

Prendergast, to destroy as much as was possible the works of Nowreowlee, twelve miles from Saugor; I send Captain Hare, with his detachments of all arms of the Hyderabad Contingent, to take the little fort of Sanoda, where the rebels had stores of supplies, and directed him, at the same time, to render the ford of the River Beas, practicable for the siege-artillery for the operations against Garakota.

On hearing of Captain Hare's approach, the rebels fled from Sanoda, which they had been repairing. He found there large supplies of grain; he destroyed the front face, and restored a good deal of plunder to the villagers, who complained bitterly that the rebels had robbed them of everything, and inflicted the greatest cruelties on them, to force them to give up their property; their nakedness and the barbarous mutilations of the persons of several of them, attested the truth of what they said. However, Captain Hare is of opinion that such is the anarchy caused by rebellion in this part of the country, that many of the plundered villagers, reduced to ruin, have become plunderers and rebels.

Knowing the good effect which rapid operations have on the enemy, and the value of the cool weather for the extensive operations which I had before me, I made the three marches from Saugor to Garakota in two days and encamped on the 10th February, near the village of Bussaree, which is close to Garakota; a detachment of the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, well conducted by Lieutenant Dick, having cut up a picket of rebels, which I had information was posted at a village two miles from Garakota.

Garakota is strong in every way, it is situated between two rivers, the Giddaree and the Sonar, which may be said to act as ditches to it, it is surrounded, except to the east, by forest, jungle, and the towns of Garakota and Heideenuggur; its defences are so strong that in 1818, a British force of 11,000 men, with 28 siege-guns, was unable to make a breach in them, and the besiegers running short of ammunition, the garrison was allowed to evacuate the fort with the honors of war.

The evening of my arrival before Garakota, I drove in, with some guns of the Horse Artillery, and Captain Lightfoot's battery, and skirmishers of the 3rd Europeans, the enemy, who wished to prevent our occupation of the village of Bussaree, the 3rd Europeans, covered by artillery, storming some houses still more in advance, and taking a ridge close to the walls. During the night and the next morning, the sepoys in numbers attempted to retake the position, but were immediately repulsed by Colonel Liddell, commanding the advanced posts and two 9-pounders under Captain Lightfoot, with which I had reinforced him.

The next morning, Colonel Liddell having reported to me that it would be desirable to take a hamlet, which had good views of, and was near the north face of the fort, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull to shell it, and Colonel Liddell to pass through some jungle and occupy the hamlet; this was well done, the 3rd Europeans occupying a temple and ground considerably in advance of the hamlet. The mutineers came in numbers out of the fort, and an entrenched camp to the south, to oppose the advance of the 3rd, their buglers repeating the English skirmishing calls, but with the difference that the 3rd went as rapidly forward as the mutineers did to the rear when the advance was sounded.

Lieutenant Dickens had written to me from Rehle, that when I attacked Garakota he would advance from Rehle and take possession of the

Panneh Ghât, a ford to the south of the fort, from whence he could prevent the rebels escaping by the Dummoh-road to Shâghur, which would be their most probable line of escape. In order to communicate with this officer, and connect my cordon of investment with him, I made, with Brigadier Steuart and a small force of all arms, a complete reconnoissance of the whole country round Garakota. My guide assured me that Lieutenant Dickens could not hold the Panneh Ghât, because it was close to the defences of the fort, and formed part of Garakota and Heideenuggur, which the enemy held. This made me the more anxious to reach Lieutenant Dickens, and assist him, I therefore pushed on the reconnoissance through Heideenuggur, to the Panneh Ghât, when Lieutenant Dickens had not arrived; the enemy had marked the ranges, and fired pretty accurately at the reconnoissance, but with no casualties. Skirmishers endeavoured to oppose my passage across the ford, but with the 3rd Europeans and Irregular Cavalry I drove them back, took their entrenchments on the opposite bank, and crossing the second river returned to camp after thirteen hours marching, the reconnoissance seized a noted rebel, the Lumba-dar of the village of Majcowa.

On my return, I found a letter from Lieutenant Dickens, stating that he had received subsequent information that the Panneh Ghât could not be held, and had therefore not gone to it.

As the reconnoissance made the circuit of the fort, I left troops of all arms in position, investing the north-east, east, and south-east of the fort; the troops in camp guarded the north and north-west; having reckoned on the Rehle detachment, for the southern investment, that part remained blank. On my return to camp, I gave orders to Captain Hare to occupy, with his detachment of all arms, the Panneh Ghât, which was at some distance; before he could arrive there, the enemy had fled from the fort by the Panneh Ghât and other outlets not watched in that direction.

However, I ought to add, that even if the Panneh Ghât had been occupied, it would have been quite impossible to have investigated completely Garakota, with a force of my numbers, which strictly speaking was only sufficiently strong to guard its camp, field and siege-artillery. My force was more than usually weak, as in order to protect Saugor in my absence, I had left there a troop of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, and two companies of the 24th Regiment, I had also sent the 31st and 42nd Bengal Native Infantry to Koray to guard Saugor from the possibility of an attack from the north.

Every one on going round the fort, was surprised how the rebels could have abandoned so rapidly a place of such strength, the thickness of the ramparts varying from fifteen to twenty-four feet.

Everything gave evidence of a sudden panic; the rebels had only half kneaded their cakes, and they left their guns in the entrenched camp without attempting to carry them off; their rapid abandonment of the fort was the more remarkable, because the immense supplies the native mint found in the fort, and other circumstances induced the belief that the rebels intended to make Garakota the seat of their central government; the only money now current in Garakota are the 13 anna rupees coined in this mint.

During the reconnoissance, Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull fired with the 8-inch howitzer, at a gun in the north face of the fort, which was annoying the troops in the advanced posts, the first shot of the howitzer blew in the embrasure, dismounted