

5. I may note here that, so far as deceiving the enemy as to my intention of attacking only one pass, the plan was completely successful, though the attack took place a day later than I had hoped for. The enemy had not sufficient time to get across the hills and help their comrades on the Malakand Pass between the evening of the 2nd April, when they must have fathomed the plan, to the morning of the 3rd, when the attack took place.

6. The attack took place on the morning of the 3rd with the 2nd and 1st Brigade. It was my intention to use the 2nd Brigade only, the 1st being in rear with its mule transport ready to cross the pass as soon as captured, and march on the Swat River; but, as will be seen, I found the pass so strongly held and so obstinately defended, that to gain the victory I had to utilize both brigades, and at the final moment I had only one regiment in reserve, the other three regiments of the 1st Brigade as well as all four regiments of the 2nd Brigade being engaged in the attack.

7. Starting from Darghai, the pass the first goes through a gradually narrowing valley to the north for about two miles, then bends to the north-east for a mile and a half, where the high hills on the west drop precipitately into the pass. On reaching the bend of the pass to the north-east, it was apparent that the pass was strongly held on the west side, the whole range being lined by men with flags and banners.

8. At this point the 4th Sikhs were sent to occupy a spur which jutted out from the range to the west, and they had to remain there, covering the advance, for the day.

9. The Guides Infantry were directed to ascend the highest point of the western hill, and after gaining the summit, to turn along the crest, and enfilade the position of the enemy, which evidently extended from the highest point to the end of the range, and where, as already noted, the hill precipitately descends into the pass. The Guides Infantry had a most arduous task to perform; they had to ascend the highest peak of the range about 1,500 feet high, and attack and capture several sangars full of the enemy, which were held by riflemen and crowds throwing rocks and stones down, and their advance was necessarily gradual.

10. Meanwhile, as the force advanced, the position of the enemy was disclosed. They occupied the whole of the crest of the western hill with numerous sangars down the sides of the hill, each commanding the one below it, and their main strength was on the northern end of the hill, where it precipitately descended into the valley. The hills on the eastern side of the pass were not held by the enemy till after the point where the western hill dropped into the valley. Full advantage was taken of this fact.

11. There were three mountain batteries with the troops in action, namely, Nos. 3 and 8 Mountain Batteries, Royal Artillery, and No. 4 (Detached) Mountain Battery of four guns—in all 16 guns; and these took up position after position on the eastern slope of the valley, and most successfully prevented any concentration of the enemy when the infantry advance was ordered.

12. It soon became apparent that, if the assault was delayed till the position was turned by the Guides that the action would be unduly delayed, and the Guides themselves seriously outnumbered.

13. At this time I also ascertained that, although the pass appeared to lie in the valley itself and to round the corner of the western hill where it dropped into the valley, yet that beyond this point there was no path nor roadway whatever, the valley being blocked with huge rocks

and boulders, and that the crossing of the pass lay to the left over the heights to our left, and which was so strongly held by the enemy. Action was at once therefore taken to carry the hill to the left, which from this point was about 1,000 feet high.

14. The Gordon Highlanders were directed up the crest of the western hill from the point where it touched the valley. The King's Own Scottish Borderers were directed up the centre spur. The 60th Rifles were directed up the slopes from further back in the line, whilst the Bedfordshire Regiment and 37th Dogras pushed on, rounded the point from which the Gordon Highlanders commenced the ascent, and, turning to the left, ascended the hill from the northern side, the 15th Sikhs being held in reserve.

15. As the infantry ascended it was seen how well the defence of the hill had been organized. The Gordon Highlanders and King's Own Scottish Borderers, ascending as they did on a direct attack, met the greatest resistance and suffered most. Sangar after sangar was obstinately held, each sangar as it was rushed coming at once under the fire of the one above it; and here I may note the admirable service done by the artillery and Maxim guns; several attempts were made by the enemy to concentrate from above and hold lower sangars and positions, but all such attempts were frustrated by the admirable practice of the mountain batteries and Maxim guns over the heads of our advancing infantry, although at several points the sangars were only carried by hand-to-hand fighting. The enemy were gradually driven from position to position, and eventually fled down the other slopes of the western hill as the heads of the attacking columns reached the top, when the pass was captured and fighting over, though they were pursued down the other side as soon as the men got together.

16. The action was begun at 8.30 A.M. and concluded at 2 P.M.

17. The total numbers of the enemy are variously reported, but the actual numbers on the pass were probably about 10,000 to 12,000 men—some 3,000 armed, and the rest using rocks and stones.

18. The enemy's loss was said by themselves to be about 500, and the road down the other side was covered with signs of numbers of wounded men having been carried away. Our loss was 11 men killed, and 8 Officers and 39 men wounded.

19. The 1st Brigade remained at the top of the pass, holding it, while the mules of the brigade passed up; but the path was so bad that only a few mules reached the top that night.

20. I have already sent by telegram the detail of killed and wounded.

E. H. H. COLLEN, Major-General,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Office, June 1, 1895.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint—

Basil Cave, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Consul in the Dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, to reside at Zanzibar; and

Charles Seymour Hampson, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Vilayet of Bitlis, to reside at Moush.