and 56 non-commissioned officers and men) was called out on the 24th September, and was subsequently placed under the command of the late Assistant Commissioner H. T. Scott, Cape Police, , who was in military command of that town.

The Volunteer force in Kimberley (composed as under) was called out on the 4th October:----

1 Battery Diamond Fields Artillery with 6--7-pr. field guns (3 officers and 90 noncommissioned officers and men).

Diamond Fields Horse (6 officers and 142 noncommissioned officers and men).

Kimberley Regiment (14 officers and 285 noncommissioned officers and men).

Every effort was made to increase the numbers of this Volunteer force and to provide horses for the mounted portion thereof. -84 recruits and nearly all the horses required were obtained in the seven days following the mobilzation of this force.

8. As the movement of the Burgher forces of the Orange Free State reported to be taking place opposite the Griqualand West frontier of the Cape Colony indicated that an attack on Kimberley might be made without any warning at an early date, the construction of certain important portions of the defence works of Kimberley was commenced on the 18th September.

9. It was on the 27th September that the earliest reliable information was obtained that the Burghers of the Orange Free State had been ordered out on commando. On this date Captain W. A. J. O'Meara, Royal Engineers, had proceeded to Boshof, Orauge Free State, on duty. As soon as he reached that village detachments of the Burgher force of the Orange Free State also commenced to arrive there. As detachments of armed Burghers continued to arrive in the village throughout the night of 27th-28th September, Captain O'Meara left Boshof at 6 a.m. on the 28th September, and immediately returned to Kimberley and reported what he had observed.

10. There being now little doubt as to the intentions of the Government of the Orange Free State, the construction of the defence works required for the protection of Kimberley and Beaconsfield was pushed on with the utmost rapidity under the direction of Lieutenant D.S. MacInnes, Royal Engineers.

11. His Excellency the High Commissioner had authorised the formation of the Kimberley and Beaconsfield Town Guards, and on the 30th September the scheme which had been prepared in Kimberley for these organizations was brought into operation, and by the 7th October 1,156 combatant members had been enrolled. Non-commissioned officers of the 1st Bn Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were detailed to afford the necessary instruction in the use of the arms issued and to teach a few simple drill movements to the members of these Town Guards.

12. Since the 28th September, the Burgher forces of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic had been gradually approaching our borders, and on the 4th October advance bodies of the enemy were within 12 miles of Kimberley.

13. The Cape Police force guarding the rail-way had been augmented to 446 officers and men, and by the 1st October a concentration of this force at the most important points along the railway between the Vaal River and Mateking had been effected as follows :---

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- Kraaipan (70 officers and men). Vryburg (112 " Taungs (89 " "

Fourteen Streams (175 officers and men with 2-7-pr. field guns).

It was not till the 13th October that the Cape Police Force (District No. 2) was placed under my orders for employment in the defence of the Colony.

14. By the 7th October the arrangements for the defence of Kimberley were so advanced that the town was practically safe against any attempt on the part of the enemy to suddenly rush it

15. On the 10th October, I sanctioned the movement of the Police at Kraaipan to Mafe-king. This detachment arrived at the latter place on the morning of Wednesday, the 11th October.

16. The first act of overt hostility on the part of the enemy occurred at Kraaipan, the railway siding at this point was occupied by the enemy on the 12th October, and at 3 p.m. On that day the Boers interrupted all telegraphic communication north of Kraaipan. During the same evening an armoured train (under the command of Lieutenant Nesbitt) conveying 2 guns and artillery ammunition from Vryburg to Mafeking was brought to a standstill south of Kraaipan Siding, owing to the destruction of the railway at that point. Lieutenant Nesbitt engaged the enemy with the small force at his disposal during the night of 12th October and the following morning. The armoured train the following morning. The armoured train was, however, completely wrecked by the enemy's artillery fire. The engine driver of the pilct engine which preceded the armoured train escaped, but of the men composing the British force some fell into the hands of the enemy and others were killed. I have not received any official report (giving details) of what occurred on this occasion.

17. Several attempts were made to communicate with Mafeking by despatch riders from Kimberley. The Europeans employed were, however, captured by the enemy, and the natives similarly employed returned to Kimberley at different times, having failed in in their efforts to reach Mafeking.

18. On the evening of the 14th October, the enemy crossed the frontier into Griqualand West and commenced the destruction of the Cape Government railway and telegraph. Tele-graphic communication north of Kimberley ceased at 9 p.m. 14th October, and at 10.45 p.m. on the same evening all the telegraph wires south of Kimberley were entirely interrupted. A despatch service was at once inaugurated, and the first messenger left for the Orange River railway bridge the same evening.

19. At 3 a.m., 15th October, an armoured train (under the command of 2nd Lieutenant A. McC. Webster, 1st Bn. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment) was directed to proceed south-wards and locate the spot where our telegraph line had been destroyed. On reaching Spytfontein Railway Station the train was fired upon by the enemy's guns posted in the rocky hills (kopjes) south-east of the station. The enemy's fire was returned by our machine guns, but as the enemy had three guns in position, 2nd Lieutenant Webster took the station-master of Spytfontein, his family, and also some railway gangers on board the armoured train, and returned to Kimberley without having sustained any damage or loss.

20. Since direct telegraphic communication with Headquarters, Cape Town, was completely interrupted and could not be restored for some time to come, I proclaimed martial law in Kimberley at noon on the 15th October,