

Boer.11
Order of Battle
Army of Natal
Colenso, December 15, 1899

9/18/08

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Commander in Chief:

General The Right Honourable Sir Redvers Henry Buller, GCB, GCMG, VC, KRRC

Military Secretary:

Lt. Colonel Frederick William Stopford, CB

Aides-de-Camp:

Captain Henry Norton Schofield, RA

Captain Charles John Sackville-West, KRRC

Lieutenant (Brevet Captain) Algernon "Algy" Richard Trotter, 2nd Life Guards

2nd Lieutenant Cecil Arthur Howard, KSLI

Army Staff: *

Chief of Staff: (in Ladysmith, w/ General White)

Major General Sir Archibald Hunter, KCB, DSO, King's Own Royal Lancers

Aide-de-Camp:

Captain (Brevet Major) Alexander James King, King's Own Royal Lancers

Deputy Adjutant General: (*Acting* Chief of Staff with Army of Natal)

Colonel (Local Major General) Arthur Singleton Wynne, CB

Chief Staff Officer: (Assistant Adjutant General)

Colonel Herbert Scott Gould Miles, MVO

Deputy Adjutant General: (Intelligence)

Lt. Colonel Arthur Edmund "Minimus" Sandbach, RE

Deputy Assistant Adjutant General:

Lieutenant Colonel Charles a'Court (Repington), RB

Signaling Office:

Captain John Sanders Cayzer, 7th DG

Field Telegraph:

Lieutenant Richard John Jelf, RE

Press Censor:

Captain Walter Norris Congreve, RB (W)

Natal Field Force: (essentially an amalgamation of the British 2nd & 3rd Divisions, with the bulk of the Staff coming from the 2nd Division)

Major (Local Lieutenant) General Cornelius Francis Clery, KCB, *psc*, DCLI

Aides-de-Camp:

Major Francis Edward Cooper, *psc*, RE

Captain Laurence Parke, DLI

Lieutenant Arthur Edward McNamara, 2nd RWS

Lieutenant the Honorable Frederick "Freddy" Hugh Sherston Roberts, KRRC (MW)

Assistant Adjutant General:

Major (Brevet Colonel) Bruce Meade Hamilton, *psc*, East Yorks

Deputy Assistant Adjutant Generals:

Major Gerald Francis Ellison, *psc*, Warwicks

Captain William George Bertram Boyce, *psc*, ASC

Assistant Provost Marshal: (DAAG)

Captain Ernest St. George Pratt, DLI

Divisional Signalling Office:

Lieutenant John Spencer Cavendish, 1st Lifeguards

Principal Medical Officer:

Colonel Thomas Joseph Gallwey, MD, RAMC, CB

Divisional Medical Staff:

Major William Babbie, MB, RAMC, CMG

Divisional Chaplains:

The Rev. Arthur Augustus Lynn Gedge, BA, 3rd Class

The Rev. James Robertson, 3rd Class

2nd (English) **Infantry Brigade:** (from 1st Division)

Brigadier (Local Major) General Henry John Thoroton Hildyard, CB, HLI

Aide-de-Camp:

Lieutenant Arthur Blair, KOSB

Assistant Staff Officer:

Captain (Brevet Major) H.H. Prince Christian Victor Albert Ludwig Ernst Anton of Schleswig-Holstein, GCB, GCVO, KRRC

Brigade Major:

Captain Henry Edward Gogarty, RSF

2nd Devonshire Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel George Mackworth Bullock
(P)/Major Herbert Batson
2nd West Surreys Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Edward Owen Fisher Hamilton
2nd West Yorkshire Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Frederick Walker Kitchener
2nd East Surreys Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Richard Hancock William Henry Harris

4th (Light) Infantry Brigade:

Brigadier (Local Major) General The Hon. Neville Gerald Lyttleton, CB, Rifle Brigade

Aide-de-Camp:

Captain The Hon. Henry Yarde-Buller, *psc*, RB

Brigade Major:

Captain Henry Hughes Wilson, RB

2nd Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Regiment-Lt. Colonel Ernest Cooke
3rd King's Royal Rifle Corps Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Robert George Buchanan-Riddell
1st Durham Light Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Arthur Law Woodland
1st Rifle Brigade-Lt. Colonel (Brevet Colonel) Charles Hawtrey Bruce Norcott / Lt. Colonel Arthur Edward William Colville

3rd Infantry Division: (General Gatacre and most of his staff not present)

5th (Irish) Infantry Brigade:

Brigadier (Local Major) General Arthur Fitzroy "No Bobs" Hart-(Synnot), CB, *psc*, Surreys

Aide-de-Camp:

Captain the Hon. St. Leger Henry Jervis, KRRC (W)

Assistant Staff Officers:

Major Beauchamp John Colclough Doran, RIR
Captain Alistair Grant Dallas, 16th Lancers

Major of Brigade:

Major Charles Roderick Robert McGrigor, *psc*, KRRC

1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Thomas Martin
Gerard Thackeray

1st Connaught Rangers Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Lionel Godolphin Brooke
(W)

2nd Royal Dublin Fusilier Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Charles Duncan
Cooper/Lt. Colonel George Arthur Mills

1st Border Infantry Regiment (attached pro tem vice 1st Royal Irish Rifles,
w/Gatacre)-Lt. Colonel (Brevet Colonel) John Henry Edward Hinde

6th (Fusiliers) Infantry Brigade:

Brigadier (Local Major) General Geoffrey Barton, CB, *psc*, 1st RF

Aide-de-Camp:

Captain Norman Reginald McMahon, RF

Major of Brigade:

Captain John Albert Emmanuel MacBean, DSO, *psc*, R. Dublin Fus.

2nd Royal Fusiliers Infantry Regiment (4 companies)-Lt. Colonel Colin George
Donald

2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Edward Elliott Carr

1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel Charles Cecil Hayford
Thorold

2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers Infantry Regiment-Lt. Colonel John Reeves (in the rear
with the gear, *literally*, as per orders)/Major Felix Frederic Hill (OC Field)

Army (Field Force) Troops:

The *ad hoc* Cavalry Division: (*aka*, The [3rd] Irregular Mounted Brigade)

Colonel (Local Major General) Douglas Mackinnon Baillie Hamilton Cochrane, The
(12th) *Earl of Dundonald*, CB, MVO, 2nd Life Guards

Brigade Major:

Captain William Riddell Birdwood, ISC

1st Royal Dragoon Regiment-Lt. Colonel John Francis Burn-Murdoch
13th Hussar Regiment-Lt. Colonel Henry John Blagrove
Bethune's Mounted Infantry Regiment-Major (Local Lt. Colonel) Edward Cecil
Bethune, 16th Lancers
Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry Regiment (4 companies)-Major (Local Lt.
Colonel) Alexander Whitelaw Thorneycroft, RSF
South African Light Horse Regiment (Three Squadrons)-Major (Local Lt.
Colonel) The Hon. Julian Hedworth George Byng, 10th Hussars

The Composite Mounted Infantry Regiment:

Captain Hubert de la Poer Gough, 16th Lancers/Major Richard Lionel Walter, 7th
Hussars

5th Squadron/Natal Carabinier (SA) Regiment (1)-Major Duncan
Mckenzie
Imperial Light Horse Regiment (1)-Captain Herbert Bottomley
Detachment, Natal Police-Sub-Inspector Abraham
One Mounted Infantry Company (2nd KRRC and 1st RDF)

Artillery:

Lt. Colonel (Brevet Colonel) Charles James Long, RA (VSW)

Staff Officer:

Captain George Frederick Herbert, RA

1st Brigade, RA:

Lt. Colonel Henry Vaughan Hunt, RA (WP)

Adjutant:

Captain Hugh Davie White-Thomson, RA

7th Field Battery, RA-Major Clinton Grant Henshaw, RA/ Captain Hamilton
Lister Reed, RA (attached to Cavalry Division)
14th Field Battery, RA-Major Arthur Churchill Bailward, RA (P)/Captain Adrian
Hope Goldie, RA (K)
66th Field Battery, RA-Major William Yorke/Raymond Charles Foster
(P)/Captain Frederick Algernon G.Y. Elton, RA (W)
One Naval Twelve Pounder Battery (10 x 12-pndrs)-Lieutenant Frederick Charles
Ashley Ogilvy, RN (HMS *Terrible*)

2nd Brigade, RA:

Lt. Colonel Lawrence Worthington Parsons, RA

63rd Field Battery, RA-Major Wellesley Lynedoch Henry Paget, RA

64th Field Battery, RA-Major Charles Edward Coghill, RA

Naval (Artillery) Brigade: (main start/support line)

Captain Edward Pitcairn Jones, RN (HMS *Forte*)

One Heavy Battery (2 x 4.7" guns)

One Section, Twelve Pounder Battery (2 x 12-pndrs)-Lieutenant H.W. James, RN
(HMS *Tartar*)

Ammunition Column-Captain Francis Robert Patch, RA

Ammunition Park-Major Neill Douglas Findlay, RA

Royal Engineers:

Lt. Colonel George Hamilton Sim (*may not have been present*)

Staff Officer, RE:

Captain Reginald Ulick Henry Buckland

17th Field Company, Royal Engineers-Major Hampden Hugh Massy (K)/Captain
Walter Coote Hedley

"A" Pontoon Troop, RE-Major James Laird Irvine, RE

Total Strength: (Field Force)

18, 672 men

Line of Communications Troops: (approx. 2,500)

Brigadier General (Colonel) James Wolfe-Murray, RA

1st Royal Dublin Fusilier Infantry Regiment

2nd Somerset Light Infantry Regiment

Durban (SA) Light Infantry Regiment

Imperial (SA) Light Infantry Regiment-Major (Local Lt. Colonel) William
Fleetwood Nash, Borderers

Natal (SA) Royal Rifles Regiment

Naval Brigade

Natal Field Battery (SA)

Notes:

- 1) The *Army of Natal* was actually just the largest independent field formation extracted from the British 1st Army Corps, which had been dispatched from England to the theatre of war. By all accounts, most of the “*Army*” staff was not present at the battle, *per se*, but was spread out from Capetown/Durban to Ladysmith and almost all points in between. There is some evidence however, that states that the bulk of the “*Army*” staff were actually present (or at least close enough to perform their tasks) at Colenso that day.
- 2) For Full Army Staff details, see Boer.ZZ (forthcoming)
- 3) Reminder, Naval Captains were the equivalent of Lieutenant and Brevet Colonels and Naval Lieutenants were the equivalent of Army Captains (taking seniority into account, of course).
- 4) Each Division had one field hospital, one bearer (First Aid) company per brigade and a separate staff of divisional medical and regimental doctors and surgeons.

Sources:

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Editor, *The Times History of the War in South Africa*
Maurice, MG (Ed.), *History of the War in South Africa, 1899-1902*, Vol. 1
Official Despatches, London Times and London Gazette, 1899-1903
Pakenham, *The Boer War*