

**MEMOIR OF THE FIRST
CAMPAIGN IN THE HILLS
NORTH OF CUTCHEE: UNDER
MAJOR BILLAMORE, IN 1839-40**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649349531

Memoir of the First Campaign in the Hills North of Cutchee: Under Major billamore, in 1839-40
by Anonymous

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ANONYMOUS

**MEMOIR OF THE FIRST
CAMPAIGN IN THE HILLS
NORTH OF CUTCHEE: UNDER
MAJOR BILLAMORE, IN 1839-40**

MEMOIR
OF
THE FIRST CAMPAIGN
IN THE
HILLS NORTH OF CUTCHEE,
UNDER MAJOR BILLAMORE, IN 1839-40.

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA
By One of his Surviving Subalterns.

Major, Bernard J. - 40

LONDON:
Wm. H. ALLEN, AND CO.,
7, LEADENHALL STREET.

1852.

DS 477

.02

J3

HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

TO THE
AMERICAN

W. LEWIS AND SON, PRINTERS, FINCH LANE, CORNHILL.

R. M. R.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

MEMOIR
OF
THE FIRST CAMPAIGN
IN THE
HILLS NORTH OF CUTCHEE.

The author of the history of Sir Charles Napier's administration in Sinde, including the hill "campaign," not contented with such exaggerated praises of his hero and of his exploits as make his book no more resemble sober and true history than do Gulliver's travels, has thought proper to assert that no troops had ever before entered those hills without disaster. The following account of the first hill campaign in Cutchee, in 1839-40, is given to the public, and will perhaps a little enlighten the historian of Sinde.

In the year 1839, after Lord Keane and his army had passed through Cutchee *en route* to Afghanistan, the predatory tribes inhabiting the eastern part of that province, namely, the Doombkees and Jekranees, with others of less note asso-

Poolijee, and Chuttur, with some villages in that neighbourhood and the adjoining lands. Their fighting men were all mounted; they were, indeed, tribes of horsemen. The Murrees and Boogtees inhabited the neighbouring hills; the chief town of the former, Kahun, of the latter, Deyra. These mountain tribes were nearly all footmen, and seldom or never ventured in hostile guise into the plain country. While the Doombkees and Jekranees were in power, the horsemen were far too strong for them in the plain, while, on the other hand, they were safe in their mountain fastnesses from the attacks of the lowlanders. Such being the respective positions, these warlike tribes, with occasional exceptions, were usually on friendly terms, and afforded each other mutual support.

The head of the whole Doombkee tribe by birth was, and is still, Belooche Khan, of Lahree, but he being of a quiet, peaceable disposition, preferred a life of ease at home to one of stormy adventure and predatory warfare; he never joined in any plundering excursion, and quarrelled with nobody, but lived like a quiet country gentleman in the midst of his turbulent brethren. He was on this account held in contempt by the warlike part of his tribe; and Beejar Khan, in power, in-

fluence, and all else but name, had, long before we entered the country, made himself the real head, not only of the Doombkees, but also of the associated tribe of Jekranees. Beejar Khan was a man of considerable ability; he not only kept his wild riders completely under his authority, but was far-famed for his justice and excellent civil arrangements. His ryots, from being oppressed, were protected and made much of; his lands were well cultivated, and the traders, as well as the peasantry of the whole country, were safe and contented under his rule. He paid his revenue regularly to his feudal lord, the khan of Kital, who therefore seldom troubled himself with regard to his other proceedings. All this internal good management enabled the Doombkee leader to carry on his predatory excursions systematically, and on an extensive scale, against any of his neighbours offering a fair prospect of a valuable booty. Beejar had at this time under his control from one thousand to one thousand five hundred horse, the best and boldest in the country; and incited by his prince, Mehrab Khan, as well as by inclination and habit, he now directed all his efforts against the valuable British convoys, &c., passing within his reach through Cutchee. This was the state of the people. It may be well also

to describe their principal towns; Lahree, the abode of Belooche Khan, is, or rather was at that time, for it has since been ruined by Murree plunderers, a considerable town, well supplied with shops, containing about two thousand inhabitants, and surrounded by a good sound mud wall about twenty feet high, and well flanked with round towers. From the character of the chief, Belooche Khan, already described, his town had no connection with the predatory riders of Cutchee.

The chief town possessed by Beejar Khan and his part of the Doombkee tribe, was Pooljee. This place consisted of two villages, about three-quarters of a mile apart; that one towards the north was a small place, about seven hundred yards in circumference; it had been originally surrounded by a good high mud wall with towers, but these had been allowed to decay; some of the towers and large portions of the wall had fallen down; manure and heaps of rubbish had accumulated in and outside these openings, and this place could not be considered as at all defensible against a resolute enemy. The other village was much larger, being a mile and a-half in circumference; it is surrounded by a mud wall about seven feet high, and for about two feet from the top, not