

mand of Lieutenant-Colonel Liddell, the slope, two companies of the 3d Europeans skirmishing and covering the breadth of the rock; two companies supporting, and the rest in reserve; we made our way through thick jungle, and reached, without being discovered, the edge of the open ground in front of the east curtain of the fort, which Major Boileau had selected for the breaching batteries.

I directed a road to be cut immediately by the Sappers and Miners from the foot of the slope to this battery; our left to open a communication down the south of the rock, with the troop of the 3d Cavalry investing the south of the rock; our right to open a communication down the north side of the rock with the camp, and rifle pits to be made at night in front of our attack, enfilading, as much as possible, the enemy's line of defences.

The enemy, having perceived our position, commenced rather a sharp fire on it from the jingals and small guns in the curtain and bastions, which I kept down with the fire of the 6-pounder of the Hyderabad Contingent and the 5½ mortars, the former firing at the loopholes and embrasures, the latter with half charges, dropping their shells on the banquette. I beg to mention, for his devotion on this occasion, Quartermaster Thompson, commanding a half battery of the Artillery of the Hyderabad Contingent, who has completed thirty-two years of meritorious service. Twice hit, he continued to fight his guns successfully to the close of the day. I thanked his battery on the ground.

The two 18-pounders, with elephant draught, were brought up the hill at 4 P.M., the 3d Europeans dragging them up the steep where the elephants could not go.

The feint against the town drove the enemy out of it into the fort, and enabled Brigadier Stewart, with the force in the margin,* to take possession of the "Eedgah," a Mussulman place of prayer opposite to the north face, commanding the town, and within range of the main gate of the fort, on this height, and another to the left; he skilfully placed Captain Lightfoot's 9-pounder battery, one 8-inch howitzer, and two 8-inch mortars. These batteries, forming the right or town attack, kept up night and day an effective fire on the line of defences and buildings of the fort.

On the 27th instant I changed the 8-inch howitzer from the right to the left attack, in order to enfilade with its fire the defences and palaces of the north face.

I was constantly between the two attacks, which were 2½ miles apart.

From the town attack I directed a detachment of the 3d Europeans, supported by another of the 24th Native Infantry, with two companies of the 24th Native Infantry in reserve, and under cover of houses and trees, and of a heavy fire from the Eedgah Battery, to take a low massive tower, close to the main gate, Captain Lightfoot being of opinion that a howitzer might be placed in it, which would batter the gate and strengthen and shorten the cordon of investment. I had a couple of 8-inch shells thrown into the tower to drive out the enemy, should they be there, when the storming party, gallantly led by Captain Lightfoot, who volunteered to accompany it, for which I beg to

recommend him to his Excellency, entered the tower under a heavy fire from the walls, by the postern opposite the walls, from which it was only fifty yards distant. Captain Lightfoot recommends Private Davies, of the 3d Europeans, for his gallantry and intelligence on this occasion.

Captain Lightfoot and Lieutenant Bonnas, of the Engineers, having, after a thorough examination of the tower, reported that the massive construction and nature of its defences prevented their being used for the offensive, I withdrew the troops from it before daylight.

On the 28th instant, at eight, the sand-bag batteries of the left attack having been completed, the two 18-pounders and the 8-inch howitzer having been brought up to them, commenced their fire against the outer wall of the east curtain of the fort with such good effect that it was evident that a practicable breach would be soon made.

I had just returned to the camp from the battery, when the rebels, coming in force out of the thick jungle, crossed the river Beena, and attacked the videttes of the right rear of the camp, another large body of them appeared at the same time on the opposite bank, the two bodies amounting to 1500 or 2000 men, many of them sepoy and valaitees.

I moved rapidly with the outlying picket of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, who in less than a minute were in their saddles against the rebels, ordering two guns and the rest of the pickets to follow in support. The enemy, who were skirmishing with a picket of the 3d Light Cavalry, on seeing our approach, fired a discharge of muskets and rockets at us, and ran into a gorge of the Beena, and up its rocky banks; I directed Captain Hare, following in my rear, to move by a short line and cut off their retreat.

Brigadier Stuart, whom I had called up, advancing from the Eedgah, with a few rounds of artillery, sent the rebels on the other side of the river into the jungle, and the whole retreated rapidly to a precipitous ridge above the village of Chunderapore, four miles to the north-west of Rathghur, from whence they had started in the morning.

Captain Hare came up with the rear of the rebels before they reached the ridge, and cut up several of them.

Captain Hare and Lieutenant Westmacott, attached to the Hyderabad Cavalry, did good service on this occasion; and Lieutenant Moore, of the 3d Bombay Light Cavalry, who, on account of the few artillery, has served again with effect, deserves also to be mentioned.

After nightfall the rebels made a feeble and unsuccessful attack on the left of the camp from the Saugor road. The rebels, who had come from their fortified camp Noreonlee, and from the fort of Kooreye, failed completely in their attempt to surprise the camp and relieve Rathghur. During the whole time of their attack, the breaching batteries continued their fire. Colonel Turnbull reported that the breach would be practicable for an assault the next day at sunset.

Accounts now came into me that the rebels from the Chunderapore ridge had, early in the morning, attacked in the difficult pass mentioned in the first part of this report, a convoy of supplies coming for my force from the west, and had killed Scindia's Vakeel who was in charge of it.

The safety of my supplies rendered it necessary that the enemy should be driven from Chunderapore. During the night, I was employed in making

* Four 6 pounder guns Bombay Horse Artillery, six 9-pounder guns Bombay Light Field Battery, under Captain Lightfoot; 50 Bombay Sappers and Miners, detachment of siege train; two 8-inch mortars, one 8-inch howitzer, 28 men Bombay Artillery, all the artillery under Lieutenant-Colonel Twinball; two troops of Her Majesty's 14th Dragoons, under Major Lendamore; 24th Regiment Native Infantry.