

to block up the only entrance to the serai. The enemy made a most determined attack on this serai, but the garrison defended it gallantly from the commencement till 3 A.M. when the enemy succeeded in setting fire to it, and broke through one wall through which opening they rushed. The garrison now could hold on no longer, and with the aid of a ladder let themselves down over the wall nearest the camp, and retired to the enclosure, bringing their wounded with them. Nine of their number, I regret to say, were killed and ten wounded.

30. Subadar Syed Ahmed Shah was himself wounded. He was promoted to a commission on the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for a previous act of bravery, and I would like to call His Excellency's attention to his gallant conduct on this occasion also.

31. The darkness and the noise of firing all round prevented their condition being appreciated by the troops behind the breastwork, otherwise assistance would most surely have been sent them. Nothing could have been finer than the way these few men stuck to their post till it was made absolutely untenable.

32. The 24th Punjab Infantry were also hotly engaged all night, and in the early morning the enemy began to press close upon them from the heights on the west, whereupon Lieutenant Climo advanced up the spur to meet them with 2 companies, covered by the fire of the 2 guns attached to his position and 1 other company. The enemy stuck determinedly to their ground. They had many Martinis with them and kept up a heavy fire on Lieutenant Climo's force, at the same time rolling stones down on them. Lieutenant Climo, however advanced, driving the enemy before him from position to position, and pursuing them for some two miles. He estimates the enemy's loss at 40. This counter-attack was excellently executed and is one more proof of the soldierly ability and dash displayed by Lieutenant Climo ever since the outbreak of hostilities.

This night (27th) our Casualties were—

British Officers.

Killed, none.

Wounded severely, Lieutenant E. W. Costello, 22nd Punjab Infantry, attached 24th Punjab Infantry.

Native Ranks.

Killed, 11.

Wounded, 45.

33. 28th July.—During the day desultory firing was going on into the camp. On the night of the 28th the attack was renewed with the same energy as on the two previous nights and on all sides of the camp, the brunt of the fighting falling on the central position and on the right flank.

The position of the troops was the same as on the 27th. The fighting commenced at 10 P.M. and ceased at 3 A.M. The casualties at this night were—

British Officers.

Killed, none.

Wounded severely, Lieutenant H. L. S. MacLean, the Guides, Lieutenant H. B. Ford, 31st Punjab Infantry.

Wounded slightly, Lieutenant G. D. Swinley, 31st Punjab Infantry.

Native Ranks.

Killed, 2.

Wounded, 13.

34. 29th July.—On the morning of the 29th July signalling communication was re-established with Chakdarra, and it was learned that the fort had been attacked on the night of the 26th by a force, 1,000 strong, who had been repulsed without

any loss to the garrison, and that they had since been attacked twice by day and twice by night.

35. At 4 P.M. this day (29th) one squadron, 11th Bengal Lancers, 88 strong, marched into Malakand under command of Major Beatson. In the evening the 38th Dogras and 35th Sikhs and details of the Guides arrived at Dargai under Colonel Reid. The heat on the road had been intense and 21 men of the 35th Sikhs died of heat apoplexy. I ordered Colonel Reid to halt at Dargai the next day in order to give these regiments a rest. During the day the Bazaar and serai were levelled, trees were cleared away, abattis and breastworks strengthened, and in the evening large bonfires were lighted up in front of the central position, so that the enemy advancing by the Graded Road to the attack should be obliged to cross a line of light. The result was that the central position did not have such a severe time of it this night. It was known that the enemy had been largely reinforced during the day, and a vigorous attack was anticipated.

36. It commenced at 9.30 and was perhaps more vigorously and more fiercely pushed than on any previous night. It was principally delivered on the two flanks. At 2 A.M. a tremendous assault was made and at 2.30 A.M. suddenly ceased, and the enemy withdrew, having been repulsed everywhere. The loss inflicted on them must have been very great, and as day broke they could be seen dragging away the bodies of their dead over the hills.

Our casualties were:—

British Officers.

Wounded severely, Lieutenant E. W. Costello, who had already been wounded, but continued to do his duty.

Native Ranks.

Killed, 1; wounded, 17.

It was reported that in the morning the mad Fakir had personally led this attack, had been wounded and had fled to Landakai, and that his second-in-command and companion had been killed.

37. 30th July.—At about 10 A.M. on the 30th a heliogram was received from Chakdarra that the fort had been attacked from 2 P.M. on the 29th till 8 A.M. that day, that the attack had been repulsed with great loss to the enemy, and that the casualties among the garrison were one Sepoy dangerously wounded. Later in the day I received intimation that their supplies and ammunition were running short.

38. During the day a large organized body joined the enemy, showing that, although the two Fakirs were *hors de combat*, they were still determined to carry on the fight. The attack was commenced again at 9.30 P.M., but there was not the same spirit in the fighting that there had been before. Once during a thunderstorm that broke over the camp during the night the enemy charged the 45th Sikhs position, but were repulsed with the bayonet. Our casualties on the night of the 30th were—

British Officers—Nil.

Native ranks—2 wounded.

39. 31st July.—At 7 A.M. on the 31st July the 35th Sikhs and 38th Dogras marched into camp having had a most trying march. The telegraph wire had been cut in the night on both sides of Dargai and 1,200 yards of wire had been carried away from opposite Shergarh. It was, however, repaired on the 31st, and news was received in the evening that Dargai was going to be attacked that night. It, however, was not attacked, nor, except a certain amount of sniping, did anything happen at Malakand on the night of the 31st.