

the second on Yuksek Tabia, and the third on the breastwork called Rennison Lines. As soon as the first gun announced the approach of the enemy the reserves were put under arms in a central position, from which succours could be despatched either to Tahmasb or the English lines:

The mist and imperfect light of the dawning day induced the enemy to believe that he was about to surprise us, he advanced with his usual steadiness and intrepidity; but on getting within range he was saluted with a crushing fire of artillery from all points of the line. This unexpected reception, however, only drew forth loud hurrahs from the Russian infantry as it rushed up the hill on the redoubts and breastworks. These works poured forth a fire of musketry and rifles, which told with fearful effects on the close columns of attack, more especially on the left one, which, being opposed by a battalion of 450 Chasseurs, armed with Minié rifles, was, after long and desperate fighting, completely broken, and sent headlong down the hill, leaving 850 dead on the field, besides those carried off by their comrades.

The central column precipitated itself on the redoubts of Tahmasb and Yuksek Tabias, where desperate fighting occurred and lasted for several hours, the enemy being repulsed in all his attempts to enter the closed redoubts, which mutually flanked each other with their artillery and musketry, and made terrible havoc in the ranks of the assailants; and it was here that Generals Kmety and Hussein Pacha, together with Major Teesdale, so conspicuously displayed their courage and conduct. Lieutenant-General Kereen Pasha also repaired to the scene of desperate strife to encourage the troops, and was wounded in the shoulder, and had two horses killed under him.

The right column of the Russian infantry, supported by a battery, eventually turned the left flank of the intrenched wing of the Tahmasb defences, and whilst the Russian battery opened in the rear of the closed redoubt at its salient angle, their infantry penetrated considerably behind our position.

Observing the commencement of this movement, and anticipating its consequences, Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, who had taken the direction of affairs in the English Tabias, was instructed to send a battalion from Fort Lake to the assistance of the defenders of Tahmasb, and at the same time two battalions of the reserves were moved across the flying bridge and upon the rocky height of Laz Jeppé Tabia. These three reinforcing columns met each other at that point, and being hidden from the enemy by the rocky nature of the ground, confronted him at a most opportune moment; they deployed, opened their fire, which stopped and soon drove back the enemy's reserves, which were then vigorously charged with the bayonet, at the same moment when General Kmety and Major Teesdale issued from the redoubts at Tahmasb and charged the assailants. The whole of that portion of the enemy's infantry and artillery now broke and fled down the heights under a murderous fire of musketry; this occurred at half past eleven, after a combat of seven hours.

In this part of the field the enemy had, including his reserves, 22 battalions of infantry, a large force of dragoons and cossacks, together with 32 guns.

Whilst this struggle, which I have attempted to describe, was occurring at Tahmasb, a most severe

combat was going on at the eastern position of the line, called the English Tabias.

About half-past five o'clock, A.M., a Russian column, consisting of 8 battalions of infantry, 3 regiments of cavalry, and 16 guns, advanced from the valley of Tehakmak, and assaulted those small redoubts, which after as stout a resistance as their unavoidably feeble garrisons could oppose, fell into their hands, together with the connecting breastworks, defended by townsmen and mountaineers from Lazistan, whose clannish flags, according to their custom, were planted before them on the epaulments, and, consequently, fell into the enemy's hands; but ere the firing had begun in this portion of the field, Captain Thompson had received orders to send a battalion of infantry from each of the heights of Karadagh and Arap Tabia to reinforce the English lines. This reinforcement descended the deep gully through which flows the Kars River, passed a bridge, recently thrown across it, and ascended the opposite precipitous bank by a zigzag path which led into the line of works, named by the Turks, Ingliz Tabias (the English Batteries). Their arrival was as opportune as that of the reserves directed towards Tahmasb, which I have had the honour to describe in the former part of this despatch; these battalions, joined to those directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, gallantly attacked and drove the Russians out of the redoubts at the point of the bayonet, after the artillery of the enemy had been driven from those lines by the cross fire directed from Fort Lake and from Arab Tabia and Karadagh, by Captain Thompson. This officer deserves my best thanks for having seized a favourable moment to remove a heavy gun from the eastern to the western extremity of Karadagh, and with it inflicted severe loss on the enemy.

After the Russian infantry was driven from the English redoubts, the whole of their attacking force of cavalry, artillery, and infantry retreated with precipitation, plied with round shot from all the batteries bearing on their columns. During their temporary success, however, the enemy captured two of our light guns, which the mortality amongst our horses from famine prevented our withdrawing from their advanced positions. He also carried off his wounded, and many of his dead; yet he left 363 of the latter within and in front of these intrenchments; and his retreat occurred at least an hour before the assailants of Tahmasb were put to flight.

During this combat, which lasted nearly seven hours, the Turkish infantry, as well as artillery, fought with the most determined courage; and when it is recollected that they had worked on their entrenchments, and guarded them by night throughout a period extending to nearly four months, I think your Lordship will admit that they have proved themselves worthy of the admiration of Europe, and established an undoubted claim to be placed amongst the most distinguished of its troops.

With regard to the enemy, as long as there was a chance of success he persevered with undaunted courage, and the Russian officers displayed the greatest gallantry. Their loss was immense; they left on the field more than 5,000 dead, which it took the Turkish infantry four days to bury. Their wounded and prisoners in our possession amount to 160, whilst those who were carried off are said to be upwards of 7,000.

As the garrison was afflicted with cholera, and I was apprehensive of a great increase of the