

discussion followed, which resulted in the appointment of a Special Commission, consisting of Commandant-Generals Louis Botha and C. de Wet, and Generals Delarey, Smuts, and Hertzog, who, as representing the whole body of delegates, were empowered on the 18th May to proceed to Pretoria to enter into negotiations with his Excellency the High Commissioner and myself, and to endeavour to draw up articles of agreement which could be submitted to the assembly of burghers for ratification.

The period between the 19th and the 28th May was spent in discussion of the various points raised by the Commission, and in an interchange of views by cable with His Majesty's Government; but on the latter date the members of the Commission were able to return to Vereeniging and to submit the articles of agreement for approval to a full meeting of the assembled delegates, who, on the 31st May, finally accepted the terms granted to them by His Majesty's Government.

The same evening the members of the Special Commission returned to Pretoria, and at 10.30 P.M. peace was formally concluded by the signature of the articles of settlement accepted by the burgher representatives.

The protracted struggle which has for so long caused suffering to South Africa has therefore at length terminated, and I should fail to do justice to my own feelings if, at this moment, I neglected to bear testimony to the patience, tenacity, and

heroism which has been displayed by all ranks of His Majesty's forces, Imperial and Colonial, during the whole course of the war. Nothing but the qualities of bravery and endurance in our troops could have overcome the great difficulties of this campaign, or have finally enabled the Empire to reap the fruits of all its sacrifices.

It is satisfactory to feel that the war, already prolonged beyond all reasonable justification, has terminated without the exasperation that must certainly have resulted from a further prolongation of a useless guerilla struggle, and I feel that a tribute of respect is due to those of the Boer leaders who, facing privation and danger, at the head of their commandoes up to the very last moment, have at length been manly enough to bow to the inevitable, and far-seeing enough to accept the generous terms accorded by His Majesty's Government.

The fact that a spirit of conciliation has marked the concluding phase of the negotiations may well induce a hope that the agreement just signed will lead at an early date to a final reconciliation between the British and Dutch races in South Africa.

10. I beg to bring to notice the good service of the Officers, non-commissioned officers and men, named in the accompanying lists.

I have, &c.,

KITCHENER, General,
Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa.

LIST OF OFFICERS MENTIONED.

Corps, rank and name.	Particulars.	Remarks.
FRONTIER LIGHT HORSE.		
Lieutenant G. Brabant .. Lieutenant L. Francis ..	On 11th March, 1902, at Libertas, Cape Colony, led a small body of men in rear of a position held by 250 enemy, and getting close up unperceived, killed Commandant Odendal and 2 Boers, wounded 2 others, and forced the enemy to retire with loss of 21 horses.	
1ST BN. LEINSTER REGIMENT.		
Captain B. J. Jones	For good work in preventing Boers from crossing a blockhouse line on 11th February, 1902, in Brandwater Basin, when he captured 120 head of cattle under heavy fire.	
78TH BATTERY, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.		
Lieutenant H. G. Howell .. .	For good work in getting his guns forward over most difficult ground in the action against Delarey on 24th March, 1902.	
SCOTTISH HORSE.		
Captain C. E. Rice	For gallantry in action on same occasion.	
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.		
Captain A. R. G. Begbie (killed)	For very marked gallantry in action on 24th February, 1902.	