

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-