

fairly well supplied stores. The hospitals contained several sick Boer soldiers. When these were informed that President Kruger had left for Europe, they would not believe it, and stated that they knew him to be a brave old man who would die in, and for, his beloved Transvaal. Next past Carolina, which three of our men held on their own account during the night in spite of a large Boer commando outside. We then touched the south edge of the Boer position at Van Wycks Vley, and while working along the Boer lines to get in position to attack their centre there was severe fighting. At this spot I had the honor of having my ambulance shelled. However, at the distance the shells came from, the Boers could not distinguish an ambulance from an ammunition waggon.

The key to the Boer position was a small rocky hill beside the railroad. It was towards this the main force of the attack was directed. From early morning till late in the afternoon a continuous shell fire was directed at this spot. Throughout this time one could see large bodies of men in extended order marching steadily forward to be in a position for the final charge. When they got to within a short distance of the Boer line, one saw a large body of horsemen disappear over the hill, followed by a rush of British infantry, and the day was won. Some of the Boer guns were worked till the British infantry were within a few hundred yards. Some of the Boers, chiefly those of the Staats Artillery and Johannesburg Police, remained in the trenches to the last and were killed by the charging British infantry.

This was the first place where I saw the effects of lyddite. In open space it has an effect extending only a short distance around. It causes a severe concussion, and if close, it may render a person unconscious, and at the same time cause a general swelling of exposed parts with hæmorrhages from nose or ears. Such cases nearly always recover completely. If further away, it only causes severe headache and nausea or vomiting. Dilute acids are almost a specific for the evil effects. In confined spaces or on rocks it is a very destructive agent, but on soft ground is not effective.

The next day we entered Machadodorp and secured some of the stores of the Boer army. This rendered active service rather pleasanter. Our next march was to release the last of the English persons at Noitchedodorp, but, the guards having fled, they released themselves a few hours before our arrival.

Next towards Lydenburg. Our way lay through a very fine valley called Radfontein. This was an uncomfortable position, valley was narrow, with steep high hills on either side, mostly held by Boers. Owing to a misunderstanding, four of our men were sent to take positions as outpost on a small hill already occupied by the enemy. When near,