

Boer.11A
Order of Battle
Boer Forces
Colenso, December 15, 1899

9/24/09

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Commander in Chief: (injured in horse fall, not present)
[Kommandant-Generaal Petrus “Piet” Jacobus Joubert](#)

Field Commandant: (2iC)
[Generaal Louis Botha](#) (37 years old)

Military Secretary and Adjutant:
[Mister C. Sandeberg](#)

Left Flank:

1st Kommando Gruppe: (800 men)
[Kommandants Jozua Adriaan Joubert and Field Cornet Gabriel Swart](#)

Wakkerstroom Kommando (5 platoons) (Extreme Left, Hlangwane Hill)-
[Kommandant Jozua Adriaan Joubert](#)
Standerton Kommando (4 platoons) (as above)-[Kommandant Christiaan H. Muller](#)

The Center: (Fort Wylie to the Wagon Bridge)

1st Sub-Gruppe: (Fort Wylie/Left Center)
[Kommandant Hendrik Potgieter, Krugersdorp Komm.](#)

Krugersdorp Kommando (7 platoons divided in two groups)-[Acting Kommandant Sarel Francois Oosthuizen \(Oosthuysen\)/ Field Cornet Jan Van Wyk](#)
Vryheid (Botha’s Own) Kommando (3 platoons)-[Acting Kommandant Cherrie Emmet](#)
Heidelberg Kommando (6 platoons)-[Kommandant Stephanus S. Buis \(Buys\)](#)

2nd Kommando Gruppe: (Center)

[Kommandant Ben Vilhoen, Johannesburg Police Komm.](#)

Johannesburg Police Kommando (7 platoons)-[Kommandant Pohlmann](#)

Boksburg Field Cornetcy (2 platoons)-[Field Cornet A.J. Dercksen/Dirksen](#)

3rd Kommando Gruppe: (Center Right, 450)

[Kommandant Christian Botha, Swaziland Komm.](#)

Zoutpansberg Kommando (5 platoons)-[Kommandant Hendrik Christoffel Janse](#)

[Van Rensburg](#)

Swaziland Police Kommando (5 platoons)-[Kommandant Christian Botha](#)

Ermelo Kommando (4 platoons)-[Kommandant Johannes Nicolaas H. Grobler](#)

Right Flank:

4th Kommando Gruppe: (1,500, more or less unengaged)

[Assistant Generaal Christian Fourie](#)

Orange Free State Kommando Gruppe-[Kommandant Andres Piet](#)

[Kronje/Cronje](#)

Frankfort Kommando (3 platoons)

Senekal Kommando (3 platoons)

Vrede Kommando (3 platoons)

Johannesburg Kommando (6 platoons)

Middelburg Kommando (7 platoons)

Artillery*:

[1st Lieutenant J.L. " Skote Petoors" or " Goodshot Petoors" Pretorius, Transvaal State](#)

[Artillery](#) (Superintendence)

Colenso Kopje:

One 120mm Krupp Howitzer

One Krupp 75mm cannon

One 37mm Maxim-Nordenfelt MG

Red Hill

One Cruesot 75mm cannon

Cannon Kopje:

One Cruesot 75mm cannon

- According to Davitt, the Boers had:
 - Two 15-pndr Cruesots
 - Two QF 7-pndr Krupps
 - Two Pom-Poms

Strengths:

- 4,500 men available.
- 3,000 men and 5 guns actually engaged.

Notes:

- 1) A Field-Cornetency was the rough equivalent of a platoon, anywhere from 20 to 80 burghers.
- 2) It was almost impossible to match up the “Gruppe” commanders with their subordinate units, though I’ve taken a stab at it. The units and their (general) positions are correct, allowing for some overlap, etc., the “Gruppe” commanders work out just about right, but that’s all I can say.

Sources:

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