

country and large neighbouring village, all against us. I therefore passed the fleet immediately up, and having burnt and destroyed the fort with all the adjacent buildings, I withdrew the pickets, re-embarked and proceeded up the river; but it being quite dark, with no pilot or chart, we grounded and remained within 200 yards of the bank till the following morning.

It affords me much pleasure in reporting to you the cheerful behaviour of all my party, especially Captain Weston of the 36th Native Infantry, Lieutenant Turnour, and Mr Ingles, mate, and my aide-de-camp Mr Stephenson, who gallantly volunteered to lead an escalating party on the river side, an attempt too hazardous for me to accede to.

The following officers were also on the field, Lord Charles Scott, Mr Foot, Mr Richd. Cooley, boatswain, and Dr W. J. Shone, Assistant-Surgeon, who all did good service. I also received much assistance from Captain Reid, 37th Native Infantry, who served as a volunteer.

It is nearly impossible to describe the strength of this extraordinary fort, peculiar to Oude. It was surrounded, except on the river side, by a thick jungle of prickly bamboo, nearly impassable, with a small entrance and gateway. Inside were rows of rifle-pits and loop-holed breastworks, a zig-zag path, with cross ditches and gates, leading to a second row, and terminating with small bastions and curtain in front of the fort, which was a large irregular brick building with corner turrets and outer walls, all loop-holed. A few other buildings made defensible, were connected by thick cover and paths.

From the valuable dresses found, I have no doubt the enemy felt themselves perfectly secure.

On the 18th I arrived at Chupra Ghaut, and disembarked with my party, as it was arranged to cross over with a brigade of 1,500 Goorkhas, Naval Brigade, and 10 guns; but from the heavy sand, high wind, and the enemy in force on the opposite side, the arrangements were altered.

On the 19th, I received directions to re-embark my party with 200 Goorkhas and an additional howitzer, and escort the boats higher up.

When I arrived at the fort and large town of Ichoura, I found it evacuated, 3 guns having been sent to the opposite side to assist in clearing out the rebels. The river then took 2 channels, with broad sands of 2 miles between. The boats proceeded up by the left bank; owing to the shallowness of the water I went up by the right, but having no pilot or chart, and this being the first steamer ever up the river, we grounded several times. The channel ran up under a steep bank, and close to a thick jungle of bamboo for about 2 miles, on which the guns were kept trained and the men with their rifles all ready to act. I afterwards rejoined the boats, and at 7 P.M. arrived opposite Narinee, and found there encamped the rest of the force, after a march of 20 miles.

At 10 P.M. I crossed over to the opposite bank, with the force as per margin,\* to occupy the village and fort of Narinee; the men wading up to their waists, had much difficulty in landing the guns. Not having any spy, or knowing the precise position, and it being very dark, it was midnight when the marines and a party of seamen, under Lieutenant F. G. Pym and Mr Ingles, got round to the right, through thick jungle, and passing the outer breastworks and other defences, found the fort evacuated, whilst the other party with the

guns, under Lieutenant Turnour, had crept round to the left; we then bivouacked for the night, and conveyed over our baggage and ammunition the following forenoon, under the direction of that enterprising officer Lieutenant H. D. Grant. Being joined by 1,000 Goorkhas and 6 guns, the force named in the margin,\* all under Colonel Rowcroft, left their encampment at 2 P.M. the same day, to attack the enemy, who had advanced in the morning to retake their abandoned positions. Having passed over a tract of very heavy country, through several thick topes of trees and deserted villages at 5 P.M., we discovered the enemy's position, by their opening a fire from their guns as we came over the hill; ours were immediately got into position, and returned shrapnell with great precision; the marines and Seikhs, and a few Goorkhas, who were skirmishers, rapidly advanced on their left, when a heavy fire of musketry was kept up, but driving in the enemy's skirmishers they rushed to the guns and captured 2, the first by Lieutenant Pym and Acting-Serjeant Butler, and a few marines, who immediately turned it on the enemy and fired 7 rounds, and put them to flight. The enemy's cavalry, with some infantry and a gun, made several attempts to push forward, but as we steadily advanced, were driven back and finally fled, quickly followed by the remainder of the Naval Brigade and 200 Goorkhas for about 2 miles. It now being quite dark, and our party being entirely by themselves, we gave them a parting round, and retired to our first position, where we re-joined our allies quietly smoking their pipes, and after a few minutes rest, marched back to the camp, where we arrived at 10 P.M. to dinner; the men having been at work the whole of that day under a hot sun, and having had no rest the previous night, were completely exhausted.

The enemy's force was computed about 2,500, with some hundreds of cavalry and 6 guns, 3 of which were captured.

Gholab Sing, their leader, is reported to be wounded; about 100 are supposed to have been killed; many wounded were removed from the field.

The want of cavalry, as usual, was much felt. The enemy's position was opposite the Nepaulese army, who had been several times frustrated in attempting to cross; but now, all obstacles being removed, the boats immediately passed up.

It afforded me much pleasure to observe the steadiness and coolness of the seamen under Lieutenant S. W. D. Radcliffe, Mr Ingles, mate, and Lord Charles Scott; and the gallant manner that Lieutenant Pym, with the marines, captured the guns, whilst our battery was quickly brought into position by Lieutenant Turnour, and Mr Foot, midshipman, and fired with much precision.

The following officers were also on the field and rendered good service:—Messrs\* Cooley and John Burton, Warrant Officers; the Rev. Mr Williams, with Mr T. H. L. Bowling, Acting Clerk, were ready to assist Assistant-Surgeons W. J. Shone and Dickinson; the Honourable Mr Montagu acted as aide-de-camp to Colonel Rowcroft; and Mr Stephenson was as usual very active in carrying orders. I am happy to say our wounded were but 2, as the enemy lost their range as we advanced; the Goorkhas had 2 killed, and 3 wounded.

On the 22d we marched to the village of Phoolpore, and assisted, with fatigue parties, to construct the bridge, which was finished the following evening, when we recrossed the Gogra, and the Nepaulese army, of 10,000 infantry, with

\* 140 Naval Brigade, 200 Goorkhas, 30 Seikhs, 2 twelve-pounder howitzers.

\* 1,400 Goorkhas, 200 Naval Brigade, and 30 Seikhs.