

No. 44.

Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, Commanding 2nd Brigade Central India Field Force, to the Chief of the Staff, Central India Field Force.

Camp, Deopore, May 18, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Major-General Commanding Central India Field Force, that a large body of upwards of 1,200 of the enemy's cavalry, with three guns, moved suddenly out yesterday at two P.M. from the rear of a large village, situated about two coss on our left flank. The plain intervening is not intersected by nullahs, and they were soon after reported to be advancing, with an evident intention of attacking our camp.

2. The small village of Muttra, which forms our left point of appui, was then occupied by two companies of the 71st Highland Light Infantry, and two guns belonging to the Bombay Light Battery, No. 18, with a support from the 24th Native Infantry. Immediately reinforced this post with the whole of the 71st and the remaining two guns of No. 18 Battery, and, giving orders for the 14th Light Dragoons, and two guns of the Royal Artillery to follow, proceeded at once to meet the enemy, taking with me the 3rd Light Cavalry and the half battery whom I met on their way to Muttra.

3. I found that the enemy were advancing rapidly in line, about one mile and a half from us, with their line so far extended as to threaten our left rear; to this point I directed our advance, and, soon after coming within range, the enemy halted. This enabled the 14th Light Dragoons, under Major Scudamore, and the two guns of the Royal Artillery, to take up a position connecting our line with Muttra.

4. A heavy fire commenced on both sides, the enemy firing remarkably well, and sending two or three round shot into the ranks of the 3rd Light Cavalry, but the superior fire of the Royal Artillery and No. 18 Battery effectually stopped all further advance on their part.

5. An attack on Muttra now attracted my attention, but to withdraw any of my guns would also have drawn the enemy again upon us. Major Orr, commanding Hyderabad Contingent, however, most opportunely appeared, and, galloping down with him, I ascertained that a very strong body of the rebel infantry had been repulsed by the 71st Highland Light Infantry, under Majors Rich and Loftus. The loss of the enemy has since been ascertained to have been very great, but, having had time during the morning (since yesterday's attack,) to loophole the houses, the fire of the enemy was harmless.

6. The precautions for protecting the right of the camp were not unnecessary, for another column of infantry and two heavy guns came down from Calpee, and sent several shot right through the camp, without, however, much damage. Captain Field, Royal Artillery, most ably kept these at a distance, supported by the 3rd European Regiment, and the remainder of the 24th Native Infantry.

7. Foiled on all sides, and it being now sunset, the enemy slowly retired, taking with them dead and wounded in the nullahs.

(True Extract.)

G. E. ROSE, A. D. C.

No. 22251.

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No. 45.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. V. Maxwell, C.B., Her Majesty's 88th Regiment, commanding Moveable Column, Cawnpore District, to Colonel E. R. Wetherall, C.B., Chief of the Staff, Central India Field Force.

SIR,

Camp, before Calpee, May 24, 1858.

I ARRIVED here on the morning of 18th instant, with the force as per margin,* and broke ground the same night. On the following morning we had three 10-inch mortars in position opposite to the fort of Calpee, and a fourth on the next day.

2. On the morning of the 19th, I received an urgent requisition from Sir Hugh Rose for a wing of Her Majesty's 88th Regiment, a wing of the Sikh Police Battalion, and the whole of the Camel Corps, to join his force on the opposite side of the Jumna; the demand for this amount of troops from my column was made upon the supposition that a patrol of three companies of the 88th Regiment, 200 of the Sikh Battalion, and 100 of the Tewana Horse and 2 guns, which I had sent to Sherghur, had rejoined me, but, as that patrol had not returned, and I had no reason to expect it back for some time, I did not consider myself justified in complying to the full extent with Sir Hugh's request, and I sent across the Jumna, on the night of the 20th, two companies of the 88th, the whole of the Camel Corps, and 124 of the Sikh Infantry, informing Sir Hugh that, as soon as I could hear of the approach of the patrol I would send the remainder of the men asked for by him.

3. By Sir Hugh Rose's orders, I sent, on the morning of the 21st, two 8-inch mortars and two field guns, with a company of the 88th Regiment, to Russoolpoor, a village about three miles below Calpee, on the left bank of the Jumna, and opposite to the village of Rehree, where the enemy had a battery, which commanded the road by which Sir Hugh purposed advancing on Calpee.

4. During the night of the 21st, two 8-inch mortars were put into position in the village of Diloule, opposite the kutcherry and town of Calpee.

5. Under instructions from Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, the three above-mentioned mortar batteries opened fire at noon on Saturday, the 22nd. The well-directed fire of the mortars and guns from the Russoolpoor Battery under Lieutenant Hare, of the Bengal Artillery, soon cleared the village of Rehree, and the rebels withdrew what guns they had there. The practice of Major Blunt's four 10-inch mortar battery was beautifully accurate, and that from Captain Turnbull's at Diloule was most effective, and well sustained until the occupation of the town by Sir Hugh Rose's force.

6. The river Jumna being between my force and the enemy, the infantry and cavalry under my command had not the opportunity of giving that active co-operation to Sir Hugh Rose that I could have wished, but they performed their picquet and battery duties much to my satisfaction; the Enfield rifles of the 88th Regiment annoyed the enemy very much, and prevented them having the free use of the river in front of the town.

* 4 Guns, Major Blunt's Battery; 266 Tewana Horse; 578 of Her Majesty's 88th Regiment; 682 Camel Corps; 458 Sikh Police Corps; four 10-inch mortars; four 8-inch mortars.