

arrangements for attacking them, which was not easy, as my force was already engaged in an operation, for which, in former times, a force of four times their strength was considered necessary. However I was on the point of marching against Chunderapoor, when two spies I had sent out during the night, came in and reported that the enemy had left that place for Barodia.

On visiting the Eedgah, Brigadier Stuart reported to me that about 4 o'clock A.M., the enemy had attempted to make a sortie from the main gate, which he had driven back with Captain Lightfoot's 9-pounders. A Bhopal officer came up, and reported that he had cut up twenty-five out of fifty of the garrison, who had attempted to force their way by his patrol. Colonel Liddell reported also at the same time, that judging from the stillness in the fort that its garrison were escaping, he had entered it by the uncompleted breach with part of the 3rd Europeans, who after receiving some shots from the few rebels still there, had killed them and taken possession of the fort. The main body fled by an ancient sally-port and a hole dug under the parapet to the south west, from which, when I entered the fort, the ropes were hanging by which they had let themselves down. The reports of all the officers on duty state that these rebels, crossing a ford over the Beena, to the south-west, under the Bhopal camp, passed through the Bhopal lines into the jungle. The Bhopal troops fired a few shots at the fugitives; two or three of their dead baggage-animals in this ford showed the track they had taken. The Bhopal troops have been, and are still so useful to me, that I merely mention this circumstance, which is nothing out of the way, amongst oriental troops, out of justice to my own force.

The garrison, stated to be 400 or 500 in number, had, although many of them were warlike valaites and pattians, despite of their determination that they would hold Rathghur or die, not been able to stand the shelling, or meet the approaching assault. I am glad to say that the investment of the rock prevented the escape, and caused the capture of most of the chief rebels, and of many of the rest. Mahomed Fazil Khan, a relation of the Regent of Bhopal, and the Military Chief of the rebels in these districts, and all his staff, such as they were, attempted to cross the Beena, but seeing the vedettes of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons on the other bank, turned back, and hid themselves in a cave under the rock where they were captured. The vedettes and pickets round the rock, those of Bhopal included, cut down, and took many of the fugitive garrison during the day. I made over eighty prisoners to Sir Robert Hamilton, of whom twenty-four were executed, and forty-eight more to the civil authorities.

Of the cavalry sent in pursuit of the fugitives, the Hyderabad Irregulars came up with, and killed forty of them, this being exclusive of the twenty-five killed by the Bhopal troops. Lieutenant Westmacott, on this occasion, again distinguished himself.

At sunset, Mahomed Fazil Khan, and the Nawab Kamdar Khan, a pensioner of the British Government, and a son of the Great Pindaree Chief, taken by Sir John Malcolm, were hung over the gate of the fort, in presence of detachments of my force. The next day seventeen more, most of them rebels of note, and all part of the garrison of Rathghur, were executed. Two of them, brothers of the Pindaree Chief, had taken part in the murder of the British Assistant at Bereiseeah. Kishen Ram, a secretary of Mohamed Fazil Khan, is stated to have been instrumental in atrocities committed on forty Christians; Wallidad Khan, who admitted on his trial "that he had done all he could, and three times urged Fazil Mahomed to go

down, sword in hand, and attack the camp;" a Talaitre leader, &c.

The Shahzadah of Mundisore was not in the fort, as was proved by an unopened letter from the Rajah of Bampore to his address, found in the fort by an Officer of the 3rd Europeans; he had left it the day of our arrival. In this letter, which is curious, the Rajah gives him the title of King, and deplures that many native Chiefs do not venerate his kingly authority as they ought to do, but have the bad taste to prefer the rule of the Kafir and infidels.

The fort was provided with a fine tank, cut out of the rock, fifty feet deep; and in it were found great stores of salt and grain, sufficient for a year's consumption, a few camels, cattle, and several horses, two of them belonging to Mahomed Fazil Khan, one with a silver bridle, and another to the Shahzadah of Mundisore; a mould for casting cannon and shot, and an immense mass of native correspondence, and English accounts, which I made over to Sir Robert Hamilton. One object was also found which excited indignation, the effigy of the head of a decapitated European female, which it appears these supporters of a change of rule in India, carried before their troops, as fitting emblems of their deeds. Notwithstanding this, and all that has passed, far worse than this, the 3rd Europeans, when they entered the fort, treated the women and numerous children of the rebels, who were left there, with the humanity which was to be expected from their discipline and their faith. I had enjoined the troops, for the honour of their country and the army, not to harm a woman or child.

I beg to bring to his Excellency's favourable consideration the zealous and able support which I have received before Rathghur from Brigadier Stuart, Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, commanding the Artillery, and Major Boileau, commanding the Engineers, and which contributed so materially to the success of the operations against it, as well as the discipline, courage, and thorough good will of the troops engaged in them.

Anxious not to lose a day in relieving Saugor, I made continued marches without a halt. The troops, on account of the difficulties of supply, were at times twenty-four hours without rations, and four days on duty before Rathghur without a relief, defending their camp against a numerous enemy, in a dangerous country on their flanks and rear, attacking with all their energy, and taking, in three days, a fort, strong by nature and art, in their front, which Scindia, with a force of at least four times their strength, besieged for five months.

I shall have the honour to make favourable mention of the services of my staff in a future report.

I beg leave to enclose a return of the Oude Artillery found in the fort, and of the casualties in my force before Rathghur.

The troops took three large standards, two of which bore the red extended hand, the device of Mahomedan rebellion.

I beg to offer my excuses for the length of this report, which is caused by the varied nature of the operations. I cannot conclude it without returning my sincere thanks to his Excellency and to Lord Elphinstone for having made my force as complete as circumstances would possibly allow, and for the very great kindness with which you have attended to all my requests on this subject.

Enclosed is the extract of a memorandum from Sir Robert Hamilton to me,

I have, &c.,

H. ROSE, Major-General,  
Commanding Central India Field Force.