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*Admiralty, June 17, 1858.*

**A** DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty from Captain Sotheby, of Her Majesty's steam-ship Pearl, commanding a Naval Brigade in India :

SIR, *Camp Kaptangunge, April 29, 1858.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Pearl's Naval Brigade was engaged in a series of actions with the enemy on the 25th instant, near the village of Puchawas. Intelligence being received at 11 A.M. that they were approaching our camp, the Field Force, as per margin,\* always ready, was immediately under arms, and marched out to meet them, Brigadier Rowcroft taking command of the right column, whilst Major Cox and myself took charge of the left ; on advancing one mile we soon found the enemy in front, posted in woods and villages, who commenced the action by firing shell from two 9-pounder guns (horsed) with great precision. but as all our men were nearly in skirmishing order, with little effect. As their range was considerably beyond our small 12-pounder howitzers, I immediately ran them up within 700 yards, and after a few rounds, shelled them out, but keeping up a running fire as they retreated for about two and a half miles, when a vidette gave notice that a body of 1,500 men with 3 guns was on our left ; we immediately went in that direction about two miles, and found them posted in some thick woods and jungle. As our men were very much fatigued from the intense heat, many already having dropped from coups-de-soleil, it was necessary to give them a few minutes' rest, and to keep up communication with the Brigadier, who had been engaged successfully on our right with another body, and was then moving towards us ; we then rapidly advanced with our guns, the seamen with the 13th Light Infantry as skirmishers, making beautiful practice, killed many of the enemy, who were under the Rajah of Gouda (seated on an elephant) ; in about half an hour they gave way, we pursuing them for two miles, towards the Gogra, over which many escaped, their retreat to Belware being threatened by the cavalry. In the meantime, the other two rebel forces, who had

been driven back, had joined and advanced within one mile of our camp to attack it, when the Brigadier, who had heard of their approach, moved quickly to the right, just in time to meet them on the road, and after some sharp firing and shelling on both sides, drove them back. On hearing of his being again in action we quickly rejoined him, and sent a few well-directed rockets into some woods, which hastened their retreat, and burnt them out of a village. It being nearly sunset, and the troops quite exhausted from the intense heat, and constantly moving for seven hours, we halted, and shortly afterwards returned to camp.

The enemy's force is reported upwards of 3,000, with 5 guns, but as they were so quickly worked, and taken to the rear, we were only able to capture 1 ammunition waggon.

They had about 70 killed.

I am happy to report we had no casualties, though it was perfectly miraculous how all escaped, for their practice with the guns, especially the shells, was unusually good.

The men behaved in their usual cool and cheerful manner, much to my satisfaction, and went over 18 miles under a burning sun.

The following officers were in the field, and rendered me much valuable assistance, and I beg permission to recommend them to the favourable notice of their Lordships.

Lieutenant N. E. B. Turnour, in charge of 2 guns.

Lieutenant H. D. Grant, with the seamen, a most zealous officer.

Lieutenant F. G. Pym, with the Marines.

Mr. A. W. Ingles, mate, very active with the skirmishers.

Mr. C. F. Foot, midshipman, with the other 2 howitzers.

Mr. H. F. Stephenson, midshipman, my Aide-de-Camp, always at hand, and ready to convey messages.

Messrs. Parkins, and Burton, warrant officers : the latter struck down by a coup-de-soleil.

Drs. W. J. Shone, and Dickinson, with the Rev. E. A. Williams, and Mr. T. H. L. Bowling, acting-clerk.

William Thompson, gunner's-mate, and Luke Pearse, carpenter's-mate, were also of much service.

I regret to say our sick list is very large, owing to the exposure to the sun, and living in tents at this period of the year.

On the 27th, at 10 P.M., having destroyed our entrenchments after dark, and blown up captured

\* 153 Naval Brigade; 246 13th Light Infantry; 168 Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry; 425 Goorkhas and Sikhs.