

Victoria Cross, by his cool intrepidity and daring skill, in assisting to extricate one of the guns from its desperate position. Colonel Napier also speaks in high terms of Lieutenant Fraser's exertions on this occasion.

11. On succeeding to the command of the Brigade, I appointed Lieutenant Fraser my Brigade-Major, and found him most efficient; in fact, I cannot speak too warmly of his soldierly zeal and devotion, which, thenceforward down to the present time, I have had constant opportunities of witnessing, and I regard him as a young officer of the highest promise.

12. Being, myself, prostrated by fever for several weeks after our relief of the Lucknow garrison, the temporary command of the Artillery was most effectively exercised by Captain Olpherts, whose well-tryed abilities always prove equal to every emergency. During the interval of seven weeks that elapsed until the happy arrival of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief's force, the Artillery was chiefly occupied in defensive warfare against foes whose numerical strength and advantages of position enabled them to surround and worry us at every point.

13. Owing to the paucity of our numbers from casualties, and the great extent of our position; this involved a very great amount of labour for the Artillery, who were on continuous duty at their guns without any relief, besides working hard in the construction of fresh batteries whenever required. Under all their fatigues, privations, and dangers, the best spirit prevailed, from first to last, among the men, who considered no sacrifices too great for the accomplishment of the noble end in view, viz., the deliverance of their countrywomen and wounded comrades from the worst of fates.

14. It is satisfactory, too, to be able to state that the native establishments attached to field batteries, consisting of Gun Lascars, Horse and Bullock-drivers, Syces and Grass-cutters, behaved most loyally; though suffering as severely as any of the troops in killed and wounded, yet none deserted! Sirdar Driver Gungoo and Naik Darsun, of the Syce Drivers (killed by a round shot), both of No. 12 Light Field Battery, were particularly noted for their loyal devotion.

15. On the 16th November, the near approach of the Commander-in-chief's force was the signal for renewed offensive operations on our side. These have been already alluded to, in the late Sir H. Havelock's despatch of that date. Our object was to drive the enemy from certain strong positions which he occupied between us and the advancing columns; and in this we entirely succeeded, thereby greatly facilitating the junction of the two forces, and saving the valuable lives of our soldiers.

16. The batteries, which had been for some time previously constructed for this purpose, were concealed behind a lofty wall, forming the boundary of our position in that quarter. On them were mounted four 18-pounder iron guns, one 8-inch iron howitzer, four 9-pounder field guns, and two 24-pounder field howitzers, under the skilful direction of Captain Olpherts, Lieutenants Fraser and Smithett (the latter twice wounded, and distinguished on several occasions), and Staff-Serjeant Melville, of the 1st Company, 5th Battalion. In position behind were six 8-inch mortars, under Captain Maude, Royal Artillery, most ably assisted by Lieutenants Maitland (Royal Artillery) and Simpson and Ward, of the Bengal Native Infantry, the two latter being volunteers, well-instructed in Artillery science.

17. At the appointed time, large openings were effected, by the united force of mines and breaches, in the screen wall in our front, and the batteries opened an excessively hot fire for three hours on

the buildings beyond, which were occupied in considerable force by the enemy. Sufficient impression having been thus made, and mines having been exploded by the engineers in several contiguous quarters, storming parties rushed out at 3 P.M., and quickly carried all before them, with trifling loss.

18. During the night, the Artillery pushed forward their heavy guns to the advanced positions thus gained, when some batteries were rapidly constructed from which to open on the King's palace, now within easy breaching distance. On the 17th, our 8-inch howitzer shelled the Tara Kotee and Mess-house with great effect, setting fire to the former, and materially assisting the attack of the advancing force on the opposite side, although, perhaps unknown to them, as it must have been difficult for them to distinguish our distant fire from that of the enemy.

19. On the 18th, a junction having been effected between the two forces on the previous night, a joint bombardment took place of the King's Palace, in the outer wall of which several large breaches were rapidly effected, and great havoc made in the principal buildings behind it. This was continued at intervals, on the two following days, with great loss of life to the enemy crowding within, as was subsequently ascertained, and there can be little doubt that, had it suited our plan of operations, we might have at once walked into the place, and occupied the palace, with comparatively little loss. But the great object we had in view having been triumphantly accomplished in the safe rescue of the sick, wounded, and women from their recent perils, any longer delay at Lucknow was considered inexpedient until they should be safely conducted beyond the reach of their merciless foes; and on the night of the 22nd we effected our final evacuation of the entrenchment.

20. Measures had been previously adopted for the removal or destruction of all our spare ordnance, ammunition, and military stores. This entailed no ordinary amount of labour and physical endurance on the part of those to whose lot it fell to convey so many ponderous carriages, by manual force, through the narrow and intricate mazes of the Chuttur Munzil and Furhut Bux Palaces—a duty in which the Artillery were cheerfully aided by their Infantry comrades, who on all occasions have volunteered their services, both for ordinary labour, and also for the higher obligation of manning the guns, when circumstances required.

21. Our hearty acknowledgments are also due to our scientific brethren of the Engineers, for their cordial and effective co-operation, to which we are no doubt indebted greatly, for whatever success has attended our efforts.

22. Lieutenant Thomas, Madras Artillery, Commissary of Ordnance, I always found indefatigable in his duties, which were latterly very severe, as on him devolved the laborious preparations for removing our magazine, and destroying such guns and military stores as we were unable to carry away. With a very small establishment he effected all this as satisfactorily as could be expected. Lieutenant J. Alexander, Artillery, of the Lucknow garrison, also worked zealously with the guns in position, and deserves creditable mention.

23. Before concluding this Report, I wish to record the excellent services rendered to the Artillery by Captain Evans, of the Bombay Infantry who commanded with great credit several guns in position in the entrenchment, and whose zeal and devotion were conspicuous. Also those of Lieutenant Ouseley, of the Bengal Native Infantry, who likewise attached himself to the guns, and rendered himself extremely useful.

24. Surgeon Irvine and Assistant-Surgeon J. J