

patches from Brigadier-General Sir Neville Chamberlain, K.C.B., late commanding the Eusufzye Field Force, and from Major-General Garvoek, who succeeded to the command of the force when it was relinquished by Sir N. Chamberlain on account of his wound.

2. In order that the Government may correctly understand the operations which have been carried out under these General Officers, the Commander-in-Chief directs me to submit the following explanatory details.

3. Sir N. Chamberlain was prevented from descending with his force into the Chumla Valley, in furtherance of the objects of the expedition, by causes with which the Government are already acquainted.

4. The position finally occupied by the Brigadier-General in the Umbeyla Pass, six or seven miles from the plains of Eusufzye, was a strategical and very strong one. It cut in two the enemy's line of mountain defences, and forced him to attack from lower ground a naturally strong position, which entirely commanded his advance, and which General Chamberlain had rendered still stronger by entrenchments. To these advantages must be added open communications with the base in the plains of Eusufzye.

5. The position was, however, subject to the disadvantages arising from the very difficult nature of the country, abounding, as it does, with deep ravines, covered with boulders and large masses of rock, interspersed with trees and brushwood, all favoring the peculiar tactics of the enemy, in their vehement attacks on the entrenchments.

6. Up to the 20th November the enemy had made frequent attacks, all of which were successfully repelled by Sir N. Chamberlain, and very great credit is due to the Brigadier-General and his troops for the resolution with which they held their ground.

7. As frequently happens in mountain warfare, piquets were taken and re-taken, but success invariably remained with Brigadier-General Chamberlain and his gallant force.

8. His Excellency regrets to say that the casualties were numerous; they were, in a great measure, caused by the peculiarly difficult nature of the ground above described, which favoured the bold and unexpected attacks of the mountaineers, who were enabled to collect unseen, and to remain under cover, till prepared for their sudden rushes on the defences.

9. It would also appear that tribes fought under one of the most powerful of influences, the spirit of religious fanaticism, fanned and excited to the utmost by the Akhoond of Swat.

10. Although General Chamberlain, for the reasons stated by him, acted solely on the defensive, the determined resolution with which he held his position, and repulsed all the daring attacks of the enemy; the great losses sustained by them, including some of their best leaders, and most forward fighting men, losses not easily replaced amongst inorganised combatants; the exhaustion of their resources, and the continued march of strong British reinforcements of all arms towards the scene of operations, doubtless induced the tribes to desist from their attacks between the 20th November and the 15th December, during which time there was nothing but an occasional interchange of shots between the outposts.

11. The enemy acknowledge up to the 20th November the loss of a thousand killed; but there can be little doubt that it exceeded this number, a conclusion which is justified by the number of dead actually left in front of the position, and the fact that in the obstinacy of their attacks they often remained exposed to the close and cross fire of artillery.

12. These losses produced much discouragement amongst the confederate tribes, and created a desire amongst many of them to enter into negotiations for peace with the British Commissioner, Major James.

13. These negotiations were carried on for some time, but the result proved that, although the tribes may have been willing to withdraw from the contest, they were not, with the exception, as it would appear, of the Bonairs, the most powerful of all the tribes, inclined to do so on the British terms.

14. On the 29th November, Brigadier-General Sir N. Chamberlain, with the sanction of Government, relinquished into the hands of Major-General Garvoek the command of the Eusufzye Field Force, and on the 8th December the Commander-in-Chief had the honour to report to the Government of India, from Lahore, that the negotiations of the Commissioner with the tribes had failed.

15. General Garvoek, with laudable promptitude, after having been reinforced by the 1st Battalion 7th Fusiliers, 93rd Highlanders, 23rd Punjab Pioneers, and the 3rd Sikh Infantry, took measures for acting on the offensive, but on the 10th the Chiefs of the Bonair tribe made their appearance in the British camp and sued for peace. The negotiations were again fruitless, but the Bonairwals, on account of the causes already stated, seceded, it is believed, with a few exceptions, from the hostile tribes, who had meanwhile received considerable reinforcements from Dhér and Bajour.

16. On the 15th December General Garvoek, as stated in his report, assumed the offensive, and with great vigour successfully attacked the enemy at Lalloo, about two miles and a half from the right flank of his position. This important success was gained at a trifling loss to the British force.

17. Whilst General Garvoek was attacking the enemy at Lalloo, the position at the Umbeyla Pass was assailed by a portion of the tribes, who were, however, repulsed with loss by Majors Keyes and Brownlow, commanding, respectively, the 1st Panjab Infantry and the 20th Native Infantry, two officers of whose admirable conduct throughout the operations it is impossible to speak in too high terms.

18. Umbeyla was taken without opposition and burnt on the following day; but in a subsequent successful affair under Brigadier Turner, it will be seen one British officer was killed and four wounded.

19. Sir H. Rose directs me to bring to the special notice of the Government of India Brigadier-General Sir N. Chamberlain, K.C.B., and Major General Garvoek, who have, respectively, commanded the Eusufzye Field Force, and to recommend that they may receive a suitable reward for the very important services which they have rendered to the State.

20. His Excellency likewise desires me to bring under the notice of Government, the very good service performed by Brigadiers Turner and Wilde, commanding, respectively, the 1st and 2nd Brigades. The latter officer served throughout the whole of the operations, and, after General Chamberlain was wounded, temporarily exercised the command of the force, during which time he earned the Commander-in-Chief's especial approbation.

21. The Commander-in-Chief entirely concurs in the encomiums bestowed by Generals Chamberlain and Garvoek, on the officers and men of the Field Force at large, for the excellent spirit they displayed from first to last.

22. The duties devolving on the piquets were often prolonged and hard, but the troops, British as well as Native, performed them with a cheerful-