

gallantly held by Lieutenant Burlton, 40th Regiment Native Infantry, with the 50 Seikhs; and I sent two companies of the Ramdull Regiment of Goorkhas to reinforce him in holding that post, and, if possible, to capture a gun firing on our left. Lieutenant Burlton reports that Soobadar Himkumal Bushnia, 9th Company Ramdull Goorkhas, behaved very gallantly, constantly encouraging his men; and, in riding at one of the rebels who was attacking Lieutenant Burlton, inflicting fortunately only a cut through his turban and helmet, the soobadar was very severely wounded by a tulwar cut round the left hip, a Sikh then rushing up, cutting down, and killing the rebel. After changing ground to the left, I advanced the line towards the enemy, now and then allowing our guns to throw a shell or two. The enemy made a show of advancing a short distance, with about 50 sowars in their front. After advancing the line a short distance, two or three shells were beautifully pitched into the midst of this large body of foot and horsemen, at 900 or 1,000 yards distance, scattering them in all directions. I am sorry there was no opportunity to allow of the Goorkhas joining in a charge. The main body then moved rapidly to their left, as if to gain their old position in the topes and village. Our line was changed to the right. During the former advance and this movement, the rebel skirmishers were firing from heavy cover on us, from our right and right rear. I ordered the marines to skirmish and cover our right, and two companies of the Gorucknath Regiment, who were placed in reserve, to cover our right rear. The line and skirmishers advanced, firing a few rounds from our guns into the topes, and in the direction of the tank. The rebels seem to have had only a rear-guard, at this time, left at Sohumpore. The skirmishers rapidly advanced into the topes, which we found quite clear of the enemy. Three tents of Baboo Coer Singh's nephew, Hurkishen Singh, were here found all pitched, and a quantity of grain, &c. I ordered the tents to be burnt at once. We then moved to the right to get on the Mujhowlee-road, and continued our advance without delay to Mujhowlee, some six miles distant. Within about two miles of Mujhowlee we saw the rear of the rebels entering the place, and on nearing it I ordered the marines, and part of the Naval Brigade, and four companies of the Gorucknath Regiment, to push on rapidly after the Seikhs composing the advance guard, in the hopes of capturing their guns, crossing the deep ford of the Gunduk. I am happy to say one large iron six-pounder gun and limber complete, full of ammunition, was taken in the river. The Sikhs and some men of the Gorucknath Regiment, with Captain Koopurshad Singh Bushnia, were among the first down at the river in capturing the gun. The cultivation was so heavy, and we advanced on so quickly, it was difficult to ascertain the number of the rebels killed. Two other tumbrils—one full of ammunition, the other of powder—and two or three carts were also taken. The rebels, by all reports and appearances, were 1100 or 1200 sepoy, and between 4000 and 5000 other armed men. The Naib Nazim, Mushuruff Khan, was present in the action with his force, and also Alli Kurree, Moulvee of Patna, who was first reported to have been killed in the action, but now said to have got away the evening before. The Governor-General will be pleased to learn that this one day's work has completely cleared the district of this horde of marauding rebels, relieving the many villages of their plundering and oppression. The Rajah of Mujhowlee, and the people, gladly welcomed us, as did other people on the road. I had

promised the Rajah I would soon relieve him. The Rajah states the rebels made sure of surrounding and destroying us as we were so few, and of being able to get into Chupra and to plunder the district. The Rajah also states that, with the sepoy, matchlock-men, sword and spear-men, the rebels were more than 6,000 or 7,000 strong. I do not think that the rebels had heard of the arrival of the second Goorkha Regiment, on the 25th December. I learn from the Mujhowlee Rajah, and other reports, that there must have been some 120 of the rebels killed, by the number of bodies since seen in their positions in the field. Besides many wounded, a few rebels were killed at the ford, and six in one boat. I am happy to say we have had few casualties. The gun and musket firing of the rebels was too high, their round shot and matchlock balls mostly passing over our heads, the round shot killing a Doolee bearer, and a villager, in our rear. A Goorkha private of the Gorucknath Regiment was wounded by a musket ball, and also one of the magistrate's sowars. It is a marvel none in the line were hit, for numbers of the round shot, &c., passed over or by us, tearing up the ground, and ricocheting, but without hitting any one. The action commenced about 10 A.M., and by half-past 1 P.M. we had dispersed and driven the rebels through the topes and village of Sohumpore, and followed them up and driven them out of Mujhowlee, and over the river Gunduk, by four P.M. The troops had a hard day's work, and went through their fatigue most cheerfully. I was myself in the saddle for ten hours, or would have written to you earlier; but I wrote and reported our advance, and successful attack, and complete operation, to Brigadier-General MacGregor, with Maharajah Jung Bahadur, the same evening express to Bettiah. We bivouacked for the night near the river, having marched without tents or baggage, except two or three tents for the men of the Naval Brigade, and a few hackeries for the ammunition, and to carry the Goorkhas and Sikhs in case of accidents during the action.

I marched again yesterday morning, 27th December, with a detachment of the Naval Brigade, two guns, and eight companies of Goorkhas—400 men—and the Seikhs, crossed the river, and moved through Selimpore, and about two miles beyond, to the house of one Narain Dial Canongoe, formerly an Assistant Collector, who had been forward in marauding and giving aid to the rebels. His house was blown up, burnt, and destroyed. We also moved to another village, to the house of one Sungram Lall, the nephew and toomandar of the above, and destroyed his house; but neither of the villages were injured. We returned to camp at half-past four P.M.

I need hardly say that the troops behaved, as British marines and seamen ever do, most excellently and gallantly; Captain Sotheby ever ready and present with the guns, and to afford me every assistance in the field. Captain Sotheby has paid great attention to the drill and training of the Naval Brigade for land service, and in quickly training the horses and ponies for the guns, horses for the large 12-pounder howitzer, and ponies for the three others, and the seamen to ride and act as gunners; and under Lieutenant Turnour, R.N., in charge of the artillery, they have had constant drill and training, and are now ready and steady for field service, and were in the action of the 26th December.

Lieutenant Grant, R.N., in charge of the Naval skirmishers, Lieutenant Turnour, R.N., in charge of the artillery, Lieutenant Radcliffe, R.N., in charge of the Naval column, and all the officers of