

The instant our troops commenced to fall back, the enemy advanced in great strength and pressing the infantry. They eventually assembled in such large numbers, and endeavoured so persistently to follow, that the whole of the troops of the 3rd Brigade, and part of those of the 1st, were ordered under arms.

The retirement was conducted with great steadiness by the 15th Sikhs, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Hennessy. At the end of the day our casualties numbered only ten.

The reconnaissance of the 31st August having afforded me all the information I required, I decided on attacking the enemy the following morning.

Orders were accordingly issued for the troops to breakfast at 7 a.m., and for one day's cooked rations to be carried by all ranks.

Brigades were to be in position by 8 a.m., tents being previously struck, and, with the kits, stored in a walled enclosure.

The plan of operations was explained by me personally to the officers commanding divisions and brigades at 6 a.m.

This plan, briefly, was to threaten the enemy's left (the Baba Wali Kotal) and to attack in force by the village of Pir Paimal.

The whole of the infantry of the Kabul-Kandahar Force, upon whom devolved the duty of carrying the enemy's position, were formed up in rear of the low hills which covered the front of our camp,—the right being at Picquet Hill, and the left resting on Chilzina, while the cavalry, under the command of Brigadier-General Hugh Gough, was held in readiness, in rear of the left, to operate by Gandizan towards the bed of the Argandab river, so as to threaten the rear of Ayib Khan's camp, and endanger his line of retreat towards Girishk and Kakrez. E-B Royal Horse Artillery (four guns), two companies of the 2-7th Fusiliers, and four companies of the 28th Bombay Native Infantry, were placed at the disposal of Brigadier-General Gough to take up a position near Gandizan, and, when opportunity offered, to support his advance.

Guards for the protection of the city having been detailed, as shown in the accompanying return, marked No. 9, the remaining troops under Lieutenant-General Primrose's command were ordered to be distributed as follows:—

Brigadier-General Daubeney's brigade to hold the ground from which the Kabul Force would advance to the attack.

The remnant of Brigadier-General Burrows' brigade, with No. 5-11th Royal Artillery and the cavalry of the Bombay Force under Brigadier-General Nuttall, to take up a position north of the cantonment, from which the 40-pounders might be brought to bear directly on the Baba Wali Pass: the cavalry being instructed to watch the pass called Kotal-i-Murcha, and to cover the city.

It was clear from a very early hour in the morning that an offensive movement was contemplated by the enemy. The villages of Gandizan and Gandhi Mullah Sahibdad were held in strength; and desultory fire was brought to bear upon our front from the orchards connecting these two villages, while an ill-directed shell fire was opened from the Baba Wali Kotal, which was held in force during the greater part of the day's operations.

At 9.30 A.M. fire was opened from the 40-pounders upon the Baba Wali Pass.

Shortly afterwards the brigades of the Kabul-Kandahar Force were ordered to the attack, the 1st Brigade being on the right, the 2nd on the

left, and the 3rd in reserve. Two batteries of artillery, viz., C-2nd and 6-8th,—the latter being the new pattern jointed guns,—had meanwhile been placed in position to cover the advance of the infantry, and commenced shelling the village of Gandhi Mullah Sahibdad.

The instructions given by Major-General Ross to Brigadier-General Macpherson were to make his first attack on that village, after which he was to clear the enemy from the enclosures which lay between the village and the low spur of the hill short of Pir Paimal. He further ordered Brigadier-General Baker to advance in a westerly direction, keeping touch with the 1st Brigade on his right, and clearing the gardens and orchards in his immediate front.

The attack upon the village of Gandhi Mullah Sahibdad was made by the 2nd Goorkhas and the 92nd Highlanders, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Battye, and Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Parker respectively, the remaining two regiments of the 3rd Infantry Brigade being in support. The village was carried in the most dashing style, Goorkhas and Highlanders vieing with each other in the rapidity of their advance. The enemy withdrew sullenly and leisurely, a good number remaining to the last in the village to receive a bayonet charge.

On this occasion the following officers and men were brought to notice as having behaved with distinguished gallantry:—

Major G. S. White, 92nd Highlanders.

Private John Dennis, "

Drummer James Roddick, "

Lieutenant H. S. Wheatley, 2nd Goorkhas.

Sepoy Mangal Jaisi, "

Sepoy Wazir Sing Nagarkoti, "

Sepoy Makkareah Rana, "

Sepoy Bismar Thapa, "

Sepoy Maniram Lohar, "

During the advance of the 1st Brigade on the village of Gandhi Mullah Sahibdad, the 2nd Brigade had been threading its way through the lanes and walled enclosures, which lay in the line of its attack. The resistance it encountered was most stubborn, the enemy being well protected by high walls, which they had carefully loopholed. The loss suffered in clearing these enclosures was necessarily severe,—Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow, C.B., Captain Frome, and Lance-Sergeant Cameron (a grand specimen of a Highland soldier), being amongst those who fell.

Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow met his death while gallantly leading his regiment, the 72nd Highlanders, and in him the army has experienced a great loss. He had on many occasions highly distinguished himself as a leader,—at the Peiwar Kotal, during the operations around Kabul at the latter end of 1879, and notably on the 14th December, when he won the admiration of the whole force by his brilliant conduct in the attack and capture of the Asmai Heights.

Of the regiments of this (the 2nd) Brigade, the 72nd Highlanders, and the 2nd Sikhs had the chief share of the fighting. They were the two leading battalions, and frequently had to fix bayonets to carry positions or to check the determined rushes of the enemy. Brigadier-General Baker speaks in high terms of the gallant behaviour of these two regiments, and notices especially the manner in which a charge of the enemy was repulsed by the 2nd Sikhs under the able and immediate command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Boswell, who was well supported by Majors H. M. Pratt, J. B. Slater, and F. E. Hastings.

The following native commissioned officers, non-