



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

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War Office, March 27, 1884.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary for War.

From Major-General Sir G. Graham, Commanding Tokar Expeditionary Force.

Camp, Tokar, March 2, 1884.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the operations of the Tokar Expeditionary Force since the 28th ult.

In the Despatch then sent I informed the Chief of the Staff in Egypt that on the evening of that day I sent an officer to the front of Fort Baker, carrying a white flag on a staff, to which a letter was attached, calling upon the Sheikhs of the tribes to disperse their forces now in arms before Suakim, informing them that the English were not at war with the Arabs, and recommending them to send delegates to Khartoum to meet General Gordon.

Captain Harvey, who is on General Baker's Staff, and now attached to my Intelligence Department, advanced about two miles, the latter part of which was under an ill-directed fire of musketry, and after planting his staff he retired according to my instructions. The following morning at daybreak the same officer went out to see if any answer had arrived, but the staff with all attached had been taken away.

At about 8 o'clock A.M., I gave the order to advance in the formation of a rectangle, having an interior space of about 200 by 150 yards.

In front were the 1st Gordon Highlanders, in rear the 1st Royal Highlanders, on the right the 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers (supported by four companies of the 3rd King's Royal Rifles), on the left the 1st York and Lancaster, supported by 380 of the Royal Marine Artillery and Light Infantry.

On the march the front and rear faces moved in company columns of fours at company intervals, and the flank battalions in open columns of companies.

Intervals were left at the angles for the guns and Gatlings, the Naval Brigade occupying the front and the Royal Artillery the rear angles.

The men marched off with their water-bottles filled and one day's rations.

The only transport animals were those carrying ammunition and surgical appliances, all being kept together in the centre of the square.

To secure my base I had left a company of the 3rd King's Royal Rifles, all sick and weakly men and all departmental details armed, under Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvy, and three companies of the same corps at Fort Baker, with a Krupp gun and two bronze guns at each place manned by the Royal Marine Artillery.

About an hour before daybreak, on the 29th of February, there was a short, but heavy fall of rain, which caused the ground for the first two miles of the march to be very heavy; the Naval Brigade and Royal Artillery dragged their guns by hand so that frequent halts had to be made to rest the men.

The front and left of the square was covered by a squadron of the 10th Hussars, the right by a troop of the 19th Hussars, the Cavalry being in rear under Brigadier-General Stewart. About 10 A.M. reports came in from the front that the enemy were entrenched on our left, on which I inclined the square to the right, but about 11.20 A.M. I found that we were immediately opposite to a work armed with two Krupp guns, whose position had not been reported to me by the reconnoitring party, so I moved the column still more to the right, on which the guns of the enemy opened fire with case and shell. Fortunately aim was bad so that few casualties occurred, and I succeeded in getting on the left flank of the work which was on the proper left rear of the enemy's line.

The square was now halted, men ordered to lie down, and four guns of the Royal Artillery and machine guns were brought into action at a range of about 900 yards, the practice from the guns was carried on with remarkable accuracy and great deliberation, and with the help of the machine guns of the Naval Brigade, which poured in a stream of bullets, the two Krupp guns were completely silenced, as they were taken slightly in reverse and the gunners were driven from the guns.

The Infantry now advanced, the square moving by its left face, which, by the flank movement, was opposite to the work attacked. The fighting