

three miles; the wall has been originally built of brick, and the top (which may be twenty feet above the bottom of the ditch), is now covered with jungle. The village of Zangauain, as I before mentioned, stands immediately opposite; it possesses a small pagoda, and is surrounded by a low growth of jungle.

I had proceeded a short distance in the boats, when a sharp fire of musketry was opened upon us from the Pegu side. Feeling the disadvantage we laboured under by being underneath the enemy's fire, with no effectual means of returning it, I at once landed with the boat's crews of Her Majesty's ship Fox, and was shortly after joined by Captain Neblett and boat's crews of the Phlegethon (see margin),* in all about 50 men. The Burmese fired upon us as we advanced, but were driven from point to point until completely broken; one party retreating by the river's side to the northward, and the other within the old wall before mentioned. Our object being attained, I was retiring in close order to the boats, when a fire of gingals and musketry was opened upon us from the wall; deeming it unwise to permit the Burmese to suppose we had retreated from them, I instantly engaged a native guide to shew us the causeway through the ditch, and then advanced to the attack. We halted a few seconds to gain breath, under shelter of an old house; then rushed in over the causeway, and through a breach to the right of the gateway. On getting over the wall we found ourselves among some fine trees, free from underwood; behind these the enemy stood with great resolution, until they were (in many instances), driven out by the bayonet; the defect in their firing was here very observable, as their shot in most cases struck the branches above our heads. We pushed them through to the plain beyond, when they broke and fled, leaving many dead; their number engaged might probably have been 100 men, and they also had a reserve of about 200 more (commanded by officers on horseback), beyond the reach of musketry. The whole party retired within the Great Pagoda, about a mile and a-half to the eastward. I am glad to say that this service was performed with only one casualty on our side, one man having received a severe sword-cut in a personal encounter.

Information was now brought me that our boats had been attacked by another party of the enemy from the southward; I accordingly hastened down to their relief, and happily found them safe. Mr. Mc Murdo, Mate of Her Majesty's ship Fox, who had been left with a few men in charge, reported that a very heavy fire had been opened upon them, to which he had endeavoured to reply with the pinnace's gun and small arm party, but the water was too low to do this with effect, and, having one man killed and two wounded, he judiciously removed the remainder to the right bank, sending an application to Major Cotton for support. A party of rifles returning fortunately met the messenger, and, coming on with all speed, took up a position on the river side, from which they kept up so true and incessant a fire across the water that the enemy were compelled to abandon their attempt, and, on our approach, to retreat. Major Cotton, having overcome all opposition on the opposite side, now crossed over with his detachment.

On a consultation with him, it was determined to wait until 3 P.M. before we should advance to attack the Great Pagoda, the men being absolutely

* East India Company's steamer Phlegethon.—Two Cutters. Messrs. T. M. Hulke, 3rd Officer; C. C. Sevenoakes, Midshipman; crew, 22 men.

in need of repose after so much fatigue under a burning sun. The rifle company of the 67th was therefore bivouacked in the wood within the wall, Her Majesty's 80th Regiment on the river face; and the seamen returned to their boats; at 2 P.M. the alarm bugle was sounded, and, on my landing, I discovered that the Burmese had issued from the pagoda in considerable strength, with the evident intention of attacking us. The troops lost not a moment in getting under arms, and the seamen (see detail annexed),* came on shore.

The enemy fell back on our advance; a movement he appeared to have so little expected that many of his men were unable to regain their position in time to defend it, and those who did were so taken by surprise that their fire was ineffectual, and their four guns, which pointed down the steps leading up to the gateway, were found loaded by Her Majesty's 80th, who gallantly led the assault; and this naturally strong place was happily carried without a casualty on our side.

I returned with the seamen to the boats, as soon as the pagoda was in our possession; embarked the detachment at noon 30th; on the 6th reached the steamer, at Peinkeong, at 5 P.M.; she weighed on her return at 8 A.M.; on the 7th, at noon, she took the ground, and, as the tide was ebbing, and there was no possibility of her moving for several hours, I ordered the Fox's boats to take the canoe with the camp followers in tow; I passed them in the gig, and arrived on board Her Majesty's ship Fox at 3 A.M. on the 8th.

I have the honour to enclose the following list of casualties:

Her Majesty's ship Fox.—3 seamen wounded.

East India Company's steamer Phlegethon.—1 seaman killed.

I beg leave to add that the conduct of both officers and men under my orders has been most exemplary, and to represent to you the valuable assistance and cooperation I received on all occasions from Captain Neblett, Commander of the East India Company's steamer Phlegethon.

I have, &c.

J. W. TARLETON.

List of Men, belonging to the Naval Forces, killed and wounded during the action at Pegu, on the 4th June 1852.

Her Majesty's ship Fox.—Andrew Walker, A.B. wounded, severely; incised wound of right shoulder, from a sword-cut. Henry Ingram, ordinary, wounded, slightly; superficial wound of the right shoulder, from a musket ball. John Taylor, A.B. wounded, slightly; graze of the right leg, from a musket ball.

East India Company's steamer Phlegethon.—James Shields, killed.

* Her Majesty's ship Fox.—Officers, Mr. Mc Murdo, Mate; Mr. Hudson and Mr. Lucas, Midshipmen; 38 men.

East India Company's steamer Phlegethon.—Captain Neblett; 22 men.

Admiralty, 17th August 1852.

Corps of Royal Marines.

First Lieutenant and Quartermaster John Huskisson to be Captain, vice Captain William Gordon, to retired full pay.

Second Lieutenant Henry Fallowfield Cooper to be First Lieutenant, vice Huskisson, promoted.