

Their right was protected by houses and walled gardens, their left by the village of Sahao itself.

From the centre of their position they opened their guns at a distance of 500 yards, and appeared determined to dispute fiercely the ground they held.

My little force was immediately formed up, the guns in the centre under Captain Ommaney, Royal Artillery; Her Majesty's 43d Light Infantry on the right of the guns, under Lieutenant Colonel Primrose; a party of Metges' Seikh Horse, under Lieutenant Dick, took ground well to the right, to act as opportunity offered; the remainder of Metges' Seikh Horse, under Major Davis, took ground to the extreme left, with orders to sweep round the right of the enemy, and cut off their retreat; a party of 8th Irregular Cavalry, under Rissaldar Min Hossain Ali, remained in support of the gun.

The enemy's fire from centre was immediately answered by our four guns, the fire from which was excellent, and soon made the enemy abandon, with the loss of a gun, the strong ground he had so well chosen.

The rebel sepoys of the right wing retired with remarkable steadiness, and in close order; but the left wing retired in great disorder, and in that state were charged in flank by Lieutenant Dick, who, under my own eyes, cut up a great number; here this excellent young officer was severely wounded by a sabre cut; but notwithstanding, he again charged the mutineers repeatedly, sustaining, I regret to say, two more severe wounds.

I beg leave to bring the dashing soldier-like conduct of this officer to the favourable notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

My whole line then advanced, the Cavalry charging the rebels repeatedly on both flanks, the guns being well to the front, supported by Her Majesty's 43d.

The rebels, now closely pressed, took up a second position on a ridge, but upon our guns again opening with great precision they again retreated, taking advantage of any cover the ground offered, and defending themselves stoutly in buildings, gardens, &c., on the outskirts of the different villages.

Major Davis continued the pursuit for about six miles; that officer's report is attached.

Some mutineers having taken post in village Rajpoorah, Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose entered the village with his gallant corps, and destroyed the whole of the rebels concealed there.

The country, from three days' incessant heavy rain, had become nearly impassable for artillery, and that arm deserves great credit for the rapidity with which it advanced; also the infantry, which had to march through ploughed fields the day before entirely under water.

From the number of bodies seen on the field I should estimate the loss of the enemy at between 200 and 300, and 21 rebels captured. Our loss, I am happy to say, was comparatively small. The defeat of this rebel body was most complete, and will have, I am sure, excellent effect in this part of the country.

I beg in conclusion to express my obligations to the following officers, and to request that you will be pleased to recommend them to the favourable notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose, commanding Her Majesty's 43d Light Infantry, who gave me every aid and assistance in his power.

Captain Lovehill, my Brigade Major, whose zeal and attention to the duty of his depart-

ment I am fully satisfied, more especially in carrying my orders in the field.

Captain Ommaney, Royal Artillery, for the rapid manner in which he brought his battery to the front, and the steadiness with which the guns were served.

Doctor Barclay, Senior Surgeon, in charge of the troops, whose attention to the wounded and sick deserves much praise.

Major Davis, commanding the Cavalry of the Field Force, for the able manner in which he conducted the pursuit of the enemy.

Captain Ternan, Deputy Commissioner, who kindly placed his services at my disposal, and acted as my Aide-de-Camp on the occasion, and who has given me much valuable assistance in procuring information relative to the positions occupied by the rebels.

Min Hossain Ali, an old and faithful soldier, maintained the high character he already enjoys.

I beg to enclose returns of casualties and captured ordnance.

I have, &c.,

J. MACDUFF, Brigadier,
Commanding 2d Brigade Saugor
Field Division.

No. 4.

Major W. Davis, Commanding Cavalry, 2d Brigade, Saugor Division, to Captain Dovehill, Major of Brigade, 2d Brigade, Saugor Division.

Camp, Rajopoahr, September 5, 1858.

SIR,

No. 18.

UNDER instructions received, I have the honour to report, for the information of Brigadier MacDuff, Commanding the Field Force, the operations of the cavalry placed under my command; strength as per margin.*

On arrival at the enemy's position this morning, at the village of Sahao, on the action commencing, agreeably to orders I took post on the left of the line, with half of the Seikh Horse, to cut off the enemy's retreat, Lieutenant Dick, with the remaining portion, taking post on the extreme right.

On the enemy retiring from their position, I sent Lieutenant McInroy, 19th Regiment Madras Native Infantry, doing duty with the Seikh Horse, to the left, with the Civil Military Mounted Police, to turn the rebels back to the centre of our line; this duty was well performed, some of the enemy being cut up; it enabled me to charge them with great effect.

I was well supported by Metges' Seikhs, who suffered severely in the hand-to-hand encounter which ensued.

Of Lieutenant Dick's operations on the right it is unnecessary for me to speak, the Brigadier having personally witnessed his dauntless and glorious charge into a body of some 300 or 400 sepoys. I have only to regret his being severely wounded in four places by sword cuts, not however before he had cut down some five men with his own hand.

I beg to mention the support and assistance received from Lieutenant Sawers, Commandant of the Humeerpore District Police. On Lieutenant Dick being wounded he assumed command, and charged several bodies of the rebels

* 8th Irregular Cavalry of all ranks, 51; Metges' Seikh Horse, 167; Jhansi Mounted Military Police, 66.—Total, 278.