

14. When the firing commenced, Colonel Crawley, commanding 8th Battalion of Yeomanry (not knowing that the enemy were in the garden close to him), finding firing from four different directions and having seen his horses stampeded, judged the best defence would be to make an offensive movement, south-west to reinforce his picquet on the ridge, and from there direct a fire into the garden, or on to the enemy further along on the ridge. He took 30 men with him, and 30 followed shortly afterwards; it was during this advance across the open that nine men of the Yeomanry were killed. This detachment under Colonel Crawley reinforced the picquet, and forced No. 3 party, under Ventner, to retire from the diamond diggings on the ridge.

While Colonel Crawley was making this advance, Lieutenant Huntingdon, 23rd Company, Imperial Yeomanry, whose bivouac was close to the garden, covered his left flank by firing at close range into the garden while under a heavy fire. This, no doubt, saved Colonel Crawley from suffering heavier loss.

15. This rebel party under Ventner had the duty of occupying the diamond diggings so as to fire at long ranges into our camp, and some of the more daring of the men were directed to occupy a stone cemetery about 600 yards from the large kraal and to go right down to the kraal itself, fire into it, and stampede the English horses of the Yeomanry which Colonel Crawley had placed there and which he had omitted to ring. It is not certain whether two or more rebels got so far as the kraal, but it is certain they fired into the kraal in the dark, and that the English horses at once surged up against the wall of the kraal, pushed it over, and stampeded in all directions.

16. Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, who was at main farm house with the scouts, on hearing the firing and seeing the horses stampede, got together a few of his men and rushed into the kraal, opening a brisk fire on the ridge where the Boers were in the diamond washings, until they were obliged to cease fire, by the Yeomanry advancing out in front of them. At the same time Captain Parkin and a troop of 23rd Yeomanry took possession of the south end of the same kraal, and acted under the orders of Colonel Hughes. By holding this kraal they prevented the rebels getting hold of it from the direction of the cemetery. At this time the rebels began to run away from the south side of the garden, and were, in doing so, exposed to our fire, but Colonel Hughes, supposing them to be our own men, ordered Captain Parkin and party to cease fire, and they thus escaped. Colonel Hughes then decided to outflank the enemy, and with some of the Yeomanry and some good shots of various corps, he drove the enemy up beyond the direction of the cemetery, thus getting in line with Colonel Crawley and bringing his right shoulder up he took Ventner's men on their flank and drove them away to the south.

17. The picquet on the hill which Colonel Crawley went to reinforce under Corporal Wilson, 23rd Company, gallantly held its own against a superior force until relieved. A section of Yeomanry, with two Colt guns under Lieutenant Brocklebank, 23rd Company, Imperial Yeomanry, in the kraal near the garden, were under a heavy fire for a considerable time, and the shields to the guns were smashed to pieces; they were joined by a party of Yeomanry under Sergeant Fawkes and made a most gallant defence at close range.

18. The whole attack did not take more than an hour, and as soon as the enemy cleared off I pushed out the available mounted men, two guns, and two companies of Infantry across the

veldt to the north to endeavour to intercept the enemy, but there were not sufficient horses left to do more than scouting, and though some shells were fired very close to the retreating enemy, both east and west, I was unable to intercept them. I then proceeded to collect together the stampeded horses, but some of them stampeded for over 20 miles, and they have not yet been all got together.

Several acts of gallantry occurred during the attack, mostly in cases where the firing was at very short ranges, which I will bring forward.

Since the action of Faber's Put, the rebels in all directions have continued to surrender in increasing numbers, and with one consent the whole of the rebels say that the repulse at Faber's Put and great loss they sustained there caused a sudden collapse of the rebellion.

19. I consider that this attack was a very fortunate occurrence, as with the very splendid shooting of so many of the rebels in this part of the country it would have been impossible to have attacked and taken the position about Campbell and Griquatown without a far greater loss than was sustained at Faber's Put, and with our small force we could not have hoped to have killed so many of the enemy in any attack we could make, as their mobility is so immeasurably superior to ours. It was fortunate that our troops were not taken by surprise in this attack as otherwise the loss would have been far greater. The whole of the troops behaved with remarkable steadiness and carried out their movements under fire with the greatest coolness.

I have not been able to estimate the number that attacked us, but from general information they cannot have been less than five to six hundred.

20. The troops engaged were:—

Duke of Lancaster Yeomanry, 23rd Company.

Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry, 24th Company.

Paget's Horse, small detachment.

4 guns "E" Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery.

4½ Companies Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Regiment.

Warren's Scouts.

21. The main farm house was rapidly cleared out and turned into a hospital under the directions of the Senior Medical Officer. All the medical arrangements were most satisfactory, the following Officers having done very excellent work, not only in the hospital, but also in the field dressing the wounds under heavy fire, viz.:—

Major McLaughlin, Senior Medical Officer.

Major Cox, Officer Commanding Cape Field Hospital.

Major Worthington, attached Canadian Artillery.

Captain C. Smith, attached 8th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry.

22. An attack of this kind in South Africa is almost unprecedented, and would test to the utmost the vigilance and arrangements of well-seasoned troops; but the whole of the troops were equal to the occasion and stood their ground in a most magnificent manner.

23. Although the Officers and men were acting in a most gallant way all over the field, there are a few special instances which I would more specially particularize, viz.:—

The bringing in of Lieutenant Lethbridge, Paget's Horse, and Trooper Park, both severely wounded, under a very heavy fire, by—

Lieutenant Claude Lowther, 24th Company, 8th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry.