

No. 12.

Captain M. Browne, 13th Light Infantry, to Lieutenant-Colonel Brassey, C.B., Commanding Field Detachment.

Bhanpore, November 11, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Brigadier Commanding at Bustee, that in compliance with an order received last night from the Deputy Quartermaster-General, the detachments under my command, strength as per margin,* marched from Rudowlee, en route to Bhanpore, at two o'clock this morning. On arriving within two miles of the enemy's position, I halted till day-light, and then advanced about half a mile from Bhanpore, which we reached about sun-rise; a deep nullah crossed the road, where some difficulty occurred in passing the guns over.

No sooner had the whole force passed this nullah, than the enemy opened fire on us with round shot, one of which, I regret to say, severely wounded a man of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry. As they had got our range with perfect accuracy, I considered that to remain where we were would subject us to many more casualties, and determined on attacking them at once. We advanced, with the guns in the centre, supported on both flanks by the 13th Light Infantry in skirmishing order, with supports, the troop of the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry in the rear. The enemy now showed in great numbers in our front and both flanks. I should rate their numbers at about 800 men, cavalry, infantry, and two guns, though the native spies say there were many more. On our advancing, they retired, though in a most orderly manner, from which I am disposed to think there were many sepoys among them and Irregular Cavalry.

We followed them rapidly, the guns of the Naval Brigade throwing shell into them with admirable celerity and precision, the 13th keeping up a rapid rifle firing. The rebels occasionally halted and fronted, firing volleys of musketry at us, but without effect. We chased them for about two miles, when they were driven into a thick jungle, where pursuit would have been useless, and, as we had left the town of Bhanpore in our rear, and not knowing whether there was any rebel force holding it or not, I determined on returning there to ascertain. At this moment, as you, Sir, are aware, we were joined by the Sikhs under your command.

I should feel obliged by your bringing to the notice of the Brigadier, the excellent conduct of all the troops and sailors engaged, moving as steadily as on an ordinary field day. To Captain Boyd, commanding the detachment 13th Light Infantry, I beg to express my best thanks, for the able manner in which he handled the skirmishers, and the spirited way in which he led the advance. Lieutenant Ingles and the Naval Brigade worked their guns with a rapidity and coolness which was beautiful to witness.

I much regret that Lieutenant Ellis and his fine troop of Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry had no opportunity of charging, as the country consisted of thick jungle and large topes of trees, with very little open space between them. Had they been able to do so, I am convinced he could have captured their guns.

* 5 Officers and 34 men Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, under Lieutenant Ellis; 2 officers, 28 men, and 2 guns. Naval Brigade, under Lieutenant Ingles, Royal Navy; 3 officers and 100 men Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, under Captain Boyd.

Lieutenant Wroughton, 13th Light Infantry, has acted as staff officer to these detachments since we left Bustee, and has been most useful as an interpreter, and indefatigable in obtaining information.

The native spies state that the enemy's loss was 10 or 12 killed, and about 20 wounded, but I am unable to speak with any accuracy on this subject from the thick state of the jungle and topes.

I have, &c.

M. BROWNE, Captain,
13th Light Infantry.

No. 13.

Nominal Roll of man wounded—Corporal J. S. Thompson, Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, by round shot in the left heel.

H. ROWCROFT, Brigadier,
Commanding Goruckpore District.

No. 14.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. King, 13th Light Infantry, Commanding at Goruckpore, to the Brigade Major, Goruckpore District, Bustee.

Goruckpore, November 21, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of Brigadier Rowcroft, Commanding the district, that I left this station at eleven o'clock, P.M., on the 19th instant, with a party, of the strength named in the margin,* and under the guidance of Mr. Bird, Magistrate and Collector of Goruckpore, for the purpose of dispersing a body of rebels under the command of Budhoo Sing, whose numbers were variously estimated at from 500 to 800 strong, and who were reported to have taken up a strong position in a dense jungle, about 16 miles to the eastward of Goruckpore. After a march of about 17 miles, we found ourselves in the vicinity of a house, formerly an indigo factory, and which, I had been led to suppose, was also in the occupation of the rebels; but, as this information proved incorrect, I proceeded to enter that portion of the jungle stated to be in their occupation, and, after proceeding a short distance, came upon their position, which had evidently been abandoned with the utmost precipitancy, as I found the camp fires burning, and the food of a large number of men in a state of preparation.

A few bullocks and ponies, about 70 hackeries, two of them laden with rice, a quantity of native powder and cartridges, and a number of entrenching tools, had all been abandoned in the haste of departure.

On examination, I found that a wide ditch and embankment had been traced out and partly executed on the side facing the open ground; and as, from the density of the jungle, their position was almost impracticable from other points, there can be no doubt that, had time been allowed to com-

* 4th Madras Cavalry—1 Officer and 42 Sabres. Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry—4 Officers and 134 of all ranks. 27th Madras Native Infantry—1 Officer and 50 of all ranks. Police Levies—1 Officer and 150 of all ranks. 1 Staff Surgeon, 1 Civil Surgeon. Names of Officers—Lieutenant-Colonel King, commanding 13th; Captain King, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry; Lieutenant Segrave, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry; Lieutenant Shawe, Police Levy; Lieutenant Alexander, Madras Cavalry; Lieutenant Thorpe, 27th Madras Native Infantry; Lieutenant Adair, Her Majesty's 13th. Station Staff—Assistant-Surgeon Loch, Bengal Army; Civil Surgeon Caley, Bengal Army.