

the night, and at day-break next morning resumed our march, but had only proceeded about a mile beyond Goojerajgunge, when we discovered the enemy in great force in possession of the woods to our front and flanks. The road by which we had to reach the wood in our front was bounded by inundated paddy-fields on either side. I halted to observe the best course to pursue, and finding that the enemy were weakening their front to take us on both flanks, I boldly pushed forward, throwing out skirmishers in every direction. The Enfield rifles kept our foes at a distance, and we succeeded in forcing the wood, beyond which, as far as Beebeegunge, it lay across an open swamp, which greatly befriended us. Meanwhile, the baffled enemy were observed hurrying round to oppose us at Beebeegunge, which is situated on the opposite side of a bridge, by which we had hoped to cross the river. There I again halted, to refresh the troops and to reconnoitre.

Finding the bridge had been destroyed, extensive earthen breastworks raised on the other side, flanking the bridge, and the mutinous regiments in force occupying the houses in the village, I determined on making a detour to the right as far as the railway earth-works, about a mile off. I masked this movement for a time by the fire of my guns, but no sooner did the enemy discover our purpose than they hurried with their entire strength to intercept us at a wood which it was necessary for us to pass; a portion of them followed us up in the rear, and by the time we reached the wood we found quite as much on our hands as we could manage.

They mustered some 2,000 to 2,500 strong in Sepoys alone, besides Rajah Koor Sing's irregular forces, of whom, however, we made little account. The Rajah was apparently present in person, and for upwards of an hour we were compelled to act solely on the defensive. The sepoy's apparently emboldened by their recent success beyond Arrah, advanced to the assault with a vigour quite unexpected, and twice, with their bugles sounding first the "assembly," then the "advance" and the "double," made determined rushes on the guns, but were on both occasions repulsed with showers of grape. Meanwhile, Captain L'Estrange with the gallant 5th was not idle as will be seen by his own report hereto appended. Finding at length that the enemy grew emboldened by the superiority of their numbers, and the advantage of their positions I determined on trying the effect of a general charge of the Infantry, and sent Captain the Honorable E. P. Hastings to Captain L'Estrange with orders to that effect; promptly and gallantly he obeyed the order; the skirmishers on the right turned their flank; the guns with grape and shrapnel drove in the centre; and the troops advancing on all sides drove the enemy panic struck in all directions. Thus our road was cleared; all beyond the country was open, and we proceeded without further interruption to within four miles of Arrah, when we were suddenly brought up by an impassable river, and have since been employed in attempting to bridge it over.\* In this work the railway engineers headed by Mr. Kelly have rendered the most valuable aid; meanwhile most of the rebels returned to Arrah, but precipitately left it during the night. Rajah Koor Sing accompanied them to save his family. Their loss is reported to have been severe. We hear that not a Sepoy now remains in Arrah, and that the mass have gone off towards Rhotas, or scattered themselves in various directions.

I have now to commend to the notice of the Major-General the gallant conduct of the officers and troops whom I have the honor to command, on

this occasion: under circumstances of great peril and difficulty they have exhibited those soldierly qualities which seldom fail to ensure success. To Captains L'Estrange and Scott of Her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers, my special thanks are due for the prompt and gallant way in which they seconded my efforts, more particularly in the final charge which was executed against twenty times their number of brave and disciplined troops. Captain L'Estrange reports highly of Ensigns Oldfield, Lewis, and Mason. To Captain the Honorable E. P. Hastings, Staff-Officer of this force, much of the success of this expedition may be attributed; whether on the march, or in action with the enemy, he was everywhere to be found at the right time and in the right place to aid us with his energy in overcoming all difficulties; of the others who especially distinguished themselves I feel bound to make honorable mention of Messrs. Kelly, Barber, Burroughs, Nicholl and Hughes, of the Buxar Gentlemen Volunteers, who rendered excellent service under their gallant leader Lieutenant Jackson, 12th Native Infantry. Assistant-Surgeon Eteson in charge of the Field Hospital, and Staff-Sergeant Melville of the 1st Company 5th Battalion of Artillery, also merit particular notice for their zeal and energy on duty.

My future movements must be guided in a great measure by the information I may receive from other quarters. Meanwhile a good supply of ammunition is urgently required for Her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers, to the extent of 80 rounds per man, and grape for 2 nine-pounders and howitzer.

Enclosed are the returns of casualties on the 2nd instant. I have, &c.

V. EYRE, Major Commanding Field Force.

P.S. Mr. Wake the magistrate of Arrah, has just ridden into camp; his defence of his house seems to have been almost miraculous.

*Return of Casualties of a Detachment of Her Majesty's 5th Regiment, in actions on the 2nd of August, at Goojerajgunge and Beebeegunge.*

*Camp near Arrah, August 3, 1857.*

*Wounded.*

- Private Baconham, No. 2983, 2nd Co., contusion of back by spent ball, slightly.
- Private Jackson, No. 3110, 2nd Co., gunshot wound of right thigh, severely.
- Private Bennett, No. 3220, 2nd Co., gunshot wound of left hand, severely.
- Private Clements, No. 2457, 2nd Co., gunshot wound of left thigh, slightly.
- Private Warren, No. 2028, 2nd Co., gunshot wound of right shoulder, slightly.
- Corporal Grinsdall, No. 3257, 1st Co., gunshot wound of left thigh, slightly.
- Private Bolan, No. 3100, 1st Co., gunshot wound of wrist, severely.
- Private Love, No. 1144, 1st Co., gunshot wound of ankle, slightly.

J. H. THORNTON, Assistant-Surgeon,  
In Medical charge of Detachment of  
Her Majesty's 5th Regiment.

F. W. L'ESTRANGE, Captain,  
5th Fusiliers, Commanding Detachment.

*Officers Wounded.*

- Ensign Oldfield, slightly wounded by a musket ball on the chin.

\* 11 A.M. The guns have just crossed safely.