

Hurchundpore, the fort of a very loyal zeminder, hard by, it was determined by Mr. Hume and myself to move out early next morning to the latter place, and attack the enemy at once, it being extremely probable that, with their superior numbers, they would choose their own opportunity and attack us at a disadvantage.

Some reinforcements reached camp during the night, and on the morning of the 8th the force, as per margin,* left Puppoond, and just about 8 o'clock A.M. came across an outlying picket of the enemy. Their cattle, elephants, &c., were grazing in the fields about two and a half miles from their main body. It was afterwards ascertained that they were surprised, no intimation of our movements having reached them. A couple of round shot drove in the picket, and another mile brought us in sight of the main body under Ferozeshah, numbering 1,400 cavalry and between 100 and 200 infantry; the latter, men of the 28th Native Infantry, who joined Ferozeshah after the evacuation of Fort Royah. The remainder of the cavalry, 600 strong, moved off with the followers, elephants, camels, &c., to the west, some distance from the scene of action.

Our infantry and guns advanced in line, the left being covered by the Etawah cavalry, the right by a company of infantry in skirmishing order, and the 13th troop Police Cavalry.

When within 600 yards of the enemy, the guns were brought into action to the front, and, the rebels shifting a large body of cavalry to our right, the skirmishers were recalled, and the Etawah Cavalry and the 13th Troop rapidly exchanged positions. The Etawah Cavalry were advanced against the enemy under cover of the guns, which, under the able direction of Mr. Hume, who acted as second in command during the day, played on them to the last moment.

The cavalry, under their gallant leader, Mr. Doyle, charged a large division of the rebels. A desperate struggle took place, Mr. Doyle distinguishing himself by the same skillful swordsmanship and daring bravery which gained him so conspicuous a name in all the affairs of the Agra Militia during 1857; when, his horse being severely wounded, he was dismounted and cut to pieces. On this, about 50 of the men, pressed on all sides by superior numbers, gave way, and, pursued by the rebel cavalry, swept down on our right flank. A like number got completely separated from our force, and, being prevented from rejoining by the crowd of the enemy's horsemen, made their way into Etawah; the remainder, for nearly ten minutes, made a desperate stand over the body of their leader, and at last retired in good order.

The loss of so distinguished an officer rendered our subsequent success most dearly bought.

Meanwhile, a party of the enemy came down on our left flank, but were stopped by two successive charges of the 13th troop Police Cavalry, under the able leadership of the Ressaldar Mahomed Assudoo'ah Khan, himself desperately wounded. This brave man, a model of a native soldier, is worthy of reward, and I have the honour to request you will be good enough to move his Lordship, in order that some recognition of his distin-

* ETAWAH LEVIES.

Lieutenant Forbes, commanding; Mr. Doyle, commanding the cavalry; Sergeant-Major Edmonds, infantry; 5 native officers, 5 non-commissioned officers, and 190 rank and file.

Cavalry.—4 native officers, 8 non-commissioned officers, and 134 rank and file.

Artillerymen.—2 native officers, and 44 rank and file.

Guns.—1 light 12-pounder; 3 light 3-pounders (2 French and 2 native).

13th Troop Police Cavalry.—3 native officers, 5 non-commissioned officers, and 53 rank and file.

guished services may be made; other men of this troop also signalled themselves in hand to hand encounters.

The partial success of the rebels on our right emboldened them. A third detachment, leaving men to engage the 13th troop, swept round to our left rear, and attacked the Infantry Ammunition Guard; they were repulsed with loss on both sides. A fourth party, avoiding the charge of the Etawah Cavalry, passed by our right flank to the rear, and succeeded in driving off three camels. These were speedily recaptured by a company of infantry, who, extending in skirmishing order, advanced rapidly over the plain, retook the camels, and, closing up again, moved back to the guns, threatened in front and flank by the rebel cavalry, who seemed ubiquitous.

During their absence, Mr. Hume was left in command of the guns, and few remaining infantry. He was charged, front, left flank, and rear, by the rebels in great force. Three times they forced their way boldly down on the guns, which, supported by infantry, were brought into action in the above directions; each time they were driven off with loss. This was the critical period of the fight.

The infantry and artillery, reserving their fire, behaved to the admiration of all. Mr. Maconochie directed two of the guns, and Sergeant-Major Edmonds, conspicuous for his address, contributed mainly to the repulse of the last charge, by swinging round the 12-pounder gun he was serving, and taking the enemy in their flank with a volley of grape. Such clouds of dust and smoke were raised, that, except the flashing of the sabres and the noise of the horses, little could be perceived of the movements of the enemy, until they were almost into the square of guns and infantry.

After these repulses, they seemed to have had enough of the fight, and sheaved off in all directions. The affair lasted three hours.

We gathered up our dead and wounded, and, intelligence (which proved false) having been received of the advance of a large body of infantry, it was deemed prudent to move on to our destination, Hurchundpore.

The enemy on the field numbered 1,400 cavalry, and between 100 and 200 infantry. The only large individual bodies of men were of the 1st and 2nd Regular, and 11th, 12th, and 15th Irregular Cavalry; the remainder were made up of men of every mutinied cavalry regiment in the service, with 150 Seiks and Affghans, all well armed, the cavalry well mounted.

Their loss was 58 killed and about 25 severely wounded, who were subsequently carried off in the doolies they had with their force; many more were wounded and went off on their horses. Moorad Ally Khan, an ex-Nazim of the Nawab of Furruckabad, and one of their leading resaldars were killed, Goo'am Ghah Puerjee (a disciple of the Moulvie killed at Powayn) severely wounded. These and other particulars were verified by the statements of one of the rebel sowars subsequently taken prisoner.

Our loss was heavy, and is detailed below. Some carbines, muskets, and a large number of horses remained in our possession. The rebels, encouraged by our small numbers, fought with great energy and determination. They probably comprise the best body of cavalry in the field against us. Full particulars of the week's operations have been detailed in a report submitted by Mr. Hume.

I have, &c.

J. FORBES, Lieutenant,
Commanding Etawah Levies, and
Military Police Battalion.