

Dilkusha is excessively bad, and the mortars delayed the column.

I received information from Mr Martin, the civil officer who accompanied me on the road, that Moosahib Ali with 2,000 or 3,000 men, 4 guns, and 200 sowars, occupied Selimpore, and was in direct communication with a large force of double that number on the opposite side of the Goomtee. My intention was to arrive at Selimpore about day-break, in order to co-operate with the column from Nawabgunge, which was to attack the rebels at Chirria Bagh at the same hour. I found myself, however, owing to delays, at that time at Moon-sheegunge, a village about 2 miles from Selimpore, where I heard the firing of the column on the opposite side of the river.

I immediately pushed on with all the available cavalry under Lieutenant C. F. Chamberlain, 26th Bombay Native Infantry, and directed him to surround the place; this he accomplished most effectively and rapidly, and by the time the remainder of the force had come up, the whole entrenched position was watched. Having taken a reconnaissance with Mr Martin, who was accompanied by the Zemindars of the place, I found, from his information of the locality, that Selimpore was a strong entrenched position, with the river running on the north, and was surrounded with an outer and inner ditch and rampart, and that the only gate was on the south side. My plan of attack was therefore to open the guns upon the south and west of the place, and detach cavalry to the two flanks, for the purpose of cutting them off, in case of a retreat. I accordingly ordered the two guns under Lieutenant Cuthbert, and the two mortars under Lieutenant Maitland, to open fire, covered by a company of the 23d under Captain Monsell; and a company of the 88th, under Captain Radcliffe; and at the same time Lieutenant Chamberlain drew the main body of his cavalry to the right flank, leaving a detachment to guard the left. A large body of the enemy, both infantry and cavalry, were seen flocking out towards the east side, or right flank. I accordingly withdrew the two guns under Lieutenant Cuthbert to that point, ordering a company of infantry to follow in support. In the meantime Lieutenant C. F. Chamberlain, by a charge of cavalry, in which he cut up some of the enemy, caused them to retreat back into the town, and the guns, coming up, opened on their retreat, Lieutenant Chamberlain advancing his cavalry dismounted and following them up. I directed the infantry and skirmishers on the left now to advance. They crossed the ditch with great gallantry, and got into the entrenchment, meeting the enemy, and causing great slaughter near the gateway, and in the inner ditch. They were now in full retreat, endeavouring to cross the river. The guns were brought down to bear on them in the boats; the cavalry, advancing down to the bank, charged them most gallantly under Lieutenant Hill, cutting up a considerable number; some escaped, but most were killed or drowned. The boats were afterwards destroyed by Mr Martin.

I cannot speak too highly of the behaviour of all the troops on this occasion, after a march of 20 miles, with the sun getting very hot, and little or no shade to be found; it is difficult to describe the fatigue and labour they underwent, but, notwithstanding all the difficulties, they acted with the greatest vigour and gallantry, and took a very strong position occupied by a force infinitely numerically stronger than themselves. The loss of the enemy on this occasion must be very great; for, besides the slaughter in different parts, there was one spot at the entrance of the fort where I saw myself between 250 and 300 bodies lying together; I should compute the loss at 700 men killed.

Amongst the slaughter, it is credibly ascertained that Koshal, the noted free-booter in this part of the country, was killed; it is also reported that Moosahib Ali has fallen, but as this does not seem certain, I have taken measures to ascertain the truth of it.

The loss on our side was 2 Europeans killed, 1 officer, Lieutenant Moore, 88th Regiment, and 7 men wounded; in the Native Force, 5 men killed, and 19 wounded, and 27 casualties among the horses.

I beg to enclose the Return of Casualties.

There were 4 guns captured, 5 zumburnks or camel guns, with their camels, and 2 elephants, besides 80 prisoners given over to Mr Martin. I occupied the town during the night with European and Native Infantry. I had no means of destroying the fort; I therefore left it as it was, and returned on the morning of the 24th to Goosaingunge.

On my return I sent patrols of cavalry to the right and left flanks; the fort on the right, on the banks of the river, the residence of Moosahib Ali, was found evacuated, 250 of the enemy having left it during the night. After leaving our guns at Selimpore I occupied this fort temporarily with the Police. The fort on the left was also evacuated. The country is quieted all round, terror having been struck in the district by the great and signal blow inflicted at Selimpore. Confidence has been re-established at Goosaingunge, where the natives are flocking back to the bazaar, rejoiced at the death of Koshal, and at our occupation of the place. I have reason to believe, that the effect of the movement altogether has been most beneficial to our power.

It is now my pleasing duty to bring to the notice of the Brigadier Commanding, the names of those who were engaged and distinguished themselves. Where all behaved so well it is difficult to fix upon any particular individual, but I must be allowed to mention the name of Lieutenant Chamberlain, who commanded the Police Force, and whose activity, vigour, and thorough knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, combined with his great soldier-like qualities, rendered me the most valuable service; of his gallantry and dash it is almost useless my speaking. It must be well known. On this occasion it was most conspicuous. I will leave it to him to bring to the public notice the names of his officers, who were all indefatigable. I have previously noticed the gallant charge made by Lieutenant Hill, on the bank of the river; I also wish to bring forward the names of Captain Radcliffe, who commanded the 88th, and led the assault most gallantly on the fort; of Captain Heigham, who commanded the two companies of the 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers; of Lieutenant Cuthbert, who commanded the two field guns; and Lieutenant Maitland the two mortars; they all afforded me the greatest assistance. Ensign Wildes, 23d Fusiliers, my orderly Officer, was most zealous, active, and useful to me. I must also mention the name of Assistant-Surgeon Morris, 23d Fusiliers, and Assistant-Surgeon Knipe, 88th Regiment, who performed their duties most zealously, having charge of the whole force, European and Native. As there were many men knocked up by the heat and fatigue, besides the wounded, these duties were most laborious. Mr Martin, the Civil Officer, who accompanied me, was of the greatest assistance; he was most willing and obliging in giving his services wherever I required them.

I have, &c.,

E. G. BULWER, Major, 23d Royal  
Welsh Fusiliers,  
Commanding Force at Goosaingunge.