

ing letter, dated 20th July, 1858, from Brigadier Douglas, C.B., commanding the disturbed districts of Behar and Ghazee-pore, reporting his operations against the rebels in the Ghazee-pore district, from the 16th to the 19th July, 1858.

No. 11.

Brigadier John Douglas, to the Acting Adjutant-General, Her Majesty's Forces in India.

SIR, *Steamer Patna, July 20, 1858.*

I HAVE the honor to state, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that hearing at Dinapore, on the 13th instant, that the post at Beyriah, of 100 Seikh infantry, and 20 Seikh cavalry, was besieged by a force of about 1,000 men, 250 of whom were supposed to be sepoy, I proceeded there on the morning of the 14th, with 200 men, Her Majesty's 10th Foot, and accompanied by Major Sir H. Havelock, and Captain Stevenson; the force had no tents, no baggage of any description. On arriving at Sheopore Ghaut, six miles from Beyriah, I was met by Lieutenant Jennings, 3rd Seikh Cavalry, commanding the post, and Mr. Probyn, joint magistrate of Ghazepore, who informed me that the enemy, after attacking them for two days, had retired to Bulliah, having lost about 20 sepoy. Not wishing to give the men an unnecessary march, I left them at Sheopore, and went up to Beyriah with my staff to inspect it. The house chosen for the troops stands in a large enclosure, with a deep tank on one side, a high wall on another side, a nullah on a third side, and on the fourth small houses. I cannot give too much credit to Lieutenant Jennings and Mr. Probyn, who received great assistance from Mr. Dunne, an indigo planter, for the excellent dispositions for defence made, all the walls loop-holed, breast-works and barricades thrown up, and flanking fire obtained; they had also stored plenty of provisions. At 3 P.M., I marched for Bulliah, and arrived there on the morning of the 16th; the enemy had retired, and were in a tank a few miles off. On being attacked, Captain McMullin, Seikh Police Battalion, commanding the post, had sent express off for reinforcements, and the number of cavalry and infantry sent, principally from Buxar, was unnecessarily large. This party consists of 200 Seikh infantry and 30 Seikh cavalry; the men are at present in a building in an enclosure which has been loop-holed; regular barracks for 300 men will be ready in about a month. Finding so large a number of troops, I at once sent off a force, under command of Major Rolleston, 84th Regiment, consisting of 24 men, 84th, on elephants, 72 men Madras Cavalry, and 3rd Seikh Cavalry under Lieutenant Baker, Police Battalion, and 392 men of the Police Battalion, under Captain McMullin. In about four hours they came up with the enemy and exchanged some shots, but, night coming on, they lost the track. On the morning of the 17th, I proceeded with 20 men, 84th, on elephants, 60 men, 3rd Seikh Cavalry, and 30 men, Military Train, in the same direction as the other force. We came up with Major Rolleston's party about ten o'clock (they not having been able to discover the enemy's track), and all proceeded together. The villagers baffled us in every way as to information, and it was not till the afternoon that Sir Henry Havelock discovered their true track. I sent him on with the native cavalry to endeavour to come up with the enemy, and intercept them, if possible, till the infantry could arrive. Sir Henry Havelock came up with them about 6 P.M.; they

were marching in regular order in column of companies, about 200 strong, the villagers having all left them. He kept as close to their flank as he could, but lost them in the dark. I followed with the Military Train; and the infantry and elephants came on as well as they could, but were totally unable to keep up. The day had been extremely hot, and the march could not have been less than forty miles. It was 8 P.M. when I halted at Munuhar on the Gogra. On the morning of the 18th, Sir Henry Havelock again picked up the track, but so fast had the sepoy marched, that he was ten miles behind them, and his horses were completely beat. On reaching the village of Phursata, in the Azimghur district, he sent back to me for orders, and on my telling him that I could give him no assistance whatever with infantry, he gave up the pursuit. The enemy were at this time making the best of their way through the Azimghur district into Oudh. On the 19th, the force returned to Bulliah, and proceeded to their different stations. I consider great credit is due to Sir Henry Havelock for the untiring zeal and ability he displayed in this pursuit, and none but one so conversant with the language could possibly have tracked out the enemy as he did. I beg to forward Captain McMullin's report from Bulliah. Lieutenant Jennings' report from Beyriah has been sent to Arrah and will be forwarded.

Nominal and numerical casualty returns will be sent in as soon as received.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DOUGLAS, Brigadier.

No. 12.

John McMullin, Captain, Commanding Seikh Police Corps, to Captain Steven, Major of Brigade.

SIR, *Camp, Bulliah, July 16, 1858.*

I HAVE the honor to report, that yesterday, the rebels came down in force, and advanced to within a quarter of a mile of my post, and surrounded it at half-past 6 A.M. On this, I ordered out the cavalry, 30 in number, and 80 men of the detachment under Lieutenant Costley, who advanced very steadily, the enemy doing the same, and when within range, the lieutenant fired a volley into them. On this the firing became general, and the enemy during this time gradually closed round their right into a village close to an entrenchment I had thrown up the previous day. Seeing this, I ordered the village to be fired, and the enemy not finding it tenable, the whole gradually retired at half-past 8 A.M., and took up a strong position on a tank about a mile from my post, where they remained all day; the firing was kept up the whole day between the advanced picquets I had thrown out and the enemy.

I am happy to say that all ranks behaved remarkably well, and only one sepoy was wounded; it is impossible for me to say what number of the enemy were killed and wounded, but several were seen to drop on the right and centre.

Number of the enemy, as far as I could ascertain, 400 sepoy and about 500 men armed with matchlocks and swords.

The enemy hearing of a force advancing to my relief retired during the night.

I have, &c.,

J. McMULLIN, Captain,
Commanding Seikh Police Corps.