

Rounds expended last night—

Martini 127

Snider of the 4th Kashmir Rifles. . . 283

Subadar Badri Nar Singh, 4th Kashmir Rifles, has shown great bravery in the tower, going into the Machicoulis gallery when it was being ripped up with bullets; as did also Sepoy Awi Singh, of the 4th Kashmir Rifles, who was badly wounded—Snider bullet through the thigh. (Throughout the fighting, during the siege, and in the action of the 3rd March, I think not more than one man was wounded by matchlocks; all Martini and Snider.) The British Agent asked me to recommend these two men for the Order of Merit, and also Sepoy Bhola Singh, of the 14th Sikhs, also wounded in the tower. He displayed bravery in putting out the fire under the enemy's rifle fire. Subadar Badri Nar Singh had previously been recommended for the Order of Merit for his work on the 3rd March.

8th April, 1895.—The enemy made no attack last night. There was an alarm of fire in the gun tower at 9 p.m. last night. I proceeded to the gun tower, and on looking out of the Machicoulis gallery on the south face, could see some red-hot embers placed quite close to the tower, and a bundle of faggots lay close by. We soon got this out by means of the bhistis in the tower. The enemy must have done this from the summer-house when the sentries were relieved in the evening; so I altered the time of reliefs from day to day.

Desultory firing in the night. Work done to-day as follows:—Decided to demolish the remaining walls and shell left of buildings in front of the main gate, doing it with the Punyalis at 12 noon; at the same time built a stone tambour loop-holed in front of the main gate before the walls outside were knocked down. This tambour held 10 men, and flanked capitally the whole of the west front with its two towers (north and flag towers).

The work was not finished till about 5 p.m. The outer walls were well prepared for knocking down, the uprights holding up the roof sawn through. Rajah Siph Bahadur than suggested setting fire to them, and I allowed him to do so. The sangar 40 yards in front made it awkward for the working party; the fire burnt well, but only a part of the walls fell down; some remained the next morning, but the tambour made was a good piece of work. I left two perpendicular walls to the fort standing, knocking gaps through them.

During this work the Machicoulis in the gun tower were still more improved, and good loop-holes were made in the lower story, vertical to the ground at foot of tower; also a hole inside the tower dug in the floor to about four feet deep, and then a shutter-like loop-hole made which commanded the ground at the foot of the south face of the tower. Sentries placed in all these: 14 men now occupied this tower and I had an officer living in it.

9th April.—Quiet night; only a few shots from our men moving about.

Men in hospital—11 Sikhs.

19 4th Kashmir Rifles.

6 others.

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36

49 out-patients.

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85

We managed to knock the walls down clear outside the main gate to-day; no one hit doing it. I cannot speak too highly of the courage

and skill of the Punyalis and Gilgit syces doing this work.

11th April, 1895.—The enemy made an attack last night—supposed to be on our waterway. A tremendous din was suddenly raised. Yelling and tom-toms at 11.30 p.m. We went to our stations quietly. Section volleys from the east parapet, also from the west parapet, and a sharp fire at the gun tower corner. A large number of men came out of the sangars and were received by steady volleys from the water tower. We heard afterwards that this attack was really intended on the waterway, and that the Lutko men in these sangars had received orders from Sher Afzal to assault our waterway. The volleys, however, soon caused them to deploy off towards the bazar, and they received some volleys from the Sikhs on the west parapet as they cleared off to the bazar. The firing lasted half an hour. One man was wounded on our side in the gun tower, one of the levies. The Punyalis in the fort had been formed into a levy and armed with Sniders and placed in the tower-tops, where they were of great use. Some old Enfield rifles found in the fort were also put to use in the tower-tops, loaded with slugs. The riflemen in the sangars across the river kept up a fire on us and also from the direction of the bazar. Rounds expended—335 Snider, 341 Martini.

12th April, 1895.—The enemy now began playing tom-toms and Pathan pipes in the summer-house at night, and shouting abuse at intervals; also men were set to work to sling stones into the fort, one man being wounded in the head by a stone. This, we found out at the end, was to drown the noise of their picks, as they had commenced a mine from the summer-house to undermine our gun-tower. The Pathans had guaranteed the taking of our gun-tower; they used to keep up a straggling matchlock fire from behind the trees in the garden. On the evening of the 11th, 40 to 50 men were seen going up the nullah to the south-west, where is a road leading up over the heights to the west of the fort going Drasan-way and to Mastuj. They never took the road leading to the bridge, as our Sikh marksmen in the north tower made this route too hot. At 11 a.m. on the morning of the 13th 100 men with flags and men on ponies seen going the same route up the nullah, and we began to speculate on the approach of a force from Gilgit. In the afternoon a lance-naick of the 14th Sikhs was shot through the head at a loop-hole. This made 23 men killed and wounded since the 3rd March. Parties of two and three were seen going Drasan-way all day on the 13th, and 25 cooly-loads.

On the nights of the 15th and 16th the usual din of tom-toms and pipes playing at the summer-house, and desultory firing.

17th April, 1895, Wednesday.—Jemadar Rab Nawáz Khan, of the 15th Bengal Cavalry, warned us that he thought the tom-toms and band at the summer-house might possibly be to drown the noise of their making a mine. I warned the sentries in the gun-tower to be on the alert and to listen intently; also the sentries in the tambour at the main gate. At midnight on the 16th one of the sentries in the lower story of the gun-tower reported the noise of knocking. I went up and listened for some time but could hear nothing.

About 11 a.m. on the morning of the 17th the native officer in the gun-tower reported to me he could hear the noise of knocking. I went up into the tower in the lower story, and there was no doubt that a mine was being made, and it had