



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of SATURDAY the 27th of FEBRUARY.

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MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1819.

India-Board, February 27, 1819.

DISPATCHES have been received at the East India-House from the Governor-General in Council, and from the Governor in Council of Madras, of the inclosures to which the following are copies and extracts :

Copy of a Dispatch from Mr. Molony, Commissioner on the Nerbudda, to Mr. Lushington, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Jubbulpore, May 13, 1818.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General, the copy of a letter which I have received by express from Captain Browne, commanding the escort sent from Nagpoor with Appa Saheb.

Major O'Brien, commanding in this district, immediately sent out parties in such directions as appeared to be most advisable.

Information has been communicated by express to Brigadier-General Watson, and orders sent to Captain Black, commanding at Mundla.

I have the honour to be, &c.

C. A. MOLONY.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Browne to Mr. Molony, dated Camp, near Ruchoor, May 13, 1818, four o'clock A. M.

SIR,

IT is with real concern I have the honour to inform you that Appa Saheb (the late Rajah of Nagpore) made his escape between the hours of two and three o'clock this morning, accompanied by six sepoy's, of the 22d native infantry, five of whom took with them their muskets, &c. It

appears that only two of his attendants have accompanied him, named J'Reeba and Narrain.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CAVE BROWNE, Captain, Commanding Detachment.

Copy of a Dispatch from the Adjutant-General to Mr. Adam, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 18th August 1818.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commander in Chief to transmit, for the information of Government, the accompanying letter of the 27th ultimo, from Lieutenant-Colonel Adams, and its inclosure, communicating in detail the circumstances which occasioned the loss of Captain Sparkes, and the party under his command.

On this melancholy occasion it is, the Commander in Chief observes, some satisfaction to know that the unfortunates sufferers nobly maintained the reputation of the Army, and gave their enemy no just cause of triumph at their success against a small party by an overwhelming superiority of numbers.

I have, &c.

JAS. NICOL, Adj.-Gen. of the Army.

Copy of a Report from Lieutenant Wardlow to the Officiating Assistant-Adjutant-General of the Nagpore Subsidiary Force, dated Baitool, 24th July 1818, inclosed in a Dispatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Adams to the Adjutant-General, dated Hoossingabad, 27th July 1818.*

SIR,

FOR the information of Lieutenant-Colonel

* Situated to the north of the Tajtee, 79 m. N. W. of Nagpore.

Adams, commanding the Nagpore Subsidiary Force, I have the honour to state to you an account of the late unfortunate affair of the 20th instant, as communicated to me by some of the wounded men.

Captain Sparkes, with a detachment, consisting of one subadar, one jemadar, four havildars, four naicks, and ninety-nine sepoy, marched on the afternoon of the 19th instant, and arrived that evening at a small village called Bharwet, where he halted for the night; next morning he crossed the River Taptee, and had not got above one and a half coss beyond that river, when he perceived about one hundred and fifty Sowars; on seeing this, he immediately ordered a party of one havildar, a naick, and twelve men, to proceed on a-head to attack the horsemen, at the same time forming up his company and advancing.

The havildar's party fired a few shot, and the horsemen immediately retreated; when the company had advanced a little farther, Captain Sparkes perceived about two thousand horsemen and one thousand five hundred Arabs, coming on to attack him; he immediately took advantage of a ravine that was close at hand, and took post there; in this situation he remained for an hour, keeping the enemy at bay, and killing a number of them, without losing a man.

Captain Sparkes, finding that the enemy were closing in and attempting to surround him, ordered his company to take possession of a small height close to the ravine; this they succeeded in accomplishing, but Captain Sparkes was wounded slightly in the attempt; a square was formed on the top of the hill, when a dreadful fire was commenced on both sides, and was continued for two hours, during which time the Arabs charged three times, but were beat back with loss; at this time however Captain Sparkes's small party were considerably reduced, having lost one jemadar and forty-one men. The enemy on seeing this made a fourth charge, and were again beat back; the sepoy followed down the hill, driving the enemy before them, with the intention of getting possession of another hill to the right, which was a stronger position. In attempting this Captain Sparkes received a mortal wound, the subadar was also wounded, and a number of sepoy killed. In this critical state of affairs the enemy both horse and foot closed in; the subadar, although unable to stand, seized a loaded musket, killed one sowar, bayoneted a second, and took his sword, with which he defended himself for a considerable time, at last he received a shot which proved fatal. The sepoy defended themselves with the greatest bravery, but were at last so completely overpowered by numbers (their ammunition being expended), that they were all either killed or wounded; about ten of the latter have since been brought into camp, and I am in great hopes that the most of them will recover. Previous to the battle a party of two naicks and seven sepoy were left in charge of the baggage; they were attacked by a small body of horsemen, but beat them off, and made good their retreat to Baitool.

I have, &c.

F. WARDLOW, Lieut. 2d batt. 23d Reg.
N. J. commanding a Detachment.

Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Detachment under the Command of Capt. Sparkes, in the Action of the 20th Instant.

Killed.

Captain Sparkes, 1 subadar, 1 jemadar, 4 havildars, 2 naicks, 82 sepoy, 1 kullappy, 6 bearers.

Wounded.

10 sepoy, 3 bearers.

F. WARDLOW, Lieutenant.

Copy of a Dispatch from Mr. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpore, to Mr. Sturtey, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated 24th September 1818.

SIR,

I DO myself the pleasure of forwarding to you, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, the accompanying copies of two letters received from Captain W. Gordon to the address of the Assistant in the Military Department, reporting the capture, by assault, of the town and fort of Comptah*.

I beg on this occasion to bring to the favourable notice of Government, the conduct of Captain W. Gordon (2d Madras native infantry), Lieutenants Thullier (1st Madras native infantry) and Fraser (His Majesty's 30th foot), and the whole of the Madras troops engaged in this brilliant and decisive action, which is likely to have the most beneficial effects on the whole of the disturbed districts.

I have, &c.

R. JENKINS, Resident.

Copy of a Report from Captain W. Gordon to Captain Bayley, Military Assistant to the Resident, dated Camp, Comptah, 18th September 1818.

SIR,

FOR the Resident's information I have the honour to communicate, that at daybreak this morning I moved down to attack the town of Comptah, in three columns; the left column under Lieutenant Thullier, with one hundred and forty men of the 1st battalion 1st Madras native infantry, twenty-four of the 20th Madras native infantry, and two hundred of Major Jenkins's brigade, under Lieutenant Fraser; the centre column, consisting of a gun and a company of Major Jenkins's brigade, and the 3d and right column, consisting of Appa Anund Row's and Mubericck Jemadar's men, all under the former.

The left column moved down in a most gallant style, every second man carrying with him a fascine to fill the ditch; having thrown them in, they forced their way into the town, and having entered it, Lieutenant Thullier detached Lieutenant Fraser round to the left with the brigade, and with the remainder of his column moved round to the right: they drove all before them in the noblest manner, killing many of the enemy, and forcing the rest to take to the plain, who were immediately attacked by two columns of Captain Peillar's auxiliary horse, posted to the right and left, the right under myself, and the left under

* Eighty miles from Nagpore, between that place and Baitool.

Cornet Wilkinson; both columns did great execution, killing from three to four hundred men.

Whilst the left column was advancing to the attack, the gun kept up a smart fire upon one of the enemy's principal batteries; and Lieutenant Thullier had no sooner got in than the company supporting the gun dashed at the battery upon which the gun was playing, and possessed themselves of it. Anund Row advanced at the same time, and took possession of the battery to which he was opposed. We no sooner gained the town than Lieutenant Fraser invested the Ghurry on one side, and set fire to it; and Lieutenant Thullier, under a heavy fire, attacked the gate, carrying with him the gun: an attempt was made to blow open the gate with the six-pounder, but without success; an elephant driver, by a present of two hundred rupees, was induced to bring up his elephant to it, with which the first gate was forced open. On our arrival at the second gate Chimna Potail held up a flag of truce, and I gave him my hand as a pledge for his life and that of his family. I was induced to do this as having him in my possession will, I have no doubt, render unnecessary all further military operations in this district; orders will be sent by him immediately to surrender Lanjee, Ramplyee, and in fact every place now in his possession.

Chimna Potail says his force in the town amounted to upwards of two thousand men, and not a gun amongst them. The loss of the enemy may amount to from five to six hundred men, and I fear we have lost in killed and wounded fifty or sixty, a return of whom will be sent to-morrow. I have every reason to be highly satisfied with all engaged.

In the town we have taken a gun larger than a six-pounder, which yesterday was brought from Lanjee, also four zumboors and many gingals.

I have, &c.

W. GORDON

Copy of a further Report from Captain Gordon to Captain Bayley, dated Comptah, 19th September 1818

SIR,

IN my letter of yesterday, I neglected to mention the Jemadar's party of the 6th Bengal cavalry, who were most conspicuous throughout the battle. They are most gallant soldiers, and ever since I marched from Nagpore, have behaved in the noblest manner.

I have, &c.

W. GORDON.

Return of Killed and Wounded in the Storm of the Town and Ghurry of Comptah, on the 18th September 1818.

Killed—4 sepoys.

Wounded—2 jemadars, 4 havildars, 3 naicks, 40 sepoys; 1 jemadar, 7 duffadars of horse.

Copy of a Report from Major Munt, C. B. to Mr. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpore, dated Camp Mooltye, 14th September 1818, inclosed in a Dispatch from Mr. Jenkins to Mr. Strachey, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated 19th September 1818.*

* Situated near the source of the river Tapty.

SIR,

It is with much pleasure I inform you that in consequence of the information I received of the movements of the enemy, I sent an express to Major Bowen, whom I had stationed at Amlab, to meet me at Boordye with all the troops he could safely take from his post as soon after the receipt of my express as possible.

Boordye is situated to the north east of my position, Amlab north westwardly, and I therefore hoped by a simultaneous movement to meet Major Bowen at Boordye, and punish at once the presumption of the enemy. At the moment of moving off the parade, I received a note stating the enemy to have appeared in force near Baitool, and that the Officer commanding that place was moving out to attack them.

It immediately occurred to me that the enemy must have divided their forces; I therefore detached Captain Cuffley with one hundred rank and file of light infantry, and a strong troop of cavalry, together with a galloper gun, under Cornet Logan, to reinforce Major Bowen, and I waited with considerable solicitude the result of further information regarding the strength and progress of the enemy, to decide upon which post to make a rapid movement myself, to insure if possible the success of both attacks.

The unceasing heaviness of the rain having filled the rivers, prevented the junction of Captain Cuffley with Major Bowen's party. Major Bowen, however, with the spirit and promptitude you will no doubt appreciate, pushed for Boordye (the position occupied by the enemy in his quarter), formed a line of less than one hundred rank and file of infantry, with one troop of cavalry on either flank, when close upon the place, and instantly closed with his enemy, who drew up in front of the village and fled through the village, when they again fell into the hands of the cavalry, who together with the infantry left three hundred out of five hundred dead upon the spot.

Captain Cuffley's party in the mean time, being unable to join Major Bowen, had received intelligence of another movement of a party of the enemy, in a westwardly direction, towards the village of Khirlee. He pushed for it, and arrived in time to prevent its being plundered; but as the enemy fled precipitately to the hills on his approach, he was unable to close with them.

While these affairs were going on to the north east, the enemy appearing at Chichowlee to the north west, Captain Newton prepared to attack them, as he at first stated he should do, and his party marched for that purpose; but the Sumpriah River becoming impassable from the excessive and continued heaviness of the rains, this detachment of the enemy escaped in the direction of Mail Ghant.

I trust this little affair will confine the Arabs to the hills for the rest of the season, or if famine force them to come amongst us again, that it will only be to submit, or to disperse.

I have, &c.

H. MUNT,

Commanding a detachment Field Force.

