

punishment of the Utmanzai and Dawizai sections.

21. The Utman Khel, who had committed many raids across our border, and had sent defiant messages in reply to ours, were the next tribe to be dealt with. Accordingly, on the 24th May, the column continued its march down the Pipal Valley. On nearing the high ground overlooking the village of Khargha in the Ambahar Valley, the enemy was found holding many sangars. Their advanced parties withdrew to lower ground, whilst strong detachments held the lower slopes of the high hills on either flank. They consisted chiefly of Utman Khel and Bajauris and numbered over 2,000 men with many standards. Anderson sent half a battalion of the 57th Rifles to turn their left, and when this movement was fully developed the mountain guns opened fire and sent them scampering from their sangars into the deep ravines all round. Just prior to this the ex-Nawab of Nawagai arrived and offered to mediate, but as he had no concern in the matter, and was unaccompanied by even a single representative of the Utman Khel I declined to listen to him. As the enemy appeared to be re-occupying their sangars a general advance was ordered. The 22nd Punjabis and 57th Rifles moved on the right and the 53rd Sikhs on the left. The 53rd soon came on large numbers in the ravines to their front, where sharp fighting took place, during which they captured a standard and inflicted heavy loss on the enemy.

Firing now became general along the whole line of some two miles; the battalion on the right firing from higher ground on to the retreating tribesmen. Meantime a squadron of the 21st Cavalry under Lieutenant-Colonel Fane rapidly advanced into the open country between the enemy's two wings, and breaking into three parties, charged and sabred over 20 of them. This movement, combined with the vigorous attack by the 53rd Sikhs, caused a panic in their ranks, and leaving the low ground they ran for the hills on our left, thereby abandoning their only safe line of retreat up the Ambahar river. On ascending the hills they came into full view of our mountain guns, which were immediately turned on them, and the rapid fire of shrapnel and Maxims completed their rout. Still parties of Ghazis fought bravely; one lot hiding in a ruined tower waited till our troops had passed them and then fired into their backs. These were at once attacked and bayoneted or shot; Lieutenant Anderson, of the 59th Rifles, killing three men himself.

Our casualties amounted to one man killed and ten wounded, including the 55th Rifles, who were this day on rear guard. The heat throughout the day was most oppressive, and no water was found until we reached the Ambahar stream late in the afternoon, the first running water seen in the country.

22. On the 25th May the column crossed the Kota Taraf Pass and bivouacked at Mulla Killi in Isa Khel limits. Before leaving Utman Khel country all the villages belonging to the notorious raider Mirbaz were destroyed, as well as a few towers and enclosures in the Ambahar Valley, but owing to the losses in action already suffered by the tribesmen no further punishment was inflicted, although this would have been an easy task as the country all round is a rich and well watered tract. Only two casualties occurred and not a shot was fired into camp, for the first time since crossing the Nahakki Pass.

23. We halted on 26th May and were joined by General Barrett with a convoy of provisions from Nahakki.

24. As the Utmanzai and Dawizai sections still refused to submit to our terms, their Jirgahs were dismissed, and on 27th May I moved with half the 2nd Brigade to Yakhdand, the chief centre of the Utmanzai, and which, as previously stated, had been spared in our first advance. When the Sappers and Pioneers had all ready for blowing up the towers the Jirgah came in hurriedly and submitted in full. Four towers were destroyed, at the sight of which the Dawizai Jirgah, which had been watching the proceedings from a neighbouring hill, also arrived and paid its fine and agreed to our terms. This submission completed all the work to be done in that part of the Mohmand country. The second Brigade and Divisional troops were concentrated this night at Nahakki.

25. On the 28th May the 1st Brigade (less one battalion) and 8th British Mountain Battery left Mulla Killi for India, via Pandiali. All the tribes on this route had submitted in full and no opposition was met with.

This same day I moved with Barrett's Brigade and Divisional troops from Nahakki up the Bohai Dag into the Baezai country, to carry out the last operation of the expedition. This section, the furthest removed from our borders, still refused to send in a Jirgah, and it was absolutely necessary to punish them severely before we left Mohmand country. The Khwaizais had come in the previous evening, and this left us only the one section to deal with.

The troops had every reason to hope for a rest, but all ranks understood the necessity for this final call on them and cheerfully responded to it.

Camp was formed near Khan Beg Khor, where the column was joined by the Guides Infantry and half of the 34th Pioneers, who moved over the Khapak Pass from the Gundab Valley, improving the track en route. Early next morning, 29th May, the force moved on Khuda Khel, the habitat of the Baezai, the original instigators of the rising. They had at first removed across the Afghan border, but believing themselves safe, had later returned to their villages and joined in several attacks on our camps, &c.

The Guides Infantry, 54th Sikhs and Seaforth Highlanders, supported by the guns of the 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery and two guns 28th Mountain Battery, soon cleared the hills overlooking the Khuda Khel Valley and occupied the highest peaks. Care was taken to keep well clear of the Afghan border. The enemy withdrew to the ridges beyond and kept up an incessant fire most of the day on our advanced troops, the Guides and 54th Sikhs keeping them in check. Meantime Khuda Khel with its towers was destroyed; the fort of Mirbaz being razed to the ground.

The column then commenced its retirement. This was the signal for the enemy to close in and increase their fire, but the Guides and 54th Sikhs in the extreme rear, and the other troops, retired steadily and reached the plain by 3 p.m. The villages round Khwarina belonging to the Bara Khel were shelled, and the troops moved back to camp.

Our casualties were, one British officer, Lieutenant Young, 67th Punjabis, attached to 54th Sikhs, wounded (died of his wounds), and 14 rank and file wounded. To these must be added 5 sepoy wounded during the night and early next morning, these being the last losses sustained by the Force in the Mohmand country.

26. On the 30th May the column moved over the Khapak Pass and was joined by the troops from Nahakki, the whole camping at Ghalanai in the Gundab Valley. By 1st June all troops had