

various arms under me, I submit a few remarks with some general observations on Boer warfare:—

Cavalry Brigade, General Broadwood commanding.—On the march to concentrate outside the perimeter of the Brandwater Basin and Wittebergen District, across the open rolling downs both sides of the Vaal, on the line Heidelberg—Villiersdorp—Frankfort—Reitz—Bethlehem the Cavalry brigades were properly employed to scout for and guard my column. At Bethlehem and towards the theatre of subsequent operations the topography changes and is unsuited to the action of Cavalry. I, therefore, detached the 3rd Cavalry Brigade (Brigadier-General Gordon) to Heilbron.

On 15th July, I sent the 2nd Cavalry Brigade and 5th Corps, Mounted Infantry under Brigadier-General Broadwood towards Senekal, and, when General C. De Wet broke out on 15th July, reinforced him with Mounted Infantry, 800 strong, under Brigadier-General Ridley, to assist in the pursuit. No more Cavalry were now left with me. I assume General Broadwood will report on his action direct to you.

Yeomanry and Mounted Infantry.—The excellent work by this arm is so fully understood that I will confine myself to discussing certain corps which I saw at work.

The Yeomanry is daily gaining experience in actual warfare, which is all they ask for and all they require to make them rank with the best. This they now do.

Rimington's Guides, Major Rimington commanding.—Major Rimington has gathered a body of men whose virtues are like his own. They can ride, see, fight, and shoot straight. They are in the forefront when there is danger. They have never disappointed me, let alone failed me.

Lovat's Scouts, Major Honourable A. D. Murray, Cameron Highlanders, commanding, Captain Lord Lovat second in command.—I paused at Bethlehem from 9th July to 22nd July, to regulate the supply question and gain news. The mountain range in my front acted as a screen, behind which I could not penetrate, and it concealed forces whose numbers and whereabouts were a mystery. It possessed ins and outs, paths, and shepherd tracks, even occasional cart roads; none marked on maps but known to local experts who were dumb so far as I was concerned. To get news Lovat's Scouts were used. The idea was General MacDonald's instigated by Lord Lovat. In ones, twos, and threes, these men crept, climbed, and spied; were absent for

days at a time, but always came safely back with the truth discovered. Major the Honourable A. D. Murray who commands them, Captain Lord Lovat who raised them, each Officer and man in the corps is a specialist and picked man. As scouts, spies, guides, on foot or pony, as individual marksmen or as a collective body in the fighting line, they are a splendid band of Scotchmen, which is the highest compliment I can pay them.

Artillery.—Our gunners are not at fault, but our guns.

Boers seldom offer a target within the limited range of British Field Artillery. When they do the accuracy of our fire leaves nothing to be desired as a rule.

The quality of the 5-inch guns is well known.

General Paget speaks in high praise of the range and shooting of the City Imperial Volunteers' 12½-prs.

Infantry.—Everybody knows how Napoléon appraised British Infantry. Since then they have not changed except to improve.

Generals, Regimental Officers, and men have learnt how to minimize losses against magazine rifles and smokeless powder in defensive positions; now they threaten flanks and turn positions.

General remarks.—Boer artillery fire is accurate in aim but contemptible in effect.

Some Boers are crack shots; man for man their shooting is not so good as ours. Their mobility is the main point where they excel us. By reason of superior mobility they can hold on till turned when instead of being beaten they take up a fresh position or reinforce their flank, and so convert our flank attack into a frontal one with all its drawbacks to us. Their local knowledge and power of getting over the country, their being masters of three languages in use here to our one, their sources of news from all men and women, their not wearing uniform, and so posing one moment as a peaceful farm dweller and the next proving an active enemy, their secret supplies of arms, ammunition, and food, their hardihood and physical training, their expert and universal skill with horses and transport, with every resource of the country in their favour and denied to us; these are some of the advantages to the Boers in this warfare.

I have, &c.,

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Lieutenant-General.