

Brigades were heavily fired into for some hours; the enemy apparently having plenty of spare ammunition.

17. During the 18th, 19th and 20th May, the 2nd Brigade, with the addition of the 57th Rifles and some Divisional troops were employed in the Bohai Dag. The Khwaizai having refused to send in a Jirgah, General Barrett proceeded to destroy their towers. On the 18th instant, 5 miles from Nahakki, he found the enemy strongly posted on the heights on both sides of the valley, where it was evident they intended to dispute his advance. The 28th Punjabis supported by the 34th Pioneers and 2 guns Mountain Battery, carried the hill on the south of the valley; whilst the 57th Rifles attacked and cleared in fine style the steep ridge on the north, which formed the enemy's main position, covered by the fire of the 23rd Mountain Battery and 55th Rifles who were on the lower spurs. The 57th Rifles, as at Mutta, again used the bayonet, taking no denial, and capturing some prisoners in their final rush.

The hillsides were soon alive with tribesmen making for the crest under a heavy fire of shrapnel and rifles supplemented by the Maxim guns of the Seaforth Highlanders, who with the 54th Sikhs were in reserve. Meantime a portion of the 34th Pioneers who were destroying the towers of Zarawar, China, were charged by a band of ghazis. These were all bayoneted, but not until they had killed three and wounded two sepoy. As soon as the enemy had been driven off, a general advance was made on the large village of Khan Beg Khor, the heights overlooking which were carried by the Seaforths and 54th Sikhs, the enemy holding on to the crests until driven from them.

Two squadrons of the 21st Cavalry did excellent work this day; covering the advance and protecting the flanks. Our casualties amounted to six rank and file killed and 3 British officers and 24 other ranks wounded whilst the enemy, who fought well, had 60 killed. Khan Beg Khor had been the head-quarters of the Hazrat Sahib during the gathering of the tribes and was destroyed as a lesson to the mullahs.

During the nights of 18th and 19th May the enemy made several bold attempts on the camp of the 1st Brigade at Nahakki, and kept up a continuous fire for many hours, causing us several casualties, but were easily driven off.

18. The 2nd Brigade completed the punishment of the Khwaizais and destroyed the towers of Kung on the 19th and of Mazrina on the 20th May, meeting with slight opposition only. Barrett returned to Nahakki on the latter day, being engaged with the enemy in the Danish Kol and having 6 casualties in the course of the retirement. As his Brigade moved into camp, I started with the 1st Brigade and a proportion of Divisional troops for Lakarai through the Kandahari Safi country. This column was equipped with mule transport only, and carried 6 days' supplies with it. Six sections of the Mohmands had to be dealt with, but the time proved sufficient.

On approaching the village of Ubra Kili it was found to be occupied, and General Anderson proceeded to attack it. The enemy were driven across a deep ravine by the 53rd Sikhs and 57th Rifles, whilst the 21st Cavalry working wide, kept them off our flanks. As soon as the village had been occupied and the transport animals parked, the advanced Infantry was ordered to withdraw in order to complete the perimeter defences before dark. The tribesmen at once taking advantage of the very broken ground and nullahs advanced boldly, many parties of ghazi swordsmen trying to get to close quarters. The guns of the 8th British Mountain Battery firing

rapidly over the infantry did much execution, but as night was approaching the withdrawal through the village had to be continued. Both battalions retired quietly, causing considerable losses to the tribesmen.

The 59th Rifles held the only water-tank until the other troops had withdrawn when they also moved into the perimeter. The Mohmands now occupied the tank which was only 350 yards from the village. From this point they made fruitless efforts to advance and their courage was certainly astonishing. They exposed themselves freely in small groups, but were shot down and I did not see a man get past the tank. After dark they kept up a heavy fire for some hours, but with the exception of a few individuals none got any closer to our bivouac.

Our casualties amounted to two British officers, Lieutenant Soole, 21st Cavalry, and Lieutenant Archibald, 82nd Punjabis, attached to 57th Rifles, one Native officer and three sepoy killed and one Native officer and 19 rank and file wounded. The enemy could be seen carrying away dead and wounded long before dark, and throughout the night their search parties were wandering about with torches over the field.

19. Next morning the Brigade was reinforced by the 55th Rifles and two guns 28th Mountain Battery from Nahakki and the advance continued. A great number of towers and enclosures of the Kandahari Safis were blown up, but the large village of Yakhdand was spared in the hope that the Utmanzai Jirgah might come in and submit to our terms later on. We bivouacked outside the village of Kund Kuhai and towards the evening the Safi Jirgah arrived in camp, but after several hours of quarrelling over details they refused to submit and were dismissed. Notwithstanding the fact that their own Jirgah was inside the perimeter the enemy kept up a steady fire which caused us some loss.

On 22nd May we moved up the valley and after destroying several towers arrived at the Lakarai Pass, a difficult position which was held in strength. During this advance the tribesmen fired steadily on our left flank and rear guard and killed one man; wounding one British officer and three sepoy. Dispositions for attacking the position had just been completed when the enemy hoisted the white flag and sent in a Jirgah submitting to our terms in full.

The column now crossed the pass and entered Gurbuz Safi country. In accordance with the conditions imposed, the village of Bagh, the summer residence of the Gud Mullah, was burnt as a warning. Notwithstanding that their valley had been spared the enemy fired heavily into our camp during the night, causing us many casualties in men and horses. In consequence I destroyed the towers of another of their villages next morning, and no more shots were fired at our rear guard in their limits. The Mitai Musa Khel, fearing the fate of the Safis, had also come in and submitted, and we did not visit their valley.

20. On 23rd May we moved down the Pipal Valley to Shato Khel. This, like most other parts of Mohmand country, was very fertile, and the thousands of acres of corn and grain on every side astonished us not a little after all we heard of this desolate land. At Turu we were in Utmanzai territory and many towers and enclosures were destroyed; but here, as elsewhere, great numbers were left untouched, and by this means the various sections were induced to surrender, which otherwise they might not have done. During these operations we had 1 sepoy killed and 6 men wounded, and completed the