

gallantly carried by the 72nd Highlanders, 5th Goorkhas, and 5th Punjab Infantry.

The enemy fought well to the last and charged close up to the 5th Goorkhas, who, however, commanded by Major FitzHugh, repulsed them with heavy loss. In this affair Lieutenant and Adjutant Martin was very forward.

The 72nd Highlanders bore the brunt of the early part of the engagement on this flank, as will be seen from their casualties; they were admirably led by their company officers under the skilful direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, assisted by Lieutenant and Adjutant Murray.

20. The opposing force had now retreated to a position some 600 yards in rear of that from which they had been driven and against this our troops advanced in rushes, covered by the fire of the mountain battery. After defending this place for half an hour, the enemy again fell back, the attack made by a company of the 23rd Pioneers under Lieutenant Chesney, supported by the 72nd, 5th Goorkhas and 2 companies of the 92nd, proving irresistible.

21. At 3.45 p.m., the high ridge was gained, and the enemy's line of defence exposed to being taken in reverse. This soon caused them to retreat from their position on the "Sang-i-Nawishta," advantage of which was speedily taken by the troops under Major White, who throughout the day conducted the operations on the right in the most satisfactory manner.

A general advance was now made (but no further resistance was offered) until a point in rear of the enemy's main position was reached.

22. Brigadier-General Baker, C.B., reports in the highest terms the gallant behaviour of the troops of all ranks, European and Native, who were under his command during the day; and this statement I most cordially endorse. I am further glad to state that the fire discipline was excellent.

23. Brigadier-General Baker desires to bring to special notice the names of the following officers:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, 72nd Highlanders, whose horse was shot under him early in the day.

Major White, 72nd Highlanders.

Lieutenant-Colonel Currie, 23rd Pioneers.

Major FitzHugh, 5th Goorkhas.

Major Parry, G-3rd Royal Artillery.

Major Hammond, 5th Punjab Cavalry.

Captain G. Swinley, R.A., No. 2 Mountain battery.

Captain S. Hall, commanding detachment 5th Punjab Infantry.

Mahomed Hyat Khan Bahadar, C.S.I., Political Officer, and

Ressaldar Bhawuldeen Khan, 11th Bengal Lancers, attached, whose horse was shot under him.

Also the following officers:—

Lieutenant Manners Smith, 3rd Sikhs, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Lieutenant Spratt, Royal Engineers, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, who were attached to him for the day, and his Brigade Staff, namely—

Captain Farwell, Brigade Major.

Captain Pole-Carew, Coldstream Guards, Orderly Officer, and

Lieutenant Kane, 72nd Highlanders, Orderly Officer.

24. The conspicuous gallantry of Private McMahan, of the 72nd Highlanders, has been brought to my notice by Brigadier-General Baker. This young soldier by his courage and coolness, closely followed by a few Goorkhas, was to a great

extent instrumental in taking the extremely strong position already referred to, on our left flank. His intrepidity was specially remarked by Captain Cook, V.C., 5th Goorkhas, and I purpose addressing to the Military Secretary a recommendation that he may be granted the decoration of the Victoria Cross.

25. Judging from the number of troops seen, and from information subsequently received, I calculate that 13 regular regiments were opposed to us, and that these, aided by contingents from the city and neighbouring villages, brought up the total force of the enemy to several thousand men. They were commanded by Sirdar Nek Mahomed Khan, son of the late Amir Dost Mahomed Khan, aided by the following Lieutenants:—General Mahomed Kureem Khan (Ghilzaie); General Gholam Hyder Khan, (Chukraie); General Mahomed Afzul Khan, (Reaka), and Sirdar Mahomed Zaman Khan, Governor of Khost.

26. Their loss, in killed alone, is estimated at upwards of 300 men, to which must be added a large number of wounded.

27. All the guns, twenty in number, brought out from Kabul to assist in the defence of the position, were captured, amongst them was an eight-inch brass howitzer presented to the Afghan State by the British Government; a large proportion of the small arms and ammunition used against us were also gifts from the same source.

28. Whilst the operations above detailed were being brought to a successful issue, large numbers of armed men were seen on the hills which lay to the east and west of our camp. Patrols of Cavalry were however sufficient to prevent their venturing down into the plains, but one party, bolder than the rest, caused so much annoyance to a picket of the 92nd Highlanders, that it became necessary to dislodge them, and this difficult service was performed in a most gallant manner by a small party of the 92nd under Lieutenant R. Grant. Colour-Sergeant H. Macdonald, a non-commissioned officer, whose excellent and skilful management of a small detachment when opposed to immensely superior numbers in the Hazar-darakht defile, was mentioned in my despatch of the 16th instant, here again distinguished himself.

29. Early on the morning of the 7th, accompanied by the Cavalry Brigade, F-A. R.H.A., 2 guns G-3 R.A., wing 92nd Highlanders, the 7th Company Sappers and Miners, 23rd Pioneers and Gatling guns, I proceeded by the "Sang-i-Nawishta" defile to Ben-i-Shahr, where I intended to encamp my whole force prior to the final advance upon Kabul. Passing through the defile some bands of hill men opened fire from the opposite side of the gorge, but they were quickly silenced by our infantry.

Brigadier-General Baker, with the main portion of his force, arrived in camp the same afternoon.

30. On the morning of the 8th instant, having received information that those of the enemy who had not already dispersed to their homes, would probably retreat towards Turkistan, I directed Brigadier-General Massy, commanding the Cavalry Brigade, to move out with his command and place himself across the line of retreat.

From General Massy's report attached, it will be seen that the enemy determined upon making a final stand on the "Asmai Heights," which lie close to, and to the north-west of the city, before giving up the contest as hopeless.

On ascertaining that such was the case, and that their intention was evidenced by the fact that a large force was in position, aided by 12 guns on the heights referred to, I at once ordered Brigadier-General Baker to advance with the force