

their cover to attack us again, I determined to draw them out into the open country behind our position, and endeavour to bring on a fight there. Every thing turned out as I had anticipated. My men withdrew slowly and deliberately by alternate troops (the troops nearest the enemy by alternate ranks) along the line of the Bhaur road, by which we had reached Rhotuck, our left extending towards the main road to Delhi. The Jheend Horsemen protected our right, and a troop of my own regiment the left. The enemy moved out the instant we withdrew, following us in great numbers, yelling and shouting, and keeping up a heavy fire of matchlocks.

Their horsemen were principally on their right, and a party, galloping up the main road, threatened our left flank. I continued to retire until we got into open and comparatively dry ground, and then turned and charged the mass who had come to within from 150 to 200 yards of us.

The Guides, who were nearest to them, were upon them in an instant, closely followed by, and soon intermixed with, my own men.

The enemy stood for a few seconds, turned, and then were driven back, in utter confusion, to the very walls of the town, it being with some difficulty that the officers could prevent their men entering the town with the fugitives. Fifty of the enemy (all horsemen) were killed on the ground, and many must have been wounded.

10. Nothing could be better than the conduct of all concerned. The Guide Cavalry behaved with their usual dashing gallantry; and their example was well emulated by the men of my new regiment, now for the first time engaged with an enemy. They not only remained under fire unflinchingly, but retired before the enemy steadily and deliberately, and, when ordered, turned and charged home boldly. It would have been hopeless to expect this, but for the magnificent leading and admirable management of the officers in command of the several troops—Captain Ward and Lieutenant's Mc Dowell, Wise, C. J. Gough, and H. Gough. The difficulty of their task will be appreciated when it is remembered that, with the exception of the Guides, none of the party had been drilled or formed, or knew anything of field-movements.

11. After their defeat, as I subsequently ascertained, the Rangur Horsemen evacuated the place the same evening, carrying away their wounded with them. The whole of the Rangurs and Kussaies of the town also fled, during the night, for refuge to the neighbouring villages. As soon as I had re-assembled the detachment on our original ground, and ascertained personally that no parties of the enemy remained outside Rhotuck, I moved round by our right to the northern side of the town on to the Gohana road, and encamped at Dusseca, the first village sufficiently large to furnish us with supplies. I was in direct communication with Jheend, twenty-two coss distant, and with Gohana, where a body of the Rajah's troops are stationed, and by way of Khylore, my communication with camp, by way of Khurkowdeh, and with Soneput, was perfectly secure. I was also prepared to move off to the right towards Hansi, to General Cortlandt, should he attack the rebel force moving in that direction. This force had moved off from Medinha to Mehum on our reaching Rhotuck, and thence to Moondahab, and on the 18th evacuated the Rhotuck district and marched to Barsce, five coss from Hansi, in considerably diminished numbers.

12. On the 19th, I halted at Dusseca, receiving, at daybreak, a valuable reinforcement in the shape of eighty well-equipped horsemen from Jheend, with the promise of Infantry, and a gun if I required them. They had already been sent off by

the Rajah, with his usual ever-ready zeal, and would have been available in a few hours. On the evening of the 19th, I received the Major-General's orders to return towards camp, and marched the next day to Khurkowdeh, and on the 21st, by a circuitous route, to Soneput.

13. I cannot close this without testifying to the excellent conduct of the Jheend Horsemen throughout the whole of our proceedings. Nothing could have been better than their behaviour, from first to last, both in keeping up our communications, in enduring fatigue and bad weather, and in gallantry in action. This is not the first time I have had experience of the good service they have rendered. At the action of Badlee Serai, on the 8th of June, they particularly distinguished themselves, and they did no less well on the present occasion. I trust the Major-General will be pleased to convey his acknowledgments of their conduct to the Rajah.

14. A list of casualties is inclosed.

I have, &c.

W. S. R. HODSON.

No. 64.

*List of casualties from 15th to 19th August, 1857.*

*At Khurkowdeh, 15th August, 1857.*

*Wounded.*

Guide Cavalry—Duffadar Goojur, Darogha Jairam Sing, Sowar Sooltan, slightly.

Hodson's Horse—European officer, Lieutenant Gough, slightly; Naib Ressaldar Hookum Sing, severely; Jemadar Ahmed Beg, slightly; Sowar Sooltan Sing, severely.

*At Rhotuck, 17th August, 1857.*

*Wounded.*

Guide Cavalry—Sowar Shere Mahomed.

Hodson's Horse—Sowar Bahun Sing, severely.

*At Rhotuck, 18th August, 1857.*

Guide Cavalry—Sowar Futteh Dogen, severely; Sowar Zuinan Shah, severely; Sowar Issur Sing, Sowar Sheo Doss, slightly.

Hodson's Horse—Sowar Doola Sing, severely.

Jheend Horse—2 Sowars wounded.

*Horses.*

Guide Cavalry—wounded, 2; missing, 1; total, 3. Hodson's Horse—wounded, 1 European officer's (Lieutenant Gough), 5 Sowars; missing, 1 Sowar's; total 7.

*Memorandum.*—Three horses died on the 20th from over-exposure to the sun, and two on the 21st.

*Total Wounded.*

Guide Cavalry—1 non-commissioned officer, 7 sowars.

Hodson's Horse—1 European officer, 2 native officers, 3 sowars.

No. 65.

*Major-General A. Wilson, commanding Field Force, to Captain Norman, Assistant Adjutant-General of the Army.*

*Camp before Delhi, August 30, 1857.*

(See "Gazette," December 15, 1857.)