

Each infantry soldier carried 22 rounds in pouch, and there were altogether 10 boxes of ammunition in reserve.

Captain Browne, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant Cruickshank, Royal Artillery, accompanied the guns, Lieutenant Higginson, the 1st Sikhs, and Lieutenant Seton-Browne, the 1st Punjab Infantry. Surgeon-Captain Cassidy, also accompanied the party.

3. Maizar is a group of villages, 12 miles from Datta Khel camp, situated on the right banks of the Shawal and Tochi at the junction of these two rivers and on the Bannu-Ghazni road. It does not appear on the map as Maizar, but there are some names of villages (Khaji Khel, Dilpural, &c.) entered on the site. These names, however, seem to be incorrect. The village by which the treacherous attack began is probably that shown as Dilpural in the map. On the accompanying sketch map of the scene of the affair, it is marked A.

The road from Datta Khel camp to Maizar passes close to Sheranni.

The sketch map attached is by Lieutenant Seton-Browne, 1st Punjab Infantry, from memory.

4. Maizar was reached at 9.30 A.M. The Malik, who were believed to be perfectly friendly and loyal, pointed out a spot under some trees, about 100 yards from a Dreplari village, for the force to halt. (B on sketch map.)

It will be seen from the sketch map that there are more villages to the south and east of the halting place, at a distance of 200 to 400 yards.

The guns had been placed quite close to a garden of the first mentioned village.

Guards were posted. Arms were not piled by Infantry.

5. Directly after arrival Mr. Gee, with Captain Browne, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant Higginson, visited Dotoi (a village a few miles further up the Tochi), escorted by the 1st Punjab Cavalry Sowars, and accompanied by Malik. They returned at 11.30 A.M.

A meal was now provided by the Malik for Mussulman Sepoys.

6. About 2 P.M., while the pipers of the 1st Sikhs were playing, a man was observed to wave a sword from the top of a tower of the Dreplari village. This was apparently a preconcerted signal, as those villagers, who were among the officers and men, cleared off towards the village.

Two shots were now fired from the Dreplari village, the second of which wounded Lieutenant Seton-Browne in the thigh. Firing now commenced from the villages to the south and east, and a hot fire was opened from the Dreplari village (north).

The fire was directed on the British officers, and Colonel Bunny was almost immediately wounded mortally through the stomach while looking for a position to hold, and issuing orders to his men.

There was a large number of men at the gate of the Dreplari village who were firing and were about to charge the guns. On them the guns opened with case at a range of about a hundred yards.

Captain Browne, Royal Artillery, was now wounded in the upper arm by a bullet which severed the artery (this proved fatal); and Lieutenant Cruickshank, Royal Artillery, was shot twice in the right arm.

Sixteen rounds per gun had been carried.

By the Political Officer.

The Dreplaris are a Madga-Khel Section.

The shrapnel was fired reversed. The ammunition was very shortly expended.

7. At the commencement of the firing there was a general stampede among the baggage mules, and it was this that caused the very large loss of property that ensued. All the men's great-coats tied up in mule-loads, most of the reserve ammunition, 1st Punjab Infantry, drums, mess-plates, etc., mule-gear, pakhals, and many other things had to be abandoned. Immediate withdrawal was imperative, and the mules were not present to be loaded.

8. It seems that the retirement, which now commenced under such very trying conditions, was carried out with great deliberation and in the most stubborn and gallant manner.

As it began Lieutenant Higginson was shot through the arm, and Surgeon-Captain Cassidy in the knee.

The enemy now appeared on all sides in great force.

All British military officers were now wounded, two of them mortally, yet they all continued to carry out their duties and lead their men. The circumstances must be admitted to have been trying in the extreme for the troops, and their staunchness is worthy of the highest praise. Subadars Narain Singh, 1st Sikhs, Sundar Singh, 1st Punjab Infantry, and Jemadar Sherzad, 1st Sikhs, behaved with the greatest gallantry. Getting together a party of their men they made a most determined stand by the wall of a garden (the point is marked C in the sketch), and from it they covered the first withdrawal, themselves under heavy fire, remaining till the enemy closed with them. Subadar Sundar Singh, 1st Punjab Infantry, was now killed, and by far the greater number of the casualties of the day took place here.

Under cover of this stand the wounded were carried and helped away, and the guns withdrawn, along a lane, to a low Kotal about 300 yards distant, where a fresh position was occupied. The survivors of the party at the garden wall then withdrew.

The retirement was continued by successive units, very deliberately and with complete regularity, positions being held on the ridges stretching from south to north (*vide* sketch), until the Sheranni plain was reached (about two miles). All this time the enemy was constantly enveloping the flanks. The main road which had been taken in the morning had been abandoned, as it was commanded on both sides, and parties of the enemy were advancing from Sheranni.

Lieutenant Higginson was, during this part of the retirement, again shot in the arm.

Eventually, about 5.30 P.M., a good position was found about a mile from the last of the above-mentioned ridges. Reinforcements began to appear in sight, and the enemy was beaten off.

The fact that the retreat over a distance of three miles occupied three-and-a-half hours shows how stubbornly the enemy was resisted.

9. The number of the enemy at first is estimated at 500, but constant reinforcements during the retirement raised their numbers to probably much over 1,000. They are understood to have lost 90 killed and many wounded.

10. From the Kotal sowars had been sent to camp to call for reinforcements, which reached the force in the last-mentioned position about 6.15 P.M. They consisted of two companies, 1st Sikhs, under Lieutenant de Brett, Royal Artillery, accompanied by Lieutenant Stockley, Royal Engineers, and brought fresh ammunition. They