

round towers at the corners; it has a ditch and a second line of works outside the ditch, and the length of the interior side is about 100 yards.

A company of the 3rd Europeans (Bombay) crossed the open space between the village and fort without opposition, and established themselves in the guard-house close to the ditch.

Two of the fort-gates were opened for us by Lieutenant Armstrong, commanding the left wing of the Europeans. They were undefended, the garrison having retired within a third which was closed, the enemy taking post behind it.

The last of several summonses, accompanied by a threat that, if not obeyed, I would destroy the fort and the garrison too, having failed to cause a single man to come out and lay down his arms; I directed Captain Field, Royal Artillery, to open fire with two 9-pounders and a 24-pounder howitzer on a building at the summit, whence the men of the 3rd Bombay Europeans might have been seriously annoyed by the sepoys, who were collecting there.

Captain Field continued firing on various parts of the work, wherever the enemy showed themselves in any numbers; and the enemy replied to my fire with matchlocks, and with a 9-pounder brass gun, that fired grape and round shot alternately upon the dragoons in the plain and all who came near a well, commanded by the bastion on which it stood.

Lieutenant Bonus, of the Bombay Engineers, after a very close reconnoissance, had reported to me the extreme difficulty of taking the place by escalade. Nothing then remained, in my opinion, but to blow open the third gate with a bag of gunpowder, and carry the fort by storm. By good luck a gunsmith's shop had been discovered in the village, and in it an old pair of forge bellows. Lieutenant Bonus borrowing fifty pounds of powder from the artillery, soon converted this into a very efficient powder-bag.

The distribution for the assault was as follows.

Twenty-five files of the 3rd Europeans, under Lieutenants Armstrong and Donne and Ensign Newport, were told off as a storming party; an equal number of the 25th Bombay Native Infantry, under Lieutenant Rose of that regiment, was formed in support.

The storming party and support occupied the gateways that were already in our possession; twenty-five files of the Bombay Europeans and fifty files of the 25th were in reserve behind the guard-house.

The remainder of both detachments were so disposed as to afford support to the guns, and also to meet any attempt at escape from the fort into the village.

A false attack with three scaling ladders, under the superintendence of Lieutenant Fenwick, drew off the attention of a few of the garrison for a short time to the south side, and was not without its use.

When the powder-bag was filled, Lieutenant Bonus, under the cover of a sharp fire from the 3rd Europeans, placed it in front of the closed gate—a strong wooden one with iron spikes,—the small piece of portfire was lighted, and the firing party withdrew. After about a minute and a half the explosion took place. The gate was demolished, and the stormers under Lieutenants Armstrong and Donne and Ensign Newport, whom I accompanied, rushed in through the smoke, and almost immediately met the enemy face to face at a fourth gateway at right angles to the third, and from which a very narrow curved passage with a wall of seven feet in height on either side led to where the garrison was assembled, and whence they rushed, getting down sword in hand and firing matchlocks.

A desperate combat commenced, and as the stormers, so well led, advanced, they were assailed by a shower of stones and brickbats from above, as well as by men who cut, and stabbed, and shot at them from the walls on either side as they went by; the enemy were giving way when a cloth full of loose powder, and burning, was dropped from above into the midst of the crowded stormers who, thrown into some confusion, fell back to avoid the explosion, which not taking place immediately, was harmless; the enemy following their advantage, came close up to the bayonets of the Europeans and dealt sword-cuts at them, but were repulsed.

A third time Lieutenant Donne and Ensign Newport led on their men with daring valour into the very midst of the enemy, from whom, I regret to say, these noble young men received some very severe wounds whilst fighting hand to hand, yet, wounded as they were, they beat off their assailants, and their retreat was protected by the bayonets of their men. Lieutenant Armstrong could give them no assistance, as he had just been knocked down by a blow on the head from a brickbat, which stunned him for a time. Matters were becoming serious, as the enemy pressed boldly down to the fourth gateway, in which, however, they were not permitted to gain a footing.

Lieutenant Rose now came opportunely to the front, and the fight was continued in the narrow lane until, with a final shout and charge, the Europeans with some of the 25th Native Infantry, fairly broke and drove their foe before them to our right, along what I can only describe as an uncovered way passing round the walls of the fort, but, at less than fifty yards beyond the first corner, turned the fugitives, rallied behind two trees, and firing off their matchlocks actually advanced again; beneath the trees a bloody *melée* took place, and in this spot ten of the garrison were cut, or shot down; the regiment, now reduced to about five-and-twenty, fled.

Some vainly sought refuge in a mud guard-house below the south wall, some in the interior of the place itself; they were followed up and slain.

A last stand was made by a few desperate men to the immediate left of the gateway near which the conflict had commenced, and here the last man of the garrison of Loharee fell.

Fifty-seven bodies were counted by an officer within the gateways of the fort.

Previous to forming the column of assault, I had made over the command of the cavalry on the plain to Captain Thompson, 14th Dragoons; he reports that several of the enemy, being observed letting themselves down from the bastion at the north-west angle of the fort, he moved forward a division of his Dragoons, intercepted and cut them down.

All who endeavoured to escape on the south side into the village were met and shot by a company of the 25th under Lieutenant Fenwick.

I can safely assert that none of the garrison (which must have numbered, including Munsheet Sing and his retinue, at least ninety men) escaped.

During the assault Captain Blyth, of the 14th Dragoons, rode within a very short distance of Khuleea and observed a great many men assembling on the bastions of that fort, and some in the "topes" that surround it, but seeing our cavalry drawn upon the plain between them and Loharee, they did not attempt to make a forward movement.

I would here observe that many indications of the presence of the mutineer sepoys amongst the garrison met my eye; for instance, an European drum and bugle were found in the fort; also many brass cap plates, belonging to the 12th Regiment