

who commanded the First Mounted Brigade in East Africa during the first world war, and under whom I served in the 3rd South African Horse - our supreme commander being General Jaap van Deventer, a leading Boer General in the Anglo Boer War. Of these later.

As a cook we had a tame prisoner who used to come in early to start work and as in those days no one thought about locking doors at night he had free access to the house. He was a fine old chap of whom we were very fond and after he had completed his term he used to visit us. With regard to prisoners, I, on at least two occasions, saw one making a bid for freedom but he did not get far for as soon as he had made the break the rest of the gang and guards were after him like a pack of hounds; there was no chance of escape. Today nothing of that sort would happen.

There are certain incidents which stick in one's mind, as for instance British Tommies passing through Basutoland on their way to the relief of Wepener or some other area during the Anglo Boer War. This one unit was resting in a large field next to our house and some came into the grounds to buy fruit. Well, there was any amount of it - too much for our needs - and oh boy! did they get stuck into all we gave them, even taking some away. And they were very surprised when we said there was no charge. Poor chaps, they were in for a rough time ahead. What chance had they, subject to parade ground movements, against the wily Boer (all of whom were mounted), accustomed to his unconventional warfare who would, if he realised that he would be forced to withdraw, simply mount and ride off to some other area. So the poor footslogging British Troops would once more have to march - killing! The Boer lived on the country where he had many friends or on the British convoys he captured.

It was Sir Percy Fitzpatrick who said that all they wanted was Artillery and mounted troops so as to move as fast as the enemy. Lord Roberts realised this, and it was on the suggestion of Sir (Mr as he then was) George Farrer, that he decided that a Colonial Division should be formed to drive the enemy out of the Eastern Cape. This Division was duly formed and consisted mainly of Cape Mounted Rifles, Kaffrarian Rifles - my old regiment - Brabant's Horse, Queenstown Rifles etc and Artillery - all mounted under the command of General Sir E Y Brabant. This force, without the loss of a single battle, proved a great success.

I am afraid I have digressed a bit too far and so must get on with my story of items I remember in Basutoland.

As we children had saved a little money we decided to buy a pony so off we went to see Mr Scott at his store and managed, as this Basuto pony had a club foot, to buy it for a few shillings. We, however, got quite a lot of fun riding it now and again. We had one of those old Express waggon which we amused ourselves with running about and one morning a senior Government Official who was staying with us for a few days, started walking to Dr McFarlane's house for a lunch appointment, and we offered to cart him down - a matter of half a mile. He joined in the fun and curled up in the waggon and off/