

LUCHMAN SINGH'S STATEMENT.

[The following written in the MS. volume by Luchman Singh, Moonshee, himself]—

“On reaching Jajou I was questioned by a party of about 50 armed men, who said they were the King's policemen, and who had a Moonshee as their superior officer. They seemed to be very careful in searching for English letters; which when they did not find with me they allowed me to pass, but gave me two men to take me to a Chokey at Munia, which is stationed there for detecting spies. When I reached half the distance between Jajou and Munia I did not think it safe to go to the Chokey, and told my guides that I would first go to Khyragurh and then to Munia. I took a circuitous route and reached to about 5 or 6 miles distance from Dholepore. From all the enquiries I made there it appears that about 800 men of the Regiment called ‘Kirafut ka Pultun,’ about 400 Sowars, have crossed the Chumbul with 4 guns of a small size, probably none larger than a 12-pounder. These men have advanced on Dholepore for the purpose of keeping the boats in their posses-

sion, and for making a bridge of boats for the rest of the army when they come towards Agra,—after the Dussehra, of course. They have left all the treasure they brought from Mhow at Gwalior in charge of the Gwalior Contingent people. There was an alarm at Dholepore the day before yesterday, on account of a rumour that some European soldiers were on their way to that place. The Rana has promised to lend his larger guns to the Mutineers, should they want any, and has held himself responsible for supplying “russud” to the whole army. The Kharee Nuddee is too deep for guns or ammunition tumbrils to cross it without a boat, 16 cubits. Spies of the Mutineers are in almost every village near the road, and mounted parties come as far as Jajou.

Rana of Dholepore promises support to the Mutineers.

“LUCHMAN SINGH.

“*P.S.*—Perwanas have been written to all the Government officials and respectable Zemindars, informing them that hereafter they are servants and subjects to the King, and that the Zemindars who are disposed to be the King’s ryots should assemble at Jajou with all the force they can bring with them. In carrying out this order a Zemindar, named Sonpal of Mowza Secunderpoor of Perg. Iradutnuggur, has gone to Jajou with a strong armed body of 25 men, and has advised his neighbours to do the same.—L. S.”

Dated 12th.—*Moolchand*, servant of Major Raikes: Left this on the 2nd. Reached Gwalior on the 5th; stayed three days there in Junna Gunge. Did not go to Morar; left on the 8th, *i.e.* on Tuesday; reached the Kentra Ghat on the 9th. Left Dholepore on the left about half a mile; reached Muniah on the night of the 9th, and this yesterday.

The whole of the Contingent is at Morar. They wait the Maharaja’s orders. They have as yet got no carriage. They gave no ammunition to the Indore men. The latter asked it, but it was refused. And the Indore men left vexed.

Contingent is at Morar. Wait the Maharajah’s orders.

A number of the Maharaja’s own horse, Poorbea Mewattees, etc.—say 100 or 200—fell out with the Maharaja, and were allowed by him to leave;—they are with the Indore [men].

Description of Indore force.

I saw no cavalry of the Maharaja’s on the road; there are some of his Thannahs. Of the Indore force 3 companies are on this side, 4 guns, and 100 cavalry, and a great rabble of camp-followers. On the other side are about 2000 men.

100 to 125 of the Pultun 23rd have run away. 800 to 900 Cavalry are on the other side, and 2 guns. I saw only 2; they said there were 4. They are *all* dragged by bullocks. I was stopped and examined at three places. I saw nobody at Munnia, and nobody at all on the road, excepting one of our own Sowars. The Indore force say that they will go to Agra—and then go to Dehli. “The British Government will not let us go; therefore we are prepared to die.”

Excesses of
Sepoys.

¹ 5th, Saturday, Dehli.—Dadree men asked (for guns?). . . . Sahoocars complain of excesses of Sepoys (one Company and one gun?) sent to Sadroorse, 1 coss off. Each Sepoy a Shahzada, squeeze Bankers.

¹ 6th, Sunday.—Men fly—city in distress.—Army masters. King said he can't do anything (?).

¹ . . . (?) recommended to catch and kill the Bankers' guards. We then “bisiar tang and hairán.”²

Twenty (?) men fled, caught. Mirza Moghul asked them; said they had no pay for two months. Labourers not to be had for powder, . . .

12th September '57, Saturday, Mynpoory.—The Canoongoe reports that on the 9th 2 guns and 800 men arrived; and tidings that the Rajah with a great concourse is coming. South of Shekohabad there are some 4000 Aheers. They have probably come to oppose these Aheers.

An Urzee of the Khyragurh Tehseeldar: he says that 3 pultuns of Indore and one Risala and 2 Morar pultuns started. 2 pultuns, 300 Cavalry, and 4 guns have crossed; one fell into the river.

Hunuman Kuhar: Left Dholepore yesterday at 12,—saw some 1000 Infantry, 500 Sowars; they have their families, 5 guns, 2 brass ones,—the other three were covered. They will wait for the Contingent troops.

8th, Tuesday, Dehli.—

Four Companies of Sappers and Miners going to sink a mine on the Fort of Akberabad.³

¹ These paragraphs indistinctly written in pencil.—W. C.

² Much straitened and perplexed.

³ *i.e.* Agra.

14th September, afternoon.—*Huttee Singh*: Went to Hingowria, 6 coss other side Chumbul.

There are 150 to 175 Sowars at Hingowria of the Contingent who have taken away their horses. The Shahzada was at the ghat last night, and the Nawab had come on this side.

All the Indore and Mhow troops are now on this side,—the 23rd, 400 or 500 Ghazies, 200 or 300 Vilayaties, 3 troops, 250 irregulars, and about 250 — (?) They are coming to Agra, but they have to settle with Dholepore. 100 Sepoys came to Jajow, and have gone on to Jugneyr.

15th September, morning, Gwalior.—*Asa Doss*, Byragee of Eglass, a Gwalior spy: Left this on Wednesday, and reached Gwalior on Friday, 11 a.m. Left early on Saturday morning; reached Dholepore on Monday. Left it yesterday morning.

On Wednesday the Morar pultuns demanded 1½ lakhs from the Maharaja. He refused, saying, . . . (?) "Go where you like." Then the Morar troops brought out their guns. Then the Maharaja also brought out his; and stopped access to the city, so that no supplies reached.

In the evening 2 Soobahdars came and begged pardon. They said they were his servants, and would go if he got them carriage. So the Maharaja sent out chuprassies to get carts and bullocks. Saw a great number; so they will set out on Friday next, 18th; they will join the Indore troops, and then march this way.

Seven hundred Sowars have left Morar, and come with Indore troops.

18th September, 6 a.m.—*Hunoman Kuhar*: Left this on 4th; reached Dholepore at night; stayed there till yesterday morning,—visited the places and stayed in a Mosque with a Brahmin.

There are now 3 more guns,—in all 10 guns. They say they are the Soobah's guns which have been seized, *i.e.* Deo Huns'. He has been seized, his cantonment looted, and nine of his Goojur followers killed. One of the gunners with the Indore force killed by a gunshot. They intended to take more of the Dholepore guns, and also demand treasure. Deo Huns does not tell where his treasure is.

The report was that the Contingent was to march last night. They expected them to reach in three days. Chumbul is very high.

The Indore army is waiting for the Gwalior troops. When

they arrive they will all march in to Jajow together. They all talk of coming to Agra.

There were 16 elephants. No hackeries. Some camels, say 50 or 100.

18th September, 9 a.m.—*Moolchund*: Left this on the 12th; reached Dholepore on the 13th. Went to the Chaonie. Left it at 4 p.m. of the 16th, and returned yesterday. 23rd is there; 700 Sepoys. They say they are neither going to Agra nor Dehli till they get magazine from Gwalior men. They have seized 12 guns from the Dholepore men; one big, the rest small. They have seized Deo Huns and put irons on him, for he opposed them; 5 to 7 Sepoys killed, and 10 or 12 of his men. They ask treasure. There are 16 Sowars at Munniah. At Jajow 20 to 25 Zemindaree bandookchies.¹ It began to rain at Dholepore the evening of the 16th.

Deo Huns,
Dholepore
official, seized
by Mutineers.

21st September.—*Hunoman Kuhar*: Left Dholepore on evening of the 19th. The Rana had given a lakh of rupees, and got back all his arms which were plundered from the city. But they refuse to give back the guns and ammunition, and have seized 4 tumbrils of Dholepore ammunition.

Rana of Dholepore
pays the
Mutineers a
lac of rupees.

A Kayeth, who had left Gwalior 8 days before, said that the Contingent were not now about to march. They would stay and get this month's pay. Possibly they might wait over the Dussehra. He said he met 20 Sowars who brought a perwana from the King asking why they did not come to Agra. They had gone by Bhurtpore (this would be about the 15th or 16th).

The Indore fellows said they had plenty of ammunition for 2 days. They said they knew a private way to the Fort of Agra from the city. What need of taking more ammunition?

22nd September, Lucknow.—A letter from Shah Behari Lal's house, dated 13th, from Lucknow, written under fear and apprehension of approach of troops—in a few days. (All apparently well.)

13th September (23 Mohurrim), Gwalior.—Letter from Gwalior. Jummun Lall, Officer of Morar, went to Maharajah and asked 22 lacs and carriage; both were refused, and pay stopped; on this the Morar troops with artillery turned out at Phoolbagh. They seized carriage.

Differences
between
Scindia and
Mutineers.

¹ Native musketeers.

5th Regt. and 465 new Cavalry are subservient to Maharajah. Gohud, etc., looted. In Munsour, a Shahzada with Mewattees raised green flag.

The Maharajah has now given pay and promised carriage, and desired them to go. So they will be going soon. Many have fled, and the camp is in confusion.

22nd September, Gwalior.—*Pirthee*: Left Gwalior on 18th, morning—(left this 16th). Many of the Sepoys have left the Regiments, and taken service with Maharajah. Fifth have joined the Maharajah. There are no Sowars at Morar,—all at Phoolbagh. At Morar there are 400 or 500 bullocks, but no carts. A man called Loll Khan had arrived in Gwalior on 16th with orders from Dehli—to go direct to Dehli, not to Agra. The Thakoors pour in from all sides to protect Maharajah, who had out his guns. Orders from Delhi reach the Mutineers at Gwalior.

At Dholepore all there; but Sowars drop off towards Gwalior, as they do not get enough for themselves and horses.

26th September.—Jyekishindoss, 8 a.m. (letter dated Muthra), 25th. 1000 said to be already in Muthra; no guns yet come, but it is said they will arrive by 12 o'clock. It is said that half will go to Agra; half to Hatrass. Boats in the hands of the rebels. Jyekishindoss trying to detain them on the other side. Rebels at Muthra.

P.S.—Kulyan Doss went over in a dinghee to Muthra. About 400 or 500 Sepoys reached Muthra on the night of the 24th, and are still there. Altogether there are 4000 or 5000. Some say there are 10, others 20 guns; no certainty. There are also 4000 or 5000 villagers with them. All the boats on left side are in hands of rebels. Nobody gets across this side. The Chowbee was obliged to swim back. The Sepoys were greatly alarmed. When the Chowbee went over 3 or 4 "telingas" came and asked him if any Goras¹ were coming, and any Cavalry. He said he did not know,—he was a traveller. They greatly distressed the Jemadar of Cotwali yesterday, and burned his duftur. 5000 or 6000 Mahomedans with the rebels. City shut up, and there will be plunder.

Some Sowars were crossing in a boat; when they saw our Sowars they went back. I think they are alarmed at Hatrass. They have got 100 to 125 boats.

Other Urzee.—Great firing of muskets at Bindrabun.

Rebels from Besran Ghat to Rawul Ghat—thousands bathing; but "pureshan."²

¹ Europeans.

² Alarmed.