

in the margin* concentrated at Bastard's Nek under my command. The Cavalry was under General Brabazon; the Infantry under Colonel Stevenson, Essex Regiment.

To distract the enemy's attention, it was ordered that demonstrations were to be made all along our position.

My intention was to bring a cross fire of Artillery to bear upon the enemy's position, under cover of which the Infantry were to advance along the ridges to draw him out and make him show his strength, without committing themselves to a serious attack.

The Cavalry and Mounted Infantry were to push on towards the north, turn the position, and seize (with Mounted Infantry) a position to the east of that occupied by the enemy.

The Cavalry were also charged with the task of warding off any attack from the direction of Colesberg-road Bridge.

The Cavalry, Royal Horse Artillery, and Mounted Infantry moved out as ordered. The Artillery got into action in a good position, and with the field battery, which was posted at the northern foot of the main range, brought an effective cross fire to bear on a kopje where several groups of men and horses had been observed. This drew artillery fire from two of the enemy's guns, and it was found that the position was strongly occupied.

The Cavalry and Mounted Infantry attempted the turning movement as directed, but were checked by a movement of the enemy from the north, and another by a detachment sent from the Rietfontein position to oppose them. This latter movement by the enemy was greatly assisted by a deep gorge or ravine running north and south through the range in which the enemy's position lies. The interference from both points was overcome and driven back, but too late in the day to make the turning movement effective.

The Infantry had gradually advanced along the ridges and drawn out considerable numbers of the enemy, but the positions gained by Colonel Stevenson were so good as to give some promise of a success in a general attack. As, however, this must have entailed considerable loss, unassisted by the turning movement of the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, I considered I was not justified by the instructions I had received from the Commander-in-Chief in embarking on such an enterprise. At 4 P.M. I ordered a general retirement, which was thoroughly well carried out.

The reconnaissance was of considerable value, inasmuch as it enabled me to gain a thorough insight into the nature of the positions occupied by the enemy, not only at this particular point, but those between the range and Colesberg (viz., "200 yards Hill" and "Grassey Hill"), the rear faces of which were plainly visible from the advanced positions held by our Infantry. I am sure the knowledge thus gained would have proved most useful had the general plan of campaign permitted of my continuing these offensive operations in this district.

The demonstration made by Major-General Clements on the right of our position was vigorous and effective. Having brought Colonel Porter's troops up into line with Major Rimington, he was able to shell the enemy out of a strong position called "Uleintoren Hill," driving him back close on the railway. The casualties incurred were

comparatively slight, and were forwarded to you in detail by telegraph.

In accordance with the instructions received at Cape Town from the Commander-in-Chief, I am now making the arrangements ordered.

I cannot close this despatch without recording my earnest appreciation of the discipline, courage, and endurance displayed by Officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the force under my command throughout the operations in this district. These have been almost continuous throughout a period of nearly three months; during this time the troops have suffered exposure, severe fatigue, and privation, and have been in constant contact with an enemy whose adroit skill in war demands the most untiring vigilance. The troops have met these demands upon them with a gallantry and zeal which I cannot too highly acknowledge.

In conclusion, I have the honour to bring to the notice of the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the names of the following Officers:—

Major-General J. P. Brabazon, C.B., and Major-General R. A. P. Clements, D.S.O., commanding on the right and left flanks respectively, have rendered me much assistance, and I am anxious to acknowledge their valuable services.

Colonel T. C. Porter, 6th Dragoon Guards, has frequently been employed as a Brigadier and in command of advanced posts. He has always carried out the task allotted to him with much skill, zeal, and indefatigable energy.

Major G. Carter, 1st Life Guards, Major F. S. Garratt, 6th Dragoon Guards, and Major E. H. H. Allenby, 6th Dragoons, have all at various times shown considerable skill and resolution as Squadron Commanders in the field and have done valuable service.

Major M. F. Rimington (6th Dragoons), employed in command of a Corps of Guides, has rendered me much assistance since he has been attached to this command.

Major Sir J. H. Jervis-White-Jervis, Bart., Royal Horse Artillery, and Major B. Burton, Royal Horse Artillery, deserve the highest credit for the manner in which they have worked their batteries throughout these operations. In face, very often, of a most galling fire from the enemy's well-concealed and protected artillery positions, these Officers have uniformly maintained an excellent practice with most telling effect on the enemy.

Major A. E. A. Butcher, who joined with his battery of Field Artillery soon after the bombardment of Colesberg was commenced, with great energy and perseverance succeeded in placing two field guns on the top of a steep hill called Coles Kop, 800 feet high, and from this commanding position has inflicted great damage and loss on the enemy.

Lieutenants E. F. Talbot-Ponsonby, J. W. F. Lamont, J. B. Aldridge, and W. G. Thompson, Royal Horse Artillery (wounded and a prisoner), deserve mention for signal services they have performed with their guns.

Brevet Major A. G. Hunter-Weston, Royal Engineers, has commanded the field equipment, Royal Engineers, attached to the Cavalry Division, and has acted as Commander Royal Engineer to this force. I am much indebted to him for many services performed, not the least of which has consisted in his maintaining a perfect system of telegraphic and telephonic communication throughout the force on a front of 38 miles, close to positions occupied by the enemy, and including the look-out post on Coles Kop. In these duties he has received able assistance from Captain C. O. C. Bowen, Royal Engineers; Lieutenant C.

* 1. Battery, Royal Horse Artillery; 6th Dragoons, 10th Hussars. Major-General Brabazon, C.B. Mounted Infantry. 4 companies, Yorkshire Regiment; 4 companies, Essex Regiment; Wiltshire Regiment. 1 Field Battery.