

*Officers wounded.*

Lieutenant E. Eagar, Her Majesty's 40th Regiment, severely.

Lieutenant Mainwaring, 2d Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, slightly.

Lieutenant G. Holroyd, 43d Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, slightly.

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

Exd. THOS. POLWHELE, Captain Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General.

*From Major-General G. Pollock, C.B. Commanding in Afghanistan, to Major-General Lumley, Adjutant-General of the Army.*

SIR, Camp, Cabool, Oct. 1, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a letter from Major-General McCaskill, K.H. commanding the force which I detached under his command, for the purpose of dispersing the enemy collected in the vicinity of Charekar, as stated in my letter of the 28th instant.

The success of the Major-General's operations against Istalif is most gratifying, that place being considered by the Affghans as totally inaccessible to our troops.

I have, &c.

G. POLLOCK, Major-General,  
Commanding in Afghanistan.

*From Major-General M. Caskill, K.H. Commanding a detachment in Kohistan, to Captain Ponsonby, Assistant Adjutant-General.*

SIR, Camp, Istalif, Sept. 30, 1842.

I HAVE the satisfaction to acquaint you, for the information of Major-General Pollock, C.B. that the troops under my command yesterday made themselves masters of the strong and populous town of Istalif, totally defeating the numerous levies collected for its defence, under the infamous Ameenollah Khan Loguree, Khaojie Ameer Kotwal, Hazin Khan (an assassin of Sir Alexander Burnes) Hazir Alee Khan, Khuleefa Ibrahim, and many other chiefs of Cabool and the Kohistan.

The Major-General is aware that the force detailed in the margin\* was placed at my disposal for operations in these valleys, on the 25th. The two brigades formed a junction near Khowja Rawash on the 26th; moved to an encampment near Zimuree on the 27th, and pitched their tents within four miles of this place on the 28th. The same evening I reconnoitred the enemy's position; it is impossible to conceive ground naturally stronger. The town of Istalif, consisting of masses of houses and forts, is built on the slope of a mountain, in

\* Artillery—Captain Backhouse's mountain train, Captain Blood's battery of 9-pounders (Bombay), two 18-pounders.—Cavalry—Head quarters and 2 squadrons H. M.'s 3d light dragoons, 1st squadron 1st light cavalry, Captain Christie's (late S. S. 2 regiment) corps of cavalry.—Infantry—Brigadier Tulloch's brigade, (with the addition of Captain Broadfoot's sappers and miners, and the exception of the 60th native infantry), Brigadier Stacy's brigade.

the rear of which are yet loftier eminences shutting in a defile which leads to Toorkistan, and in no way can this place of abode of 15,000 people be approached but by surmounting ranges of hills separated by deep ravines, or traversing, by narrow roads, its gardens, vineyards, and orchards, fenced in with strong enclosure walls; the whole of them, with the mountain side and tops of the houses, were occupied by Jezailchies, and the strongest proof is afforded that the enemy, after this disposition, considered the place unassailable, by their having retained within the town the wives and children, not only of the inhabitants, but of thousands of refugees from Cabool.

The observations which I was enabled to make under a sharp jezail fire, and the report of Major Pottinger, induced me to determine to assault the next morning the right of the enemy's extensive position, as it was there that I could hope to bring the artillery most effectively into battery. Arrangements were made with this view. The troops were formed into two columns of attack and reserve; Brigadier Tulloch's brigade and the mountain train composed the right; Brigadier Stacy's and Captain Blood's battery and the 18-pounders the left; these were supported by the third column, under Major Simmons, Her Majesty's 41st, consisting of a wing of his regiment and the cavalry under Major Lockwood: Captain Christie's corps protected the baggage.

The troops moved soon after daylight, and, traversing the plain in perfect order, passed nearly from the left to the right of the enemy's position. Our light troops and guns repressed the occasional attacks of their jezailchies from the gardens, who were numerous and most audacious; but when the column arrived in front of the village Ismillah, I resolved to make a combined attack on this point; Brigadier Tulloch's brigade assailed its left, and Brigadier Stacy, making a longer detour, attacked the right.

I cannot express in adequate terms my admiration of the style in which the former column, covered by skirmishers, rushed upon the gardens filled with bold and skilful marksmen. Her Majesty's 9th foot, the 26th native infantry, and Captain Broadfoot's sappers, vied with each other in steady courage; and their rapid and unhesitating advance soon left the enemy no resource but flight. Very shortly after this assault, the three light companies of Her Majesty's 41st, the 42d and 43d native infantry, covering their own column, got into action, and, on their side, stormed the village and vineyard with distinguished gallantry. The combination was steadily persevered in, and, though I had few opportunities of using the artillery with effect, I had soon the gratification of seeing the enclosures, forts, heights, suburbs and town successively won by the two columns. The enemy were driven from them, and pursued with a rapidity which left no time to rally; and a singular spectacle was then presented in the escape up the mountain side of the women and children from the place, to which no interception was offered; but, as detached parties of the beaten Affghans still occupied some very lofty heights, the mountain train ascended them by