

line was, therefore, composed of the 1st York and Lancaster supported by the Royal Marines. The 1st Gordon Highlanders and 1st Royal Highlanders moving in column of fours on either flank, the rear of the square being formed of the 3rd King's Royal Rifles and the 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers. The York and Lancaster advanced steadily till within a short distance of the works, when, with a cheer, a rush was made to the front, and, assisted by the Bluejackets on the right, who managed to bring their guns into the fighting line, the work was carried and the guns captured; the enemy made several desperate counter attacks, sometimes singly and sometimes in groups, on the advancing line, many hand-to-hand fights taking place with the York and Lancaster and men of the Naval Brigade.

About 12.20 P.M., the battery which is marked "A" on the accompanying plan was taken, with two Krupp guns and a brass howitzer.

At this period, the Cavalry, under Brigadier-General Stewart, moved round the present right flank of the square, and charged in three lines across the plain to its right front where the enemy were in large numbers, who attacked the flanks of the lines, so that they had to change front in order to shake them off. Colonel Barrow, of the 19th Hussars, was severely wounded in executing one of these charges, when, I regret to say, many other casualties occurred.

The enemy, as reported by Brigadier-General Stewart, fought simply with fanaticism and spared no wounded or dismounted men, although, in most cases, instantly paying their penalty with their own lives; and it is to the desperate character of the struggle that the large proportion of deaths in the Cavalry Brigade is to be attributed.

The enemy were still in possession of the village and wells of Teb, but by the capture of the work on his left flank, my Infantry had got in rear of his position, and the captured guns were turned on another work also armed with two Krupp guns, which they took in reverse. These captured guns were admirably worked by Major Tucker, of the Royal Marine Artillery, and with the aid of the guns of the Royal Artillery the enemy's remaining battery was soon silenced. The enemy's Infantry, however, still clung with desperate tenacity to the numerous rifle pits and entrenchments they had constructed, and large numbers occupied some buildings in the village, which were afterwards found filled with dead bodies; they seemed not to dream of asking for quarter, and when they found their retreat cut off would charge out singly or in scattered groups to hurl their spears in defiance at the advancing lines of Infantry, falling dead, fairly riddled with bullets.

About 2 P.M., the battery marked "G" on plan, now abandoned, was occupied, and the whole position taken.

The enemy had now given up all ideas of further fighting, and the last work on the right of their line, shown as a mound on plan, was occupied by the Gordon Highlanders without opposition, as they streamed away in the directions of Tokar and Suakim.

Nothing could be better than the dash with which the charges of the Cavalry were executed in the midst of a horde of desperate fanatics, who displayed extraordinary activity and courage; nor could anything exceed the cool deliberation and efficiency with which the Royal Artillery served their guns under fire, or the skill and gallantry displayed by the Naval Brigade in keeping up with the front line of Infantry, and protecting their

own guns by hand-to-hand encounters with the enemy, when at least one deed of gallantry was executed, of which I shall make a special report.

The first time the square came under fire was a very trying one for young troops, as we were then moving to a flank—an operation at all times difficult, and especially so when in such a cramped formation. A slight disorder occurred, which was, however, speedily rectified, and nothing could have been better than the steady advance on the first battery.

In advancing on the scattered entrenchments and houses, the formation became somewhat disordered, owing to the desire of the men on the flank faces of the square to fire to their front.

The Gordon Highlanders speedily rectified this, moving one half battalion into the fighting line, the other half being thrown back to guard against flank attacks.

The Royal Highlanders were somewhat out of hand. I would, however, beg to observe that the ground was a most difficult one to move over, and that the desperate tenacity with which the enemy held a house on the right of the Royal Highlanders caused the men to form in an irregular manner so as to pour a converging fire on it.

The other battalions, especially the York and Lancaster, which had several hand-to-hand encounters with the enemy, and the Royal Marines, behaved with great steadiness and gallantry.

The 1st Gordon Highlanders, 3rd King's Royal Rifles, and 1st York and Lancaster also showed steadiness and good discipline under fire: the latter formed the left flank of the fighting line in the attack on the second position, when they advanced with great gallantry.

I append a list of killed and wounded, and deeply regret the numerous fatal casualties in the Cavalry Brigade of which I have already made mention.*

The force of the enemy was difficult to estimate, and in my first telegram I put it at 10,000. Subsequent native testimony obtained makes me estimate it at 6,000 fighting men, and I am informed that they admit a loss of 1,500 killed.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Teb 825 dead bodies were counted, and I am informed that it is the custom of these people to carry off their dead when practicable. I am also informed that the women of the tribes were present with hatchets to despatch our wounded.

I must now beg to express my sense of the services of the Officers holding responsible positions in the force I had the honour to command on this occasion, without whose loyal co-operation and self-devotion the Expedition could not have been carried out successfully.

Brigadier-General Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., K.C.M.G., C.B., who was specially appointed second in command, showed himself worthy of his high reputation as a thorough soldier and most valuable officer.

Major-General Davis was most indefatigable in his exertions, and afforded me all possible assistance in preserving formation and discipline during the action, as he has done in expediting the disembarkation of troops since his arrival at Trinkitat.

Brigadier-General Stewart, C.B., showed himself, as he is known to be, a most able and daring leader of Cavalry. My instructions to him were to avoid engaging the enemy until their formation was broken, and until they were in full retreat. The time of making the charge I left entirely to

* Telegraphic lists already published.