

No. 16.

Lieutenant M. Hall, Assistant Field Engineer, to  
Captain Hutchinson, Directing Engineer.

SIR,                   Hern-khana, November 21, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Captain Crommelin, Field Engineer, that, in accordance with his instructions, I accompanied the right column of attack on the Hern-khana, under Captain Willis, 85th Regiment, on the 16th instant.

Immediately after the explosion of the barricade mine, we sallied out and made for the part of the building where it was intended the right breach should have been made. On arriving at the wall of the Hern-khana, we found the crater of the mine, which was about ten feet short of the wall which remained, uninjured. We therefore turned to the left, and entered the Hern-khana by the left breach which had been made by the 18-pounder gun at the barricade at the end of the lane.

On getting into the Hern-khana, we turned to our right, passed across the open square, and immediately commenced loop-holing the wall which commands the street dividing our position from the Kaiser Bagh. On your arrival I reported myself to you.

I have, &c.

M. HALL, Lieutenant,  
1st Bengal Fusiliers, Assistant Field Engineer.

No. 17.

Lieutenant D. Limond, Engineer, to Captain Crommelin, Chief Engineer, Oude Field Force.

SIR,                   Lucknow, November 21, 1857.

ACCORDING to orders, Lieutenant Chalmers, Assistant Field Engineer, and myself, accompanied the detachment of the 90th Regiment L. I., on the attack upon the Engine-house. Keeping to the left, on passing that building, we found the rebels evacuating the same, and followed them up to the most advanced building, the "Overseer's house," which I at once directed to be barricaded. The enemy opened on it with guns from the Kaiser Bagh, and the house was then abandoned, and burnt by Colonel Purnell's orders. The east wall of the Barahduree enclosure was at once loop-holed, and the windows to the south blocked up with sand-bags. During the night a battery for three light guns was constructed at the southern extremity of the lane, between the King's stables and Barahduree enclosure. The doors and windows of the engine-house facing the river were also barricaded. During the night a trench-covered communication was opened to the advanced garden, none being necessary between the Engine-house and King's stables.

I have, &c.,

DAVID LIMOND, Lieutenant, Engineers.

No. 18.

Lieutenant J. Russell, Brigade Major of Engineers, to Captain Crommelin, Chief Engineer.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to order, Captain Oakes, Assistant Field Engineer, and myself, accompanied the detachment under command of Captain Lockhart, Her Majesty's 78th, on the 16th instant, in the attack upon the King's stables.

The detachment was drawn up in line in the front trench of the advanced garden, and on the order for the advance being given, we crossed the parapet of the trench and the breach in our front, and doubled across the open to the King's stables,

on reaching which some confusion occurred, for the lower part of the breach that had been made by our guns was some 4 feet from the ground; and not seeing any easy mode of ingress, Captain Lockhart led the way into the enclosure of the steam engine-house on the left, and was followed by many of his men.

On his mistake being pointed out, however, he returned, and in company we entered the courtyard of the stables, which we found deserted. The men of the detachment followed us as quickly as they could.

Our orders were to man the walls of the stables on the side of the enemy; but the latter were retreating fast, pressed by our troops from the Hern-khana; on seeing which many of the detachment to which I was attached, rushed across the road, without orders, and joined in the pursuit.

At Captain Lockhart's request I went to recal these men, and on my return I found that he had occupied the Barahduree and other buildings in rear of the King's stables. Measures were immediately adopted for securing our position; but in a short time the portion of Captain Lockhart's detachment was withdrawn, and the post left to the charge of a detachment of Her Majesty's 90th, under Colonel Purnell.

During the night of the 16th, Lieutenant Limond, of engineers, and myself, constructed a battery for 3 guns, which opened fire towards the Kaiser Bagh on the morning of the 17th.

I have, &c.

J. RUSSELL, Lieutenant,  
Brigade Major of Engineers.

No. 19.

Colonel R. Napier, Military Secretary, &c., to  
Major-General Sir James Outram, G.C.B., Com-  
manding the Forces.

SIR,

Lucknow, October 16, 1857.

ON the 25th ultimo Colonel Campbell reported to you that he, with a small party of the 90th, not exceeding 100 men, and almost all the wounded, the heavy guns, and a large number of ammunition waggons, were in the walled passage in front of the Motee Munzil Palace, which position he should be obliged to hold for the night, as he was invested by the enemy, and could not advance without reinforcements.

On the morning of the 26th, a detachment of 250 men, under command of Major Simmons, 5th Fusiliers, and part of the Ferozepore Regiment, under Captain Brasyer, were sent by your orders to reinforce Colonel Campbell, under the guidance of Captain Moorsom.

They had judiciously occupied a house and garden between Colonel Campbell's position and the palace; but, as they were unable to move from their position, I received your orders to proceed to their assistance, with a further reinforcement of 100 men of Her Majesty's 78th Highlanders, under Colonel Stisted, and 2 guns of Captain Olpherts' Battery, and Captain Hardinge's Sowars.

Captain Olpherts strongly objected to his guns being taken, and, on considering the reason that he offered, I took it upon myself to dispense with them, merely taking spare bullocks. Captain Olpherts accompanied me as a volunteer. As I had reason to believe that I could open a communication through the palace, which would bring me near the position of the guns, I took Mr Cavanagh, an intelligent civilian acquainted with the locality, and examined the palace as far as was practicable, and obtained sufficient knowledge of it to form my plan of operations.