

12. Since the rebels quitted Azimghur, we have deprived them of five guns, (two of which belonged to the Government,) about 30 elephants, all their ammunition, and most of their stores and plunder; a large number of the rebel Sepoys have been killed, and every report agrees that the remainder are much dispirited.

13. I beg you will do me the favour to bring to the especial notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the very extraordinary exertions made by Brigadier Douglas and the troops under his command, and the judgment and untiring energy with which this officer has conducted the pursuit. I consider that all has been done that it was possible for a military force to do under the circumstances; and that but for the unforeseen event of boats being in readiness on the river, the whole of the rebels must have been captured or annihilated. Brigadier Douglas was just in time to fire a few rounds from his guns at the rearmost boats, and to sink one of them.

14. Much credit is also due to Mr Davies, Civil Service, Magistrate of Azimghur, who accompanied the Brigadier, and aided him with his local knowledge, and the correct intelligence of the movements of the rebels.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Azimghur Field Force.

P.S.—Since writing this I have received from Brigadier Douglas a more full and connected Despatch than his daily reports; copy of this, together with Returns of Casualties and captured ordnance, stores, &c., I beg to enclose.

No. 8.

Brigadier John Douglas, C. B., Commanding Brigade of the Azimghur Field Force, to Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., Commanding Azimghur Field Force.

Camp, Sheepoor Ghaut, April 22, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., a detailed account of the operations of the force under my command, from the 17th to the 21st April inclusive, the object being to press the rebels as much as possible, and to force them to give up their guns.

On the 17th, according to instructions, I marched at 3 A.M. from Nuthoopoor, with a force as per margin,* and found the enemy strongly posted at Nughai, near Azimutghur; I sent the cavalry and horse artillery of the advanced guard through the village by the road, the infantry cutting across the fields; the guns became immediately engaged, but the enemy stood well behind their breastworks, at the edges of tops of trees. It was now certain that a large force was opposed to us with artillery, as they came round on almost every side, and made several attempts to charge the guns. I threw part of the 37th, 84th, and the Company of Madras Rifles, into skirmishing order, with supports, who rapidly advanced under a very heavy fire, carried the enemy's positions, and drove them off: they retired in good order from tope to tope, followed by the infantry, a number were bayoneted in their trenches, and a colour was taken by the 37th. Whilst the infantry were clearing

our front, the enemy appeared in great force on our left, and were kept in check by the horse artillery and Major Cotter's Battery, supported by the cavalry, who made several charges. I followed the enemy for some distance, and a number were cut up; they were very determined, and evidently trained soldiers; in their retreat they divided into two bodies, and I halted for some time, till I could ascertain which was the main body; I then started in pursuit along the lower Ghoosee road, passing through Chuprah and Etawah, at which latter place the enemy seemed to have united; our force bivouacked at Ghoosee, within four miles of the enemy, after a march of twenty miles; from information afterwards received, the enemy, on our arrival, moved six miles further on.

On the 18th we marched within three miles of Nugra, a distance of about 24 miles, the Cavalry and Horse Artillery going on in advance, and following the enemy till they took up their position in the town of Nugra; during the evening information was received that the enemy, hearing of our approach, had rapidly left the town, but the spies could not inform us which road they had taken; about midnight we heard that the enemy had retired towards Secunderpore, and intended to cross the Gogra there; at 2 A.M. on the 19th, we followed in pursuit, and bivouacked four miles beyond Secunderpore, and within four miles of the enemy at Munnibur, in the Ghazeepore District: during this long march we picked up several of the enemy's stragglers; we here heard that the enemy were in much distress by the rapid pursuit, not having had time during the last two days either to cook or sleep. On the 20th we started so as to arrive at Munnibur at daylight, and found the enemy posted in some very thick woods to the right of the village. I ordered a few rounds of grape to be fired, and then advanced part of the 37th and 84th, and Madras Rifles, in skirmishing order through the wood, the Cavalry, and Horse and Madras Artillery moving round by the right. The enemy were quickly driven from their position, broken, and pursued for six miles by the cavalry and artillery; the Horse Artillery and two of Major Cotter's guns, supported by the greater portion of the Military Train, proceeding along the bank of the Gogra, where a few of the enemy crossed in boats, but under a heavy fire. Two of Major Cotter's guns, with a small portion of the Military Train, and the 3d Seikh Cavalry, followed to the right in pursuit of a large body of about 1,500; unfortunately one of the guns broke down in consequence of the rough nature of the ground, and they were obliged to be withdrawn, the Seikhs having continued the pursuit for several miles, cutting up a great number, and dispersing the remainder.

Captain Pearse, commanding the Seikh Cavalry, desires particularly to mention the gallant conduct of Sepoy No. 1772, Furradun, Madras Rifles, who kept up with the cavalry, killing several of the enemy. In the hasty retreat of the enemy they abandoned a brass 9-pounder gun belonging to the Honourable East India Company's service, complete in horses and ammunition, several limbers and waggons, and immense quantity of ammunition, and a large quantity of treasure, a number of bullocks and hackeries, and four elephants; and the regimental colours of the 28th Bengal Native Infantry were found wrapped round the body of a subadar who was shot. The enemy on this occasion were completely dispersed. Having collected my force, I proceeded to Bansdeh, where the roads diverge to Bulliah and Beyreah, and then halted till I could ascertain which road the rebels had taken. Koer Sing was reported first to have gone to a village named Rajogaon, and afterwards to

* 3 guns, E. Troop Royal Horse Artillery; 4 guns, Major Cotter's Battery, Madras Artillery; 2 5½ inch mortars; Detachment Punjab Sappers; one squadron Military Train; two squadrons 3d Seikh Cavalry; one wing Her Majesty's 37th Regiment; Her Majesty's 84th Regiment; one company Madras Rifles.