

Major W. S. Marshall, 37th Dogras, who handled his men with great skill and coolness at a critical moment.

Major F. J. Aylmer, V.C., Royal Engineers, who covered the left flank of the 37th Dogras with his company (No. 4 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners).

Captain R. B. Adams, commanding the Guides Cavalry, who contributed largely to the final withdrawal of the enemy by boldly charging very superior numbers.

Lieutenant G. M. Baldwin, Guides Cavalry, who was in immediate command of the squadron, and who was wounded.

Subadar Gurdatt Singh, 15th Sikhs, who commanded one company of his regiment which had marched with No. 4 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, as a covering party, and handled his men with skill and coolness on the left of the 37th Dogras.

15. On the 7th April the enemy disputed the passage of the Swat River, which was effected by the advance of the 11th Bengal Lancers and Guides Cavalry to the river bank under cover of artillery and infantry fire, the crossing of the river by those regiments, and their brilliant charge and pursuit of the enemy for many miles, while the infantry forded the river and seized the positions of the enemy and Umra Khan's fort of Ramora. I attach a statement of our losses on that occasion (Appendix C), and would bring to His Excellency's notice the services of the following officers:—

Brigadier-General H. G. Waterfield, who by the able manner in which he directed the attack, secured the defeat of the enemy with heavy loss, together with the least possible loss to our troops.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. H. Scott, 11th Bengal Lancers, who led and directed the cavalry advance.

Major H. H. R. Heath, 11th Bengal Lancers, who led the right of the advancing attack of cavalry, which caught the enemy before they could reach the hills, committing great slaughter amongst them and pursuing as far as Uch.

Captain H. Wright, 11th Bengal Lancers, who commanded the squadron on the left, which, routing the footmen and riding through them, continued the pursuit of the enemy's cavalry up to the top of the Katgola Pass.

Jemadar Khushal Singh, 11th Bengal Lancers, who led the leading troop across the river under a heavy fire, and himself captured a standard from the enemy, killing many with his own hand.

16. The next action was that of the Guides Infantry at the Sado Ferry on the Panjkora River on the 13th April, which has already been described in detail, at the conclusion of which the regiment lost their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Battye. The attack of the enemy continued during the night of 13th and till the morning of the 14th. I attach a casualty return (Appendix D) of our losses on the occasion, and would bring to His Excellency's notice the services of the following officers:—

Captain F. Campbell, who took command when Lieutenant-Colonel Battye fell, and who skilfully conducted the further retirement of the regiment.

Lieutenant F. A. Maxwell, Royal Sussex Regiment, a Probationer for the Staff Corps, attached to the Queen's Own Corps of Guides, for the gallantry he displayed in the removal of Lieutenant-Colonel Battye's body under fire.

Surgeon-Lieutenant D. W. Sutherland, Indian Medical Service, for the promptitude and coolness he displayed in attending on the wounded under short-range fire.

17. The three days following the above action, while full of anxiety regarding the rising of the Panjkora River in front and the Swat River in rear, were notable for the arrival in camp of Lieutenants Edwardes and Fowler, who had been prisoners in Umra Khan's hands; their safe arrival in camp being a great relief, as I had constant fears as to what their fate would be on my advancing into Umra Khan's territory.

18. I may record here an instance of the promptitude of Brigadier-General Gatacre, D.S.O., and the gallantry of Major Aylmer, V.C., Royal Engineers, which occurred on the 15th April. On that day I had only three rafts left, and in the last attempt to cross the Panjkora River one of these three rafts was overturned, having on it at the time two British soldiers, Private Hall and Private Ellwood, of the Maxim gun detachment of the Devonshire Regiment, one sepoy and one boatman. When the raft was overturned Brigadier-General Gatacre was standing on the bank, and, seeing that one of the British soldiers (Private Hall) and the sepoy and boatman had regained the raft, which was being carried down the stream bottom upwards, and knowing that the stream took a considerable bend before it came to the point where the suspension bridge was being built, galloped down to that point and informed Major Aylmer, who was superintending the construction of the bridge, of the accident. At that time there was no superstructure to the bridge—merely the standards and wire suspension ropes. Major Aylmer ordered a rope to be passed across to the right bank, but the slack was caught by the current, and the rope was carried away. At this moment the raft appeared in sight about 200 yards off, and Major Aylmer, seeing the urgency of the case, got into a sling cradle and was pulled to the centre of the stream. The raft immediately after passed under him, and he grasped Private Hall who left his hold on the raft, whereupon his extra weight immersed the cradle in the water, so that officer and man were in great danger of being swept away. However, Major Aylmer held on manfully, and with the assistance of No. 3189, Lance-Naick Sham Singh, of No. 4 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, who got down into the cradle to help Major Aylmer, the whole party were landed, though with much difficulty and danger.

19. The last action in which the force has been engaged was that of the 17th of April. In this fight the enemy did not make any stand, possibly owing to the able manner in which the attack was directed by Brigadier-General Gatacre; for the positions of the enemy were taken in flank from east to west, and they were abandoned one after the other as the troops advanced. I append (Appendix E) a casualty return of our losses on this occasion.

20. I cannot conclude this portion of my report without bringing to His Excellency's notice the passage of the Lowarai Pass by the troops of the 3rd Brigade under the direction of Brigadier-General W. F. Gatacre, D.S.O. At the time there was about three miles of ascent to be made over snow, and the same extent of snow on the descent. The pass was crossed in very bad weather, which added to the difficulties and to the time taken in crossing the mules and supplies. The time of year (early spring) necessitated the passage being, if possible, done in the very early morning while it was yet freezing and the snow was as sound as possible. The start, therefore, was made from Gujar at the foot of the snow at 1.30 A.M. by torch-light. A strong working party led the advance armed with improvised