

was the intention of the Affghan Government that their troops should remain here for the winter, and that they fully expected to be able to maintain their position against the British forces. Their defeat and expulsion by a force of inferior strength from a position of their own choosing and of unusual natural advantages, may, I presume, be expected to have a very beneficial effect upon the population of the Hariab, Kurum, and Khost valleys. It is at all events quite certain that had the Affghan troops succeeded in holding their position on the Peiwar Kotal, we should never have been regarded as having full possession of the Kurnm valley.

41. The enemy's strength on the Peiwar Kotal position, on the 2nd December, has been ascertained to be nearly as follows:—About 3,500 infantry, including three regiments which arrived from Kushi on the afternoon of the 1st December; 18 guns; and a large number of Jagis, Ghilzais, and other tribes whose exact strength cannot of course be ascertained. There was also a mule battery of six guns, which was coming up to reinforce, but did not get further than Ali Kheyl. A battery of Horse Artillery and a regiment of infantry had been left on the Shutar Gardan, having been unable to cross that pass; a regiment of cavalry was at Kushi. The total strength of the British force employed was as follows:—

Turning force, under my command	43 officers..	2,220 men
Co-operating column, under Brigadier General Cobbe	30	838 ..
Total..	73 ..	3,058 ..

42. I may be permitted to point out that no similarity exists between the Affghan army of the former war and that which has now been put into the field. The men are now armed with excellent rifles, and provided with abundance of ammunition, bundles of cartridges having been found placed behind trees, &c., in positions intended to be held. Their shooting is good; their men are of large stature and great physical strength and courage, and are well clothed. The Affghan artillery is also well served and efficiently equipped.

43. I enclose a list of casualties, which I deeply regret should be so heavy. Of Captain Kelso I have already written; the other officer killed, Major Anderson of the 23rd Pioneers, fell at the head of his men whilst gallantly charging up the hillside to attack the enemy. The death of these officers is mourned by the whole force, for both were well known as brave and excellent soldiers. The loss of the enemy cannot be estimated with any accuracy, but it is believed to have been large. About 70 dead were counted in the Spin Gawai breast-works, and many more must have been killed in the subsequent fighting, which for the most part took place over thickly wooded hill sides. The inhabitants of the country believe the loss of the Affghans to have been heavy.

44. I enclose a list of the ordnance captured, which has been prepared by the Commissary of Ordnance attached to this column.

45. It now only remains for me to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and of the Government of India, the excellent services which have been rendered since the formation of the column by the departmental and staff officers attached to this force.

Brigadier-General Cobbe, of whose services I have unfortunately been temporarily deprived has invariably carried out to my satisfaction the orders he has received.

Brigadier-General Thelwall, C.B., has conducted the command of the 2nd Brigade with energy and judgment.

Colonel Drew, 8th Foot, who assumed command of the left column on Brigadier Cobbe being wounded, conducted the attack on the Kotal with spirit, and my acknowledgments are due to him.

Major Galbraith, Assistant Adjutant-General, is most indefatigable in the discharge of his duties. On the 2nd December Major Galbraith was most forward, and proved himself a cool and gallant soldier.

Major Collett, Assistant Quartermaster-General, is all that could be wished for in a staff officer. It is a great pleasure to me to have this opportunity of acknowledging the able assistance I have received from Major Collett on many occasions.

Lieut.-Colonel Lindsay, Commanding the Royal Artillery, has endeavoured in every way to secure the efficiency of the important arm under his special charge. He much distinguished himself on the 2nd December by selecting good positions for the guns.

I am under great obligations to Lieutenant-Colonel Perkins, R.E., Commanding Royal Engineer, for the advice and assistance which he has rendered to me. His services were specially valuable during the operations in front of the Peiwar Kotal, viz., from the 28th November to the 2nd instant. He conducted reconnaissances with great energy and intelligence, and was most forward during the attack. He has been zealously assisted by Lieutenant Spratt, R.E.

I requested Colonel Hugh Gough, C.B. and V.C., Commandant of Cavalry, to remain with Brigadier-General Cobbe on the 2nd December, as the only possibility of the cavalry being employed was after a direct attack on the Kotal. Brigadier-General Cobbe has expressed to me his great satisfaction with Colonel Gough, and I am glad to have an opportunity of commending this distinguished officer to notice.

Dr. Allen, C.B., Deputy Surgeon-General, has bestowed great attention on the arrangements for the proper care and treatment of our sick and wounded. His exertions have been successful, and I am much indebted to him for the efficient condition in which the hospitals have been maintained.

The duties of Captain Badcock, Principal Commissariat Officer, have been unusually onerous. The bad roads and the almost entire absence of local resources have rendered the task of keeping the troops adequately supplied of great difficulty, but this has been satisfactorily accomplished, and great credit is due to Captain Badcock and his assistants for the results obtained.

Captain Woodthorpe, R.E., in charge of the Survey Department, has not only performed the duties required of him by the Surveyor-General, but has been most useful to me in reconnoitring, and I am glad to acknowledge the valuable services always willingly rendered by him. He was attached to my staff during the operations of 2nd December.

The Revd. J. W. Adams has performed the duties as Chaplain to the field force with self-denying zeal, to the great benefit and comfort of the soldiers. He was also kind enough to volunteer to act as orderly officer to me on the 2nd December, and was most useful in carrying messages, on several occasions under a heavy fire.

Captain Wynne has been in charge of the army signalling since the commencement of the operations, and has invariably established communications wherever it has been possible. Captain Wynne is most zealous in the discharge of his