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War Office, June 7, 1878.

**A** DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from the Lieutenant-General Commanding the troops in South Africa:—

*King William's Town,  
Cape of Good Hope,*

*5th May, 1878.*

SIR,

HAVING returned to King William's Town, I take the opportunity of sending you a report up to date, of the operations now in progress. As the mail does not leave for a few days, I trust I may be able to add a further report to the one I have now the honour to make.

1. You will have heard by my last despatch, dated 24th April, that the rebels had, during the enforced lull in active operations, collected in the Buffalo Range, and in the bush lying around the Intala Ka' Udoda, and that I had determined to operate in the latter district first. I hardly hoped to conceal this intention from the Kafirs, whose spies are everywhere, even in King William's Town, but it is nevertheless reported from various sources that they believed the Perie Bush (Buffalo Range) was the first point to be attacked.

2. On Monday the 29th April (on which day I took the field myself) the forces detailed for the attack moved, as follows, to posts already occupied:—

*From King William's Town to Bailie's Post.*

Four companies 2nd Battalion 24th Foot under Colonel Degacher; 2 7-pr. guns under Major Harness, R.A.; 2 7-pr guns under Lieutenant Giles, R.A., worked by bandmen, of 1st Battalion 24th Foot, assisted by a few artillerymen.

Garrison already at this post—Frontier Light Horse under Major Buller, C.B., 60 rifles; 1 company 2nd Battalion 24th Foot; Maclean's Fingoes under Commandant Allan Maclean, 60 Hottentots.

*From Middle Drift to Burn's Hill.*

Two 7-pr. guns under Captain Smith, R.A.; 2 7-pr. guns under Lieutenant Curling, R.A.; 1 company 90th Light Infantry.

Garrison already at this post—2 companies 90th Light Infantry.

*From Keiskama Hoek to Yellow Wood Drift.*

Lonsdale's Fingoes.

Garrison already there—Streatfield's Fingoes; 1 company 90th Light Infantry.

*From Tamacha Post to Dele Neck.*

Von Linsingen's Fingoes under Captain Ronald Maclean.

Garrison already there—Siwani's Kafirs under Captain Clarke; Graham's Town Volunteers under Captain Sampson; Von Linsingen's Mounted and Dismounted Volunteers.

*Fort White and Makalalekite Neck.*

Occupied by Diamond Field Horse under Captain Warren, R.E.

*Post near Figland's Farm.*

Held by 1 company 90th Light Infantry and Hottentots under Lieutenant White.

*Green River (Hall's Hotel).*

Somerset Volunteers under Captain Comeley.

3. My instructions for the attack on Tuesday, the 30th April, were as follows:—

"On Tuesday, the 30th April the forces will advance from their respective camps, so as to be ready to attack at daybreak.

"Colonel Wood's force, as per margin\*, will advance in two columns; Streatfield's and Lonsdale's Fingoes, supported by 2 companies 90th Light Infantry, will beat the bush towards the Taba Ka' Udoda on the right side of the Zanyorkive Valley. Bowker's Rovers will watch this valley.

"Three companies 90th Light Infantry, with 4 guns and Diamond Field Horse will advance from Burn's Hill and Makalalekite Ridge on to the open ground west of the Taba Ka' Udoda.

"Commandant Von Linsingen's force will move up the Burnside; Bailie's Post-road, and will beat the southern slopes of the Taba Ka' Udoda, in a westerly direction, and work its way eventually on to the open ground on which Colonel Wood's European column will debouch.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Degacher's force, consisting of 5 companies 2nd Battalion 24th, and 4 guns, will move from Bailie's Post to the ground near the Intala Ka' Udoda, where the guns will be placed in position to shell the bush.

"Maclean's Fingoes will move at 2 A.M., from Bailie's Post to the mouth of the Zanyorkive Valley, and will beat the eastern side of the valley bush towards the Intala Ka' Udoda.

"Frontier Light Horse and 1 company 2nd Battalion 24th, under Major Buller, C.B., 60th Rifles, will move one hour before daylight to ridge between Zanyorkive and Congo Valley.

"Captain Sampson's Volunteers will watch the bush on the south side of the Intala Ka' Udoda,

\* Vide return annexed, marked D.