

bank of the river, and Hart's column at Kromellenburg Spruit. Lord Kitchener's advanced troops co-operated with Lord Methuen's force in the attack on De Wet's rearguard, while Smith-Dorrien moved from Frederickstad to Welverdiend and Bank Stations, the Shropshire Light Infantry marching 43 miles in 32 hours, and the rest of his troops 30 miles in 17 hours. As soon as I had ascertained that De Wet had entered the Transvaal, I ordered Ian Hamilton to march with his column from Commando Nek to Heckpoort, leaving Baden-Powell at the former place with his mounted troops and the 1st Battalion Border Regiment. On the 10th August, Lord Methuen reached Taaibosch Spruit, Lord Kitchener's force occupied the Gatsrand Range, south of the Potchefstroom—Krugersdorp railway, and Smith-Dorrien headed back a portion of the Boer commando which attempted to cross the railway near Welverdiend Station. Hearing that the enemy had turned westward, Kitchener changed direction accordingly and moved towards Tafel Kop, the two Cavalry Brigades and Ridley's Mounted Infantry crossing the railway at Welverdiend on the 11th August. Hart followed the next day, while Knox remained south of the Vaal to watch the drifts in case of any of De Wet's men breaking back into the Orange River Colony. On the 12th, Methuen again engaged the Boer rearguard a few miles east of Ventersdorp, and captured a gun. Lord Kitchener, with his mounted troops and two Infantry battalions under Smith-Dorrien, was at Rietvlei, 10 miles east of Lord Methuen, followed by Hart's column from Welverdiend. On this date, one British Officer and 60 men, who had been taken prisoners by De Wet when he seized a train north of Kroonstad, escaped from the enemy's laager. On the 13th Lord Kitchener was at Schoolplaats, 8 miles east of Ventersdorp, and Ian Hamilton had reached Blaauwbank, 18 miles west of Krugersdorp. On the 15th, Ian Hamilton reached Vlakfontein, 15 miles south-west of Olifant's Nek; Lord Methuen, with 1,200 mounted troops, was at Buffelshoek, 6 miles south of the Magato Pass, his Infantry and baggage following him in rear. Lord Kitchener was at Leeuwfontein, 10 miles north-east of Tafel Kop, and Broadwood at Tweefontein, 8 miles further west. During the preceding night, however, De Wet had moved unobserved to the north of Hamilton's column, and, crossing Olifant's Nek, he made for Rustenburg.

29. On the 14th August, information had reached me that Lieutenant-Colonel Hore was still defending the post at Elands River, where he had been attacked 10 days before. Difficulties with regard to supplies rendered it impossible to continue the pursuit of De Wet in a northerly direction, and I, therefore, desired Lord Kitchener to proceed to Elands River with the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, Ridley's Mounted Infantry, and Smith-Dorrien's Infantry, and after relieving Hore to return to Pretoria, via Boschhoek, Rustenburg, and Commando Nek. Lord Methuen's column, with the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, was ordered to Zeerust, and thence to Mafeking. Hart moved to Krugersdorp, and Ian Hamilton was instructed to cross Olifant's Nek and march back north of Megaliesberg to Commando Nek. On the 16th August, the Elands River garrison was relieved by Lord Kitchener, its casualties being five men killed, seven men died of wounds, and 36 men wounded. The gallant defence of this post was most

creditable to Colonel Hore and the troops under his command.

30. After visiting Rustenburg, De Wet moved eastward to the north of the Megaliesberg Range. On the 17th August, he reached Wolhuter's Kop, 15 miles west of Commando Nek, and thence sent a messenger to Baden-Powell summoning him to surrender. On the 18th, Ian Hamilton attacked from the south the detachment which De Wet had left at Olifant's Nek, and carried the position with very slight loss. Mahon's mounted troops then pushed on in pursuit towards Roode Kopjes, while a force under Paget, reinforced by Baden-Powell from Commando Nek, was ordered to march north from Waterval along the Pietersberg Railway. On the 19th, Mahon was engaged with the enemy's rearguard near Roode Kopjes, and the next day Ian Hamilton crossed the Crocodile River and pressed on in a north-easterly direction. Paget and Baden-Powell, who were advancing north of Hamman's Kraal, were opposed by Grobler's commando on the 19th and 20th, but on the latter date they occupied Pienaar's River Station, the enemy falling back to Warm Baths Station. Lord Kitchener, with Ridley's Mounted Infantry and Smith-Dorrien's Brigade, reached Wolhuter's Kop on the 20th August, and Commando Nek on the 22nd, Lord Kitchener himself returning to Pretoria that afternoon. Three days later Ridley marched into Pretoria, being followed on the 27th August by Smith-Dorrien. Broadwood's Cavalry Brigade went to Bank Station from Eland's River to obtain supplies, and thence proceeded to Pretoria, where it arrived on the 30th August. On the 22nd August, Baden-Powell occupied Warm Baths Station, near which he engaged the enemy, rescuing 100 British prisoners and capturing 25 Boers. He was followed by Ian Hamilton, who, passing through Zwaartbooi's Location, 10 miles west of the railway, between Hamman's Kraal and Pienaar's River Station, reached Warm Baths Station on the 24th. On the way he captured 13 Boers and a large number of cattle and sheep. Paget also reached Warm Baths during the night of the 24th. On this date, the enemy broke up into several small parties in the neighbourhood of Nylstroom, which was occupied by Baden-Powell by a flank march on the 26th August. As it appeared that De Wet, with a few of his followers, had left the commando which he had brought northward across the Vaal, and was returning to the Orange River Colony through the Potchefstroom district, and as the forces under Paget and Baden-Powell were strong enough to deal with the Boers opposed to them on the Pietersburg Railway, I directed Ian Hamilton and Mahon to march back to Pretoria, their troops being needed on the Delagoa Bay line of operations. I also withdrew that portion of Clements's Brigade which had been supporting Paget at Hamman's Kraal, as I intended this brigade, with Ridley's Mounted Infantry, to act as a flying column for the purpose of clearing the country between Commando Nek and Krugersdorp.

31. Seeing no advantage in a further advance towards Pietersburg, I desired Paget, on the 27th August, to withdraw Baden-Powell's troops to Warm Baths Station. Two days later Commandant Grobler sent in to Paget the remaining prisoners in his hands, 34 in all. On the 31st, Plumer left Pienaar's River Station with a small flying column to clear the country to the east, and the next day he engaged the