

## No. 2.

*Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., Commanding Central India Field Force, to Colonel Green, Adjutant-General of the Army.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to state to you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that, after the capture of Rathghur, the rebels who had retired from Chandera-poor to Barodia, as mentioned in my report of the 7th February, 1858, concentrated in the latter place, having been reinforced by such of the garrison of Rathghur as had escaped, and by rebels from Korage and other places in Bundelcund.

2. Barodia, on the left bank of the river Beena, is a strong village, with a gurrie or small fort, with dense jungle on each side, about twelve miles from Rathghur, on the road to Korage, a strong fort twenty-nine miles to the north of Saugor.

3. The object of the rebels in concentrating at Barodia was to prevent or endanger any advance to Saugor, by retaking Rathghur; or, by placing themselves in my rear on the road from Bhopal to Saugor, to cut off, as they had already attempted to do, the supplies coming to me from the friendly States of Scindia and Bhopal. It was consequently necessary to attack the enemy and drive them out of Barodia.

4. Taking with me the force stated in the margin,\* I marched, at mid-day on the 31st ultimo, from Rathghur, leaving Brigadier Stuart, with the remainder of my force, to protect Rathghur and the camp.

5. I moved in the order of march, which I always adopt when near the rebels, as a precaution against their system of surprises; that is, a line of flankers of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons on each side of the road, fifty yards in front of the leading file of the advanced guard, which, with a file of Irregulars, has charge of the guide; another line of Irregular Cavalry, 150 yards in echelon, in front of the outward flanks of the 14th; and, should thick jungle border the road, a company of infantry, in extended order on each side of it, to support the flankers of the 14th and the advanced guard. By this means all dangerous ground is searched, surprises are almost impossible, and spies, lying concealed at a great distance from the road, are frequently seized.

6. As we approached Barodia and the river Beena, we had very thick jungle, long grass, and nullahs on our left. The flankers of the Irregular, suddenly halting, reported that they perceived the enemy in force, in ambuscade on our left. Being with the advanced guard, which was under Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, I ordered the two guns of his troops to open their fire to the left on the enemy; before they could do so, the enemy opened a musketry fire on us, killing Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull's horse, and keeping it up with tenacity, although I reinforced the division of Horse Artillery with four of Captain Lightfoot's 9-pounders, firing grape and round-shot; it was too close for shrapnell.

7. Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, with the Horse-Artillery, took ground to the right, with the view to enfilade the enemy; but he could not get a slant at them. However, this movement enabled him to obtain good views of a body of rebel horsemen, with a red standard, endeavouring to gain a wood to our right and outflank us; I

had directed a charge of cavalry against them; but it could not be executed in consequence of the staff-officer being unable to find a passage down the high banks of the Beena; two rounds of spherical case burst amongst this batch; they disappeared.

8. I had placed the 3rd Europeans in skirmishing order, in front of the flanks of their guns; their united fire diminished, but did not silence, the fire of the rebels.

9. I therefore charged the rebels out of their advanced position, with the skirmishers of the 3rd Europeans, who, under Lieutenant-Colonel Liddell, gallantly drove them out of their own treacherous element, thick jungle, and twisting nullahs, and took possession of the bank of the river commanding the ford to Barodia, which now first became visible; the rebels had displayed so much obstinacy in defending this position, in order to prevent our advance across the Beena to Barodia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Liddell, Captain Neville, Royal Engineers, Captain Campbell, 3rd Europeans, Captain Rose, my Aide-de-Camp, and Lieutenant Macdonald,\* Assistant Quarter-Master General, were conspicuously in this advance.

I turned the advantage, gained by the 3rd Europeans, immediately to account; and sent the Hyderabad Irregular Cavalry, supported by the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry under Captain Forbes, to cross the ford, covered by the skirmishers, to pass through the jungle to the front, and fall on the enemy in the open, which I had learnt was between the jungle and Barodia; I followed with 4 guns of the Horse Artillery and a troop of Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons in support, under Lieutenant-Colonel Turnbull, ordering the rest of my force to follow, with the exception of Captain Hare's Infantry and guns, which remained at the ford to prevent the rear being cut off.

Captain Forbes found the enemy's flanks, particularly their left, posted in thick jungle, their centre in comparatively open ground; he charged and broke their centre, cutting up 30 or 40 of them. The third and a very strong position, the village of Barodia, now came into sight; Captain Forbes having observed a body of cavalry retreated leisurely on it, attempted to cut them off, but their flight, on seeing this intention, became so rapid, that he only succeeded in killing 8 or 10 of them, before they got well under the protection of their guns in position at the village, and of their matchlockmen posted in the dense jungle, which surrounded three sides of it, and among the banks of a wet nullah running along their front.

Captain Forbes mentions, for their conduct on this occasion, and I beg to recommend to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Subadar Soojut Khan, for having killed himself three of the rebels, all of his own caste; Naik Himut Sing, very severely wounded; Naik Bahader Khan, and trooper Vass, also severely wounded, who attracted the notice of their officers by engaging, singly, two or three of the enemy at the same time.

On the day before, when the camp was attacked, the same faithful Subadar hindered the advance of the enemy by the able disposition of his picket.

If his Excellency were pleased to obtain a reward for these brave soldiers, it would have a good effect on their regiment, whose fidelity and courage have never failed.

Jemadar Ihmut Hoosain Khan, 3rd Hyderabad Cavalry, was mortally wounded in courageously attacking, singly, a knot of the enemy.

\* Lieutenant Macdonald was slightly wounded, and his horse twice wounded.

\* 4 guns horse artillery; 4 guns Captain Lightfoot's battery; two 5½-inch mortars, with 15 men of Captain Woolcombe's battery, under the command of Lieutenant Strutt; 3 troops 14th Light Dragoons; 2 troops 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry; 25 men Madras Sappers and Miners; 3rd European Regiment; Detachment Hyderabad Contingent Field Force, under Captain Hare.