

men most eager to get in, to do so at these points was impossible. I then returned to the eastern face, and found the men crowding into the inner ditch, having with the greatest difficulty forced their way in single file through the bamboos, exposed to a galling fire from the loop-holes, from which they were suffering severely.

10. The only approach to the place, that mentioned by the villager, was at last discovered; at this spot a gun was then forced with great labour into a position within ten or twelve yards of the wall; another, a 12-pounder, belonging to my brigade, under the immediate direction of Colonel Lall Sing, and a third, were placed at right angles to the first one, and the cross-fire thus produced was attended with the happiest results. Lieutenant Sankey, of the Engineers, who had been on the ground the whole day, discovered a small breach made by the first gun; it ceased firing, he enlarged the opening with his hands until it was sufficiently large to admit his head and shoulders, forced himself through it, and was the first man inside; the gallantry of this act, which, as I was standing with him close under the wall, I was an eye-witness of, I venture to bring particularly to the notice of the Brigadier-General. I myself immediately followed the two first Goorkhas, I believe, who penetrated into the enclosure by a ladder which was placed against the wall close to me. I believe they belong to the Rifles, but I regret to say I have been unable to identify them since, as they were separated from me immediately afterwards by the mob. Our men then forced in through the breach, by the ladder, and through a narrow opening, apparently the entrance to the place, but which only came half-way down the wall, and the enemy (thirty-one bodies were subsequently counted) were all, I believe, instantly cut to pieces.

11. In conclusion, I have only to say that the men of my brigade engaged, behaved admirably throughout, as did all the Nepalese officers under my immediate observation, who carried out the very able directions of Generals Runodeep Sing and Dere Shumshere, with the greatest alacrity; but I may be permitted to particularize Brigadier Sunmuck Sing, whose judgment throughout, as well as gallantry in leading his men, was conspicuous. Colonel Lall Sing, commanding the battery attached to my brigade, a most excellent artillery officer, Colonel Koolman Sing, commanding the Kalee Pershad Regiment, also displayed great gallantry, and Major Captain Rung Soor Bistee, who commanded the three companies of the Kalee Pershad, which were detached at first, and suffered so greatly, Lieutenant-Colonel Hurree Bukt, commanding the Rifles, and Major Captain Jugga Bahadoor Guttee, who commanded the two companies of the Sooraj Dall engaged, are also meritorious officers. Lieutenant Mylne rendered great service in directing the operations of the artillery. Annexed is a numeric list of the casualties in the several regiments in my brigade. I have, &c.,

F. N. EDMONSTONE, Captain,
In Military Charge of a Brigade, Goorkha Force.

	Killed.	Wounded.
Golundauze	none	1 gunner.
Rifle Regiment	1 rank & file	14 rank & file.
Sooraj Dall	1 do.	5 do.
Kalee Pershad	6 do.	18 do.
Total	8	38

The Juggat Dall Regiment, which also belongs to my brigade, was not present.

P.S.—The Maharajah and the Brigadier-General had arrived on the ground during the affair, but

I was not aware of the fact until I came out of the fortification after all was over.

F. N. EDMONSTONE, Captain,
In Military Charge of Brigade.

No. 9.

Lieutenant R. H. Sankey, Madras Engineers, on special duty, to Captain MacAndrew, Military Secretary.

SIR.

February 27, 1858.

HAVING been requested by Brigadier-General Macgregor to report on the small Gurree which was captured yesterday by the Maharajah's troops, I have the honour to submit the following concise description of the works, with a sketch plan, illustrating the subject as far as my limited time will permit.

2. Viewed from the outside nothing very suspicious or formidable was discoverable about the place. It had all the appearance of an ordinary clump of bamboos at the corner of a village, which latter, like all inhabited places in this part of the country, was very well screened in foliage. Some newly-planted bamboo slips, eight to ten feet high, all round the clump above mentioned, alone marked the place as differing from others, and on another occasion would be sufficient warning to induce caution in approaching what proved a very hedgehog of fortification.

3. The fort itself was a complete well, surrounded by a ditch, more or less formidable; this again by a belt of high bamboos, which was succeeded by another ditch some ten or twelve feet deep; the row of bamboo slips above mentioned being planted on the immediate lip of the counterscarp of the latter.

4. The works were quite new, as indicated by the steps left by the workpeople, as well as their being partially unfinished; they were situated on the south-east corner of the village. A well, inclosed by the outer line of ditch (within a sort of demi-lune), lay on the east, and a pond, not included in the works, on the north. The only immediate entrance on the Gurree was on the pond side, the approach of it leading round the north-east bastion, and, curving round in a narrow thorny path, led out at the east of the well. Nothing could be more difficult of approach, every portion bristling with thorns, and intercepted by ditches and banks.

5. The mud ramparts of the fort were fifteen feet above the level of the ground; the upper portion, for about seven feet in height, consisting of a thin mud wall, was loop-holed in every direction; the lower part, as will be seen from the section in the sketch, being from ten to twelve feet thick, and furnishing a banquette for the defenders.

5. In plan the fort was some sixty feet square, with circular bastions at the angles, the banquette on all sides ten feet wide, having forty feet square for the enceinte, within which the defenders could retire when the fire became too hot, and where were two thatched sheds. No steps led to the banquette, a common bamboo ladder being the only means of communication between it and the ground floor; when once, therefore, the defenders were driven from the upper works, they were caught in a trap, from which it was impossible to extricate themselves.

7. It would be premature for me to express any very decided opinion as to the mode of attacking such forts from this single example, but two facts are apparent, first, that in cases where all openings are closed by bamboos and thorns, such must be got rid of by fire, or by being cut down;