

50th Madras Native Infantry. We proceeded through open country for about six miles, when we arrived at the commencement of the dense jungle, in the midst of which the rebels had established themselves. Our guide was the man who had brought me the information the previous evening, and right well and truly did he do his work. He is a sepoy in the service of the Alipoora Jaghirdar, Hindoo Put Rao, to whom and in whose presence I have recommended him for promotion. He led us through the jungle for at least a couple of miles, when a considerable quantity of smoke and the hum of voices warned us that we were near the camp, and in a few minutes more we were in the midst of about 400 or 500 men, utterly surprised, and making away in all directions. Their camp was in an open space of about 200 yards long and 100 broad, surrounded by thick jungle, and they quickly disappeared on all sides, closely pursued by our party, which was now divided into three portions, taking three different paths, right, centre, and left; and I have fixed on the number killed as at least 50, from the accounts I received from the officers in command of the two other parties. I myself went with the left, and passed through another camp larger than the first, which we afterwards found was Despot's. The only casualties on our side were one sepoy, 5th Madras Native Infantry, and one (dismounted) sowar of the Police Corps, wounded, both shot through the leg.

I am informed that the rebel chieftain, Despot, has for a long time defied the power of the Government in these parts, and I am therefore sanguine that the severe lesson he has now received may carry with it considerable moral effect, and go far towards improving the tone and behaviour of the inhabitants of this part of the country, which are decidedly objectionable; and trusting that Government may be pleased to approve of the services of the Hummeerpore Field Detachment under my command, as reported in my letter to your address, No. 892,* dated Camp Nourungah, 5th December 1858, and also on the present occasion.

P.S.—The whole of the official and private correspondence of Despot was taken, and amongst the papers was the official copy of the Proclamation, together with the official letter from the Deputy Collector of the Hummeerpore District.

No. 12.

Allahabad, January 28, 1859.

FORWARDED by order of the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Military Department, for the information of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council and Viceroy, with Lord Clyde's approval.

W. MAYHEW, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 13.

Colonel St. G. D. Showers to Colonel Stuart.

Agra, January 25, 1859.

I HAVE the pleasure to inclose a deposition, taken two days after the action at Dewsa,† showing the state of the rebels on their arrival at Ajubghur, about eighteen miles distant. If I

could have followed them up, the dispersion would have been complete. Unfortunately, the Commander-in-Chief's sanction to my moving out, and the abundant provision his Lordship had made for days after I had given up the pursuit. The rebels received a severe blow at Dewsa, and they cannot hold together much longer; none could have escaped but those who were well mounted.

We took the rebels altogether by surprise. They did not see or hear us till we were within ten yards of them. It was the grey of the morning when we attacked, and I did not know where to look for the Chiefs; when two of the elephants were seized the driver stated that Tantia Topee was only fifty yards in front of us. Though the Chiefs have escaped, it is yet satisfactory to know that both Jeypore and Ulwur have been saved from plunder.

I am to start to-morrow with the following force for Rajpootana:—

Two squadrons of 6th Dragoon Guards.

The Camel Corps.

One squadron Alexander's Horse.

One squadron Agra Mounted Police; a very efficient force for the service I am going upon.

The Camel Corps is not able to move rapidly at present, as all the camels are more or less mangy; but in a few days I hope they will be all right, and I shall be able to procure others in the country I am going to.

Our last authentic accounts of the rebels place them at Seekur, in Shekawattee, on the 20th; the names of the Chiefs present with them not stated.

I should have sent this deposition immediately after it was taken, but I was under the impression his Lordship had left Allahabad.

No. 14.

Deposition of Aman Sing, Tuhseeldar, taken by Officiating Political Agent; Camp Goodah, 17th January 1859.

My name is Aman Sing, Tuhseeldar of Ajubghur. On the 14th January 1859, I heard guns firing about 11 o'clock A.M. Five sowars came from the direction of Sainthal, and a buncab, whom they had plundered of a camel, came and complained. I at once came out to the garden, outside of Ajubghur, and I saw a number of sowars assembling. I sent a man to inquire why the sowars had come, and to inform them that if they came in the direction of the city I would fire on them. One of the sowars accompanied my man back; he said that he had come from Dewsa, and was with the Shahzade Ferozeshah. I informed him that there was no road via Ajubghur for a force, and asked his reason for coming; he then said that his people had been surprised at Dewsa early that morning, and that they had lost a great deal of property, and that a number of men had been killed on both sides; and he said that he intended to stay there and get russud, and procure money from me, and added, that if he did not receive 20,000 rupees he would sack Ajubghur, and take russud by force. I refused to give it him, but said, that if he sent one of the sirdars I would talk to him about it.

The sowar then went to his force, and brought a Kanojia Brahmin, named Ghoree Shunkur. I inquired who was his sirdar? told him that I had received information of his approach, and had prepared for him with my guns. He replied that he knew all about my Hindoostanee Foj, and would plunder the city if he did not get

* London Gazette, March 24, 1859, p. 1264.

† London Gazette, May 5, 1859, p. 1849.