



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY the 16th of MAY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1815.

India-Board, Whitehall, May 16, 1815.

THE following letter from the Adjutant-General of the Forces in Bengal to the Secretary of the Supreme Government, with its inclosures, has been received at the East India-House, from the Vice-President in Council, in a dispatch dated the 18th November 1814.

To John Adam, Esq. Secretary to Government,
Secret Department.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Commander in Chief to transmit to you, for the information of Government, copy of a dispatch received this afternoon from Colonel Mawbey, at present commanding the British troops in the Dhoon, reporting the particulars of the gallant, but unsuccessful, attack on the fort of Kalunga, on the 31st ultimo. Great as is the loss sustained on this occasion, and deeply as it is to be deplored, it is some satisfaction to the mind of the Right Honourable the Commander in Chief to observe, it falls considerably short of the number there was at first reason to apprehend had fallen and suffered.

The undaunted valour displayed by the officers and troops who were engaged, under the serious disadvantage of one column only, and the reserve having (from the accidental cause mentioned by Colonel Mawbey) reached the destined points of assault, out of four columns and a reserve, ordered by their lamented leader in the original plan of attack, has excited the highest admiration in the Commander in Chief, and the firmest conviction in His Excellency's mind, that the object would have been effected, if the most determined valour could possibly have achieved it under the circumstances of the contest.

Orders have been given for the close investment

of the place, and means are about to be employed for its reduction, which will, the Commander in Chief trusts, prove speedily effectual.

The Commander in Chief cannot conclude without reiterating the sentiments of deep concern which he has already expressed at the severe public loss sustained, by the untimely and ever-to-be lamented fall of Major-General Gillespie, who evinced in the mournful close of his career, that ardour of heroism and devoted zeal, which had so strikingly distinguished its whole course.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. H. FAGAN, Adj. Gen.

Head-Quarters, Lucknow, Nov. 9, 1814.

P. S. Colonel Ochterlony, with the Ludheanah detachment, joined the other corps of his division at Rooper on the 30th instant, and was at Plapea on the 31st, preparatory to moving against Nallaghur, the key to the principal passes leading to Ummer Sing Thappah's position at Irkih, near the Sutledge.

SIR, *Camp before Kalunga, Nov. 1, 1814.*

IN continuation of the brief and hurried account of the melancholy transactions of yesterday, which I had the honour to forward to you, I now beg leave to transmit, for the Right Honourable the Commander in Chief's information, the following more detailed and connected report of the unfortunate and unsuccessful attack on the fort of Kalunga, in the Dhoon.

In pursuance of the arrangements and instructions of our late noble and gallant leader, Major-General Gillespie, the army was formed into four columns of attack, with a column of reserve, on the 29th of October, agreeable to the inclosed statement.

The columns under Lieutenant-Colonel Carpenter and Major Ludlow marched from the encampment at half-past three o'clock P. M. on the 30th October, and took possession of the Table Land, fortunately without resistance from the enemy, and established themselves there; so as to cover the working party which was to be employed during the night, in constructing batteries. This service was performed under the immediate direction of Major Pennington, commanding the artillery, and Lieut. Blane, of the engineers, assisted by Lieutenants Elliott and Ellis, of the pioneers; and by daylight on the 31st, the following pieces of ordnance were ready to open on the Fort at the distance of about six hundred yards.

Two five and a half-inch howitzers, two twelve light-pounders, horse artillery; four six-pounders battalion guns, two five and a half-inch mortars.

Shortly after daylight the batteries opened on the Fort, and kept up a well directed fire.

The columns of attack, under Major Kelly and Captains Fast and Campbell, had previously moved, so as to be in readiness to make their attack at the same moment with the one from the Table Land. At two o'clock, A. M. Major Kelly moved on Kursulle by the Jagherkeena road; Captain Fast at three o'clock towards the stockade, by the village of Luckhound, and Captain Campbell by the village of Ustull.

The signal for the columns moving to the assault, was to be fired from the batteries two hours previous to the moment of attack, which was to be repeated from the camp below.

The signal was fired at about eight o'clock, and the columns under Lieutenant-Colonel Carpenter and Major-General Ludlow shortly after moved to the assault, and carried, in a most gallant manner, the stockade thrown across the road leading to the fort, and pushed on close under the walls of the fort which were stockaded all round, and a small opening (the only one seen) had stockades within stockades; from this they were obliged to fall back, from the insurmountable difficulties that presented themselves, after a dreadful loss in officers and men, under shelter of the village between the first stockade and the fort which they had previously possession of. Soon after the columns for the Table Land moved, three additional companies of the 53d were ordered up from camp, and by the time they arrived on the Table Land, the columns in advance had been obliged to fall back to the village before alluded to. With this small force, and two six-pounders, the brave and gallant General moved on to the attack through the village, which had been set on fire, and after making two unsuccessful assaults on the fort, in the third, while nobly cheering on his men, within thirty yards of the gateway, he received a mortal wound, and fell, most sincerely lamented and regretted by the whole army.

It is impossible for me to state particulars of the assaults which occurred; having been directed by our lamented Chief, to remain with two companies of the 53d, (which had been sent for to reinforce the Table Land), and two companies of native infantry, to cover him, and protect the guns on the batteries; but I must beg leave to refer his Lordship to Captain Byers, Aide-de-Camp to Major-

General Gillespie, for more minute details than it is in my power to state. Captain Byers left camp this morning on his way to head-quarters, and I trust that the information he will be able to give his Lordship, will be most satisfactory.

The signal for the columns to move to the attack was not heard either by Major Kelly, Captain Fast, or Captain Campbell.

It is impossible I can conclude this report without expressing the highest satisfaction at the determined bravery of the troops employed yesterday. To particularize any, would be doing an injustice to the whole; and I trust that this general expression of approbation, will be equally satisfactory to all concerned, as it is intended by me, to convey in the fullest manner possible, the high sense I entertain of the zeal and courage of every officer and soldier of this army who were engaged yesterday.

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit a return of the killed and wounded; and have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SEBRIGHT MAWBHEY, Colonel.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Fagan, Adjutant-General, Bengal Army.

P. S. I am apprehensive many circumstances which have occurred, have been left out in my report, from the many interruptions I have experienced, and the multiplicity of business I at present experience from the command of this force, as well as that of the 2d division of the field army devolving on me, but which I shall correct the moment I discover any; and I must crave his Lordship's indulgence in this particular.

Since writing the above, I perceive I forgot to mention having ordered a battering train from Delhi, to move with all possible expedition towards Seharunpore. It will have to pass the Timly pass, as that of Kerri is not practicable for heavy guns

(A true copy.)

(Signed) G. H. FAGAN, Adjutant-General.

Return of the Strength of the different Columns of Attack on the Fort of Kalunga, October 31, 1814.

1st Column, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Carpenter.

17th Foot—2 field-officers, 1 captain, 8 subalterns, 2 assistants, 2 quarter-masters and interpreters, 2 assistant-surgeons, 10 native commissioned officers, 32 serjeants and havildars, 14 drummers, buglers, and trumpeters, 542 rank and file.

2d Column, commanded by Captain Fast.

17th Foot—1 captain, 3 subalterns, 8 native commissioned officers, 16 serjeants and havildars, 9 drummers, buglers, and trumpeters, 326 rank and file.

3d Column, commanded by Major Kelly.

7th Foot—1 field-officer, 2 captains, 8 subalterns, 14 native commissioned officers, 30 serjeants and havildars, 14 drummers, buglers, and trumpeters, 475 rank and file.

4th Column, commanded by Captain Campbell.

6th Foot—2 captains, 2 subalterns, 6 native commissioned officers, 14 sergeants and havildars, 6 drummers, buglers, and trumpeters, 253 rank and file.

Reserve, commanded by Major Ludlow.

6th Foot—1 field-officer, 2 captains, 19 subalterns, 1 assistant, 1 quarter-master and interpreter, 1 assistant-surgeon, 23 native commissioned officers, 61 sergeants and havildars, 27 drummers, buglers, and trumpeters, 903 rank and file.

Total—4 field-officers, 8 captains, 40 subalterns, 3 assistants, 3 quarter-masters and interpreters, 3 assistant-surgeons, 61 native commissioned officers, 153 sergeants and havildars, 70 drummers, buglers, and trumpeters, 2499 rank and file.

N. B. In the first column, 2 companies of the 53d, of 135 rank and file, are included.

In the reserve, 100 rank and file, 8th, or K. R. I. light dragoons, dismounted, are included.

(Signed) S. MAWBEY, Colonel.

(True copy.)

(Signed) G. H. FAGAN, Adj. Gen.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of a Detachment of the Army at the Assault of the Fort of Kalunga, under the Command of Major-General Gillespie, October 31, 1814.

Detachment Horse Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 1 trumpeter, 3 rank and file, wounded.

Detachment Foot Artillery—1 rank and file killed.

Detachment 8th Light Dragoons—3 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 1 cornet, 4 sergeants, 1 trumpeter, 49 rank and file, wounded; 1 rank and file missing.

Detachment 53d Foot—2 sergeants, 8 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, 1 drummer, 77 rank and file, wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

1st Batt. 6th Native Infantry—1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 15 rank and file, wounded.

1st Batt. 7th Native Infantry—1 drummer killed; 1 ensign, 1 native commissioned officer, 1 havildar, 9 rank and file, wounded.

1st Batt. 17th Native Infantry—1 ensign, 2 rank and file, killed; 1 havildar, 7 rank and file, wounded.

Detachment 19th Native Infantry—3 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 native commissioned officer, 13 rank and file, wounded.

Light Battalion—1 lieutenant, 2 rank and file, killed; 1 major, 2 lieutenants, 1 native commissioned officer, 1 drummer, 10 rank and file, wounded; 1 rank and file missing.

Detachment Pioneers—1 ensign, 3 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 12 rank and file, wounded.

Engineers—1 ensign killed*.

Total—2 lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 2 sergeants, 1 drummer, 24 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 1 captain, 9 lieutenants, 1 cornet, 2 ensigns, 3 native commissioned officers, 9 sergeants, 2 havildars, 2 trumpeters, 2 drummers, 195 rank and file, wounded; 6 rank and file missing.

Officers Names killed and wounded.

Killed.

Major-General Gillespie.

6th Native Infantry—Lieutenant and Adjutant O'Hara.

Light Battalion—Lieutenant and Adjutant Gosling.

17th Native Infantry—Ensign Fothergill.

Pioneers—Ensign Ellis.

Wounded.

8th Light Dragoons—Lieutenant-Colonel West-
enra; Captain Brutton, severely; Lieutenant
Heyman, slightly; Lieutenant Taylor, Cornet
Macdonald, severely.

53d Foot—Lieutenants Young and Anstice, se-
verely.

1st Batt. 7th Native Infantry—Ensign Davidson,
slightly.

Detachment 19th Native Infantry—Lieutenant
Broughton, dangerously.

Light Battalion—Major Wilson, Lieutenants Thac-
keray and Monteath, severely.

Pioneers—Lieutenant Elliott, severely.

Engineers—Ensign (Lieutenant) Blane.

Captain Byers, Aide-de-Camp.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Captain,
M. B. F. Forces.

(A true copy.)

(Signed) G. H. FAGAN, Adjutant-General.

* So in original return, but among the names of officers, Lieutenant Blane, the only officer of the engineers present, is returned wounded.

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[Price Sixpence,].

