

the Commander-in-Chief, the conduct of every officer and of every soldier present was alike remarkable for courage, cool and collected, in the hours of action, and sustained with unflinching durance during thirteen days and nights of incessant watching and exhausting and laborious duty. The thanks of Government are especially due to Captain Simpson, who commanded on this trying and difficult occasion, and to all those who so honourably served under his orders.

No. 10.

January 9, 1858.

No. 47 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council has very great satisfaction in publishing, for the information of the army, the following report made to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief by Brigadier Stuart, commanding the Malwa Field Force (now 1st Brigade Nerbudda Field Force), of his successful operations against the insurgents assembled near Mundisore, during four days, from the 21st to the 24th November last :—

No. 11.

No. 201 of 1857.

*Brigadier Stuart, commanding Malwa Field Force, to the Adjutant-General of the Army, Bombay.*

Sir, *Camp Mundisore, 30th November, 1857.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 25th and 26th instant, I have now the honour to forward the reports, and to communicate, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, full particulars of the successful operations in which the Malwa Field Force, and the Field Force Hyderabad Contingent under command of Major Orr, were engaged on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th instant, against the rebel enemy in the vicinity of Mundisore.

2. On the morning of the 21st November, this force, accompanied by the Field Force Hyderabad Contingent, which, as I have already reported, is co-operating with me under command of Major Orr, arrived within three miles and a half of Mundisore about 9 A.M., and as I had no good information as to the roads or the country in the immediate vicinity of the town, nor as to the fords of the river Sowna, which it was necessary to cross before reaching the town, I determined upon encamping until a good reconnoissance had been effected. The rebel enemy at Mundisore, hearing of our approach, had posted picquets entirely covering the country over which we were advancing, and observing our picquets thrown out, they mustered in some force outside the walls of the town, and appeared inclined to attack. I, however, contented myself with reinforcing the picquets, and leaving the whole charge of the front to Major Robertson, 25th Regiment Native Infantry. The field officer of the day returned to camp about 3 o'clock P.M. I received intimation from him that the enemy were advancing in force, and threatening both our flanks and centre at same time. I accordingly moved out to meet them. They advanced steadily, with banners flying, and appeared in great numbers. On approaching our right front, however, they were most gallantly charged by Lieutenant Dew, Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, who, with some of his men, occupied that ground as a picquet. Captain

Orr, commanding 3rd Regiment Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent, supported Lieutenant Dew, and the enemy were driven back with great loss; and before our guns, which had quickly moved up, could open upon them, the attack on our centre was repulsed by a few rounds of our artillery, whilst that on the left was successfully met by the field force under Major Orr. The enemy, having been thus driven back at all points, were pursued for some distance—in fact until they nearly reached the walls of the town; and nothing further occurred that day.

3. Having received intelligence from the Governor-General's agent that the portion of the rebel army before Neemuch, amounting to about 5000, would probably raise the siege of that place, and endeavour to effect a junction with their headquarters at Mundisore, I determined to frustrate this, by intercepting them. Accordingly, early on the morning of the 22nd instant, I moved forward my force in order of battle. Our advance was unopposed, and on my left flank reaching the village of Kuljepore, I made a flank movement to the left, as previously determined on, leaving the advance guard to cover it, and to reinforce the rear guard, as we crossed the Bakri ford of the river Sowna, about 1,400 yards to the south-west of the town of Mundisore. Thus secured, the movement was safely effected, opposed only by a slight and ineffective fire from a gun on one of the south-west bastions of the town. I then encamped, facing the west of the town, my flanks well protected by the two branches of the river, and my line running at right angles to the right of Sir Thomas Hislop's camp in 1817. Just previous to the camp being marked out, it was reported that cavalry were seen on the left, and Major Orr, taking the 1st Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent under Captain Abbott, and 4th Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent under Captain Murray, saw about 300 horse, supposed to be under Heera Sing, endeavouring to draw them off in a north-westerly direction, but keeping at too great a distance to allow of being attacked. Reinforcements of cavalry were sent for, and whilst the left wing of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons under Captain Gall, and 3rd Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent under Lieutenant Clerk, were moving up, intelligence was brought to Major Orr that Heera Sing's baggage had just left the village of Goraria, on the Neemuch road. The object of Heera Sing's party to draw our cavalry away from his baggage thus being apparent, Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons, the 1st Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent, and the 4th Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent, galloped off in pursuit, the 3rd Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent remaining as a reserve. They caught up the enemy about two miles south of Peepia, and, after cutting up about 200 of them, halted at a nulla a mile to the south of that village. On perceiving it strongly occupied by the enemy's infantry, who showed many standards, they then returned to camp.

4. Feeling assured that the infantry seen in Peepia formed the advance guard of the enemy, I moved at 8 o'clock A.M. on the 23rd instant by my left, and crossed the northern branch of the river Sowna. I then halted my column, and collected all my baggage on the reverse flank, then moving on to my proposed camp on the Neemuch and Mundisore road, ready to oppose the enemy either from one or the other direction. On coming on to the ground, the enemy appeared in great force to the north; so, ordering my baggage to be collected on a strong mound, I strongly reinforced my rear guard and proceeded to meet them. After a short advance, I formed line to my front, facing northwards, and found the enemy occupying a very strong position, with their right in and beyond