

Return of Casualties in the 1st Company, 5th Battalion Artillery, in action on the 2nd of August, 1857.

Camp near Arrah, August 3, 1857.

Killed.

Gunner T. Hayes, ball through the neck.
Gunner T. Hickey, ball through the temple.

Wounded.

Sergeant John Knox, severely, ball through the arm.
Gunner M. McCarthy, severely, ball in the cheek.
Gunner T. Dwyer, slightly, contusion.
Gunner D. O'Brien, slightly, contusion.
Sunkur, Tent Lascar, severely, arm amputated.
2 Camp followers, severely.

A. ETESON, Assistant-Surgeon,
Artillery.

V. EYRE, Major,
Commanding Field Force.

No. 32.

Captain F. L'Estrange to the Assistant Adjutant-General at Dinapore.

*Near Arrah,
August 3, 1857.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that on the arrival of the detachment of the 5th Fusiliers (160 men) under my command at Buxar on the 30th ultimo, I found that our services were required to cooperate with Major Eyre, Bengal Artillery, to march on Arrah, where we understood that some 2000 or 3000 of the mutineers had assembled. On the following evening, our force, consisting of three guns 154 men, with Captain Scott, Ensigns Lewis, Oldfield, and Mason, all of the 5th Fusiliers, under my command, 12 Mounted Volunteers of the Railway and Engineer Department, the whole under the command of Major Eyre, left Buxar "en route" for Arrah.

We came on the enemy on the morning of the 2nd instant; we found that they had assembled in immense force, and the woods for miles around us seemed to be swarming with rebel sepoys. Major Eyre immediately fired some rounds of shell among the enemy who were in our front, and I sent a skirmishing party under the command of Captain Scott to drive the rebels out of the woods. In consequence of an extensive swamp on the left of the road, our skirmishers were delayed for a short time, but at length reached the woods under a very heavy fire from the mutineers; our skirmishers soon cleared the woods on the right and left of the road, during which time the right skirmishing party sustained a severe cross-fire and three men of the 5th were wounded; our whole force then gained the open country, but with the loss of a considerable quantity of baggage. The enemy had surrounded us on all sides, and our main body being within the enemy's rifle-range, the drivers left the elephants and baggage-carts, and made off into the woods.

A mile further on we found that the Bunhee-junge bridge had been completely destroyed by the rebels who had there concentrated their forces, and were determined to dispute our further advance.

Finding that the re-construction of a bridge in face of such a large force of the enemy was impossible, and that the river could not be forded, we made a flank movement so as to gain the railway embankment on our right, and thus proceed direct to Arrah.

The enemy immediately left their position behind Bunhee-junge Bridge, and proceeded in a parallel direction with us. They kept up their fire on us, but the ground being favorable for our skirmishers, who were judiciously led by Captain

Scott, no great difficulty was experienced by our force until we arrived within about 300 yards of the railway embankment. The ground here being very much broken, and as we were unable to get the guns on to the railway line, the rebels clearly saw the difficulties we had to encounter, and made certain of our complete destruction. Notwithstanding Major Eyre having opened on the enemy with shell and round shot, and although our skirmishers made excellent practice with their Enfield rifles, still no impression could be made on the rebels, who advanced in large numbers and came rushing on to the mouth of the guns.

In the wood on our left, an immense body of the rebels had assembled and poured a tremendous fire upon our line, the left of which with two guns occupied a "tope," and the right was close up to the railway bank under shelter of some brick-kilns and other sort of cover.

Our line was then about 300 yards in length, and the enemy came pouring down on us in large numbers. At this time we were in imminent danger, when Major Eyre ordered us to charge the enemy. This movement was perfectly successful, and our line advancing at the charge, the mutineers fled from the woods, from whence emerging, Major Eyre opened on them with grape, and the enemy cleared off in all directions.

One officer and 8 men were wounded during the operations of the day, which commenced at about 6 A.M. and lasted until 3 P.M.

I beg to bring to your especial notice the gallant conduct of Captain Scott, Ensigns Lewis and Mason, who prevented the enemy from turning our right, and maintained their position under a tremendous fire.*

Ensign Oldfield, who was wounded in the face by a rifle-ball, was nevertheless most efficient at his post, namely, with the two guns on the left. Lieutenant Wild (of the late 40th Bengal Regiment), our Interpreter, rendered us great assistance, skirmishing with our men when they were thus employed, charging with our line, and performing all his other duties with extreme intelligence.

I flatter myself that with respect to the conduct of the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the 5th Fusiliers, no comments or recommendations to praise can be required at my hands.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity of acknowledging the many services which the gentlemen Volunteers of our force have rendered to the men of the 5th Fusiliers, and

I have the honor, &c

F. W. L'ESTRANGE,

Captain 5th Fusiliers.

No. 33.

Major Eyre to the Assistant Adjutant-General of the Dinapore Division.

SIR,

Camp Arrah, August 5, 1857.

ACCOMPANYING this, is a letter from Captain L'Estrange, commanding detachment Her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers, supplying an omission in his first dispatch reporting on the action of the 2nd instant against the rebels of Dinapore and Arrah.

I take advantage of the same opportunity to mention that in the first attack made upon us near Goojraung on the same morning, Lieutenant Wild, 40th Native Infantry (my Acting Interpreter and Quartermaster), greatly distinguished himself in leading on a party of Her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers to force the wood in our front. His

* My thanks also to Dr. Thornton, who, though suffering from indisposition, has been unremitting in his attention towards our sick and wounded.