

scouts, ordered up the main body of the brigade (less one squadron of 52 sabres of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, which I had detached under Captain Broome to watch Patkáo Shana, and to summon the maliks thereof), and, keeping them concealed in the ravines, took ground to the left under shelter of the ridge, to get as near the enemy as possible before making a direct pursuit, and finally following them direct with one squadron and a half of the Bengal Lancers and two squadrons of the 1st Punjab Cavalry in the front line (Captain G. M. Abbott, Officiating 2nd-in-Command, 19th Bengal Lancers, who had commanded the advanced guard and scouting party, being still detached some distance to the right; he joined the front line of his regiment in the course of the pursuit), supported, under the command of Colonel T. G. Kennedy, C.B., by one squadron of the 1st Punjab Cavalry and one squadron of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry,—in all 503 sabres.

4. It was some time, owing to the difficulty of the ground, ere we came in contact with the retreating enemy, who by this time were much scattered (necessitating the breaking up of our close formation) in knots and singly, taking advantage of the broken, stony, raviny, and sometimes precipitous ground, and fighting generally with desperation when brought to bay. The ground, in fact, was such that on it no cavalry could have touched well-disciplined infantry.

5. Among the first of the enemy overtaken was a stalwart, well-dressed and well-equipped Afghan, evidently a man of some note, armed with rifle, shield, sword, and knife, to encounter whom rode out Captain Seymour D. Barrow, Aide-de-Camp to the Major-General, whose services had been placed at my disposal as a galloper. In the fight between them, I regret to say, Captain Barrow received two severe sword-cuts, first on his bridle hand, rendering it useless, and another on the right fore-arm, his charger being also wounded in the neck. The Afghan, already badly wounded by Captain Barrow, was finally despatched by Sowar Gúlam Khan, 1st Punjab Cavalry, and a sowar, Jewand Sing, of the 19th Bengal Lancers (the latter Colonel Yorke's orderly, afterwards killed).

6. The pursuit was continued for a space of two hours, and extended over seven or eight miles from Patkáo Shana to within a few miles of the Altimor Pass, near the valley of Oucha-khan. The enemy were so much disorganised (though they made one or two attempts to form) and scattered right and left of our line, that the supporting squadrons were equally engaged with those in front.

7. At 9 A.M., seeing that the country became more rugged as the mountains were approached, our horses being much fatigued and evidently footsore, and few of the enemy being left in our front, and they much dispersed, I sounded the rally, and when our squadrons were collected commenced our return to Patkáo Shana, our killed being carried on horses, and the most severe of our wounded men on litters made by tying lúngís on to lances.

8. Patkáo Shana was reached at about noon, horses watered and fed, and after a couple of hours' rest the march back to camp was commenced, the 1st Punjab Cavalry bringing up the rear—arriving at 6.30 P.M.—the brigade having covered probably not less than forty miles during the day.

9. Our losses were found to be three men and eight horses killed, one British officer (Captain Seymour D. Barrow), twenty-eight men (one of whom died the same evening of his wound) and twenty-five horses wounded. The loss of the

enemy I compute, from my own observation and that of others, to have been not less than two hundred.

10. At the close of the pursuit I sent a message to be flashed by the signallers who had been left with Captain Broome at Patkáo Shana, for twelve dólís, which were duly sent.

11. It was reported that the gathering consisted chiefly of men from the Zermút tribe, and that the following men of note were, or had been, with the gathering up to the time of their being pursued, when probably they took advantage of their horses' speed to keep out of danger, namely:—Súltan Mahomed, Mahmúdzái, Mahomed Shah Khan, Sáiad Khan, Mandozái, Abdúlla Khan, Mandozái.

A nephew of Súltan Mahomed's, who was known to have been in the fight, is said to have been killed; probably he was the man Captain Barrow engaged. A horseman escorted by about 150 mounted followers was observed by Captain Broome, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, from Patkáo Shana (and who he was informed, was Sirdar Mahomed Hassan Khan) retiring slowly towards Jabbar Kila, apparently watching our movements. They went on towards Charkh shortly before the return of the brigade.

12. The keen eagerness displayed by officers and men was all that could be desired, and had the surface of the country gone over been less rugged, the enemy's loss would have been far greater.

13. I beg to bring to the special notice of the Major-General commanding, for good service performed:—

Colonel P. S. Yorke, Commandant, 19th Bengal Lancers, who had two narrow escapes, a bullet passing through his helmet and another grazing his cheek bone.

Colonel T. G. Kennedy, C.B., Commandant, 2nd Punjab Cavalry.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Maclean, Commandant, 1st Punjab Cavalry.

Major G. C. Bird, Madras Staff Corps, my Brigade-Major.

Lieutenant W. E. G. Forbes, 2-6th Foot, my Orderly Officer.

Captain S. D. Barrow, Bengal Staff Corps, who up to the time of his being wounded rendered me, as did the two officers named immediately above, throughout the day, valuable service in conveying orders and carrying out the instructions it was necessary for me to give.

Surgeons W. R. Murphy, 19th Bengal Lancers, and P. F. O'Connor, 1st Punjab Cavalry, deserve special thanks for their care of, and attention to, the wounded on the field, often at much risk to themselves from straggling and skulking Afghans.

(The medical officer of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry was unavoidably absent from the brigade).

14. Colonel P. S. Yorke, Commandant, 19th Bengal Lancers, mentions—

Captain G. M. Abbott, Officiating 2nd in Command, who commanded the advanced guard and eventually the scouting party (I would beg to add the above duties were performed to my entire satisfaction).

Lieutenant S. D. Gordon, the Officiating Adjutant, as particularly forward in the pursuit, killing several men to his own sword.

Surgeon W. R. Murphy, in medical charge of the regiment.

Jemadars Manáwar Khan and Khan Mahomed Khan.

Duffadars Mahomed Ishák and Sáiad Khan.