

successful, 193 burghers surrendering in the first two days, with 197 rifles and over 80,000 rounds of ammunition. Up to date some 150 more of the burghers have surrendered, and with the exception of about 140 men, who remained with the commando, the whole district is reported to be practically peaceful.

Judging from their action, I am of opinion that the names of Mr. Kleynhans, Landrost of Wakkerstroom, Mr. De Jager, Public Prosecutor, and Mr. Schonegral, Accountant, with their subordinate officials, are worthy of being borne in mind in the permanent settlement. I reappointed the whole of them to continue the local administration.

On the evening of the 18th June I received two telegrams from Lord Roberts, dated 14th and 16th respectively, impressing on me the great importance of an early occupation of the town of Standerton. I at once ordered General Clery's Division to march from Laing's Nek. It was joined at Zandspruit on the 20th by the 11th Brigade returning from Wakkerstroom, and Standerton was occupied without incident on the 22nd by the mounted troops, and on the 23rd by the Infantry.

About midday on the 21st, I had noticed from Paardekop an explosion, which I felt sure must have indicated the destruction of the railway bridge.

On arrival at Standerton on the 23rd, I found that the bridge over the Vaal had been blown up, and an immense quantity of railway stores belonging principally to the Railway Extension Works from Dundee to Vryheid, which had been removed from Dundee to Standerton by the enemy, had been destroyed by fire.

Having obtained proof that this damage had been effected by the officials of the Netherlands Railway Company in Standerton, I have made all those who are proved to have been active participators in this wanton destruction prisoners of war and the rest of the officials prisoners at large. These latter I am giving the option of returning to their own country, or of being treated as prisoners of war. They are nearly all Hollanders, but there are a few Russian and German subjects among them.

The bridge over Zandspruit had been damaged; the girder of the 164-ft. span being broken by its having been used as a target for the practice of a 4.7-inch gun. In other respects the line was not much damaged, and the first train of supplies reached Standerton yesterday, but we have to make some sidings here, and put in points at Kromdraai, before any bulk of supplies can be delivered.

I have, &c.,

REDVERS BULLER, General.

No. 10.

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

Army Head-quarters, South Africa,

My Lord, Belfast, 1st September, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a report from General the Right Honourable Sir Redvers Buller, G.C.B., V.C., &c., giving a resume of the operations carried out by the force under his command during the period from the 7th to 15th August, inclusive.

I have, &c.,

ROBERTS, Field-Marshal,
Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa.

From the General Commanding the Natal Army to the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the Forces in South Africa, Pretoria.

Head-quarters, Natal Army,

Twyfelaar Camp, Transvaal,

20th August, 1900.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your No. C 3131 of 29th July to move a force northwards towards Middleburg, I assembled the 4th Infantry Division, the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, and such of the 3rd Mounted Brigade as could be spared, with a proportion of corps troops, about Meerzicht, North of Paardekop, on the 7th August. (For detail of the Force, see Appendix "A").

2. I selected the 4th Division as, with the exception of the 1st Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who took the place of the 2nd Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps en route to Ceylon, it is composed entirely of troops which had formed the garrison of Ladysmith, who are now in excellent health, and I wished to give them an opportunity of active operations.

3. The following gives a summary of our daily progress:—

August 7th.—The enemy occupied successive hills on the south-west of Amersfoort, from which they retired as we advanced. They made some stand on a strong position west of the town from whence they opened fire from field guns and pompoms.

Their guns were speedily silenced by our Artillery and Amersfoort was occupied at 5.15 p.m. by the 1st Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps, who during their approach to the town were met by considerable rifle fire from the houses. Our casualties were two Officers and 23 men wounded.

The enemy retired in a northerly direction, leaving a few dead and wounded in the town and neighbouring farms.

The troops, who had to cover a great deal of ground, did extremely well.

Lieut.-General Hon. N. G. Lyttelton brought specially to my notice the manner in which Major-General F. Howard directed his Brigade, on which most of the work fell, and on the excellent leading of the 1st Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps by Lieut.-Colonel W. P. Campbell.

August 8th.—Halted at Amersfoort owing to the dense fog which prevailed.

August 9th.—Advanced to Riet Spruit on the Ermelo Road. The 3rd Mounted Brigade cleared Rolfontein of the enemy after a sharp skirmish, Strathcona's Horse doing good execution with their pompom.

August 10.—Advanced to Beginderlyn and halted north of the Vaal River. The enemy moved north, parallel with our advance, but, beyond offering slight opposition to the 3rd Mounted Brigade, did not come into contact with our troops.

August 11th.—The Cavalry occupy Ermelo without opposition and took possession of the public offices there and secured a considerable amount of forage. The main body halted at Klipfontein.

August 12.—The force concentrated at Ermelo, the enemy retiring to Lake Chrissie.

Telegraphic communication was opened with Pretoria, via Standerton.

August 13th.—Advanced to Klipstapel, near the source of the Vaal. The 3rd Mounted Brigade came into contact with the enemy, who fell back before them after a slight skirmish, in which we had one man wounded, and the enemy