

I advanced along the crest from Sangar towards Sartop, which was held by the enemy. The advance was covered by the fire of the guns of No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and the three guns of No. 2 (Derajat) Mountain Battery. The Third Column advanced straight along the crest, the First Column moving round by the left, and attacking the enemy's position from that flank. The village was cleared of the enemy at eight A.M. by the 1st and 6th Punjab Infantry, leading their respective columns. Our loss in the attack was one man killed and one officer (Lieutenant Patch, Royal Artillery) and seven men wounded. After the enemy had been driven off and the place occupied by our troops, I ordered a halt to be made at the spring below Sartop to enable the troops to get water, as some of them had been 24 hours without it, and they were exhausted by the heat of the sun.

10. At 11 A.M. I continued the advance, and occupied the Mastan plateau after slight opposition, entailing no loss. This plateau is the key of the Samana Range, and I left the Third Column to occupy it, the First Column returning to Sangar. I ordered the Second Column also to move to Sangar to take the place of the Third Column in order to simplify the question of supplies previous to a further advance. This column on the 18th had been employed in destroying the tower and defences of the Rabia Khel village of Dzond. During that day they lost one man killed and five men wounded,—four dangerously.

11. In carrying out the above operations, the troops underwent severe hardships and fatigue in a spirited and cheerful manner. The young soldiers of the King's Royal Rifles, fresh to this country, suffered especially from heat and thirst, but showed great endurance.

12. On the evening of the 19th Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow reported that he was suffering annoyance from large bodies of the enemy who had collected in the neighbourhood of his camp, and during that day and the following night he lost one native officer and two men killed, and one officer, one native officer, and three men wounded. Early on the morning of the 20th I sent reinforcements from Sangar to Mastan, consisting of the Peshawar Mountain Battery, the King's Royal Rifles, the 2nd Punjab Infantry, and the 5th Gurkha Regiment, with orders to Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow to attack and disperse the enemy. That officer, having made good dispositions, advanced against the enemy's position about 2 P.M. The main attack on the village of Saragarhi was carried out by the King's Royal Rifles and the 5th Gurkha Regiment, and the enemy was soon flying in all directions, the Gurkhas getting to close quarters with them as they made off. Simultaneously with this attack the 6th Punjab and the 19th Bengal Infantry, under cover of the guns of the Derajat Mountain Battery, carried the village of Ghuztang, the enemy making no stand, but flying towards the Khanki. Some 60 dead bodies were left on the ground, and, from reports subsequently received, it appears that the enemy's losses amounted to nearly 300 killed and wounded. Our casualties were only one man of the King's Royal Rifles killed, and one officer and six men of other corps wounded. All sections of the Orakzai tribe were represented in this engagement, and the Akhel and Mamuzai were reported especially to have suffered.

13. On the 21st I advanced to Gulistan with the Second Column under Lieutenant-Colonel Turner, reinforced by the 1st Punjab and the

27th Bengal Infantry, and on the following day I advanced into the Akhel (or Chagru) Valley. Retaining the guns and the 27th Bengal Infantry on the crest of the high hill overlooking the Akhel settlements, I sent the 1st Punjab Infantry along the ridge to the Chagru Kotal with orders to work down the valley, while the 2nd Punjab Infantry, followed by the 3rd Sikh Infantry, descended towards the Khanki, with orders to work up and meet the 1st Punjab Infantry. The enemy opened fire on the 1st Punjab Infantry as it advanced, but that regiment, aided by the guns on the crest, soon cleared out the villages in their front. The 2nd Punjab Infantry reached the bed of the Chagru Nala under cover of a spur running down from the crest, and surprised the enemy before they were able to escape, inflicting heavy punishment. This regiment then moved up the nala, covered by the 3rd Sikh Infantry on the right bank, and cleared cut the villages, destroying towers and defences. The enemy was prevented from following up by the fire of the guns, which I had moved to a point commanding the opposite side of the valley, and the troops returned to camp without molestation. Large bodies of tribesmen were seen about the hills and down in the valley, but these were dispersed by the fire of the guns and by Infantry volleys. Our losses during the day were one man killed and 13 wounded. The enemy was reported to have lost between 50 and 60 killed.

14. On the morning of the 23rd a large gathering, with three standards, having collected near the village of Margharu, I moved out of camp to attack their position. Sangars had been erected at a point just beyond the village, and from here the enemy opened fire on the advancing troops, but after an engagement lasting half an hour the position was carried by the 15th (Sikh) Bengal Infantry, who led the attack, the enemy dispersing down the reverse slopes of the hill under a heavy artillery and infantry fire. I then ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Turner to move down the spur and destroy the tower and defences of the village of Talli, out of which the enemy had advanced with standards on the previous day. This was satisfactorily done, and the troops returned to camp without a shot being fired as they retired. Our losses during the day were one man killed and one native officer and five men wounded. A strong contingent of Afridis fought in the ranks of the enemy on this occasion, but after the action they, as well as the Akhel and Ali Khel, sent me a message asking if I would receive their deputations. Permission having been granted, jirgas arrived in camp on the 24th and were received by Major Leigh, who however, reported that they were in no sense representative of their tribes.

15. Meanwhile the punishment of the Rabia Khel continued. On the 21st Lieutenant-Colonel Brownlow blew up the towers of the Ibrahim Khel hamlets, and on the 23rd a small column under Lieutenant-Colonel Reid, 29th Bengal Infantry, destroyed the defences of Bazai.

16. The post at Chilibagh was fired into on the night of the 22nd, and an attack was made on the morning of the 23rd upon a convoy near the Darband Kotal, in which we lost four men killed and three wounded, and at the same time a number of mules were killed, others being carried off. I therefore determined to move a column into the country of the Shekhan and Mamuzai (Daradar), as those tribes were principally concerned in the above attacks. Accordingly, on the 27th, I marched to Hanga, where the First