

21. On the 16th October, I learnt that Fourteen Streams railway bridge had been abandoned on the previous evening by the Police Detachment detailed for its defence, and that this force was retiring on Kimberley. The Police Detachment at Taungs had been ordered to fall back on Fourteen Streams on the 14th October, and was doing so at this time. On the 17th October it was reported that the Police Detachment detailed for the defence of Vryburg had also abandoned that place at 4.30 p.m. on the 15th October, and was also retiring on Kimberley. The members of the Volunteer Force at Vryburg dispersed to their homes on the evening of the 15th October. In fact, on the evening of the 15th October, the Police Detachments, which had been placed along the railway from Vryburg southwards, were all retiring, and by 5 p.m. on the 22nd October, they had arrived safely in Kimberley.

22. The want of mounted troops to operate against the enemy investing Kimberley was greatly felt during the first few days of the investment. His Excellency the High Commissioner had given me authority (in a conversation held on the telegraph wire on the 13th October) to raise an irregular mounted corps; in consequence, steps were taken to increase the numbers of the mounted men, and also to increase the mobility of the artillery in Kimberley. The Right Hon. C. J. Rhodes, and also the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited, came most generously to my assistance in the matter of providing horses and mules.

23. On the 19th October, Captain and Brevet-Major H. S. Turner was appointed by me to the command of all the mounted corps in Kimberley, and the raising of the Kimberley Light Horse was also entrusted to him. On this date Lieutenant D. S. MacInnes, Royal Engineers, took over the duties of Staff Officer, Kimberley.

24. The rapid increase in the numbers and the mobility of the mounted troops in Kimberley which now took place made it possible for me to send out reconnoitring parties at frequent intervals in every direction in this neighbourhood. The armoured train was sent out in support of the mounted troops whenever possible. The enemy's fire was drawn on almost every occasion that our troops sallied out beyond the line of our defences.

25. During the period referred to in the last paragraph small bodies (numbering from 100 to 250 men) of the enemy were busily engaged marching into and demanding the surrender of undefended towns and villages in Griqualand West. In some instances the Government officials, the members of the police force, and even unoffending traders in the towns, villages, &c., occupied by the Boers were made prisoners; on these occasions all Government property and much private property of British subjects was "commandeered" (i.e. forcibly seized) by the Boers. It was further reported to me that proclamations had been issued by Her Majesty's enemies, declaring Bechuanaland a province of the South African Republic, and Griqualand West, similarly, a province of the Orange Free State. On receipt of this information, I issued a counter-proclamation, in order, if possible, to check the spread of a rebellion in the above-named territories.

26. On the 24th October, a strong reconnoitring party was sent northwards from Kimberley, with the armoured train in support, and came into collision with a force of the enemy (estimated at 800 men) near Macfarlane Siding, and it became necessary to reinforce the

mounted men with guns and infantry. The enemy was repulsed, and the Boer commander himself killed. This engagement has been made the subject of a separate despatch. No authentic information has been obtained of the loss of the enemy's forces suffered in this engagement, but natives report that many Boers were killed and wounded.

27. On the 25th October, the enemy began to tighten his line of investment; his position nearest to our defences was on this date about 6,000 yards south of the Premier Mine. This position of the enemy being an isolated one, it was carefully reconnoitred on several occasions, and the fact ascertained that two guns were posted behind some entrenchments thrown up in a naturally strong position. On the 31st October, the enemy opened fire with these guns as well as with rifles on a mounted reconnoitring party sent eastward from the Premier Mine by me; no one was hit.

28. On the 1st November, a body of the enemy which was known to be at Riverton Road Station drew nearer to Kimberley and occupied Macfarlane Farm. At 2.5 p.m. on this date an explosion was heard and a column of smoke was seen ascending near Dronfield Siding (about 7 miles north of Kimberley). It was believed at the time that the enemy had destroyed the whole of the dynamite stored in the magazines in that neighbourhood.

29. Early on the morning of the 3rd November, the enemy made a determined attempt to drive off our live stock grazing north of Kenilworth, and opened fire on our mounted troops guarding same both with artillery and rifle. During this engagement, Major W. E. Ayliff, Cape Police, was wounded in the neck with a rifle bullet. Again, on the afternoon of the same day, another body made a second advance on Kimberley from Peddiefontein, a farm $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Kimberley. Both these attacks were driven back by the mounted troops under Brevet-Major (local Lieutenant-Colonel) H. S. Turner, assisted by the guns of the Royal Garrison Artillery and the Diamond Fields Artillery. During the afternoon's engagement Private J. Lubbe, Kimberley Light Horse, was killed, and Serjeant F. E. Watermeyer, Cape Police, was wounded. The enemy did not succeed in driving away any cattle from Kenilworth in the morning, but during the afternoon the Boers were more successful, and captured several head of cattle which their owners had allowed to stray too far from our defences on the north-west of Kimberley. The enemy's losses on this day were not ascertained.

30. About noon on the 4th November, Head Commandant C. J. Wessels, of the Burgher forces, Orange Free State, sent in a "parlementaire" demanding the surrender of Kimberley.

31. At 7 p.m., 6th November, the enemy fired two shells at our defences at the Premier Mine; the first regular bombardment of Kimberley, however, did not commence until 5.30 a.m., 7th November. On the latter date, the enemy commenced shelling the section of our defences between the Kimberley Waterworks Reservoir and the Sanatorium (the majority of the shells being apparently intended for the latter building). The enemy appeared to have three guns in position along the ridge south-west of Wimbledon rifle ranges. On the 7th November, the enemy also shelled our position at the Premier Mine from their position south of the same. Although the enemy's shells fell in close proximity to our defence works south of Kimberley and at the Premier Mine, no one was injured and practically no damage was done. On this date the enemy