

co-operate with him, Colonel Rochfort arranged to surprise this laager at dawn the following morning. His orders were well carried out, and 24 prisoners (including Field Cornet W. Kock), 100 good horses, and most of the Boer carts and ammunition were taken; Commandant Myburg, who was dangerously wounded, was also captured.

On the same day Captain Going, with a detachment of Mounted Infantry, who was taking part in Colonel Rochfort's combined movement, had a successful encounter with Van den Berg's commando, which had been in laager not far from Myburg's party.

Majors Bogle Smith and Damant made some useful captures of prisoners and stock on the 30th July in Fauresmith and the surrounding country.

Major-General C. Knox's columns under Colonels Pilcher and Thorneycroft, which had left Brandfort marching east on 1st July, met with few of the enemy in the country between Senekal and the Basutoland border.

They were accordingly directed to move into Thabanchu and Ladybrand, and Colonels Pilcher and Thorneycroft reached these places on the 14th and 13th July respectively. From this line Major-General C. Knox marched south on the 17th of the month with his force subdivided into four small columns, his intention being to sweep through the country down to the Orange River and search for any straggling parties of the enemy. Colonel Pilcher's troops, under Major Lean and Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, marched through Reddersburg and Dewetsdorp respectively upon Bethulie; Colonel Thorneycroft, starting from the vicinity of Ladybrand, led his columns under Major Copeman and Lieutenant-Colonel Minchin, by the Smithfield-Commissie Drift and Wepener-Rouxville roads to Aliwal North.

Colonel Pilcher's columns were reassembled at Bethulie on the 26th July, and Colonel Thorneycroft's at Aliwal on the 28th. No considerable body of the enemy had been met, and little opposition encountered. A few prisoners, 2,300 horses, 1,800 cattle, 126 wagons and carts, and a large quantity of grain fell into General Knox's hands during his march south.

In anticipation of the intending sweep from the Vaal to the Modder River (which might possibly force parties of the enemy south), and to continue his search for any hostile bands lurking to the north of the Orange River, Major-General C. Knox was next directed to transfer his troops to the west of the line into the area between the railway and the Philippolis-Fauresmith road.

Colonel Thorneycroft left Aliwal North on the 30th July, with his troops still divided into two columns, and marched, through Jagersfontein Road Station and Kruger's Siding on the railway, in the direction of Jagersfontein. Colonel Pilcher moved from Bethulie on the same date, marching west along the right bank of the Orange River to Philippolis, from which place he turned north to Fauresmith.

By the 8th August General Knox's troops had reached the Fauresmith-Edenburg road, from which line they have been instructed to operate to the south of the Riet River, in conjunction with Major-General Bruce Hamilton's columns.

During Colonel Thorneycroft's march from Aliwal North to Jagersfontein he took 28 prisoners, 1,000 horses, 69 wagons and carts, and much stock.

Major-General Elliot's operations in Northern Orange River Colony.

4. After leaving Springfield Drift on the Wilge River on the 4th July, Major-General Elliot marched north in three columns between the Wilge River and Liebenberg's Vlei, with General Rundle's troops in co-operation to the east of the Wilge. Little opposition was met with, although the rear guard of the central column was attacked by about 100 Boers shortly after quitting the town of Reitz.

On the 11th General Elliot's three columns, under Brigadier-General Broadwood, Lieutenant-Colonel De Lisle, and Colonel Bethune, wheeled to the left towards Heilbron, the right column under Brigadier-General Broadwood passing through Frankfort.

Detached patrols were frequently sent out at night to endeavour to surprise parties of the enemy, but with small result, until on the 12th July at daylight Colonel Harrison, with 300 Imperial Yeomanry, was successful in capturing 12 prisoners, 9 carts, and 60 horses.

On the same night General Broadwood was ordered to execute a movement back in the direction of Reitz in the hope that some of the enemy, in fancied security, had followed their frequent practice of closing in behind the line of march of our troops.

To effect this General Broadwood had to pass in rear of the other two columns and make a forced march by night of 30 miles, his intention being to surround Reitz at dawn. Unfortunately, the loss of touch by a connecting file during the night delayed the force three-quarters of an hour, with the result that instead of being able to surround the town before daybreak General Broadwood was compelled, for the last three miles, to gallop straight at it. Despite this accident he was able to make a number of important captures.

Ex-President Steyn, who, with his leading adherents, had been passing the night in the town, narrowly escaped being made a prisoner, but all his government officials, together with Generals A. P. Cronje and J. B. Wessels, Commandant Davel, and Field Cornet Steyn (brother of the Ex-President), 29 persons in all, were secured. £11,500 (mostly in Orange Free State notes), Mr. Steyn's official papers, and his recent correspondence with the leaders of the Transvaal Boers, were found amongst the captured baggage.

The ex-President himself, who had been aroused at the first alarm, just managed to escape on a pony without either coat or boots. He was closely followed for some distance by an officer and sergeant to whom his identity was unknown, but pursuit on such tired horses was useless, and General Broadwood had to rest content with the success already achieved.

Returning without delay to join his brigade, General Broadwood met with considerable opposition, but, with only two casualties, he regained his place in General Elliot's line, having covered over 60 miles with his force during his short absence.

I consider that this was a fine piece of work, admirably conceived and well carried out, and that it is deserving of high commendation.

The remainder of General Elliot's march by Heilbron to the railway was uneventful. He reached the line on 16th July, the total result of his movement being eight Boers killed and wounded, 61 prisoners, 4,000 horses, 3,600 cattle, 5,400 rounds of ammunition, and many vehicles. Our casualties were three men wounded.