

situated. Lieutenant Jenkins performed this duty most ably, and drove back the enemy by charging them with his men and the 1st Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant Davidson when they attempted to gain a footing on the top of the ridge. It was eventually to this part of the field that Major Harding's party secured their retreat.

5. One hour only of the day remained when the reinforcements from camp reached me, and it became necessary to endeavour to cover the late Major Harding's retreat by the shortest route. I therefore directed Captain Chester, commanding the 4th Goorkha Regiment, to proceed in the direction of the beleaguered piquet across the lower spurs; this was done, as far as the nature of the country and the light permitted, and Captain Chester's movements aided the retirement,—some of his men even reaching the spur upon which Major Harding was fighting.

The guns of the Mountain Train, protected by the 5th Goorkhas took up a position on one of the lower spurs, and checked the advance of the enemy on the piquet, also covering Captain Chester's advance to its assistance.

6. About sunset Major Harding commenced to retire up the ridge towards his supports, and the whole force gradually returned to camp. Major Harding was, I regret to say, wounded in the retirement, and was eventually lost in the darkness as his piquet fought its way up the ridge. He was the last man to leave the piquet, and his bearing throughout the day was that of a brave and gallant soldier.

7. Early on the morning of the 7th I had the honour to receive instruction from the Brigadier-General commanding the Eusufzye Field Force to move out with the troops as per margin*, to recover the bodies of Major Harding and Lieutenant Murray, who had been killed, as well as of the men who had fallen in action the evening before.

Small parties of the enemy appeared on the ground where the late Major Harding's piquet had been situated; these were quickly dispersed and driven into the plains, and having collected seven Europeans and twenty-eight Natives who had fallen, I returned to camp without any casualty.

8. The enemy, I believe, must have suffered severely the day before, as they were seen by this column removing many of their slain, and they showed no inclination to meet the troops.

From Major C. H. Brownlow, Commanding Advance Piquets Right Defence, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wilde, C.B., Commanding Right Defence,—(dated Umbeyla Pass, the 8th November, 1863).

I HAVE the honour to report that, in obedience to the instructions received from you, for the pro-

* Her Majesty's 101st Foot; Corps of Guides; 4th Goorkha Battalion; 32nd Bengal Native Infantry; Muzbees Peshawur Mountain Train.

tection of the working parties below this piquet, on the 6th instant, I detached one hundred men of the 20th Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant J. Bartleman to cover their immediate front, and posted a similar number of the 1st Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant W. Unwin on the head of the ridge beyond the one at the foot of which the fatigue party was working, with instructions to Lieutenant Unwin to send patrols down the ridge as far as he could with reference to their safety. My orders to Lieutenant Bartleman were, to keep two or three hundred yards in front of the working parties, and to communicate with Colonel Taylor, C.B. (who I understood would be with them), in case of doubt.

About eleven o'clock I perceived from my post, that Lieutenant Bartleman's party had been pushed forward to a spot low down the ridge, the top of which was in possession of Lieutenant Unwin's party. Between one and two P.M. I saw that a company of the 71st Highland Light Infantry and one of Goorkhas had reinforced the covering party on the ridge, and learnt that the late Major Harding was in command of the whole.

I had already sent Captain Rogers with 50 men, 20th Punjab Infantry, and 50 men, 1st Punjab Infantry, by the road above my piquet and down the ridge above alluded to. These men were to relieve a similar number of their respective corps, or to remain, if necessary, as a reinforcement.

About half-past twelve in the day, hearing that Major Harding was anxious lest the enemy should get above him, and wished the party of the 1st Punjab Infantry strengthened, I sent a company of the Guides under Lieutenant Battye to join Lieutenant Unwin; and at two P.M., observing the enemy moving in considerable numbers, I sent a further reinforcement to that point of two companies of the Guides under Captain Jenkins, and 80 men of the 1st Punjab Infantry under Captain Davidson, being all the men I had at my disposal.

Your instructions for the working parties to be withdrawn, and the covering parties to retire up the hill, reached me about half-past twelve at noon. I forwarded your letter at once to Major Harding, and it reached that officer while he was with the detachment of the 1st Punjab Infantry on the top of the hill, as stated by Lieutenant Unwin in his report. This must have been about one o'clock at latest.

On your arrival at the piquet I proceeded, according to your orders, with the Mountain Train Battery of Captain Hughes, and a company of the 5th Goorkhas, to assist in bringing off the covering party, with what result you are yourself aware.

I beg to enclose the reports of Captain Rogers and Lieutenants Bartleman and Unwin.