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Correspondence between Sir James Outram and others concerning the award of medals to members of the Persian Expeditionary Force

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F126/19
Date(s)	1857 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file, 2 items (17 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence



About this record

Printed and manuscript copies of correspondence from Sir James Outram, with supporting letters from other individuals regarding the award of medals to members of the Persian Expeditionary Force.

The printed correspondence also includes the names of, and citations for, those men that Outram had recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [1r] (1/12)

EXTRACT of a letter from Lieutenant General Sir JAMES OUTRAM, G. C. B., to the Right Honorable Viscount CANNING, Governor General of India, &c. &c. &c.

Dated Bushire, 3rd May 1857.

I am most sincerely gratified to be able to announce to your Lordship, that I now find myself fully warranted in carrying out the arrangements which I informed your Lordship on the 6th ultimo, I purposed effecting on the receipt of the instructions I then looked for consequent on the expected immediate ratification of the Treaty, which I had hoped would leave me full discretion as to the Troops and positions to be retained in Persia, pending the fulfilment of the conditions. In this I was disappointed, three months were to be awaited for the Shah's ratification, and no discretion was left to me to weaken the forces in Persia prior to that ratification, consequently I had to take measures to accommodate all the Troops as best I could for that period at least, though much indeed to my regret, and disappointment. The arrangements accordingly resolved on, I reported to Lord Clarendon on the 22nd ultimo, as I informed your Lordship next day in forwarding copy of that dispatch.

On my arrival here, however, I received such positive assurances from the Persian Commander-in-Chief in this quarter, that the Shah had already ratified the Treaty, as to warrant the confidence that a very few days must bring an Official announcement of the fact from Mr. Murray, this, coupled with the desire expressed by the Bombay Government, in dispatches, received the night before last, for the return to India of all the Europeans I could spare, decided me to assume the responsibility of carrying out the arrangements I had originally contemplated, i. e. withdrawing the Troops from Mohumra, and leaving its occupation to the Navy alone, and sending to India what Troops are not required to maintain Bushire and Karak.

In consultation with General Jacob, I have decided on retaining at those positions only Native Infantry (5 Regiments), all the Artillery now here (one Troop Horse Artillery, and two Foot Batteries European, and one Company Golundauze,) and with the exception of the Aden Detachment, all the Cavalry (3rd Light Cavalry, Jacob's Horse, and Poona Horse.) The Aden Detachment I purpose sending there direct from hence, as at this season the winds are always favorable.

Had I had any misgivings, your Lordship has now most considerably relieved me from any dread of the responsibility I incur, by your Telegraphic message sent to me, through the Bombay Government, empowering me "to send back the European Troops at my discretion." The dispatch containing this intimation, through some mistake was not landed with the rest of the Mail, and did not reach me until after my official dispatch to your Lordship, of yesterday's date, had been written. I need hardly add that it is a satisfaction to me to know that I had anticipated your Lordship's wishes. Thus three European Regiments (64th, 78th, and 2nd Europeans) one Troop Horse Artillery and one Foot Battery (European), and one Native Regiment (Light Battalion) will return to India. I send back the Light Battalion, because I am very sensible how very detrimental it must be to the ten Regiments of the Bombay Army, from which it is composed, each being deprived of an entire Company, and three European Officers; it is right that I should state that I myself am responsible for the formation of this Battalion, it having been embodied at my own special request.

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [1v] (2/12)

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In my Official of yesterday I mentioned my intention to defer moving the Troops until the ratification of the Treaty is officially announced, but the Naval authorities have since informed me that it will be impossible for the Regiment destined for Belgaum to reach Vingorla, the nearest port to that station, later than the 22nd or 25th of this month, should the monsoon have set in as it usually does about that date. That Regiment is H. M. 64th, whose families are at Belgaum, any delay in despatching which would involve a further separation of the men from their families, of several months, till after the monsoon, besides putting the Bombay Government to the inconvenience of providing temporary barracks for more European Troops than can be conveniently quartered in Bombay and Poona, which stations only would be accessible during the monsoon.

I have determined therefore to embark the 64th at once in the *Punjab* and two transports, the order has been issued, and I trust it will be off in 8 days, in time to insure its arrival in Vingorla before the commencement of the monsoon.

I certainly should have hesitated ere sending back *all* the European Infantry, and had determined to keep one Regiment here, as calculated to give heart to the Native Troops, though certainly I have never seen our Sepoys in better spirits than those now in Persia, until General Jacob expressed his willingness to remain in command of this Division, if I desired it, an act of self-denial on the part of that noble soldier most truly admirable, for I know he yearns to return to the Sind Frontier now that there is no prospect of active service in Persia. General Jacob's presence here, is of more importance than the retention of a whole Regiment of Europeans, for where *he* is, there never can be any want of confidence, all ranks, officers and men, white faces or black, regard General Jacob with equal devotion, and his influence with Troops is such as I have never seen surpassed in the thirty-three years I have served in the Army. But General Jacob should be supreme here, and I shall consider that it will be advantageous to the state, when I can transfer to that officer, all the Military and Political Powers with which I myself am vested. In which confidence your Lordship need have no hesitation in summoning me to India, whenever my services may be required there.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. OUTRAM.

To The Right Honorable Viscount CANNING,
Governor General of India.

EXTRACT from an Official letter from Lieutenant General Sir JAMES OUTRAM,
K. C. B., to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Earl of CLARENDON
K. G. and G. C. B., H. M.'s Principal Secretary of State.

Dated Bagdad, 28th May 1857.

"I have called upon Brigadier General Jacob, C. B., for a supplementary list of meritorious services, and as soon as a reply thereto reaches me, I shall do myself the honor of submitting it to your Lordship. At the head of that list, I shall place the name of General Jacob himself, whom I shall most strongly recommend for some adequate recognition of his well earned claim to a reward. It was at my special request that that Officer assumed the Command at Bushire on my departure for Mohumra, nobly foregoing thereby an opportunity for distinguishing himself, which no man would lightly relinquish. The assurance that a man of such renowned bravery and skill held the command of that important position, relieved me of a great responsibility, at the same time, that it imposed on him, menaced as his small force was by an Army so vastly superior in numbers, a task which demanded unwearied vigilance and consummate military skill. It was I feel persuaded, the importance and possible danger of the post for which I had thus selected him, that induced General Jacob to forego so readily the more certain prospect of winning renown at Mohumra, and I rely with confidence on your Lordship's appreciation of such self-devotion, and on your influence in obtaining for it its due reward from Her Majesty's Government, on my being able to submit to your Lordship the Supplementary List above alluded to.

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [2r] (3/12)

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EXTRACT from a demi-official letter from Lieutenant General Sir JAMES OUTRAM, K. C. B., to the address of the Right Hon'ble R. VERNON SMITH, M. P., President of the Board of Control.

Dated Bagdad, 28th May 1857.

"I must further depend upon your interest to support my application in favor of General Jacob, as soon as I am able to make any specific request in his behalf. Far from having exaggerated the importance of his services in my despatch to Lord Clarendon, I feel how very imperfectly I have dwelt upon them; but my earnest hope is that they will be adequately rewarded by H. M.'s Government."

EXTRACT from a demi-official letter from the same, to the address of ROSS DONNELLY MANGLES, Esq. M. P., Chairman of the Court of Directors of the Hon'ble East India Company.

Dated Bagdad, 28th May 1857.

"It is unnecessary here to recapitulate the services of those for whom I have solicited rewards, since they are enumerated in detail in the accompanying despatches; but when I am enabled to do full justice to the claims of General Jacob and to make a specific request in his behalf, I shall rely upon the Court to back up my recommendation. Jacob's name is too well known in the records of our Indian Military Annals, to require any allusion from me to his past services; but those which he has rendered to this Expedition, are such as to demand from me special notice, as I trust they will be deemed worthy of some distinguished recognition."

True Extracts.

(Signed) CHAS. HERVEY, Captain,
A. D. C. and Private Secy. to Sir JAMES OUTRAM.

No. 29.

From The Chief of the Staff,
Persian Expeditionary Force.

To Brigadier General JOHN JACOB, C. B.,
Commanding the Troops, Bushire.

Dated Bagdad, 29th May 1857.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you that it is the intention of the Lieutenant General Commanding, to submit to Government a separate recommendatory list of the Force under your command which held the post of Bushire during the operations of Mohumra and up to the ratification of the Peace.

I am therefore commanded to request you will be so good as to forward to me with as little delay as possible, the names of such Officers as you may wish to have included in this list, in order that no time may be lost in submitting them together with your own for the special consideration of Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. LUGARD, Brig. General,
Chief of the Staff, Persian Expeditionary Force.

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [2v] (4/12)

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From Brigadier General JOHN JACOB, C. B.,
Commanding at Bushire.

To Brigadier General E. LUGARD, C. B.,
Chief of the Staff in Persia.

Dated Bushire, 14th June 1857.

SIR,—As directed I have the honor to forward the accompanying list of Officers and men recommended for the decoration of the Victoria Cross, for acts of daring, collective and individual, at Bushire and Kooshab.

2. I have the honor to forward also the accompanying concise, and excellent report received from Colonel Trevelyan, Commandant of Artillery, regarding the proceedings of that arm in the action of Kooshab, with reference to which, although I am unable to recommend any individual for special acts of daring, I beg respectfully to observe that the conduct of the Officers and men mentioned by Colonel Trevelyan, and more especially that of Captains Gibbard and Hatch, appears to me to be well worthy of honorable notice.

3. I have made the fullest enquiries and have satisfied myself of the correctness of all that I have here recorded.

4. Similar enquiries regarding the proceedings of the Poona Horse at Kooshab, have not enabled me to discover, that any individual of that Corps, or the Corps collectively, is deserving of special commendatory notice, beyond that which they have already received in the despatches of General Sir James Outram.

5. In confirmation of this opinion, I have the honor to transmit herewith, the report of Colonel Tapp on the subject of the conduct and proceedings of the Corps at the battle of Kooshab, comment on which appears to me to be needless.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN JACOB, Brigadier General,
Commanding at Bushire.

REPORT of proceedings and conduct of the Poona Irregular Horse in the action of Kooshab, as called for by letter from the Assistant Adjutant General Persian Field Force, No. 260, dated 10th June 1857.

The Squadron formed part of the advance guard on the night of the 7th February, when the enemy attacked the Rear it was ordered to support the Rear Guard, and was again called to the advance when the enemy made its appearance in that quarter! and having had to detach (30) thirty men during the night, it remained as per margin till the subsequent action was over.

146 Sabres.

When the force was halted for the protection of the Baggage, and the enemy had ceased their night attack, the squadron was drawn up at the left rear corner of the square.

At dawn of day the enemy, till then invisible, opened a fire of musketry on my right, which, by increasing and rapidly extending towards its left, showed me that a large body was there forming up into line. There was no time for hesitation nor to await orders! We were much exposed, and the enemy quite secured from any fire by a line of sand hills which protected them, I consequently wheeled a Troop to the right, and by an oblique and rapid movement reaching the left of the enemy's fire, I wheeled to the left and "charged," my other Troop following as a support. The effect on the enemy was most astonishing! They had been taken by surprise, and having no time to make any formation for resistance, their Line soon became a confused mass between the two Troops! Nothing but hand to hand work remained, and as none of the enemy asked for quarter, most of them were destroyed! their standard bearer was killed, and the standard of the

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [3r] (5/12)

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1st Kushkai Regiment of Fars (as the inscription on the silver hand showed) was taken. My men were greatly excited by seeing the head of one of the first of their comrades who fell, cut off and carried away, (subsequently recovered), and as many of their swords had been broken across the muskets with which the enemy attempted to defend themselves, it was with a shout that they received the order to "out Revolvers," and almost all discharged their six barrels within a few inches of their foe! And thus was the Kushkai Regiment destroyed, in the centre of the enemy's force.

In the meantime the enemy's Cavalry, which had been formed in their rear, moved rapidly off, but an Infantry Corps, on the right of the Kushkai, "formed square," which was most gallantly charged by the 3rd Light Cavalry, who nobly took advantage of such an opportunity.

The smallness of our loss I can only attribute to the nature of our oblique movement and flank "Charge," which so took the enemy by surprise, as in a great measure to paralyse them.

The subsequent movements of the day, when the Cavalry Brigade was pursuing a flying and disorganized enemy, were of minor importance: two guns were taken, one of which was spiked by the Poona Horse.

I was throughout the whole period looking out for an attack from the enemy's Cavalry, which had so early withdrawn, but which however unfortunately did not again appear. A number of ammunition mules were secured, and between three and four hundred stand of arms were picked up by the Cavalry Brigade whilst returning, and were deposited at the Bivouac.

I cannot sufficiently speak of the steadiness of the Poona Horse, or of the zeal and vigour with which they acted throughout the day, and where all behaved so well, it is difficult to particularize.

Lieutenant and Adjutant La Touche, most ably and gallantly supported me with the 2nd Troop, and deserved my warmest thanks for his conduct throughout the day.

Doctor Rogers was most active and energetic, and his kind attention to the wounded of the Poona Horse, as well as all others whom he could find, cannot be too highly praised.

Khunday Rao Pole (the Senior Native Officer) commanded the supporting Troop in a most efficient manner, and his steadiness throughout the day is deserving of the highest praise.

The following Native Officers and men I beg to bring to notice for "distinguished conduct:"—

Hussain Bux, my Wordee Major, who, charged by my side in front of the leading Troop, and most nobly assisted me.

Russuldar Ahmed Ali Khan, who commanded the leading Troop, with much gallantry and success.

Bargeer Goolam Hussain Khan, killed the standard Bearer, and captured the standard.

Bargeer Shumshoo Deen, spiked the gun with a horse shoe nail, driving it in with the butt of his Carbine, which (as we were obliged to leave it during our advance) was a most efficient service.

Sillidar Mahomed Ali, when his horse was killed in the midst of the enemy, transferred the equipments to the back of a captured mule, on which he took his place in the ranks, and performed his duties during the remainder of the action.

Though called on to report only on the Poona Horse, I trust that I may be permitted to speak of the gallantry and energy of my Brigade Major, Lieutenant Frankland, of the 2nd E. L. I., who, till unfortunately shot by a man whom he was in the act of cutting down, rendered me most efficient service.

(Signed) THOS. TAPP, Lieut. Colonel,

Commanding Poona Irregular Horse,
and 1st Cavalry Brigade in the action of Kooshab.

Camp Bushire, 2th June, 1858.

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [3v] (6/12)

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LIST of Officers and Men recommended for the decoration of the Victoria Cross for their conduct in the battle of Khooshab, under command of Lieutenant General Sir James Outram, K. C. B., &c. &c. on the 8th February 1857.

Bushire, 13th June 1857.

Rank and Names.	Remarks.
MAJOR FORBES, Commanding 3rd Light Cavalry.....	At the battle of Kooshab, Major Forbes observing a column of the enemy's Infantry advancing towards him, immediately proceeded to attack them. Major Forbes had with him an hundred and twenty men of his Regiment, that is, a number about equal to one weak squadron; observing his advance on them, the enemy's column halted and formed square in the most regular manner—the column consisted of one strong Regiment, one side of the square was just equal to the front of Major Forbes' attacking squadron. The square was formed with perfect regularity with bayonets fixed and the front ranks kneeling, its fire was given closely, rapidly and steadily; the enemy's Infantry appeared fully confident in the strength of their array, and there appeared to be no wavering in their ranks. Major Forbes led the squadron at the utmost speed of their horses straight down on the square, and without the least check or hesitation every horseman went through the kneeling and standing ranks. In one instant the square was broken to pieces, great numbers of men who had composed it were left dead on the spot and the remainder dispersed in flight. In closing with the Infantry square, Major Forbes was severely wounded by a musket shot through the thigh: but, notwithstanding his wound, after executing this destructive charge on the square Major Forbes, with Captains Moore and Wren, and such men as they had been able to keep together, after riding through the Infantry, instantly fell on the Persian Artillery, about 200 yards in rear of the broken square; Major Forbes himself, killed two of the Artillerymen, and Captain Moore, three of the drivers of one of the guns (a brass 9-pounder), which they thus took and for a considerable time kept possession of under a heavy fire of musketry from the Persian Infantry who were all around them. In this encounter, Captain Moore's horse was killed, and this accident alone prevented him from at once carrying off the gun they had taken which was ultimately left on the ground. After the fight at the gun, Major Forbes was compelled by loss of blood to leave the field.
Capt. GRAVES, Commanding 3rd Regiment Bombay Light Cavalry.....	This Officer succeeded to the command of the Regiment on Major Forbes becoming disabled by his wound. He did most gallant service throughout the day—repeatedly charging the enemy with invariable success wherever and whenever he could get at them, and having been personally engaged in a severe struggle for one of the enemy's guns, which he finally captured after hard fighting. At the commencement of the action, Captain Graves was sent by Major Forbes closely to examine the enemy's line of battle, and he performed this most dangerous and difficult duty in a manner deserving of the greatest admiration. Commencing at the left of the Persian line,

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James Outram [4r] (7/12)

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Rank and Names.	Remarks.
Captain MOORE.....	Captain Graves, accompanied by four Troopers only, rode along the whole front of the enemy's army at about 200 yards distance, under a continual fire of Artillery and Musketry; and, having succeeded in observing everything unhurt, returned, and reported the result of his observations in the coolest manner possible.
„ WREN.....	These Officers were present with the squadron with which Major Forbes destroyed the Infantry square, they were all, of course, in front, and were all among the first to break into the bayonets; in effecting which, Captain Wren's horse was shot in three places, one musket ball fired by a man of the kneeling ranks entering the front of the horse's neck, and coming out of his withers without apparently interfering with or delaying the animal's progress in the least.
Lieut. and Adj. MOORE.....	In closing with the square also Captain Moore's horse received three musket balls. The horse of Cornet Combe was severely wounded in three places—two balls and a sword cut—and that of Cornet Spens by a bayonet.
„ SPENS.....	Lieutenant Moore, the Adjutant of the Regiment, was perhaps the first of all by a horse's length:—his horse leaped into the square and instantly fell dead, crushing down his rider and breaking his sword as he fell amid the broken ranks of the enemy. Lieutenant Moore speedily extricated himself and attempted with his broken sword to force his way through the press, but he would assuredly have lost his life, had not the gallant young Lieutenant Malcolmson, observing his peril, fought his way to his dismounted comrade through a crowd of enemies to his rescue, and, giving him his stirrup, safely carried him through everything out of the throng.
„ MALCOLMSON.....	The thoughtfulness for others, cool determination, devoted courage, ready activity shewn in extreme danger by this young Officer, Lieutenant Malcolmson, appears to me to be most admirable and to be worthy of the highest honor.
Cornet COMBE.....	These Officers behaved most gallantly throughout the day. Captain Oldfield's squadron took one of the guns which was captured and remained in possession of the British at Kooshab. The enemy fought hard for the possession of this gun, and all those around it were killed before the piece could be finally secured.
„ HILL.....	This man has now been promoted to the Commissioned rank of Jemadar.
Captain OLDFIELD.....	In the charge of the square was shot through the centre of the breast, the ball entering in front and lodging under his shoulder blade.
Lieutenant LEGEY.....	The wound did not check his progress in the least and he entered the square close to Lieutenant Moore; after riding through the square he was with Major Forbes in the attack on the enemy's guns, and there received a second wound which immediately took from him the power of using his arms.
Cornet CURRIE.....	He however contrived to retain hold of and return his sword, and went on until the men reformed for another charge after the fight at the guns, when coming up to his Commanding Officer, the Havildar saluted him—told him that he was shot
Riding Master BROOKS.....	
Havildar RUNGEET SING, 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry.	

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James
Outram [4v] (8/12)

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Rank and Names.	Remarks.
Trooper LALL KHAN.....	through the chest, and that he knew that his wounds were mortal, but that he did not mind losing his life in the least if his Officers thought he had done his duty bravely. Havildar (now Jemadar) Runjeet Singh has not yet recovered of his wounds, but is doing well. This man, Lall Khan, was with Captain Moore in the attack on the enemy's Artillery after the destruction of the square, dismounted under a heavy fire, and at Captain Moore's order mounted the leading horse of the Persian Gun, which Captain Moore was endeavouring to carry off from the midst of the enemy as described above; and had not Captain Moore's horse just then fallen dead, the attempt would have proved successful. In considering the degree of merit due to Major Forbes and his Regiment on that day, it should be borne in mind—that the particular Regiment that was attacked and destroyed on that occasion was some 800 strong, and was one of the very best in the Persian Regular Army; that the soldiers composing it were fine, tall, strong, athletic men from Northern Persia, that they were perfectly well accoutred, armed and drilled according to the best European model, that they were formed in square in the most approved regular manner, four deep with two ranks kneeling, that they stood perfectly firm and steady until the Cavalry sprang into their ranks, and on them, that they gave their fire with rapidity and precision up to the last moment, that this fire was such that, of the eight European Officers who were engaged in this Charge, and their horses, five were either killed or wounded, as they closed at speed with the enemy; one horse dropping dead as he sprang into the square, and two others receiving three musket balls each, while Major Forbes the leader of the whole, was himself shot through the thigh; and lastly, that the number of British Cavalry engaged in this particular Charge was, when Major Forbes commenced his attack, one hundred and twenty men, and that, as many men and horses were shot during the advance, not more than about 100 could actually have fallen on the enemy who had thus the odds of 8 to 1 in his favor. After the fullest enquiry, I am myself quite satisfied, that the undermentioned Officers, and men of the 3rd Regiment Light Cavalry, are well deserving of the high distinction of the "Victoria Cross" for their conduct at Kooshab, on the 8th February 1857, for which I beg earnestly to recommend them: Their order of merit in my opinion being as I have placed their names: Major Forbes, Lieutenant Malcolmson, Lieutenant Adjutant Moore, Captain Moore, " Graves, " Wren, Lieutenant Spens, Cornet Combe, " Hill, Captain Oldfield, Jemadar Runjeet Sing, Trooper Lall Khan.

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Rank and Names.	Remarks.
Private KOODA BUX, Ma- chee. Private MUTTA KHAN, Soomra. 1st Compy. 2nd. Belooch Regiment.	I have further to observe that though not actually engaged in the Charge on the enemy's square, the conduct of Lieutenant LeGeyt and Riding Master Brooks, appears to be worthy of distinction. It is found quite impossible to specify other individual instances of distinguished bravery among the lower ranks of the Regiment, where all appear to have done their duty heroically, but in addition to the list of names given above, I would respectfully recommend that two Crosses be given to each Troop of the Regiment, according to the provisions of the Thirteenth Article of the Rules regarding the decoration of the Victoria Cross. It is possible that the conduct for which these men are now brought to notice, may not be such as is deemed to entitle men to the decoration of the Victoria Cross, but it appears to me to have been most meritorious and to be worthy of honorable notice, and if the Cross can be given to them, I think that they will well deserve the honor. After the battle of Kooshab, certain doolies, in which some sick men of the 78th, Highlanders were being carried, were abandoned and left on the ground by the bearers. The helpless European Soldiers would in all probability have been killed had not the men of the Belooch Regiment volunteered to carry them on in the doolies, which they actually did, although themselves weary with marching. The two men whose names are given above were the first to set the example of carrying the doolies of the European Soldiers, and afterwards, exerted the most themselves in doing so.

(Signed) JOHN JACOB, *Brigadier General,*
Commanding at Bushire.

No. 57 of 1857.

From

Lieutenant Colonel TREVELYAN,
Commanding Artillery Brigade,
Persian Field Force.

To

The Assistant Adjutant General, Persian Field Force.

Camp Bushire, 13th June 1857.

Sir,—Having been called upon by Brigadier General Jacob, Commanding at Bushire, to submit for his information, the names of such of the Officers and men who composed the Artillery Brigade at Kooshab, under my command, and participated in the signal, and decisive victory gained there by the Field Force under Lieutenant General Sir James Outram, K. C. B., on the 8th February 1857, as might be considered worthy of mention with distinction for their conduct on the occasion, I do myself the honor in compliance therewith to state that of all the Officers engaged in that action, none were more conspicuous for the able and efficient performance of their duties than Captains Hatch and Gibbard, No. 3 and 5 Light Field Batteries, the steadiness of whose formations at daylight and subsequent advance, the quickness and accuracy of their fire, in conjunction with the rapidity of the pursuit by the 3rd Troop Horse Artillery, resulted in the capture of two brass 9-pounders, and the destruction of great numbers of the enemy.

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2. In the accomplishment of these results, the Horse Artillery commanded by Bt. Major Blake, bore a prominent part, and the steadiness of their simultaneous formation with the Light Field Battery, and the efficacy of their fire were also quite satisfactory, and all that could be desired.

3. At one period of the engagement, two Horse Artillery Guns under Lieutenant T. Gibbard, that were detached in support of the Cavalry, attracted attention from the very efficient manner in which they were served, and the precision and effect of their fire, and it may further be here mentioned, that the above named Officer, commanded with much credit to himself the guns on the rear guard, when the night attack commenced.

4. Captain Pottinger, the Brigade Major of Artillery, an Officer of old standing and much professional experience, exerted himself most zealously and usefully from the onset of the night attack until the termination of the engagement, communicating orders to Officers in different parts of the position and line, and rendering every possible assistance to me and the Brigade, that circumstances required, which service proved particularly valuable on such emergency, and tended materially, I conceive, to the attainment of the complete success of the Artillery operations at Kooshab.

5. Although I am unable to particularize any act of individual gallantry from the absence of opportunity for such display (as far as concerned the Artillery), all ranks were steady under fire, and evinced a cheerful alacrity in performing the duties assigned to them, and whilst on this subject, I may add, that Captains Hatch and Gibbard are very desirous that I should bring especially to notice the excellent conduct of their Battery drivers, for exercising those praiseworthy qualities throughout the action.

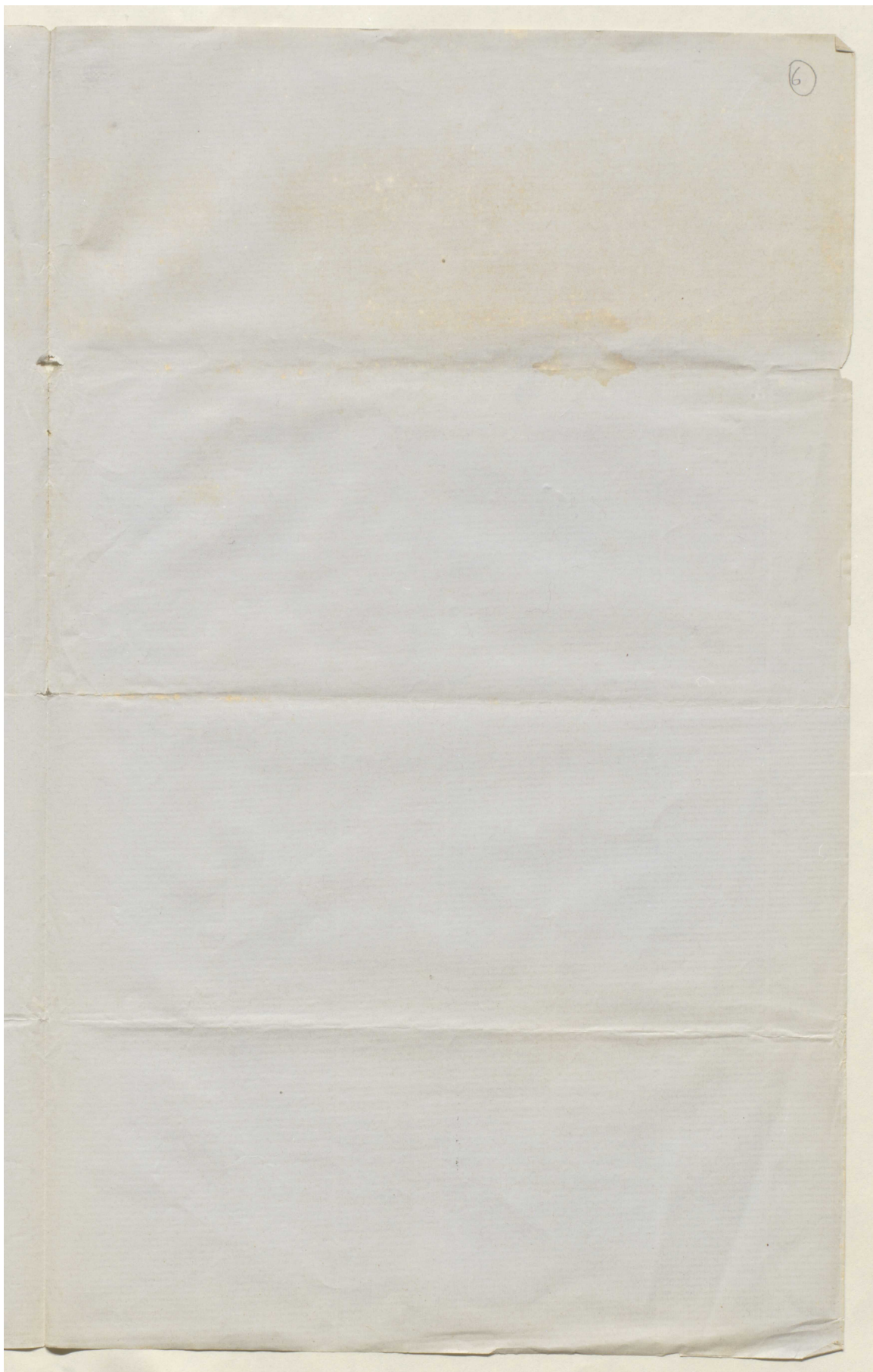
6. Moreover, the latter Officer, Captain Gibbard, is further desirous that the name of Sheikh Ameer, Havildar of Drivers, who drove the leading pair of Horses in No. 2 Gun Team of his Battery, should be mentioned with distinction, for conducting himself on the occasion with the greatest coolness, and at the same time encouraging the other drivers to follow his example.

7. With reference to the foregoing, I would beg to observe that 15 Officers of Artillery (exclusive of Medical Officers) were present at the battle of Kooshab, five of whose names, viz., Bt. Major Blake, Commanding 3rd Troop H. A., Captain Pottinger, Major of Brigade, Captains Hatch and Gibbard, Commanding Light Field Batteries, and Lieutenant T. Gibbard, H. A., are, for the reasons I have given, brought prominently forward in this despatch, and with Sheikh Ameer, Havildar of Drivers, I would respectfully but earnestly recommend them to the favorable consideration of the Brigadier General Commanding, and to the highest authority.

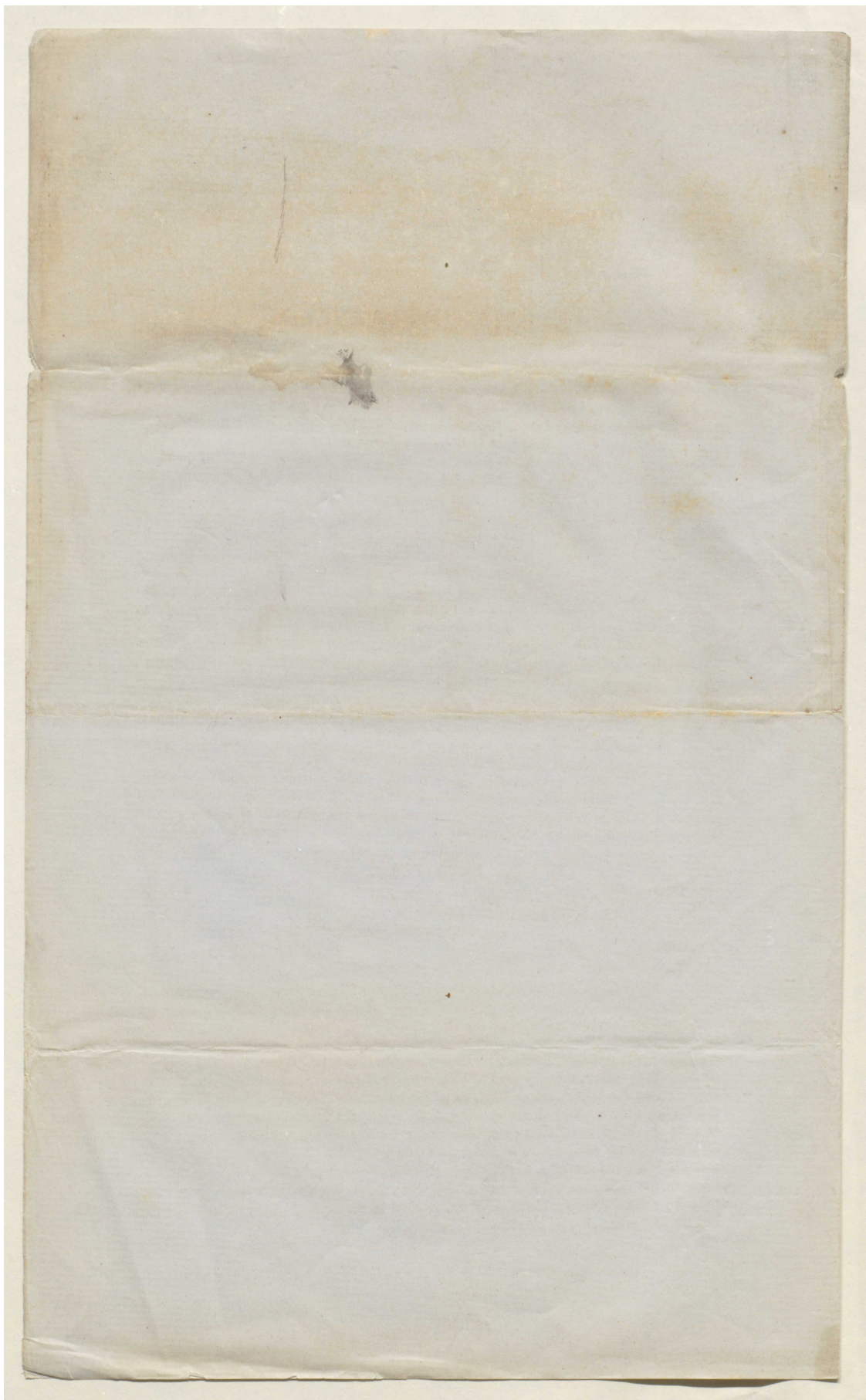
I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. W. TREVELYAN, *Lieutenant Colonel,*
Commanding Artillery, P. F. F.

Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James
Outram [6r] (11/12)



Extracts of official and Demi-Official letters from Lieutenant General Sir James
Outram [6v] (12/12)



Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [7r] (1/22)

MSS Eur F126/19

(7)

Copies -

To L. Bowring Esq^r

P.S. to the R^t Hon^{ble} the Gov^r General.

Calcutta 22nd Oct^r 1858

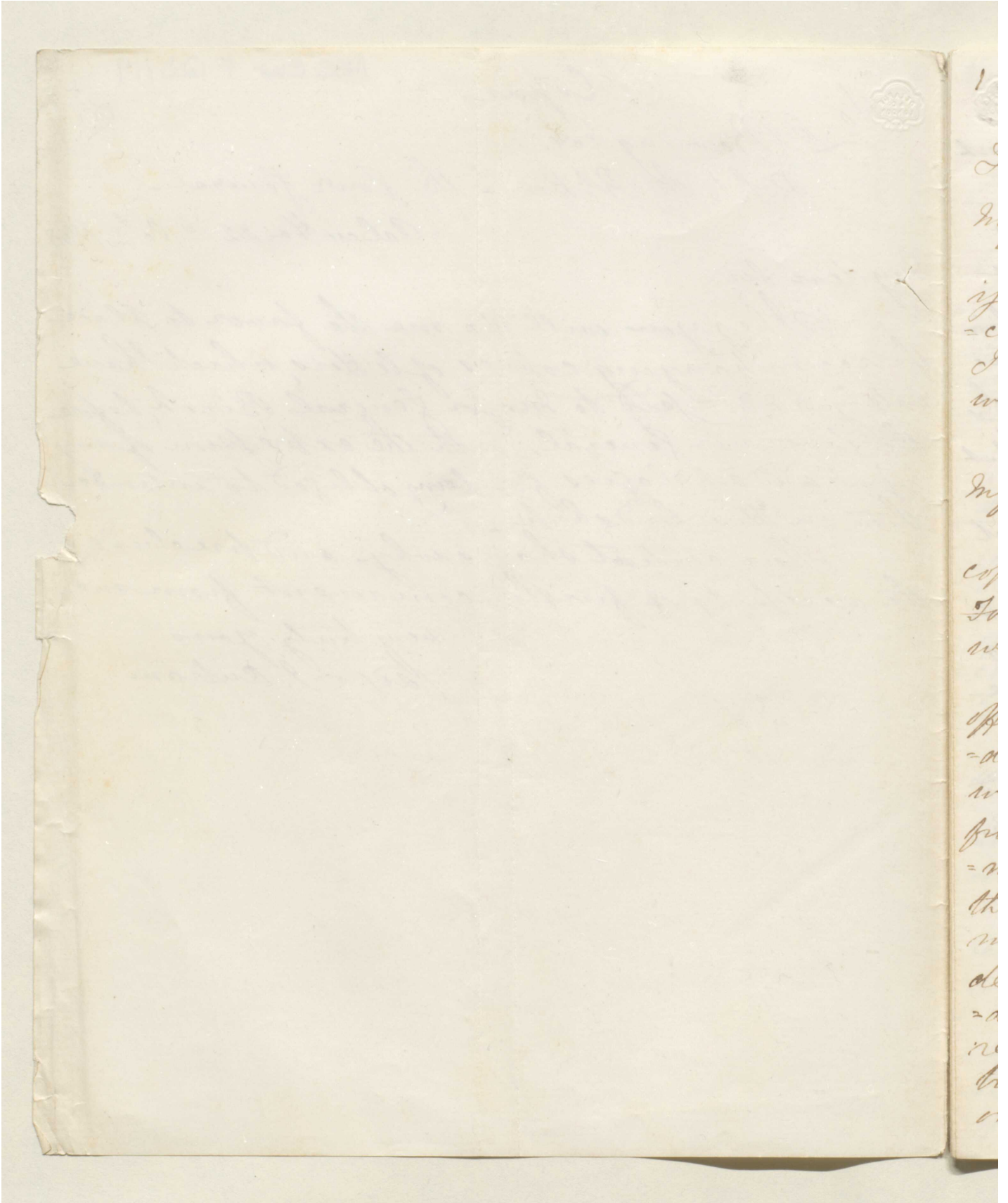
My dear Sir

I beg you will do me the favor to place the accompanying copies of letters, which have lately addressed to Major General Birch, before the Governor General, with the expression of my regret and apologies for being obliged to intrude them on His Lordship.

Their content shows why - and precludes the necessity of further comment from me.

Very truly yours
J. Outram

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [7v] (2/22)



Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [8r] (3/22)

1 Copies No 1 15th Sept 1858. 2
(8)

To Colonel Birch

My dear Birch

Having received no reply to a letter I sent you on the 5th ultimo, I fear it must have miscarried, I therefore send the enclosed copy which I happen just to have laid my hands upon, and which reminded me of the circumstance.

(Copy)

Calcutta 5th August 1858.

My dear Colonel

I beg to trouble you with the accompanying copy of a letter I received two days ago from Major Forbes 3rd Bombay Lt Cavalry (now here on his way home) and, of my reply.

Major Forbes' question caused me to send to the office for all the papers relating to my recommendations for honours and rewards to the Persian Force, when to my great regret I learnt that the dispatch from the Bombay Govt dated 7th Sept 1854 transmitting copies of a letter from the adjt Genl of the Bombay Army and its enclosures (3 letters from myself) recommending certain officers for the decoration of the Victoria cross &c had thro inadvertence been overlooked. It appears that tho recd from Bombay in Sept last it was only transferred ^{from} for the Home to the military department on the 15th Feby, when it was sent up to Allahabad and

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and in the pressure of more weighty matters I fear his Lordship has not been able to attend to this, as the recommendations do not appear to have been sent home with his support.

To show how ready the late cabinet were to award the Victoria cross for services in Persia I enclose copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. Vernon Smith dated 3rd June last year - in reply to a request from him that I would send the names of the officers most distinguished in the brilliant cavalry charge at Koozghah, that they might be submitted to Her Majesty for the Victoria cross - I cannot lay my hands on his letter but my reply will sufficiently show its tenor.

I take this opportunity of appending an extract from a letter I received a few days ago from Genl. Jacob, in which he expresses much disappointment at all the officers named by him having been overlooked - Pray bring the circumstance to His Lordship's notice - I should be glad indeed if those brought most prominently forward could obtain some distinctive reward similar to what my own staff obtained - for I know them all to have well deserved it.

believe me &c
[Signed] J. Outram

enclosure to the above

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [9r] (5/22)

2.

9

From Col^d Birch N. 21
Truly Sec^y Allahabad 29th Sept^r 1858.

My dear Outram
Your letter of the 15th Instant reminds me of that which you wrote me on the 5th of August last, about the recommendations you had made this time last year for conferring rewards on officers who had distinguished themselves under you in Persia.

I am sorry that I did not write to you on receipt of your letter in August: but I had hoped Edmonstone would do so.

You wrote me that the papers sent from Bombay containing your recommendations, after having been overlooked for some time in the Home Dept^t in Calcutta were transferred to the Military Department on the 13th of Feb^y last, and thence sent to Allahabad - and you concluded that press of business had prevented the Gov^t Gen^l from sending the recommendations home.

The papers were never sent to me at all, but were dispatched from Calcutta to Edmonstone informed Edmonstone that you had written to me inquiring about them, and I hoped he would have written to you.

I have now ascertained that in May last the recommendations were laid before the Gov^t Gen^l, and that they remain still with His Lordship.

Such a wilderness as Lord Canning's table is, it is not difficult to understand how papers escape his notice, enormously pressed as he is with business of every description. Perhaps

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Perhaps it would be well that you wrote to him direct, just mentioning that you believe your recommendations have not yet been sent home. That would probably stir him up to dispose of the matter.

Is it true that you succeed either Lord Harris or Lord Cliffristone? Rumour says so. And if so, who will succeed you in the council?

Yours sincerely,
W. R. J. H. Birch

No 2 Calcutta 5th Octr 1850

My dear Birch

From your note of the 23rd ultimo, I am very deeply disappointed to find that my letter to you of the 5th August (or its purport and enclosures) was not at the time communicated to the Gov^r General; as I therein expressly begged you to bring the circumstance to His Lordship's notice, and, relying as I did on your doing so, I informed Major Forbes and Genl Jacob that that brought the circumstances to the Governor General's notice through you.

But now, after an interval of two months, you inform me that neither what I wrote nor what I had enclosed for His Lordship's information, have been communicated. And you recommend that I should write to him direct.

I should be sorry to intrude personally on the Governor General in the matter - and considering as I do that you are the proper channel thro' whom I should make representations of this nature, I must beg that you will have the goodness to lay the correspondence (including this letter) before His Lordship, together with

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [10r] (7/22)

with the accompanying extracts from a further communication I have received from Genl. Jacob on the subject.

It may be that my letters should have been addressed to you in official form instead of demissively an intimation from you to that effect, which might have been sent by return of post - would have caused the error to be immediately rectified - and, if such be necessary, I beg you will turn my letters of 5th August, 15th September and this - into official form, by commencing them "Sir", and terminating them "I have the honor to be" &c &c

In reply to your query, I assure you that I have received no intimation that it has ever been contemplated to offer me any Government - I have not the vanity to consider myself fit for a Government, and therefore, if such were offered, my conscience would oblige me to decline.

very sincerely yours

J. Outram
1023

Extract from a letter from Major General John Jacob - dated Jacobabad 3rd September 1858.

"I have received about twenty, more or less strong, letters of remonstrance from the officers recommended by me in the Persian expedition, but I am quite powerless in the matter of the neglect with which they have been treated by the English Government - I cannot and will not

ask

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [10v] (8/22)

ask favors + + + I would not indeed ask favor for myself from any ministry, and in this business I cannot seek justice for my staff and other officers without seeming to thrust forward my own claims.

I have therefore had the orders printed, and sent a copy to each officer concerned, to enable them to move in the matter as they can, telling them that I can do nothing myself. + + +

I send you a copy of what I have caused to be printed and distributed as mentioned above + + + I really and truly want nothing for myself, but if you could move in this matter in any way so as to obtain the notice and distinctions which they have fairly earned, for the excellent officers mentioned by me - especially those on my own staff who are the most deserving of all - I should be very grateful. + + +

Surely the last para: of the General order by the Government of India on the subject, would render it right and proper for that Government to enquire why its recommendation has been passed by unnoticed."

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [11r] (9/22)

No 4

Allahabad 9th October 58-

My dear Outram

I received yesterday, but too late to answer it by return of post, your letter of the 5th Instant - & its enclosures.

You find fault with me, but really without the slightest cause.

In your letter of the 5th of August last you did, as you say, expressly beg me to bring to the Gov^r Genl's notice the subject of your recommendations of officers for the Victoria Cross for service in Persia. - I complied with your request in the only way I could with propriety do so.

I had had nothing to do with the matter; - I had not laid the recommendations before the Governor General; - But Edmonstone had done this, and to him I transferred your communication with a request that he would act upon it and remind the Gov^r Genl.

If I had gone direct to the Gov^r Genl, I should probably have been told that he would give Edmonstone his orders on the subject, and your object would not have been one whit furthered.

You write thus: - "But now, after an interval of two months, you inform me that neither what I wrote nor what I had enclosed for His Lordship's information, have been communicated."

I beg to say that I could not so have informed you. I wrote you that I had made over the papers to Edmonstone, for the purpose of being laid before the Gov^r Genl. If he did not do so, the fault is none of mine.

Yours

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [11v] (10/22)

you go on to say that you would be sorry to intrude
on the Lord's foot and "considering as you do that I am the
"proper channel through whom you should make
"representations of this nature, you must beg that I will
"do you the favor to lay the correspondence (including
"your present letter) before His Lordship, together with the
"accompanying extracts from a further communication
"you have received from Lord Jacob on the subject."

I am sorry that my previous letter did not satisfy
you that I am not the proper channel through whom
your representation should be made. I wrote you that
the recommendations had not been submitted, nor even
seen, by me. I have nothing to do with the matter;
which is wholly in Edmonstone's hands and in those of
the Lord's foot.

I had concluded that after receiving my last letter
you would have written either to Lord Canning, (which
really would have been by far the likeliest way to effect
your object,) - or to Edmonstone; - but that you should
write to me in the way you have done, I had not expected. I
- surely I have not deserved to be so written to.

But you not only impute neglect to me which I am
not guilty of, but you assign a probable motive for my
neglect, which I feel very much. This is what you say:

"It may be that my letters should have been addressed
"to you in official form, instead of demi-officially.

"An intimation from you to that effect, which might
"have been sent by return of post, would have caused
"the error to be immediately rectified. And if such

"such be necessary, I beg you will turn my letters
"of 5th Aug. 15th Sept. and this one, into official form,

"by commencing them 'Sir', and terminating them 'I
"have

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"have the honor to be '8ca'!"

(12)

I know not how to explain this passage, except by supposing that you do not believe what I wrote to you in answer to your letter of the 15th Sept^r - viz. that I had made over to Edmonstone your previous communication of the 5th of August. I am very unwilling to think that this supposition is correct, & that you would ever deal with me thus. Surely, when I had explained that I had not failed to attend to y^r letter, but had made it over to Edmonstone, I should have been saved from the imputation of neglecting your request because it was demi-officially conveyed.

I must beg you to understand that I can do no more than I have done. I have made over the enclosures of your letter of the 5th Instant, with copy of the Extract of Genl. Jacob's letter to you dated 3^d Sept^r 1858, to Edmonstone. I have told him that you have written angrily to me on the subject, although I have nothing to do with it; and I requested him to send me two lines just for your satisfaction, to say that he would remind the Gov^r Genl of your recommendations & let His Lordship know that you are disappointed at the delay which has occurred in regard to them. He has written me a note of which here follows a copy:

"My dear Birch, I will speak again to the Gov^r Genl about Bentham's despatch recommending certain officers for the Victoria Cross. Yours sincerely [20] S. F. Edmonstone
"8/10."

I fully enter into your vexation at the neglect with which your recommendations have been treated on this occasion. It is not in the least attributable to me, & not to Edmonstone. But I hope that you will admit on

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on further consideration that you have not treated me well in this matter, and that you will let me know that you now perceive this.

Believe me
yours sincerely
J. S. H. Birch.

No 5

Calcutta 13th October 1858.

My dear Birch

I lose no time in replying to your letter of the 9th Inst.

In your note of the 29th ultimo, you certainly told me that you had "informed Edmonstone that you (I) had written to me (you) inquiring about them, and (you) hoped he would have written to you (me)." but you did not tell me, as you now write, that you had "made over to Edmonstone ~~your~~ (my) previous communication of the 5th August" &c. It consequently occurred to me that possibly the non-official form of my letters may have prevented your doing so - and there was no imputation, therefore, in what I wrote (to which you now object) that you had misrepresented the circumstance. You had not explained, as you now assume that you did: that you had made over my letter to Edmonstone, therefore no, imbelief of any assertion of yours was implied in the passage which you quote from my last letter.

* In case you may not have kept a copy of your pre-sent letter I quote what is here referred to - "surely when I explained that I had not failed to attend to your letters, I should have been saved from the imputation" &c.

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4
 You also object to the following passage of my letter (13)
 "But now, after an interval of two months, you inform
 me that neither what I wrote nor what I had enclosed
 for his Lordship's information, have been communicated!"
 in which you remark "I beg to say I could not so have
 informed you - I wrote you that I had made over the
 papers to Edmonstone, for the purpose of being laid
 before the Gov^r Gen^l. If he did not do so, the fault is ~~none~~
 of mine".

It would appear from this that you retained no copy
 of your letter of 29th ultimo - I therefore enclose it (having
 retained a copy) - In it you will see that you said
 nothing of the papers being made over to Edmonstone
 for the purpose of being laid before the Gov^r Gen^l, you
 merely tell me that you had informed Edmonstone
 that I had written to you about them - which I main-
 -tain is tantamount to conveying to me the informa-
 -tion that "neither what I wrote to you, nor what I had
 enclosed for his Lordship's information, had been
 communicated" to the Gov^r Gen^l.

You say truly that if Edmonstone did not
 write to me the fault is none of yours. But it was
 you not Edmonstone I had addressed - this does not
 exonerate you from not having yourself written.

You now tell me - "I must beg you to un-
 -derstand that I can do no more than I have done".
 But you have not done what I requested you to do -
 viz: "to lay the correspondence, including this letter
 before his Lordship, together with the accompanying
 extracts"

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"contacts from a further communication from Genl. Jacob on the subject." neither do you appear even to have communicated my letters to yourself, to Edmonstone. You say merely that you have made over to him the enclosures of your letter of the 5th Inst., with copy of the extract of General Jacob's letter to me dated 3rd Sept-."

You say you are sorry that your previous letter did not satisfy me that you are not the proper channel thro' whom my representation should be made. It certainly does not satisfy me - for I adhere to my opinion that you are the proper channel for receiving and conveying to the Gov^r General all representations from military officers, regarding the claims of military officers of this nature. I have nothing to do with the manner in which previous applications have been dealt with - or with the manner in which my application had been previously dealt with - I made my application to you as military secretary, and to you I look as the person who ought to acquaint the Gov^r Genl with the circumstances which have occurred to delay the consideration of these claims. It is but right that His Lordship should be informed of the cause of delays for which the public are so apt to lay the blame on him, as the Bombay officers concerned in this matter no doubt do - and will continue to do, until I set them right, which in justice to His Lordship I am bound to do.

I leave it now to your own sense of what is due to the Governor General, to submit the cor-
respondence

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correspondence (including this letter) to his Lordship or not as you please. But I must say that I think it would be but just to me also, as well as to his Lordship, that the whole correspondence should be placed before him, as you tell me that you had requested Edmonstone to tell the Gov^r Gen^l that I had "written to you angrily on the subject," and "to let his Lordship know that I am disappointed at the delay &c" which, without seeing my letters, may lead his Lordship to suppose that the angry allusions are to himself, and that I attribute the delay to him. And I consider that, under any circumstance you are bound in honor to inform his Lordship that I never have presumed to make any angry or disrespectful allusion to him in my correspondence with you, and that I do not attribute the delay to his Lordship - quite the contrary.

believe me

sincerely yours

Jas L. Outram

My dear Outram,

Allahabad 16th October 1858.

I have received today your letter of the 13th Instant.

As you take the determined view of the subject of our correspondence, which your present and previous letters indicate, there is no use in my prolonging the discussion. I have failed to convince you that I am not to blame, and though I am sorry for this, I must needs leave it so.

Yours

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [14v] (16/22)

You tell me that "it is but right that His Lordship" (the Gov^r Genl) "should be informed of the cause" of delays for which the public are so apt to lay the "blame on him", as the Bombay Officers concerned in this matter no doubt do, and will continue to do "until I (yourself) set them right, which in justice" to His Lordship I (yourself) am bound to do."

I gather from this sentence that you intend to inform the Bombay Officers that the delay has been caused by me. I trust you will not actually do that, because the real truth is that I have had nothing to do with the delay that has occurred. If you are writing to that effect, or have done so, I must in justice to myself request that you will send me a copy of what you have, in writing to them, imputed to me, for I cannot allow myself to be represented to have done that of which I am entirely innocent.

You persist in saying I am "the proper" channel for receiving and conveying to the "Gov^r Genl" all representations from military officers of this nature."

If you will take the trouble of looking into the Gazettes, you will see that all your Pension Despatches were published in the Foreign Dept., not in mine. And in like manner your recommendations for awards for your Officers were in the hands of that Dept. and have never been in mine -

Nothing

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5 Nothing that I have written has had the slightest tendency to make the Gov^r Gen^l suppose that your angry mode of writing and your disappointment at the delay which has occurred, is imputable to him, but to me only. Therefore there is nothing for me to explain to His Lordship.

I have ascertained that Edmonstone delivered to the Gov^r Gen^l, the extract of Gen^l Jacob's letter to you & the printed papers which you sent me on the 5th Instant, and that he informed His Lordship that you had found fault with me for the delay which has occurred.

There is no such impression on His Lordship's mind as that which you suppose there is, and which you anxiously desire to remove.

I have only in conclusion to request, that you will do me the favor to return the other letters you have received from me on this disagreeable subject, for I have kept no copy, except of the present one.

I hope that you will not have informed the Bombay Officers that the delay has been caused by me; because in that case it will be necessary in self defence that I should request the protection of the Governor General against imputations of neglect which I have really not committed.

I am truly sorry that notwithstanding my efforts to get you to see the matter in its true light,
and

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and the proofs I have given you that I am not
guilty of the slightest neglect, you should per-
- severe in laying blame on my shoulders.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Signed/ R. J. H. Birch

Calcutta 22nd Oct. 1858.

My dear Birch

I received yesterday your letter of the 16th Inst.
As you still maintain that you are not the
channel thro' whom I should convey to the Governor
General the claims of Officers who served under
me in Persia, which I think you are - I see
no other course than to submit the question for His
Lordship's decision.

And, moreover, as you say that "it will be
"necessary in self defence that I (yourself) should
"request the protection of the Governor General against
"imputations of neglect which I (yourself) have
"not committed" if I inform the Bombay Officers
concerned (Genl. Jacob and Major Forbes) as I have
told you I consider myself bound to do. And
as you decline to inform the Governor General,
as I had requested you to do, and told you that
I considered you bound in honor to do ^{that} "I never
"presumed to make any angry or disrespectful
"allusion to him in my correspondence with you,
"and that I do not attribute the delay to His Lordship.
"-quite the contrary" on the ground that "there is

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no such impression on His Lordship's mind as that
"which you (I) suppose, and which you (I)
"so anxiously desire to remove? But as this is
only your own opinion, not given by you as
an assurance from His Lordship himself, and
as I cannot but apprehend that such an impression
must naturally have been caused by his being
told that I had written "angrily" &c. on the
subject, you compel me to do myself, what
I requested you - in justice to His Lordship as
well as to myself - to do, but which you refuse
to do - viz: to place our correspondence before
the Governor General. And this I shall now
do thro' His Lordship's private Secretary, so far
as my own letters are concerned. I shall not
send yours, as they were written without any
expectation that they would go beyond me,
and I do not therefore consider that I myself
have any right to place them before His Lordship.
This rests with you to do, if you please.

Before concluding, however, I will explain,
since you appear to misapprehend me, why
I consider that the delay in the decision of
these claims is justly attributable to you,
even if you are not the proper channel.
Had you replied to my letter of the 5th August,
as in courtesy at all events you were bound
to do, and had then informed me - as you did
two months afterwards - that you had merely
told Edmonstone that I had "written to you
about

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about them" (the clings), I should immediately have sent to him the substance, or a copy, of my letter to you with its enclosures, which I had requested you to communicate to the Governor General - and most probably had Edmonstone then placed those papers before His Lordship, his decision might at once have been obtained. You now tell me that you ^{have} ascertained from Edmonstone that he delivered the extract from Genl. Jacobs letter &c which I sent you on 5th Instant (August I suppose you mean) but you don't say when those papers were first shown to His Lordship.

I return your letter of the 9th Instant as requested, having kept a copy. That of the 29th ultimo I have already sent you. These two, and your present letter, comprise all I have received from you on this subject. The latter I retain as you say you have a copy, and there is not time just now to have it copied.

Sincerely yours
J. Outram

My dear Sir

At Calcutta 24th Oct 1850

I have received and laid before the Governor General your letter of the 22^d instant with its enclosures forming portion of a correspondence between yourself and General Birch that His Lordship will give his early attention to the subject.

Yours very truly
L. Bowring

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [17r] (21/22)

My dear Outram

Allahabad 20th Novr 1850. (17)

I received today a letter from Grant, sending me by your desire the communication you have received from men of the 64th Foot, requesting that the Depot of their Regiment may be brought round to Bengal. I have replied to Grant's letter and he will no doubt show you my reply.

My object in writing to you is to express my surprise and regret that you should not have sent me yourself the document which you got Grant to send me.

I trust it is not your intention to be at feud with me because of our late correspondence regarding your recommendations of Bombay officers for the Victoria Cross.

It is I that have suffered injury in that matter, and not you. I am perfectly innocent of either neglect or delay in regard to it - as I in vain endeavored to explain to you - and Lord Canning plainly intimated to me his surprise that you should have accused me of either, after reading your communication to him.

I believe His Lordship has not yet found leisure to write to you! - This speaks for itself shewing how delay is inevitable.

If you have informed your Bombay friends, as you told me you felt bound to do, that the delay rested with me, you have done me, however unintentionally, a grievous injustice -

However I have no intention to revive that subject. It is only your avoiding communication with me, and asking Grant to write, that has induced me to trouble you with this expression of my hope that it not your real intention to drop me.

Yours Sincerely
Jas R. S. H. Birch.

Copy of a letter, with enclosures, from Sir James Outram, Calcutta to Lewin Bentham Bowring, Private Secretary to the Governor General (Charles John Canning, Earl Canning) [17v] (22/22)

