

march at once for the front from Sind and other centres:—

**Artillery.**

Brigadier-General T. P. Smith, R.H.A., commanding.

Captain E. Blaksley, R.A., Adjutant.

Troops.—D-B, R.H.A.

F-2nd R.A.

No. 2 Mountain Battery.

Cavalry Brigade.

Brigadier-General H. C. Wilkinson, commanding.

Troops.—15th Hussars.

2nd Bombay Light Cavalry.

2nd Sind Horse.

1st Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier-General H. H. James, commanding.

Troops.—2-11th Foot.

8th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry.

10th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry.

2nd Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier-General T. S. Brown, commanding.

Troops.—Headquarters and half battalion, 2-15th Foot.

Detachment 63rd Foot.

5th Bombay Native Infantry.

27th " " "

3rd Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier-General G. F. Walker, commanding.

Troops.—63rd Foot.

9th Bombay Native Infantry.

23rd " " "

6. In order that the advance on Kandahar should be made as soon as possible, it was resolved to concentrate a column of 2,000 Europeans and 4,000 Natives of all arms, with ten days' supplies, on Kila Abdulla, whence the onward march of 93 miles to Kandahar would be rapidly performed.

7. The 3rd Brigade, under the command of Brigadier-General Walker, was ordered to follow from Kila Abdulla four days after the departure of the advanced force, with a convoy of twenty days' supplies for 20,000 fighting men and a similar number of followers.

8. The difficulty of collecting transport and supplies for this large body of troops was great, but it was promptly met by the Government of Bombay, Sir Michael Kennedy (Director-General of Transport), and Sir Robert Sandeman (Agent, Governor-General, for Biluchistan), who did his utmost to assist the local commissariat and transport departments in purchasing camels and supplies. His Highness the Khan of Khelat generously sent between two and three hundred horses and ponies, which I ordered to be made over to mounted corps, a proportion of the animals sent being fit for cavalry and artillery purposes.

9. Owing to the intense and often deadly heat which prevails throughout the valley of the Indus and the lower slopes of the Bolan and Nari Valley Hills, from June to September, it was necessary, for the health and efficiency of the European troops, to move them in detachments of 100 men per diem from the railway terminus at Sibi to the Upper Bolan.\* Staging camps of large tents were pitched at once, and each detachment, with its light camp equipage, baggage, rations, &c., was carried in bullock-carts to Mach, a distance of 55 miles, in three days. From Mach they proceeded in the ordinary manner. By this plan the danger of exposing European troops to 120° to 130° Fahrenheit in small tents for several successive days was avoided, and the health

and efficiency of the men preserved as far as possible

10. On the arrival at Quetta the advance force detailed below was pushed on to the point of rendezvous, so as to cross the Kojak on the 30th and 31st of August, with the expectation of reaching Kandahar on the 4th or 5th of September, at least two or three days before the arrival of General Sir Frederick Roberts' column, which it was then calculated would reach Kandahar on the 6th or 7th September:—

**Advanced Force.**

**Cavalry.**

15th Hussars, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Luck, C.B., commanding.

2nd Bombay Light Cavalry (2 squadrons), Major W. H. J. Stopford, commanding.

Poona Horse (squadron), Major C. M. Erskine, commanding.

2nd Sind Horse, Major M. M. Carpendale, commanding.

2nd Madras Light Cavalry (squadron), Captain W. B. Warner, commanding.

**Royal Artillery.**

D-B Royal Horse Artillery, Major F. W. Ward, commanding.

F-2nd Royal Artillery, Major J. R. J. Dewar, commanding.

14-9th Royal Artillery, two 25-pr. guns, detachment under Major G. A. Crawford; two 9-pr. guns, detachment under Captain E. Buckle, No. 2 Mountain Battery, Major R. Wace, commanding.

**Infantry.**

2-11th Foot, Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. Corrie, commanding.

2-15th Foot (Head-quarters wing), Major R. L. Dashwood, commanding.

63rd Foot, (dett.), Captain H. R. Cook, commanding.

Three companies of Sappers and Miners, Lieutenant G. H. W. O'Sullivan, R.E.; Lieutenant J. Neville, R.E.; Lieutenant E. C. Spilsbury, R.E.

5th Bombay Native Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. C. Hunt, commanding.

8th Bombay Native Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Fellows, commanding.

10th Bombay Native Infantry, Major C. E. Blowers, commanding.

16th Bombay Native Infantry (dett.), Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Iredell, commanding.

27th Bombay Native Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Bell, commanding.

11. These troops, on arrival at Kila Abdulla, had already undergone a good deal of hardship during their march of 148 miles from Sibi. The heat during the day was sometimes very great, occasioning excessive thirst, which the brackish water of some places failed to quench, and, in addition, injured the health of a great part of the force. Our transport cattle were good, but weak from want of grain and forage; most of the cattle attendants had deserted. We had few commissariat subordinates, and only one transport and one commissariat officer; consequently a vast amount of departmental work devolved on the troops themselves, who, to their lasting credit, performed it cheerfully and well. I merely mention these facts for the purpose of bringing prominently to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India that the indefatigable energy and zeal with which the officers and men of the whole force met and overcame the natural difficulties of our position are deserving of this record of them; all showed by their conduct that they meant to succeed in thoroughly accomplishing

\* Sibi to Mach, 55 miles; Mach to Quetta, 41 miles.