

Political Officer with the Force, moved on the same date and rapidly crossing the Bazar pass entered the Valley without opposition and occupied China itself. The piquets were fired on all night but no casualty occurred. This column moved without any transport whatever and carried its ammunition and 3 days' rations on the person.

11. Thus within 12 hours of leaving the Khyber the two columns had established themselves in the heart of the Zakkas country. From information since received it is clear that the Zakkas had no idea of our date of leaving Ali Musjid and had made up their minds we should in any case halt at Chora for a day, and in consequence had not had time to occupy Khar Gundai, the strongest position in the Valley.

12. On the same day as I moved to Walai the major portion of the first Brigade occupied Chora, thus connecting up the line of communications.

13. On 16th February the advanced camp was moved up the Walai stream to a well protected site where there was a plentiful supply of running water. Here the telephone apparatus of the Peshawar Division was set up and proved most useful; Head-Quarters being connected with the two Brigades and all important piquets, rendering immediate communication safe and easy.

During this afternoon the Lundi Kotal column marched into Walai from China. A large convoy of supplies from Chora also arrived in camp. Whilst this convoy was moving in, the 45th Sikhs who were piquetting the lower spurs of Sara Paial hill were being annoyed by fire from the crest, which in consequence it was decided to occupy. The leading companies advanced but were brought to a standstill by a heavy fire from what appeared to be a considerable number of Zakkas. The Zakkas endeavoured to push forward, but other companies were sent in support of the Sikhs and by my orders a steady fire of shrapnel was kept up on the enemy who were plainly visible from the guns. Meantime half a battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders arrived from camp and the combined troops soon cleared the hill. The Sikhs had a native officer and a sepoy wounded. The Zakkas lost 5 killed and 10 wounded this day.

14. On 17th February most of the 1st Brigade had reached Walai, and I had sufficient troops to form two columns for daily operations. This became the headquarters, from which punitive measures were hereafter carried out in every direction, according to the movements of the Zakkas.

15. Before daybreak on 18th February a column under Major-General Barrett moved out to destroy the towers and enclosures at China. With the Divisional Staff, I accompanied this Column.

Strength.

Seaforth Highlanders.
3rd Mountain Battery.
54th Sikhs.
5th Gurkhas.
23rd Pioneers.
6th Company Sappers.

The Seaforths and Gurkhas moving by Sarmundo and Khwar and covered by the mountain guns occupied the hills north of China. Lieutenant Macfadyen of the Seaforths was mortally wounded in this advance.

After destroying the main towers and securing a quantity of wood and fodder the column began

its return march to camp and the Zakkas at once closed in on the rear-guard and flanks. The troops retired very steadily, the battery and its escort of Seaforths which were in the comparatively open country south of China being specially selected for attack. The 54th Sikhs also on this flank were hotly engaged, some of the tribesmen closing to revolver range. Many Zakkas were here placed *hors-de-combat*.

By 4.20 P.M. the Gurkhas who held the hills above China had moved off them and the Seaforths had also come down from the eastern spurs which they had been occupying.

The column now retired quietly, the Zakkas making brave but fruitless attempts to follow. Their losses this day were heavy and they avoided the open country as far as possible, for the future. Our casualties were 1 British officer wounded (since dead), 2 British officers, 2 British rank and file, and 4 Native rank and file wounded.

16. On 19th February a column under Brigadier-General Anderson proceeded to China to complete the destruction of towers and bring in fodder. No opposition was offered to the advance, but as usual, the Zakkas followed up the retirement and were again severely punished. The troops returned to camp by the Jabagai gorge.

17. On 20th February Brigadier-General Anderson again moved out with a column to reconnoitre the Tsatsobl Pass and the Algad Valley. I accompanied this reconnaissance. The advanced guard was fired on from both sides of the Pass, but a good survey was obtained by Captain Rich, R.E.

Whilst the towers at Sarmundo and Khwar were being destroyed, a portion of the column moved up the Algad Valley and from Sarwakai Pass saw a body of Zakkas advancing from the direction of Halwai. A few shells soon scattered them. The retirement to camp was followed with less vigour than on the 18th instant, but the enemy again suffered loss.

18. News had been received for some days that the tribesmen had collected in large numbers at Halwai where they had been joined by many Sangu Khels and other Shinwaris from across the Afghan border. On 21st February I moved with two columns under command of Generals Barrett and Anderson, keeping a squadron of the 37th Lancers with me in case an opportunity for the employment of cavalry presented itself.

Strength.

Barrett's Column.

3rd Mountain Battery.
500 Seaforths.
28th Punjabis.
4 Companies, 54th Sikhs.
500 Khyber Rifles.

Anderson's Column.

22nd Mountain Battery.
Section No. 9 Company Sappers.
400 Warwicks.
400 of 5th Gurkhas.
53rd Sikhs.
59th Rifles.

The 28th Punjabis of Barrett's Brigade occupied the China heights soon after daylight and held them during the day to cover the retirement; the remainder of this Brigade took the route south of China. The Khyber Rifles and 6th Company, Sappers, moved by the Bazar nala and destroyed the towers at Kago Kamar.