

No. 54.

No. 106 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General is pleased to publish, for general information, the following letter from Brigadier-General R. Walpole, commanding Field Force, reporting further successes in his operations against the rebels.

No. 55.

Brigadier-General R. Walpole, Commanding Field Force, to the Chief of the Staff.

SIR, Camp, Allahgunge, April 22, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that I marched at daylight this morning from Sewajpore.* Just before we arrived at Sirsie, where I had intended to encamp, the advanced guard came on the enemy, who were in great force, both cavalry and infantry. I brought up the field guns and some infantry to the front, and sent the cavalry to our right, the enemy retreated to a village, from which they opened fire on us with 4 guns. We advanced, and our horse artillery opened with great effect upon it, and in a short time they retreated, taking off their guns. We advanced, took their 4 guns, the cavalry pressing their left and rear. We followed them about 6 miles to this place, killing a great many the whole way, and got possession of the bridge here, where I halted, and have pitched my camp. We have killed certainly as many as 500 or 600, have taken a great quantity of ammunition, hackeries, grain, and their camp. Our loss, as far as I can learn, is 1 man killed, and 3 or 4 wounded. I will send particulars tomorrow.

I have, &c.,
R. WALPOLE, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Field Force.

No. 56.

Allahabad, April 29, 1858.

No. 110 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General of India is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter from the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, No. 266 A, dated April 26, 1858, forwarding a Despatch from Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., commanding Central India Field Force, reporting the operations of the 2d Brigade of the force subsequent to the capture of the Fort of Garrakota.

No. 57.

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

Head-Quarters, Camp, Futtehghurh,
April 26, 1858.

SIR, No. 266 A.

I HAVE the honour, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to transmit for submission to the Right Honourable the Governor-General, a Despatch, dated 26th ultimo, from Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., commanding Central India Field Force, reporting the operations of the 2d Brigade of the Force subsequent to the capture of the Fort of Garrakota, embracing the forcing of the pass of Mudinpore, and capture of the Forts of Serai and Marowra.

* Called in my route Mahabadpore.

2. His Excellency considers that these operations were most skilfully conducted.

I have, &c.,
H. W. NORMAN, Major,
Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 58.

Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., to Major-General Mansfield, Chief of the Staff.

Cawnpore, Camp before Jhansi,
March 26, 1858.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the operations of the 2d Brigade of the Central India Field Force, under my orders, since the capture of the fort of Garrakota.

A halt of four days at Saugor was necessary for the repair of my siege guns, I therefore marched back to Saugor in two days, leaving Major Boileau, with the Sappers and Miners, at Garrakota, to demolish all he could of its defences.

The rebels had held a steep and thickly wooded hill, a few miles to the north of Garrakota, which gave them the command of the road to Dumoh; after the fall of Garrakota they then abandoned it, leaving open the communication between Saugor and Dumoh.

My siege artillery was ready in four days, on the 18th instant; but want of supplies, caused by the devastation of the Saugor, and the neighbouring districts by the rebels, and other circumstances, did not allow me to leave Saugor till the 27th instant.

This delay did away very much with the good effects of the speedy fall of Garrakota. The rebels not seeing any further operations or movements to the front against them, regained courage, and occupied again in force the strong positions in the Shaghur and adjoining districts, such as the forts of Serai and Marowra, and the difficult passes in the mountainous ridges which separate the Shaghur and Saugor districts.

These passes are three in number. The pass of Narut and the fort of Carnelghurh, near Malthone, of Mudinpore, and of Dhamooney.

My object was to reach Jhansi, against which I was ordered to move as quickly as I could; but on my road there, I wished to take up my 1st Brigade, which I had marched from Mhow and Indore to Goonah, for the purpose, as previously stated, of clearing and opening the Grand Trunk road from Bombay to Agra, in obedience to my instructions.

I anticipated resistance to my advance on Jhansi at the passes, the forts of Serai, Marowra, and Thal-Bebut, at which latter place it was said that the Rajah of Banpore intended to make his last stand.

It was also affirmed by some, but denied by others, that the fort of Chundeyree, to the west of the River Betwa, formerly a family possession of the Rajah of Banpore, would be defended.

It was necessary that the 1st Brigade on the west, and the 2d Brigade on the east of the Betwa, should be concentrated for the attack of Jhansi.

I determined to force these obstacles to the forward movement of my force, and to the union of my 1st and 2d Brigade; and accordingly gave orders to Brigadier Stuart, commanding my 1st brigade, to move from Goonah westwards, and take Chundeyree, whilst I forced my way northwards, and crossing the Betwa, march with both brigades against Jhansi.