

tion commenced on the 16th of September, and the 1st division, amounting to 2300 men, and consisting of one company of the Madras Foot Artillery, with two 24-pounder howitzers and four 9-pounder guns, H.M. 18th Royal Irish, H.M. 80th Regiment, the 35th Regiment Madras N.L., and 119 Sappers, were all on board by the 25th idem.

The flotilla arrived off Prome on the morning of the 9th of October; each ship was cannonaded from a projecting point on the hills, as it rounded to the city, with very little effect. This fire was returned with much spirit by the steamers.

The weather here is so intensely hot, that I disembarked the Artillery under Brigadier Foord; H.M. 80th Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hutchinson, with the Sappers under Lieutenant Allen, on the evening of the same day; and, by sunrise the next morning, the 18th Royal Irish, under Lieutenant-Colonel Coote, and the 35th Madras N. I. under Lieutenant-Colonel Apthorp.

The enemy, consisting of three or four thousand men, occupied a very fine position on a range of hills about a thousand yards east from the point where they first opened fire, commanding the town and the large pagoda, which they also occupied.

The troops were landed in the evening, in a suburb to the north of, and beyond, the town. I then ordered them to advance towards the position I had selected for the night, when, upon the head of the column approaching a dry nullah dividing the suburb from the town, a very smart fire of musketry and jingalls was simultaneously opened from some jungle and houses on our left, and a small pagoda in our front.

The grenadiers of H.M. 80th Regiment, under Captain Christie, immediately advanced at the double towards the pagoda, and a party, consisting of two companies of the same regiment, under Captain Welsh, and accompanied by Brigadier Reynolds, were detached to the left, and in a very short time most gallantly drove the enemy out of their position, with the loss of only one man killed and a few wounded, Captain Welsh's party bringing in a jingall.

The grenadiers of the 80th Regiment kept possession of the pagoda, which I made the right of my position, and the troops had excellent cover during the night, which was passed in perfect quietude.

The following morning, when the remainder of the troops were landed, I advanced through the town in a direction I had determined upon the day before, from plans of the place in my possession, covered by the flank companies of the 18th Royal Irish and H.M. 80th Regiments, and two 24-pounder howitzers, which were drawn by a party of sailors, under Commander Rice, of H.M.S. Hastings. Upon our advanced guard reaching the pagoda, it found that the enemy had abandoned that position, as well as the heights beyond it, leaving in our possession an entirely evacuated town, overrun with thick and rank vegetation, and, I regret to add, abounding in swamps.

It is evident that the enemy expected our force to land, and advance up the direct road to the pagoda, along which they had erected two or three small breast-works, as well as removed the planking of several wooden bridges leading to the pagoda and the heights beyond it; but landing at the point we did, not only gave us an excellent road, but at the same time completely turned their position, rendering it impossible for them to hold it.

I have been for a long time aware of the assemblage of a large force about ten miles east of Prome, and at which place they also had a very formidable force in the last war, which took Sir Archibald Campbell several days to disperse. I

have ascertained, from very good authority, that they have now about 18,000 men well posted in two or more stockades.

It is not my intention to disturb them at present in any way, as by their concentration at that place the fine force now assembling here will have an opportunity of striking a blow which may put an end to much future opposition. It was on this Burmese Army that the enemy retreated from Prome upon our entering it. The bravery and alacrity of the troops on this occasion was as conspicuous as it ever is.

His Lordship's thanks are deserved by Captain Christie, of H.M. 80th Regiment, for the gallant manner in which he led his company to the attack and capture of the small pagoda in our front, and to Captain Welsh, who, with two companies of his regiment, drove the enemy out of their position on our left.

The general staff—Major Mayhew, Deputy Adjutant-General; Major Allan, Deputy Quartermaster-General; Captain Smith, Interpreter to the Force; as also my personal staff—Captain Burne, Military Secretary, and Lieutenant Chads, Aide-de-Camp, were active in rendering me every assistance.

Brigadier-General Sir John Cheape, commanding the Bengal division, came up to Prome with the portion of his division embarked, and was present throughout the whole of these operations; and I have great satisfaction in being enabled to leave him in command upon my return to Rangoon, where I am required, and for which place I shall leave this to-morrow.

I leave Major Fraser, of the Engineers, and Major Allan, Deputy Quartermaster-General, at Prome, to carry out the necessary arrangements for the reception of the regiments which will hereafter arrive.

To Commodore Lambert your Lordship is deeply indebted for the unremitting exertions, calling forth all possible resources, and anxious solicitude, which have accomplished the conveyance of the force to its destination up this noble, but most difficult to be navigated, river. To Commander Rice, for the exertions of himself and men under his command, I feel greatly indebted.

I have the honour to enclose a return of the casualties which have occurred during our operations before Prome, and to remain, &c.

H. GODWIN, Major-General.

*Return of the Killed and Wounded at the Attack and Capture of Prome on the 9th of October 1852.*

*Head-Quarters, Prome, October 12th, 1852.*

Engineers, 1 severely wounded.

H.M. 80th Foot, 1 killed; 1 severely and 5 slightly wounded.

35th Madras N.I. 1 slightly wounded.

Total, 1 killed; 8 wounded.

H. GODWIN, Major-General,  
Commanding Army of Burmah.

W. MAYHEW, Major,  
Deputy Adjutant-General,  
Army of Burmah.

*Whitehall, December 2, 1852.*

The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal, granting the dignity of a Knight of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, unto Charles Robert Mitchell Jackson, Esquire, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Bombay.