

**THE
SECOND AFGHAN WAR
OFFICIAL ACCOUNT**



CAVALRY AND HORSE ARTILLERY AWAITING AMIR YAKUB KHAN AT GANDAMAK, 6TH MAY, 1879

Frontispiece

THE
SECOND AFGHAN WAR
1878-80
OFFICIAL ACCOUNT

PRODUCED IN THE INTELLIGENCE BRANCH
ARMY HEAD-QUARTERS, INDIA

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P R E F A C E

THIS book was originally compiled under the direction of the late Major-General Sir Charles MacGregor, K.C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E., who served throughout the campaign, first with the Khyber Field Force ; next as Chief of the Staff to Sir Frederick Roberts during the advance to, and operations round, Kabul in 1879-80 ; then in the same capacity to Sir Donald Stewart when the latter took over supreme command in Northern Afghanistan ; and, finally, as a Brigadier in the march to Kandahar, and the closing operations of the war in the southern part of the theatre.

In these several capacities he collected a large quantity of notes and documents, and, on his return to England on leave in 1881, he made these over to Captain Pasfield Oliver, late Royal Artillery, who compiled a connected account of the campaign. This account was produced under the orders of Sir Charles MacGregor, who was then Quartermaster-General in India, in the Intelligence Branch of his department, but was treated as a secret work.

Some years later Lord Roberts, when Commander-

in-Chief in India, suggested that a revised edition should be prepared, which could be placed on sale. The revision was accordingly executed by Lieutenant F. G. Cardew, 10th Bengal Lancers, but it was decided that the time had not yet come when it would be advisable to publish an official account of certain of the incidents of the war, which had been the subject of much controversy.

At a later period, however, the Government of India reconsidered the question ; the work was still further revised by Lieutenant (then Major) Cardew, and in the Intelligence Branch, and is now published.

August 1907.

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