

APPENDICES.

From Major-General B. Hamilton to the Chief of the Staff, Pretoria.

Johannesburg,
19th June, 1902.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that, in accordance with instructions, I have received the surrender of the Boer Commandos in the Eastern Transvaal.

2. I arranged with Commandant-General Botha that he should personally visit the Heidelberg, Standerton, Ermelo, Wakkerstroom, and Vryheid Districts, and that I should accompany him, and I deputed Officers to visit the remaining districts, as stated below:—

Captain Bradford, D.A.A.G., to accompany General Muller in the district north of the Delagoa Bay Railway.
Major Pratt, Durham Light Infantry, to accompany General Grobler to Carolina.
Captain Neish, Gordon Highlanders, to accompany General Beyers to Pietersburg and Nylstroom.

I attach the reports of these Officers.

3. Commandant-General Botha joined me at Elandsfontein on the 5th instant, and we proceeded to Kraal Station near Heidelberg. General Botha then went out to meet the Commandos at a farm 3 miles away, which he had appointed as a rendezvous, and in the meantime arrangements were made for the reception of the burghers on their arrival at Kraal; a hot meal was provided and rations were ready for issue to those who required them.

General Botha brought the men in about 1 p.m., and I addressed them, welcoming them as Subjects of King Edward, and telling them that the fact of their surrendering their arms would be taken as an acknowledgment of King Edward VII. as their lawful Sovereign. Nominal rolls of all burghers were then made out, and, with the exception of the officers who were granted permits to retain their rifles, they filed past Officers appointed for the purpose and laid down their arms.

4. I went on to Standerton that night, and the following day proceeded to Leeuwspruit (10 miles east), where I received further surrenders. The procedure on this and subsequent occasions was the same as that pursued at Kraal Station. In each case General Botha first addressed the men. I followed him, and the lists were made out, permits given, and arms laid down.

I visited in succession the following places:—

Winkelhaak (12 miles north of Ermelo) ..	..	7th June.
Ermelo .. .. .	..	9th June.
Wakkerstroom .. .. .	..	12th June.
Knight's Farm (near Utrecht) .. .. .	..	13th June.
Vryheid .. .. .	..	16th June.

5. The total number of burghers who surrendered to me or to Officers deputed by me was 6,210. I believe this number to represent practically the whole of the Boers remaining in the Transvaal east of the line Pietersburg—Pretoria—Vereeniging.

The manner of the men on their surrender was all that could be desired. If they did not display enthusiasm, they certainly appeared quite ready to lay down their arms, and to accept the terms which had been arranged by their leaders. The feeling appeared to be that they had made a good fight, and that now was the time when the war should be ended, and their general desire was to get back to their farms as quickly as possible, and to begin the work of rebuilding and restocking them. There is no doubt that the quiet and unostentatious way in which the surrenders were conducted, and the general arrangements for their comfort gave universal satisfaction, and I am quite sure that there is no feeling of hostility on the part of the Boers against the British Army, with whom they have, for so long a time, been fighting.

6. I am strongly of opinion that it is most desirable that, for the present at all events, the services of some of the Boer Field-Cornets should be utilized in their districts. The Boers have always been accustomed to look to these officials as the representatives of the Government, and to go to them for advice on innumerable petty personal matters. It is a position much so sought after by the farmers, and the occupants of it have always been the best men. By retaining them in their post much friction and possible difficulty would be guarded against. There are many questions between the Government and the Boers which will now have to be settled, and the decisions of Government should be communicated to them by those who know how to deal with them, otherwise difficulty will very probably arise. I am quite satisfied that the Boers will be easy to manage by people whom they know and understand, and the new magistrates, however