

From Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wilde C.B., Commanding Right Defence, to Major T. Wright, Assistant Adjutant-General, Eusufzye Field Force,—(No. 5, dated Umbeyla Pass, the 15th November, 1863.)

ON the evening of the 12th instant, the enemy commenced their attack upon the piquets of the Right Defence, and continued them throughout the night with great spirit. The chief efforts of the enemy were directed against the "Crag" piquet, commanded by Major Brownlow, Commanding 20th Regiment Punjab Infantry, who defended that post most successfully, inflicting much loss upon his opponents. The attacks on the "Crag" piquet was again renewed on the morning of the 13th. Major Brownlow having been relieved by the late Lieutenant Davidson, of the 1st Punjab Infantry. By a sudden assault the enemy succeeded in dislodging this officer's party, and the loss of the post endangered the safety of the whole of the advanced piquet situated on that view. The enclosed reports as per margin,* which I have the honour to submit, describe these operations up to the time of the occupation of the "Crag" piquet by the enemy, which occurred about half-past ten o'clock A.M.

2. On the receipt of the news of this disaster, I ordered up Her Majesty's 101st Regiment to my assistance, and directed three Companies of the Corps of Guides to proceed at once to the front. On leaving my Camp with this reinforcement, I met the head of Her Majesty's 101st Foot ascending the hills, the Brigadier-General having already directed it to proceed without delay to the advanced piquets.

3. The Crag piquet from its locality was the key to the whole position, and its loss rendered the lower piquets untenable, when the full force of the enemy's fire should be brought to bear on them. On my arrival I found that the troops were being severely pressed. Major Ross, Commanding the advanced piquets, was half way up the Crag Piquet Hill gallantly holding the enemy in check, but unable, with the few men he had rallied round him, to advance and re-take the lost piquet. Parties of the enemy were attacking the lower piquets, but were kept back by the steadiness of the fire of Captain Hughes' Mountain Train Guns. The 1st Punjab Infantry, 20th Regiment Native Infantry, and two Companies of the Corps of Guides, still held the breastworks; but numerically the garrison was too weak to resist the numbers of the enemy advancing to its capture.

4. I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Salusbury, Commanding Her Majesty's 101st Regiment, to assault the Crag piquet with his Regiment, leaving one Company as a support in the main position, with two Companies of the Corps of Guides under Lieutenant Jenkins. The enemy were driven back in their advance on the right towards the guns, and this party then joined Colonel Salusbury in the assault on the Crag piquet with another party of the Corps of Guides and 1st Punjab Infantry. The enemy were attacked down the valley to the left. Her Majesty's 101st Foot, fatigued as they were by their rapid march to the relief of the troops in advance, never halted or broke till they had stormed the height and secured the piquet. Nothing could excel the soldier-like conduct of this

Regiment. They started with the determination to perform the duty, and led on by Colonel Salusbury and his officers, they soon reached Major Ross' party on the hill, and together repulsed the enemy, driving him over the hills beyond.

5. With this success on the part of our troops, all opposition ceased, and order was as quickly restored as it had been previously disturbed by the suddenness and force of the enemy's attack. As necessarily must be the case in all fighting when the nature of the ground and the thickness of the brushwood renders it easy for the enemy to concentrate a large force upon a weak piquet, our loss was severe,—Lieutenant Davidson himself being killed; but in their retreat the enemy suffered so much that they desisted from all further attack that day along the whole line of our defences.

6. In conclusion I have to record my appreciation of the services performed on the occasion by Lieutenant-Colonel Salusbury, Commanding Her Majesty's 101st Regiment. Major Ross, Commandant of the 14th Native Infantry and Commanding the advanced piquets, added much to relieve the temporary loss of the piquet.

Major Brownlow, Commandant of the 20th Native Infantry, and Captain Hughes, Commanding Peshawur Mountain Train, displayed throughout the attacks of the enemy great firmness and presence of mind. Lieutenant F. Jenkins, Commanding a Wing of the Corps of Guides, led his men up the Crag Hill, and drove the enemy back from the right of the position with great gallantry.

From Major C. G. Ross, 14th Ferozepore Regiment, Commanding Advanced Piquets, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wilde, C.B., Commanding Right Defence Field Force,—(Dated the 14th November, 1863.)

I BEG to report the occurrences and engagements at the advanced piquets under my command on the 12th and 13th November, 1863.

During the day time on the 12th, large bodies of the enemy took position on the hill above the Crag piquet, which I therefore strongly reinforced and made over to Major Brownlow, 20th Regiment Native Infantry.

Captain Hughes, Royal Artillery, Commanding Peshawur Mountain Train, also under my orders, put two of his four guns into position on the left of my Camp, to get under fire the left shoulder of the hill on which is the Crag piquet, as well as the front of the centre piquet below.

I annex a report from each of these Officers.

During the night of the 12th from ten P.M., until four A.M. of the 13th, the enemy made incessant attacks and charges on the Crag piquet, which were steadily beaten off by Major Brownlow and the fire of the Mountain Train. At seven A.M., 13th November, the enemy threatened in force the centre and lower piquets, and I proceeded to those posts.

No serious attack, however, taking place, I returned to camp, and on reaching the lower part, found that the Crag piquet had been suddenly carried by the enemy, who were pouring a heavy fire into the camp, which was in great confusion. Collecting as many men of the 14th Native Infantry as I could, (the head-quarters body of the Corps were at the centre piquet below), and of the other regiments, we passed to the front of camp, where I was joined by Lieutenant Inglis, 14th Native Infantry, and Young, 1st Punjab Infantry, who assisted me in endeavouring to get sufficient men together to re-carry the "Crag" piquet itself. This we could not do owing to the confusion, but

* 1. From Major Ross, Commanding Advanced Piquets.

2. From Major Brownlow, Commanding 20th Native Infantry.

3. From Major Keyes, Commanding 1st Punjab Infantry.

4. From Captain Hughes, Commanding M. P. Train.

5. From Lieutenant Inglis, 14th Native Infantry.

6. From Colonel Salusbury, Commanding 101st Foot.