

Khana, were loaded and tamped. These mines were sprung on the afternoon of the 16th. That at the north-west corner of the building effected the breach by which the right and centre columns of attack entered. Lieutenant Hall, in his report, erroneously states that this breach was made by the 18-pounder gun at the barricade.

The centre mine failed to explode, owing, I imagine, to some wet sand having been dislodged from the roof of the mine, by the concussion of our artillery, and having fallen upon the powder house.

The left charge, which was the largest, exploded; but it proved to be 10 feet short of the building, and consequently effected no breach or injury. This error in the position of the charge is not to be wondered at, when it is considered,—1st, that we could not, by the most careful survey, satisfy ourselves as to the exact position of the Hern Khana; and, 2ndly, that we could not survey the mine itself with the prismatic compass, as no lights would burn, owing to the foulness of the air near the end of a gallery that had been carried to the (I believe) unprecedented length of 289 feet, without the aid of air-pipes.

On the morning of the 16th everything was ready for the attack upon the Hern Khana, Engine-house, and Stables. Copies of instruction, the details of which had been prepared by myself, from memoranda drawn out by Colonel Napier (Chief of the Staff), were handed over to each of the five officers, commanding the storming parties, and to the engineer officers accompanying them; and these instructions were further explained, by the aid of plans, to several of the commanding officers.

For an account of the operations of the storming parties, I must refer to the enclosed reports (in original) of Lieutenants Hutchinson, Russell, Limond, and Hall, with the remark that the duties of the officers, under my command, appear to me to have been rapidly and efficiently carried out.

I must also refer to a separate report by Lieutenant Hutchinson, directing engineer, upon the engineering operations, from the 16th November, to the hour of our evacuation of the Bailey Guard Entrenchment, and the Chuttur Munzil Palace—confinement to my quarters owing to an injury of the leg, having prevented my superintending them personally.

It now remains for me to bring to the favourable notice of the Major-General commanding, those officers and men, of the Engineer Department, who have rendered good service; and, in the first place, I trust it may not be considered out of order, that I here thankfully record my acknowledgement of the assistance that has always been afforded me by my experienced brother officer, Colonel Napier, Military Secretary and Chief of the Staff to Major-General Sir James Outram, G.C.B., who, notwithstanding the pressure of his other important duties, was ever ready to aid me with his valuable counsel and advice, to meet my constant demands for workmen and materials, and to superintend and direct the works, during the last month of our operations, when I was disabled from personally superintending them myself.

Lieutenant G. Hutchinson, of Engineers, deserves very great credit for the very able manner in which he discharged the duties of Directing Engineer of the works, during the last ten days of our operations. His services, as one of the engineers of the original garrison, will be duly reported by the proper authority.

Lieutenant Russell, of Engineers, has rendered me very efficient aid as Brigade-Major of Engi-

neers; his constant and unwearying exertions, both by night and by day, merit my best thanks and the highest praise.

Lieutenant Limond, the only other engineer officer under my command, has also proved himself a very able and energetic officer, and has rendered very excellent service. To him, and to Lieutenant Russell, was entrusted the general supervision of all the works from the time that I was disabled, until the appointment of Lieutenant Hutchinson as Directing Engineer—a period of about three weeks.

The officers and volunteers that have acted in the capacity of Assistant Field Engineers have, without exception, given me their best and readiest assistance; but I may with justice more conspicuously notice the names of Captain Oakes, 8th Native Infantry; Lieutenant Hall, 1st Bengal Fusiliers; Mr. Coldsworthy, Volunteer Cavalry; and of Mr. Cavanagh, Superintendent of the Chief Commissioner's Office.

Serjeants Duffy and Connell, Assistant Overseers in the Department of Public Works, have proved most useful, and their duties in supervising workmen and collecting materials, &c., &c., have been most cheerfully and efficiently performed.

I cannot close this report, without noticing, in the most favourable manner, the important services performed by the under-mentioned soldiers, as superintendents of miners:—

Acting-Serjeant Cullimore,	} Her Majesty's 32nd Regiment.
"    "    Banetta,	
"    "    Farrer,	
Corporal Dowling,	
Corporal Hosey, Madras Fusiliers.	
Private Baylan, Her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers.	

Their duties have been of a very dangerous and arduous character, and have invariably been performed to my complete satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

W. A. CROMMELIN, Captain,  
Chief Engineer, Oude Field Force.

No: 15.

*Lieutenant G. Hutchinson, Engineers, Director of Works, to Captain Crommelin, Engineers, Chief Engineer.*

SIR, *Lucknow, November 21, 1857.*

I HAVE the honour to forward Lieutenant Limond's statement, regarding the sortie party he led; also that of Lieutenant Hall.

With reference to my own party, I have to state that, starting from the Garden picquet-house, Captain Shute and myself led the party to foot of stockade, which we scaled, and that then I turned off at once for the house called Captain Orr's, and, in unison with Lieutenant Hall and Lieutenant Hay, who accompanied me, commenced carrying out our instructions. Up to this time not a man had been lost. Captain Shute led his men on beyond the Hern Khana, and took a garden and a gun.

Our mines exploded short; but the mine from the garden picquet decidedly shook and damaged the wall.

Communication with the garden was completed during the night, and all barricades, loop-holes, &c.

I have, &c.

G. HUTCHINSON, Lieutenant,  
Director of Works.