

I then extended 2 companies of the 80th and 2 of the 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers, with the necessary supports, and a reserve of the 7th Police Infantry, the whole under the command of Major Miller.

These I directed to advance and clear the enemy's numerous skirmishers out of the jungle (so as to enable me to approach nearer to the fort) and then to return.

In the meantime the enemy opened fire from 2 guns in the fort on the artillery and infantry, which was returned by the 2 horse artillery guns on the left, and a few shots from our 18-pounder gun.

The skirmishers advanced, driving the enemy before them, and, to their surprise, came most unexpectedly close upon the fort, and observing the wall in one part to be rather low, and a few bushes only in front of a wicket gate, they gave a cheer and rushed boldly on, when the enemy ran bodily from the walls and bastions into the jungle behind.

The advance of the 80th under Captain Young, and also of the 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Captain Heigham, excited my warmest admiration.

The whole of the troops behaved most admirably, the infantry and guns skirmishing over a considerable distance, from 7 till 9.30 o'clock, and again from 11 till 12 o'clock, through the very worst country I ever saw. They underwent great fatigue with great cheerfulness.

I am happy to say the loss of life on our side was most trifling, only 2 killed, and 1 officer and 2 men wounded; a return of which I annex.

Two small guns were captured in the fort, together with a considerable quantity of powder, which I require to destroy the fort; also many thousands of percussion caps.

The fort of Simree is exceedingly strong by nature, is situated in a dense jungle running from

1½ to 3 miles on three sides, and the east side, by which I approached, surrounded by a narrow belt of jungle, and a strong abattis completely concealing it.

I beg to enclose a rough sketch of it made by Dr. Kelsall, Her Majesty's 20th Regiment.

I am unable to ascertain the strength of the enemy, but he was in considerable force.

His loss was not great, but was certainly about 100 men, all sepoys (the natives say 200 were killed); 30 were cut up by the police cavalry, under Lieutenant Hawkins, on my left, who found them in full retreat towards Sunkerpore.

I beg to return my thanks to all the officers and troops of the force under my command, especially to Major Miller, Her Majesty's 80th Regiment, commanding Infantry; Major Bruce, Horse Artillery, commanding Artillery; and Captain Jones, 1st Sikh Cavalry, commanding the Cavalry; also to Captain Lyons, commanding the 20th Regiment; Captain Heigham, commanding 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and Captain Young, commanding the 80th Regiment; Lieutenant Chamberlain, commanding Police Force; Lieutenant Manderson, in charge of Siege Train; and to my Staff Officer, Lieutenant Burne, Her Majesty's 20th Regiment, for the able assistance they afforded me in carrying out my wishes.

I have been busily employed during the last two days, with strong fatigue parties of Europeans and Native Infantry, destroying the fort, and blowing up the bastions, which I hope will be effectually completed before I march.

I have, &c.,

FRED. C. EVELEGH, Colonel,
Commanding Moveable Column.

No. 3.

RETURN of Casualties of the Force under Command of Colonel F. C. Evelegh, C.B., in the Capture of the Fort at Simree.

Camp, Simree, November 12, 1858.

| Corps. | Killed. | | Wounded. | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | European Rank and File. | Total. | European Officers. | European Non-Commissioned Officers. | European Rank and File. | Native Rank and file and Sowars. | Total. |
| Detachment of 1st Battalion H.M.'s 20th Regiment | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Detachment of H.M.'s 80th Regiment | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | 4 |
| Police Cavalry..... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Total..... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 |

FRED. C. EVELEGH, Colonel,
Commanding Field Force.