

bered over 1,000, while the number of those on the hill itself could not be ascertained.

The enemy advanced steadily in this formation, firing.

I instructed Major Chapman, 8th Bengal Cavalry, to advance with his squadron, so as to protect my left flank, which he did most effectually, and relieved me of all anxiety in that direction.

A party of the 1st Punjab Infantry under Major A. Vallings then moved forward in skirmishing order on the ridges, and the two guns of the Jacobabad Battery were brought into action.

After two or three rounds the enemy were seen to halt, and some of them made their way up the hills on my right. I therefore sent Major Higginson and Captain L. R. H. D. Campbell, with about two companies of the 1st Punjab Infantry, to endeavour to clear the heights. The heights were extremely difficult, but they took their men up in the most gallant manner, and in the face of a determined resistance gained the summit and drove the enemy before them, inflicting very heavy loss.

The descent was so precipitous on the further side of the hill that a great number of the enemy were unable to get away, and were shot or captured in the attempt.

Meanwhile Major Vallings had advanced along our left, driving the enemy before him, and rounding the west end of the hill, took up a position on the further side, facing the hill over which the enemy were attempting to escape.

One gun of the Jacobabad Mountain Battery was detached to accompany Major Chapman, 8th Bengal Cavalry, and the firing from this gun was seen to do great execution.

The other gun, under Captain Wace, moved along the ridges, coming into action whenever opportunity offered, and making very good firing.

After a little, Major Vallings advanced up the gorge, where a number of men were concealed in caves and behind rocks, and drove them from their position.

The two forces, under Major Higginson and Major Vallings, having thus practically touched, although divided by a precipice, and the enemy being utterly routed, further pursuit was stopped, and the force was ordered to return to camp, which was reached about 6 p.m.

The majority of the enemy were men from Zhob and Bori, under Malik Shah Jehan.

Owing to the smallness of our numbers, I felt it to be absolutely necessary to take the initiative before the plans of the enemy were more fully developed, and the very spirited manner in which the troops advanced to the attack and so signally defeated the enemy is worthy of all praise.

Owing to the small body of British officers with the column, it follows that all were prominently engaged, and I am deeply indebted to them all.

To Captain R. Wace and Lieutenant R. W. P. Robertson for the admirable manner in which their guns were worked; to Major H. Chapman, 8th Bengal Cavalry, for the very excellent way he handled his cavalry and protected our left flank; to Majors T. Higginson and A. Vallings, 1st Punjab Infantry, who led the men under their command over most difficult ground; and to Captain L. R. H. D. Campbell, 1st Punjab Infantry, for the ready assistance he rendered to Major Higginson in crowning the heights, my best thanks are due.

To Major G. U. Prior, 100th Regiment, who was left in command of the troops in camp, and

whose disposition of them relieved me of the anxiety which I felt for its safety on account of a reported enemy from the eastern end of the valley, my thanks are due; also to Captain C. A. de N. Lucas, 2nd Sind Horse, and Lieutenant R. A. C. King, Peshawar Mountain Battery, who acted with him. To Captain E. F. Showers, 1st Punjab Infantry, Transport Officer, and Lieutenant H. L. Wells, R.E., I am much indebted for the willing manner in which they placed their services at my disposal and the assistance they rendered.

To Lieutenant T. C. Pears, 1st Punjab Infantry, who has been doing the duties of Staff Officer to the column, I offer my cordial thanks for his very willing assistance on this occasion. He is an officer ever ready for work.

I regret to say that our loss in this engagement was 2 sepoys of the 1st Punjab Infantry, killed; 1 havildar and 4 sepoys of the 1st Punjab Infantry, wounded; and 1 horse (Major Chapman's, 8th Bengal Cavalry) wounded by a sword cut. The loss of the enemy is estimated at 150 killed; number of wounded unknown. 22 prisoners have been taken, 5 of whom are wounded. A number of arms, consisting of matchlocks and tulwars, are in our possession.

Major Sandeman, C.S.I., Governor-General's Agent for Biluchistan, accompanied me during the time the engagement lasted, and I am much indebted to him for his valuable counsel.

A nominal roll of the killed and wounded, and also a sketch of the ground, is attached, and reports by Major Prior, Assistant Quartermaster-General, and Captain Wace, Royal Artillery.

Yesterday morning (26th March) I sent out a reconnoitring party under the command of Major Higginson, 1st Punjab Infantry, over the scene of the engagement, to see if any armed parties were in the neighbourhood.

No parties of the enemy were seen; 103 dead bodies were found on the ground; and information was given by wounded men that during the whole night the dead and wounded were being carried off.

Since the above report was written, positive information has been received as to the numbers of the enemy. Several of the maliks who were engaged in the attack have since tendered their submission to the Governor-General's Agent. These men state that their force numbered 3,000 men.

*Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Action of Baghao, on the 24th March, 1879.*

8th Bengal Cavalry (1 squadron)—1 horse, wounded.\*

1st Punjab Infantry—2 rank and file, killed; 1 havildar, 4 rank and file, wounded. Total 7.

Total—2 rank and file, killed; 1 havildar, 4 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded. Total 7.

Grand total—2 men, killed; 5 men; 1 horse, wounded. Total 7.

SYUD-BOOT, 27th March, 1879.

No. 231 K., dated 5th April, 1879.

From Lieutenant-General D. M. Stewart, C.B., Commanding the Kandahar Field Force, to Quartermaster-General in India.

I have the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the detachment marginally detailed,† came

\* Major Chapman's.

† Major F. T. Humfrey, 30th Bombay Native Infantry, commanding; 1 native officer and 30 sabres, 1st Punjab Cavalry; native officers and 176 rank and file, 30th Bombay Native Infantry.