

information of the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief that the same has been laid before Government.

I am, &c.,

R. J. H. BIRCH, Major-General,
Secretary to the Government of India in the
Military Department.

No. 5.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Reece, 3rd Madras European
Regiment, to the Assistant Quartermaster-General,
Saugor District.*

Camp, Kurrapore,

December 21, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my letter No. 45, of the 12th instant, to report, for the information of Brigadier Wheeler, Commanding Saugor district, that, the fort of Burreeta having been as much demolished by Mr. Thornton's men as means at hand would allow, I marched en route to Patrakota, via Saugor, and, having received instructions through the Major of Brigade, at Dulputpore, to march to Banda, I marched there on the 17th, at which place I was joined by Brigadier Wheeler, who requested me to make arrangements to attack Patrakota the following morning.

2. I accordingly detailed two columns of infantry, strength as per margin each,* from the detachment, to proceed by the routes of Beekumpore and Lowagee, and also directed Captain Dickens with his police to move to Ninagurh. These three columns were to enter the jungle, and be as near Patrakota, by dawn of day, without discovering themselves, as possible, thus investing that stronghold on the west, north, and east sides; a copy of letter of instructions to the officers commanding is appended.

3. I moved my own column with the guns from Banda at 1 o'clock, intending to arrive, if possible, before the infantry, on the south side, the ground of which commanded Patrakota, but the delay of the guns caused me to be some few minutes later, and, as my instructions to the officers were, that if (after daylight had well set in) they heard no firing from my side, they were to approach the hill, Captain Grant from the north side advanced and ascended it; Lieutenant-Colonel Ottley moved in skirmishing order from the west, and Captain Dickens from the east, disturbing some few in the works on the hill (about 50 men of the rebel Sodun Singh, who was in possession) taken by surprise, and who immediately commenced retreating by the west rear face through the jungle bounding the river and hill.

4. At this moment a few shots were fired by the rebels and returned briskly by the north and west columns; a few of the enemy were shot down; one man wounded and taken prisoner; the rest escaped; no casualties on our side.

5. The Brigadier being personally present with me on the south side, it is unnecessary for me to enter into further particulars.

6. I beg, however, to observe, that the several columns moved with promptitude and punctuality

* Lieutenant-Colonel Ottley, 3rd Madras European Regiment, commanding: 3rd European Regiment; Lieutenant Peet, Ensign Oley, 35 rank and file: 50th Regiment, Native Infantry; Captain Keating, 75 rank and file.

Captain W. D. Grant, 50th Regiment, Native Infantry, commanding: 3rd European Regiment; Lieutenant Bedingfield, Ensign Chrystie, 35 rank and file: 50th Regiment, Native Infantry; Ensign Gilchrist, 75 rank and file.

to the points indicated in my letter of instructions.

7. A native officer's party of the 31st Bengal Light Infantry arrived, and took their posts on the Hill of Patrakota, by Brigadier Wheeler's orders, to protect Mr. Thornton's workmen while destroying the works on my departure.

8. The 18-pounder gun and 8-inch mortar would have been of no avail had they been required, as they did not arrive until about 11 A.M.

I have, &c.,

W. REECE, Lieut.-Col.
Comdg. Field Detachment.

No. 6.

*Lieutenant T. Dyer to Lieutenant-Colonel Ottley,
3rd Madras European Regiment.*

Camp, Banda,

December 17, 1858.

SIR,

WITH reference to Field Detachment Orders of this date, detailing a detachment under you to move to Beekumpore, I have the honour, by order, to request that you will move, via Neehani, without beat of drum, at 12 midnight this night.

2. A guide will be furnished you to Neehani and thence.

3. The village of Beekumpore is stated to be a post wherein a rebel picquet is stationed: you will therefore approach it with caution.

4. After the day is well broke, if you hear firing, you will approach towards Patrakota as near as you can, keeping under cover of the jungle to avoid observation from the enemy: if, on the other hand, you hear no firing, you may conclude that the place is evacuated, and that the enemy have escaped; and thence advance into the plain towards the hill itself; of course you will do so in skirmishing order and with caution.

5. Captain Grant's party will accompany you as far as Neehani.

I have, &c.,

T. DYER, Lieut.,
Staff-Officer Field Detachment.

N.B. A similar letter to the above was written to Captain Grant, modified according to circumstances connected with the direction of his march.

No. 7.

Brigadier Wheeler to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Saugor Field Division.

Camp, Khorai,

December 23rd, 1858.

SIR,

I BEFORE reported, for the information of the Major-General Commanding the Saugor Division, that Lieutenant-Colonel Reece had destroyed Patna. He subsequently destroyed Baratch; Mr. Thornton destroyed Serai; and Lieutenant Cook, from Saugor, destroyed Mutkora; all strongholds, the resort of rebels.

I now have the honour to forward Lieutenant-Colonel Reece's account of the capture of Patrakota on the 18th instant.

I have, &c.,

F. WHEELER, Brigadier,
Commanding Saugor District.