

9. As Van Tonder's Commando of Zwartengen and Eland's River men had been unable to reach the meeting, I left Major Montgomery, D.S.O., to receive their surrender on the following day, when 453 men handed in 382 rifles.

10. On 10th June I met the Marico Commando at Waterkloof. These formed part of the command of fighting General Celliers. The procedure followed was practically the same as before, but the men were formed up 2 deep on three sides of a square, men standing correctly to "Attention" when addressed. There were a score of women at this meeting, who all expressed themselves as delighted at the ending of the war.

11. Here 765 men gave up 825 rifles, and 374 licenses were issued—41 to officers and 333 to border farmers selected by General Celliers.

12. The Marico district in which these meetings were held has suffered very little from the war. The farmsteads in their orange groves generally boasting of poultry, cattle, and wagons, and there was no sign of any shortage of necessary food. The men were in rags, but in fine condition—well-grown men in the prime of life, with a small sprinkling of grey beards, and lads. The women were all quite neatly turned out.

13. We now left the low county, and, passing through Lichtenburg, met the Lichtenburg Commando on the 12th June at Goedgedacht (112), on the Klein Harts River. These were General Celliers' best fighting men, almost all men in the prime of life and of a most workmanlike appearance. They handed in almost universally Lee-Metford rifles, and were dressed in our men's uniforms. It was clear that, in making their submission, these men were conforming to the sense of discipline conspicuous throughout the commando.

14. It appears to me that this is essentially a district where care should be taken in the selection of the Executive Administrative Officer. He should be an Englishman of strong character, capable of assembling his burghers, and speaking straight to the point. I feel sure absolute impartiality and a strong character will be of more value than aptitude in Dutch or local experience.

15. At every meeting the burghers begged me to submit their earnest request that they may not be put under the magistracy of one of their countrymen who has fought against them. In my opinion, they honestly intend to become good subjects, but they foresee bitterness on both sides if their political differences during the war are emphasised by making one side rulers over the other. From the experience I gained by mixing with the people at the meetings, and from having three Generals and their staffs in our mess for a week, I am convinced it will be found a cheap policy to put high class Englishmen to run these districts for the first few years.

16. Of the Lichtenburg Commando 501 men handed in 500 rifles, and 18 licenses were issued to officers.

17. General Celliers, who is not a man of this district, and appeared to have few local sympathies, is a man of strong character and iron nerve, young and ambitious. If given a position and prospects in our service he could, in my opinion, be depended upon for loyalty and good work.

18. The southern districts dealt with by Colonels Kekewich and Rochfort were even more demonstrative in their appreciation of the Peace than the Northern Commandos, which is to be expected when taken into account their losses from the war.

19. Total surrenders were:—

Men.	Rifles.	Small-arm ammunition.	Pompom ammunition.
4,956	4,718	102,698	144

One 15-pr. gun and one Maxim.

20. In conclusion, I would bring to the Commander-in-Chief's notice the loyal assistance throughout, which I received from Assistant Commandant-General Delarey. I would also beg to bring to his notice the assistance I received from—

Colonel Kekewich, C.B.

Colonel Rochfort.

Major Montgomery, D.S.O.

I have, &c.,

WALTER KITCHENER, Major-General,
Commanding Western Transvaal.