

commissioned officers and soldiers are brought forward as having been very conspicuous during this part of the action:—

Color-Sergeant G. Jacobs, 72nd Highlanders.
 Color-Sergeant R. Lauder, "
 Lance-Corporal J. Gordon, "
 Subadar-Major Gurbaj Sing, 2nd Sikhs.
 Jemadar Alla Sing, "
 Naick Dir Sing, "
 Sepoy Hakim, "
 Sepoy Jai Sing, "
 Sepoy Partab Sing, "
 Sepoy Bir Sing, "

After severe fighting both brigades emerged at the point of the hill near Pir Paimal; and bringing their left shoulders forward, they pressed on and swept the enemy through the closely-wooded gardens and orchards which cover the western slopes of the hill.

The village of Pir Paimal was in our possession soon after noon.

When I heard from Major-General Ross of the success of the troops under his command, I determined to support his further advance by the 3rd Brigade, which had been drawn up in front of the village of Abásabad, with the double object of being a reserve to the 1st and 2nd Brigades, and of meeting a possible counter-attack by the enemy from the Baba Wali Pass.

The capture of Pir Paimal, however, brought our troops in rear of that pass; and feeling that nothing had now to be feared from the enemy's left, I pushed on with the 3rd Brigade to join Major-General Ross.

That officer, seeing the advantage gained, and knowing that he could rely upon the courage and eagerness of his troops, had very wisely determined to press forward without waiting for reinforcements.

The position to which the enemy retired, after the capture of Pir Paimal, was an entrenched camp to the south-west of the Baba Wali Kotal, commanding an open piece of ground.

This entrenchment they were evidently prepared to hold with their usual determination; reinforcements were being rapidly pushed up from their reserves, while the guns on the Baba Wali Kotal were turned round, so as to increase the heavy fire of artillery which was brought to bear upon our troops.

It became necessary to take this position at once by storm.

Recognizing this with true soldierly instinct, Major G. S. White, who was leading the advance companies of Her Majesty's 92nd Highlanders, called upon his men for just one charge more "to close the business."

The battery of screw guns, under Brevet-Major J. C. Robinson, had been shelling the enemy with a well directed fire; under cover of which, and supported by a portion of the 2nd Goorkhas and the 23rd Pioneers, the Highlanders, responding with alacrity to their leader's call, dashed forward and drove the enemy from their entrenchments at the point of the bayonet.

The gallant and ever foremost Major White was the first to reach the enemy's guns; being closely followed by Sepoy Inderbir Lama, who, placing his rifle upon one of the guns, exclaimed that it was captured in the name of the 2nd (Prince of Wales' Own) Goorkhas.

While the 1st Brigade was advancing towards the enemy's last position, a portion of the 2nd Brigade, viz., a half-battalion of the 3rd Sikhs, under Lieutenant-Colonel G. N. Money, charged a body of the enemy on the extreme left, and captured three guns.

The enemy were now completely routed; but,

owing to the nature of the ground, it was impossible for Major-General Ross, who was commanding in the front line, to realise the extent of the victory he had won,

He, therefore, expecting the enemy to take up a fresh position further on, and to continue their resistance, ordered the 1st and 2nd Brigades to halt and replenish their ammunition.

When this had been done, and the troops had advanced about a mile, Major-General Ross found himself in sight of the whole of Ayúb Khan's camp, standing deserted, and apparently as it had been left in the morning, when the Afghans moved to the attack.

With his camp, Ayúb Khan lost all his artillery, numbering 32 pieces, including the two guns of E-B, Royal Horse Artillery, which had been taken by his troops at Maiwand on the 27th July.

During this part of the engagement, the following officers and men were especially remarked for the gallantry and forwardness:—

Major G. S. White, 92nd Highlanders.
 Lieutenant C. W. H. Douglas, "
 Corporal William McGillivray, "
 Private Peter Grieve, "
 Private John McIntosh, "
 Private D. Grey, "
 Major S. E. Becher, 2nd Goorkhas.
 Havildar Gopal Borah, "
 Sepoy Inderbir Lama, "
 Sepoy Tikaram Kwas, "

Further pursuit with infantry being hopeless, the two brigades were halted on the far side of the village of Mazra, where they were shortly afterwards joined by the 3rd Brigade under Brigadier-General McGregor.

I had, meanwhile, ordered the cavalry of the Bombay Force, under Brigadier-General Nuttall, to advance over the Baba Wali Kotal, and pursue the enemy up the left bank of the Argandab.

The operations of the cavalry under Brigadier-General Hugh Gough were continued throughout the day, the brigade crossing the Argandab and pushing beyond the line of the enemy's retreat towards Kakrez.

During this movement none of the regular troops were encountered, but some 350 of the fugitive *ghazis* and irregulars were killed.

With the exception of the 1st Brigade, which halted at Mazra for the night, all the troops returned to Kandahar before dark.

Shortly before the final advance, Major-General Ross, wishing to inform me by heliograph that he had succeeded in turning the enemy's position, directed Captain Straton, 22nd Foot, Superintendent of Army Signalling, to proceed with a company of the 24th Punjab Native Infantry to the Baba Wali Kotal. This gallant officer had only gone a short distance when a *ghazi* springing out of a ravine close to him, shot him dead. In Captain Straton Her Majesty's service has lost a most accomplished, intelligent officer, under whose management army signalling, as applied to field service, reached a pitch of perfection probably never before attained. His energy knew no difficulties, and his enthusiasm was beyond praise. He had won the highest opinions from all with whom his duties had brought him in contact, and his death was very deeply felt throughout the whole force.

On the capture of Ayúb Khan's camp, the body of Lieutenant MacLaine, Royal Horse Artillery, was discovered lying outside what had been his own, and close to Ayúb Khan's tent. It was evident he had been quite recently murdered,—the act, I believe, of the guard placed over him by Ayúb Khan. This incident, I record with deep sorrow at the melancholy fate of a brave