

Artillery, suddenly placed in command of his battery, led it, and brought it into action with great coolness.

Captain Farrell wounded a second time, continued to do his duty, having first placed a wounded man on one of the gun carriages. Wounded gunners and drivers continued at their duty.

Lieutenant Rochford Boyd, Royal Artillery, on this, as on former occasions, showed himself reliable and capable of acting without orders.

I personally bring to notice the value of Lieutenant-Colonel Rhodes' service and Major Streatfeild's service in sending forward reinforcements to Major-General Pole-Carew, for on this movement the result of the evening's success depended.

I cannot too highly commend the conduct of the troops, ably assisted by the Naval Brigade, for on them the whole credit of our success rests. The next morning we found the enemy had quitted the position, which I understand was one of very great strength. As regards the losses of the enemy, 23 bodies have been found, and the inhabitants informed me that the dead were buried at once in the gardens, and the wounded conveyed away to Jacobsdal. I have had to bury nearly 200 horses.

All evidence tends to show that at 2 a certain number began to clear, and that at 4 a good number more moved off; that the leaders lunched in the hotel I am now writing from, and were utterly disheartened at our stubbornness. I expect one more fight at Spytfontein will convince a great number of the Orange Free Staters that it is better not to continue fighting. I am thankful the list of casualties is no greater than it is, for many of the cases are slight.

Again I call attention to the splendid hospital arrangements, for at 4.45 p.m. on the day after the fight all my wounded were on their way to Cape Town.

I am glad to have been slightly wounded, because in no other way could I have learnt the care taken of the wounded, and there was nothing Officer or private soldier required that was not provided at once, and the Medical Officers never tired in their endeavour to alleviate suffering.

I have, &c.,  
METHUEN,  
Lieutenant-General.

From the General Commanding-in-Chief the Forces in South Africa to the Secretary of State for War.

*Frere Camp,*  
December 28, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a report by Colonel H. S. G. Miles on the action at Zoutspans Drift, which took place on the 13th instant. I suppose our Officers will learn the value of scouting in time, but in spite of all one can say, up to this, our men seem to blunder into the middle of the enemy, and suffer accordingly.

I have, &c.,  
REDVERS BULLER,  
General.

From Colonel H. S. G. Miles, Commanding, De Aar—Belmont, to the Chief Staff Officer, Cape Town.

*Orange River,*  
December 15, 1899.  
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith reports\*

\* Not printed.

on the action at Zoutspans Drift, which took place on the afternoon of the 13th instant.

For some days information had been received that a party of Boers was at Dalton's Pont, some 20 miles up the river, and a guide informed us that, from this body, another party was at Zoutspans Drift (the next above Orange River Bridge). Other parties of Boers were believed to be moving on the north bank of the river, from 20 to 30 Boers in each, all found, it is understood, from a Boer laager at Goemansberg.

In these circumstances it was deemed advisable to strengthen the ordinary patrol which proceeds daily from here to the drift. Half the company of Mounted Infantry (South-Eastern Company), under Captain Bradshaw (54 men) and a party of Remington's Guides (16 men), under Lieutenant Macfarlane, were detailed for the duty, and Captain Bradshaw was instructed to proceed to the drift to reconnoitre carefully, and to report strength and position of the enemy.

The party appears to have come upon the enemy somewhat suddenly, and from verbal accounts it appears that their attack was in the nature of a surprise. The attack was pushed on very rapidly, and, unfortunately, Captain Bradshaw was killed early in the action.

The Boers retired after about an hour's action: they removed their wounded in carts. Our wounded were, in the same manner, taken to Mr. Attewell's farm at Ramah, who treated them with the greatest kindness and attention. I sent out the next morning, 13th instant, and brought all in, including the bodies of those killed.

Native reports say that one of the Free State Commandants was killed, but these reports are very unreliable.

Captain Bradshaw was an energetic and valuable Officer, and I deeply regret his loss.

I have, &c.,  
H. G. MILES, Colonel,  
Commanding Line, De Aar—Belmont.

*Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace,*  
January 26, 1900.

THE Queen has been pleased to make the following appointments:—

The Reverend Henry Horace Pereira, M.A., Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, to be one of the Honorary Chaplains to Her Majesty, in the room of the Reverend Canon Frederick Cecil Alderson, M.A., promoted.

The Reverend Owen Evans, M.A., Warden of Llandoverly College, to be one of the Honorary Chaplains to Her Majesty, in the room of the Reverend Robert Hadden, B.A., promoted.

*Whitehall, January 25, 1900.*

THE Queen has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to grant the dignity of a Baronet of the said United Kingdom unto Sir Richard Everard Webster, G.C.M.G., Q.C., of Winterfold, in the parish of Cranleigh, in the county of Surrey, and of Alverstoke, in the parish of Brading, in the Isle of Wight and county of Southampton, Her Majesty's Attorney-General, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten.

[The following is substituted for the Notice which appeared in the Gazette on the 23rd January, 1900.]

*Whitehall, January 22, 1900.*

THE Queen has been pleased to give and grant unto Major William Lewis White, R.A., Her