

retire slowly, to at once find a road by which the guns could be brought away in safety, and to watch for an opportunity for the cavalry to charge, so as to give time to extricate the guns. The order regarding the necessity of finding a line of retreat for the guns was also given to Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, commanding the Royal Artillery, who had accompanied General Massy from Killa Aushar, where he had previously been in command.

29. The cavalry charges, gallantly led by Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Cleland, who was dangerously wounded, and by Captain Bloomfield Gough on the flank, were well delivered and did considerable execution, but did not succeed in checking the enemy for more than a few minutes. Shortly afterwards, the artillery found their further movement in retirement stopped by a deep and narrow channel. Here, whilst searching for a passage across, I ordered a second cavalry charge, as a last hope of saving the guns; but this had still less effect than the first on the enemy, who were now coming rapidly forward, outflanking General Massy's troops on both sides, and maintaining a destructive fire. The guns could not be got over the deep channel, and it became absolutely necessary to spike and abandon them.

30. Immediately on reaching the ground, seeing that a retirement was inevitable, I had sent back orders to Sherpur to despatch 200 of the 72nd Highlanders, with the least possible delay, to hold the gap at Deh Mozang, so as to prevent the enemy gaining possession of the city, and on this point I retired with the greater portion of the cavalry, who, by manœuvring in front of the enemy and keeping them in check, gave opportunity for the 72nd Highlanders to arrive at the gorge, which they did just in time to hold it, and to bar the enemy's passage.

31. During this retirement, the squadron of the 14th Bengal Lancers, under the command of Captain J. P. C. Neville, was distinguished for its great steadiness and coolness; every credit is due to the officers (British and Native) non-commissioned officers and men for their behaviour on this occasion. Many men had lost their horses in the charges above related, and now instances of bravery in saving wounded and dismounted men from falling into the enemy's hands were numerous.

Brigadier-General Massy specially mentions Lieutenant and Adjutant E. B. M'Innis and Lieutenant C. J. W. Trower, both of the 9th Lancers, for their gallantry; whilst I personally witnessed the devoted bravery of the Rev. J. W. Adams, the chaplain attached to my force. Mr. Adams dismounted to assist a wounded man of the 9th Lancers, and, whilst so occupied, lost his horse; when making his way back on foot, and although the enemy were but a few yards distant from him, Mr. Adams, regardless of his own safety, was mainly instrumental in saving the lives of two men of the 9th Lancers, who were caught under their horses, which had fallen in a watercourse, and who, but for his aid, must have been speedily killed by the advancing enemy.

Captain J. A. F. H. Stewart-Mackenzie and Captain Bloomfield Gough, both of the 9th Lancers, distinguished themselves on this occasion; the former officer bringing the regiment out of action and remaining in the field until late in the day, although suffering from a severe contusion.

Brigadier-General Massy brings to notice the very forward conduct of Second-Lieutenant J. Hunter, 9th Lancers; and the following non-commissioned officers and men of that regiment

are stated to have been conspicuous for their gallantry and coolness:—

Quartermaster-Sergeant H. Finn.

Troop Sergeant-Major H. England.

Troop (now Regimental) Sergeant-Major R. Young, by whose gallantry and exertions Lieutenant-Colonel Cleland's life was saved.

Troop Sergeant-Major H. Spittle (since killed in action).

Private H. Loughheed,

Private S. W. Haisent,

Private H. J. Oakes,

Private F. Druce.

32. The enemy finding they were unable to enter the city, took ground to their right and occupied the Takht-i-Shah, all the slopes leading up to it and the large walled villages in Chardeh, thereby threatening the upper Bala Hissar.

The picquet on this position I had strengthened at an early hour in the day, and it was then held by 215 men of the 67th and 72nd Foot, under the command of Captain R. E. C. Jarvis, of the former regiment. During the night the enemy made repeated and determined attacks, but were on every occasion repulsed with loss; throughout, Captain Jarvis' dispositions for defence were able and soldier-like.

33. While these events were in progress, General Macpherson, who had marched from the Surkh Kotal at 8 A.M., moved in a south-westerly direction towards Arghandi, but observing large bodies of the enemy crossing his front, and proceeding towards Kabul, and hearing the firing of General Massy's guns on his left, he brought his right forward, and at 12.30 P.M., or about an hour after the cavalry and artillery had commenced retiring, he found himself very nearly on the ground where General Massy's action had been fought. Here he came across the rear of the enemy, who were speedily dispersed, some making for the hills above Killa Kazi, others for the Chardeh Valley.

34. General Macpherson, not being fully informed of the result of General Massy's action, decided, about 3.30 P.M., to halt for the night at Killa Kazi. Soon afterwards he received an order from me, directing him to fall back on Deh Mozang, where he arrived at 7 P.M., thus still further securing the approach to the city.

35. When I fell back to the gap at Deh Mozang, Colonel C. M. Macgregor, C.B., Deputy Adjutant and Deputy-Quartermaster-General, thinking that the infantry that had been ordered from Sherpur might take the road by the Kotal to the north by Killa Aushar, went in that direction to meet them, and observing from this point that the ground where the guns were lying had been partially cleared of the enemy by the advance of General Macpherson's troops, he with the assistance of the officers named in the margin,* collected a small party of 9th Lancers, 14th Bengal Lancers, and artillery men, who had remained with him, retraced his steps, and picking up, *en route*, a few soldiers belonging to General Macpherson's baggage guard, he was enabled to recover the guns, and to bring them into cantonments before night. They had been stripped of all moveable parts, and the ammunition boxes had been emptied; otherwise they were intact and were ready for use on the following day.

36. I returned to Sherpur by dark. In my absence Brigadier-General Hugh Gough, C.B., V.C., had been in command. His arrangements

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