

Cossacks made a cheery interval in the tedium of the weather. They were all picked horsemen, and they gave some remarkable performances of trick riding. The officers of the party were invited to Basra, where they were entertained by the Army Commander and decorated with the Military Cross. They left Ali Gharbi to rejoin Baratoff on June 4th. The ride back after their presence had become known involved greater risks; but they escaped ambushes and got through without a casualty. Another sotnia of one hundred horse which came out to look for them were enfiladed in a pass on the outskirts of the Wali's territory and lost sixty killed and six prisoners.

Owing to shortage of shells the Turkish artillery were seldom so active as ours, but when they discovered an objective worth spending ammunition on they made good shooting. On June 10th the enemy, who had brought their heavy guns up to an advanced position at Sannaiya, opened fire at six in the morning at our ammunition barges lying in the bend of the river at Falahiyeh. The fire was directed by a small aeroplane dropping smoke bombs, with a fighting machine guarding its flanks and probably signalling by wireless, for the registration was remarkably good. The Turkish Intelligence was generally efficient. In this case it was believed that the position was given away by the exchanged prisoners who were moored a few hundred yards from the ammunition dump on their way upstream. Other enemy batteries diverted attention from the main issue by shelling the trenches, corps headquarters, and brigade camps at the same time.

Owing to the strength of the current the barges were very securely anchored both on land and in the water, and could not be easily released. A gallant attempt was made by Captain MacIlwaine, Staff captain to the B.G.R.A. He galloped up from Headquarters, boarded the barge, and called in the aid of Seaman-Gunner Barnsley, who brought his tug-boat alongside. MacIlwaine, when he