

in that direction or towards Bamnee, the ground being hilly, rocky, and much cut up by deep ravines on those sides. Brigadier Hill instructed me to withdraw my regiment towards dusk, and throw back my videttes (so as to deceive the rebels with the idea that we had left these positions comparatively unguarded), after which, when the moon rose, I was to take up a position with my regiment, so as to cut off the retreat of the enemy, if they attempted a sortie, which I had received information from one of my prisoners it was their intention to try during the night. In obedience to these orders, I took my regiment off to the northward, and watered the horses (food we had none for either them or the men, owing to our 35 miles' march). About 8 P.M. I personally relieved all the videttes, whom I found very much on the alert, and I allowed them, as well as their supports, to the number of 70 men, to proceed to camp, as they had been on that duty all day. They were to rest, and also afford protection to the camp. About 9 P.M., we seized some rebels escaping from the Ghurree, and they informed us that the enemy was preparing to move out. I sent information instantly to Captain Clogstoun and Brigadier Hill, but, before either of the messengers had gone far, we heard shots in the direction of Captain Clogstoun's pickets, so I caused the men to fall in at once, and proceeded, as well as we could, at a gallop, towards the scene of action. We met with many obstacles from the nature of the ground, it being impossible, in the dim moonlight, to see the nullahs and water-courses intersecting the plain at the foot of the hills. I reached the foot of the hills just as the rebels were ascending them. These hills are such as it would be unpleasant to ride over in daylight, covered with rocks and loose stones, with high grass and thick bushes, which gave the rebels an immense advantage over the cavalry, as a charge in a compact body was impossible to horsemen. I saw, by the flashes of the guns, that the enemy was making to the south-westward; so ascended the hills to the left, and, pushing across the flat space at the top, found myself between the great ravine to my left, and the whole mass of the enemy. To give an idea of the nature of the ground, I may mention that, although I started with 90 men, only about 20 of these, with the Adjutant, could keep up with me, when I scrambled up the side of the hill. At this time Captain Clogstoun with his men was attacking the rebels fiercely in the rear, and driving them forwards up the side of the hill on to the plateau, notwithstanding the great advantage they had in the nature of the ground, and their very superior numbers. Seeing the large mass of the enemy, numbering, as has since been ascertained, more than 400 on my right, I ordered a charge across their front, and galloped on. When I had gone about 200 yards, I found myself alone in front of the enemy, who was now between me and my men, the only person with me being one man, a Waghira, named Wassil Khan. The enemy, on seeing us, commenced a tremendous fire, and I could also see by the flashes of the guns that they were resisting Captain Clogstoun with the utmost determination, as they probably fancied that their retreat was cut off to the ravine. I rode backwards and forwards for several minutes in front of the mass, hoping that my regiment would hear my shouts, till at last Ressaldar Major Ahmed Bux Khan, with seven of his men, who had been in search of me, came up and joined me. He then explained how it happened that I was unsupported at first: when I galloped across the enemy's front, I instantly disappeared from the sight of

Lieutenant Johnson and the rest of the men; only Wassil Khan, who happened to be next to me, seeing the direction I had taken. From this, some idea may be formed of the small degree of light there was. Lieutenant Johnson, having thus lost sight of me, very judiciously turned to the right, and fell upon the enemy's rear, with the regiment, the troopers joining in as they best could through the thick bushes and grass. Here Ressaldar Major Shah Mirza Beg, charging with his usual gallantry, was, while in the act of killing one man, very severely wounded by a sword cut from a Rohilla. Trooper Shaik Furoodeen was also cut down while spearing a rebel; and numbers of the latter fell under the swords and spears of the troopers, whom I had not allowed to load their carbines. While this was going on, Ahmed Bux Khan, who had turned to the left in search of me, heard my shouts and joined me, as above stated. I formed up his seven men, and, as the enemy passed in a dark mass, with shouts of defiance, keeping up a heavy fire, and marching swiftly, but doggedly, along, I could distinguish the forms of the men of the 2nd and 3rd Cavalry charging in upon their rear. I asked my men if they would charge them, and, on their reply in the affirmative, we rode through their rear from right to left, and each of my followers slew his man. We then turned and charged in the opposite direction, and this time the *melée* was at its hottest, and here fell the enemy in every direction, the killed being nearly all Affghans and Arabs. They resisted us, sword and dagger in hand, while some continued firing with great steadiness, and, as the mass surged sul-kily along, none asked for quarter and not one got it. A few yards further in and the survivors were safe, as they threw themselves down the sides of a precipitous ravine, clothed with dense jungle, and here Captain Clogstoun and I recalled our men, fatigued with nearly 22 hours in the saddle, and returned towards the Ghuree of Chichumba. We sent our men to the encampment, and, taking with us 30 men of the 3rd Cavalry, proceeded to the Ghurree, for the purpose of searching it, and removing the dead bodies of the troopers and men killed in the morning's fight. This being accomplished, we returned to camp. It is now my pleasing duty to bring to the notice of the Brigadier the splendid behaviour of my officers and men. When the fight was raging most, I was proud to see the desperate personal encounters that took place; and the spear and sword wounds on the bodies of the slain sufficiently proved the fury with which our gallant troopers fought, and that they had met no despicable antagonists. Our general loss, though rather heavy, is comparatively small, which I partially attribute to the darkness which prevented the enemy from aiming accurately, even though at such close quarters. The execution done in our charges must also have shaken their steadiness; still our loss is nothing to what might have been expected in such ground, and under such disadvantages, as my total strength when I started was but 90 men, and the enemy (we have ascertained from the prisoners) numbered 100 Affghans, 100 Arabs and from 200 to 300 Dekhanies. Lieutenant Johnson, with the body of the regiment, contributed much to our success, and I cannot speak in too high terms of the few brave men with me, who charged against such disproportionate odds. Waghira Wassil Khan, son of Ressaldar Major Sirdar Bahadoor Ahmed Bux Khan, was alone with me for nearly 10 minutes, not 100 yards from the whole body of the rebels, exposed to a most rapid fire; and he showed then and afterwards the utmost courage