

into collision with a body of Barechi Afghans at Synd-Boot, in Shorawak, on the 27th ultimo.

2. The detachment was at the time marching from Khelat to Peshin as escort to Dr. O. T. Duke, Assistant Agent Governor-General.

3. The Barechis are said to have numbered 3,000, and were attacked in a position they had occupied upon some sand-hills; 90 of their number were killed and several were wounded, while seven men of the escort were wounded, none dangerously.

4. Dr. Duke's march by Nushki through Shorawak was undertaken with the object of obtaining information regarding the borders of Peshin and Shorawak.

5. I have the honour to enclose the report of the affair received from Major Humfrey, who commanded the escort.

No. 40, dated 28th March, 1879.

From Major F. T. Humfrey, Commanding detachment, 30th Native Infantry (Jacob's Rifles), and Escort, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Quetta Field Force.

I have the honour to report, for the information of Lieutenant-General Stewart, C.B., commanding the troops in Southern Afghanistan, that an engagement took place yesterday between 1,600 Barechi Pathans and a portion of the escort under my command, strength as per margin,* which, after a fight of about five hours, resulted in the most complete defeat of the enemy and the capture of a great portion of their baggage.

I am happy to be able to report that on our side not a single life was lost, and only seven men wounded, none of them dangerously.

The enemy suffered severely, and acknowledged that 90 of them were killed; the number of wounded (which must have been very great) I have been unable to ascertain, as they scattered in all directions and returned to their homes after the action.

I beg to bring to the notice of the Lieutenant-General the conduct of Mr. O. T. Duke, who acted under my orders as a volunteer, and who conducted the front attack, while I turned the right flank of the enemy and drove them off the sand-hills, on which they had taken up a very strong position. Mr. Duke also gallantly led the cavalry charge, killing and wounding many, and rendered me every possible assistance and help in his power.

The conduct of the 1st Punjab Cavalry and the native officers and men of the 30th Native Infantry, or Jacob's Rifles, is beyond all praise when opposed to such tremendous odds.

The following officers greatly distinguished themselves:—

Ressaldar Mir Alam Khan, 1st Punjab Cavalry; Subadar Hyder Khan and Jemadar Krishnajeet Bajway, 30th Bombay Native Infantry, or Jacob's Rifles.

Subadar Mahomed Khan, 30th Native Infantry, had the great responsibility of protecting the camp, and his arrangements were excellent.

The following is a short account of the engagement:—

At about 7.30 or 8 a.m. a Biluch sowar galloped into camp, and reported that 3,000 Barechi Pathans were rapidly advancing towards the camp, and that they intended attacking it from three different directions at the same time. I

* 32 sabres, 1st Punjab Cavalry; 40 files, 30th Bombay Native Infantry, or Jacob's Rifles; about 30 Biluch Sowars.

immediately ordered out the cavalry to reconnoitre under command of Ressaldar Mir Alam Khan, Mr. Duke accompanying them. At about four miles from camp the enemy were first seen, coming along under the protection of the sand-hills. Observing the cavalry and seeing that we were prepared for them, seems to have altered their plan of attacking us on three sides at once, so they came on, as reported to me by Mr. Duke, in one body, and he with the cavalry, prudently retiring, endeavoured to entice them out on the plain; he drew them on till they arrived at the nearest sand-hills to the camp.

At 9 o'clock a.m. I received a note from him, asking me to send out 20 or 30 men of the Rifles, and stating he was bringing them on.

I immediately selected 80 of the best shots in the detachment; 20 files immediately went out under command of Subadar Hyder Khan; and I followed up with a support of 20 files, leaving 50 files to guard the camp, under Subadar Mahomed Khan. As soon as Subadar Hyder Khan had extended his company and opened fire, they retired to the shelter of the sand-hills, which I should think are about 50 or 60 feet high, and took up a very strong position. I quickly perceived that the only way I could drive them off the hills was by attacking them from two directions, so I ordered Subadar Hyder Khan to advance and make the front attack, while I moved to the left, in skirmishing order, under a heavy fire, but fortunately for us only two men were slightly wounded. The Shaghassi Goolam Jan accompanied me, and having a knowledge how the sand-hills lie and are affected by the wind, led me under cover.

I immediately ascended the sand-hills, and on arriving at the top of them the enemy came in sight, the greater portion of them about 300 or 350 yards distant, many nearer, who were immediately shot down. We opened a heavy fire on the mass, killing and wounding many; they at once perceived they were attacked on their front and right, and that the cavalry were on their left, so beat a retreat, fighting bravely, and carrying away their wounded and killed. The cavalry charged over a spur of a sand-hill, led by Mr. O. T. Duke, and, getting right in amongst them, committed great execution.

Having driven them from the sand-hills and captured their baggage, I thought it prudent to sound the halt and return to camp. The fight lasted from about 8.30 a.m. till 2 p.m.

P.S.—Since writing this report all the sirdars and maliks have come in and surrendered unconditionally.

FUTTEHABAD, 2nd April, 1879.

No. 1428 A, dated Simla, 15th April, 1879.

From Colonel C. C. Johnson, C.B., Officiating Quartermaster-General in India, to Colonel H. K. Burne, C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

Under instructions from the Commander-in-Chief in India, the accompanying report of the successful action at Futtehabad on the 2nd April, 1879, under Brigadier General C. J. S. Gough, C.B., V.C., is submitted for the information of the Government of India.

2. His Excellency desires to bring prominently to the notice of Government the gallant conduct of the troops on the occasion, and their skilful handling by Brigadier-General Gough, which resulted in the defeat of the enemy and the infliction of a severe lesson.

3. In the death of Major Wigram Battye the service has sustained a severe loss, and the