

Brigadier the Hon. H. Dundas, C. B., Her Majesty's 60th Rifles, commanding Bombay Column, Mooltan Field Force, to Brevet Captain G. P. Whish, Assistant Adjutant-General, Bengal Column.

Camp, Mooltan, January 7, 1849.

I have the honour to forward the report of Brigadier Stalker, C. B., commanding the 2d brigade Bombay division, which was engaged in storming the city of Mooltan on the afternoon of the 2d instant.

The brigade, formed into three columns, as directed in the instructions from the Assistant Adjutant-General, assembled in rear of the Munde Awa, and, about 3 p.m. moved down to storm the left trench at the angle of the Khoonee Boorj.

The storming party, headed by Captain Leith of the 1st Bombay Fusiliers, speedily mounted the breach, but, on arriving at the summit, found some difficulty in descending, the enemy having retrenched the breach, and dug deep ditches, into which several of the leading men and officers fell. The obstacles to the advance of the party having been overcome, the column, having succeeded in passing the trench, pushed on to the ramparts and streets of the town through a very narrow passage, by the aid of some scaling ladders placed against a house by a party of Bengal sappers, under Lieutenant Oliphant. I regret to state that, soon after mounting the breach, Captain Leith was severely wounded, and Lieutenant Gray, taking command of the party, moved to the right towards the Delhi Gate, to clear away obstacles between the breach and that point at which it was intended the Bengal column should enter.

Major Mignan, with the 1st column, moved to the left, clearing the ramparts, while the columns under Major Mant and Major Honner, pushing for the centre of the town, established themselves in the grain market.

The narrowness of the streets rendered the preservation of regular formation impossible, the enemy was followed up by the troops in the best mode in which they could move, and without giving him time to halt, until the town was completely carried, and the several columns established; the left having succeeded in reaching the Lahore Gate.

Brigadier Stalker speaks most highly of the conduct of the troops, and nothing can be more honourable to their character than the humanity and kind treatment shown by them towards the unoffending inhabitants.

I have great pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Major-General the conduct of Major Mignan, commanding 1st Fusiliers; Major Mant, commanding 19th Regiment; and Brevet-Major Honner, commanding the 4th N. I. (Rifles). Brigadier Stalker also reports most favourably of the conduct of Major Hobson, 1st Fusiliers, and of the assistance he received from Captain Tapp, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, who was unfortunately wounded in capturing a gun; Captain Hart, Major of Brigade, Lieutenant Pollexfen, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, and Lieutenant Henry, of the 19th Regiment N. I., Postmaster to the Division. To the commanding engineer, Major Scott, every praise is due for his untiring exertions during the operation; as well as to the several officers of that corps employed with the Bombay Division. The conduct of Captain Leith, Lieutenants Dansey, Daly, Gray, and Mules, is particularly noticed by Brigadier Stalker. I am sorry to add that Lieutenant Gray was severely wounded after entering the

town, and lost his right arm. Lieutenants Dansey, Herne, and Law are also among the wounded, as also Lieutenant Warden, of the 4th Rifles, and Ensign Gordon, of the 19th Regiment N. I.

Several acts of gallantry have been brought to my notice, particularly on the part of Colour-Sergeant Bennett, of the 1st Fusiliers, which I shall take an opportunity of reporting to the proper quarter.

The suburbs between the Delhi Gate and the left breach were occupied by picquets from the 1st brigade, under Major Dennis, 60th Rifles—a company of the 60th Rifles, under Captain Douglas, being stationed in the houses opposite the breach, in the "Khoonee Boorj," to cover the advance of the storming party, and two companies, under Captains Young and Sibthorpe, to cover the advance of the Bengal column.

Returns of casualties are herewith inclosed.

Brigadier Stalker, C. B., commanding 2d Infantry Brigade, Bombay Column, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Bombay Column, Mooltan Field Force.

Camp before Mooltan, January 7, 1849.

I do myself the honour to report, for the information of Brigadier the Honourable H. Dundas, C. B., commanding the Bombay Column, Mooltan field force, that on the afternoon of the 2d of January, the brigade under my command was formed in the order laid down for them under cover, within about two hundred yards of the breach, the approach to which was fully exposed to a fire from musketry and zumbooruks.

The column gained the top of the breach at about $\frac{1}{4}$ past 3 p.m. with much regularity, under a very galling fire, but, when they reached the summit, found themselves in a sort of enclosure, from which there was but one regular exit, by a narrow lane on the right, and over a low house into the "Khoonee Boorj."

The enemy had excavated a trench parallel to the breach, which contracted the space still more; the nature of the ground, therefore, rendered it utterly impossible to preserve any regular formation; and the officers pushed on with the men nearest them, to carry out, as far as possible, the instructions to advance in three columns. The column was detained nearly twenty minutes by the obstacles at the top of the breach. The leading column of three companies of the Fusiliers, having lost their commander, Captain Leith, who was dangerously wounded soon after crossing the breach, pushed down the lane to the right, under Lieutenant Gray, and was in part the cause of the enemy abandoning the "Khoonee Boorj." It fortunately happened that two short ladders were procured and placed by Bengal Sappers, under Lieutenant Oliphant, against the house on the left, just as the enemy found their communication with the town threatened; they were therefore obliged to defend both the lane and the tower, and their resistance was consequently less energetic. As soon as the ladders were placed, the column which had to advance by the ramparts to the south, pushed its way along for some distance, but fortunately followed the retreating enemy along one of the streets, which eventually led them to the end of the town, near the Lahore Gate. A company being left at this point, the column returned into the streets nearest the ramparts to the Bohur Gate, where it remained during the night, as it was known that the Pak Gate was in possession of the Bengal 72d, and a company of the 4th Rifles was sent back to the Hurun Gate. During the night one of the enemy's powder magazines,