

tance of about 80 yards. This lower sangar was only about 80 yards from our covered way to the water.

April 1st, 1895.—Desultory firing in the night; loop-hole fire from the garden wall at our parapets. Sank a trench in the stables with a view to more protection for men going to the water-way. Made some volley loop-holes in the lower story of water tower.

We had now 37 men in hospital and 23 out-patients,—total; 60 men.

April 3rd, 1895.—Nothing of importance since 1st April. Much rain on this date. The son of Mehtar Jan Bahadur Khan (who was in the fort along with us) was admitted to see his father. He had come from Mastuj, and said that 800 troops had arrived at Mastuj, and there were three British officers; included 150 to 200 Hunza, Nagar, and Punyalis levies. However, I believe, his statements were most contradictory, and he had evidently been told what to say.

4th April, 1895.—Only a few stray shots last night fired by our people at men moving about by the enemy's sangar on north-west face in the chinar trees.

We filled powder-bags, and made up powder-hose in linen, sewn up in mackintosh sheets.

In hospital . . . 36, *i.e.*, 7 Sikhs and 29 Kashmir Rifles.

Out-patients. . . 39

75

5th April, 1895.—The enemy were at work in Nizam's summer-house in the garden at south-east angle of fort; about 50 yards from the gun tower. This place we had been unable to knock down owing to heavy fire on working parties. It was in reality a small servants' house, which had stood next door to the summer-house which had been levelled by us. The fire from the enemy got lively about 5 P.M. Bahadur Khan's son again came to see the British Agent, but late in the evening. He was not admitted into the fort, but told to come next morning.

6th April, 1895.—Found in the morning that the enemy had been very active in the night. A large fascine sangar stood in front of the main gate at a distance of 40 yards only (west front).

A palisade-work sangar had also been made just under the chabootra (north-western face); also a sangar had been made in the middle of the garden (east face) about 40 yards from the garden gate. They fired with matchlocks in the night, mostly from the summer-house; this was no doubt to take off our attention.

I loop-holed the lower story of the east tower in the night to command the east end of the stables, which point, in my opinion, was a dangerous one. More loop-holes also made in stable buildings at west end.

I had occasion to find fault with the sentries of the 4th Kashmir Rifles in the gun tower this evening, and took steps to increase their vigilance.

They did not seem to like looking over the top of the tower owing to the enemy in the summer-house, who now made things warm for the sentries in the gun tower. Loop-holed the walls left outside the main gate; enemy from near sangar firing.

7th April, 1895.—Last night I occupied the remaining walls standing outside the main gate, having loop-holed them, with 12 Sikhs and 6 Punyalis. About 5 A.M., whilst I was having a look from the top of the north tower, a large number of the enemy opened a heavy matchlock fire from the chinar trees in front of the north

tower. It seemed to me that this meant an attack on the covered way to the water at last, and having directed the Sikhs in the north tower to fire volleys, I went down and turned out the inlying picquet and sent round, sending every one to their different alarm-posts. The enemy kept up a deal of shouting and yelling; our men in the water tower and the Sikhs on the west parapet giving them steady volleys, which the enemy could not face, but decamped towards the bazar. Some of their men crept up to within 12 yards or so of our walls outside the main gate, firing at them, one Sikh being shot through the thigh by a Snider bullet.

During the firing the enemy managed, with great pluck, to place huge faggots and logs of wood in a pile against the corner of the gun tower, and set light to it; and the tower was soon well on fire and blazing up. Things looked very bad; I sent up all the whole of the inlying picquet to run up with their greatcoats full of earth, sent up sacks of earth and as much water as we could get hold of.

A strong wind was blowing at the time. At one time the fire was got under; it then blazed up again, the flames mounting up in the spaces between the beams in the tower. The Machicoulis galleries in the tower were the targets for a hail of Snider bullets from the summer-house at 50 yards, the bullets smashing through the planks. The British Agent, who was in the tower superintending the putting out of the fire, was wounded at a hole in the wall, and a Sikh shot there the next minute. A sentry of the 4th Kashmir Rifles also shot. I now went into the towers, as all seemed quiet around the fort, and it was getting quite light. Their riflemen from the sangars opened fire at the gun tower, from across the river and from high ground to the south-west, where they could hit our people going in and out of the tower with water and earth. My orderly was mortally wounded; altogether nine were wounded putting out the fire.

The fire was got under with great difficulty. We had to keep picking holes into the wall inside the tower as it mounted up, and pouring water down, and we got above the fire by means of ladders and by working downwards from the top story of the tower so as to meet the fire.

It was 10 A.M. before the fire was out, but water was kept pouring down inside the walls all day.

The enemy showed great courage and enterprise in firing our tower, and our sentries showed great slackness and want of vigilance.

I now changed the sentries of the 4th Kashmir Rifles, putting the men of the 14th Sikhs in their places. The Machicoulis were greatly improved and made very strong, and loop-holed with a large loop-hole to see a lot of ground at the foot of the tower. A sentry was always lying in each of these Machicoulis galleries.

Twelve corpses of the enemy were reported to have been seen by the look-out men in the towers.

During the afternoon I had heaps of earth collected and sent up on the parapets, vessels and ammunition boxes filled with water also and earth in plenty, and water in every story in all the towers. The mackintosh sheets of the 14th Sikhs were utilised to hold water. All the servants, syces, etc., were formed into a fire picquet under Surgeon-Captain Whitechurch. Also heaps of stones were placed in the tops of the towers for the sentries to throw down from time to time in the dark.