the first battle of the war took place. Meanwhile Boers hurried to besiege Kimberley, the town of diamonds; Mafeking, in Rhodesia; and certain other towns in the north of Cape Colony. At this time there were few British soldiers in South Africa; the bulk of our army could not reach the Cape before the beginning of November

The early battles of the war were fought in the northern angle of Natal. Though the British forces checked the enemy, they were forced to retire on Ladysmith, where they were hemmed in by the Boers, who mounted " Long Toms " on the surrounding hills and began to shell the town. Thus began the famous siege f Ladysmith.

Meanwhile British troops were pouring into Cape Colony. One force under Lord Methuen was sent to relieve Kimberley and Mafeking, and a second was to fight in the north of Cape Colony. Lord Methuen marched north, and defeated the Boers in several battles, though with great loss of life. After the failure of a night attack on the Boer trenches at Magersfontein he was forced to withdraw to the Modder River and wait for fresh troops. Meanwhile matters had been going badly in Cape Colony.

By this time a change of generals had taken place. The veteran Lord Roberts, with Lord Kitchener as chief of his staff, had been sent out to take command, and Britain began to understand what a terribly difficult task she had undertaken. It was evident that the army must be greatly increased. Two hundred thousand troops were asked for, and from every part of the empire there was an eager response. On October 3rd a Canadian contingent was offered to the Imperial Government, and the services of a battalion of 1,000 men were accepted. Immediately there was a great rush of volunteers from all parts of the Dominion, and within a fortnight the thousand men were enrolled and equipped. Enthusiasm rose to fever heat, a d gifts of money and useful articles were showered upon the troops, who sailed for the front on October 30th. The splendid work done in South Africa by that part of the contingent under the command of