

advance of Colonel Rimington's mounted troops, who rode down the convoy, capturing 10 prisoners, 44 wagons, and 2,000 head of cattle. Six Boers were also killed or wounded. The following day Colonel Rimington, moving south-west, gained touch with General Rundle's force near Vrede, and, on the 15th, he again left Vrede for Heilbron, which he reached on the 21st, after several unimportant skirmishes.

During the latter part of July and the first week of August, Colonel Rimington undertook three very successful expeditions into the triangle marked by Heilbron, Lindley, and Kroonstad, which resulted in the capture of 36 prisoners, 68 ox wagons, 52 other vehicles, and 5,300 cattle. Fourteen Boers were killed, and 25 surrendered voluntarily. At the conclusion of this work, Colonel Rimington is now moving into Kroonstad from the east.

Brigadier-General Bullock's column crossed to the south bank of the Vaal at Roberts' Drift on 19th July, with the object of trying to drive any scattered parties of the enemy which might be found in the neighbourhood of Villiersdorp and Cornelia into General Elliot's line of march from Springfield to Heilbron. Few Boers, however, were seen, and the column consequently recrossed the Vaal at Villiersdorp and marched into Heidelberg, where Brigadier-General Spens took over command. The latter officer left Heidelberg for Heilbron on 27th July, moving on a front of nearly 35 miles. Two convoys were captured by flying columns sent out by him under Lieutenant-Colonel Jenner and Major Gough, who, with a loss of one man killed and four wounded, brought in 42 prisoners, 110 carts and wagons, 5,600 cattle, and a large quantity of supplies.

On the 6th August General Spens left Heilbron to operate in the direction of Kroonstad.

Operations on the Vaal.

7. The work of Lieutenant-Colonel Garratt in connection with General Elliot's movement to the Modder River has already been referred to, but his operations prior to 29th July have yet to be described.

On the 9th July his column left Springs with orders to move to the junction of the Wilge and Vaal Rivers, and there to demonstrate, to the west of General Bullock, upon the right flank of General Elliot's troops as they marched through Frankfort and Heilbron to the railway. On the 13th Colonel Garratt surprised and captured a Boer laager with several prisoners and horses at Kopiesfontein (198) on the right bank of the Vaal. He then proceeded *via* Wolvehoeck, where he filled up with supplies, to the Losberg, west of Vereeniging. On the 21st July he sighted two Boer convoys, one trekking down the right bank of the Vaal a few miles to the west of Lindique Drift, the other moving south on the left bank of the river. Both these convoys were pursued by Colonel Garratt's mounted troops and captured. Eleven Boers were killed or wounded, and 25 prisoners, 34 wagons, 31 Cape carts, and 1,240 cattle were taken.

On the following day Lieutenant-Colonel Garratt engaged General Smuts near Lindique Drift, driving the Boers into some hills, from which it was impossible for one column to dislodge them.

Colonel Sir Henry Rawlinson, who was then at Klerksdorp ready to join General Elliot, was accordingly ordered to move by Putschestroom and co-operate with Lieutenant-Colonel Garratt from the north; a small column was also sent

out from Vereeniging by Brigadier-General Cunningham. The action of these three columns drove the enemy from their positions on to the plains near the river, where Sir Henry Rawlinson's Mounted Infantry captured 18 prisoners, 24 wagons, 5 Cape carts, 30 horses, and 150 cattle.

Lieutenant-Colonel Garratt, who crossed the Vaal at Reitzburg, then took up his assigned position in rear of General Elliot's left.

Operations in the South-Western Transvaal.

8. The chief feature of recent operations in the South-Western Transvaal has been the march of the four columns composing Major-General Fetherstonhaugh's force from the Magaliesberg to Zeerust, and thence back to Klerksdorp.

These four columns were commanded during this period by Brigadier-General Dixon and Colonels Sir Henry Rawlinson, E. Williams, and Hickie. Zeerust was reached on 10th July. The country traversed between the Magaliesberg and this village was found extremely difficult, and the enemy, favoured by almost inaccessible ground, offered considerable opposition to the columns of Colonels Williams and Hickie. The result, however, of the march was on the whole satisfactory, for 13 Boers were killed or wounded, 47 surrendered, and 26 prisoners of war, 31 wagons, and 2,900 head of cattle were captured. Besides this 13 burghers, who had been kept as prisoners of war by the commandos for some months, were released by the action of our troops.

On 12th July Major-General Fetherstonhaugh commenced his return movement from Klerksdorp, the direction of which seemed likely to drive parties of the enemy into the area shortly to be visited by Major-General Elliot's troops. He marched with his right centre column through Lichtenburg, his own three columns being on the right and Brigadier-General Dixon on the left. The progress of the march, though uneventful, was marked from day to day by sharp skirmishes with small parties of the enemy, in which 10 Boers were killed or wounded and 22 prisoners were taken. Large quantities of stores, some of which were found bricked up in houses or hidden in caves in the hills, were also destroyed. On the 20th and 21st July General Fetherstonhaugh's columns marched into Klerksdorp, having parted a few days previously from Brigadier-General Dixon, who returned, *via* Ventersdorp, to Krugersdorp. The march had been a very trying one, especially to Colonel Hickie's column on the right, which had passed through a very badly watered district.

General Fetherstonhaugh rested his men and animals for a few days at Klerksdorp, and then started again on 27th July to carry out a movement towards the Taungs-Vryburg line where the enemy was reported to be active. Lord Methuen marched south from Lichtenburg to co-operate in the movement and, keeping on General Fetherstonhaugh's right, traversed the Marokani Range to the east of Taungs. Lieutenant-Colonel Von Donop's column, of Lord Methuen's force, advanced through Kraaipan and Geysdorp by the west side of the hills, and a small column under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott co-operated from the direction of Vryburg. The results reported from these operations have been six Boers killed or wounded, 58 prisoners of war, and extensive captures of foodstuffs and wagons.

Before turning from this portion of the