

## **Diary 1900-01**

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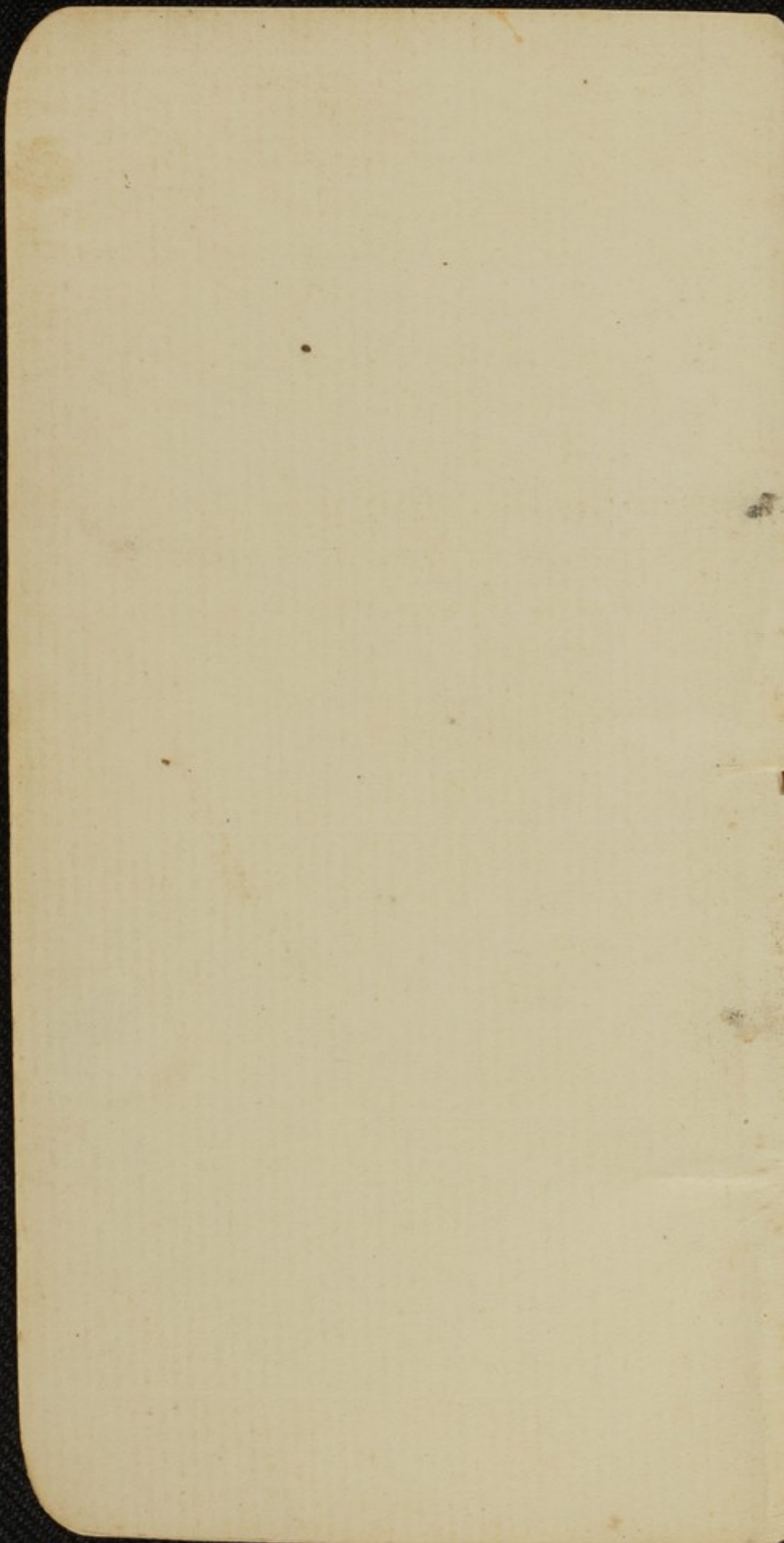
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PP/JFB/A 1/2

1900-01





Pr/JTB/A1/2 J. F. Barr. Cin. Sing.

20<sup>th</sup> Field Hosp.

Active Service S.A.

1900-1901.

COLLINS'

HANDY LOOP

NOTE BOOKS.



*REFILLS FOR ABOVE,*

With 52 Leaves.

*No. 1005.*





COMPLETE

HARRY LOOP

NOTE BOOKS

1898

REMARKS FOR BOOK

WITH 52 LEAVES

1898

1898

1898

1898

16<sup>th</sup> Ap. 1907. Camp about 14 miles  
north of Middelburg.

2 day out

Since last entry we have changed ground completely. We lay entrained at Pennaer river for a whole week before starting for Pretoria. It was very humbuging lying around there waiting for something or an engine to turn up but we were very comfortable being put up by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Hosp. Lt. Davis Co. W<sup>th</sup> Whitehorn & Martin. We had a lovely W<sup>th</sup> E. C. W<sup>th</sup> to ourselves, spring mattresses clean sheets etc. There was a good deal of interrupted rest. At Pretoria we did not detrain but we did one night on the platform. Next day the R.S.O. decided we show up our 3 trains & said the one we (the Officers) would travel in would not leave before 12. The major & I were both down town when it sailed off before 11 and we were left without any goods chattels or valuables. Luckily there was time to draw a <sup>day's</sup> rations before starting. I had to go into town



again & on coming back found the May. &  
Duncan in a tonga in a waggon. I was  
just on time. Luckily we picked up  
on time with the bidding before night  
for we had two or 1½ to spend in that  
hasty guards room with 5 others, not  
making Middelburg 97 miles till the  
following day at 3 am. About 40 hrs.  
Luckily we were not blown up or any-  
thing of that sort but the fire was  
strained like snobs on a <sup>le</sup>windward  
shore. The last night we were kept  
laughing all the time by a man of the  
Scotts Guards riding behind on the boot-  
waggon. He gave his opinion on all  
points & departments of the Service engaged  
in a most amusing & original manner,  
impossible for me to reproduce. He  
was especially severe on the C.V's &  
the fact of having to pay 4/7 for a  
club. The fact of his missing a  
bullet of shot this being so short  
sighted as not to square an Hospital  
island but asking it direct from the  
quack worried him considerably also.  
He had a few pointed remarks also  
regarding the 5p a day for news 1/5.



As a more or less trained & sturned  
soldier he considered himself worth  
3/6. He did not mind mauls  
bullets much but objected to paying  
4/7 for a shirt.

The day of arrival i.e. yesterday we  
tricked after Bealons Column which  
at present consists of the R.M.F.

700. Victorians and some Artillery  
also Victorian I think. We caught  
up the column & got camped just  
before dark on a drift 4 miles N of  
Middilbury. To-day we came on  
here unmountfully except from the  
transport point of view. It broke  
down all roads and waggons were  
sticking all over. The ground was  
strewn with broken scrub-trees.

In a day or two it will be mules, I  
fear. There are an awful crowd  
of rats. It was really very  
warm to-day but jolly cold at night.

Middilbury is the usual small  
town - a square, a church in it  
struts all round & houses straggling  
around. It is pretty wooded.

Just now it is a big camp full

up with different sorts of troops and  
a General Troop. There is a small  
club where you get a whiskey and  
Soda for 5<sup>¢</sup>. We left the A.T.S.H.  
there. They were expected to be in  
this column but they don't seem to  
have turned up yet. The R.M.F. seem  
to march well. The Australians are  
a fine lot. They are mostly fresh from  
the colony - full of buck.

Rodeval 3<sup>rd</sup> day from Middelburg.  
18<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1901.

Yesterday we marched along  
a really fine narrow valley almost a  
glen about 10-12 miles. The scenery  
was really fine especially a general  
view of the valley we had from a high  
hill at the south end. The hills are  
beautifully green and well wooded  
altho the timber is pretty scrubby. Altogether  
the scenery for the last two days has  
been more haamelike. After going down  
this hill the road hugged the hill rising  
steeply on west side. About 500 V.I.C.s  
went on ahead and some to the left  
flank. The latter had rather a hot  
time and several horses were wounded.



A Sergt. got it thro' the shoulder, a  
plst wound luckily. Those in front  
rode down some Ban neggones but these  
contained only women & children and a  
few old or disabled men. The immediate  
column was left rather poorly guarded  
so the Bann came pretty close shielded  
by the rocks and thick scrub. The  
rear guard had a good deal of firing.  
Some Bann came down at one point  
and very cheekily entered the main  
column hitting a Munster about 30 yds  
in front of where May. R & I were riding.  
That and a mile were all the damage  
they did. We camped in a pretty  
place just where a narrow pass  
led to the N.E.

To-day 18<sup>th</sup> we started up this  
glen. Really a fine one  
almost comparable to a Scotch one.  
There is a fine stream running thru'  
it which we must have crossed  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. times. Some of the drifts  
were very steep & distinctly picturesque  
with really fine trees. At parts the  
glen was quite narrow and the hills  
rose steeply up all rocky and scrubbed



covered. The Infantry had a very tiresome  
time as they had to climb up and hold  
the hill tops on the baggage track and  
walk with a single narrow road and  
the numerous steep drifts and other  
awkward hills it did open itself out  
literally miles long. This glen must  
be about 5-6 miles long and we are  
camped on an elevated open bit of  
ground entirely surrounded by hills with  
some apparent narrow gaps. The farm  
here was burned and looted. There  
is a beautiful orange grove here. Yesterday  
too was a fine day. A V.C. told  
me they had more hens than they  
wanted. The weather is lovely but  
distinctly chilly at night.

A Munster was hit to-day right away  
on a hill top to the right and I went  
back with a tongue. It lost its pole  
and we had to send for another. The  
conductor came back with much  
difficulty with the other.

Brackfontein 20<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1901.

Lay too yesterday.

Marched to-day - marched 5 days.

Yesterday  $\frac{1}{2}$  Munster + 30 V.M.R.

left to hold some other drift and the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  Batt. stayed at our camp, where they started to put up a small fort.

The rest of V.M.R. went out with stripped saddles and had a hard days riding and rounded up some waggons and a lot of stock. They had a little scraping and had an officer and a man wounded. It was quite late before all got in.

I went out 2 miles & struck a farm with a lot of chickens & pigs around. So I went out with my gun in a tonga and got a doz. a pig and some other food stuff.

To-day we moved along N.E. thro' rather more open country except at the very start where we passed thro' a narrow pass beautifully wooded. Altho' the valley was much wider there were some very nasty drifts & steep hills so transport was very "sticky" as the V.M.R. Major called it.

I did not drop on much to-day but we struck some fine orange



grove and a few hens. The V.M.R. brought in a lot of stuff and a good many rifles. Altogether this country is refreshing new.

We are now escorted by  $\frac{1}{2}$  Batt. A.T.S.H. Since we dropped the R.M.F. This new General seems very decent. He comes about the Hosp. daily.

Weather still lovely and there is no particular illness more than usual in camp. Horses are rather fagged this new work.

Brackfortein.

Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr 1901.

Since last entry

I have been to the Headquarters Camp near Brinkwater and back. I took about 20 sick with me on the convoy. 2 companies A.T.S.H. & 1 Coy. V.M.R. were the escort. Capt. Gairdner was in charge with the latter troops. He has had a remarkable career fighting in first Egyptian war, the Chuli rebellion and for China against Japan - mentioned in Laurids book on Chulan rebellion.

We made the trek there fully 17 miles first day but arrived in the dark.

It was a confounded nuisance



getting about the big camp but got  
the sick off my hands all right and  
got settled comfortably with St. Gold-  
smith RAME. for the night. He seemed  
a very good sort.

On the road there we had narrow little  
scars Baers(?) being seen all round  
but no attack was made. Our route  
was along a valley lying pretty well  
E but constituting a very open angle  
after towards the north. The Scottish  
horse we found had done very well  
capturing one gun & 150 prisoners. We  
started the following day (yesterday) at  
one & tramped about 8 miles with full  
waggons. There was some firing on  
our left at a place where some Baers  
had shot four horses of a small party  
of S.H. who had burned a farm.

We got back early to-day. One of the  
Cape cart greys, the nice one died  
suddenly to-day of horse sickness.  
A very large proportion of the Australian  
horses are played out. Two have died  
of horse sickness.

The weather is still beautiful and  
rather variable at night.

Waggon Drift. 28<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1901.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> we left Brackfontem and came back thro' Rooport to Krui's River, (camping across from the farm where I got the pegions) about 2 miles on. This was a lovely camp right in the valley beside a pretty running river, teeming with fish. A sick cow was sent back to Middelburg. I sent my little mare to change of way. Since Gen. Harp. M.burgh, from his horse sickness. 11 horses out of 55 were reported to have died from it at R'port during our absence. Deucham of the R.M.F. went back with the sick.

To-day we moved on here a distance of about 5 miles. Our route lay along the valley, very picturesque all the way & quite home-like.

This is on Oliphants river, a fine stream about the size of the Clyde at Elwanfoot and much the same character, only without any gravel bars. The fishing here is not so good. We have been joined here by the 1/2 batt. R.M.F. from Crocodile



drift & the Vm R. Of all the 1100  
Vm R. horses only some 4-5 hundred  
are now any good and must have  
gone back for remounts.

The weather is perfect, what with  
that easy marches, long halts and  
beautiful camps this trip so far  
has been really a pic-nic.

Health of the troops is on the whole good.

Waggon Drift. 29<sup>th</sup> ap. 1901.

There

was rather an uncommon incident  
this morning about 10 am. Suddenly  
when all was peaceful, men bathing  
mules watering, the Boers opened on  
us from 2 hills in front. For a few  
minutes the fire was quite warm  
all over the camp, the Hospital not  
excepted. I was sitting in our  
tent talking quietly to Anderson the R.E.  
when I heard a pincer go. He  
thought it just a stray shot but  
in a minute the rattle was too  
constant to be doubtful and on  
going out the bullets were simply  
singing but none hit. Our guns  
soon got on to them and the



musketry fire all round and in the camp was quite lively. The Boers soon drew off our V.M.R. issued forth without result. Our casualties were one or two muzzes &c and several horses killed; a Sergt V.M.R. wounded seriously thro' the chest and some horses wounded. The carnalities were all right in camp. The stampede from the river of bather etc. was quite amusing.

Waterfall on Wilge Rr. about 20 miles north

of the Railway line. 4<sup>th</sup> May 1901. On ap. 30<sup>th</sup> we left Wagendrift and trekked thro' unsurveyed country west. The first part of our journey was thro' low veldt of the same character as before. We lay in a pretty place all day then pulled out about 7 p.m. up a terribly steep hill. We went up rapidly till we reached a plateau of high veldt. Our march was then along a hilly ridge. We made camp about 1 p.m. then moved next morning a few miles to a place called Rietfontein.

where we lay that day and the next.  
Yesterday May 3<sup>rd</sup> we left Ruffington  
and marched due south to this place.  
It was nearly all down hill to  
this place pretty situated on the  
wedge a tributary of the Elephant R.  
The character of the country is a cross  
between high & low lands. To one  
north are some very picturesque  
koppies with large boulders on them  
and covered with fern & scrub.

To day the hospital, baggage Buer  
promises & refugees are in camp with  
a guard include two fighting  
companies went out early this  
morning. One seems still lying  
at a distance of 1-4 miles from  
us and for some hours this  
morning they were busy both with  
big guns & small arms - with what  
result we know not yet.

The weather is lovely sometimes  
rather chilly at night. The Supt  
Quarrell shot very badly at Wagners  
is now doing very well.

Waterval 6<sup>th</sup> May. Yesterday I had  
quite an eventful



little trek down the river into a really  
picturesque and bolder bit of country than  
I have yet seen. After the first mile out  
we entered a very narrow place bordered  
on each side by cliffs and cut into by  
cloughs. Early in the day one ~~man~~ was  
hit but that was all the casualties and  
firing. We cleared 40 Boer women and  
children with a number of waggon out.  
That seemed the whole object of the outing.  
The road naturally was something terrible  
and got so bad I had to leave my traps  
behind. On the road back one of the  
great ore waggons tipped clean over. There  
was one child on board but luckily the  
crushed wooden covering spars kept the  
body of the waggon of her - so she was  
only shaken. The next one that lumbered  
along and tipped over just in front of the  
other. You never saw such a scene of  
women children even Linnies all mixed  
up rescuing bedding and trying the clean  
up things generally. Luckily we were  
undisturbed so the women etc. were  
hoisted on to other waggons and the  
procession got home safely.  
We are halted here to-day, but pro-

and to. morning being due at Bronkhuspunt  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. These columns are working  
down that way to meet at S. of Rheinstee  
Kopf. Allenby ~~on~~ to the East and  
May. Ernstine to the West.

Weather a little colder but beautifully  
clear. No rain.

Bronkhuspunt Sprint 9<sup>th</sup> May 1901.

From last place we moved down  
right S.W. to Rheinstee Kopf  
camping on the East side of it.  
beside a few deserted houses. Next  
day, yesterday we pulled out in  
different columns for a place called  
Vladfontein South of the Kopf. I  
went with the Munster on the  
East. We first went down  
crossed the river and extended  
round a farmhouse but met with no  
opposition. A company went up  
the hill on front and some work  
advanced up a very deep chert  
with precipitous sides. They got  
4 armed Boers up there and chased  
out a big crowd of women and  
children. These they left me to



worry along taken the broken down ones  
in the tonga. It was a worry but  
with slow marching and long halts  
we got out of the glen to the south.  
For a few miles the glen was very narrow  
and steep rocky hills rose sharply from  
either side on which baboons were running  
around. It would have been some-  
what interesting if the agoroid males  
had come out as there as there were  
only about 1/2 doz. Moustels with me.

An unfortunate incident happened to me  
early in the day. My horse strayed away  
and in spite of a following Moustel and de  
back over the river up to our old camp  
by the Kupa. He was too much for the  
Moustel who returned without my horse  
and harness & camera which was in  
the right wallet. We were picked  
up by two mule wagons outside  
the glen and brought camp.

Yesterday we had an uneventful  
march here over the good old interesting  
high altitude country.

11<sup>th</sup> May 1902. Still here and  
likely to be for  
some days. Major Ritchie went into

Pretoria yesterday with creek.

Since coming here we have heard of a  
masterly knock to a small body of Vuk.

The 2 officers Capt. Kelly & Lieut. Johnston  
were killed and 4 men badly wounded.

Dr. Paterson had a hot time and  
ultimately had to shield himself  
by raising his hands chief having  
no red-cross. The Boers took this  
as a general surrender and threatened  
to shoot the wounded if firing did  
not cease. This message Dr. P. had to  
send to Maj. Morris R.A. in command  
so both drew off, a very unsatis-  
factory ending for our side.

Last night was bitterly cold  
My feet were cold all night even  
tho' I was sleeping in a tent.

Midday by contrast was correspondingly  
hot and the sun brilliant.

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1901. Grootvlei

We started  
again from Brakenburg on the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Almost half the column had left the  
day before under Maj. Morris R.A. Our  $\frac{1}{2}$   
column went north in 3 bds, and even  
subdivided further. I was with the



3<sup>rd</sup> and smallest division viz.  $\frac{1}{2}$  reduced coy  
of VMR and one gun. Capt. Watson RA  
was in command & Cholmley was with  
the VMR. My going was in a way a  
mistake as I had stayed behind to buy  
or some blankets and fully expected to  
rejoin the Troop in the evening. So took  
no rations or bedding. However I learnt  
before leaving the spirit that we might be  
away 3 days so got some rations & forage.  
Capt. Watson hospitably entertained me.  
On the 19<sup>th</sup> we went simply on to Vlad-  
fonten S.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> we left our baggage there  
practically unguarded and struck due  
East across country till we reached the  
river then we worked a little northward  
and the gun was laid so as to command  
a piece of country over which Boers posted  
by Maj. Morris might bolt us. None  
did and we went west by Tigort's-  
poort, where we got an armed Boer,  
and made down for Vladfonten N.  
Just at dark on the main Rheinstu Rd.  
we met Roman of Cholmley's Coy. who  
said we were to come on to the main  
camp west of Rheinstu and that he

had instructed Gubbins with our baggage but Gubbins hadn't tumbled. About this time we saw Gubbins fire so sent again to him and went on to camp. About 2 miles west of Rhinoster we came simply on the RUF Camp, the main camp had moved they said to the old camp Rhinosterville. Rouns D set off for it with his men but they were not there. After trying along a bit further on our road we tumbled, crossed the spring. It was so dark we couldn't see it, and were making for the north road when we stumbled on May. Umperby, Capt Meadows and his crowd also seeking the General in vain. After a little consultation we all agreed to return to the Munster camp which we reached rather before midnight. The major's people had neither food nor bedding. My blankets accommodated four round the fire.

Yesterday I was detailed to go with the Munster's without any baggage whatever. It was a terribly long hard march right round the South end of Rhinoster and <sup>down</sup> the river to Waterval, where we struck the



General & I rejoined my unit.

To-day the 21<sup>st</sup> we came up a very steep road up a rugged pass due E and then turned south over rolling hills to this camp, doing fully 10 miles and being now about 14 from the ranching.

I found on my return that the old bitch was lost some pup, she is apparently killed. To-day I had a full with the mare and skinned her right knee - not badly. Rather hard back. Weather very fine - Not so cold as at Bruckspruit but not warm at night. Brilliant during the day.

Middle drift. S.E. Bruckspruit.

Stumpool Spruit 26<sup>th</sup> May 1901.

We reached Bruckspruit with incident staying there one day. Yesterday we trekked again in a S. easterly direction. I had an afternoon at whet bank shooting Mr. Lambie's pigeons. Yesterday's trek was over the good old high hills but we had a little variety round one or two good farms and chickens went cheap. There was fighting on ahead all day more or less and we had 1 Officer severely and two men slightly

wounded. Towards evening some mance  
shots were heard near camp but nothing  
sensational occurred. To-day our  
trip was continued over same class  
of country but we were delayed some-  
what by parties of Boers deploying just  
out of range of our guns. They wandered  
around with great coolness but there  
was evidently no serious collision.

Weather fine for the whole week but  
there was a strong hoar frost this morning.

Yaklaagte 28<sup>th</sup> May. Yesterday

we had a  
long wearisome march. We first headed  
S.E. then made a peculiar S movement  
landing here at a farm on the Elephant  
river. The day started lively our  
people being engaged busily away on  
the left. The Boers charged off leisurely  
from a long rise. The pom-pom was  
dusting all round them but with little  
apparent effect - then it jammed. The  
fighting was continued nearly all day in  
that direction, our people endeavoring to  
get round them in vain. We had no  
casualties.

To-day also was very lively. We had a



a great buck hunt. Just as the hills to the west enclosed by more scaling were several hundred black and rather few springbok. In the afternoon 7 of us went up in cape-carts 4 riding with 2 or 3 V.M.R. to down them. I found the my manna useless the fire wouldn't work. I got a few shots from Garland V.M.R. then took to my shot-gun without effect. The firing was wild, everyone banging into big bunches of buck, a few were brought down but many legs were broken and it was pitiable to see the poor brutes limping around. On the way home we sighted a small bunch & I jumped off with a rifle and the second shot tumbled one. On running forward to make sure I was met by a very brisk fire from the camp and had to get behind an ant-heap. The cape-cart just behind me had a narrow time & had to retreat and the occupants got out in a hurry. The buck had run towards camp and the V.M.R. had opened on them. Just then the Bys. major & Bost. came galloping up headbowed and commenced blazing away. The fire was very hot for a time cross fire all over the place

so I took the Cape-cart into camp. Duncan  
Shelue, was having a warm time still  
beside another ant-heap rather north of me.  
About a doz. buck most have been brought  
in.

Aberdeen Camp. 31<sup>st</sup> May 1901.

on the

29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> we stayed at Middle Kaul  
about 8-10 miles S.E. of Vlaglaate. We  
got along quietly enough but Capt. Rigetti's  
Co. sent out to bring in Commandant Thieard  
family had a bad time: at least the  
advance party under Murphy. Poor  
Murphy and three others were killed  
and one rather badly wounded. They were  
very smartly cut off from the rest beside  
the jam I got it very hot. A few were  
disarmed but the Russ did not get off  
Scot-free: two were left dead and one,  
whom we have now was shot thru the  
groove. One pm. pm and a big scout  
went out and brought in the rest of  
the force. Yesterday 1/2 Mr. V. R. had  
a warm camp fight. A few days ago  
a party of Caribians <sup>of all sorts</sup> under St. Moncreuff  
had a very warm time and sought  
shelter with Maya Chink R. M. & who



was left a day or two at Stenford Spent.  
They came home with him and have since  
been trying to get back to their column.  
The Officer is in hospital with very acute  
rheumatism. Yesterday Mr. Brabson with  
20 V.M.R. set out with them (20 of them) and  
got into it. On communicating with our  
general they got orders to stay by which  
they did very successfully at great risk;  
and more would come out. They did  
and the Com. force did great work. May.  
Morris <sup>RA</sup> reports 2 Boats killed by gun. gun.  
is 2 or 3 by rifle fire. We lost one Carabineer  
killed outright. I got a wild duck  
30 at the last camp and on the way here  
a guinea fowl. Our route to-day was  
about N.E. by N. and we went about  
10 miles. We saw nothing altho Thelma  
a small body was engaged to the right  
No casualties in as yet.

There has been rather a strange incident  
with a Dutch ambulance wagon and  
stew out of from Holland to Botha which  
we acquired at Richards farm. At  
first we appropriated it but the General  
found papers, from including the paper  
of gift and some letters from a Staff

open to his honor the Com. general Botha  
in which he said he would send the waggon  
down a few miles down the Krans road.  
It was ultimately left back to day just as  
we found it. It is very cold at night  
and unatched this morning - very rusty.

Driefontein 1<sup>st</sup> June 1901. To-day  
we made

rather a long trek rather north of west  
in the direction of Wilbank. We must  
have travelled about 12 miles to-day  
without any marked incident. The guns  
got into position once or twice but did  
not loose off. It was never warm all  
day and the wind blew hard and cold.  
We have now a long line of waggons  
with families, a great bunch of cattle &  
9,000 sheep. Both our wounded men are  
doing well - the <sup>Hugo</sup> <sup>Andrew</sup> <sup>very</sup> grateful, but  
very fastidious regarding his treatment.

Steenkool Farm 15 miles S.E. of  
Brugfont. 8<sup>th</sup> June.

We next proceeded to Klipfontein  
about 5 miles from Brugfont where  
we stayed without notable incident  
till June 6<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday we arrived  
here. Yesterday morning 2 Corps of



V.M.R. who had gone out early met me  
at daybreak & fought for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour.  
They recognized me another before any  
were hit. Total casualties 2 horses. Another  
party under Capt. O'Reilly with Capt. Christie  
really met the enemy and had so many  
a time that relief had to be sent. We  
had one man wounded but they left  
a dead one on the field. Our supply  
wagons leave again for Brinsford then  
we proceed again S.E.

Weather still very cold but bright  
Middeburg. 16<sup>th</sup> June. 1901. At  
J<sup>r</sup> Mouchads house.

This has been an eventful week.  
On the 10<sup>th</sup> 3 Corps Left half 11 R. &  
2 pom. poms went out east under Maj.  
Morris R.A. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Cap. Pigette  
joined them with more supplies.  
In the very early morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>  
his armed men began to arrive with  
tales of a dreadful disaster to this col.  
At daybreak camp was broken and  
the rest of the V.M.R. started off  
roughly east to the scene of the disaster.  
The Maj. D. Paterson started off with  
this crowd with all our munitions



and tongas under the belief that the whole  
column was following. A few miles out  
the Gen. & Staff came past us. Beaton  
looked 10 yrs older. We travelled about  
9 miles & reached the camp at a farm  
called Williamsport about 8. a.m. It  
was really a terrible sight. Up on  
the rise from the farm the lines were  
clearly shown by the dead horses. The  
2 tongas were still there and near them  
a row of corpses, among them being W.  
Palmer & Capt. Watson R.A. Some of the  
wounded were still among the horse lines  
and many others unhurt but dazed were  
sitting and lying about just where they  
had been left. The first I met were a  
group of officers totally unarmed and  
some without coats or leggings. Two  
officers Burrey & Hennessy got through  
armed. Burrey shooting his man. Sel-  
man was captured but allowed to ride  
off to our camp for aid, when the Boers  
cleared. Tackell was all right with his  
subs. Brace Ebling. Rigetti was one  
of the wounded laid out near the farm  
with a smashed leg above the ankle.  
Wallmore was down with 2 wounds,



Humwood 3 (Both slight) Bradesen had  
wound of left femur. Maj. McKnight was  
all right. Capt. Dyer R.A. had a slight  
scalp wound but Miller got off scot free.  
Old Supt. Martinson an old 17. Lancer  
had 7 individual hits. It was when going  
to dress him that Palmer was shot thro  
the head. In all 4 Officers & over 40 men  
were wounded. It was a fearful sight  
altogether, Poor Reg. Morris looked all  
broken up. As we neared the camp  
firing was heard. This was chiefly  
caused by Coulter this morning keeping  
off some Boers who had returned to  
drive off some cattle. Wm. Shulock  
Vet. Lt. to the V.M.R. had seen to most of  
the first dressings but still we had  
quite a big day swabbing up and  
dressing. We immediately pitched 3  
tents and the 3 of us went at it. I was  
kept going hard almost till dark. It  
took quite a while getting them all  
loaded. About 10 am. a lot of firing  
started. This was caused by 5 Boers  
led by one on a white horse coming right  
into camp. They were driven off with-  
out getting one. Just at dusk we

putted out for Rouffartien, after burying  
19. Off. from 4000 meters. Our journey was  
made almost entirely in the dark but we  
got to camp without incident. Next  
morning about 10 am. I started for here.

We camped one night at Hachestef'tien  
and made this about 2. pm. yesterday.

The journey was somewhat full, the road  
being good almost all the way. A number  
of drums had to be removed. All are  
now doing well but 3. Mack badly hit  
thru' both thighs & the left arm, Charles  
thru' the chest & another who is threatened  
with gangrene of the foot. Col. Gormley  
Maj. Shinn have charge of the cases.

I am now staying with a local doctor  
Dr. Morehead who is C.S. to the Hosp. here.  
To-day I lunched with the P.M.O. had  
tea in the Commissioners mess & afterwards  
visited the Refugee camp with Dr.  
Spencer the District Surgeon. I was at  
church in the morning.

History of the Surprise - As far as  
one can judge, the Boers, who had  
exact intelligence sneaked up to the  
camp between the two outlying peaks  
to the S. and reached the camp.



They opened a simultaneous fire at 8 pm when some of the men had turned on while others were sitting round their fires. Immediately after firing they rushed at camp in lines shooting right and left. The fire only lasted 7 minutes. They at the same time got the pom. from down the hill, hunked up & pulled away. They stayed on 1 1/2 hours disarming the men & collecting ammunition during this time they showed every courtesy to the wounded. They got away 1000 rounds of pom-pom ammunition & 10,000 rounds of SAA. They are believed to be a part of Velycos commands under "Fighting" Martin but a Dutch woman at the farm said there was a "Ed. Com. Mahu" there. 150 entered the lines but about as many more were held in reserve and with the horses.

Middelburg. 21<sup>st</sup> June. 1907.

Since last note I have been staying here quietly in very comfortable circumstances. There is still no news of our column. One of the wounded, named Mack, died the second night in. One Corp.

underwent amputation of the right leg  
at the knee, owing to gangrene of the  
foot owing to clogged vessels. The rest  
are all doing as might be expected all  
the Officers are progressing favourably.  
I have been an outpatient under Sister  
Lady Gifford for slight infected sores of  
the hands. I have been round the  
refugee hospitals with the district Surg.  
Dr. Spencer. A Sister Cochrane matron of  
the Coll. Hosp. and who nursed in  
Pretoria for the Boers is very entertaining.  
We gamble here muddily. Mr. Dacomb.  
Quartermaster to the Hospital is very strong  
all round at games of chance or otherwise.  
He leads us astray. We have had a  
few little poker games. I have neither  
but a keen but so far. A Mr. Griffiths  
& Mr. Chalonne Lieut. Reg. got slightly  
knocked here the other night. I have  
seen the Inchaughts in town they haven't  
got the house they expected. It is a  
mess. The Hosp. here is quite  
picturesque occupying narrow buildings  
surrounded with trees & many margins  
pitched between.

Three nights ago the Boers or their messes



did rather a smart thing. They cut the wire round one of the paddocks at the sick lines and ran off 71 horses about midnight. Last night there was some firing heard from the town.

The refugee camp is immense here. All in there are more than 8000 souls.

Col. Gamley is Insp. P.M.O. here and Major Rhine Surg. Chief. Our P.M.O. is Col. Dorman a well old officer and very obliging.

Middelkraal 30th June. 1901.

On 25th -- the

column or rather the remains of one col. with a long train of waggon came in to Middelburg. Nearly 200 of the V.M.R. light were detached to go with Gen. Babington. Nothing sensational had happened while the col. was away. Nothing particular happened to me. At 10.30 I changed who had left the K.R.R. took my place at 10.30 Morehead's.

On the 28th we pulled out from Middelburg with a convoy. We had the R.M.F. 2 Corps Seaforth details of various including 18th 19th Hussars R.B. & K.R.R. Maj. Londe was in charge of them. Capt.

Hunter of the transport. Cal. Hall. Co.  
Gen. Blood and his staff came out  
with us. Bennet Burling is with  
him. He comes up to his description.  
After an momentful trek we arrived  
here about midday to find a very  
extensive camp the cols. of Babington  
Campbell Kitchener at least being all  
camped here. The West. Aust. lurch  
the only ones knocked. It happened some  
time ago and on the do they lost I  
think one or two officers 7 men killed  
and a number wounded. It seemed  
one of the usual stupid does.

To-morrow we all divide up again  
The supplied cols. go on we go  
back joined by R. half V.M.B. Some  
other details and taking in cattle  
refugees besides about 70. sick &  
wounded. This seems the idea of our  
coming out. To-morrow we start  
off again at 8. am. Another Aust.  
off. has been added to our little country  
a Lt. Reid V.A. twice wounded. He  
is a Pres. person at home and his  
brother is M.D. to the W.R. Murphy  
& the other fellows have nice wooden



crosses at their heads.

Middleburg. 6<sup>th</sup> July 1901.

We got in here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> taking in one so sick and wounded. One V.M.R. was hit thro' the abdomen on the way in & has since died. All got in well all but one V.M.R. have done well since I was away. To-day Klerkore & Hamond got into Pretoria. Things are pretty much I.S.G. here. The P.M.O. Army was here the other day, quite pleased.

To-day I was riding with Sister Colburne matron of the Cottage Hospital. She is a true Afrikaner and somewhat pro-Boer having nursed for them and always well treated.

To-morrow we march again W. The mounted people leave in the moonlight we at a more Christian home.

Weather is really splendid. Very pleasant during the day altho naturally still chilly at night.

(May 5<sup>th</sup> Weekly Times of May 17<sup>th</sup>)  
Col. Beaton's Column has been attacked by Viljoen with 500 men. The enemy had got within short close range when our

Pom-pom and Maxim were turned upon them, causing them to retire with the loss of 6 killed. Our troops went in pursuit and forced the enemy to abandon all their transport which was captured.

8<sup>th</sup> July. Uiddelburg. Still here.

We were again to have pulled out in bits on 10<sup>th</sup> leaving this morning but intelligence has arrived that the enemy is too strong close by here so I suppose we await re-inforcements.

Oliphants River 12<sup>th</sup> July.

We got sudden orders just after last note and moved out to the Keram drift about 5 miles N.E. leaving at 6 p.m. It was very dark and rather miserable. We bivouaced in the dark and the v.m.b. moved out at 4 a.m. and had a big day. We only moved on some 4-5 miles to Driefontein. There was no real fighting but a good deal of firing and quite a capture of magazines stock rifles etc. with 3 prisoners.



This trek Anderson R.E. was intelligence  
off. and really ran the show. He dined with  
us and was full of buck being well pleased  
that this intelligence as regards the larger  
and also his personal pluck in clough  
hunting. His horse got grazed but  
he came out all right altho' he was  
a long way ahead with only 9 men.  
On the 10<sup>th</sup> There was a similar day.  
The column only moved E to DornKopf  
arriving about 11. am. At the General  
with the V.M.R. divided into 3. parts went  
north Anderson with the middle party  
going up to Polking. The other two  
parties do not seem to have got so far  
north. About 3pm Best came along  
& ordered out all the Ambulance in  
camp out as there had been a do. Word  
the new L. half V.M.R. went off with one  
while Denshaw came with me with the  
rest. We went about 6 miles when we  
met the General's party & staff and were  
ordered back as only Anderson was hit  
and the ambulance with word had gone  
on. Coming home in the dark we  
had rather an exciting time for a bit  
raising a rather furious field fire.

all got off all right and we got to camp before 7 pm. It was after 11 pm before poor Anderson turned up as he had to be carried 3-4 miles to the ambulet which could not proceed further in that country. He was badly hit entrance in the middle of the sternum; exit opposite 10th dorsal behind. He was full of game in arrival but desperately anxious to know his chances. He struck it well and when dressed and tucked in settled himself to sleep. He had the appearance of a man who had bled badly. At 3 am the major reported he had picked up and might do but by 6 collapsed and passed out. at 8. No one in the whole col. could have been more sincerely mourned. He was so very well known and universally popular. Apart from soldiering he was the best of all round man I have met in the service being awfully well up in general subjects and evidently having a tremendous capacity as well as being an athlete and sportsman. His death too was particularly sad as this <sup>man</sup> term of service had interrupted his



wedding and he was reading hard for  
the S.C. to get home, get married and  
possibly go in for parliament. He had  
been shot at near Orange by a Boer  
hidden among rocks & bushes on a kop  
he had started to ascend. It was his  
puck and in a way foolhardiness which  
knocked him. The Boer was never  
seen. Anderson was the most intimate  
friend of our little man and a day  
never passed without his coming round.  
He shared with the Major a quietest  
in history and in politics. He had  
some idea of what he was risking  
as on the evening before he was hit  
he dined with us and his last remark  
before saying good night was that  
he would say his prayers that night.  
It was the last time poor beggar.  
We took the body in yesterday  
morning and the funeral took place  
from the Hosp. at 4 pm. There was  
a big line out of officers. The General  
who was a great friend of his was  
very cut up about it, having specially  
warned him to take less risks. The  
General was in the night he came

in and helped off with his putties etc  
and did not leave till he was fixed up.  
He lies in the military part of the  
Middelburg Cemetery.

This morning we pulled out this  
length a gentle march and this  
afternoon all troops have rested.

Rietfontein 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901.

We have reached  
here by way of Rooiport. Watermaal  
Lang Kloof, a trek almost free of  
notable incidents. There has been  
no fighting, not even scraping as  
far as I know. This country is  
by no means what it was on our  
first trek which is but natural.

There are a few oranges left but poor  
ones. To-day the General with all  
the Mr. separated, perhaps for a few  
days, but returned this afternoon.  
He got in touch with Benson to the NE.  
It is notably warmer than on the  
high veld.

Brankhorst Spruit 26<sup>th</sup> July 1901.

We reached  
here on the 24<sup>th</sup> after a rather  
unpleasant trek down. We lay a



whole day at Vlakfontein and the vint  
went out Kloof hunting. One Seryt.  
Buckingham was shot dead. We got a  
few prisoners and a good deal of stock.  
The A.S. have taken over this post and  
all the ministers have now gone. The weather  
is beautiful, much warmer than we were  
here last. There is some measles through  
the column. Six have been sent to Pretoria.  
I have a beastly cold in my chest. The  
first in this country but it is quite bad.

Ternekop. NE Albert Selous mine  
1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1907.

We have come round this time by  
way of Vlakfontein, Rhinoster right  
up through Rietfontein to a camp 3  
miles on the Wagon drift Rd. There  
we stayed two nights and trekked  
here to-day thro' Rietfontein & Hart-  
heestfontein. We are about 1. mile W.  
of Ternekop farm. To-morrow we  
take S.W. The trek has been quite  
uneventful till to-day. Up by N. of  
Rhinoster it is very interesting, the  
road leading thro' the old battle  
ground. The Boer position is a  
most formidable one on a ridge of low

stone Koppies and their trenches are simply works of art in the way they have worked in the natural advantages of rock both for cover and secrecy.

Many of the rocky spots must have been rather uncomfortable as they are all splattered with rifle bullets and chipped by shells. There are a number of more or less shabby granes and a meat cross where the West Yorks. Col. fell.

Yesterday a real & live fighting. Boer was wounded & we have him with us.

To-day a party of signallers left behind by our camp got into hot water. I do not know particulars but three V.M.R. were wounded, one by accident and then captured. One is badly hit thro' both lungs.

The R. Half going up north this morning pursued some Boers with some success, as they burned one and brought home two, besides destroying some waggon and getting some stock.

We are now bringing in Koppies and have now quite a selection



of dusky beauties and children in the  
waggons.

These last two nights the weather  
has been markedly milder. Frost away.  
The wind is high during the day and  
as this is the dustiest season trucking  
is rather disagreeable.

I still have my cold but it is  
somewhat easier.

A remarkable incident happened  
early on July 27<sup>th</sup> while we lay at  
Bhrs. spruit. The old bitch came back.  
Naturally she could make no report &  
nothing further has been found regarding  
her movements in the mean time. She  
deserted on May. 20<sup>th</sup>. She was in  
excellent condition, rather fat, on rejoining.

Brookhorst spruit 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1907.

After Ten Kop  
we made a short trek to Tenfontein  
W of Rheinoster from which our store  
waggons went in here. Nothing much  
happened. There were games etc. The  
only nasty incident was the shooting  
of a Dutch Intelligence fellow by one  
of our posts. It got the brain and  
he died within 24 hrs. On the 6<sup>th</sup>

we were ordered to the line and arrived here early yesterday.

The whole column is now broken up. The V.M.B. left early taking to road. The Cornwallis go to Barkenton by train and I believe the seaforth go to Bethesda. The staff gunners R.E. supplies and ourselves are all left.

The sun is very hot now during the day but it is still pleasantly cool at night.

Almshorn goes with the Cornwallis at present.

Bronckhorst Spruit 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1901.

This morning the General left for Pretoria but the staff are still here. The guns it is said go to Middelburg and the R.E. to Pretoria. The General is to have a large district command under French. The N.S.A. are garrison here with some R.S. The garrison is very much reduced. May Irving is D.C. Scals and Campbell are here. A proclamation is now out to banish for life all Boer Officers if they do not surrender in a month.



The burghers are to pay for the keep of their women and leave their land confiscated to do so. This is the last bomb.

To-day it was not so warm and a rather chilly wind is now blowing.

I lost my man Gordon yesterday.

I ordered him to return to duty.

Pretoria 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1901. We arrived

here a <sup>two</sup> few days ago taking up from Brunkhorst's spruit, leaving there on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It was quite a pleasant little trip, go as you please pretty much. Each station provided us with escort to the next. First night we spent at Elands. From where ~~some~~ <sup>the</sup> Drcons are stationed at Cep. Baillie. Next night we made Eratfabaken and from that in. From Elands R. in it is very picturesque especially at Pinaas Port where the road passes thro' the N. end of Drained hill.

There towards the west the hills are quite precipitous. Towards the north the range is very broken till it reaches the Pretoria hills.

The V.M.R. men turned at Welbank  
and sent down to Valkenswaard where  
we believe another column is forming  
under Poulterrey. Swanson, Fox  
& Simpson were in here when we arrived.  
Simpson is off. Reilly & Stock were  
here and only got away for the  
South this morning.

It is lovely weather, not too warm  
during the day & mild at night.  
Pretoria is now very civilized, every  
thing going as in peace time and  
no sentries patrol the streets. It  
has not much more appearance of  
military occupation, but the large  
number of offices & stores & hospitals  
than an ordinary continental town.

Charleston. Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>

Nothing  
much happened in Pretoria.

Clark of the V.M.R. is in the M.I.  
depot, in great force. Of our  
late column. Swanson has  
been attached to Gen. Barton  
Simpson & Fox dodge around  
with Conroy.

We had quite a dinner at the



opening of the new M. I. mess.  
Gen. Alderson was the chief guest.  
Among others the May. & I were  
there. The Band of the Gordons  
supplied the music. The dinner  
was long and good. The OC-  
May. Hancock, is somewhat of  
a character.

On Mon the 26<sup>th</sup> I left Phila  
on 14 days leave to travel in  
Natal. After rather an ad-  
venturous start I got early  
to Heidelberg. Wandering about  
the clough thro' which I rode  
on the first occasion I met  
May. Heron on crug. R. Mc-  
I lunched with him & the Hosp-  
staff and had a long yarn.  
I afterwards called at the Pagans  
& spent the rest of the afternoon  
beating old P. at billiards.

I stayed at the Royal Prep.  
Mr. Graham, who remembered  
my brother.

Yesterday I had a long day in  
the tram. Met. Warden of  
the M. I. at Heidelberg, Col.



Waldron RA accompanied by  
Capt. Atkins RA. on the same  
line as myself. We all 3.  
stayed T<sup>h</sup> here.

To-day we had quite a time  
of it. We borrowed horses  
and rode to a black house W.  
of Mayaba where we left our  
horses. Mr. Barnes & T<sup>h</sup> was  
in charge. We then had a  
long walk up Amajuba and  
back. It was splendid as  
regards scenic effects & of course  
most interesting.

We then rode right across  
Simp's Neck along Buu  
trunks all the way to the  
hill commanding the Neck  
to a battery Maj. Kemp. &c.  
We had tea there and rode  
back.

To-night the Col. & I dined  
at No 18 Gen. Hosp. Col.  
Daly O.C. we had a very  
good dinner & I went to  
parties at which invited. They  
were very kind.



The day before leaving Pretoria  
we had a most remarkably  
hail storm. Some of the stones  
were actually as big as hens eggs  
and positively wrecked down  
a tent. The weather since  
has been very pleasant. In  
fact so far coal.

Lady Smith 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. Sat.

At Charleston Col. Walbone & I dined  
at No 18 Gen. Col. Daly etc. He  
is a very run old card and  
tremendously active and more  
egotistical. Next morning we  
went round the show. Everything  
there is better than anything else-  
where.

29<sup>th</sup> Aug we went down to  
Dundee. On the way down  
I dropped on Redford & some V.M.B.  
He told me Selman was again  
in hospital wounded. At Dundee  
I met Capt. Norton again. They  
dined with me. Ws

30<sup>th</sup> Aug. Yesterday we went  
over Talana under



escort of Col. Curtis R.A. It is well  
worth seeing but the old questions  
are not put to rest but rather  
resurrected. There is a most  
interesting old Scotch couple Mr.  
Mrs Smith at the farm. They  
were very hospitable. In the  
afternoon we got down to  
Clons laaght & stayed overnight.  
Maj. Valentin late Resident at  
Hiddelburg, who had been ADC  
to Gen Hamilton and was in  
the fight accompanied us.

31<sup>st</sup> Aug. This morning we  
rode all round the battle  
field & had a most interesting  
description of the fight. In the  
afternoon we came on here  
and walked round Long Hill.  
The defences there are tremendous  
Great walls 20 ft thick all  
over and at parts deep trenches.  
Gen Knox of Kromstad did all  
this. Ladysmith is rather  
a shabby little town and it  
is much more closely surrounded  
by hills than one would have



judged. The distances are not so great & Bulwain in a sense overlooks the town.

Colt M R has been killed and May. Daly wounded but they had heard no particulars. May. Valentine is going to take his place.

The weather has been lovely and not too warm at all so far.

Durban. Ocean View Hotel  
4<sup>th</sup> Sept.

1<sup>st</sup> Sept. May & Foster and May. Lee M. R.A. went with no road wagon 12<sup>th</sup> to Ceasar's Camp. Must have been jolly close fighting.

2<sup>nd</sup> The Col. at Kusun took train to Pretoria and met our Pretoria men hill Railway hill Mount Hill. At the railway line we separated. They went back & I came on to Colenso.

Buller's movements more predictable than ever. Saw where guns were abandoned etc.

3<sup>rd</sup> Came on to Mantzberg went to theatre.



Saw old Mitchell. Susie is at  
Durban. Old girl in Hospital  
to increase the nation.

4<sup>th</sup> To-day Saw Jottu looking  
pale. Came on here.

Warm in Durban yesterday  
Cloudy & cool today. Staying  
up here above the town kind  
of private concern.

Pretoria. 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1907. Finished

my tone  
yesterday. I had quite a quiet  
time in Durban. It is a pretty  
place - lots of trees and vegetation  
and there is a glorious view of the ocean.  
Hotel I stayed at is of the nature  
of a private one, mostly frequented  
by officers on leave. There are  
officers' messes too - not as a rule the  
messes of the officers staying. Table  
good. Very comfortable all round  
but suited for a lengthened stay.  
I came back straight without  
incident. Spending 2 nights in Durban.  
Found everything here the same but  
that Duncan has been transferred  
to the 1<sup>st</sup> Hosp. a very sad loss.



Fine up here not so warm as down  
below but blowing me comfortably  
hard to night.

Warm Baths. 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1907.

Yesterday we received  
a hurried order here to join Col. Colin  
Brandis Column and entrained last  
night. Of course we left Duncan  
at the I.Y. Hosp. I also left the little  
mule in his charge. Westmacott  
came up in his team ahead of us.  
We arrived about 4 pm to-day. At  
Poncha River we met several old  
friends, Pierce, Whitehurst to 2<sup>nd</sup> march  
& Cap. Sijman of the W. Ridings. The  
Hosp. there is better than ever. They  
have now got a fine mess. tent. Davis  
has had to resign his commission thro'  
a bust in Pretoria. We met  
Friedlander here. He is going down  
to apply for leave. The Brig. mgn  
is a Camero High. Capt. but I do  
not remember him.

The Hotel here quite a building is now  
an Hosp. The Baths seen all bust  
at least I could not get a bath  
Everything is dirty and neglected.



To morrow we pull out to a camp  
some little way off. Our force  
consists almost entirely of K.F.S.

It is distinctly warm to night and  
sultry down here. Some fever we  
believe has already started.

Warm baths 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1901

Still lying to  
here. Nothing of note happened  
till yesterday. Col. Woods Col  
Col. Gumpell's successor came down  
to join in a raid but the Boers  
moved first. One successful  
little night move by a Squad. K.F.S.  
resulted in the capture of five  
including an Open Coetzie much  
sought for as a train wrecker.

The weather at first was wet  
and stormy but lately it has  
been very fine. The nights are  
somewhat cold for the season  
of the year. Our Inf. & Cops. 5<sup>th</sup>  
Northampton & 2. Gordons are  
beside us now. Our Maj. Bolton is  
an old Mqaba off. & a very good  
sort. This <sup>rather</sup> applies to the Boers  
generally. Our Gordon Cap. is Camper



son of Lord Southesk the other was  
out with the C.I.V. Cap. Green, a medical  
graduate. The Vol. Coy is largely  
composed of Lon. Scouts.

Yesterday was a bad day for  
early the Mayor, riding into the  
station came down with his pony and  
broke his collar bone. I took him  
down to May. Hassards Hotel. Hosp.

The Gordon doctor Dr. Powell also  
went down with malaria.

The May. is now in bed between  
sheets. He got it at a lucky time.  
An new O.C. is coming up from Pretoria  
and a Cw Sup. for the Gordons.

Last night the K.F.S. gave a  
very good open air concert from  
8-10. pm. The talent was quite  
good and there was a glorious  
fire. The two Sisters from the  
Hosp. were up.

Warmbaths 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1901.

Since last  
entry we have made a little  
trek. The Inf. went in waggon  
and only 4 days supplies were  
taken. I accompanied the



show with 2 tongas, ambulance  
scotch cart, water carts & Cape cart.  
We had pretty fierce raking on  
this rise.

Started off at 6 am & tramped about  
15 miles nearly S. Last three miles  
thru' very heavy sand. Pulled out  
at 4. and tramped till eleven.

2<sup>nd</sup> day. Pulled out at 2 and  
at daybreak found ourselves  
5 miles short of where Boes <sup>were</sup> very  
disappointing. The leading squad  
opened on a patrol and gave  
the show away unnecessarily soon.  
Lay at Truck Type drift (Panan  
R.) all day - very nice place  
with very pretty river.

3<sup>rd</sup> day. Pulled out at 6 am  
and tramped N. to 9.

Very good road & mules trotted  
all the way. Pulled out at  
7 pm when moon rose and  
tramped till eleven parking on  
the bush without water.

4<sup>th</sup> day. Tramped at 3 am and  
reached Sleepstem Kop  
early. A very pretty little



Kop beside water in a cultivated  
patch of country. At 4 from the  
Inf. and empty supplies pulled  
out for hand sprint reaching it just  
after dark. The Col. lay low till  
night then made a tour round to  
the west to clear out some farm  
and perhaps surprise some.

5<sup>th</sup> We made an early trek to  
camp here about 3 miles  
west of warm baths.

Altogether we must have done  
well over 100 miles and we  
seemed to lose no mules. It  
was rather tiring the unrelenting  
ineffectiveness.

Found May Ritchie doing well &  
cheery. New O.C. May Duncan  
has joined and seems quite all  
right & former friend of Mr. Ritchie  
New Indian as Las Puntas place  
called Evans. Rather sluggish in  
manner.

The weather has become very  
hot quite a change. Health  
still quite good.



Sand. River

8<sup>th</sup> Oct. or.

Rhinoster back. Spent on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
we trekked from Warmbathes W and  
slightly N to Barnato's farm. Chaus-  
fontein. One route was thro' hills  
over a good road but for a couple  
of ugly drifts. The country is well  
wooded and very green really pretty.  
Barnato is a fine farm with a nice  
little orchard & orange grove. There was  
a field of ripened fall but ripe barley.  
Most of it travelled in one oxen. The  
mules & horses had a good time too.  
The trek was 9-10 miles.

Yesterday we came on N.W. by N  
thro' much the same class of country.  
At one place the hills narrowed at  
a turning and there was a small  
scar for which some baboons were  
probably responsible. We crossed over  
a height of land where there was a  
beautiful expanse of green grass dotted  
all over with daffodils, crocus like plants,  
primulas & other spring flowers like an  
English park. We camped at another  
Chausfontein - distance 10-11 miles.  
Close by our camp a small farm



was burned and the family turned on the field. The man was collared in some long grass. There was a sharp thunderstorm.

To-day we came away chiefly W 11-12 miles along the valley of the Sand River having high hills to our N. We are camped now at their western extremity. It is a very pretty valley with not much scrub and quite a number of good sized trees.

This morning we have had another thunderstorm and it rains hard as I write. There was no rain or rumour of war to-day.

Handriver or Sunday River  
Poot.

10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1901.

Yesterday we  
ma pulled out at  
5. am. and marched across a flat to  
Nortgedacht, where we lay till 1. pm.  
Then we triked again thro' the ink and  
along a very beautiful valley with  
hills on either side. To the north  
the hills were high and continuous  
towards the S we approached ponds  
occasionally. The scenery was quite



homelike, the hills in the near distance looking like heather clad and the valley was quite green with good sized trees dotted all over it. We camped at Buffels Kloof in rather thick bush.

This morning the start was normally at 3 o'clock but the transport did not really get on its way till daylight. There was terrible confusion getting the waggon out of the bush and things got mixed. Just after starting the rain started and it did pour. It has been showering all day and is simply pelting now as I write.

We pulled up a the S of the Poort about 8 this morning. The RFS mostly pulled out at 10. am to round up Boers to the North of here, crossing a rugged group of hills. They won't be in till late. Firing heard was heard by Scouts this afternoon so they got onto something.

The transport & Inf. came on here after midday to a slope about 2. miles N of the Poort, where we are encamped. We have some fever cases, but health generally is good.



Kamel Kraal Makablas River

13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1901

On the night of last note the Squads out captured a lot of stock, 7 rifles and 2 prisoners. It rained hard all night and they had a bad time.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> we trekked to a spruit N.W. across a very picturesque valley beside the hills to the N. The homestead (no house) is called Markelli.

Yesterday morning early we pulled out again N.W. by N to the S.W. corner of the Krang Berg. This was very fine the mountains rising sharply up on the right. The morning was dull but fine. The Krang Berg is very fine. It is like one great table mount about 6 miles long by 4 at the broadest on top. Its greatest height is perhaps 2-3000 ft. The slope all round is very steep and all round the top is precipitous. The precipices varying from 1000 ft at places to nearly a ledge. At parts it broken by deep clefts but there seems no practical way up from this side.

In the afternoon we trekked across



land bush to this camp beside the river.  
Yesterday a troop. K & S made a useful  
capture of a war family in 4 good weapons.  
They captured 8 fighting Boes & shot an  
armed nigger. They were taken out-  
spurred without opposition. The rest  
of the K & S are ahead. We proceed  
at 1. pm today. It is bright but  
wee & cool today.

Matlabtas River 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1901.

We are here in

camp at a drift almost due N  
of the Krang beg. Early yesterday  
morning the K & S went out in 3  
bodies. Later yesterday a mixed  
crowd of whites & Cape boys went  
out to find a missing man and  
surprised a small laager capturing  
5 men. Cap Costero's sqd. came up  
and recaptured the lot. They have  
come in with <sup>the</sup> some prisoners and  
some cattle. There is no news from  
the others yet.

There are 40 prisoners now: 4 surrender  
1400 cattle and a number of weapons  
etc. It is distinctly slow staying  
here and uncomfortably hot during  
the day. Health of the camp very good.



I note with sorrow that Pearly went astray on the 12<sup>th</sup> during the morning trek, sometime between 8 and 10 am. We have heard nothing of her since.

This camp is about 8-9 miles NWN of last noted.

Droachtfontein. 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 1901.

-18. To-day we marched 16 miles mostly in a NW direction holding the Matlabos close on our right all the way. The country is much the same right along, prickly bush predominating. The spring flowers are very fine. It would be a nice sporting country in peace time, buck tracks being fairly frequent. I got a duck this morning and a brace of sand grouse this evening.

The remaining squad with Cap. Cullins came in yesterday so did Maj. Hewitt.

The small crowd was the more on account of killing 12. prisoners and a number of cattle, 4 waggon and killing one. Maj. Hewitt had 2. but his show was given away by a nigged so he missed a decent capture.



Two surrendered buyers went out  
and brought 7 more, so surrenders  
now number some 14 now I believe.  
We have now 34. prisoners. On the  
trip these are employed driving their  
own wagons. It is very amusing  
to watch the motley crowd of persons  
and animals on the wagons.

Prisoners women children, soldiers  
hens, calves dogs, lambs and all the  
household gods they can hang on to.

The weather is still fine and the  
health on the whole good altho' we  
have in now a few cases suspiciously  
like tummy out culture.

To night the Col & Collins start for  
the Kimberly line 60 miles distant.

This river like the Great Hartz is a  
grand though not so pronounced.

There are some pools every 10 miles or  
so. The rest is sand.

20<sup>th</sup> Oct. To-day we made  
two marches, about

10 miles in the morning N.W.N  
and an afternoon one of 10-12 miles  
crossing the river from S.N about  
2 miles from camp. The river



is still fraudulent. This is a splendid camp beside a series of reedy points with brush all round. There is a house on a hill belonging to a man McArthur. I was out shooting in the evening before the wagons came. The place at dusk simply swarmed with birds. I got several brace of sand grouse. They circled round in great flights and with small shot great execution could have been made.

21<sup>st</sup> Crocodile River we came on here today starting late and marching about 9 miles. The country was much free from scrub but desperately sandy and rather Karoo like.

22<sup>nd</sup> Drift. McArthur's Drift.

This drift is about 5 miles down the river from last camp. This morning I walked by the side of the river and got a quinea fowl & two partridges with 3 cartridges. I expended some more without effect. There are any amount of birds along the river but shooting especially without a dog is very



difficult, as the birds rise and fall in the thick bush or run along in the high grass seldom showing under range. This is quite a river. It is brown coloured and flows quickly. Even at the drift here it takes a man over the waist and the current is quite rapid. The drift is very sandy and it was quite a sight watching the muggers à la Adam before the fall, getting <sup>(2)</sup> the wagons over, & flashing <sup>(1)</sup> about in the water. They would have 20-30 open in some before they could move them.

There is another abandoned house here. The bush is much the same only along the river are some exceptionally big trees. One ruined one must have been 7 ft through.

To-morrow we move early. On account of hardship - over 200 have succumbed all cattle are being left under guard on the E. side of the river. The rest of the column marches with provisions etc. to the line. The weather is still fine but the temperature is very variable.



Magalafye. 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1901.

23<sup>rd</sup> On this day we trekked twice.

First about 16 miles. Here the inf. halted and the 475 & baggage went on in the afternoon other 12 miles to the (Magalafye) river. The country is finer than on the other side the trees being larger & less scrub.

24<sup>th</sup> We trekked through really a nice country well wooded and undulating. All this country is well stocked with birds. I got one cock pheasant and saw some buck. After about 10 miles we struck the Magalafye river. It is dry at the drift but for a large pool. From there here by road is 3 miles along the river. Some families have been camped and have been for nearly a year. & more some of them they have nice little camps each family separate with their weapons & camp cuts along side. This is just a little wayside station with a few houses in total 12 stores. There are some kopies round &

Real hills appear in the distance.  
Magalafye. 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1901. Since  
last

note I have been to Mapetung and  
back. I took down sick, and  
stayed at Dixon's hotel. I found  
down there Henderson & S. Bruce  
Gardens & Walter Northampton.

As at town it is not much account  
consisting chiefly of hotels and a  
few possible stores. There is quite  
a staff there and a Stat Hosp. with  
100 beds. I saw some of the at-  
tending defences. There were the  
backfields where our people sapped  
right up to a Boer fort and simply  
pushed them out very much entirely.  
I was taken round by Clements C.P.  
who was <sup>14<sup>th</sup></sup> Sgt. May during the Siege.  
Col Ryan 2<sup>nd</sup> in Com. is still  
there as Commandant. Of course  
much is changed since the Siege  
but quite a lot of interesting stuff  
is left if you know how to find it.  
Dixon's hotel is good & reasonable  
so is the Mapetung. prop. Ross  
OC of the town guard.



Magalapye. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Since  
last note

the only interesting event was  
a dance given to the surrounding  
Borneo refugees by the officers of the  
column. It was quite an  
occasion, and the fun was kept  
up farcetically all night. It was  
of the nature of a country dance  
anywhere. All possible connections  
turned up. The younger women  
danced the seniors sat round  
many quietly sucking their babies.  
There were several smart looking  
girls particularly the Van Rensselaers  
daughters of the Commandant. The  
younger girl danced like a professional  
and was really graceful in a  
sort of two step dance. Refuseness  
was going fairly frequently and  
altogether the evening seemed to go  
well.

Sandspruit. 2. Nov. Back  
on our  
tracks towards the Crocodile, in  
our old camp. The march was  
made in two stages. We started

from Magalafye at 11.30. and made  
out to first drift which took up a  
lot of time. The march so far  
was very unmoning owing to the  
effects of the Stalin law on the R.L.  
Practically all the S. Magas. most  
of the Engls and quite a number  
of the troops were very much  
influenced and the vaccination of  
Magalafye was fairly gradual.  
An instance of two going  
back 16 miles to have a drink.  
All however got away tho' all  
did not reach camp that night.  
The trip was completed in the  
dark and there were some great  
old scenes several magpies getting  
fairly stuck in the bush. The  
infantry had preceded us so far.  
Crocodile River Drift at

mouth of the  
Magalafye River.  
4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1907. We arrived  
here yesterday marching practically  
along the M. River all the way  
& taking the River cross-drain  
practically down Min MacArthur drift.



We passed thro' a splendid game district. I got several birds and saw a number of bucks. Along the river here is splendid but the dense bush makes shooting hard. There is no lack of material. The weather is uncomfortably warm for crossing about in the bush just now and the afternoon thunderstorm is fairly constant. This is a beautiful camp, perhaps the most picturesque we have ever had at the Junction of the two rivers. The drift here is believed to be dangerous so we are marching north, to the lower down stream.

Crocodile River - 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1901.

To night I am practically on the river bank. This morning we started sharp at day break, getting clear of camp in the dark in fact. After a bit I went down to the river with my gun accompanied by Clark J.B.C. At first the road hugged the river but after a time the river made a big sweep & leaving the road a long way. I was shooting down

in this bend and saw lots of game  
but I only killed 3 brace of birds.  
It was very hot & thirsty work so  
I determined to chuck it and go  
back to the Col. In attempting this  
we got horribly mixed up in the  
bush and found again into the  
river. Very terribly dry and  
rather tired we made for a cool  
spot and simply lapped the water  
up. Then we roasted a bird and  
lay too till about 3.30. After  
putting around sometime after birds  
we made a serious attempt in  
striking out towards the declining  
sun and the dusk of the column.  
The old river had however a  
most tantalizing way of getting  
in the way and doubtless my  
supposed short bend to bend  
cuts were really detours in the  
bush. Words cannot really  
describe the bush. One prime  
deer was fairly pulled out of the  
saddle by the scratched horns  
and my legs are all over scratches  
and stings. The smell



looked over as much the worst.  
After 5: pm. The last and most  
serious effort was made and we  
got a long way up, 10 men being  
very thirsty and the light going  
and the bush being awful I halted  
it and turned tail for the river.  
A sharp thunderstorm made the  
ground very damp and did not  
add to our comfort. We found  
a good place to make our beds  
of wood, so except for the sum-  
mers of the fair, Partridge straight  
again had little to complain of.  
We could hear the crocodiles speaking  
in the river below.

Crocodile River. 6 P. ~~10~~ After  
a slight

unsuccessful effort we made back  
on our tracks up stream and soon  
came back in touch with the  
road. In fact all our previous  
wandering extended over a very small  
area after all, tho' the obstructive  
bush took up so much time.  
After following the road a few  
miles we hit the camp we wanted

This morning, There are had our  
horses well fed and picked up  
some scraps for ourselves. On the  
ground we found two Coloured goshawks  
one found out a Son of King Pham  
with a message from Siam, Khang,  
heir & Son, who appears to be at  
Magulapye. They attended to  
the horses and; one went for water  
the other produced some bully leaf.  
I tipped them both 1/2. rather than  
tipping one of royal blood a bob.  
Then we rode on and caught  
the col. halted about 1. pm. Our  
two friends turned up, had some  
chow, and I took them over to  
head quarters. They were quite  
put out at my absence and the  
mng. was quite relaxed at my  
returning. At 4. pm we proceeded  
in stay camp before dark.

Distance from Magulapye Duff  
I should judge some 27 miles.  
Crocodile River 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

We started  
again at 3.30 this morning and  
came right along walk and



trout along on the whole a good  
road for 16-18 miles, along the  
distance in rather over 4 hrs.  
Great going for snails. Of course  
the snails were soon left behind.  
At 3.30 we next aimed again and  
came on here a further 5 miles  
to the point on the river where  
we cross and again the 7 mugs.  
Up to now the country had been  
quite flat but now we have  
hills to the north, perhaps 5-10  
miles off. The timber along the  
river is fine and large and  
the scenery all along a beautiful  
game. Outside the first line of  
timber you have usually meadows  
then close young thorn, then large  
thick thorn till you see the  
general country which is sandy  
and scrubby with occasional  
deciduous timber. Just on reaching  
camp this morning a heavy  
very fine thunderstorm, the  
lightning being very brilliant. This  
did clear the air. I made the  
mist there was a beautiful

double rainbow both being absolutely  
complete tho' only one was brilliant.

The Infantry have not yet turned  
up. Are cross the drift tomorrow  
but it has to be removed first.

8<sup>th</sup> Nov. Silika (?) or Columbian  
drift on the Crocodile

This is really a  
great drift and it was a great  
sight seeing the waggon over.  
They started at daylight and finished  
about 2. pm but had to require  
the aid of the oxen. The stream  
flows fast and takes a man about  
to his arm. puts at the deepest.

The waggon had a great time of it  
in the morning pushing about in  
the water and pulling ropes attached  
to the waggon. Later on the troops  
came down and helped them,  
making of anything more now still.  
The river is nearly 100 yds. wide  
and the rope extended clear across  
altogether it was great fun. Very  
unfortunately one of the butchers coming  
down down with the beasts got off  
his horse & was immediately drowned.



The river has been rising steadily and towards the finish 36 inches had to be forced on some of the wagons. The river here is really beautiful and the trees, palms etc. along the banks really fine. Professionally we had rather an afternoon as Bell partly asphyxiated with embolical hernia a piece of the membrane getting stuck. Just at dark it was determined to reduce it under chloroform & I was prepared to go on with the operation but May, when while examining it manipulated it back very fortunately. He is doing very well now.

9<sup>th</sup> Silukia on the Palala River

This is a muddy, left bank track at 3.30 having done about 7-8 miles this morning a little N. of E. There is a very large beach quite a town of the name, a chaf. I believe here, There is not much of interest in it. I procured a nice bunch of 3 deer-jackals skins for a moderate price. The weather is really warm & in home a tremendous rainy evening.

10<sup>th</sup> Nov. On Palala probably <sup>Amheim</sup> ~~Amheim~~  
Yesterday

afternoon we made a trek  
more or less along the river for about  
8 miles. The river is very nice  
all sandy, but there is very little  
water, what there is is beautifully clear.  
Being so shallow the water is quite  
warm but it is delightful lying in  
the sand with flood flowing over  
me in this oppressive weather.

To-day we again made two  
trips - in all 16-18 miles along  
the course of the river. The only  
notable incident besides the oppressive  
heat was an accident to Sgt Boyd  
Vol. Coy. Gordons. He was run over  
the neck chest by a great ox wagon  
and escaped with a broken rib and  
the peroneal process separated.

11<sup>th</sup> Nov. On the Klein Magal-  
ak <sup>near</sup> River

we are probably about Keppaf

To-day we made a long trek of  
about 24 miles with only 1 1/2 hrs.

outspan for breakfast. A start  
was made at 1 a.m. and we went



night ahead till nearly 8 when the  
halt was made. After breakfast there  
being no water we proceeded about 6  
miles to this camp arriving early in the  
forenoon. We are at present in two  
columns mounted mules and Inf-  
on oxwagons. The latter did not  
get in till late this afternoon. The  
first column of which we bring up the  
rear goes at 4 miles an hour so we  
don't take long to do a decent trek.  
The mules were fairly done up today  
for lack of water but few actually  
fell out there were lost as far as I know.  
The oxen came along strongly in the  
early morning which was strangely  
cool but had a bad time later in the  
day. We came thro' pretty country  
lightly wooded with plenty of re-  
markably green grass & little scrub.  
The last part of the journey was below  
Kopjis, the country & some stony.  
We have just entered the waterbury.  
This camp is a very pretty one beside  
a small rocky spring opposite an  
empty farm house. We are all camped  
in open bush above a fine meadow.

12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1907. Same Camp resting.

Did nothing and nothing of note happened.

13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1907. Camp. 25 miles S.S.E.

To-day we had a very long wearisome days taking, a stiff time for the mules. We started at 4.30 through this really pretty low hilly country about 8-9 miles in the usual two columns. We camped for 3 hrs in a really beautiful spot like an English park proceeding 2 hrs after the oxen came on. Then we started & did 15-16 miles more of very heavy taking. One place was so terribly rocky that Hugh Boyd had to be carried about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. The day was fortunately very cool, (I wore my B.W. Coat all day) or the mules would scarcely have done it. Yesterday 2 Sgts under Coster went out on a 6 days patrol.

14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1907. On the Melk River

To-day we did not start till 10. am and made no trek of 10 miles over really bad roads. and also the same class of country



but for the plentifulness of water. So by  
we crossed the Palala River and are  
now camped just to the S. of the hulk.  
Hudsons hunt out to-day on a 3 days  
patrol. The weather is strangely cool  
one might almost call it cold  
15<sup>th</sup> Nov. Handrift on the  
Droars River

We had a comparatively easy  
trip thro pleasant country. The  
Squads were out hunting magpies  
& cattle were very successful.  
They got nearly 27 muskies - 1000  
head of cattle & several magpies.

16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Modder Spruit leads  
Landruin port.

We had a stiff days taking  
ending in passing the first creek  
into a small valley. Between two  
ridges comprising the barrier of the  
watering. It was a terrible hill  
both up & down. Like a long stretch  
of the down grade was built up - the  
most pretentious bit of engineering  
I have seen away from the railway.  
Our advance ran into a Boer patrol  
at the other side of the S. part of the

Nek, so we halted here and all the  
squads were ordered in for 5-day march  
as the Baers were reported to hold a  
position in strength about 1. mile S of the  
Nek. Castros brought in some more  
prisoners & all returned with something.  
In all there are 40 prisoners.

17<sup>th</sup> Nov. Sunday. S. end of  
Lambert's Ranch

We must have picked  
quite 14 miles to-day and the KFS  
went much further. The Baers did  
not stand but 2 squads. Huruli's &  
Castros got at them S of this and  
second mile. Cap. Castros & Supt.  
Griffin were in a tight place exchanging  
shots with a V. Comet & another  
Baer at between 20 to 30 yds. The  
Supt. did the best shooting and  
both Baers have been brought to  
camp for burial by their own people.  
Huruli's squad killed 1, wounded 2 and  
took 10 prisoners including an  
adjutant of Baers. To-day the trek  
was over grass with 2 canes along  
the margins in rows and in regular  
battle order. The KFS extended in



capital style. There are no excavations  
on one side.

18th Nov. 1901. Camp. 15 miles  
W. Warm Baths.

To-day we tramped  
till midday with all caution but  
nothing happened so the convoy  
moved right into Camp. About  
14 miles before camping we struck  
the farm where we had camped  
2<sup>nd</sup> night out and came along  
the same road.

19th Nov. 91. Same Camp Warm-  
Baths.

To-day we came  
right along through Barniat's farm  
and halted 3 hrs. on this side of  
the 2 drifts. The valley was  
looking very pretty, much greener  
than when we came thro'. up-  
ward bound. The drifts gave  
no trouble but a few rocky  
steep places near here delayed  
transport. We are in the same  
camp, which is now beautif-  
fully green. There were 54 prisoners  
in all who were shipped to Pitou.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Warrumbatho.

All our old & inf. have left us and some new have arrived. 1 Coy. Northampton and 1 Lieut. Wilts. (2 Coy) Bell went down to Pictoria. Boyd left yesterday by hospital train, wonderfully fit. I heard from May. Ritchie he is touring in Natal. Powell has joined the Gordons again and Evans has taken his place with Maj. Hassard, who is just the same. They have extended down there and have now 3 or 4 Sisters. The old bitch is not here. Wmcan writes the little mare is quite fit again. A boy Jim Maklulastad is making a Karoo for me with the skins I got on the Crocodile, at Selikas Kraal.

The Reg. Stry <sup>Wally</sup> May has left because of the treatment of his horse. He is a very good sort. May. Kunt is leaving for good. All the rest are going on. Several new officers have arrived.

To-day all the fit mounted men



went out with 3 days rations. I do  
not know if we join them or they  
return. We have 21 days here with us.  
Weather keeps fine, moderate and  
occasionally to be hot.

25<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1901. Warmbaths To-day  
Pretorius

and the other Bow Office taken  
in Kalki. were up for Court M. and  
detained in W. Baths for a waiting  
period of time.

26<sup>th</sup> Nov. Cyprusfontein To-day  
at 4.00

we started halting at the Kapi Rocks  
about 9 miles out. There was some  
bad road in the afternoon and going  
was slow. So camp was not reached  
till after dark. The Troop are now  
2 Coy. Wilts under Maj. Macdonald &  
1 Coy. Northampton Cap. Repley.  
We must have come nearly 20 miles  
by road nearly due west.

27<sup>th</sup> Nov. Land. River One course  
Dip drift to-day long  
pretty well with one or two  
broken road in great part  
nearly broken and we did about

12 miles. Wagons are very heavy +  
progress was slow. Dorkins Col. lies  
close by up on the ridge to the north.  
Weather from fairly hot at midday  
cool at night.

28<sup>th</sup> Nov. S of Tambora Road

We are

camped here for the day with  
Col. Dorkins Col. (12<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Mts. and  
3 Coys Northampton) and moved  
after dark this evening. A nasty  
thing happened, an M.I. cleaning  
his rifle bored off killed one and  
wounded another. Had meat from  
Seymour. Piggie (Brabant) named for  
his truly named and very, very  
R.A.M.C. His col is considerably slinger  
than ours.

Mid. night at a drift en route  
for Rietley. We expected  
to get on to Rietley but struck a  
terrible lot of going & a little higher  
up stream than this drift. We pulled  
out at 7. pm. and came along until  
till this bad spot was reached, and  
the whole show stopped. After working  
my arm some time, till about 11. pm.



The idea of getting the conveyance men  
abandoned and camp was made on other  
side of the Spirit, our ambulances were  
sent & engines in the other. All the  
mountain men of both columns & guns  
went on to Dink's Infantry. We turned  
in at nearly 1. am.

29<sup>th</sup> Nov. Rutledge we got

at daylight this morning and all  
got on before midday arriving here  
by about 2. pm. Our march was  
uninterrupted after the draft was  
negotiated. It was a time - nearly  
every wagon stuck in the mud even  
with double teams and chains gallo  
were broken. There is no snow of  
the fighting men at all definite yet  
but they are expected in tomorrow.  
Our camp is built a frame right up against  
the foot line of Rupp's forming a barrier  
to this winding range of the Watling.

Behind the hills rise boldly to a height  
of perhaps 2000 ft. and are precipitous  
at the top for the most part. Two tracks  
lead from here through them to the north  
one from even as Bass.

5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1901      Stutzfontein

Lee

had peaceful time at Rulfly doing nothing. I have had a bad heel so did not go around at all. The only events were the arrival of captured Boers & stock. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> at this place the advance party of the escort to a few wagons was fired on from a cattle kraal. A H.F.S. Ralph was killed, Brooker Int. boy was hit also the foot & fore horse were killed. The 13 were about 40, got away.

Yesterday Col. Workens Col. left for the line taking about 100 prisoners with them. They bring out more supplies. The running prisoners we dealt with May, Perry & Mrs. Mr. Luman.

I came out here ahead with an ambulance but found Anderson & his staff here. He had come in from a long patrol with Tridlander. It is really fine coming up the Rul valley. The hills to the north very particularly fine.



This is a really beautiful farm, surrounded by high trees and having a beautiful orchard in front. It is one of the late General Hobbs's farms. All the R.F.S. are here now and we have been joined by Biddle's Boy Scouts - about 60. armed Boys. The weather is beautiful, not oppressively hot.

### Sterkfontein

Nothing of note has happened except the trial and execution of a German Boy for wearing Kakhi. He was shot at sunrise on the day before yesterday. All troops were paraded and a verdict pronounced of sentence by Col. Colman read out by Collins. He was then advanced before the shooting party blindfolded & shot. He stuck if - very well and showed no sign of flinch. He was one of 3 captured at this farm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

We are under orders to march tomorrow at 3 am. Col.

Dankers is in communication

and Baylis is said to be the object.

9<sup>th</sup> Dec. Grand River Port.

Yesterday we pulled out from Stikinton at 3. am. and took a course N. for about 10 miles - then breakfasted. We left again at 10 moving NE on the whole crossed the hills and reached camp E side of Vastwale. Spent between 4 & 5. At 8. pm we started again. It was a very dark night. The advance reached the Grand River about 12. midnight the rear God knows. We rested there till daylight then moved to the farm just north of the Nite reaching it about 7. am.

The K75 left the column there on patrol to capture Baylis. The column moved to abt. 10. a.m. at the the South Nite of the Port. We are camped right in the Nite overlooking the plain to the S.

It was a terrible time for many. Some dropping from horses &



of course thro' sheer lack of sleep.  
The road at parts was terrible  
quite the worst the F.H. has ever  
been over. One place in the  
afternoon march, called the staircase  
was quite unique. It in approach  
resembled pictures of the great  
Pyramid and there was no escape.  
Of course break downs here and  
there all along.

Five Boer men captured yesterday  
one a field cornet. To day  
two more taken by Sgt. Marsland  
on Griffin J. sent right on the  
spot. They gave valuable intelligence.  
It was cold last night with some  
rain but on the whole the weather  
is still very fine.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec. Land. River Port.

Quiet day here playing  
Bridge in Inf. mess. Palmer and  
Henderson came in towards night  
reporting failure more or less of last  
venture.

11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Buchanought. Kloof.

we  
moved here (about 5 miles) this



morning and the combined Columns have  
all met. The convoy has come in  
with Maj. Ritchie come to join.

12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Trans Great Sprint at  
Rietveld.

Col. Danckers column less on the  
other of the sprint but Danckers is  
patrolling further north. To-day  
we had two fairly quiet marches  
across the flat doing about 17 miles  
in all. No fighting. Rode along with  
Carney C.S. Luman a Glas. grad.  
who used to abide in Helensburg.

18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2 miles from Wouterkloof

To-day there  
was lots of movement. Sergt. Marbrook  
opened the ball by getting hung up and  
sending down from Ransburg farm (Langkloof  
for support. He got out himself, however.  
We pulled out at day light and when  
the advance, (I happened to be riding just  
in front) came opposite Langkloof all  
the spare men made for the Kloof and  
the P. and P. ran up in support. They  
did nothing. Just then there was  
sharp firing right in front, no one  
knew who from. When I got into



camp after accompanying the Pompa  
I had to take an ambulance for a wounded  
man away back to the SW. I found  
Russell & his Sqnd there with a  
Corp. Gregory but thus the shoulder and  
4 prisoners, (one an enemy from Botha)  
who had been taken chiefly by the  
Smaritans of Russell & Supt. Brown.  
They had previously captured one other  
These five were out of a bunch of  
8 they started to the north of the valley.  
Two other prisoners were taken by  
another Squadron. Two thus were  
reported killed or wounded.

Col. Danks has captured Comm.  
Harbruck and 5 others mostly  
adjutants. His Adj. Capt. in the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Div. was shot dead.

We started again at midday and  
reached here at 4 pm; doing in all  
about 17 miles today. All our  
col. are together again.

14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1901 Oliven Poort. We

made  
this camp in two marches. First  
passing thru the Poort into Sinder  
Rivers valley & crossing the river

a mile or two east of the Sunday River  
Port. This part is thro' fine mountain  
country and the river is really one just  
now. Later we trekked S thro' Olumpouk  
and camped there. Close weather.

15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Clarks farm. Yesterday  
we trekked

here about 16 miles in 2 treks without  
incident.

16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Clarks farm The Col.  
is halted

here to-day. Tomorrow it moves  
into Wambatho about 2 days off.  
The K F S + 100 Inf. leave tonight  
for a 6 days patrol South.



Cheque. 75883.  $\frac{7}{2}$ 61

Signed G. G. Hewlett Capt.

Dated 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1901.

Pattison Mrs. Hendersons Tran. Islets

F. Building. To. burg.

Lothe Mitchell Wt. Geo. 17 alman

Box 31. P. Mantzberg.

on RMS 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul 1907.

B. 3666

S.B. SA. Ltd. Palermo.

961

C.S. Harris Capt.

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### Photographs

No 9. Redford in Salina group

36. May Valentine

60. Group at Windsor Station

May Bulton list

Cartridges 100

Hy snitches 2

Blanco or pop clay 1 tin

Ordnance store

Kakks. Soft felt hat 3/9.

new gun 3 holes in side. size 7 1/2:

17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1907. Cabbage.

Bell over Barr 64 p. 5.

64.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Photographs.

Boy Abner

Makelala Chad

Wambatho &

David Stewart

Hartenburg

Wambatho.



A.E.  
Gr<sup>^</sup> Ash  
Stoke-on-Trent  
England.

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William Friskin 288 Ainsworth Rd.  
Radcliff Manchester Eng.  
Lt. R. Anderson. R.E. n. of K. Mrs Barker  
31 Bedford Row. London

- W.A. Deansham  
C/o Dr. H. B. Deansham  
Stoeteton-on-Tees.

Mitchell v. Mrs Reid 319 Bury St. P. Market.  
Pagan McArthur Dale St. Liverpool.

Bill 1875. Clubs. Wellington London  
Union Newcastle. E.

