

28. I then directed the troops in the works to advance. Just as we were entering the principal work, or citadel, a large mine was exploded, it is supposed by a Ghazee, burying in its debris the leading files of the Belooch battalion; had the explosion occurred a few minutes later, my loss must have been most severe.

29. It was subsequently discovered that this mine was the principal powder magazine of the place, said to have contained 8,000 lbs. of powder.

30. The enemy then evacuated the whole of the works, abandoning all his guns, together with large quantities of ammunition, stores, and provisions.

31. Major Hughes pursued the enemy for five miles, and pressed him hard, cutting up a great many men. The regimental colour of the 52d Regiment was captured by Lance Duffadar Wallee Mahomed Khan, who slew its bearer.

32. I much regret that the 1st Punjab Cavalry has been deprived of the services of Assistant-Surgeon Clement Smith, who was severely wounded in the pursuit, heading a small party of cavalry, in the endeavour to reach his regiment to give assistance to the wounded.

33. The entrenchments and fort of Rampore Kussiah are most extensive and complete. The enceinte is 3 miles in circumference, enclosing an area of 190 acres, situated in almost unapproachable ground; on the west side there are three lines of entrenchments, each covered by a ditch; most of the parapets of the whole work are 20 feet thick.

34. The place was found to contain a foundry for cannon and shells, with mould ready prepared for use, a quantity of gun metal, a laboratory for making fuzees, and a carriage manufactory fitted with English circular saws, and other tools; in fact, from the solidity and completeness of the place, it must have been a long time in preparation, and an arsenal for the rebels and mutineers. I trust its capture will inflict a heavy blow upon them.

35. Seventeen guns and five mortars, 22 pieces of ordnance in all, were captured in the place.

36. From the nature of the ground, both inside and outside the works, which affords every facility for concealing both killed and wounded men, and the high crops outside, it is impossible to arrive at a correct estimate of the loss of the enemy. Many killed are constantly being found in the jungle and other places, and many were seen to be carried off in all directions on ponies and the country bedsteads. I consider that the loss of the enemy was not less than 300 killed; the wounded cannot be computed.

37. My loss was severe; it amounts to two English officers severely wounded, four native officers, and 73 of all ranks; total, 79 killed and wounded; but I trust that, considering the nature

and extent of the works, and the importance of the capture, it will be considered unavoidable.

38. I cannot close this Report without expressing the greatest admiration of the gallantry and good conduct of the troops under my command. I trust I may be permitted to mention how much I am indebted to the Officers commanding corps, and to Staff Officers of this force for the cordial support they have at all times afforded me.

Colonel Taylor, C.B., commanding 79th Highlanders; Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar, C.B., commanding Belooch Battalion, Major Middleton, C.B., R.H.A., Senior Artillery Officer of this force, are entitled to my warmest acknowledgments.

Major Le Messurier, C.B., who commanded the heavy battery, worked his guns with surprising rapidity and accuracy under an annoying fire from the place. I am also indebted to him for the zeal and ability displayed in getting his guns across a most difficult country, without roads, during these operations.

Of Major Hughes and his excellent regiment I cannot speak too highly; its conduct under this officer's good leading has been admirable.

Captain Thelwall, commanding 9th Punjab Infantry, and Lieutenant Scratchley, commanding Royal Engineers, I have already brought to the Major-General's notice.

After the fall of Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar, the command of the Belooch Battalion devolved upon Lieutenant Nicholetts, who is highly spoken of by Captain Thelwall in his Report.

Captain Briggs, Officiating Assistant-Commissary-General, has been unremitting and successful in his exertions to supply this force, under circumstances of great difficulty.

Mr Power, Civil Service, and Captain Bunbury, Assistant-Commissioner, attached to this force, have been most active in procuring intelligence, and in affording every assistance to me. They both accompanied me throughout the action.

The officers of my Staff, Lieutenant Acton, 53d Regiment, Major of Brigade; Captain O'Brien, 20th Regiment, Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General; and Ensign Duff, 79th Highlanders, Orderly Officer, have displayed indefatigable zeal and ability in the discharge of their duties on this and on every occasion.

I beg to enclose a state of this force on the morning of the 3d November, together with a Return of Casualties, a Return of Captured Ordnance, and a Sketch of Rampore Kussiah, with a Report on the Works, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief.

I have, &c.,

E. R. WETHERALL, Brigadier,
Commanding Field Force in South Oude.