

No. 38.

Major-General T. Reed, Provincial Commander-in-chief, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

SIR, *Camp before Delhi, July 14, 1857.*

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you, for the information of the Governor-General in Council, that, on the morning of the 9th instant, the right of our position was attacked by the mutineers in great force, with nine guns and Cavalry in support.

2. The usual reinforcements having been dispatched to the pickets on the flanks (at Hindoo Rao's house), the troops, which, in the mean time, had been held in readiness, were turned out on the irruption of some mutineer Horse on our right rear, estimated at from 150 to 200 in number, which had driven in a small picket of the 9th Irregular Cavalry posted on that flank. The uniform of the mutineers being precisely similar to that of the 9th Irregular Cavalry, great confusion was created by the circumstance, and led to the idea afterwards that the portion of that corps in camp had mutinied. A party of these sowars, having penetrated to some guns preparing to move out of camp, called upon the native gunners to join them; but they instead, true to their allegiance, called out to Major Olpherts' troop, which was unlimbered, to fire through them at the insurgents.

3. A party of Foot Artillery now advanced, led by Captain Fagan, who had been writing in his tent close by, and had only time to relinquish his pen for a tulwar, and, supported by a company of 1st Fusiliers, drove one portion of the sowars out of camp, having killed some fifteen of them; and, the guns at the mound battery on our right, being brought round to bear, opened on them. In the mean time, the remainder of the sowars, on being discovered, were driven out at the rear by a squadron of 9th Lancers, Captain Hodson's Guide Cavalry, and a party of the 2nd Punjaub Cavalry, under Lieutenant Nicholson, under the direction of Brigadier Grant, C.B.

4. It having been reported to me that the gardens and inclosures on our right were full of the enemy, I directed a column, composed as per margin,* to be formed to drive them out, and soon after, having received a message from Brigadier-General Chamberlain, who was detached to the rear, that all was quiet in that quarter, and requesting permission to bring a force to the right for the purpose of performing the above service, I directed the column referred to, to be placed under his orders, by which the brigadier-General was enabled to leave Her Majesty's 75th Regiment in reserve in camp.

5. At the same time I directed Major Reid, of the Sirmoor Battalion, in charge of the picquets on our right front (Hindoo Rao's house), to advance on the approach of Brigadier-General Chamberlain.

6. The result of this combined movement was that the mutineers were driven with great loss, under the cover of the grape and musketry, from the walls of Delhi.

7. This success was not achieved without serious loss (I am sorry to say), as will appear by the accompanying Return, while, from all reliable sources, that of the enemy must have been at least triple in amount.

8. It is with the highest gratification I have the honor of forwarding the inclosed report of the heroic conduct of two officers,—Major Tombs and

Second Lieutenant Hills, of the 2nd troop 1st Brigade Horse Artillery. It is unnecessary for me to make any further comment on Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie's report than to observe that the conduct of these officers has always been conspicuous for distinguished gallantry, for the display of which, owing to his standing in the service, Major Tombs has had more opportunities; and that, in recommending them to the most favorable consideration of the Governor-General in Council, I consider them to be worthy of the highest distinction that can be awarded to valour and heroism.

9. I take this opportunity of recording the meritorious and efficient services afforded to me upon this occasion, and on every former one to my lamented predecessor in the command of this force, not only by my own personal and divisional staff, but also by the officers of the head-quarters staff of the army, who, with my concurrence, placed themselves at the disposal of Major-General Sir H. Barnard, and I feel assured I am acting in accordance with his intentions and wishes, in bringing to the favorable notice of his Lordship in Council the valuable services of Brigadier-General Chamberlain, Acting Adjutant-General; Captain Norman, Assistant Adjutant-General of the army, who, from the death of Colonel Chester, until the arrival of Brigadier-General Chamberlain on the 24th ultimo, acted as Adjutant-General; Colonel Congreve, C. B., Acting Adjutant-General, Her Majesty's Forces; Lieutenant-Colonel Honorable R. W. P. Curzon, Acting Quartermaster-General, Her Majesty's Forces; Lieutenant-Colonel Young, Judge Advocate-General; and Captain Garstin, Officiating Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General. Colonel Becher, I regret to say, has been prevented by the severe wound received on the 19th ultimo, from accompanying myself or Sir H. Barnard into the field; but his exertions in the performance of his official duties have been unceasing.

I have, &c.

THOMAS REED, Major-General,
Provincial Commander-in-chief.

No. 39.

Brigadier A. Wilson, Commandant of Artillery, to the Acting Adjutant-General of the Army.

Head-Quarters of Artillery,

SIR, *Camp before Delhi, July 10, 1857.*

I HAVE much pleasure in forwarding, for submission to the Commander of the forces, the accompanying copy of a Report, No. 83, of this day's date, I have received from Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie, commanding 1st Brigade Horse Artillery, of the gallant conduct of Major Tombs, and Second Lieutenant Hills, of the 2nd troop of his brigade, when surprised by the enemy's Cavalry yesterday morning; and to state that I shall feel gratified by any mark of approbation or reward the Commander of the forces may deem fit to award or recommend them for.

I have &c.

A. WILSON.

No. 40.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Mackenzie, commanding 1st Brigade Horse Artillery, to Brigadier A. Wilson, Commandant of Artillery.

SIR, *Camp near Delhi, July 10, 1857.*

IT is with great pleasure I submit, for the information of the Brigadier Commandant, the following account of the very gallant conduct of

* Available men of the wings of Her Majesty's 8th and 61st Regiments; 4th Sikh Infantry; Major Scott's Battery.]