

List of Casualties in the Detachment under the command of Major Cotton, 67th Regiment, at the Capture of Pegu, June 4, 1852.

Wounded.

67th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry—2 rank and file; 1 camp follower.

Commodore G. R. Lambert, R.N., Her Majesty's Ship Fox, to the Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR, *Rangoon, June 8, 1852.*

THE Lieutenant-General commanding having expressed his wish that a military and naval force should make an attack upon the city of Pegu, I therefore sent Commander Tarleton, with the boats of Her Majesty's ship Fox and the East India Company's steam vessel Phlegethon to perform this service, in conjunction with two hundred and thirty troops, under the command of Major Cotton, and I have the honour to request you may be pleased to lay Commander Tarleton's report of proceedings before the Governor-General.

I enclose also a list of killed and wounded in the naval force.

I have, &c.

G. R. LAMBERT, Commodore.

Commander Tarleton, R.N., to Commodore G. R. Lambert, R.N., Commanding the Naval Forces at Rangoon.

SIR, *Her Majesty's Ship Fox, Rangoon, June 8, 1852.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in pursuance of your orders I proceeded on the morning of the 3d instant with the boats expressed in the margin,* to the East India Company's steamer Phlegethon, which vessel having embarked 98 men, Bengal Native Infantry Rifle Company, Major Cotton commanding detachment; 100 men, Her Majesty's 80th Regiment, Captain Ormsby; 30 men, Sappers and Miners of the Madras Division, Lieutenant Mackintosh; Lieutenant Mayne, Assistant Engineer, Captain Latter, Interpreter to the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, also accompanied us.

We proceeded up the Pegu River as far as the village of Peinkeong, which we reached a little before 8 p. m. it being then high water. The stream becoming extremely narrow and shallow at this point, I did not deem it prudent to ascend it further, and therefore arranged with Major Cotton for proceeding with his detachment in the boats, on the next flood tide, which I looked for about two a. m., but the ebb ran for 9½ hours, so that we could not leave the steamer before 5-30 a. m. on the 4th. At Peinkeong, Captain Latter obtained information that a large number of Peguers had put themselves under the direction of one of their countrymen named Moungha; that they had assembled on the right bank of the river, where the day previous they had been engaged with a body of men under Mounghawik, the Birman Governor of Pegu. By the villagers' account, the latter had been worsted, and had retired in the

* Her Majesty's Ship Fox—Launch. Mr McMurdo, Mate; Mr Lucas, Midshipman; crew, 15 men.—Pinnace, Mr Copland, Mate; Mr Hudson, Midshipman; crew 15 men.—Gig. Mr Cottam; crew, 6 men.—Cutters. Mr Alexander, Mr Lisboa; crew, 9 men each.—Mr Morgan, Assistant-Surgeon, Her Majesty's ship Fox.—East India Company's Steamer Moozuffur. Mr Harding; crew, natives in paddle-box boats.—A large canoe fitted for the conveyance of the camp followers.

direction of Zangauain, situated on the river bank, immediately opposite Pegu. When within about five miles of this place, the chief, Moungha, came off to the boats, and confirmed the reports which had been previously received; his force, consisting of about 1500 men (imperfectly armed), lined the right bank of the river, and advanced with the boats. From his communication with Moungha, Captain Latter was satisfied that the enemy's chief strength lay on the right bank. Major Cotton therefore decided on landing his detachment on that side, while I proceeded with the boats (as soon as the men were disembarked) to co-operate on his right flank. The river at this point is not more than sixty yards wide; the present village of Pegu stands on the left bank, which is steep and muddy below high water mark. About a quarter of a mile, in the rear of the houses, there is a broad ditch, the bottom of which at this season is a swamp; it runs along the west face of the old wall of Pegu, for the distance of two or 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 boats' crews of Her Majesty's ship Fox, and was shortly after joined by Captain Neblett and boats' 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

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