

Colonel Henry's, had moved on Waterval Drift, where it extricated the company of Mounted Infantry which had been pushed out in that direction earlier in the day. Another regiment, Major Dobell's, I ordered forward on to the ridge west of the spruit to see what possibility there was of recovering any of the lost guns or convoy. He came under a heavy fire, and reported that the enemy in the spruit had been reinforced to some 1,500 rifles.

9. About noon a Staff Officer arrived from General Officer Commanding 9th Division to say he had reached Boesman's Kop. I suggested that a direct advance on the spruit offered the best chance of assisting. About 2 p.m. I was informed that the 9th Division had moved towards Waterval Drift, so seeing any hope of recapturing the guns at an end, I began sending the units to their camps, as, owing to the loss of the baggage, it was inadvisable to bivouac where we were.

10. That the reverse was not more serious is, in a great measure, due to the skilful handling of his brigade, during the 31st, by Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson. Conspicuous gallantry was shown by the whole of "Q" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, and by the following Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who assisted to withdraw the guns under heavy fire:—

Lieutenant Maxwell, D.S.O., 18th Bengal Lancers, attached to Roberts's Horse.

Lieutenant Stirling, 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment.

Lieutenant Ainsworth, 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Lieutenant Way, 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Lieutenant Ashburner, 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Lieutenant Grover, 1st Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry (killed).

4127 Private Parry, 2nd Battalion West Riding Regiment.

3840 Private Bright, 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment.

5908 Private Pickford, 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

5708 Private Horton, 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

4423 Lance-Corporal Steel, 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

The following Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men risked their lives to save comrades under heavy fire:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Captain Gore Anley, Essex Regiment.

4103 Corporal Lincoln, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

4831 Private Evans, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

Sergeant J. C. Collins, Roberts' Horse.

Private T. Murphy, Roberts' Horse.

Private V. D. Todd, Roberts' Horse.

I am forwarding detailed evidence in the case of such of the above as seem worthy of the special consideration of the Commander-in-Chief.

I have, &c.,

R. G. BROADWOOD, Brigadier-General,  
Commanding 2nd Cavalry Brigade.

Statement by Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher, Commanding 3rd Mounted Infantry Corps, regarding escorting baggage, &c., on 30th March.

Pretoria,

17th June, 1900.

1. At about noon on 30th March, at Thabanchu, Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson ordered me, as Officer Commanding 3rd Mounted Infantry Regiment, to form an escort for the baggage on that day. This was the only order that he gave me, except that he told me that we should probably halt at the pass about 3 miles to the west of where we were in bivouac. Before reaching this pass I received information that the force was to proceed across the Modder River. As long as daylight lasted I took up successive positions guarding the right flank of our retirement, and also reconnoitred to the north, but saw nothing of the enemy, except what might have been a few scouts. After sunset I proceeded along the road. All the baggage was parked on the far side (the west side) of the Modder, and my regiment had settled down in bivouac before midnight.

2. I had received no orders to provide for the safety of the bivouac, but nevertheless, posted five groups round it, at a distance of about 500 yards, on the side of the river to which we had crossed. There was no moon, and this was all I could do in the dark, besides having a small post at the drift. The whole of the force was following the baggage, and was several miles east of the drift when I arrived, besides which, three companies of Mounted Infantry, with a strength equal to my regiment, were occupying the Waterworks, and had presumably taken precautions for safety to the west of the river.

3. As I have previously stated, I received no orders whatever about finding outposts, and the precautions I took were simply for the protection of my bivouac until the remainder of the force arrived.

T. W. PILCHER, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commanding 3rd Corps, Mounted  
Infantry.

No. 13.

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

Army Head-quarters, South Africa,

MY LORD. Pretoria, 21st June, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Lordship's consideration a despatch, dated 18th May, 1900, with annexures and a letter dated 6th June, 1900, from Major-General R. S. S. Baden-Powell, describing the siege of Mafeking which lasted from the 13th October, 1899, to the 17th May, 1900, and bringing to notice the Officers and men, as well as the civilians and ladies, who rendered good service during the above period.

2. I feel assured that Her Majesty's Government will agree with me in thinking that the utmost credit is due to Major-General Baden-Powell for his promptness in raising two regiments of Mounted Infantry in Rhodesia, and for the resolution, judgment, and resource which he displayed throughout the long and trying investment of Mafeking by the Boer forces. The distinction which Major-General Baden-Powell has earned must be shared by his gallant soldiers. No episode in the present war seems more praiseworthy than the prolonged defence of this town by a British garrison, consisting almost entirely of Her Majesty's Colonial forces, inferior in numbers and greatly inferior in artil-