

in the open, and silenced the enemy's gun in battery in the bastion, destroying, besides, its defences.

I praised him for his good service, on the ground, and promoted him.

The two 8-inch mortars, and occasionally the two 10-inch mortars of the left attack, answered the Garden Battery, shelling also the Nia Bustia, and five wells, where the sepoys had taken up their quarters, on account of the good water.

After the capture of Jhansi, we had proof of the havoc caused by the shelling and cannonade in the fort and city. Beside the damage done to the houses and buildings, the rebels acknowledge to have lost from 60 to 70 men a day killed.

Our batteries had, by the 30th, dismantled the defences of the fort and city, or disabled their guns. It is true that the rebels had made, on the white turret, an excellent parapet of large sand bags, which they kept always wet, and still ran up fresh in lieu of disabled guns; but their best guns had been disabled, and their best artillery men killed. Their fire was therefore no longer serious.

However, the obstinate defence of the enemy, the breach, and the extent fired on, had caused a great consumption of ammunition; so much so, that it was evident that there would not be sufficient to multiply breaches in the town wall, or to establish a main breach in the south double wall of the fort.

Under these circumstances, the officer commanding the artillery and engineers called to my notice the necessity of having recourse to escalade, to which I gave my consent, requiring, however, that the breach should form an important and principal point of attack. Both of these officers entertained a mistrust of the breach, thinking that it was mined or not practicable.

Knowing the risk which generally attend escalades, I had recourse to every means in my power for facilitating an entry by the breach. In order to widen it, and destroy still more effectually the entrenchment and stockade which the enemy had constructed in rear of the breach, I kept up a fire day and night on it from the 18-pounder and the 8-inch howitzer, and with the view to prevent the enemy working, and to render the mound too hot for them, I shelled it and the adjoining houses day and night from the mortar batteries in the centre and left attacks. Lieutenant Strutt, Bombay Artillery, made excellent practice, throwing the shells on the spots occupied by the guards of the city walls.

I had made arrangements on the 30th for storming, but the general action on the 1st instant, with the so-called army of the Peshwa, which advanced across the Betwa to relieve it, caused the assault to be deferred.

With the view to acquire rapid information respecting the enemy's movements, I established a telegraph on a hill commanding Jhansi and the surrounding country. It was of great use telegraphing the Ranees' flight, the approach of the enemy from the Betwa, &c.

On the 2nd instant, Major Boileau reported to me that he had made all the necessary preparations for the escalade, and that a 24-pound howitzer had been placed in battery in front of the Jokun Bagh, for the purpose of enfilading and clearing, during the night, the wall from the mound to the fort, and the Rocket Bastion, which is on it. I issued a division order for the assault of the defences of the city wall, of which a copy with a plan of the attack was furnished to the officers in command.

I have the honour to enclose copies of reports, from Brigadier Stuart commanding my 1st, and

Brigadier Steuart commanding my 2nd brigade, of the operations of their respective columns against Jhansi.

The left attack, ably and gallantly conducted by Brigadier Stuart, succeeded perfectly,—its right column passing without loss or difficulty through the breach, which turned out as well as I thought it would; and the left effecting, with some casualties, the escalade of the Rocket Bastion. Colonel Lowth, commanding Her Majesty's 86th Regiment, acted with cool judgment, and I witnessed with lively pleasure the devotion and gallantry of his regiment.

The 3rd Europeans, under Lieutenant-Colonel Liddell, did their duty, as they always have done; but they could not control adverse circumstances, arising from bad ladders and a mistake in the road; they returned to the assault with alacrity, and fought their way through the town manfully.

I beg leave to support earnestly the recommendations of officers contained in these reports of the Brigadier's, particularly of Captain Darby, wounded; Lieutenant Dartnell, severely wounded in three places, who led the assault of the Rocket Bastion; and Lieutenant Fox, severely wounded. It will be a gratification also to the relatives of Lieutenants Meiklejohn and Dick, of the Bombay Engineers, to know that these two young officers had gained my esteem by the intelligence and coolness which they evinced, as engineer officers, during the siege. I should have recommended both for promotion, if they had not died in their country's cause, for conspicuous gallantry in leading the way up two scaling ladders.

The 86th, on their road to the palace from the mound, sustained many casualties, from their left flank being exposed, as they passed through an open space, to a flanking musketry fire from an outwork of the fort, and from houses and the palace itself to their front. I directed loopholes for riflemen to be made through houses which brought a fire to bear on the outwork of the fort, a large house to be occupied close to the palace, and covered communication to be made to the mound.

The skirmishers of the regiment penetrated gallantly into the palace; the few men who still held it made an obstinate resistance, setting fire to trains of gunpowder, from which several of the 86th received fatal injuries.

Having received no reports from the right attack, composed of the 3rd Europeans and Hyderabad Contingent, I made my way to them in the south-east quarter of the city. I found them engaged with the enemy, and making their way to the palace. The rebels were firing at them from the houses, which the troops were breaking open and clearing of their defenders. I found Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, commanding the Artillery, here, wounded mortally, I deeply regret to say, by a musket-shot from a house. He had followed me through the breach into the streets, and having received directions from me to bring guns into the city, to batter houses in which rebels held out, he had gone round by the right, to the east quarter of the city, to fix the road by which they were to enter. The Archa Gate was the best for guns, but it was so barricaded by masses of stones, that it could not be opened for several hours.

In the despatches I have recorded, the excellent service performed by Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, particularly in the general action of the Betwa, always exposing himself to the fire of the enemy, in order to choose the best position for his guns. This devoted officer was as useful to me as Commandant of Artillery, as Captain of a troop of Horse Artillery. His premature fall prevented his receiving the reward which was his due. I