

The Storming Party under the Orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Don, was formed of the greater Part of the European Force belonging to the Bengal Army, and Three Battalions of Sepoys.

One Column composed of Two Hundred of His Majesty's 86th Regiment, from the Bombay Division, and the 1st Battalion 8th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, under Captain Grant, of the former Corps, was ordered to attack the Enemy's Trenches and Guns outside the Town, whilst a Third Column, composed of Three Hundred Men of His Majesty's 65th Regiment, and Two Battalions of Bombay Sepoys, marched to attack the Beem Narain Gate, which, from every Report I had received, was easy of Access for Guns, &c.

The Signal for the Storming Party to move out was the Commencement of Captain Grant's Attack on the Enemy's Trenches, which took place a little before Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.

Captain Grant's Column was completely successful, and got immediate Possession of the Enemy's Guns, Eleven in Number, all of which have been brought into Camp. The gallant Conduct of Captain Grant and his Party merits every Praise.

I am sorry to say, that neither of the other Columns succeeded. Lieutenant-Colonel Don's was unfortunately delayed by some unexpected Circumstances, and on its Arrival at the Ditch, it was found to contain such a Depth of Water as to render it impossible to gain the Breach. The Troops immediately attempted to ascend by the Bastion, but the Obstacles they met with were of so serious a Nature, that their utmost Efforts were unsuccessful, though the Colours of the 12th Native Infantry were planted within a short Distance of the Top.

The Column from the Bombay Division, under Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, notwithstanding every Exertion, could not effect their Object. They were considerably delayed on their March by a large Body of the Enemy's Horse; and, by a Mistake on the Part of their Guide, were very early exposed to a most heavy and destructive Fire from the Town, which, by destroying their Ladders, rendered the Attempt on the Gate impracticable, and obliged Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor to draw his Men under Cover, until he received Orders to return to Camp.

I feel it my Duty to assure your Lordship, that though unfortunately not crowned with Success, the Exertions of Colonel Don were meritorious and gallant in the extreme, and I feel under infinite Obligations to this Officer.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. LAKE.

*Letter from Lord Lake to the Governor General, dated Head-Quarters, Camp before Bhurtpore, 22d February 1805.*

MY LORD,

MY Dispatch of Yesterday's Date will have conveyed to your Lordship Intelligence of our want of Success in a Fourth Attempt made to carry this Place by Assault.

As it appeared that our Failure on the 20th was to be accounted for in a great Measure, by the Occurrence of unexpected Accidents and Delays, as Part of the Corps who formed the Storming Party

had surmounted the principal Difficulty, and had nearly gained the Summit of the Bastion, where I was informed a few Hours more battering would render the Ascent perfectly easy, I determined to make another Attempt Yesterday.

The Party for this Service consisted of the Whole European Force, and Two Battalions of Native Infantry of the Bengal Army, and the greater Part of His Majesty's 65th and 86th Regiments, and the Grenadier Battalion and Flank Companies of the 1st Battalion 3d Regiment, from the Bombay Division. The Whole moved on to the Attack about Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, under the Command of the Honorable Brigadier Monson.

The Troops, most confident of Success, commenced the Attack, and persevered in it for a considerable Length of Time, with the most determined Bravery; but their utmost Exertions were not sufficient to enable them to gain the Top of the Breach. The Bastion, which was the Point of Attack, was extremely steep, the Resistance opposed to them was vigorous, and as our Men could only mount by small Parties at a Time, the Advantages were very great on the Side of the Enemy. Discharges of Grape, Logs of Wood, and Pots filled with combustible Materials, immediately knocked down those who were ascending, and the whole Party, after being engaged in an obstinate Contest for Two Hours, and suffering very severe Loss, were obliged to relinquish the Attempt, and retire to our Trenches.

I have to lament the Loss of very many gallant Officers and Men, as will appear to your Lordship by the accompanying Return of Killed and Wounded on this Occasion.

It is with sincere Grief I inform your Lordship, that among the Killed is my Aide-de Camp, Major Menzies, of His Majesty's 80th Regiment, who proceeded with the Storming Party, and fell whilst, among the foremost, he was making the most heroic Exertions to ascend the Breach. I feel sincere Sorrow for his Loss, no less on Account of the great Regard I entertained for his private Worth, than from the high Estimation in which I held his Merits as an Officer.

The Honorable Colonel Monson, to whom the Conduct of the Attack was entrusted, made every possible Exertion, and has received my best Thanks for his uncommon Gallantry and Perseverance on that Occasion.

Though the Troops were unable to effect their Object, I am happy to assure your Lordship, that they have on no Occasion displayed greater Steadiness. Those of the Bengal Army supported their former Character, and the Bombay Division displayed a Degree of Resolution and Discipline, which entitles them to my highest Praise and Approbation.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. LAKE.

*Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Assault of Bhurtpore, on the 20th of February 1805.*

Total.—1 Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 39 Privates, 3 Subadars, 3 Jemadars, 3 Havildars, 9 Naicks, 2 Drummers, 77 Sepoys, 1 Bheelie, 2 Lalcars, and 2 Bildars, killed; 1 Major, 7 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 1 Adjutant, 17 Serjeants, 8 Corporals,