

closely followed up, and by about 9 o'clock the clouds of dust stirred up by the convoy were clearly visible ahead. A report was brought in to the effect that the escort consisted of about 500 Boers. Shortly afterwards the Mounted Infantry, who were moving at the head of the column, were ordered to advance at a gallop, and after covering eight miles at a good speed, came in touch with the enemy. They at once dismounted and entered into action. Both sides sustained a few casualties, but the Boers kept the convoy moving on steadily, and succeeded in getting it away over a ridge. The Mounted Infantry were restrained from a pursuit, as the information had been obtained that a further force of over 2,000 Boers, who had been marching considerably ahead of their convoy, were hastening back to the scene of the fighting.

"Colonel Cookson had by this time arrived at the front with the whole of the column. Orders were given for the men to halt and encamp on the Brakspruit, while outposts were thrown out to guard against surprise. A few minutes later, however, a shell from one of the three Boer guns, which had been moved up to a long low ridge 4,000 yards distant from the camp, dropped into the midst of our men. At the same time masses of Boers began to show on all sides, especially on the flanks of our column.

**Boers on
All Sides**

"A general engagement ensued. The disposition of Colonel Cookson's force was, roughly, as follows: A mile and a half away from the camp, on the right flank, was a small body of men, composed of 24 Canadians and 45 Mounted Infantry. They were posted 500 yards in front of a belt of trees. On the left flank, about 1,000 yards from the camp, stood a farmhouse, which was held by two companies of the Artillery and Mounted Rifles. Along the line of the Brakspruit, in such a position that they could cover