

section of the defence, and immediately in rear of the Turkish left centre was a group of mounds affording good positions for machine guns. The position was a strong one, and was held by some 6,700 rifles with 200 sabres and 31 guns, whilst in the vicinity of Samarrah were reserves consisting of some 4,000 rifles with 500 sabres and 15 guns. The enemy's left and left centre were selected as the point of attack, and on the 20th his covering troops were driven in and an advanced line established to render it possible for our artillery to be brought forward and for the Canal to be bridged. At 5 a.m. on the 21st his position on the North side of the Canal was resolutely attacked by the Black Watch and 8th Gurkhas, under a creeping barrage, and both battalions made steady progress. In spite of a hot rifle and machine gun fire from the main position the redoubt near the river was captured, and the garrison made prisoners. The other redoubt on this side of the Canal was assaulted, recaptured by the enemy, and finally secured by us, thus giving our troops a good foothold in this part of the enemy's defences. At 6.30 a.m. an attack by the Seaforth's and 28th and 92nd Punjabis was launched south of the Canal. This advance was carried out with fine dash and gallantry across 2,000 yards of ground, devoid of cover, and by 7.25 a.m. the enemy's front line, some 700 yards long, was in our hands. Consolidation proceeded, and in spite of several counter-attacks all gains were held. Reconnaissances were made with a view to a further advance, but they indicated that further progress without reorganisation and careful preparation, which would only be possible under cover of darkness, would be needlessly costly. It was decided therefore to devote the remainder of the day and night to establishing ourselves securely and preparing for a simultaneous attack on both sides of the Canal, to be carried out next morning. A counter-attack by the enemy during the afternoon was dispersed by gun and rifle fire, and his artillery was active through the afternoon.

Early on the 22nd our patrols reported that the enemy opposite our right was beginning to withdraw, and by 4.30 a.m. the whole of the position had been evacuated, and was then occupied by us. The natural and artificial strength of the position now became apparent, and the number of enemy dead testified to the tenacity with which it had been held. Our troops moved forward in pursuit at daybreak and were in contact with the enemy's main body in the vicinity of Istabulat Police Post by noon, where his defensive system consisted of detached groups of trenches partially completed. The heat was great, and the attack was postponed till the evening, when the assault, aided by concentrated artillery fire, was delivered in dashing style by the Leicesters, supported by the 51st Sikhs and 56th Rifles, and the defence was easily penetrated. The attacking troops pressed on relentlessly and rapidly some 1,200 yards further, and the enemy's guns were only withdrawn just in time to avoid capture. The Turks rallied and put in a series of counter-attacks, with which our supporting troops dealt, but the enemy maintained a heavy fire until 8 p.m., when he retreated on Samarrah. This attack had been considerably aided by artillery fire from a Column detached along the left bank of the Tigris to co-operate. During the day a regi-

ment of Indian Lancers made a spirited attempt to break through the line of trenches, and, supported by artillery fire, it captured the front Turkish trench, but its advance was finally checked by fire from other trenches in rear. Our captures on the 21st and 22nd amounted to 20 officers and 667 other ranks taken prisoners, 14 Krupp guns, 1 5.9 in. gun damaged, 2 machine guns, 16 engines and 240 trucks, 2 barges, many rifles and much ammunition and equipment.

At 10 a.m. on the 23rd Samarrah Station was secured, the enemy offering no further resistance and retreating on Tekrit, and on the 24th Samarrah Town, on the left bank, was occupied and a post established there.

7. Whilst these operations were in progress on the right bank, it became evident that the 13th Turkish Corps was once more moving forward from the Jebel Hamrin, but this time down the Shatt El Adhaim, against our forces on the left bank of the Tigris, and the latter were accordingly readjusted to deal with the new situation. At 5 p.m. on the 23rd his leading echelon, estimated at 2,000 rifles, with 9 guns, had reached Duhaba, with his second group 17 miles in rear. The chance of defeating him in detail was thus offered, and orders were issued for a night march, culminating in an attack at dawn next day on his advanced troops. The infantry were to attack Duhaba whilst to the Cavalry, moving wide to the north, was assigned the mission of intercepting any Turkish forces moving up in support. Our right came in touch with the Turks soon after daybreak, and the action developed rapidly. As the pressure from our left began to be felt the Turks gave way, crossed the river, and retired rapidly up the left bank towards the remainder of their force, and in doing so presented good targets for artillery and machine-gun fire to our Cavalry. This attack had been gallantly delivered by several Lancashire battalions, and as a result about 100 Turks were buried by us and 150 prisoners fell into our hands.

On the morning of the 25th aeroplanes reported the Turks as retiring up both banks of the river, and our troops moved forward in pursuit. By the evening of the 27th they had reached Satha Ruins, being in touch with the Turkish rearguard covering withdrawal to and occupation of a selected position in the foothills of the Jebel Hamrin, and on the morning of the 28th we occupied a line within 2 miles of the enemy's position. Heat, low visibility and engine trouble had all combined to handicap reconnaissance by land and air, so that the situation still remained somewhat obscure, and during the night of the 28th/29th a violent dust storm arose, which continued intermittently for 48 hours.

Briefly put, the plan adopted was to throw our weight on the 30th up the left bank of the Shatt El Adhaim against the enemy's weaker flank and more shattered division, and then turning north and west to drive him away from water and his line of retreat. From dawn till 7 a.m. the dust storm abated, and our attack on the left bank, developing at 5 a.m., was brilliantly carried out by the Cheshires and South Wales Borderers over 1,000 yards of level plain, and was immediately successful. By 8 a.m. all objectives had been reached, including the village of Adaim, and the retreating Turks were being engaged at long range, whilst a number of prisoners were