

No. 60.

No. 111 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General of India is pleased to publish, for general information, the following Despatch from the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, No. 267, dated April 26, 1858, forwarding a detailed report from Brigadier-General R. Walpole, commanding Field Force, of his successful affair with the rebels near Allahgunge, on the 22d instant.

No. 61.

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

Head-Quarters, Futteghur,
April 26, 1858.

SIR, No. 267.

I HAVE now the honour, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to transmit, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General, a detailed report from Brigadier-General R. Walpole, dated 23d instant, of his successful affair near Allahgunge on the previous day, when 4 guns were captured and considerable loss inflicted on the enemy.

2. The action was one of horse artillery and cavalry, and both these arms appear to his Excellency to have highly distinguished themselves.

I have, &c.,

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

No. 62.

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

Camp, Allahgunge, April 23, 1858.

SIR,

I TRANSMITTED yesterday a short account of the defeat of that portion of the rebel force which occupied the villages on the left bank of the Ram Gunga, from Allahgunge to Hoolapoor. I have now the honour to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, a more detailed report of that operation.

I marched at daylight on the 22d instant from Sewajpore, intending to encamp in the neighbourhood of Sirsie, and to proceed to this place the following day. However, on the advanced guard approaching Sirsie, the enemy was discovered in our front. I rode forward to reconnoitre, and ordered up Major Remington's troop of horse artillery and the infantry, desiring the heavy guns to follow, and made the following dispositions:—Four guns of Lieutenant-Colonel Tombs' troop of horse artillery (two being on the rear-guard), supported by a squadron of 9th Lancers and 100 infantry, all which troops had formed the advanced guard, occupied the left. Major Remington's 9-pounder troop was directed to its right, and the main body of the cavalry, consisting of 9th Lancers and 2d Punjaub Irregulars, under Brigadier Hagart, was placed on the extreme right, to protect that flank from the numerous cavalry of the enemy, and with instructions to sweep round the enemy's left and rear the moment they retired, with the hope of getting any guns they might endeavour to save.

I knew, from having occupied the right bank of the Ram Gunga during the winter, that our left was covered by that river, and that, from the great bend it takes beyond the villages of Mhow and Jerapoor, our cavalry would be useless on our left flank.

We advanced in the above order some distance, crossing the Sende Nuddee, when the enemy

opened fire upon us with their guns, which were placed in the village of Hoolapoor, upon which they had retired, and where they made their stand. Their fire was rapid and good, the shot plunging among our artillery, but doing little damage. Lieutenant-Colonel Tombs' troop advanced rapidly to within six or seven hundred yards of the village, and opened upon it; Major Remington's troop soon after followed, taking ground to its right. The guns of these two troops were so well served that in about twenty minutes those of the enemy appeared to be silenced.

I now perceived the enemy streaming in large numbers from the rear of the village; our whole line advanced, Lieutenant-Colonel Tombs' Troop on one side of the village, Major Remington's on the other. On the extreme right, just at this place, there was a thick jungle which prevented Brigadier Hagart turning their left flank at this point; but Major Remington's guns having been ordered to accompany him, the jungle was soon cleared, and he advanced between it and Hoolapoor, and, as the enemy's guns, which had been withdrawn from that village were being carried off, three of them were gallantly captured by Captain Wilkinson's troop of the 9th Lancers, he being supported by Lieutenant Richardes with a troop of 2d Punjaub Cavalry, and every man with the guns was killed. A fourth gun was taken by the cavalry during the rout that followed.

We now advanced with an extended front, one squadron 9th Lancers, Lieutenant-Colonel Tombs' guns, and the infantry which had formed the advanced guard on the left, Major Remington's guns, and the cavalry under Brigadier Hagart, to the right rather in advance, and swept the whole country, driving the enemy through the villages of Nebonuggra and Jerapoor, at the latter of which their camp was captured, and then through Chumputteapoor and Saibgunge as far as Allahgunge, where they had a bridge of boats protected by a breast-work pierced for guns. Having secured this town, and the pursuit having continued for six miles, I considered it advisable to halt, and I sent for my baggage and pitched my camp.

Nizam Ali Khan, who commanded, was killed in the action, and some documents were found in his tent, one describing the preparations he had made for stopping the advance of the English.

The loss of the enemy must have amounted in the whole to between five and six hundred, and we captured four guns, the enemy's camp, ammunition, stores, and grain in large quantities.

Our loss, I am happy to say, was small,—very small, considering the results obtained; it consisted of one man killed and six wounded.

I am particularly indebted to Brigadier Hagart for the admirable manner in which he conducted the operations of the cavalry on the right. I beg also to return my best thanks to Major Brind, Bengal Artillery, for his exertions, and the able manner in which he commanded the artillery, and to Lieutenant-Colonel Tombs and Major Remington, commanding troops of horse artillery, for the excellent management of their guns, which drove the enemy from their position at Hoolapoor with great loss. Brigadier Hagart speaks in great praise of Captain Coles, commanding 9th Lancers, and Captain Browne, commanding 2d Punjaub Irregular Cavalry. I have on all occasions experienced great assistance from these officers. The Brigadier also expresses his obligations to Captain Sarel, 17th Lancers, brigade-major to the cavalry brigade, and to Lieutenant Gore, 7th Hussars, who acted as his orderly officer; and Major Brind speaks in high terms of Lieutenant Bunny, Bengal Artillery, his staff officer.