

the favourable notice of Government the Staff, Departmental, and Regimental Officers named in the Despatch.

9. The advance made in knowledge of their special duties evinced by Transport Officers during the operations now reported on, and the attention that has been paid to the care and treatment of the transport animals are, in Sir George White's opinion, most satisfactory and creditable.

10. In conclusion, the Commander-in-Chief desires to bring to the notice of Government the services rendered by Major-General Morton, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, and Major-General Badcock, C.B., C.S.I., Quartermaster-General in India, in the performance of the onerous duties which devolved upon them in connection with these operations.

From Major-General Sir B. Blood, K.C.B. Commanding the Malakand Field Force, to the Adjutant-General in India—No. 5—“Despatches—Malakand Field Force,”—dated 27th October, 1897).

I REGRET to find that in my report, “Despatches—Malakand Field Force,” No. 3 of the 20th August, 1897, I omitted to include the name of Surgeon-Captain E. V. Hugo, Indian Medical Service, amongst those of the Officers recommended to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for their services during the recent defence of Chakdara Fort. I now have great pleasure in stating that Surgeon-Captain Hugo served with distinction throughout the defence in question, and in recommending him for favourable consideration accordingly.

2. The last report I had the honour to submit (“Despatches—Malakand Field Force,” No. 4 of the 30th August, 1897) brought the history of the Malakand Field Force down to the 26th August, on which date the brigade of all arms which I took into Upper Swat returned to Thana in Lower Swat.

3. The period from the 27th August to the 6th September was taken up with routine work, and latterly with movements preparatory to the expedition into the Mohmand country, an account of which I will now proceed to give.

4. On the 6th September, in pursuance of Orders which I had received, to march two Brigades via the Panjkora Bridge and Nawagai to Shabkadr in the Peshawar Valley, the disposition of the Malakand Field Force was generally as follows:—

3rd Brigade, equipped with camels and a few mules, at the Panjkora Bridge and Uch.

2nd Brigade, equipped entirely with mules, at Chakdara.

1st Brigade, equipped with camels, carts, and a few mules, at Khar, the Malakand and the Line.

Divisional headquarters, with camp offices, at Chakdara.

5. A very interesting feature in the movements by which this disposition was arrived at was the march of the 10th Field Battery under Major C. A. Anderson, R.A., first from Khar to Uch over the suspension bridge at Chakdara, which was built for pack transport only, and afterwards from Uch to the Panjkora Bridge by the mule road through the Shigu Kas defile—performances which show how our field artillery can overcome difficulties. The presence of this battery with its 12-pr. guns was of great value on many occasions during the operations I am about to describe.

6. Some little delay being necessitated by political arrangements with the Jandol Chiefs and

others, the disposition of the force on the 12th September had only altered to the following:—

3rd Brigade, Watelai, three miles south-west of Khar, on the left bank of the Chaharmung stream.

2nd Brigade, Gosam.

1st Brigade, two battalions and the 10th Field Battery at Panjkora and Serai, the remainder on the Line.

Divisional headquarters, with the 3rd Brigade, at Watelai.

7. On the 13th the 3rd Brigade halted, the 2nd Brigade moved to a point close to and south-west of Khar, and I personally examined the Rambat Pass, finding that the country to the south of it was very deficient in water and forage. This being so, I directed Brigadier-General F. D. Jeffreys, C.B., commanding the 2nd Brigade, to encamp on the 14th, north of Markhanai, to improve the Rambat Pass, to cross it into Butkor on the 15th with two battalions, a company of sappers and miners, a squadron, and five days' supplies, and to send the remainder of his brigade on the same day, under Colonel T. H. Goldney, 35th Sikhs, to join me at Nawagai, to which place I intended to march on the 14th with the 3rd Brigade. I further directed Brigadier-General Jeffreys to move his special force through Butkor as quickly as possible to Danish Kol, where I promised to join him, or send him further instructions. Both brigades carried with them rations for men up to the 23rd September; and I had arranged to drop my communications with the Malakand and draw my next supplies from Shabkadr, where the Mohmand Field Force, under Major-General E. R. Elles, C.B., was waiting to march on the 15th to join me in the Mohmand country south of Nawagai.

8. The movements detailed in the foregoing paragraph were duly carried out by the 2nd and 3rd Brigades, so far as the 14th was concerned; the 3rd Brigade, with divisional headquarters, being encamped on the evening of that day about a mile south of the village of Nawagai, while Brigadier-General Jeffreys, with three battalions, a mountain battery and a squadron, was on the right bank of the Chaharmung stream, north of Markhanai, having detached the Buffs and the 4th Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, to the crest of the Rambat Pass, to prepare it for the passage of his special force next morning.

9. At about 8 p.m. on the 14th, while it was still quite dark before the moon rose, Brigadier-General Jeffreys' camp was suddenly assailed by a heavy musketry fire from the ravines close by. The attack was continued with little intermission for six hours, being directed at first chiefly against the faces of the camp held by the Guides under Major F. Campbell and the 35th Sikhs under Colonel T. H. Goldney, and afterwards against that defended by the 38th Dogras under Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. Vivian. The enemy showed no inclination to come to close quarters, and ultimately drew off about 2 a.m., doubtless having in view the desirableness of getting beyond reach of cavalry before daylight. This, however, they did not succeed in doing, as they were overtaken in the Mamund Valley about 8 a.m. on the 15th by Captain E. H. Cole and his squadron of the 11th Bengal Lancers, who killed 21 of them and dispersed the rest.

10. I regret to say that two British officers were killed\* and one dangerously wounded† in this affair. The other casualties were, killed—two native soldiers and two followers; wounded—

\* Captain W. E. Tomkins and Lieutenant A. W. Bailey.

† Lieutenant H. A. Harington.