

I accordingly decided to withdraw. In doing so one man F. L. H. was wounded and two men hit by spent balls, and the horse of Mr. Raymond, a bugler, was hit. The Kafirs pursued us to the Umfelozi River in force, and about 100 crossed the drifts; but having then secured my retreat I turned on the flats and drove them back. As far as I could see they all returned to the top of Zingan.

We reached camp about 9.30 p.m.

Throughout the day I received the greatest possible assistance from Mr. Uys, whose experience and courage are alike remarkable, and from his men, who shoot well and are excellent scouts.

I consider that we were engaged with about 1,000 Kafirs, the larger proportion of whom had guns, many very good ones; they appeared under regular command and in fixed bodies. The most noticeable part of their tactics is that every man after firing a shot or after being fired at drops as if dead, and remains motionless for nearly a minute. In case of a night attack an interval of time should be allowed before a return shot is fired at a flash.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) REDVERS BULLER,  
Lieut.-Col. F. L. Horse.

*Return of Wounded in the Action of the 20th  
January, 1879.*

Frontier Light Horse, trooper J. Berrg; severely wounded, gunshot flesh wound of thigh; trooper J. Randell, slightly wounded, incised (assegai) wound of wall of chest. Both the wounded men are progressing favourably.

(Signed) T. O'REILLY, M.B.,  
Surg. A.M.D. in Med. Charge.

The Officer Commanding Troops.

*Camp W., 4 Column, Zululand,  
January 26, 1879.*

A. M. GENERAL,  
FORWARDED for your information. The story given by the Zulu woman evidently has reference to a skirmish which Colonel Buller had on the Zungeni Nek, which I reported through D. A. G.

(Signed) EVELYN WOOD,  
Colonel.

From Commandant Schumbrucher to Colonel Wood, V.C., C.B., Commanding No. 4 Column, Zululand.

*Luneburg, 23rd January, 1879.*

1. At midnight last night I received news that Umbelini said to have a following of about 3,000 fighting men, was expected to move from Intombe mountains during that night to gain the place called Umbelini's Caves, of which I gave you a description in my letter of 28th December last. There he would collect such additional forces as he could draw from this District, cross over in full force to the Pongolo Bush above Englebrechts, and from there direct his attacks upon Luneburg and surrounding places. The information came through one of Umbelini's men, who had left the main force on Tuesday before day-night in order to warn a certain native family living on the Pombetron, his particular friends, and it bore all the evidence of truth.

2. I immediately sent three men on horseback to the Pongolo Drift, where Umbelini would most likely cross, near the confluence of the Tombe of Pongolo, there to lay in wait; and hurry back should they observe any large party approaching.

No. 24695.

B.

I likewise despatched the natives attached to my command to watch the Tombe Drift, half-way between this and Umbelini's Caves, with similar instructions; and at daybreak I ordered a strong mounted patrol of German Burghers to patrol beyond the Pongolo towards Zungin's Neck.

3. All the patrols and scouts have returned now (5 p.m.) reporting everything apparently quiet, and no Zulu force to be seen nor any spoor to be found of a large number of men or cattle; but a Zulu woman was met by Nkosana (a fat native constable). She says that she came from Umbelini's Impi; that an engagement had taken place on Tuesday which prevented Umbelini from carrying out his march upon Luneburg; that Umbelini's and Magolosini's forces had been joined at Zungin's neck, and were attacked by a small white force; the white men fired and retired, stood again and fired and retired, and repeated this several times; that each time they killed many Zulus, whereas the Zulu bullets fell all short. She could not say how many, but she knew that very many Zulus were shot, and amongst the wounded she had seen with her own eyes a great Captain, Makukunesani, who belonged to Diligaan's people, and was the Captain of the whole Pongolo District; he was shot through the breast, and was still living on Tuesday night. His being mortally wounded had caused great consternation amongst the Zulus. The woman further states that she left Umbelini's force on Tuesday night, and that she heard all yesterday (Wednesday) heavy firing towards Zungin's Neck. The woman's statement seems to me very probably true, but under any circumstances I thought it well to give you a minute account. If true, it will give me all the more confidence in the sagacity and faithfulness of my own men in carrying out their reconnoitering patrol.

4. I have led the water close to the entrance of Fort Clery, and managed a sort of drawbridge, excavating the hitherto solid entrance to the depth of the ditch. All this, including wood for bridge and chains to draw up, involved an expenditure of five pounds, signature for which I request your authority of payment.

5. The laager here is now fully occupied, all the farmers having come in. I count amongst them 28 fighting men, armed with nine Winchesters, four breech-loaders of other pattern, and the rest muzzle-loaders, double barrels, all with adequate ammunition. They are very willing in doing patrol duty, and give me great assistance.

6. Seventy-eight (78) natives of the tame description have enrolled themselves to join here. I have placed them under command of Nkosana, and appointed their kraal to be above Mr. Filter's house, under the hill. They do also, cheerfully, duty as scouts and sentries all round, and cost nothing whatever neither pay nor rations. In case of attack, they will form a welcome addition to my rather small force.

A supply of about 50 stand of arms with ammunition to be kept exclusively in the fort for use to repel an attack would be extremely useful in order to arm such defenders as I may be able to draw to the fort in cases of emergency.

8. Colonel Rowland, V.C., C.B., accompanied by Captains Harvey and Sherrard, and Commissary-General Phillips, paid a visit to Luneburg on the 20th, and returned to Derby on the 21st. I understood that Colonel Rowland, having received despatches from Head-quarters whilst here, authorising the formation of a column, No. 5 will move as soon as possible to occupy Meyer's Station, and then move on to Makatee's Kop. I expect his advanced guard in a few days.