

2. I have kept you informed by telegram of the events of each day, but I have been prevented from sending any detailed report before by the incessant nature of the fighting.

3. On the afternoon of the 26th, I was informed by Major H. A. Deane, Political Agent, who had previously warned me of possible trouble, that matters had assumed a very disquieting aspect, reports having reached him of the entire failure of the residents of the Swat Valley to stop the advance of a fanatical Fakir, who had gained immense influence on the superstitious and religious feelings of the people, and that he thought that the Guides should be called up, and arrangements made for the Brigade to turn out. The Guides were consequently wired for at once, and all Officers commanding Regiments and Adjutants were ordered to meet me immediately.

4. At 7 P.M. I saw these Officers and gave them instructions to be prepared to turn out at any moment. These instructions had hardly been given when Major Deane joined me, and informed me that news has just come in that the Fakir was moving towards Aladand, and that in his opinion the Brigade should turn out at once and prevent his seizing the Amandara Pass. Orders were consequently issued by me for the Officer Commanding, 45th Sikhs, with two guns of No. 8 Bengal Mountain Battery, two Companies, 31st Punjab Infantry, and the Squadron, XIth Bengal Lancers, to start at midnight and seize the Amandara Pass. The remainder of the column to start at 3 A.M. under my own command.

5. All Officers were recalled from leave and orders given that all regimental baggage was to be stored under guards in their own camps, there being no time to strike tents and carry them away to the fort.

6. At 9.45 P.M. a telegram was received from the Officer Commanding, Chakdarra, saying that two forces of Pathans were marching towards Chakdarra from the east along both banks of the river, and at 10 P.M. Major Deane arrived at the Brigade Office with the news that a Levy Jemadar had just arrived, giving information that the Fakir had passed Khar, and was advancing on Malakand, and that neither levies nor people would act against him, and that the hills to the east of the camp were covered with Pathans. It was at once seen that a night attack on the camp was intended, and the "alarm" was immediately sounded, the troops moving at once to their posts.

7. This had just been completed when the first shots were fired, and a general attack was made on the camp by the Buddhist and Graded Roads. At the same time firing from the direction of the North Camp and the glow of star shells showed that the North Camp was also threatened.

8. In the first rush the enemy succeeded in overpowering the picquet on the Graded Road, and penetrated into the camp behind the enclosure in which were the camps of the Sappers and Miners and Field Engineer Park.

9. On the right flank the Buddhist Road had been secured by the 45th Rattray's Sikhs, under Lieutenant-Colonel McRae, who had, on the first alarm being sounded, despatched Major Taylor with a party to secure the gorge where the road reaches the top of the pass. Lieutenant-Colonel McRae, followed immediately with 30 men, caught up Major Taylor, and they together advanced to the gorge, and almost immediately encountered the head of the enemy's column, numbering several hundred men, who were creeping silently up the Buddhist Road. They opened a very hot fire on them, and the enemy at

once broke into yells and screams, and tried to rush them.

10. The small party held on to their position manfully till the enemy clambered up on to the rocks that overlooked the gorge on both sides, and from this position rolled down rocks and fired on them. Lieutenant Barff and some more men of the 45th Sikhs had by this time arrived and been sent by Lieutenant-Colonel McRae to protect his right flank round which the enemy were trying to make a way. The remainder of the regiment now came up, and Lieutenant-Colonel McRae retired to a more defensible position, about 50 yards in rear, in which he remained and defied the enemy all night. Just before he retired Major Taylor was mortally wounded.

11. There is no doubt that the gallant resistance made by this small body in the gorge, against vastly superior numbers, till the arrival of the rest of the regiment, saved the camp from being rushed on that side, and I cannot speak too highly of the behaviour of Lieutenant-Colonel McRae and Major Taylor on this occasion.

12. On the left, on the alarm being sounded, the picquets supplied by the 24th Punjab Infantry had been doubled, one company of the same regiment under Lieutenant Costello was sent to line the walls of the enclosure facing the gorge through which the road to the North Camp passes, and another company, under Lieutenant Climo, was sent to line the wall of the Bazaar facing the gorge up which the Graded Road passes. The remainder of the regiment being held in readiness to support any part of the line that required it.

13. The central position, viz., the enclosure in which were the Sappers and Miners Camp, the Commissariat Godown and the Field Engineer Park was occupied by No. 5 Company, Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners.

14. I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Lamb to bring one company of his regiment into this enclosure, and I also withdrew the company lining the Bazaar wall into this enclosure, as the enemy were getting round their flank, and in their former position they ran a risk of being fired into by the company lining the enclosure facing the gorge leading to the North Camp. There were thus in this enclosure—

No. 5 Company, Madras Sappers and Miners, and two companies, 24th Punjab Infantry.

15. The enemy, having overpowered the picquet on the Abbott (Graded) Road, got on to the high ground in rear of the position from which they kept up a heavy fire all night, periodically charging with great determination right up to the abattis which was lined by the Sappers and Miners. Twice they penetrated, once capturing the Quarter Guard, in which was all the ammunition of the company. It was in trying to stop this charge that Lieutenant Watling, temporarily in command of the company, was wounded by a man whom he ran through with his sword. The enemy overpowered the guard, and for a time held the guard-room, but were eventually driven out by a party of the 24th Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant Climo. Some of the enemy penetrated into the Commissariat Godown, and here they killed Honorary Lieutenant Manley, my Brigade Commissariat Officer.

16. In the enclosure the fighting was very severe, for the enemy were on three sides of it, and fought with great determination, bringing a heavy cross fire on the defenders, and continually charging right up to the breastworks.

17. Lieutenant-Colonel Lamb, 24th Punjab Infantry, Major Herbert, my Deputy-Assistant