



SUPPLEMENT
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1825.

India Board, July 19, 1825.

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

Extract from a Letter from the Governor-General in Council to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated Fort William, 25th and 28th February 1825.

SINCE the date of our last address to your Honourable Committee, of the 31st ultimo*, relative to the Birman war, we have received some interesting reports of the operations of our troops in the different quarters, copies of which we lose no time in submitting for your information, briefly referring to their contents in this place.

From Assam we have received the gratifying intelligence of the defeat of the Burmese in the neighbourhood of the capital, Rungpore, where they had collected their scattered parties with the intention of making a stand: but after the gallant attack and capture of their stockaded position on the 29th ultimo, they despaired of success; and it appears by the dispatch from the Agent of the Governor-General, that, on the 2d instant, the fort of Rungpore was surrendered, and the principal Assamese and Burmese Commanders were in our camp.

On the south east frontier, we have received reports of the evacuation of Mungdoo and Lowadlung, on the troops under Brigadier-General Morrison passing the Naaf and entering the province of Arracan.

The official dispatches announcing the capture of the capital of Assam, the expulsion of the Burmese, and the complete subjugation of the country having been received, copies are transmitted as numbers in the packet.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, to the Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, Eastern Division, dated Camp, Moura Mookh, the 13th January 1825.

SIR,

I HAD the honour to report to you, in my letter of the 9th instant, the march of several detachments against the enemy, I have now the honour to transmit copies of letters from the different Officers, who have all returned to the fleet, detailing the particulars of their operations, I feel much obliged to the Officers and men who have been employed. The object for which they were detached has been completely fulfilled.

I am happy to state, that, notwithstanding the fears of the inhabitants of those places visited by my detachments, I do not think the enemy will dare to venture to molest them again, after their late defeat at all points.

The detachments under Captain M'Leod and Lieutenant N. Jones having joined me this forenoon, I have to report my intention of advancing to-morrow morning upon Ioor Haut, at which place the enemy are concentrated and stockaded.

I have, &c.

A. RICHARDS,

* See Gazette of June 11, 1825.

Extract from a Letter from Captain Martin, commanding a Detachment of the 57th Regiment N. I. to Brigade-Major Bayldon, dated Camp, Deegong, 10th January 1825.

ABOUT eleven o'clock P. M. the detachment under my command moved silently forward, and as we approached the stockade of Deegong, Captain Neutville led us by a considerable detour to the right to avoid two advanced posts, and to get into the rear of the stockade.

We were now in sanguine hopes of effecting a complete surprise, but the enemy must have had scouts on the plain, as we were challenged by both out-posts. At a short distance from the stockade signal-lights appeared from both chokies, and the alarm had evidently been taken; at this moment a small party of men that had broken from the rear, by mistake, suddenly appeared in front, and a few shots were fired, but immediately stopped.

The detachment now pushed on rapidly, and entered the stockade as the last of the fugitives were quitting it on the opposite side; they were pursued to the jungle; six men were killed and seven taken. The only casualty I have to regret on our part is the death of one sepoy by an accidental shot.

This stockade consisted of a double fence of bamboos, but without a ditch. The amount of the enemy's force within it could not, I imagine, have exceeded two hundred men.

Extract from a Letter from Lieutenant Walden, commanding a Detachment of the 46th Regiment N. I. to Brigade-Major Bayldon, dated Moora Mookh, January 13, 1825.

HAVING ascertained that the enemy, to the number of one hundred or one hundred and twenty, were in a stockade, distant four or five coss, and judging from the time they had been absent that it might be more, I immediately ordered the men under arms, leaving a small party to guard the knapsacks, and proceeded over a very bad road, which greatly distressed the men. A little before day-break I crossed the Dhonseera again (about a mile below the stockade), and proceeded along its right bank, and reached the stockade about sunrise; a fog allowing me to come up unperceived the enemy were completely surprized, and about twenty were killed, amongst whom was a Phokun and five Usseel Mauas; thirteen prisoners were taken.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, to the Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, Eastern Division, dated Camp, Gowie Lagur, January 27, 1825:

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Brigadier Shuldharn, commanding Eastern Division, that at half an hour after ten o'clock this morning many hundreds of the enemy attacked my advanced position at Namdong Nulla, over which there is a fine puka bridge, and where Captain Macleod commanded with the Rungpore light

infantry; the bridge is distant from my present camp about three quarters of a mile, on the high road to Rungpore. On hearing the firing I ordered the troops under arms, and moved on to the support of Captain Macleod with two companies of the 57th regiment, and the Dinagepore local battalion, leaving the remainder of the former corps, under Captain Martin, to defend the camp, as the hurcarrabs acquainted me that the enemy meant to attack in three divisions.

On my reaching the place of action, I found that gallant Officer Captain Macleod and his little band defending the position in a steady soldier like manner; as I perceived the enemy were collecting and spreading to the right and left in a very heavy jungle, in which it was impossible our troops could act with effect, and that those in our immediate front were keeping up a very sharp fire of jingals and muskets, I ordered the party on the bridge to retire to the front division and lay down, and cease firing. The enemy thought this was the prelude to a retreat, and set up a shout and came forward, but our fire from the advanced division soon made them retire; after this the enemy were apparently gaining confidence, and began to show themselves boldly; I therefore gave them half an hour to collect, and to induce them to suppose we did not meditate an attack. At the expiration of that time I directed Captain Macleod to charge their position with the Rungpore light infantry, followed by the volunteer cavalry, in number twenty-eight, under Lieutenant Brooke, Sub-Assistant Commissary-General; this was performed with the utmost gallantry, and the enemy fled after giving their fire, but were overtaken, and Captain Macleod reports that full sixty were killed in the charge, amongst whom were three Phokuns, mounted on horseback, their horses were taken, as also forty-one muskets and thirty-six spears and four prisoners; the number killed in the charge is independent of those that were killed in the first attack, who were all immediately carried off as they fell, and it is supposed they must have lost near one hundred killed, as the attack lasted one hour and twenty minutes; on our side, I deeply regret to say, Lieutenant and Adjutant Kennedy, Rungpore light infantry, was wounded in the head (slightly), the other casualties are, one sepoy of the same corps, and one horse attached to the cavalry, wounded; the conduct of the Rungpore light infantry and the volunteer cavalry, which belong to the same corps, merit my warmest approbation; to Captain Macleod, commanding Rungpore light infantry, and Lieutenant Brooke, who commanded the volunteer cavalry, and whose conduct is reported by Captain Macleod to have been most conspicuous, my best thanks are especially due; as also to Lieutenant Fleming, Officiating Sub-Assistant Commissary-General, who joined the Rungpore light infantry in the charge, and to Lieutenant and Adjutant Kennedy, and Mr. Surgeon Thomson, of that corps, for the zealous assistance afforded by them during the action.

I trust the guns, spare ammunition and supplies will arrive in camp in the course of the night or tomorrow morning, which will enable me to move forward to the attack of Rungpore on the day following.

I omitted to mention in my letter of yesterday's

date, that forty-six prisoners have been taken subsequent to my former letter of the 19th instant.

I am, &c.

A. RICHARDS.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, to the Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, Eastern Division, dated Camp before Rungpore, Assam, January 29, 1825.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter of the 27th instant, I have to acquaint you, for the information of Brigadier-General Shuldham, commanding Eastern Division, that I was joined by Lieutenants Bedingfield and Burlton, with two howitzers and two twelve-pounders carronades, on the same evening, and having arranged every thing for our advance towards Rungpore, I marched at day-break on the 29th in the following order:

1st. The detachment 46th regiment (light company leading), the advance guard from which, a havildar's party, was sent one hundred paces in front.

2d. The volunteer cavalry.

3d. The brigade of howitzers drawn by elephants.

4th. The 57th regiment right in front.

5th. The twelve-pounders carronades on elephants with ammunition attached.

6th. The Dinagepore local battalion.

7th. The Rungpore light infantry.

8th. The spare ammunition.

I was aware that the enemy had a stockade across the road near Rungpore, as Lieutenant Neufville, Deputy Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, had gone out to reconnoitre on the morning of the 26th, and got to it without being perceived. He reported that it was defended by two hundred men and some guns, and that he was fired upon from a fortified tank a little in advance on the right, and which appeared to command the before-mentioned stockade, and that a gun was also fired from the left, which he considered must have been from the fort of Rungpore, as he observed the tops of pukka buildings and mosques in that direction, distant about three quarters of a mile; and he also stated that the whole country he traversed was a deep jungle.

Before advancing I gave directions to Captain Waldron, commanding the advanced guard, to storm the stockade across the road, if he thought he had a chance of carrying it, but if not to turn into the jungles right and left, and act as a covering party, which latter plan he adopted as the fire of the enemy was extremely heavy. It may be here proper to remark, that the stockade had been greatly strengthened and reinforced since Lieutenant Neufville was there, and that the first discharge from the enemy, who were entrenched, brought down more than half of the leading division, which caused a momentary check. At this time the guns and column were about two hundred paces in the rear; on the first shot being fired I gave directions for the elephants to be cast off from the howitzers, and prepare for action. Whilst this was performed I advanced near to the stockade to examine it, and immediately returned to the

head of the column, and ordered a couple of shells and a round or two of grape to be thrown in, and for Captain MacLeod to prepare to assault with the right wing of the 57th regiment, which was accordingly done in the most gallant style, assisted by the detachment 46th regiment, who rushed forward to support him, and I had the pleasure to see the enemy fly at the moment our troops began to scale and break down the stockade. At this period I was unfortunately wounded, but gave orders for the guns and column to advance, and sent for Major Waters and gave him directions to carry the stockaded tank on the right, or any other outworks the enemy might have, and I would be up so soon as my wound had been dressed. Herewith I have the pleasure to enclose a copy of that Officer's letter, stating what occurred from the time he assumed the command until I joined, which I was able to do in a dooly in about twenty minutes.

Captain MacLeod with the Rungpore light infantry, took possession of a mosque on the left, about four hundred yards from the fort; and another party was detached to occupy another mosque on the right side, by which means the south side of the fort was invested and the enemy driven in at all points. As the fort appeared an extensive place and full of guns and men, who shewed themselves on the walls and gateways, I deemed it advisable to order the camp to be pitched and to have the place reconnoitred, which was done the same evening, and it was considered necessary by the artillery Officer that two more guns should be ordered from the fleet, and that people should be immediately sent out to cut and collect materials for a battery, which was complied with. In the course of the day we fired a few rounds of shells, carcasses, and round shot at the fort, to give them a specimen of the means we had of annoying them, which they returned by constant discharges of cannon.

I am sorry to say that our loss in wounded is very heavy; but from the nature of the service, and the troops being for a time unavoidably exposed to a cross fire from twenty pieces of ordnance (all of which were captured), and a large body of men, armed with muskets, it is providential that we suffered so little. I have particularly to lament the severe wound that enterprising Officer Lieutenant Brooke, Sub-Assistant-Commissary-General, received at my side, at my first advance to the stockade; but I trust that, as the Surgeon's report of his case is favourable, he will soon be restored to health and the service. I have not been able to ascertain the loss the enemy sustained in this affair, but it cannot, I have every reason to believe, be less than one hundred men killed and wounded. To the whole of the troops employed on this occasion my best thanks are due for the zeal they evinced; but I feel it incumbent on me to bring to the notice of the Brigadier-General commanding the division, the gallantry and steady conduct of the following Officers, who had the good fortune to be more immediately engaged, viz.—Major Waters, my second in command, for the judicious arrangements he adopted after I had been disabled; to Captain Waldron, commanding a detachment 46th regi-

ment; Captain Martin, commanding 57th regiment, the right wing of which carried the stockade by assault; Lieutenant Bedingfield, commanding the artillery, as well as to Lieutenant Burton, attached to the same; to Captain Macleod, commanding Rungpore light infantry, for taking possession of a commanding position, before the enemy were aware of its importance; and to Lieutenant Neufville, Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master-General, for his gallant conduct in leading the advance, and for the correct intelligence he gave me, by which means I was enabled to form the plan of operations with such success, and I trust that our attack on the fort will be equally fortunate, the result of which I hope to have the pleasure of reporting in a day or two.

I cannot close this dispatch without recording my approbation and thanks to Captain Bayldon, Major of Brigade, Lieutenant Neufville, Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General, Lieutenant Brooke, Sub-Assistant-Commissary-General, and Lieutenant Fleming, as Officiating Sub-Assistant-Commissary-General, of the Staff, attached to this force, for the prompt and great assistance I have at all times received from them in the execution of their respective duties; but I have, &c.

A. RICHARDS.

Copy of a Letter from Major Waters to Captain Bayldon, Major of Brigade, dated 29th January 1825.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to apprise you, for the information of Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, that, agreeably to his instructions, I repaired to the head of the column, on his being wounded, and, on assuming the temporary command, I perceived Captain Martin in possession of the stockade, and posts on the right flank, and the Birmahs, in full and precipitate retreat towards the fort, from which a strong fire was opened. I immediately ordered the artillery to the front, which soon silenced the enemy's fire; precautionary measures were then taken for the security of the posts vacated by the enemy, and a verbal report of circumstances made to Lieutenant-Colonel Richards.

I have, &c.

E. F. WATERS.

General Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Force under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, in Action with the Enemy near Rungpore, on the 29th January 1825.

Head-Quarters, near Rungpore, 29th January 1825.

General Staff—Wounded, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 lieutenant.

46th Regiment—Wounded, 1 havildar, 4 rank and file, severely; 1 jemidar, 2 havildars, 21 rank and file, slightly.

57th Regiment—Wounded, 11 rank and file severely, 1 subadar, 1 havildar, 7 rank and file, slightly.

Rungpore Light Infantry—Killed, 2 rank and file.

Names of Officers wounded.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Richards, slightly, commanding the force.

Lieutenant J. Brooke, severely not dangerously, Sub-Assistant-Commissary-General.

RD. BAYLDON, Major of Brigade.

Return of Ordnance, &c. captured at the Stockade and fortified Tank near Rungpore, on the 29th January 1825, by the Force under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Richards.

Brass Guns—1 two-pounder.

Iron Guns—3 two-pounders, 19 swivels.

Iron balls of sizes, 250.

R. G. BEDINGFIELD, Lieut. comg. Arty. Det.

Copy of a Report from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, to the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, dated Camp, before Rungpore, Assam, 3d February 1825.

SIR,

IN continuation of my dispatch of the 29th ult. I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of Brigadier-General Shuldbam, commanding the Eastern division of the army, that on the moon setting, on the morning of the 30th, the enemy, in small parties, came out and attacked the picquets, but were soon compelled to retire, with the loss on our side of two sentries killed, and on their part, as far is known, of one man killed.

The firing from the fort continued during the whole of the night and morning at intervals; but as they had not the range of our camp, I did not return a shot, as the place is too extensive to have made any great impression, and our supply of ammunition being but small, I was anxious to reserve it for the day of attack.

About ten o'clock on the morning of the 30th, a flag of truce was seen coming from the fort, and I sent out Captain Bayldon, M. B. and Lieutenant Neufville, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, to receive it.

Those Officers having met the herald and conducted him to the outer picquet, reported to me that he represented himself to be a native of Ceylon, by name Durmadur Bhurmacharee, many years resident in Bengal and the Eastern Islands, in the employment of various well-known public servants, and conversant with our manners and customs; at present Raj Gooroo, or Chief Priest to the Saum and Burmese Authorities in Assam, and an accredited messenger from Saum and Banglee Phokuns to me.

I accordingly directed him to be admitted under the usual forms of precaution.

After his introduction, he said that he was deputed by the Phokuns to enquire what were the objects of our present advance upon Rungpore; to which I replied, that my instructions were to clear the country of Assam of all opposing forces, and to occupy it on the part of the British Government, for the protection of the inhabitants; that I was surprised at the question, since I conceived the

Phokuns must have been already apprised of our intentions by Mr. Scott's (Agent to the Governor General), communication in reply to theirs.

The Gooroo expressing his total ignorance of the receipt by the Phokuns of Mr. Scott's letter, I explained the general tenor of the contents, which he promised faithfully to communicate to the Phokuns, and to return in the course of a day with their reply. I also took the opportunity of bringing forward a messenger of the Phokuns returning with despatches from Mr. Scott, who had arrived in camp the same morning, and of delivering the letters to the Gooroo for transmission to the Phokuns.

These proved to be the delayed communication above adverted to.

Within the period stipulated in the armistice, the Gooroo returned, stating that he had not met with any opportunity of delivering the letters privately, which it was necessary to do, to avoid the jealous suspicions of the numerous conflicting factions into which the enemy were divided; that he had every reason to believe the two Great Chiefs, Saum and Banglee Phokuns, to be unanimous and disposed to enter into treaty with us; that he trusted much to his own sacred influence over them and all the others, to bring matters to an amicable adjustment; and requested a continuance of the truce till the morrow. He also asked for some definite explanation of our wishes.

To this I acceded, adding, that he was authorised to say to the Phokuns, that if they decided on making terms of alliance with us, I was ready to meet them; if on fighting, I was equally ready; and if they wished to retire out of Assam into their own country, I was willing to permit them to do so, provided that they took the directest route, committed no ravages on the road, and carried away none of the inhabitants now in their possession, by compulsion. To this latter alternative I was induced, by finding from the Gooroo the impracticability of a plan proposed by me to separate the two factions by admitting the friendly disposed portion to the benefit of terms, provided they would come over and abandon the others to their fate in a continuance of hostilities with us. This he declared impossible, since the latter considerably preponderate in strength over the former, though headed by the Chiefs, and that the slightest suspicion of such an inclination would entail bloodshed and destruction, not only on their families here, but in their own country. I was also compelled reluctantly to reflect on the total want of means in my power to prevent their escape, or to pursue them, in which case all hope of rescuing the captive Assamese inhabitants must have been abandoned. It was at the same time clearly pointed out to the Phokuns, and understood by them, that any act of plunder or aggression committed by the retiring party in progress through Assam, or in the territories of our allies would be tantamount to an infringement of engagement, and again draw down on them our arms.

The following morning the Gooroo returned, accompanied by two inferior Phokuns, (the brother of Saum Phokun and Hathee Phokun) with a friendly offering, and a letter from the Chiefs, of which a translation is inclosed.

After much desultory conversation the Gooroo returned with my reply, and an exchange of presents.

On the following morning a message was brought from the Gooroo by his brother Rutun Pal, stating that, in compliance with my terms, one portion was preparing to evacuate the fort for their own country, and that the remainder were ready to surrender; also that the Chiefs were anxious to wait on me to adjust the various points of capitulation.

I accordingly invited them to a conference, and directed the Officers of my staff to proceed to meet them and conduct them to me.

The principal Chiefs, Saum Phokun, Sheick Phokun, and Nabaroo Phokun, (Banglee Phokun having joined the other party and quitted the fort) having been introduced, we proceeded to arrange the terms of treaty, of which the principal are as follow:

On the part of Saum Phokun, &c. that all his followers should deliver up their arms and warlike stores of all descriptions; and that possession of the fort be given to us the moment the evacuating party should have quitted it.

On our part, that their lives and personal property should be guaranteed; their wives and children, and all who may be voluntarily attached to them, secured to them, in conformity with instructions from Mr. Scott, that they should remain in every respect in their present situation until the arrival of Mr. Scott, or instructions from him respecting their ultimate destination; and that having once entered into the bonds of friendly alliance with us they shall not eventually be delivered over to the King of Ava in case of a peace, should he make such a stipulation, of which they entertained great dread, and were most anxious to receive positive assurances.

These points being settled, the Chiefs expressed their willingness to surrender without delay, and I accordingly directed Major Waters to take a party and receive charge, when I had soon the satisfaction of seeing His Majesty's colours flying on the top of the palace in the inner fort, under a salute from the battery in camp.

The examination of the fort fully justified the opinion I had formed of the importance of the acquisition by the mode adopted, and of the utter inadequacy of my means of preventing the escape of the greater part of the garrison, should we have proceeded to the assault. The place is of very great extent, and surrounded by deep swamps and jungle, with a ditch; the sorties to three gates were strongly defended; and on them and the walls were more than two hundred pieces of ordnance, ready for service.

The garrison was reported to consist of ten thousand of all classes, of whom perhaps one-third were fighting men, of these seven hundred have surrendered with the Phokuns.

I have the honour to submit a return of the ordnance, arms, and military stores captured.

By the acquisition of Rungpore, I may now consider myself in entire possession of Assam, and it is a source of great self-gratulation to me, that that important point has been accomplished with so little loss on our side, considering the means of an-

noyance possessed by the enemy, in defending a country peculiarly unfavourable to regular military operations.

My total dependence for supplies in the fleet, which is twenty miles distant (at the mouth of the Dikho river, now not navigable) would have rendered it impossible for me to proceed further, under any circumstances, until the arrival of land carriage from the provinces, and I therefore consider the prospect of peaceable evacuation of the remaining portion of the country, as an object gained of the most vital importance, while the possession of the capital secures the key to all points from whence any future irruptions may be attempted from the eastward.

I have, &c.

A. RICHARDS.

Return of Ordnance and Military Stores surrendered by Capitulation to the Force under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Richards, on the 1st February 1825.

Brass Guns—1 Danish fourteen-pounder, 21 from three-pounders downwards.

Iron Guns—1 forty-pounder, 1 English nine-pounder, 941 from three-pounders to swivels.

Total—965.

332 muskets, 226 swords, 228 spears:

Several thousand iron balls, and a considerable quantity of gun-powder.

R. G. BEDINGFIELD, Lieut.
comg. Arty. Det.

Translation of a Burmese Letter addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, referred to in the foregoing Dispatch.

MOONKOONG ALAMPOO, alias Sam Phokun, represents, on the part of himself and the other Chiefs, to the English Commander in Assam, that the inhabitants of Assam were originally

slaves to the Burman Emperor, and that an Embassy was sent by the Rajah to the King of Ava to solicit assistance, and to request he would send troops into Assam; in consequence of which men from five States, all subjects to the Burman authority, were collected and ordered to invade the country; now a number of the chief men of Assam have invited you to come in to turn us out, and we were aware of this; but the Assamese wish, for their own benefit, to provoke us to war with each other, by which both parties would suffer; we, therefore, to prevent this, are willing to evacuate this country; and, to prove our sincerity, we depute Durmadur Bhurmacharee, a native of Ceylon, and our High Priest, to apprise you of this, and as the people of Assam are now inimical to us we will immediately retire to our own country to inform our King of it, and we hope you will not molest us on our journey; and that you will send orders to the chokies under your control to allow us to pass unmolested. This is absolutely necessary, as, if we were attacked on our retreat, it will cause much bloodshed.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, dated Camp, before Rungpore, 31st January 1825, in Reply to the above.

I HAVE received your friendly letter by the hands of Durmadhur Bhurmacharee, High Priest, and fully comprehend its contents. I am willing to permit your force to retire from Assam, and will not commit hostilities or molest you with any attack from my army, provided you go peaceably and without committing depredations on the country or inhabitants of Assam. Your wives, children, and such people as are willing may accompany you, but none of the inhabitants of Assam are to be taken away by force. I will give orders to all under my authority, and to chokies, not to molest you on your way out of Assam, which you will leave immediately; and by the most direct route.

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[Price Eleven Pence.]

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