

Fort William, the 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1857

From J. W. Sherer Esquire - Calcutta  
(Dom. Official)

MS.

(Copies)

Calcutta, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1857

My dear Sir,

I have not been able to get hold of the telegraph till a late hour, but I hasten to forward you letters which you will find very interesting.

We have received intelligence from Lucknow dated the 29<sup>th</sup>. The British Guard was taken on the 25<sup>th</sup> but with considerable loss, General Skell was killed and the whole amount of casualties is estimated at between 400 and 500, and the letter indicates that on the 29<sup>th</sup> the whole of the right or Eastern part of the City was in our hands - that we had taken 7 guns and were steadily preparing ourselves of all the batteries. -

Man Singh who had taken an active part against us was wounded in two places.

I believe me Y<sup>rs</sup>

J. W. Sherer

Calcutta, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1857

My dear Sir,

I beg to forward letters from Meer, which kindly dispatch after perusal to the Governor General, we have heard nothing new from Lucknow. I trust my telegraphic message of last evening will have reached you. -

All we know is this

The attack on the City was made on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Havelock went rather to the right to avoid the main street, still the opposition to be encountered was very great.

junction with the British Guard was effected as the evening fell. Two mines were discovered just ready to be discharged which would have placed the garrison at the mercy of the rebels. -

Names mentioned of those surviving not included to be complete in the British Guard.

John

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To: Delhi  
 Secret  
 No 185  
 (contd)

John Anderson, Gibbins, the Taylors, the Coopers, Mrs Hays, Mrs Curraney and family. General Outram apparently merely mentioned there as known to Lady Outram.

Killed on the 25<sup>th</sup> General Hall, Major Cooper of Artillery, Packham of 84<sup>th</sup> Bachelors Co<sup>ys</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> M. I., Warren 12<sup>th</sup> Irregular Cavalry and many wounded.

The sick and wounded were left with a detachment at Alamb Bagh upon the attack.

Birjis Nadur the natural son of the Ex King had fled to Fyzabad.

Believe me &c  
 Sig<sup>d</sup> J. W. Sherer

Agra 26<sup>th</sup> September 1857  
 Evening

My dear Sherer,

Still no letters from Delhi, it is now a week since the date of our last. It is probable that Greathead's illness who had the business of arranging for the despatch of letters in his hands, and the multitude of other concerns to be attended to by all our people on the complete capture of Delhi, may have interfered with the regularity of the correspondence.

As regards ourselves there is nothing fresh to say. Our accounts from Mubbra are little more than corroborative of what we had before. A great multitude of the fugitives had arrived, and more were arriving in Mubbra; they were crossing at various Ghats and one party as low down as a Ghat which would take them via Saidabad or Munderwa and Mynpore towards Cutch - notwithstanding their big words the people had begun to perceive that they were a defeated force unaided and ill off for arms &c. Two guns dragged by bullocks had arrived and more were behind.

We have had pretty certain information today that the Indore force at Dholpore are collecting carriage and contemplate a very early move.

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They speak of coming this way, but it is supposed that they will move  
via Jabalpur & Lora towards Umbra, to join the great body of the  
mutineers, and with them proceed towards Cutch. The Maharajah of  
Gwalior has, we are assured destroyed all the boats in the Chambal; so  
that the British troops were in a very awkward position: and their  
only alternative was to go off via Etawah or Umbra, or to stand the  
chance of being attacked with the Chambal in their rear. There is a  
talk by some that a move is projected at Bhurtpore, into the Fort  
of which the mutineers are supposed to desire to throw themselves.  
But I cannot find any confirmation of the idea.

Upon the whole, so far as I can see at present, the  
universal intention of the mutineers is to wrap themselves either in  
Barcilly or further to the Eastward in Oude.

We have had letters from General Lawrence from  
Aibawa, dated the 20<sup>th</sup>. He had an engagement for three hours  
with the Jubbulpore Legion, without any successful result, but  
both in this, and in an affair at Meerut, the Bombay troops  
have shown themselves stable and trustworthy - and this is a  
matter of sincere congratulation.

I give Lawrence's account of his affair - "Left with  
"a force of 5 Horse Artillery Guns, two squadrons, 1<sup>st</sup> Bombay Lancers,  
"200, 83<sup>rd</sup> N. M., and 250 Puhairwarra Battalion for Awah,  
"a walled town and Fort about 3 1/2 miles from this (Aibawa)  
"Left Beawar on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, marched the 12<sup>th</sup> day to Bura  
"finding the road through the pap very much cut up by the bad  
"weather we had during this month which detained me at  
"Beawar for upwards of a week,) on Tuesday we moved to Pepta,  
"Wednesday to Bagree, Thursday to Chaputta about 6 miles from  
"Awah - On Friday morning I moved the force on the direct  
"road to Awah, and pushed forward to about half a mile from  
"the town. The approach was through the thickest jungle, in  
"which a few of the enemy's horsemen showed themselves, but  
"speedily retreated before a few of the Lancers."

Their guns opened fire on us at about 800 yards and  
"soon got our range pretty accurately. They were placed on the bank  
"of a tank just outside the town, and their fire was well kept  
"up for some time. We returned it and forced them to retire.  
"Their horsemen tried to turn our right flank and threatened  
"our baggage - By a change of position, I placed my force between  
"the enemy and our baggage again, and finally retired on the village."

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"The whole affair lasted about 3 hours as we were weak  
"in Infantry and I felt I could not afford to lose any of my  
"Europeans and the force was inadequate to carry the place by  
"a coup de main I did not bring the Infantry or Cavalry where  
"they could be actively engaged."

"You will be glad to hear that the Lancers behaved  
"very well and I have every reason to be satisfied with them,  
"for they have had a great deal of hard work and irritation,  
"more than half their numbers being daily on picket duty.  
"I am very well pleased with the whole force Officers and men."

"The camels were bringing. Only one artillery man  
"killed and 5 or 6 Europeans wounded, with about a like  
"number of natives two guns disabled. But I am concerned  
"to state that that excellent Political Officer Murchison was  
"killed close to Lawrence's forms in attempting to join it. He  
"had pushed on from Pallee and on reaching the jungle  
"which his camel could not penetrate had dismounted and  
"was making on foot for our force, when some of the Sowdars  
"Sowars came across his path and he was killed by 2 shots from  
"them, I was not even aware says Lawrence of his being any  
"where in the neighbourhood, he must have been scarcely 500  
"yards from me at the time. The body has not yet been recovered,  
"but I am endeavouring to get it."

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Lawrence feared he would be obliged to return to  
"Bawar as the European provisions were nearly expended."

Shewers gives the following account of his attack  
"on Mumbhera. We commenced operations yesterday (19<sup>th</sup>) about  
"1/2 past 1; but could not enter the gate, attacked, found afterwards  
"to have been bricked up. Night stopped our operations. A  
"Column of assault against another gate was formed before  
"day broke this morning (20<sup>th</sup>). On moving to the attack  
"we found the place had been evacuated during the night.  
"The British troops were moved through the town, and the  
"British flag hoisted on the public Government Hall, all the  
"troops behaved admirably. This affair has pleased them  
"mightily. They crowd round the guns parked in the garden  
"and say they wish to be taken against Mumbhera or any where."

Our loss is one Corporal H. M's 83<sup>d</sup> killed in carrying

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the powder bag and some 15 or 16 Native Troops killed and wounded.  
"Captain Rose in forwarding this to Misson writes,  
"Incap is the usual criterion in such matters, and so far it is  
"all right; but what the effect will be in this part of the  
"Country remains to be seen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombay Cavalry and 12<sup>th</sup>  
"Sepoys behaved splendidly, and I am especially glad of this.  
"The fellows on the wall called out Deen Deen and tried to  
"make their waver as they advanced to attack, but all they  
"got in return was a shower of musketry - 3 of the Cavalry  
"and 9 of the 12<sup>th</sup> are wounded."

Captain Rose adds - "I expect now since the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
"and 12<sup>th</sup> have proved they are to be trusted a force will be  
"sent out from here against them."

These facts, as evidences of a good and loyal  
feeling on the part of the Bombay Troops in these parts,  
are of unspeakable value, and we may well presume  
that troops which then proved faithful, will after they  
know of the actual fall of Delhi, be still more beyond  
the shadow of a doubt.

Sunday morning 27<sup>th</sup> September 1/2 a.m. nothing  
as yet from Delhi, so I despatch this at once. In all  
probability we shall be having news during the day.

Our haltrap force safely retired on Mandaula,  
10 miles off where it is now encamped.

J. W. Sherer Esq<sup>r</sup> 3  
Yemi Jee  
Causfire 3  
Thos W. Muir

I send a message prop it or with this.

My dear Sherer,

Agre 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 1857

At last the joyful news on the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant  
the British Flag moved over the Palace of the Kings of  
Delhi, and this and the Telegraphic message in quick  
to the Governor General - His Lordship is greatly to be con-  
gratulated on this grand event.

I give Becher's letter to Misson enclosed  
"22<sup>nd</sup> all is going on wonderfully well here, and King, the  
"Begum Zameer Mahal are close prisoners, and today the  
"Princes

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"Since, Mirza Asghar Khan and Mirza Sultan were  
"brought in by Woodson from Humayun's tomb and shot at the  
"Delhi gate - Their bodies are now lying at the Subwala, where  
"so many of our poor Countrymen were murdered and exposed.  
"A pursuing Column under Colonel Gresham of M. M. S.  
"leaves this tomorrow morning to go in your direction. It  
"consists of 1600 Infantry 18 guns in 3 troops and 600 Cavalry.  
"They will soon join you I trust and render complete the  
"effects of the fall of this City. The City is a perfect picture of  
"desolation completely abandoned, a vast amount of property  
"left behind, which our native Troops are possessing them-  
"selves of with great gusto, but with demoralizing effect.

There are a great number of City handkerchiefs and  
"others and others collected near Humayun's tomb - but it is to be  
"hoped our Column will meet him.

Last night, Her Majesty the Queen proposed by  
"the Conqueror of Delhi was granted with all honor in the  
"Dewan Khana by the Head Quarter Staff, never has the  
"old building re-echoed with any sound half so fine. The  
"cheer was taken up by the gallant Gorkhas of the Indian  
"Battalion who form the General's personal Guard.

"All is well in the Punjab and elsewhere."

God be blessed for this glorious termination of this  
arduous struggle.

Yours &c  
Sgt W. Muir

To Captain Price at Cawnpore.

(Tel. message)  
(Copy)

Telegraphic message

To Captain Price

Cawnpore

The 10<sup>th</sup> October 1857

Send the following message to General Wilson  
at Delhi by the most expeditious means.

The Governor General received yesterday your  
dispatch

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