



SUPPLEMENT
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FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1879.

War Office, March 28, 1879.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State for War from Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford, Commanding the Troops in South Africa.

From the Lieutenant-General Commanding in South Africa to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War.

Pietermaritzburg,

Sir, *February 23, 1879.*

1. I HAVE the honour to report that I left the posts on the Lower Tugela on the 17th instant, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Law, R.A., in command of the district pending Colonel Pearson's return from Ekowe.

2. Since the above date, reports have been persistently circulated by the Zulus living on the border of an unsuccessful attack by the King's forces on Ekowe, about the 15th February. Every endeavour that was made to sift the report only appeared to confirm it, and the Border Agents and Bishop Schröder eventually believed in its truth. On the 20th February, however, I received by telegram from Fort Tenedos the letter from Colonel Pearson, a copy of which I enclose, by which you will see that up to the 18th instant no attack had been made, and that there was not a shadow of truth in the reports. It serves, however, to show how little credence can be placed in native statements.

3. There can, I think, be little doubt but that the Zulu army has been called up to the King's, and is probably at this time on the move. Its destination is stated to be to attack Nos. 1 and 4 Columns, while Colonel Glyn, from Rorke's Drift, considers raiding there is probable. An attack by a large force on the colony is possible, but its probability, I consider, depends on the state of the river.

From what I have seen and can gather it appears to me that the most important stations are in a fair way to be properly defended, though in some cases I believe a want of rifles for Colonial Forces is represented to be felt.

4. It will be observed by Colonel Pearson's letter that he counted upon hearing again from me before moving a portion of his force back from Ekowe; as, however, Lieutenant-Colonel Law reports he cannot induce a messenger to undertake the perilous duty, I am unable to count upon his return, and until he does so, I am quite unable to take any initiative beyond the frontier on that line. The only troops I have available for a field force there, after furnishing the necessary garrisons for the colony, are five companies of the 99th Regiment.

At Rorke's Drift, four or five of the seven companies of the 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment are alone available for other than garrison duties. Two companies of the 4th Regiment, and draft of the 1st Battalion 13th Regiment, I have despatched to Utrecht so as to strengthen Colonel Wood's (No. 4) column as much as possible.

With the same view the five companies of the 80th Regiment have been removed to Luneberg, while detachments of various mounted corps, will, I trust, soon reach him.

5. At the request of the High Commissioner, I have directed Colonel Rowlands to proceed himself to Pretoria, where, I am informed, the presence of a Senior Officer is at present much needed.

6. I beg to enclose a printed summary of a report received from Commandant Schrembrucker, Luneburg, dated 11th Feb., which will tend to show the manner in which the Zulus carry on warfare. Commandant Schrembrucker at once took measures to follow up the marauders and to inform Colonel Wood.

7. Colonel Wood, on hearing of the inroad dispatched Lieutenant-Colonel Buller, C.B., with the force as per margin,* on the 13th Feb., from Kaabula Camp. This officer on arrival at Luneberg, found that Umbilen and Manyanyoba had taken part in the attack. He therefore sent a

* Frontier Light Horse, Captain Prior Commanding; 63 Non-Commissioned Officers and men Dutch Burghers; Mr. Puy's commanding, 33 men. Wood's Irregulars, Major Leek 1st battalion 13th Light Infantry Commanding Corps; 1st Battalion, Commandant Henderson, 319 Natives; 2nd Battalion, Captain Hook, 98 Natives,

message to inform Colonel Rowlands of his intention to attack them on the 15th, and considering his force weak for the duty, asked him for the assistance of some Swazies.

Lieutenant-Colonel Buller left Luneberg on the 15th at four a.m., for the Intombi Valley, where Manyanyoba's stronghold was situated.

Commandant Schermbucker accompanied him with a detail as per margin.*

Dividing his force, part proceeded along the Krantzes, among which were the hiding-places, while the remainder attacked them in detail from below.

Five of the principal fastnesses were thus attacked and taken. Colonel Buller states about 34 Zulus were certainly killed, and probably more; 375 cattle, 254 goats, 8 sheep were taken.

A list of the casualties is attached, which considering the ground he considers to be comparatively small.

8. Lieutenant-Colonel Buller refers to the behaviour of the Native Contingent as follows:—
"Wood's Irregulars fought well, owing much, I think, to the admirable manner in which they were led by Major Leet, 1st Battalion 13th Foot, Lieutenant Williams, 58th Regiment, and Captain Hook, 2nd Battalion Wood's Irregulars."

I am anxious this should be recorded, as Colonel Wood had, when organizing this native force, originally endeavoured to appoint as officers only those persons who could speak Zulu. He has however since found it necessary to appoint British officers who had no such knowledge.

9. I also append an extract from his report regarding the conduct of a Mr. William Peters.

"Mr. William Peters, a sawyer, living in the bush about 15 miles from Luneberg, hearing the firing thought that Luneberg was being attacked, and at once marched on foot to the assistance of the garrison, bringing up with him all the natives he could muster, about 40. Such conduct is beyond praise, and contrasts strangely with that of the inhabitants of Luneberg, not one of whom so much as offered to join us. I gave Mr. Peters 25 head of cattle, and five for the family of one of the natives who was killed while assisting us."

10. In consequence of the manner in which the Zulus had spared neither women nor children in their late raid, orders were given to burn the kraals, in the propriety of which instructions under the circumstances I fully concur.

11. On Colonel Buller's return to Luneberg late that night he heard of Colonel Rowlands moving on the same place with what he believed to be a strong force, so he gave up his intention of again attacking Manyanyoba the following day, as he believed Colonel Rowlands would do so.

12. Colonel Wood, in forwarding this report, brings to my notice the good service again performed by Lieutenant-Colonel Buller, C.B., Mr. Puys, likewise Major Leet. Colonel Buller also refers to the value of the assistance given him by Commandant Schumbrucker.

13. On the same day that this force left Colonel Wood's camp, another left Derby, under Colonel Rowlands, C.B., V.C., as per margin.† This reached Tolako Mountain at 9 a.m. on the 15th instant; the enemy held the south side, their fastnesses among the rocks being concealed by bush.

197 cattle, 70 goats, 46 sheep were captured.

1 Zulu prisoner; 40 women and children came in.

* Kaffrarian Rifles, Captain Miller, 8 men; Luneberg Natives, 100.

† 103 Transvaal Rangers, 15. Boers, 240 Fairlie's Swazies, 75 Vol Corps Natives,

On our side the casualties were:—6 of Fairlie's Swazies wounded. 1 Horse Transvaal Rangers killed.

Five kraals below Umbileni's Caves were burnt. From the statement of the prisoner, it would appear that the chief, Magaleni, was killed, together with ten men in the same cave.

14. Of the state of health of the troops, it would seem the Ekowe force is in good health, the place being favourably situated.

The troops at Lower Tugela are so in a less degree. The force at Helpmakaar, Rorke's Drift, and Dundee is suffering from diarrhoea and fever in many cases. Several officers now at Pieter Maritzburg who have lately returned from that column are suffering; no doubt the severe work they went through is telling on them.

I regret to say that Colonel Hassard, Commanding R.E., and his adjutant, Lieutenant Baxter, R.E., are both obliged to leave Natal this mail from ill health.

I have &c.

(Signed) CHELMSFORD, L.G.

RETURN of such Casualties as have been officially reported up to the date, from 22nd January to 15th February, 1879.

22nd January, 1879, at Isandhlwana.

KILLED.

Corporal Mansfield, Royal Engineers.
Canteen Steward Seaton, 1st Battalion 24th Foot.

10th February, 1879, at Kambula Hill.

WOUNDED.

Trooper Hans Bridenbach, Burgher Corps.

15th February, 1879, at Labuscaynes.

WOUNDED.

Six Swazies, Colonel Wood's Column.

16th February, 1879, at Intombi River.

KILLED.

Two Natives, Colonel Wood's Column.

MISSING.

One Native, Colonel Wood's Column.

WOUNDED.

One Native, Colonel Wood's Column.

W. BELLAIRS,

D.A.G.

Natal, 23rd February, 1879.

Enclosure in A.A.

Ekowe, February 18, 1879.

DEAR LORD CHELMSFORD,

ON the 11th instant I wrote to you to the following effect. I acknowledged your letters of the 6th and 8th received that morning, also a telegram from Lieutenant Kingscote, R.N., informing me that two regiments had been sent out from England and ought then to have reached the Cape. This, however, was not to interfere with your orders to me. (These orders, you will remember, were that you wished me to retire to the Tugela with a portion of the garrison; but that if it was true there were very large forces of Zulus in the neighbourhood of the Ingoni, as you had been informed, I was not to risk having to face too great odds.) I wrote to say that I was prepared to leave this at 12 midnight last Sunday, with 99th Regiment, about 350 men; Naval Brigade, 155 men; Royal Engineers, 50 men, which would leave one section here; Native Pioneers, 90 men; and about 150 Native Contingent and spare drivers and leaders.

This would leave here six companies Buffs,

the Royal Artillery, two guns, the section Royal Engineers, the Administration Staff, and the remainder of the conductors, drivers, and leaders. There would be also the two Naval Rockets, the two dwarf 7-prs., and the Royal Artillery Rocket.

In my letter I proposed taking the latter and also one of the dwarf 7-prs., but as I did not intend sticking to the high road I afterwards thought they—especially the 7-pr.—would be an incumbrance; but, of course, hereafter some of these guns (the two field guns, I suppose) would have to be removed from hence, as so many could not be spared for one fort. In your letter of the 8th you told me that in the anticipation of the reduction of this garrison you considered the interior arrangements of the fort should be altered, so that it might the better be defended with the smaller number. In my letter I endeavour to explain to you that in my and the Captains of Royal Engineers opinion this would be a difficult undertaking, as the fort was originally constructed to contain stores for your whole army, and we had, therefore, included all the existing buildings; that we never contemplated having to resist a determined attack from a large force; but that having been informed by you of the probability of such an event, we have been working hard at constructing flanks, traverses, enlargements, &c., so as to enable a smaller force to hold the place successfully.

I told you that my march depended upon the reply I should receive from you; that the messengers had engaged to return by Saturday morning; and that if it was true there was a large force of Zulus in the neighbourhood of the Ingoni (I know there were and still are some 4,000 or 5,000 somewhere about the Inyazore), I asked you to send what troops were available at the Tugela to meet us, and suggested they might be on the high ground near Adams's house, overlooking the Ingoni, by sunrise on Monday. I selected this spot, as the road I intended to follow joins the waggon road just below. It is a mere Kaffir path, to the west of the waggon road, much less bush on it, and reduces the journey to the Tugela to about 25 miles. In the same letter I gave you in detail the quantity of food we had left. At that date we had for the present garrison—

- 200 slaughter oxen,
- 6 weeks' bread-stuff, exclusive of whole mealies,
- 2 months' coffee,
- 1 month's tea,
- 6 weeks' sugar,
- 3 months' salt,
- 1 month's pepper,
- 6 weeks' lime juice,
- 1 month's preserved vegetables.

The runners have not since returned, so that either they must have been caught going to the Tugela, or your returned messengers caught on their way up, or you have not yet replied to my letter.

The mealies in the neighbourhood are now getting pretty fit for food, though not yet ripe, and will do very well for the Kaffirs, so we are going to begin raiding a little. This will help us to spin out the breadstuff for a few days longer, I hope. Had we marched on Sunday night we should have had a terrible time of it. It was the worst night we have had since we left Maritzburgh. It poured here with rain, and the wind at one time blew a perfect hurricane, and all the early part of the night it was dark as pitch. Our sick list remains steady, and no sign of typhoid or anything of that kind.

We have 38 in hospital, including the wounded;

three men died (see below) last week of diarrhoea and fever. They were always weakly men and had been ailing some time.

The band of the Buffs or 99th play every afternoon in the fort, which affords us some pleasure. We have found some cricket gear among the volunteer's baggage, also a number of books, which, of course, I have jumped at. In one of your letters you asked about Billtong; I have already inquired whether it could be made, but I am told we must wait for another month when the air will be drier.

We have no news here; we have not been molested in any way, and are beginning to fear that the Zulus don't intend to attack us here; at any rate, as long as we are so strong.

They are all round us, however, and exchange shots pretty often with the vedettes. Young Rowden, 99th Regiment, has proved himself most useful as head of our Mounted Scouts; he and his men are most vigilant.

Believe me, &c.,
(Signed) C. K. PEARSON.

Death Report.

- 1270 Private W. Macleod, 13th February, Diarrhoea; Buffs.
- 1795 Private E. Oakley, 15th February, Diarrhoea; Buffs.
- J. Moore, 11th February, Diarrhoea; Volunteer Brigade.
- Private Oakley was married; his wife is at Pietermaritzburg.

Inclosure 2 in A.A.

COLONEL WOOD, V.C., C.B., forwards a report (delayed on the road) from Commandant Schermbrucker, dated Luneberg, 11th instant, from which it appears that on the night of the 10th instant, a war party of Umbeline crossed the Pongolo river in the vicinity of Luneberg. Umbeline was present in person. This Impi about 1,500 strong, having been joined by Mambumbu's tribe, commenced massacring the friendly natives on our border, committing the most frightful barbarities; at one kraal they killed two men, six women, and burnt seven children alive. Neither age or sex were spared, and the dead were horribly mutilated. The enemy made off at dawn with his spoil, comprising many hundred sheep and cattle, towards the caves of Manyoba; but a patrol, under Lieutenant Schwartzkopf, consisting of sixty natives and six Kaffrarian Rangers (mounted) came up with a division of the enemy (300 strong) as he was crossing the Intombi River, put them to flight with a loss of fifteen killed, and recovered many sheep and cattle. On our side there were no casualties.

W. BELLAIRS,
D.A.G.

From the Lieutenant-General Commanding in South Africa to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War.

Maritzburg, Natal,
February 24, 1879.

SIR,
WITH reference to my Despatch of yesterday's date, in which I stated that pending the arrival of reinforcements I felt unable to make any forward movements from the Lower Tugela, I have now the honour to report that I last night received intimation from Admiral Sullivan of the arrival of H.M.S. "Shah," with 160 troops from St. Helena.

Admiral Sullivan informs me that he proposes to disembark some 390 sailors and marines from the "Shah." I need not say how grateful I am to him for his prompt action in this matter at a critical time.

On their arrival I shall be enabled to push forward a column towards Elkowe; the troops that are now garrisoning Durban and Stanger will move to Lower Tugela, the forts there and the before-referred-to garrisons being given by detachments of the Naval Brigade about to be landed.

I shall be able to form a column as follows:—
40 men H.M.S. "Tenedos,"
2 Companies, The Buffs,
4 Companies, 88th Regiment,
5 Companies, 99th Regiment.
Mounted Corps.—100 Native Scouts,
and, if possible, one Battalion of the Native Contingent; the whole will be placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Law, Commanding Royal Artillery.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHELMSFORD.
Lieutenant-General.

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