

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.