

Mounted Infantry, detached from Ladybrand, to Modderpoort, to endeavour to drive any Boers found in that direction towards General Elliot's right front, was caught in unfavourable ground and captured by a commando said to be under De Wet. Our casualties were one man killed and one Officer and four men wounded, whilst the Boers who rushed the position had five men killed including Field Cornet Crowther.

The Division halted in the vicinity of the Koonaberg from 23rd August to 26th August awaiting the return of wagons sent in for supplies to Warringham's store and Winburg. These days were spent in thoroughly clearing the surrounding country.

On 23rd August, when at Maquatling's Nek on General Elliot's right, Brigadier-General Broadwood heard of the mishap to the Black Watch Mounted Infantry. He at once made a forced night march to their assistance, but arrived too late either to prevent the capture or to overtake the enemy.

Three days later the march towards the Wittebergen was resumed, Brigadier-General Broadwood passing through Clooclan on the right, and Lieut.-Colonel Barker and Major Pine-Coffin co-operating on the extreme left.

As the advance progressed it was reported that 1,000 Boers under Haasbruck, Froneman, Koen, and Hermanus Steyn had moved north from Wonderkop on the 26th on hearing of the approach of our troops. On the 30th General Elliot's columns arrived upon a line Retief's Nek-Commando Nek, and several days were employed in exploring the valleys and kloofs on the western slopes of the Wittebergen. A large number of horses, cattle, and wagons were found hidden in the valleys, and others were driven over the ridges in the direction of General Campbell's troops.

The division then commenced its march back to refill and refit at Winburg where it arrived on 5th and 6th September. Colonel Barker and Major Pine-Coffin remained in the vicinity of Slabbert's and Retief's Nek until 5th September and then followed General Elliot's force to Winburg.

During General Elliot's movement from Glen 13 Boers were killed and 11 were wounded, the captures being 21 prisoners, 4,257 horses, 9,580 cattle, 136 carts, and 69 wagons. These results were disappointing.

Lieutenant-General Sir L. Rundle's Operations in Eastern Orange River Colony.

6. Major-General Campbell's column which had left Harrismith on 8th August passed through Retief's Nek on the 14th, and took up a position in the Brandwater basin near Fouriesburg in anticipation of General Elliot's movement from Glen towards the Wittebergen. Colonel Harley's column was employed at the same time in escorting supplies from Harrismith to Bethlehem for the use of the garrison and any troops operating in the neighbourhood.

The results of General Elliot's movement did not, as already stated, fulfil my expectations, for it had been hoped that his march would have had the effect of driving a considerable number of Boers into the hands of General Campbell. As, however, nearly all the enemy escaped towards the north, General Campbell's opportunities were greatly limited, and his captures on the eastern slopes of the Wittebergen were confined to a few wagons, carts, and horses.

A third mobile column, which will work from Bethlehem as a centre, has just been organised at Harrismith. It will be under the command of Brigadier-General Sir John Dartnell, and will consist of the two regiments of Imperial Light

Horse, specially equipped with a view to securing increased mobility.

Operations of Brigadier-General Spens and Colonel Rimington in the Kroonstad District.

7. Brigadier-General Spens, who had moved south from Heilbron on 6th August, passed through Paardekraal on the 10th, and arrived at Kroonstad two days later, bringing in with him 12 prisoners, 900 cattle, 30 carts, 2 wagons, and 186 horses, which had been captured during the march by his Mounted Infantry, under Major Gough.

General Spens again left Kroonstad on 16th August, moving east along the right bank of the Valsch River to a farm north of Welvert. From this point, on the same night, the whole of his mounted troops, under Lieut.-Colonel Jenner and Major Gough, with four Royal Horse Artillery guns, made a forced march of 35 miles, and surrounded the town of Lindley before daylight on the 17th. The place was, however, found to be deserted, and on the 18th the mounted troops rejoined Brigadier-General Spens, at Paardeplaats, 6 miles north-west of Lindley.

On 20th August, General Spens marched through the country north of the Lindley-Reitz road as far as Lovedale, his Mounted Infantry working well out on both flanks of his line of march. He reached Stryfontein on the 21st, and the same evening despatched Lieut.-Colonel Jenner and Major Gough to make a night march upon Sterkfontein and Kraaipunt, two farms on the Lindley-Bethlehem road, to surprise a party of 75 Boers, who had been reported in that neighbourhood. The morning light, however, was bad, and the Boers, warned of our approach, managed to escape under fire up the valley of the Valsch River. General Spens then pursued his march by Winkfontein and Sidbury (a few miles south of Lindley) to Uitkyk and Olievenfontein on the Lindley-Kroonstad road. At Olievenfontein his left flank guard became hotly engaged with a party of 200 Boers, who came to close quarters, and were only driven off after a sharp fight. In this affair Lieutenant Wallis, Royal Irish Fusiliers, and 2 men were killed and 13 of our men were wounded. The force reached Mariba, close to Kroonstad, on the 29th August.

Colonel Rimington's light column, which has also been employed in this part of the Orange River Colony, marched out of Kroonstad on 13th August, and on the 15th, near Doornkloof, 17 miles north-west of Lindley, captured a small convoy belonging to Field Cornet Reeves. On the 17th, Colonel Rimington moved to Vechtkop, where he found 200 Boers collected under Naude, Mentz, and Boshoff, whom he chased for about 8 miles in a south-easterly direction. His next objective was Trommel, near Reitz. Here on the morning of the 21st August, he successfully surprised a small laager and captured 16 prisoners, 10 wagons laden with provisions, 6 Cape carts, 20 horses, and 600 cattle. His force then marched back to Kroonstad, which was reached on 28th August.

Two days later, Colonel Rimington again left Kroonstad to operate in the direction of Senekal in connection with the advance to the Wittebergen, which had had the anticipated effect of forcing a number of Boers to move north out of General Elliot's line of march into the Senekal district. Colonel Rimington was followed on 1st September, by the columns under Brigadier-General Spens and Colonel Wilson, which also moved south upon his right flank to endeavour to intercept such parties of the enemy. On 31st August, Colonel Rimington encountered small commandos,