

forward the 2nd Brigade to Belwa Bazar, in support of the leading one, as the enemy was showing a boldness and insolence likely to prove troublesome, Captain Plowden, whom I had entrusted with discretionary power, and whose advice the Maharajah had directed his officers to follow, resolved to move out and attack the enemy at Shahgunge.

2. I have the honour to enclose Captain Plowden's account of the very creditable affair which ensued, and which his Lordship in Council will observe was successful, but not decisive, as far as the destruction of the enemy's force or the capture of his guns was concerned, owing to our want of Cavalry and the inability of the Goorkhas to overtake the flying enemy. It is to be hoped, however, that the lesson given the enemy, despite his superiority of numbers, may break up the motley force which threatened the Goruckpore district on the advance of the Maharajah into Oude.

3. I would call the particular attention of his Lordship in Council to that part of Captain Plowden's despatch in which he makes honourable mention of the Goorkha Brigadiers Run Sing and Jodebeer Adhikaree, who displayed great coolness and courage, and a generous confidence in Captain Plowden's advice. Also the zealous ability of the Nepalese Artillery officers, especially of Colonel Insdheer Singh, Major Jugbeer Kunwur, and Captains Indra Beer Lama and Maun Bahadoor. The effective way in which these officers handled their guns decided the day before the Infantry could close.

4. It is also my pleasing duty to bring to the notice of his Lordship in Council the services of Captain Plowden, whose plan of action was well conceived and ably carried out. He appears to have done all he could with the means at his disposal. Captains Mac Neill and Holland, of the Artillery, and Lieutenants Forte and Cory, of the Infantry, and Messrs. Brereton and Forbes of the Civil Service, rendered good service, and merit my thanks.

I have, &c.,

G. H. MACGREGOR, Brigadier-General,
and Military Commander, Camp.

No. 15.

Captain Plowden to Captain MacAndrew, Secretary to the Military Commander.

SIR,

*Camp Belwa Ghat,
February 6, 1858.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Brigadier-General MacGregor, C.B., particulars of an attack made upon the enemy yesterday by a Division of the Goorkha Force under my charge, and which, I am happy to say, resulted in the dispersion of his force, which amounted to not less than 10,000 men, with 8 or 10 guns.

The enemy having had the boldness to take up a position within three miles of our camp, and seize our camp followers, I deemed it necessary to attack him.

Having made the necessary arrangements for the protection of our camp, during our absence, I marched, yesterday morning, with the force named in the margin,* towards the enemy's position, at Shahgunge. On arriving within a mile of the latter place, I observed the enemy in great force occupying a space of two miles in length. I here gave directions for the force to deploy;

five regiments in line, and one in either flank in reserve, in open column of companies, to provide against an attack from the right or left. Four guns were placed in the centre, and three on each flank; in this order we advanced for nearly half a mile, covered by skirmishers, the enemy simultaneously advanced to meet us, at the same time filing off in masses to our right and left, believing that he might possibly attack our flanks and rear. I halted the line, when he approached within 500 yards. Captain Macneill opened his battery on his right, with most accurate precision, the shells bursting immediately over the rebels, causing them at once to make a rapid retreat, and seek shelter in villages on their right and left; they were soon driven out of these by the well directed fire of the batteries under the superintendence of Captains Macneill and Holland—a shell from the former having set one of the villages on fire. After this the force continued its advance as far as the village of Shahgunge, driving the rebels before it, who retreated with such rapidity that they were in a short time out of gun range.

During the whole of our advance, we were threatened on both flanks by large bodies of sowars and infantry. Our left was within a short distance of the river, and opposite to the town of Adjodeah, from which place preparations were making for reinforcing the rebels with guns and cavalry. Knowing this to be the case, I was obliged to be cautious in advancing, and the enemy was enabled to make off with his guns, which, however, during the latter part of the action, were never brought nearer to us than 1000 yards. In his retreat, the enemy abandoned the limber of a light field piece with ammunition, and which was brought into camp. I was much struck with the steady advance of our line over a most unfavourable country, having to pass a succession of villages, surrounded by fields in an advanced state of cultivation, which much impeded the rapidity of our progress. Our casualties were trifling—1 killed and 1 wounded, while that of the enemy was not less than 50; some of the killed and wounded they carried off. Amongst the latter was Banie Sing, one of their chiefs. In conclusion I have to record the services of Brigadier Run Sing and Jodebeer Adhikaree, who both displayed great coolness and courage and generous confidence in my advice. Captains Macneill and Holland have brought to my notice the deserving conduct of Colonel Insdheer Singh, Major Jugbeer Kunwur and Captains Indra Beer Lama and Maun Bahadoor of the artillery. I also beg to recognize the meritorious services of the several colonels, commanding the different infantry regiments, while the conduct of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of all branches deserve their high reputation for courage, and merit the gracious approbation of his Highness the Maharajah. My best thanks are due to the European officers attached to this force, for the support I received from one and all in the field. I beg to mention for favourable notice, Captain Macneill, who had charge of the artillery, Captain Holland in charge of Brigadier Jodebeer Adhikaree's Brigade, and who also superintended the battery on the left. The precision with which the guns were fired elicited the admiration of all. My special thanks are due to Lieutenant Forte, who, besides attending to the duties of Run Sing's Brigade, displayed great activity during the day, and afforded me much assistance in conveying messages.

Lieutenant Cory also did good service with the brigade to which he was attached.

Surgeons McClelland and Chalmers and Assistant-Surgeon Gee accompanied the force.

* 3 light field howitzers, 2 light field guns, Artillery; 7 regiments Infantry; total aggregate of Force, 3,200.