

advanced guard shortly after 9 p.m., but an extremely precipitous pass, three miles from Dakka, so lengthened out the column, that it was 11.30 p.m. before the whole force had entered Dakka. The distance traversed is estimated at 22 miles.

51. Appended are the return of casualties, return of ammunition expended, and sketch-map of the route of Brigadier-General Tytler's column.

52. It is impossible to estimate the number or losses of the enemy, owing to the broken nature of the ground and the large area over which fighting took place simultaneously. Several of the enemy were seen to fall.

53. Brigadier-General Tytler, in his report, desires to bring to my special notice, the gallant bearing and soldierlike qualities of all the officers and men composing this column. The men throughout displayed gallantry, endurance, and coolness under fire, which elicited his warmest admiration. There was no hurry. Mules that had thrown their loads were quietly loaded under fire. The small number of rounds expended, 1,029, alone proves the entire absence of hurried firing; and the endurance of officers and men is sufficiently evident when it is considered that the force was fighting and marching continuously without food from 8 in the morning till 11 at night, through a totally unknown and very difficult country.

54. Brigadier-General Tytler wishes specially to bring to notice the names of the following officers, to whom he expresses himself much indebted, and who rendered him throughout the most valuable assistance:—

Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Tompson, 1-17th Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Utterson, 1-17th Regiment.

Captain J. Cook, 14th Sikhs, commanding detachment, 27th Native Infantry.

Lieutenant H. N. M' Rae, commanding detachment, 45th Sikhs.

Lieutenant O. S. Smyth, commanding two guns, No. 11-9th, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant H. P. Leach, R.E., commanding company, Sappers and Miners.

Major A. H. A. Gordon, 65th Regiment, Brigade-Major.

Major A. A. A. Kinloch, 60th Rifles, Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

Captain G. W. Rogers, 4th Goorkhas, Orderly Officer.

Lieutenant W. Peacocke, R.E., who surveyed the route, and whose sketch is enclosed.

Surgeon-Major G. J. H. Evatt, whose attendance to the wounded was indefatigable.

Brigadier-General Tytler also reports that he received much valuable assistance from Ressaldar Adul Beg, Guide Cavalry, who acted as interpreter with the native guides.

He also desires to bring to notice his indebtedness to Mr. A. Forbes, special correspondent, who accompanied the column throughout the day, and being on the spot when two of the men were wounded, bandaged their wounds and looked after them until the arrival of the medical officer.

55. In conclusion, I beg to enclose a letter, No. 287, dated 31st December, 1878, enclosing Brigadier-General Tytler's report,* from Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Browne, commanding 1st Division Peshawar Valley Field Force.

I fully concur with Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Browne's remarks, in which he observes that his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will

* Not published, the facts being embodied in the above despatch.

not fail to appreciate the excellent services performed by Brigadier-General Tytler and the officers and men under his command. The arrangement and dispositions for the retirement were well conceived and ably executed, and no doubt the effect on the tribes will be beneficial, feeling as they must that their fastnesses in the hills, hitherto deemed inaccessible, are being gradually explored and laid open, with loss of prestige and property to them, and little damage to ourselves.

The force under Brigadier-General Tytler had to undergo long and fatiguing marches in a difficult country, testing their power of endurance, and showing the soldierlike spirit that animates them all.

Return of killed, wounded, and missing in the first Expedition to the Bazar Valley from the 19th to the 22nd December, 1878.

8th Company Bengal Sappers and Miners—1 rank and file wounded. Total 1.

1st Battalion 17th Foot—1 rank and file killed; 2* rank and file wounded. Total 3.

27th Bengal Native Infantry—4 rank and file wounded. Total 4.

45th Bengal Native Infantry—1 rank and file wounded; 1 follower missing. Total 2.

2nd Goorkha Regiment—1† rank and file wounded. Total 1.

Total—1 killed; 9 wounded; 1 missing. Total 11.

SAIF-U-DIN, 4th January, 1879.

No. 163 K., dated Kandahar, 25th March, 1879.

From Lieutenant-General D. M. Stewart, C.B., Commanding Field Force, Kandahar, to the Quartermaster-General in India.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that on the 4th January last the troops forming the advanced guards of the 1st and 2nd divisions of the force under my command, then in movement towards Kandahar, engaged the enemy's cavalry†.

2. The columns of this advance were moving in concert by two separate kotals from the Mel Manda Valley towards that of Tukt-i-Pul, the left along the kafila route by the Kurkonna, and the right by the Ghlo Kotal, in such order that the movement of a body of Afghan cavalry through the latter was not observed by the column passing through the former kotal. The firing of the guns of the Horse Artillery with the right, however, drew the cavalry of the left advance to that side, and the enemy retiring in order from the Ghlo Kotal was vigorously charged and broken.

3. The advance which followed brought our troops in contact with the enemy's supports, and firing was continued by the infantry until dusk, Saif-u-din having been occupied about an hour before.

4. The enemy numbered from 1,000 to 1,200 horsemen in all, and their loss is estimated at 100 killed and wounded, the casualties on our side being—

1 officer and 6 men of the 15th Hussars wounded.

1 Jemadar and 3 sowars of the 1st Punjab Cavalry wounded.

* One man since dead.

† Since dead.

‡ Brigadier-General C. H. Palliser, C.B., Commanding Right Column. A-B, R.H.A., 2 guns; 15th Hussars, 79 sabres; 2nd Punjab Cavalry, 200 sabres; 3rd Sind Horse, 30 sabres.

Left Column. A-B, R.H.A., 2 guns; 15th Hussars, 123 sabres; 1st Punjab Cavalry, 219 sabres; 25th P.N.I., 419; 32nd Pioneers, 589; 2nd Biluch Regiment, 266; 4th and 9th Companies, Sappers and Miners.‡