

which ensued was, that they were completely defeated with the Loss of Ninety Pieces of Cannon which I have taken. I have suffered a great Loss of Officers and Men.

I enclose a Copy of my Letter to the Governor General, in which I have given him a detailed Account of the Events which led to, and occurred in, the Action.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY

*Camp, Sept: 25, 1803.*

*To His Excellency the Governor General, &c. &c. &c.*

MY LORD,

I WAS joined by Major Hill with the last of the Convoys expected from the River Kistna, on the 18th, and on the 20th was enabled to move forward towards the Enemy, who had been joined in the Course of the last Seven or Eight Days by the Infantry under Colonel Pohlman, by that belonging to Begum Sumreo, and by another Brigade, the Name of whose Commander I have not ascertained. The Enemy's Army was collected about Bakerdun, and between that Place and Jafferabad.

I was near Colonel Stevenson's Corps on the 21st, and had a Conference with that Officer, in which we concerted a Plan to attack the Enemy's Army, with the Divisions under our Command, on the 24th in the Morning; and we marched on the 22d, Colonel Stevenson by the Western Route and I by the Eastern Route, round the Hills between Beed Naporah and Jalnah.

On the 23d I arrived at Naulaiah, and there received a Report that Sindia and the Rajah of Berar had moved off in the Morning with their Cavalry, and that the Infantry were about to follow, but were still in Camp, at the Distance of about six Miles from the Ground on which I intended to encamp. It was obvious that the Attack was no longer to be delayed, and having provided for the Security of my Baggage and Stores at Naulaiah, I marched on to attack the Enemy.

I found the whole combined Army of Sindia and the Rajah of Berar encamped on the Bank of the Kistna River, nearly on the Ground which I had been informed that they occupied. Their Right, which consisted entirely of Cavalry, was about Bakerdun, and extended to their Corps of Infantry, which were encamped in the Neighbourhood of Assye. Although I came first in Front of their Right, I determined to attack their Left, as the Defeat of their Corps of Infantry was most likely to be effectual; accordingly, I marched round to their left Flank, covering the March of the Column of Infantry by the British Cavalry in the Rear, and by the Mahratta and Mysore Cavalry on the Right Flank.

We passed the River Kistna at a Ford beyond the Enemy's left Flank, and I formed the Infantry immediately in two Lines, with the British Cavalry as a Reserve, in a Third, in an open Space between that River and a Nullah running parallel to it. The Mahratta and Mysore Cavalry occupied the Ground beyond the Kistna on our left Flank, and kept in check a large Body of the Enemy's Cavalry, which had followed our March from the Right of their own Position.

The Enemy had altered the Position of their Infantry previous to our Attack. It was no longer as at first, along the Kistna, but extended from that River across to the Village of Assye, upon the Nullah which was upon our Right. We attacked them immediately, and the Troops advanced under a very hot Fire from Cannon, the Execution of which was terrible.

The Picquets of the Infantry and the 74th Regiment, which were on the Right of the first and second Lines, suffered particularly from the Fire of the Guns on the Left of the Enemy's Position, near Assye. The Enemy's Cavalry also made an Attempt to charge the 74th Regiment, at the Moment when they were most exposed to this Fire; but they were cut up by the British Cavalry, which moved on at that Moment.

At Length the Enemy's Line gave Way in all Directions; and the British Cavalry cut in among their broken Infantry, but some of their Corps went off in good Order; and a Fire was kept up on our Troops from many of the Guns from which the Enemy had been first driven, by Individuals who had been passed by the Line, under the Supposition that they were dead.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, with the British Cavalry, charged a large Body of Infantry, which had retired, and was formed again, in which Operation he was killed; and some Time elapsed before he could put an End to the straggling Fire which was kept up by Individuals from the Guns from which the Enemy were driven. The Enemy's Cavalry also, which had been hovering round us throughout the Action, was still near us. At length, when the last formed Body of Infantry gave way, the Whole went off, and left in our Hands Ninety Pieces of Cannon. This Victory, which was certainly complete, has, however, cost us dear, your Excellency will perceive by the enclosed Return, that our Loss in Officers and Men has been very great, and in that of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell and other Officers, whose Names are therein included, greatly to be regretted.

I cannot write in too strong Terms of the Conduct of the Troops. They advanced in the best Order, and with the greatest Steadiness, under a most destructive Fire, against a Body of Infantry far superior in Numbers who appeared determined to contend with them to the last, and who were driven from their Guns only by the Bayonet; and, notwithstanding the Numbers of the Enemy's Cavalry, and the repeated Demonstrations they made of an Intention to charge, they were kept at a Distance by the Infantry.

I am particularly indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Harness and Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, for the Manner in which they conducted their Brigades, and to all the Officers of the Staff for the Assistance I received from them.

The Officers commanding Brigades, nearly all those of the Staff, and the mounted Officers of the Infantry, had their Horses shot under them.

I have also to draw your Excellency's Notice to the Conduct of the Cavalry Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, particularly that of the 19th Dragoons.

The Enemy are gone off towards the Adjuntee Ghant, and I propose to follow them as soon as I