

armed with firelocks, and 300 budmashes. The Sikhs captured some six horses, which I believe to be Dak horses.

On the road home some of the men picked up torn shreds of letters and envelopes, which I have in possession.

I have, &c.,
W. T. PFTO, Major, 73rd Regiment.

No. 3.

GENERAL ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL OF INDIA.

No. 342 of 1858.

Allahabad, August 7th, 1858.
Military Department.

THE Right Honorable the Governor-General is pleased to direct the publication of the following despatch from Brigadier Rowcroft, Commanding Sarun Field Force, No. 253, dated 27th April, 1858, reporting the operations of that force against the rebels at Belwa, in the Goruckpore district, on the 25th April last, and subsequent skirmishes with them.

No. 4.

Brigadier F. Rowcroft, Commanding Sarun Field Force, to the Secretary, Government of India, in the Military Department.

Camp, Captaingunge, District of Goruckpore, April 27th, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report to you, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor-General, that several contradictory reports were brought in by spies, on the morning of the 25th instant, regarding the enemy at Belwa. One was that two guns, one of them a horse field-battery gun, had been sent, with about 200 Sepoys and some Irregulars, by the Rajah Dabee Bux, to Gonda, the afternoon before, and that he himself and the rest of the force, with the other field-battery gun and three or four other guns, were to follow the same evening or next morning. Another report came in that there was a large body of the enemy, with several Sowars, out in front of our left, not far from camp. Shortly after, it was reported that the enemy were advancing on us in three columns, but no guns. The enemy had deceived the spies, for in the evening after dark the guns and men sent to Gonda returned to Belwa. I ordered out the force immediately, being always ready to stand to our arms, and moved out a little in front of Amorah and our camp, to meet and attack the enemy. Other reports soon came in that the rebels were coming down in force, in three separate columns, considerably separated, on our right, centre and left. This obliged me to divide my already small force into two columns. The left column I detached with Major Cox, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, and Captain Sotheby, R.N., Commanding Naval Brigade, with two guns, 12-pounder howitzers, one a small mountain train gun, taking the other two with me. We moved, separating to the right and left. The left column first came into action with the enemy. The Sowars and body of rebels on our right soon gave way as I advanced with the right column, and I ordered a couple of 24-pounder rockets, under the superintendence

* All ranks. 2 12-pounder howitzers, 2 mountain train ditto, 155 Naval Brigade, 246 Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, 188 Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, 338 Gorucknath Goorkha Regiment, and 45 Bengal Police Battalion.

of Lieutenant Grant, R.N., to be thrown into a large body of the enemy, in a wood and village, creating great confusion among them, and causing them rapidly to retire. My move to the right, no doubt, also shook, and tended to the retreat before our left column, of the centre of the enemy with their two field battery guns, a 12-pounder howitzer and a 9-pounder, firing our own government shot, shell and shrapnell. I pressed on more completely to drive the enemy back, and the left column moved to their left, after a large body of the enemy with guns. Receiving reports from Major Cox, by orderly troopers and Dr. Kirwan, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, that the enemy were in force on his left, I retraced my move, and proceeded to form a junction with the left column across country for about two miles, and over very bad ground for guns. On reaching the left column I formed up in line on their right, immediately sending forward skirmishers from the 13th Light Infantry and Naval Column. This reinforcement and movement, and Captain Sotheby advancing with his two guns, and the left column moving forward at the same time, shook the enemy into retreat; but this was hardly done when I received an urgent report from a villager that the enemy were again advancing on our right by the Belwa road. Bringing them into our then rear, and directly on our camp, I prepared immediately to move back again to the right with the right column, sending out a patrol of cavalry for information, and sending word of this to Major Cox and Captain Sotheby, and that I must leave them to deal with the enemy, on the left. I was obliged to return with the loss of a part of the 13th Light Infantry, and my portion of the Naval Column, who had got considerably in advance skirmishing, and at Captain Sotheby's request I left him the rockets. Lieutenant Burlton, with his party of 40 Seikhs, left by Major Cox, in his rear, as a support on the Belwa road, till I should join him, I attached to my column. While moving back across country the cavalry patrol came back, confirming the report of the villager. As soon as I crossed the Belwa road I formed up in order our small thin line, with the two guns in the centre, and had just sufficient time for these gallant troops to rest and refresh a little on the ground, and to get water after the great heat and fatigue, when the enemy moved into and occupied a wood and a village to their left in our front, and very shortly opened fire on our line from their two horse battery guns. The 9-pounder shot and shell at first fell short of our line, the former rolling by or through it. I ordered a few skirmishers of the 13th Light Infantry immediately to occupy a wood to our right front, and the right squadron, under Captain Jenkins, the portion of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry then with me, to move from our left by the rear, rapidly round to the right by the wood, and advance and threaten the enemy on their left flank, and to press them as close as possible, and to charge whenever it was practicable. The line was immediately advanced, with the Marines and a few more of the 13th Light Infantry and the Seikhs; as skirmishers in front, to get the two small howitzers within range. After throwing a few shells, and the rifles of the skirmishers beginning to tell on the enemy, and Captain Jenkins, with the right squadron of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, making a bold, steady and rapid movement, within a few hundred yards of the enemy, they retired, but again halted in position and continued their fire. The enemy opened fire repeatedly on the cavalry, and three horses were wounded by a shrapnell shell; but they had no opportunity for an effective charge. Our advance was continued until we got