

distance of between two and three miles from our camp.

3. The enemy taking advantage of the very broken ground and the low hills, made it their object to try and work round the cavalry, whose position now became somewhat critical; and under instructions from Major-General Roberts, C.B., V.C., Commanding the Force, I ordered out the remainder of the cavalry in camp (consisting of one squadron 10th Royal Hussars and a wing of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, strength as per margin,* (the former under Major Bulkeley and the 5th Punjab Cavalry under Major Williams), to proceed to support.

4. Accompanying the cavalry in the direction where Major Stewart was engaged with the enemy, I found the latter in strong force (at that time apparently about a thousand strong though much scattered, and subsequently reinforced by at least five hundred more), in possession of the low hills at the foot of the mountains, and occupying a strong position.

5. I at once ordered the 10th Hussars up to the foot of some advanced rising ground, which afforded excellent cover, and they dismounting, quickly took up an excellent position on the crest of the low mounds, and opened a steady and well-directed fire on the enemy. Major Williams also, under my direction, brought up the 5th Punjab Cavalry to the foot of some low detached hills on our right, and also opened a brisk fire from dismounted men.

The effect of this combined movement was that the enemy began to retire, and I again advanced the troops, the 10th Hussars taking up an excellent position for dismounted work on a low hill, and opening fire on the enemy's right, whilst a troop of the 5th Punjab Cavalry made a brilliant charge up another hill in the centre of the enemy's position, and, rapidly dismounting, commenced to harass them in their retreat. This charge, which was personally led by Major Williams, struck me as one of the most gallant episodes in cavalry warfare I had ever seen. The remainder of the 5th Punjab Cavalry also advanced under good cover, and maintained a heavy and effective fire.

6. At this period, another force of the enemy began to pour out of the villages to our left and left front, and tried to work across to reinforce those with whom we were engaged; but foreseeing their object, I detached a troop of the 10th Hussars under Captain Barker to move to the left, and take up a position under cover of some low shrubs and trees, from which he was able to open an accurate and very effective fire, which rapidly dispersed them. This fire was especially effective as the enemy were completely in the open; and from our position we could plainly see the shot falling among them, and the occurrence of several casualties in their ranks.

7. The other troop of the 10th Hussars now advanced to a more advanced position, and kept up a well-sustained fire on the retreating enemy, who were working their way up the rocks and crags in the greatest confusion, and never ceasing their flight till they got shelter behind the sky line of the highest ridges.

8. The 28th Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Hudson, and No. 2 Mountain Battery under Captain Swinley, R.A., now arrived on the scene of action, having been despatched by the Major-General Commanding to our assistance. The cavalry had, however, done their work so effectually, that the enemy had retired out of rifle range.

The infantry now relieved the cavalry from the positions they held in the hill sides, and the Mountain Battery commenced shelling the enemy on the mountain top, making excellent practice, and completely preventing them from making any show.

9. Meantime, whilst the above had been proceeding on our left and left front, another attack on the enemy had developed itself on the left rear of our camp, and Major Stewart, with his small party of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, had gradually worked round, through the broken ground and nullahs, to the scene of action. Here he hovered about the enemy, harassing them most effectually, and, under the orders of the Major-General Commanding, he was enabled to make a very gallant and successful charge on a large force of the retreating enemy, driving them in utter rout in all directions. That his troopers did their work right well is proved by the fact that upwards of twenty bodies were found on the ground dead from sabre wounds, whilst probably as many more escaped wounded.

10. The enemy on our left and left front having retreated to the mountain tops, I now, under instructions from the Major-General Commanding, commenced a gradual retirement of the force under my command, which we did very slowly and steadily, under cover of the mountain guns and alternate retirements of the infantry, the cavalry on the left flank being held in readiness to make a dash, should the enemy attempt to follow us in the open ground. However, no attack, or even any attempt to follow, was made on their part, a fact, I believe, almost unprecedented in hill warfare.

It would be impossible to make more than a conjecture at the enemy's loss in this attack, but I should be inclined to put down their casualties as pretty considerable, and I think I am borne out in this conjecture by the fact of their being too beaten to attempt harassing us in any way.

11. When the retirement was completed, I received orders to take the cavalry to the left rear, and see if we could pursue the retreating enemy, but, after a gallop of about three miles over a rough country, we arrived only to find that the villages had been deserted by the enemy, who were now quite of sight.

12. Darkness now setting in, and the country being unsuited to cavalry, as well as the fact that that the enemy had got too great a start of us, precluded all idea of further pursuit, and I therefore ordered all the troops under my command to return to camp.

13. In conclusion, I would beg to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Major-General Commanding the following officers who came under my command during the day's operations.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hudson, Commanding 28th Punjab Infantry, who brought up his fine regiment in excellent formation and most steadily to our support.

Major B. Williams, Commanding 5th Punjab Cavalry, who throughout the day was of the greatest assistance to me in every way, and whose brilliant charge I have already noticed.

Major J. C. Stewart, 5th Punjab Cavalry, commanding a detached troop of his regiment and who distinguished himself greatly under the personal command of the Major-General Commanding the Force.

Major Bulkeley, Commanding the Squadron, 10th Royal Hussars, who showed a fine example to his men of steadiness under circumstances so novel in cavalry warfare, and also Captain Barker of the

* 10th Royal Hussars—70 sabres,
5th Punjab Cavalry—130 sabres.