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India Board, February 13, 1840.

A DISPATCH has been this day received at the East India House, addressed by the Governor-General of India to the Secret Committee of the East India Company, of which the following is a copy:

Camp at Bhurtpore, December 12, 1839.

I DO myself the honour to forward copies of the Dispatches noted in the margin, relative to the assault and capture of the fort of Kelat.

2. The decision, the great military skill, and excellent dispositions of Major-General Willshire, in conducting the operations against Kelat, appear to me deserving of the highest commendation. The gallantry, steadiness, and soldier-like bearing of the troops under his command, rendered his plans of action completely successful, thereby again crowning our arms, across the Indus, with signal-victory.

3. I need not expatiate on the importance of this achievement, from which the best effects must be derived, not only in the vindication of our national honour, but also in confirming the security of intercourse between Sinde and Afghanistan, and in promoting the safety and tranquillity of the restored monarchy; but I would not omit to point out that the conduct, on this occasion, of Major-General Willshire, and of the officers and men under his command (including the 31st regiment of Bengal Native Infantry, which had not been employed in the previous active operations of the campaign), have entitled them to more prominent notice than I was able to give them in my General Order of November 18; and in recommending these valuable services to the applause of the Committee, I trust that I shall not be considered as going beyond my proper province in stating an earnest hope that the conduct of Major-General Willshire in the direction of

the operations, will not fail to elicit the approbation of Her Majesty's Government.
I have, &c. AUCKLAND.

GENERAL ORDERS,

By the Governor-General of India.

Camp, Deothanee, December 4, 1839.

THE many outrages and murders committed, in attacks on the followers of the army of the Indus, by the plundering tribes in the neighbourhood of the Bolan Pass, at the instigation of their Chief Meer Mehrab Khan of Kelat, at a time when he was professing friendship for the British Government, and negotiating a treaty with its representatives, having compelled the Government to direct a detachment of the army to proceed to Kelat, for the exaction of retribution from that Chieftain, and for the execution of such arrangements as would establish future security in that quarter, a force under the orders of Major-General Willshire; C. B. was employed on this service, and the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India having, this day, received that Officer's report of the successful accomplishment of the objects intrusted to him, has been pleased to direct that the following copy of his dispatch, dated 14th ultimo, be published for general information.

The Governor-General is happy to avail himself of this opportunity to record his high admiration of the signal gallantry and spirit of the troops engaged on this occasion; and offers, on the part of the Government, his best thanks to Major-General Willshire, and to the officers and men who served under him.

By command of the Governor-General,
T. H. MADDOCK, Officiating Secretary
to the Government of India with the
Governor-General.

From Major-General Sir Thomas Willshire, K.C.B.
to the Governor-General of India.

Camp near Kelat, November 14, 1839.

MY LORD,

1. In obedience to the joint instructions furnished me by his Excellency the Commander in Chief of the army of the Indus, and the Envoy and Minister to His Majesty Shah Shooja, under date Cabool the 17th September 1839, deputing to me the duty of deposing Mehrab Khan of Kelat, in consequence of the avowed hostility of that chief to the British nation during the present campaign, I have the honour to report, that on my arrival at Quetta on the 31st ultimo, I communicated with Captain Bean, the Political Agent in Shawl, and arranged with him the best means of giving effect to the orders I had received.

2. In consequence of the want of public carriage, and the limited quantity of commissariat supplies at Quetta, as well as the reported want of forage on the route to Kelat, I was obliged to dispatch to Cutch Gundava the whole of the cavalry and the greater portion of the artillery, taking with me only the troops noted in the margin, leaving Quetta on the 3d instant.*

3. During the march the communications received from Mehrab Khan were so far from acceding to the terms offered, that he threatened resistance if the troops approached his capital, I therefore proceeded, and arrived at the village of Giranee, within eight miles of Kelat, on the 12th instant.

4. Marching from thence the following morning, a body of horse were perceived on the right of the road, which commenced firing on the advanced guard commanded by Major Pennycuick, Her Majesty's 17th regiment, as the column advanced; and skirmishing between them continued until we came in sight of Kelat, rather less than a mile distant.

5. I now discovered that three heights on the north west face of the fort, and parallel to the north, were covered with infantry, with five guns in position, protected by small parapet walls.

6. Captain Peat, chief engineer, immediately reconnoitred, and having reported that nothing could be done until these heights were in our possession, I decided upon at once storming them simultaneously, and, if practicable, entering the fort with the fugitives, as the gate in the northern face was occasionally opened to keep up the communication between the fort and the heights.

7. To effect this object, I detached a company from each of the European regiments from the advanced guard with Major Pennycuick, Her Majesty's 17th regiment, for the purpose of occupying the gardens and enclosures to the north east of the town, and two more companies in the plain, midway between them and the column; at the same time I ordered three columns of attack to be formed, composed of four companies from each corps, under their respective commanding officers, Major

Carruthers, of the Queen's, Lieutenant-Colonel Croker, Her Majesty's 17th regiment, and Major Western, 31st Bengal native infantry, the whole under the command of Brigadier Baumgardt, the remainder of the regiments forming three columns of reserve under my own direction to move in support.

8. A hill being allotted to each column, Brigadier Stevenson, commanding the artillery, moved quickly forward in front towards the base of the heights, and when within the required range, opened fire upon the infantry and guns, under cover of which the columns moved steadily on, and commenced the ascent, for the purpose of carrying the heights, exposed to the fire of the enemy's guns, which had commenced while the columns of attack were forming.

9. Before the columns reached their respective summits of the hills, the enemy, overpowered by the superior and well directed fire of our artillery, had abandoned them, attempting to carry off their guns, but which they were unable to do; at this moment, it appearing to me the opportunity offered for the troops to get in with the fugitives, and, if possible, gain possession of the gate of the fortress, I despatched orders to the Queen's Royal and 17th regiments to make a rush from the heights for that purpose, following myself to the summit of the nearest, to observe the result; at this moment, the four companies on my left, which had been detached to the gardens and plain, seeing the chance that offered of entering the fort, moved rapidly forward from their respective points towards the gateway, under a heavy and well directed fire from the walls of the fort and citadel, which were thronged by the enemy.

10. The gate having been closed before the troops moving towards it could effect the desired object, and the garrison strengthened by the enemy driven from the heights, they were compelled to cover themselves as far as practicable behind some walls and ruined buildings to the right and left of it, while Brigadier Stevenson having ascended the heights with the artillery, opened two guns under the command of Lieutenant Forster, Bombay horse artillery, upon the defences above the gate and its vicinity, while the fire of two others commanded by Lieutenant Cooper, Shah's artillery, was directed against the gate itself, the remaining two with Lieutenant Creed being sent round to the road on the left leading direct up to the gate, and when within two hundred yards commenced fire for the purpose of completing the blowing it open, and after a few rounds they succeeded in knocking in one half of it; on observing this I rode down the hill towards the gate, pointing to it, thereby announcing to the troops it was open; they instantly rose from their cover, and rushed in, those under the command of Major Pennycuick being the nearest, were the first to gain the gate, headed by that officer, the whole of the storming columns from the three regiments rapidly following, and gaining an entrance as quickly as it was possible to do so, under a heavy fire from the works and from the interior, the enemy making a most gallant and determined resistance, disputing every inch of ground up to the walls of the inner citadel.

* 2 guns Bombay horse artillery.

4 guns Shah's horse artillery.

2 Russala's local horse.

Queen's Royals.

H. M. 17th regiment.

31st Bengal N. I.

Bombay engineers.

11. At this time I directed the reserve columns to be brought near the gate, and detached one company of the 17th regiment, under Captain Darley, to the western side of the fort, followed by a portion of the 31st Bengal native infantry, commanded by Major Western, conducted by Captain Outram, acting as my extra Aid-de-Camp, for the purpose of securing the heights under which the southern angle is situated, and intercept any of the garrison escaping from that side: having driven off the enemy from the heights above, the united detachments then descended to the gate of the fort below, and forced it open before the garrison (who closed it as they saw the troops approach) had time to secure it.

12. When the party was detached by the western face, I also sent two companies from the reserve of the 17th, under Major Deshon, and two guns of the Shah's artillery, under the command of Lieutenant Creed, Bombay artillery, by the eastern to the southern face, for the purpose of blowing open the gate above alluded to, had it been necessary, as well as the gate of the inner citadel; the infantry joining the other detachments, making their way through the town in the direction of the citadel.

13. After some delay, the troops that held possession of the town, at length succeeded in forcing an entrance into the citadel, where a desperate resistance was made by Mehrab Khan at the head of his people, he himself, with many of his principal chiefs, being killed sword in hand: several others, however, kept up a fire upon our troops from detached buildings difficult of access, and it was not until late in the afternoon, that those that survived, were induced to give themselves up, on a promise of their lives being spared.

14. From every account I have reason to believe the garrison consisted of upwards of two thousand fighting men, and that the son of Mehrab Khan had been expected to join him from Norosky, with a further reinforcement: the inclosed return will shew the strength of the force under my command present at the capture.

15. The defences of the fort, as in the case of Ghuznee, far exceeded in strength what I had been led to suppose from previous report, and the lowering height of the inner citadel, was most formidable both in appearance and reality.

16. I lament to say that the loss of killed and wounded on our side has been severe, as will be seen by the accompanying return; that on the part of the enemy must have been great, but the exact number I have not been able to ascertain; several hundred of prisoners were taken, from whom the political agent has selected those he considers it necessary for the present to retain in confinement; the remainder have been liberated.

17. It is quite impossible for me sufficiently to express my admiration of the gallant and steady conduct of the officers and men upon this occasion; but the fact of less than an hour having elapsed from the formation of the columns for the attack, to the period of the troops being within the fort, and this performed in the open day, and in the face of an enemy so very superior in numbers, and so perfectly prepared for resistance, will, I trust, convince your Lordship how deserving officers and troops are of

my warmest thanks, and of the highest praise that can be bestowed.

18. To Brigadier Baumgardt, commanding the storming columns, my best thanks are due; and he reports that Captain Wyllie, acting assistant adjutant general, and Captain Gilland, his aid-de-camp, ably assisted him, and zealously performed their duties; also to Brigadier Stevenson, commanding the artillery, and Lieutenants Forster and Cooper respectively, in charge of the Bombay and Shah's artillery, I feel greatly indebted for the steady and scientific manner in which the service of dislodging the enemy from the heights, and afterwards effecting an entrance into the fort, was performed: the Brigadier has brought to my notice the assistance he received from Captain Coghlan, his brigade-major, Lieutenant Woonnam, his aid-de-camp, and Lieutenant Creed when in battery yesterday.

19. To Lieutenant Colonel Croker, commanding Her Majesty's 17th regiment, Major Carruthers, commanding the Queen's Royals, Major Western, commanding the Bengal 31st N. I., I feel highly indebted for the manner in which they conducted their respective columns to the attack of the heights, and afterwards to the assault of the town, as well as to Major Pennycuik of the 17th, who led the advanced guard companies to the same point.

20. To Captain Peat, chief engineer, and to the officers and men of the engineer corps, my acknowledgments are due.

21. To Major Neil Campbell, acting quarter-master general of the Bombay army, to Captain Hagart, acting deputy adjutant general, and to Lieutenant Ramsay, acting assistant quarter-master general, my best thanks are due for the able assistance they afforded me by their services.

22. From my aides de-camp, Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Halkett, as well as from Captain Outram, who volunteered his services on my personal staff; I received the utmost assistance, and to the latter officer I feel greatly indebted for the zeal and ability with which he has performed various duties that I have required of him upon other occasions as well as the present.

23. It is with much pleasure that I state the great assistance I have received from Captain Bean, in obtaining supplies.

T. WILLSHIRE, Major-general,
Commanding Bombay column, army of the Indus.

Return of Casualties in the Army under the Command of Major-General Willshire, C. B. employed at the Storming of Kelat, on the 13th November 1839.

1st Troop of Cabool Artillery—2 rank and file, 6 horses, wounded.

Gun Lascars attached to ditto—1 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded; 1 corporal since dead.

H. M. 2d or Queen's Royal Regt.—1 lieutenant, 21 rank and file, killed; 2 captains, 2 lieutenants, 1 adjutant, 2 serjeants, 40 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded.

H. M. 17th Regt.—6 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 3 serjeants, 29 rank and file, wounded.

31st Regt. Bengal N. I.—1 subadar, 2 rank and file, killed; 1 captain, 1 ensign, 2 jemadars, 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, 14 rank and file, 1 bheestie, wounded.

Sappers and Miners and Pioneers—1 serjeant wounded.

4th Bengal Local Horse—1 rank and file wounded.

Total—1 lieutenant, 1 subadar, 29 rank and file, killed; 4 captains, 2 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 1 adjutant, 2 jemadars, 8 sergeants, 1 drummer, 87 rank and file, 1 bheestie, 7 horses wounded.

Total Killed and Wounded—138.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

Killed.

H. M. 2d or Queen's Royal Regt.—Lieutenant T. Gravatt.

Wounded.

H. M. 2d or Queen's Royal Regt.—Captain W. M. Lyster, Captain T. Sealy, Lieutenant T. W. E. Holdsworth, severely; Lieutenant D. J. Dickenson, slightly; Adjutant J. E. Simmons, severely.

H. M. 17th Regt.—Captain L. C. Bouchier, severely.

31st Regt. Bengal N. I.—Captain Saurin, slightly; Ensign Hopper, severely.

C. HAGART, Captain, Acting Deputy Adjutant-General, Bombay Column, Army of the Indus.

State of the Corps engaged at the Storming of Kelat, on the 13th of November 1839, under the Command of Major-General Wilshire, C. B.

Camp at Kelat, November 14, 1839.

Staff—1 major-general, 2 brigadiers, 5 aides-de-camp, 1 acting deputy adjutant-general, 1 acting quartermaster general, 1 deputy assistant quartermaster general, 2 brigade-majors, 1 sub-assistant commissary general.

Détachment 3d Troop Horse Artillery—2 lieutenants, 2 sergeants, 36 rank and file.

1st Troop Cabool Artillery—1 lieutenant, 8 sergeants, 1 drummer, 1 farrier, 58 rank and file.

H. M. 2d or Queen's Royal Regt.—1 major, 3 captains, 7 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 1 adjutant, 31 sergeants, 10 drummers, 290 rank and file.

H. M. 17th Regt.—1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors,

4 captains, 13 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 1 quartermaster, 1 surgeon, 29 sergeants, 9 drummers, 336 rank and file.

31st Regt. Bengal N. I.—1 major, 2 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster, 1 surgeon, 12 native officers, 30 sergeants, 14 drummers, 329 rank and file.

Sappers and Miners and Pioneers—1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 assistant-surgeon, 3 native officers, 1 sub-conductor, 7 sergeants, 3 drummers, 117 rank and file.

Total 1 major general, 2 brigadiers, 5 aides-de-camp, 1 acting deputy adjutant general, 1 acting quartermaster general, 1 deputy assistant quartermaster general, 2 brigade majors, 1 sub-assistant commissary general, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 4 majors, 10 captains, 27 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 2 adjutants, 2 quartermasters, 2 surgeons, 1 assistant-surgeon, 15 native officers, 1 sub-conductor, 107 sergeants, 37 drummers, 1 farrier, 1166 rank and file.

The sappers and miners and pioneers were not engaged until the gate was taken.

C. HAGART, Captain, Acting Deputy Adjutant-General Bombay Column, Army of the Indus.

Note—Two russalas of the Bengal local horse remained in charge of the baggage during the attack.

List of Beloche Sirdars killed in the assault of Kelat, on the 13th of November 1839.

Meer Mehrab Khan, Chief of Kelat.

Meer Wullee Mahomed, the Muengul Sirdar of Wudd.

Abdool Kurreem, Ruhsanee Sirdar.

Dad Kurreem, Shahwanee Sirdar.

Mahomed Ruzza, nephew of the Vizier Mahomed Hoosseiu.

Khysur Khan, Ahsehrie Sirdar.

Dewan Bucha Mull, Financial Minister.

Noor Mahomed and Taj Mahomed, Shagassa Sirdars.

Prisoners.

Mahomed Hoosseiu, Vizier.

Moola Ruheem dad, Ex Naib of Shawl; with several others of inferior rank.

J. D. D. BEAN, Political Agent.

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