

WALSBURG MEN PICKED FOR ATTACK

Fewer Than 100 Guardsmen Attack Force of 400 Strikers Entrenched in Hills.

ONE KILLED, 3 WOUNDED

Body of Hospital Surgeon Is Left on Field When Retreat Is Ordered. Reported Designs on Town Cause Terror.

WALSBERG, Colo., April 29.—One dead and three wounded is the known casualty list in a six-hour battle here today in which fewer than 100 militiamen attempted to dislodge an estimated force of 400 strikers entrenched in the hills adjacent to the town. Firing stopped late today when the troops were withdrawn on orders, local officials say, received by Colonel Verdeckberg from Denver.

Major P. P. Lester, member of the hospital corps, Walsenburg, was killed. The wounded are: Lieutenant Scott, shot in head; Private Glen Miller, shot in face; Private O. L. Wilmot, shot in leg.

Major Lester was struck, according to Captain Swope, who commanded the detail, within 150 yards of a line of rifle pits near the top of the hogback northeast of Walsenburg, in which the strikers had taken their stand. Lieutenant Scott had been shot a few minutes previously.

Surgeon's Body Left on Field.

The firing was heavy when orders were received to withdraw and Major Lester's body was left on the field. A long, low range of hills that runs along the north and east sides of the town was the scene of today's battle. Fighting started when a detachment under Lieutenant Scott left the town limits and started to cross over a low ridge of ground. Captain Swope and Lieutenant Morrison followed.

For two hours the militiamen sought to dislodge the strikers without success. With Lieutenant Scott in command of one detail and Captain Swope leading the second company, they advanced by a series of alternate rushes, until Swope's men were stopped by a woven wire fence.

Retreat Made With Difficulty.

Both details were returning the fire of the strikers with vigor when a courier from Colonel Verdeckberg came up with the militiamen and recalled the troops. The retreat was made under as many difficulties as the advance, and it was nearly 5 o'clock before the troops reached town.

The strikers are said to be still entrenched along the side of the low hill which forms a natural fortification. Reports that a final effort will be made by the strikers in the town before the arrival of Federal troops are current and the citizens are in a state of terror.

Major Lester was in charge of the hospital corps and his men were with him when he was shot. He had just completed dressing the wound of a man by Private Miller when he was struck down.

Guardmen Fight for Lives.

While Colonel Verdeckberg was at the Courthouse brick fighting continued at a point about three miles southwest of Walsenburg, where 32 men and three officers of Company M, Captain Barrett, were surrounded at Mountain Lake. The militiamen had been surrounded for several hours, fighting for their lives. They had left the military position in an effort to turn the flank of the strikers, who were firing from the hogback toward the Walsenburg mine. They were trapped, however, and exposed to a galling fire from two directions, from the southwest end of the hogback and from another hill on the opposite side of Mountain Lake.

Early in the evening a troop of cavalry, under Captain Lighthorn, and Company M, First Infantry, sallied out from Walsenburg to go to the relief of the entrapped militiamen.

Captain Swope, who commanded the right wing of the militia lines during the day, said tonight that he would go to the place where Major Lester was shot and recover the body. This point is within 150 feet of the rifle pits from which the strikers held their position on the hogback.

Fight for Body Threatened.

Captain Swope said he would not go for the body under a truce agreement unless leaders of the strikers went with him as an evidence of good faith. Unless his condition was met, he said, he would take a force of troops and fight his way to the body.

At 9:30 P. M. the conference was still on. Pending the outcome of this meeting firing has ceased.

Company M, which was engaged at Mountain Lake, reported a tin camp at 9 o'clock. A relief detachment under Captain Brooks met them coming back.

STRIKERS TO GIVE UP ARMS

Truce Does Not Exempt Slayers of Hospital Corps Surgeon.

DENVER, Colo., April 29.—Under a truce which stopped the fighting at Walsenburg today approximately 650 strikers tonight were to surrender their arms to militia officers appointed by Colonel Verdeckberg. The strikers were not taken into custody and will be subject to prosecution in the courts for the killing of Major P. P. Lester, of the hospital corps.

At 9 o'clock strike leaders were in conference with Colonel Verdeckberg at the Walsenburg Courthouse arranging details, according to advices received at the Adjutant-General's office.

The announcement of the truce tonight by General Chase furnished an explanation for the withdrawal of the militia from the battlefield north and west of Walsenburg this afternoon when, apparently, they had the town under hard pressed. From another authentic source it was learned that John McGrigor, in command of the strikers, had made it known that he was hard pressed, but that his men refused to retire from the field even though their losses were considerable. A suggestion that firing cease for the hour to give opportunity for negotiations looking to a truce and possible surrender of their arms was communicated to Colonel Verdeckberg.

The suggested terms of surrender were transmitted to General Chase and action for their acceptance given by Governor Ammons. Confirmation of the arrangements was given by General Chase to Colonel Verdeckberg at Walsenburg and to John McGrigor.

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CAPT. GRIFFITHS FOUND

PORTLAND ARMY OFFICER, WANTED IN SEATTLE, ARRESTED.

In Possession of Ticket for Australia, Fugitive Is Discovered on Eve of Ship's Sailing.

OAKLAND, Cal., April 29.—To visit with a woman friend Captain Joseph Griffiths, of the quartermaster's corps of the United States Army, braved arrest here for 10 days, and on the eve of his sailing for the Orient was arrested just after midnight today in Oakland.

Captain Griffiths, whose wife and family live in Portland, Or., faces court-martial at Seattle, and is held to account for \$8000 of Government funds. He was a disbursing officer. He disappeared just before his court-martial, which was set for early in April.

When taken Captain Griffiths was at the boarding-house of William L. King in San Francisco. He was seized when Colonel Arthur Yates, of the quartermaster's corps found him, after a search of the city. Captain Griffiths, who had been in San Francisco for several days as J. G. Graham, Captain Griffiths was detained at the Presidio during the day, but was taken to cell on Alcatraz Island tonight. It is expected he will be tried in a court-martial at the Presidio May 4.

Captain Dennis P. Quinlan, Judge Advocate of the Third Division, U. S. A., will preside at the trial, and will visit the prisoner for an interview tomorrow. Two more charges, treason, breach of arrest, have been added to the original charges against Captain Griffiths of embezzlement and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Following a report from a civilian that Captain Griffith had been seen in San Francisco, the military authorities began a search. It was discovered that Griffiths had been in San Francisco at a leading hotel April 17, and that he had been in the city since he was formerly a belle at the Presidio. Captain Griffiths remained at the hotel until April 21, when he went to Oakland.

MRS. GRIFFITH TO GO EAST

Wife of Erring Army Man Prepares to Visit Father's Home.

Mrs. Joseph H. Griffiths, wife of Captain Griffiths, of the United States Army, who was arrested in Oakland early Wednesday morning on charges of embezzlement of funds from the quartermaster's department at Seattle, intends to leave for Pennsylvania tomorrow, where she will visit at the home of her father.

Mrs. Griffiths, who is prominent in Portland society circles, was not at her home, 821 Council Crest Drive, last night. Friends said she would not be present at her husband's trial in Seattle nor would she make any attempt to see him in