

in consequence of which they have been quickly and remarkably well housed.

I have, &c.,
R. WALPOLE, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Rohilcund Division.

No. 30.

Captain Larkins to the Adjutant-General of the Army, Army Head-quarters, Allahabad.

Camp, Phillibheet, September 1, 1858.

SIR,

No. 55.

FOR the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief I have the honour to report a most successful attack made on the enemy's position at Seerpoorah, about fourteen miles from Phillibheet, under the command of Captain Browne, Commanding 2d Punjab Cavalry, in which four guns were captured from the enemy, along with the whole of his ammunition, baggage, cattle, three elephants, &c., and in which the enemy lost about 300 killed, amongst them one of the rebel leaders Allee Khan, Maiwattee, and Nizam Alice Khan was wounded, but escaped.

2. At the request of Mr Low, Joint Magistrate of Phillibheet, and thinking it very advisable not to allow the rebels to get possession of Nooreah, a large village ten miles from this, on Saturday night the 28th ultimo, I sent Ensign Chalmers with 100 of the 24th Punjab Infantry, of which he is Commandant, and 100 sabres 2d Punjab Cavalry, the whole under command of Lieutenant Craigie, to Nooreah, to fortify the village, as Mr Low was anxious to re-establish a police chowkee there, which he had been obliged to withdraw on the 22d.

3. On the following morning Ensign Chalmers commenced; but shortly afterwards the rebels came down with cavalry, infantry, and artillery to attack him, and, hearing heavy firing in that direction, I concluded that such had been the case. I therefore immediately ordered out a force as per margin,* under command of Captain Browne, 2d Punjab Cavalry, to march to Nooreah to their assistance. They marched at a quarter to twelve o'clock A.M., arriving at Nooreah about half past three o'clock P.M., and found that the enemy had been obliged to retreat to their position at Seerpoorah. Captain Browne therefore halted his detachment at Nooreah, and after reconnoitring the enemy's position, and from information he got from some villagers, he bivouacked at Nooreah for the night, intending to attack the enemy's position in the morning, with what result will be seen from the official reports of Lieutenant Craigie as to the operations of the 29th, and that of Lieutenant Cunliffe (who assumed command of the detachment after Captain Browne was wounded) of the attack on the enemy's position, on the morning of the 30th.

4. I have further the honour to forward a sketch of the enemy's position and the plan of attack, which was so ably and successfully carried out by Captain Browne, but in which, I regret to say, he was himself dangerously wounded, not however before he had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy's position carried, their guns, ammunition, camp equipage, &c., captured, and themselves totally routed.

5. Captain Browne speaks highly of the conduct of all engaged, and of the steady advance of all, under the fire of the enemy's guns, but most especially of the steady advance of the skirmishers

* 2d Punjab Cavalry, 150; 17th Do. Infantry, 175; Kumaon Levies, 100.—Total, 425.

of the 24th Punjab Infantry, led by Ensign Chalmers.

6. I would here beg to bring Ensign Chalmers, Officiating Commandant 24th Punjab Infantry, prominently to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for his indefatigable zeal and energy at all times and under all circumstances. Since he arrived at Phillibheet he has placed the city in a thorough state of defence, and his thorough knowledge of field engineering in all its branches has been of the greatest service here. As soon as he arrived he threw up a bridge-head for the protection of the bridge-of-boats, to enable us, in the event of wanting assistance from Bareilly, to keep our communication open with that station, and although the river rose so high, and almost destroyed it, as soon as the water subsided he set to work, and in less than three days had another bridge-head completed. Besides this, between Sunday and Monday morning last, he had completed the entrenching of Nooreah (though part of the day under fire), and there is now a police force there of 300 men, and the police chowkee re-established. Much praise I consider is due to Ensign Chalmers for all that he has done since he has been here, which is my reason for bringing him thus prominently to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

7. I have further the honour to forward returns of ordnance and ordnance stores captured, as also a general casualty return of the detachment engaged.

I have, &c.,
ROBERTSON LARKINS, Captain,
Commanding at Phillibheet.

No. 31.

Lieutenant Craigie to Captain S. Browne,
Commanding Detachment.

Camp, Nooreah, August 29, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that agreeably to detachment orders of yesterday's date, I proceeded with the force, as per margin,* to Nooreah, for the purpose of fortifying the Tehseel, to enable the police to repel any attacks that might be made upon them by the rebels, who were encamped at Seerpoorah, about three miles off, on the edge of the jungle.

On arriving at Nooreah I posted a picket of (1) one Duffadar and (4) four Sowars to watch the enemy's picket, which was posted about a mile from Nooreah. About half-past nine the Duffadar of the picket sent in to say that the enemy were advancing in force, with infantry and cavalry, but that they could not see any guns. I allowed them to advance within three-quarters of a mile of Nooreah, when I divided my cavalry into two parties, sending one towards their left, under Resaidar Hukdad Khan, where they had some cavalry drawn up; and myself taking the remainder of the cavalry, and the whole of the infantry, under Ensign Chalmers, (with the exception of a small guard left in Nooreah,) also a few footmen and police Sowars, who accompanied Mr Low. I advanced towards their right, the ground in their front being rice fields, knee-deep in water. The enemy were drawn up on a road running parallel to my front. There must have been about (300) three hundred infantry, (100) one hundred cavalry, and (2) two elephants.

* 100 sabres 2d Punjab Cavalry; 100 rank and file 24th Punjab Infantry.