

drowned, joined the 11th Cavalry Brigade on the right bank, and took over the protection of the right flank.

All troops on the right bank north of the enemy main body were now under the command of Brigadier-General Cassels, who conducted the operations which barred the retreat of the Turks to Mosul.

17. The position now was that a stubborn and not yet defeated enemy lay between Cassels' command and the 17th Division. The troops were urgently in need of rest; the 17th Division had been marching and fighting for the preceding four days under most arduous conditions. The 11th Cavalry Brigade had been continuously in action for 72 hours, and all had made very long marches. Nevertheless, it was imperative to call on the troops for renewed exertions in order to close in on the enemy and force his surrender. During the night (28th/29th) the Turks made repeated attempts to break through to the north, but were each time repulsed. During this fighting the Guides Cavalry and 1st Bn., 7th Gurkha Rifles, distinguished themselves by their staunchness.

In spite of exhaustion, darkness, and abominable roads, the troops of the 17th Division responded magnificently to the call made on them, and by 11 a.m. on the 29th had driven back the Turkish rearguard on to the main body, which was holding a position north of Shergat. This position consisted of successive lines of hasty entrenchments commanding a series of ravines which had to be crossed by the attackers. Early in the afternoon the attack was launched against this position in the face of a galling fire. Whilst this was in progress the Turks delivered a heavy and vigorous counter-attack, which in one place reached the line held by the supporting battalions before it was stopped and dispersed with heavy loss by an immediate counter-attack. The 114th Mahrattas particularly distinguished themselves in this affair. Fighting continued throughout the night, the Turks fighting very stubbornly, and partially maintaining their positions.

18. Meanwhile a serious threat from Turkish reinforcements (5th Division troops) moving down from the Mosul direction developed against Cassels' right flank. These troops established themselves with guns and machine-guns on the high bluffs near Hadraniya, but were promptly dealt with by the 7th Cavalry Brigade. The 13th Hussars galloped across the open, dismounted under the bluffs, and, led by their colonel, carried the position by assault, many Turks being accounted for with the bayonet.

Mounted pursuit by the remainder of the 7th Cavalry Brigade cleared away further menace from the north, and resulted in the capture of 1,000 prisoners, with 2 guns and 12 machine guns.

The enemy's avenues of escape northwards were now effectively blocked, thanks to the skilful and resolute handling of his detachment by General Cassels, and the firm determination of his troops, who repulsed every attempt by the enemy to break through.

19. Gripped as in a vice, with his men packed in ravines, which were raked by our guns from across the Tigris, Ismail Hakki, the Turkish Commander, found himself in a hopeless position. All attempts to break through

had failed, communication with the Turkish Commander-in-Chief at Mosul had been rendered impossible, and no relief was in sight. At dawn on October 30th, just as our troops were about to renew the attack, white flags appeared all along the Turkish lines, and later on Ismail Hakki surrendered in person.

A close was thus brought to the last battle to be fought in this war by a Turkish Army. It had been characterised by a stubborn resistance, and was in accordance with what one might have expected from Ismail Hakki and his troops. This Turkish General was the same officer who, in the early spring of 1917, commanded the Turkish forces on the right bank of the Tigris, opposite Kut-el-Amara, and was one of the last to escape across the river when the remnant of his forces were captured in the Dahra bend.

20. Immediately after the surrender the 7th Cavalry Brigade and light armoured motor-cars were ordered to push rapidly along the Mosul road and round up any Turkish troops in the vicinity of Kaiyara. This was effectively carried out. The 14th Lancers, charging with the lance, captured a convoy and some 500 additional prisoners, whose retreat had been cut off by the armoured cars, while the 13th Lancers captured a Turkish battalion 6 miles north of Kaiyara. At this place also a depôt of supplies and a paddle steamer were captured, whilst the machinery established by the Germans at the oilfields was but slightly damaged.

21. Whilst the fighting as described had been in progress Lewin's column had fulfilled its rôle admirably, and had throughout contained and out-maneuvred a superior Turkish force, eventually driving it across the Lesser Zab at Altun Keupri (where the Turks blew up the bridge) in the direction of Erbil. Early on October 31st General Lewin occupied Altun Keupri.

22. The total captures during the operations amounted to:—

11,322 prisoners (including 643 officers),
51 guns,
130 machine guns,
over 2,000 animals,
3 paddle steamers,

and large quantities of gun and rifle ammunition, bombs, a complete bridging train, and war material of all kinds.

23. Immediately the news of the Turkish surrender on the Tigris was received I determined to exploit the victory to the full by pushing on immediately to Mosul, the chief town of the Vilayet of that name, and the headquarters of the 6th Turkish Army. With this object in view a column was formed consisting of the 7th and 11th Cavalry Brigades and the 54th Infantry Brigade, as well as artillery, the whole under the command of Major-General Fanshawe. On November 1st, when the news of the armistice was received, both Cavalry Brigades had reached Hamman Ali, 12 miles S. of Mosul, where they were met by a flag of truce sent by Ali Ihsan, commanding 6th Turkish Army, requesting them to return to Kaiyara, but as I had reason to fear for the safety of the Christian inhabitants of Mosul I ordered the cavalry to move to that place as a deterrent to disorder. The Turkish Commander, however, endeavoured to evade the real meaning of the armistice terms and energetic measures had to be taken to clear the