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**Copy of Dispatch No. 19 from the East India Company Envoy to Persia,  
Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp at Aher, to the  
Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government of India, George Swinton**

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/70/152
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**About this record**

Copy of dispatch No. 19 from the East India Company Envoy to Persia [Iran], Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp at Aher [Ahar], to the Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government of India, George Swinton, of 29 September 1826. The dispatch originally enclosed copies of letters to the President of the Board of Control and the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company (not included in this item). The letter reports the defeat of a Persian army under the command of Mahomed Meerza [Muḥammad Mīrzā], the son of the Prince Royal [Crown Prince of Persia, ‘Abbaṣ Mīrzā Qājār], at Shamkhar [Shamkir] by a Russian force led by General Madatoff [General Valerian Madatov]. Macdonald Kinneir gives an account of the battle, and reports the subsequent capture of Gunja [Ganja] by Madatoff. The letter indicates that the Prince Royal has moved to relieve Mahomed Meerza, and also details other military developments in the war between Russia and Persia in the Caucasus [Russo-Persian War, 1826-1828], including a report on the composition of the whole of the Persian army in the field. A post scriptum details the arrival of a messenger at the Royal Camp who reports the ‘entire defeat’ of the Prince Royal’s army at Gunja.

This document was originally enclosed, numbered 1, in Macdonald Kinneir’s letter to the Secret Committee of the East India Company of 13 October 1826 (IOR/L/PS/9/70/151).

Copy of Dispatch No. 19 from the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, at the Royal Camp at Aher, to the Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government of India, George Swinton [1r] (1/8)

(Copy kept) LIPS/9/70/152 ①

To Mr Swinton Esq.  
Secretary to Government  
Political Department  
Fort William.

Sir,

The accompanying transcripts of dispatches to the Right Honble the President of the Board of Control and Chairman of the Honble the Court of Directors will apprise the Governor General in Council of the measures I have deemed it advisable to adopt since my arrival in the Kings Camp.

I earnestly hope that they will meet the approbation of his Excellency. —

Mr. Willcock left this on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant he proceeded by the route of Kars and Erzerum and will if nothing occurs to detain him on the road reach Constantinople about the 18<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of October. —

A division of the Persian Army detached by His Highness the Prince Royal, under the command of his eldest son Mahabud and Inurga, and his Uncle Amser Khan, has I am sorry to say been defeated, with several loss near the village of Sharukhar, 8 Sur-subhan N. W. of Guerga. —

The battle was fought on the banks of the Gezum, a small stream of which the contending Armies occupied the opposite banks. — The Russian Force amounted to about 6000 Infantry, and 3000 Cavalry, with a proportionate number of Guns. — That of the Persians to 5000 Inf<sup>y</sup>, and 5000 Irregular Horse.



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Horse, with 4 Field Pieces. The former were drawn up in one line their left resting on the river, while the whole of their Cavalry, were placed on the right, separated from the Infantry by several Pieces of Artillery. The latter formed their Infantry also in one line, in front of the Irregular Horse.

At some time a smart fire was kept up from both sides, till at length the Persian Horse moved towards the flank, opposite the Prussian Cavalry who evinced an inclination to attack. - The artillery on the left of the Cavalry opened a well directed fire of grape on the advancing Persian Horse, and after a few discharges compelled them to retire in the utmost confusion, many of their Horses being killed or wounded. - At this moment the Prussian Cavalry charging their opponents pursued them along the rear of the Infantry, which General Madatoff perceiving, ordered an immediate advance of the whole of his line, and the Persians seeing themselves surrounded, broke after a feeble resistance. - Up to the latest accounts very few of the Infantry had rejoined the Prince, and it is supposed that nearly the whole of them were either killed or taken prisoners. - Their field Piece fell into the hands of the enemy and Amier Khan was shot dead by a Cossack when in the act of rallying his followers.

The



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(2) (3)

The young Prince Mahomed Mirza having lost his Horse was taken by the Copacks, but Shooka Aga, Shahsewand, one of his Sardars, coming to his rescue, charged the Copacks and bore away the Prince in triumph behind him, on his own horse.

The Garrison of Guinja had been unfortunately withdrawn to reinforce the Detachment, and on the 10 of Suff. General Miradatoff finding the place evacuated took immediate possession, both of the town and citidal, which he has since connected by a strong line of communication.

The Prince Royal on hearing of this defeat suddenly broke up his Camp before Meshha, with the intention of advancing to the relief of his son, leaving Mirkha Kauli Khan, with the troops of Kharabang, to continue the blockade of that fortress. His Highness's Force consists of about 30000 men, of which the larger proportion are Infantry. His Artillery is rated at 30 Field Pieces 4 and 6 Pounds.

Shookhae Khan Begue is said to have collected about 10,000 of his adherents in the Provinces of Shirwan, and the Azeer, and to be moving towards Guinja.

The Russian Force at Loree according to information furnished to me by Major Maitland, amounts to 4 Battalions of Infantry, a Regiment of Copacks, and about



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about 1500 Armenian Safojuchas, with 22 Pieces of Artillery. - Large reinforcements had arrived in the Phasis, from Sagansock, and General Gamoloff himself, with 5 or 6000 men is reported to be moving down to Aspachare. The troops under the Surdar of Erwan, posted in the vicinity of Balikhloo, are reckoned at from 10 to 12,000 men, while his brother Nupan Khian had been detached with 600 foot, and an equal number of Horse, to the aid of the Prince Royal, who was expected to reach the neighbourhood of Gunja 3 days ago.

The inhabitants of Akhiska are secretly assisting the Persians, a party of these horse had accompanied a plundering expedition sent by the Surdar to the vicinity of Tiflis, whence they had carried into slavery a small colony of Mosabians, established on the Algit River. - Five hundred Delhi Bashes had joined the Surdar from Akhikhidit, under the command of the son of the Governor of that place.

Towards the shores of the Caspian the Russian Troops have shut themselves up in Badkoon, Derbund, and Kuba. The garrison of the former consists of about 1200 men that of Derbund somewhat less in number, while at Kuba, there are it is believed three entire Battalions with 500 Cofacks. - The Army of Thirk Ali Meerza in that



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that direction is estimated at 6000 Infantry  
and 4000 Horse —

The reserve under the personal  
command of the Shah, now in this Camp,  
consists of 6000 Cavalry, and 3000 Infantry,  
with 6 Guns — The contingent of Khumsa,  
expected in a few days, is not less than  
1500 Horse, and the like number of foot —  
4000 Horse, have been ordered from Kernan-  
shaw, and 3000 more from Astrabad. —

The whole of the Persian Army  
now in the field stands thus. —

A. M. Camp.	Cavalry	6000	Inf.	3000	Guns	6
Prince Royal.		12,000		18,000		30
Sheik Ali Meerza		4,000		4,000		4
Hajran Khan		3,000				2
Kopien Khan		3,000		3,000		2
Mahomed Meerza		3,000				
	Cavalry	39,000	Inf.	28,000	Guns	44

Ordered from the rear

Astrabad	Cavalry	1,000	Infantry	1,500		
Khumsa	"	2,000	"	1,000		
Kernanshaw.	"	3,000		1,000		2
	Cavalry	6,000	Infantry	3,500	Guns	2

I have the honour to be  
Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant  
Royal Camp at Aher  
29<sup>th</sup> September 1826  
J. D. Macdonald  
Envoy  
P. S.

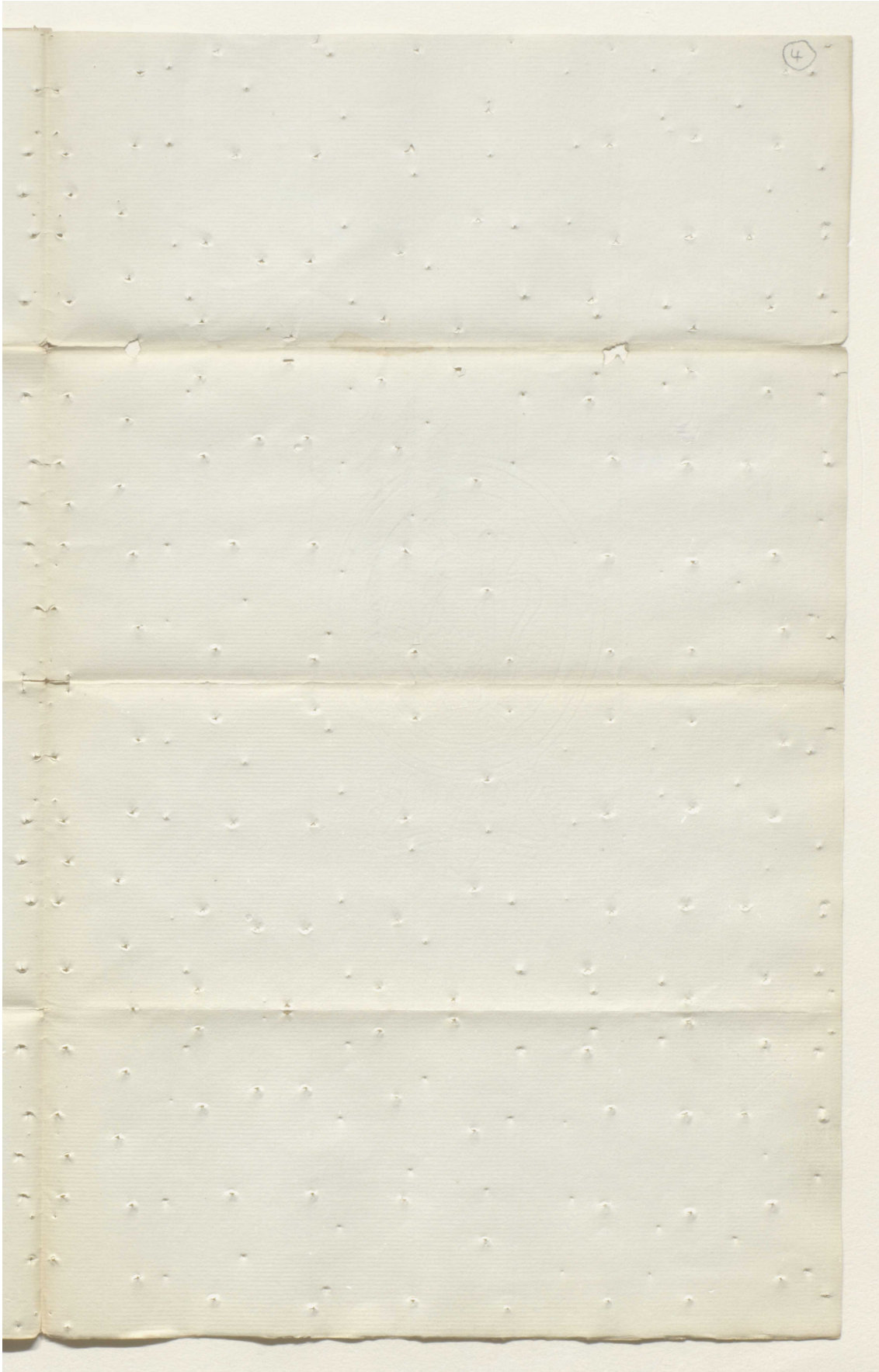
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P.S. — Since the above was written a horse man is arrived in Camp who states himself to be a fugitive from the Army of the Prince Royal, which he says sustained an entire defeat in the vicinity of Gungya on the 25 Inst. — No official accounts of this unfortunate event have yet reached the King, but the long silence of the Prince himself seems to augur nothing good. —



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