

Lieutenant Oliver, R.A., who was in command of a hastily equipped battery of two 9-pounders and two 24-pounder howitzers, manned by a few Royal Artillery and Bengal Gunners, and some Seikhs, did his best to bring his guns into action on the first day's operations on the Pandoo River; yet, from his extreme inexperience, I thought it better to place my Aid-de-Camp, Captain Sarsfield Greene, R.A., in command, and I beg to bring to your notice the admirable manner in which he directed and fought the guns at the close of the day.

On the 27th he supported the Rifle Brigade, and the 88th Connaught Rangers, and as our force retired, he assisted to protect the retreat. Again, on the 28th, he supported Colonel Walpole, and the Rifle Brigade, on the advance on the left, and assisted materially in the capture of two 18-pounder guns. On the 29th he commanded four guns in the fort. Lieutenant Chamier, of the Madras Artillery, who commanded six light guns, performed his duties entirely to my satisfaction, particularly on the 28th, when he was attached to the force under Brigadier Carthew.

I beg also to bring to your consideration the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel John Adye, my Assistant Adjutant-General, who volunteered on the night of the 27th, and brought from the centre of the town a 24-pounder gun, which had been left behind in the retreat, in consequence of its having been jammed in one of the narrow streets. (This officer was assisted by Captains Austen and Bradford, of the Bengal Artillery.) On the 29th he again volunteered and took command of the same gun, (manned by a few sailors and Madras gunners,) and placed it in position to protect the canal, where it proved of good service during the day. I beg also to testify to the willing exertions of Senior-Surgeon R. C. Elliot on all occasions.

I have, &c.,

J. E. DUPUIS, Major-General,
Commanding Royal Artillery in India.

No. 5.

*The Commander-in-Chief to the Governor-General,
Head Quarters Camp, Cawnpore,*

MY LORD, *December 10th, 1857.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that late on the night of the 3rd instant, the convoy, which had given me so much anxiety, including the families and half the wounded, was finally despatched, and on the 4th and 5th the last arrangements were made for consigning the remainder of the wounded in places of safety, while a portion of the troops was withdrawn from the entrenchments to join the camp.

On the afternoon of the 5th, about 3 P. M., the enemy attacked our left picquets with artillery, and showed infantry round our left flank.

A desultory fire was also begun on our picquets in the General Gung, which is an old bazaar of very considerable extent along the canal, in front of the line occupied by the camp.

These advanced positions had been held, since our arrival, by Brigadier Greathed's brigade with great firmness, the Brigadier having displayed his usual judgment in their arrangement and support. On two or three occasions he had been supported by Captain Peel's heavy guns and Captain Bouchier's field battery, when the artillery of the enemy had annoyed him, and the general front of the camp.

After two hours of cannonading, the enemy retired on the afternoon in question.

Arrangements were then made for a general attack on him, the next day.

His left occupied the old cantonment, from which General Windham's post had been principally assailed. His centre was in the city of Cawnpore, and lined the houses and bazaars overhanging the canal, which separated it from Brigadier Greathed's position, the principal streets having been afterwards discovered to be barricaded.

His right stretched some way beyond the angle formed by the Grand Trunk Road and the Canal, two miles in rear of which the camp of the Gwalior Contingent was pitched, and so covered the Calpee road. This was the line of retreat of that body.

In short, the canal, along which were placed his centre and right, was the main feature of his position, and could only be passed in the latter direction by two bridges.

It appeared to me, if his right were vigorously attacked, that it would be driven from its position without assistance coming from other parts of his line, the wall of the town, which gave cover to our attacking columns on our right, being an effective obstacle to the movement of any portion of his troops from his left to right.

Thus the possibility became apparent of attacking his division in detail.

From intelligence received, before and after the action, there seems to be little doubt that, in consequence of the arrival of four regiments from Oude, and the gathering of various mutinous corps which had suffered in previous actions, as well as the assemblage of all the Nana's followers, the strength of the enemy now amounted to about 25,000 men, with all the guns belonging to the contingent, some (36) thirty-six in number, together with a few guns belonging to the Nana.

Orders were given to General Windham, on the morning of the 6th, to open a heavy bombardment at 9 A. M. from the entrenchment in the old cantonment, and so induce the belief, in the enemy that the attack was coming from the General's position.

The camp was struck early, and all the baggage driven to the river side under a guard, to avoid the slightest risk of accident.

Brigadier Greathed, reinforced by the 64th Regiment,* was desired to hold the same ground opposite the centre of the enemy, which he had been occupying for some days past, as above mentioned, and at 11 A. M., the rest of the force, as per margin,† was drawn up in contiguous columns in rear of some old cavalry lines, and effectually masked from the observation of the enemy.

The cannonade from the entrenchment having become slack at this time, the moment had arrived for the attack to commence.

The cavalry and horse artillery, having been sent to make a detour on the left and across the canal, by a bridge a mile and a half further up, and threaten the enemy's rear.

The infantry deployed in parallel lines fronting the canal.

* Brigadier Greathed's Brigade.—H. M.'s 8th Foot; H. M.'s 64th Foot; 2nd Punjab Infantry.

† Artillery Brigade.—Two Troops Horse Artillery; three Light Field Batteries; Guns of the Naval Brigade; Heavy Field Battery Royal Artillery.

Cavalry Brigade.—H. M.'s 9th Lancers; Detachments 1st, 2nd and 5th Punjab Cavalry, and Hodson's Horse.

4th Infantry Brigade.—H. M.'s 53rd Regiment; H. M.'s 42nd and 93rd Highlanders; 4th Punjab Rifles.

5th Infantry Brigade.—H. M.'s 23rd Fusiliers; H. M.'s 32nd Regiment; H. M.'s 82nd Regiment.

6th Infantry Brigade.—2nd and 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade; Detachment H. M.'s 38th Foot.

Engineer Brigade.—Royal Engineers and Detachments Bengal and Punjab; Sappers and Miners attached to the various Brigades of Infantry.