

force to the marked notice of Her Majesty's Government, and to request that they may be submitted to the Crown for that full and gracious recognition which Her Majesty never withholds from loyal and brave service.

3. Meanwhile, on his own part and on the part of the Government of India, the Earl of Lytton tenders to Lieutenant-General Sir Donald Stewart and to all who served under his orders his sincere and grateful thanks for the distinguished and valued service they have rendered to their country.

KABUL.

No. 2145 A, dated Simla, 19th May, 1880.

From Major-General G. R. Greaves, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying Despatches from Lieutenant-General Sir D. M. Stewart, K.C.B., reporting the engagement at Ahmad Khel on the 19th April, and in the neighbourhood of Ghazni on the 23rd April; and in doing so, I am to express His Excellency's sense of the admirable manner in which the operations under Sir Donald Stewart, including the march to Ghazni and the engagements now reported, have been conducted.

2. The whole of the arrangements for the march which has terminated so successfully were excellent; and in a country deserted by its inhabitants, where supplies are scarce and transport difficult, everything proceeded with a regularity which showed how well and carefully the preparations had been made.

3. In regard to the engagement at Ahmad Khel, Sir Frederick Haines feels sure that the Government will concur with him and Sir Donald Stewart that the conduct of the troops was beyond praise, and will consider that great credit is due to Sir Donald Stewart and to the officers under him for the judicious dispositions and successful handling of the men under their command in circumstances of exceptional difficulty, when attacked by a large number of desperate men entirely reckless of their own lives.

4. The action near Ghazni, though of minor importance, was well carried out, and resulted in a considerable loss to the enemy, with only a few casualties on our side.

5. The plans of the engagements are in course of being copied, and will be transmitted when completed.

FIELD OPERATIONS.

No. 5 L, dated Kabul, 5th May, 1880.

From Lieutenant-General Sir D. M. Stewart, K.C.B., Commanding the Ghazni Field Force, to the Adjutant-General in India.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, that on the 19th April the troops under my command encountered and defeated an enemy holding a position at Ahmad Khel, some twenty-three miles south of Ghazni. The enemy's strength was estimated at 1,000 horse and from 12,000 to 15,000 foot.

2. For several days previous a hostile gathering had been observed marching on our right flank, at a distance of about eight miles, and it was supposed that the intention of the leaders was to take part in the resistance to be expected at Ghazni itself. Meanwhile, the country from Khelat-i-Ghizai forward was deserted by its entire population, so that not only was the supply of the troops arranged for with difficulty, but it was scarcely

possible to obtain intelligence of the character of the opposition that might be offered.

3. On the morning of the 19th April the Field Force marched at daylight from the halting ground of Músháki, in the following order:—

19th Bengal Lancers, 300 sabres; A-B Royal Horse Artillery, six 9-pounder guns; 19th Punjab Native Infantry, 470 rifles; Field Force Head-Quarters, 1 Company 2-60th Rifles, 63 rifles; 1 Company 25th Punjab Native Infantry, 85 rifles; 1 Troop 19th Bengal Lancers, 50 sabres; Nos. 4 and 10 Companies Bengal Sappers and Miners, 80 rifles. Leading brigade under the command of Brigadier-General C. H. Palliser, C.B.

59th Foot, 436 rifles; 3rd Goorkha Regiment, 289 rifles; 2nd Sikh Infantry, 367 rifles; G-4th Royal Artillery, 9-pounder guns; 6-11th Royal Artillery, two 40-pounder guns and two 6.3-in. howitzers; 2nd Punjab Cavalry, 349 sabres. Under the command of Brigadier-General R. J. Hughes.

Field Hospitals.

Ordnance and Engineer Field Parks.

Treasure.

Commissariat.

Baggage.

2-60th Rifles, 443 rifles; 15th Sikhs, 570 rifles; 25th Punjab Native Infantry, 380 rifles; 11-11th Royal Artillery (Mountain Battery), six 7-pounder guns; 1st Punjab Cavalry, 316 sabres. Under the command of Brigadier-General R. Barter.

The length of the entire column in order of march being about six miles.

4. About seven miles from camp the enemy was observed in position three miles in advance of the head of the column, when the two leading brigades were disposed as follows:—

The three batteries of artillery being in column of route upon the road, the infantry of Brigadier-General Hughes' brigade was advanced to the left, in line with the leading battery, one troop of the 19th Bengal Lancers being detached to scout on the left flank, along a range of low hills terminating in the enemy's position; the remainder of the cavalry was formed to the right of the guns in flat country stretching for some three miles as far as the Ghazni River; and the 19th Punjab Native Infantry, the two companies of Sappers and Miners, with the Lieutenant-General's escort, were placed in reserve.

5. At 7.45 A.M. orders were sent to Brigadier-General R. Barter to bring forward one-half of the infantry of his brigade, and to release two squadrons of the 1st Punjab Cavalry to join the Cavalry Brigade, then placed under the command of Brigadier-General Palliser, C.B.

6. The advance was ordered at 8 o'clock, and when the column* was within a mile and a half of the enemy's line, A-B Royal Horse Artillery and G-4th Royal Artillery, moved out to positions immediately to the right of the road, No. 6-11th Royal Artillery coming into action on a knoll 1,500 yards in rear, the infantry, under command of Brigadier-General Hughes, being formed for attack on the left of the field batteries, while the 19th Punjab Native Infantry furnished one company as escort to G-4th Royal Artillery, and the 19th Bengal Lancers detached a squadron as escort to A-B Royal Horse Artillery. The equipment of the sapper companies, entrenching tools of infantry regiments, &c., had, meanwhile, been placed under shelter and in rear of No. 6-11th Royal Artillery.

7. At 9 o'clock, and before the intended attack of the position was developed, the crest of the

* 59th Foot, 3rd Goorkha Regiment, 2nd Sikh Infantry.