

report, for which I am solely to blame, and for which I beg to offer my respectful apologies to the Commander-in-Chief in India, I must adduce a circumstance to which I should not otherwise have alluded. I had three attacks of sun during the assault and capture of Kouch; one in the action at Mutha; and a fifth in the general action of the Junna. As the remedies to enable me to rise again, ride, and retain the command in the field, which I never left, were necessarily strong, and as my determination to exercise the command, till Calpee was taken, did not allow of my taking the rest, or following the treatment necessary for the cure of sun-sickness, and as the heat of the sun increased instead of diminishing, and the duties of the command daily became more onerous, all my staff sick, or ailing, my health and strength suffered so much that all I could do with great difficulty was to command; and that I was totally unable, although I attempted it, to compose despatches, which were to describe the remarkable operations before Calpee, and do justice to the signal merits of the troops engaged.

Before marching against Gwalior, I had a very strong medical certificate in my possession, recommending my immediate departure from Central India: a sense of duty made me remain in it, and command the expedition against Gwalior. On the march to that place the heat rose to 130° in the shade. The same cause, as before, prevented me from making reports of the operations, except in telegrams. After the taking of Gwalior, I made forced marches to reach quickly the good climate of the Deccan. The papers relating to the Calpee and Gwalior operations were unfortunately left with my heavy baggage, which, on account of the heavy rain, great distance, and want of roads, the whole country being a swamp, did not arrive at Poona till after the monsoon.

These were the causes of the delay in transmitting Calpee and Gwalior reports. I most sincerely regret that any thing should have retarded the publication of the records of so much heroism. But I trust that the very detailed lists, already transmitted, of the officers and men who distinguished themselves before Calpee and Gwalior, and in the campaign generally, and which I drew up with the utmost care, and the most anxious solicitude, that the merits of each individual should be fully known and perfectly appreciated, will palliate the evil of delay.

I have, &c.,

HUGH ROSE, Major General,  
Commanding F.D.A. and Field Force.

No. 43.

*Major Forbes, C.B., Commanding Rear Guard,  
to Captain Todd, Brigade Major, 2nd Brigade  
Central India Field Force.*

*Camp, near Deopore, May 16, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Brigadier Commanding the 2nd Brigade, the arrival in camp of the rear guard, having been closely followed up from within a mile of our last encampment at Etorá, by 4,000 to 5,000 of the rebel army, of which 1,000 to 1,200 were cavalry.\*

\* Her Majesty's 14th Dragoons, 42 sabres, under Lieutenant Beamish.

Royal Artillery, 2 Guns, under Lieutenant Lowry.  
3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, 170 sabres, under Lieutenant Dick.

3rd Europeans, 93, under Lieutenant Macintosh.  
24th Native Infantry, 113, under Lieutenant Estridge.  
Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent, 200, Captain Murray.

2. As the Brigadier is aware, a broad and deep ravine, only passable for carts by one narrow road, intersects the route, about a mile from Etorá.

3. It was when halted here on account of the baggage that I first saw the rebel's approaching from the Calpee direction towards my left flank. They took up a position on my left rear and rear, occupying the village of Etorá, and, from their strength, particularly in cavalry, it was throughout apparent that our bold front alone saved the rear guard from being driven in, and the consequent loss of the guns, owing to the only line of retreat being choked up by carts.

4. During the two hours or more we were halted here, the enemy's cavalry made several advances, one or two at a rapid pace, but, deceived, I imagine, by the perfect steadiness of the troops, into supposing that a larger force was concealed in the broken ground in our rear, they did not close, and, as soon as the road was clear, I withdrew, first, the guns and infantry to a position on this side the ravine, then, the troop of Her Majesty's 14th Dragoons, and, lastly, the remainder of the cavalry, at a walk, until concealed from the enemy by the nature of the ground, then at a gallop.

5. As I expected, this retrograde movement brought the enemy on us, and, before the cavalry had had time to form on the right and left of the guns, he had occupied the position we had given up.

6. This further advance in force was, however, for some time checked by the rifles of the 3rd Europeans, and the excellent practice of the two guns of the Royal Artillery, and time given for the baggage to get on a considerable distance.

7. For the first three miles of the remainder of our march, we were almost surrounded by the rebel cavalry, and fired into by their artillery, but, alternately halting and retiring, we succeeded in preventing any of the baggage from falling into their hands.

8. If any baggage was lost, it could not have been on the road by which I marched, and to have divided the rear guard, or even extended it more than was done, would have been its destruction, followed by the loss of the greater portion of the ammunition, stores, and baggage of the Brigade.

9. I herewith enclose a list of casualties during the day.

10. I would beg to bring to your notice the officers named in the margin of this report, and in an especial manner Lieutenant Lowry, to the precision of whose fire, and the manner in which he handled his two guns, do I chiefly attribute our being able to keep in check so large a body of cavalry.

11. Lieutenant Bonus, Bombay Engineers, and Veterinary Surgeon Lamb, 3rd Light Cavalry, were most useful to me in getting on the baggage, and in conveying orders. Mr. Lamb rode into camp at my request to report the presence of the enemy and returned, at very considerable risk of being cut off.

I have, &c.,

J. FORBES, Major,  
3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, Commanding  
Rear Guard.