

was collected there on the 7th June. On the 8th he started via Ventersdorp for Potchefstroom, in order to get into railway communication with Klerksdorp and Johannesburg.

34. In the western districts of Cape Colony Lieutenant-General Warren and Colonel Adye have operated against the rebels with considerable success. On the 21st May Warren surprised the enemy at Douglas, capturing their wagons, tents, and cattle. The Boers retreated northwards. On the 30th May Adye had an engagement near Khees in the Prieska district, our casualties being 1 Officer and 3 men killed and 4 Officers and 16 men wounded. On this occasion over 5,800 head of cattle and sheep were captured with large number of wagons and tents and much personal property. On the 3rd June Warren advanced against the enemy at Campbell and dispersed them. He reported the Herbert district to be then clear of rebels and that he proposed shortly to occupy Griquatown.

35. In the Orange River Colony bands of marauders were reported by the Military Governor to be raiding the country in the vicinity of Abraham's Kraal, and on the 13th May I despatched Lieutenant-General Kelly - Kenny to despatch three companies of Imperial Yeomanry from Bloemfontein with the object of dispersing them, and at the same time of repairing the telegraph line between Bloemfontein and Boshof. This duty was satisfactorily performed, the Yeomanry detachment returning to Bloemfontein on the 22nd May, after having quieted the disturbed district and collected nearly 100 rifles and 2,000 rounds of ammunition. Up to the 24th May 400 Burghers had surrendered to the Officer Commanding at Boshof, including Commandant Duplessis and Field-Cornets Botha and H. J. Duplessis.

36. During the period dealt with in this letter an important advance has been made by the troops in Natal. Between the 10th and 13th May the force under General Sir Redvers Buller's command moved by Sunday's River Drift to Waschbank Station, the enemy retiring to the nek in front of Helpmakaar. On the night of the 13th, Helpmakaar was evacuated, and on the 15th our troops occupied Glencoe and Dundee, the Boers falling back on Laing's Nek. The Cavalry reached Newcastle on the 17th and Sir Redvers Buller with the 3rd Division entered the town the next day. The railway was found to be much damaged and it was necessary to repair it before attempting to cross the Drakensberg. The delay thus caused enabled the enemy to concentrate in greater strength at Laing's Nek and in front of the Botha and other passes, and local commandoes were reported to be threatening the railway line from the east. Sir Redvers Buller decided first to clear his right flank and on the 27th May he despatched a column to Utrecht. On the 29th, Utrecht surrendered to Lieutenant-General Hildyard, while Lieutenant-General the Honourable Neville Lyttelton was marching on Vrheid, which also surrendered a couple of days later. Railway communication was restored to Newcastle on the 29th May. On the 4th June Sir Redvers Buller reported that he would be ready to force Laing's Nek by a turning movement on the 6th and that the enemy, though probably 4,000 to 5,000 strong with a considerable number of guns, were much disheartened.

37. While deprecating a direct attack which might entail heavy loss of life, I suggested that enough men should be left to occupy the enemy's attention at Laing's Nek and that with the rest of his force Sir Redvers Buller should

move rapidly through Botha's or some neighbouring pass, thus obliging the enemy to withdraw from their strong position at the Nek. On the 8th June Sir Redvers Buller attacked and defeated the Boers at Botha's Pass, and moving northwards again came in touch with them on the 10th at Gansvlei. The enemy were driven back along the ridge, which they held till dusk. During the night they withdrew to a range of hills six miles north-east of Gansvlei, through which the Volksrust road passes at a point called Allemann's Nek. On the 11th June Sir Redvers Buller advanced against this position, and, after some severe fighting, the brunt of which fell on the 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment, seized Allemann's Nek and occupied the crest of the hills, the Boers retreating all along the line. The 3rd Cavalry Brigade was also heavily engaged on the right flank. Our casualties amounted altogether to 142 killed and wounded. The same night the Boers evacuated Laing's Nek and Majuba, Sir Redvers Buller establishing his head-quarters at Joubert's Farm, four miles north of Volksrust.

37. To the north of the Transvaal some delay has occurred in concentrating General Carrington's force owing to the small carrying capacity of the railway from Beira to Marandellas; but the congestion of traffic has lately been relieved and the greater part of the troops have reached Mafeking, where their co-operation will be very valuable.

38. In conclusion, I desire to record my high opinion of the conduct and endurance of the troops during the operations summarized in this letter. Their powers of marching and their gallantry when engaged with the enemy were equally admirable; and it is particularly gratifying to me to bring to notice the services rendered by the Colonial Corps, the Imperial Yeomanry and the City Imperial and other Volunteers, who have proved themselves most efficient soldiers. My acknowledgments are also due to the Militia Battalions, which have done excellent work in the Orange River Colony, in the western districts of Cape Colony, and on the lines of communication.

I have, &c.

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

No. 8.

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

Army Head-quarters in South Africa;

Pretoria, 10th October, 1900.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of despatch, dated 14th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit for your Lordship's information an account of the military operations in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal from the 14th June up to the present date.

2. Subsequent to the occupation of Johannesburg and Pretoria the organized forces of the enemy were materially reduced in number, many of the burghers in arms against us returning to their farms, surrendering their rifles, and voluntarily taking the oath of neutrality. But the submission only proved real when the burghers were protected from outside interference by the actual presence of our troops. Whenever a Boer Commando has traversed a district the inhabitants of which had ostensibly resumed their peaceful avocations, a considerable part of the male population has again joined the enemy and engaged in active hostilities. In some cases it has been reported that arms have been taken up with alacrity. In most instances, however, hostilities were only