

No. 15.

The Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR, Calcutta, July 16, 1857.

I HAVE the honor, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of the Governor-General in Council, a letter, in original, from the officer commanding at Benares, of the 8th instant, with its inclosures, reporting an attack made on the insurgents assembled in the neighbourhood on the 6th idem, by Brevet-Major J. F. Haliburton, of the 78th Highlanders, for the conduct of which his Excellency has expressed to that officer his acknowledgments.

2. I am to request that you will be good enough to draw the attention of Government to the favorable mention made of the conduct of the detachments of the 47th and 35th Native Infantry, and to express the pleasure it gave Sir P. Grant to see them so creditably reported of.

3. The promotion of Sowar Hyat Khan to Duffadar, for his gallant conduct in rescuing Lieutenant G. H. Hale, under a heavy fire, has Sir P. Grant's warm approval.

4. The return of the inclosure is requested.

I have, &c.,

W. MAYHEW, Major.

No. 16.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon to the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army.

SIR, Benares, July 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honor to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the report of Major Haliburton, Her Majesty's 78th Highlanders, who commanded the detachment employed against the insurgents assembled in this neighbourhood on the 6th instant.

2. I am sorry to observe that Major Haliburton was not quite satisfied with the conduct of the party of the 12th Irregular Cavalry, and as His Excellency would doubtless require more detailed particulars, I enclose with this the explanation furnished by Captain Boileau on my requisition.

3. The Sowar named by Captain Boileau as having specially distinguished himself by gallantly rescuing a dismounted officer whose horse had been killed, was yesterday named in Brigade Orders, and promoted to the rank of Duffadar. The Sowar, I am informed, is a Punjaabee.

4. His Excellency will be pleased to hear that the sepoy of the 47th and 65th appear disposed to act with energy and good faith against marauders, as shown from the reports from Azimghur and Mirzapore, annexed.

I have, &c.,

P. GORDON, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commanding Benares District.

No. 17.

Major Haliburton to Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon.

SIR, Benares, July 7, 1857.

In compliance with my instructions, I advanced yesterday morning about 10 A.M., with the force under my command, about eight miles on the road to Azimghur. Here the advanced Cavalry reported a large body of men half-a-mile in front. On examination I found them posted across the road, their flanks resting on villages; the road through their centre; their left, their stronghold, shaded

with trees, their right partially concealed by rising ground in front; their numbers thus left doubtful.

Owing to the very heavy rain which had still continued to fall, the guns were confined to the road.

Advancing with the Highlanders on the left centre, the Cavalry again on my left, the guns protected by a detachment of Her Majesty's 37th Regiment, the Seikhs turning the right of the rebels, it was my intention (and my orders were issued to that effect,) to have approached within 350 yards of their position, and then opened fire with the guns on both flanks.

This was entirely frustrated by the gun-bullocks, which refused to move in the right direction, and got into confusion. Some little delay occurred, when I advanced the Highlanders without them, the Cavalry going rapidly to the front on seeing symptoms of the break-up of the rebel force, which was soon in retreat in all directions, the guns from their position in rear opening upon the fugitives with some effect.

The Cavalry met with combined and determined opposition at close quarters, as well from matchlock as from sword, most of the horses of the Gentlemen Volunteers being badly cut, and one killed.

For the conduct of this force at large I refer you more particularly to Captain Boileau in command, but even during my own advance, I myself saw sufficient to weaken confidence in the zeal of the sowars.

The conduct of Surat Sing, a Seikh gentleman, was most decided and courageous. To his example, and that of the other gentlemen, the success of the Cavalry party must be entirely attributed.

I regret much to have to report that Surat Sing was very seriously wounded by a sword-cut in the knee. The Cavalry killed all they overtook; the Infantry made many good shots; at least some sixty or seventy met their fate.

The two villages were set on fire.

The armed force of the rebels I would calculate to have been not less than 400 or 500 (it may have been much more,) mixed up with, and assisted by crowds of villagers ready for the fray, making the collected force, I should fancy, not less than 1000, and which might soon, from all appearance, have been increased to double.

I reached quarters last evening about 9 o'clock.

I have, &c.,

J. F. HALIBURTON, Brevet-Major,  
78th Highlanders.

No. 18.

Captain Boileau to the Major of Brigade, Benares.

SIR, Benares, July 7, 1857.

I HAVE the honor to report that in an engagement with some insurgents yesterday, one sowar and two horses of my escort were wounded severely, and one horse missing.

I regret to add that the horses of Lieutenants Miles, Hale, and Campbell, were all badly wounded, and are disabled from work for some time to come.

I beg you will bring to the notice of Colonel Gordon the gallant example shown by these officers to the men, and the good conduct of Sowar Hyat Khan, who, under a heavy fire, went to the rescue of Lieutenant Hale when dismounted, and who subsequently killed two men with his own hand. I would solicit his promotion.

I have, &c.,

GEO. BOILEAU, Captain,  
Oude Irregular Cavalry.