

received none whatever from your Excellency for several days from Lucknow, in answer to my letters to the Chief of the Staff, I was obliged to act for myself.

I therefore resolved to encamp my force on the canal, ready to strike at any portion of the advancing enemy that came within my reach, keeping at the same time my communications safe with Cawnpore.

Finding that the Contingent were determined to advance, I resolved to meet their first Division on the Pandoo Nuddee. My force consisted of about 1,200 bayonets and 8 guns and 100 mounted Sowars. Having sent my camp equipage and baggage to the rear, I advanced to the attack in the following order:—

Four companies of the Rifle Brigade, under Colonel R. Walpole, followed by four companies of the 88th Connaught Rangers, under Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Maxwell, and four light 6-pounder Madras guns, under Lieutenant Chamier; the whole under the command of Brigadier Carthew, of the Madras Native Infantry.

Following this force was the 34th Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel R. Kelly, with four 9-pounder guns; the 82nd Regiment in reserve, with spare ammunition, &c.

I had given directions, in the event of the enemy being found directly in our front, and if the ground permitted, that Brigadier Carthew should occupy the ground to the left of the road, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, with the 34th, divided into wings, and supported by his Artillery, should take the right. It so happened, however, that this order, on our coming into action, became exactly inverted by my directions in consequence of a sudden turn of the road. No confusion, however, was caused. The advance was made with a complete line of skirmishers along the whole front, with supports on either side and a reserve in the centre.

The enemy, strongly posted on the other side of the dry bed of the Pandoo Nuddee, opened a heavy fire of artillery from siege and field guns; but such was the eagerness and courage of the troops, and so well were they led by their officers, that we carried the position with a rush, the men cheering as they went; and the village, more than half a mile in its rear, was rapidly cleared. The mutineers hastily took to flight, leaving in our possession two 8-inch iron howitzers and one 6-pounder gun.

In this fight my loss was not severe; but I regret very much that a very promising young officer, Captain H. H. Day, 88th Regiment, was killed.

Observing, from a height on the other side of the village, that the enemy's main body was at hand, and that the one just defeated was their leading division, I at once decided on retiring to protect Cawnpore, my entrenchments, and the bridge over the Ganges. We accordingly fell back, followed, however, by the enemy up to the bridge over the canal.

On the morning of the 27th, the enemy commenced their attack, with an overwhelming force of heavy artillery. My position was in front of the city. I was threatened on all sides, and very seriously attacked on my front and right flank. The heavy fighting in front, at the point of junction of the Calpee and Delhi Roads, fell more especially upon the Rifle Brigade, ably commanded by Colonel Walpole, who was supported by the 88th Regiment and four guns (two 9-pounders, two 24-pounder howitzers) under Captain D. S. Greene, Royal Artillery, and two 24-pounder guns, manned by seamen of the Shannon, under Lieutenant Hay, R.N., who was twice wounded. Lieutenant Colonel

John Adye, Royal Artillery, also afforded me marked assistance with these guns.

In spite of the heavy bombardment of the enemy, my troops resisted the attack for five hours, and still held the ground, until, on my proceeding personally to make sure of the safety of the fort, I found, from the number of men bayoneted by the 88th Regiment, that the mutineers had fully penetrated the town; and having been told that they were then attacking the fort, I directed Major-General Dupuis, R.A. (who as my Second-in-command, I had left with the main body), to fall back the whole force into the fort, with all our stores and guns, shortly before dark.

Owing to the flight of the camp followers at the commencement of the action, notwithstanding the long time we held the ground, I regret to state, that in making this retrograde movement, I was unable to carry off all my camp equipage and some of the baggage. Had not an error occurred in the conveyance of an order issued by me, I am of opinion that I could have held my ground at all events until dark.

I must not omit, in this stage of the proceedings, to report that the flank attack was well met, and resisted, for a considerable time, by the 34th Regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, and the Madras Battery under Lieutenant Chamier, together with that part of the 82nd Regiment which was detached in this direction under Lieutenant-Colonel D. Watson.

In retiring within the entrenchments, I followed the general instructions issued to me by your Excellency, conveyed through the Chief of the Staff, namely, to preserve the safety of the bridge over the Ganges, and my communications with your force, so severely engaged in the important operation of the relief of Lucknow, as far as possible. I strictly adhered to the defensive.

After falling back to the fort, I assembled the superior Officers on the evening of the 27th, and proposed a night attack, should I be able to receive reliable information as to where the enemy had assembled his artillery.

As, however, I could obtain none (or, at all events, none that was satisfactory), I decided—

Firstly.—That on the following day Colonel Walpole, Rifle Brigade, should have the defence of the advanced portion of the town on the left side of the canal, standing with your back to the Ganges. The details of the force upon this point were as follow:—

5 companies Rifle Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel C. Woodford.

2 companies of the 82nd Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Watson.

4 guns (two 9-pounders, and two 24-pounder howitzers), under Captain Greene, R.A.

(Two of these guns were manned by Madras gunners, and two by Seikhs.)

Secondly.—That Brigadier N. Wilson, with the 64th Regiment, was to hold the fort and establish a strong picquet at the Baptist Chapel on the extreme right.

Thirdly.—That Brigadier Carthew, with the 34th Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, and four Madras guns, should hold the Bithoor road in advance of the Baptist Chapel, receiving support from the picquet there, if wanted.

Fourthly.—That, with the 88th Regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, I should defend the portion of the town nearest the Ganges on the left of the canal, and support Colonel Walpole if required.

The fighting on the 28th was very severe. On the left advance, Colonel Walpole, with the Rifles, supported by Captain Greene's battery, and part