

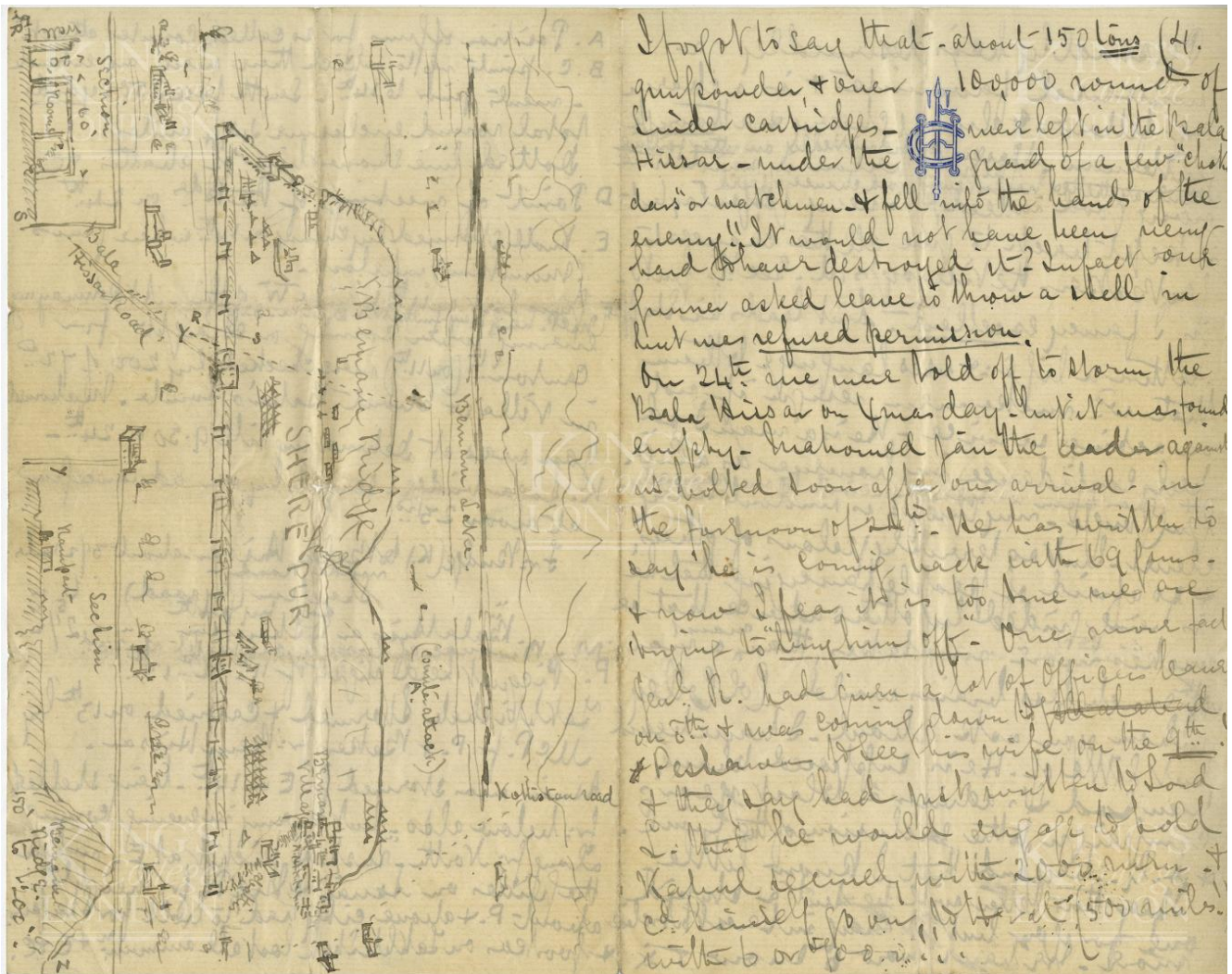
On the 15th we received news that the Pathans
 -as meditated an attack on Peshawar - held only by 200 frontiers - so on 14th we
 started with 400 Inf. & 150 Cavalry & made
 a forced march, reaching the fort on
 15th after dark. On 15th and the 500 Inf. &
 ascending the steep, narrow came in - the
 same night we put at sunset the advance
 of the Pathans appeared & up to 8 P.M. there
 was a lot of firing from them, & an occasional
 volley from us when they got too close.
 Our news was that we were being pushed
 by 12,000 men that night & all slept
 on their arms round the breastwork.
 When morning broke we had recd.
 a telegram from Genl. - that there had been
 severe fighting, but that on 15th the enemy
 had been "disorganised & routed" & we & C. &
 all went over. Late at night on 14th came
 another message from Genl. - that he was
 concentrating all his forces & if not attacked
 tomorrow would be able to maintain his
 position! & advising us to march with
 his whole force to his assistance! Before
 10 A.M. reply that we had but 500 Inf. &
 100 Cavalry - the line was cut & all
 communication ceased.

Kabul
 Bala Hissar
 15th Sept - 1901

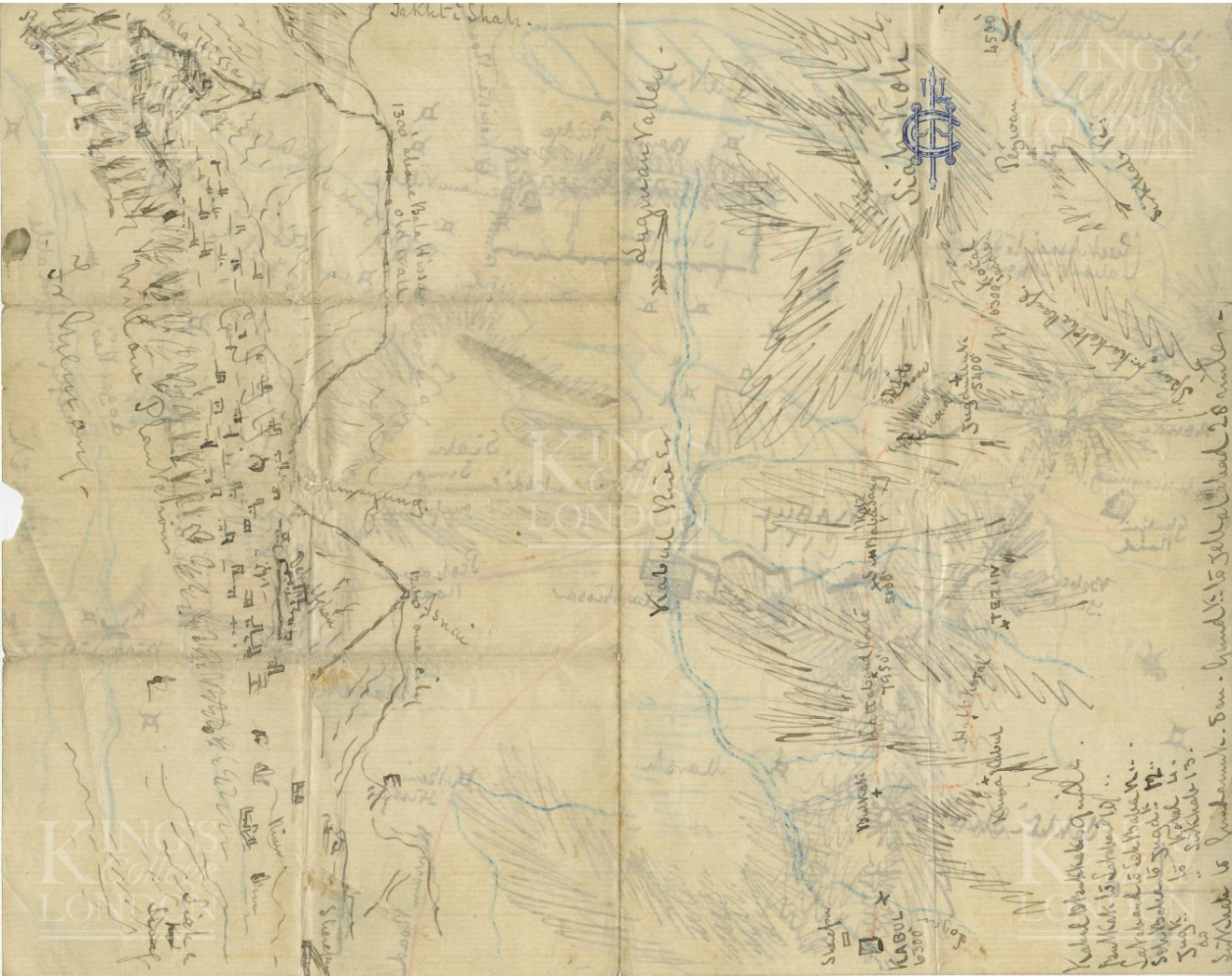
My dear Cousin. Many thanks
 for your kind letter of congratulation,
 which reached me here a week ago.
 I was lucky again & was appointed
 Bala Hissar to see to the defence of my former
 post & reaching Peshawar on 14th Sept - my
 general having stated that every day
 I made a choice for it & my
 double march caught him up. We
 crossed the frontier on 15th but every
 single baggage animal & all the stores
 for the horses having been sent to Kurram
 we were as utterly unprovided that
 we had to forage for our animals &
 no moving in the very lightest order. More
 than once our baggage took 2 hours to
 come 12 miles! I am probably have heard
 that Lord S. interfered in all military
 matters, even to nominating generals &c. &
 that he adopted the Kurram route not
 because it was required, but because Robert.

On the 15th we received news that the Psh-
-air meditated an attack on Peshawar - held only by 200 Poonchees - so on 14th we
started with 400 Sufis & 150 Cavalry & made
a forced march, reaching the fort on
dawn of the 15th. On 15th another 500 Sufis
ascending the steep, narrow came in - & the
same day evening just at sunset the advance
of the Psh- air was stopped & up to 8 P.M. there
was a lot of firing fr: them, & an occasional
volley from us when they got too close.
Our news was that our men were killed
by 12000 men that night & all slept
on their arms round the breastwork.
When starting I found we had rec'd.
a telegram from Genl. - that there had been
severe fighting, but that on 15th the enemy
had been "disart and routed" & he & C. &
all had over taken at night on 14th came
and the message to Genl. - that he was
concentrating on the river & if not attacked
tomorrow would be able to maintain his
position! & adding I might march with
his whole Bde to his assistance! Before
I could reply that we had but 500 Sufis &
not a horse the line was cut & all
communication ceased.

Kabul
Bala Hissar
My dear Cousin - Many thanks
for your kind letter of congratulation
which reached me here a week ago.
I was lucky again & was appointed
Bala Hissar when I was starting from Peshawar
22nd & reaching Peshawar 24th Sept - my
General having started that morning
I made a dash for it & by a
double march caught him up. We
crossed the frontier on 20th, but every
single baggage animal & all the stores
for Peshawar having been sent to Kurram
we were so utterly unprovided that
we had to forage for our actions &
no moving in the very highest order - more
than once our baggage took 2 hours to
come 12 miles! You probably have heard
that Lord S. interferes in all military
matters, even to nominating Generals etc. &
that he adopted the Kurram route not
because it was required, but because it was
the only one.







TO LADY ALISON

Kabul
Bala Hissar
19-1-80 (1880)

My dear Cousin,

Many thanks for your letter of congratulations which reached me here a week ago. I was lucky again and was appointed Brigade Major to General Gough starting from January 22nd and reaching Peshawar 27th Sept. My General having started that very day. I made a start for it and by a double march caught him up. We crossed the frontier on 30th, but every single -----baggage animal and all the stores for. Peshawar having been sent to Kurramrur were so utterly unprovided that we had to forage for our rations, and it is so annoying in the very highest order – more than once our baggage took 26 hours to come 12 miles! You probably have read that Lord S. interferes in all military matters even to nominating generals etc. Even that he adopted the Kurram route not because it was required, but to give Roberts, an ardent partisan of his, an independent command – the consequence is that now when we are desperately hard up for troops no less than 2 Batteries - 3 Cavalry Regts. and 9 Battalions are locked up there guarding a road which is unpassable for 5 months in the year! the Shutungurda? being 11,400 feet high and long since snowed up. Well, just as we reached Jellalabad without any fighting we heard Roberts, who had started for Ali Kheyl the middle of September was at Kabul already, and of course Government instantly to reduce expenses countermanded several Regts on way up – told our Bde. to halt at Fundamuck And R's Division. to hold the thirty miles nearest Kabul whilst we were to hold the thirty from Fundamuck. We could not get leave to advance till R was ready to send down a brigade to meet us, which was done at beginning. of November. Our meeting at Sehbeha, the half way house, curiously enough at the Jugdulluk Pass, the scene of the great massacre of '42, we found a lot of old grape shot buried and last month when levelling a ruined fort when preparing for a night attack we burned up a lot of old Company Rupees of '35 Well after this we had a month's inactivity preparing winter quarters and could not get permission to march and explore and "and trail our coats" through any of the neighborouring. Shilgai Valley, a most necessary proceeding, and one which must someday be done, but anything for a quiet life is the policy of our Government.

Early in December our headquarters were at Fundermuk and our Brigade consisted of -----guide ----10th brigade one mounted battery and one British Battalion (2 / 9th) Guide infantry 2nd and 4th Gourkhars, 24th Pungabees and 45th Sikhs but we were scattered from Jellalabad to Jugdulluck. Over 60 miles and the 24th and 45th were almost entirely at Jellalabad. On the 9th came an emergent order for the guides (from Jugdulluck) to march on Kabul, which they did, doing the last 40 miles including an ascent of 3000ft in one march! infantry and cavalry together On the 13th we received news that the -----meditated an attack on Jugdulluck now held only by 200 gourkhas so our 14th infantry outflanked with 400 infantry and 150 cavalry and made a forced march reaching the fort an hour after dark. On the 15th another 500 infantry escorting Sunday's rations came in and the same evening just at sunset the advance of the Shilyans? appeared and up to 8 pm there was a lot of firing from them and an occasional volley from us when they got too close.. Our news was that we were to be "rushed" by 12000 men that night and all slept on their arms round the breastworks. When embarking for Fundermuck we had received a telegram from General R. that

there had been severe fighting, but that ----- the enemy had been "disastrously routed" etc,etc and all was over.. Late at night on the 14th came another message to General G "That he was concentrating on Sherepur and if no attack tomorrow would be able to maintain his position! and ordering Gough to march with his whole Brigade to his assistance! Before Gough could reply that we had but 500 infantry and not a Brigade, the line was cut and all communication ceased.