

tained that these rebels had come from Mundisore, and had threatened to make an attack upon Neemuch.

Two advanced guards from the 2nd Cavalry, under Captain Tucker and Lieutenant Blair respectively, were sent on the previous night by different roads, the main column following at half-past five a.m.

The advanced guard, under Captain Tucker, fell in with a large party of the rebels near Jeerun, at daylight; and Captain Tucker, leaving a reserve under Lieutenant LeGeyt in a concealed situation, advanced with a few men towards the enemy, who it appears were about 100 in number, and charged right through them. In this charge, I regret to say that Captain Tucker lost his life; and Captain Lawrie 21st Regiment Native Infantry, who accompanied him, and who appears to have behaved nobly, was very severely wounded. It is due to Captain Lawrie to say that he endeavoured at the first to dissuade Captain Tucker from charging rashly with his small body of men into so large a force, but, seeing that Captain Tucker was determined to charge, he added his voluntary services to support Captain Tucker and give greater effect to the charge. Captain Lawrie was wounded severely in the breast with a lance, and was much cut about with the swords of the enemy. His horse was shot under him. One trooper was killed in this charge. The rebels appear to have retired to a position out of the reach of cavalry before Lieutenant LeGeyt, who had but a handful of men in reserve, could approach them. Captain Tucker's body was taken away by the enemy, but was afterwards recovered by the men of his own troop. His head, which was severed from the trunk, was never recovered. Our main body arrived in front of the walls of Jeerun at about half-past seven a.m. The enemy were assembled 200 yards in front of the walls on the brow of a hill, when our column first saw them. They remained till our 9-pounders moved forward and fired a few rounds; they then retired slowly, taking up a stronger position behind some huts. At about this time I was sent with a squadron to the other side of the town to cut off stragglers, and consequently did not see the action; but, on returning, after the action, I was informed that our infantry had, at first, failed to dislodge the enemy from their position; that, in their advance for this purpose, Captain Read commanding Her Majesty's 83rd detachment had been killed, and Captain Soppitt, commanding 12th detachment Native Infantry, had been dangerously wounded; that both Infantry detachments, seeing their commanders fall, made a momentary retreat; that the enemy, emboldened, rushed upon them and took one mortar and were nearly on the guns, when Captain Simpson, with Lieutenant Blair, Lieutenant LeGeyt and Riding-Master Steers, charged with a squadron upon the enemy, retook the mortar, and dispersed the rebels, who fled to the fort.

In this charge Captain Simpson was very severely wounded in the head, Lieutenant Blair was wounded severely with a sword, and Lieutenant LeGeyt slightly by a bullet.

The day was now fast coming to a close, and we heard some reports that another column of the enemy was advancing on Neemuch from another direction.

Captain Simpson being unable to perform his duty, the command devolved upon me.

I omitted to state, which is an important point, that a great part of the ammunition of the mortar was never recovered, but fell into the hands of the enemy. For this reason, as well as on account of the great natural strength of the place, which would have rendered it impossible, with the small force at my command, and no breaching guns, to take

the town, also on account of the fagged state of the men, the want of officers to command the detachments, and the necessity of returning to protect Neemuch, I ordered a retreat, which we effected before night closed in.

The following is the List of Casualties.

2ND REGIMENT LIGHT CAVALRY.

1 captain killed.
1 captain severely wounded.
1 lieutenant severely wounded.
1 lieutenant slightly wounded.
1 trooper killed.
2 troopers wounded.
2 horses killed, 4 missing.
27 wounded.

HER MAJESTY'S 83RD REGIMENT.

1 captain killed.
3 privates wounded.

12TH REGIMENT NATIVE INFANTRY.

1 captain severely wounded.
6 privates wounded.

STAFF.

1 captain severely wounded.

I have, &c.,

C. W. BANNISTER, Captain,
Commanding at Neemuch.

P.S.—The Force are very much indebted to Serjeant-Major Toole, 2nd Light Cavalry, and Serjeant Taylor, Bengal Army, for the recovery of the mortar, which they dragged away under a heavy fire, immediately after the first charge of the cavalry. The enemy were not completely routed till the cavalry had charged several times.

No. 5.

Captain C. W. Bannister to the Brigade Major,
Nusseeabad.

Sir, Camp, Neemuch, October 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honor to forward Surgeon Pelly's return of the killed and wounded in the action before Jeerun, on the 23rd instant. It does not entirely agree with the list which I made out on the evening of the 23rd, and which was forwarded by express early in the morning of the 24th to Brigadier Macan; but, at that time, it was very difficult to obtain correct information, the surgeon being occupied in attending to the wounded.

Since the despatch of the communication to which I have alluded, the town of Jeerun has been evacuated by the rebels, and is now occupied by some troops sent there for that purpose by Captain Loyd, the political agent in whose district Jeerun lies.

I omitted to mention in my despatch that, in retiring from Jeerun, we halted and bivouacked within sight of the town, and only at about 1200 yards distance, in order to make the enemy believe that we intended a second advance. This very probably caused the enemy to evacuate the town during the night.

I have, &c.

C. W. BANNISTER, Captain,
Commanding at Neemuch.