

troops were drawn up opposite the enemy's lines, extending along a series of hills covering ten miles of ground. The position was a formidable one, strongly entrenched, commanding the road north towards Kimberley. Towards seven o'clock an artillery fire, maintained for two hours in a desultory way, ceased altogether, and then the British guns, quickly finding the range, opened with battery after battery on the Boer entrenchments, in order to cover an advance of the infantry.

The Grenadier Guards and the Northumberland Fusiliers led the way under a heavy fire and carried the enemy's first line with a rush, the Grenadiers using the bayonet. The Boers fought with good courage, their guns being splendidly and doggedly served, until forced to withdraw. On a second kopje to the rear, the same resistance was made, but the hill was stormed with "deadly earnestness," in the words of a Canadian journalist who was present, by our infantry. The third hill saw the most determined stand of the Boers, who, after a heavy shrapnel fire from our guns had prepared the way for an assault, poured in a terrible fire as the British went up. Officer after officer was struck down, and men fell fast, but the enemy were driven off by the final rush, fleeing wildly after five minutes' taste of the bayonet. The victory would have been more decisive if cavalry had been at hand in good force for pursuit. The "dash" of the British infantry had been as fine as was ever displayed in war, the men constantly cheering as they pressed forward amid a hail of bullets. The Scots Guards went into action with the band playing, and mounted the second line of kopjes to stirring strains.

The enemy's loss, as usual, could not be estimated, the greater part of the killed and wounded being conveyed away by their comrades; but the victors buried a good number of Boers, and took about fifty prisoners, including some officers, along with numbers of horses and horned cattle and sheep. Much ammunition was destroyed

in the enemy's laager. The British loss amounted to about two hundred and twenty, including twenty-four officers killed and wounded, the chief sufferers being the 3rd Grenadier Guards, the 1st Coldstreams, the 1st Scots Guards, and the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers. Among the incidents connected with the fight were that of a wounded soldier, limping along from Belmont station to the hospital, who, asked if he had any "loot," replied, "Yes, in my leg!" and that of the wounded Boer prisoner who, to a question, "What he thought of our bayonet charge," replied with surprise, "Almighty! Do you think I waited for that?"

Two days after Belmont, on November 25th, came the Battle of Graspan, also called Battle of Enslin. The enemy had taken up a fresh position at Graspan, six miles north of Belmont on the railway, to bar the advance to Kimberley. They were posted on kopjes mostly over two hundred feet in height, furrowed with trenches, and having the ground in front carefully measured and marked for the fire range. The armoured train advanced slowly in front of the British column, and was already in action when the troops reached the battle-field. Lord Methuen deployed his cavalry on the flanks, while the artillery took up positions to shell the Boer trenches. The action began at six in the morning, and the enemy's position was assailed with shrapnel. The Boer guns, finely posted, were well served, and shell after shell burst over our batteries, but the men stuck bravely to their work. Then the guns were withdrawn a little in order to disturb the enemy's marksmanship, and the artillery duel was resumed.

The infantry then moved forward, the Northamptons working round to the right, where they were joined by the Northumberlands and Yorkshires. About nine o'clock a general assault was delivered, the men swarming forward in splendid style under a scourging fire. As the British went nearer they took cover as they could, returning the enemy's fire, and, going