

continued to operate for several days with success, and a detachment of the 12th Battalion Mounted Infantry under Major Thomson, was able under cover of a thick fog to effect the capture of Commandant Marais and 40 of his men. Other prisoners were brought in by Lieutenant-Colonels Colenbrander and Wilson, of Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, and on his return to Pietersburg, on the 6th May, Colonel Grenfell reported that altogether he had accounted for seven Boers killed, 129 prisoners, and 50 voluntary surrenders. 240,000 rounds of ammunition were destroyed.

16. Since the expulsion of De Wet from Cape Colony on the 28th February, operations have been continued in Graaf Reinet, Cradock, and Steynsburg districts against scattered bands of the enemy under Kruitziuger, Fouché, Scheepers, and Malan, whose ability to keep the field against our troops is accounted for by the persistent way in which they avoid fighting, and the manner in which they cling to the rugged and mountainous localities. These raiders have during the last two months undoubtedly received a certain number of recruits from amongst the Colonial Dutch, and the friendly feelings of a considerable portion of the rural population assure to them at all times not only an ample food supply, but also timely information of the movements of our pursuing columns, two points which tell heavily in their favour. Our troops in the Midland Districts have since the beginning of March been acting with untiring vigour under the control, first of Major-General Settle, and latterly of Colonel Douglas Haig, whose instructions have been well executed by the column commanders—Lieutenant-Colonels Henniker, Gorringer, Grenfell, Scobell, and Crewe. The increased activity shown lately by the Colonial Defence Force gives good reason for the hope that with the energetic co-operation of these local corps, the task of finally disposing of the Boer raiders will now be rendered much easier. The fact that about 300 Boers under Vanreenen were forced northward across the Orange River at Oudefontein Drift on the 3rd April, and that another body of somewhat similar strength quitted Cape Colony on the 1st May, crossing eight miles west of Bethulie, is a sign that the raiders are losing heart, and that the leaders are only able to retain in the field small bodies of desperate men, who are prepared to adapt themselves to the vicissitudes of guerilla warfare and brigandage.

Some unrest has lately been shown in the extreme north-west of Cape Colony, where, in close proximity to the frontier of German Namaqua Land, parties of the enemy have at times attempted to harass our posts. Hitherto, however, the local troops have been quite able to maintain their positions, and to frustrate any movements made towards the interior of the Colony.

17. I forward herewith lists (A) of Officers, (B) of non-commissioned officers and men, whom I wish to bring to your notice for consideration. I would ask that the promotions made by me amongst the latter (List B) may not prejudice the grant of any further rewards you may consider desirable.

I have, &c.,
KITCHENER, General,
Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa.

Guns taken from the Boers, or destroyed by them to prevent capture, between the 1st March and 6th May, 1901 :—

- General Babington—1 75-mm. gun, Creusot ; 1 pompom. Total 2 guns. Dug up near Zandfontein (213).
General Dartnell—1 pompom.—Total 1 gun. Destroyed to avoid capture at Smaldeel, north-east of Vryheid.
Colonel Allenby—1 15-pr. gun ; 2 pompoms.—Total 3 guns. Captured on the Lower Pongola.
General Babington—2 15-pr. guns ; 1 pompom ; 6 Maxim machine guns.—Total 9 guns. Captured in action near Vaal Bank (116).
General Babington and Colonel Sir H. Rawlinson—1 12-pr. gun ; 1 pompom. Total 2 guns. Captured in action at Goedvooruitzicht (264).
General Plumer—1 Maxim machine gun. Total 1 gun. Captured by Lieutenant Reid near Commissie Drift, Olifant's River.
General Plumer—1 80-mm. gun, Krupp. Total 1 gun. Captured at Pietersburg.
General Sir Bindon Blood—1 Long Tom ; 1 4·7-inch gun ; 1 15-pr. gun ; 1 12-pr. gun ; 2 pompoms ; 2 Maxim machine guns. Total 8 guns. Blown up by the enemy on the advance of General Blood's columns to avoid capture.
General Sir Bindon Blood—1 1-pr. Q.F., Krupp ; 1 pompom. Total 2 guns. Captured during General Blood's operations.
Lieutenant - Colonel Grenfell—1 Long Tom. Total 1 gun. Blown up by the enemy at the last moment to avoid capture.
Lord Methuen—1 12-pr. gun. Total 1 gun. Captured in action at Brakpan (121).
Colonel Colville—1 Maxim-Nordenfelt. Total 1 gun. Captured in action at Tweedronk (249), north-east of Standerton.
General Babington—1 9-pr. gun, Krupp. Total 1 gun. Dug up at Buisfontein (186), near Klerksdorp.
Total—2 Long Toms ; 1 4·7-inch gun ; 4 15-pr. guns ; 3 12-pr. guns ; 1 9-pr. gun, Krupp ; 1 80-mm. gun, Krupp ; 1 75-mm. gun, Creusot ; 1 1-pr., Q.F., Krupp ; 9 pompoms ; 1 Maxim-Nordenfelt ; 9 Maxim machine guns—38