

rejoined, having made their way by the Darband Kotal. Our casualties are given in Appendix "B."

The troops after their hard day without food or water had earned a rest, but about 3.30 P.M., on the 13th, a letter was brought me from Major Des Vœux, 36th Sikhs, commanding at Gulistan, urgently asking for help. I immediately despatched two guns of the 9th Field Battery, and the 3rd Bengal Cavalry with their signallers to gallop along the road at the foot of the hills as far towards Gulistan as they could go, and sent a wire to Doaba to despatch two more guns of the 9th Field Battery and the squadron of the 3rd Punjab Cavalry to join in the demonstration.

The guns from Hangu were accompanied by Mr. D. Donald, who knows the country well, and he was able to show them a position from which they could fire a few rounds to encourage the garrison, and Major Middleton, commanding the 3rd Bengal Cavalry, sent through by helio., just before sunset, a message to assure the garrison that they would be relieved by mid-day on the 14th.

The four guns of the Derajat Mountain Battery had reached Hangu the previous day, having marched 35 miles in under 13 hours, so they were added to our column, and we set out at midnight for Lakka.

At 4 A.M., on the 14th instant, I arrived at Lakka, and sent on two companies of the 1-3rd Gurkhas to occupy the hill on which we had bivouacked on the night of the 11th.

At 5 A.M. we marched for Gulistan. On arrival opposite Tsalai (7 A.M.) the advanced guard of the 1-3rd Gurkhas was assailed with a heavy fire. I brought up the guns and shelled the enemy's marksmen out of Tsalai tower at a range of 900 yards, and at once ordered the 1-3rd Gurkhas to attack the enemy's position on Gogra, the 1-2nd Gurkhas following in support. Gogra Hill was quickly taken, under cover of the fire of the guns, and one company of the Royal Irish fired long-range volleys at the Orakzais retreating down the Sarmela spur. The strength of the enemy was estimated at about 4,000.

The 2nd Punjab Infantry pressed on, followed by the guns, and the Gurkhas held the position until they had passed through.

As we neared Sangar the garrison of that post displayed a white standard which they had captured from the enemy. Sangar and Dhar had been attacked all night, but a sortie had been made from the first-named as soon as our guns opened fire, and Lieutenant-Colonel Haughton, commanding the 36th Sikhs, had joined the party with 12 men of the Royal Irish and 35 Sikhs, and had poured long-range volleys into the foe as they retreated down the Sarmela.

At 10 A.M. I reached Fort Lockhart and reconnoitred the enemy's position from a bastion of the fort, and found about 8,000 to 10,000 Afridis holding a strong position, which was skilfully occupied with lines of *sangars* on Saragarhi ridge.

I ordered up the guns, and by 10.30 A.M. they were playing on the enemy's position with shrapnel, whilst the 36th Sikhs from Fort Lockhart advanced to turn the Afridi right, and the 2nd Punjab Infantry made a frontal attack on their position, supported by the two Gurkha battalions as they arrived on the ground. The Afridis did not wait for the infantry, but fled from their position and made for the Khanki valley. I pressed on with all possible speed, as I did not know whether Gulistan was holding out or not. On reaching the high ground overlooking

Gulistan, I found that the fort was invested by about 6,000 Orakzais, but they did not wait for the attack of the 2nd Punjab Infantry and 36th Sikhs, which was made under an accurate fire of the guns of the mountain battery, and by 1 P.M. they were in full retreat down the Khandartang spur, and Gulistan was relieved, after having been hard pressed by some 7,000 to 8,000 Afridis and Orakzais since the 12th instant.

I attach Appendices "B" and "C," giving the lists of casualties and the expenditure of ammunition. The enemy's casualties are reported over 400 killed.

I wish to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for special recognition the names of:—

Major C. H. Des Vœux, 36th Sikhs, who was the life and soul of the defence of Gulistan. He did all that could be done, with the slender means at his disposal, to frustrate each device of the enemy whose attack was a most determined one, with riflemen ready, on ridges and terraces within fifteen yards of the fort, to open a heavy fire on anyone who exposed himself in the slightest degree. His judgment in permitting the sortie was, in my opinion, good, as the success attending it encouraged the garrison and made the enemy move away from the walls.

Second-Lieutenant H. R. E. Pratt, 36th Sikhs, who, though suffering from dysentery, was always ready for any emergency, and is very highly spoken of by Major Des Vœux.

Surgeon-Captain C. B. Prall, Indian Medical Service, whose care of the wounded was unremitting, and who was often under heavy fire.

Miss Theresa McGrath, who had been previously attached to the hospital by my orders, who rendered most valuable assistance to the medical officer. Her conduct is spoken of most enthusiastically by all ranks.

No. 755, Havildar Sundar Singh, 36th Sikhs, who is reported to have been conspicuous for his gallantry throughout the siege, and who, of his own accord, sprang over the wall of the horn-work, carrying with him those who happened to be near him, to the succour of his comrades who had made a sortie to capture a standard, and were in imminent peril of being killed to a man.

Havildar Bishen Singh, 36th Sikhs, who was in command at Sangar, and kept the enemy at bay against heavy odds, and who led a successful sortie, capturing a standard.

The rank and file named below, who took part in the sortie made by the 36th Sikhs from Gulistan:—

- No. 807, Lance-Naick Sadu Singh.
- No. 1078, Sepoy Attar Singh.
- No. 1046, Sepoy Sajin Singh.
- No. 1380, Sepoy Bakram Singh.
- No. 1603, Sepoy Chajja Singh.
- No. 1369, Sepoy Badan Singh.
- No. 1597, Sepoy Phuman Singh.
- No. 1741, Sepoy Thaman Singh.
- No. 1066, Sepoy Sawan Singh.
- No. 1600, Sepoy Ghuna Singh.
- No. 1588, Sepoy Bhagwan Singh.
- No. 1589, Sepoy Harnam Singh.
- No. 180, Sepoy Rur Singh.
- No. 368, Sepoy Sher Singh.
- No. 1632, Sepoy Ralla Singh.
- No. 1123, Sepoy Kala Singh.
- No. 1177, Lance-Naick Dewa Singh.
- No. 817, Lance-Naick Harnam Singh.
- No. 939, Lance-Naick Jiwan Singh.
- No. 1167, Sepoy Mihan Singh.
- No. 823, Sepoy Mehma Singh.
- No. 1183, Sepoy Hira Singh.