

making excellent practice, and the Gordon Highlanders, with the two companies of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, steadily holding their ground and checking the advance of the tribesmen. The heavy loss inflicted on the enemy caused them to lose heart, no reply being made to a final volley fired by the rear-guard about 7 P.M., after which the withdrawal to the Chagru Kotal and thence to Shinaori was entirely unmolested. Camp was reached by the rear-guard at 11 P.M.

10. Lieutenant-General Sir A. P. Palmer has commented most favourably on the steadiness and gallantry of the troops engaged on October the 18th, and has brought to my special notice the services of the following officers with Brigadier-General Westmacott's column:—

Major H. Rose, 1st Battalion, 3rd Gurkhas, Capt. A. P. Bateman-Champain, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Gurkhas, and Lieutenant W. G. L. Beynon, D.S.O., 1st Battalion, 3rd Gurkhas, who led the attack on Dargai.

Also Captain T. G. MacLaren, Captain D. R. Sladen, Captain A. E. Haig, Lieutenant H. F. Pipe-Wolferstan and Second Lieutenant T. H. Keyes, of the Second Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers, who were engaged in supporting the attack and covering the withdrawal.

With Brigadier-General Kempster's column—Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. Mathias, C.B., 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Abbott, 15th Sikhs.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Travers, 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkhas.

Captain I Philipps, 1st Battalion, 5th Gurkhas, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, Line of Communications.

Captain F. G. Lucas and Lieutenant the Honourable C. G. Bruce, 5th Gurkhas, who were in charge of the Gurkha scouts.

No. 2967, Private W. Rennie, 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, who shot down four of the enemy at very close quarters.

11. The casualties on October 18th comprised—

Major R. D. Jennings-Bramly, 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, killed.

Lieutenant M. L. Pears, 1st Battalion, Scottish Rifles, attached to the Gordon Highlanders, severely wounded.

British non-commissioned officers and men:—killed 2, wounded 10.

Native ranks:—killed 6, wounded 21.

Followers:—wounded 3.

12. I am much indebted to Lieutenant-General Sir A. P. Palmer and Brigadier-Generals Westmacott and Kempster for the skilful manner in which the troops were handled, and the operations described above brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

13. Having watched the action from the Samana Suk until Dargai had been captured, and the two columns had established communication with each other, I returned to Fort Lockhart, where at 5 P.M. I received a heliogram from Lieutenant-General Sir A. P. Palmer informing me that the object of the reconnaissance had been attained, and that the troops were returning to Shinaori. I accordingly directed the General Officer Commanding the 2nd Division to continue work on the road the next day, under the protection of two battalions and a mountain battery. At 11 A.M. on October 19th a heliogram was received from Major-General Yeatman-Biggs, reporting that the troops of his division had reached camp so late on the previous evening that he thought it better not to employ them in the manner indicated, especially as an advance

to Karappa had to be made the next day. I regret that my orders were not carried out, even at the risk of fatiguing the troops, as the presence of a force on the Chagru Kotal might have deterred the enemy from re-occupying Dargai, and in any case would have enabled the road to be further improved. But the heliogram reached me too late to allow of the employment of the working party, which otherwise might have been covered by troops detailed from the 1st Division.

14. On October 19th the Dargai heights were observed during the day from the Samana ridge; but there was no sign of a formidable gathering, although a few tribesmen were seen moving about near the village.

15. Late in the evening of the 19th I received a telegram from Shinaori, reporting that Dargai and the adjacent heights were believed to be strongly held by the enemy, and that the General Officer Commanding the 2nd Division proposed to advance the next day to Karappa *via* Fort Gulistan, the Samana Suk, and the Talai spur, instead of down the Chagru defile. For reasons which need not here be detailed, I was unable to accept this suggestion, and in reply desired Major-General Yeatman-Biggs to adhere to the original plan of movement. I remarked that while it would be necessary to clear the Dargai heights overlooking the road to the west, the enemy would probably retire as soon as troops had been pushed on to the point where the Narik Darra joins the Chagru defile, as the enemy's rear would thus be threatened; and to assist him in the frontal attack, I placed at his disposal two battalions and one mountain battery from the 1st Division. I also informed him that No. 9 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment would be directed to co-operate from Fort Lockhart, by taking up a position on the Samana Suk opposite Dargai at 7 A.M.

16. On October 20th the troops of the 2nd Division, as detailed in the margin,* moved as directed, the advance guard leaving camp at Shinaori at 4.30 A.M., and reaching the Chagru Kotal at 8 A.M. At the latter hour the 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment and No. 9 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, were in position on the Samana Suk. The troops detailed from the 1st Division to assist in the advance of the 2nd Division were No. 1 (Kohat) Mountain Battery, the 2nd Battalion, Derbyshire Regiment, and the 3rd Sikhs.

The 3rd Brigade, under Brigadier-General Kempster began its attack on the Dargai heights at 10 A.M., by a concentrated artillery fire from No. 8 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and No. 1 (Kohat) and No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Batteries, these being posted slightly in advance of the *kotal*. No. 9 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, assisted by shelling the enemy's *sangars* from the Samana Suk. The attack was led by the 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkhas, supported by the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. The 2nd

* 3rd Brigade.—1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment; 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders; 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkhas; 15th Sikhs; No. 24 British Field Hospital; No. 44 Native Field Hospital.

4th Brigade.—2nd Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers; 1st Battalion, 3rd Gurkhas; 2 sections, No. 9 British Field Hospital; 2 sections, No. 23 British Field Hospital; No. 48 Native Field Hospital.

Divisional Troops.—No. 8 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery; No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery; Machine Gun detachment, 16th Lancers; 21st Madras Pioneers; No. 4 Company, Madras Sappers and Miners; Jhind Regiment of Imperial Service Infantry; Sirmur Imperial Service Sappers; 1 section, No. 13 British Field Hospital; No. 43 Native Field Hospital.