

the army had forced its way into the Pagoda, which intelligence was confirmed to me by Commander Shadwell on the morning of the 15th.

In the evening this officer returned, with his party of seamen and a guard. He informed me of the river bank being cleared of the enemy; and it is therefore my intention to move up with the boats with the morning flood-tide. I reconnoitred the river defences now evacuated, and am only surprised that Commander Shadwell should have been able to pass and re-pass them in his late attempt to communicate with the garrison at Pegu. They are, for the purpose, of the most formidable description, and completely command the passage of the river for a distance of nearly five miles.

Your Excellency, knowing the nature of the service that has been performed, will appreciate the zeal of both officers and men who have carried it out: but I feel I shall fail in my duty to them if I did not bring to your notice the exertions made by Commander Shadwell and the men under him, in taking the guns a distance of 8 or 9 miles, through a difficult country, under an ardent sun; by Commander Lambert and Lieutenants Mason, R.N., and Robinson, I.N., and Mr Freeman, Master, I.N., in their constant attention and watchfulness in bringing up so large a convoy in the boats. Lieutenant Robinson was afterwards attached to the gun party, and Mr Freeman was most useful to me in directing our rocket battery, and in the construction of our intrenchments. I exceedingly admired the skilful manner in which Captain Porter brought the Nerbudda up this difficult river; and the energy that his officers and crew displayed in making her again effective was most praiseworthy.

I am happy to say that only one casualty has occurred on the part of the naval force. Thomas Saunders, A.B., of Her Majesty's steam sloop Sphinx, who died of a wound he received while encamped with the army on the evening of the 13th instant.

I have, &c.

J. W. TARLETON, Captain.

NOTIFICATION.

*Fort William, Foreign Department,
January 4, 1853.*

THE Most Noble the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that the following Extracts from Despatches relative to recent operations in the neighbourhood of Pegu shall be published for general information.

The Governor-General in Council has to express his approbation of the alacrity and spirit with which this harassing duty has been performed; and his sense of the services of the Major-General commanding, and of the officers whose names he has specially brought to the notice of his Lordship in Council, in the Despatch of the 24th ultimo.

The Governor-General in Council particularly desires to record his high approbation of the gallant conduct of Major Hill, of the Madras Fusiliers, and of the Officers and Men under his command, in their defence of the position they held at Pegu.

By order of the Most Noble the Governor-General of India in Council,

C. ALLEN,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

Extract from a Despatch from Major-General Godwin, C.B., commanding Troops in Ava, Arracan, and Tenasserim Provinces, dated 24th December 1852. (No. 22.)

IN my last Despatch from Pegu, dated the 15th instant, after having relieved it from the enemy, I had the honour of informing you, for the information of the Governor-General in Council, that it was my intention to advance into the country, and free that garrison from the near position of the Burmese Army.

At that time I had been informed they were at Saphangoon, but from subsequent information I found them entrenched and entrenching themselves in great numbers on a plain about four miles north of the Pagoda, at a place called Kaleetat. It took till the 17th instant to procure what little carriage was available for the commissariat stores, when eighteen buffalo hackeries were prepared to contain six days' provisions.

The troops left the Pagoda about 7 o'clock A.M. on that date, to the amount of about 1,200 men, consisting of about 600 of the Bengal Fusiliers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Tudor; 150 of the Madras Fusiliers, under Captain Renaud; 300 Seikhs under Major Armstrong, and 160 of the 10th Bengal Native Infantry, under Captain Munro. I had no guns, for I had no means of drawing them. We had to pass through a very thick jungle for about two miles, when we debouched on a noble plain, miles in extent, covered with ripe paddy. We then had a good view of the position of the enemy and their probable numbers. They were admirably posted behind an entrenchment with a battie: large spars formed their breastwork, and it appeared to be about a mile long, filled with masses of men, a few hundreds of the Cassay horse, some elephants, and a few guns.

It was from this post that the men were furnished to invest our garrison at Pegu. From my force I had to give a baggage-guard of 200 men; with the remainder I quietly advanced on their position, inclining to my own right to threaten their left, which was open, their right being supported by a large tope of trees, and flanked by a thick jungle. They fired a gun occasionally as we advanced, and from their quiet and determined attitude behind their strong defences, with at least ten men for one of mine, I had great expectation that they would stand our assault. These men were from the garrisons of Sheogyne, Sitang, and Beling, had been very active in giving constant alarms to Martaban and Moulmein, and had the character too of being men who would fight, and some of these men had been killed on the walls in their assaults on Pegu.

When I was within about 400 yards of their position, I detached 200 men of the Bengal Fusiliers, under Major Seaton, to drive in two outposts in front of the right of their position, for I changed my mind and determined to attack them upon their right, in the hope of our meeting. Major Seaton very soon performed this service, the enemy retiring upon their main entrenchments, exchanging musketry.

I now formed the columns of attack, Major Seaton's party of the Bengal Fusiliers, and Major Armstrong with his Seikhs, to attack the tope, with two companies of the Bengal Fusiliers, under Lieutenant Lambert, but attached to Major Armstrong's column.

I stopped Major Seaton's attack, seeing that they had loaded the jungle, which his left flank would have had to pass in gaining the tope, with hundreds of men.

I had strong reserves close up, and ready to