

rona for the men to breakfast, the information I had previously received of the enemy being in force at Suhejnee near Peroo was confirmed, and I made immediate arrangements to attack him.

From Khuroua a road is marked on the map as leading through Bessadeeh to Nonar, and so into the main road to Peroo, and it was my intention to have marched by this road, and attacked the enemy's left flank and rear. On examination, however, I found it such a bad pathway leading over rice-field ridges, and so deep in mud, that I altered my arrangements, and proceeded as follows:—

Parading the cavalry as per margin,* I called the officers around me and impressed upon them my great anxiety to strike a severe blow upon rebels, who, trusting in their rice-fields, and the generally impracticable state of the country, have hitherto escaped with but slight chastisement: and well and gallantly have these gentlemen, and the men they commanded, answered my appeal.

At one p.m., therefore, I ordered the cavalry to march by Koosembey, Etumba, &c., and get into their rear with all possible despatch, and in case the enemy gave them a favourable chance to charge well-home, and cut up as many as they could. With the view also that there should be no want of European gentlemen to lead them, I placed at the disposal of Lieutenant Broughton, 3rd Seikh Cavalry, the commanding officer, the services of Lieutenant Nolan, Sasseram Sebundy Levy, Mr. Chicken, Master, Indian Naval Brigade, and George Blake, Esquire, who had volunteered, and were anxious to serve with him.

As the cavalry wheeled from behind the village I marched with the infantry, as per margin,† by Sippoora to Sheepoor, where I knew that the ground was firm and sandy, and thence direct upon Suhejnee; but on arriving within half a mile, found the place completely deserted. I therefore bivouacked in the village of Meighooan, in its immediate front, and awaited intelligence from the cavalry.

The annexed despatch from Lieutenant Baker, commanding Cavalry Bengal Police Battalion (with the covering letter from Captain Rattray, commanding Bengal Police Battalion, his immediate commanding officer) to whom Lieutenant Broughton, declining the responsibility, had on the field handed over the command, gives in detail the operations preceding, and the results of as gallant a charge as any made during the war. The enemy, at the lowest estimate, was 700 strong, well armed, and mostly old Sepoys of the 56th, 47th and 32nd Regiments Native Infantry, of whom a Subadar and 80 were left dead on the field, while the wounded, by native report, are stated to have been from 20 to 30 more. Indeed a spy from Jugdespore, who was present at the muster after they ran in, states that there were 115 of the number missing.

In conclusion, I beg most respectfully and warmly to request, that the Brigadier-General will be pleased to bring to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the judgment and gallantry of Lieutenant Baker, who on all former occasions has shown a marked zeal and intelligence, and the officers named by him, particularly Mr. Chicken, Master, Indian Naval Brigade, who was severely wounded; Lieutenant Nolan, of the Sasseram Sebundy Levy; George Blake, Esquire, Volunteer; Ressaldar Mahomed Wuzeer Khan, Cavalry Bengal Police Battalion;

* 2 officers and 54 3rd Seikh Irregular Cavalry; 3 officers and 68 Cavalry Bengal Police Seikh Battalion.

† 3 officers and 71 men of H. M.'s 37th Regiment; 5 officers and 117 Camel Corps; Natives and Europeans: 3 officers and 164 Bengal Police Battalion; 1 officer and 50 men Sebundy Levy.

Ressaldar Fyzoollah Khan, 3rd Seikh Irregular Cavalry; with Troopers Shabaz Khan, Cavalry Bengal Police Battalion, and Dhull Sing, 3rd Seikh Irregular Cavalry. I do myself the honour also to annex a list and nominal roll of casualties, together with a list of the arms taken.

I have, &c.,

W. W. TURNER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding Troops Grand Trunk-road.

No. 89.

Captain Rattray to Captain Gordon, Staff Officer
Field Force.

Camp Dawuth, September 30, 1858.

SIR,

No. 354.

FOR the information of Lieutenant-Colonel Turner, C.B., Commanding Field Force, I do myself the honour to enclose a detailed account of the action fought at Suhejnee between the cavalry of the force, and the rebels on the 27th. I beg permission to bring especially to the notice of the commanding officer, the gallant and excellent conduct displayed by Lieutenant Baker on this occasion, the command having devolved upon him. All the officers concerned are of opinion, that but for him, the charge would not have been effected, which ended in such a happy result. I have before had occasion to speak of Lieutenant Baker's gallantry, and consider him well worthy of honourable mention.

It is also my pleasing duty to bring forward the name of George Bell Chicken, Master, Indian Navy. This officer volunteered for service with my corps when it started from Dehree, with a determination as he expressed it, to win his medal, and nobly has he earned it; he, as Lieutenant Baker writes, charged into the middle of a considerable number of the enemy, and he succeeded in killing five before he was cut down himself. I consider this officer as well worthy the consideration of Government.

I beg also permission to draw Lieutenant-Colonel Turner's attention to the names of Ressaldar Mahomed Wuzeer Khan, 1st Bengal Police Battalion, and Fyzoollah Khan, 3rd Seikh Cavalry. The former native officer has been in action on many occasions during the last fifteen months, and has invariably distinguished himself. The Government have already promoted him to the 2nd Class Order of British India, and I should be much pleased, if Lieutenant-Colonel Turner could feel himself justified in recommending him for the 1st Class Order of British India, or 3rd Class Order of Merit.

It is also my duty to mention the names of Duffadar Akbeer Khan, who has been before mentioned in despatches by myself; Lance Duffadar Kala Khan, Trooper Shabaz Khan (who particularly distinguished himself), and Trooper Dhull Sing, 3rd Seikh Cavalry; but for the gallantry of these men, Mr. Chicken must have been killed. I beg to recommend all these men for 3rd Class Order of Merit, as also Troopers Nuttur Sing and Hakim Sing, whose names are especially mentioned by Lieutenant Baker. I deem it of great importance that these men should meet with some reward, not only on account of their individual gallantry, but as an incentive to their comrades to come to the front on future occasions.

I have, &c.,

J. RATTRAY, Captain,
Commanding 1st Bengal Police Battalion.