

quarters to Jacobsdal, replenished my supplies from Honey Nest Kloof and the Modder camp, and established telegraphic communication between the latter place and Jacobsdal. The Cavalry Division has been following up the enemy to the north of Kimberley, and the 6th Division, which has marched to the east of Klip Drift, has been similarly occupied. By midday I received information from Lord Methuen that the Magersfontein entrenchments had been abandoned, and the latest reports point to a general retreat of the Boers in the direction of Bloemfontein. It is my intention to follow them up as rapidly as possible, and by taking full advantage of the shock which they have sustained, to break up their organization as a fighting force. Lord Methuen has been ordered to proceed to Kimberley, after restoring the railway line, for the purpose of putting affairs into order, arranging for the military control of the town and district, and taking steps to re-open communication with Mafeking.

In conclusion I may mention a few matters of minor importance which have been dealt with during the last 10 days.

On my way from Cape Town to the Modder

River I inspected the field hospitals at De Aar and Orange River, and finding the accommodation inadequate gave orders for its being enlarged, and for more nurses' quarters being provided. I also arranged that additional nurses should be posted to these hospitals.

To meet medical requirements I have applied to your Lordship for the personnel needed to establish another general hospital in the vicinity of Cape Town.

One of the most pressing needs in South African warfare is the supply of a sufficient quantity of drinking water to the troops when marching, especially in the daytime, the climate being an extremely dry one and the sun's heat very trying. The number of water-carts at present available is inadequate. Moreover, these carts cannot follow the troops over stony or broken ground, and I have, therefore, asked for 2,000 bheesties, with a due proportion of mussels and pakhals to be sent here from India.

I have, &c.,

ROBERTS, Field-Marshal,
Commanding-in-Chief,
South Africa.