

Jumna while passing the fort of Chihora, on the right bank of the river, reported to be occupied by the enemy. I marched the next morning at 9 o'clock with the remainder of the Naval Brigade, and four Goorkha Regiments with Artillery for the village and fort of Nourainee, to cover and protect the fleet of boats and steamer at that point. After a nine hours' march of 20 miles, arrived on the left bank of the river opposite Nourainee at 5½ P.M., the latter part of the march being through very heavy deep sand, at the same time with the leading boats. I wrote to Captain Sotheby on the steamer, then a little lower down the river, to move up and prepare for disembarking the detachment of Naval Brigade, to cross the river that night at 10 o'clock, the Naval Brigade and 2 12-pound howitzers, under the command of Captain Sotheby, R.N. Five companies of Ramdull Goorkha Regiments and detachments of Sikhs embarked in boats, and we crossed the river to right bank, the Naval Brigade men having to pull the guns through a long deep sand assisted by some Goorkhas of the Ramdull Regiment, and about 12 o'clock we had seized and occupied the village and fort of Nourainee, finding it evacuated by the enemy. We remained close to the village and fort in bivouac till morning. Captain Reid and Lieutenant Sankey accompanied the troops.

3. That same day, the 20th instant, prepared to move to attack the enemy reported to be encamped near Phoolpore, about six miles distant, on right bank. Every exertion was made by Captain Sotheby, officers, and men of the Naval Brigade to ferry over spare ammunition, &c. Captain Montgomery, in military charge of 2nd Brigade, under command of Brigadier Junga Doje, and with the Goorkha officers, exerted themselves to cross their men and guns, not having arrived the night before. About 10 o'clock P.M., 20th instant, I marched with the force as per margin,* after a march of some six miles through fields and heavy cultivation and woods, found the enemy in position in a wood on the banks of the river, beyond Phoolpore. Gholam Hossein, son of the Nazim Mahomet Hossein, being the chief officer present, with Ali Hyder, in immediate command, were in position near and in a wood, with some broken ground in their front, and their left on the river. The enemy then kept up a sharp cannonade for nearly an hour, which was briskly replied to by the Naval Brigade Artillery, under charge of Lieutenant Turnour, R.N., a most zealous, active officer, and most actively and zealously superintended by Captain Sotheby, commanding the Naval Brigade, of the Pearl, whose fire was most effective. Lieutenant Pym, R.N., in charge of the Royal Marines of Her Majesty's steam frigate Pearl, skirmished to the front, doing excellent service with their rifles, pressing forward most gallantly, capturing one gun, turning it on the enemy and firing nine rounds of grape, also capturing a second gun, aided by a few Seikhs and Goorkhas, a third gun being captured by the Goorkhas. The Goorkha skirmishers I had ordered out early on the right flank having pressed on rapidly into action. Lieutenant Pym, R.N., brings to notice the gallant bearing of Acting Sergeant Francis Butler, of the Woolwich Division, during the action, who rendered him great assistance; also the admirable conduct of all the Marines. The Goorkha Artillery in the centre, and on the right flank, by a flank movement I made to the left were somewhat thrown to the right rear, but rapidly pushed into action through a village and heavy cultivation, opening their guns

* Royal Marines, 30; Naval Column, 140; 12-pounder howitzers, 4; Surunath Regiment, 450; Junganath Regiment, 450; Ramdull Regiment, 450; guns, 6; Detachment of Seikhs, 44.

with effect upon the enemy. In about an hour the enemy gave way, and were speedily in full retreat, defeated and routed with the loss of three of their five guns and a portion of their camp equipment. The enemy were reported to be 2000 strong, including 200 sepoy, a few hundred cavalry, and five guns in the field; some having gone off earlier in the day with their heavy baggage. Being nearly dark when the action ceased, and the cultivation very heavy, it was impossible to ascertain the number of the enemy killed, but many were found afterwards in the different fields; and the enemy are reported to have carried away a number of their wounded,—their commandant, Ali Hyder, being severely wounded in the thigh. Our casualty list, I am happy to say, is very light. The action ceased a little earlier on the right by the river; the Naval Column and guns and part of Ramdull Regiment pursued the enemy till nearly dark. We then moved to our right rear, to rejoin the other portion of the force; one hour more of daylight would have given us greater success.

4. Captain Brooks, in military charge of the Ramdull Regiment, zealously exerted himself during the action; Captain Montgomery, in military charge of 2nd brigade of Goorkhas, and Lieutenant Francis, attached to the Junganath Regiment, greatly exerted themselves. Captain Morgan, my field force staff, was most zealous in giving his services wherever required. Lieutenant Burlton, in charge of the detachment of Seikhs, was most useful and active, and skirmishing to the front with his active, ready men. The Honourable P. A. Montague, R.N., my Acting Aide-de-Camp, was active and zealous, carrying orders; and Lieutenant Sankey, of Engineers, afforded me every assistance, and in passing orders in the field.

5. Brigadier Junga Doje, commanding 2nd Goorkha Brigade, Colonel Turke Khan, commanding Junganath Regiment, Major Captain Suree Vakht Kanka, commanding Ramdull Regiment, zealously exerted themselves in the field. First Lieutenant Gibb, Bengal Artillery, attached to the Goorkha Artillery, was very active and zealous in affording every assistance to bring the guns rapidly into action, and he reports Major Captain Loogin Singh, commanding Goorkha Artillery, and Lieutenant Inckman Jaisee, in charge of a half battery, evinced much zeal during the action, the latter forcing his guns through a village and difficult to bring them into action.

6. A battery of six guns, placed on the left bank of the river by his Highness Jung Bahadoor, did excellent service under the orders of his Excellency, playing on the left flank of the enemy, and one shot breaking up one of their tumbrils.

7. Drs. Stone and Dickinson, Naval Brigade, Drs. Morton and Playfair, attached to the 2nd Brigade of Goorkhas, and Dr. Wilson, attached to the Ramdull Regiment, were present and active in the field and ready for any emergency. The Naval Chaplain the Rev. Mr. Williams, was present in the field.

8. I shall esteem it a favour if you will bring to the favourable notice of the Right Honorable the Governor-General and his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the officers and troops mentioned, and engaged in the action and operations reported in the despatch, attended with such complete results and the attainment of the urgent object you had in view, the safe and easy construction of a bridge of boats over the Gogra at Phoolpore, for the passage of the troops under the command of his Highness Maharajah Jung Bahadoor, into Oude.