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*Admiralty, December 24, 1858.*

**D**ESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, from Captain Sotheby, commanding Her Majesty's ship Pearl's Naval Brigade in India.

*Camp Bustee,  
October 20, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, with much satisfaction, for the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty's information, the accompanying report (Sub-enclosure and 3) from the officers in charge of detachments of the Pearl's Naval Brigade, and feel assured their Lordships will perceive how much they have contributed to the success of this field force. The roads, owing to the floods, were at times nearly impassable, scarcely any carriage being able to move, the guns were transported on elephants.

Much praise is due to the officers and men for their great exertions, in which Brigadier Fisher, in command, fully concurs. In report No. 2, I beg especially to bring to the notice of their Lordships the conduct of John Lee (A.B.), as therein mentioned, as also James Williams (L.S.), captain of the gun, who always presses forward most eagerly.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. S. SOTHEBY,  
Captain,  
Commanding Pearl's Naval Brigade.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 1.

*Camp Bustee,  
September 20, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I left this place at 4 P.M., on the 6th instant, in charge of a portion of the Pearl's Naval Brigade, accompanied by the detachment named in the margin,\* in pursuance of field force orders to march with all expedition to the relief of Bansee.

On reaching Goutah, 12 miles from Bansee, Captain Mulcaster joined with a squadron of

\* PEARL'S NAVAL BRIGADE.  
2 12-pounder howitzers, Mountain Trains, 1 24-pounder rocket, and 73 seamen and marines.

HER MAJESTY'S 13TH LIGHT INFANTRY.  
70 non-commissioned officers, rank and file, under Lieutenant Gillett.

cavalry and took command. We arrived at Bansee on the 8th, having marched 50 miles in 39 hours, and found the enemy had retired on our approach.

The roads were very bad; in many places the men waded through two or three feet of water and once for 3 miles, besides two nullahs and one river to cross. On the 9th, a body of rebels advanced within 3 miles, and in conjunction with Captain Mulcaster, we crossed the Rapteree with a portion of our force, they hearing of our approach retired, but the cavalry were able to cut up 40, principally sepoy. The guns and infantry, with every exertion, could not keep up, owing to the flooded and bad state of the roads, and great heat of the day. Brigadier Fisher, Madras N.I., took the command on the 10th and left Bansee on the 12th, with the view of getting in the rear of the rebels at Burgudwah.

When within three miles of Dumoorlahgunge our advanced guard was fired on by a strong force of rebels posted in a line of works commanding the road.

The guns were speedily got off the elephants, and galloped to the front.

We opened with shell, and were received by a well-directed fire of musketry. The enemy, however, deserted their works very soon, but from the state of the country the cavalry could not act. Having burnt their camp and levelled the works we proceeded to Dumoorlahgunge, on the bank of the Rapteree, halted for the day, and crossed early the following morning, and were marching towards Etawah, when we found the road quite impassable; we, therefore, recrossed, and then heard that the rebels had fallen back to Beshohuer, in the jungle. The object being accomplished, we returned to Bustee on the 17th instant.

I must beg leave to express my great satisfaction at the very willing and cheerful conduct of the officers and men under most trying circumstances.

The great heat of the sun, and the exertion of wading through so much water, and being constantly wet, rendered it most harassing.

The following officers accompanied me, Acting Lieutenant A. W. Ingles, Mr. H. H. Edwards, Midshipman, and Mr. Parkins, Gunner.

I have, &c.,

HENRY GRANT, Commander, R.N.,  
Commanding Detachment of H. M.  
Pearl's Naval Brigade.

Captain Edward S. Sotheby, R.N., C.B.,  
Naval Brigade.