

under De Vos and Latégan, which were chased and dispersed with a loss to themselves of 8 wagons, 4 carts, and a number of cattle. On approaching Senekal, Colonel Rimington sighted another Boer convoy, which was captured after a hard chase of 10 miles to the south of the town; 4 Boers were killed and 10 prisoners, 61 loaded wagons, 25 carts, and over 2,000 cattle with some horses and mules were taken; our own casualties being 4 men wounded. On 3rd September, Colonel Rimington reconnoitred towards Blitzberg, and on the 6th returned to Kroonstad with his captives. He left again yesterday to search some likely localities to the south and east of Heilbron.

Lieut.-Colonel Wilson, whose troops co-operated on the right of the other two columns, marched back to Kroonstad on 8th September. He reports that on 1st September, when near Zuurfontein on the Kroonstad-Senekal road, he was engaged with some of De Vos's men, and that on the 4th he encountered Haasbruck's commando half-way between Senekal and Ventersburg; 7 Boers were killed and 3 prisoners, 2,000 cattle, 15 loaded wagons, 18 empty ones, and 22 carts were captured.

The central column, under General Spens, which moved direct upon Senekal is also returning towards Kroonstad, having met with some success; 5 Boers have been killed, 3 have voluntarily surrendered, and 11 prisoners, 34 Cape carts, and 1,800 cattle have been captured.

#### Lieutenant-Colonel Garratt's Operations.

8. On 8th August, Lieut.-Colonel Garratt, who had followed in rear of Major-General Elliot's movement to the Modder River, was near the junction of the Vet and Zand Rivers. On the 9th he marched to Bultfontein, where 2 Boers were killed and several wagons taken, and on the 12th captured 2 prisoners and 250 cattle in a pursuit which took him to the right bank of the Zand River. He then turned north to Honing Spruit from which point, on 18th August he detached 300 mounted men and 30 Burgher Police, under Lieut.-Colonel Hon. H. White, upon a night march to the junction of the Khenoster and Honing Spruit. This force at dawn on the 19th completely surprised Spanneberg's laager, killed 1 Boer, and captured 25 prisoners, 31 rifles, 8 Cape carts, 4 wagons, 70 horses, 8 mules, and some cattle. Amongst the prisoners was Mr. Steyn, late Landdrost of Vredefort. During this successful movement, which was accomplished without any loss, our troops covered 56 miles in 36 hours.

On 21st August, Lieut.-Colonel Garratt recrossed the Vaal at Lindique Drift, and on the 23rd his mounted troops made a night march to the southern slopes of the Losberg in the hopes of surprising any parties of the enemy which happened to be in the neighbourhood. The effort was not unrewarded, for at daylight on the 24th, a small convoy, guarded by 50 Boers, was detected moving towards Buffelshoek (629). It was at once pursued, and 8 prisoners, 8 wagons, 8 Cape carts, 63 trek oxen, 162 other cattle, and 16 horses fell into the hands of our troops. Three Boers were left dead on the ground. At noon the same day a determined effort to retake the convoy was made by 300 Boers, who came from the southern side of the Gatsrand, and it was not till 5 p.m. that they were beaten off and driven in the direction of the Vaal. Our casualties in this engagement were 1 officer and 1 man killed, and 2 men wounded.

From 26th to 31st August Lieut.-Colonel Garratt remained near the Losberg, covering the establishment of posts by the South African Constabulary. Whilst employed on this duty on

28th August, he executed a night march in two columns from the Losberg to Leeuwoort (526) and was once again successful in capturing 13 prisoners (including Piet Delarey, a nephew of General Delarey), 40 horses, 12 mules, 40 cattle, and some rifles and ammunition. Having completed his work in this district, Lieut.-Colonel Garratt marched into Meyerton on 2nd September, and on the 5th entrained at Vereeniging for Paardekop Station on the Standerton line. This movement was consequent on the report of a Boer gathering at Blauwkoop, on the Vaal to the east of Ermelo, which, taken in conjunction with other intelligence, seems to point to the possibility of hostile action in the direction of the Natal border. Lieut.-Colonel Garratt was directed to move out from Paardekop on 8th September and to work towards Wakkerstroom.

#### Operations in the Magaliesberg District.

9. The military situation in the district south of Magaliesberg has much improved during the past month, and there is at the present moment scarcely a Boer to be found in the area bounded on the north by the Magaliesberg, on the south by the Vaal, on the east by the Pretoria line, and on the west by the Frederikstad-Breedt's Nek line of blockhouses. This satisfactory state of affairs has been due to the gradual extension of the system of Constabulary posts over this district, and to the recent work of the columns under Major-General Barton, Colonels Kekewich and Allenby, and Lieut.-Colonel Lord Basing, which has been very thorough in every way.

After the occupation of Breedt's Nek on 7th August, Colonels Allenby and Kekewich, with some assistance from Major-General Barton's troops, moved further to the east against Damhoek and Pampoen's Kraal passes, which were both successfully occupied. At the latter place they completely hemmed in and captured the whole of a party of 40 Boers, who included among their number Mr. F. Wolmarans, chairman of the late Volksraad. The majority of these prisoners, who were fully equipped with rifles, horses, and saddlery, were taken by the Volunteer Service Company of the King's Own Scottish Borderers under Major Mayne. Between 10th August and 12th August Colonel Allenby continued his search of the southern slopes of the Magaliesberg between Nooitgedacht and Grobelaar's Pass, a search which enabled him to discover and bring in 9 prisoners, 14 rifles, 20 wagons, 7 carts, and a quantity of dynamite.

On completion of these operations, which had resulted in the entire evacuation of the Magaliesberg by the enemy, Colonels Kekewich and Allenby moved to Commando Nek for supplies, whilst Major-General Barton made good their work by the establishment of a chain of posts from Breedt's Nek eastwards along the crests of the hills.

On 19th August Colonels Kekewich and Allenby again left Commando Nek for Zwartkopies (132) to follow up the Boers who had retired north from the Magaliesberg. After slight opposition Zwartkopies was occupied the following day by Colonel Allenby, who drove the enemy in the direction of Kameel Drift. Colonel Kekewich moved to Zoutpan Drift, and, searching from there the bed of the Crocodile River, effected the capture of 14 prisoners with their horses. On 23rd August Colonel Kekewich was at the junction of the Crocodile and Elands Rivers, Colonel Allenby being at Beestekraal (296) where 29 burghers tendered their voluntary surrender to him. On 25th August a further surrender of 16 burghers (including T. Kruger, a nephew of the ex-President) was made to Colonel Kekewich. As the enemy, however,