

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency Lieutenant-General SIR HENRY GEORGE WARELYN SMITH, Baronet, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Colonel of the Second Battalion Rifle Brigade, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, in South Africa, and of the territories and dependencies thereof, and Ordinary and Vice-Admiral of the same; and Her Majesty's High Commissioner for the settling and adjustment of the affairs of the territories in Southern Africa, adjacent and contiguous to the eastern and north-eastern frontier of the said colony, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS the time has arrived when it is both just and expedient to expel the rebel Gaika tribes and the rebel Hottentots, from the Waterkloof, Blinkwater, Fuller's Hoek, Kat River, and the whole of the Amatola Mountains; all the burghers of the divisions of Albany, Somerset, Fort Beaufort, Victoria, Albert, Cradock, and Graaff-Reinet, between the ages of twenty and fifty, are commanded to assemble; that is to say: The burghers of Albany, at Fort Brown

- ” Somerset, at Post Retief
- ” Fort Beaufort, at Old Koonap Post
- ” Victoria, at Fort Hare
- ” Albert and Cradock, at Whittlesea
- ” Graaff-Reinet, to assemble at Cradock, as a second line.

In the name and in behalf of Her Majesty, I do hereby proclaim and make known that the burghers aforesaid are *commanded* to take the field upon the old commando system, with this exception, the rations will be provided for themselves by Commissariat arrangements, but no expense will be incurred by the Government for arms, horses, or appointments. They are to nominate their own officers, but they will be moved by the Commander-in-Chief himself, after their assembly, upon those points where their services may be most required to co-operate with Her Majesty's Army, which will be so disposed in converging columns, under the Commander-in-Chief personally, as to sweep the whole country, extending from Fort Beaufort to the left bank of the Mancazana, and the Winterberg eastward to the Kie.

I do hereby proclaim to the colonists, that they are now called on and commanded by Her Majesty's representative to aid in the expulsion of those irreclaimable Gaikas and Hottentot rebels, in driving them over the Kei, and in establishing in perpetuity that security for this frontier which can alone protect the families, the homes, and the property of its inhabitants.

And I do hereby make known, and do warn all concerned, that if this commando be not promptly and fully obeyed, the colonists must bear the responsibility which will be entailed upon them by their own apathy.

The burghers will be at the points herein designated, by the 8th day of March proximo, prepared to move.

The head-quarters of the Commander-in-Chief will be, on the 8th day of March, either at Fort

establish, his reputation. I must here record my opinion of the soldierlike and judicious manner in which he carried and cleared the stronghold of the enemy in Fuller's Hoek, a position occupied with defiance by Macomo; and express my conviction that the war would remain unextinguished until that determined chief should be, as he has been, thoroughly dislodged and expelled. This has been effected in a masterly manner by the gallantry, judgment, and perseverance of Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre. The 73rd Regiment first set the example, under my orders, of taking the bush; they have been ever most successful, and the other regiments have emulated their exertions with equal results. Lieutenant-Colonel Pole has commanded his efficient regiment, the 12th Lancers, with zeal and activity. Lieutenant-Colonel Napier, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, has frequently been entrusted with the direction of patrols, which he has ever well conducted. Lieutenant-Colonel Yarborough, of the 91st, is a steady officer, and greatly distinguished himself on the day he was wounded. The 2nd Queen's Regiment have, upon this occasion, occupied the different forts; their services during the campaign under Lieutenant-Colonel Burns, have been valuable. Lieutenant-Colonel Skipwith, of the 43rd Light Infantry, is an officer of much promise. Lieutenant-Colonel Perceval, of the 12th Regiment, has greatly attracted my attention by his exertions, ability, and natural talent for command. Major Kyle, commanding the four companies of the 45th Regiment, is a very valuable officer, and there is indeed no field officer, from the gallant Major Pinckney, of the 73rd, downwards—the senior of his rank in this army—who has not well performed his many arduous duties.

19. I fear, my Lord, that I render this a lengthy despatch. At the wind-up of a fifteen months' campaign, desultory it is true, but on that account and opposed as we have been to from 20 to 25,000 intrepid warriors, probably of even a more than usually arduous character, much labour will naturally have devolved upon the officers of the staff, general as well as personal. I desire to draw your Lordship's attention to the services of Colonel Cloete, the Chief of the Staff, whose unremitting zeal in the performance of the many duties devolving upon him, has been as remarkable as the intelligence and perfect knowledge of his profession, which he has invariably evinced. I am deeply indebted to him, and the service equally so. Every officer of the General Staff has ably and zealously done his duty. To Lieutenant-Colonel Garvoek, my Private Secretary, and Captain Maydwell, my Military Secretary, who have had the largest share of correspondence of every varied character, of any officers in this army, I am truly grateful. Their devotion to the public service merits every encomium. The perseverance of these officers has greatly contributed to ensure that economy in the public expenditure which I have endeavoured to enforce, and I hope with much success. My Aide-de-Camps, Major Holdich, Captain Smith, and Lieutenant Greville, have filled their situations with great utility to me and labour to themselves.

The officers and soldiers of this army, one and all, have undergone continued labour and fatigue in the prosecution of a most difficult warfare, extending over a territory larger than England, with that energy and courage conveyed by the words, "British Soldiers."

I have, &c.

H. G. SMITH.