

1880, reporting an engagement on the 14th idem, six miles from Girishk, on the Herat road, between the troops under the command of Brigadier-General G. R. S. Burrows and the mutinous infantry of His Highness the Wali of Kandahar's forces.

2. Brigadier-General Burrows' report of the action has been called for, and when received will be forwarded.

3. As far as can be judged from the Despatch now submitted, it appears to His Excellency that the operations, which resulted in the capture of the guns in the hands of the mutineers, were well carried out.

From Lieutenant-General J. M. Primrose, C.S.I., Commanding the Kandahar Field Force, to the Adjutant-General in India,—(No. 1, dated Kandahar, the 23rd July, 1880).

I HAVE the honour to report that early on the morning of the 14th inst. the infantry regiments of His Highness the Wali of Kandahar (numbering two thousand), who were stationed at Girishk, on the right bank of the Helmand, with the object of opposing the advance of Ayub Khan on Kandahar, mutinied, and, taking with them a battery of artillery, moved off on the Herat road, apparently with the intention of joining Ayub Khan, whose troops were reported to be within two marches of Girishk on that date.

2. The Wali's cavalry, two thousand five hundred strong, accompanied him across the river; but Brigadier-General Burrows reports that the majority were completely out of hand, and went off at once in the direction of Kandahar.

3. The force, as per margin,* under the command of Brigadier-General Burrows, which had been sent out from Kandahar to support the Wali, was then encamped on the left bank of the river.

4. On its being reported that the infantry had mutinied and were marching off with the guns, Brigadier-General Burrows ordered troops, as per margin,† to cross the Helmand and pursue, leaving two companies of the 66th Regiment, the 1st Grenadiers, and five companies of the 30th Regiment Native Infantry to guard the camp.

5. The cavalry and horse artillery under Brigadier-General T. Nuttall pushed on at once to feel for the enemy and hold him in check until the infantry could be brought up.

6. The ground being much cut up by numerous wide and deep canals, difficulty was experienced in getting the artillery along; and Brigadier-General Nuttall, fearing that the enemy might make good his retreat, sent the 3rd Sind Horse, under Colonel J. H. P. Malcomson, rapidly to the front, leaving the 3rd Light Cavalry with the guns.

7. They came upon the mutinous troops about six miles from camp, formed up in a strong position on a rocky ridge, their left resting on the right bank of the Helmand, which was here steep and precipitous. Here they held them for three-quarters of an hour, being unable to charge in consequence of the cramped and enclosed nature of the ground.

* E-B, Royal Horse Artillery, No. 2 Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners, 1 officer, 45 rank and file; 3rd Sind Horse, 4 officers, 207 sabres; 3rd Light Cavalry, 6 officers, 300 sabres; Six companies, 66th Foot, 20 officers, 518 rank and file; 1st Bombay N.I. (Grenadiers), 8 officers, 608 rank and file; 30th Bombay N.I. (Jacob's Rifles), 8 officers, 502 rank and file.

† E-B, Royal Horse Artillery, No. 2 Company, Sappers and Miners; 3rd Sind Horse, 3rd Light Cavalry, 410 sabres; four companies, 66th Regiment; three companies, Jacob's Rifles.

8. Before the guns and infantry could get up, the enemy moved off in a direction parallel to the river, but being followed and threatened by the cavalry, came into position again, and opened fire on them with his artillery.

9. In the meantime four guns of E-B Royal Horse Artillery, were brought into action, and in the course of half an hour the enemy's guns were silenced and abandoned by their gunners.

10. The cavalry at once charged to seize them; but on reaching the guns were received by a heavy musketry fire from a body of infantry who had taken up a position on the reverse slope of the hill from which the guns were firing.

11. They were in consequence slightly withdrawn behind the crest of the hill, and some dismounted men being formed under cover of the wagons, returned the fire of the enemy until the infantry and guns arrived.

12. On this the enemy immediately retreated under our artillery and infantry fire, into the valley below, dispersing in all directions, and leaving sixty dead on the field.

13. Brigadier-General Burrows reports that the country was dotted over with villages and intersected by watercourses and walls, rendering pursuit almost hopeless. Moreover, he had a long and difficult march back with the captured guns, the horses of which had been carried off by the enemy, and he was anxious to recross the river by daylight.

14. He therefore recalled his infantry, and sent the cavalry on to secure the baggage, &c., which the enemy were taking off.

15. Brigadier-General Nuttall states that he followed the retreating troops closely, hoping to engage them in some favourable spot, but they at once quitted the bank of the river, leaving the whole of their baggage, ammunition, &c., and retreated through country over which it was impossible for cavalry to act.

16. He therefore abandoned the pursuit and secured the baggage which the enemy had left behind, consisting of 53 camels, a quantity of small arms, ammunition, accoutrements, and supplies.

17. The battery captured consists of four 6-pounder smooth-bore guns, two 12-pounder howitzers, and three ammunition waggons; but being unable to move the wagons, they were destroyed, the guns and howitzers being brought safely into camp.

Brigadier-General Burrows reports that the behaviour of all ranks left nothing to be desired; and particularly brings to notice the fact that the men of the 66th Regiment dragged the captured guns over three miles of difficult country until teams could be obtained for them.

18. Our casualties were as follows:—
British Troops, 66th Foot, 4 men wounded, one since dead.

Native Troops, 3rd Sind Horse, 2 horses killed, 3 horses wounded, 1 horse missing.

Native Troops, 3rd Light Cavalry, 2 horses killed, 1 horse wounded, 2 horses missing.

19. Brigadier-General Burrows informs me that he received every assistance from his Brigade-Major, Captain W. H. M'Math, 66th Regiment; from his Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Captain T. Harris, 66th Regiment; and from Captain J. R. Slade, Royal Horse Artillery, his Orderly Officer, to whose untiring energy he is indebted for the guns being brought on intact with their carriages into camp.

The cavalry under Brigadier-General Nuttall was well handled; and the determined energy with which the artillery was brought up to the front