

advance on General Beyer's position at Zandriverspoort (315) were complete. Lieut.-Colonel Grenfell marched from Piet Potgieter's Rust south-west through Groot Hoek (507) to strike at the enemy's rear, while Major McMicking made a direct movement from Nylstroom. The march of Colonel Grenfell's force was much delayed by the extremely broken and almost roadless country which had to be traversed. These unavoidable delays enabled General Beyers to withdraw to the westward.

Colonel Grenfell then occupied Zandriverspoort (315) as an advanced base, from which his mounted troops scoured the surrounding country. Besides other minor successes, he succeeded in surprising and capturing a Boer laager at Hopewell (56) at daylight on the 1st of July, after a march of 40 miles. One Boer was killed, 93 prisoners, 100 horses, 2,000 cattle, and 2,000 rounds of ammunition were taken. After this expedition Lieut.-Colonel Grenfell returned to Zandriverspoort (315).

*Operations in the Standerton-Heidelberg district.*

14. Some successful operations were undertaken early in May by troops in Major-General Clewett's command, against the enemy's laagers on the right bank of the Vaal near Blaauwkoopie, some 25 miles north-east of Standerton. The roads leading south from the river having been blocked by troops detached from Standerton and Platrand, Lieut.-Colonel Colville led his column by night along the Standerton-Ermelo road and attacked from the north at dawn on the 5th of May. The enemy scattered in all directions, leaving 8 prisoners, 1 Maxim-Nordenfeldt machine gun, 15 rifles, 12 wagons, and 15 horses in the hands of our troops.

In the middle of May, Colonel Colville, whose column had been strengthened by four squadrons of regular cavalry, marched from De Lange's Drift up the right bank of the Klip River, through the Verzammelberg, thus co-operating with General Elliot's simultaneous movement through Vrede to the Natal border. On arriving near the junction of the Klip and Ganzvlei, Colonel Colville crossed into the Orange River Colony, and moving by Gemsbok Hoek Berg, where he encountered some opposition, returned to De Lange's Drift. Large captures of stock were made in the course of this march.

At the beginning of June, Colonel Colville's column moved down the right bank of the Vaal towards Villiersdorp, which he cleared, as well as many farms along the north bank of the river. On the 22nd of June he moved north from Val Station to act on the left flank of Lieut.-Colonel Grey's column, which had left Standerton on the previous day to operate against the enemy west of Bethel. Both columns converged on Watervalshoek (204), from which place Colonel Grey drove some 400 of the enemy on the 25th. Colonel Colville remained in the vicinity of Watervalshoek, awaiting to connect with General Blood's columns, which were expected from the north-east; Lieut.-Colonel Grey marched into the railway at Greylingstad to fill up with supplies.

Lieut.-Colonel Garratt, who now took over command from Colonel Grey, moved north, in the direction of Boschman's Kop (189), so as to bring his force on the west of Colonel Colville. By the 3rd of July, Colonel Garratt had reached Boschman's Kop (189), and was in communication with Colonel Colville at Watervalshoek (204), who, from his position, was in touch with General W. Kitchener at Grootpan (317).

Lieut.-Colonel Garratt arrived in Springs on the 8th of July.

*Operations in Cape Colony.*

15. The operations in Cape Colony have been of a very complicated nature, and may be generally described as a series of rapid movements of small Boer forces, acting more or less independently, and always followed or headed by small columns of our troops. The Boer numbers have not, at any time, exceeded 1,200 men, and they have had no fixed base of operations, but have lived entirely on the country. The principal leaders are Scheepers, Malan, Fouché, Kruitziager, Lotter, Myburg, Smits, Van Reenan, Latagan, Maritz, and Conroy.

In the beginning of May, Scheepers, who was posted near Daggaboers Nek, was attacked by Colonel Henniker and driven north. Breaking back, he succeeded in reaching the Koetzeesberg. Here, for a time, the commando concealed itself, but being again chased out of the kloofs, Scheepers moved by Pearston and Kendrew into the Camdeboo Mountains, west of Graaf Reinet. He arrived there on the 23rd of May, closely followed by the Victorian Bushmen of Colonel Henniker's column. In his flight Scheepers' force had been reduced from 200 to 100 men, but in Camdeboo he was joined by 70 men belonging to the commando of Swanepoel, who had been killed.

Malan did not accompany Scheepers to Daggaboers Nek, but remained west of Cradock. Lieut.-Colonel Scobell operated against this commando, and on the 20th of May, before dawn, surprised the laager, killing 4 men and capturing 40 horses, and many saddles and rifles. Malan afterwards moved west to the neighbourhood of Richmond, and has since remained in that district, constantly harassed by small columns under Major Mullins and Captain Lund. He attacked Richmond on the 25th of June, but was unable to overcome the defence, and withdrew on the approach of Captain Lund's column next day.

In the middle of May Kruitziager and Lotter, who had brought some 500 men from the Orange River Colony, joined Fouché in the Zuurberg, north of Steynsburg. Colonel Haig, who was directing the operations of the mobile columns, arranged a converging movement of the Cape Mounted Rifles and the columns under Colonels Monro, Goringe, Crabbe, Scobell, and Murray, on these commandos. The enemy, however, broke through towards Maraisburg, but were headed off into the Bamboes Mountains, where they were able to evade our columns until the end of May. Kruitziager, with Lotter, Myburg, and Fouché, then made a dash across the Molteno railway near Cyphergat and moved eastward. Van Reenan broke north-west into the Steynsburg district.

Our columns followed the main body which, on the 2nd June, captured, after a faint defence by the Town Guard, the strongly-entrenched village of Jamestown; 150 horses, some thousands of rounds of ammunition, and much needed supplies of food and clothing fell into the enemy's hands.

Constant endeavours were made to surprise the enemy by night. On the 6th of June, Colonel Scobell's column caught a commando asleep at 3 a.m. Lieut.-Colonel Lukin, with a squadron of Cape Mounted Rifles, rushed the laager in the dark, killing 6 Boers and capturing 25 prisoners, and all the saddles of the commando.

The direction of operations in Cape Colony was now entrusted to Lieut.-General French, who took over command of all mobile columns in Cape Colony on the 9th of June.