

5. A native stated that they still occupied a kopje 2,500 yards in front.

6. The Kimberley Mounted Corps pushed on to the right flank and front, followed by the Imperial Yeomanry and the battery. One company of the Imperial Yeomanry moved to the left front with the object of cutting off the enemy should they attempt to escape in that direction.

7. Two Colonial scouts attached to the Imperial Yeomanry brought back the first reliable information regarding the enemy's position. The column reached some small kopjes in front, and a few of the enemy were located occupying some low kopjes about 1,200 yards distant. Firing now commenced.

8. The position taken up by the enemy was composed of a few small low kopjes in the centre of a large flat plain.

9. I completely surrounded the kopjes before I took any further action.

10. The guns were kept under shelter, having no target.

11. I ordered the Imperial Yeomanry and the Kimberley Mounted Corps to attack the kopje from the east, supporting the attack from the south-east and north.

The order was intelligently carried out, care being taken to advance very slowly, taking all advantage of the fine cover given by the bushes and boulders.

12. The enemy made a fine resistance from 2 P.M. to nearly 6 P.M., not surrendering until our troops, with bayonets fixed, were 15 yards from them. They sent to my Aide-de-Camp to say they intended to fight to the end, and they only changed their minds when General Villebois de Mareuil was killed by a shell.

13. The guns found difficulty in firing without endangering our men's lives, but at last the battery, firing three shells, helped materially towards closing the defence.

14. The enemy had 7 killed, 11 wounded, and 51 prisoners. I regret the loss of Lieutenant C. Boyle, Imperial Yeomanry, and of Lieutenant A. C. Williams, Imperial Yeomanry; 10 men wounded.

15. Lieutenant A. C. Williams was killed deliberately, after the white flag was held up. The man who fired was at once shot by my order.

16. This was the first time the Imperial Yeomanry and the Kimberley Mounted Corps have been engaged with the enemy, and I was much struck by the intelligent manner in which they carried out the attack, and made use of cover. Had they not done so, the list of casualties would have been far greater.

17. I draw attention to the careful manner in which Brigadier-General Lord Chesham, Lieutenant-Colonel Peakman, and Major Butcher executed my orders.

I am, &c.,

METHUEN,

Lieutenant-General,

Commanding 1st Division.

No. 11.

From Field-Marshal Lord Roberts to the Secretary of State for War.

Army Head-quarters,

Camp Smaldeel,

South Africa,

8th May, 1900.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Lordship's information a report, dated 29th April, 1900, from Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Dalgety, Commanding Cape Mounted Rifles, describing

the operations in the vicinity of Wepener, between 2nd April and 25th April, during which period the force under his command, numbering some 1,600 men with six guns, two 15-prs., two 12-prs. Naval, two 7-prs., and one Hotchkiss, was attacked by a Boer force estimated at about 6,000 men with 10 guns.

2. The report is somewhat incomplete, and to render it more intelligible I may mention that Lieutenant-Colonel Dalgety's force entered Wepener on 4th April from the south. The Caledon River runs from the north-east to the south-west, about 3 miles west of the town; the Zammersberg bridge, 200 yards in length, crossing the river nearly west of Wepener. The enemy advanced from the north and occupied the town, another Boer commando also advancing from the direction of Smithfield. The position taken up by Lieutenant-Colonel Dalgety on 5th April consisted of an oval line of kopjes to the west of and commanding the bridge, enclosing a basin about 6 miles in circumference. The enemy's attack began at 6.30 A.M. on the 9th, and most of the casualties occurred on that and the following day, the defences of the position not having been completed until the morning of the 11th. The investment lasted up to the night of the 24th, the Boers retiring northward early on the morning of the 25th. The relief of the force was effected by the movement on Wepener from Aliwal North of the 5th Brigade under Major-General A. FitzHugh Hart, and a column of Colonial troops under Brigadier-General Brabant, and by the advance of the 8th Division under Lieutenant-General Sir H. M. L. Rundle from Edenburg to Dewetsdorp, supported by the 3rd Division under Major-General Sir H. O. Chermiside. Brigadier-General Brabant with his mounted troops entered Wepener at 4 P.M. on 25th April.

3. The ammunition expended during the investment was as follows:—In possession, per rifle, 500 rounds; expended, 250 rounds. In possession, per 15-pounder, 850 rounds; expended, 750 rounds. In possession, per 12-pounder, 250 rounds; expended, 200 rounds. In possession, per 7-pounder, 250 rounds; expended, 100 rounds. In possession, per Hotchkiss, 350 rounds; expended, 342 rounds.

The strength and composition of the force under Lieutenant-Colonel Dalgety's orders are detailed below—

Royal Engineers.—1 officer, 10 non-commissioned officers and men.

Royal Scots, Mounted Infantry.—3 officers, 78 non-commissioned officers and men.

Cape Mounted Rifles.—18 officers, 409 non-commissioned officers and men.

1st Brabant's Horse.—25 officers, 320 non-commissioned officers and men.

2nd Brabant's Horse.—29 officers, 430 non-commissioned officers and men.

Kaffrarian Rifles.—23 officers, 370 non-commissioned officers and men.

Driscoll's Scouts.—3 officers, 53 non-commissioned officers and men.

Colonial Artillery (C.M.R. Artillery).—3 officers, 90 non-commissioned officers and men.

Royal Army Medical Corps.—6 officers, 27 non-commissioned officers and men.

4. I am of opinion that the utmost credit is due to Lieutenant-Colonel Dalgety and the troops under his command for the stubborn and successful resistance which they offered to an enemy greatly outnumbering them. The hardships of the investment were increased by