

six days' supplies to carry us on to Mastuj, but I hoped to obtain some on the road there.

8. Shandur Pass, 1st April.—On the 1st April I marched out with the entire column, as per margin,* with some 500 coolies and ponies for transport, but after proceeding about eight miles I found it was impossible for the mules of the battery and the pony transport to make their way through the snow over the unbeaten track, as they sank up to their girths. I therefore determined to return, and on arriving at village Teru, I directed 200 of the 32nd Pioneers, 40 Kashmir Sappers and Miners, and 50 Hunza Levies to remain there under Captain Borradaile, and directed him to make an attempt to cross the pass next day, and on arrival at Laspur to entrench himself there, return the coolie transport, and endeavour to open communication with Mastuj. The manner in which he carried out these instructions are fully given in his report, herewith attached and marked D.

9. Shandur Pass, 2nd and 3rd April.—To enable him to proceed I left all the coolie carriage at Teru, and after transferring all kits and excess stores to the pony transport, I took the remainder back to Ghizr, where they could be more easily fed, and I could replenish myself with stores there, as the Hakim was beginning to bring in wheat. Snow began to fall in the evening and continued through the night and the greater part of the following day, 2nd April, preventing Captain Borradaile's departure. I permitted trials being made for the transport of the guns on sledges, and for that purpose they were sent out to Teru on the 3rd April, and eventually accompanied Captain Borradaile's party, who were able to make a start on that day.

10. Shandur Pass, 5th to 9th April.—Having assured myself of the state of commissariat supplies, I started with my Staff Officer, Lieutenant Beynon, and 50 Nagar Levies, on the 5th April, and reached Laspur on the 6th. The second party under Lieutenant Peterson were not able to leave till the 8th April and reached Laspur on the 9th April.

The crossing of the Shandur Pass was an arduous undertaking, and at the most unseasonable time of the year, but I am proud to say that the trials were most cheerfully borne. Unfortunately for us recent falls had made the snow some three to four feet deep and obliterated any track that may have existed. We could hardly expect to cross without some cases of snow blindness and frost-bite, and of these in the whole column the total cases were 63 of the former and 43 of the latter; only the cases of frost-bite were severe.

11. Laspur, 6th and 7th April.—On the afternoon of his arrival, Captain Borradaile, hearing of the enemy in the neighbourhood, reconnoitred about two miles in the Mastuj direction, and on the following day, 6th April, advanced as far as Gasht with his reconnaissance. The levies going in advance discovered that the enemy had constructed sangars on our line of advance at Chakalwat. On the recommendation of the medical officer, to allow of the cases of snow-blindness recovering, a halt was made on the 7th April. Raja Akhbar Khan and 50 levies arrived in camp on this day.

12. Gasht, 8th April.—Considering that any delay would permit of a greater concourse of the enemy at Chakalwat (Derband on the map) I determined not to wait for the second detachment

of the 32nd Pioneers, under Lieutenant Peterson, and to proceed next day, 8th April, to Gasht, which I accordingly did with a force, strength as per margin,* the guns being carried by coolies. On arrival I proceeded to some high ground beyond the village of Gasht, and could distinctly see the enemy sitting in their sangars on the left bank of the river and men creeping up the steep Shalaf Hill on the right bank to positions above their stone shoots.

Lieutenant Beynon with a few picked Hunza levies ascended the high hills almost behind the right rear of the enemy's position, and brought back an extremely good sketch of the whole of the position, a copy of which is attached to the report.† I immediately sent back for Raja Akhbar Khan and his 50 levies, who joined us during the night.

13. Action of Chakalwat, 9th April.—On the morning of the 9th April I advanced to the attack of the enemy. In the early morning Lieutenant Beynon, with the Hunza levies, ascended the high hills on the left bank of the river, to turn the right of the position and attack in rear. The Punyal levies were sent up the hills on the right bank to turn out the men above the stone shoots.

I advanced in the following manner:—

Half company, 32nd Pioneers—advanced guard, Kashmir Sappers and Miners; Half Company, 32nd Pioneers, Two guns, 1st Kashmir Mountain Battery, carried by coolies, One company, 32nd Pioneers, Main body,

The baggage, under escort of the rear guard, remained in Gasht till ordered forward after the action.

An advance was made to the river where the bridge had been broken, but sufficiently repaired by the Sappers and Miners for the passage of the infantry, the guns forded the river, and the force ascended to the fan facing the right sangar of the enemy's position.

13 A. Orders for Attack.—My instructions for the attack were that the advanced guard were to leave the road and form up on the highest part of the fan facing "A" Sangar (see sketch)†, which was to be silenced by volley firing and the guns; the same course to be afterwards adopted on "B" Sangar, when an opportunity would probably offer itself for the infantry to descend to the river bed and ascend to the left bank to enfilade the enemy in the remaining sangars, which would no doubt be vacated on the appearance of the levies under Lieutenant Beynon in their rear.

14. Configuration of ground.—The configuration of the ground was as follows:—The road from the river after leaving Gasht brought us on to an alluvial fan, the ascent to which was short and steep; it was covered with boulders and intersected with nullahs; the road led across this fan and then along the foot of steep shale slopes and shoots within 500 yards of the line of sangars crowning the opposite side of the river bank, and totally devoid of any sort or description of cover for some two miles; it could also be swept by avalanches of stones set in motion by a few men placed on the heights above for that purpose.

15. Enemy's position.—The enemy's position consisted of a line of sangars blocking the roads from the river up to the alluvial fan on which they were placed. The right of the position was protected by a snow glacier which descended into the river bed, and furthermore by sangars which

* 2 guns of No. 1 Kashmir Mountain Battery, 190 of the 32nd Pioneers, 40 of the Kashmir Sappers and Miners, 50 Levies, 280.

† Not published.

* 2 guns of No. 1 Kashmir Battery; 396 of the 32nd Pioneers; 40 of the Kashmir Sappers and Miners; 100 Levies.