

check irreparable, or, otherwise, I might have brought up the third or supporting division to renew the attack; but to satisfy myself more thoroughly at this momentous crisis of our actual situation, I proceeded to the head of the attacking column, and there I learnt from Lieutenant Shiel, of the 3d light infantry, who, in the ardour of zeal, had moved forward with some of his men, that Major Wahab had retired, his wounds not admitting of his remaining any longer in advance. I quickly surveyed the enemy's works, and saw it had a parapet, from which blazed one continued sheet of fire. Under these circumstances, I had no alternative, I thought, left me. I must either bring up the third division and renew the attack to the imminent hazard, nay, certainty of losing all, or saving what remained by speedily retrograding. Of two evils I instantly chose the least, and directed Lieutenant Shiel to file away to the rear without noise or confusion. As soon after as possible, I sounded the retreat, and the several parties, and such of the wounded men who could walk, assembled on the ground from which the reconnoissance was taken in the first instance; the firing from the enemy being still kept up from the positions.

On the discharge of the first cannon shot from the pagoda, I directed Captain Bell, with one hundred men of the 25th regiment, to move round by the left, and make an effort to seize it and overcome any other obstacles he might meet on the way.

This promising officer, seconded by Lieutenant Craigie, executed their instructions as far as their means would admit of it, with a spirit and bravery that does them honour. The pagoda, contrary to report and expectation, was found to be strongly stockaded and not assailable without ladders, and Lieutenant Briggs, who had zealously volunteered his services to conduct the party, in returning to secure some ladders, was attacked by thirty or forty Burmese, who rushed upon him with drawn knives, and from whom he only escaped by jumping down a deep ravine.

Order, regularity, and discipline, which had been strictly observed until about this period, vanished, and the whole of the corps crowded indiscriminately into one general mass, disheartened and dispirited; the men became apathetic and ungovernable, and appeared altogether lost to a sense of the perils and dangers that threatened them from all around. The inevitable and fatal consequences produced feelings indescribable. With the cool, steady, and determined aid, however, of some able officers, I succeeded, some time after, in bringing the men to reason, who were thereby reduced, slowly and silently, to move down to the plain, which I had pointed out as the place of rendezvous.

On reaching the bottom of the hill, I fortunately fell in with Captain Williamson's division, which had just then emerged from the jungle on the right; from his report, I found the guides had again deceived us, for by their account the jungle in that direction was extremely limited, and, on clearing it, I had reason to suppose Captain Williamson would have come upon a plain, from which all the guides declared a part of the stockade was to be seen. This was not the case, and Captain Williamson, after innumerable difficulties, could not penetrate

beyond a certain distance, and, on hearing the retreat sounded, thought it advisable to desist from any further attempt, and returned accordingly.

Our meeting at this spot was truly desirable; for I immediately directed him to form up two hundred men to the right and left of the road fronting the enemy to cover the retreating columns. This arrangement, I was happy to find he had in a great measure anticipated. My next object was directed to forming the men as they came out on the plains. This duty was entrusted to Major Ogilvie, whose utmost exertions were used to restore regularity and confidence amongst the troops.

The wounded, artillery, and such of the baggage as was recovered, were shortly after sent on, preceded by a party, and the line, under Major Ogilvie followed slowly, and when it had retired to a sufficient distance, I formed such parts of Captain Williamson's covering division as I judged necessary, into a rear-guard, with directions for its following the line, and in the event of a sally being made from the stockade, to halt, shewing as large a front to the enemy as circumstances and the nature of the ground would admit of. This duty was ably executed by that cool and steady Officer, aided by the zealous exertions of Captain Williams of the 28th regiment.

The detachment, I am happy to say, arrived at Todgaghee, at eleven o'clock P. M. without meeting any annoyance in the route, the wounded were immediately collected, and through the indefatigable exertions of the Medical Officers of the 3d, 34th, and 28th regiments, and the zealous aid of Captain Milne, of the pioneers, in procuring the means of carriage for such men as could not be provided with doolies, I was enabled to move again at two o'clock in the morning, an hour previous to which we had been disturbed by a few shots from an advanced party of the enemy.

Captain Murray and Lieutenant Alldritt, of the Madras artillery, were from the first zealous and indefatigable in their exertions, in bringing their howitzers to the positions fixed upon, and the steadiness and alacrity evinced by them and their men under a galling fire, was such as has on all occasions distinguished that corps.

I have deemed it advisable to make this unusually long report, in order to put the Commander of the Forces in possession of the most minute events that occurred in the prosecution of this service; and in concluding I beg leave to add, that the gallantry and good conduct of Major Wahab, was particularly conspicuous on all occasions, as likewise that of the Officers of his corps and division: to Captain Williamson, and the Officers of the 5d light infantry, I am equally indebted for their cool and steady demeanour under all the trying circumstances the detachment encountered. I cannot appreciate too highly the services of Major Ogilvie and Captain Milne, whose judgment, bravery and steadiness I had frequent opportunities of witnessing. In short, to all the Officers and men composing the detachment, praise is due, but to Captain Kyd, Brigade-Major, Lieutenant Briggs, of the Quarter-Master-General's department, and to Lieutenant Trant, of His Majesty's 38th, the latter of whom volunteered to convey orders, I am particularly indebted, for the able assistance they afforded me,