

a report of the part taken by the Field Force, Hyderabad Contingent, under my command, during the operations near Mundesore, commencing from the 21st instant.

2. On the forenoon of that date, after making arrangements for the safety of my camp, I directed a village on the extreme left to be occupied and held by a party of Cavalry and Infantry, as its possession appeared of importance. About 2 o'clock P.M. it was reported that the village was threatened. On reaching the spot, I found a strong body of the enemy, horse and footmen, moving out into the open country, and advancing with much boldness. I directed reinforcements and guns to be brought up at once, but before these could arrive the enemy had succeeded in forcing back the picquet and occupying the village. On being joined by the guns and Infantry, with the 1st and 4th Regiments of Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent, the Artillery, assisted by two guns of the Bombay (Captain Woolcombe's) Battery, under command of Lieutenant Strutt, opened a very well-directed and effective fire, which cleared the village and forced back the insurgents. It was again occupied by our troops, the enemy retiring slowly, and in considerable force, towards Mundesore. My orders being explicit on the subject of not forcing a general engagement, I contented myself with retaining possession of the village.

3. On the morning of the 22d, the force, by a flank movement, crossed the river, and encamped on the west side of the town of Mundesore. Whilst making a reconnaissance with Captain McDonald, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, two bodies of the enemy were observed moving away. These consisted principally of horsemen. One got away too rapidly for pursuit, but the other was followed by the troops, as per margin,* and after a hard gallop of some five or six miles, overtaken and severely punished, a great many being cut down by Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons and Contingent Cavalry. The pursuit was stayed by our finding a large body of the enemy drawn up in our front, in a strong position, in a village, against which Cavalry could not act.

4. On the enemy being observed in strength to the left of the village of Goraria, whilst the column was en route on the morning of the 23d, I received the directions of the Brigadier Commanding to deploy with my force to support the general attack, and to conform my movements to those of the column. These directions were implicitly carried out; the Cavalry was held ready wherever it might be necessary to act; and, to prevent any attempt on the left flank, a detachment of two companies of the 3d Infantry Hyderabad Contingent, under command of Captain Sinclair, with two guns of the 1st Company Artillery, was ordered to reinforce the rear-guard; the remainder of the Infantry and two guns of the 4th Company Artillery, under Captain J. de C. Sinclair, assisted by two guns of Captain Woolcombe's battery, under command of Lieutenant Keating, Bombay Artillery, advanced in line with the column, and aided in the general operations. The fire of the guns was most effective and good, throwing shot and shell with much precision into the enemy's ranks. On the capture of the guns, and the advance of the Cavalry on the right, I brought forward the Cavalry on the left flank also, which was completely cleared of flying parties of

the insurgents. Having received orders further to reinforce the rear-guard by two more guns, I considered I should be best carrying out the views of the Brigadier, and concurring to the success of the day's operations, if I moved down the whole Cavalry to the rear, which had been reported to be hard pressed. This was rapidly effected. I found the enemy had advanced to a position about 800 yards distant from the rear-guard, that they were in force, and that it was necessary they should be dislodged as soon as possible, their number and boldness increasing. I accordingly directed the line to move forward, and after a short advance the guns opened and drove back the enemy, they answering our fire from matchlocks. After a second advance, I ordered the Cavalry as per margin,* to charge and clear the front. They rapidly advanced upon a large body of retreating footmen; but, unfortunately, the nature of the ground being broken and full of large gravel pits, from which a close and sharp matchlock fire was opened, prevented the attack being as effective as otherwise it would have been. A good many insurgents, however, were cut up, and those in the pits were afterwards shot down on the Infantry coming up.

5. I deeply regret to have to report that in this charge fell Lieutenant Ralmaine, Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons; whilst gallantly leading on his men, he was mortally wounded. His gallantry and daring courage were conspicuous to all, and I trust I may be permitted to say that in him Her Majesty's service has lost an officer of high promise.

6. In the operations against the village of Goraria, on the 24th instant, this force also took part, and a detachment of Infantry, under Captain Sinclair, 3d Regiment, joined the stormers, and shared in the assault upon the village.

7. I beg to bring to the favourable notice of the Brigadier commanding the Malwa Field Force the conduct of the entire force under my command. My best thanks are due to Lieutenant Hastings Fraser, 4th Cavalry, my staff officer, for his zealous exertions in the performance of the numerous duties which devolved upon him, as well as for his prompt and ready aid at all times; to Captain Abbott, commanding 1st Cavalry; Captain Murray, commanding 4th Cavalry; Captain Sinclair, commanding left wing 3d Infantry; Captain J. de C. Sinclair, commanding Artillery; and Lieutenant Johnson, Adjutant, 1st Cavalry. To Surgeon Orr, 4th Cavalry, and Senior Surgeon Field Force Hyderabad Contingent, my best acknowledgments are due for the assistance he afforded me in the field during the entire operations, for his care and attention to the wounded, and the arrangements made by him for their comfort.

8. I beg to forward a Nominal Return† of the killed and wounded during the four days' operations.

I have, &c.,

W. A. ORR, Major,
Commanding Field Force,
Hyderabad Contingent.

No. 8.

Nominal Roll of Officers of the Malwa Field Force Killed and Wounded in the engagement with the Insurgents before and in the vicinity of Mundesore, from the 21st to the 24th of November 1857.

[See "London Gazette," March 11, 1858.]

* One squadron Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons—Major Gall, commanding; two troops 1st Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent—Captain Abbott, commanding; two troops 4th Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent—Captain Murray, commanding.

† One squadron Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons—Lieutenant Leith, commanding; 1st Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent—Captain Abbott, commanding; 4th Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent—Captain Murray, commanding.
† 2 killed and 11 wounded, of the 3d and 5th Infantry. Horses—12 wounded.