

theatre of operations it must be mentioned that Brigadier-General Gilbert Hamilton, after his capture of Potgieter's laager near Wolmaranstad, marched north-east by Klerksdorp towards Ventersdorp, through which district he is now moving northwards.

Operations near the Magaliesberg.

9. Colonel Allenby's column, which had reached Vlakplaats (20) near Krugersdorp from the west on the 7th July, moved north at midnight on the 9th, and at daybreak surprised a small laager at Zeekoehoek (95). The majority of Boers with this laager made good their escape to the hills, but Field Cornet Naude, 12 other prisoners, and 13 wagons remained in the hands of our cavalry. On the 11th Colonel Allenby located a laager in an almost inaccessible position on the Magaliesberg. He was unable to get to close quarters with his mounted troops, but his artillery fire set the whole laager in flames, and blew up two wagons containing dynamite and ammunition.

On the 28th July Colonel Kekewich, who had taken over command of Brigadier-General Dixon's column, left Krugersdorp to escort a convoy into Rustenburg. Colonel Allenby assisted in covering this convoy between Naauwpoort (214) and Olifant's Nek, and on the 3rd August Colonel Kekewich returned to Naauwpoort. Two days later Colonel Kekewich again passed Olifant's Nek, and turned to the east with the intention of attacking Breedt's Nek from the north, whilst Colonel Allenby operated against it from the south. This, however, turned out to be unnecessary, as the Boers evacuated the pass, and enabled us on the 7th August to occupy the defile and establish a post upon its summit. On the following day both columns moved east in the direction of Damhoek Pass, Colonel Kekewich searching the northern slopes and crests of the mountains, whilst Colonel Allenby moved parallel to him on the south.

Two other columns have been operating in this district. On the Schurvsberg and in the Hekpoort Valley, west of Commando Nek, Major-General Barton has been employed with a force from Pretoria, in clearing the country of supplies, and establishing—for occupation by the South African Constabulary—a network of posts, which will deny to the Boers the use of this favourite haunt.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Basing, with the Royal Dragoons, two guns, and a pompom, has been engaged in covering the construction of the Frederikstad-Breedt's Nek line of block-houses, and in keeping up communication thence to General Barton's column.

Operations on the Pietersburg Line.

10. During the past month Lieutenant-Colonel Grenfell has continued to operate from Nylstroom and Zandriverspoort (315) against General Beyer's men, who aimlessly roam about the country to the west of the northern line. The Boers in this district have displayed little activity or enterprise, and they invariably scatter at the approach of our troops. In the desultory fighting which has taken place Lieutenant-Colonel Grenfell has captured 11 prisoners, a number of wagons, some transport animals, and 7,700 rounds of ammunition.

Lieutenant-General Sir Bindon Blood's Operations in the Eastern Transvaal.

11. The progress of the war in the Eastern Transvaal during the past month has been

marked by the completion of the movement from Middelkraal (298), south of Middelburg, to a line Spring-Elands River, and thence back to Middelburg, and by the operations of several columns to the north of the Delagoa Railway against General Viljoen's commando.

The first stage of the southern movement, which was under the personal command of Lieutenant-General Sir B. Blood, closed with the arrival of the columns under Major-Generals Babington and W. Kitchener, at Springs, on the 7th and 10th of July. The third column employed, which was under Colonel Campbell, marched into Elands River on the 9th.

Major-General Babington's column (now under Sir B. Blood) left Springs again for Middelburg on the 10th July, and it was followed on the 15th by Major-General W. Kitchener's troops. Colonel Campbell, after conducting a reconnaissance north of the line from Elands River Station towards Wagen Drift (455), returned along the railway line to Middelburg to refit.

A few prisoners were captured during the course of these operations, but the results obtained were disappointing, as the enemy displayed their usual ingenuity in avoiding contact with our troops, and took full advantage of the opportunities of escape afforded by the wide extent of the country traversed.

North of the line Colonel Benson moved out from Dullstroom on the 9th July to follow General Viljoen's force. To his right about Klipbank Spruit (1443) was Colonel Park, who sought to co-operate by preventing the retreat of the enemy northwards towards Roos Senekal. The object of their search, General Viljoen's commando, was soon found at Middelkraal (60), to the north-west of Dullstroom, from which position it was driven by Colonel Benson, and pursued in a northerly direction by the 2nd Scottish Horse. Colonel Benson then turned west, and drove General Muller's men north-west from the neighbourhood of Witpoort (26). The following day he marched on Roos Senekal, but hearing, as he approached the place, that General Viljoen had gone west the previous night, and had crossed the Steelpoort River at Paardekloof (99), he detached the 18th Mounted Infantry in pursuit. This pursuit was well pressed, and 15 wagons were cut off and captured from the tail of the enemy's convoy.

On the 11th Colonel Benson moved on with his main body towards Paardekloof, detaching the 2nd Scottish Horse to make a wide detour, during which they successfully located and captured six prisoners, 40 horses, and 24 vehicles belonging to Viljoen's commando, which were hidden in a kloof of the Tantesberg. After replenishing his supplies from a convoy brought out from the railway to Blinkwater (44) by Brigadier-General Spens, Colonel Benson resumed his pursuit of General Viljoen, who was discovered on the 15th July at Laatstedrift (82), on the right bank of the Olifant's River. An engagement ensued, in which, after some close fighting, Colonel Benson turned both the enemy's flanks and drove them westwards into the thick bush across the river. Colonel Benson then returned to the railway line, having killed or wounded 17 Boers in the course of his operations, and captured 20 prisoners, 110 horses, 64 wagons, and a quantity of ammunition.

After handing over supplies to Colonel Benson at Blinkwater, Brigadier-General Spens moved on Middelburg, where he arrived on the 20th July. He had captured 11 prisoners and some