

rebels were moving northwards, between my position and Tonk. Their destination was evidently Jeypore. I immediately threw forward a strong advanced guard to Reepulivara, 18 miles distant, to intercept the stragglers of the rebel force, and followed myself, with the main body, during the night.

The rebels had passed the village only a few hours before. I now took up the pursuit, and, following close on their heels, came up with them at Dewsa, at 3, A.M., of the 14th instant.

Dewsa is a town situated on the western slope of a rocky hill, and bounded to the west by fields with high banks. It was among these the rebels had taken up their position. The approach to it was difficult. There were but two roads leading out of the town in this direction. Without a guide on whom I could rely, I threw my column into one of these, and proceeded some distance, in the hope of finding an opening to lead me to the rebels' camp. Failing in this, and the grey of the morning appearing, I determined to commence the attack with the cavalry, leaving the artillery, with the European Infantry, as an escort, to follow. I countermarched the cavalry, and threaded the streets of the town at a sharp trot, until I came to the second road, which debouched nearer to the position of the rebels. I pushed up one of the banks on the right, and formed the cavalry on the high ground, the detachment Agra Mounted Police on the left, and squadron of Alexander's Horse on the right, and then advancing, at a charging pace, across the intervening fields, came upon the rebels preparing to march. They were taken by surprise. The cavalry dashed at once amongst them. Being unable to escape from the enclosures, numbers were killed. They, however, soon recovered from the surprise, and commenced a sharp musketry fire upon us. The charge, notwithstanding, was continued through a second field, when all that remained were cut up. We then came into the plain, when the pursuit was kept up.

Our attack was made about the centre of the enemy's position. It separated their force into three parties: one went off to the right, another to the left, while a considerable body were driven to our front, and vigorously followed up by the detachment of Alexander's Horse and Agra Mounted Police, under their gallant young commanders, Lieutenant H. Chapman, of the late 49th Regiment Native Infantry, and Lieutenant H. T. Oldfield, of the late 9th Regiment Native Infantry.

The Artillery, with the detachment 3rd European Regiment, had come up. The force had already made a most harassing march. During the last 45 hours we had followed the enemy continuously a distance of 75 miles. Men and horses had been accoutred and harnessed the whole time, and had no other rest than what short bivouacs afforded. The horses were fagged. But Lieutenant R. S. Robinson, Commanding Artillery, brought up his guns to within some 1,200 yards of the party of the rebels, who had fled to the right, but, being at such a long range, they effected their escape without suffering severely. Ferozeshah is said to have been with this body.

The party on the left, with which I learned Tantia Topce moved off, disappeared early in the action. Not a horseman, after the first half hour, could be seen in that direction.

The pursuit was kept up for five miles. I then halted. Men and horses were worn out with the previous marching, but, as the rebels were dispersed to the right and left, I directed a troop from each cavalry detachment to take an advanced

position to our front, so as to prevent the scattered bodies of the rebels from re-uniting without making a long detour.

In this action I received valuable aid from the contingent of cavalry of the Bhurtpore State, strength as per margin.* I enclose the report of Captain Nixon, the officiating Political Agent, and I have to recommend to the notice of the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief, the services of the officers mentioned by Captain Nixon.

From Captain Nixon himself I have received important assistance. He himself led the Contingent into the field, and directed it during the action. He was able and indefatigable in obtaining information of the movements of the rebels, and it was, by his placing a number of riding camels at my disposal, that I was able to bring my infantry up with the rebels. I beg to recommend the services of this officer to the favourable consideration of his Lordship.

It is my duty also to bring to the favourable notice of his Excellency the services of Lieutenants Oldfield and Chapman, in leading the respective detachments against the greatly superior numbers of the rebels. I have to offer my acknowledgments to Captain R. Stevenson, commanding Detachment, 3rd European Regiment, and Lieutenant R. S. Robinson, commanding Artillery; also to Captain A. L. McMullin, of the late 23rd Regiment Native Infantry, and the Detachment Staff Officer; and Lieutenant A. Money, 3rd European Regiment, my Orderly Officer, whose horse was shot under him. These officers rendered me great assistance during the action.

It is my grateful duty to bring to the favourable notice of Government the hardy and cheerful spirit displayed by all branches of the force while making the long and heavy marches in pursuit of the enemy, as well as the gallantry of the cavalry during the action. The conduct of all deserves great commendation.

Lieutenant Oldfield reports favourably of the conduct of Lieutenant G. F. J. Graham, of the 4th European Regiment, doing duty with the Etawah Levy; and I have to recommend for the Order of British India and Record of Merit the following officers and sowars:—

Alexander's Horse.

Shaick Ameenooddeen, Ressaïdar, severely wounded.

Meg Sing (Jat), Sowar.

Meg Sing (Sikh), Sowar.

Kurtab Sing, Sowar.

Especially brought to notice by Lieutenant Chapman.

Agra Mounted Police.

Ressaïdar Shadie Ramana,

Jemadar Sobha Sing,

Especially brought to notice by Lieutenant Oldfield.

also Kunneya Sing, Sowar, Agra Mounted Police, on my personal escort, who was himself wounded, and had his horse wounded.

The loss in killed of the rebels may have been 300; and reports have come in stating that they are carrying off on cots numbers of their wounded: one person of rank was killed, whose name has not been ascertained. The rebels had no guns; but the force captured 3 elephants and 8 camels, all that they had; several horses and ponies, and some 300 muskets and tulwars.

* 12 native officers, 485 rank and file.