

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.