

I therefore beg leave to submit, for the information of his Excellency, a Report recently received from Major McIntyre, Her Majesty's 78th Regiment, of the occupation and defence of Alumbagh, from the 25th of September, when he was placed in command of that post by the late Major-General Sir H. Havelock, K.C.B., until the arrival of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief's force.

During the earlier portion of Major McIntyre's occupation of Alumbagh, whilst cut off from communication with Cawnpore, uncertain of the fate of the rest of the force from the moment when he lost sight of it in the suburbs of Lucknow, and surrounded by a numerous enemy, his command was one of grave and anxious responsibility; and the firm and able manner in which he used his small resources to repulse the attacks of the enemy, to strengthen his defences, and overcome the difficulties of his situation, and the cheerful conduct of the troops under laborious duties, merit my cordial acknowledgments, and will, I feel sure, meet with his Excellency's approbation.

I beg to second most strongly the recommendation which Major McIntyre makes in favor of his second in command, Major Sibley, who commanded at Alumbagh, during three weeks, whilst Major McIntyre was on the sick list; also of the several officers of the Staff, or commanding detachments, favorably mentioned by Major McIntyre.

I also beg permission to submit Brigadier Eyre's Report of the Artillery operations of the Oude field force, from the 21st of September to the 24th of November, which I have recently received. I beg now to recommend the several officers mentioned by Brigadier Eyre, whose names have not already been submitted for the favorable notice of Government, for their service under their distinguished commander, particularly Lieutenant A. Fraser, Brigade Major of Artillery, whose name, I regret to find, was omitted, but whose gallantry and very zealous services deserved favorable notice.

Captain Evans, of the Bombay Native Infantry, doing duty with the Artillery, was of much service in the Artillery park, at the evacuation of the Residency of Lucknow.

Lieutenant T. H. Harward, of the Artillery, performed good service as Commissary of Ordnance at Cawnpore, and during the march to Alumbagh.

Lieutenant J. Anderson, of the Engineers, commanding Engineers of the Lucknow garrison, though confined to his couch by illness, never ceased to exert himself to supply the Engineer Department with materials, and Lieutenant J. M. Innes gave very valuable aid in the mining operations until he was also disabled by ill-health and fatigue.

The services of Captain Maycock, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, were highly appreciated by the late Sir H. Havelock, and his personal attendance on myself during the march to Alumbagh in the actions of the 21st and 23rd September, deserved my thanks and commendation.

I have, &c.

J. OUTRAM, Major-General,
Commanding in Oude.

No. 26.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel McIntyre, 78th Highlanders, to Colonel R. Napier, Chief of the Staff with the Force under Major-General Sir J. Outram.

Camp, near Alumbagh,

January 3, 1858.

SIR,
HAVING been directed to report upon the circumstances attending the occupation and defence

No. 22120.

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of the Alumbagh, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Major-General commanding, that on the advance of the force on Lucknow, on the 25th of September last, under the late Major-General Sir Henry Havelock, K.C.B., I was appointed by that officer to the command of the place, with detachments of regiments, consisting of about 280 Europeans, some Sikhs, and four guns. In it were placed the sick of the force, amounting to 128 men, of whom 64 were wounded, the baggage, commissariat, treasure chest, reserve ordnance park, and a large quantity of small-arm ammunition.

The native followers, Government and otherwise, could not have amounted to fewer than between 4,000 and 5,000 persons, with an enormous number of cattle of various descriptions. The supply of food for the native followers did not exceed the consumption of a few days, and we had little or nothing for the cattle but what could be procured by foraging parties. Fortunately, some crops of rice and other grain, nearly ripe, were on the ground sufficiently near to enable us to gather them under the protection of our guns. As these became consumed, the sufferings of the native followers from want became, I regret to say, very great. Anything that could be thought of was done to alleviate them. Driven by starvation to seek for food too far in advance of our foraging parties, numbers were cut up by the enemy, who surrounded us. The efforts made to relieve their wants from Cawnpore, were for a considerable time unsuccessful, as even quill communications by cossids failed to reach their destination; however, on the 7th October, a convoy of provisions, escorted by a party of 250 men and two guns, and commanded by Major Bingham, Her Majesty's 64th Regiment, reached us from Cawnpore, and on the 25th of the same month, a large convoy, intended for Lucknow, escorted by 500 men and four guns, under the command of Major Barnston, Her Majesty's 90th Regiment, reached the Alumbagh. Those enabled me to relieve, to a certain extent, the wants of the native followers. 150 men of Major Bingham's party were ordered to remain to reinforce the garrison, and 100 to return to Cawnpore by a forced night march, to escort return cattle.

Major Barnston's detachment was ordered, after having rested for a day or two, to return to Cawnpore. As the enemy had, however, appeared in very great numbers, and had become more daring than usual, I took upon myself the responsibility of detaining them, which turned out fortunately, for in a day or two I received an order to do so, permanently. This gave me a force of 900 Europeans and ten guns, which enabled me to increase my foraging parties, and then range.

To take steps for the immediate defence of my post was my first care, and I made use of every available means to accomplish it. Subsequently more permanent works were ably constructed by Lieutenant Judge, of the Engineers, assisted by Mr. Tait, Civil Engineer, attached to that Department. These were partially completed, only; however, bastions at the angles, and a banquette besides, were so, and the mango topes cut down in all directions round the post.

The enemy constructed batteries, at different periods, at five different points around us, and their fire was at times exceedingly annoying, and destructive to the native followers and cattle, but their necessarily crowded state; but I am happy to say that during the period of our holding the position—forty-nine days—one European soldier only was killed, and two wounded.

Jellalabad occupied in force by the Cavalry, Infantry, and four guns—formed

