

March 6th  
Berhampore  
1sr N. I.

Dear Tom

(A short letter follows with nothing different in it from the others. It ends)

You are going to leave Oxford are you where do you intend to settle yourself? Shall I find a Mrs Tom when I come back? I suppose there will be many Mrs. Hyders then. I must now say good bye for the present

Yrs Spencer.

March from Berhampore to Dinapore

1st Stage Berhampore to Buxineah  
14 miles

Monday March 11th. Got up at 2. Off by 3. Walked the whole way and going the wrong way made it 16 miles - pretty good before breakfast. The moon was shining bright when we set out and lighted us till we wanted it no longer. Encamped upon an open space among trees 8.3 with trees all round but giving no shade - No crossed no ferry or water of any sort today.

Shooting. Shot nothing, the country is one mass of small gardens - an unfortunate hare was however knocked over by one of the party.

Tuesday. March 12th. Got up at 3 off by 4. To Dewanke Serai or rather in that direction for we did not encamp there but marched 2 or 3 miles further. I went nearly the whole way in a buggy a very nice way of marching but the road was very bad, we encamped in a grove of magnificent mango trees, the fruit is just beginning to appear. It is very nice and shady. The distance of the march was nominally 8 or 11 but we made it a good eleven. The sun is tremendously hot, very little shooting to be had.

Wednesday March 13th off by 4. To Kaurah about 8 miles walked the whole way. I had my first view of the sacred Ganges at Guriaie and the sun rose very beautifully over it. We encamped near a nullah running into the Ganges a quantity of teal flying overhead and there were a flock of wild duck within 20 yards of the road on the march but I had not my gun with me. The Camp is an open bit of ground not a tree near us however to make up for it there is a fine breeze blowing and a cloudy sky.

Thursday March 14 up at 2½ off by 3 rode the whole of the way to Booty on the Bagibetty which we crossed the distance is only 8 miles we started early on account of the river and arrived at Camp about 5½. The Camp is pitched in a large plain with no trees on the banks of the river which at present very low but in the rains it is a fine stream. The order book has just come round and by it I have received the welcome intelligence that

\* Tom also never married

we halt here tomorrow. A Storm has been brewing the whole morning and the mutterings of the Thunder are getting more and more distinct. I am writing this with a glass of sherry and water and a bit of cake by me of which my tiffin consists. There is nothing to be shot here the country is one vast plain with not many trees on it.

Friday March 15. I had a comfortable sleep till 7½ this morning and I felt all the better for it. We have a march of 11 miles before us tomorrow.

Saturday March 16 off at 3 and rode to Downapore 1½ road at places very bad and as it was very dark it was rather uncomfortable. We came to camp at sunrise in a beautiful mangoes tops (grove). The trees were not so fine as in the 1st place but give a delicious shade - the first thing we did after breakfast was to walk down to the Ganges which is not ¼ mile off and a fine stream it is even in this dry season, it must be quite magnificent in the rains, I believe that then it is impossible to see across it. We were told in the road book that there were 2 nullas to cross one of which was to be forded but when we came there we found both of them quite dry.

Sunday 17th off by 4 to Farruckabad 3 miles, encamped on the bank of the Ganges, saw several crocodiles upon a sandbank in the middle of the stream and we had some long shots at them but they were out of reach. There was no shooting to be had here.

Monday 18th off by 4½ to Patkipore, a good 10 miles rode half and walked the rest. P. is about 2 miles from the river. We have a fine view of the Rajmahal Hills we shall be there tomorrow. A man was brought in this morning wounded by a tiger about 2 miles off his skull had been laid quite bare in one place I believe he was a mahout and the Elephant stepped on the tiger or disturbed him in some way upon which the tiger jumped upon the Elephant and knocked off the unfortunate man. This news put all the Camp on the "qui vive" I believe they are just gone off and I hope they will bring a good account of him I do not go as it would be only tempting the fever with a fresh morsel.....Well now I do wish I had gone. The party went out and they had no sooner got into the jungle when up started the tiger under the nose of one of the Elephants, McDonald (our Doctor) had the 1st shot at him he was using my gun and he put 4 balls into him and rolled him over but he seemed to value them no more than small shot and he got up and soon charged one of the Elephants & fixed himself on the Elephant's side from which he was dropped by a couple of balls through his body but he charged several times after this and then stood with his fore feet on a bank grinning at them. Hickey put a ball in his mouth he then took up a place under a tree and after receiving a broadside he gave up the ghost after receiving 17 balls one of which broke his hind leg. This was

the 1st shot fired 2 were in his head just over the eyes and the rest in his body one of them passing right through and was sticking out under the skin on the other side. He was a remarkable fine one measuring 10 ft in length only one of the party had ever faced a tiger before (McDonald) it was his skin as he fired the 1st shot & he gave it to Hickey, the jungle was only 150 yards from which we travelled the next march.

Tuesday 19th off at 4½ to Rajeshal rode and walked it about 9 miles encamped on the bank of the Ganges on an open bit of ground. I found a letter for me I could not make out who it was from there was G H M in the corner well I opened it and it proved to be from G. Mason he is up at Nowgong in the 74th he wishes to keep up a correspondence with me which I shall be very glad of. I have seen some of Edward's men up here and he is expected on the 22nd, how provoking to miss him only by 3 days and when we shall meet again it is impossible to guess. I shall leave a note for him here. I went out shooting in a large morass or quagmire and bagged one snipe and a Diver.

Wednesday 20 off at 4 for Mussaha 10 miles, rode in a Buggy. Encamped at the foot of the hill, much game of all sorts, some have gone out this morning but I do not feel quite up to that though perhaps I may venture out in the evening. I went out in the evening to a large jheel with grass jungle round the edges shot nothing. But I saw 4 deer as I was returning I had only small shot so I did not disturb them.

Thursday 21 off at 4 to Sickree only 8 miles - walked and rode. I heard the jungle fowl crowing all around us I went out immediately after breakfast with another we found 2 or 3 small jheels (or ponds) we were out only 1 hour we bagged 5 couple and 3 of snipe besides there were 2 birds which were lost 3 of these birds fell to my gun among the number were 3 or 4 painted snipe very superior to the common one plumage & rather larger but very bad eating. This is the second time only I have shot anything on the march. I went out in the afternoon and saw a Black Partridge But did not bag it. By the by a tigress crossed the road this morning while we were on the march and she lives in a jungle near the road with a wild Elephant and a Rhinoceros. A Frenchman (I forget his name) dined with us today. He was on his way to meet E's party.

March 22 off at 4 to Gungaparsad 9 miles walked the best part of it and came in in a buggy. Went out shooting in the morning but shot nothing. Went out again in the evening with the same success, we saw a white jackal I never knew they were of that colour, but we could not hit it.

March 23 off at 5 to Terria Gully 6 miles. The Proper march was to Pialapoor a distance of 15 miles so we halved it, The

x replies of Sir Joseph



Terria Gully Pass is very pretty to look at but rather uncomfortable for the Hackeries &c to Pass. There are the Remains of an old fort in it and there is a Persian Gun dismounted in the middle of the Road. We found a large wheel near the Camp quite full of alligators. I wasted much powder and ball at them but though I frequently hit them it was useless they were all of an immense size.

March 24 off at 5 to PIALAPOOR and we found it nearly 9 miles a very heavy road through jungle saw 2 peacocks fly across the road. Went out shooting in the morning and bagged my first black Partridge there was another at which I fired at the same moment with my companion so it was doubtful.

March 25 off to Colcony at 3 distance 11 miles. Encamped in a mango tope, nothing to be found in the sporting line here. Walked down in the evening to see the famous rocks there are 3 of them & they are very fine, in the rains they are almost covered and are very dangerous. We are out of the hills there are only one or two scattered ones about.

March 26 off at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  to the Goga Muddee. We encamped by the banks it is only a nullah or ravine the camp was in an open plain. I do not think there is much to be shot here.

March 27 off at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  to Bhangulpore 12 miles walked part and rode in a Buggy. We had to pass through nearly the whole town before we came to the Camp in a tope of Mangoes. The town is a large place & a military station, the Bhangulpore Hill Rangers are stationed here, Major Napleton is the Commanding officer, and I met Mr. Battye here, he has got the office of Collector here. Our Band went to play at the Botanical Gardens ~~sixthexdiffexenixkennar~~ this evening and most of the mess went to Dinner at the different houses about. There were only 5 of us left at Dinner. There is a hill near the Camp with a place of worship on the top and some very fine Tamarind trees. I went up there and amused myself with knocking down the fruit to make (omlee) or sherbet from them.

March 28. Bhangulpore. We halt here today, it is the 1st halt we have had for 11 marches ~~xxxxxxx~~. All the marches beyond this are long but the last which is only 7.~~xxxx~~  
In the evening we had a heavy storm of wind rain and thunder &c.

March 30 off at 3 to Afzulgunge 14 miles. Encamped in an

open space surrounded by mangoes on 3 sides <sup>2</sup> of the open side was luckily the one from which the wind came, so it was very pleasant. The River was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off. There was no shooting to be had.

March 31. off to Kullianpoor, 10 miles but the Camp was pitched at the 11th milestone. Walked nearly all the way. Camp in an open plain, there is a nice breeze but it is very hot. We have come to the hills again but we shall leave them for good in another day or 2. By the By I forgot to mention that I received a letter from Sophy a day or 2 ago about Canthorn about which I will write after. Went out shooting in the afternoon and shot one quail & I had to walk nearly 2 miles before I found that, it was my first.

April 1. Off at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to Hussungunge  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles. A small village 2 miles from Monghir, the Camp was filled with natives from Monghir with guns and all manner of articles made by themselves and of course useless though they finish them up very well. Among other things, several cages of birds were brought in and a Chameleon a most strange animal. There were bulbuls, or the Indian nightingale a very pretty bird with a tuft of feathers on its head but its voice is not at all equal to the English. I went out as usual with my gun and killed another quail one of the large or Corn Quail. The Camp was in a large plain with no trees.

April 2. Off at 3 to Hybatgunge - but we did not go so far, for we found there was no water at that place. The Camp was in a beautiful Mangoe tope very thick overhead - the Camp is very pleasant during the day but at night it is very hot in a tope. There is a bit of water near us full of turtle. But though we heard of alligators being there as well we went in and had a delightful bath. We had the beginning of the hot winds today and very fearful they were, blowing very hard the air was full of sand and it was very dry, so the bath was delightful while I was in the water but as soon as we came out we found it much hotter.

April 3. Got up at 1 and started before the  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for Balgooza which must have been nearly 20 miles. I rode the whole of it except the last 2 when I found my pony getting knocked up so I got off. We had to cross the dry Bed of a nullah about 300 yds across & all sand in many places about 1ft in depth very fatiguing to cattle - & then at the end of the March we came to a River (The Dakra) which it seems no one knew anything about, we had to cross by ferry, and there was a great deal of mismanagement, the Regiment did not get over till 9 o'clock & then the Sepoys had no tents and nothing to eat. My tent was up but my bed (which was carried by coolies did not come up till the afternoon. I passed the day, which was very hot, behind a tatie or sort of mat made of the roots of the cuscus a sweet scented



grass which is kept [?] and the air blowing through it is made cool. The Camp is in a mangoe tope. On ~~the~~ the officers tents did not come till 6 oclock in the evening.

April 4. Halted here for today, many of the hackeries not having yet passed the River.

April 5. Off at 2 to Moranchee, 12 miles. We got to Camp by sunrise, it was in a grove. As usual, I went out to cut a Bamboo or two and I made my acquaintance with 2 plants & a tree which I had not known before. The Cotton tree & C. Plant and Castor oil plant. The 1st is a remarkable fine tree and the pods of which I took some specimens are 3 or 4 inches long, the 2nd is a common looking plant with a yellow flower it is this which is used and not the other. The 3rd grows to about 10 ft and looks rather like a Cane, the berries are very prettily marked with yellow on a brown ground.

April 6. Off at 2 to Mukra nearly 14 miles. Camp in a tope.

April 7 Off at 3 to Bar 9 miles. Encamped near the river, the town is large but that is all, there is nothing to be said about it. On the march this morning I saw many 1000's of wild geese pass over my head within gunshot but as my gun was behind I could not get a closer view of them. I went to bathe in the river with some others but I did not go far out because of the holes & the stream was tremendously strong, But I did my best to learn to swim I hope I shall get on in time.

April 8. Off at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to Bukteeapore 12 miles. Encamped in a tope near the River. That is to say the bed of the river But we had to walk a good mile and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to get to water and have a bath which we did in the Evening, the water was very shallow and it was very refreshing.

April 9 off at 3 to Futwah 12 miles. Camp by the river in a tope, a very fine east wind blowing, - a steamer passed up in this morning for Dinapore. I went down to look at the river and it was very curious to see the natives bathing. They swim like dogs & are quite at home in the water. We bathed in the evening, But it was rather dangerous For the Current was very strong and there were many holes, however we all got out safe & very much refreshed.

April 10. Off at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to Bankipore (only 7 miles to Dinapore) & encamped in a plain near the Civil lines i.e. where the Civilians live, we passed through the whole of Patna, about 8 miles of the march was through this city & we were heartily tired of it. I got in with some others before sunrise & we went to the top of a Golah which requires some description - it was built in 1784 . 5. 6. by Capt John Garsten an Engineer by Command of the Company as a magazine for grain in case of famine, well, the door at the bottom was made to open inwards so that

when the place was filled with grain from a hole in the top, no power could open it. So it was quite useless, and there it remains a monument of folly. It is in shape like the half of an egg, in height about 100 ft and there are steps to go up to the top to the number of ~~174~~ 147. The whole Reg. have been invited to dine with Mr. Melt the Civil judge.

April 11. Off to Dinapore 8 miles, many of the officers came out to meet us and my 3 friends were among them. I breakfasted with them and put up my traps there till I could get quarters. Dined with the 25th Mess.

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Camp. Bukhteeapore

April 8.

Dear Mother [Mama has been first written and changed to Mother]

I have received no news by the last mail, and the only [letter] was that one from Sophy about Cawthorn &c. I suppose the reason was, they were sent to Edward and were forwarded to him up in the jungle, however I may find them at Dinapore. I send you with this a journal of the March which is now, I am happy to say, nearly ended. On the 11th we hope to be in Dinapore, and I suppose I shall have to wait there about a month before I am posted. There are only 10 to be posted before me. Edward is in the jungle so I suppose you will not hear much from him. Now about the only letter I have received, as to the 1st Bill I have no recollection of what I had in -42 or in later times, I know I had some trousers there but as to whether the bill is perfectly right, I cannot tell. But as to the other - 1st the World of London, I have never heard of

2 Wild's Austria do

3. History of our own time do

therefore I am quite certain that I never did order those books there moreover I never ordered any except those which I was commissioned to do from home. So if there is a mistake anywhere it lies with Cawthorn.

April 12. Here I am at Dinapore & I have not received any overland news so I shall be obliged to send off my packet without knowing anything about you. I have not suffered anything from illness during the march and I am still in good health. There are 4 Regiments here besides the 1st i.e. 62nd Europeans 36th 25th & 25rd Company's Troops.

I have just received a packet from Edward containing a letter



from you and one from Sophy. And as I find my letters need not go till the 16th I hope I shall be able to make the packet a little heavier.

You seem to have had a remarkably pleasant winter and a very merry Christmas, I hope you may live to see many more. You say nothing of Uncle Harrowby so I suppose (he is) still in existence, I am continually expecting to hear of his death.

I manage to make myself very comfortable though it is a terrible place for thieves, one unfortunate young fellow had his desk stolen while he was at dinner, there was not much money in it But there were long letters that were written for the Overland- how distressing. I believe the only way is to trust every thing to the Bearer or valet de chambre & then he takes care of them.

You must excuse my not writing a longer letter as all the news I could give you are in my journal so with best love to all of your party, I wish you good bye & continue

Your dutiful & aff

Son Spencer.

April 14, 1844  
Dinapore.

My dear Sophy

I should like to have been with you on your 12th night it must have been great fun. That young Claude seems a great rogue. I think you must have given him too much wine. The Garden must be beginning to look pretty now. You are all alone with the Mother & Minnie I hope you keep up the orchises under the Elm tree, they will serve to remind you of me. Now I will try to tell you something about me. If you will look in the Map of India you will find on the Hooghly a small place called Berhampore near Moors-hedabad & up on Ganges a good bit higher you will find Dinapore, on the 11th of March your poor brother had to get up at 3 oclock (there was no moon) and he had to walk 16 miles before his breakfast to Bomineah, he had to get up early for a month and at one time the hour was 1 and there were 20 miles to be traversed before there was anything eatable to be got, we did not breakfast that day till near 9. However he has at last arrived safe and in good health at Dinapore, there to remain till he is posted.

The Square where the officers live is a very fine one my quarters look pretty nearly north and south they are not glazed i.e. have no glass doors or windows only venetian doors if you can



understand what they are, made like v. blinds which the dust easily penetrates so it is not always very ~~maximant~~ comfortable, I go into Hickey's quarters today & I ~~maximant~~ shall make have a moonshee soon so I hope I shall make some progress in the languages.

This place is full of thieves 2 of our officers have been robbed already, one of a desk which was taken from a room while he was dining in the next, and the other happened last night, when 15 men came into a man's room while he was asleep and made off with a great many clothes &c. I hope my ~~desk~~ <sup>desk</sup> will not share their fate. I have seen some of the hardships of a soldier's life, for marching in the hot weather cannot be considered as a pleasure, at first the march was pleasant because it was new to me and also the weather was not so bad as it was afterwards but when it became hot and the dust was blowing about covering every thing as it did, even the meat tasted dusty, it was far from pleasant. I go out for a ride every evening and I am getting more worthy of my name than I was in England.

Pray remember me to all the kind neighbours, give my best love to Minnie and tell her I will write a letter to her next month.

Yrs Spencer

I cannot write more as I give you all the news in my journal.

[A letter from Edward to Sophy of 17 April says " I suppose (Spencer) has given you a long account of the tiger which his regiment killed - a most unjustifiable case of trespass - they killed it upon our pet shooting ground ..... fancy the little wretch seeing a ~~tiger~~ real tiger before me - he only saw it dead tho'....." ]

May 6th  
Dinapore.

Dear Mother

The Mail goes out on the 8th this month on account of the Monsoon, so I must do my best to write you a small bit though it will only contain the news of a fortnight as the last mail went out on the 20th.

I am still remaining at this place but there are only 5 more to be posted above me so I shall not be here very long. I am just recovered from an attack of indigestion and I had a narrow escape from a very severe one, however thank God, I am

now none the worse, But rather the better in the way of experience. We had a shocking accident here not long ago, a party of 2 or 3 went out one day in a boat. There was a great deal of wind at the time and the boat was upset, and one poor fellow sank immediately (Eagar of the 62nd Europeans) the rest got to shore though with great difficulty. E's body was picked up 2 or 3 days after about 8 or 9 miles down the river. We have had some delightful storms which brought some very pleasant cool days, but that is all over<sup>now</sup>, and it is most fearfully hot. There is a report about and I hope it is true that there are to be 3 extra Captains given to each regiment if so, I may be posted as 2nd Ensign at once, which will be very comfortable. Edward has never sent me the last letters, it is very wrong of him indeed as it will cut off a great deal from my letters. There are a good many ladies at this station and there is one who came out in the Queen (Miss Wilcox).

There was a ball given by Colonel Godley of the 36th I did not go there myself But I heard they had a very pleasant party with some charades - in which some of the 1st acted.

I suppose you<sup>are</sup> enjoying delightful weather now, not quite so hot as 97° in the house. This state of things will last till about the middle of June when the rainy season sets in. I hope this will find you all in good health, though I can hardly fancy any one being unwell in such a place as Hambleton. I long to hear how Richard got on at Oxford in the Examination. I cannot imagine that he got anything lower than a first. I have no news to tell you But I will give you a tiger story if you will not be horrified- it happened at Lucknow about a week or 10 days ago. A tiger had been seen near that place and the officers were told of it 2 or 3 started as soon as they could but not together, a young officer (Hodgson) was the 1st he found the tiger and wounded [him] upon which the beast charged and springing on the Elephant actually seized Hodgson and took him out of the (Howdah) or seat on the back of the Elephant. The next officer that came up saw the tiger crunching H's arm upon which he shot the beast with a single ball. There, I have nothing more to tell you so with love to all I must say good bye  
Yrs Spencer.

Dear Sophy

I will tell you a small bit of news which I hope will be pleasing. We have heard from very good authority that there are going to be 3 new captains made to each Regiment so that will give me 3 steps wherever I may be posted to, and as there are generally one or two old lieutenants who would retire soon as they get their Captaincies, it will not be at all unlikely for me to be Liout: Ryder before I have been a year in the service. You will not likely have heard of the mutiny in the