

ing their time. The line of march was across their front, nothing less than 400 yards from their strong position. Suddenly the silence was broken by a hot fire of musketry, which spurted out from bush and earthworks, and the Krupp guns were also brought to play upon the British.

The brave General Baker was badly wounded, but was soon again in the saddle, ready for any service.

At a little before noon our guns got the mastery over those of the enemy. His fire slackened and gradually died out. The constant movement of the black heads among the bushes showed that the position was strongly held. A consultation was held between Generals Graham and Buller, and the order was given for a move. The men sprang to their feet cheering, the bag-pipes struck up again. It was not a charge, but a steady, solid movement in the formation which had all along been observed. It looked, however, all the more formidable, for enthusiasm and discipline were equally marked, as the whole of the troops cheered while the square swept down towards the enemy.

A bloody battle now commenced. The Arabs ceased firing, put aside their rifles and grasped their spears. They rushed out from their walls and flung themselves straight on the British bayonets.

They charged almost simultaneously on two sides of the square, and as from the change of direction the flank of the square was now its front, the brunt of the onset fell on the Black Watch, the 65th, and the Naval Brigade. The enemy did not come on in masses, but in groups of thirties and twenties, sometimes of threes and twos, sometimes alone. They dashed forward against our ranks with poised spear, but not a man reached the line of bayonets, for one and all were swept away before the terrible fire of musketry which broke out as they rushed forward. For a moment, on the other side of the square, the matter was in doubt. So hotly did the Arabs press for-