

No. 25.

No. 89 of 1858.

Allahabad, April 20, 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General of India is pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatch from the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, No. 242 A., dated 12th April 1858, forwarding a report by Brigadier T. Seaton, C.B., commanding the Futtehghur district, of a successful attack on a body of rebels at the village of Khankhur, on the 8th March 1858. His Lordship fully concurs with his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his approval of the excellent arrangements made by Brigadier Seaton, and of the conduct and determination of the troops under his command.

R. J. H. BIRCH, Colonel, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, with the Governor-General.

No. 26.

The Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, with the Governor-General.

Head Quarters Camp, Lucknow,
April 12, 1858.

SIR, No. 242 A.

I HAVE the honour, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward copy of a letter dated the 7th instant, No. 337, from Brigadier T. Seaton, C.B., commanding the Futtehghur District, reporting his successful attack on a body of rebels at the village of Khankhur.

2. In submitting this report to the Right Honourable the Governor-General, I am to request you will express his Excellency's cordial approval of the manner in which this service was conducted by the Brigadier, and his approbation of the patience and determination of the troops as described by the Brigadier.

I have, &c.,

H. W. NORMAN, Major, Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 27.

Brigadier T. Seaton, C.B., commanding Futtehghur District, to the Chief of the Staff, Headquarters.

Dated Futtehghur, April 7, 1858.

SIR, No. 337.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that, as the rebels at Soorujpore Gant, near Kumpil, were greatly increasing in numbers, and were beginning to send parties of horsemen across the Ganges to plunder the country and collect revenue, and as I had no sufficient cavalry to oppose them, I deemed it best, under all circumstances, to make a sudden move across the river on their main body posted near Bangown and its vicinity.

2. Accordingly, last night, I moved out with the troops at my disposal, as per margin,* and taking with me a day's provisions and ammunition only, and came upon the enemy posted at the village of Khankhur, and in groves of trees on the right and left. I formed Her Majesty's 82d into line with loosened files, and the 7th Punjab Infantry in a second line, and with the cavalry on my left flank, and the artillery on my right front, I advanced against the enemy's position.

3. The rebel cavalry shewed strongly on my right and left; Major Smith opened with his guns on the cavalry on the right, and a few rounds drove them back.

4. In the meantime, the large body on the left advanced towards me, and got into the dry bed of a nullah, about 700 yards off. As we could see their heads, I made the 82d open fire on them, and in ten minutes they also retreated as hard as they could. Our artillery now commenced firing on the enemy's guns on our left; they replied feebly, and the shot went mostly over our heads. I steadily advanced against the village, the rebels going off in numbers as we approached, and on getting up to it the rebels fled precipitately, abandoning 1 gun, a 10-pounder.

5. There were a good many rebels in and about the village, and in rear of it; Lieutenant-Colonel Hale, therefore, at my desire, brought the 82d round, and destroyed every one we could find.

6. After gaining the village, I sent the cavalry in pursuit; they returned in about an hour, having killed a number of the fugitives, and captured several standards, together with a small gun, "a zumbooruk."

7. I now moved into the groves of trees lately occupied by the enemy, planted videttes all round, and bivouacked until the afternoon; and at half-past three o'clock commenced my homeward march. I fully expected that during the day the enemy, collecting their forces from the villages of Mungla and Patin, distant about two or three miles, would have attacked me, but their consternation at my unexpected attack was so great that they did not, though for some hours their horsemen continued to hover about, when they finally disappeared in the direction of Ala Gunge.

8. The numbers of the enemy are estimated at 800 horse, amongst them 100 of the late Oude Military Police horsemen, and 1800 infantry, including some sepoy of the 41st and 10th Native Infantry, and Gwalior Contingent. They left as trophies in our hands the 10 pounder gun (native manufacture) already mentioned, and two small guns, several standards, some tents, a heap of papers, the possession of which will afford much useful information, and a large quantity of ammunition, which, for want of sufficient draft cattle, I destroyed.

9. The great enemies we had to encounter were the long march out and home, full forty miles, the great heat of the weather, and scarcity

* Artillery—7th Company, 14th Battalion Royal Artillery, with No. 4 field battery; 6 officers and 74 of other ranks. Natives—1 non-commissioned officer and 13 syce drivers. Her Majesty's 82d Regiment attached to artillery—1 officer and 13 of other ranks. Ordnance—1 24-pounder howitzer, 2 9-pounder and 2 6-pounder guns; total, 5 guns, 7 officers, and 101 of other ranks. European Infantry, Her Majesty's 82d Regiment—33 officers and 677 of other ranks. Punjab Irregular Infantry, 7th Regiment—6 European officers and 6 Native officers, and 180 of other ranks. Irregular Cavalry, Alexander's Horse—1 European officer, 1 Native officer, and 89 of other ranks. Horsemen attached to 7th Punjab Infantry—3 Native officers and 50 of other ranks. Futtehghur Organized Police Battalion—1 European officer, 6 Native officers, and 165 of other ranks. Total of Native Cavalry—2 European officers, 10 Natives, and 204 of other ranks.