

Major Berangé with the Police, the section 4th Battery, and the Pompom "GG" Section, were ordered to move straight on Tweebosch (247), while Dennison's Scouts, supported by Cullinan's Horse, were to move round the enemy's left flank.

The commando retired rapidly, the police under Major Berangé working with the greatest quickness.

Much praise is due to Major Berangé for the way in which he handled his men.

Our casualties were one killed and two wounded.

As the day was hot and it was then 11.30 A.M. I decided to remain at Tweebosch (247).

11. 7th March.—At 3 A.M. the ox convoy moved off towards Leeuwkuil (23) with an escort of—

1 squadron Cape Police.

86th Company Imperial Yeomanry.

200 men 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

100 men 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

1 section 4th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

1 pompom, "GG" Section.

The whole was under command of Captain Montagu, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

The main column moved off at 4 A.M., as follows:—

Advance guard:—

1 squadron Cape Police.

Ashburner's Light Horse.

1 pompom, Diamond Fields Artillery.

Main body—

Cullinan's Horse.

British South Africa Police.

Detachment 5th Regiment, Imperial Yeomanry.

1 section 38th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Rear guard—

Diamond Fields Horse.

Dennison's Scouts.

Thinking there was a likelihood of an attack in rear, I had called Major Paris' attention to the necessity of putting thoroughly reliable troops in the rear guard.

The country through which we passed was flat and without brush.

At daybreak (about 5 A.M.) a heavy fire was opened on the rear guard. The fire was so intense that the rear screen was at once reinforced by the section of the 38th Battery, and one pompom, Diamond Fields Artillery. A portion of Ashburner's Light Horse, and the detachment of the 5th Imperial Yeomanry, were extended on either flank, round which the enemy seemed intent on galloping.

At this time (5.30 A.M.) the ox convoy was about a mile in front of the baggage, which was moving in four lines well closed up. I therefore ordered the ox convoy to halt, and the baggage to join it. Major Berangé was directed to move, with the police that were with him, towards a fresh body of the enemy, who now appeared on our right rear. The time was about 6 A.M.

I joined the ox convoy about this time, and found Captain Tilney, D.A.A.G., assisting Captain Montagu, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, Commanding the Infantry, to extend the men to meet the attack on our right flank.

The section 4th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, and the pompom "GG" Section, had already taken up a position to meet this attack.

I could see no mounted men available, and could only assume that they had all gone to reinforce the rear screen, so I ordered the baggage to continue to advance, it being im-

possible to move the ox convoy as the native drivers were lying under the wagons and refused to move.

I would here like to draw attention to the orderly manner and complete control exercised by Lieutenant Hartley, Transport Officer to Major Paris' column, over the mule wagons during the fight.

The Boers, attacking the rear guard, had come on with great determination right amongst the rear screen, but the support to the screen having been reinforced by Ashburner's Light Horse, Cullinan's Horse, and some of the 5th Imperial Yeomanry, held them in check till about 6.30 A.M. A heavy attack then developed on our rear and right flank, which caused, as far as I could see, all mounted troops then in rear (some of them which had originally been there had moved off towards the flanks to meet threatened attacks) to break, and they galloped in complete confusion past our left flank. The section 38th Battery was thus left unprotected, but continued in action until every man, with the exception of Lieutenant Nesham, was hit. I am informed that this Officer was called upon to surrender, and on refusing to do so was killed.

The attack on our right flank was pressed home to within 600 yards of the gun of the 4th Battery.

I then gave orders for a kraal about one mile along the road to Leeuwkuil to be occupied, and sent orders to rally the mounted men on the rising ground beyond the kraal. The kraal was occupied by Major Paris and Major Berangé with some 40 men. The mounted troops in the meantime continued their retirement. I remained with the guns, 4th Battery, and Infantry until my horse was killed, and my thigh fractured by a bullet.

They held out in a most splendid manner until about 9.30 A.M., when all the men round the guns had been shot down, and Lieutenant Venning, commanding the section, had been killed. In the meantime, the two guns and a pompom with Commandant Cellier's commando had rendered the kraal untenable, when the men at the kraal and those remaining with the baggage surrendered.

The Boer Commandants present were—Delarey, Vermaas, Cellier, Kemp, Van Zyl, D. Botha, and Lemmer. It is difficult to estimate the number of Boers on the field, but I should say about 1,500. General Delarey treated myself and the prisoners with the greatest kindness, and left General Cellier to look after our wounded on the ground; they buried 11 of their own men at Kareelaagte, and, from what I can learn, their losses were heavy.

12. I beg to draw attention to the good work done by Major Paris in endeavouring to keep the mounted troops in hand, and to the promptitude with which Captain Tilney, 17th Lancers, D.A.A.G., assisted in placing the Infantry round the convoy.

I would also call attention to the gallant manner in which Lieutenants Nesham and Venning, Royal Field Artillery, stuck to their guns.

Captain Montagu, Commanding detachment, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, and Lieutenant Paul, Commanding detachment, 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, held on until further resistance was impossible. Civil Surgeon Prentice with the rear guard, and Captain Thurston, Royal Army Medical Corps, with the guns, continued bandaging the wounded throughout the engagement.

Colonel Townsend, C.B., my Principal Medical Officer, remained in the fighting line until he had