

*India Office, March 27, 1879.*

THE following Despatch has been received at the India Office:—

From Brigadier-General F. H. Jenkins, Commanding 3rd Brigade, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, 1st Division.—(No. 2, dated Camp Jellalabad, the 13th January, 1879).

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Browne, K.C.S.I., C.B., V.C., Commanding the 1st Division, that, in obedience to his order, I marched from this camp an hour before daybreak on the 11th instant, with the troops mentioned in the margin,\* for the purpose of surprising the Fort of Shergash, in the district of Kamah, where several outrages have lately been committed.

Major Cavagnari, C.S.I., the Political Officer, accompanied the troops, and Khal Khan, Burukzai, the Chief of Besud, showed us the way. After fording the Kabul and Kuram (Kunar?) Rivers, and marching altogether about ten miles, we reached Shergash about eleven o'clock.

Although we marched in broad daylight through several villages, the people of Shergash knew nothing of our approach till just as we were gaining a piece of high ground commanding the fort, and lying between the fort and the hills. I wish to draw attention to this fact, because it shows the influence of the Besud Chief over the people, and the state of feeling generally in the country. Seeing that their retreat was cut off, the leading men of Shergash came out and surrendered themselves.

While they were being secured, a band of ninety Baizai Momunds, who had been plundering in the neighbourhood, ran out from a small fort called Zailian, and made for the spur of the hill nearest to them, leaving behind them, as we afterwards found, all the cattle and plunder they had collected.

These men were too far off and too close to the hills for us to intercept, but as we advanced they showed in groups on the side of the mountain and displayed a flag. This gave Captain de Latour an opportunity of firing four or five shells at them with admirable precision, the shells bursting exactly where they were required. Major Cavagnari has since heard that three men were killed and one wounded by a shell which burst close to the flag.

By one o'clock the Momunds had all disappeared over the ridge, and we marched towards a large village called Serai where we intended to pass the night.

On the road to Serai Meer Akhor Khan of Maiar met us, and invited the whole party to stay in his fort, which he cleared for our reception. After being most hospitably entertained by the Khan we marched the next morning to the ford opposite to Ali Boghan.

Four rafts had been prepared at this spot by Major Cavagnari's order, and the guns and baggage were ferried over, while the horses and mules forded the river in about three feet of water a mile lower down.

The whole distance from Jellalabad to Maiar is not more than twelve miles, but the march was most distressing to both men and animals.

Although the water on the ford of the Kabul River is not more than three feet deep, it was impossible in the night to keep all the troops exactly on the ford, some of the cavalry were swimming and one man was swept down a long way.

\* 2 Guns, Hazara Mountain Battery.—50: Cavalry, 250 Infantry, Corps of Guides.

The infantry suffered greatly from the icy coldness of the water, and when we reached the left bank, where it was freezing hard, six men became quite insensible from the effects of cold and one man seemed likely to die, and was with difficulty brought round by Surgeon-Major Kelly.

On the right bank, too, some men of the rear guard who had lost their footing in the stream were got out of the water by Lieutenant F. D. Battye in a state of exhaustion, and I thought it better to order this party to return to camp.

Altogether, in fording the two rivers, the troops had to move for more than a mile, carrying their ammunition on their heads, in water from two and a half to three feet deep, with a very stony bottom. I mention this to show that it is not prudent for troops to use these fords unless they have good guides; and, unless there is some great necessity, it would be better to cross only in fair daylight.

Both rivers are liable to spates, and the Kunar River especially so. I do not think it would be advisable to send draught artillery by any of the fords that we passed by.

The five political prisoners brought in from Shergash have been sent to the rear this day by the Lieutenant-General's order.

I enclose a rough sketch of the country made by Major G. Stewart, of the Corps of Guides. It was hastily done, as Major Stewart had other duties to attend to; but it seems to me to be very accurate. The sketch shows the Sarkand Pass leading into Kamah. The pass could be plainly seen from Maiar.

The conduct of the troops was excellent; and I wish to express my thanks to Major Campbell, Commanding the Corps of Guides, and to Captain de Latour, Commanding the Hazara Mountain Battery.

This little expedition was very successful, and the object fully obtained. The result is already apparent.

(Signed) S. BROWNE, Lieut.-Gen.,  
Commanding 1st Division, Peshawar Valley  
Field Force.

*Foreign Office, March 7, 1879.*

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Edward William Bonham, Esq., now British Vice-Consul at Jassy, to be Her Majesty's Consul for French Guiana, to reside at Cayenne.

The Queen has also been graciously pleased to appoint Eugene Pernis, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Consul in the Island of Sardinia, to reside at Cagliari.

*Foreign Office, March 20, 1879.*

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Major Francis Coningsby Hannan Clarke, R.A., to be Her Majesty's Commissioner to take part in the Demarcation of the Frontier of Turkey in Asia.

*Foreign Office, March 27, 1879.*

THE Queen has been pleased to approve of Mr. H. S. J. Maas as Vice-Consul, in London, for His Majesty the King of the Netherlands.

*Downing Street, March 27, 1879.*

THE Queen has been pleased to appoint Thomas Berkeley, Esq., Vice President of the Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, to be a Member of the Executive Council of those Islands; and Frederick Berkeley Harman, Esq.,