

CAPTAIN P. C. HEATH, STAFF CORPS,

BRIGADE MAJOR, KANDAHAR FIELD FORCE.



PERCY CHARLES HEATH, who was killed in action on the 27th July, 1880, at Maiwand, was the third son of Major-General Heath, of the Bombay Army. He was born on the 11th April, 1847, and was educated at Sydney College, Bath, from whence he proceeded to Sandhurst. Passing out of the college after the usual course, he was gazetted to the 45th Sherwood Foresters, and proceeded to India, where the head-quarters were then stationed. He served with his regiment throughout the Abyssinian campaign of 1868-69, being present at the storming and capture of Magdala, and obtaining the medal. On the termination of the war he returned to India as Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Sir George Malcolm, commanding the Mhow Division. In July, 1869, he entered the Bombay Staff Corps, and was appointed Adjutant of the 17th Native Infantry. In June, 1874, he was transferred to the Adjutancy of the 5th Native Light Infantry. He subsequently served in the Quartermaster-General's department of the Bombay Army, and on the formation of the Bombay column for service in Southern Afghanistan, he was appointed Brigade-Major to the 1st Infantry Brigade under the command of Brigadier-General Burrows. This brigade formed part of the Girishk Column which was sent out to co-operate with the Wali's army on the Halmand against Ayub Khan, who was advancing from Herat. At the time the force left Kandahar, Captain Heath was prevented by a severe attack of illness from accompanying his brigade, but taking advantage of the despatch of a convoy of commissariat stores, he rejoined it at Khushk-i-Nakhud on the 18th July. Towards the close of the action at Maiwand, and shortly before the Native Infantry broke, he was with Brigadier-General Burrows on the left of the line, when a rifle bullet struck him in the head, and he fell dead from his horse.

This is an extract from 'The Afghan Campaign of 1878 to 1880'

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