

On gaining the heights the enemy's camp was found on the low ground just beyond; it was captured, and with it large numbers of drums, spears, swords, saddles, chain armour, tent equipage, banners, &c., numbers of the enemy being killed in and about the camp.

The remnant of the Dervish force was now in full retreat in a south-westerly direction, being followed into the desert to a point upwards of eight miles distant from Toski, when the horses, being tired out, and the men exhausted from fatigue and thirst after so long and trying a day, I ordered the pursuit to cease at 2 p.m.

Shortly before the halt a loaded camel was observed by the Cavalry trying to escape, surrounded by about twenty Dervishes. It was supposed at first to be carrying a gun, and was shot by the Egyptian Cavalry, the men around it being apparently killed by the fire of the dismounted men. On advancing to within a few yards the Dervishes sprang up and charged in a determined way, wounding some Egyptian troopers; [but they were eventually all killed. It was subsequently found that the camel carried the body of Wad el Nejumi, around whom his Mulazimeen or body-guard had rallied and died. His body was brought into camp, where it was identified by many of his own tribe.

All troops then returned to camp, which they reached at 5 p.m.

I estimate the Dervish losses in this action to have been 1,500 killed and upwards of 3,000 prisoners, amongst whom were many wounded.

I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of all ranks in this action—English Cavalry, Egyptian Cavalry, Artillery, Camel Corps, and Infantry—all did excellent service. As regards the Infantry, all movements were promptly executed, the Dervish charges received steadily in line, and positions were taken with great dash and gallantry. I would particularly mention the 1st Brigade under Major Hunter, who bore the brunt of the fight, and has been in the field since the 2nd July.

The advance of the 11th Battalion on the second Dervish position was well carried out, and the 1st and 2nd Egyptian Battalions, both on that occasion and earlier in the fight, showed the same eagerness as the Soudanese battalions to close with the enemy.

I have now to bring to your notice the services of officers engaged in the action:—

Colonel Kitchener, C.M.G., A.D.C., R.E., commanded the mounted troops with his usual activity and forethought, heading the enemy till arrival of the Infantry, and making dispositions which greatly conduced to the success of the action and subsequent heavy Dervish loss. He calls attention to the good services rendered by the officers of his Staff:—

Captain T. E. Hickman, Worcester Regiment, Brigade Major (Major E.A.).

Lieutenant A. M. McMurdo, Highland Light Infantry, A.D.C. (Major E.A.).

Lieutenant E. J. Dent, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Orderly Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wodehouse, R.A. (E.A.), has been in touch of the enemy with his column ever since Nejumi crossed the frontier. In the action at Arguin on July 2nd he inflicted heavy loss on the Dervish force, and by good arrangements and great activity he has severely punished the enemy, and greatly reduced the number of his fighting men; and he conducted the whole operations up to date of my arrival in

a most able and soldierlike manner. He calls attention to the good services rendered by—
Brevet Major A. Hunter, D.S.O., Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Captain T. P. B. Ternan, Manchester Regiment, Brigade Major (horse shot).

Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant H. W. Drage, Army Service Corps.
and this I fully endorse.

Lieutenant-Colonel Settle, R.E., Senior Staff Officer, again displayed those soldierlike qualities and knowledge of Staff duties which I have reported on former occasions; his services were invaluable.

Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin, 20th Hussars, commanded his men both in reconnaissance and fight with judgment, and charged the retreating Dervishes with effect.

Brevet Major A. Hunter, D.S.O., Royal Lancaster Regiment, has been invaluable during the late operations as second in command of the Frontier Force. He commanded his Brigade in a cool and soldierlike manner, and remained on the field after having received a spear wound in the arm when leading a charge on the Dervish positions.

Major H. M. L. Rundle, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, ably commanded the Artillery. His two guns, Horse Battery, did excellent service, first at long range, and later at close quarters, firing case. His guns, both Horse and Field Battery, were always in the right place.

The Field Artillery was well commanded by Lieutenant W. S. Gordon, R.E., and the Egyptian Artillery Officers did remarkably well.

Major F. R. Wingate, Royal Artillery, was very useful to me, both as Staff Officer in the Field, and before and after the action, as Assistant Adjutant-General for Intelligence Department, the duties of which have been very onerous.

Captain J. G. Maxwell, D.S.O., Royal Highlanders, A.D.C., conveyed my orders to various parts of a very extended field, often under very hot fire, with great promptitude and coolness.

The Cavalry under Second Lieutenant J. R. Beech, C.M.G., 21st Hussars, Commanding Halfa Cavalry, has throughout the operations hung on to the Dervish flanks and rear, and punished them severely. Lieutenant Beech has shown great qualities as a Cavalry leader, and in the charge both he and Lieutenant G. C. C. D'Aguilar, 17th Lancers, led their men with great gallantry. His subordinate native officers behaved remarkably well.

The Camel Corps was engaged from 6 A.M. till 1 P.M. and always in the front, their fire being well under control. They were admirably led by Captain H. G. Dunning, Royal Fusiliers, who showed great gallantry in the personal encounter with Nejumi's body-guard in their repeated charges, while protecting the body of their leader.

The following Officers commanded Infantry Battalions, and I have already reported their good service in the body of my despatch:—

9th Battalion (Soudanese), Brevet Major G. E. Lloyd, D.S.O., Yorkshire Light Infantry.

10th Battalion (Soudanese), Brevet Major B. D. A. Donne, Royal Sussex Regiment.

13th Battalion (Soudanese), Captain F. J. Kempster, D.S.O., Leinster Regiment.

2nd Egyptian Battalion, Major A. B. Shakespear, Royal Marine Artillery.

1st Egyptian Battalion, Captain A. H. Coles, East Kent Regiment (horse shot).

12th Battalion (Soudanese), Captain H. A. Macdonald, Gordon Highlanders.