

6. As Oodeypore by this time was protected by a force under Captain Muter, 2d Grenadiers, and another under Lieutenant-Colonel Boyle, 89th Regiment, I marched my force via Chota Sadree and Jeeran to Purtabghur, and arrived there on the morning of the 24th instant.

7. At about 4 P.M., on the evening of the 24th, a sowar, who had been sent out by Captain Showers to procure information of the rebels, galloped into camp, and stated that the enemy was in full advance on Purtabghur, and was then distant about three miles.

8. I instantly ordered the force to get under arms, and, to prevent its impeding the movement of the troops, I directed the camp to be struck, and the whole of the baggage and camp-followers to be sent into the fort.

9. While this was being done I sent the cavalry forward to reconnoitre.

10. In consequence of numerous reports having been received from them of the rapid advance of the enemy, in three columns, I determined to take up a position in front of the town, on a ridge running perpendicular to the line of the enemy's advance; my right flank, which was the one threatened, being protected by a tank and nullah, and the front, sloping gently off, afforded favourable ground for a sweeping fire from the artillery and Enfield rifles.

11. I placed the guns in the centre of the infantry on both flanks, and the cavalry in the rear of the left.

12. The enemy appeared in view, at a distance of about half a mile, steadily advancing; the centre division, which was chiefly composed of infantry in line, preceded by skirmishers, bore down directly on our front, while the right division threatened the left flank; and at the same time the left division was seen marching towards our right rear.

13. The officer commanding the artillery having reported that the enemy was within range, I directed the gun to open on them, and on their nearer approach I ordered the infantry to commence firing with their Enfield rifles.

14. The enemy advanced to within about 400 yards, when they halted, and a heavy fire was kept up on both sides for nearly an hour and a half, when the darkness of the night rendered further firing useless.

15. For a short time a large number of the enemy got possession of a tope of trees on our right, and opened a severe fire on the force; but a few shells from the artillery, and a continuous fire of musketry from the 13th Regiment of Native Infantry, soon made them abandon their position.

16. When the night became quite dark, the enemy retreated in a north-east direction, taking all their wounded along with them; they must have suffered very severely, but their loss cannot be ascertained, as every endeavour was evidently made to conceal it. Several of their killed have been found on their line of retreat, some with ropes attached to them by which they had been dragged away; 22 horses, and numerous bodies, were left on the field dead.

17. Our casualties are as follows:—

Killed none.

Wounded—

Royal Artillery, Captain Bolton, slightly (remained in action until the termination of the affair), and 1 gunner.

72d Highlanders, 3 rank and file.

13th Regiment Native Infantry, 4 rank and file.

18. Owing to the darkness of the night, and the consequent uncertainty of the enemy's movements, pursuit, with my small body of cavalry, was quite impracticable.

19. The steadiness and gallant conduct of the officers and men, both Native as well as European, was most conspicuous.

20. A correct estimate of the enemy's number could not be formed, but I consider that it could not have been less than 3,500 cavalry, and 1,500 infantry, and probably many more.

21. Some prisoners who fell into our hands stated that Rao Sahib, Tantia Topee, and Nawab Raheem Ali, of Kamouni, were in command of the three divisions opposed to us.

22. I received the most ready assistance from the officers commanding the several detachments, viz., Major Simpson, 2d Bombay Light Cavalry; Captain Adams, 13th Regiment Native Infantry; Captain Bolton, Royal Artillery; Captain Brooke, 95th Regiment; Lieutenant Cameron, 72d Highlanders; Lieutenant Bannerman, Seikh Horse; also from Captain Malcolm, Bombay Engineers, who acted as my Staff officer.

23. I also beg to add that Captain Showers, Political Agent of Meywar, who has accompanied the force the greater part of the time that it has been in the field, and was present with it during the engagement, has invariably furnished me with the most valuable information and advice, and rendered me every assistance in his power.

24. A company of the Meywar Bheel Corps, which accompanied Captain Showers from Oodeypore, assisted greatly during the action in protecting the left flank of the column, and also in furnishing piquets and sentries during the night.

25. Two of the enemy's elephants have fallen into our hands; it is also reported, by some prisoners taken, that Rao Sahib was wounded, and his cousin and Wuzeer killed; the supposed body of the former was found without its head.

I have, &c.,

R. ROCKE, Major, 72d Highlanders,  
Commanding Field Force.

No. 3.

Allabad, 28th January 1859.

FORWARDED, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General and Viceroy in Council.

I have, &c.,

W. MAYHEW, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 4.

The Secretary to the Government of India in the Military Department, to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

Fort-William,  
16th February 1859.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your memorandum, No. 199, dated 28th January 1859, forwarding a letter from Major-General J. Michel, C.B., commanding Malwa Division, with a Report from Major Rocke, 72d Highlanders, detailing an attack made on his column by the Rao Sahib and Tantia Topee, and the enemy's signal defeat, I am directed to state, for the