

No. 25.

Captain E. Sotheby, R.N., commanding Naval Brigade, to Colonel Rowcroft commanding Field Force, Phoolpore.

No. 28:

Camp, Phoolpore,

Sir,

Feb. 22, 1858.

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you, whilst escorting the fleet of 150 boats up the Gogra I received information that the village and fort of Chandepore, on the right bank, were strongly held by the enemy, who intended to resist the progress of the boats. I therefore landed on the 17th instant, at 10 A.M., two miles below, with the force named in the margin,* to attack the fort and clear away all obstruction. Line being formed by the seamen, with a mountain howitzer in the centre under Lieutenant Turnour, preceded by a strong body of marines and seamen as skirmishers, with supports of Seikhs and other seamen, under Captain Weston, 36th Regiment Native Infantry, and a reserve of Goorkhas, I quickly advanced through the thick cover and high growing crops, passing through the village, found it deserted, but on emerging from it, the skirmishers were received by a heavy fire of musketry and guns from men concealed in rifle pits, in the thick prickly jungle of bambo, which surrounded the fort. Captain Weston gallantly dashed forward, and whilst trying to force in the wicker gate, was badly wounded in the shoulder by a villain, who had just implored mercy, and was carried to the rear. Mr. Ingles, mate, then took charge of the skirmishers, and a good fire was kept up on both sides, our men getting shelter in the village. The gun was quickly pushed up within 100 yards of the entrance, and plied the jungle well with grape; at the same time I ordered Mr. Fowler, in the Jumna steamer, to advance and enfilade the fort with grape, which made it too hot, and the Goorkhas threatening the right flank, the rebels being afraid of their retreat being cut off, fled through the jungle in the rear as we entered in the front, leaving behind them 2 guns, with spare waggon, ammunition, &c., and a quantity of silk dresses, silver-mounted swords, ornaments, money, &c., which evidently belonged to some influential men. The action commenced at 11, and firing ceased at 12.15.

The enemy is supposed to have been about 300, but probably not many killed, as they were perfectly concealed; our casualties were, 4 wounded, 2 severely. I did not attempt to pursue them from the smallness of my force, and the object being perfectly accomplished. Having passed up the fleet, I burnt the fort and adjacent buildings, withdrew the pickets, re-embarked on the steamer, and proceeded up the river, but it being dark without a pilot, we shortly grounded, and remained exposed to the shore till the next morning.

I have now much pleasure in bringing to your notice the cheerful manner of all under my command, and especially I beg to recommend to the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief the gallant conduct of that fine soldier, Captain Weston, whose temporary loss, from his severe wound, every one in the camp most deeply deplores. Lieutenant Burlton, 40th Native Infantry, with his Sikhs, were as usual well forward, and the Goorkhas, under Captain Daveedass Opadeeah, rendered good service. I am also much indebted to Captain Reid, 37th Native Infantry, for his valuable service, who landed as a volunteer from his charge of the boats. Doctors Shore, R.N., and Wilson, Honourable East India Company's

service, were in close attendance with the wounded.

It is nearly impossible to describe the strength of the fort, peculiar to Oude. Surrounded by a thick jungle of prickly bamboo, nearly impassable, with high banks; inside was a line of rifle pits and loop-hole breastworks, with a zig-zag path with gates leading to a second set, and in front of the fort were bastions with a sort of parapet, all loop-holed, as were all the other buildings in the place, all round which was thick cover.

The following officers were also present:—Lord Charles Scott, Mr. Foot, Mr. Stephenson, and Mr. Cooley, Boatswain; and the Jumna steamer, Captain Williamson, was well handled.

I have, &c.

E. SOTHEBY, Captain, R.N.
Commanding Naval Brigade.

No. 26.

Return of Casualties incurred in the attack on the Fort at Chandepoor on February 17, 1858.

Royal Naval Brigade.

John Whelan, Private, Royal Marines, severe gunshot wound of thigh.
Alfred Land, Private, Royal Marines, slight gunshot wound of leg.

E. SOTHEBY, Captain,
Commanding Naval Brigade.

WM. JAS. SHORE,
Assistant-Surgeon, R.N.,
in Medical Charge Naval Brigade.

No. 27.

List of Ordnance Stores taken at Chandepoor, February 17, 1858.

1 6-pounder gun.
1 4-pounder gun, with limbers and spare waggon with ammunition.

E. SOTHEBY, Captain R.N.
Commanding Naval Brigade.

H. ROWCROFT, Colonel,
Commanding Field Force.

No. 28.

Memorandum of Casualties which occurred at the capture of the Fort of Chandepoor on February 17, 1858.

Ramdul Regiment, Goorkhas.

Chas. S. Weston, Captain, 36th Native Infantry, severely, gunshot wound of left shoulder.

Bengal Police Battalion, Sikhs.

Golab Sing, sipahi, 2nd Company, slightly, contusion of left thigh.

Abstract.

Wounded, severely, 1; slightly, 1;—Total, 2.

A. H. WILSON, M.D.,
Assistant-Surgeon in Medical Charge Ramdul
Regiment Goorkhas.

R. SOTHEBY, Captain Commanding.

* 130 of the Naval Brigade, 35 Seikhs, 60 Goorkhas.