

had several slight engagements to the north of the river during this march, and brought in with him to Modder River Station 11 prisoners, 200 cattle, and 62 horses.

General Elliot's columns commenced their movement on the 29th July, on which date Brigadier-General Broadwood made a night march upon the village of Bothaville, which he found deserted. His action, however, was the means of driving a number of Boers into the arms of Colonel De Lisle's South Australians, who captured 18 prisoners and 12 wagons. At midnight on the 30th July Colonel Lowe, 7th Dragoon Guards, successfully surprised a farmhouse, from which he took 11 armed prisoners with rifles, bandoliers and horses.

On the 2nd August, near Graspan, Captain Quicke, King's Dragoon Guards, of Colonel Owen's column, with two squadrons of his regiment, effected the capture of a laager of 65 wagons and 4,000 cattle, and the same night Major Shea, with 200 of Colonel De Lisle's South Australians, made a gallant attack on Smit's commando at Grootvallei Farm, near the Vet River. Wire fencing, unseen in the darkness, prevented the complete success of the plan and enabled the Boers to escape, despite the fact that the South Australians pressed forward on foot with fixed bayonets. Five Boers, however, were left dead upon the ground, and 11 were captured, including Field Cornet Wolmarans of Potchefstroom. On the 3rd August General Broadwood captured seven wagons and 2,000 cattle, and the same morning at dawn, after an 18-mile march, Colonel Lowe surprised and captured 13 prisoners and a laager of 86 wagons and 56 horses. On the 6th and 7th August Colonel De Lisle was able to account for 40 prisoners, 147 wagons, 600 horses, and 2,000 cattle, and on the 8th Colonel Henry and Lieutenant-Colonel Carr-Ellison, the latter in command of 250 of the 4th Imperial Yeomanry, were instrumental in capturing two laagers and a number of prisoners.

In the meantime, Brigadier-General Plumer had moved out from Modder River Station on the 4th August, to complete the encircling cordon to the west by a junction with Colonel Henry's right flank. He subdivided his troops into two columns under Lieutenant-Colonel Colvin and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Jervis, the latter of whom captured 15 Boers near Botha's Hoek at the conclusion of a 25-mile march. On the 7th General Plumer learned that Colonel Henry was just to the east of Boshof, and on the following day Colonel Colvin got touch with him as he marched across Colonel Sir John Jervis's front from Doornhoek to Quaggapan in the direction of the Modder.

General Elliot's march, in which all ranks seem to have displayed energy and enterprise, is scarcely concluded, but its results, which are highly satisfactory, are practically known. Seventeen Boers have been killed and wounded, and, up to date, he has reported the capture of 326 prisoners, 2,600 horses, 20,000 cattle, 377 wagons, 371 other vehicles, and 12,500 rounds of ammunition.

Lieutenant-General Sir L. Rundle's operations in Eastern Orange River Colony.

5. Lieutenant-General Sir L. Rundle's troops, which had advanced north from Harrismith simultaneously with General Elliot's move from Springfield Drift, marched in three columns on the east of the Wilge River. Although a certain amount of opposition was encountered, the march was uneventful until the 12th July,

when General Rundle's force had reached the line Tafel Kop-Maidstone-Driespruit. On that date a party, consisting of one officer and 40 men of Imperial Yeomanry, sent from the centre column (Colonel Harley's) to communicate with Major-General Campbell on the right, was suddenly attacked by 60 Boers under Captain Charles Botha. Although Lieutenant Edgell (the officer in command), the sergeant, and four men were wounded at the first volley, the Yeomanry dismounted and returned the fire with so much effect that the Boers retired out of range, leaving the dead body of their leader behind them.

On the evening of the 13th General Rundle, hearing that the enemy were trying to move east to clear his line of advance, directed Colonel Harley (centre column) to close towards General Campbell and strengthen the right flank. On the 14th the hills round Rondel's Hoek (five miles south-east of Vrede) were occupied, and communication established with a column, under Colonel Rimington, which had moved on Vrede from the north-east.

Having relieved Colonel Rimington of his prisoners and captures, General Rundle, with his right and centre columns, then marched by De Lange's Drift over the Klip River to Standerton, where he was rejoined by his left column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Reay, which had crossed the Vaal at Roberts' Drift. Irrespective of the prisoners handed over to him by Colonel Rimington, General Rundle's troops had accounted for 12 Boers killed and wounded, 13 prisoners, 7,000 horses, 35 vehicles, and 1,000 tons of forage. His own casualties amounted to four men killed, one officer and 15 men wounded.

Having refilled with supplies at Standerton, General Rundle marched south again, on the 20th July, to a camp near the Bothasberg a few miles south-west of Vrede. From here he turned towards the Witkoppies, some 30 miles south-east of Vrede, and then traversed, on his way back to Harrismith, the mountainous country lying between the Natal border and the Vrede-Harrismith road. Few Boers were seen, and these followed their usual tactics of sniping at long ranges by day and retiring to a safe distance at night; 12 Boers, however, were killed and wounded, six prisoners were taken, and 3,590 horses, 679 trek oxen, and 4,760 cattle were brought in to Harrismith.

On the 7th August Major-General Campbell marched from Harrismith with a column composed of the Grenadier Guards, Leinster Regiment, 1st Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, four guns, and a pompom, to operate in the Brandwater basin in connection with other movements projected for the future. Colonel Harley left at the same time to escort a convoy from Harrismith to Bethlehem.

Operations of Colonel Rimington, Brigadier-General Bullock, and Brigadier-General Spens in Northern Orange River Colony.

6. Colonel Rimington's meeting with the Harrismith columns was due to his having been ordered to march from Platrand, through the Verzammelbergen, towards Vrede, to deal with any commandos trying to break away east from in front of Sir Leslie Rundle. On the 13th July Colonel Rimington, who had passed the Klip River north-east of Gembokshoekberg on the previous day, overtook, as had been anticipated, a large Boer convoy moving east. The enemy's rearguard, covering the march, was forced from its position by the rapid