

COLONEL UMPHELBY.

DIES FROM HIS WOUNDS.

Mr. G. P. Meudell has received the following cable message from Colonel Byron, a Queensland officer, attached to Lord Roberts's staff:—

"Profoundly regret Umphelby died to-day. Lord Roberts desires express sympathy relatives."

The telegram is dated Venters Vlei, Monday.

[We have also received a cable message from our London correspondent, intimating that Colonel Umphelby had succumbed to his wounds.]

AN A.N.A. TRIBUTE.

GEELONG, Tuesday.

The intelligence of Colonel Umphelby's death was conveyed to the Australian Natives' Conference this afternoon by Mr. G. D. Meudell, who telegraphed to the president:—"Colonel Umphelby, one of our members, died yesterday, fighting for his empire."

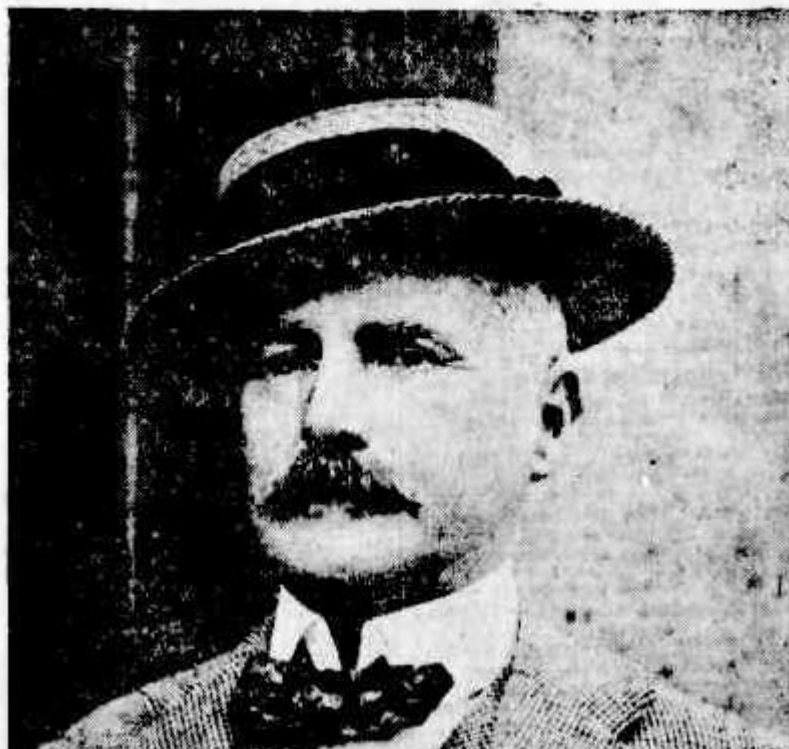
At a later stage a similar message was received by Mr. Purves, Q.C., and the second announcement was received by the delegates in mournful silence.

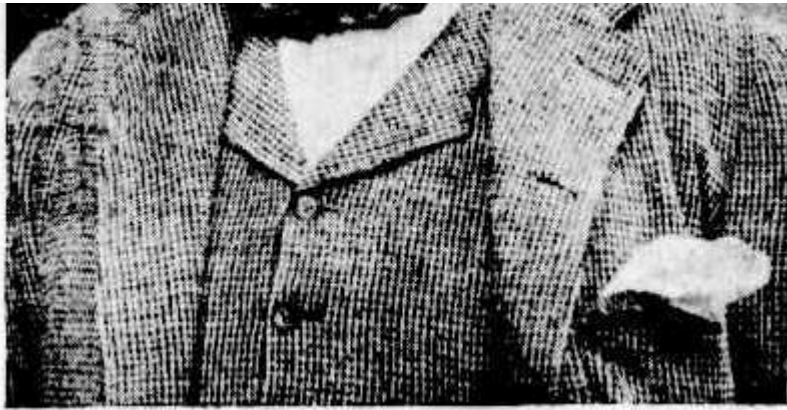
The President (Mr. E. E. Roberts) moved:—"That this conference desire to place on record their extreme regret at the unfortunate and untimely death of Colonel Umphelby and other officers and men who have died while fighting for the empire in South Africa."

Mr. Purves, Q.C., seconded the motion, which was carried in silence, the delegates all standing.

Feeling references were made at the A.N.A. banquet this evening to the death of Lieut-Colonel Umphelby.

Mr. Higgins, M.L.A., who spoke with some emotion, said:—"The deceased officer





LIEUT.-COLONEL C. E. UMPHELBY,

OFFICER COMMANDING VICTORIAN REGIMENT OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY.

KILLED AT DRIEFONTEIN, MARCH 10.

was a personal friend of mine. He was a gallant soldier. When the first contingent left he regretted to me that he did not have the chance to go with them. Dear little man he has had his chance, and died a soldier, showing an example to his men. Victoria does not know how much she owes to him for the efficiency of the Queenscliff forces. If ever a man did his duty he did, and when ordered to the front he did not question."

REMARKS BY MR. FITZGIBSON.

At a meeting of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works yesterday the chairman, Mr. E. G. Fitzgibbon, made reference to the reported death of Lieut.-Colonel Umpfelby, saying he hoped the report would prove to be incorrect, though he feared the worst. He had known the officer as a boy, and he was deeply grieved at the intelligence to hand, while the announcement was one calculated to cause a profound feeling of sorrow throughout Victoria.

The remarks of the chairman were listened to in sympathetic silence.

RECEIPT OF THE NEWS AT QUEENSCLIFF.

QUEENSCLIFF, Tuesday.

A telegram was received this afternoon from Mr. G. D. Mendell conveying the intelligence of the death of Colonel Umpfelby from his wounds at the front. The message was sent to Major Wallace, who is at present in charge of the forts at the Heads during the absence on leave of Lieut.-Colonel Stanley. Major Wallace felt keenly the loss of his old commanding officer, and upon the news being made known to the members of the regiment and townspeople, sympathy and regret for Mrs. Umpfelby and family were expressed on all sides. Colonel Umpfelby was much respected by his men and the residents of the township. Flags were hoisted half-mast at all the prominent buildings, on the pilot schooner, at the bowling-green, and on board the excursion steamer Hygea, on receipt of the news when she was at the pier on her return journey to Melbourne.

SYMPATHY IN THE COUNTRY.

WARRNAMBOOL, Tuesday.

The flags were hoisted half-mast when the news of Colonel Umpfelby's death arrived. At the Water Trust meeting to-night the mayor, on behalf of the council and the trust, brought the occurrence forward, and eulogistic speeches on Colonel Umpfelby

trust, brought the occurrence forward, and eulogistic speeches on Colonel Umpfelby as a soldier and a man were made by Commissioners Macknight, McDonald, and Hickford. A motion was passed that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow. Commissioner Hickford said that the only comforting feature was that the deceased met his death as a soldier. The Town Band paraded the streets at about 10 o'clock playing the "Dead March" in "Saul." Crowds stood in the streets with their heads uncovered.

BENDIGO, Tuesday.

Councillor D. B. Lazarus, who was a warm personal friend of the late Colonel Umpfelby, today received a telegram announcing his death. As soon as the news spread expressions of regret were heard on all sides. The deceased officer was well known in this city, where his genial qualities had won for him a large circle of personal friends.

THE DECEASED OFFICER'S CAREER.

It was with the deepest sorrow and regret that the community yesterday received the news of the death of Lieut.-Colonel Umpfelby from the wound which he sustained during the action on Saturday, at Dreifontein, where the Boers were defeated and driven back with heavy loss after a hard day's fighting. Lieut.-Colonel Umpfelby was so well and widely known throughout Victoria that his death has caused a painful shock, and the deepest sympathy is expressed on all sides with Mrs. Umpfelby and her family.

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Edward Ernest Umpfelby was 46 years of age, and a native of Victoria, having been born at Armadale. His father was the late Mr. Charles Ernest Umpfelby, who was engaged in business in Melbourne, and his mother is still alive and resides in Toorak. Young Umpfelby started in his father's office, and when quite a young man he married Miss Anna Austin, daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Austin, of Barwon-park. He then settled near Warrnambool, and took up pastoral pursuits at a station called Dwarroon. He joined the Militia Garrison Artillery at Warrnambool on the 20th June, 1884; in March, 1886, was appointed lieutenant in the Permanent Artillery, being promoted to be captain on the 1st January, 1888. In

the Permanent Artillery, being promoted to be captain on the 1st January, 1888. In August, 1891, he was promoted to be major, and in June, 1897, to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In addition to commanding the artillery, he also commanded the Western District Garrison Artillery. He was sent to England by the Victorian Government in 1889 to undergo courses of instruction, and while there was attached to the staff of Major-General Clarke, and also passed through various artillery courses, including the long course at Woolwich and Shoeburyness. The following are the courses through which he passed:—Long course, Woolwich and Shoeburyness (first-class certificate with honours), from March, 1889, to March, 1890; course of position-finding (certificate), course of military law tactics and military topography, Artillery College, Woolwich (certificate), from March to May, 1890, and from May to October, 1890; artillery camp, Okehampton; attached to staff of Major-General M. Clarke, Aldershot, from June to August, 1890; course of coast defence, Golden Hill (certificate); course of H.-P. mountings.

Coming back to Victoria in 1890, he succeeded Major Daniell in command of the Queenscliff forts. During his stay in Europe he visited the famous artillery works of Krupp, at Essen, in company with a gathering of officers of all nationalities, and, very curiously, one of the officers who was present at the same time was General Joubert. At Aldershot Captain Umphelby, as he was then, was attached to the 92nd Highlanders.

An officer under whom Lieut. Colonel Umphelby served when he first entered the artillery describes him as a hardworking and indefatigable officer, who, from the moment that he joined the force, endeavoured, in as short a time as possible, to thoroughly master the various branches

of his profession. He was, on two occasions, on detachment duty at the Victoria Barracks, but for the rest of the time was engaged at the forts at Queenscliff. He was rather a practical, than a merely scientific, artilleryman, and took a keen interest personally in shooting and in the laying of the guns. At first he devoted all his attention to the management and working of the heavy guns, but afterwards took up rifle-shooting with characteristic energy, and eventually became one of the crack shots of Australia. He has shot with great success in many competitions, and in one year he succeeded in carrying off the Queen's prize.

When the War Office intimated, on October 28 last year, that four special service officers would be accepted from Victoria Lieut. Colonel Umphelby was one of the four recommended by Sir Charles Hallett-Smith to the Minister of Defence, and he notified his acceptance of the preferred position three days later. Being too late to sail in the *Medic* with the first Victorian contingent, Lieut. Colonel Umphelby, with Captain Bruce and Captain G. J. Johnston, followed in the *s.s. Aberdeen*, which took away a Sydney contingent, Colonel Hoad, the other special service officer, having caught the *Medic*. Many who were present when the *Aberdeen* sailed will now look back with sad regrets to the scene.

When the hour fixed for the steamer to sail arrived her decks were so crowded that one could only move about with difficulty. Lieut. Colonel Umphelby, Captain Bruce, and Captain Johnston each held a levee on deck. Their personal friends were legion. Captain Collins, secretary of Defence, and Major Parnell, acting assistant

lieutenant, Captain Collins, secretary of Defence, and Major Parnell, acting assistant adjutant-general, were present on behalf of the Defence department and the forces. Colonel Robertson, Lieut. Colonel Kelly, Lieut. Colonel Ballenger, Major Hughes, and a host of other military men were there to see the last of old comrades, and to wish them luck, and the partings were most touching. Over on the flagship the men of the *Royal Arthur* had manned the rigging, and the band of the British tars burst forth in "Rule Britannia" and "Soldiers of the Queen." The air seemed filled with music and heartfelt wishes.

HIS LETTERS FROM THE CAPE.
Writing from Cape Town on December 10 to a friend in Melbourne, Colonel Umphelby mentioned that he was engaged with Colonel Galin, Major Lord Talbot, of the 11th Hussars; and Count Gleichen, of the Grenadier Guards, in the work of censoring press and private telegrams. In the course of his letter he expressed the opinion that it would have been better if Victoria had sent all mounted troops, an opinion which was amply supported afterwards by Lord Roberts. Colonel Umphelby concluded his letter with the following passage, which has a mournful significance, in view of the sad ending to his work. He wrote:—"Poor Keith Falconer. I was looking forward to meeting him again. He was shot in a very simple manner, and I'm afraid through want of care. You cannot be too careful in approaching houses, kopjes, or defensible ground. Be sure and send a kind message to the officers and men of my regiment. Tell them I am always thinking of them and wishing they were here, for I feel certain that would 'take the belt' for style and do well. I am in good spirits, and never was in better health, with plenty of outdoor exercise and early rising. Thank goodness, I have very little time for thinking, as I am very busily employed."

In another letter, written from Modder River Camp on January 21, Colonel Umphelby stated that he was with Lord Methuen's force for the relief of Kimberley, and he ventured upon a forecast of the plan of operations, which was marvellously accurate. He wrote:—"We reckon there are 10,000 Boers in front of us, so that you will understand a direct assault on their trenches would only mean terrible loss of life. When we get more men I expect we will shell the place with all our batteries, make a false attack on the right side, and try to cut the Boers off from the river, at the same time despatching a mobile force round their left flank with instructions to make straight for Kimberley." This is practically what, in fact, occurred a month later.

Colonel Umphelby leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss. His brother, Lieutenant Tom Umphelby, and his nephew, Lieutenant Umphelby, jun., are with the second Victorian contingent, under Colonel Price. His mother, as has been stated, is still alive, as is also his wife's mother, Mrs. Austin, the munificent foundress of the Austin Hospital for Incurables, at Heidelberg.