

boot spur. This duty was most ably and resolutely performed by Lieutenant Lockhart, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General attached to the brigade, who at much personal risk reconnoitered for some distance beyond the village of Belian up the spur, and brought me most important information. The road was prepared, when the moon rose, by Lieutenant Rowcroft, R.E., and a party of the Sappers and Miners, whose exertions were very creditable.

5. At 2 A.M. on the morning of the 4th instant, I received orders from the Major-General Commanding, countermanding the orders for the advance of the brigade by the Sumbulboot spur to the crest of the mountain, and directing it to proceed at once to join him at Koongullee, in view to act in support of No. 1 Brigade. The two leading regiments and Peshawur Mountain Battery accordingly reached Koongullee at day-light, and were immediately advanced to Munna-ka-Dunna, where the whole brigade was collected by 2 P.M. On the subsequent advance of No. 1 Brigade from Munna-ka-Dunna to the Chittabut Peak, the Peshawur Mountain Battery was temporarily attached to it, and withdrawn from my command; the 2nd Goorkha Regiment and 3rd Sikh were pushed forward about a mile to a position afterwards known as the "Knolls," in view to keep open the communication between Chittabut and Munna-ka-Dunna, and the remainder of the brigade with Brigade Head-Quarters was established at Munna-ka-Dunna.

6. On the 5th, the 2nd Goorkhas was advanced to the Chittabut Peak to keep open the communications with the 1st Brigade which had occupied the Muchaie Peak and plateau, and the regiment continued to occupy this important post on the crest of the mountain until the troops were finally withdrawn.

7. On the morning of the 7th of October, Brigade Head-Quarters with 2-24th Royal Artillery (Mortar Battery), and the 1-6th Royal Regiment were advanced from Munna-ka-Dunna to the Doda Peak—an intermediate peak between those of Chittabut and Muchaie. The disposition of the brigade was there as follows:—

At Doda Peak, Brigade Head-Quarters
2-24th Royal Artillery, and 1-6th Royal
Regiments.

At Chittabut, 2nd Goorkha Regiment.

At the Knolls, 3rd Sikh Infantry.

At the Munna-ka-Dunna, 4th Goorkha
Regiment.

At Munna-ka-Dunna, 24th Regiment,
Punjab Infantry.

8. On the evening of the 8th instant, I received orders to reinforce temporarily the troops of the 1st Brigade at Muchaie plateau with two Companies of the 1-6th Royal Regiment, and to call up the 24th Punjab Infantry from Munna-ka-Dunna to the plateau the following morning. No further change was made in the disposition of the brigade until the 12th instant, when the withdrawal of the force from the crest of the mountain commenced.

9. The arrangements for the withdrawal as far as regarded No. 2 Brigade, were as follows, and were made under my personal superintendence:—The 1-6th Royal Regiment covered the retirement of the whole force from Doda to the Chittabut Peak, where the duty was taken up by the Peshawur Mountain Battery and 2nd Goorkha Regiment, as far as the Knolls, which continued to be held by the 3rd Sikhs. Nothing could have been steadier or more satisfactory than the way in which the

retirement was effected throughout. A few shots were fired at the rear of the 2nd Goorkha Regiment just before reaching the Knolls, but a small party of the regiment, under Lieutenant Battye, effectually covered the retirement and prevented further annoyance. Late in the afternoon, the 3rd Sikhs were withdrawn from the Knolls, and the whole force (No. 2 Brigade) was then concentrated on the head of the Biluncote spur at the position of Munna-ka-Dunna.

10. On the 14th instant a flying column from the brigade, composed as follows, was detailed for the duty of punishing the Puraree villages on the spur of the Black Mountain of that name, viz.:—

Peshawur Mountain Battery.

1-6th Royal Regiment.

3rd Sikh Infantry.

4th Goorkha Regiment.

The column marched at 6 A.M. for the village of Biluncote, about one mile from the camp at Munna-ka-Dunna, and on arrival the following arrangements were made:—the advance was composed of the 4th Goorkha Regiment and Peshawur Mountain Battery, supported by two Companies of the 1-6th Royal Regiment, and the 3rd Sikh Infantry. The remainder of the 1-6th Royal Regiment was left in position below Biluncote, together with the Hazara Mountain Battery (which was placed under my orders for the day); in view to cover the advanced troops during the descent into the deep intervening ravine, and the ascent of the steep face of the opposite (Puraree) spur as well as their eventual withdrawal over the same ground when the object in view should have been effected. The crest of the Puraree spur was gained without opposition after a very laborious ascent, and, at the request of Captain Ommaney, the Deputy Commissioner of Hazara, who accompanied the force as Political Officer, I then placed the two howitzers of the Peshawur Mountain Battery in a position to cover and command the Puraree village of Gurhee and adjoining hamlets, whilst the Police and Levies should burn them, the main body of the troops in the meantime holding the crest of the spur. The burning of the village was effected with very slight opposition, and the proceedings of Captain Ommaney were completely protected by the howitzers, and by the intelligent co-operation of Captain Chambers, 3rd Sikh Infantry, with two Companies of that regiment. When all that Captain Ommaney desired had been effected, the troops were leisurely withdrawn to the camp at Chermung by the ravine which divides the Puraree and Biluncote spurs from the great Gidghoree spur of the Black Mountain. A few men watched the march of the column from the summit of the Gidghoree spur, but the movement was completely covered by the able disposition of a Company of the 1-6th Royal Regiment detached by my orders from the reserve at Biluncote under Captain C. Wilson of that regiment, and the enemy did not attempt to oppose us. This completes the record of the proceedings of No. 2 Brigade up to the 14th instant.

11. Although the 2nd Brigade has from circumstances been little engaged with the enemy, I feel sure that the arduous duties it performed between the 3rd and 14th instant will not be overlooked by the Major-General Commanding. The best spirit has animated all ranks, whether European or Native. The troops have borne the coldness of the nights, and the severe piquet and other duties not merely with patience, but with the utmost cheerfulness. The only impatience they have displayed has been to engage the enemy.