

Madras Cavalry, he was enabled to destroy and capture a great many.

I have, &c.,
D. E. WOOD, Brigadier,
Commanding at Allahabad.

No. 17.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Whistler, Commanding Field Detachment, to the Major of Brigade.

No. 55.

Camp Soraon, Allahabad, June 11, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of the Brigadier Commanding, that on the receipt of your letter No. 514, at 8 P.M., on the 9th instant, I immediately gave orders for a party, as per margin,* under command of Lieutenant Aynsley, 6th Madras Cavalry (being the only native troops available, the heat being too great to detach Europeans) to march at midnight, to attack a party of rebels at Kurnaipore, about 12 miles south-east of this, said to be about 1,000, and headed by the rebel Beni Bahadoor Sing. The expedition appears to have been very ably and most successfully carried out, and the detachment 6th Madras Cavalry behaved admirably, and with great zeal and gallantry against an enemy more than five times their number, who fought desperately, first firing their matchlocks, and then defending themselves with swords. The report of Lieutenant Aynsley, who commanded the detachment, I beg to inclose for submission to the Brigadier.

I have, &c.,
J. WHISTLER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding Field Detachment.

No. 18.

Lieutenant G. H. M. Aynsley, 6th Madras Cavalry, to the Station Staff Officer, Soraon.

SIR, *Camp Soraon, June 10, 1858.*

I HAVE the honor to state, for the information of the Officer Commanding, that this morning, a little after 12 o'clock, I proceeded, according to my instructions, with the force noted in the margin,† to Kurnaipore (distant from this about 14 miles to the eastward, and one of the residences of Beni Bahadoor Sing), for the purpose of attacking the rebels congregated there.

I arrived near the place at sunrise, and sent one troop round to the south of the village, which had the effect of making the rebels think we were going to attack on that side, and they accordingly, to the number of about 500 well armed men, marched out, as I wished, towards the north, in good order, with a strong advance and rear guard.

Being joined by the troop I had detached, I advanced with the squadron to the attack of the main body, which was completely successful. The enemy attempted to stand the charge, but in vain; he was instantly broken, 31 of his men were counted dead on the field (and many more must have been killed, but I had not time to go over all the ground,) and 11 prisoners were taken. The slaughter would have been greater, but every individual fought with desperation, discharging and throwing away his musket or matchlock, and fighting with his sword. My men were thus scat-

* 6th Madras Cavalry, 74 sabres; Seikhs, 30; Police Levy, 67.

† 6th Madras Cavalry, 74 sabres; Seikhs, 30; Police Levy, 67.

tered over the country in hand to hand fights, and my own charger being so weak from loss of blood from a sword-cut, that I was obliged to dismount, I was unable to carry on the pursuit as far as I could have wished.

The conduct of all ranks gave me the greatest gratification, and I desire to bring to the particular notice of the Commanding Officer the gallant way in which, without having any support at hand, and opposed to a force so immensely superior in numbers, standing firmly to receive them, they rushed to the charge, shouting "deen, deen," more especially when it is considered that this is the first time they have ever been called on to charge a determined enemy, many of whom were Sepoys. Where all did their duty so well, it would be invidious to mention names.

I have brought in 30 matchlocks and 5 muskets and 11 swords, found on the field; many more were scattered about, but, as I wished to return as soon as possible, to save the troops from the sun, I was unable to collect them.

I am sorry to report that Havildar Gholam Mohedeen was killed, one trooper had his arm broken, and one farrier was wounded. One horse was killed, one missing, and two wounded.

After the action was over, I returned to Kerama, remained there during the heat of the day, and returned to camp in the evening.

I have said nothing of the infantry in this report, as they were unfortunately unable to take part in the action, but I was much pleased with the steady way in which they advanced to the attack of Kurnaipore under Lieutenant Sawers, before it was found to be evacuated.

I have the honor to forward Lieutenant Sawers's report.

I have, &c.,
G. H. M. AYNSELEY, Lieutenant,
6th Madras Cavalry.

No. 19.

Lieutenant John L. Sawers, Adjutant, Police Military Levy, to Lieutenant G. H. M. Aynsley, 6th Madras Cavalry.

Fort Soraon, June 11, 1858.

SIR, No. 1.

I HAVE the honor herewith to forward a report of the proceedings of the infantry force placed under my orders, at the village of Kurnaipore yesterday. The force, as per margin,* was made over by you to me on our arriving at Kurnaipore, where the sepoys in the service of the rebel Beni Bahadoor Sing were found collected in force.

According to your instructions, I took my men to the north of the village, that having been represented by you to be the weakest point for an attack.

When proceeding to carry out your orders, I was met by a villager, who reported that the enemy, to the number of 500, were collected in a grove of trees about 200 yards in advance of the intended point of attack. I at once communicated with you; when we were talking together, your trumpeter called your attention to a body of infantry moving off in regular order from the said grove.

Your orders were to follow the cavalry; this I did, halting for some time in the grove, in the chance of cutting off any of the enemy that might try to double back, and gain the entrenchment

* Seikhs belonging to the Ferozepore Regiment of all ranks, 23; 1st Seikh Volunteer Regiment, 7; Police Levy, 67; total, 97.