

mand, as soon as the change of position was completed, to drive the enemy from what has since been known as the "Water Ridge." This was very quickly effected by an advance and charge of the 1st and 6th Punjab Infantry, with the loss on our side of three men wounded, and some of the enemy killed. The troops were then placed in position to protect the 5th Punjab Infantry and 32nd Pioneer Regiment, which were employed as a working party under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, C.B., Chief Engineer, in stockading a piquet to command the water. The troops were withdrawn to camp in the evening, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Vaughan, 5th Punjab Infantry, the new work having been completed and occupied. I may here mention by anticipation that the position of the piquet having been found to be more advanced than was necessary, it was abandoned on the following day, the 19th, and a new position chosen and stockaded about three hundred yards to the rear.

4. On discovering the camp and piquets on the Gurroo to have been vacated by the troops, the enemy seem to have supposed that the force was in retreat, and with this idea, came into the gorge in great numbers, both from Umbeyla and from the Gurroo, and thence, about eleven A.M., commenced an attack upon what had now become the left front of our position. Our defences at the point principally attacked, consisted of some small breastworks, thrown up on the side of the hill to cover the piquets, connecting what have been called in my previous reports, the "Advanced Right Piquets," with the camp in the gorge below. It was not my intention to hold these breastworks permanently, after the camp had been removed from the gorge; but it was necessary to hold them during the day of the 18th to prevent the enemy from pressing upon the camp and firing into it before the troops were thoroughly established on their new position. These breastworks were held, on the morning of the 18th, by 130 men of the 14th Native Infantry, who, being greatly outnumbered by the enemy, were in the first instance compelled to give way, but being reinforced by the troops, as per margin,* re-took the post, and drove back the enemy. The enemy, however, having gained a large accession of numbers, re-attacked the piquets, when it became necessary for the two lowest down on the hill to fall back on the third, which was nearer the camp breastworks. I regret to say that our loss on this occasion was very considerable, including the following officers:—

Captain C. F. Smith, of the 71st Highland Light Infantry, an Officer of long and good service; Lieutenant H. H. Chapman, Adjutant of the 101st Regiment, who had been sent by his Commanding Officer to convey an order, and who, feeling that his own wound was mortal, begged of his men to leave him, and to assist Captain Smith to the rear instead. His regiment has lost in Lieutenant Chapman an admirable Adjutant, and the service a most promising officer; Lieutenant T. S. G. Jones, of the 79th Highlanders, who, on officers being called for for the Force, had joined the 71st Light Infantry as a volunteer; and Lieutenant W. F. Mosley, of the 14th Native Infantry, who was shot when the lower piquets were forced to retire. The conduct of C. C. G. Ross, Commandant of the 14th Native Infantry, on this occasion merited my approval, and I again beg to recommend him to his Excellency's notice, having

* Two Companies 71st Highland Light Infantry, under Major Parker; one Company 101st Bengal Fusiliers, under Lieutenant Chapman; one Company 5th Punjab Infantry, under Lieutenant Fox; three Companies 5th Goorkha Regiment, under Captain Close.

already done so for his conduct at the Crag piquet on the 13th instant.

5. I may here mention, by anticipation, that the bodies of those killed on this occasion, and which could not be brought in at the time, were recovered on the morning of the 21st instant, by a force employed for that purpose under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Vaughan, of the 5th Punjab Infantry, when twelve of the enemy were killed.

6. The piquet upon which the lower piquets had retired was withdrawn after dark on the 18th agreeably to my previous intention. On its withdrawal the enemy pressed on, and some few of them endeavoured to annoy the camp until at a late hour of the night, but without making any serious attack.

7. Throughout the 19th the enemy kept up a fire upon the Crag and Water Piquets. I regret to say that Captain R. B. Aldridge, 71st Highland Light Infantry, was killed at the latter, and Ensign C. M. Stockley, 101st Regiment, severely wounded at the former piquet.

8. About nine A.M. on the 20th, the enemy began to collect in great numbers near the Crag and Water Piquets, the Crag being, as before, the point principally threatened. They were, however checked in some degree by the fire of the Peshawur Mountain Train Guns, Captain Hughes, from previous experience and his acquaintance with the ground, knowing exactly on what points to bring his fire with most effect, even though the enemy were not visible from the battery. The Crag and Water Piquets also mutually supported one another by their cross fire at 450 yards. The detachment by which each of these posts was held is shown in the margin.*

9. Up to a late period of the afternoon the enemy had made no impression upon the Crag Piquet, though numerous standards had been gradually advanced under cover to within a few yards of the breastwork, but about three P.M. the unaccountable conduct of a portion of the garrison gave the enemy possession of the post. This was not, however accomplished without affording the officers and men who held the lower portion of the piquet the opportunity of distinguishing themselves by the resolute way in which they endeavoured to hold their portion of the post under very discouraging circumstances, and who only abandoned it when it was no longer tenable. These officers were Major H. G. Delafosse, of the 101st Regiment, who commanded the piquet; Captain R. G. Rogers, of the 20th Punjab Native Infantry; Ensign A. R. Sanderson, and Staff Assistant-Surgeon W. Pile, both of the 101st Regiment. The two last officers were, I regret to say, killed at the breastwork whilst endeavouring to rally their men. The above officers were well supported by some of No. 5 Company of the 101st Regiment, and by some of the 20th Native Infantry.

10. On the fall of the Crag Piquet coming to my notice, I immediately ordered the 71st Highland Light Infantry and the 5th Goorkha Regiment to be got under arms and proceed to the upper Camp; and at the same time directed Captain Griffin's half Battery, and the two 24-pounder howitzers of No. 3 Punjab Light Field Battery under Captain T. H. Salt, to open fire upon the Crag, which they did in so efficient a manner as (joined to the fire of Captain Hughes' Mountain Train Guns) effectually prevented the enemy from attempting to occupy it in anything like large numbers. On the 71st and Goorkha Regiment reaching the upper defences, I ordered Colonel

* Crag Piquet.—100 of the 101st Regiment; 100 of the 20th Punjab Native Infantry.

Water Piquet.—100 of the 71st Highland Light Infantry; 100 of the 3rd Punjab Infantry.