

much disheartened by the severe losses they have experienced. Mr. Lloyd, Political Assistant to Colonel Wood, writes on February 1, "They are said to be much disheartened with their losses in their attack on the Rorke's Drift Column (No. 3); the Undi Regiment, more especially the Tulwana division of it, suffered very heavily."

No. 4 Column.

Enclosures from Colonel Wood.

Camp, Zungeni Nek,
23rd Jan., 1879.

D. A. GENERAL,

LIEUT.-COL. BULLER with Mr. Piet Uys reconnoitered the Tumguin Range on the 20th, but were unable to reach the eastern end, being opposed by about 1,000 Zulus.

That day No. 4 Column reached the Unwolos; and Tinta, uncle of Seketwayo, came to me out of a cave to which I had gone, about six miles east of Unwolos River.


In the evening I sent back Tinta's people with a convoy of wagons, about 70, escorted by one Company, 90th Light Infantry.

Later, hearing some Zulus had crossed the Unwolos, I reinforced the escort.

On the 21st we built a stone laager fort, left all superfluous stores, over one week's supply, and crossing the river, pitched on the left bank, and at midnight 21st-22nd, leaving one Company, 13th Light Infantry, and the Company, 90th, which had just arrived from Blood River, marching 34 miles in 25 hours; at fort Tinta we started on patrol.

Colonel Buller, with the Dutchmen and two guns, marched up the right bank of the Unwolos, while the 90th and 1st Battalion, Wood's Irregulars, marched direct for the range of the Zungeni, so as to strike it about three miles from the Unwolos. Though until 3 a.m. it was very dark, and we passed over a difficult country, guided by some Dutchmen, the 90th arrived on the summit about 6 a.m., just as Colonel Buller ascended by the Yag Pad line.

After resting for two hours we moved on towards a few hundred Zulus who were on the south-eastern summit of the range. These retired hastily, leaving about 250 head of cattle and 400 sheep and goats, which were brought into camp, which had been formed by Colonel Gilbert, who marched at 3 a.m. on the 22nd from the Unwolos River.

From the eastern extremity of the range we saw under the Iuhlobana Mountains, near Mabambas' Kraal, about 4,000 Zulus. They formed a circle, a triangle, and a square with a partition thus,  They were moving later, so far as could be seen in the dusk, up the Iuhlobana Mountains.

The patrol reached camp at 7 p.m., having been under arms, the Infantry carrying 100 rounds, nineteen hours. One gun limber was broken in being let down by ropes, over a very steep hill, but we hope to repair it to-day.

(Signed) EVELYN WOOD,
Colonel.

P.S.—Our movements would not be possible without the aid of Mr. Piet Uys and his men, whose local knowledge is invaluable.

I propose to move on to-morrow, weather permitting, towards the Bagalusina Kraal, 18 miles about distant.

NOTE.—The Iuhlobana Mountain is part of the Ityenteka Range.

D. A. GENERAL,

HAVING yesterday seen the ground over which the reconnoitering party, under Colonel Buller, C.B., skirmished on the 20th, against a large body of Zulus, I deem it my duty to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Lieut.-General Commanding, that in my opinion, the presence of mind, tactical skill and determination which led Colonel Buller to advance at full speed, seize and hold a stony hill, accounts for the successful withdrawal of the party, with the insignificant damage it sustained.

(Signed) EVELYN WOOD,
Colonel.

D. A. GENERAL,

REPORT of a reconnoissance under Lieut.-Colonel R. Buller, C.B., Commanding Frontier Light Horse, is forwarded herewith for the information of his Excellency the Lieut.-General Commanding.

(Signed) EVELYN WOOD,
Colonel Commanding No. 4 Column.

January 22, 1879.

Camp.

Fort.

Camp White, Umfelozi River,
21st January, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that at 4 a.m. yesterday, Mr. Piet Uys kindly sent eight of his Dutch Burghers to reconnoitre the top of Zingan Mountain.

At 9 a.m., in accordance with instructions, I started on patrol, with the force detailed in the margin.* Crossing the Umfelozi River by an indifferent drift, about two miles above Mount Inseki, I moved towards Mabomba's Kraal, round the south-east spur of Zingan. About seven miles from the river Mr. Uys' men, who were reconnoitering the left, found about 50 armed Zulus in a kraal of Seketwayo, under the side of Zingan, leaving the kraal the Kafirs at once took to the rocks.

An engagement ensued, during which I reinforced the Burghers with 20 dismounted men under Captain Brunker.

Twelve Kafirs were I know killed, and I think a few more. One man, F. L. H., was wounded with an assegai thrown by a wounded Kafir, and another had a narrow escape. We found four guns and a good many assegais, all of which I had broken, but I did not search the ground thoroughly as I did not think the risk of getting men stabbed by wounded Kafirs worth the result.

About this time two of Mr. Uys' men came to us and reported a commando of Kafirs on the top of Zingan. Ascending the mountain by a difficult stony cattle track, we found the report was quite true, as the rocky ridges were lined with Kafirs.

I endeavoured to cross the upper plateau in order to get a view of Mabomba's Kraal from above, but the hill was too strongly held for us to force it. With the view of ascertaining the full strength of the enemy who were coming down to attack us in three columns, I seized a small stony koppie and commenced an engagement with the centre column. Our fire soon drove them to cover with a loss of about eight dead (seen a good many more reported), but meanwhile we were completely outflanked on our right by some 300 Kafirs who crept round among the stones and kraantzes of the ridge, and our left by some 400 men, boldly moved in tolerable order across the open ground about a mile off.

* Frontier Light Horse: 7 Officers, 75 N.C.O. and men. Dutch Burghers: 22, under Mr. Piet Uys.