

the enemy was visible in the grass at this moment. The square halted when abreast the flags, and immediately the enemy, to the number of about 6,000, sprang up from the vicinity of the flags, and formed a V-shaped column with the apex towards the square. They were accompanied by about 40 horsemen, who all carried flags, and came on at a hand gallop; the footmen, who carried spears, swords, or axes, kept pace with them, however.

Immediately I perceived the enemy coming down, I ran the gun from its position in the rear face of the square to a position in the centre of the left flank, about five paces out from the square, and at once commenced firing. After firing about 40 rounds, or eight turns of the lever, I perceived by where the enemy were falling, that the gun had too much elevation, so I gave the order "Cease firing," to alter the elevation. In a moment this was effected, and we had again commenced firing on the front ranks of the enemy with the most excellent results, when, after about 30 rounds, the gun jammed.

The enemy were then about 200 yards from the muzzle of the gun.

The Captain of the gun, Will Rhoods, chief boatswain mate, and myself, unscrewed the plate to clear the barrel, or take the lock of the jammed barrel out, when the enemy were upon us.

Rhoods was killed with a spear. Walter Miller, armourer, I also saw killed with a spear at the same moment on my left. I was knocked down in the rear of the gun, but uninjured, except a small spear scratch on the left hand. The crowd and crush of the enemy was very great at this point, and, as I struggled up, I was carried against the face of the square, which was literally pressed back by sheer weight of numbers about 12 paces from the position of the gun. The crush was so great, that at the moment few on either side were killed, but fortunately this flank of the square had been forced up a very steep little mound, which enabled the rear rank to open a tremendous fire over the heads of the front rank men; this relieved the pressure and enabled the front rank to bayonet or shoot those of the enemy nearest them. The enemy then, for some reason, turned to their right along the left flank of the square, and streamed away in numbers along the rear face of it, where I afterwards heard they effected an entrance.

None of them got into the square at the place I indicated where the crush was, which was held by the Mounted Infantry. In a very few minutes the terrific fire from the square told on the enemy. There was a momentary waver, and they then walked quietly away. I immediately manned the Gardner, cleared the jam as soon as I could. This, however, was not done in time to be of much use in firing on the slowly retreating enemy, as they had got back into the nullah and behind the mound before it was ready.

After falling in the Brigade, which numbered 40 at the commencement of the action (the remainder having been left behind in the Zareba to guard our gear), I found there were eight killed and seven wounded, among the former being, I regret to say, two of the most excellent officers in Her Majesty's Service, Lieutenants Alfred Pigott and Rudolf De Lisle, R.N.

After the fight, I found the bodies of these officers, of J. Burleigh and F. Nye, able seamen, together with most of the wounded, about 20 yards to the left rear of the gun outside the

square, which led me to believe they were borne away in the crush I have described, when the enemy turned away from the left flank, and headed across the rear face of the square. This was corroborated by some of the wounded.

I computed the number of killed visible on the battle-field outside the grass to be about 800, amongst them being several horsemen, one of whom by his position, and that of his horse, must have got actually into the square, but I was afterwards told that there were quite as many, if not more, killed in the grass.

After attending to the wounded, the square was reformed at about 2.30, and we proceeded to Abou Klea Wells, arriving shortly after 5 A.M. As we had to haul our Gardner gun the whole way over very rough ground with a diminished crew, we were not sorry to arrive.

We bivouacked in a defensive formation at the Abou Klea Wells on the night of the 17th, which was bitterly cold and must have been a terrible trial to the wounded, as we had no provisions, blankets, or covering of any description.

I beg to be allowed to say a word of grateful praise to the Medical Officers, whose untiring zeal and devotion to the wounded that night can never be forgotten.

18th January. Detachment and camels joined us from the Zareba. At 2 P.M., the column started for Metemneh, leaving the wounded entrenched at Abou Klea. The column marched without stopping all through the afternoon and night until 6.30 A.M. on the morning of the 19th, when we observed the Nile to our front, and Metemneh to our left front. The enemy very shortly began to form up on one of the hills. The General meanwhile formed a temporary Zareba, and ordered the men to get their breakfast as quickly as possible. The enemy then proceeded to send out about 600 sharpshooters, who kept up a very hot fire on three sides of the square front and rear faces and right flank. During this fire, the column lost a number in killed and wounded, among the latter being Brigadier-General Sir H. Stewart, and Lieutenant Munro, R.N., who experienced the unusual occurrence of being wounded in seven places by one bullet. During this time, the Gardner gun was placed about 10 yards outside the square, near the corner formed by the rear face and left flank. It was directed where the fire appeared to be hottest without much result, as the enemy were well covered, lying down behind the grass. About 10 A.M., square was formed with about 1,000 men in the rear of the Zareba. I, being ordered to take command of the remaining 300 men, composed of details of various regiments, Transport Department, Medical Department, Artillery, Engineers, and Naval Brigade, proceeded to make two forts, about 200 yards apart, out of camel saddles, provision boxes, and thorn bushes. The larger fort contained all the sick and wounded, 3 artillery guns, 7-pounder screw guns, and the Gardner. Two of the artillery guns and the Gardner were mounted for action, there being no room for the third artillery gun. The whole of the camels, some 2,000, were made to lie down in a circle outside the larger fort, and formed an admirable means of defence. These forts were constructed during a severe fire from the enemy in the bushes and trees about 800 yards distant. Officers and men worked, however, cheerily and well. On the square moving out to meet the enemy, I observed them forming up in three V-shaped columns, the third one being the largest. One column was in rear of the other.

Captain Norton, R.A., served the two artillery