

Field Force, that I marched from Sherpūr at 9 o'clock A.M., on the 25th instant, to Charasiab, with orders to bring in Colonel Jenkins' force, which was engaged, and, if possible, to drive off the enemy.

2. The troops which marched from Sherpūr under my command are specified in the margin;\* 104 rifles of the 2nd (Prince of Wales' Own) Goorkhas joined the column at the Bala Hissar under Captain W. Hill, and subsequently a troop of the 3rd Punjab Cavalry under Lieutenant L. S. H. Baker, as well as two screw-guns under Lieutenant A. F. Liddell, R.A.

3. I left two companies of the 45th Sikhs to hold the Sang-i-Nawishta Pass, which commands the road to Kabul; and on reaching the low ridge which crosses the road at right angles, about a mile from its mouth, I obtained a good view of the position of the force under Colonel Jenkins. I observed that he had struck his camp and was standing on the defensive, facing south-west; the left and rear of his position protected by some high hills, which he had crowned; the baggage drawn up at the base of the hill in his rear; and the enemy, with whom he was actively engaged, formed in a complete semi-circle round him. This made me press on.

4. When nearing Charasiab, which consists of number of fortified villages and orchards situated under the high ridge of mountains which separate the Chardeh Plain from the Logar Valley, I directed Captain Hill, 2nd Goorkhas, to search the enclosed country that lay between my column and the enemy. As it was irrigated land, the travelling was almost heart-breaking; but the little men struggled through, and had got to the fringe of willows as the head of the column reached the open country, about one thousand yards from the centre of the position of Colonel Jenkins' force.

5. My first order on assuming command was to send their baggage into Sherpūr, so as to free all hands for action.

6. An examination of the position made me resolve to attack the left horn of the enemy's semi-circle (which lay exposed to me from the direction from my advance from Kabul), as, I presumed, if I could roll him up on that flank, his centre would be completely uncovered.

7. At this time Colonel Jenkins met me and represented that, with some assistance, he could make a forward movement.

8. As I considered that a counter-attack under an officer of Colonel Jenkins' ability would strike with great effect, as soon as my right attack was developed, I ordered three companies of the 45th Sikhs under Lieutenant Colonel F. M. Armstrong, to reinforce the left wing of the 92nd Highlanders and the Guides.

9. Meanwhile, the four mountain guns, under Major G. Swinley, and the head-quarters wing of the 92nd Highlanders, under Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Parker, had been moving forward, the former to come into action at about 1100 yards, and the 92nd to form in order of attack and prolong to the left of the Goorkhas, who were already engaged.

10. The enemy's standards were dotted in considerable numbers over the terraced fields that trend south from the forts and orchards already described. One of these standards was conspicuous from its central position and gay colours, and I sent Captain M'Gregor, 92nd Highlanders, my orderly officer, to point it out to Captain Hill as his object:

11. The two guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, under Lieutenant J. H. Wodehouse and Major Swinley's battery, were now making very effective shooting on the enemy. The head-quarters wing of the 92nd Highlanders had advanced so as to enfilade them, and the Goorkhas, supported on their extreme right by a detachment of the 45th Sikhs, making good use of the terraces, had got within 400 yards of the objective point.

12. As the advance was fairly covered by the fire of the artillery and by the fire of the 92nd, particularly by volleys from a company under Captain R. F. Darvall, who had taken possession of a large mound, I sent Captain R. E. C. Jarvis, 67th Regiment, Brigade-Major, to order the Goorkhas (who had been given two minutes' rest to recover their wind) to assault the position without firing.

13. Captain Hill calling to his men that the General expected the regiment to capture the flag, they sprang up with a cheer, rushed on, pressing the enemy (who now broke), and captured the standard.

14. This was the signal for a general falling back of the Afghans. A fire, however, being opened from the orchards, these were "rushed" at once, and the enemy, after suffering severely, abandoned the whole of the left of their position, making for the hills to the north under the fire of our guns.

15. Their centre was now quite exposed, and Colonel Jenkins at this juncture delivered the left attack with great spirit; the Guides and the 45th gained the high hill in their front, the wing of the 92nd being in the centre of the whole line.

16. The afternoon was spent in pursuit. The head-quarters wing of the 92nd, the 2nd Goorkhas, and a detachment of the 45th Sikhs cleared all the hills to the north and west, until not a man was visible; and the guns of the Royal Horse Artillery and the Guide Cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart pursued for four miles towards Logar.

The whole force reformed on the site of the camp at 4 P.M., and marched to Sherpūr.

17. I wish to testify to the admirable arrangements Colonel Jenkins had made for the protection of his position.

That officer mentions particularly the assistance he received from:—

Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Armstrong, 45th Sikhs.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. P. P. Campbell, Corps of Guides.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Stewart, Corps of Guides.

Major G. S. White, 92nd Highlanders.

Captain M. A. Alves, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant C. H. Manners Smith, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General.

And I beg to express my thanks to:—

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Parker, 22nd Highlanders.

Major R. G. Kennedy, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Captain R. E. C. Jarvis, 67th Regiment, Brigade-Major.

Captain A. D. M'Gregor, 92nd Highlanders, Orderly Officer.

Lieutenant S. Grant, Royal Engineers.

Captain A. H. Turner, Political Officer.

18. For some special mark of honour. I would bring to favourable notice Captain L. C. Singleton, 92nd Highlanders, and Captain W. Hill, 2nd Goorkhas. Both these officers commanded the first line of their respective regiments, and led the attack in a most determined manner in storming the orchards.

\* No. 2 Mountain Battery, 4 guns; 92nd Highlanders, 278 rifles; 45th Sikhs, 555 rifles.