

return to the entrenchments, which it effected by nearly the same route as that by which it had advanced.

The party which remained with Lieutenant Anderson, at the house first attacked, prevented the enemy still on it from doing us much injury on our return, otherwise our loss might have been most serious. The separation of the whole party into the two bodies, which was the previous cause of the failure in destroying the guns, is entirely attributable to an advance having been made from that house without the direction of the proper guide.

J. McLEOD INNES, Lieutenant,
Engineers.

NOTE.—This sortie was designed to attack the Garden Battery, and it appears from the experience gained in a subsequent attack (1st, 2nd and 3rd November) that the strength of the party was quite inadequate to accomplish the object required. The real cause of the failure in bursting the gun that was taken possession of, instead of spiking, appears to have been the delay in bringing up the bursting party.

Had the house alluded to by Lieutenant Innes been taken possession of, instead of being merely passed through, and measures taken to reconnoitre the ground in advance before the party proceeded, it is probable that the result would have been more satisfactory, and that at all events the captured guns would have been effectually destroyed; but without a much larger body of men, the complete conquest and destruction of the whole Garden Battery could not have been accomplished.

J. C. ANDERSON, Lieutenant,
Garrison Engineer.

No. 33.

*Major C. Apthorp, Commanding the Reserve, to
Captain Anderson, Engineers.*

SIR, Lucknow, October 20, 1857.

AGREEABLY to your request, I have the honor to forward a Report of the proceedings of the party, as per margin*, under my command, during the sortie of the 29th ultimo. We assembled in the third Sikh square, a little before daybreak, as a reserve to an attacking party, under command of Captain Hardinge, who, when he had taken the guns in front of the brigade mess, advanced to his right to take a gun situated in a strong position in the middle of a lane, to the left front of Mr. Gubbins's house. He placed his men in a flanking position, and came to me for a party to advance and take some houses to the right and left of the lane, from which there was a heavy fire. I advanced through the breach in the Sikh square, with Lieutenant Ouseley, 48th Regiment Native Infantry, Lieutenant the Honorable J. Fraser, and 35 men, and led them up the lane to the front of the enemy's stockade. I took up a position with four or five men, and fired on several of the enemy who were trying to escape. Lieutenant Ouseley, the Honorable J. Fraser, and several men got over the stockade, and the party under Captain Hardinge came forward, and the gun, a six-pounder, pointed towards him, was taken possession of. One of our men was killed as we reached the stockade, and one wounded a short time after. 14 or 15 of the enemy were killed, 9 of them in two huts to the right and left of the lane. I left this party of the reserve under command of the Honorable J. Fraser, and went back

to the remainder of the reserve, which I found had advanced from the Sikh square, under Captain Galwey, and we proceeded down the lane and took up forward positions in a house which Captain Forbes, 1st Light Cavalry, and his Sikh Orderly, had examined and reported empty. There was a strong party of the enemy to our left front, who kept up a heavy fire. I placed part of the men under Captain Galwey in front of the house; another party, under Captain Forbes, took possession of the upper story of the house; and I detached a third party to take possession of a barricade across the street, a little to our right front. Our loss here was one killed and one wounded. Five or six of the men from this position got into a large house still further in advance, and I went and examined the house, and found, after getting into the lower story, that the enemy had begun two mines, the shafts of which were sunk to a considerable depth. I reported this to Lieutenant Innes, the Executive Engineer, who on examination, decided on blowing them up. Being short of men, I ordered a party of ten, under Serjeant-Major Donovan, to come down our centre bastion and occupy the house where the mines were. He remained in charge till the mines were blown up. During the time I was thus occupied, Lieutenant Ouseley rendered great service by capturing a gun, which had checked the advance of the party to which he was attached, by being planted at the end of a very narrow lane, about 60 or 70 yards long. Lieutenant Ouseley, accompanied by Serjeant Higgins and four men of the 1st Madras Fusiliers, went through a number of houses and narrow passages to the right of the lane, and finding their further progress stopped by a very high and steep bastion, where they distinctly heard the voices of the enemy, they ascended it, led by the above-named officer, found it unoccupied, and rushed across it into a house, from which they fired down upon and killed two out of some 40 men assembled below them, and raising a cheer routed the enemy, and took possession of the gun, without losing a man, or giving the enemy the power of discharging the piece, to which drag-ropes were attached to enable the enemy to pull it round the nearest corner, should we attempt to charge it. A party of 8 or ten men, from Captain Galwey's position, under Lieutenant Cleveland, reinforced Lieutenant Ouseley, and after the gun had been removed, they retired, and the bastion was blown up. Afterwards two small guns were found in a lane close to this battery, and taken possession of by Lieutenants Ouseley and Aitken, 13th Regiment Native Infantry. The three were dismantled from their carriages and were sent into the garrison, and the carriages broken up and burnt. Our loss at this point was one killed and two wounded—one of the latter, Mr. Lucas, whose zeal and gallantry on every occasion during the siege every one has heard of. About 11 o'clock we returned into garrison, having examined and cleared the guns from the whole of the front of Mr. Gubbins's house. We had not time or men to examine the houses in front of our centre bastion, which I much regret, as there are constant reports from the men that mining is going on, but I have no good reason to suppose so, as I have invariably, when called, found the houses unoccupied, and heard no noises that would lead me to suppose that mining was going on.

I have, &c.,
C. APTHORP, Major,
Commanding the Reserve.

* 1 Major, 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 100 men 1st Madras Fusiliers.