

wagons during his march at Klipplaat Drift (52), 16 miles north-east of Middelburg. Brigadier-General Spens was then transferred to the command of another column.

Major-General Beatson left Middelburg on the night of 7th July, and before dawn on the 8th had broken up Commandant Trichard's laager at Buffel's Kloof (198), 25 miles north of the town. After following up these men for some distance into the difficult country near the Olifant's River he returned to Middelburg.

On the 12th July General Beatson was ordered to proceed to Groot Olifant Station to operate from thence towards the junction of the Olifant and Wilge Rivers, in case General Viljoen should be driven west by Colonel Benson. He ascertained, however, that General Viljoen, after his reverse at Laatsdrift, had doubled back to the north-east into the hilly country on the right bank of the Olifant. General Beatson therefore moved south along the Wilge River to Bronkhorst Spruit Station, searching the kloofs of the valley on his way to the railway. This search was rewarded by the discovery of 25 wagons, containing ammunition and clothing.

After refitting their troops at Middelburg Major-General Kitchener and Colonel Campbell were again sent north in pursuit of General Viljoen, and on the 29th July General Kitchener was able to report from Blaauwbank (34) the gratifying news of a very successful engagement, in which the 19th Hussars, after a long chase, had recaptured one of the two pompoms taken from the Victorians on the 11th June. The 18th Hussars, who had followed the 19th in support, were also able to come up with the enemy and assist in the capture of 32 prisoners and 20 wagons all belonging to Viljoen's commando. In consequence of this defeat General Viljoen withdrew his force by Krokodil and Commissie Drifts to the north-west and north of the Olifant's River.

On the 3rd August a mounted party detached by Major-General Kitchener from his camp at Diepkloof (375), on the Kruis River, successfully surprised a small commando at Doornpoort (97). Two Boers were killed, 13 prisoners and several wagons were brought in.

Colonel Park returned to Lydenburg from the vicinity of Dullstroom, and after some minor operations near the former place, has recently moved into the country between Roos Senekal and the Tantesberg.

On the 29th July General Sir Bindon Blood left Wonderfontein with Colonel Benson's column for Carolina. During the march Colonel Benson, with his mounted troops, made a successful descent by night upon a Boer camp at Moolvley (56), 24 miles south-west of Carolina, in which he carried off 17 prisoners, 50 horses, and 10 wagons. A few days later another raid in the same neighbourhood placed in our hands 29 prisoners (including five of General Louis Botha's despatch riders), 70 horses, and five carts. Colonel Benson is still operating about Carolina.

#### Operations in the Standerton-Heidelberg District.

12. During the latter part of July Lieutenant-Colonel Colville operated from Greylingstad in the district north of the railway line between the Waterval River and Leeuwspruit. Here his troops were in almost daily contact with the commandos under Alberts, Mears, and Pretorius.

At the end of the month it was reported that the members of the Boer Government had

arrived at Watervalshoek (204), about 26 miles north of Greylingstad, and arrangements were made to concentrate three columns upon this spot with the least possible delay. Lieutenant-Colonels Colville and Stewart (Johannesburg Mounted Rifles) accordingly moved their troops on the 4th August to Rooipoort (15), 10 miles west of Bethal, and the same day a column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Bewicke-Copley, left Springs for Watervalshoek. From Rooipoort Colonel Stewart marched by the northern road through Driefontein and Saltpeter Krantz, whilst Colonel Colville followed the southern route to Watervalshoek. On approaching the point where the Waterval River and Klipspruit unite, Colonel Colville sighted a Boer convoy on the march. He at once gave chase, and after a pursuit of seven miles captured the entire convoy, which proved to be that belonging to General Alberts. The captures included 18 prisoners, 28 loaded wagons, 12 Cape carts, 55 horses, 1,400 cattle, and over 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

No trace of the Boer Government could be found at Watervalshoek. Never long in one place it had moved on, probably in a north-easterly direction, a day or two before the arrival of our troops. After the capture of this convoy, Colonels Colville and Stewart marched south-east towards Standerton, while Lieutenant-Colonel Bewicke-Copley turned north to follow up parties of the enemy into the valley of the Wilge River.

#### The Natal Frontier.

13. On the 28th July a force, consisting of 200 mounted men, under command of Major Henderson, 8th Hussars, while employed in scouring the country lying east of Nqutu was sharply engaged a few miles east of Nondweni. The enemy, about 400 strong, fought with great boldness and evident determination to intercept our troops, if possible, during their retirement. Our casualties during the fighting, which lasted all day, were one officer (Major Jervis-Edwards) and three men killed, and five wounded.

Patrols from Volksrust, Wakkerstroom, Utrecht, and Vryheid have made some useful captures of prisoners and stock in the country adjoining these towns.

#### Operations in Cape Colony.

14. The past month has been one of great activity for our troops in Cape Colony, and their efforts to expel the raiders have been rewarded with considerable success, in spite of the serious difficulties with which they have had to contend.

In the middle of July, General French organised a combined movement to dislodge the enemy from the Camdeboo Mountains, near Graaff Reinet. In this he was successful. Several Boers were killed or wounded, and 31, mostly Cape rebels, were captured.

On the 14th of the month the Connaught Rangers, under Major Moore, entrenched in a position at Zuurvlakte, between Aliwal North and Jamestown, had to withstand a determined attack by the combined commandos of Fouché and Myburg. The enemy pressed forward with great boldness, but were finally driven off at dusk after many hours' fighting, during which our casualties were seven men killed, three officers and 17 men wounded. Colonel Monro, who at once went in pursuit, engaged these men a few days later to the south-west of Jamestown, drove them north with loss, and forced them in their retreat upon the Con-