

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Jurial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	788	Press
	48-49	Mis.
Dated	5-6-19	1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th June 1858.

No. 48. Read the following letter from C. PELLY, Esq., Magistrate of Bellary; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Raman-droog, 4th June 1858, No. 32.

SIR,

Referring to my letter of yesterday, I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter I have since received from Major Hughes, Commanding the Force at Copal, giving an account of his success against Bheem Row and the rebels.

2. I last night received intimation from the Magistrate of Darwar, that Nurgoond was in our possession and that the chief and rebels were escaping towards Copal. This information I sent on to Major Hughes.

From Major J. HUGHES, Commanding Field Force; to C. PELLY, Esq., Collector, Bellary District, dated Camp at Cowtal, 2nd June 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to report to you, that I arrived at Hospett on the 29th of May 1858, from Bellary with the Field Force under my command for the purpose of proceeding against rebel Beem Row and his followers.

In the course of the following morning, I received information of the rebels being in the neighbourhood of Copal, I at once despatched Cavalry to protect that place; in the evening of that day, I proceeded with the rest of my force towards it, sending the Artillery around by the Humsaugur Gaut, while I passed by the Hossoor after a march of seven hours and a half including the crossing of the river Toongabudra in boats. I reached Copal a distance of about 26 miles at break of day, and halted close to the Fort, unperceived by the enemy, by taking a circuitous route. Having ascertained for certain that the Fort was in the possession of Beemrow, I proceeded to surround as much of it, as I was enabled with the Infantry, and Mysore Horse, on which the rebels opened fire with musketry, guns and ginjals, (and continued doing so, until the Fort was subsequently taken) which was occasionally replied to by the Infantry. The Fort being excessively strong with double walls and a very lofty citadel, I was compelled to await the arrival of the Artillery which did not make its appearance until the evening in consequence of the difficulty of crossing the river. The troop of Cavalry under the command of Captain Remington arrived at the same time. With the assistance of it and six Rissalahs of the Mysore Horse, I completely surrounded the Fort and hills.

At 4 o'clock on the following morning, a force from Lingsoogoor under Lieutenant Pedlar of the 4th Hyderabad Contingent, accompanied by Lieutenant Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, arrived in camp. When I despatched a letter to Beem Row recommending him to allow all the villagers and families of Copal to evacuate the town, and that three hours would be allowed for that purpose. At the expiration of which time having received no reply, my guns were placed in position, and action commenced by shelling and endeavouring to make a breach. I had previously disposed of the Infantry and Cavalry from Lingsoogoor.

At twelve noon, as I was preparing a portion of the 74th Highlanders under Captain Menzies, and a Company of the 47th Regiment Native Infantry under Captain Rutherford to storm the lower Fort, signals were shown from the Pettah that the rebels were retreating to the citadel.

The storming party immediately rushed forth, entered the Fort by a breach (that was partly made) and gateway which was opened by the townsmen, and pursued and attacked the rebels following them up towards the citadel till the passage party was stopped by a strong gate. Up to this time about a hundred of the rebels had fallen including the Chiefs Beem Row and Kenchava Gowda; during this time I brought around the two guns under Lieutenant Gloag to a point below the citadel to cut off the retreat of the rebels, and prevent their gaining the uppermost bastions. Shortly after this a message was sent to me from Captains Menzies and Rutherford, to send up powder and a bag to blow open the gate. When proceeding to join them with the powder, the rebels, who had gained the inside of the gate offered to surrender and by three o'clock we had gained entire possession of the Fort and town and have taken up to the present time 150 prisoners. The 74th and 47th vied with each other in the pursuit and engagement. A portion of the rebels attempted to escape to the right of the Fort by a breach, but were driven back by a subdivision of the Hyderabad Contingent. Their escape was entirely cut off. I had guarded

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every point, the chain of Cavalry Picquets and Sentries completely surrounded the Fort, and range of hills at the back for a distance of about seven miles. The Infantry I had placed on the left of the Fort and Pettah advanced after the storming party had entered the breach.

Had it not been for the great assistance rendered to me by every Officer and man, I never would have accomplished what has been effected, viz., the complete annihilation of Beem Row, and his followers; a few may have escaped by concealment, but I have as yet heard of none having got away. I am happy to add that in the attack only 1 Serjeant, 6 Privates of H. M. 74th Highlanders and a Suffadar of the Mysore Horse, were wounded, none were killed. I have been unable to ascertain by whose hand Beem Row fell, on whose head a Government reward of 5000 Rupees was placed, he fell between the gateways amongst others, and being so hotly pursued by the Infantry, I am informed by the officers who were present that it was impossible to discover who actually shot him, so many muskets being levelled at the time. Great assistance has been rendered to me by Lieutenant Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Raichore Doab.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. PELLY,
Magistrate.

No. 49.

ORDER THEREON, No. 788; dated 15th June 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

*Judicial Letter to Eng^d.
7th Sept. A^o 13 of 1858
Para 5.*

*Rep^d to in A^o 1 of 1859.
Para 10*

6-10-58.

*Judicial Department
1858
In Cons: 15th June.*

*From The Magistrate
of Bellary
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George*

*Dated 4th June 1858.
Recd 8*

*No. 1012. A^o 32 pp
With 1 Enclosure*

*Forwarding copy
of a letter from Major
Hughes reporting the
operations against
Beem Row*

N/M

*No 700
To be recorded*

*c 8 June
R 14 " 48449.*

- June 1858.

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Your Most Obedt^g Servt
J. Lecky
Magistrate

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