

relinquished position being quickly occupied by the enemy.

The position then taken up was at the foot of a hill situated about two miles south-west of Toski, towards which the enemy steadily continued their advance.

At 9 A.M. two guns of the Horse Battery came up and opened fire, checking the advance, which was deflected to the north-west, and appeared to form gradually into a line of march, the whole Dervish force crossing our front at a distance of about two thousand yards in a dense mass, on which the Artillery continued to fire with effect.

It was then observed that under cover of this advance a great mass of camp followers and baggage camels were making for the high ground to the north-west, and were soon hidden from view.

From this movement it was evident that the enemy must be making for their new camp in the direction of Ibrim.

From here I sent into Toski for the 2nd Infantry Brigade, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Egyptian Battalions, the 11th Soudanese Battalion (strength as per margin*), and the 2nd Egyptian Field Battery.

The 2nd Infantry Brigade was eventually merged into the 1st Brigade, the whole being placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wodehouse, R.A. (E.A.), with Brevet Major Hunter, Lancashire Regiment (E.A.) in command of the 1st Brigade.

I then desired Colonel Kitchener to move the mounted troops round the enemy's front in order to head their main column, which was continuing its march north, covered by rifle and spear men.

By taking up successive positions in advance of the extreme right, Colonel Kitchener succeeded in his object, and the head of the Dervish column was stopped.

By 10 A.M. the 1st Infantry Brigade had arrived and took up the position already occupied by the Artillery, dismounted Cavalry, and Camel Corps. This was a rocky ridge some four miles from the river and running almost due north and south to the extent of about 2,000 yards.

In the meantime the Dervish rifle and spear men had seized some rocky hills opposite to our position and about 800 yards distant where they were rapidly reinforced, numbers of banners being planted on the hills, which were crowned by riflemen, while the spearmen massed in rear.

Seeing the prospect of enfilading the Dervish left flank, I ordered Colonel Wodehouse to prolong the line of Infantry to the right, and no sooner was this extension of the 9th Battalion in line seen by the Dervish spearmen, than, led by the Emir Abdel Halim, they charged in force the right of our position—they came on with a determined rush, but were shot down to a man by this Battalion, under the command of Brevet Major Lloyd, Yorkshire Light Infantry (E.A.).

I then ordered the 9th Battalion, which was reinforced by a company of the 2nd Battalion, under Captain Martyr, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (E.A.), to advance and occupy the left Dervish position, at the same time advancing the whole line simultaneously with both flanks thrown forward to envelop the rest of the position.

The centre was stormed with great steadiness by the 10th Soudanese Battalion, under Brevet

Major Donne, Sussex Regiment (E.A.), who drove the Dervishes from the heights, inflicting great loss on them, as they retreated from their cover behind the hill, and capturing a large number of standards.

The 13th Soudanese Battalion under Captain Kempster, Leinster Regiment (E.A.), stormed the extreme right of the Dervish position, which was an isolated hill. Here the Dervish riflemen were in such force that a temporary check ensued—the Battalion losing 12 killed and 53 wounded in a few minutes. Captain Kempster, however, gallantly leading on his men, a hand to hand fight ensued with the Dervishes, who charged again and again with desperate bravery. This and the centre position were eventually found to have been the Dervish stronghold, where most of the principal Baggara and Jaalin Emirs were killed, and where the bodies of Abdel Halim, Wad Gubbara, Makin el Nur, and several others, who were subsequently identified (a complete list is appended) were found.

In rear of the left centre of the Dervish position over a thousand Dervishes lay dead.

The Artillery massed under Brevet Major Rundle, R.A. (E.A.); 1st Egyptian Battalion under Captain Coles, East Kent Regiment (E.A.); 2nd Egyptian Battalion, under Major Shapesspear, R.M.A. (E.A.); 11th Soudanese Battalion, under Captain McDonald, Gordon Highlanders (E.A.), materially assisted in the capture of the left Dervish position by pouring steady enfilading fire on the Dervish masses collected in rear.

The 1st Battalion joined the 13th as the position was finally rushed, and these two battalions here captured upwards of thirty standards.

The combined attack on this position was directed by Brevet Major Hunter, who received a spear wound in the arm during the hand to hand encounter on the top of the hill.

During these operations the Cavalry and Camel Corps on the right of the line prevented by their fire the Dervishes reinforcing their first position as well as enfilading ours.

On the capture of their first position the Dervishes retreated across a broad plain towards the high ground to the west; at this stage, Nejumi, on a horse, trying to rally the scattered Dervishes, was pointed out to me by a Dervish prisoner, and I then ordered the 20th Hussars, under Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin, and the Egyptian Cavalry, under Lieutenant Beech, 21st Hussars (E.A.), to charge, while the Camel Corps, advancing rapidly, brought a close fire to bear on the retreating enemy's flank, and the division of Horse Battery, moving to the left front at a gallop, opened at case range.

The Dervishes with a few standards now took up a second strong position due west of their first position and some 2,000 yards from it, in the direction towards which camp-followers and baggage camels had been seen diverting in the early stage of the action.

At noon I ordered the 11th Soudanese, with 1st and 2nd Egyptian Battalions on either flank, supported by the 10th and 13th Soudanese, with the 9th Soudanese on right-rear flank, to advance against this position, which had been previously shelled by the Artillery.

The 11th Soudanese advanced with great steadiness, drums beating and bugles blowing, the Dervishes, however, had already suffered so heavily that they made but little opposition; the hills were rapidly cleared, while the Egyptian Cavalry, coming round on the right flank, entered into pursuit.

* 58 Officers, 1,523 N.C.O. and men.