

Klassen, of the Wodehouse Contingent, and two more volunteers were wounded.

As I considered the Kaffirs should be driven out, I called up Maclean's and Lonsdale's Fingoes from Frost's Plateau, and sent the former to turn the Kaffirs' natural fastness by the western, while Lonsdale's men should turn it by the eastern side.

Before, however, Maclean's Fingoes could arrive, they having the widest movement, Commandant Lonsdale pushed down with Captain Bode's Company of Lonsdale's Fingoes and pressed the Kaffirs in flank, when Major Buller, who had declined my offer of fresh troops, led on his men, and, together with seventeen men of the Stutterheim Police, and a few of the 24th Regiment, drove the path with a cheer, and the Kaffirs fell back, with the exception of five men who, armed with double-barrelled guns (taken), killed Private Davies, Frontier Light Horse, and one of Lonsdale's Fingoes, and wounded another before they were slain.

This attack on an immensely strong position was carried out in a most spirited manner by Commandant Lonsdale and by the Frontier Light Horse, the latter having moreover been under fire for a considerable time. During this time the Royal Artillery gun shelled the Buffalo Poort, where fires were burning, and the supposed position of Sandilli's cave. I only know of eight bodies of Kaffirs having been counted, though Mr. Lonsdale saw several fall over the precipice under the fire of those who attacked the Kaffir position. One body was found recently buried.

A Kaffir boy taken by Streatfield's Fingoes, says that all the Kaffir's supplies of spirits, oilman's stores, &c., came from Ross' Mission Station.

I have, &c.,
EVELYN WOOD, Colonel.
Commanding on the Buffalo Range.

*Camp, Mount Kempt,
May 8, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with orders I left my camp in the Gwenque Valley with 110 men of the Frontier Light Horse on the 7th, arriving at Isidingi, I found two companies of the 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, encamped there with two guns, Royal Artillery, instead of on the hill top.

I ordered Major Dunbar to move his two companies at once to this camp, taking only waterproof sheets and blankets. The two guns I left at Isidingi. We reached this camp at 5.30 P.M. Commandant Streatfield arrived with his Fingoes at 11.30 P.M., having made a long march in the dark, and in heavy rain, most cheerfully and expeditiously.

At 4.30 A.M. the 8th, I started with the force detailed in the margin,* passed through Molyneux Path unopposed, and debouched on the lower plateau at 6.30.

We found the lower plateau unoccupied, but saw a good many Kaffirs crossing the upper one.

I sent the Fingoes into the Buffalo Poort Bush, placed the 24th in advantageous positions lining the edge of it, and started at once with the Frontier Light Horse in pursuit.

Commandant Schermbrucker who had followed me down Molyneux Path here placed at my dis-

posal detachments of Mounted Volunteers of the Corps named in the margin.*

Ascending the upper plateau we captured eight head of cattle, and drove one party of Kaffirs down a path so steep that we could not follow them.

I asked Commandant Maclean, who had just gained the plateau by Wood's Path, to go in pursuit with his Fingoes, and proceeded myself after some Kaffirs whom I had seen making for Buller's Path.

Passing Colonel Wood, V.C., C.B., who had just gained the upper plateau, by some unfortunate misunderstanding the Frontier Light Horse and all Commandant Schermbrucker's men remained with him and off saddled, so that although I did not know it, I went on with my personal escort alone (Lieutenant Haines and four men).

On nearing the rocky entrance of the path we were suddenly fired upon, two or three volleys in rapid succession, which killed one man and dangerously wounded another, and I found myself in face of the enemy in force with only three effective rifles. Sending one man for assistance he brought up some of the True Blues and Kaffrarian Rangers who were near; and we made an attempt to storm the path, it would have been successful had the new comers come on, but they were unsteady, and we had to retire with the loss of two more men, both I regret to say from the fire of their comrades behind.

Colonel Wood now sent up Colonel Degacher with two companies of the 24th Regiment, but, owing to some misconception, they formed on the right, where there were no Kaffirs. I then brought up the Frontier Light Horse, and, while forming them for attack, I regret to state that Captain Macnaghten was killed, and Captain Whalley severely wounded.

This unsteadied the men, and a desultory fire was kept up on both sides for about an hour, during which the True Blues and the Kaffrarian Watchmen retired.

Commandant Lonsdale then came up with a few Fingoes, and charged the path with them, and the Frontier Light Horse joining him, the position was carried, with two men, one Fingoe and one trooper, being shot dead in the assault.

The Stutterheim Police, who had come up with the Fingoes, supported the assaulting party most efficiently.

Seven (7) Kaffirs were shot dead in the rocks; and as I myself saw at least three more fall dead over the Krantz on the right, I estimated the enemy's loss at fifteen. We got five double-barrelled guns, two being breech-loaders.

Having regard to the nature of the position, which could only be approached by a very few men at a time, I think that all engaged in the assault deserve credit for the manner in which it was delivered, especially Commandant Lonsdale, who acted with the greatest gallantry.

The following is the list of casualties:—

Killed.

Frontier Light Horse.

Captain Macnaghten, Corporal McCabe, Trooper Davis.

Wodehouse True Blue.

Trooper France.

Wounded.

Frontier Light Horse.

Captain Whalley, severely, contused; Trooper Gilbert, very dangerously.

* Frontier Light Horse, Captain Macnaghten; two companies 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, Major Dunbar; 400 Fingoes, Commandant Streatfield.

* Wodehouse True Blues, Captain Spillman; Kaffrarian Rangers, Captain Norman; Stutterheim Police, Captain Lantry.