

enemy was forced to retire again under cover of the hills.

All attacks on our position having failed and the enemy having retired out of range, I sent out the 21st Lancers to clear the ground on our left front, and head off any retreating Dervishes from the direction of Omdurman. After crossing the slopes of Jebel Surgham they came upon a body of Dervishes concealed in a depression of the ground, these they gallantly charged, but finding, too late to withdraw, that a much larger body of the enemy lay hidden, the charge was pressed home through them, and after rallying on the other side, they rode back driving off the Dervishes and remaining in possession of the ground. Considerable loss was inflicted on the enemy, but I regret to say that here fell Lieutenant R. Grenfell (12th Lancers) and 20 men.

Meanwhile I had ordered the Army to follow in echelon of brigades from the left. At 9.30 A.M. the front brigades having reached the sand ridge running from the west end of Jebel Surgham towards the river, a halt was ordered to enable the rear brigades to get into position, and I then received information that the Khalifa was still present in force on the left slopes of Surgham; a change of front half right of the three leading brigades was therefore ordered, and it was during this movement that MacDonald's Brigade became hotly engaged, whilst taking up position on the right of the echelon.

Learning from General Hunter, who was with MacDonald's Brigade, that he might require support, I despatched Wauchope's Brigade to reinforce him and ordered the remaining brigades to make a further change half right.

No sooner had MacDonald repelled the Dervish onslaught than the force, which had retired behind the Kerreri Hills, emerged again into the plain and rapidly advanced to attack him, necessitating a further complete change of front of his brigade to the right. This movement was admirably executed, and now, supported by a portion of Wauchope's Brigade on the right and by Lewis's Brigade enfilading the attack on the left, he completely crushed this second most determined Dervish charge.

Meantime Maxwell's and Lyttelton's Brigades had been pushed on over the slopes of Jebel Surgham, and driving before them the Dervish forces under the Khalifa's son, Osman Sheikh ed Din, they established themselves in a position which cut off the retreat on Omdurman of the bulk of the Dervish army, who were soon seen streaming in a disorganized mass towards the high hills many miles to the west, closely pursued by the mounted troops, who cleared the right front and flanks of all hesitating and detached parties of the enemy.

The battle was now practically over and Lyttelton's and Maxwell's Brigades marched down to Khor Shambat, in the direction of Omdurman, which was reached at 12.30 P.M., and here the troops rested and watered. The remainder of Hunter's Division and Wauchope's Brigade reached the same place at 3 P.M.

At 2 P.M. I advanced with Maxwell's Brigade and the 32nd Field Battery through the suburbs of Omdurman to the great wall of the Khalifa's enclosure, and leaving two guns and three battalions to guard the approaches, the 13th Sudanese Battalion and four guns (32nd Field Battery) were pushed down by the north side of the wall to the river, and, accompanied by three gunboats which had been previously ordered to be ready for this movement, these troops penetrated the breaches in the wall made by the howitzers, marched south along the line of forts, and turning

in at the main gateway found a straight road leading to the Khalifa's house and Madhi's tomb: these were speedily occupied, the Khalifa having quitted the town only a short time before our entry, after a vain effort to collect his men for further resistance.

The gunboats continued up the river clearing the streets of Dervishes, and having returned to the remainder of the brigade left at the corner of the wall, these were pushed forward and occupied all the main portions of the town. Guards were at once mounted over the principal buildings and Khalifa's stores, and after visiting the prison and releasing the European prisoners, the troops bivouacked at 7 P.M. around the town, after a long and trying day throughout which all ranks displayed qualities of high courage, discipline, and endurance.

The gunboats and Egyptian Cavalry and Camel Corps at once started in pursuit south; but owing to the exhausted condition of the animals and the flooded state of the country, which prevented them from communicating with the gunboat carrying their forage and rations, they were reluctantly obliged to abandon the pursuit after following up the flying Khalifa for 30 miles through marshy ground. The gunboats continued south for 90 miles, but were unable to come in touch with the Khalifa, who left the river and fled westward towards Kordofan, followed by the armed friendly tribes who took up the pursuit on the return of the mounted troops.

Large stores of ammunition, powder, some 60 guns of various sorts, besides vast quantities of rifles, swords, spears, banners, drums, and other war materials, were captured on the battlefield and in Omdurman.

The result of this battle is the practical annihilation of the Khalifa's army, the consequent extinction of Mahdism in the Sudan, and the submission of the whole country formerly ruled under Egyptian authority. This has re-opened vast territories to the benefits of peace, civilization, and good government.

On 4th September the British and Egyptian flags were hoisted with due ceremony on the walls of the ruined Palace of Khartum, close to the spot where General Gordon fell, and this event is looked upon by the rejoicing populations as marking the commencement of a new era of peace and prosperity for their unfortunate country.

It would be impossible for any commander to have been more ably seconded than I was by the General Officers serving under me. Major-Generals Hunter, Rundle, and Gatacre have displayed the highest qualities as daring and skilful leaders, as well as being endowed with administrative capabilities of a high order. It is in the hands of such Officers that the Service may rest assured their best interests will, under all circumstances, be honourably upheld, and while expressing to them my sincere thanks for their cordial co-operation with me, I have every confidence in most highly recommending the names of these General Officers for the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

The manner in which the Brigadiers handled their respective brigades, the thorough knowledge of their profession, and their proved skill in the field, mark them out, one and all, as fitted for higher rank, and I have great pleasure in submitting their names for favourable consideration: Brigadier-Generals N. G. Lyttelton and A. G. Wauchope; Lieutenant-Colonels J. G. Maxwell, H. A. MacDonald, D. F. Lewis, and J. Collinson.

MacDonald's Brigade was highly tested, bearing the brunt of two severe attacks delivered at very