

Government of India the services of a most distinguished and gallant soldier.

4. The loss of so gallant a soldier as Lieutenant Wiseman of the 17th Foot is also to be deplored.

No. 1015, dated Camp, Jellalabad, 5th April, 1879.

From Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Browne, K.C.S.I., C.B., V.C., Commanding 1st Division, Peshawar Valley Field Force, to the Quartermaster-General of the Army in India.

I have the honour to forward herewith a report from Brigadier-General C. J. S. Gough, C.B., V.C., commanding the Cavalry Brigade, 1st Division, of the action at Futtehabad on the 2nd instant.

2. The affair was a most brilliant one, and reflects the highest credit on all engaged. The enemy received a severe lesson, and his loss, from information subsequently obtained, appears to have been greater than that stated by Brigadier-General Gough.

3. I feel assured His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will appreciate the gallant conduct of the troops and the excellent arrangement and skill displayed by Brigadier-General Gough.

4. I regret the severe loss the service has sustained in the death of Major W. Battye, Corps of Guides, Lieutenant Wiseman, 17th Regiment, and of Ressaidar Mahmoud Khan, Corps of Guides Cavalry, and the non-commissioned officers and men, all of whom conducted themselves so gallantly.

5. In Major Wigram Battye the Government have lost an officer of whom any army would have been proud—a noble and chivalrous character, and beloved by all who knew him. He fell charging at the head of his men, first receiving two bullets in his left hip, and shortly after another in the chest.

6. In addition to Brigadier-General Gough's report, I have the honour to attach a sketch of the action by Captain Davidson, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, and the casualty report and return of ammunition expended.

Dated Camp, Futtehabad, 2nd April, 1879.

From Brigadier-General C. J. S. Gough, C.B., V.C., Commanding Cavalry Brigade, to Major G. E. L. S. Sanford, Assistant Quartermaster-General, 1st Division, Peshawar Field Force.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding, that about 1 p.m. to-day it was reported to me by my look-out picquets that large bodies of men were seen advancing with flags from the direction of Khujja, about south-west of Futtehabad. I therefore ordered the whole force under arms, awaiting further reports. These reported continuous advance on to a plateau commanding the Gundamak-road. I therefore arranged for the protection of camp—300 infantry and two troops of cavalry, one from each regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. M'Pherson, 17th Regiment. The position being a very strong one, I considered this sufficient. I ordered Major Battye to proceed at once up the Gundamak Road on to the plateau, about three miles from camp. I was at this time anxious about the reconnoitring party of the 10th Hussars, which had proceeded to Nimla Bagh and had not yet returned. I followed with three troops of the 10th Hussars and the four guns of I.C. Royal Horse Artillery, directing the remainder of the infantry, about

700 men, to follow at once; and on approaching the point reached by Major Battye, I was glad to hear that the reconnoitring party had rejoined.

I found the enemy posted on the crest of a plateau, both flanks resting on the bluff steep sides overlooking the cultivated valleys. Their front extended about a mile; the crest of the ridge was strongly fortified by breast-works, and completely commanded the whole front, which sloped gently down towards us from it, being steep just at the top; they numbered some thousands, and could not be less than five; the right of their front nearest to our camp being the key of their position. I advanced with the cavalry and horse-artillery to within about 1,200 yards of the enemy, and opened fire. The enemy met our fire by throwing out lines of skirmishers from their right, and I therefore determined to retire across the plateau in the hope of drawing them out of their very strong position. The infantry, too, were now coming up on our left, to which point I directed them, with the view of making my attack in force to carry the right of their position. My retirement was immediately followed up by the enemy, who came streaming out with flags flying, drums beating, and with great gallantry. As I fell back the infantry came up, and were immediately brought into action on the left, and ordered to make a continuous advance, the 17th Foot and the 27th Native Infantry in the front line, with the 45th Native Infantry in reserve. Notwithstanding this the enemy showed a determined resistance, their flag keeping well to the front. During this advance a gallant charge made by some men of the 17th Regiment, under Lieutenant Wiseman, captured the standard, but I much regret at the cost of the life of this gallant young officer. I continued to direct the advance of the infantry; and perceiving that the enemy were now giving way, I sent an order to the cavalry on the right to attack on the first favourable opportunity; before my order reached, however, both regiments had already charged, the Guides, three troops, under Major Battye, to the front, and the 10th Hussars to the right front, which the enemy were also endeavouring to turn. This completely defeated the enemy; but here I have to regret the death of that gallant officer Major Wigram Battye, who fell dead from a shot in the chest, having previously received a wound through the thigh. The entrenched position was carried, and I immediately galloped up to the cavalry. From the height we now occupied we saw the enemy flying in every direction, and endeavouring to disperse into the numerous forts dotting the richly-cultivated valleys surrounding the plateau; the cavalry were forthwith sent in pursuit, the artillery firing upon all those that kept in any bodies. The 10th Hussars, three troops, under Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Ralph Kerr, and the three troops of the Guides, now under Lieutenant W. R. P. Hamilton, swept forward, and pursued them close up to the walls of Khujja, cutting up numbers; a troop of the 10th Hussars under Captain Manners C. Wood, crossing a deep ravine to the left, was sent against a number who had escaped the direct pursuit, and punished them severely.

As the enemy were now completely dispersed, I ordered the troops to retire towards our camp.

The action commenced about two o'clock, and the enemy's position was in our position about half-past four. From all accounts I estimate their losses at between 300 to 400 men; they had no guns. Our own, I regret to say, was rather