

before our troops, and abandoned the village of Koocee Khail, but re-inforced strongly by the fugitives driven back by Brigadier Tulloch's column, he assumed a menacing attitude, and occupied in force a range of heights and detached summits in the Soofaid Koh. The most salient of these was a spur of the mountain within long musket range of the buildings of Koocee Khail. From this and from other eminences of the most precipitous character the Ooloose were dislodged with the utmost spirit and gallantry by the details under Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, aided in the most effective manner by a party of Capt. Broadfoot's corps of Sappers and Miners. The enemy were reinforced from time to time, and made many bold attacks, and kept up a sharp fire of jezails from the loftiest peaks of the mountain, but our troops, though so much pressed as to be compelled to recede from ground which they had gained in one direction, maintained an advanced position among the hills, until withdrawn by order of Major-General Pollock, first into the plateau in front of the village of Koocee Khail, which they burnt down, and then back upon the present site of encampment. In retiring over the plain between the two principal villages the movement was covered by a squadron of the 5th, and another of the 10th light cavalry, but the attempts of the Ooloose to annoy were timid and feeble in the extreme, and our troops did not sustain a single casualty from their effects. Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor speaks in high terms of the support which he received from Major Huish, commanding the 26th regiment Native Infantry, who was wounded, and afterwards from Capt. Handscomb of the same corps, and from Capt. Ogle, commanding Her Majesty's 9th Foot; and I beg to be permitted to bear my testimony to the merits of the Lieutenant-Colonel's own exertions on this occasion, as well as to express my sense of the gallantry of all the troops engaged, and to acknowledge the able assistance which I received from Captain Havelock, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, Lieutenant Mayne, 37th Regiment Native Infantry, Officiating Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, and Lieutenant Bethune, Her Majesty's 9th Foot, my Aide-de-Camp. The intrepidity also with which Captain Broadfoot's Sappers and Miners aided in the attack on one of the advanced heights deserves my marked commendation.

I have, &c.

JOHN M'CASKILL,

Major-General, Commanding Infantry Division.

*From Captain G. Broadfoot, Sappers and Miners, commanding Right Column, to Captain G. Ponsonby, Assistant Adjutant General.*

SIR, *Camp Mammoo Khail, August 25, 1842.*

AGREEABLY to orders, I have the honour to report the proceedings of the column intrusted to me by the Major-General commanding, in the action of yesterday.

I moved, as directed, with the Sappers (about

220 men) and the 3d Irregular Cavalry (250 men), across the ravine on the right of the force. We found the enemy strongly posted in an orchard, with some enclosures; and the usual field works of loose stones in their front, were also occupied. This position flanked the approach of the main body.

Having formed an attacking party in front, I sent the rest of the Sappers in column under Lieutenant Orr, to turn the enemy's left flank, and Captain Tait's horse still more to the right, and in advance, to cut off their retreat. While we waited in this order the advance of the force, the enemy reinforced the orchard, and moved out to attack us. I was therefore obliged to advance before the force arrived. The enemy's positions were quickly carried in succession. One party was driven towards the 3d Irregular Cavalry, who pursued, and the remainder fled to the village of Mammoo Khail, into which the main body of the enemy were at this moment driven by the fire of our artillery; they opened a fire on us, ill directed, but so heavy that we were obliged to attack the village. They fled when we reached it, and the sappers pursued to the fort, but were so exhausted by the march from Futteabad and the previous operations, that the enemy was able to enter and barricade the gate. Their fire was kept down by one party of the sappers, while the rest climbed on each other's shoulders over a half-repaired bastion, about eight feet high, and covered with thorns. The enemy fled over the walls on the other side, leaving the rear gate barricaded. This, and descending from the walls, lost so much time that pursuit was nearly hopeless, so far as our now exhausted men were concerned. We pressed on with the least fatigue, however, and, keeping to the hills, forced the enemy into ground. Our cavalry were approaching, and we had the satisfaction of seeing the cavalry overtake and attack them.

Parties were directed to destroy the forts abandoned on the cavalry approaching, while with a few men I pushed on to the last village near the hills. There we surprised the enemy, whose head-quarters were there, driving them out of the village and adjoining camp, and obtaining their tents, cattle, and ammunition, and a good quantity of provisions. The enemy (who were evidently the Jezailchees from Cabool) fled to the hills, the fire of which swept the village.

I was now directed to take a party of Her Majesty's 9th Foot, the Sappers being now worn out, except about six men, and attack the hills; the first and second heights were carried at the point of the bayonet, and flanking parties having turned the shoulders of the high range, we were advancing up it when the main force arrived, and our further progress was stayed. My separate command now ceased, and I was soon after ordered with the Sappers to head-quarters.

The conduct of the troops, officers, and men, European and Native, was admirable; and it is due to the 26th Native Infantry to mention, that, in storming the second height with a party of her Majesty's 9th Foot, a party of the former corps