

the fords were too deep, with a violent stream, and I was compelled to turn my attention to a gorge which crossed the intervening hill.

This presented great difficulties for guns, but in three days a practicable road was made under the skilful and indefatigable exertions of Captain J. R. Oldfield, Field Engineer, admirably aided by Lieutenant M. J. Turnbull, 7th Light Cavalry, Brigade Quartermaster, and I had the extreme pleasure of seeing the whole of the artillery pass it and descend into the valley, under the mountain of Dulla.

I take this opportunity of expressing my high opinion of both these officers, to whom I am greatly indebted for aiding me in my reconnoissances, and obtaining information.

On reaching the valley, the positions of the enemy were found to be admirably chosen, and I at once saw that a direct attack was out of the question, more particularly as they showed in great strength.

The 12th, 13th, and 14th, were passed in reconnoitering and obtaining information, and I must acknowledge my obligations to Mr. J. Lawrence, Mr. P. S. Melvill, Lieutenants Lumsden and Hodson, who aided me most cordially.

On the evening of the 14th, I made the following arrangements:—

Lieutenant Hodson, (Lieutenant Lumsden having sprained his ankle) with his corps of guides, to move at noon on the 15th up the right bank of the Ravee, recross the river and move up to a high peak of the mountain, visible from my camp; with him went 400 rank and file, 3d Regiment Native Infantry. I at the same time wrote to Lieutenant-Colonel Downing, that my arrangements were definitively settled, and that the sound of my heavy guns was to be the signal for him to co-operate and attack the enemy's position; but that, as it was possible (owing to the intervening hills), he might not hear them, he was not to delay his ascent beyond 8 o'clock A. M. of the 16th.

Another column was formed of the Head Quarters, 3d Regiment Native Infantry, and a party of the 2d Irregular Cavalry, (Captain Jackson having volunteered the services of his corps, dismounted) under Lieutenant Swinton, second in command, the whole under Major Butler, commanding 3d Regiment Native Infantry.

Mr Lawrence, on joining me, brought with him a party of the 16th Irregular Cavalry and 1st Sikh Local Infantry, the former the Head-Quarters and sixty sowars, the latter under Lieutenant J. Peel, second in command, one hundred and fifty-two; the whole under the command of Captain W. W. Davidson of the former, who volunteered for his sowars to act on foot.

These were formed into another column to join that under Major Butler, when he passed that point of the hill where it ascended. Lieutenant Hodson quitted camp at 12 noon on the 15th, and at 2 P. M. rain began to fall, slightly at first, but it increased and poured all night, and fell more or less until past 1 P. M. of the next day. This so greatly interfered with his progress, the road being a most difficult path over cliffs, and the Ravee having swollen, he was unable to reach his post until noon on the 16th, instead of 6 P. M. on the 15th as reckoned on. Of this he could give me no intimation in consequence of the weather preventing any one from coming round, and the occupation of the mountain by the enemy equally preventing any one from coming across.

All were ready in my camp at 8 A. M., and, although it poured, moved off in capital spirits to be ready to ascend at the signal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson has written so modestly of the artillery, that it is my duty to state, that his own exertions, and that of all under him, were most zealous and successful. Captain Sissmore and Burnett deserve the greatest credit for getting up 24-pound howitzers and mortars, on steep shoulders of the hill, and bringing them to act on the positions of the enemy: these officers have, on every occasion, elicited my praise, and I beg most strongly to recommend them to the favourable consideration of Lord Gough.

The column under Major Butler carried out my wishes with great coolness and courage, and I am indebted to that officer for the judgment which he evinced, and which was crowned with complete success.

The enemy has lost severely; thirty-five bodies were counted, and many more must have fallen on different parts of the hill, which have not been seen. Of their wounded I know nothing.

Major Fisher and Captain Jackson, with the mounted portion of their corps, followed me up the mountain, where, I'll venture to say, cavalry never were before, in the hope of being able to pursue the enemy when beaten, but did not reach in time.

I have had on this, as indeed on every other occasion, the most hearty and cheerful aid from the staff of all grades, the whole of whom accompanied me.

I received the most cordial aid in all points from Mr Lawrence and Mr Melvill, and am most grateful to those gentlemen.

I am, in a word, pleased with all, and of all ranks, who were under my personal command.

Ram Sing's party is utterly broken up for the present, and he has recrossed the Ravee with two followers.

Return of Killed and Wounded in the Force commanded by Brigadier-General H. M. Wheeler, C. B., in the Assault and Capture of the Heights of Dulla, on January 16, 1849.

3d Regiment N. I.—1 sepoy slightly wounded.
2d Regiment Irregular Cavalry—1 sowar killed; 1 sowar severely, and 1 slightly wounded.

16th Regiment Irregular Cavalry—Captain Commanding, Captain W. W. Davidson, severely wounded, bullet in the right hand; 1 native officer, severely wounded; 1 sowar severely, and 2 slightly wounded.

1st Regiment Sikh Local Infantry—Lieutenant Second in Command, Lieutenant J. Peel, dangerously wounded, since dead; 1 Jemadar, 2 sepoy, killed; 1 havildar, 4 sepoy slightly, 1 naick, 3 sepoy severely, 2 sepoy dangerously wounded.

Total—4 killed; 20 wounded.

N.B.—Cornet Christie, 7th Light Cavalry, killed.

General Order by the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India.

Camp, Mukkoo, January 24, 1849.

The Governor-General having received from the Commander-in-Chief in India a despatch, dated the 16th instant, directs that it shall be published for the information of the Army and of the People of India.

In this despatch, His Excellency reports the successful operation of the troops under his immediate command on the afternoon of the 13th instant, when they attacked and defeated the Sikh Army under the command of Rajah Shere Sing.