

*Lieutenant-Colonel Nicol, Adjutant-General of the Army, dated on the River before Tiloayn, 6th July 1824.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a battery was opened on the stockaded position of Tiloayn this morning at six o'clock.

The shells from both howitzers and six pounders were thrown with the greatest precision, but the round shot from the latter I regret to say had scarcely any effect on the strong palisades surrounding the work, the palisades in question being heavy trunks of trees. I regret also to add that the carcasses when thrown from the howitzers went wide of the mark, and consequently the firing of the huts on the sides and summit of the hill which I expected has not been accomplished: the guns are now posted on a rising ground about six hundred yards to the southwest of the stockade, but I purpose to-morrow carrying the six pounders to a small hill directly south of the enemy's position.

*Extract from a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Innes to the Adjutant-General, dated before Tiloayn, 7th July 1824.*

IN continuation of my last dispatch, I have the honour, for the information of his Excellency the Commander in Chief, to report that on the afternoon of yesterday, about five o'clock, the enemy made an attempt to turn the right of my position, by occupying a high hill in the rear of a rising ground, where a working party was employed in clearing the jungle, for the purpose of enabling me to place my guns in battery on it this morning. I directed the Rajah Gumbheer Sing, whose local knowledge is excellent, with a body of his infantry, to take the enemy in rear, and at the same time threw forward a strong detachment to support the working party: after a short skirmish the enemy were driven from their position, and I succeeded in retaining the spot I had fixed on for the guns: during the night a breast work was thrown up, and this morning at day break the guns opened from it at the distance of four hundred yards.

Three natives of Cachar, who this morning made their escape from the enemy, state their loss from the effects of yesterday's shells to be very considerable, though they screen themselves in a measure from the severity of the fire by burrowing in the ground.

The only casualties consequent to the skirmish of yesterday were one man killed and three wounded of the Rajah Gumbheer Singh's infantry, and one recruit of the 16th or Sylhet local battalion wounded.

Although the artillery has been playing on the enemy's works with the greatest steadiness during the day, the fire has not had the desired effect, and the enemy still continue in possession of the place; many of them have been killed, and many more wounded; but till further reinforcements join me to enable me to extend my operations, I am not sanguine in my hopes of carrying the position.

*Extract from a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Innes to the Adjutant-General, dated on the Barak River, off Juttrapore, 9th July 1824.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that on the morning of yesterday, a little after daylight, the enemy, in great numbers, made a sudden and unexpected attack on the height immediately in rear of the battery, which had been occupied by Gumbheer Sing's followers, and succeeded in driving them from it; I immediately sent off a party to endeavour to get on the hills on their flank, but I regret to say this attempt failed, as it was discovered, on approaching, that the enemy had occupied the whole line of hills in immense numbers, and that there was no prospect of attacking them with any chance of success; the party was therefore recalled, and the battery being no longer tenable, it being so entirely commanded by the heights now in the occupation of the enemy, I was under the necessity of drawing off the guns. I have however to observe, that this measure was determined on before, in consequence of the howitzers having become unserviceable, and the exhausted state both of the artillery and infantry of my detachment, the former having been in the batteries from the morning of the 6th till the 8th instant. I think it my duty to bring to the notice of His Excellency the very zealous exertions of this arm of the service; the practice was beyond praise, and the shot and shells were thrown with a precision which could not be surpassed, but the six-pounder shot were found to have no effect on the enemy's works, although the shells must have done considerable execution.

The carcasses, from being damp, did not, as before reported, ignite, and consequently were useless.

I feel myself much indebted to Captain Smith, for his great exertions during the three days the battery was open, and to Lieutenant Huthwaite, who, though labouring under a severe fever, rendered me the most essential service.

I regret to say, that, from the commanding position of the heights the guns were not withdrawn, from the battery without some slight loss on our part, and which from the advantages possessed by the enemy might have been much greater, had they not been kept in check by the steadiness of the troops in the battery, under the command of Captain Cowslade, of the 39th regiment, whose conduct was particularly conspicuous.

I deemed it advisable to re-embark my detachment yesterday afternoon, and to fall back upon Juttrapore, where I have taken up an eligible position on both sides of the Barak river, and within two miles of the enemy's works, where I shall remain till re-inforced, and then act as circumstances may require.

Enclosed I have the honour to forward a return of the killed and wounded of the detachment under my command in the affair of yesterday.

*Return of Killed and Wounded of Troops employed on the Sylhet and Cachar Frontier, under the*