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War Office, September 19, 1882.

A DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from the General Officer Commanding in Egypt:—

SIR, *Ismailia, September 4, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of the report from Major-General Graham, V.C., C.B., of the action at Kassassin on the 28th ultimo.

The operations of the Cavalry were so distinct from those of the Infantry, that I venture to forward also copy of the report from Major-General Drury-Lowe, C.B., although that officer is junior to Major-General Graham, and acted under his orders during the day.

The conduct of the soldiers of all arms was excellent, and many gallant deeds were done throughout the action. Two recent instances have come under my notice of men, who, being painfully wounded early in the day, continued to do their duty until severely wounded later on. One, on the 28th ultimo, was that of Lieutenant G. G. Cunningham, of the Cornwall Light Infantry; and the other, on the 25th ultimo, was that of Gunner Joseph Knowles, of N Brigade, A Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. As it is by soldier-like courage of this nature that the British Army has always maintained its high reputation, I have great pleasure in bringing these names to your notice.

The dispositions made by Major-General Graham, V.C., C.B., during the action at Kassassin, were all they should have been; and his steady advance upon the enemy, when he showed a disposition to drive his attack home, was well conceived and well executed.

The dashing and yet skilful manner in which the 1st Brigade of Cavalry was handled by Brigadier-General Sir Baker Russell, under the immediate orders of Major-General Drury-Lowe, was all that could be desired. The charge of the Household Cavalry under Colonel Ewart was most gallantly executed.

I have to regret the loss of many brave men, and it is a matter of deep sorrow to all this army that we have not been able to ascertain the fate of Lieutenant Gribble, 3rd Dragoon Guards, who was Orderly Officer to Sir Baker Russell; he has been missing since the Cavalry charge on the 28th August, and although the ground where it took place has been searched, no trace of him has been found.

I shall only add to what is contained in the enclosed reports that all ranks of this army are

animated by the highest military spirit, and all longing to advance upon the enemy.

I have, &c.,

G. J. WOLSELEY, General,
Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces
in Egypt.

Inclosure 1.

From Major-General Graham to Sir Garnet Wolseley.

SIR, *Kassassin, August 29, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an important engagement with the enemy took place here yesterday, the 28th instant, in which, though attacked by a vastly superior force numerically, tried seriously by exposure to the sun and previous privations, the troops I have the honour to command finally drove back the enemy at all points; and, with the aid of the cavalry, under Major-General Drury-Lowe, C.B., inflicted severe chastisement.

The position the advanced Brigade occupied at Kassassin is not the best for defence. We are astride the Canal (which runs nearly east and west) and hold the bridge and locks. Taking the west as our proper front, on our right the desert rises to a ridge, with an elevation of from 100 to 160 feet; at a distance of from 2,000 to 3,000 yards, there is the millet and palm-covered plain of the Ouady, intersected by a disused branch of the Canal. This ridge, on our right, is obviously a source of danger to a force too weak to occupy it, as I have already observed in a previous report.

About 9.30 A.M. on the 28th instant, the enemy's Cavalry appeared in force on our left front, on the north side of the Freshwater Canal, and I at once heliographed to Major-General Drury-Lowe at Masameh. The force under my command, consisting of 57 Cavalry, 70 Mounted Infantry, 1,728 Infantry, and 40 Artillery with two 13-prs. as detailed in margin,* were at once posted by me under cover, fronting to the north and west, the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry (50) being thrown out on the flanks to observe the enemy's move-

* Royal Horse Artillery, 40 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men and 2 guns; 4th Dragoon Guards, 15 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; 7th Dragoon Guards, 42 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 611 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; York and Lancaster, 690 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; Mounted Infantry, 70 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; Royal Marine Artillery, 427 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.