

ed, that he had every reason to believe, that there was a practicable way through the woods, by which a body of men might be conducted to the rear of the Forts Leyden and Frederici. Lieut.-Colonel Shipley was indefatigable in ascertaining the accuracy of his information, in which he was ably assisted by Lieut. Arnold, of the royal engineers, and Mr Hobbs, acting engineer, and the result was such, that a detachment of 140 men of the 64th regiment, under the command of the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Cranston, with Major Stirke of the 6th West India regiment, ten men of the 6th West India regiment, with side arms, having felling axes, twenty of the artificers' corps, provided in the same manner, and about 30 armed seamen, commanded by Captains Maxwell, Ferris, and Richardson, of the royal navy, the whole under the command of Brigadier-General Hughes, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Shipley, Lieutenant Arnold, of the royal engineers, and Mr Hobbs, acting engineer, whose local knowledge proved extremely useful on this occasion, landed between the hours of ten and eleven at night, at Resolution Plantation, and proceeded through the woods with negro-guides.

A great quantity of rain having recently fallen, it was found that the path, at all times difficult, had become almost impassable, but no obstacle could damp the enterprising spirit of our seamen and soldiers, who, with persevering courage, after a laborious march of five hours, arrived near the rear of Frederici battery. The alarm having been given, a considerable fire of grape shot was made upon the troops before they quitted the wood, whilst forming for the attack, and of musketry as they approached the battery. The assault of our intrepid seamen and troops with fixed bayonets, was so animated and vigorous as to prevent any further resistance. The enemy fled to Fort Leyden, having set fire to the powder magazine, by the explosion of which a few British officers and men were severely wounded. Brigadier-General Hughes used no delay in moving on to the attack of Fort Leyden, but being under the necessity of marching by a narrow road, which was enfiladed by four or five guns, received a considerable fire of grape shot on his march, and of musketry on his nearer approach, which, however, was soon put a stop to by a repetition of the same impetuous attack on our part, and the enemy, after some firing, called for quarter, which was generously granted by the conquerors, although in the moment they were highly exasperated at the conduct of the Batavian troops in blowing up the powder magazine at Fort Frederici, after it had been in our possession. A Captain with some other officers and 120 men were taken at this post, about 30 having made their escape across the river Commewyne to Fort New Amsterdam.

By this brilliant affair a position was secured, by which a heavy fire could be brought on Fort New Amsterdam, a communication with the river Commewyne opened, the means of forming a junction with Brigadier-General Maitland's corps established, and the command of the finest part of the colony, abounding with resources of all kinds, obtained.

Brigadier-General Hughes's exertions upon this occasion were highly meritorious, and by his animating example contributed much to the success of the day.

On the 30th, in the morning, the Commodore and myself went on shore at the captured forts, and directions were given for covering the troops and guns from the fire of Fort New Amsterdam, to which they were greatly exposed, and for pointing the fire of the forts towards the enemy. The troops underwent great fatigue in executing these works, which, however, they cheerfully submitted to, under the direction of Lieut.-Col. Shipley, who, as usual, was unceasing in his exertions. Brigadier-General Hughes remained in the command there, giving every necessary support and countenance. The enemy fired from time to time from Fort New Amsterdam, by which three men at Fort Leyden were wounded, but some shells being thrown in return from two mortars, which we had got on shore at Fort Leyden, the firing on the part of the enemy ceased.

On the same day I received a report from Brigadier-General Maitland, that a landing had been effected at the Warappa Creek by the first division of his corps, under the command of Major Hardyman, of the 1st battalion of the Royals, who took possession of the enemy's post, where there were two guns, after a short resistance; and the Brigadier-General further stated, that he was proceeding to land with the whole of his corps. Under these circumstances no time was lost in disembarking at Fort Leyden the rest of the troops, and pushing

ing them on by the north bank of the Commewyne to nearly opposite Zooland's Plantation, where it was intended to cross the river to form a junction with Brigadier-General Maitland's corps on its expected arrival there. The artillery, stores, and provisions, were also conveyed, in boats by the indefatigable exertions of the navy, into the Commewyne River, and an armed naval force established therein.

On the 3d May, Brigadier-General Maitland, having, with great diligence, procured a number of plantation boats to convey his corps, appeared coming down the Commewyne in very good order, and landed at a plantation on the south side of that river.

On the same evening part of the 16th regiment, crossed the Commewyne to join Brigadier-General Maitland, and were followed the next day by the remainder of that regiment. Orders were also given for all the troops to pass as quickly as possible.

On the 4th, between two and three o'clock, Brigadier-General Maitland's corps moved on through a wood, and approached Fort New Amsterdam within a mile to reconnoitre, with a view to extend their position towards the river Surinam, and thereby invest that fortress. Some shots were fired by the enemy's advanced sentinels, who retired. At this time Commodore Hood being with me at headquarters on the Commewyne, we received a flag of truce from the Commanding Officer of the Batavian troops, with proposals to surrender on terms of capitulation. Orders were in consequence issued to suspend hostilities until the conditions should be finally agreed upon.

Lieutenant-Colonel Shipley and Captain Maxwell of the Royal Navy, were sent to settle the terms. They returned early on the morning of the 5th, with two separate capitulations, signed by Lieut.-Col. Batenburgh, commanding the Batavian troops, and Commodore Bloys, Chief of the naval department; but an article in the one signed by the Military Commandant not being sufficiently clear, Brigadier-General Maitland was employed to arrange the business, which being completed to our satisfaction, at five o'clock on the same evening, the advanced corps, under the command of Brigadier-General Maitland, marched in and took possession of Fort New Amsterdam. The Batavian frigate and sloop of war were also taken possession of at the same hour.

General Green expresses himself in terms of the highest approbation of the conduct of the officers, whose situations enabled them to distinguish themselves on this occasion; and acknowledges his particular obligations to Commodore Hood, and all the officers of his Squadron, for their zealous co-operation, which, from the peculiar nature of the military positions in that country, was essentially necessary to the success of the undertaking. He adds, that the principal inhabitants of the colony appeared to be extremely rejoiced at the event which had taken place, restoring to them the powerful protection of the British Government, and the solid advantages arising therefrom.

Capt. Campbell, the General's Aid-de-Camp, was the bearer of the dispatches.

By the articles of capitulation, the garrison are made prisoners of war, and are to be conveyed to some port of the Batavian Republic, engaging not to serve against his Britannic Majesty or his allies. Private property to be respected, &c. &c. as usual.

*Return of the Killed and Wounded of the British Troops, in the assault of the Forts Leyden and Frederici.*

Royal Engineers and Artificers, 1 rank and file killed; 64th regt. 2 rank and file killed, 1 serjeant, 7 rank and file wounded.

*Officers Wounded*—Lieut.-Col. the Hon. George Cranston, of the 64th regt. Lieut. Arnold, of the Royal Engineers, Mr Hobbs, Assistant Engineer, Lieut. Rois, of the 64th regt. Lieut. Brownrigg, of the 87th regt. Brigade Major to Brigadier General Hughes.

*Of the Royal Navy*—Centaur, 1 petty officer and 2 seamen killed; 4 seamen wounded. Pandour, 1 seaman wounded.

*Officers Killed*—Lieut. Smith, first of the Centaur; mortally wounded, died the following day. W. Shieldham, midshipman of the Centaur. Mr —, boatswain of the Druke.

*Officers Wounded*—Lieuts. King and Henderson, of the Centaur, severely; Lieut. Brand of the Unique, severely.

*Return of Batavian Prisoners.*

Military, &c.—1 Lieut.-General, 1 Lieut.-Colonel, 1 Major, 19 Captains, 22 First Lieutenants, 30 Second Lieutenants, 1 Surgeon-major, 6 First

Surgeons, 10 Second Surgeons, 2 Serjeant-majors, 79 Serjeants, 150 Corporals, 24 Drummers, 1434 Privates, 13 Women, and 11 Children.

*On board the Dutch ships of war*—1 Commodore, 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 6 Midshipmen, 3 Surgeons, and 192 petty officers and seamen.—1 serjeant, 4 corporals, and 29 privates, of marines.

Total number of prisoners, troops and navy, exclusive of Staff and Departments, 2001.

*Return of Ordnance, &c. taken at the capture of the Colony.*

Iron and brass ordnance, 282 pieces, from 2 to 36 pounders, and a vast quantity of ammunition and ordnance stores, exclusive of the ordnance and ordnance stores at the several outposts.

The Gazette also contains dispatches from Commodore Hood, who commanded the naval part of the expedition, giving a similar detail of the operations; the ships that fell into our possession were—

The Proserpine frigate, of 32 guns, 18 pounders, the Pylades corvette, of 18 guns, three merchantmen, from 8 to 12 guns, a schooner of 10 guns, several gun boats, &c. The merchantmen and schooner are claimed as private property.

WHITEHALL, JUNE 21, 1804.

Copies of the following letters, written by Major-General Wellesley to his Excellency the Governor-General, have been received at the East India House, enclosed in a dispatch from the Governor and Council at Bombay, dated the 10th of January 1804:—

*Camp at Doagaum, Dec. 15, 1803.*

MY LORD,

After the battle of Argaum I determined to lose no time in commencing the siege of Gauighur, and accordingly marched on, and arrived at Elechpoor on the 5th inst. with both divisions, and halted on the 6th, in order to establish an hospital for the wounded in the battle of Argaum.

The fort of Gauighur is situated in a range of mountains between the sources of the rivers Poorna and Taptee. It stands on a lofty mountain in this range, and consists of one complete inner fort, which points to the south, where the rock is most steep, and an outer fort, which covers the inner to the north westward and north. This outer fort has a third wall, which covers the approach to it from the north by the village of Labada. All these walls are strongly built, and fortified by ramparts and towers.

The communications with the forts are through three gates; one to the south with the inner fort, one to the north-west with the outer fort, and one to the north with the third wall. The ascent to the first is very long and steep, and is practicable only by men; that to the second is by a road used for the common communications of the garrison with the countries to the southward, but the road passes round the west side of the fort, and is exposed for a great distance to its fire, it is so narrow as to make it impracticable to approach regularly by it, and the rock is scraped on each side; this road also leads no farther than the gate.

The communication with the northern gate is direct from the village of Labada, and here the ground is level with that of the fort, but the road to Labada leads through the mountains for about 30 miles from Elechpoor, and it was obvious that the difficulty and labour of moving ordnance and stores to Labada would be very great.

However, after making enquiry at Elechpoor, it appeared both to Colonel Stevenson and me, that this point of attack was, upon the whole, the most advantageous, and we accordingly adopted it.

Colonel Stevenson had equipped his corps at Asfurghur for the siege of Gauighur, for which service it had long been destined; and I therefore determined that he should make the principal attack by Labada, while I should cover his operations with my own division, and all the cavalry, and, if possible, assist them by other attacks to the southward and westward.

On the 6th inst. the 1st battalion of the 2d regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel Chalmers, and two companies of the 94th, and the 1st of the 6th, under Captain Maitland were detached, the former to drive in the enemy from the ground, which they occupied to the southward of the fort, and the latter to seize the fortified village of Damargaum, which covers the entrance of the mountains by the road by which Colonel Stevenson was to pass towards Labada, and to protect the parties sent forward to reconnoitre, and repair the roads in the mountain. Both these detachments succeeded. On