**Transvaal War, 1900 A.D.**

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**Morning.**

4.15 am. 1 oz. of Circuit.
7 am. ½ Circuit porridge. Tea. ½ bread (or ¼ Circuit).
1 pm. Sup. heat. ½ bread (or ¼ Circuit). Rice.
4.30 Tea. 1 oz. of Circuit (or ½ Circuit).
7 pm Dinner. ½ Circuit. Meat & Co.
Soup. (Page 11)

**Return.**

2nd May 1900.
Monday January 1st, 1900

No further news of Bullock; we seldom hear his name now & still expect him to stay a long time here. We were to have had sports today open to the journies upon the old polo ground, but the Boers started firing early & would not leave us in peace, so we had to give up the idea. Went for a walk with Anderson in the morning.

Tuesday January 2nd

Story rumours of two English columns working round one from Helpman's direction one from Action Holmes. The staff however deny any truth in these rumours. A great deal of shelling from Bulwana Bill today.

Wednesday January 3rd Going to an exciting party of the 1st. Behind us Bulwana Bill sent two shell right into our lines and several over. Have applied to be examined in (5) Hms today. No news at all.

Thursday January 4th A good deal of Tony Tommire. Boers came late driving their cattle to wagons home towards the Befid.

Friday January 5th Very quiet. Boers reported to be "fleeing" hardly any cattle to be seen. No news of Bullock at all.
After note. [24th Feb. 1900]

Headed that news of attack reached London in a somewhat dramatic way. Sir St. sent off a helio at 5 a.m. “We were attacked in force but holding our own”. He sent another about 2.45 p.m. “We are very hard pressed”. Then came the storm and on the next day being cloudy no helio communication could be established again till Monday, so for nearly two days Ballis did not know whether we had repulsed the attack or fallen. Tired home “Helio communication broken down, no further news of Ladysmith”. So in London they were in a state of suspense for two days, a jammed at the conclusion Ladysmith had fallen. So in act were the people at the time not having been believed that they stood the war office windows &c. Then came the reaction when they heard the truth & intense enthusiasm.

Reveille at 2 a.m. & the usual route march at 2.45. About 3 o'clock we hear a good deal of rifle fire but think it is the usual affair of outposts, possibly the XIX Horse are again firing on the garrison picked in mistake for Boers. We turn into the lines & unhook at 4 o'clock. About 4.30 we get an urgent order to hook in to the batteries immediately the prepared to move off in any direction at a moment's notice, supposed direction is out in the open under Bulwana to repulse an attack on the South end of Caesar's Camp. At 5 o'clock we are moved off, but am surprised to find we go up the existing road to Rangeport instead of turning off South through the scrub. The 53rd however do not follow us but take the former route. Bulwana Long Tom has by this time started shelling the South end of Caesar's Camp; as it is a fine morning & the light good, I expect every moment to get some under his fire as we so slowly walk up the road in full view. He fires one shot after us but this falls short near the iron bridge, apparently he is too much occupied with Caesar's Camp, the B.M.R in the scrub below...
and always falling hasting out to their assistance. The crack of the rifle has now developed into a continuous rattle on many spent bullets come right over into the town. [It was about this time that Capt. Dick Cunningham was mortally wounded by a spent bullet in his thigh, as he was turning out the remainder of the finder, crossing the Iron Bridge in our rear.] Great is our relief as we crawl up the steep hill to range post not to get one of the terrible 6 inch Shrapnel shells in our midst, but surely, we think, when we reach range post + get become silhouetted on the skyline we will get both Long Tom + the long range 16 pounders from Blantyre (the most accurate Shrapnell gun they have). But no, we are destined to come into action before a shot is fired at us. As we wind down the reverse slope of Range Port road, we can see the smoky

16 p.m. busy on Middle hill, hunting time Shrapnel over Wagon Hill, and a tremendous crackle of rifle fire is coming from that direction. This still must be our objective. We turn off to the left & proceed along the grassy track which leads to Wagon Hill, and a good many rifle bullets are
Action of 21st Batt. R.F.A.
on 6th Jan. 1900.
falling amongst us by now, but three we afterwards heard are over from Wagon Hill. About half way to Wagon Hill the column wheels to the right & then to the left again, and we get the Command Wagons near on the left from line. We come into action facing the Southern Slopes of Middle Hill about 2700 from the bottom of it and largely enveloped from the Bluebank Fun by a slight rocky ridge. We are however in view of Telegraph Hill to right and the Sunrise Hill howitzers. The sketch on the opposite page gives our position roughly & that of the Enemy’s guns which traverse up & down, but is not drawn to scale. We opened fire about 5:30 a.m. on the lower slopes of Middle Hill finding our range 3400 yards. We are now told that the Salzbots and Cassars Camp is in the hands of the Boers & that a certain number have affected a lodgement on Wagon Hill having surprised our pickets (which had been halved only last night for the first time) & found Wagon Hill occupied only by a working party of R.E. soldiers who were putting up the 4.7 gun stile & an escort of about 50. 11 a.m. Remained that they had established themselves in the 4.7emplacement & took had
captured the Hotchkiss guns were swarming up the opposite (east) side of Wagon Hill to the attack; also that they were to reinforce from Middle Hill and from behind mounted infantry still. We were to stop this reinforcing. We cover the two slopes of Middle Hill with some shrapnell fire but never see a Boer. However we hear of our scouts that some of our “over” did damage on the west slopes of Middle Hill, and we immediately put an end to all chance of the Boers reinforcing from that direction. When we have fired about half a dozen rounds the time 4.16 p.m. came on the top of Middle Hill turns onto us their first two or three shots going right over & bursting 100 yards in rear of the wagons. Then however they get our range & perfection, and send shell after shell amongst the teams. The first falls in amongst the timbers of No. 1 gun, & one horse is down & the lead driven fall off wounded in the leg. The second is into the outriders horses & wounds the Farrier & Quantamast sergeant. Altogether he kills 4 horses & wounds 8. Also wounding the F.S. Nunn, Q.M.S. Rendall and Dr. Forse. The Major orders Capt. Campbell to take the timbers & wagons to the right flank of the battle, where they
are hidden from Middle Hill guns. By this time Blambank, Surprise Hill, Telegraph Hill, & Thornhill guns have all woke up and shelling us hard from every side except one left flank. No sooner do I congratulate myself on a shell from Middle Hill having passed close by my head but one more safely some 10 yards in rear, than Blambank (who can evidently just see the flashes of our guns) turns a time Shrapnel over the ridge & I am literally surrounded with Shrapnel bullets, then one of Surprise Hill howitzer shells bursts a few yards to my right & Telegraph Hill, who appears ambitious of his length of range, sends an enormous messenger shrouding over my head to burst harmlessly some 50 yards in front of the battery. Luckily the ground is very soft so the shells are more or less smoothed, so they burst & the Boers nearly always burst their time Shrapnel too high to be of much harm at the long ranges they shoot at. Blambitt has meanwhile detailed the two guns of the R.S. (under Capt. Barrow) to engage the Smoky gun on Middle Hill. He tries range after range,
eventually putting on the extreme range that
the Scott sight will give, but cannot observe a
single shell being. Obviously the guns are
hopelessly out of range and our shells are all
dropping in the valley behind hidden
Infantry Hill. However, we notice that as we
continue to fire these guns, the two guns on
Middle Hill gradually slacken their fire and
eventually cease; I conclude that our shell
are doing some unintentional damage amongst
the Boor. Remove behind M. I. Hill, this seems
turns out afterwards to be correct, & we suppose
the same. Middle Hill guns ceased firing in order
to save their own infantry, certainly it seemed
a case of Live & let alone & we'll leave you
The other four guns meanwhile have ordered
fire very slowly (30 seconds interval) & eventually
the fire ceases fire with from them no no
Boors appear. We continue to fire occasional
rounds at Middle Hill guns, who reply when
fired at, and the guns on our right flank &
hill are very busy. In the midst of this hail
of shell, we hear a continuous roar of musketry
from Wagon Hill. What is happening? Do we still hold
It or are the Bows now in possession? Who are these men on the crest? flourished for and where comes this steady flow of bullets through the battery which "piny" past our heads or lands in the ground with a vicious little "phut" at our feet? Sometimes we can see a long line of our men advancing cautiously in Indian file under cover from Maiden Castle on to Wagon Hill; at other times we can see small bodies of our men retreating down the slope towards us away from the deadly crest line. The ambulances begin to be hung around from this line on, a continuous stream of wagons and chowdy bearers pass past us from the hill back again. Sometimes a man who is only wounded in the arm is lead past by a companion sometimes a wagon passes full of severely wounded whose pitiful groans are horrible to hear. Most of the contents of the chowdy & dysed red by now. The famous horse who was hit in the flank & his whole inside tailed on refuses to die, although Campbell has put four bullets in its head with his revolver, it's leg is also broken in several places & the poor Tunit wavers it's broken leg in the air like a fly switch. I ask
permission (as my guns have ceased firing) to put it out of pain, but Campbell eventually succeeds in getting a bullet home. Walker now rides over from the direction of Wagon Hill, with orders to cease fire & retire the battery some hundred yards to the rear & if possible get under cover from the various guns; he also tells us that there are still some 40 Boers on the top of Wagon Hill but that our men cannot get at them, as directly a man shows his head he gets a bullet through it & that the Boers like wise cannot move, the position seems to be a stalemate, also that there are lots of Boers on the reverse slope & they are being reinforced every minute.

We are to be ready to come into action again any minute we are required. We hear that Lord Ave is shot through the head & mortally wounded, which gives us greatly as he was a great favourite in the battery & visited us nearly daily to tell us the latest news from head-quarters. All this time we hear no news of the other end of Caesar's Camp & do not know whether the Boers have taken the hill or not. The downfall of Caesar's Camp
will mean the capture of the town. The Major orders me to limber up the two guns of the 1st Sec. & the wagon & take them to the rear sufficiently far to be hidden from Middle Hill & near enough to the low ridge to be hidden from Blaubank. The Battery is to retire by sections, each section remaining in action till the one on its right is under cover. I retire the section to the right & then along the road to the rear at a walk our men well peppered by all the guns directly we limber up that with extraordinary luck are missed line after line although the shell fall all around us within a few yards of us. I halt the leading gun at C and form battery column three as each gun & wagon comes up we are here completely hidden from Middle Hill & (when the enemy discover) from Blaubank, also probably from guns to our rear. However when Campbell comes up he decide to move us further on to a position (D) among the rocks beside a clump where our escort the 5th O.G.'s have been lying all the morning. The 5th O.G.'s seems greatly disturbed at our coming as they are afraid we will draw fire on them. We dismiss the men & ask them stand easy, & everyone...
turns their attention to breakfast, which consists of what was stale bread you may be lucky enough to find in your haversack & water. The men gradually drop off to sleep under the wagons by their horses as they had a very short night (about 4½ hours) there been working hard. Rawdon discovers a tin of chocolate which he divides up amongst us & the officers of the 5th D. Co. Blumet goes up to the top of the ridge to watch for a possible occasion to bring the battery into action again & discovers 200 to 300 Boers in Hay Sprunt with their ponies. He gets very tired as he insists on standing up on the skyline & examining the trenches through his glasses. The only time we have between these men & the battery is half a dozen Gordons doing sentry post, so he gets Major Gide to send half a squadron skirmished up to the ridge. When we had been sitting here about an hour, young Dennis (who had only just got his commission in the R.E.) rides up & says he is just come down from Wagon Staff for the second time & is going home to set up some food for his 30 men if possible, he seems to look on the whole thing as a huge joke.
+ wants to know if he can get anything for us.

He says we see no news excepting that the Boers
are still on the Hill & the reinforcements are vainly
trying to get up to help them; that our men
dare not show up on the crest line. He returns
shortly afterwards & goes up the hill for the third
time & the next we hear of him is that he is
dead with a bullet through his throat.* Evans
sends out a spare driver with the two Cottles' tea, some bread & bully beef for us. About
11 o'clock we are suddenly awakened by shells
beautifully aimed falling in our midst from
Middle Hill to which we are just visible. A
man is killed, a shell falls a yard from me
& I am struck on the back by a large piece but
only bruised, but generally things become internally
hot, so Campbell moves us back again to
the very position I first had formed but falling
up in which we are practically immolated by
shell for the remainder of the day although the
enemy's guns make rain attempts to find
us. However we get a large share of rifle
bullets aimed at the centre of the ridge on our
flank. Munages keep coming out from head
quarters about huge reinforcements of Bourne moving round from both flanks to attack Wagram Hill & we expect to be ordered in to act. Again every minute one message reaches the Major to say there are 300 Bourne in Hey Sprunt, he replies that they have been there for two hours. She has been watching them all along. Col Downing now comes out for the first time having only just heard of these Bourne. Suggests to Blunt that he should take the battery in action on the ridge & shell them out. Blunt however, joins to say that he is watching them to do this if they show any sign of moving. But as they are perfectly quiet & nothing new one it is unnecessary to expose the battery to a deadly gun fire on the skyline until there is some necessity. Col Downing gets pretty severely snubbed by Blunt who hints strongly that he might have been out an hour or two sooner when there was some danger if an attack from this quarter, etc. Away in a huff. All this time the sun has been scorching & there is no shade. I have always the strongest desire to some be heard all the
time in action & by this time have smoked half a dozen cigars & about a dozen pipes & have burnt my tongue to a cinder. The men also like muchly to smoke when under fire, I suppose it sooths one moves. About 2 p.m. the sky shows signs of rain which comes down in torrents by 3.30, the heaviest rain I've ever seen. All the time we sit here the 18th hussars have been for galloping out in 2s & 3s to support of Wagon Hill, the 5th O. R. G.'s also move on under the hill & their place as escort is taken by the a squadron of the 19th hussars under Major Fanshawe. Archers there also come out stills as that Bally has helied to "Always party 4000 to 5000 Bows have left Coim o with the determination to capture Ladysmith before I can advance to your assistance". The cavalry are always in great dread of Bow artillery fire, they invariably move at the gallop & in two or three when under it, I must say it looks rather bad when we always retire at a walk in close formation especially as the Bows always pay twice as much attention to a battery as they do to anything else, with their guns.
Just before this heavy rain (about 3 o'clock) we hear the heaviest fire we've yet heard on Wagon hill + this turns out to be the 3rd + last determined effort of the Boers to capture the hill. We can see our men retiring from the crest line in twos & threes & being marshalled to the line by officers & hustled up again, also we see the 18th Henners swarming up to the support. [They did very gallantly on this occasion we found out afterwards] This was when poor little Digby Jones was killed hustling the men into the firing line + shortly afterwards Dumas in trying to find his friend's body. At this period things looked so black that we were again ordered to come into action & lay our guns all over town Wagon Hill, as they thought it was quite possible it would fall. We came into action at 0 at a range of only 2000 yards, but did not load yet. This order to cover Wagon Hill appears to have arrived half an hour after the danger was all over, otherwise orders we received from old "stay-at-home" Davyng. Then came the flood, in half an hour the road to wagon...
hill was a rushing torrent at places & fed up
you could only just climb to even at the very
road on a horse & our left foot was up to the
ankle in water. I fell into a hole up to my
waist & swore pretty freely. The firing continues
during the rain so heavily that it is hard to dis-
tinguish it from thunder, & this is when the Germans
make their bayonet charge. The rain is so heavy
you cannot see more than 50 yards & our position
is very precarious should the Boers in Hay Sprit-
advance on the battery under cover of this darkness.
We have only 30 diminished men as our escort
goes & the only supports within hail are the
crew of the XIXth & human squadrons who are cut
off from us by the torrent, which also prevents us
from returning the guns showed necessity arrive.
Shoveling when the rain affects our hour's dinner.
Now shankins a bit we find that the Hay Sprit
is full of water & that it has been drained by the
Boers who have retired towards Blaubank
The firing is now slacken on Wagon Hill & although
it didn't eventually cease till 7 p.m., we are
delighted to see our own at last crossing the ridge
of Wagon Hill. There is now a terrible procession of
ambulances and stretchers. I hear one of the famous
Lieut. Jimmy Richardson by name as he was
being brought down in a chowdy wounded. I had
not seen him since he left Tombridge; he is now
in the X14th Hursars but attached to the 16th.
We all—both cavalry & artillery—expect to be left
out all night & as everyone confidently expects
another attack next morning. This is cheering
as we are to be drowned rats, it is still raining
& the ground is still two or three inches deep in
water, also we've no food & some have no
chests. Col Peckwood arrives with two guns
to support us in case of an attack by the Boers
in Hot Spurit. This is another of Durnin's orders
at least one hour too late. We are eventually retired
home at 10 o'clock thoroughly tired & hungry after
a 17 hours day of shell & shiblet, searching semi
pouring rain, baking heat & icy cold. By the
time we reach the camp all firing had ceased,
& we hear that the Boers have been beaten off
at all points. But at our casualties are
enormously heavy & that of the Boers probably slight.
I wash the horses & get dinner at 9.30 to bed about 10.30
fully expecting to continue turn out at 2 am
That good old Sportsman Anderson sends us
A his last 5 vodka & whiskey! Bless him!!!
continue the fight all next day. This however was not to be as the Boers losses proved tremendous, heavy & although we lost 1/4 killed & about 2/3 wounded, their killed & wounded must have been over 1000 & they sustained the heaviest they've yet had in Natal. I hear that poor Willie still is killed. The only officer in the 5th Lancers not as yet. Poor him! Still, it's terribly sad! The Boers have fought like heroes, what will tomorrow bring with it we ask.

B. Roughly what occurred

At 3 a.m. the Boers made an attack on the South end of Cato's Camp, Wagon Hill & Observation Hill. The attacking party appears to have been about 5000 strong & a great proportion have come up from Colenso. The actual assaulting storming party is have been about 800 strong at each place, & have been picked from volunteers. Their object was to take Ladysmith before Buller could push forward & if they failed the first time to make a second attack(!)

As a special inducement they were promised 6 weeks leave home if they should take the hills & be immediately relieved by other troops when
They had secured the positions. The storming party on Wagon Hill appears to have been Free State Boers, as when they heard that the attack on Observation Hill was only half-hearted they exclaimed, "Then hordes of Transvaal Dutch have fooled us again!" Several "big men" of the Free State were killed then, among others "de Villiers." Firstly all were taken Cassons Camp. At 7 a.m. the advanced pickets of the Manchester were surprised or taken prisoners by the Boers who thus attacked a lodge near the point of Cassons Camp having passed the ouitlying pickets of the Natal Police in the dark.

An immediate order brought up a company of soldiers from Hy Brand. They advanced against the Boers that were hopelessly outnumbered and had to retire with two amnest...
arrived on the top and the B.M.R. in the
scarp below. They could not dislodge the
Boers, who were now nearing in great
numbers for a sudden rush. Douglas’ two
guns on the Camp checked reinforcement
from the South west considerably and did much damage.
Bulwana Bill was busy firing at his two
guns, but their canisters proved too strong for
him. The 5th Lancers were ordered out to
support him. The 53rd Battery arrived about
6 a.m. and opened fire on the slope and slope
of the Camp to extreme top. This was now
accompanied with Boers. The Battery did frightful
execution. The Boers were fairly hummed in.
If they tried to retreat they were shot down by
the B.M.R. (who did splendid work) who were
within 100 yards of them. So near that our
shells went unpleasantly close over their heads.
The Gordon’s Manchester and B.M.R. prevented
any further advance on to the Camp & Douglas’
guns fired at him if they retreated west. Hence their
enormous loss here. Bulwana Bill fired no
less than 50 shells at at-day’s battery, opening
fire just as they advanced, and the smaller gun
On Sun still was also very busy with them just before the battery got out some of the Boers out a party of Boers advancing round the scrub and were greeted with the following in fluent English: "Don't fire we are the Town Guard." Then "Spalijm" they advanced and gave the Boers a volley which killed 4 but had to retreat quickly. Another instance of Dutch bravery was the old old trick of the white flag of truce which they use to advance under cover of smoke until near enough to give our men an effective volley, this trick however is beginning to be known by our men. These cowardly devices of the Boers cause our volunteers great uneasiness as they are afraid that Tommy will mistake them (owing to their colonial hats) for Boers and fire on them. The 53rd fired about 150 rounds and then had to cease fire as our men were advancing. As soon as they ceased Balhara Bill left them alone, so they long strayed the rest of the day and retired at dark. Their casualties were 5 wounded (4 severely), but they were lucky in not having any horses hit. One incident must be mentioned.
Sergeant Bosely had charge of No. 2 gun, and as he was sitting on the trail waiting his turn to fire, a stake drove in with his left elbow resting on his left knee, a shell came to take off his knee cap and most of his elbow, the bone of the top was fully exposed. It was a frightful wound. The brave fellow more fainting when the detachment were going to carry him behind the wagon, he said: "Leave me here and fire guns from here first." He as he was being carried off in the ambulance, he waved his unjured arm back at the battery and shouted out: "Back up No. 2, give the fire hell." He never lost consciousness, insisted on another man wounded being driven before his car when he got to hospital said: "Let 'em both off as soon as possible please." He had both his limbs amputated, shot in the chest, as cheerfully as he could be the next day, declaring he felt hardly any pain and was very hungry. What price for that now? Meanwhile great assistance was rendered to the battery by Lieut. Murray Smith, Bn. 36 who shot for S. Africa at Bisho, finding in to give the exact locality of a large party of
Bows who had not yet been shelled. The B.M.R. declared our shell fire was frightful in its effect destroying the Bows by dozens. The range was only 2300 ft. The mangled remains our search parties picked up the next day confirmed this statement & it would take Sota to describe the ghastly sights that sickened the Canadians who were collecting the dead on Sunday. Becaws hile some more Gordons had visited the camp from the Iron Bridge, it was just in bringing out his men that Lt. Dick Curinyham was mortally wounded in the liver by a spent bullet. What an end for this gallant hero! He died two days afterwards in great agony, and they say that when he was first taken to hospital he smiled like a child at not being at the head of his men. Some of the rifles were also sent up in support. The 5th Lancers were later in the day ordered to the support of Wagon Hill & galloped thru between Maiden Castle & Rome's Point.

While the 5th Lancers were in the scuffle under Caesar's Camp, W. Hill was killed by an enamed bullet, almost their only casualty. One sick in Intumibi Sick Camp told us that all through the day Bows died
wounded were being passed back from the Caenara
Camp. Our men gradually pushed the Bows back
off the hill, so they were compelled to take refuge in
Fortic Spurit. Reinforcements tried to put all
them from the west but were met repulsed by Douglas’
guns. The Bows by now determined to wait for
darkness to effect their escape and when the
frightfully heavy rain came they were washed
out of the spurits and many of the wounded drowned;
as they pushed back Douglas’ guns did terrible execution
amongst them. The remainder finally 844 gave up
after dark. These losses here were terribly heavy. On Caenara
Camp & the Southern slopes alone we collected 150 dead
the next day handed them over to the Bows, whilst
their own search parties went down collected 9 wagon
loads of dead bodies, piled up as full as they could.
held the next day, and nearly every day during
the ensuing week fresh bodies were found that had
been washed down the spurits by the heavy rain.
As to what happened exactly at Wagon Hill it is
almost impossible to say, as no two people give the
same account, many of those who would have
known are killed. In one point alone are all
who were present unanimous & that is that ever
Account written up to date has been full of inaccuracies. As far as I can gather this is what occurred.

During the night a working party of R.E. and Gordon's and a few sailors had been getting up the 4.7 naval gun to its emplacement on Wagon Hill. The gun was still at the foot of the hill at daybreak. We heard afterwards that at the attack by Boers nearly gave up the assault there, as to hearing the ones and seeing light at Wagon Hill they imagined we were coquinted of their intended attack. The only other troops on the hill were about half a dismounted squadron of 1st H. Who were on up with a few outlying pickets. The Boers attacked about 2.45 a.m. surprised and killed or made prisoners of the pickets. The working party under Lieut. Digby Jones R.E. were first made aware of their presence by being fired into at close range. As a working party they had of course laid down their arms. Digby Jones hastened them to their arms & up the hill to repel the attack. The main attack coming from the west side. Our men seem to have taken up scattered positions along the crest and held two main points viz. the 4.7 emplacement.
and on position to the south of the old
barricage emplacements and also to have been
scattered down the east slope of Wagon which
the Boers never managed to reach. It was
then that Digby Jones showed such pluck
and coolness in his endeavours to collect
the men & place them in the most advantageous
positions to repel the attack of this invisible
enemy. The Boer is so cunning in utilizing
cover that even when day-break came he
remained invisible & wherever our men shored
as much as the crown of his head he felt a bullet
through his brain. One party (they say 30 or 40)
Boers got onto the sky line between the barricage
& 4.7 emplacements and lying behind some rocks
shot every man they could see. The attack seemed
to be planned on Injubua lines. Incidentally this
party were to prevent our men being reinforced,
to keep our men from firing whilst the remainder
came up the slopes & captured the hill. Luckily
the reinforcements from Middle Hill & the north
valley were effectively stopped by the shrapnel of the
21st battery, and the rifle fire of our men together
with the shrapnel of Major Godboun's 4 guns (1st
Rog)
on Cavers camp checked reinforcing from the west + south west + caused those reinforcements to seek shelter in every available clump of trees
also luckily for us the assaulting party (some 300 strong) seems to have contained all the determined of the Boers + the reinforcements seem to have been what the Boers themselves termed “skulkers” the assaulting party were from the Boer commando. The remainder of this party were now covering the whole of the western slopes of Wajm Hill. The first reinforcements that arrived were 1+H and some more soldiers. The 1+H. behaved with great gallantry & had several officers + many men killed or wounded. Unfortunately this gallant corps were not armed with bayonets or they might have driven off the 40 Boers before daybreak. Amongst their wounded officers were C. St. Edwards, Major Davies and Lt. Richardson. The storming party early got possession of the small Hotchkiss gun which was on the extreme point of the hill. C. St. Hamilton with five men was early on the scene and Lord Ava was shot through the head 1 child two days after. Our defences on Wajm Hill were miserably inadequate.