

and that Lieutenant Nuttall is himself entitled to much commendation for the intelligent and spirited manner in which he conducted the operations.

I have, &c.,  
**GEORGE PLOWDEN,**  
 Commissioner.

No. 70.

*Captain W. H. Crichton, Officiating Deputy-Commissioner, Chanda, to George Plowden, Esq., Commissioner of Nagpore.*

Chanda, June 14, 1858.

SIR,

No. 81.

I HAVE the honor to forward copy of a letter from Lieutenant Nuttall, Commanding the detachment of the 2nd Regiment Nagpore Irregular Infantry, which was out with me quelling the disturbances in the Ghote and Arpeillee Zemindaree, and I take the opportunity of bringing to your favorable notice the hearty co-operation I have received from Lieutenant Nuttall, as well as the excellent conduct of all ranks composing his detachment. Indeed, I cannot speak too highly of their willingness on every occasion.

2. The party who manned the guns deserve especial mention; they reached Tarsa, a distance of 48 miles, on the 3rd day after leaving Chanda; the bullocks, like the men, were unaccustomed to moving a gun about, and, to make matters worse, all the drivers had absconded; however, from the zeal and activity of the Sepoys, who took the place of the drivers, feeding and taking care of the bullocks, &c., &c., the gun and ammunition waggon were moved about from place to place over bad roads, with a steady regularity which did the men much credit.

I have, &c.,  
**W. H. CRICHTON,** Officiating  
 Deputy-Commissioner.

No. 71.

*Lieutenant Nuttall to Captain Crichton, the Officiating Deputy-Commissioner, Chanda District.*

SIR,

I HAVE now the honor to forward, for your information, a detailed account of the work done by the detachment under my command from the morning of the 26th April, 1858, the day I joined your camp, up to the 20th May, 1858, the day the force under the command of Captain Shakespear arrived.

Having joined your camp at Tarsa on the morning of the 26th April, 1858, with the detachment strength as per margin,\* along with a small hospital and bazar establishment, I, the same evening, at your request, detached guards, strength as per margin, to the villages of Dhabba, Seonee, and Nandgaon, and moved my camp along with that of your own to the village of Ashtee, situated on the eastern bank of the Wein Gunga river; at daylight, on the following morning, I started along with you *en route* to the village of Arpeillee, with the rifle company as an advanced guard, leaving the Grenadier Company to escort the baggage a short distance in rear, as also No. 6 Company as the rear guard. After proceeding about 6 miles, and close to the village of Bemunpett, 4 sowars, who were riding about 30 yards at the head of the detachment, came suddenly on a band of 200 armed men, lying down behind the

\* 3 subadars, 3 jemadars, 18 havildars, 18 naiques, 3 drummers, 3 fifers, and 300 privates. Dhabba: 1 havildar, 1 naique, and 12 privates. Seonee: 1 naique and 6 privates. Nandgaon: 1 havildar, 1 naique, and 12 privates.

wooded bund of a tank; they opened fire on the sowars, who galloped back to me, and reported the circumstance. On this, I halted the Rifle Company to allow of the Grenadier Company joining us, which it did almost immediately. I then extended the right sub-division of the Rifle Company as skirmishers, and, with the left sub-division and Grenadier Company as supports, advanced on the bund; on our nearing the bund of the tank, a smart fire was opened on the skirmishers by the insurgents, who were under cover of the trees on the bund of the tank; on getting within about 20 yards of the bund, I charged the same with the skirmishers, who topped it with a cheer; the insurgents fled in every direction, leaving behind them a bag of gunpowder, 2 daggers, 3 spears, some clothes, cooking utensils, as also a packet of letters. I followed them up for some distance through the dense jungle bordering the tank; but they broke and dispersed in every direction, and, although we scoured the jungle, yet could find no trace of them, so I closed the skirmishers on the supports, and, bringing all the things they had abandoned with me, I rejoined you at the village of Bemunpett.

On my rejoining you, after your having perused the letters I had seized, you informed me that, from the contents of the letters, as also from the information you had received regarding two or three other strong parties being in the vicinity of the river bank, you deemed it advisable to return to our old encamping ground at Tarsa, so as to be able to protect the frontier of your districts. I accordingly did so, and again encamped at Tarsa, the men having been under arms for upwards of 9 hours. On your informing me, the following morning, that, from the reports you had received, you considered the rebels mustered about 1,000 or 1,200 men, as also that there were two mud-forts, one at Arpeillee, and the other at Ghote, as also that the insurgents had several wall-pieces with them, I brought to your notice the advisability of having a gun brought out from Chanda, as also a reinforcement of another company of infantry, so as to be able to establish such a strong line of posts along the frontier, that it would be impossible for the rebels to enter your district. The following morning, viz., the 23rd April, I started with two full companies at 4 o'clock A.M., and visited the villages of Nandgaon, Kownserrie, and Kurrowlie, but did not fall in with any of the rebels.

On the 30th April, 1st and 2nd of May, not having received any more information as to the exact whereabouts of the rebels, with the exception of sending a patrol up and down the river, remained inactive, but, on the evening of the same day, the gun, with a complete company of infantry, both of which left Chanda on the 30th April, having arrived, I, the following morning, viz., 3rd May, established a strong line of posts at the villages of Nandgaon, Dhabba, and Tarsa, which, with a detachment sent from Chanda to Chummoorsee, strength as per margin\*, in my opinion, quite protected the frontier of the Chanda district, facing the rebel zemindaree. On the evening of the same day, crossed the river with the gun and the remainder of the detachment, as also your own camp. Shortly after the men had piled arms, a very severe storm of wind and rain came on, which, in a quarter of an hour, had turned the black cotton soil into a sea of mud; as the men had no tents, and as the old encamp-

\* Nandgaon: 1 jemadar, 2 havildars, 2 naiques, 30 privates. Dhabba: 1 jemadar, 1 havildar, 2 naiques, 30 privates. Tarsa: 1 jemadar, 4 havildars, 3 naiques, 52 privates. Chammoorsee: 1 subadar, 1 jemadar, 5 havildars, 4 naiques, 70 privates.