consisting of a few scattered sampans holding only 2 or 3 men well back from the sky line so that was nothing to check the Buns climb up the slopes. The storming party on the west seem to have made 3 distinct and gallant efforts to reach the crest come to the aid of their companions there. They were mostly old veterans full of heroic determination many of whom probably fought at Haiphu and in the Gordon's in endeavouring to get to some if not wounded men fell into the enemy's hands and was made prisoner. He was taken in to a chenja which held 100 to 200 of them, was well treated of fed. He says there were large reinforcements in chenjas still for time off that large parties kept coming to sound to reinforce from both sides that appeared for faint seemed to come on to their comrades assistance. The 2nd batt. came into a chenja about 5.30 and Col. Coxhead went up the hill to join Col. Hamilton & act under his orders. He was ordered to get the breast of the 4.7 gun in case it was captured. Major Miller-Walnut Gardens was killed early in the day & the rifle who reinforced lost most of their remaining officers.
Rifled or wounded. One gallant attempt was made by Lieut Todd with only half a dozen volunteers from the Rifles to dislodge the a part of Boers, but the whole of this gallant band were slain in the attempt. So determined were some of the Boers that I did men actually sat up to the 4.7 enfilade cement & commanded my men to surrender. Major Hillier & Walnut killed one, a Corporal RE flew another & Digby Jones rushed out of the parapet & shot the last with his and another; the Major & Corporal however paid the penalty of their gallantry with their lives.

The Devons shortly after arrived in support & acted with the greatest gallantry. Owing to shortness of officers the Gordons & Rifles were somewhat out of hand & so on several occasions were driven back down the hill in small parties, however the reinforcement of Devons & 18th Hussars put an end to this. The 5th Lancers & 18th Hussars & 5 Dgs. were ordered up about during the afternoon to hold the scrub below the hill, that several of the 18th were dismounted mount up the hill to string them over their men there; they behaved very well. The Boers too made their last
determined effort about 4 p.m. just before the rain and it was then that Digby Jones fell with a bullet through his throat—having constantly exposed himself in his heroic endeavours to repel their attacks. Lieut. Dennis R.E. on hearing of his death said “I’m going out to look for Digby.” He went out by the Sanjak Night beyond the firing line. He went right beyond Digby’s body exposing himself to a deadly fire and was killed by a bullet in nearly the same place as Digby. Col. Hamilton was deeply grieved at Digby’s death and told his Major (Rice), who was up on Wazum Hill all the better part of the day, that he had determined to recommend him for the R.C. When the rain came down the Boers were still on the crest and Col. Hamilton asked, “How can we dislodge them?” Col. Parks of the Devons suggested a bayonet charge to come the gallantest action of the day. Capt. Le Taun’s company forced bayonets and charged heavily in their advance. The Boers did not wait for the cold steel but fled down the hill hell-mett. Lieut. Macnab’s men said they came tumbling down screaming “they’re on us with——”
"The Bayadère." Not only did this party flag down the reserves in the corps, but all the reserves in the corps fell back, leaving Macnaughton far too to return to our men. Capt. Le Toan of a subaltern fell killed after the charge from a close fire. Capt. Le Toan was wounded at Longueval and by a 6-inch high explosive shell in the Devons' men. Col. Parks said: "There lies one of the best hearted & gallantest officers that ever led a company." Lieut. Macdonald returned with a message and with 10 bullet wounds in him, to fall fainting into a sanitarium. He is a splendid old soldier having been a subaltern 8 years & served his time in the ranks of the R.I.F. previously. We are glad to hear he has been recommended for the V.C. The pouring rain must have been terrible for the wounded on both sides. Heavy firing continued all through the night, the Boers did not finally retire till after 7 o'clock. What that enemy's losses were exactly we will never know, but in the next day we collected 40 dead on Wagon Hill and over 100 on the top of Southern slopes of Caucaus Cams alone. Our poor men had to stay
all night on the hills tired and soaked to death, fully expecting an attack on the 23rd Sunday morning, and many of the wounded were not discovered till day-break. Our total casualties were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Killed</th>
<th>Wounded</th>
<th>Total (including the wounded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank and file</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The attack on the other side of the town never reached a serious aspect, i.e. on Observation hill and Helponakaar Ridge, were driven off by artillery fire. The Boers are reported to have advanced on Helponakaar clowned up in the captured uniforms and helmets of our men, but were dispersed by a few well directed shells. Major Wray was out on the river banks by "Blindis Post", ready to bring his battery (69th) in action if necessary.

Sunday the 7th January. Everyone was to arms before day-break expecting another attack which never came. We had in at 3.30 every day this week. Today was a sad succession of funerals and amputations. The doctors were busy from day-break till midnight cutting off thumbs and performing other operations. At 8.30 p.m. I attended
About this date Heynicke (RE) sets up an ingenious device in the camp, between the home line and the old locality of our tents. He sticks a sapper constantly at watch through a telescope to watch Long Tom. The telescope is fixed on a tripod and behind the man is an arrangement by which he can hoist two flags, a red or green one. The gun appears over the parapet for about half a minute before it fires, and the man with the telescope can see which way it points. If it point straight at the camp he hoists a red flag, if away from it a green one. Also he teats on an improvised gong, when he hoists the red flag, (consisting of an old 6ℓ empty 4.7 flank cartridge case) we now have as well as the Carabines's bangle, this, the native screaming out "Boo up" at the commissariat and the Gendros whistle to warn us when the gun fires, immediately everyone gets under cover at the river bank. Sometimes however he nearly catches someone who is not sufficiently nimble. One day he whipped one just past the wheel's head, as the poor old boy was going to the river bank.
The funeral of poor Digby and Dennis at the cemetery where the dead were waiting their turn to be buried all day. I took a spray of flowers from the 2nd bed of the clump. Many of the dead were buried where they fell. The Boer casualties have been estimated at over 1000 some say 1500.

Monday January 8th. Long Tom (or Dile) of Boulwana fired 8 rounds in the direction of our African tents gradually increasing his range. All this week he makes this his line.

Tuesday 9th. Long Tom does not fire as it rains all day. Poor old Mitchell, the war correspondent, chief editor.

Wednesday 10th. T fires 6 rounds only, 4 at our tents.

Thursday 11th. Does not fire. Does still reported to be collecting dead troops. More our officers tents.

Friday 12th. Does not fire. People say he is done. No communication with Buller at Spion Kop established. We again hope to be relieved very shortly.

Saturday 13th. Long Tom again fires 8 rounds.

Still going strong but evidently short of ammunition.

Sunday 14th. Peace & quiet. No news from Buller. When will he come? We listen daily in vain for his guns. We hear that Roberts has landed.

A. W. Struhs dies of enteric.
This was done for a charity for a deceased officer's widow, but unfortunately as everyone expected to be relieved in 20-3 days there were no beds for it. However single bottles have long before this sold for $5, Two of jam for $1 and eggs at 2/- each, and chickens at half a guinea.
The doctors are nearly out of antiseptics and chloroform so soon operations on and amputations will have to be performed without anaesthetics.
Intombi sick camp contains 1500 men & there are too many sick and wounded in the hospitals in the town. The ration of milk is for a 21-man sick with typhus at Intombi at the beginning of the month was only 2 oz. of fresh milk & a little gin milk; they were lying (the men) without beds 40 in a tent & deaths average 15 a day. Only 17 men are for the 1st. I believe things are better there now as they have stopped much of the robbery that was taking place there by civilians and the medical officers, who used regularly to steal the pay, patients' ratings. Capt. Ellis told me that these men steal all the dead men's money & property. He has a private in the R.A.M.C. striking $10 at cards although they have received no pay for 4 months.
Monday 15th January. We fully expect to hear Buller's guns this morning, but are again terribly disappointed. Feeling very depressed again. Are we ever to be relieved? If Boers have been very busy round Pupparate Side, they evidently mean to stop us making a sortie to help Buller by attacking us again on the opposite side. Long Tom fires 5 rounds about 7.30 am a good many more later.

We hear that Buller's men can be seen entrenching themselves at Springfield. What use is this to us, we want them to push on not to entrench?

Thursday 18th. We hear that a force (under Warren?) has crossed somewhere in Springfield direction. That Dundonald with the Cavalry & Horse Artillery, have had a successful engagement somewhere this side of the Tugela. They were kept up to action (limit being 24000) for Saturday 20th. Evidently a big battle. We hear continuous heavy guns from 1pm till 5pm. Also shrapnel are seen bursting all over a ridge this side of the Tugela.

The staff gives us no news. [I go up to Chippy. Post a visit to Delvain. Get regular!]

Sunday. Still see occasional shell bursting.

Monday 22nd. Heavy guns at it again this morning. They generally kept it up all night as well.

Tuesday 23rd. Get dysentery, am put on sick list.

1000 whisky to be sold by auction, lowest bid to be £150.
Wednesday 24th January. Very heavy fighting from Buller from 6am till 7am. We hear and it is accepted as a fact, that Buller's force have taken a position on this side of river called Spion Kopjie. The Boers have been seen retreating towards the Van Rensburg in great numbers. Shells of wagons go, and 3 more camps disappear. We are reported to be in possession of one that remains. Everyone says we are to be relieved by Sunday at latest.

Thursday 25th: No news yet from Buller. Things are quiet. The staff tell us nothing, but everyone now believes the Spion Kopjie tale. Very bad night, in much pain.

Friday 26th: Ordered to draw rations for tomorrow today. Indecently relieved very near another shocking night.

Saturday 27th: Very bad news. His message comes in to say that Buller has suffered another repulse. He took the Kopjie under Warren (Warren says a division) and it was immediately retaken by the Boers, over two 200 killed, 300 wounded. (Remained 100 prisoners). We do seem to have some choice fists as generals. Shall we ever be relieved? I suppose this means another 6 weeks, if we are to be relieved at all. Probably we shall be starved into fighting our way out, relieving Buller in fact. The
Indian Contingent seem to be the only people who can do any good at all against the Boers. How many of that gallant little 5000 who came out from India are now left? And what a pitiable state they are in, the infantry without boots, the horses half dead and the men skeletons, the men reduced to shadows by fever, dysentery, intrigue and bad food, but thank goodness a brave spirit in them all still. Our food now consists of ½ lb of meat (tuck or) ½ lb bread a day, a pittance of tea and a little sugar. Officers only get the same. The meat is almost uneatable. We also get some mealsie meal to make porridge, but many cannot eat this. I had another bad night with dysentery. Luckily I’ve been able to get a pint of milk a day from the hospital or medical officer, & I live on this. I only succeed in getting it for two days though.

Sunday 28th January.

Owing to a frightful thunderstorm about 10 p.m. last night which flooded my tent, nearly blew it down compelled me to sleep in wet things all night. I had a very bad touch of dysentery this morning, same consequently ordered by the Doctor (Capt. Walker R.A.M.C attached to Guards) to go either to hospital or into a house. Walker tries all the morning
Of the two officers and men which came out with the 1st Div. from India, this is how we stand.

25 W.B.

- Monkley (invalided home wounded)
- Ramsden (fit)
- Gill (sick list deputy)

42nd Batt.

- Douglas (sick list fever)
- MacDougall (killed in action Black Monday)
- Hanbury (sick list fever)

53rd Batt.

- pearce (invalided home wounded)
- stark (fit)
- Higgs (fit) has been on sick list (on sick list again 15th Nov)
- Cameron (sick list from spill off horse resulting from a shell)

Amm. Column.

- Evans (fit)
- Curtis (sick, very bad with typhoid).

14 doing duty out of 12.
to find a house in vain. The Dean Archdeacon offers his "annex" but there is no free place or stair to get.

Luckily for me Anderson cutfully kindly offers to put me up & listen by his old dining room.

Monday January 29th

Much better. Day Tom does a lot of shelling early at 7am and again late. No news.

Tuesday January 30th

Same as usual. Doing well hope to be out soon.

Spencer of H.O.S.B. joins me in Anderson as he also has dyspepsia. Still no news. Has rained all last night & today. So long Tom quiet. No breakdown tea & sugar ration is reduced off, also biscuit issued instead of bread.

Thursday Feb 1st 1879

Only 100 horses kept in getting rest turned out to graze to be killed as wanted for food. Out of all the cavalry and volunteer horses (about 2000) only 200 are kept offed. Men prefer hens much that to the back-ox. Eggs sold at 3/6 a dozen. Cigars were £5 a box. 40 sticks of Tommy tobacco at 8/6 each.

Chickens at 25/6 each. Some sneezed sold 6 tins of condensed milk at 8/l apiece. No news.

Friday Feb 2nd 1879

Somebody has seen a paper
which describes Buller as having fallen right back the other side of the Tugela, and being practically in the same position he was two months ago, wrote to Gautin.

Monday, Feb 4 5th 1900. I return to duty again. Everyone is quite certain of an attack this morning, which however does not come off, but we hear the sounds of very heavy firing from two places of Buller's force, from dawn till dark. Evidently a big engagement.

100 killed & 2 a dozen last night, single ones up to 4 each.

Tuesday Feb 5 6th 1900. No attack. Heavy firing again.

Head all the morning. Flying column warned again to be ready to go out any moment. News of the death from enteric of poor old Cotton of the 194th Stannard. Also that Fanshawe is bad with it at Intombi. Sergt Ellis & Capt. Klumbe return from Intombi. Sergt Ellis had a narrow squeak of it with typhoid & dysentery. Heavy firing again in afternoon. Two magistrates sent to blow up. Absolutely no news.

Wednesday Feb 6th 1900. Heavy firing again, apparently near. Both Pom-Poms can be heard distinctly. Two civilians are tried by Field General Court Martial for killing some of the Deon Thomas. It was no use telling them to themselves as they'd soon be in Pretoria & there was only a few more days food supply. For Harris were thou names. Harris was also
found in possession of some government stores
saddened. Am getting pretty shy again now. We find that sometimes the Church (Horro
Divil) is excellent & sometimes very nasty. Horse sausages + horse flesh not at all bad. Too gets 1 year Impr. H.E.
Dinner not yet disposed of. Frozen Shells are seen boiling
all day. No news, but everything renowned to be going on
well. Two tonnes of Bullock? I have seen.
8th Feb. Thursday. Heavy firing again in early mor-
ning in same direction. The distant rifle fire supposed
to have been heard in night. No news. We complete 100 days. a
9th Feb. Friday. At 1.45 a.m. I am awakened by heavy
Toms (?) firing from Bulawana. He fires about 5 shots at
English intervals & the search lights on Bulawana &
Blenbank are both very busy. One shell seems to burst very
close. Went for a walk down town with Walker & bought
flannel shirts & vest & the last soap in Ladysmith. No news.
Weigh myself in a shop + scale 105 5 lbs. This time last
eyear I scaled 125 5 lbs. Absolutely now news at all today &
we no longer hear Bulloco guns. Has he met with another
reverse? Long Tom is fairly busy from Bulawana, but Telegraph
Hill Long Tom is reported to have gone, he hasn't fired for a week.
Our ration is reduced to 1/4 of loaf a day (1 lb.), or 25 biscuits
on alternate days. We still get 1 lb. of meat (horse or mule, generally)
a day including one ½ oz tea (about enough for 1 large cup). 1 oz sugar ¾ oz pepper & little salt. This is all we have now, except a little rice we have saved. We get too much meat in proportion & people are suffering from scabs in the mouth. Nearly everyone is out of tobacco but we have some horrible kaffir leaves which won’t keep alight, we smok. Matches are so shot that we intend to make slow match out of rope & wood ashes to keep burning in mess tent all day. So short are we, that I would gladly pay a shilling for an extra ration biscuit (a beastly thing we would all give a clasp in decent times) when we get beef; it is made of a mixture of flour, meatie meal & otter. The colonel is very bad with dysentery & has gone to Curlew house. We are all needy, everyone looks very thin & wretched.

Our supplies will hold out another month. P. Lambart dies dysentry.

Saturday 16th Feb. 1900. Not today quiet this morning. No sounds or signs of Bullies. I go out towards Balawana on trick at 5 a.m. to drive out the grazing horses. Finding rounding in horses is almost as good fun as polo. No news at all, except we have seen a Boer camp to the south of Caracas Camp move off towards Colenso yesterday. They saw large quantities of cattle driven away north. Hope all is well, but have given up speculating now. Higgins is sent to hospital with suspected enteric, I hear the Boers very bad last night.
There is an order that every man to have (drives included)
i am to have a carhine + 300 rounds. This looks as if they
expected a lot more siege, rather depressing. Boers
have been very busy sniping today. Rumour tonight
says Buller cannot relieve us, he has found the job
too tough + is inclined not to try anymore, we are to wait
till Roberts creates a diversion in the Transvaal.
This means that the very best another month. We can just
hang on for 6 more weeks, at a stretch, till the tea to fit
week in April. The only thing is the number of sick + dying.

Luneberg Heights. Tonight is strong + so warm one
could sleep out of doors. The gardener pipes + drums are
playing a cheerful tune on one side & the 1st H are having an open air concert on the other.
The men are singing that fine old campaign song
"Marching through Georgia", they are singing it well too
with some feeling + in parts. It is on such an evening
that ones thoughts turn to home + all ones dear ones there.
I'm afraid they're awfully anxious. They must be.

The mosquitoes are very bad tonight. Some tobacco
has been found + every officer + man is to be
sold 2 oz of it for 2/-. Oh, Buller come thing we some
more beef + a little vegetables + milk + will be happy

* had to buy a Tobacco, glad we were of it.
Sunday 11th Feb. 1900. Most rumour of a column towards Dundee. Others say Buller cannot relieve us, has been ordered to "mask time," and we'll have to wait till Roberts creates a diversion in Free State. It is too cruel considering our sick & dying & paucity of food. went up to Caesar Camp in evening, visited Whit's grave, which is in the next to Von der Castle & Wagon Hill.

Monday 12th Feb. 1900. Route marching at 8.15 a.m. Horrible thing. Itself fed, achy in every limb & feeling as sick as a cat in the cold morning air. Bitter & jaundice due from toxicity & dysentery. Staff seem to expect another attack as they are arranging an inner line of defense. Not a sound of Buller's gun, but they told us last night he had not been defeated again & that for 'Strategic reasons' (not!) they could give us more. Tonight a party of drummers under Evans go up to Mount Hill to make gun pits for a battery (for the second line of defense.) Every available or duty chalk, army service corps man etc has been told off to different points of defense & given arms & ammunition. It looks as if they expect a tremendous big attack on all sides. The rumour this evening all point the other way; I hear on good authority that:

1. Buller captured 3 positions this side of the river & although Boers attacked 3 times at night were repulsed.
(iii) Roberts is on the move northwards with 10,000 men.

(iv) Buller has probably got orders not to relievi us, so as to "keep the Boers here" give Roberts a free hand. More rumour also says that Buller has surrounded & captured 2000 Boers at Colenso. Anyhow Dickson (16th Lancers) who went out with flag of truce yesterday, was told by the Boer officer he interviewed that "they couldn't stick the shelling from Buller's line unless much more of our column was round to get through in time." He also remarked, "We're all sick of this war, aren't you?"

Dickson replied "We're not sick of the war yet by any means, it's our job twice played to do it, but we're all - all sick of Ladysmith." It is hard on us with all our sick and short rations if we are to play the decay to the Boers much longer. Hope rations today (10th Nov.

Tuesday 13th Feb 1901. Hear officially that Beck Roberts has invaded the Free State. Hoping to partly relieve the pressure on Ladysmith. An account in Natal Witness describing Buller's fighting at Potgieters on the 5th Feb. Says "field batteries advanced amidst hail of shell, they were raked by shell gun for gun, the
Latter being often obscured from view by the trees. The
guns however pounded away unceasingly and the
bearing of officers and men of the field artillery during
this exceedingly trying ordeal was one of the finest
ights of the campaign. Remember that Joubert
has made Boers here swear to live or die round lady-
Smith. Sir Geo White tells Blenhiem the Boers are
certain to make another attack in mass. Every
capable bodied man is provided with a rifle and am-
munition and told off to some section of defense.
The Boers will not attack during this moon.
Orders received at 7.30 p.m. (what an hour) to send
two guns to a bridge west north of Dawson City.
I am detailed to take center section, called
into so take all our body kits & 4 tins. Start at
8.30 p.m. — orders to report at head quarters of
1st Bde Pte — arrive there 9 p.m. Pick wood
as cap & very cross at being disturbed — guide
aren't turn up till 10 p.m. We are receiving two
guns of 69 in Under Hill which have gone on
to Rifleman's Post to reinforce Thwaites. Drag
guns into position in unfinished compartments.
find there are no shelters for the men.
not to pitch our tents until orders received, as they will draw fire. Guns on ridge looking west between Plithmanns Point and end of Rump Point & taking Hay Spurr in flank. Got gunners' kits off warnings & put the gun's in action, mounted a guard & returned with the horses to near Major Raas's ammunition column. Here with much trouble (owing to tiredness of half fed men) we got horses picketed down & drays kits and all tents deposited. Back to bed slept in open at 1 a.m. Have received no orders, Wednes but am in height of enjoyment at having an independent command. Hope siege will last another two or three weeks now (as far as I am concerned).
if only I had more food & tobacco. Am longing for Boers to attack. Men like change as higher cir is much more tiring but unfortunately makes one hungry. be have done nothing latter place, mean to make it very comfortable if left here in peace, will improve gun emplacements tomorrow & build Sham one to deceive Boers & draw their fire.

Wednesday 14th — Dordn urelka at 4 a.m & we stand to at 4.30. Hill comes up & paint drum to me. Gunners on to making them selves in shelter until tents can be put up. 6 a.m. Major May arrives in great state because horses had been put near his & put in view of Tony Tom, said it would draw fire, & had ordered them to shift to an intermediate position where they are picketed down. For some reason the grass, meat & drinking water does not come. Russell arrives about 7.30. Says we may certainly have tents pitched close to, we select a position near the "Battery" (will call it Dawson Fort I think) under cover from Blantack & Telegraph Hill but exposed to Bulwana. However two tents won't draw 1 tree.
Horses to be near up in case we have to move. Col. Pickwood arrives t.o advise me as to a spot, while I have them shifted (3rd shift in 12 hours). We get gunners & drivers tents up by midday & mine is pitched near the cook house in afternoon. I spend the day in getting the house twice shifted twice, appointed 1st major. 2nd Mr. sergeant, cooks, arranging for guard shelters & cook house etc., writing out my orders etc., and drawing a sketch of my 3rd area of fire with ramps & tarps marked on it, (as shown on next page.) I am given power of awarding punishment up to 7 days. I am very happy here being absolutely alone, and although I have to remain on the hill always unless I get special permission to leave, & now I have my tent up it is not half bad fun. I shall have plenty to do improving the gun pits getting the place clean & neat & going to my horses. The advent of the 33 horses has rather disturbed Capt. Scott who lives near of the A.S.C. as he thinks it will draw fire from Long Toms of Telegraph Hill & Ballyhoura & certainly the Blarney Stone. We decide to shift them to a spot behind the gunners tents tomorrow.
While they will be under cover from Blanbank and Telegraph Hill anyway. The wagon bringing up convoy water & meat doesn't arrive till after 11 as it took it's way, so both horses & men are rather hungry as we've had to live on 1 biscuit & what water we had in our water bottles since yesterday noon. I paraded all the N.C.O.s & gun crews at 5:30 a.m. and gave them a lecture on the surrounding country, ranges & probable direction of attacks. I have my guns laid at night on the nearest point of the S of the Sprint and have two magazines of shell fired at 3½ in the gun pits but no cartridges. Five men in case of alarm. Attack poplularly expected tomorrow morning from 7 to 9 p.m. I have all the Company & drivers cut into the gun pits. They do good work, & I am congratulated by Col Downin next morning on the improvements. I make talks with Scott & Orr of the 11th (a Scotch International sugar man) who live in a house close by and have charge of the 60th brigade A.S.C. I go in there at night after dinner & have a truck. Good fellows. Bed at 10:30, quite late. My command consists of 37 N.C.O.s, 70 men & 33 horses.

See page 49 for copy of drawing of this area. Rumors of Column towards Dundie under Tucker.
Copy of Plan I made of Fire Area
from Dawson Fort, (14 Jul. 100)

152 00

Lances Hil

Lancse Neck

To Chambers Inlet

Blanche Bank

Van Johnson

Wagon Track 2550 (8 1/2)

To Van Johnson Post

1175 (4)

Hilburno Post

Little Hilburno Post

The numbers are the ranges in yards, & numbers in brackets show the correct figure for the ranges.
Thursday 15th. 2nd. 1902.
Stand to arms 4.30 a.m. No attack so proceed to
shift hours to new lines. Col Downing comes up to
congratulate me on my work. Issue morning orders,
draw out a plan of my daily meals. One day I get
\( \frac{1}{2} \) mealie meal bread (and 1 biscuit supplied by battery)
+ other days 2\( \frac{1}{4} \) biscuits. Amount of bread is just
about what one eats at home for afternoon tea.
On Bread days I have,
for breakfast. \( \frac{1}{2} \) my tea ration (1 teaspoon) \( \frac{1}{2} \) a biscuit
made into porridge. \( \frac{1}{3} \) of my bread (very small slice) and
any meat cover from yesterday.
for lunch. A cup of soup made from homestead. Some boiled
meat + 2 teaspoons of Rice (no left remaining now store) and
\( \frac{1}{2} \) of my bread.
for tea. \( \frac{1}{3} \) my tea. \( \frac{1}{2} \) my bread.
for dinner. Soup. Grilled meat (and once gave me
a small bit of bacon fat for grilling) + rice. \( \frac{3}{4} \) of a biscuit.
When feeling extravagant I make a cup of coffee out of
1 teaspoon full. (having a little remaining.)
On biscuit days, I have the same only having hits of
biscuit instead of bread and for breakfast I have my half
biscuit grilled. The whole days ration is just enough to
The horses that I thought I had
had to take advantage of them. Now I have finished my
lunch, and I count down the hours when I shall
return to the house, that does not answer its
purpose. The discipline of the
army, the hours, the march, the
fighting in the direction of
the enemy, the success of the
attack on the 1st of
August at
about 3 o'clock, and what
happened is just as
expected as the 结果.

The 24th of
September is
the 1st of
November, and
on the 1st of
November, the
24th of
September, and
so on. The
books, the
knives, the
papers, the
mattresses,
and so on, are
very necessary.

I have some
plenty of
beer. I am
also set to
smoke and
to read. I
shall
read the
novels,
books,
and
driver
for
days.
be entitled to another 1/2 biscuit and 1/12 of an ounce of tea. It isn't the lack of meat, as we are getting more meat than formerly, nor do we eat horse and mule. We get 1 lb per man daily of very good flesh it is, in moderation. But getting no vegetables & a pittance of bread renders it absolutely suicidal to eat more than 3/5 of our meat. The rest I make into soup. It amuses me to look back on the days when I was a naughty little boy, and wouldn't touch good mutton broth. Now a cup of "mule" broth is a thing I look forward to for 3 hours and dream of at night. The reason I'm writing such a letter is that I've nothing to do in the middle of the day, no books to read & the heat of this makes it impossible to sleep in my tent, I wonder if we are really regarded at home as rather stout fellows or if we are merely pitied as fools for being shut in? They say that after the Colenso fight one of Buller's signallers believed in, "It's all right, buck up, they think at home you are heroes not fools." I think our leaders, and the home people, are beginning to realize that the Boer in this country when he is entrenched on a hill is the hardest & most cunning fellow in the world. Our men may be harder fighters, but they are certainly less cunning.
Extract from a letter of a German prisoner to his sister, found on Gun Hill by our men, on the 25th December 1899, when we blew up their gun train.

"You must not believe all they say in Pretoria about our taking lady smiths. Mr. Englishman is a very hard fighter and there will be much blood shed before we take the town. We bombad daily and yet we can see them daily walking about the streets through our glasses. They say that our shells do no harm, but they have got some naval guns which carry 10 miles (sic), and many of our trenches are high-tuned."

The letter was unfinished. Amongst other things found was in the emplacement that night was an old English song book open at the page "Hail to the Maids of Bashful Fifteen." 

Average Friday 16th Feb 1900. As per usual.

Go to see Thwaites on Rifleman's Post in morning, hear that 3000 Boers trickled with wagons 2 or 3 field guns yesterday towards Dundee. Rifleman's post is a very strong fort with 4 guns. Major comes up about 12 noon tells me Campbell is sick with fever. Hear there's a tide is bad.
We can just hear Bullock guns again occasionally.

In evening I go to tea with Tyler (adjutant 1st N. D. Div.)
also there, major Mannefeld. Capt Shearer (staff) and a vet. It was tea in literal sense, no food.
Tyler has discovered a place in town where he can purchase jam at 24 a large pot (this is 4 of usual
price) He sells me a pot of Quince Jam at
this price. It'srippin having been made last
year. I do not think this is an extravagance as
we get no vegetables or anything but meat &
biscuit now, and I'm getting rather semmish in
consequence. Hear that Roberts has taken Jacob-
dal + another place 23 miles from Blenheim.
Tyler bets me I'll be a captain in 4 years
owing to number of new battalions after this
Shur. Our total killed and died of disease
wounds as, during this siege now is just on
1,000. 26 mm died of enteric & dysentery.

Today, at Intombi & they, average 18 a day.
Since the beginning of the siege over 15,000 men
have been wounded, but only 66 have died
of these wounds. Present number of sick
in Intombi and town is nearly 2,000.