

to make such a place fit for camels to carry loads over in any reasonable time. In the report of the Officer commanding the King's Royal Rifle Corps on this day's action, he states that after going half way up the hill he came upon "an old pathway." On examination this turned out to be an old Buddhist road, disused for hundreds of years, but so well made originally that it took our engineers and sappers but two days to make it into a camel road from near Dargai, at the mouth of the pass, to the top. The discovery of this old and unknown road, on a good alignment and easily repaired, which came to our relief and enabled the force to advance in three days, when without it we should have been delayed many days, was certainly a remarkable stroke of good fortune.

6. On the 4th April the advance of the 1st Brigade down the pass towards the Swat Valley was opposed by the enemy. In this action the Guides Cavalry, under Captain Adams, made two brilliant charges, before which the enemy in largely superior numbers, scattered and fled up hills.

7. During the 5th and 6th April the 2nd Brigademarched down the pass and encamped opposite the crossing over the Swat River, north of the village of Aladand. Reconnaissances were made which showed that the gatherings we had fought on the 3rd and 4th had retired up the Swat Valley without entirely dispersing.

8. On the 7th April the 2nd Brigade was opposed by the enemy at the passage of the Swat river. The action commenced by several bodies of the enemy being seen advancing down the Adinazai Valley from the direction of Uch, and the Sappers, then collected on the river, making a bridge, were fired at from the hills on the opposite side. I should mention that the previous evening the 11th Bengal Lancers, which had crossed the pass and joined the head-quarters camp with the 1st Brigade at Khar, had been ordered to march early on the morning of the 7th to the 2nd Brigade camp opposite the crossing over the Swat river, and from thence to ford the river and make a reconnaissance up the Adinazai Valley towards Uch, being supported by other arms from the 2nd Brigade, the Brigadier-General Commanding the 2nd Brigade being also directed to cross the river and destroy the fort of Ramora.

The 11th Bengal Lancers, conveying these orders, joined Brigadier-General Waterfield and his brigade at 9 A.M., before which time the enemy had commenced the attack, and the 4th Sikhs had been ordered down to the river bank to support the Sappers, as also the Maxim guns under Captain Peebles, Devonshire Regiment. On the arrival of the 11th Bengal Lancers, that regiment, with a squadron of the Guides Cavalry, the whole under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, 11th Bengal Lancers, was directed to cross the river, under cover of the fire of No. 8 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and part of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, and attack the enemy, while the remainder of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, supported by No. 2 (Derajat) Mountain Battery, crossed later opposite Ramora Fort and took possession of it. As soon as the 11th Bengal Lancers began to cross the river the enemy were seen to begin retiring, but were too late, for the Lancers, led with great dash, pursued and overtook them, and are reported to have killed at least 100. The pursuit was continued after Umra Khan's horsemen up to the top of the Katgola Pass.

Our loss was trivial, while that of the enemy was considerable; and this was mainly due to the

able manner in which Brigadier-General Waterfield handled his troops. In the original report on this action the enemy were estimated at 1,500, but I have since ascertained that there were quite three times that number opposed to us.

Two battalions occupied Chakdara and the adjoining villages on the right bank of the Swat river on the night of the 7th April.

9. The 3rd Brigade crossed the Malakand Pass and joined me at Khar on the 8th. To feed the troops on the north side of the pass, I had been obliged to utilize during the 4th, 5th, and 6th all the mules of the force, as these were the only animals that could cross the pass by the zig-zag road already described, and consequently it was not till the 8th, when camels had been streaming across with supplies for two days, that it was possible to equip the 2nd and 3rd Brigades with transport for their baggage and for twenty days' supplies.

The 2nd Brigade were entirely across the river by the evening of the 8th.

10. On the 9th April head-quarters crossed the Swat river and joined the 2nd Brigade at Chakdara, the 3rd Brigade encamping on the opposite bank at Aladand.

On the 10th head-quarters and the 2nd Brigade marched to Gumbat, crossing the Katgola Pass. The 3rd Brigade crossed the Swat river to Chakdara, the 1st Brigade under Brigadier-General Kinloch, C.B., being left to guard the Swat Valley and the communications. On the 11th head-quarters and the 2nd Brigade reached the Panjkora river at Sado Ferry. There are two routes to the ferry from Gumbat, one by the Shago Kas Defile, the other by the Kamrani Pass. The former route was taken, as the pass route was reported unfit for camels, but the Shago Kas road in its original state was such an intricate one, and was so very bad, that all the labour of the force was afterwards put on to the other to make it fit for animals. Owing to the extreme difficulty of the defile the baggage did not get into camp till very late that night, being fired into several times *en route*.

11. Before I moved on from the Swat river an advanced guard had been sent on ahead, consisting of the 11th Bengal Lancers, two squadrons of the Guides Cavalry, the Guides Infantry and the 4th Sikhs, which had arrived at Sado on the 10th. The cavalry forded the river and reconnoitred up the Bajaur Valley on the 10th, finding Umra Khan's forts held, and on that evening, owing to the river rising, they experienced considerable difficulty in recrossing to the left bank. On my arrival it was clear that nothing but a bridge could get the troops across, and this was at once commenced by Major Aylmer, V.C., Royal Engineers, with the 4th Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, under the direction of Colonel Leach, D.S.O., Commanding Royal Engineer with the force. The bridge was built on raft-piers constructed from the logs lying on the banks of the river. On the evening of the 12th, men on foot could cross, and there being every hope of my being able to cross the troops and their baggage the following day, the Guides Infantry were passed over to cover the bridge, and formed an entrenched post at the apex of a re-entering angle of the right bank, on which the end of the bridge rested. This post had a level space of some hundreds of yards in front, and being with its surroundings thoroughly commanded at short range by the high ground on the left bank, was extremely strong.

12. On the morning of the 13th, between 3 and 5 A.M., an unexpected misfortune happened. The