

the immediate command of Brigadier-General C. H. Palliser, C.B. :—

From Colonel Allen Johnson, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Adjutant-General in India.—(No. 7894-K., Kabul Field Operations, dated Simla, 20th August, 1880).

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4341-A, dated the 13th August, 1880, forwarding Despatches relating to the action fought at Patkáo Shana by the Cavalry Brigade of the 3rd Division Northern Afghanistan Field Force, under the command of Brigadier-General Palliser, against the Zermúttis.

2. In reply, I am to state, for the Commander-in-Chief's information, that the Governor-General in Council has perused with much satisfaction the correspondence regarding these operations, and entirely concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in considering that great credit is due to the Cavalry Brigade of Major-General Hills' Division, under the immediate command of Brigadier-General Palliser, C.B., and to the officers and men whose services have been so prominently brought to notice in this Despatch.

3. The Despatches will, I am to add, be published in the Gazette at an early date.

From Major-General G. R. Greaves, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,—(No. 4341-A.,—Kabul,—dated Simla, 13th August, 1880).

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for submission to Government, the accompanying Despatches relating to the action fought at Patkáo Shana on the 1st July, 1880, by the Cavalry Brigade of the 3rd Division Northern Afghanistan Field Force, under the immediate command of Brigadier-General C. H. Palliser, C.B., against 1500 Zermúttis.

2. His Excellency considers that great credit is due to Brigadier-General Palliser and the troops engaged, and desires me to bring to special notice the names of Major J. R. B. Atkinson, 1st Punjab Cavalry, and Captain L. T. Bishop, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, whose conduct was admirable, affording a brilliant example of squadron leading.

3. The conduct of Captain S. D. Barrow, 10th Bengal Lancers, is also specially worthy of notice, and Sir Frederick Haines considers that all the officers and men mentioned,—indeed, the whole force,—deserve the favourable notice of Government.

From Lieutenant-General Sir Donald M. Stewart, K.C.B., Commanding in Northern Afghanistan, to the Adjutant-General in India,—(No. 3143,—“Field Operations,”—dated Kabul, 20th July, 1880).

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, the accompanying report, as per margin,* of a very successful action fought on the 1st instant at Patkáo Shana, in the Logar Valley, by the Cavalry Brigade of Major-General Hills' Division under the immediate command of Brigadier-General Palliser, C.B.

The operation reflects much credit on the cavalry of the 3rd Division, and I have great pleasure in supporting the recommendations made

* Letter No. 6652-L., dated 12th July, 1880, from Major-General Hills, C.B., V.C., Commanding the 3rd Division, with its enclosures.

by Major-General Hills, C.B., V.C., in favour of Brigadier-General Palliser and the officers and men whose services have been favourably brought to notice in his Despatch.

From Major-General J. Hills, C.B., V.C., Commanding the 3rd Division Northern Afghanistan Field Force, to the Chief of the Staff, Northern Afghanistan Field Force,—(No. 6652-L.—“Field Operations,”—dated Camp Zargunshahr, 12th July, 1880).

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Field Force Northern Afghanistan, that on the evening of the 30th June, I received information from the Political Officer, Major Euan Smith, that some 1,000 or 1,500 Zermúttis were said to be at Patkáo Shana, detained by Sirdar Hassan Khan, in expectation of reinforcements reaching them under Mahomed Jan.

2. I therefore directed Brigadier-General Palliser, C.B., to proceed with his Cavalry Brigade early next morning towards Patkáo Shana and Hisarak, and to ascertain whether any hostile gathering was present in either place or in the neighbourhood, and I gave him instructions to flash to me for assistance or press home an attack as circumstances required.

3. Brigadier-General Palliser started at 3.30 a.m., with a force as per margin,* and, on approaching Patkáo Shana, learnt that the enemy had had timely notice of his approach, and were in full retreat. A few horsemen on his left front gave him a clue to the line of retirement, and Captain G. M. Abbott, 19th Bengal Lancers, in command of his advanced guard, following them up, was soon able to report that he saw the main body of footmen about two miles ahead, making away towards Altimor.

4. Brigadier-General Palliser, leaving a squadron of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry under Captain J. H. Broome to watch the village of Patkáo Shana and the Logar Valley, pressed on with the rest of his brigade, and overtook these footmen, some 1,500 strong, three miles from the village. He at once attacked, and with such vigour that, although the enemy made several attempts to stand up against him wherever the nature of the ground specially favoured resistance, still they were unable to withstand his assaults, and by 9.30 a.m. were utterly routed, and had disappeared in the higher hills opposite Altimor, some eight miles having been covered in the pursuit.

5. Many acts of gallantry were performed, the most prominently brought to notice being those of Major J. R. B. Atkinson, 1st Punjab Cavalry, Captain L. T. Bishop, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, and Sowar Sirbúland Khan, 1st Punjab Cavalry.

6. Over 200 killed and wounded were left on the field, and though the number may appear small considering the distance to which the pursuit was pushed, the extreme roughness and difficulty of the ground, enabling many to slink away unseen, fully accounts for the same.

7. The leaders of the gathering, found to be almost entirely Zermúttis, were Súltan Mahomed, Mahmúdzái, Ahmed Shah, Kúlangári, Sáiad Khan, Mandozái, Abdúlla Khan, Mandozái, and these, being mounted, galloped off at the first alarm of our approach.

* 1st Punjab Cavalry, British Officers 5, Sabres 236 - 231. 2nd Punjab Cavalry, British Officers 3, Sabres 155 - 158. 19th Bengal Lancers, British Officers 5, Sabres 183 - 188. Total 577.