

proper position, a mile and a half south-east of the western end of Giniss.

The dervishes, who had been taken completely by surprise, now streamed out of their camp, riflemen lining the crests, pouring in a heavy but ill-directed fire on the 1st Brigade, which lasted for nearly forty minutes.

The enemy now attempted a charge on the left flank of the infantry line, coming on with great determination, their spearmen engaging the Egyptian Army Camel Corps hand to hand. Here Lieutenant Said Radwan received a sword cut on the hand, but killed his man.

Brigadier-General Butler, however, met them in line formation, and by steady volley firing broke them. They retired sullenly.

By this time the 2nd Brigade, which had been rejoined by the Cameron Highlanders and the 9th Battalion Egyptian Army, was in full sight of the village of Giniss and the camp of the dervishes, and the retreating enemy came under the fire of the screw guns, Gardner Battery, and the Infantry in line.

The 1st Brigade then advanced down the slope of the hill, and occupied at 9.5 A.M. the enemy's camp, which they found deserted, capturing two guns and fourteen standards.

The 2nd Brigade, advancing at the same time, occupied the village of Giniss at 9.20 A.M.

1,800 dollars were found in the village, but no supplies and very little grain.

As some fugitives from Giniss had re-occupied some houses in the village of Kosheh, I sent back a division of the Screw Gun Battery and the half battalion of the 1st Battalion Egyptian Army to retake it.

The dervishes fought with the greatest determination, and were not dislodged for a long time.

In taking these houses a promising Officer, Lieutenant Mohamed Hamdi, 1st Battalion Egyptian Army, and two Egyptian soldiers were killed.

The Cavalry and Mounted Infantry swung round on left of 1st Brigade, and pursued in the direction of Atab, which was held weakly by the rebels, who were eventually dispersed by the Mounted Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, Scottish Rifles, who drove them off with the bayonet, and by ten A.M. the Dervish Army was a disorganized mass of fugitives, their camp occupied, their treasury, four guns, and 20 standards falling into our hands.

At two P.M. the Brigade and all mounted men, excepting the two Camel Corps, which were attached to the 2nd Brigade, proceeded to Amara; supplies for them being sent forward by nuggars and "Lotus."

The whole of the preliminary arrangements, including the assembly of the troops and collecting of supplies and transport, were conducted by Major-General Grenfell with great promptitude and forethought.

The general plan of the attack on the 30th December was also made by him, and both in this as well as in the previous arrangements, he received most valuable support and advice from Brigadier-General Butler.

The occupation of the position held by our troops was carried out with secrecy and success, the enemy being completely taken by surprise.

The conduct of the troops, both officers and men, was marked by very great steadiness under fire and an eagerness to come into contact with the enemy, and has given me the greatest satisfaction.

The Cameron Highlanders and two companies of Blacks, under the able command of Lieutenant-Colonel Everett, Cameron Highlanders, were con-

spicuous in these respects; their advance against the enemy was made with much gallantry, and the opportunity was not neglected of retaliating for the annoyance which the incessant fire of the enemy had subjected them to for the previous five weeks.

With the exception of the Cameron Highlanders and the battalion of black troops supporting them, who were obliged to resort now and then to independent firing, the whole of the Infantry fire was by volleys, steadily and accurately delivered.

The formation of the Infantry, after their positions were first occupied, was in line throughout the day.

Major Whateley's screw gun battery was very well handled; it came into action and limbered up, to occupy fresh positions, with great activity, and as promptly as the somewhat cumbersome process of screwing and unscrewing these guns will allow.

Their fire was rapid and very accurate, and officers and men worked with great spirit.

The first brigade, which bore the brunt of the enemy's attack, was most ably handled by Brigadier-General Butler, and the enemy's manoeuvres were met by him with promptness of action and cool judgment, which are conspicuous in this excellent General Officer.

The enemy's actual force of fighting men on both banks I estimated at 6,000, irrespective of a large number of Dongolese and men of less warlike tribes who fled in the early part of the day.

I have great satisfaction in being able to speak in high terms of the good behaviour of the Egyptian troops, not only upon this occasion, but during their occupation of the line of railway.

They have displayed an excellent spirit, steadiness under fire in the open field as well as in the defence of their posts, and have come into personal contact with the dervishes, some of whom they bayoneted.

The good treatment they have received at the hands of their English officers, and the efficiency they have attained under their excellent guidance, coupled with the emulation brought into play by fighting side by side with English soldiers, have mainly produced this satisfactory condition, which holds out good promise for the future.

The liberality of Her Majesty's Government in awarding them a gratuity during the recent campaign, has also produced a very beneficial effect.

The hospital arrangements, both ambulance and field, were made in a most satisfactory manner by Deputy Surgeon-General Lithgow, and carried out by him until the arrival of Surgeon-General O'Nial at Halfa on the 26th December.

The Commissariat and Ordnance Store duties have been ably performed by Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner, Assistant Commissary-General, and Major Wintle, Assistant Commissary-General of Ordnance, respectively, whose energy has kept the force in the field well supplied.

It only remains for me now to mention those officers whose names I consider it my duty to bring to your favourable notice.

The services rendered by Major-General Grenfell, C.B., A.D.C., are the most conspicuous, and the very able manner in which he has conducted the arduous and responsible duties as Commander of the Frontier Field Force since the month of July last are deserving of all praise.

They have entailed much anxiety, and called into play great vigilance, forethought, and intelligence.

The success of the 30th December last is due to him.