

trate at Shabkadar on the 11th September, in view to advancing on the 13th, but under orders from Army Head-Quarters the advance was postponed for two days, and I consequently ordered the concentration for the 13th, with the intention of advancing on the 15th September.

4. On the 15th September the advance across the border commenced. Opposition was expected, as the Hadda Mullah was reported to have arrived in Gandab.

The 1st Brigade, with No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, the 28th Bombay Pioneers and No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, advanced prepared for action followed by part of the 2nd Brigade with baggage and supplies.

The leading brigade met with no resistance and succeeded in reaching Gandab that day notwithstanding the difficulty of the road, but the Pioneers and Sappers and the 2nd Brigade, with all camel transport, were halted some miles short at Dund and Melmiana. The road for the last seven miles into Gandab was in parts very difficult for mules, and quite impossible for plain camels. As all my supplies were on camels, I had to wait at Galanai until the road was made practicable. On the 16th the force halted, and every effort was made to improve the road.

On the 17th, the 13th Bengal Lancers were brought through to Galanai from Shabkadar, and Brigadier-General Westmacott, with the 20th Punjab Infantry, No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and two Maxims, was pushed on to the foot of the Nahakki Pass, seven or eight miles further on. On this date a letter was received from Major-General Sir Bindon Blood, stating that the Hadda Mullah was at Bedmanai with a large gathering.

On the 18th, thanks to the excellent work done by the 28th Bombay Pioneers and No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, under the superintendence of Captain Kelly, Royal Engineers, Field Engineer, the road to Galanai had been made practicable for camels, and I was relieved of all anxiety about supplies.

On the 19th the Pioneers and Sappers were pushed on at daybreak and worked all day at the Nahakki Pass, and, thanks to their unremitting labour, I concentrated the 1st Brigade, No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, two Maxims, the 13th Bengal Lancers, the 28th Pioneers, and No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, at Nahakki on the 20th.

5. Heliographic communication had been established with Major-General Blood from the 10th, and daily letters were also received from him. General Blood had ordered me to join him at Nawagai as soon as possible, in view to attacking the Mullah, for, owing to Brigadier-General Jeffreys' brigade having been detached to punish the Mamunds, Brigadier-General Wodehouse's brigade was not strong enough to force the very strong position of the Bedmanai Pass. A telegram from the Adjutant-General in India absolved me from acting under Major-General Blood's orders, but further events in the Mohmand country convinced me that it was desirable to act up to his wishes, and I consequently informed him that I would move on Nawagai as he desired, and place myself under his orders.

Rifles; 47th Dogras; Sections C and D, No. 5 British Field Hospital; No. 44 Native Field Hospital.

Divisional Troops:—

13th Bengal Lancers; No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery; No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery; No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners; 28th Bombay Pioneers; 1st Patiala Infantry; Sections C and D, No. 63 Native Field Hospital.

It may at first sight appear that the best way of dealing with the Mullah's gathering would have been for Brigadier-General Wodehouse's brigade to have attacked from the north, whilst Brigadier-General Westmacott's brigade moved against it via Kung and Torakhwa from the south, but the effect of such a movement would probably have caused the gathering to disperse without fighting and without suffering any loss, as no Pathan lashkar would stand with their rear threatened, and the main object was to inflict punishment on them. Another reason was that the country via Kung was very waterless, and was unknown beyond that point. Further, the increasing force of the enemy in the Bajaur Valley seemed to indicate that a general rising was quite possible, in which case the concentration of a strong force seemed essential.

6. On the 21st September, I moved the 1st Brigade, with No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, four guns of No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery, two Maxims, three squadrons of the 13th Bengal Lancers and half No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, to Lakarai in the Nawagai Valley, about 6 miles from Brigadier-General Wodehouse's camp, and I met Major-General Blood. He informed me of the attack on the 3rd Brigade camp on the previous night, and that he proposed to place the 3rd Brigade, Malakand Field Force, at my disposal, in view to forcing the Bedmanai Pass and punishing the Mittai and Suran Valleys.

I must acknowledge my great obligations to Sir Bindon Blood for placing the combined force under my command.

On the 22nd, the whole force moved into a combined camp at Kuz Chinari, facing the Bedmanai Pass, where a few shots were fired into the 3rd Brigade camp at night.

On the morning of the 23rd, at 7.15 A.M., I moved to the attack of the pass with the force as per margin*, leaving the baggage loaded and massed at Kuz Chinari, with one company per corps, three squadrons of the 13th Bengal Lancers, and one squadron of the 11th Bengal Lancers, the whole under Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Deane, 14th Bengal Lancers. My plan of attack was to advance up the long spur on the left (east) of the pass with the 1st Brigade, supported by one battery, whilst the 3rd Brigade moved up the centre of the pass and covered the right flank, supported by ten guns between the brigades, with an escort of the Somersetshire Light Infantry. The Garhwalis moved to occupy the detached hill covering both entrances to the Pass, viz., that from Nawagai and that from the Mittai Valley. Their advance was covered by the cavalry, and they were fired on by a party of 200 of the enemy.

At 8.15 the 20th Punjab Infantry advanced up the wooded spur south of Khalil Kor village, driving in the enemy's picquets concealed amongst trees and rocks. The 20th was accompanied by two Maxims under Lieutenant B. Logan, Devonshire Regiment, and followed by the 2-1st

*1st Brigade Mohmand Field Force—Brigadier-General B. Westmacott, C.B., D.S.O.; 1st Somersetshire Light Infantry; 2nd Battalion 1st Gurkha Rifles; 20th Punjab Infantry; 28th Bombay Pioneers; ½ No. 5 Company Bengal Sappers and Miners.

3rd Brigade Malakand Field Force—Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Graves, 39th Garhwalis; the Queen's; 22nd Punjab Infantry; 39th Garhwalis; No. 3 Company Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Royal Artillery—Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Duthy; Royal Artillery; No. 1 Mountain Battery Royal Artillery; No. 3 Mountain Battery Royal Artillery; No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery (4 guns).