



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of SATURDAY the 27th of NOVEMBER.

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India-Board, November 29, 1824.

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

Extract from a Letter from the Governor-General in Council to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated Fort William, 26th April 1824.

WE have much satisfaction in reporting the success which has attended our operations against Assam. After considerable delays, occasioned by the difficulty in procuring boats and supplies, Brigadier M'Morine moved forward with the force under his command, consisting of the Rungpore light infantry, Chumparum ditto, and Dinagepore local battalion, with the flotilla of gun-boats, on the 22d ultimo, and reached Gowahati, the capital of Camooop, on the western division of Assam, on the 28th ultimo, without experiencing the slightest resistance, notwithstanding the strength of several of the enemy's positions, and the natural difficulties of the country. The native Chiefs of Assam have waited upon Brigadier M'Morine, and have manifested the most friendly disposition, but have not as yet afforded any effectual assistance. The Burmese, after evacuating several strong stockades in succession, without firing a shot, appear to be in full retreat towards Ava. They have committed several atrocious and sanguinary murders; and we regret to say that there is little chance of our troops overtaking them, as the advanced state of the season, and other unavoidable circumstances, had prevented our further forward movement.

The Agent to the Governor-General, Mr. Scott, on hearing of the occupation of Gowahati by our troops, proceeded across the hilly track which intervenes between Syllhet and Assam, to join Brigadier M'Morine, with an escort of three companies of the 23d native infantry; and private accounts have been received from Syllhet, by which it appears that he had arrived in the neighbourhood of Gowahati on the 13th instant, without experiencing any difficulties or loss by the way.

Copy of a Report from Captain Noton to the Major of Brigade at Chittagong, dated Camp, Ramoo, 11th May 1824.

SIR,

ON the 9th instant, a naik, from the Rutnapullung stockade, came in with a Bengallee villager, stating that the latter had seen the enemy advancing upon Rutnapullung, with four Chiefs and about one hundred and fifty men, wishing to negotiate, which the naik also stated to be the case.

Conceiving this to be some design of the enemy to put the Jemadar off his guard, and thereby more easily gain possession of the stockade, I determined upon moving with the whole of my disposable force to ascertain what their intentions were, leaving the convalescents of the 23d, the whole of the provincials, and one hundred Mugs, to protect the cantonment and sick, in case the enemy might detach a party to outflank me.

I moved off about five P.M., the detachment 23d native infantry leading. On our arriving near to the stockade (about half a mile), a heavy fire was opened upon us from the hills on the left of the

road, which the enemy had taken possession of in numbers and fortified; their larger guns were fired from the further hill, and the smaller ones from the lower, thereby completely commanding the road. The naik of the provincial battalion, who had come to give the report with the Bengallee in the first instance, told me that we were very near the plain where the stockade was, I consequently pushed on with the detachment of the 23d, and reached the plain. I then returned with a few men to bring on the guns, directing Ensign Campbell to follow, should I not join him in a short time. It was then to my disappointment that I found that two of the elephants had thrown their loads and blocked up the road. This, Captain Pringle reported to me, was the fault of the mahouts.

To extricate the gun, which, together with the gear, was hanging to the elephant, we were obliged to cut the ropes, but from the inexperience of Lieutenant Scott (having never seen guns carried on elephants before), and none of the golundaze being present, after many trials, and failing in all, I was obliged to leave it, and take steps for carrying away the ammunition, which the other elephants had thrown off, and also that which had been left on the road by some coolies, who had run off. Previous to this, I had been joined by Ensign Campbell. We with difficulty succeeded in getting it away, chiefly by the exertions of the sepoys, the Mugs having hid themselves in the jungles, with the exception of a very few, who assisted the sepoys. After this was effected, I proceeded quietly with a small party of sepoys and an elephant, and brought in the gun, with as many things as I could find, though several articles are missing.

To give the men some rest, and an opportunity of procuring water, I took up a position on the plain, and there remained on the alert during the night. One of the Mugs fancied he saw some Burniahs creeping towards us, and commenced a running fire, which was with difficulty stopped, otherwise we remained quiet. The enemy were firing and shouting during the whole time. From the circumstance of the ammunition coolies having deserted, and the guns being rendered perfectly useless, by the great deficiency in the detail of artillery, and not placing any confidence in the Mugs for support, should we again have experienced a fire from the hills, even by taking a circuitous route, and there being no possibility of procuring supplies for the men, I deemed it most prudent to return again to Ramoo, there to await the arrival of Captain Trueman's detachment, as well as to obtain further information as to the strength of the enemy's force.

On my return to Ramoo, I was surprised to hear that the Jemadar with his party from Rutnapulung had arrived about two hours before.

I regret to say our loss has been severe; in all seven missing and eleven wounded. I am sorry to say that Ensign Bennett is among the latter, being severely wounded in the left arm, though I trust not of any very serious consequence. Ensign Campbell likewise received a hurt in the right ankle, from a spent ball, and also some shots in his legs. The whole of the wounded are doing well.

I beg to state that there were a few of the Mug

levy, that were under the immediate eye of Captain Pringle (to whom every credit is due for his exertions) who behaved with great coolness and much to my satisfaction, as well in firing upon the enemy as in assisting our sepoys in carrying off the ammunition. The men of the detachment of the 23d native infantry advanced with great steadiness, notwithstanding the suddenness of the attack upon them, and the very heavy fire that was kept up for upwards of three hours from a hidden foe; and I deem it but justice to Ensigns Campbell and Bennett on the occasion to report, that they both deserve the greatest credit for their coolness and exertions throughout.

I beg to add, that Lieutenant Scott showed every anxiety to bring the guns forward, but was prevented by the circumstances above-mentioned.

I have, &c.

F. NOTON, Captain, commanding at Ramoo.

Extract from a Letter from the Governor-General in Council to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated Fort William, 25th May 1824.

WE regret to report that the Chittagong district has been invaded by the Burmese in very large force, and that the enemy has been successful in cutting off a detachment at Ramoo, consisting of the right wing of the 23d native infantry, under the command of Captain Noton, and three companies of the 20th, commanded by Captain Trueman, with two guns and a detail of artillery under Lieutenant Scott; also a party of provincials and the Mug levy, commanded by Captain Pringle. We think it right to add, that the eight companies of regulars above-mentioned, were greatly reduced, both in numbers and efficiency, by the fatal effects of the climate of the southern parts of the district, and were already under orders to retire to the cantonment at Chittagong.

It is not in our power to report the further progress of operations in Assam, Brigadier M. Morine having deemed it necessary to halt at Gowahati, the capital of Western Assam, since his arrival there on the 28th March. By the last accounts he had dispatched a small party of his force in advance to Kallihar. Mr. Scott had succeeded in penetrating across the hills of Jyntia, from Sylhet, into Assam, with a detachment of the 23d native infantry, and reached the Berhampooter at Noregong, about seven days march east of Gowahati, on the 26th ultimo.

The peace at Cachar has not been disturbed since the date of our last dispatch, but we have reason to believe that the Burmese have again entered Munnipore in force. By the last accounts Rajah Gumbhur Sing was about to embark in the enterprise for recovering that principality from the Government of Ava, with such force as he could raise, supported by arms and money from the British authorities.

Extract from a Report from Lieutenant-Colonel Popoleri, commanding at Chittagong, to the Adjutant-General of the Army, dated 19th May 1824.

WITH deep regret I acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, with the reports which reached me last night, that Captain Noton's detachment of the chief part of the right wing of the 1st battalion 23d regiment, are cut off, after hard fighting the whole of the 16th; I fear all the Officers have fallen, but Lieutenant Scott, of the artillery, who escaped, wounded. Captain Brandon, with the left wing; learning the disaster, is returning; he will retreat on Brigadier Shapland's division. The Officers who will have fallen are Captain Noton, Lieutenant Grigg, Ensigns Campbell, and Bennett, 1st battalion 23d regiment; Captain Trueman and Lieutenant Codrington, 2d battalion 20th regiment; Doctor Maysmore, artillery; Captain Pringle, Mug levy.

Extract of a Report from Lieutenant-Colonel Shapland to the Adjutant-General of the Army, dated Chittagong, 20th May 1824.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that, being joined by the detachment of the 1st battalion 23d regiment native infantry, I returned to Chittagong this morning with the detachment which was advancing towards Ramoo, when the disastrous event occurred at that place.

I enclose a report of the Officers who have escaped after the action.

Copy of a Report from Lieutenant Scott and Ensigns Codrington and Campbell to Brigade-Major White, dated Camp, Chittagong, 20th May 1824.

SIR,

INFORMATION having been required relative to the retreat of Captain Noton's detachment from Ramoo, on the 17th instant, we, being the only surviving Officers, beg leave to forward a condensed statement of the circumstances which have fallen under our observation, for the information of Brigadier Shapland, C. B. commanding the district

The Burmese, amounting, it is supposed, to ten thousand men, advanced on Ramoo, from the Rutnapulling road, and encamped on the south side of the river the 13th instant; on the following evening, being within gun-shot, and advancing apparently with the intention of fording the river, a party, with two six-pounders, under the command of Captain Trueman, was detached for the purpose of annoying the enemy, and frustrating any attempt to cross; this our troops effected.

On the 15th, however, the enemy at eight A. M. advanced, and commenced entrenching themselves about three hundred yards in front of our position, the right flank of which was protected by the river and by a tank, about sixty paces in advance, this being surrounded by a high embankment, serving as a breast-work, was occupied by the picquet,

who opened and kept up, without intermission, a fire on the enemy during the whole day and following night. Our position was strengthened in the rear by a similar tank to that in front, for the defence of which a strong detachment from the provincial battalion and Mug levy was allotted.

On the morning of the 16th it was discovered that the enemy had during the night opened trenches on our left flank, and had considerably advanced those in front. A desultory fire was continued during the next twenty-four hours from each tank, but with little effect on either side. By day-break on the 17th, the enemy had carried on their trenches to within twelve paces of the picquet, and had also approached to within a short distance of the tank in our rear; they gained possession of the latter about ten A. M. the troops defending it having quitted their post and fled with precipitation. The consternation caused by this quickly spread, and they were almost immediately followed by the remainder of the Mug levy. The elephants (on one of which Lieutenant Scott, who had been severely wounded, was tied) were alarmed at the tumult and fled.

Shortly after this (our rear being now undefended) Captain Noton ordered a retreat, which was effected in good order for about half a mile, the two six-pounders being from necessity abandoned; the enemy's cavalry, however, pressing hard upon the rear of the column, a square was ordered to be formed, but in consequence of the excessive fatigue and deprivation which the troops had previously undergone, which rendered them absolutely incapable of offering any effectual resistance to the overpowering masses of the enemy pouring in on them on every side, the utmost exertions of the Officers to preserve discipline were unavailing, and on our arrival at the river the sepoys dispersed in every direction, and individual safety became the primary object of each. Under these lamentable circumstances Ensigns Codrington and Campbell, having seen the other Officers cut to pieces by the enemy, together with the greater part of the detachment, and deeming all further chance of resistance hopeless, escaped, the former, closely pursued, to Coxe's Bazar, and thence by water to Chittagong, and the latter, who was slightly wounded, by a circuitous route through the hills to the same place.

We have, &c.

J. W. SCOTT, Lieut. Artillery.
R. CODRINGTON, Ensign 25th N. F.
K. CAMPBELL, Ensign 23d Reg. N. F.

Extract from a Letter from the Governour-General in Council to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated Fort William, 2d June 1824.

WE avail ourselves of the immediate departure of a ship for England, to transmit to your Honourable Committee copies of dispatches received this day from Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, announcing the capture of Rangoon* on the

* The detailed report of this affair was published in the supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday the 23d November.

[1996]

11th ultimo, and beg leave to offer to, your Honourable Committee our congratulations on this highly interesting and important event.

We are happy to inform your Honourable Committee that, by the latest accounts from Chittagong, it appears that the Burmese troops had not ventured to advance from the intrenchments thrown up by them at Ramoo, after the defeat of our detachment at that place; that the temporary alarm occasioned by that disaster was rapidly subsiding, and that the reinforcements, approaching Chittagong would speedily place the troops at that station in a condition to undertake offensive operations against the enemy, should the season still admit of our advance to the southward. More than one half of the sepoy's of the Ramoo detachment, reported to have been cut off in the action of the 16th, had returned to Chittagong unhurt, but we regret to say, that of the six Officers stated to have been killed no hope remains that any of them survive.

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