

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.