

At sunrise on the same day a disposition of troops and heavy guns was made by Sir Edward Lugard, for the attack of Banks' House, which was carried at noon, and secured as a strong military post.

The second part of the plan of attack against the Kaiserbagh now came into operation, viz., to use the great blocks of houses and palaces, extending from Banks' House to the Kaiserbagh, as our approach, instead of sapping up towards the front of the second line of works.

By these means I was enabled to turn the new works towards our own left, at the same time that they were enfiladed on the right by Sir James Outram's advance.

The latter had already received orders to plant his guns with a view to raking the enemy's position, to annoy the Kaiserbagh both with vertical and direct fire, also to attack the suburbs in the vicinity of the Iron and Stone Bridges, shortly after day-break, and so command the Iron Bridge from the left bank.

All this was carried out by Sir James Outram with the most marked success.

The enemy however still held tenaciously to his own end of the Iron Bridge on the right bank, and there was a heavy cannonading from both sides, till the bridge was afterwards taken in reverse.

Sir Edward Lugard's attack on the 11th was pressed forward in like manner.

The operation had now become one of engineering character, and the most earnest endeavours were made to save the Infantry from being hazarded before due preparation had been made.

The Chief Engineer, Brigadier Napier, placed the batteries with a view to breaching and shelling a large block of palaces called the Begum Kotee.

The latter was stormed with great gallantry by the 93d Highlanders, supported by the 4th Punjamb Rifles, and 1,000 Goorkhas, led by Brigadier the Honourable Adrian Hope, under the direction of Brigadier-General Sir Edward Lugard, at 4 P.M.

The troops secured the whole block of buildings, and inflicted a very heavy loss on the enemy, the attack having been one of very desperate character.

This was the sternest struggle which occurred during the siege.

From thenceforward the Chief Engineer pushed his approach with the greatest judgment through the inclosures by the aid of the Sappers and heavy guns, the troops immediately occupying the ground as he advanced, and the mortars being moved from one position to another, as ground was won on which they could be placed.

The buildings to the right and the Secunder Bagh were taken in the early morning of the same day without opposition.

During the night of the 12th Sir James Outram was reinforced with a number of heavy guns and mortars, and directed to increase his fire on the Kaiserbagh, while, at the same time, mortars placed in position at the Begum's house never ceased to play on the Emambara, the next large palace it was necessary to storm between the Begum Kotee and the Kaiserbagh.

On Brigadier-General Franks, C.B., who had relieved Sir Edward Lugard and the 2d Division, with the 4th Division, on the 12th instant, devolved the duty of attacking the Emambara.

A column of attack was formed for that purpose by Brigadier D. Russell, on the morning of the 14th.

In the meantime, the Maharajah Jung Bahadur, with a force of about 9,000 men, and with twenty-four field guns drawn by men, had arrived, and taken his position in our line on the 12th instant, and moved close to the canal on the 13th.

At my request his Highness was begged, by Brigadier-General Macgregor, C.B., the Special Commissioner attached to him, to pass the canal and attack the suburb in his front, and considerably to the left of Banks' House. To this His Highness acceded with much willingness, and his force was most advantageously employed in thus covering my left for several days, during which, from the nature of our operations, I was obliged to mass all the available strength of the British force towards the right, in the joint attack carried along both banks of the Goomtee.

The Emambara was carried early on the 14th, and the Sikhs of the Ferozepore regiment, under Major Brasyer, pressing forward in pursuit, entered the Kaiserbagh, the third line of the defences having been turned without a single gun being fired from them.

Supports were quickly thrown in, and all the well-known ground of former defence and attack, the Mess-house, the Tara Kotee, the Motee Mahal, and the Chutter Munzil, were rapidly occupied by the troops, while the engineers devoted their attention to securing the position towards the south and west. The day was one of long and continued exertion, and every one felt that, although much remained to be done before the final expulsion of the rebels, the most difficult part of the undertaking had been overcome.

This is not the place for description of the various buildings successively sapped into or stormed; suffice it to say, that they formed a range of massive palaces and walled courts of vast extent, equalled perhaps, but certainly not surpassed, in any capital in Europe. Every outlet had been covered by a work, and on every side were prepared barricades and loop-holed parapets.

The extraordinary industry evinced by the enemy in this respect has been really unexampled. Hence the absolute necessity for holding the troops in hand, till at each successive move forward the Engineers reported to me that all which could be effected by Artillery and the Sappers had been done, before the troops were led to the assault.

The 15th instant was employed in securing what had been taken, removing powder, destroying mines, and fixing mortars for the further bombardment of the positions still held by the enemy on the line of our advance up the Goomtee, and in the heart of the city.

Brigadier-General Sir J. Hope-Grant, K.C.B., was sent out with Cavalry on one side towards Seetapore to intercept fugitives, while Brigadier Campbell marched with like orders in the direction of Sundeela on a similar duty. They returned on the 17th to their former positions.

On the 16th instant Sir James Outram, with the 5th Brigade, under Brigadier Douglas, supported by two other regiments, Her Majesty's 20th and the regiment of Ferozepore, having crossed over the Goomtee by a bridge of casks opposite the Secunderbagh, advanced, according to order, through the Chutter Munzil to take the Residency.

During the first movements of this operation a movement of the enemy in retreat across the stone bridge became apparent.

Sir James was ordered to press forward, and he was able, almost without opposition, not only to take the iron bridge in reverse, which was my principal object, but also to advance for more than a mile, and occupy the Muchee Bawun and Great Emambara.

In short the city was ours.

Brigadier-General Walpole's picquets on the left bank were attacked by the retreating enemy, who was, as usual, heavily repulsed.

On the 19th a combined movement was organized.