

I beg leave to apologize for the length of these details, but it is right that his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief should know the reasons in their fullest extent, which compelled me to reinforce myself with part of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell's force; that his Excellency should know also what the troops whom I had the honour to command bore for the cause of their Queen and country, and how they bore it. I have the satisfaction to report that these noble soldiers, whose successes were never chequered by a reverse, with a discipline which was as enduring as their courage, never proffered one complaint. They fell in their ranks struck down by sun, and exhausted by fatigue; but they would not increase the anxieties of their General, or belie their devotion, by a complaint. No matter how great their exhaustion, or how deep their short sleep, they always sprung to my call to arms with the heartiest good will. To think of yielding or retreating would have been ignominy.

All felt that physical strength might fail, but that the spirit and discipline of British soldiers never could. They were often too ill to march, but their devotion made them fight. It is almost superfluous to add that troops animated by so high a sense of duty were sober, orderly, and most respectful to their officers. There was less crime in my camp than in garrison.

When I speak of springing to their arms, I ought to make special mention of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, for the admirable order and celerity with which their in-lying and out-lying picquets mounted on the frequent occasions when I turned them out, on alarms, or sudden attacks of the enemy. Their videttes and patrols also were always watchful and intelligent.

My first, and most important, instructions were to take Calpee. There were two ways of doing so, either by one decisive action, or a protracted operation.

In either case, I required reinforcements. The fight for Calpee was sure to be an obstinate, perhaps a desperate, struggle. I should have compromised the whole spirit of my most important instructions, and the success of the British cause in India, if I had attempted that struggle with a force, whose health was such as I have described it, and had neglected to reinforce it with a portion of the gallant troops, who, fresh and unimpaired in vigour, were only separated from me by the Jumna.

A check before Calpee, in the advanced state of the hot season, and the rains close at hand, would have resuscitated rebellion throughout India, compromised the safety of Cawnpore, exposed to a flank, or rear attack, the extensive line of operations of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, and lit the torch of rebellion in the Deccan, and the Southern Mahrattas, full of ill-disposed Arabs and Rohillas, and partizans of Nana Sahib, as Peishwa.

Under the influence of these important considerations, I directed Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell to send across the Jumna, to my camp, the reinforcements detailed in the enclosed report from that officer: \* they arrived at my head-quarters at Golowlee on the night of the 20th instant.

The Agent of the Governor-General for Central India, who, in his official capacity, accompanied my force, was of opinion that the peculiar circumstances justified my bringing the reinforcements† across the Jumna. I was relieved, therefore, from any political objection to the step. The result

proved its necessity. A day or two after the arrival of the reinforcements in my camp, the Camel Corps, the principal reinforcement, saved, by their timely aid, my right, the key of my position, from a disaster, in a desperate and general attack on it, on the 23rd of May; and that success was followed by a conquering advance of my whole line from the Jumna to my extreme left; the total rout of the enemy, and the capture, next day, of Calpee, with all its artillery and rich arsenal.

On the morning of the 20th, I made a reconnaissance on the left bank of the Jumna, and selected a position for a battery of 8-inch mortars, at the village of Russulpoor, to batter the village of Rehree, &c., as already stated.

On the 22nd instant, this battery was ready, as well as one of four 10-inch mortars opposite the fort, and another of 2 8-inch mortars opposite the town and cutcherry, in which latter place Rao Sahib, the Nawab of Banda, and the Ranees of Jhansi were reported to be stationed with a large body of infantry and guns. A division of 9-pounder guns, and a company of Her Majesty's 88th were stationed at Russulpoor against Rehree, and the sandy plain on the opposite bank.

The enemy were now exposed to my attack of their left flank from Golowlee, and to a cross vertical and horizontal fire, into the same flank and their rear, from the other side of the Jumna.

I had hardly returned to camp, on the 20th, before the enemy again advanced, covered by a very thick chain of skirmishers, through the ravines, and attacked with much determination my right flank. The pickets were immediately reinforced by 4 Companies of the 86th, 2 Companies of the 25th Bombay Native Infantry, and 3 9 pounders.

The reinforcements had not joined me; and the mortar batteries on the other side of the Jumna were not ready to cover my advance; the heat was at its maximum; and I had fixed the 23rd instant for the general attack of the enemy's positions and of Calpee. I did not therefore play the game of my adversary by allowing myself to be drawn into a general action under disadvantageous circumstances, but directed the pickets merely to maintain their ground, which they did steadily and gallantly, under the able command of Major Stuart, Her Majesty's 86th Regiment, until the enemy were beat back.

The casualties in this day's partial affair were four officers, and forty rank and file. Lieutenant Jerome, 86th, severely wounded, and Lieutenant Forbes, 25th Bombay Native Infantry, struck down by sun, led their companies with the same high military spirit for which they have been specially mentioned on former occasions.

On the 21st inst., I received information that the rebel army intended to make a general attack on my position, at Golowlee, at 8 A.M., the next day; that they had sworn a religious oath on the waters of the Jumna, a sacred river, that they would drive my force into the Jumna, and destroy it, or die, and that, afterwards, they would move southwards against General Whitlock; that large quantities of opium had been issued to the troops for the purpose of making them fight desperately.

The positions occupied by my force were as follows:—

The right flank, facing the left of Calpee, rested on the ravines running down to the Jumna; in these ravines stood the villages of Soorowlee and Golowlee. Both these villages were connected and held by strong pickets, and prevented my right being turned.

Half of the 1st brigade, my right flank, was encamped perpendicularly to the Jumna, facing

\* No. 3 Enclosure, Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell's report.  
† 682 Camel Corps, 2 Companies 88th Regiment, 124 Sikh Battalion. This number includes, I believe, the guns.