



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of SATURDAY the 4th of MARCH.

Published by Authority.

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1826.

India-Board, March 4, 1826.

A DISPATCH has been received at the East India-House from the Governor-General in Council at Fort William, in Bengal, dated 24th of August 1825; with inclosures, of which the following are copies:

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Neuville to Captain Martin, Major of Brigade in Assam, dated Now Dheeing Mokh, 9th May 1825.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Colonel Richards, commanding, that having received authentic intelligence that the body of the enemy, recently arrived from Mogaum, had pushed on an advanced party of sixty, with three mounted chiefs, to within an accessible distance from my post, for the purpose of throwing up entrenchments at a village about twenty-five miles off, on the Dheeing, I deemed it highly expedient to dislodge them. With that view I embarked in canoes on the afternoon of the 7th, taking with me Ensign Bogle and half the strength of the detachment, calculating that by pushing on the whole night I might be able to reach them by day-break in the morning. The arrangement, I am happy to say, was attended with complete success. I landed about half a mile below the place at early dawn, and by making a detour round the jungle, came on the quarter occupied by the Burmese at a little before five.

On our charging, the enemy immediately fled in the greatest confusion, very closely followed by our men as far as the ground would admit; but as they threw away their arms, and every thing that

could impede their flight, even their clothes, we were soon distanced, and obliged to discontinue the pursuit.

They lost either eight or ten killed, and I should suppose many must be wounded from the precision with which the men fired. The principal of the three chiefs (who was recognized by my Burmese to be Lab Daungh Pah) escaped most narrowly, being several times almost at the point of the bayonet.

The only casualty on our part is one sepoy wounded by a punjah.

I have brought down with me the Chiefs of the village, prisoners, as security for the ransom of the numerous Assamese captives confined in their jungles.

I feel greatly indebted to Ensign Bogle for his active and cordial co-operation, and the cheerful soldier-like conduct of the men deserves the highest praise.

I have also the honour to report, that having heard of a few straggling Saums from amongst those who quitted Rungpore with Baglee Phokun being concealed in the jungles near Suddeeya, I detached a party to bring them in. Five out of the nine were secured with their families, and I shall take the earliest opportunity to send them down.

I have received a letter from the three Chiefs newly arrived, written in their usual style of verbiage, and finishing with a desire that I should immediately go back to Rungpore, and on my arrival there fall back with the whole force out of Assam; to which I returned the annexed reply.

I have, &c.

J. B. NEUFVILLE, Lieutenant,
Commanding Now Dheeing Mokh.

Reply to the Letter of the Chiefs Lah Daung, Menglah Pah, and Do Kbang Pah.

(After Compliments.)

I HAVE received your communication. If, my friends, you want us to quit the country of Assam, you had better come and turn us out.

J. B. NEUFVILLE.

Copy of a Letter from Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. to George Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated Headquarters, Prome, 10th May 1825.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit you a document this day received from Major Frith, commanding at Mergui, by which it will appear that the audacity of the Siamese pirates on that coast has met with such a check as will, it is hoped, put a stop to their depredations. I have ordered one of the Honourable Company's cruisers to proceed immediately from Rangoon to the coast of Tenasserim, in addition to the one already there, which will be sufficient to keep every thing quiet in that quarter during the monsoon.

I have, &c.

A. CAMPBELL, Brig. Gen.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Drever to Major Frith, commanding at Mergui, dated Mergui, 2d April 1825.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that agreeably to your instructions, I embarked on the morning of the 29th ult. with the party as per margin*, in some country boats, manned by Burmese, and proceeded in a southerly direction until the morning of the 31st, in search of those Siamese pirates who for some time have made such destruction in this province, when I discovered six boats. I immediately made my boats form line, so as to prevent their ascertaining the number of ours, which I am happy to say had the desired effect, as they did not appear alarmed until we got near them. I then gave orders for Lieutenant Bingham and Assistant-Surgeon Linsell to proceed in two fast pulling boats, and I accompanied in a third; we very soon overtook and boarded four of them, two made their escape; those taken made but little resistance, I suppose in consequence of our rear boats coming up. They proved to be four Siamese war boats, well manned and armed; after securing them we proceeded to the Island of Yeaquadam, in the Burmese territory, about ninety miles from Mergui, where we discovered twenty-six more; they approached us for some time, but at length returned and landed four hundred men, who took up a strong position on shore, and about four hundred remained in their boats, all well armed, some boats having guns in their bows. I then hoisted a white flag, and a small boat came with a mau in it with a message from the

* 2 lieutenants, 1 assistant-surgeon, 2 subidars, 1 jemidar, 95 rank and file.

Chief, the Rajah of Sampoore, who was at Mergui in February last, requesting I would come on shore, to which I replied that I wished him to come and see me; he said he would, provided I would separate from my boats, which I did, and waited for some time. He then sent some of his Chiefs, who would scarcely approach sufficiently near to make themselves understood; however, I called to them to say, that I would not see any one but the Rajah. He then came, but instead of one boat, brought his whole flotilla, and attempted to get between me and my boats, but seeing his intention I prevented him. I then pulled up to his boat and asked him to come on board mine, which he refused; in short I used every means to persuade him but to no effect. I then asked him by whose authority he had taken possession of this island, having built houses for himself and people, and how he could dare to molest the inhabitants of the province of Mergui, well knowing from a former interview, about two months ago, that they were under the British protection. His reply was, that he was sent by his King, and that he did not care for us; I told him that my orders were to bring him to Mergui to see the Governor, and that I had no doubt but his boats would be returned to him on his arrival, when he explained matters; during the conversation I held his boat as he would not allow any one to come near him but myself. He then like lightning darted into his cabin, and a man who was by his side during the conversation made a cut at me, which fortunately I escaped, and several men presented their muskets, no doubt with a hostile intention. I therefore gave orders for men to fire, and I can scarcely say which commenced: finding our musquetry heavy he pulled off, and I regret to say, that in consequence of all our boats' crews deserting their oars for some time, we could not again come up with their flotilla. He must have suffered severely from our fire as we continued chasing for about an hour, when we got so far distant and no hope of coming up with him, and thought it advisable to return to the island. The enemy's fire was very well directed for some time, and I regret to say two men of ours were killed and two wounded, one of them an interpreter, who has left a widow, the other a Burmah, and two sepoys wounded.

I beg leave to bring to your notice the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Bingham, and Assistant Surgeon Linsell, as also all the native commissioned and non-commissioned Officers and sepoys.

On my return to the island I set fire to the houses. In one of the boats we took I found a small union jack of ours which these pirates took from the signal post at Tenaparam.

I have, &c.

J. DREVER, Lieutenant,
Commg. Dett. 7th Regt. N. I.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Watson, Adjutant-General of the Army, to George Swinton, Esq. Secretary to the Bengal Government, dated 14th July 1825.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commander-in-Chief to

transmit to you, for the information of Government, the accompanying letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, commanding in Assam, inclosing a dispatch received from Lieutenant Neufville, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master-General, detailing the operations of a detachment under his command against the enemy; the success of these operations establishes so completely the merits of Lieutenant Neufville, and the gallantry of his detachment, that the Commander-in-Chief deems it unnecessary to press the subject further on the notice of Government.

I have, &c.

W. L. WATSON,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Neufville to Captain Martin, Major of Brigade in Assam, dated near Wokynet, on the Now Dheeing, 15th June 1525, inclosed in a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Richards to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of Colonel Richards, commanding, that the state of the weather having resumed a favourable appearance on the 4th instant, and intelligence up to the evening of that day reporting no alteration in the strength or disposition of the enemy, I prepared to proceed against them, and leaving a party of two gun-boats with thirty sepoy and a proportion of non-commissioned officers under a subadar to protect the post and passage of the Dheeing, embarked the remainder of the detachment on covered canoes and rafts.

At day-break on the 5th, we commenced our progress up the Now Dheeing. The delay and difficulties in the passage proved much greater than I had anticipated, and we did not reach the large deserted village of Leyung till the evening of the 8th.

Here we were obliged to leave the gun-boats and gudwanies, and by dragging the canoes up the rapids with great labour, in which all hands were obliged to assist, arrived on the afternoon of the 9th at a point opposite Dupha Gaum, which I now found to be situated three or four miles inland, on the right bank.

On reaching Dupha, we found the enemy occupying a stockade of very considerable strength, and on our appearance making hasty preparations for defence.

They were unable, however, to stand the very prompt and gallant manner in which Lieutenant Kerr brought up his men to the assault, at once gaining possession of a commanding line of fire upon their trenches, in which lie the principal security, and abandoning these the whole body pressed for escape through the gate at the opposite face. Their loss was but trifling, since they were covered from our fire by the barriers of their own works (about fourteen feet high and nearly solid, armed by double and triple rows of chevaux de frise), and we had no immediate mode of entrance but by the gate, to gain which there were two long faces of the place to traverse without cavalry,

therefore all hope of overtaking them was vain, and they were immediately lost sight of in the jungle.

The enemy being now concentrated at Beesa Gaum, I made arrangements for attacking them, and as their works were said to be very strong, determined to carry them by a night surprise, by which I should have the benefit of a diversion to distract their attention.

With this view we marched on the afternoon of the 11th, expecting to reach the post about two in the morning.

When within a quarter of a mile from the post we saw the enemy on the open spot below the first stockade, drawn up in a line with some horse on the right, advancing as to oppose us: we immediately debouched from the jungle to the clear plains below, and formed line in the front.

No sooner, however, was it put in motion preparatory to the charge, than the enemy faced about and commenced a rapid retreat to the stockades, followed up by us as quickly as the required preservation of regularity and the irregularity of the ground would admit.

Entering the first stockade, we found that they had clearly gained the second, and successively they abandoned their five very formidable defences before us without once attempting a stand.

The whole affair was conducted by the steady advance of the bayonet, not a shot being fired by us throughout.

On quitting their last stockade they took to precipitate flight, in which manner they have so decided an advantage over us that I did not attempt harassing the men by an unavailing and hopeless pursuit.

Early on the following morning I directed Ensign Bogle, with eighty men, to press upon their rear as far as the villages of Ninsko and Kesson to the first pass (about eight miles), in order to confirm their confusion, and also to cover the escape of the Assamese captives.

This duty, performed in the most able manner, and the result giving liberation to several hundreds of these unfortunate people, must be equally gratifying to his own feelings, as it is creditable to his tact and judgment.

From the top of the first pass the extreme rear of the enemy were seen clearing the second, and I conclude their flight to have been in great panic, from the gilt chattahs, silver swords, and other insignia of the Chiefs abandoned on the route.

In the detail of operations the Commanding Officer will perceive how entirely I must have been indebted for success to the active and zealous co-operation of the Officers under me, Lieutenant Kerr and Ensign Bogle, most nobly seconded by the men, who, I may venture to assert, in all that regards the soldier, as well in cheerful endurance of more than ordinary fatigue and privation, ardent alacrity on every prospect of service, and a steady bravery when opposed to the enemy, could have been surpassed by no troops whatever.

Captain Bedford of the survey department, who accompanied us throughout as a volunteer, gave me the benefit of his experience and personal assistance on every occasion.

A DISPATCH has also been received at the East India-House from the Government of Bengal, dated 3d October 1825; with an inclosure, of which the following is a copy :

Armistice concluded with the Burmese, September 17th 1825.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. and K. C. T. S. Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Kingdom of Ava, Political Agent, &c. &c. having empowered Lieutenant-Colonel Tidy, C. B. Deputy Adjutant-General, and Lieutenant William Smith, of the Royal Navy, commanding the light division, to conclude an Armistice with the Burmese Army, with a view to the restoration of peace and amity between the British Government and the Government of His Majesty the King of Ava; these Officers were met on the 17th September by the Attawpon, Moonjee Maha Moola Rajah, and the Woondock Maha Seree Senkeegah, duly authorized by Sahdo Menjee Muha Mengon, first Minister of the King, when the following articles were agreed upon, signed by, and exchanged between the parties deputed as above mentioned.

FIRST.

There shall be a cessation of hostilities between the British and Burmese armies, from the date hereof to the 17th day of October next, inclusive.

SECOND.

The first Minister of the King, Sahdo Menjee Muha Mengon, being invested with full powers from His Majesty for that purpose, will meet the British Authorities (duly qualified by their Government) at the village of Nenbonzick (being half-way between the armies) on the 2d of October next, there to enter into negotiations for the re-

establishment of peace between the subjects of the two countries.

THIRD.

A line of demarcation shall be drawn between the two armies, commencing at Comma, on the western bank of the Irrawaddy, passing through the village of Nenbonzick, and continuing along the road from that village to Tongho.

The respective parties engage to prevent their troops or adherents passing the said line; and further give assurance that all parties or detachments belonging to either shall be immediately recalled to their own side of the line, respectively.

It is further agreed on the part of the British Commander, that this cessation of hostilities shall be observed by the several British Armies on the frontiers of these dominions, which shall remain without making any forward movement before the 18th of October next, when the armistice shall cease and determine; the Burmese Authorities engaging that this article shall be reciprocally observed.

FOURTH.

Two Officers from each army are to meet on the 23d instant at the village of Nenbonzick, to mark off the ground for the encampment of the respective Chiefs and their followers, and to make any other arrangements which they may deem requisite, preparatory to the meeting of the said High Commissioners.

FIFTH.

The state of the King of Ava's first Minister absolutely requiring that he shall not move without the attendance of five hundred men with fire-arms, and five hundred men with swords, the British Commander will of course be attended by a corresponding number, should he deem it requisite.

Done at Meeday, the 17th day of September 1825.