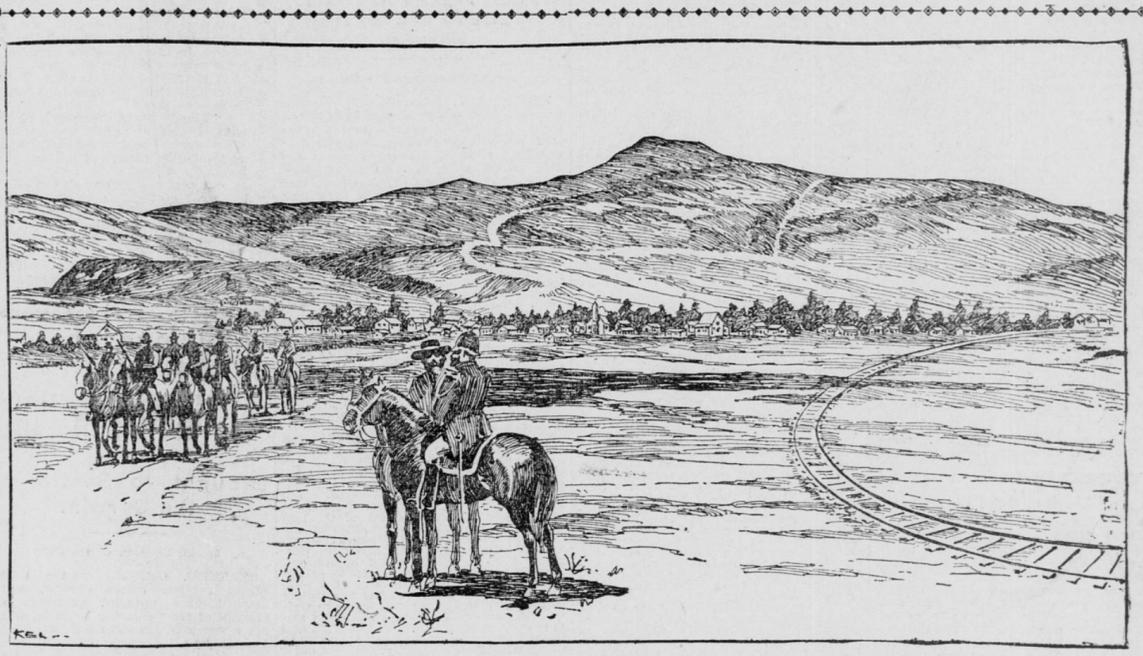
Just as the train was about to leave the Kaffir scouts reported the Boers behind Signal Hill, four miles away. Three white men and their families decided to remain in Newcastle. These were Magistrate Jackson, Police Superintendent McDonald and Station Master Sims, all of whom are on friendly terms with the Dutch.

Sims telegraphed me after the train left that the Boers, numbering 300, had entered the town and informed the people that all would be well treated and that there was nothing to fear.

While this force was occupying Newcastle a line of wagons several miles long was observed to the eastward, passing along the Transvaal side of Buffalo River. It camped last night at a farm near Buffalo bridge, fifteen miles from Newcastle.

Five thousand Kaffirs in charge of two Europeans, marching from Johannesburg, arrived at Newcastle yesterday morning and stopped outside the town. The Boers and inhabitants sent them food and supplies, and after a short rest the huge procession resumed its march, passing outside the town.

The main body of Boers, 15,000 men, left Newcastle to-day, marching south along the railway line, intending to proceed to



VIEW OF NEWCASTLE, UPPER NATAL.

This place has been occupied by the Boers. To the north of the town is Signal Hill, which was used as a heliograph station during the war of 1880-81 and to which the news of the defeat of the British at Majuba Hill was flashed from Prospect Hill, near the scene.

NO BRITISH KILLED WHEN THE ARMORED TRAIN WAS WRECKED

Special Cable to The Call and New York Herald. Copyrighted, 1899, by James Gordon Bennett.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—The Daily News correspondent at Cape Town has interviewed Flowerday, driver of the armored train which was wrecked by the Boers at Krapan. The Boers opened fire from a snail (ravin) close by the railroad. The party on board the train, numbering fifteen men, took shelter in the armored carriage. A heavy rifle fire was kept up all night.

When morning broke the Boers brought up artillery. The defenders hung out flags of truce. These were disregarded by the enemy, who continued firing for a quarter of an hour. Then, however, they ceased and galloped up on horseback.

Several of the little British party were wounded. Flowerday believes that none were killed.

"The Boers afterward directed an artillery fire on the engine, firing seven shells."

"When the pilot engine was derailed," said Flowerday, "we spent a half hour trying to get it back on the track. Then the Boers commenced firing and several men were wounded. The firing was kept up all night, but without effect. The Boers were careful to concentrate their fire upon the engine so as to save the armored carriage and ammunition trucks. At dawn they commenced to bombard the cars. I escaped by crawling a mile and a half on my belly in the sand. When both engines were destroyed Captain Nesbitt exhibited flags of truce, but the Boers continued their firing for another quarter of an hour."

"There is no doubt that all the others on the train are prisoners and that the carriage and ammunition intact fell into the hands of the Boers."

Dannhauser, which is only ten miles north of Glencoe and fifteen miles from Dundee. Other commands are also moving down both sides of the Natal border, threatening to inclose Dundee and Ladysmith. Apparently the Boer forces are marching in three columns. Viljoen commands the center and has the artillery. Colonel Schiel, formerly of the German army and with a German contingent, accompanies him. A strong force was left to occupy and hold Newcastle, and the flag of the South African republic is now floating over the Newcastle town hall.

An attack on Dundee on Monday or Tuesday is expected. The Boers will have no difficulty in capturing it and we will retreat to Ladysmith, where the British will make their stand.

A Kaffir report says that three men, who rode all night from Ingogo, have just arrived. They say that 15,000 Boers, with twelve guns, arrived at Ingogo, north of Newcastle, on Friday noon, looted the stores and passed southward. This force evidently is the same that occupied Newcastle.

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The Boers are compelling Rand refugees to help haul their cannon.

BOERS MAY NOT HAVE TRIED TO TAKE MAFEKING

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 14 (delayed in transmission).—Five hundred Boer troops occupy Border Sliding, northward of Fourteen Streams, with cannon, where they are, waiting to destroy the line or attack Fourteen Streams.

The railway telegraph officials have abandoned Maribogo. The nearest British point of communication, therefore, to Mafeking, is understood to be at Selatogoli, sixty miles away.

While it is the general belief that the Boers are attacking Mafeking, there is still no confirmation of the reports. If the Boers had met with any success it would surely have been announced, as the only telegraphic communication is in the hands of the burghers. The absence of news, therefore, is regarded as a good sign.

CENSORED NEWS TELLS OF RETREAT OF THE BOERS

DURBAN, Oct. 15.—Owing to the rigorous censorship maintained news from the front is greatly delayed, and reaches here in disjointed dispatches.

It is learned from an authentic source that a large number of troops, including cavalry, artillery and infantry, left Ladysmith early on Friday morning with wagons, going in the direction of Acton Homes, where the Boers are reported to be encamped.

The Dublin Fusiliers arrived from Glencoe by train at 11 o'clock, and proceeded in the same direction. There has been no engagement, the Boers retreating. The British troops remain at a point ten miles from Ladysmith, with the exception of the Dublin Fusiliers, who returned to Glencoe. General Sir William Symons having wired that an attack was expected there Saturday morning.

The Boers possess Brakwal station, twenty-five miles west of Ladysmith, and detachments have also been seen by carabineers at Besters, two stations nearer. The carabineers retired, and the Boers retreated in the direction of Brakwal.

AMERICA'S ACT DEPLORED.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—A Sun cable from London says: A dispatch to the

Times from Odessa says that official circles throughout South Russia view with great disappointment and regret the acceptance by the United States of the care of British interests in the South African Republic. It is held that the action of the United States indicates moral support of Great Britain.

GERMAN NEUTRALITY.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 14 (delayed in transmission).—The German Consul-General has issued a proclamation of neutrality, commanding all Germans to hold aloof from hostilities.

NO BATTLE FOUGHT.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 15.—The rumor that a heavy engagement had occurred at Spytfontein is without foundation. The railway officials have received a dispatch announcing that the railway line was torn up for two miles beyond the Modder River, but no mention was made of fighting having occurred.

MARCHAND WOULD FIGHT.

PARIS, Oct. 15.—Major Marchand, who commanded the French expedition into the Soudan, it is stated, wished to go and fight for the Boers as revenge for being obliged to withdraw from Fashoda, but the Government refused him permission to join the Boer forces.

WELL TREATED BY BOERS.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 15.—Corynghan Greene, British agent at Pretoria, received every civility on his journey from the Transvaal capital. Six of President

Kruger's bodyguard accompanied Mr. Greene to the border of the Free State, and he received the same treatment from the Free State.

The news of fighting at Modder River is not confirmed. The station master at Modder River telegraphs that Boers from the north and south have taken Canger-shat, which they are fortifying.

MULES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

BONHAM, Tex., Oct. 15.—Ed Stager of this city, an extensive dealer in mules and horses, has just filled a contract with the British Government for 1500 mules for service in South Africa.

NATAL SUBJECTS JOIN BOERS.

DURBAN, Oct. 15.—Two extraordinary gazettes have been issued. The first proclaims martial law in Newcastle, Dundee, Klip River Unskra and Upper Tugla divisions. The reason given is a belief that Natal subjects have joined the invading Boers and assisted the enemy. The other gazette reminds British subjects of their obligations to the Queen and warns them to abstain from intercourse and trade with the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

JOUBERT AT LAINGS NECK.

DURBAN, Oct. 15 (evening).—The Boers who have occupied Newcastle consist of Transvaalers, Free Staters and 400 Hollanders. General Joubert is believed to be at Laings Neck, which he is fortifying.

BOERS MARCHING SOUTH.

GLENCOE CAMP, Oct. 15 (night).—Boer commands have passed Ingagane, marching south.

BOERS FAIL TO AMBUSH A TRAIN

Derailed the Locomotive, but It Is Righted and Gets Away.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

VRYBURG, Cape Colony, Oct. 15.—A hospital train that started for Maribogo has just returned after an adventurous journey. It had reached a curve on a culvert 700 yards south of Maribogo and had just slackened speed when it was observed that the rails ahead had been upturned. The brakes were applied but the engine passed onto one rail partly raised and was derailed. The occupants immediately righted the engine. At the same time it was observed that a party of Boers were galloping into line east of the railway, but well on the Cape Colony side of the border. Some of the persons on the train declare that they saw a cannon pointed at the train. The intention of the Boers was apparently hostile. The train ran back to Vryburg at full speed, the engine flying a white flag with a red cross. Picks and shovels were seen lying about, and the Boers had apparently been derailed while removing the rails.

It is learned that previous to the starting of the train Maribogo telephoned Vryburg asking that a train be sent up, as all was quite safe. The operator at Vryburg recognized the voice as that of a European store clerk. In view of the subsequent report that the Boers were removing the rails it is believed the Boers compelled the clerk to speak through the telephone.

The nearest Boer command to Vryburg is laagered north of Schweizernek, twenty miles distant and two miles inside the Transvaal. The command sent a message to the Vryburg railway station that if the delivery of three wagonloads of meat and two wagonloads of sugar, received a week ago, were refused, the Boers would send 600 men to take them. This morning all the goods at the station were made up in two special trucks.

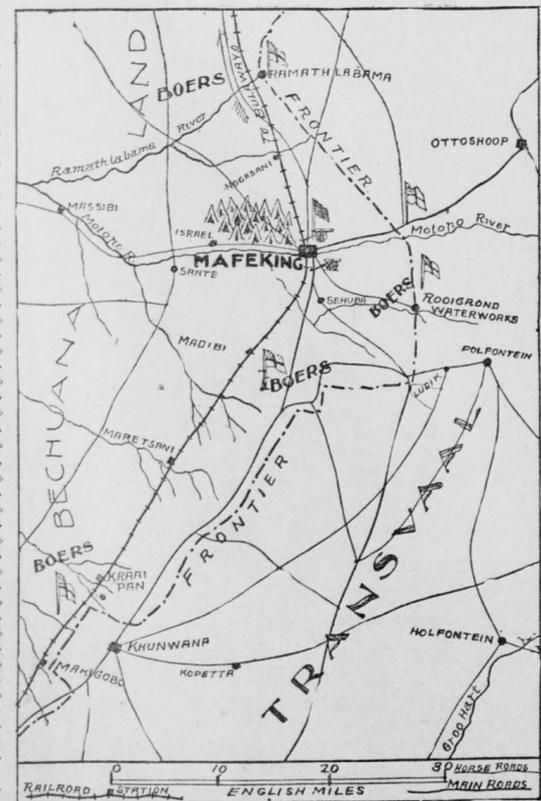
Lieutenant Mason Dead. WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Word has been received here of the death at Surgiter's Depot, N. Y., of Lieutenant Commander T. M. B. Mason, U. S. N., retired. Commander Mason was a native of New York and was 51 years of age. He was instrumental in developing the office of naval intelligence, which proved of great value to the Government during the Spanish-American war.

VIGOROUS MEASURES PREVENT AN UPRISING IN MANILA

MANILA, Oct. 15.—The authorities were informed yesterday from reliable sources that an outbreak in the poorer districts of Manila had been carefully planned for daylight on Sunday. It failed to occur, probably on account of the vigorous measures enforced. Many natives of the Tonds district left, taking their valuables. All the smaller shops, which the guards usually force to close at 8:30 P. M., were shut at sunset. A general feeling of uneasiness was apparent.

The guards of the city were doubled and a strong force stationed at the slaughter-house, the center of the unruly section. Two guns of the Sixth Artillery were stationed near by at a point commanding the native quarters. The commanders of the reserve troops were ordered to be prepared for a call at daylight.

Three native policemen have been arrested on a charge of plotting an uprising. The fact that their comrades informed the authorities of their treachery indicates that the police force is loyal.



MAP OF THE VICINITY OF MAFEKING.

This shows how Colonel Baden-Powell's forces have been cut off by the Boers, who have seized the railroad both north and south of them, as well as the water supply at Rooigrond.