

young officer, whose short career had been so full of promise.

I have requested Lieutenant-General Primrose to furnish a report regarding the part taken by the troops under his command in the engagement of the 1st September. I beg to acknowledge the assistance that the Lieutenant-General and the officers under his command afforded me. The presence of these troops released the whole of the Kabul-Kandahar Force for the turning movement by Pir Paimal, and contributed materially to the success of the day.

I annex the following returns:—

No. 1.—Numerical Return of Casualties at Kandahar on the 31st August and the 1st September, 1880, together with a Nominal Roll of British officers killed and wounded.

No. 2.—Nominal Roll of Native officers, British non-commissioned officers and followers of the Infantry Division, Kabul-Kandahar Field Force, killed and wounded on the 31st August and the 1st September, 1880.

No. 3.—Nominal Roll of killed and wounded, Cavalry Brigade, Kabul-Kandahar Field Force, on the 1st September, 1880.

No. 4.—Return of actual number present of the Infantry Division, Kabul-Kandahar Field Force, at the action of the 1st September, 1880.

No. 5.—Return of actual number present of the Cavalry Brigade, Kabul-Kandahar Field Force, at the action of the 1st September, 1880.

No. 6.—Return of Gun and Rifle Ammunition expended by the Kabul-Kandahar Field Force on the 31st August and the 1st September, 1880.

No. 7.—Numerical Return of Casualties in the Bombay-Kandahar Field Force on the 1st September, 1880.

No. 8.—Return of Ammunition expended by the Bombay-Kandahar Field Force on the 1st September, 1880.

No. 9.—Number of officers and men of the Bombay-Kandahar Field Force who were on duty in the citadel and city on the 1st September, 1880.

No. 10.—Number of the Bombay-Kandahar Field Force under arms on the 1st September, 1880.

No. 11.—Return of Ordnance captured on the 1st September, 1880.

I also attach four plans illustrative of the country over which the battle was fought—

No. 1.—Gives the dispositions of the Kabul-Kandahar brigades at several important stages.

No. 2.—Shows the position taken up by the Bombay-Kandahar Field Force, as the Kabul-Kandahar Field Force were breaking ground for the attack.

No. 3.—Has the position of the whole force engaged, together with that of the enemy, and of the ground covered by our cavalry.

No. 4.—Is a pen and ink sketch of the battle field taken from the hill over Gandizan.

It will be seen that our casualties amounted to—

Killed of all ranks	..	..	40
Wounded of all ranks	..	..	228

Total killed and wounded .. 268

It is difficult to estimate the loss of the enemy, but it must have been considerable, for upwards of 600 bodies were buried by us between Kandahar and the village of Pir Paimal alone. Probably 1,200 killed would not be an over-estimate.

The number of the enemy against us has been calculated at—

Regular infantry	..	..	4,000
Cavalry	..	..	800
Ghazis	..	..	5,000
Irregular cavalry	..	..	3,000

Having briefly described the march from Kabul to Kandahar, and having given the chief incidents of the operations around Kandahar on the 31st August and 1st September, I am desirous of bringing to the special notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India and the Government of India, the conduct and bearing of the troops under my command.

The rapidity with which the march was accomplished,—taking into consideration the strength of the force, the variations of climate, and the difficult nature of the country traversed,—is the best testimony I can produce to the efficiency, discipline and spirit of the troops.

Their conduct under circumstances often of the most testing nature, cannot be expressed in terms too strong or too full. They all seemed to be animated with but one desire, that, cost what it might in personal risk, fatigue, or discomfort, they would effect the speedy release of their beleaguered fellow soldiers in the city of Kandahar.

The unflagging energy and perseverance of the troops seemed to reach the full height when they knew they were about to put forth their irresistible strength against a hitherto successful enemy.

Notwithstanding the provocation caused by the cruel murder of any stragglers (soldiers as well as followers) who fell into the hands of the Afghans following in the wake of our column, not one act infringing the rules of civilized warfare was committed by our troops. The persons and property of the natives were respected, and full compensation for supplies was everywhere given.

In short, the inhabitants of the districts we passed through could not have been treated with greater consideration, nor with a lighter hand; and the conduct of the troops will ever remain as memorable as the results which they achieved.

Where all did their duty so willingly and effectually there may seem little room for the selection of individuals for prominent notice. I cannot, however, refrain from recording the names of some officers whose exceptional services, I consider, entitle them to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Major-General J. Ross, C.B., commanding the Infantry Division and 2nd in Command, afforded me every assistance during the march from Kabul and the operations at Kandahar. By the able manner in which he conducted the attack on the Afghan position on the 1st September, he has given a fresh proof of his many soldierly qualities, and of his fitness for command.

Major-General Ross speaks in high terms of the following officers of his Staff:—

Major G. De C. Morton, Assistant Adjutant-General;
Major R. G. Kennedy, Assistant Quartermaster-General;
Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General J. Ekin, M.B.;
Captain J. D. Mansel, Rifle Brigade, A.D.C.;
Lieutenant A. Davidson, 2-60th Rifles, Orderly Officer;
Lieutenant the Honorable M. G. Talbot, R.E., Orderly Officer;
Lieutenant F. B. Longe, R.E., Orderly Officer.

I am greatly indebted to—
Brigadier-General H. T. Macpherson, C.B., V.C., commanding the 1st Infantry Brigade;
Brigadier-General T. D. Baker, C.B., commanding the 2nd Infantry Brigade;
Brigadier-General C. M. MacGregor, C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E., commanding the 3rd Infantry Brigade;
Brigadier-General Hugh H. Gough, C.B., V.C., commanding the Cavalry Brigade.
With such able and experienced officers in