

about nine miles distant, I moved out against them with a force as per margin.*

11. I came upon them at noon, about a mile on this side the river: their infantry was drawn up in line, its right resting on a serai and dismantled ghurree, its left on a small village and clump of trees; their cavalry appeared to be pretty equally distributed on the flanks.

12. I advanced to the attack in the following order, viz.:

Three guns light field battery in the centre; the troop of horse artillery, equally divided, 100 yards on either side; 300 of Her Majesty's 52nd Light Infantry, with Enfield Rifles, in extended order at one pace between, and on the flanks of, the artillery; the remainder of Her Majesty's 52nd, with the Punjaub Infantry, were in rear as supports and reserve. The New Police Ressalas I employed to mask the artillery until, at about 600 yards, a threatened charge of a party of the mutineer cavalry induced me to unmask and unlimber the three guns on the left to check it. The sight of the guns had the desired effect, and we resumed our advance, except that the police, being now no longer useful as maskers, and seeming undesirous of engaging, were ordered to the rear.

13. My intention was to advance to within 300 yards of the mutineer position, and then open fire simultaneously from the artillery and Enfield Rifles, the latter weapons being known to be thoroughly effective at that distance, while the smooth bore musket, with which alone the mutineers were armed, is comparatively useless.

14. The action commenced by the mutineers' infantry opening upon us with file firing at as nearly as possible the above distance; we lost no time in replying, and for about ten minutes they stood up very well indeed against the great odds opposed to them, many of them advancing boldly up to the very guns; meanwhile the cavalry had made several rushes in detached parties on our flanks and rear, but had always been repulsed by the file firing of our infantry.

15. The New Police Ressalas fled when threatened with a charge, but, considering their want of discipline and how very recently they had been raised, I cannot say that I consider them very culpable. There were, however, some honorable exceptions.

16. The mutineers were followed up to the bank of the river by the artillery, which occasioned them some little loss both in crossing and after they had gained an island in the centre, on which they had a 12-pounder iron gun. A few rounds were fired at us from this piece, but without effect.

17. The enemy left dead upon the ground on which they fought 120 men; many more were swept away by the river. Their wounded were probably not less than double the above number. All their camp equipage, &c., on this side of the river fell into our hands.

18. The want of cavalry (which crippled us sadly during the action), the depth of the water in the ford, and the fatigue the troops had undergone on the previous day, all conspired to prevent me from attempting to pursue the enemy across the river. I therefore left the Punjaub Infantry with Lieutenant Boswell in the serai, and brought back the European Infantry and Artillery to their encampment at Goordaspore, there to await news of the further movements of the mutineers.

19. On the 13th, I appointed Captain Adams,

* 3rd Troop 1st Brigade Horse Artillery; 3 guns, No. 17 Light Field Battery; Her Majesty's 52nd Light Infantry; detachment from 3rd and 6th Punjaub Infantry (184 men); 1 Company 2nd Police Battalion; 2 newly raised Ressalas.

Assistant Commissioner (kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Roberts, the Commissioner,) to command the detachment at the Ghaut, with a view to his watching and furnishing intelligence of the remnant of the mutineers on the island. From this officer's information, corroborated as it was from other quarters, I ascertained that the discomfiture of the mutineers in the action of the 12th, had been much more complete than I had at first supposed, and that not more than 300 men remained with the gun on the island; also that all, or very nearly all, of those who had dispersed had first divested themselves of their arms and accoutrements.

20. I accordingly at once decided on attacking the remnant on the island, and, with this view, on the evening of the 15th, got down two boats from ferries high up the river, all the boats in our immediate neighbourhood having been sunk by the civil authorities on the first news of the approach of the mutineers. At daybreak on the morning of the 16th, Her Majesty's 52nd Light Infantry, and one company of the Punjaub Infantry, with a company, Police Battalion,* crossed, one mile and a quarter below the enemy's position, our guns, placed higher up the stream, keeping the enemy's gun in play. When the whole of the infantry had crossed, the advance commenced, the 52nd leading in skirmishing order. The affair was over in a few minutes, without any check, and with a loss to us of only six men wounded. A few resolute men among the mutineers died manfully at the gun; the rest fled, and were either slain on the bank or driven into the river.

21. I do not need to dwell upon the services which the column has rendered the State in these operations; his Excellency will himself thoroughly comprehend and appreciate them.

My best thanks are due to officers and men of all grades and both arms for the cordial and valuable assistance I have throughout received from them, more particularly to Colonel Campbell, commanding Her Majesty's 52nd Light Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Dawes, commanding the Artillery, Captain Bouchier, commanding No. 17 Light Field Battery, Captain Blane, Her Majesty's 52nd, my Brigade-Major, and Captain Grindlay, 6th Light Cavalry, Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General to the column.

Lieutenant Angelo, 59th Native Infantry, Lieutenant Dixon, 9th Light Cavalry, and Lieutenant Baillie, 35th Native Infantry, also made themselves extremely useful in reconnoitring and other ways; and I much regret that a severe wound, received by the latter officer, will temporarily deprive me of his services.

22. I cannot conclude without expressing my obligations to Mr. Roberts, the Commissioner and Superintendent of the Division, and to Captain Adams, the Assistant Commissioner of Goordaspore. Both officers were present in the affairs of the 12th and 16th, and afforded me much valuable assistance throughout, in the way of information. Captain Adams also commanded the Punjaub Infantry and Police Detachment at the Ghaut from the 13th to the 16th instant, and the detachment which crossed the river on the latter date.

Lieutenant Perkins, Assistant Commissioner, Umritsur, was present at the action of the 12th, and had his horse wounded.

I enclose returns of casualties.

I have, &c.,

H. J. NICHOLSON,
Brigadier-General Commanding Punjaub
Moveable Column.

* Lieutenant Boswell with another company, was employed in watching a ford higher up the river.