

above the stream. All these guns could play on any force advancing from Jamrud.

11. Immediately opposite the fort, across the stream, three guns were on a cliff, but they commanded only the straight course of the stream for about 1,200 yards from Ali Musjid to the easterly bend of the stream. From this point a sort of covered way and entrenchments were continued along the face of a very precipitous cliff under the Rotas Mountain, and extended some 600 yards, completing the defences on the enemy's left; and two mountain guns were in position on commanding points along this precipitous face.

12. Above this portion of the line, and on the highest points of the spurs from the Rotas Mountain, the irregular troops were posted, and remained looking down on us. To keep them in check, detachments from the 51st and 81st Foot occupied intervening ridges; until the appearance of the 1st and 2nd Brigades in the distance during the afternoon compelled them to move. Some of these troops, as already mentioned in paragraph 3, were captured by a detachment of the 20th Punjab Native Infantry.

13. The enemy's works, on the whole, were of a most formidable character.

14. The strength of the enemy was, as has been reliably ascertained, as follows:—

Cavalry, 200 men.

Artillery, 4 batteries, 24 guns.

Infantry, 6 regiments, 3,000 men (armed with Enfield rifles).

Khasadar (levies) 600 men.

The numbers here given correspond exactly to the strength reported to Major Cavagnari.

15. The casualty roll was transmitted with my previous despatch.

I do not pretend to estimate the loss of the enemy. The killed and wounded were scattered in various parts of the defences.

16. My subsequent proceedings and my arrival at Dakka with the 10th Hussars, the Guides Cavalry, and the 14th Sikhs have already been reported. Here I was subsequently joined by the 1st and 2nd Brigades, and by I.C., Royal Horse Artillery.

17. The officers on the Divisional Staff to whom I am under great obligations, and whose names I beg to bring to His Excellency's notice, are—

Major G. W. Smith, 85th Foot, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Major G. E. L. S. Sanford, R.E., Assistant Quartermaster-General.

18. My acknowledgments are also due to the undermentioned officers, whose names I desire to submit to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—
Brigadier-General F. E. Appleyard, C.B., commanding the 3rd Infantry Brigade.

Colonel W. J. Williams, C.B., R.A., commanding the Royal Artillery.

Colonel (now Major-General) F. R. Maunsell, C.B., R.E., commanding Royal Engineers.

Deputy Surgeon-General J. Gibbons, A.M.D., Principal Medical Officer.

19. I must bear record to the exertions of Lieutenant-Colonel J. V. Hunt and the officers of the Commissariat Department, who worked most zealously when called upon at short notice and under especial difficulty, as the demands for the Kuram Force rendered it no easy task to meet the calls for the Peshawar Column.

20. I would again reiterate and bring to the notice of His Excellency the cheerful good conduct and the cool and steady behaviour of both officers and men, which left nothing to be desired. No troops could have been steadier or more anxious to come to close quarters with the enemy,

nor could any have borne more cheerfully the discomforts incidental to roughing it in these hills, although suffering from want of water and other privations.

21. In conclusion, I would add that this final report has been delayed owing to the papers received from Commanding Officers having been mis-sent, and only received again since my arrival in Jellalabad.

22. A return of the ordnance captured has been already submitted.

PEIWAR KOTAL, 2nd December, 1878.

No. 295, dated Camp, Matua, 24th January, 1879. From Major-General F. S. Roberts, C.B., V.C., Commanding the Kuram Column, to the Quartermaster General in India.

WITH reference to the correspondence forwarded with your No. 107 F.C. of the 13th January, 1879, I have the honour to submit, in continuation of my despatch, dated the 5th December, 1878, the following supplementary account of the operations which led to the capture of the Peiwar Kotal.

2. In paragraph 18 of my previous despatch I reported that the following troops, under Brigadier-General A. H. Cobbe, were left in camp on the night of the 1st December, when the turning force under my personal command marched for the Spin Gawai Kotal, viz:—

2 Guns, F-A, Royal Horse Artillery.

3 Guns, G-3rd, Royal Artillery.

12th Bengal Cavalry.

2-8th Foot (Wing).

5th Punjab Infantry.

3. The guns, under escort of a company of the 8th Foot, were placed in position about 1,700 yards from the Peiwar Kotal shortly before day-break, and they opened on the enemy's artillery about a quarter-past six o'clock.

4. The infantry were at the same time extended under cover, and slightly in advance of the guns.

5. At 8 a.m. two companies of the 8th Regiment were pushed forward to within 1,300 yards of the enemy's line of defence.

6. At about eleven o'clock the two Afghan guns which were placed to our left of the pass were silenced.

The infantry simultaneously advanced from ridge to ridge, and by noon had approached to within 1,400 yards of the top of the pass.

7. At this time Brigadier-General Cobbe was severely wounded, and the command of the troops devolved on Colonel F. Barry Drew of the 8th Regiment.

8. The 5th Punjab Infantry, who were on the right of the attack, and who had succeeded in gaining a position close under the main ridge, now established communication with and joined the column which had come over the Spin Gawai Kotal.

9. Shortly after one o'clock the remaining infantry, which consisted of five companies of the 8th Regiment, gained a crest from which they were able to open fire at a distance of 800 yards upon the enemy's guns at the Kotal.

10. About 2 p.m. the enemy's defence appeared to be so much shaken that Colonel Drew resolved to deliver his attack. As his infantry were crossing the broken ground to gain the road which led up to the Kotal, they were subjected to a dropping fire; but once on the road all opposition ceased, and shortly before half-past two the troops entered the Afghan position without suffering further loss.

11. The 12th Bengal Cavalry, under Colonel Hugh Gough, C.B., V.C., were immediately sent