

8. On the 27th ultimo, I landed at Bushire, and assumed the command of the army. The vast preparations of the Persian Government for the recovery of Bushire then came to my knowledge. Shooja-ool-Moolk, who commands the Persian troops, had assembled a force, said to amount to 8,500, and subsequently found to be as per margin,* at the town of Burazjoon, 46 miles distant from Bushire, and entrenched his position. This army was well supplied with food and ammunition, of which considerable magazines had been collected. It was intended that this force should form the nucleus of a very large army to be assembled for the re-capture of Bushire.

9. The 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, which arrived on the 31st ultimo and 1st instant, was landed by the 2nd, and, on the evening of the 3rd, the troops as per margin† marched from this camp, without tents or extra clothing of any sort, each man carrying his great coat, blanket, and two days' cooked provisions, the Commissariat being provided with three days' in addition; the protection of the camp and town of Bushire being duly provided for by a detachment of troops under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sheppard, reinforced by a party of seamen from all the ships in the harbour, which the senior naval officer was so good as to place at my disposal.

10. After a march of 46 miles in 41 hours, during which the troops were exposed to the worst of weather, cold nights, and deluging storms of rain, they reached the enemy's entrenched position on the afternoon of the 5th, and found it abandoned. The enemy, on hearing of our approach, had evacuated his entrenchments the previous night so precipitately that his tents and camp equipment and ordnance magazines were left behind. The former were being rapidly carried off by village plunderers operating for some hours before we arrived. I endeavoured to intercept the retreat of some of the "Eilkhanee's" Horse, who had held the camp during the night, and were still in sight; and a little skirmishing took place; but eventually they made off.

11. The enemy, having succeeded in withdrawing their guns to the strong Passes, where I did not deem it prudent to follow them, and being satisfied with the moral effect of our occupying their position for two days, I decided upon moving the troops back to Bushire. The return march was accordingly commenced on the night of the 7th; first destroying their magazines, found to contain about 40,000 lbs. of powder, with small-arm ammunition, and a vast quantity of shot and shell, and carrying away large stores of flour, rice, and grain which the Persian Government had been collecting for a long time past for their army; thereby effectually crippling their future operations. Some of their guns are supposed to have been cast into wells, and as their wheels and axles fell into our hands, it will be impossible they can be used again for the present.

* Guards, 900; 2 Karragoozloo Regiments, 1,500; Shiraz Regiment, 200; 4 Regiments of Sabriz, 800; Arab Regiment, 900; Kashkai Regiment, 800;—5,100. Sufenghees, 1,000. Cavalry of Shiraz, 300; Eilkhanee Horse, 500;—800. Guns (said to be), 18.

† 3rd Cavalry, 243; Poona Horse, 176;—419 Sabres. 64th Foot, 780; 2nd Europeans, 693; 78th Highlanders, 739;—2,212 Eur. I. Sappers, 118; 20th N.I., 442; 4th Rifles, 523; 26th N.I. 479; Beloochees, 460;—2,022 N.I. 3rd Troop, H.A., 6; 3rd L.F. Batt., 6; 5th ditto, 6;—18 guns.

Camp:—

378 Europeans.
1,466 Native Infantry.
1 Company European Artillery.
14 Guns.

12. At midnight, an attack was made upon the rear guard by the enemy's horse, and parties threatened the line of march on every side. The troops were halted, and so formed as to protect the baggage, and resist the horsemen in whatever direction they might attempt to charge. Four of the enemy's guns of heavy metal opened their fire upon the column, whilst the darkness of the night prevented any steps being taken to capture them.

13. I should here state that, on abandoning their position, Shooja-ool-Moolk, with his force, had taken the direct road to Shiraz by the Mbak Pass; and the Eilkhanee with his horse had retired by the one leading to the Huft Moolla; and, from information subsequently received, I learn that they had planned a combined attack upon our camp the night we marched. Indeed, the explosion of their magazines gave them the first intimation of our departure, when they hastened after us in the expectation of being able to attack us on the line of march, and possibly create confusion and panic in the dark.

14. At daybreak, the Persian force, amounting to between 6,000 and 7,000 men, with some guns, was discovered on our left rear (north-east of our line of march) in order of battle.

15. Our artillery and cavalry at once moved rapidly to the attack, supported by two lines of infantry, a third protecting the baggage. The firing of the artillery was most excellent, and did great execution; the cavalry brigade twice charged with great gallantry and success; a standard (of the Kashkai Regular Infantry Regiment) was captured by the Poona horse; and the 3rd Light Cavalry charged a square, and killed nearly the whole regiment; indeed, upon the cavalry and artillery fell the whole brunt of the action, as the enemy moved away too rapidly for the infantry to overtake them. By ten o'clock the defeat of the Persians was complete; two guns were captured; the gun ammunition, laden upon mules, fell into our hands; and at least 700 men lay dead upon the field. The number of wounded could not be ascertained, but it must have been very large. The remainder fled in a disorganised state, generally throwing away their arms, which strewed the field in vast numbers, and nothing but the paucity of our cavalry prevented their total destruction and the capture of the remaining guns.

16. The troops bivouacked for the day close to the battle-field, and at night accomplished a march of 20 miles, by another route, over a country rendered almost impassable by the heavy rain, which fell incessantly. After a rest of six hours, the greater portion of the infantry continued their march to Bushire, which they reached before midnight; thus performing another most arduous march of 44 miles, under incessant rain, besides fighting and defeating the enemy during its progress, within the short period of 50 hours. The cavalry and artillery reached camp this morning.

17. The result is most satisfactory, and will, I trust, have a very beneficial effect upon our future operations.

18. The greatest praise is due to the troops of all arms for their steadiness and gallantry in the field, their extraordinary exertions on the march, and their cheerful endurance of fatigue and privation, under circumstances rendered doubly severe by the inclemency of the weather, to which they were exposed without shelter of any kind; and I cannot too strongly express the obligation I feel to all under my command for the almost incredible exertions they have undergone, and the gallantry they have displayed on this occasion.