

parts. Some men had no trousers; others would put on the legs separately, then pin them together. This was when we were only six miles from military stores; but then the officers were comfortable, so it did not matter to them how we were. The second night in Pretoria it rained, and having no tents we were rather damp when daylight appeared. The officers' and quartermasters' department had tents. In the latter the N. C. O. staff held a noisy celebration, aided by a good supply of whiskey, which we did not appreciate, especially as the staff were anything but popular. Accordingly some men quietly loosened the ropes, and the first gust of wind capsized the tent upon the drunken crowd within. Next morning two-thirds of the men went downtown without leave. Forty of us were "pinched" and received four days' confinement to barracks, which meant that from seven a.m. to five p.m. we had one hour's work to do in every three, besides answering several roll-calls. The Provost Sergeant, who was a Toronto policeman, had been famous for his contemptible, sneaking ways, and now that we were on our way home he was terror-stricken at what might happen to him. As a result our work was not very laborious, and tents were soon procured for us. A few nights later a storm arose, the worst, while it lasted, of any experienced by the regiment. We were camped on a slope, and two minutes after the storm began the water poured through our tents, while our blankets and kits floated gaily around the uncomfortable individuals standing in water over their boots.

On October 31st. we left for Capetown, escorting A Batt., R.H.R., and seventy-three Boer prisoners. C, D, E, F, G, H, Co.'s had left six weeks before, and were now near home. A, B, I, Co.'s were left, I Co. being composed of the "Draft," and members of the Permanent Force. I Co. had charge of the prisoners. We were packed like sardines in open cattle-trucks, anything but clean. The first day we had a slight shower. At night we stopped at Viljoen's Drift, O.V.S. About eleven o'clock the rain started, and poured till five a.m. We resumed our way and had a few hours peace till the afternoon, but as we entered Smaldeel a terrific storm arose, which kept up all night. I slept under a water-spout on the station platform. The rain kept up until the following night. By this time we were in a terrible condition, having had no opportunity to wash or even take off our boots. Our troubles ended when we reached De Aar, Cape Colony, where we remained twenty-four hours. A and B Co.'s were rushed on with the prisoners and battery, but I Co. was given a