

14. At about 3 P.M., as the enemy had got beyond range, I gave directions for Colonel Rowcroft's force to withdraw, its retirement being covered by the parties in the valley and on the ridge. By degrees the troops were drawn off, not an attempt being made to follow them up or to fire a shot, and by 6 P.M. all had returned to camp.

15. It is difficult to say what number of the enemy there were, but Lieutenant-Colonel Rowcroft estimates the total strength to have been from 1,200 to 1,500 men; but many of these were never engaged at all, being on peaks and ridges well out of fire.

The enemy must have suffered severely, Colonel Rowcroft's party counted thirty-six corpses on the ground and Major Combe's four. The latter officer took one wounded man prisoner, and saw some five or six more, whom he left on the ground. A number of guns, swords, pistols, and one standard were captured; and I think the total casualties could not have been less than 150 killed and wounded.

17. Our loss was singularly small,—one Goorkha only having been killed, and four men very slightly wounded.

18. I have much pleasure in being able to speak in the highest terms of the able manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Rowcroft carried out the attack, and of the steadiness of the men both of the 2-9th Foot and the 4th Goorkhas, who worked intelligently and controlled their fire very well.

The fire of the Hazara Mountain Battery guns was excellent, and the screw-guns made some capital practice at long ranges.

Major Combe speaks very highly of the spirited manner in which the 24th Punjab Native Infantry acted throughout the attack.

19. Lieutenant-Colonel Rowcroft mentions the following officers who accompanied him, and gave every assistance:—

Captain the Honourable C. Dutton, Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Captain A. Broadfoot, Hazara Mountain Battery.

Major R. G. Woodthorpe, R.E., Survey Department.

Captain J. W. Ridgeway, Political Officer.

Major J. Hay, commanding the wing of the 4th Goorkhas.

Captain C. M. Stockley, commanding the detachment of the 2-9th Foot.

Second Lieutenant J. L. Govan 2-9th Foot, who shot down a ghazi who had killed one of the Goorkhas.

Lieutenant H. M. Sandbach, R.A., Hazara Mountain Battery.

Major G. W. Wilcock, commanding the troops of the 3rd Bengal Cavalry.

20. Major Combe, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, who commanded the Shekabad party, is deserving of praise for the good judgment he displayed in bringing his force into co-operation with the main attack just at the proper time. He mentions having received valuable assistance from Captain P. H. Wallerstein, commanding the three companies of the 24th Punjab Native Infantry, and also from Lieutenant L. J. E. Bradshaw, of the same corps, who led the advance company in the attack.

No. 3-C, dated Camp, Saidabad, 27th April, 1880.

From Major-General J. Ross, C.B., commanding the 2nd Division, Kabul Field Force, to the Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, Kabul Field Force.

IN continuation of my letter of the 26th

instant, I have the honour to report that the signallers on the hill above camp heliographed yesterday morning that the enemy was assembling on the ridges beyond them, and appearing to be advancing.

2. I at once sent up two guns of the Hazara Mountain Battery and a wing of the 4th Goorkhas under Captain E. P. Mainwaring, 4th Goorkhas, to occupy Signal Hill, whilst Brigadier-General C. J. S. Gough, C.B., V.C., moved out with two guns of No. 6-8th Royal Artillery, a wing of the 2-9th Foot, and a wing of the 23rd Pioneers, round the north side of the hill and up a valley leading off to the west.

3. The guns of No. 6-8th Royal Artillery, in the valley, and of the Hazara Mountain Battery on Signal Hill, commenced shelling the various points held by the enemy, who were very soon dislodged, and retired along the ridge bordering the southern side of the valley to the kotal at the west end, and thence up a very rocky slope to a high peak on the north.

From this point they were also shelled, and Brigadier-General Gough's force advanced without opposition and occupied this high peak also, a few shots at long distances only being fired upon him.

4. The course taken by his column is marked in the sketch in blue.

5. The guns of both No. 6-8th Royal Artillery and the Hazara Mountain Battery made splendid practice, and the enemy must have suffered considerably, as some eight or nine dead bodies and several wounded men were found on the hills.

6. The force returned to the camp without any opposition; and this morning there is no sign of an enemy on the ridges. The Political Officer reports that Abdúl Gafúr has decamped from Langar.

*Return of Men Killed and Wounded in action on the 25th April, 1879.*

*Killed.*

Sepoy Sobhitmán Gurung, 4th Goorkha Regiment, inflicted with tulwar across the vertex, and cutting into brain, almost instantly fatal.

*Wounded.*

Private John Lynch, 2-9th Foot, gunshot wound, contusion, slight, left arm.

Sepoy Dhánbír Thápá, 4th Goorkha Regiment, gunshot wound, contusion on left loin.

Sepoy Bajbír Thápá, 4th Goorkha Regiment, gunshot wound over right shoulder.

Sepoy Gujiá Ráná, 4th Goorkha Regiment, gunshot wound on forehead.

N.B.—All the above are slight injuries.

ALLEN JOHNSON, Colonel,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

GENERAL ORDER.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

*Simla, the 4th June, 1880.*

FIELD OPERATIONS.

No. 328.

THE Right Honourable the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council has much pleasure in directing the publication in the Gazette of India of the Correspondence and Despatches regarding the operations at Charasiah under the command of Brigadier-General H. T. Macpherson, C.B., V.C., and Colonel F. H. Jenkins, C.B., on the 25th April, 1880.

KABUL.—FIELD OPERATIONS.

No. 6956-K, dated Simla, 3rd June, 1880.

From Colonel Allen Johnson, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Adjutant-General in India.

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter