

On the morning of the 5th instant, I moved on Ghuznee. I found the city full of men, and a range of mountains running North-east of the fortress covered by heavy bodies of cavalry and infantry; the gardens and ravines near the town were also occupied. The enemy had received a considerable reinforcement from Cabool, under Sultan Jan.

I directed Major Sanders, of the Bengal engineers, to reconnoitre the works, under escort of the 16th regiment native infantry, and a party of irregular cavalry. This brought on some smart skirmishing, in which our sepoy's behaved to admiration. Captain White, of Her Majesty's 40th regiment, commanding the light companies of the army, was pushed forward, accompanied by Anderson's troop of horse artillery, to support the reconnoitring party, and I at once determined on carrying the enemy's mountain positions before encamping my force. The troops ascended the heights in gallant style, driving the enemy before them until every point was gained.

The village of Bullal is situated about 600 yards from the walls of Ghuznee, upon the spur of the mountain to the North East, and observing it to be a desirable spot for preparing a heavy battery to be placed 300 paces in advance, I ordered it to be occupied by two regiments of infantry and some light guns, and retired the columns into camp.

The engineer officers, sappers and miners, and infantry working parties were employed under the directions of Major Sanders, during the night of the 5th, in erecting a battery for four 18-pounders; these guns were moved from camp before daylight on the morning of the 6th; but, before they had reached the position assigned them, it was ascertained that the enemy had evacuated the fortress.

I directed the city of Ghuznee, with its citadel and the whole of its works, to be destroyed. I forward the engineer's report.

In these operations our loss has been much less than might have been expected from the numbers and positions of the enemy, and the fact of the troops having been necessitated to move under the range of the guns of the fortress.

I enclose a list of the killed and wounded.

The exertions of Major Sanders of the engineers, were as usual most zealous, and my thanks are due to him and the department under his charge.

I beg to notice the following Officers: Brigadier Wymer; Major Hibbert, commanding Her Majesty's 40th regiment; Captain Evans, in temporary charge of the 16th regiment native infantry; Captain White, Her Majesty's 40th regiment, commanding the light companies of the force; Major Sotheby and officers of the artillery.

I have every reason to be satisfied with my Staff, Captain Polwhele, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General; Captain Waterfield, Aide-de-camp; Captain Ripley; and Lieutenant Kay, Deputy Judge Advocate General.

I continue to receive the greatest assistance from Major Lecch.

I have, &c.

W. NOTT, Major General,
Commanding Field Force Affghanistan.

No. 21068.

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P. S.—I have recovered about 327 of the sepoy's of the 27th Regiment Bengal native infantry, who had been sold into slavery, and dispersed in villages 30 and 40 miles round Ghuznee.

W. NOTT.

*Camp, Rozeh, near Ghuznee,
September 9, 1842.*

MEMORANDUM.

On the morning of the 5th September 1842, General Nott moved his camp to take up a position before Ghuznee. An advanced party was ordered to protect a reconnoissance of the works undertaken by the engineer department. On the approach of this party to the hills north of the city, it was opposed in force, but was immediately supported by the General, and, thus reinforced, cleared the hills of the enemy, and took possession of the village of Bullal, within 400 yards of the city.

The General immediately directed this important point with the heights near the village to be maintained, and they were occupied by two regiments of native infantry and two 9-pounder guns.

While these operations were going on, the camp was established at Rozeh, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the city. The guards required for the protection and general duties of the camp absorbed so many men that but few were available for the duties of a siege. The General therefore determined not to invest the place in form, and directed the Engineer to concentrate the resources at his disposal in one spot, where protection might be most conveniently afforded to the siege operations.

With advertence to these instructions, the Engineer proposed to establish a battery on the ridge of the hill north of the town, in advance of the village of Bullal, and distant about 350 yards from the nearest point of the walls. From this battery it was expected that the four 18-pounder guns would lay open the thin flank wall connecting the citadel on the west with the town wall, in a few hours. The defences of the citadel could be swept from the same point by the light artillery; and the lines of loop-holed wall which would bear on the advance of the storming party were all viewed in enfilade from the site selected for the battery. The advance of the party to the assault would have been greatly facilitated by the existence of a thick dam of earth across the ditch, immediately opposite the point marked out for the breach.

It was further proposed that the principal assault should be supported by two other attacks; one an attempt to blow in the water-gate (both the others having been strongly built up, and the causeways in front of them cut through) another to escalate a weak point near the Cabool gate, which would have been greatly aided by the fire of the artillery from the hill.

This project met the General's approval; and at dusk on the evening of the 5th September, a working party composed of the Sappers, and of 160 men from the regiments occupying the hill, commenced work on the battery. By 4 A.M. on the 6th September, cover for the party had been