

No. 62.

Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., to the Adjutant-General of the Bombay Army.

SIR, *Camp, Goslowie, May 17, 1858.*

WHILST I was detained at Jhansie by the necessity of protecting it against the Kotah rebels and the late Chandairee garrison, who made an incursion on the road from Jhansie to Goonah, I sent Major Orr, as I have already had the honor to report, across the Betwa to clear Mhow, on the road from Jhansie to Chirkaree, where rebels were said to have reassembled, with orders to proceed northwards to Goorseraie, of which district the chief is our ally, gain all possible information from him, and move against Kotra, an important ford across the Betwa, said to be occupied by rebels, co-operating with Major Gall, 14th Light Dragoons, whom I had sent along the road from Jhansie to Calpee, with the force detailed in the margin,* to gain information respecting the enemy, the most contradictory accounts existing as to their movements and number. When I moved from Calpee, I was to take up Major Orr's and Major Gall's force.

I wished to clear Kotra and the circumjacent line of the Betwa, because I apprehended that the rajahs of Banpore and Shahgur would either hurry on and annoy my right flank or rear as I advanced to Calpee, or double back across the Betwa and again create troubles and disorders in the south of Bundelcund, the Chandairee, and Shahgur districts. Major Orr found no enemy in Mhow, but between Goorserai and the Betwa he came upon a fort occupied by the rebels; some of them escaped, the remainder, 40 in number, surrendered, with 3 guns. He found that Kotra at that time was occupied by Goorserai troops, not by rebels. Major Orr marched to the ford of Erich, across the Betwa, to the west of Kotra, and entered into communication with Major Gall, who advanced as far as Poorh, and ascertained that the enemy in force in that town intended to oppose my advance to Calpee.

Major Gall, in order better to observe the enemy, had a jemadar's party of Hyderabad Cavalry at Lohare, a village and mud-fort, about 8 miles from Poorh, garrisoned by some 70 or 80 men of the rajah of Sumbter, who is said to be our ally. These men betrayed the party of Hyderabad cavalry to the rebel cavalry, in Koonch, in the basest way, and the former with great difficulty cut their way through their assailants, with the loss of a man killed, all their baggage, and 3 or 4 camp followers.

I sent Major Gall, on my arrival at Poorh, with the party detailed in the margin,† to punish the treacherous garrison of Lohare, who, it turned out afterwards, were, if not all, the greater part, disguised sepoy of the 12th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, quantities of their accoutrements being found in the fort.

I have the honor to enclose copy of the report of Major Gall of the capture of Lohare; and, in seconding strongly the recommendation of the officers and men who behaved with so much gallantry, I beg to bring to the notice of his Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, that this is not the first occasion on which Major Gall has done good service. His daring, combined with great intelligence, and indefatigable zeal, have induced me to employ him frequently on reconnaissances and duties belonging especially to light cavalry. On all these occasions Major Gall has shown how impor-

* 3 guns, Bengal Artillery; 1 squadron, 14th Light Dragoons; 3rd Hyderabad Cavalry.

† 4 guns Royal Artillery; 1 squadron 14th Light Dragoons; 100 sabres Hyderabad Cavalry; left wing 3rd Bengal European Regiment; left wing 25th Regiment Native Infantry; 50 Bombay Sappers.

tant are the duties of this arm, and how thoroughly he understands them.

I have, &c.,
HUGH ROSE, Major-General,
Commanding Central India Field Force.

No. 63.

Major R. H. Gall, Commanding Field Force Detachment, to the Chief of the Staff, Central India Field Force.

SIR, *Camp, Poorh, May 5, 1858.*

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of the Major-General, commanding Central India Field Force, that, in pursuance of his instructions, I marched with the force, as per margin,* at 2 A.M. on the 2nd instant, upon the fort of Loharee, about nine miles distant from, and to the north-west of, Poorh.

My cavalry, rapidly pushed forward, had completed the investment of the place soon after day-break, and my main body was halted on the plain to the east of the fort, and within cannon-shot of it, at half-past 6 o'clock.

As I passed Girsra, I sent a party of the 3rd Regiment Hyderabad Cavalry, under a Duffedar, to Khullea, a fort reported to be occupied by the enemy, and to my right, as I advanced, with orders to watch any hostile movement that might be made from that quarter.

When the force halted, I rode, accompanied by Captain Baigill, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Central India Field Force, and Guneshee Lall, a native official in the service of the Governor-General's agent for Central India, through the village of Loharee, up to the walls of the fort, and sent Guneshee Lall to the main gateway with directions to summon the killedar of the place to surrender at discretion. A man soon after made his appearance, whom I supposed to be the killedar, but he was not, though he did by my orders summon the garrison to surrender; they paid no attention to him.

Discovering, however, that Munshur Sing wahimself in the fort, I sent Guneshee Lall to sums mon him.

Munshur Sing delayed obeying my summons for a long time, but at last he came out with a small retinue and gave up his sword, and his retinue laid down their arms.

To Munshur Sing I returned his sword at his own urgent request; at the same time, I called upon him to order out his garrison and direct them to lay down their arms. To the best of my belief he endeavoured to induce them to do so, but they refused. Munshur Sing had clearly no control over them whatever.

All my own efforts failing to induce the garrison to give themselves up, I proceeded to make my dispositions for attack, my skirmishers advancing through the village until they had reached some low mud enclosures, beyond which was an open space between it and the fort, about 150 yards in extent. I placed two guns on the Khullea road, and a howitzer and one gun opposite a guard-house that stands outside of, and on the eastern side of, the fort.

The fort and village of Loharee are situated in an extensive level plain; the village being separated from the fort by the clear space of ground above alluded to.

The little fort itself is square, and built of mud and sun-burnt bricks. The square is flanked by

* 1 squadron 14th Light Dragoons, 120; Hyderabad Cavalry, 100; 4 guns, Royal Artillery, under Captain Field; left wing 3rd Europeans; left wing 25th Bombay Native Infantry; 20 Sappers, Bombay.