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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1859.

INDIA OFFICE, February 17, 1859.

THE following Papers have been received by the Secretary of State for India in Council:—

No. 1.

GENERAL ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA.

Allahabad, December 17, 1858.

No. 585 of 1858.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General is pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatch from Colonel Evelegh, C.B., commanding a moveable force, reporting his successful attack on the fort of Simree, in Oude, on the 9th November 1858, and its destruction.

The Governor-General highly approves of the operations of Colonel Evelegh, C.B., and of the conduct of all the officers and men engaged on this occasion.

No. 2.

Colonel Evelegh to Lieutenant Biddulph, Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, Oude Field Force.

Camp at Simree,
November 12, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Major-General commanding Oude Field Force, that I started with the troops named in the margin,* from my place of encampment near Morar Mow, at 6 A.M., on the 9th instant, for the purpose of attacking the fort of Simree.

After half an hour's march I observed the enemy's cavalry and infantry in front, who retired, however, on the approach of the column. At some little distance farther on the enemy's infantry again appeared in the jungle and khets, and I therefore directed 3 companies of Her Majesty's 80th Regiment and 2 companies of Her Majesty's 20th Regiment to extend and clear the front, and a company of the latter regiment also to search a village to my right, whilst a troop of cavalry turned its flank.

* 4 guns, 1st troop, 1st brigade, Bengal Horse Artillery; 2 guns Royal Artillery Siege Train; 300 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry; 420 3d Oude Police Cavalry; 230 5th Oude Police Cavalry; 220 Her Majesty's 20th Regiment; 230 Her Majesty's 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers; 170 Her Majesty's 80th Regiment; 300 4th Police Infantry; 420 7th Police Infantry.

During the time these movements were being carried out, Lieutenant Chamberlain, commanding the police force, informed me that the enemy was moving in considerable strength to my right. Fearing that his object might be to attack my baggage, I sent with that Officer some cavalry, 2 guns Royal Artillery, and 2 companies of police infantry.

The enemy meanwhile, being driven from my immediate front, and hearing considerable firing on the right, I at once halted the column, and proceeding with the detachments of the 20th and 80th Regiments to Lieutenant Chamberlain's assistance, found the enemy's infantry extended in thick jungle and nullahs, and in a position most difficult to approach, even for infantry, from the nature of the ground. The fire from the guns and Enfields however, caused them to retreat after some time, when the infantry advanced skirmishing through jungle khets, and over some deep nullahs, and drove them from a strong position on a hill, where they had previously moved to.

The right flank being thus effectually cleared, I returned to the column about two miles off, whose front was also engaged with the enemy's infantry, who were firing on it from the jungle, but were driven off by the effective fire of 2 guns of horse artillery and some infantry, the whole under command of Major Miller, Her Majesty's 80th Regiment, who had charge of the column during my absence.

Here I remained for more than an hour, unable to obtain any correct information as to the direct road to the Simree fort, or its position, but on advancing about half a mile, a native pointed to a high tree, and said that the fort was in the jungle, 200 yards beyond it; but so dense was the jungle all around, that no walls were visible. On proceeding some hundred yards farther on, however, a man was observed standing on a bastion of the fort, just above the jungle, and firing at my party; and Major Bruce, who commanded the artillery of the force, was of opinion that he could shell it with the mortars.

I therefore ordered the heavy guns to be brought up, together with some infantry and 2 horse artillery guns, the remaining horse artillery guns, 4th Police Infantry, and a company of the 20th to protect the baggage, and 3 companies of the 20th, and the 2 Royal Artillery guns to proceed to a village on my right and rear, to prevent the enemy from the jungle attacking that part.