

Major C. Maling to Lieut.-Colonel Birch.

SIR, *Kyook Phoo, January 17, 1853.*

HAVING this day received Captain Sutherland's report of his movements while commanding the detachment of the Arracan Battalion which surprised and captured the Naraghain stockade, I herewith enclose a copy for the information of Government.

I have, &c.

C. MALING, Major, Commanding
in Arracan.

Lieutenant A. G. C. Sutherland, Commanding at Naraghain, to Lieutenant Monro, Adjutant of the Arracan Battalion.

SIR, *Naraghain, January 7, 1853.*

AGREEABLY to the orders of Captain Barry, conveyed to me in your letter dated the 31st day of December last, desiring me to take command of a party of the Arracan Battalion about to proceed with Captain Nuthall on a forced reconnaissance of the enemy's position at Naraghain, I have the honour to report that I accompanied that officer as far as Tharowa, when he received information that induced him to change his plan of reconnoitring into an attempt to take Naraghain, by turning the position by a Pass some distance to its left.

Having decided on this, we ordered the greater portion of the guards stationed along the road to proceed with us to our advanced post at Yogye, and managed to collect them there without observation by the enemy, on the evening of the 4th instant.

On the morning of the 5th, before daylight we drew the whole of our small force into the jungle, and proceeded till 2 P.M.; again resumed our march at 5 P.M., and halted, when quite dark, about 50 yards before the high-road leading between the Burmese forts Tsetweng and Naraghain. About 3 P.M., with some difficulty, owing to the darkness of the night, we found our small column on the road, remaining there sufficiently long to allow the Kein Chief, Nakee-Kay, to spike the road behind us, so as to delay assistance coming from the lower, whilst we were attacking the upper part of Naraghain.

At about half an hour before daybreak we reached our point of attack, instead, however, of finding the rear open, as we had been informed, it was closed with a thick breastwork of green boughs bound together, having in its centre a close gate. Lining the whole of this work with men, we forced the gate, fired a volley, and rushed in. So complete the surprise, so utter the terror, that without scarce looking behind them, they threw themselves over the front of the stockades, regardless of the spikes and the other impediments they had placed there to prevent the approach of troops from the front or Arracan side.

When in possession, we opened the front gate, and were shortly joined by a detachment from Yogye, consisting of 1 havildar, 1 naick, 30 sepoy, 1 bugler.

We had no casualties, and only two men wounded by the accidental discharge of gunpowder.

In conclusion, I beg to state that Captain Nuthall deserves the whole credit, as he had the whole responsibility of deciding whether the attempt should be made or not, and which, as I was under his orders, I had only to carry out, as commanding the troops. In this he gave me

every help and assistance, not only by his advice and by keeping up the spirits and confidence of the men when suffering under great privation and from severe cold weather, but also in setting them an example in attacking, what we had every reason to suppose, a position of great strength. I am sorry to say he received a bad wound in his knee from one of the innumerable bamboo spikes that were fixed all round.

I beg to bring to the Commanding Officer's notice the good conduct of Subadar-Major Queray, and the other five native officers with the detachment, also that of all the other non-commissioned officers and privates, who shewed throughout a great desire to see service, and serve the State.

I particularly recommend Private Oungthong, No. 3 Company, as a brave and good soldier, also Private Oungkein, No. 6 Company, who behaved very well.

The Kein Chief Nakee-Kay has again proved himself worthy of all confidence. He guided us by a path only known to himself, and the latter part of which he had cut through the forest for the occasion.

We found in the fort 2 new small brass howitzers, 8 iron wall pieces of sizes, some muskets and spears.

I have, &c.

A. G. C. SUTHERLAND, Lieutenant,
Commanding at Naraghain.

NOTE.—The following Despatches were inserted in the packet from the Governor-General of India in Council, after the letter to the Secret Committee, of the 9th of February 1853, was written.

Brigadier-General S. W. Steel, Commanding the Martaban Column, to C. Allen, Esquire.

SIR, *Camp, at Beling, January 28, 1853.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Governor-General of India in Council, that the stockaded town of Beling was yesterday delivered up, without opposition, to the force under my command.

My letter, of the 17th instant, stated that the Martaban column would advance on the following morning upon Gongoo. The route, on the 18th, ran for the greater portion through a grassy swamp of difficult passage; two or three out-pickets on the road fired upon the advance of the column, and retired as it approached. On arriving before Gongoo, the guns of the place opened sharply as if intending a vigorous defence, but their fire was soon silenced by some very accurate practice from the howitzers and rockets under Lieutenant-Colonel Anstruther, and the assault of the position, admirably covered in the same manner, was led in a very spirited style by Major Seaton, of the 1st Bengal Fusiliers, who commanded the advanced guard* of the force. The approach to the works was rendered difficult and intricate by deep holes, set with long sharp bamboo spikes, having been dug in chequered lines along the front, the passages between being also spiked, by which some men and horses were wounded, but the enemy did not stand the assault, retiring from trench to trench as the attacking force advanced, escaped through the neighbouring jungle. There had been a few guns in the enemy's position of either brass or iron, which fired, at good range, 3lb. shot upon the column,

* Half a Company of Sappers, 1 Company 1st Madras Fusiliers, 1 Company 1st Bombay Fusiliers, 1 Company 10th Bombay N.I., 1 Company 5th Madras N.I.