

13. The interior of all the works was a dense jungle, the only open spaces being the parapets and the terreplein, so that, on making a lodgment, the assailants were exposed to the fire of the defenders, protected by this cover.

14. There were 17 guns and 5 mortars in the place (two of these were upwards of eight inches in diameter). The garrison consisted of between 4,000 and 5,000 men, about 2,000 being mutinous sepoys, principally of the 17th, 28th, and 52nd Regiments, who could be plainly discerned on the parapets, dressed in red, and some in the same coloured linen uniform, with red turbans, as worn by the Punjaub Infantry. They were all armed with the musket and bayonet.

15. Having received information that the left, or last extremity of the advanced entrenchment, rested on the jungle, and that the work had not been continued down to the river, I determined to make the attack on that flank.

16. The force under my command was formed in position behind the village and fort of Agaiya, about 1,500 yards from the place, concealed from the view of the enemy by the village and the shape of the ground, which here rose to a gentle eminence, sloping down to the northwards, in the direction of the river Sae.

17. The heavy battery, Royal Artillery, consisting of two 8-inch howitzers, and two 8-inch mortars, under the command of Major Le Messurier, C.B., was formed on the crest of this eminence, protected on its left by the fort of Agaiya, in which a company of the 79th Highlanders was placed. A company of the same regiment under Captain Currie was directed to skirmish in the broken ground, in front of the battery, as sharpshooters, to keep down the fire of the enemy from the entrenchments; this it did very effectually. The 4th Company Royal Engineers was also posted with the heavy battery. On the right I placed the right wing of the 9th Punjaub Infantry, under Captain Thelwall, H.M.'s 24th Regiment, who commands that corps, with instructions to force his way through the jungle, and endeavour to turn the left of the entrenchment.

18. The 1st Punjaub Cavalry, under Major Hughes, was divided into two bodies, and one placed on each flank, to endeavour to discover any fords across the river, to prevent the passage of them by the enemy, and to complete the investment on this side.

19. The strength of my force did not allow of any bodies of troops being detached across the river, to invest the northern front.

20. The remainder of the force was held in reserve under Colonel Taylor, C.B., commanding 79th Highlanders.

21. These dispositions had just been completed when I received a quill despatch, by a spy, from Major-General Sir J. Hope Grant, commanding the Division, then encamped at Etayah, offering his co-operation the following morning, the 4th November, at daylight. Anxious as I was for the assistance of the Major-General, and conscious that, with the force under his command, under his able direction, the result of the action must be more satisfactory than it would be without that co-operation, yet, as my force was then engaged with the enemy, and the artillery already suffering from the fire of the place, I considered that I could not withdraw without dishonour to Her Majesty's arms; I therefore resolved to continue

the attack. My intention was to carry the outworks, and there wait for the Major-General's arrival, to attack the interior defences.

22. After the fire of the heavy battery had continued for some time, I directed the skirmishers to advance nearer to the works. Captain Thelwall, with the wing of the regiment under his command, forced his way through the jungle, strongly opposed by the enemy, to within 60 yards of the entrenchment, where he was met with discharges of grape; finding that his position was becoming untenable, and that he must either advance or retreat, he, with the prompt and daring resolution of a true soldier, determined to storm, the bastion from which the guns were playing upon him. A passage was found across the ditch near its extremity; the men with great gallantry dashed across, and, entering by an embrasure effected a lodgment; they captured two guns, one of which was immediately turned by them upon the enemy, who, advancing with 1,500 men, endeavoured to retake the bastion. Captain Thelwall, though opposed to fearful odds, and exposed to a crushing fire from the works on the north bank of the river, losing men and officers fast, still held his ground, until the supports sent to his assistance came up. They consisted of two companies 79th Highlanders, under Captain Miller, and four companies of the first Belooch Battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar, C.B. The troops now assembled in the work repulsed two attempts of the enemy to retake it. I would beg to draw the attention of the Major-General to the gallantry of these troops led by the officers I have named.

These operations were covered by an increased fire of artillery and skirmishers, along the front.

23. I much regret to say that Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar had hardly entered the works when he was struck by a ball in the left knee; he has since suffered amputation of the limb. I was thus deprived of the services of an old, gallant, and experienced officer, at a most critical time.

The command of the troops in the works then devolved again upon Captain Thelwall, under whose leading the capture of the outer works was completed.

24. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of this officer and of his regiment. I am indebted to it for the success I have described, which ultimately led to the capture of the place. I trust the Major-General will do me the favour of bringing Captain Thelwall's name to the most prominent notice of the Commander-in-Chief, together with the officers and soldiers he has named in his report herewith enclosed.

25. Lieutenant Scratchley, commanding Royal Engineers, volunteered to accompany the supports, for the purpose of rendering assistance, should it have been necessary to retrench themselves. I would also wish his name brought to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief.

26. The enemy, having failed in his repeated efforts to retake the outworks, was observed about 2 o'clock to be retiring from the position on the north bank of the river.

27. I directed Major Hughes, with all the cavalry that could be collected, to cross the ford on the right of the enemy's position and pursue. The nature of the ground, cut up with ravines, and covered with wood, precluded any horse artillery being sent, as guns, used under such circumstances, would have been an encumbrance, instead of a help to him.