

We learnt that on our approach in the morning, the fort was occupied by 700 men, but that, during the day, the greater number of them had got away into the jungle, Gholab Sing's own men alone remaining; they offered a most determined resistance, and the strength of the place enabled them to inflict great loss; I am sorry to say that Gholab Sing himself, and about 10 men who were shut up in the centre building, when I left after midnight, effected their escape during the night, by making a sudden rush to one of the bastions, and scrambling into the ditch, whence they knew a path to the jungle; it is said Gholab Sing was wounded, and eventually got off with only three followers.

I most sincerely deplore the heavy losses the force has sustained, but I imagine a fort of such strength has seldom been taken in so short a time; had the assault however been delayed, the enemy would certainly have escaped, and although our loss immediately after the final assault was comparatively inconsiderable, the failure of daylight favoured the enemy, and any attempt at forcing an entrance into the rooms after dark, would have doubtless still further increased our casualties. Eight guns were captured in the place, and the loss of the enemy is estimated from 200 to 250. The fort itself is now being destroyed under the superintendence of Lieutenant Tracy, Royal Artillery.

I beg to bring to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief the names of the several officers whom I have to thank for their gallant and valuable assistance. Major Maynard, commanding the 88th Regiment, made all his arrangements in a most perfect manner, and greatly contributed to our success; this officer speaks in the highest terms of Major Mauleverer, of the same regiment, who distinguished himself by the cool and fearless manner in which he behaved. Major Oxenden, commanding Rifle Brigade, deserves the greatest credit for the manner in which he handled his men and disposed them for the assault of the breach. Major Seymour, 2d Dragoon Guards, commanding the cavalry, made excellent arrangements for preventing the escape of the enemy, and the denseness of the jungle and the failure of daylight, after which I withdrew them, alone prevented the cavalry from taking a more active part in the operations. Major Pearson and Captain Dowell, commanding the Field Batteries, afforded me every assistance, and the latter was most useful in blowing up the house in the interior, which the rebels occupied. Major Goodenough, Royal Artillery, proved himself in every way a most excellent officer, and distinguished himself by his gallantry throughout the day, particularly at the assault of the breach. I regret to say he was wounded soon after this took place. Captain Campbell, Royal Artillery, acting as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, conspicuous for his energy, exerted himself to the utmost, and rendered me every possible assistance. To Captain Boileau, divisional commandant, Oudh Police, I am very much indebted for the valuable assistance he afforded me on all occasions. Captain Dawson, commanding Police Infantry, as usual displayed the greatest courage and discretion in the management of his men. I felt much the loss of his assistance when he received his wound, which I trust however will not eventually incapacitate him from duty, nor long deprive the

country of his services. Captain Alexander, Rifle Brigade, commanding the storming party, deserves the greatest credit, and Lieutenant Cragg, and Ensign Richards, who accompanied him, displayed the greatest courage; the latter as I have stated, was the first at the top of the breach, but, I regret to say, was shortly afterwards severely wounded. Lieutenant Carnegie, Bengal Engineers, a most gallant and intelligent officer, whom I have already mentioned as having been severely burnt, rendered every possible assistance, and displayed the greatest courage. Lieutenant Graham, commanding the Oudh Police Cavalry, rendered valuable aid to that part of the force. Lieutenants Brown and Tracy, Royal Artillery, commanding respectively the breaching batteries and mortars, the former of whom was slightly wounded, deserve the greatest praise for their conduct. The names of the following officers, in addition to those I have already spoken of, have been mentioned as particularly deserving praise: Lieutenants Waring, Burke, and Moore, and Assistant-Surgeon Knipe, 88th Regiment; and Major Seymour speaks in high terms of the assistance he received from Captains Stapylton and Carnegie, Squadron Leaders; and Lieutenant and Adjutant Calvert, 2d Dragoon Guards; and particularly of Lieutenant Graham, commanding Police Cavalry; Surgeon Cape, Oudh Police; Assistant-Surgeon Rowbotham, 2d Dragoon Guards; Assistant-Surgeon Storey, Rifle Brigade; and Assistant-Surgeon Bird, Bengal Artillery; deserve the greatest praise for their attention to the wounded during the night.

The peculiar nature of the engagement afforded many opportunities for the display of individual courage. Serjeant Charlton, 6th Company, 11th Battalion, Royal Artillery, who accompanied Captain Dawson's party to the north gate, particularly distinguished himself by his coolness and courage, and he is most highly spoken of by that officer. The names of the men mentioned in the margin,* have been brought to my notice by their respective commanding officers as having particularly distinguished themselves, and many instances came under my own observation. I am sorry that several of these names should also appear among the wounded.

The conduct of the whole force was admirable. I must not omit to state how much I am indebted to Mr Kavanagh, Assistant Commissioner, for his assistance. Though last mentioned, his services are far from being the least important; his knowledge of the country, his energy, and constant activity in procuring intelligence, render his services of the greatest value; his well known courage places him ever among the foremost in danger, and he rendered me the greatest aid throughout the engagement. I have derived the greatest benefit from Mr Kavanagh's assistance since assuming the command here, and it is at all times most freely given.

I beg to enclose a list of killed and wounded.

I have, &c.,

GEO. R. BARKER, Brigadier,
Commanding Troops, Sundeela.

* 88th Regiment.—Colour-Serjeants M. Fahey and Yates; Corporals Connors and Kearnon; Privates Malone, O'Brien, Sullivan, Brett, Kenny, Carney, and Gay; Doctor M'Cann, 3d Bengal Rifle Brigade—Colour-Serjeant Moloney; Private Eitteridge.