

Major-General F. Stalker, C.B., commanding the Expeditionary Field Force, to H. L. Anderson, Esq., Secretary to the Government, Bombay.

Head Quarters, Field Force, Bushire, December 12, 1856.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction of reporting to you, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that the British flag has been hoisted on the walls of Bushire, which, as well as the Island of Karrack, is garrisoned by our troops.

I have the honor, at the same time, to forward a copy of my letter of this day's date to the Adjutant-General, and I trust that the amount of duty of all kinds with which I am overwhelmed will plead my excuse for any deficiency of detail.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

FOSTER STALKER, Major-General,
Commanding Expeditionary Field-Force.

Major-General F. Stalker, C.B., to the Adjutant-General of the Army, Bombay.

Head Quarters, Field Force, Bushire, December 12, 1856.

SIR,—I have the honor to report, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief, the complete success which, under the protection of Almighty God, has attended our arms. The British flag waves over the walls of Bushire. The place, infinitely stronger than I had any reason to believe from the information I had received, surrendered on the appearance of our troops before it on the 10th instant. The previous day we had a smart affair in dislodging the enemy from a strong position they occupied in the old Dutch fort of Reshire. The casualties on this occasion, though numerically small, were principally among the officers, and, I regret to say, included Brigadier Stopford, and Lieutenant-Colonel Malet, 3rd Light Cavalry, killed; Captain Wood, Lieutenants Utterson and Warren, 20th Regiment, wounded, the two latter since dead. Captain Wood, though severely wounded, is doing well. The lesson the enemy received on this occasion, together with the bombarding of the works, the imposing appearance of the troops in line, and of the fleet, was doubtless the cause of their want of spirit in surrendering the strongly fortified town of Bushire, in which we have found 59 guns,* with large quantities of ammunition and warlike stores. The Governor of the place, and the Commander of the troops, came out and gave up their swords. They, and one of the principal officials, are now in my camp, and will be sent to Bombay. The garrison, to the number of 1,500 or 2,000 men (a large number having previously effected their escape, and very many others having been drowned in attempting to do so), grounded their arms in front of our line, and were next morning escorted by the cavalry some distance into the country, and set free. Every assistance and cooperation has been rendered by the fleet; a heavy fire was opened in the early morning, and kept up spiritedly for some hours, till the place surrendered. At Reshire also, the previous day, all the cooperation possible was rendered by the fleet. And my very best thanks are due to Sir Henry Leake, the officers and seamen, for their unwearied exertions in landing the troops, which, owing to the absence of any other boats than those of the fleet, was a work of much labour, occupying the

* Six others have since been discovered.

greater part of three days and two nights. The force landed at Hallila Bay, about twelve or thirteen miles south of Bushire, without any serious opposition—a body of 300 or 400 men, who appeared, being scattered by the fire of the gun-boats. There being no carriage cattle, the troops were landed without tents or baggage of any description—three days' rations being carried in the haversacks. The hardships which the men have been called upon to undergo have been endured most cheerfully, and I cannot say too much in their praise. Being still without our baggage, I have been unable as yet to obtain the reports called for from the several officers commanding brigades, regiments, and detachments; but I shall do myself the honor to inclose them for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief.

I ought to have mentioned that, on approaching Bushire, the enemy were observed to occupy in some force an entrenched position, with a strong redoubt about a mile and a half from the walls, and commanding the wells from which the main supply of water for the town is derived. This position was precipitately abandoned on my line being formed. It also had sustained a bombardment from the fleet.

I would beg especially to mention the unwearied exertions and valuable aid rendered to me, from the landing at Hallila Bay to the taking of Bushire, by my Assistant Adjutant-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Younghusband; Captain Wray, the Assistant Quartermaster-General; Major Hill, commanding Engineers; Captain Dunsterville, Assistant Commissary-General; and Dr. Mackenzie, the Superintending Surgeon.

Brigadier Stopford and Lieutenant-Colonel Malet died leading on their men in the most gallant style. Brigadier Honner, commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Sheppard, who succeeded to the command of the 1st Infantry Brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Trevelyan, commanding the Artillery Brigade; and Lieutenant-Colonel Tapp, commanding the Cavalry Brigade, have earned my warmest thanks for the manner in which their arduous duties have been carried on; as also Captain Pottinger, Brigade Major of Artillery, whose exertions were conspicuous; and my best thanks are equally due to Major Sterling, commanding Her Majesty's 64th Regiment; to Captain Macleod, who succeeded to the command of the 20th Regiment; to Lieutenant-Colonel Ramsay, commanding 2nd European Light Infantry; to Major Manson, commanding 4th Rifles; to Captain Hough, commanding 2nd Belooch Battalion; to Captain Forbes, who succeeded to the command of the 3rd Light Cavalry; to Major Blake, commanding 4th Troop Horse Artillery; to Captain Hatch, commanding No. 3 Light Field Battery; to Captain Gibbard, commanding No. 5 Light Field Battery; and to Captain Dickinson, commanding the Sappers and Miners.

I have also derived every possible assistance from my Aide-de-Camp, Captain Hunter; Major Ballard, head of the Intelligence Department; Major Boyé, the Deputy Judge-Advocate-General; Captain Rigby, who has acted as my Persian Interpreter; Captain Finimore, Commissary of Ordnance; Captain Collier, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; Captain Shewell, and Lieutenant Holland, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General; Major Barr, Paymaster; and Lieutenant Willoughby, Sub-Assistant Commissary-General.

Lord Dunkellin, of the Coldstream Guards; Major Taylor, of the Persian Embassy; and Mr. Johnstone, of the Indian navy, also rendered most efficient service (having attached themselves to my personal Staff); and to Mr. Johnstone's knowledge of the country and its inhabitants, with