

When the summit of the ridge was gained, the enemy was observed to be abandoning his earth-works at the last named place, and to be retiring his forces along the Canal banks and the railway line towards Mahsameh. His railway trains were also to be seen in motion towards the same place.

At 6.25 A.M., our Artillery came into action against the enemy's Infantry, and guns which were posted on the Canal bank to the west of Mahuta.

As it was of great importance to obtain possession, if possible, of some of the enemy's locomotives, I ordered the Cavalry to push forward with all speed and attempt to cut off the retreating trains. The Cavalry and eight guns moved as rapidly as their horses—which were in no condition for hard work—would permit. The ground was much better and harder than that moved over yesterday.

The enemy offered considerable resistance in the neighbourhood of Mahsameh, but nothing could stop the advance of our mounted troops, tired even as their horses were. Mahsameh, with its very extensive camp left standing by the enemy, was soon in our possession. Seven Krupp guns, great quantities of ammunition, two large trains of railway wagons loaded with provisions, and vast supplies of various kinds fell into our hands. The enemy fled along the railway and canal banks, throwing away their arms and equipment, and showing every sign of demoralization. Unfortunately there was not at this time in the whole Cavalry Brigade a troop that could gallop. Their long march and rapid advance having completely exhausted the horses, who were not yet fit for hard work after their voyage from England.

The results of the operations, extending over two days, have been most satisfactory. The enemy has been completely driven from the position at Tel-el-Mahuta, which he had taken such pains to fortify, and upon which he had, by force, compelled 7,000 peasants to labour.

The Canal has been cleared for more than half the distance intervening between Ismailia and the Delta, and the water supply completely secured to us.

The railway line is in our possession for more than 20 miles from this place, and the vigour, dash, and energy displayed by the troops in the sudden forward movement made with horses out of condition and from a base hastily organized, and where we are still contending with all the difficulties incidental to rapid disembarkations, has assured to the army an important strategic position, the possession of which cannot fail to influence the future operations of the campaign.

Amongst the prisoners taken was Mahmoud Femi Pasha, who was chief engineer to Arabi Pasha, a very important personage amongst the rebel chiefs.

The enemy were commanded by Rashid Pasha, and the force he had collected at Mahuta and Mahsameh, consisted of 10 battalions of Infantry (at least 8,000 men), of 6 squadrons of Cavalry, and 20 guns, besides a large force of Bedouins.

Owing to the result of the action of the previous day (24th instant) many of his troops had retreated during the night, and upon our guns opening on his works early on the morning of the 25th instant, the 7,000 labourers ran away. Rashid Pasha then issued orders for a general retreat.

Military operations in Egypt, at this season of the year, are very trying to the soldiers engaged, and the complete absence of anything approaching the nature of a road, renders all movements most difficult and fatiguing.

Owing to the fact of this advance being made before the railway or the telegraph lines had been repaired, or the canal cleared of obstruction, or any regular system of transport had been effectively organized, considerable exposure without tents, and severe privations as regards food, have been imposed upon all ranks. These hardships have, however, been cheerfully borne, and the conduct of the troops has been everything I could wish.

The troops engaged were, upon both the 24th and 25th instant, under the immediate command of Lieutenant-General Willis, C.B., who carried out my views in a most satisfactory manner.

My advanced troops, under Major-General Graham, now hold the Kassassin Lock.

I cannot praise too highly the manner in which the Cavalry, Horse Artillery, and Mounted Infantry were handled by Major-General Drury-Lowe, who speaks in the highest terms of the assistance rendered him by Brigadier-General Sir Baker-Russell, Lieut.-Colonel Stewart, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Lieut.-Colonel McCalmont, Brigade-Major of the 1st Cavalry Brigade. He also begs me to mention his appreciation of the dash and skill with which the Mounted Infantry were commanded by Captain Pigott, of the King's Royal Rifles.

I am, &c.

G. J. WOLSELEY, General.

*Alexandria,*

*August 19, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour herewith to enclose a copy of the Proclamation, which I am about to issue, together with its Arabic translation.

I have, &c.

G. J. WOLSELEY, General,  
Commanding the British Forces in Egypt.

Enclosure.

By Authority of the Khedive.

Proclamation to the Egyptians.

THE General in Command of the British Forces wishes to make known that the object of Her Majesty's Government in sending troops to this country is to re-establish the authority of the Khedive. The Army is, therefore, only fighting against those who are in arms against His Highness.

All peaceable inhabitants will be treated with kindness, and no violence will be offered to them; their religion, mosques, families, and property will be respected. Any supplies which will be required will be paid for, and the inhabitants are invited to bring them.

The General in Command will be glad to receive visits from the Chiefs who are willing to assist in repressing the rebellion against the Khedive, the lawful Ruler of Egypt, appointed by the Sultan.

*Admiralty, September 6, 1882.*

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been forwarded by Admiral Sir F. Beauchamp Seymour, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the Mediterranean Station, describing the occupation of the Suez Canal on the 20th August:—

No. 87. *H.M.S. "Penelope," Port Said,*  
SIR, *August 23, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to make the following report of my proceedings after I left Alexandria in the "Iris," on the evening of the 16th instant, with the plan of operations agreed on between Sir Garnet Wolseley and yourself.

2. I arrived at Port Said the next morning