

From the south-west angle there is a causeway over the moat, close to, and paralled with, the river. This causeway the enemy had made exceedingly strong by traverses, and breaking it down at various intervals to prevent our advance. On the whole of the south face of the bund, fronting our position, they had bodies of troops stationed, extending for about a mile and quarter.

As the causeway on the right of their position was so narrow that only a file of men could advance along it against their numerous musquetry and local impediments, I abandoned all idea of attacking them there. It was, therefore, determined to force our way along the moat, and to turn the left of their position, on the south face of the square.

Captain Latter, my interpreter, who was with me, had with him a Burmese, who promised to find us a causeway leading into the bund, close to the left of their position. We commenced our advance, the Bengal Fusiliers leading, covered by the Rifle Company of the 5th Madras Native Infantry, and followed by the Madras Fusiliers and 5th Native Infantry, in file, and for two hours was this force struggling through the almost impenetrable grass and jungle along the outer edge of the moat, and exposed to a very warm fire from the enemy.

We at last reached a part of the moat which admitted of a passage for the troops, and marked by the extreme left of the enemy's position, and where they had a strong post and two guns.

I here directed Colonel Tudor to form a storming party of 150 of his own men, and 100 of the Madras Fusiliers, which the Lieutenant-Colonel led. At the signal given, they crossed the moat through mud and water, and most gallantly stormed the enemy's post. We were now masters of their position.

Our own guns were actively employed under Captain Mallock at the spot from which we first commenced our move, and after some time they were brought up, over almost impassable ground, nearly to the spot where we effected our entrance into the enemy's position, and they were protected by the Grenadiers of the 5th Madras Native Infantry under Captain Wyndham.

After resting the troops for some time, and collecting the wounded men, we again advanced by an excellent path in the direction of the large Pagoda. We suffered no molestation from the enemy, but on approaching the Pagoda, I formed a party for its attack, under Major Hill of the Madras Fusiliers, consisting of 100 of his own regiment, with a similar number of the Bengal Fusiliers. They advanced up to the steps of the Pagoda, and on ascending received a fire of musquetry, which they soon silenced, and took possession of the place at about one o'clock P.M.

The fatigues of the day were now over, and I am certain that while they lasted no soldiers ever met with more arduous ones, nor ever met the obstacles of such an advance with more cheerful and steady perseverance than did this little band of brave and determined men.

The enemy, by the least computation, could not number less than 5,000 men, evidently headed by people of consideration, by the numerous mounted people, as well as elephants, which were seen retiring by the road to Sitang.

Our loss is not nearly what I apprehended in the morning it might have been, and, considering the difficulties of the ground and exposure to the enemy, I congratulate myself that it is so small.

I have now to ask the Governor-General in Council's consideration of the services performed

on this expedition by the officers and men engaged.

To Brigadier McNeill, who formed up the force in the morning as it disembarked, and whose indefatigable exertions during the day brought on an exhaustion which occasioned me much distress to witness, and which deprived me of his valuable assistance for a short time.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Tudor, of the Bengal Fusiliers, who led the storming party and carried the enemy's position.

To Major Hill, of the Madras Fusiliers, who led the party which carried the Pagoda.

To Major Shubrick, of the 5th Madras Native Infantry, whose position in the Bentinck, which was considerably in advance of the rest of the Flotilla, called forth his greatest vigilance to protect his people from the enemy, who were around him, as also for his exertions during the day.

To Captain Mallock, for his exertions with the guns.

To Captain Brown, who commanded the Rifle Company of the 5th Madras Native Infantry, who covered our advance, and whose conduct I witnessed with much pleasure during the day.

I feel most particularly indebted to the attention and devotion paid to the sick and wounded by the Medical Officers who accompanied the force.

The Brigadier has brought to my notice Captain Renaud, his Brigade Major, whose services he highly appreciates.

To Captain Latter, whose distinguished gallantry on this as on all occasions has been conspicuous, as also his local information and active assistance, I beg to call your Lordship's particular attention.

To Commander Shadwell, who had charge of the naval part of this expedition, I am deeply indebted for the most unremitting exertions by night and day, and for the disembarkation of the troops, which was conducted as quietly as expeditiously. Neither the Steamers nor the boats could get up to the enemy's defences, owing to the shallowness of the river.

Captain Shadwell personally accompanied me throughout the day.

Will your Lordship permit me to introduce to your notice Commander Beauchamp Neymour, of the Royal Navy, who is here on a visit to many friends, who accompanied me during the day, and whose conduct was conspicuous on every occasion.

To Major Mayhew, Deputy Adjutant-General; Major Boulderson, Deputy Judge Advocate-General; Captain Hamilton, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; Captain Darroch, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General; Captain Burne, Military Secretary; and Captain Chads, Aide-de-Camp; the general and my personal Staff, whose duties were most arduous, being carried on on foot, and whose exertions to keep up the communication with the force in this broken ground were incessant, I beg to call your Lordship's attention.

I leave a garrison of 400 men, 200 of the Madras Fusiliers, and 200 of the 5th Madras Native Infantry, with two 24-pounder howitzers, and a detail of Artillery with 40 Sappers, which the upper terrace of the Pagoda will hold most commodiously, including the magazine and stores. This party will be under the command of Major Hill, of the Madras Fusiliers, a most excellent officer.

Lieutenant Campbell, of the Bengal Engineers, will see to its necessary defences.