

marginally noted *, attack the enemy, and compel them to fall back upon our cavalry.

The opposing force consisted of remnants of those who had fought against us on the 6th, aided by three fresh regiments, who had arrived on the 7th instant from Kohistan, and supported by numerous bad characters from the city and surrounding villages.

31. The ground over which our column had to advance was of so difficult a nature, that much delay ensued, and the day was wearing on before General Baker found himself near enough to engage the enemy with artillery. Reinforcements consisting of the remainder of No. 2 Mountain Battery, a wing of 67th Foot, and two companies of the 5th Goorkhas had been despatched to General Baker, but owing to the roughness of the ground traversed did not reach him until past five o'clock. That officer, although perfectly prepared to attack with the force at his disposal previous to the arrival of reinforcements, found that sufficient daylight did not remain to enable him to carry it well home, and wisely determined to postpone the delivery of the assault until daybreak. In General Baker's decision I entirely concur.

32. About this time intelligence reached me that three regiments of infantry and twelve guns had started from Ghuznee some days previously, and were endeavouring to join the troops opposed to us on the Asmai Heights. I informed General Baker of this, and of my intention to strengthen him during the night by four guns of F-A. Royal Horse Artillery on elephants, wing 67th Foot, and 28th Infantry under Brigadier-General Macpherson, who would then take command. General Baker was at the same time informed that two guns F-A. R.H.A. and two squadrons of cavalry had been sent under command of Brigadier-General Hugh Gough to watch the Kohistan road.

33. Meanwhile the Cavalry Brigade had crossed the low range of the "Siah Sang Hills," and proceeding northwards had entered and taken possession of the fortified cantonment of Sherpore, which had been abandoned by the enemy, finding therein 73 guns of various calibres, and 3 howitzers. Changing his line of advance towards the west, General Massy perceived that in order to get in rear of the enemy's position on the Asmai Heights, a considerable detour would be necessary. Making his way round to the north, he eventually debouched into the Chardeh plain and blocked the line of the enemy's retreat, which it would have been necessary for them to follow had it been attempted in military formation, and took up a position of observation to the westward of the village of Deh-i-mozon, from whence the development of the infantry attack could be seen. The line of observation occupied by the cavalry during the day was contracted at night, and the brigade bivouacked under cover of the walled enclosures near the road running past Aliabad.

34. General Baker fearing that the enemy might abandon their position during the night, despatched a strong patrol at 1.30 A.M. on the 9th, to ascertain if any change had taken place, and at 4.30 A.M. it was reported to him that the camp was deserted, and twelve guns, some elephants, and a large supply of camp equipage abandoned.

On receipt of this information he at once com-

municated its purport to General Massy, and informed him that any movement of the cavalry in pursuit would be supported both by the troops under his own immediate command and those under Brigadier-General Macpherson (who had arrived about dawn in accordance with instructions received from me).

35. At daybreak the Cavalry Brigade was put in motion, and throughout the entire day scoured the country in search of the fugitives, whom the villagers reported to have dispersed in small bands along the hill tracks. I further directed General Massy to despatch two squadrons across country up to and beyond the Kohistan road, but this party also failed to discover any trace of the enemy.

A small band was, however, overtaken at the "Kotal-i-Takht," 15 miles beyond "Killa Kazeh," on the Ghuzni road, and between 20 and 30 of them were killed by the 5th Punjab Cavalry.

Most of the men and horses having gone through very severe work on scanty food for upwards of two days, General Massy, after detaching two squadrons of the 12th Bengal Cavalry, to push the pursuit still further, returned to the Head Quarters camp where the brigade also arrived late the same evening. There were no casualties amongst either officers or men, but several horses died from privation and fatigue. The guns and escort under Brigadier-General Gough also reached camp the same evening, as did also the troops under Brigadier-Generals Macpherson and Baker.

36. Brigadier-General Massy informs me that he has invariably received valuable aid from—

Captain Combe, 10th Hussars, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, temporarily attached to his Brigade.

Lieutenant J. Brabazon, 10th Hussars, Brigade Major.

Captain Batson, 9th Lancers; and

Lieutenant Hamilton, 92nd Highlanders, orderly officers.

And would also testify to the excellent manner in which Major Hammond, 5th Punjab Cavalry; Captain Carr, of the same regiment, and Captain Appleby, 9th Lancers, led their men through the "Sang-i-Nawishta" defile on the 6th instant.

37. During the day of the 9th instant, the camp of the whole division was moved from Beni-Shahr to the heights of Siah Sang, an elevated and commanding plateau less than a mile to the east of the Bala Hissar. The 5th Goorkhas and four guns of No. 2 Mountain Battery were left on the upper Bala Hissar, but, with these exceptions, the entire force was concentrated at Siah Sang, completely dominating the city of Kabul, which lies at our feet.

38. On the following day I visited Sherpore Cantonment, and directed the 5th Punjab Cavalry to move over there for the protection of the guns and stores there. The following day I closely examined the Bala Hissar, and also the buildings occupied by the late Envoy and his suite and escort; and at noon on the 12th instant, accompanied by the Heir Apparent, my Staff, the various heads of departments, and a large number of the most influential Sirdars of Kabul, I proceeded to take possession of the Bala Hissar.

Both sides of the road for a distance of over a mile were lined by our troops, and as the head of the procession entered the Fort, the British flag was run up over the gateway, and a Royal salute of thirty-one guns fired on the glacis. From the gateway, one company of the 67th Regiment followed by the band led the way to the Diwán-i-

* 2 guns No. 2 Mountain Battery, under Lieutenant Smith, R.A.; 1 Gatling gun, under Captain Broadfoot, R.A.; 2 companies 72nd Highlanders, under Captain Guinness; 92nd Highlanders, Head Quarters Wing, under Lieutenant-Colonel Parker; 23rd Pioneers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Currie. Total, 2 guns, 1 Gatling, 1,044 rifles.