

The mortar batteries on the other side of the Jumna had, according to my orders, opened their fire the day before, the 22nd; and, during the fight, I was glad to see the shells dropping with great precision into the fort, the town, and all about the village of Rehree.

When my column had marched from camp, across the plain in front of my left, and reached the Julalpoor and Calpee road, I brought their left shoulders forward, and, taking the road for the direction of my centre, covered my advance against Calpee with the camel corps under Major Ross, supported by the Hyderabad Cavalry.

From the road I despatched a staff officer, with a party of cavalry, to effect a communication with Brigadier Stuart's left.

My column descended into deep ravines, and mounted their steep banks, formidable, almost impregnable, positions, which the enemy had totally abandoned, panic-struck by the previous day's defeat.

Faint firing on the right announced faint opposition to the advance of Brigadier Stuart, of whose report of this and the previous day's operations a copy is enclosed.*

After marching some distance along the road, the enemy opened a fire on our advance from a secret battery in a ravine at a great distance and elevation. Major Ross made a rapid flank march across the ravines to cut it off. But a few rounds from Captain Ommaney's Royal Artillery guns, which he had brought rapidly up considerably in advance of the column, caused the battery to make off through the ravines. All of their guns were afterwards taken by the pursuing cavalry.

Shortly afterwards, I got into communication with the right of Brigadier Stuart's Brigade, and by 10 o'clock A.M., both my brigades were masters of the fort and town of Calpee.

My prediction had come to pass that the rebels would make one desperate struggle for Calpee outside its walls; and that, if they were defeated, they would not make a stand within them. The hard-fought fight of the day before on the banks of the Jumna had given us Calpee.

Whilst my force was involved in the labyrinth of ravines, the enemy could be observed moving off to the north-west from Calpee, in large bodies, with elephants.

Once clear of the ravines, I instantly directed Lieutenant-Colonel, then Major, Gall, Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, to pursue the enemy as closely, and as far, as he could, with horse artillery and cavalry. I have the honour to enclose a copy of this officer's report of his very successful pursuit of the enemy, for which I beg to mention him specially.† His column took the whole of the guns with which their main body retreated from Calpee, and six caparisoned elephants. The Hyderabad Cavalry and scouts brought in more guns, which detached parties of the rebels had abandoned in their wild flight; so that every piece of field artillery which the enemy had was taken. The pursuing cavalry made great havoc of the rebel sepoys, the Sinde Valaites, and the mercenaries of the Nawab of Banda, till neither horse nor man could go further.

The rebels, broken completely by Lieutenant-Colonel Gall's column, fled in the utmost disorder, in twos and threes across the country, throwing away their arms and accoutrements, and even their clothes, to enable them to run faster. This low and altered state of morale of the rebels must be attributed to the loss of their last hope, Calpee, after their great effort to overthrow its assailants; to their continued defeats, without one success; and

lastly, to the dejection which ensued on the excitement caused by the large quantities of opium which they had swallowed for the purpose of quickening their resolution, in the action of the day before.

Besides the captured guns above mentioned, all the artillery in the fort, including a fine English 18-pounder gun, fell into our hands, as well as twenty-seven silk embroidered standards of the Gwalior Contingent, bearing Scindiah's device, a cross and a serpent round it; and one of the Kotah Contingent; also three cannon and mortar foundries, which had been constructed in the town and fort; a very complete and extensive subterraneous arsenal, containing 60,000 pounds of English powder; every description of warlike stores and ammunition; numerous boxes of new and old English muskets; quantities of English shot and shell, of which there were also piles outside the arsenal in the fort; engineering tools of every description; boxes of brass shells of native manufacture of the same sort as those frequently used against us; topographical and surveying instruments; quantities of English stationery, &c., &c. The brass shells cause a worse wound than the iron, but do not burst into so many pieces as they do.

The Commissary of Ordnance estimates the value of this arsenal at £20,000 or £30,000.

From information furnished by Lieutenant-Colonel Gall, it was clear that the principal part of the rebels had retreated by the Jaloun road; and Sir Robert Hamilton was of opinion that they would make to the north for the Sheer Ghat, a ford across the Jumna, or another ford higher up the river. Colonel Riddell, with a moveable column, was guarding the former ford. It was of vital importance to make a fresh pursuit of the enemy, in order either to catch him between Colonel Riddell's and my fire, to meet him if he turned, or to ascertain the real line of his flight. Notwithstanding, therefore, the exhausted state of my force, I detached, without delay, Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson with a pursuing column, of which the strength is detailed in the margin,* along the Jaloun road. To overtake the enemy was hopeless, because, firstly, they had a start, and were not encumbered, like our troops, with baggage, tents, and Commissariat, or even the usual kit of rebels, which they had thrown away; secondly, their cavalry and infantry were in as good as mine were in bad condition; thirdly, my European cavalry, riding eighteen stone, could not catch Indian cavalry riding ten or, at most, eleven stone.

The rebels had also adopted a mode of retreat which facilitated escape. They separated, and, in ones and twos, took short cuts across country, meeting at a distant and given point.

The operations of the pursuing column, which again called into action Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson's energy and intelligence, will be detailed in my report of the operations against Gwalior.

Besides the officers specially mentioned in this report, and in the reports of the officers under my orders, all of which I beg fully to confirm, for distinct acts of distinguished conduct before Calpee, I beg leave to enclose two lists of other officers, specially mentioned, or mentioned for generally important, or useful service, under most trying circumstances, in the operations before Calpee.†

The conduct of the Central India Field Force, in the general action of the Jumna, was charac-

* 1 Troop 14th Light Dragoons; 1 Squadron 3rd Bo. Light Cavalry; No. 18 Light Field Battery; 160 Hyderabad Cavalry; 25th Regiment Bo. Native Infantry.

† No. 6 Enclosure. List of Special Mentions. No. 7 Enclosure. List of Mentions.

* No. 4 Enclosure. Brigadier Stuart's Report.

† No. 5 Enclosure. Major Gall's Report.