

No 5.

No. 131 of 1858.

IN publishing the accompanying despatches regarding the pursuit of the insurgents under Koer Sing, the Right Honorable the Governor-General desires to record his thanks to Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., for the judgment and energy with which his operations have been conducted; to Brigadier Douglas, C.B., for the very able and active manner in which he carried on the pursuit of the rebels; and to the officers named in the despatches; and, generally, to the whole force employed, for the courage, endurance, and gallantry shown by them during these operations.

Mr. Davies, Civil Service, Collector of Azimghur, is also entitled to the acknowledgments of the Governor-General, for the valuable services rendered by him during these operations.

R. J. H. BIRCH, Colonel.
Secretary to the Government of India,
Military Department, with the Governor-General.

No. 6.

The Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, with the Governor-General.

*Head. Quarters Camp, Furreedpore,
May 4, 1858.*

No. 295 A.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor-General, copy of a despatch from Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., commanding Azimghur Field Force, dated 25th ultimo, enclosing report from Brigadier J. Douglas, C. B., of his pursuit of Koer Sing to the banks of the Ganges.

2. The vigour and closeness of this pursuit are considered by his Excellency, to reflect the highest credit upon the Brigadier, and upon the troops under his command.

I have, &c.

H. W. NORMAN, Major,
Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 7.

Brigadier-General Sir E. Lugard, K.C.B., Commanding Azimghur Field Force, to the Chief of the Staff.

Camp Mhow, April 25, 1858.

SIR,

IN my report of the 16th instant, I had the honor to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that, in consequence of the rebels under Koer Sing having taken up a strong position at Azimutghur, I had reinforced the pursuing column, and placed the whole under the command of Brigadier Douglas, C. B.

2. This force then consisted of the details as per margin,* which, equipped as lightly as my means permitted, I deemed quite sufficient to accomplish the object in view.

3. The remainder of the Field Force, including the heavy guns, park, &c., I retained under my

* 3 guns E troop, Royal Horse Artillery; 4 guns Major Cotter's Battery; 2 5½-inch mortars; 1 Squadron Military Train; 2 Squadrons Sikh Cavalry; 1 Wing 37th Foot; 84th Regiment; Detachment Punjab Sappers.

immediate command in Camp at Azimghur, which place I considered it was necessary to hold strongly for the present, and to remain there myself, as a strong body of rebels under the Rajahs of Nuhurpoor and Naneejor (who formed a portion of Koer Sing's Force before Azimghur,) had gone in a northerly direction towards Oude; scattered portions also of Gholam Hossein's force, which I had dispersed at Tigra, were known to be near Sandah; and other parties of rebels were reported to be collecting in the vicinity of Mundoree and Koelser, whilst Benares had been denuded of troops to assist in the operations against Koer Sing. Thus the central situation of Azimghur enabled me to watch the proceedings of the rebels north of it, to cover Benares and Ghazeepore, and to direct and control the combined movements in pursuit of Koer Sing.

4. At daybreak on the 17th instant, Brigadier Douglas, in obedience to my instructions, attacked the rebels near Azimutghur, drove them from their position with much slaughter, and followed them to Ghosee, whence they fled to Nugra, and thence to Secunderpore, closely pursued by the Brigadier.

5. On reaching Secunderpore on the 19th, it was found that the rebels had proceeded but a few hours, with the intention of crossing the Gogra; as soon as he possibly could, the Brigadier followed, and at daybreak of the 20th instant, came up with them at Muneer Khass, and, taking them by surprise, killed and wounded a great many, captured a brass 9-pounder gun, complete with limber, horses, &c., two ammunition waggons, several elephants, horses and bullocks, with 20 carts laden with stores, harness, &c., and dispersed the main body, the bulk of which fled towards Bulliah and Beyreah.

6. Nineteen elephants were separated from the rebel force during this attack, and, making their way to Ghazeepore, were handed over to the magistrate there by the native in charge.

7. Colonel Cumberlege, who had been posted at Mhow to cover Ghazeepore, and co-operate with the pursuing force, was duly warned and directed to move towards Bulliah, and endeavour to intercept the fugitives.*

8. No time was lost by Brigadier Douglas in renewing the pursuit, but, on reaching Sheopore on the 21st, it was found that Koer Sing had effected the passage of the river in boats, which had been prepared by his adherents, and were in readiness for him! The other 9-pounder brass gun which Koer Sing was known to have here, fell into our hands, together with several elephants, and much ammunition.

9. A party of rebels is reported to have crossed near Bulliah, but I have not yet learnt what steps were taken to intercept them by Colonel Cumberlege, who was placed there for that purpose.

10. Having left a sufficient force in Azimghur, I am now *en route* with provisions to effect a junction with my scattered troops, who have been directed to meet me, when I shall be in a position to operate, as may be necessary, against any bands of rebels, either of Koer Sing's force, who, unable to cross, may still remain in the district, or against those to the northward of Azimghur, who may again venture to collect in strength.

11. I regret extremely that, after the very great exertions which have been made to capture Koer Sing, he should have evaded our pursuit; he returns however to his own district a fugitive, hunted and nearly worn out with fatigue, and dispirited by the loss of nearly all his warlike munition.

* 2 guns, 6-pounder; 2 battery guns; 50 men 2nd Dragoon Guards; 180 men 4th Madras Cavalry; 300 men Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry; 100 men 10th and 97th Foot; and 100 men Madras Rifles.