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A MONUMENT TO
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A study of the military problems in South Africa.

By Sir O. F. K. Ward

If we could get at the number of the different commands as historians upon the events, we could make more trustworthy statements of the present military situation and developments in South Africa.

Still taking the number of troops from general students' estimates, and the number of British troops from the newspaper accounts, we may discuss the operations, which have thus far transpired, and arrive at some conclusions of interest particularly to military readers.

Whatever may be the political conditions, the Boers in my judgment are fighting the instant they resolve to go to war with Great Britain, strike for absolute independence.
We naturally to put their capital in a state of defence fortifying by means for armament the best inventions of the age. Moreover, prepare to defend their borders, i.e., the borders of the Transvaal or South African Republic and the Orange Free State, along the three lines of approach by every military means.

And 3°, to begin offensive operations before their opponents can strengthen their garrisons, and crush them in detail as they advance and also bring to battle columns of their foes after columns before they could relieve the besieged forts.

The first President Kruger, his governing assembly, and supported by President Steyn of the Zulu Republic, carried theirs and all others to the end because they began.
years ago to get ready. By a
singular combination of circumstances
their enemies, the Guatimaco Micael belong-
fulfilled millions to their treasury, and
the quick declaration of war gave
them complete and absolute control
of the gold mines within their
domain. The nearness of Delegado
Bay kept them in rapid communica-
tion with all markets, till the last
moment, and ever now they can
be wanted to get food the supplies from
from Portuguese possessions lying on
Delegado Bay and their Eastern
side.

The second requisite in President Steyn
helped the Thembu and people to
remain as well as could be done
with the means and resources at his
disposal. Gen. GueU can only
needed men to hold with very little
strength to put in defiance the mountain
fords of the Kongo. The center is the Center.
Here a few can keep back the many.

Pres. Steyn within his state had
more difficult problems to solve.
Because of Mat Cape-Town & Naashekaing Railway running near 150 miles along his border & because his only natural obstacle on the line is the Orange River and an apparently open country.

These facts were not enough to see. General Cronje, a military leader of experience, carried his defense of all fourteen & western approaches to the two states beyond the borders. Cronje who had his greatest importance here worked assigned him & carried out with more or less success the idea of the South & South & West boundary. While his gout was removing the same thing on the German & activity Pretoria Railway Line operating as far south-eastward as Colenso.
Now with regard to the number of soldiers opposed to the British. Gen. Goulburn is said to estimate them as follows:

- The first contingent of the "Transvaal Boers": 18,000
- Of the Orange Free State: 16,000
- Of Natal, Cape Colony & the Transvaal armed friends: 16,000

Total under arms or available: 50,000

And in extremity there is a possible reinforcement of 20,000 men by counting the old men and boys.

We have no certain statement as to how the Boers were distributed at the beginning of the conflict. But we know that besides his home-guard and necessary defensive garrisons in the Transvaal probably 20,000, Goulburn had a capable column of 20,000 that he could command on the Durban line in Natal.
Taking into account all the different statements, there must have been of the Boer force in the mountains south of the Orange River near Bloemfontein about 5,000.

Disposing Boshoff directly 2,000

- 1,000

Calling the total thus divided 4,000

from 15,000 he has available 11,000

The eastern column.

Adding the garrisons 12,000

Leaving 12,000 we have 12,000 actually on duty in the war 18,000 men.

The other force may be regarded like our Mounted Infantry to be called out whenever necessary demanded for a limited number of periods - a reserve.

Among the Boers the character of the troops is the mounted infantry prevails. The Boer carry his sidearm rapidly from place to place, then fight as infantry & not as cavalry with carbines. Their artillery trains for lanes are about abreast of those of the Boers, having modern
7 large calibre pieces as well as other guns, and machine guns for close work in defense.
The English had several garrisons within the field of prospective operations when the war began; for example, 5,000 at Ladysmith, 1,200 at Dundee; 3,000 at Kimberley; 3,000 at Margery + 1,200 at Dogking, with enough more + sailors at Durban & Cape Town, to make an aggregate of 25,000 men—quite a force when concentrated, and very much to hold such a vast region. Of course it was only intended as a nucleus. The force at Kimberley, it is reported, now numbers 20,000 for the defence of one important stronghold. Cecil Rhodes, the multimillionaire in Kimberley, and with his usual energy has doubtless but every man able to bear arms on the line of defence.

What more can British officers do last October, when the ultimatum passed, & the Boers took the field for an offensive campaign? Why plainly just what they did do, stand on the defensive & wait for reinforcements from England and elsewhere.
General White with four feet of his garrison at Ladysmith was very strong at Glencoe. The 3rd of October, General Field decided his guns into three parts. Only one part that coming from the West did White advise by Gen. Symonds. He went to meet General, accused him of not coming. The British loss was about 300. On the 22nd of October the British were attacked. Between the two contestants, they fought all day. Gen. White and General Field attacked the British. They failed to resist an assault. Gen. Field was forced to retreat to Glencoe with his army. The British lost many men. Gen. White was not disabled. The victor was Gen. White. The British losses were heavy. The British losses were heavy but few. The British losses were heavy but few. The British losses were heavy but few. The British losses were heavy but few.
attack on Mafeking involving
a less than his force of over
a hundred.

Thus can see that the garrison's
defence cell that could be expected of them.

The troops for reinforcement were
landed at Cape Town, East London,
and Durban (800 miles up the coast
from Cape Town). They were called
"Relieving Troops." The British Navy
added a whaling crew contingent
to each column.

The work of relief must be done
at once. By the 26th of November
there were 15,000 men at
Cape Town.

By 26th of November, Durban
soon increased to 20,000 and marched forward
toward Ladysmith to meet the Boers
already in force for capture of that city.

General Methuen leaving Ladysmith
with the left column, went at first
but before long by may help, mounting up
to 50,000, and fought a successful battle
with an official force at Relubcalc.

Wednesday the 12th of November; then followed
a second victory, Saturday the 15th of November.
The fighting was severe and the losses great, but with an energy like that of our Sheridan he pushed on to Modder River. By his reinforcement coming up by rail he had nearly 15,000 soldiers and considerable artillery. The Boers were not strong:

first they had been defeated at Belmont Ridge and Graspan, were placed in defense along the Modder River, entrenching on both banks, on an island which was convenient. The fight this time was stubborn indeed lasting 14 hours. Methuen's loss was 240 killed, 1,800 wounded or missing. The Boer loss counts 580 killed or wounded. Methuen secured his crossing of the Modder River but has been unable to get forward in sight of the strongest kind of entrenchments at Magersfontein. Still he communicates by long search-lights and signal-continuing with the garrison at Kimberley.
The forces under Gatacre & Thacker were under French. I dispatched a signal from East London and intended to clear the cross-railway to Middleburg & De Hart. We stopped & quite effectively debussed.

On Saturday November

9 the Gatacre with about 4000 men made a night march with guides & with broad inefficient to strike a Boer force at superior numbers or near Stormberg. The Boers were in fine bush, waited for his approach & repulsed his columns with great loss to the British & confusion. Gatacre retreated across the pass & now like Melville the French stand safely on his defensive.

at Cape Town.

Gen. Bulloch seeing Ngqwerti in immediate danger to Gen. White at Ladysmith hastened to the front on that line.
when ready Mottman with
and made an assault. One result
to ours at Kewesow, straight against
preparatory to the sudden was
stretched along the rear front, which
ended in a terrible disaster when
over a thousand of his men fell with small loss to him. Advantage.
He was so confident of victory that he threw his forces squarely against the intrenchments of the Hessians. Eben fohn (spelling corrected)
and as Burnside did at Sharpe Heights, bringing up his splendid artillery into marauders proximity to well filled rifled pits.

The defences repulse under the Hess' fire steady and accurate in its aim all along the well hidden lines, was sudden and complete.

Eleven British cannon broke and hundreds of soldiers wounded and prisoners or slain. 

Gen. Brereton requested brought back four batteries to the position they left for the battle that the merciless destruction of life, wealth and ease. It would not do to suffer again. The Hess men set trap from which they were mortified at the loss of their artillery. Since it is probable that Gen. Jouenest had...
caused to be brought up and the
reserve guards. The reserves &
perhaps may have given a
feeling of the two services
of the Boers enough to make a
frontage of at least 2,500
against General Buller...

The latter like General Meyer
has been put completely out

The question

The main command-in-chief

Lord Roberts has the military
problem before him.
He must choose one of the three
lines of advance, as soon as he
shall have seen enough to warrant
a decisive movement.

1) Will he take the Durban line?
It is the shortest, but it is intrin-
scally the strongest and has the
best base troops to defend it.

2) Will he choose the line from the
Orange free state? Possibly. But I
think we will need to clean those
roads, railways, & secure the Orange
The country to the Orange River that the army would use the connecting railways from Molteno via Middleburg to De Aar as a secondary base. That could be done practically and very rapidly. When this is achieved the rail road above De Aar as far as it pushed on to join Malmesbury road can crush Orange's force, relieve Kimberley, and then break across Eastward to the central railroad and use that road for a rapid advance upon Pretoria. Of course contact with Pretoria from the Balance and Ladysmith via Rustenburg is essential if Lord Roberts' plans. Then Buller could push up his White's four or five thousand troops along with vigor enough to keep as many Boer soldiers as possible away from his threats to Johannesburg and Pretoria by that route.
Oft after the crushing defeat of George, Grant and his statement.
President did not make peace first a probably there would be then a
hard fought battle even
Kronstadt and the last
at Johannesburg.

The British will be constantly
reinforced, while the Boers are
already as their best in numbers,
in morale and in supplies.

General Scott by opening his hand
slowly closing it showed now
the Confederacy was to be conquered;
alike at the same time,
We tried to keep many armies going
from the outer to inner circles of
which Richmond was the center, but
the superiority to combining
ultimate success came by so combining
armies as to greatly outnumber
the enemy on some important line.
Then the enemy on some important line.

*Defeat Prussin battle all along that
defeat Prussin battle all along that
line. Heilbroner should be the Nashville
Kronstadt the Atlanta, *Johannesburg
The Pretoria Affair of the South African War:
Would that it might all be settled without the woe of war.
16 or 17th Nov. B penetrated by a
Napoleon. Major Scott shot himself. Garrison
surrounded.
18th or 19th Nov. Col Baden Powell had
successful battle near Mafeking with
Boers. (?) British loss—200 Gunners.
Boer = 100

Gen. White fought near Ladysmith
was defeated.
2000 killed, 3000 missing, 30000 Prisoners
in the area of Pretoria. Date
Yousest terms Ladysmith, missing of
Gelensro—saying they were to fall
back toward Durban.

4th December—
18000 J. Boers
16000 O. Boers
16000 M.G.—Benjamin
c 50,000
75,000 total (including others)

2. 30000 Jut. Boers

British (number 29th Oct.)—entered—from
At Kimberley

In the siege—(16th or 17th Nov. Boers advance
to collision—loss of 700 killed wounded
and withdrew.

A. Armored Train (Keswick) 180 British loss
Boers capture Veesen south of Gelensro. Attack
of front, but were repelled
By 25th of November (October)
15,000 troops arrived at Durban -
relief column -
1500 had arrived at Cape Town.

Gen. Wemmin fought at Belmont - at Graspan -
(2 Battles) - He had about 1000 men - loss 2500 -
he fought again at Modder -
was over 10,000 - having
2,500 - 14 hours fight.
Bulls were 5 miles in front.
along the river - on an island - from
the south bank - British had -
men - killed had - wounded 1,800. Missing
2,000.

Saturday the 2nd of Nov.
2nd battle Wemmin's 3rd column -
not battle Thursday the 2nd had
very quietly helped.

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