

positions perpendicular to the shorter faces of the city walls, as batteries placed opposite the east and west fronts would take these faces respectively in reverse,

VI.—The disarrangement of the enemy's dispositions to the east would practically limit his attack to the west and south fronts, as the ground to the north is open and devoid of cover.

6. On the afternoon of the 15th August, I ordered the infantry force as per margin,* under the command of Brigadier-General Brooke, to attack the village early on the morning of the 16th; to force their way through it; obtain all the information they could; and, if possible, to destroy any works the enemy might have constructed under cover of the walls.

The cavalry (strength as noted)† under the command of Brigadier-General Nuttall, to co-operate with the infantry and to keep the ground clear to the south and east of Deh Khojah.

Artillery as per margin‡ to keep up a rapid fire from the walls on the village before the attack, and to cover the advance of the infantry.

7. The cavalry were ordered to leave by the Eedgah Gate at 4.30 a.m., and to trot round out of musketry fire to the east of the village, and there await the result of the attack.

The artillery were ordered to open fire at 4.45 a.m., and infantry to leave by the Kabul Gate at 5 a.m.

8. Brigadier-General Brooke made his own dispositions for carrying out the attack, which were as follows:—

"I.—The Force will be divided into three columns as follows:—

1st.—Under Lieutenant-Colonel Daubeny, will consist of—

2 companies, 7th Fusiliers.

2 companies, 19th Native Infantry.

2nd.—Under Lieutenant-Colonel Nimmo—

1 company, 7th Fusiliers.

3 companies, 28th Native Infantry.

3rd.—Under Colonel Heathcote—

1 company, 7th Fusiliers.

2 companies, 19th Native Infantry.

1 company, 28th Native Infantry.

"II.—To each column will be attached an engineer officer, with a proportion of sappers, with tools and powder bags.

"III.—A medical officer and sick carriage will accompany each column. The reserve ammunition will remain within the Kabul Gate.

"Arrangements for carrying an ample supply of water are to be made by all commanding officers.

"IV.—The following will be the duties assigned to each column:—

"The first column will, on leaving the Kabul Gate, take the road to the right, and after proceeding 150 yards along it, advance towards the south of the village, the advance being covered by skirmishers, and the details carried out as may seem best to Colonel Daubeny, with reference to the features of the ground and the resistance offered. The object of this column is to seize a good position at the south of the village from which to advance to the north of the village, driving out all the enemy who may be met there.

"The second column will conform to, and follow the movements of, the first; but on

reaching the village will seize a position on the right of that taken up by the first column. Both columns will make their advance in as open order as possible.

"The third column will remain within the Kabul Gate awaiting orders. The duty assigned to them will probably be to enter the village at the main entrance and seize the enclosure on the left of the entrance, where the gun embrasure is, and clear that part of the village. The other instructions will be issued to the Commanders of the 1st and 2nd Columns by the Brigadier-General on their reaching the south of the village. The Cavalry Brigade, under Brigadier-General Nuttall, is under orders to co-operate, and will be on the east and south of the village."

9. As previously arranged, the cavalry quitted the Eedgah Gate at 4.30 a.m., and trotted round into the position assigned, a few shots being fired at them but at very long ranges and doing no damage.

10. The guns opened fire at 4.45 a.m., and at 5 a.m. the first two parties of infantry debouched from the Kabul Gate, making for the south of the village which they entered under a heavy fire of musketry at 5.30 a.m.

11. At this moment numbers of *ghazis* were seen making their way to Deh Khojah across the open ground to the south of the village.

12. They were at once charged by a troop of the 3rd Light Cavalry under Lieut. Geoghegan, and driven back with heavy loss into broken ground, where further pursuit was hopeless.

13. The cavalry now formed up to the south of Deh Khojah waiting for another opportunity to charge, and the infantry were steadily making their way through the village, beating down all opposition.

14. Once more the *ghazis* in large numbers tried to cross from the south to the support of Deh Khojah, but Major Trench, 19th Regiment Native Infantry, met them with three well-directed volleys, which turned them, and Brigadier-General Nuttall, seizing the opportunity, charged again with the 3rd Light Cavalry and Poona Horse, dispersing and cutting up many of the enemy, who again took shelter in the nullahs and broken ground.

15. The enemy's fire in the village had now nearly ceased.

16. On re-forming after this charge Brigadier-General Nuttall received a note from Brigadier-General Brooke, asking him to cover the retirement of the infantry from the south of the village into the Kabul Gate.

17. In consequence of this request, the cavalry were withdrawn and entered the city by the Kabul Gate, and it was in carrying out this movement that they suffered most of the loss sustained throughout the day, as they were exposed to infantry fire from the village (which recommenced as they were being withdrawn) in cramped ground, which prevented their being in open formation.

18. My intention had been that the cavalry should have remained out to the last in the open plain, well out of musketry fire, charging whenever opportunity should offer, and returning the same way they went out after the infantry had passed through the village.

19. The cavalry and infantry at the south end of the village being withdrawn allowed the enemy's reinforcements to move up from the south, and the fighting in the middle of the village became general and very heavy.

20. Notwithstanding the determined resistance of the enemy, who fought under cover of their walls with the greatest obstinacy, the infantry

* 4 companies, 7th Fusiliers; 4 companies, 19th Native Infantry; 4 companies, 28th Native Infantry. A party of Sappers, to be told off by the Commanding Royal Engineer.

† 3rd Light Cavalry, 100 sabres; Poona Horse, 100 sabres; 3rd Sind Horse, 100 sabres.

‡ One 40-pounder; Two 9-pounders; Two 8" mortars.