

Memorandum showing the strength of the Expedition to Pegu, November 18, 1852.

E.I.C.S.V. Mahanuddy—J. Simson, Esq., commanding.

Major-General Godwin and Staff.
50 Bengal Fusiliers.
50 Madras Fusiliers.
120 Fifth Madras Native Infantry.
30 Artillery; 2 guns.

E.I.C.S.V. Nerbudda—W. Potter, Esq., commanding; Brigadier McNeill and Staff; 250 Madras Fusiliers.

E.I.C.S.V. Damooda—R. Berwick, Esq., commanding, 250 Bengal Fusiliers.

E.I.C.S.V. Lord William Bentinck—J. Digney, Esq., commanding; 250 Madras Native Infantry.

H.M.S. Fox—

Commander Rowley Lambert.

Pinnace—Lieutenant Mason; Mr. Dunlop, midshipman, 15 men.

Barge—Mr. C. Pocock, mate and Mr. Lucas, midshipman, 13 men.

Gig—Mr. W. Dawes, midshipman, 6 men.

Gun-Boat—Mr. A Villiers, midshipman, 6 men.

H.M.S. Sphinx—Commander Charles D. A. Shadwell.

(1) Paddle-box boat.—Lieutenant J. H. Glover, 15 men.

(2) Paddle-box boat.—Mr. A. Morphy, M. Asst., 15 men.

Conveying 30 sappers each, the 1st towed by the E.I.C.S.V. Nerbudda, the 2nd by the E.I.C.S.V. Damooda.

Cutter.—Mr. A. Webb, Midshipman, 9 men.

Gig.—Mr. W. E. Cookson, Midshipman, 5 men.

Mr. J. F. Johnson, Assistant-Surgeon.

CHARLES D. A. SHADWELL,
Commander.

Commander Shadwell to Commodore Lambert.

*H.M.S. Sphinx, Rangoon,
November 24, 1852.*

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter relative to the expedition to Pegu, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, in accordance with the wishes of the Major-General Commanding the Forces, the troops, whom it was proposed should return to Rangoon, were embarked on board the East India Company's steamers Mahanuddy, Damooda, and Lord William Bentinck, on the evening of the 22nd. The two latter vessels left for Rangoon on the morning of the 23rd, and General Godwin and Staff having embarked on board the Mahanuddy during the afternoon, that vessel proceeded, and returned to Rangoon at noon this day.

A garrison of 430 men remains at Pegu, 230 Europeans and 200 Sepoys.

The Major-General at first wished the Nerbudda to remain at Pegu for a few days, but having subsequently changed his mind, I ordered that vessel to return also, and desired one of the Sphinx's paddle-box boats to remain until further orders.

Mr. Bamadistan, in charge of the Yawl of H. M. S. Winchester, arrived at Pegu, with a convoy of provision boats from Rangoon, on the morning of the 23rd. I have instructed that officer to return to Rangoon with the empty boats as soon as they have been cleared.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES D. A. SHADWELL,
Commander.

Major-General H. Godwin, C.B., Commanding the Forces in Ava, Arracan, and the Tenasserim Provinces, to C. Allen, Esq.

SIR,

Pegu, November 22, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Governor-General in Council, that Pegu was captured yesterday.

In June last I was induced, by strong representations from various sources, to send a small force to drive out some Burmese from Pegu. We had had some friendly intercourse with the inhabitants of that place, who declared to me that if they were put again in possession of their town they would be able to hold it. There was an armed party of Taliens at the time from the villages around, who promised their support.

The Burmese were driven out, and the people recovered possession of their town, but, as I feared, they did not hold it a week.

At this time it would have been inconvenient in many ways to have stationed a force there at the commencement of the monsoon.

Since that time I have had various reports of the enemy being in great force at Pegu, and that they had thrown up strong defences on the river, and from it to the Pagoda, within the site of the old city—they became troublesome also to several villages between this and Rangoon.

As the army will shortly be at Prome, with a garrison only at Rangoon, it became imperative to take possession of, and garrison Pegu.

I had determined upon this for some time, and the three small river steamers, with the Mahanuddy, having returned from Prome on the 16th of November, I arranged with Commodore Lambert that the troops should embark on Thursday evening, the 18th, when 300 men of the 1st Bengal Fusiliers, under Lieutenant Colonel Tudor; 300 of the 1st Madras Fusiliers, under Major Hill; 400 men of the 5th Madras N. I., under Major Shubrick; 70 Sappers, with two 24-pounder howitzers and 32 artillerymen, embarked by 7 o'clock, P.M.

This force I placed under the command of Brigadier McNeill, of the Madras Army.

I also embarked with my own Staff in the Mahanuddy, for the purpose of accompanying the expedition.

Commander Shadwell, of the Royal Navy, had charge of the Flotilla.

This town is situated about 60 miles from Rangoon, on a fine creek called the Pegu River, which runs into the Rangoon River, just below the town of Rangoon.

We started on Friday morning, the 19th, at day-break, and, in consequence of the shallow water, were obliged to anchor about two miles below Pegu at sunset, on the evening of the 20th.

The troops commenced disembarking at 4 A. M. the next morning, and were all assembled on shore by $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 o'clock, and when I joined the force at this hour, I found it buried in high grass jungle, and the whole country enveloped in a thick fog.

I was in some degree aware of the position of the enemy, from a plan I had had in my possession for some time, furnished by Captain Latter, he having accompanied the former expedition in June, but not the particulars of it until I saw it on the ground. The site of the old city, wherein the enemy was posted, is formed by a square, surrounded by a high bund, each side of which is presumed to be about two miles in length, the west side facing the river, and the square is surrounded by a wet moat, between 70 and 80 paces wide.