

March towards Houwwater in insufficient strength. The enemy were reinforced and brought up several guns, the result being that our troops were obliged to retire to Britstown with the loss of 1 officer and 4 men of the Warwickshire Mounted Infantry wounded, and 3 missing, and of 7 men of the City Imperial Volunteers wounded, and 6 missing. To ensure the operations being vigorously conducted in the western districts, I desired Major-General Lord Kitchener to proceed to De Aar on 8th March with the object of collecting reinforcements, and of taking such steps as might be necessary to punish the rebels and prevent the spread of disaffection.

The only other event to be recorded is the occupation of Boshof, about 30 miles to the north-east of Kimberley, which was effected on the 12th March by Lieutenant-General Lord Methuen, without any opposition being met with.

I am at present halting for a few days at Bloemfontein in order to give the troops, horses, and transport animals a much-needed rest, to bring up remounts and fresh mules and oxen, to repair wagons which have broken down, to replace worn-out boots and clothing, and to collect supplies and ammunition for a further advance.

I have, &c.,
ROBERTS, Field-Marshal,
 Commanding in Chief,
 South Africa.

No. 5.

From Field-Marshal Lord Roberts to the
 Secretary of State for War.

SIR, War Office, 31 March, 1900.

IN the foregoing despatches, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, dated respectively 6th February, 16th February, 28th February, and 15th March, 1900, I have drawn attention to the conduct of the troops during the operations therein described.

I would here like to mention the distinguished part played by the Royal Canadian Regiment in its advance on the enemy's trenches on 27th February, and referred to by me in my despatch No. 3 of 28th February, 1900.

No account of the recent operations would, however, be complete, were I to omit to draw special attention to the good services performed by the splendid and highly efficient body of troops from other parts of Her Majesty's Empire which have, while serving under my orders, borne a distinguished share in the advance into the Orange Free State. The various contingents from Australia, from New Zealand, and from Ceylon, the several corps which have been formed locally in the Cape Colony, and the City of London Imperial Volunteers have vied one with the other in the performance of their duty. They have shared with the regular troops of Her Majesty's Army the hardships and dangers of the campaign in a manner which have gained for them the respect and admiration of all who have been associated with them. I trust that your Lordship will concur with me in considering that by their valour and endurance the soldiers and sailors serving in the force which is under my immediate command have worthily upheld the best traditions of Her Majesty's Army and Navy.

It is now my pleasing duty to bring to your Lordship's notice the names of the following Officers, non-commissioned officers and men, on account of the services they have rendered during the recent operations:—

Major-General H. H. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., R.E., has filled the important post of Chief of the Staff, and I am greatly indebted to him for his counsel and cordial support on all occasions.

I consider he has rendered invaluable service to the State in his onerous and responsible position.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. Cowan, R.A., has filled the post of Military Secretary. In that important position he has done most excellent work. He is able, painstaking and methodical, and is possessed of sound judgment. I could not wish for a more useful Military Secretary.

Colonel N. F. Fitz G. Chamberlain, Indian Staff Corps, Private Secretary, gives me entire satisfaction. His work is constant and he carries it on with zeal and intelligence. I cannot speak too highly of the assistance afforded me by Colonel Chamberlain.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Byron, Royal Australian Artillery, Aide-de-Camp.

Major S. Denison, The Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, Aide-de-Camp.

Captain H. Watermeyer, Cape Town Highlanders, Aide-de-Camp.

Colonel H. R. Viscount Downe, C.I.E., was deputed to accompany the Military Attachés representing Foreign Powers, and has discharged his duties with tact and discretion.

Major-General G. T. Pretymann, C.B., R.A., acted as Head-quarters Commandant to my entire satisfaction. I selected him to take charge of General Cronjé on the journey to Cape Town, and on my arrival here I appointed him to the responsible post of Military Governor of Bloemfontein.

Lieutenant-Colonel (local Colonel) G. F. R. Henderson, York and Lancaster Regiment, Director of Military Intelligence, reorganised the Intelligence Department, and gave me valuable and reliable information regarding the physical features of the country and the dispositions of the enemy.

Captain (Brevet Major and local Lieutenant-Colonel) C. J. Mackenzie, Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's). On Colonel Henderson being invalided he was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Mackenzie, who afforded me material assistance by the accurate and valuable reports he submitted. Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie has drawn special attention to the good service rendered in the Intelligence Branch by Major C. V. Hume, Royal Artillery.

Major-General W. F. Kelly, C.B., Deputy Adjutant-General, has afforded me very great assistance in the responsible position he has filled, and the vigilance and energy he has shown in the performance of his duties have been most marked.

Major (local Lieutenant-Colonel) H. I. W. Hamilton, D.S.O., Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General.

Captain (Brevet-Major) R. M. Poore, 7th Hussars, Provost-Marshal, has exercised his responsible duties, whether as regards the care of prisoners, or in maintaining order in camp and on the line of march, in a most satisfactory manner.

Colonel (local Major-General) G. H. Marshall, Royal Artillery, Commanding Royal Artillery, has been untiring in his supervision