

under Major Bengough, 77th Regiment, near Sands Sprint, five troops Mounted Men, Russell's Rocket Battery, and two Companies of the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment Natal Native Contingent, at Helpmakaar.

Colonel Durnford was commanding this latter portion in person; Capt. Shepstone and I were with Colonel Durnford. Early on the 20th Colonel Durnford marched to Rorke's Drift, crossing the river by means of the Pont, and establishing himself in a camp about half a mile from the river. Here we remained during the 21st. Capt. George Shepstone rode to Sandhlwana Camp and returned same day.

Lieut. Smith Dorrien rode also to the camp, and returned with a despatch on the morning of the 22nd instant.

Colonel Durnford was on the road to the Dutch farms, on the Biggarshorg, for the purpose of commanding the Dutchmen's wagons when the despatch reached him.

I was with Colonel Durnford, and he remarked to me, "Just what I thought; we are to proceed at once to Sandhlwana. There is an Impi about eight miles from the camp, which the General moves out to attack at daybreak."

Colonel Durnford returned to Rorke's Drift Camp at once, and marched for Sandhlwana at about 7.30 or 8 a.m.

My orders were to see all the wagons inspanned, start them all off, and hand them over to Conductor McCarthy, and then join Colonel Durnford. I complied with these instructions, and arrived at the Sandhlwana Camp with Colonel Durnford about 10 or 10.30 a.m.

Having made all the necessary arrangements for his Column, Colonel Durnford took over the Command from Colonel Pulleine, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, who gave him a state of the troops, which were:

2 Guns, Royal Artillery, under Major Smith; 5 Companies, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment; 1st Company, 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment; a few mounted men, and, as I understand, some of Lonsdale's Contingent, numbering about 250 (of these numbers I am not quite certain), and the verbal orders, which were, "*To defend the camp.*"

The news was, that a number of Zulus had been seen since an early hour on the top of the adjacent hills, and that an attack had been expected; and in consequence, the following disposition of the troops had been made:—The Natives of Lonsdale's Contingent were on outpost duty on the hills to the left; the guns were in position on the left of the camp; the Infantry were turned out, and formed in column in the open space in front of the General's tent.

The wagons, &c., were inspanned. Constant reports came in from the scouts on the hills to the left, but never anything from the men on the top of the Sandhlwana Hill, that I heard. Some of the reports were, "The enemy are in force behind the hills on the left." "The enemy are in three columns." "The columns are separating, one moving to the left rear, and one towards the General." "The enemy are retiring in every direction."

Upon this latter report, Colonel Durnford said he would go out and prevent the one column joining the Impi, which was supposed at that time to be engaged with the troops under the General. He asked Colonel Pulleine to give him two Companies of the 24th to go with the Natives.

Colonel Pulleine objected, stating that he did not think he would be justified in sending away any men, as his orders were "*To defend the camp.*" Colonel Durnford said, "Very well! perhaps I had better not take them. I will go with my

own men." Previous to this, Colonel Durnford on hearing that one column of the enemy was moving towards the left rear, had reinforced the baggage guard (which at that time consisted of one Company Native Contingent), with one troop of mounted Natives; and I understand that Captain George Shepstone was sent back with this party. Colonel Durnford now sent two troops on the hills to the left, under Captain Barton, Natal Native Contingent, and took with him to the front the remaining two troops, and Russell's Rocket Battery, with a Company of the Natal Native Contingent under Captain Nourse, as escort to the battery. Going at a canter, the Rocket Battery and escort were soon left behind. Having proceeded between 5 and 6 miles, a mounted man came down from the hills on the left, and reported that there was an immense Impi behind the hills to our left, and he had scarcely made the report when the Zulus appeared in force in front of us and to our left; they were in skirmishing order, but 10 or 12 deep, with supports close behind. They opened fire at us at about 800 yards, and advanced very rapidly. We retired some little way, taking up a position in a "donga," or water-course, of which there are several, across the plain in front of Sandhlwana.

We retired steadily in skirmishing order, keeping up a steady fire for about 2 miles, when we came upon the remains of the Rocket Battery, which had been cut off and broken up; there was a hand-to-hand engagement going on with those that remained. The left wing while retiring was wheeled up to the right and drove the Zulus back, who were not in very large numbers just there at that time. It appears that Captain Russell, whilst following up with the Battery, perceived some of the enemy on his left, he fired three rockets with some effect, this was followed by a volley from the Zulus, the Native Contingent retired, the mules were frightened, and disorder was caused. The enemy seeing this ran down the hill and attacked the Battery. Captain Russell was killed. As the mounted men retired towards them, the Zulus ran back to their cover. The retreat was continued until we arrived at a "donga," about half a mile in front of the camp. Here a few mounted men, Carbineers, Natal Mounted Police, &c., reinforced our right. A stand was made here, but we were eventually driven in, and the camp was taken from the left. It appears that the mounted men on the left became engaged on the hills about the same time as we were engaged on the flat, and I was informed that they held the Zulus back; but my opinion is that the right of the enemy were only engaging the troops, and did not intend to advance until their left had worked round; and I believe also that Captain Shepstone (who, after the arrival of the baggage, took the troop of mounted natives he had used as escort, on the hills to the left) rode down to the camp, and asked in the name of Colonel Durnford for assistance. This Colonel Pulleine gave him by detaching two Companies of the 24th, a little to the left front.

These, together with the mounted men and Lonsdale's Contingent, fell back into the camp, and, in spite of the artillery fire and the steady musketry of the infantry—who were in good position amongst the stones and boulders to the left, and left centre of the Camp, and who stood their ground most gallantly—the enemy steadily advanced. A general move was made towards the mountain, to take up a last position, but it was too late, the Zulus were too quick and fleet of foot, they caught up the men on foot before they