

19. Lieutenant-Colonel Parker makes favourable mention of Lieutenant F. F. Ramsay for his conduct in bursting open the doorway of a house in which a number of the enemy had taken refuge, and were preparing to make a stand. He relates the circumstance in the following terms:—

* * * "A party of the enemy who had been firing at them were seen to enter a building, and on Lieutenant Ramsay's rushing up, he found the place locked. He immediately ordered one of his party to blow the lock off by discharging his rifle into it, which was done, and, forcing an entrance, they killed six of the enemy."

Lieutenant-Colonel Parker further brings to notice the name of Lieutenant and Adjutant C. W. H. Douglas, who, he states, was most energetic throughout the whole of the operations.

I beg also to submit the following extract from Captain Hill's report:—

* * * "One man, however, was making good his escape, when Subadar Máhábír Bhist (in spite of his thirty-four years' service) pursued the man, and, after racing for about 300 yards, came up with him, and in a hand-to-hand conflict cut him down with his sword. I would beg to bring the gallant conduct of the Subadar to the favourable notice of the Brigadier, and also to mention that throughout the day Subadar Máhábír Bhist was as untiring in his careful handling of his men as he was forward and gallant whenever opportunity offered."

With reference to the above, I would bring the name of Subadar Máhábír Bhist specially to the notice of the Lieutenant-General for favourable consideration.

20. I enclose a report from Colonel Jenkins, and other documents which are enumerated in the accompanying schedule.

The enemy's loss in killed is estimated at 200. Native reports add 50 to this. Their strength was from 4,000 to 5,000.

No. 194, dated *Sherpúr*, 28th April, 1880.

From Colonel F. H. Jenkins, C.B., Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, Commanding a Column, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, 1st Division, Kabul Field Force.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of Lieutenant-General Sir F. S. Roberts, K.C.B., V.C., commanding the Kabul Field Force, the following report of the operations of the column which marched from *Sherpúr* on the afternoon of the 20th instant towards *Logar*.*

2. The first march was to a place about a mile beyond *Bin-i-Shahr*; and on the 21st we went on past *Charasiah* and encamped near the village of *Chihildaktarán*.

3. On my arrival at this place, I learnt that the news of our advance had reached Muhammad Hasan Khan, the ex-Governor of *Jellalabad*, who had started with a force of about two thousand men to attack Major-General Ross' column, and that he had returned and was then at Muhammad Agha or *Kúti Khel*, two villages about twelve miles ahead of us on the *Logar* road.

* F-A Royal Horse Artillery, 1 British Officer, 41 British Non-commissioned Officers and men, total British 42. 92nd Highlanders, 9 British Officers, 266 British Non-commissioned Officers and men, total British 275. Guides Cavalry, 4 British Officers; 8 Native Officers, 251 Native Non-commissioned Officers and men, total Native 259. Guides Infantry, 7 British Officers, 14 Native Officers, 600 Native Non-commissioned Officers and men; total Native 614.

Total British, Officers 21, Non-commissioned Officers and men 307; total 328. Total Native, Officers 22, Non-commissioned Officers and men 851; total 873.

4. On the 22nd the column halted, and I sent Lieutenant-Colonel G. Stewart with a party of the Guides Cavalry round by the village of *Musáí*, and on to the *Logar* road. A picquet of the enemy on the *Súm-i-Daldal Kotal* was seen by this party, and also by our infantry picquets posted on a high hill about a mile south-east of camp. *Jabar Khan*, the headman of *Gamrán*, also sent me word that Muhammad Hasan Khan was collecting men to oppose our advance.

5. I sent a messenger across the hills to Major-General Ross, and endeavoured, but without success, to establish heliographic communications with his column.

6. On the 23rd and 24th the column remained halted. About 2 A.M. on the 25th I got a letter from the headman of *Gamrán*, saying that the enemy had advanced as far as *Safed Sang*, but that they were not going to attack us that night. I sent this letter into *Sherpúr*, and requested Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. P. Campbell to get the Infantry of the Guides, which was nearest the hill, under arms. I also sent a party of the Guides Cavalry down the *Logar* road.

7. When the day broke we saw the enemy advancing over the hill on our left flank, and also coming from the *Aubazak* villages beyond *Chihildaktarán*, so as to threaten our right flank; at the same time the party of Guides Cavalry in our front became engaged with men coming down the *Logar* road, and retired slowly before them.

8. I ordered the tents to be struck, and the baggage, under Lieutenant C. G. Robertson, 8th Foot, of the Transport Department, to retire under the shelter of a small hill in rear of the camp. On this hill I placed half a company of the Highlanders and a company of the Guides, under Lieutenant R. B. Adams, the whole being under the command of Lieutenant the Honourable J. S. Napier, of the 92nd.

9. A small ruined fort to the west of this hill was occupied by twenty of the Guides under Lieutenant M. C. Cooke-Collis; and in another small fort on our right flank I placed a similar party of the Guides under Subadar *Shér Singh*. Sheltered behind this fort was a troop of the Guides Cavalry, under Lieutenant G. K. Daly.

10. In the meantime Major White had extended two companies of the 92nd under Captain P. F. Robertson, to cover his front in line with two companies of the Guides under Captain F. D. Battye, while three companies of the Guides, under Captain A. G. Hammond, covered the left flank. These dispositions were carried out without hurry or confusion.

11. The enemy seemed at first to be about three thousand in number, but reinforcements reached them during the day. They attacked our front and both flanks simultaneously, and commenced an effective fire from Martini rifles, Sniders and Enfields, which was replied to by our men, while the two guns of F-A Royal Horse Artillery, under Lieutenant J. H. Wodehouse, came into action. And I take this opportunity of saying that their fire was very steady and well aimed, and that the conduct of that officer and of the non-commissioned officers and men under his command was such as to reflect credit on the battery to which they belong.

12. As soon as the sun got high enough, I sent a heliogram to the station on the *Shahr Darwaza* to say that I was attacked, and was told in reply that a reinforcement under Brigadier-General Macpherson had started from *Sherpúr*.

13. About eight o'clock, finding that the artillery horses were getting hit, I ordered the guns to retire about 400 yards; but I was compelled to