

*Extract of the Letter first referred to in the preceding Dispatch, containing the Particulars of the Action on the 13th June, 1783.*

**I** Most sincerely congratulate your Lordship on the successful Efforts of this brave Army, in carrying at one Stroke the Whole of the Out-Posts and Redoubts of the Enemy, with \* 18 Pieces of Artillery mounted on them. Their Loss in Europeans killed and wounded, according to the Prisoners Report, being † 26 Officers and 600 Men. We have also lost many excellent Officers and brave Men.

On the preceding Day (the 12th) I called as a Council of War the two Officers next in Command to me, Major General Bruce and Colonel Stuart. I acquainted them of the State of our Affairs in general; the Letters I had received from the Admiral representing the sickly Condition of his Men; and the State of the Water, which might oblige him to return to Madras; also the Approach of the French Fleet; but above all, the indefatigable Industry visible in the vast Works they were making on the high Grounds and Lines, in Communication with the Post commonly called Brickmyre's, thus stretching along the Neck by which we must approach the Place; and I requested General Bruce and Colonel Stuart freely to speak their Minds. I had called the Chief Engineer and the Commanding Officers of the Bengal and Coast Artillery as deliberative, desiring to know in their different Departments if they were in Readiness, so far as regarded Materials for closing the Redoubts after we should get Possession, and to form a first Parallel, and as to Guns, with a sufficient Supply of Stores for the Enterprize. They agreed that every Thing was in Readiness, and we were unanimously of Opinion, that there was not an Hour to be lost in driving the French from all their Out-Posts into Cuddalore, or under the Guns.

I immediately presented the Plan I meant to follow in effecting our Purpose, a Copy of which I have the Honour of inclosing. It was in general most exactly followed. Lieut. Colonel Kelly, in the precise Moment agreed on, got Possession of the Posts of the Enemy on the Bandipollum Hills, with their Guns, and Lieut. Colonel Cathcart, at the Head of the Grenadiers, supported by Colonel Stuart, commanding the advanced Picquets on the Left, consisting of the Remains of the 73d Regiment under Captain Lamont, and Two Battalions of Sepoys, made a Movement to turn the Enemy's right Flank.

In advancing they sustained such a heavy Fire, and the Ground so difficult, that with great Judgement Colonel Stuart covered his People until he could better reconnoitre, and some further Disposition could be taken to approach the Enemy from different Quarters nearly about the same Time. He sent me a Report of his Situation, and I gave Orders in Consequence to the Reserve, under Colonel Gordon, to make a Movement in Advance to their Left, and to Major General Bruce to march from the Right in the Direction of the Redoubt, if the Ground could admit of it.

The General had very properly posted Lieut. Colonel Edmondson upon the Sand Hills near the Sea to support the Four Brass Eighteens, and prevent our being flanked on that Side.

Upon further Information, that the Redoubt which principally annoyed the Grenadiers was to be got at in the Rear, Orders were given for the Grenadiers, the Reserve and the Right under General Bruce, to close upon the Enemy with their Musquetry, leaving their Guns under Cover. I desired the Commanding Officer of Artillery to fire Three Guns as a Signal, and to continue a heavy Fire for Five Minutes on the Enemy's Redoubt on the Front opposite to Colonel Stuart, and the Grenadiers, whilst the Reserve under Colonel Gordon was moving on; upon our Fire ceasing, the Attack on all Sides to begin.

\* Upon examining the Returns, the Number taken was 16.

† It was afterwards found they had 42 Officers killed or wounded.

The Reserve, which consisted chiefly of the Remains of His Majesty's 101st, and of the Detachment from the 15th and 16th Hanoverians, with Five Companies of Captain Muirhead's Battalion of Sepoys, advanced in the best Order imaginable, under the heaviest Fire of Musquetry, Round and Grape, from the Enemy, that I ever beheld. The greater Part had got within the Enemy's Entrenchments; many of our Officers fell there.

The Detachment of His Majesty's Hanoverians, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wangelheim and Major Varrennius, behaved most remarkably well. The Major fell in the Attempt. The Company of Grenadiers and Light Infantry of His Majesty's 101st, and the Officers of that Corps, and the Officers and Sepoys of the 20th Carnatic Battalion, shewed the greatest Spirit and Steadiness; and if the other Men of the 101st had seconded the Efforts of their Officers and their Grenadiers and Light Infantry, there is not a Doubt but the Business would have been over at once; but they did not; and our People on that Attack, were for a certain Time driven back, and pursued to a considerable Distance by the Enemy. However, at that precise Time, when the French were in the Pursuit, our Grenadiers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Cathcart and Major Moore, with Colonel Stuart and Captain Lamont, with the precious Remains of the 73d, entered the Redoubt on the Side where it was not entirely closed, and not only took Possession of it, but pushed forward to a Post called Brickmyre's, considerably in Advance, and were for some Time in Possession of it, with the Guns, but obliged to quit, upon fresh Troops pouring in upon them.

Our People kept hold of the first Redoubt, as commanding or enfilading every Thing in Front or to the Right of it, and therefore a good Point to go from in our Approaches; it was ordered to be closed by the Chief Engineer as soon as possible. The Havock done by our Guns from the Heights now appeared plain; and having thus secured, by Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly and his Brigade, the commanding Points of the Bandipollum Hills, giving an Opening to the large Tank that lies between them, and seeing from thence, in Reverse, the whole Bound Hedge of Cuddalore; and having secured a Post to approach from of such Importance as before mentioned, I thought it sufficient for the Day, considering the Numbers of our brave Men that had fallen.

The Spirit of our People, even after so severe an Action, was so undaunted, that I was urged to proceed further, and to drive the Whole of the Enemy into the Fort the same Evening, although we must have had both heavy Guns and Musquetry to encounter with; but I declined it, both for the above Reason, and because, from my Knowledge of the French, I was sure, that after a Night's Reflection of what had passed, they would not try a second Day out of the Fort. It happened so, for they abandoned in the Course of the Night all their remaining Out-Posts, and drew off their Guns, excepting Three, which we brought into the Redoubt. The inclosed Return will shew your Lordship the Guns we have taken from the Enemy; Two of them are upon the Hill, and Two in the Redoubt, ready to open against their former Masters.

I shall in a separate Letter, so soon as I know it with Precision, acquaint your Lordship of the Loss on our Side. It is with infinite Regret that I mention the Loss of Captain Douglas, Deputy-Adjutant-General, as an Officer, and as a Member of Society; and the same of Lieutenant Peter Campbell, my First Aid-de-Camp. Major Varrennius fell haranguing his Men, advancing to the Redoubt. The Honourable Captain Lindsey, commanding the Grenadiers of the 73d, was wounded and taken Prisoner, refusing to suffer his own People to remain behind with him †. In a Word, nothing I believe in History ever exceeded the Heroism and Coolness of this Army in general, visible to every one, for it lasted from Four in the Morning to Two in the Afternoon.

† Captain Lindsey died of his Wounds at Cuddalore.