

40. 1st August.—On the 1st August, my troops having had a quiet night and been able to get a little rest, I decided to try and relieve Chakdarra at once, taking with me the 45th Sikhs, 24th Punjab Infantry, Guides Cavalry and Infantry, the squadron, 11th Bengal Lancers, 4 guns, No. 8 Bengal Mountain Battery, and No. 5 Company, Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners.

41. At 11 A.M. I sent the Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Adams of the Guides, down into the plain, by the short road into North Camp, with orders to make a dash for the Amandara Pass, to seize it if not held, and if it was held to send me back word of the strength and position of the enemy. Before the Cavalry had reached the plain, however, the enemy saw what was going to happen, and assembled in great numbers from every direction to oppose them. The Cavalry charged them once, and slew a great number of them, but the broken nature of the ground cramped their action, and, as the enemy were gradually working round their left flank to cut them off from their only line of retreat, I sent Major E. Hobday, Royal Artillery, then Staff Officer to Colonel Reid, to order Lieutenant-Colonel Adams to withdraw, being convinced that, with the opposition that the force was certain to receive, they would not, starting so late, reach Chakdarra that night. I determined therefore to put off the attempt till the morning of the 2nd, when I should have the whole day before me. The casualties among the Cavalry in this morning's action were—

British Officers.

Killed, none.

Wounded severely, Lieutenant G. M. Baldwin, Guides.

Wounded slightly, Lieutenant C. V. Keyes, Guides.

Native ranks.

Killed, 1.

Wounded, 12.

Sir Bindon Blood arrived at noon and took over command of the force.

42. Such is the narrative of the events which took place here between the 26th July and the 1st August. Of the obedience of the troops of all ranks I cannot speak too highly. The courage with which they have faced overwhelming odds night after night, the endurance with which they have stood and fought with next to no sleep for five days and five nights has been beyond all praise. The trial has been a very severe one, and I trust that His Excellency will agree that they have come out of it honourably.

43. All have done well, but I should like to bring before His Excellency for favourable consideration the following names of Officers and men—

24th Punjab Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lamb, who on the first alarm being sounded on the night of the 26th July had taken prompt action in reinforcing the outpost line held by his regiment, and later was of great assistance in directing the defence of the central enclosure till he was severely wounded.

Captain H. F. Holland showed great courage in assisting to drive a number of the enemy out of the central enclosure and was severely wounded in doing so.

I would specially wish to mention Lieutenant S. H. Climo, who commanded the 24th Punjab Infantry after Lieutenant-Colonel Lamb and Captain Holland had been wounded. This officer has shown soldierly qualities and ability of the highest order. He has commanded the

regiment with dash and enterprise and shown a spirit and example which has been followed by all ranks. I trust His Excellency will be pleased to favourably notice Lieutenant Climo, who has proved himself an officer who will do well in any position, and is well worthy of promotion.

Lieutenant A. K. Rawlins has behaved well all through. I would recommend him to His Excellency for the plucky way in which he went to the fort on the night of the 26th July to bring down reinforcements, and again for the dash he showed in leading his men on the 27th and 28th of which Lieutenant Climo speaks most highly.

Lieutenant E. W. Costello, 22nd Punjab Infantry, temporarily attached to the 24th Punjab Infantry, has behaved exceedingly well and is the subject of a separate recommendation.

31st Punjab Infantry.

Major M. I. Gibbs, who commanded the regiment in the absence of Major O'Brien with skill and in every way to my satisfaction.

Lieutenant H. B. Ford, Acting Adjutant, 31st Punjab Infantry, rendered valuable assistance in helping to bring in a wounded sepoy during the withdrawal from North Camp. He also behaved with courage in resisting an attack of the enemy on the night of the 28th when he was severely wounded.

Surgeon-Lieutenant J. Hugo, attached to 31st Punjab Infantry, rendered valuable service on the night of the 28th in saving Lieutenant H. B. Ford from bleeding to death. Lieutenant Ford was wounded, and a branch of an artery was cut. There were no means of securing the artery, and Surgeon-Lieutenant Hugo for two hours stopped the bleeding by compressing the artery with his fingers. Had he not had the strength to do so, Lieutenant Ford must have died. Early in the morning, thinking that the enemy had effected an entrance into Camp, Surgeon-Lieutenant J. Hugo picked up Lieutenant Ford with one arm, and, still holding the artery with the fingers of the other hand, carried him to a place of safety.

45th Rattray's Sikhs.

Colonel H. A. Sawyer was away on leave when hostilities broke out, but he returned on the 29th and took over command of the Regiment from Lieutenant-Colonel McRae, and from that time rendered me every assistance.

I would specially bring to notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the name of Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. McRae, who commanded the regiment on the 26th, 27th, and 28th. His prompt action in seizing the gorge at the top of the Buddhist Road on the night of the 26th, and the gallant way in which he held it, undoubtedly saved the camp from being rushed on that side. For this, and for the able way in which he commanded the regiment during the first three days of the fighting, I would commend him to His Excellency's favourable consideration.

Also Lieutenant R. M. Barff, Officiating Adjutant of the Regiment, who, Lieutenant-Colonel McRae reports, behaved with great courage, and rendered him valuable assistance.

The Guides.

I also wish to bring the name of Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Adams of the Guides to His Excellency's notice. The prompt way in which the corps mobilised and their grand march reflect great credit on him and the corps. Since arrival at the Malakand on the 27th July and till the morning of the 1st August, Lieutenant-Colonel Adams was in command of the Lower Camp, i.e., that occupied by central and left position, and in the execution of this command, and the arrangements he made for improving the defences, he