

reached within 12 feet of the foot of the tower. The British Agent came up, and we both agreed that there was only one thing to do, and that was the summer-house must be rushed, and that soon, and the mine destroyed.

There was no time to countermine. I told off Lieutenant Harley and 40 men of the 14th Sikhs and Major Bhagwan Singh, Subadar Gandib Singh and 60 men of the 4th Kashmir Rifles, and decided to let the party out of the garden-gate at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. They would only have to go 50 yards, and the enemy in all probability would be surprised, and 100 men would be ample to do the business. Men were told off to carry the powder-bags, powder-hose, matches and picks to destroy the mine. The shafts in all probability would be in the summer-house.

I gave the following instructions to Lieutenant Harley:—No firing, bayonet only; 40 rounds in pouch; take a prisoner or two if possible; take three powder bags; 110 lbs. of powder, 40 feet powder-hose, picks and spades. To go straight for the gap in the wall of house, no dividing up the party; no support. Having rushed the place to hold the house on front towards Fateh Ali Shah's house, and with the remaining men destroy the mine by pulling down the uprights and wooden supports, if any, or blow it in as he saw fit. No hurry. If the sangar in front of the garden-gate annoyed, he should send some men round it, first sounding the cease fire and let us know what he was going to do and we would cease firing from the parapets on the sangar in question.

I had up all the officers going with him and explained the object of the *sortie* that they might explain it thoroughly to their non-commissioned officers and men, so that every man going should know the object of the *sortie*, as the stupidest man in the detachment might then be the means of carrying it out successfully.

All officers carried matches and one officer was told off to bring up the rear and see no man hung back.

The gate was opened, and the party rushed out, a few hurried shots, and they were into the house, and had captured it, two men of the 4th Kashmir Rifles being shot dead as they got in. About 30 Pathans were in the house and they bolted down the garden wall, but stopped at far end of the garden and kept up a heavy fire into the house and sustained it throughout, Harley's men keeping up a heavy fire in return. The mine shaft was found just outside the house behind the garden wall, and 35 Chitralis were bayoneted in the mouth of the mine as they came out, all being armed with swords. Two Pathans were shot in the house; two prisoners were taken. In the meanwhile we had gone to our stations on the parapet and kept up a lively fire from the parapet; several of the enemy were killed running away across the open towards the bazar. It was several times reported to me from the towers that a considerable number of the enemy were making their way down to the river bank from Fateh Ali Shah's house and coming round behind the garden wall round towards our waterway; and they lined the garden wall at the east end of the garden and opened fire on us with rifles. Two Gurkhas of the 4th Kashmir Regiment were shot dead in the garden as they crept along the wall answering this fire. A considerable number of the enemy were seen gathering along the river bank, and this made me anxious of a counter-attack on our waterway, so I occupied the stables with 20 men,

withdrew the Sikhs from the west parapet and put them in the north-east angle of the fort to support and flank the waterway. I sent three different messages to Lieutenant Harley to hurry up in his work at destroying the mine, and warning him of the enemy gathering at the end of the garden. Soon after 5 p.m. I heard the explosion of powder, and the party came rushing back into the garden gate, the enemy from the end of the garden keeping up a furious fusillade on them. The party lost 8 killed and 13 wounded, viz., 3 Sikhs killed and 5 wounded, and 5 of the 4th Kashmir Regiment killed and 8 wounded, total 21 killed and wounded out of 100 men.

The effect of the powder bag was excellent, although it exploded before they were ready and it was untamped. The whole mine was burst open right up to the foot of the gun tower and lay exposed like a trench. Two of the enemy were killed in the mine by the powder. We computed the loss of the enemy at about 60 men, taking into consideration the men shot from the parapets of the fort. The north and the flag towers accounted for eight of the enemy. The two prisoners were brought in. Harley and his party had done their work well.

The following men are to be recommended for the Order of Merit for bravery in the affair:—

- No. 772, Naick Garja Singh, 14th Sikhs.*
- No. 926, Havildar Santok Singh, 14th Sikhs.
- No. 1822, Sepoy Attar Singh, 14th Sikhs.
- No. 1508, Sepoy Karram Singh, 14th Sikhs.
- No. 578, Sepoy Nikoo, 4th Kashmir Rifles.†

The party round the mine were under fire from the end of the garden wall at 150 yards range.

Number of rounds expended = 2,795 on this day (1,560 Martini-Henry and 1,435 Snider).

We started a couple of countermines this evening under the gun-tower, so that if the enemy mined again they must break into our gallery.

18th April, Thursday.—Enemy very quiet today. Working hard at our countermines, gangs relieving all day and working in three hours' reliefs.

The prisoners gave information that the enemy had intended to make another and determined attempt to fire the water-tower, but waited to see the effects of their mine either by burning or by gunpowder. They had intended to blow up the tower to-morrow night. That no other mines were in contemplation. That some of our troops had arrived at Mastuj, and had attacked Mahomed Isa who was in position at Nasr Gol, this side of Mastuj, but had had the worst at the skirmish, and had retired again to Mastuj. That Sher Afzal had sent to Umra Khan, asking him to assist him with 2,000 men.

19th April.—About 3 a.m. this morning Lieutenant Gurdon, who was on middle watch, reported that a man was outside calling out under the fort wall that he had important news to tell. All precautions were taken; he was admitted to the main gate, and he told us of the flight of Sher Afzal and the Jandol Chief about midnight, and of the near approach of Colonel Kelly's column from Mastuj. All the sangars were deserted. In the morning not a man was to be seen about Chitral. The siege, which had lasted 46 days, was at an end. A letter was received from Colonel Kelly this night, with news of his fighting on the road and of the Peshawar force ad-

* Jumped into the mine shaft first with Lieutenant Harley, and bayoneted the first Chitrali, being wounded in the hand with a tulwar cut.

† Sepoy Nikoo, 4th Kashmir Rifles, also jumped into the mine shaft at the same time.