

“Above all, the Canadian Rifles, still proving themselves worthy of the renown of Paardeberg, stood their ground with heroic gallantry, one party, under Lieut. **Hart's River Battle** Bruce Carruthers, fighting until every single man was either dead or wounded.” Others of the forces showed great steadiness, allowing the Boers to advance within two hundred yards of them, and repelling them with a steady rifle fire.

The following is a graphic account of the battle as given by an eye-witness:

“The engagement took place at Rooival, on the Brakspruit, about 60 miles to the west of Klerksdorp, and resulted in perhaps the most decisive check that the Boer general has met with during the whole course of his remarkable military career. General Walter Kitchener, who had left Klerksdorp at the head of a body of infantry and mounted troops, reached a camping ground forty miles to the westward on Monday morning, and at 2.30 despatched a mobile column, under the command of Colonel Cookson, to reconnoitre in the direction of Hart's River. The force consisted of about 1,700 men, all mounted on good horses. Colonel Keir was assigned the command of a portion of the column, composed of two 28th Mounted Infantry, the Artillery, Mounted Rifles, and the 2nd Regiment of Kitchener's Fighting Scouts. Under the personal direction of Colonel Cookson were the 2nd Canadian Mounted Infantry, Damant's Horse and the guns that accompanied the force—namely, two sections of the 7th Battery Royal Field Artillery, and three pom-poms. The supreme command, it should be again stated, was vested in Colonel Cookson.

“The expedition, which was not encumbered by unnecessary baggage, covered the ground rapidly, and shortly after daybreak lighted upon the spoor of the enemy's convoy. The trail was