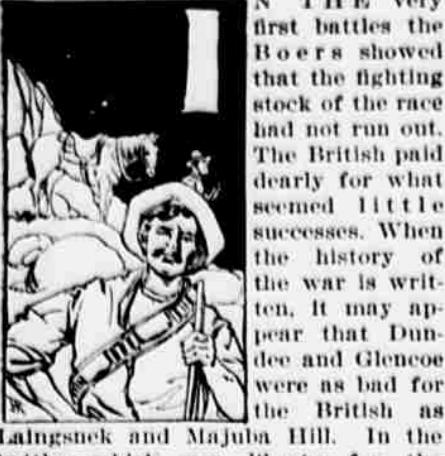


OOM PAUL'S ARMY.

THE MILITARY OUTFIT OF THE TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC.

Although Born Fighters, the Boers Are Not Left to Chance—Simple Method of Making Soldiers—Means for Standing off the British.

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The British as Laingsnek and Majuba Hill. In the battles which won liberty for the Boers their losses were in the ratio of 7 to 100 of the British.

The Boer soldier knows how to sell his life dearly. It is not a maxim with him, but a habit. In comparison with the men England can stand up against his race there are few left, and these must do a deal of killing in order to insure that bloody revenge which is the sole aim of the Boer's life. If England is to rule South Africa, the creators of prosperity there mean to exact a frightful dol in blood. They have been getting ready since the Jameson raid and, with what nature has done for the defense of the Transvaal, entered this war in shape to keep it up for months.

The Transvaal country is said to be as impregnable as Switzerland, that unconquerable haunt of liberty loving peasants. There are few bridges and few roads, and the Boer can burn all his home belongings and yet be in trim to fight. His wealth and substance are on the hoof, so that towns and positions are of no consequence. An invading army, however, must be tied to a fixed line of advance and fight to guard it. The Boers can always find the British, but the British can only find the Boers when the latter swoop down upon a wagon train or isolated post.

At Majuba Hill the British commander counted on a sure thing because he could get to the height first with the most men. Once there with his Gatlings he meant to keep the Boers from getting up at all. There was cover on Majuba Hill for the defenders, but no one supposed that the Boers would climb up in the face of the fire hurled at them from rifle and Gatling. But the Boer is as agile as an Indian and knows how to fight on his own hook. The first thing to do in war is to kill the enemy, and every Boer is thirsty for British blood.

Perhaps the Boers are untrained in the highest military sense, but so was General Forrest, the mighty raider of the west; so was the Nez Perce warrior, Chief Joseph, who for a time outlasted Howard and Gibbon and Miles with the best troops of the plains at their backs. But the Boers can fight a waiting campaign and compel the British to hunt them on their chosen ground. Only five years ago the Boers fought the Kaffirs, and it was plain that the old time cunning had not departed from the Dutch who wrested South Africa from savagery. In broad daylight the Kaffirs would sweep down upon some peaceful home, flourishing spears and knives and assagais, but the Boer worked with his rifle beside him and his belt studded with revolvers. In an instant a farmstead became a fort, and the foolhardy blacks were slaughtered like sheep. The Kaffir leaders were brought down with unerring aim. In a short time the Boers manned the stockade, with the women to reload and pass up weapons. This war, called the Kaffir revolt, ended in a few weeks, and the natives failed to score a single triumph, even over isolated bands of Boers.

The preparations for fighting the British began after the Jameson raid, but the Boers were not caught napping at that time. When the news reached Pretoria that 3,000 British were invading the land, General Joubert proposed to move out with artillery to meet the enemy, but Oom Paul said calmly that 200 old farmers with their rifles could easily stop the British. The whole force turned out by General Cronje to meet Jameson's 3,000 numbered but 400, and Cronje was not a military man either. Somehow he led the British where he wanted them and, when they opened with artillery on the Boers, told his men to take to the rocks.

At 500 yards the Boers began to pepper the raiders. Then Jameson tried Maxims on the Dutchmen, but they were so well scattered that the fire was wasted. Cronje picked out some of his best riflemen to shoot down the gunners, and the fight was all one-sided after that.

After the Jameson raid the Transvaal government decided to turn its chief cities into arsenals and be ready for any kind of warfare. Johannesburg, the metropolis of the discontented uitlanders, has been looked to best. If attacked from without, there are six forts for defense, and the French and German long range rifled guns in position sweep a wide extent of country. If the place rebels against the Transvaal authorities, it can be destroyed by a system of mines in case that extreme step is necessary to down the uitlanders. To suppress an uprising the main streets have been brought under range of heavy guns. Small arms and ammunition are at hand to push

things if the foreigners take to force to make good their demands.

Pretoria is also defended by heavy guns in massive forts under trained artillerists. As the capital is liable to siege in case of a war like the present, vast quantities of stores have been laid in. The Boers laugh at the British proposal to blockade the ports and starve them out. They can live on the products of the country, dried meat and mealies. On a campaign a mounted man carries rations for two weeks, and the Boers in the camp stand in no more need of a cumbersome commissariat than a tribe of wild Indians in a land filled with game. In tactics the British may give the Boer some hard lessons, but he has always learned easily. While his methods are the savage rushes of native warriors, these are up to date as things go in warfare of the kind in progress. The Boers attack savagely, then retreat to gather for a new attempt. They met masses at Laingsnek and Majuba Hill, also in the Jameson raid, and were never held off.

The British concede to the Boers the palm in marksmanship. At the battle of Majuba Hill General Colley was cut down at 1,400 yards. The Boer can hit an officer as far as he can see to distinguish insignia of rank. He understands the effect of air currents upon a bullet as the Indian gauges the flight of an arrow. In this war the Boers have the best German rifles, and at Dundee and Glencoe the sharpshooters used the Mannlicher, a weapon said to be a fearful man slayer.

It is not true that the Boers have no army. The standing army is small, but it is intended only for the training of officers. In point of fact, every able-bodied Boer is a soldier of the army when called out. It is the same as in Germany, except that the Germans get three years of military training in barracks, while the Boer's entire life is one of training for the hardships and emergencies of the field. There are 30,000 able-bodied Boers today, and not one of them waits for the draft to put him in the field. He is as anxious to fight the British as the most enthusiastic American youngster was to fight the Spaniards in 1898. Latterly the Boer youths have been taught to look for war, and it is needless to say that they are in fighting trim. The country is divided into military districts, and the ranks were formed to invade Natal as speedily as Germany mobilized to fight France.

Each town, city and hamlet in the Boer country has a volunteer corps, and the headquarters of each corps is a rallying point for the district roundabout. The company is the unit, and officers of all grades from captain to general know their duties and stations in time of war.

It seems ridiculous to think of a republic with a standing army of 400 men forcing an ultimatum upon the British empire, but the truth is that the little standing army of the Transvaal Boers is a body of leaders in case of war. These 400 soldiers are trained artillerists and, with the help of nonprofessionals, can handle easily with the best effect 100 guns. But the training of these regulars also fits them for general duty as officers of volunteers. In addition to the artillerists, there are 2,000 men in the regular pay of the state acting as reserves to the police. All of these professional soldiers are the pick of the nation, mentally and physically, and are the finest specimens of military men to be found anywhere.

The artillery corps handles quick firing guns, field batteries and heavy pieces with technical skill. Every department of an army on a campaign is provided for in the same way. With his lifelong training to outdoor life and skill with firearms the average Boer when called into the field is the equal



STALKING BRITONS IN THE TRANSVAAL.
of the men in the reserves of the military nations. They are soon massed into regiments and brigades, and, having good leaders and a cause, the army is the ideal, as far as it goes.

In the Transvaal the Boers number 30,000 fit for duty. Natal and Cape Colony have 27,000, and the Orange Free State has 10,000.

In the field the Boers wear no uniform. But clothes do not fight, and it is the fashion now in active campaigning to despise appearances. For another thing, the Boer army has no cumbersome wagon train and no war chest, so there is no bother about a base and lines of communication. The Boer army can stand as long as it pays to, in a given position, then away to a better one. It can strike and cripple the enemy at one point, then dash off to another. This is guerrilla warfare, of course; but, since "war is hell" at the best, what signifies it how the work is done?

GEORGE L. KILMER.

NOTES ON BOER WAR.

"Fighting Fifth" Once Had a Woman Soldier.

HER STORY TOLD ON HER GRAVE.

Kruger Quite as Much of a Financier as a Diplomat—Remarkable Pluck of Cecil Rhodes—How Families of British Reservists Will Be Cared For.

An interesting fact in connection with the "Fighting Fifth," which has participated in the Ladysmith engagements, is that it is one of the few British regiments in which a woman has fought side by side with the men, says the London correspondent of the Chicago Tribune. It has been many years since she served with the British troops, but the members of the Fifth never miss an opportunity to boast that they once had a real Joan of Arc in their ranks.

On a grave at Brighton this history is recorded: "In memory of Phoebe Hessel, who was born at Stepney in the year 1713. She served for many years as a soldier in the Fifth regiment in different parts of Europe and in the year 1745 fought under the command of the Duke of Cumberland in the battle of Fontenoy, where she received a bayonet wound in her arm. Her long life extended from the reign of Queen Anne to that of George IV, from which monarch she received comfort and support in her later years. She died at Brighton on Dec. 12, 1831, aged 108."

Perhaps no country ever went to war in better financial condition than the Transvaal republic. In fact, President Kruger has proved himself to be quite as great a financier as he is a diplomat. In 1892 the revenue of the Transvaal republic was \$6,279,145 and the expenditures \$5,943,825. These figures increased in 1897 to \$22,401,000 and \$21,970,330 respectively. In that year the public works figure at \$5,064,330 and the war department \$4,984,800. Since 1897 the expenditure on this latter item has naturally grown considerably.

President Kruger undoubtedly felt for several years that the time must surely come when he would have to go to war with Great Britain; consequently he carefully and patiently prepared for what has come to pass. The Boer republic is well supplied with good field guns, with a vast number of modern rifles, plenty of food supplies and an immense amount of ammunition. All these things cost much money, yet the total debt of the Transvaal republic is today under \$14,000,000.

This healthy condition has been largely commented upon by the British press, and it has been frequently pointed out that a war indemnity can be borne with ease by the Transvaal. In case of British success there is little doubt the Transvaal will have to pay for the entire cost of the present war.

Lord Chesham, commanding officer of the Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry, has been authorized to organize a force of 3,000 yeomanry, who will proceed to the Cape.

The war office last evening posted a revised list of the casualties in the battle of Magersfontein, giving 51 additional killed.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Frere camp says that the bodies of the two guides who misled General Gatacre at Stormberg were found on the battlefield. The men had been shot.

According to a dispatch from Cape Town Sir Charles Warren and his staff have started for De Aar. This seems to indicate that the Fifth division will be sent to reinforce Lord Methuen, which will meet with general approval, as the opinion is held everywhere that it would be useless to waste away more time by frittering away men between the various columns.

The Morning Post, in a rather alarmist article, remarks upon the difficulty of deciding such a crucial matter, and says: "Beside three generals in the field, all of whom need to be reinforced, there is the rebellion in Cape Colony to be considered. This makes four pressing calls on the Fifth division.

The trouble is, who is to decide, and on what principle?"

The Morning Post, reviewing the various positions of the beleaguered commanders and garrisons, asserts that the relief of Ladysmith is the most important emergency and that a victory in Natal would change the whole face of affairs. It also points out the urgent need of having the navy in readiness to move at any moment to protect the line of communications with South Africa, suggesting that a "quarrel with some foreign power might come any day without any British intention to have war."

It will probably interest Americans, for purposes of comparison at least, to know the provision that is made in British army regulations for the families of reservists (equivalent to the United States militia) who are called out to war or "to colors," as the British put it. The family of a reservist during such time receives "separation allowance" from the government, whether the man remains at home or is sent abroad. While at home the man makes his own arrangements for remitting money to his family out of his pay, but in the event of his proceeding abroad the army authorities perform this service for him and compel the remittance of a certain minimum amount, according to rank. He has, of course, the option of remitting a larger sum.

The following are the daily rates: Separation allowance paid by the government to the wife, 16 cents; to each child, girl under 10 or boy under 14, 4 cents; minimum allotment (stopped from the pay of a private) when drawing a field ration: To the wife, 8 cents; to each child, 2 cents, the total not to exceed 12 cents without the man's consent. When not drawing a field ration the wife gets 4 cents daily and the children 1 cent each, the total not to exceed 6 cents without the man's consent.

This system has been found to be most advantageous in preventing the families of poor soldiers from suffering while the heads are engaged in war. The vast majority of corporations aid the families still further by sending them one-half the husband's wages all the time he is at the front.

CROSS TUGELA RIVER.

British Said to Have Finally Forced Their Way Over.

STIFF BATTLE IS REPORTED.

From Same Source It Is Learned General Methuen's Line of Communication Is Cut—Seasoned Troops Going From India—How the Boers Won at Tugela.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Daily Mail hears from a hitherto reliable correspondent that General Buller, after a stiff fight, crossed the Tugela river. The correspondent also states that General Methuen's communications are cut, and it was possible that a flank attack threatened the safety of his column.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The war office has been in communication with General Sir William Lockhart, commander-in-chief in India, with a view of ascertaining what troops can be spared from his forces and it is understood that as a result a force will almost immediately leave Bombay for Durban, including four regiments of seasoned troops with an ammunition column and a brigade of artillery including horse and field batteries. It is hoped that this force will join General Buller within a month.

The Duke of Connaught visited the war office yesterday. Since the appointment of Lord Roberts as com-



COLONEL LONG.

mander-in-chief in South Africa the question of rank no longer bars the duke from going to the front and as he has a strong desire to go, it is believed that only the queen's reluctance stands in the way. It is not unlikely that this will be overcome.

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The loss of artillery, which brought about the suspension of this second attempt to force the passage of the river,

was due to lack of adequate precautions for finding out through scouts whether the way was clear and safe for the guns.

As Colonel Long, who was responsible for this maneuver, has been dangerously wounded, the military critics are reserved in their strictures. He has been in a half dozen campaigns, and was considered one of the coolest men in the artillery service.

French Withdraws to Arundel.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A dispatch to the Daily Post from Naauwpoort, Cape Colony, dated Dec. 16, says: "The Boers brought a big gun to bear on the British near Vaar Kop. The British pieces were too small to reach the enemy, and after an intermittent artillery duel General French withdrew under shell fire, but without losses, to Arundel."

BOERS READY FOR THE WAR.

Frenchman Says Conquering the Country is an Impossibility.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—M. DeLong, the manager of the dynamite factory at Modderfontein, in the Transvaal, has just returned to France and been interviewed by the representatives of several of the Paris journals. He says that the British government can have no idea of the vast extent of the preparations that the Boers have been quietly making for years, with the realization that another struggle with the full force of Great Britain was inevitable. Even should the Boers be driven out of Natal, he points out, no British army could ever hope to enter the Transvaal and survive.

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