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Admiralty, June 30, 1858.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty from Captain Sotheby, C.B., of Her Majesty's ship Pearl, commanding a Naval Brigade in India :

No. 85.

*Camp, Kuptangunge, Goruckpore District,
SIR, 1st May, 1858.*

I HAVE the honour to forward you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a report of the proceedings of a most successful and gallant attack on a body of rebels, posted at the village of Nuggur on the 29th ultimo, by a detachment from this force, as per margin*, under the command of Major Cox, 13th Light Infantry, at which a portion of the Pearl's Naval Brigade took a very conspicuous part, under the charge of Lieutenant Grant, R.N. Having sent an expedition the previous day to drive off a party of 400 rebels within a few miles of our camp, intelligence was shortly afterwards received of another body of upwards of 1,000 (half of whom were Sèpoys) having crossed the Gogra, and taken up a very strong position at the above-named place, about six miles from us: The detachment left at noon, and arrived at the spot at 2.30 P.M., the men principally riding on elephants. They were received by a sharp fire of musketry from the dense jungle that nearly surrounds the village. For the particulars of the attack I beg to forward Lieutenant Grant's account of it.

Major Cox has called my attention to the skilful and quick manner in which that officer, assisted by Mr. C. F. Foot, Midshipman, managed the guns, which were so well directed by their Captains, that only one shell out of 35 failed in striking the object. He has always rendered me most valuable assistance in this very unusual service, and is a most excellent officer.

Lieutenant Pym, R.M., is also reported, to have led the Marines and Seamen most gallantly to the assault, assisted by Mr. J. G. Shearman, Engineer; as also Mr. Parkins, Gunner, in charge of the rocket; and I beg most earnestly and humbly that you will be pleased to bring before the notice of my Lords Commissioners of the

* 92 Naval Brigade; 150 of 13th Light Infantry; 60 Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry; 290 Goorkhas and Seikhs.

Admiralty the names of these officers for promotion.

Lieutenant Pym speaks very highly of William Turner and William Bates, Gunners, Royal Marine Artillery.

The dispersion of these rebels was most timely performed, as they were to have been joined the following morning by 3,000 more from Tandak, in concert with another large body in the north, for the invasion of the district, whilst in our front at Belwar there are about 5,000 more, with five guns.

The enemy left everything behind, including a pair of new silk banners, with the Hindoo and Mahomedan colours blended together, apparently just made.

I am sorry to report my men and officers are much suffering from fever, being somewhat unprepared for so long a campaign, and from their late harassing duties. This is the eighth time this field force has been in action, and the Pearl's Brigade guns the only Artillery attached to it, and until very lately the Brigade were the only Europeans. It is most gratifying to report the good behaviour of the men, being now as good artillerymen and soldiers as formerly they were seamen.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWARD S. SOTHEY, Captain R.N., Commanding Pearl's Naval Brigade.

The Secretary of the Admiralty, London.

SIR, Camp, Kuptangunge, May 1, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to submit for your information, the part taken by a detachment of Her Majesty's ship Pearl's Naval Brigade, with a force under the command of Major Cox, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, in an attack on the town and Fort of Nuggur, on the 29th ult.

The detachment, consisting as per margin,* left camp at noon, and after a hot march of seven miles, approached the west side of the town of Nuggur. A strong body of the 13th Light Infantry and Seikhs, were sent to clear the jungle on that side, while the rest made a detour round to the north side. As we came up we were

* Royal Marines, 25; Seamen, 67; 2 12-pounder howitzers; 1 24-pounder rocket.