

detached on duty to Saharunpore and other places in the vicinity of Umballa, except the head quarters and one squadron, which accompanied the force as far towards Delhi as Allipore, whence it proceeded to Meerut via Bagput.

At Allipore, early in June, this force, commanded by Major-General Sir H. Barnard, K.C.B., was joined by that from Meerut, under Brigadier A. Wilson, and two squadrons of the 6th Dragoon Guards, Carabineers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Custance, were added to the cavalry.

These squadrons had already, on the banks of the Hindun, had the opportunity, twice, of meeting the mutineers, and had, under their able commander, rendered essential service on each occasion.

The rebels and mutineers having taken up a strong position, defended by artillery, at a place named Badul-ke-Serai, about five miles from Delhi, the force moved to its attack on the morning of the 8th June. Three squadrons of the 9th Lancers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Yule, and two troops of Horse Artillery were detached very early in the morning by the bank of the canal to turn the enemy's left. These troops attained their point shortly after the attack commenced in front, and were soon in action. Two squadrons and a portion of the Horse Artillery were very gallantly and successfully led by Lieutenant-Colonel Yule. The cavalry charged the rebels, and rode through them. Lieutenant Jones, of the 9th Lancers, with his squadron, captured one of their guns, killing the drivers, and, with Lieutenant-Colonel Yule's assistance, turned it upon a village occupied by the rebels, who were quickly dislodged. This was a well-conceived act gallantly executed. The remainder of the Horse Artillery, for a short period, got into very difficult ground, from which they took time to extricate themselves. The other squadron of the 9th Lancers was left for their protection.

The squadrons of the Carabineers and 4th squadron of the 9th Lancers were with the main body of our troops, and did good service. The Carabineers, from the right of our line, drove the rebels after they had broken across the canal. The rebels having been driven out of Badul-ka-Serai, a hot pursuit towards Delhi was taken up, but chiefly by the infantry and horse artillery, as the ground on each side the road was covered by houses and enclosures.

The operations of the day terminated by the firm possession, by the British troops, of the heights before Delhi.

From this period, during all the siege, nearly the whole of the outpost duties fell to the lot of the cavalry. This duty was a very arduous one. The rebels were constantly threatening our right flank in particular, and our rear, so that both by day and night the cavalry were liable to be, and were frequently, turned out, and were necessarily held always in readiness.

On the 12th June the Guide Corps joined the camp,—a very fine body, numbering about 260 men of Irregular Cavalry, commanded by Captain Daly. This corps had already achieved a high renown by its excellent service in the Punjab; and had, soon after reaching Delhi, an opportunity of displaying its excellent qualities, as on the 19th a very serious attack was made on our rear, about four o'clock in the afternoon, by a strong force of the rebels with a numerous artillery, who had posted their main body in a village beyond the Ochterlony Garden. Immediately on the commencement of the attack, I moved out with the cavalry and a portion of the artillery; parties of whom, acting on either flank of the garden named, drove the enemy's skirmishers back upon their

position, and held them in check, until the rest of the artillery and the whole of the available portion of our small force of infantry could come up.

The ground was very disadvantageous for cavalry, being much intersected by walls of gardens, &c.; but two squadrons of the gallant 9th Lancers and the Guide Cavalry on our left delivered a most successful charge, right at the enemy, and drove them back completely. In this charge, I grieve to say, the 9th Lancers lost their gallant leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Yule, who was killed—an excellent officer, full of military ardour and zeal. The regiment has to mourn in him the loss of one of its very bravest and most efficient officers. Captain Daly also, leading his Guides, was severely wounded by a musket shot, which, for the rest of the siege, deprived the corps and the service at large of a most energetic, experienced officer.

Ere the above was accomplished, evening had closed in, and soon it became too dark to distinguish friend from foe. The enemy retired to their village, leaving a gun and limber, with its ammunition carriage, on the ground. These were brought into our camp on the following morning.

In my despatch reporting this action, I had the sincere gratification of naming two privates of the 9th Lancers, who had displayed signal gallantry in the fight—Privates Thomas Hancock, who lost an arm on the occasion, and John Purcell, who had his horse shot under him, and was, I regret to say, afterwards killed at the assault of Delhi. Sir Henry Barnard was pleased to recommend that the Victoria Cross should be conferred on both. A private sowar also, named Roopur Khan, of the 4th Irregular Cavalry, my orderly at the time, displayed great bravery and devotion in offering me his horse when my own had been killed under me, and was chiefly instrumental in aiding my escape from the midst of the enemy. I am happy in being able to record his promotion to duffadar, and his admission to the Order of Merit in reward of such excellent conduct.

About this period, other regiments joined the cavalry force; portions of the 1st, 2d, and 5th Regiments of Punjaub Cavalry, and Hodson's Horse. The latter consisted entirely of new levies; but have since greatly improved and become useful troops. The squadron commanded by Lieutenant Gough has, under my own observation, performed very valuable service, and their gallantry has been conspicuously noticed in a despatch of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The Punjaub corps, under their distinguished leaders, Lieutenant Watson, Lieutenant Nicolson afterwards, and at the present time Captain Probyn and Lieutenant Younghusband, have proved themselves admirable soldiers. Confident in their officers and assured of victory, these troops have never hesitated to attack the Hindustani horsemen in any odds, and have invariably forced them to give way.

On the 9th of July, a party of the 9th Irregular Cavalry, whose conduct I had been for some time doubtful of, proved themselves false to their oath of allegiance, and a picquet on duty on the right flank of the camp admitted a force of the enemy's cavalry within their post. These horsemen entered the camp, fought desperately, and tried to take away a battery of guns. They also rode up to a picquet where we had two heavy guns placed in position, intending to spike them; but they were gallantly withstood by a party of the 9th Lancers, under command of Lieutenant Martin, who prevented the attack being made. I beg to be allowed to copy part of a letter written to me by Captain