



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette
Of FRIDAY, the 10th of APRIL.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1885.

War Office, April 9, 1885.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State for War from General Lord Wolseley, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. :—

(Delayed in transmission.)

*Camp, Korti, the Soudan,
February 15, 1885.*

MY LORD,

THE accompanying Despatches from Brigadier-General Brackenbury, C.B., describe the engagement between the column under the command of the late Major-General Earle, C.B., and the enemy on the 10th instant.

I share in the universal regret which is felt throughout this Army at the death of General Earle, who was killed at the close of the attack he had so ably planned and so skilfully directed. To those who mourn his loss it will, however, be a sad satisfaction to know that he fell at the moment of success, on the summit of the enemy's position, and at the head of the troops he had led throughout the action with equal courage and ability.

Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre, South Staffordshire Regiment, was shot whilst gallantly leading his regiment to the assault of a very strong part of the enemy's line. He was an excellent officer, proud of his regiment, which, on its side, had every reason to be proud of him.

The enemy numbered about 1,500 men, and were armed with Remington rifles. They occupied carefully selected ground of great natural strength, which they had rendered all the more difficult of attack by cleverly constructed stone sconces. Against this the South Staffordshire and the Black Watch advanced by successive charges in line, eventually capturing it after some hours' hard fighting. Both regiments showed throughout a dash well worthy of their reputation.

Brigadier-General Brackenbury writes in the highest terms of the steadiness and discipline shown by all his troops in this brilliant little action, an action which will teach the enemy that we are not only prepared to receive their charges,

but also, when necessary, to attack them in their strongest positions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **WOLSELEY.**

The Right Honourable
Marquis of Hartington.

From Brigadier-General Brackenbury, C.B., to General the Lord Wolseley, G.C.B.

*Camp, opposite Dulka Island,
February 10, 1885.*

MY LORD,

IN my telegram, No. 99, of this date, I have informed you in general terms of the result of to-day's action before Kirbekan, I have now the honour to report more fully on the same subject.

On the night of the 8th instant General Earle received a report from Colonel Butler, who was in command of the advanced camp, that in reconnoitring that day, he had found the enemy in a strong position occupying some rocky knolls (or koppies), and holding a high razor-backed ridge of hills behind. Major-General Earle then ordered the advance of the 1st Battalion South Staffordshire and 1st Battalion Royal Highlanders in boats to an open camping ground which Colonel Butler had selected, about a mile short of the enemy's position, and ordered the squadron 19th Hussars, half of the Egyptian Camel Corps, and two guns of the Egyptian Artillery to advance to the same place.

On the 9th instant, Major-General Earle himself arrived here, and having personally reconnoitred the enemy's position, and sent Colonel Butler to make a wide reconnaissance towards the enemy's rear, he decided, upon receipt of Colonel Butler's report, to attack the enemy's position this morning, in the manner in which the advance was made to-day.

A company of the Royal Highlanders was left in a strong zariba to guard the boats, baggage, baggage animals, and all unarmed men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Eden, 1st Battalion Royal Highlanders, with Major Sandwith, D.A.A.G., as his Staff Officer.