

6. The Egyptian Brigades vied with their British comrades at every phase of the engagement, and the important part which they took in the attack is evident from their list of casualties.

7. The whole of the British wounded were carried by their Egyptian comrades from the battle field to the Nile, a distance of 36 miles, a splendid service, which will tend to strengthen the good feeling existing between the two forces, which will be a great advantage in the future conduct of the campaign.

8. It would be superfluous on my part to call attention to the services of Sir Herbert Kitchener; but, having served with him for many years, I have had the opportunity of watching the development of those soldier-like qualities which have made him the skilful administrator and able General he now is.

9. I would specially call attention to the Sirdar's acknowledgment of the services of Major-General Hunter, D.S.O., and Major-General Gatacre, C.B., D.S.O. Major-General Hunter again showed the ability and gallantry which have distinguished him during his long career in Egypt.

Major-General Gatacre, by the careful training and gallant leading of his brigade, has fully sustained his former high reputation.

Having had the opportunity of lately working with Major-General Rundle, C.M.G., D.S.O., I fully endorse the Sirdar's favourable mention of him and his Staff.

I have, &c.,

F. GRENFELL,

Major-General Commanding in Egypt.

*Hudi Camp, Atbara River,*

*April 10, 1898.*

SIR,

THE army of the Emir Mahmud, which had, up to the 25th February, held a strongly entrenched position at Metemmeh, having crossed the river to Shendy on that date, reliable information was received that the Khalifa had ordered him to advance, attack Berber, and destroy the railway at Geneinetti.

After some delay in making preparations, Mahmud's force moved north from Shendy on the 12th March, our gun-boats on the river keeping in touch with and harassing the advancing army as far as Aliab, from which point Mahmud left the Nile and struck across the desert to the Atbara River, which he reached between Nakheila and Fahada on the 20th March.

On the 16th March I concentrated at Kunur a force consisting of:—

The British brigade, with six Maxim guns, under Major-General Gatacre, to which a battery of Egyptian artillery was also attached.

A division of the Egyptian army, under Major-General Hunter, consisting of two brigades, each composed of four battalions, a battery of artillery and Maxim guns, under the respective commands of Lieutenant-Colonels Maxwell and Macdonald.

Eight squadrons of Egyptian cavalry, under Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Broadwood.

Three batteries of artillery, under Lieutenant-Colonel Long.

The Transport Corps, under Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Kitchener.

The 1st battalion, under Captain Doran, was left to hold the store depôt and hospital at Berber, and half of the 5th battalion at Geneinetti, under Captain Bainbridge, to watch the railway and lines of communication north.

The concentrated force advanced on the 20th March to Hudi, on the Atbara, where it was joined by an Egyptian brigade, under Brevet Lieutenant-

Colonel Lewis, and a battery of artillery from the Atbara Fort.

The entire force then marched to Ras-el-Hudi, a point at the bend of the Atbara, close to which Mahmud's army, if advancing on Berber, would be forced to pass.

On the following day our cavalry encountered at Abadar a force of Dervish horsemen advancing down stream. This contact took place on the thickly-wooded river bank, where the outposts of Captain the Honourable E. Baring's squadron were driven in, and the squadron commanded by Captain Persse was ordered to clear the bush. This was done with great gallantry and in face of superior numbers of the enemy, who were steadily forced back for four miles.

Finding that we were in force at Ras-el-Hudi, Mahmud, instead of advancing as he originally intended, decided to entrench his position and await supplies from the Khalifa.

On ascertaining this, I sent the 3rd battalion to release the 15th battalion garrisoning the Atbara Fort, and dispatched the latter, with the Jaalin Arab levies, in three gun-boats to attack Mahmud's reserve depôt, which he had left at Hosh Ben Naga, a small village three miles south of Shendy. The expedition was entirely successful.

On the morning of the 26th March the gun-boats, under Commander Keppel, assisted by Lieutenant Beatty and Lieutenant the Honourable H. Hood, arrived opposite the enemy's position and landed the troops under the command of Brevet Major Hickman, with whom were Major Sitwell, Captain Sloman, and Lieutenant Graham.

The Dervish position was turned and attacked. They made little resistance, and, their leader having been killed, they fled, followed by the Jaalin levies and the gun-boats, whilst the troops burnt the reserve depôt and destroyed the batteries and forts at Shendy.

A large number of women, who had been enslaved by the Dervishes after the Jaalin massacre at Metemmeh, were released, and quantities of stores, grain, and cattle, were captured, also one of Mahmud's clerks, who stated that the strength of the Dervish army, on marching north from Shendy, had been reported officially to the Khalifa to be 18,941 fighting men.

As Mahmud still made no offer to come out of his entrenched camp, I dispatched on the 30th March eight squadrons of cavalry, the horse battery, under Brevet Major Young, and four Maxims, under Brevet Major Lawrie and Captain Peake, supported at Abadar by two battalions of infantry, the whole under the command of General Hunter, to reconnoitre his position. This was successfully accomplished, General Hunter having been able to see from a distance of from 250 to 300 yards their camp or "dem," into which the horse battery fired some rounds before the reconnoitring force retired.

Our cavalry, supported by infantry, now kept in daily touch with the enemy, whose position was also reconnoitred from the left bank by Major Mahon, Captain Haig, and other officers.

On the 4th April the force was moved five miles further on to Abadar, and from here I dispatched, on the following day, another reconnaissance of the mounted troops, supported by infantry, under General Hunter as before, and accompanied by Brevet Major Kincaid, A.A.G., Captain Sir H. Rawlinson, D.A.A.G., Lieutenant Smyth, and other officers.

As this force approached the enemy's position, large bodies of their horsemen moved out from their right and left flanks and engaged our