

east of Reddersburg. He pursued at once, and after a gallop of 7 miles effected the capture of 18 prisoners and 30 horses. The commando engaged consisted of 120 men, who fled in a north-easterly direction, followed by a detachment of Sir Henry Rawlinson's mounted troops, under Major Gosset, who took 5 other prisoners before abandoning the pursuit.

Sir Henry Rawlinson then returned to Edenburg to obtain supplies, and on 30th August again left the railway with the intention of crossing the Caledon River at Bastard's Drift and moving thence towards Zastron. At Bastard's Drift, on 1st September, he received intelligence that the Transvaalers were working towards the Orange River. He accordingly pushed on after them along the Basuto border, and hearing from native sources that parties of Boers were making their way west from Vechtkop to the Elandsberg, made a night march on the 7th towards the Koesberg. This placed him to the south of a number of the enemy, whom he drove north on the 8th from a position which they had taken up in the vicinity of the Elandsberg.

A commando, under Smuts, had, however, already passed towards the river, and, in spite of the close proximity of Colonel Thorneycroft's troops to the east of Rouxville, was successful on 4th September in crossing unobserved into Cape Colony at Kiba Drift. General Hart, with his mobile troops from Aliwal, was on this date at Diefontein Drift, and he was about to move still further to the east when the news of the enemy's passage of the river necessitated immediate pursuit in the direction of Ladygrey.

The operations against Kruitzinger, who is still in the Zastron district, continue, and Generals French and Hart have despatched troops eastward to follow those who have effected a crossing. Colonel Pilcher's column, recalled to Bethulie from the Caledon valley to reinforce General French, reached Burghersdorp on 7th September.

Major-General Bruce Hamilton's Operations in South-Western Orange River Colony.

3. With the exception of Major Damant's column, which was detached, as already shown to the east of the railway, Major-General Bruce Hamilton's troops have continued to operate in the south-western portion of the Orange River Colony, where several successes have been obtained against the commandos under the two Hertzogs, Lategan, and Nieuwhoudt.

The most important of these successes occurred near Vaalhoek at daybreak on 25th August, when, after a night march by Liebenberg's Pan, Slahtkraals and Uitkomst, Lieut.-Colonel Lowry Cole completely surprised a party of 80 Boers under Munnik Hertzog. The extent of the kloof in which their laager lay prevented Lieut.-Colonel Cole from surrounding it on all sides, but he secured a position at dawn which enabled him to capture 14 prisoners, 29 rifles, 54 saddles, 43 horses, and all the enemy's baggage, whilst the fugitives who escaped towards the Joostenberg were kept under artillery and musketry fire for fully 20 minutes.

The Operations of Brigadier-General Plumer and Colonel Henry in Southern Orange River Colony.

4. After fulfilling his rôle of blocking the exits to the west during Major-General Elliot's move from the Vaal to the Modder River, Brigadier-General Plumer returned on 11th August to Modder River Station, bringing in with him 32 prisoners, 346 horses, 566 cattle, 28 wagons, and 39 carts.

On 15th August he again left Modder River

Station, with instructions to operate between the Orange and Modder Rivers in an area bounded on the west by the Kimberley railway and on the east by a line drawn through Paardeberg Drift and Lückhoff. The force moved south in four small columns, Lieut.-Colonel Colvin's troops on the right passing through Doornhoek and Koedepan to Zoutpansdrift on the Orange River, and Lieut.-Colonel Sir J. Jervis on the left, through Koffyfontein and Lückhoff. Hardly a Boer was seen; the columns were only able to discover about 200 head of cattle in this deserted district, and by 21st August Brigadier-General Plumer had again concentrated his columns at Zoutpansdrift. From this point, on the 23rd August, he moved east along the right bank of the Orange River towards Springfontein-Norval's Pont line of railway, searching for any Boers who might be lurking in the kloofs of the Orange River valley, and watching for any party which might be driven out of Cape Colony by the pressure of General French's columns from the south. One such opportunity occurred. When near Tafelkop, a few miles south of Philippolis, General Plumer's mounted troops encountered a commando, under Lategan, which had been forced out of Cape Colony near Zand Drift, and had already been roughly handled, after crossing, by Lieut.-Colonel Byng. This party was hotly pursued in a north-easterly direction, and Brigadier-General Plumer was able to effect the capture of 8 prisoners, 4 rifles, 44 horses, and 11 vehicles.

Brigadier-General Plumer's force reached Prior's Siding and Springfontein on the night of 30th August, and left again immediately for the Smithfield district to assist Major-General C. Knox in his search for Kruitzinger. From Boshof Colonel Henry was directed to move to the Lückhoff district, and he has since been operating in that neighbourhood.

Major-General Elliot's Operations in Eastern Orange River Colony.

5. Major-General Elliot rested his troops at Glen from the 13th to the 18th of August. On the latter date he moved out to place his columns on a general line, Glen-Sannah's Post-Edybrand, preparatory to undertaking a sweep in a north-easterly direction, which was to terminate with a wheel on to the Wittebergen Mountains. It was hoped that this wheel would be the means of driving a number of Boers east towards the Brandwater basin, which had been occupied in anticipation by Major-General Campbell's column from Harrismith. On General Elliot's left, Lieut.-Colonel Barker and Major Pine-Coffin were to move out from Winburg and co-operate towards the Tabaksberg and Doornberg, whilst the troops of Brigadier-General Speus, Colonel Rimington, and Lieut.-Colonel Wilson were disposed in the Senekal district, with the object of intercepting any bodies of the enemy which might be driven north by the action of General Elliot's force. On 29th August General Elliot ordered his four columns to converge, by a night march, upon the Korannaberg, where Commandant Haasbruck was reported to be with 300 men. The Korannaberg was surrounded on three sides, the Mounted Infantry co-operating from Thabanchu and Ladybrand, whilst Colonel Barker and Major Pine-Coffin took up a position to cut off the enemy's probable retreat to the Doornberg. No signs of Haasbruck, however, could be seen, and the men of Colonel Lowe's Brigade, who scaled the heights on foot, found only some 20 Boers on the summit, two of whom were killed and one wounded.

On 22nd August a party of the Black Watch