

of Mafeking, and there establishing a place of security for our natives escaping from Mafeking, and collecting supplies ready to effect our relief of Mafeking on arrival of reinforcements.

### III.—The Palapye Column.

A small column organized by Colonel Nicholson, from Bulawayo, with armoured trains, &c., held Mangwe, Palapye, Mochudi, &c., on the railway until Plumer's column was available for the duty.

The whole of the frontier force, north and south columns combined, numbered under 1,700, while the Boers during the early part of the campaign had between 9,000 and 10,000 out on their northern and north-western border. Country operated over, between Mafeking and Tuli, 450 miles in length.

### II.—Minor Points connected with the Siege.

(Alphabetically arranged.)

Ammunition.  
 Artillery.  
 Casualties.  
 Communications.  
 Civil administration.  
 Compensation.  
 Correspondents.  
 Defence accounts.  
 Defence works.  
 Enemy's artillery—fighting, treachery, field work.  
 Finance.  
 Food supply.  
 Fuel.  
 Garrison.  
 Hospital.  
 Natives.  
 Railway.  
 Relief Committee.  
 Specialities.  
 Staff.  
 Spies.  
 Transport.  
 Women's laager.

#### Artillery.

Our so-called artillery should of course have been entirely outclassed by the modern high-velocity guns of the enemy, but in practice they managed to hold their own in spite of their using powder, shells, and fuzes all made in our own shops.

The artillery and also the ordnance shops were under Major Panzera, assisted by Lieutenant Daniell, British South Africa Police.

#### Casualties.

##### I.—Combatants.

###### Whites—

Officers.—6 killed and died of wounds; 15 wounded; 1 missing; total 22.

Non-commissioned officers and men.—61 killed and died of wounds; 103 wounded; 26 missing; 16 died; 5 accidents; total 211.

###### Total—

Whites.—67 killed and died of wounds; 118 wounded; 27 missing; 16 died; 5 accidents; total 233.

Coloured.—25 killed and died of wounds; 68 wounded; total 83.

Total combatants, 316.

##### II.—Non-combatants.

Whites.—4 killed and died of wounds; 5 wounded; 32 died; total 41.

Natives.—65 killed and died of wounds; 117 wounded; total 182.

Baralongs.—264 killed and died of wounds; total 264.

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Total non-combatants, 487.

Total all casualties during siege, 803.

Out of 44 officers, 21 were killed, wounded, or missing.

Out of 975 men, 190 were killed, wounded, or missing.

#### Communications.

##### Local.

Telephone.—All outlying forts and look-out posts were connected up with head-quarters, under management of Mr. Howat, postmaster, and his staff. I was thus able to receive reports and issue orders for all parts of the defence instantaneously.

Postal.—To cover the heavy expenses of runners, and for the convenience of the public, postage was established at: 1*d.* for town, 3*d.* for outlying forts, 1*s.* for up country.

Signalling.—Heliograph, lamp, and flag signalling was established for defence purposes by brigade signallers, under Major Panzera and Serjeant-Major Moffat.

Megaphones were also made and used in outlying trenches and posts.

Phonophores were also used on the armoured train, attached to ordinary telegraph lines.

##### Distant.

Runners.—Native runners were employed twice weekly, or oftener when necessary, to take despatches, letters, &c., to our northern column. They had to be highly paid, as the risk of capture and death was very great.

I was thus practically in touch with my force on the railway, and through them with Colonel Nicholson at the base, and Colonel Plumer's column at Tuli.

#### Civil Administration.

I established, for the trial of all cases not directly amenable to military law, a Court of Summary Jurisdiction—

##### Members:

Resident Commissioner.  
 Resident Magistrate.  
 Town Commandant.  
 Officer Commanding Protectorate Regiment.  
 Chief Staff Officer.

At first it was a little difficult to make the civilians appreciate the restrictions of martial law, and, as times grew more critical, there came a tendency to spread rumours and to grumble, this had to be stopped.

I also published some explanatory remarks and advice on the working of martial law, &c., and these steps had a most marked effect, obedience to orders and a good spirit thenceforward prevailed in the garrison.

#### Compensation.

From the commencement of the siege careful record was kept of all shell-fire damage to property, and claims of owners considered and assessed. Total assessed, 16,462*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* No promise was held out that Government would grant compensation, the proceedings were merely intended to assist the commission should one afterwards be assembled, and to protect Government against exorbitant claims.

A record was also made of losses suffered by refugees, in property, livestock, &c.

All livestock killed or wounded by shell fire was bought at a fair price and utilized for food, so that the owners have no claims on this head, at the same time the value of the animals is in many cases not represented by cash, and it would be far more satisfactory to the owners if they could be repaid in kind. This is a point which I venture to suggest be taken into consideration when dealing with the Boers after the war; a substantial fine in cattle would