

No. 17.

No. 552 of 1858.—The Right Honourable the Governor-General is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter from the Adjutant-General of the Army, No. 1474, dated November 18, 1858, forwarding a report of the capture of Rampore Kussiah, by the force under the command of Brigadier Wetherall, C.B., commanding Field-Force in South Oude, and to record his high appreciation of the achievement accomplished by Brigadier Wetherall, and of the gallantry of the whole of the troops on this occasion.

The Governor-General offers his special thanks to Captain Thelwall, of Her Majesty's 24th Regiment, and to the 9th Punjaub Infantry under his command, which he led with so much intrepidity; and his Lordship desires to record his warm acknowledgment of the services rendered by the whole of the officers named by Brigadier Wetherall, and by the European Native troops engaged.

No. 18.

The Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Allahabad, November 18, 1858.

SIR,

No. 1474.

I HAVE the honour, by order of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for submission to the Governor-General, a despatch from Brigadier E. R. Wetherall, C.B., to the address of the Assistant Adjutant-General of the Lucknow Division, in which that officer mentions the capture of Rampore Kussiah, by the Brigade under his command.

2. His Excellency would bring to special notice the gallantry displayed by the troops on this occasion, and more particularly the conduct of Captain J. B. Thelwall, and the 9th Punjaub Infantry under his command.

3. It is a matter of sincere regret to his Excellency, that the distinguished commander of the Belooch Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Farquhar, has been so severely wounded as to deprive his Excellency of his services for some time to come.

I have, &c.,

W. MAYHEW, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 19.

Brigadier Wetherall to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Lucknow Division, Camp Etayah.

Camp, Rampore Kussiah, November 6, 1858.

SIR,

AT 2 o'clock P.M., on the 1st November, I received an order from the Chief of the Staff, to advance from my position at Deerea, through Lallgunge, to drive the enemy from Kurriya Bazar and the neighbouring posts.

No. 22227.

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2. I marched at 4 P.M. the same day, as there was a difficult ravine at Baboogunge, about 4 miles distant, that I was anxious to cross with the siege train, and heavy baggage during the night. I had previously prepared a passage across it. The force bivouacked on both banks of the ravine. By daylight every thing had crossed, and the force moved on to Lallgunge.

3. I there received the information that Kurriya Bazar had been evacuated, the enemy having retired on Rampore Kussiah, and entrenched camp on the river Sae, and that the Fort of Kythola, about 2 miles to the right of my line of march, was occupied by the enemy.

4. After two hours' halt to refresh the troops, I advanced to Kaepore, a village situated at the junction of the roads leading to Rampore Kussiah, and Kythola, and where the road is traversed by a large swamp that extended laterally some miles across my front; there were but two passages across it, both being impassable for guns or baggage; by halting in this position, I could attack Kythola, threaten Rampore Kussiah; and a passage across the swamp could be made during the night.

5. Upon summoning Kythola, it was found to be evacuated, the garrison having also retired upon Rampore Kussiah, abandoning the entrenchments and a few stand of arms.

6. Owing to the exertions of Lieutenant Scratchley, commanding the Royal Engineers with this force, assisted by the Delhi Pioneers, the causeway was reported practicable the following morning at 8 a.m., the 3rd November.

7. At 8:30 a.m., the force crossed and advanced upon Rampore Kussiah.

8. Upon approaching that place, the country became very close and intricate, being covered with large clumps of trees, low brushwood and standing Indian-corn, rendering it impossible to see more than a few yards, either to the front or flanks. Great caution had, therefore, to be observed in the advance; the enemy, however, did not make use of the advantages of ground thus offered to him.

9. The force arrived in front of Rampore Kussiah about 10 a.m. Upon reconnoitring the place, I found it to consist of an elaborate system of entrenchments of great extent, constructed on both banks of the river Sae, with the old fort as a citadel.

10. The works immediately in my front consisted of a line of six bastions, connected by curtains constructed across a neck of land formed by a deep bend of the river to the northward. The length of this work was about 700 yards in a direct line. This work was flanked on its right, and taken in reverse, by the works on the opposite bank of the river.

11. The north and east sides, and the south-west angle of the works, were surrounded by a dense jungle of prickly thorn; on the south and north-west sides the ground was comparatively clear, but broken and wooded, and every available spot covered with Indian corn, rendering it impossible to see more than the crest of the parapet.

12. The works were surrounded by a ditch, that I had been informed was 15 feet broad and 25 feet deep, which was subsequently found to be nearly correct. The ditch was covered in front by an abattis of prickly thorn.