

Topee, was overtaken near this place by the force, as per margin,* under my command.

2. I had marched from a village called Surthul, ten miles off, at half-past eleven o'clock the previous night, having sent on spies to watch the enemy: my spies not returning, I waited four miles off until near daylight, fearing to disturb the enemy, who might move or disperse in the dark, and I did not meet my spies until near this place, and the enemy had then moved off his ground.

3. I pursued him at a rapid trot for about seven miles, when I overtook three large bodies of cavalry, estimated at about three thousand, drawn up to receive me, just beyond a village called Tancha.

4. The horse artillery were immediately brought into action, and their fire was so rapid and effective that, though the rebels endeavoured to get up a charge before the infantry on camels could be formed up and dismounted, they could not effect it, but retired, pursued by my force, the horse artillery galloping to the front for some distance with the cavalry, when the squadron of Lancers took up the pursuit.

5. I endeavoured, with the horse artillery and camel corps, to follow the track of the enemy for about five miles further, but found they had so dispersed that it was not possible to do so: my force being too small to be divided, I gave up the pursuit after about twelve miles, and fell back to this place upon my supports, 300 9th Native Infantry; which had not then come up, however, but arrived later in the afternoon.

6. The force with me had marched fifty miles between twelve o'clock P.M. of the 30th December and six o'clock A.M. of the 1st January, thirty hours, during which time they had not rested more than two hours at one time, having made forced marches for five days without tents or European supplies.

7. I heard, on my return to this place, that five elephants had been abandoned by the enemy when pursued, at a village in the neighbourhood, one of which has been brought in this morning to camp,

* R. H. A., four guns, with detachments; 17th Lancers 100 men; 92nd Highlanders, 150 men, on Lieutenant Barras' Tandan Camels.

but the rest are supposed to have been carried off since.

8. Not having a sufficient force of cavalry, I am unable to scour the country as I should wish, in search of the scattered rebel force, which I much regret, as hundreds of them might be found and cut up.

9. The loss of the enemy, owing to his rapid flight, was not severe, though numbers of men and horses, among the former of which was a Native Sirdar, were seen to fall from the artillery fire, and some were killed in a charge of the squadron 17th Lancers.

10. My own loss was one private 17th Lancers wounded.

11. I trust that I may be allowed to bring to the notice of the Major-General Commanding the Division the cheerfulness of the troops composing this force, under considerable fatigue, and some hardship, as well as the zealous manner in which I have been supported by the officers of the force, on all occasions, and particularly in this rapid and trying pursuit, the results of which are only not greater because the enemy would not stay to measure his strength with me, and my numbers were insufficient to cope with him when dispersed.

12. The officers commanding the different arms to whom my thanks are especially due, are—

Major White, Commanding Squadron 17th Lancers.

Captain Paget, Commanding D. Troop Royal Horse Artillery.

Captain Bethune, two companies 92nd Highlanders.

Captain Baugh, 9th Native Infantry.

Lieutenant C. Payne Barras, Commanding Camel Corps.

13. To my Staff Officer, Lieutenant Wood, 17th Lancers, I am particularly indebted for his zealous and unceasing exertions on every occasion, in the various duties imposed upon him in the absence of any other Staff Officer.

I have, &c.,

C. H. SOMERSET, Colonel,
Commanding Field Brigade.

No. 31.

ROUTE SKETCH of the Marches made by the Force under Colonel Somerset, Commanding Field Force.

Date.	Where from	Where to	Distance in Miles.	Hour of Starting.	Arrival.
December 27, 1858	Mehidpoor ...	Indorka ...	18	3 A.M.	9-30 A.M.
December 28, 1858	Indorka ...	Soosneer ...	40	3 A.M.	9 P.M.
December 29, 1858	Soosneer ...	Peeplia ...	18	11-30 A.M.	5-30 P.M.
December 30, 1858	Peeplia ...	Kelcheepoor ...	18	3 A.M.	5-30 P.M.
December 31, 1858	Kelcheepoor ...	Sethoo ...	40	12- 5 A.M.	6-15 P.M.
January 1, 1859.	Seethoo ...	Barode ...	12	12- 5 A.M.	5-45 A.M.
	Pursued the enemy twelve miles, and returned to Barode		24		
		Total ...	170		

H. E. WOOD, Lieutenant,
Staff Officer to Colonel Somerset's Brigade.