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India Office, December 3, 1880.

THE following General Orders by the Government of India, have been received at the India Office:—

GENERAL ORDER.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 8th October, 1880.

FIELD OPERATIONS.

No. 566.—HIS Excellency the Governor-General in Council directs the publication, for general information, of the following correspondence and despatches relating to the siege of Kandahar, and the sortie from that place on the 16th August last:—

From Colonel Allen Johnson, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Adjutant-General in India,—(No. 8535-K, Kabul. Field Operations, dated Simla, 2nd October 1880).

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter No. 5418-A., dated the 29th September, 1880, forwarding despatches from Lieutenant-General Primrose, C.S.I., reporting the arrangements made for the protection of the citadel and city of Kandahar during their investment by Ayub Khan, and the sortie made by the garrison on the 16th August, 1880.

2. These despatches will be published for general information. Meanwhile, I am to state, for the Commander-in-Chief's information, that His Excellency's remarks on the several points they contain are concurred in by the Government of India.

3. The Government of India, I am to state, deplore the great loss of life on the occasion of the sortie; but the Government of India desire to place on record their deep sense of the loss sustained by the Army in Brigadier-General Brooke, whose death was marked by so conspicuous an instance of self-devoted courage.

From Major-General G. R. Greaves, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,—(No. 5418-A.,—Kabul,—dated Simla, 29th September, 1880).

I HAVE the honor, by direction of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying despatches from Lieutenant-General Primrose, C.S.I., commanding at Kandahar, reporting the

arrangements made for the protection of the citadel and city of Kandahar during the investment by Ayub Khan, and the sortie made by the garrison on the 16th August last.

2. The siege arrangements appear to have been good, but do not call for any remarks from His Excellency.

3. Sir Frederick Haines, however, thinks that the abandonment of the cantonment was too precipitate, considering the force which General Primrose had under his command on the 28th July, and must have tended to confirm the demoralization of the troops caused by the imperfect information then received of the events at Maiwand.

4. In regard to the sortie, the Commander-in-Chief regrets to be under the necessity for saying that the reasons assigned for it are not satisfactory to him. The details of the operation appear to have been well and successfully carried out up to the time of the withdrawal of the troops and cavalry from the south side of the village of Deh Khoja into the city by the Kabul gate. From this point, however, General Primrose's narrative is confusing, though it is clear that from the fact of the dead, among whom was a Brigadier-General, having been left on the field, the troops, in returning to the city, must have been closely followed up by the enemy.

5. In regard to the effect produced on the enemy by this sortie, His Excellency considers that even were the results such as Lieutenant-General Primrose reports them to have been, they were too dearly bought with the loss of so many valuable officers and men.

Brigadier-General Brooke, who fell on this occasion while endeavouring to save the life of a wounded comrade, was an officer of the highest promise, and one whose death is greatly to be deplored.

6. I am to add that General Primrose has been called upon for a copy of any instructions which he may have issued to Brigadier-General Brooke for his advance towards Sinjuri on the 28th July, and of any report which that officer may have rendered on his return to Kandahar.

7. The casualty returns were forwarded with my letter No. 5327-A., dated 24th September, and the sketches will be sent hereafter.

From Lieutenant-General J. M. Primrose, C.S.I., Commanding the Kandahar Force, to the Adjutant-General in India,—(No. 3, dated Kandahar, 30th August, 1880).

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the