

Return of Boats captured at Melloon, 19th January 1826.

War Boats—3 in good condition, 15 gilt, ditto.
Large Accommodation Boats—7 in good condition, 1 sunk.
Large Store Boats—33 in good condition, 16 sunk.
Canoes and Boats of various descriptions—200 to 300.

H. D. CHADS, Captain of H M's. S.
Alligator, in command of the flotilla.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Pepper to the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Forces, dated Camp, Shoegheen, 14th January 1826.

SIR,

ADVERTING to my letter of the 4th instant, notifying my intention of sending the 3d regiment light infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Conry, for the reduction of Zittaun, a stockade on the eastern bank of a river of that name, and midway between Shoegheen and Marraban, for the purpose of opening the communication between my detachment and the lower provinces, I have now the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Commander of the Forces, that Lieutenant-Colonel Conry's party left on the 6th instant, by water; on its arrival at Meekow, where an Officer's party had been posted, to protect our supplies and the inhabitants of that place, who had contributed so greatly to our assistance, the Lieutenant-Colonel received a report from Lieutenant Bell, commanding there, that he had been attacked twice by four or five hundred men, belonging to Oudinah (the Ex-Rajah of Martaban), sent from Zittaun, whom he succeeded in repulsing. This induced Lieutenant-Colonel Conry to lose no time in proceeding.

On the morning of the 7th instant he reached the place about noon, and instantly made his arrangements for the attack, which commenced at two o'clock.

It is with feelings of deep regret I am obliged to report its complete failure, with the loss of Lieutenant-Colonel Conry and Lieutenant Adams, 3d regiment L. I. killed, Lieutenant and Adjutant Harvey severely and Lieutenant Power slightly wounded; 1 native officer and 9 privates killed; 1 bugler and 18 rank and file wounded. The party returned to Meekoe the same night. On the afternoon of the 8th I received this report, and instantly determined to proceed in person, with a reinforcement for the reduction of the stockade, which I did on the 9th instant, with a detail by land and water (as per margin)* and reached Meekow on the morning of the 10th; during that day I have to state that further accounts reached me of horrible murders and aggressions committed by the Zittaun people on the inhabitants of those villages who had sought our protection, and in a

* Artillery by water—1 captain, 16 gunners, with one six-pounder and one four and two-fifths howitzers.

Land party, under Major Home, 12th regiment, proceed on 9th instant—Flank company, 1st European regiment, seventy-eight rank and file; light company, 12th regiment, completed to one hundred rank and file; head-quarters, 54th regiment light infantry, one hundred and fifty rank and file, with twenty-five pioneers,

more manifest degree since their temporary success.

I was employed all that day in preparing and collecting a sufficient number of boats to enable me to proceed early on the succeeding morning. The whole were in motion at three P. M. on the 11th, and landed near Zittaun by nine o'clock.

Having employed some time in reconnoitring the place to take up my position, I found the creek which flanks the north face of the stockade, running in a parallel line about one hundred and fifty yards from it, not fordable, but ascertained from my guides that it would become so at low water.

The stockade stands on a considerable eminence, with an abrupt ascent to it, commanding every point by which the assailants must approach. It appeared of great extent, built entirely of teak timber, flanked at intervals by loop-holes through every part of it, and its height from twelve to fourteen feet.

Pending the time I might be able to cross the ford, the artillery were placed in position, and opened a fire of shot and shells on every point.

I then prepared the columns of attack as per margin.*

At two P. M. the water had sufficiently subsided to allow me to move forward; the left column, which was obliged to make a detour to the left and rear of the place, preceded, and having reached its positions, the right and centre columns having previously been instructed to what point their attacks were to be directed. The advance was sounded for the whole to storm simultaneously, and in less than twenty minutes we were in full possession.

The fire from the enemy was most heavy and destructive, and the obstacles to be surmounted by our troops of no common kind, every man having been up to his neck in water while crossing the creek.

It is with the deepest regret that I have to report that our success, though complete, has been attended with severe loss.

Among the killed are Captain Cursham, 1st European regiment, and Captain Steadman, 14th regiment C. L. I. both commanding columns, and of the wounded, Major Home, 12th regiment P. L. I. severely (also commanding a column), Lieutenant Fullarton, 17th regiment P. L. I. commissariat department, dangerously, Lieutenant Power, 3d regiment P. L. I. again severely, together with a severe loss in the lower grades, as per return attached.

The limits of this dispatch prevent me from particularizing the zeal and devotion to their duty of so many who fully met the expectation I had formed of them, yet I cannot refrain from bringing

* The right column, under Major Home, 12th regiment N. I.—Light company 12th regiment N. I. eighty-two rank and file, with two ladders.

Centre column, under Captain Steadman, 54th regiment C. L. I.—Light company 1st European regiment, thirty-five rank and file, head-quarters 34th regiment, or C. L. I. one hundred and sixty-four rank and file, with two ladders.

Left column, under Captain Cursham, 1st European regiment—General camp, 1st European regiment, forty-two rank and file; head-quarters, 3d regiment P. L. R. two hundred rank and file, with two ladders.