



1903

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FOR CONSULTATION ONLY

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(2)

SKETCH OF THE SERVICES

OF THE

BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

TO THE YEAR 1895.

(92)

COMPILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL IN INDIA

BY

LIEUT. F. G. CARDEW,

10TH (THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN) BENGAL LANCERS.

JB



Revised and Edited in the
Military Department of the Government of India.

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OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA.

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PREFACE.



IT is hoped that these pages may form a suitable introduction to the regimental histories of the Bengal Army, filling up gaps in the military history of Northern India as told by them, recording actions and achievements of corps which now no longer exist, and giving a general view of events common to many regiments, which, if repeated at length in the record of each, would extend the succeeding volumes to an unnecessary degree.

Many of the periods dealt with are too much neglected in the histories available to the general reader; the details for these have been collected from contemporary magazine literature, while the more important authorities are quoted at the heads of chapters.

F. G. C.



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MEMORANDUM.

THIS "Sketch of the Services of the Bengal Native Army" was originally compiled by Lieutenant F. G. Cardew in 1890-91; it was afterwards revised in the Military Department by Mr. G. W. deRhé-Philipe, but, owing to a variety of circumstances, its publication has been delayed and it has only now been found practicable to put it through the press.

In the course of revision, advantage has been taken of the opportunity to make the work more complete by, first, the insertion of accounts of many little-known operations which had been omitted from the original compilation; secondly, by the introduction of more detailed and particular accounts of the more important campaigns; and, finally, by bringing it up to the abolition of the Presidency armies in 1895.

In carrying out the revision of this compilation, a large number of works and periodicals of various descriptions, and of varying degrees of authority, have been consulted, and a list of these is appended, but it is to be understood that the revision is based essentially on official records.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

CALCUTTA;

The 21st March 1903



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COURSE OF THE REVISION OF THE "SKETCH OF THE
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Life and Letters of the First Earl of Minto.

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Hunter's Military Sketches of the Goorkha War.

Life of Major-General Sir Robert Rollo Gillespie.



- Blacker's Memoirs of the Operations of the British Army in India during the Mahratta War, 1817—19.
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McNaghten's Memoir of the Military Operations of the Nagpore Subsidiary Force, 1817—19.
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Memoirs and Correspondence of Field Marshal Viscount Combermere.
Wilson's Narrative of the Burmese War, 1824—26.
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THE SERVICES OF THE BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

Chapter I—(1599—1767).

Political and Military Events in India (*Hough*)—History of British India (*Mill*)—History of the Bengal Infantry (*Williams*)—Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army (*Broome*)—Bengal Military Regulations, 1817.

Although the record of British progress in India has been essentially a military history, yet nearly a century elapsed after the first establishment of English traders in the country before the formation of an armed force for their defence.

Early
settlement in
Bengal.

The East India Company was formed in 1599 by an association of merchants, who established their first factory at Surat in 1612, and in 1640 erected Fort St. George. In the same year was despatched from England the first expedition to Bengal: this consisted of two ships, of which the crews were so well received by the Nawab of those provinces that the Company decided to prosecute the trade, and finally established a factory at Hooghly.

1640.

The Bengal settlements, however, remained dependent on that of Fort St. George, while their trade was subject to the control of the Native government of Bengal, by whom they were forbidden to entertain any military strength, beyond "an ensign and thirty men" to do honour to the principal agents.

1652.

In 1681 Bengal became independent of Madras, Mr. Hedges being sent from the latter place as the Company's "Agent and Governor in the Bay of Bengal and the factories subordinate." The first Governor took with him from Madras a party of a corporal and twenty soldiers, which little band was increased in 1683 by a company of soldiers, together with arms and accoutrements sufficient for another company. Meanwhile the traders at Hooghly had been for many years subject to the jealous repression and exactions of the Native government, and, being unable owing to the smallness of their numbers to enforce their claims, their ventures had been thwarted and their trade impoverished to such a degree that the Company at

1681.



First Military
Expedition to
Bengal, 1686.

length decided to equip an expedition of sufficient strength to assert the rights of their agents and to make definite terms with the Emperor Aurangzeb and Nawab Sha-istah Khan, the Governor of Bengal. This expedition consisted of a fleet of ten ships bearing six complete companies of infantry, which were augmented by the seamen to ten companies, or 1,000 men. It was further increased by a force of 400 men from Madras, and a company of Portuguese infantry (called Topasses, from the hats which they wore) raised by Job Charnock, the chief agent at Hooghly. But when the expedition arrived at the mouth of the Hooghly the fleet had already lost a third of its strength through contrary winds and bad weather. Several months were passed in desultory fighting and negotiations, until the British forces were reduced to the utmost straits by the effects of the climate, and at length found themselves hemmed in by overwhelming numbers and obliged to make their last stand on the fever-stricken island of Ingelli. At this crisis an offer of further negotiations was gladly accepted by Charnock, and in August 1687 a treaty was finally concluded with Nawab Sha-istah Khan, by which the English regained their former rights and received assurances for the future.

1688.
Captain
Heath's
Expedition.

A year had not passed, however, before the oppressions of the Nawab recommenced. Charnock again had recourse to negotiations; but while these were in progress there arrived from England, under the command of Captain Heath, an armed frigate bearing 160 men, sent out by the Court of Directors to carry into execution the orders which had been given to the leaders of the former expedition. Heath, an impatient and hot-tempered man, immediately had recourse to hostilities, seized and pillaged Balasore, made a demonstration before Chittagong, and at length, finding that neither his violence nor his negotiation were of much avail, he carried off the whole of the Company's troops, servants and portable property to Madras.

1690.

In August 1690, terms having been again agreed on with the Emperor, and Sha-istah Khan having been succeeded by Ibrahim Khan as Nawab of Bengal, Mr. Charnock, with the Company's servants, returned to the Hooghly and established themselves at Sutanati. For some years the settlement continued to increase rapidly without further molestation from the Native government, until in 1695 occurred the rebellion of Suba Singh, a Hindu zemindar of Burdwan, who, having attracted considerable numbers to his cause, threatened the safety of the Company's settlements. On this the local govern-

1695.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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ment enlisted Native soldiers for the protection of their property, and putting their factories into a state of defence originated the fortifications of Chinsura, Chandernagore, and Calcutta.

In 1699 Bengal was raised by the Court to the rank of a Presidency. Sir Charles Eyre was appointed President; and the fort at Calcutta, which was being rapidly pushed on, was named Fort William, in honour of King William III. In this year also was started the new 'English Company,' which, after several years of rivalry with the old or 'London Company,' was finally united to the latter in 1708. The military force at this time amounted to some 130 men, exclusive of a small party of artillerymen called "the Gunner and his Crew."

1699.
Bengal becomes a
Presidency.

For many years the trade and prosperity of Calcutta continued to increase rapidly; and although the military establishment appears to have kept pace with that of other branches of the service, yet no serious danger threatened the settlement until the year 1742, when the Mahrattas devastated the whole province and sacked the town of Hooghly. At this juncture the European and Armenian inhabitants were, for the first time, regularly embodied into a militia; a number of lascars were entertained to help the *gun-room crew* in working the guns, and the so-called Mahratta Ditch was commenced round the settlement: however, the Mahrattas did not advance, and the latter work was abandoned.

1742.

In 1754 the first legislative enactment for the regulation of the Company's military force was passed, and under it Articles of War were framed which, with slight modification, continued to guide the service for many years. The regular military establishment at this time appears to have consisted of five companies of infantry and one of artillery.

1754.

In 1756 the Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah succeeded to the Government of Bengal, and with this event opened the first great epoch of British progress in India, which, beginning in massacre, reverse, and almost extermination, finally ended in the subjugation of the whole Empire to British rule.

1756.
Accession of
Nawab Siraj-
ud-Daulah.

The Nawab had only assumed the government for a few weeks when he allowed himself to be carried away by his deep-rooted hatred of the English into open hostilities against the Company's settlements. Having attacked and taken the factory of Kasimbazar, with its little garrison of two officers (Lieutenant Elliot and Surgeon Forth) and forty-two regular soldiers, of whom less than half were Englishmen,

The capture of
Calcutta.



he advanced on Calcutta with his whole army, and crossed the Hooghly on the 15th of June. Within the capital consternation reigned among the inhabitants; confusion and timidity paralysed the leaders; the fort was ill-arranged and its defences decaying; the ammunition was scanty and inferior; the guns dismounted and useless, and the garrison amounted only to some 500 men, of whom but 174 were Englishmen. Hostilities were commenced by a slight success of the British, who seized the fort of Tannah on the opposite side of the river; but they were soon driven back and closely blockaded in Calcutta. At the first reverse the whole of the Native soldiers deserted, and in the course of the five days' defence which ensued, their conduct was surpassed in baseness by the headlong and selfish flight of the Governor, the Commandant and a great number of the officers of militia, who, embarking in the only available boats, went on board a Company's ship which was lying in the river and dropped down to Govindpur, leaving the unfortunate remnant of the garrison to their fate.

On the 20th of June the fort was taken, and on that night occurred the horrible incident of the "Black Hole", the story of which is too well known to need repetition.

The survivors of the British inhabitants, together with a re-inforcement of three ships from Bombay, took refuge at Palta: here they were joined in August by some 230 men from Madras under Major Kilpatrick, while a volunteer company was also formed, including a number of civil servants, among whom was the future Governor-General, Warren Hastings. Further re-inforcements were solicited from Madras, but, owing to delays and indecision, the whole of these, under Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Clive, did not reach Palta until December the 20th.

The expedition now comprised 250 of His Majesty's 39th Regiment, 570 of the Madras European infantry, 1,200 Madras sepoys, some details of artillery, 230 Bengal European infantry, and 70 volunteers, making a total of about 2,400 men.

Clive advanced from Palta on December 27th, and, after some sharp fighting, took the fort of Budge-Budge on the 29th. The forts of Tannah and Aligarh were abandoned by the Nawab's troops without a shot being fired, and on January 2nd Fort William was again in the hands of the British. Hooghly was re-taken on January 17th by a force detached under Major Kilpatrick; and on the 12th a large



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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body of about 5,000 of the enemy was defeated at Gongi, near Bandel, by 50 British soldiers and 100 sepoys under Captain Eyre Coote.

Whilst these expeditions were in progress, Clive turned his attention to the means at hand of securing the footing just regained by the English in Bengal. He found his small army confronted on the one side by the forces of the Nawab, with whom all attempts at negotiation proved useless, and on the other, by the French settlers of Chandernagore, whom the events occurring in Europe, where war had lately been declared between England and France, would certainly range amongst his enemies. (He determined to supply his pressing need for re-inforcements by the formation of a battalion of sepoys. The native troops (called Buxaries, and in Madras Telingas or Peons) which had hitherto been employed as occasion required, were wholly undisciplined, and were armed and equipped in Native style: even the more carefully trained Madras and Bombay sepoys adhered to Native dress and equipment. Clive, however, determined to try the experiment of assimilating them as nearly as possible to European troops. Having raised some three or four hundred picked men, he furnished them not only with arms but also with dress of European pattern, drilled and disciplined them as regular troops, and appointed a British officer and non-commissioned officers to command and instruct them. This, the earliest Bengal Native regiment, was for many years known as the *Lal Pallan*,* on account of its equipment, but later it went by the name of *Gillis-ki-pallan*, from Captain Primrose Galliez, who obtained command of it in 1763 and held that post for many years: it became the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Bengal Native Infantry in 1796.)

Formation of
battalion of
sepoys.

(Recruits for Clive's Native battalion were easily obtained. The Musalman conquest of Bengal and the general disturbances in the governments of Northern India brought numbers of the fighting races down to the lower provinces in search of service, or enrichment by other means, and in the corps then raised around Calcutta were to be found Pathans, Rohillas, Jats, Rajputs, and even Brahmans.†

* *Pallan* is derived from the English, *platoon*, which is itself a corruption of the French *peloton*.—P.

† The first regiments of the Bengal Native Army having been raised in Bengal, both Hamilton (*Geographical, Statistical and Historical Description of Hindustan*) and Bishop Heber (*Indian Journal*) take it for granted that these corps were composed of *native Bengalis*,—a ridiculous error out of which the Bengali press has made much capital of late years.—P.



THE SERVICES OF THE

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Battle of
Cossipore.

At the end of January re-inforcements arrived in Bengal of artillery and stores : and on the 5th of February Clive attacked and defeated the Nawab's army, which had advanced within the Company's territory, near Cossipore. The British loss (Royal Navy included) was 57 killed and 117 wounded, of whom 18 of the killed and 35 of the wounded were sepoys; that of the enemy was reckoned at 1,300. A treaty of peace with Siraj-ud-Daulah was the result of the battle. The total casualties in action up to this period, in the Army, appear to have amounted to 41 Europeans (including 6 officers) and 18 Natives killed, and 78 Europeans (including 9 officers) and 55 Natives wounded,—192 in all.

Taking of
Chander-
nagore.

Clive's next object was the attack of the French settlement of Chandernagore. Re-inforcements reached him from Bombay early in March, and, notwithstanding the opposition of the Nawab, hostilities were begun before Chandernagore on the 14th of that month. A combined attack by the troops and fleet was made on the fort on the 23rd, and the place surrendered on the same day. The casualties amongst the troops on this occasion were about 40 killed and wounded : in the fleet the losses were more severe, amounting to 32 killed and 99 wounded, including several officers.

This success induced great numbers of Natives to apply for service in Clive's army, and his newly raised battalion of sepoys was largely augmented. Meantime, while perfecting the drill and discipline of these troops, Clive was also occupied in negotiations with Mir Jafar Khan, the Nawab's principal officer in Bengal, and this with so much success that an advantageous treaty was concluded early in June. By this an agreement was made for mutual support, and besides the advantages already ceded by Siraj-ud-Daulah in February, all the lands lying south of Calcutta were granted to the Company and a pledge was exacted that the Nawab would erect no fortifications below Hooghly. These negotiations did not check the advance of the troops, who were at length, by Mir Jafar Khan's aid, enabled to make preparations for an attack on the Nawab.

On the 16th of June the army reached Patli, and on the 18th Major Eyre Coote, with a force of 200 Europeans and 500 sepoys, attacked and captured Katwa.

At this juncture suspicions began to be entertained of the sincerity of Mir Jafar Khan in his promises of support to the English, and Clive called a council of war to decide the question of immediate



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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action or delay until after the monsoon. Though the majority of votes—his own amongst them—were for the latter course, Clive's final decision was for active measures. He advanced from his position on the 22nd of June and arrived at Plassey on the morning of the 23rd.

The following, according to Broome, was the actual strength of the forces engaged: British artillery, including 50 sailors, 150 men, with 8 six-pounder guns and two small howitzers; British infantry (detachments of the 39th Foot, and of the Bengal, Madras and Bombay European infantry), 750; Topasses, 200; Native infantry, Madras and Bengal, 2,100. The Nawab's army is said to have numbered 50,000 foot and 18,000 horse, with a very powerful train of artillery.

The battle of Plassey, June 23rd, 1757.

The battle was begun about 8 A.M. by artillery fire from both sides, the English force being drawn up in line in front of a mango grove. After half an hour's firing, Clive, finding that his exposed position was causing a loss of valuable lives, retired into the grove, the bank round which served as a breastwork for his men. The British artillery kept up a smart and effective fire from behind this shelter, which played havoc amongst the masses of the Nawab's army, while the guns of the latter were not only badly served, but their ammunition rendered useless by a heavy shower of rain. Soon after noon the Nawab was much disheartened by the news of the death of his most trusted general, Mir Madin. Once aroused, his fears continued to increase every moment; he eagerly adopted the advice of those around him to return to his capital; orders were hastily given for the troops to retire to their fortified camp; the Nawab mounted a fast *sowari* camel, and, escorted by 2,000 horsemen, fled precipitately to Murshidabad.

Clive, seeing the turn which affairs were taking, advanced with his whole force and cannonaded the enemy's entrenchments, upon which their troops again turned out and came into action; but the dispositions of the English general were well made: his infantry were lodged close to the enemy's entrenchment, and their hot musketry fire, coupled with a heavy cannonade from the guns, quickly threw the troops of the Nawab into confusion. By 5 P.M. the whole enormous mob was scattered in headlong flight, and the camp, with all its baggage and stores, was in the hands of the English. The pursuit was kept up until 8 P.M., when Clive halted for the night at Daudpur.



THE SERVICES OF THE

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Our loss in the battle was extremely small, amounting (exclusive of any casualties that may have occurred amongst the seamen) to only 5 Europeans and 13 Natives killed, and 18 Europeans (including three officers) and 30 Natives wounded.* Of the officers wounded on this memorable occasion two were of the Bengal army, Lieutenant Cassells of the artillery and Lieutenant De Lubers of the European infantry: the name of the third officer (a lieutenant of the Madras artillery) has unfortunately not been preserved. Among the wounded, too, was Midshipman Richard Shorediche, of the *Kent*. Many years after, in 1829, the surviving corps of the Bengal Army received authority to inscribe the word "PLASSEY" on their colours.

Siraj-ud-Daulah arrived at Murshidabad at midnight on the 23rd. Throughout the 24th, as news reached him of the advance of the English, his terror hourly increased, and he fled at night from the city, almost alone. Clive entered Murshidabad on the 29th and placed Mir Jafar Khan on the *masnad*. On the 3rd of July Siraj-ud-Daulah was brought back a captive to Mir Jafar, and on the same night was ruthlessly murdered by order of Miran, the son of the new Nawab.

For two months after the victory of Plassey, Clive was occupied in exacting from Mir Jafar Khan the indemnity previously agreed upon, and in settling the disputes which arose amongst the British officers, military and naval, over the partition of the same. At the same time he turned his attention to the increase of the military force of Bengal, and to this end he enlisted men for a second regular battalion of sepoys, and formed the corps on drafts from the old battalion.

Meanwhile a small force of French under Monsieur Law, which had marched from Bhagalpur to the assistance of Siraj-ud-Daulah, on hearing of the overthrow of that prince, made towards Patna with the intention of joining the Rajah Ram Narayan. In order to prevent his junction, a detachment was despatched under Major Coote, on the 6th of July, consisting of 220 British troops and 500 sepoys, with a detail of artillery.

On their march occurred the first recorded instance of a Native court-martial in Bengal, when a sepoy was tried for conniving at the escape of a prisoner, and sentenced, by a court composed of Subadars and Jemadars of the detachment, to receive 500 lashes and he dismissed the service.

* These figures are taken from Clive's official returns. They differ materially from those given in Broome's History and other publications.—P.

*757.
rising of the
d Native
attalion.

pedition to
tna.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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After many difficulties and hardships at the most unhealthy season of the year, Coote's detachment reached Patna on the 26th of July, only to find that Law had escaped them and was now on the borders of Oudh, where he could take refuge at any moment. For many days great discontent had existed among the troops: the British soldiers were in a mutinous state, and the Madras sepoy declared that they would go no further into the interior. However, expostulations and persuasions prevailed on them to advance again; and they continued to push on as far as Chapra (2nd August), whence a despatch from Clive recalled the detachment to Patna, and eventually to Murshidabad, where it arrived on September the 13th.

During this autumn a slight disturbance occurred amongst the Nawab's troops at Kasimbazar; and a revolt took place at Dacca, when a company of the 1st Native Battalion was sent to assist the Nawab of that place.

On the 17th of November Clive marched from Calcutta, and joined the Nawab at Murshidabad; with him was a force of 550 British, some details of artillery, and 1,500 sepoy; while the Nawab was accompanied by a force of 40,000 men. Following the route by which Coote had advanced in July, the combined force arrived at Patna on the 4th of February, 1758. Here some months were passed in discussing the settlement of the country; while Clive also occupied himself in raising a third battalion of sepoy, composed, for the most part, of men enlisted in the Bhojpur district.

Second
expedition to
Patna.

The 3rd Natl
Battalion
raised.

On Clive's return to Murshidabad in May, news reached him of the increased strength of the French on the Madras coast. He immediately returned to Calcutta, and pushed on the completion of the new fort at Govindpur, the present Fort William. In July he accepted the post of President of the newly re-organised local Government, and forthwith set about measures of considerable importance to the military strength of Bengal. Instead of sending back to their presidencies the British detachments from Madras and Bombay, all who volunteered for service in Bengal were formed into a Bengal European battalion,* into which also were received a number of volunteers, both officers and men, from His Majesty's

* Both Broome and Innes assign a much earlier date to the formation of the Bengal European Battalion (now the 1st Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers), but the exact date is really a matter of conjecture, and probably they are both wrong. Innes' statements on this point are, indeed, disproved by Clive's returns.—P.



THE SERVICES OF THE

CSL

Native
Battalion
Sep.,
September,
58.

expedition to
Vizagapatam.

Battle of
Condore, 8th
December,
58.

39th Regiment; the artillery was re-organised and formed into two companies; and a fourth battalion of sepoys was raised at the same time. The command of this corps was soon afterwards conferred upon Lieutenant Hugh Grant, from whom it became known as *Grant-ki-pallan*: in the re-organisation of 1796 it became the 1st battalion of the 2nd Regiment.

Meanwhile, the French successes in the Carnatic were becoming more and more pronounced, and the Madras Government appealed to Bengal for assistance. On the 12th of October, 1758, a strong detachment was sent by Clive under Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Forde, the Commandant in Bengal, with orders to proceed by sea to Vizagapatam, and, by creating a diversion there, to render assistance to the Madras Government. With this detachment were five companies of the Bengal European Battalion, the 2nd Artillery Company, the 1st and 2nd Bengal Native Battalions, and a battalion of Madras sepoys who had come round to Bengal in 1755. This was the first occasion on which Bengal sepoys were sent by sea on active service.

Colonel Forde met the French army of the Northern Circars, under the Marquis de Conflans, on the 8th of December at Condore, about forty miles from Rajahmundry, and inflicted on them a signal defeat: as his force advanced to the attack, the two Bengal Native battalions, which were on the flanks, were fully exposed to view, while the European Battalion, which formed the centre, was completely concealed by high standing crops: the French, moving obliquely to their right to attack the Native battalion forming the left of the British line, exposed their left flank to the British centre; thrown into great confusion by a deadly volley from the British battalion, they fell back hastily, and the volley being succeeded by a charge, they were, after a short but severe combat, driven from the field with loss. Our loss was Captain Adnet, and 15 British and 100 Native soldiers killed; 4 officers and 20 British and 100 Native soldiers wounded. The enemy lost 6 officers and 120 killed and wounded of the French troops, and a large number of sepoys.* No honorary distinction for this engagement was given until 1841, when, under some misapprehension, the Madras Government authorised the 1st Madras European Regiment, of which corps not a man was present

* Cambridge says—"We had 44 Europeans killed and wounded, among which were two captains and three lieutenants; and the French 156, officers included."
—P.



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in the action, to inscribe the word "CONDORE" on its colours. The distinction has recently been placed on the colours of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, the only corps now existing which is, as representing the 1st Bengal European Regiment, entitled to wear it.

Colonel Forde advanced on the 9th, accompanied by the Rajah Anandiraj of Vizianagram; while a detachment sent on in advance under Captain Knox seized the town and fort of Rajahmundry, on the Godavari, on the 10th. Here a delay of six weeks took place, owing to the failure of Anandiraj to fulfil his engagements, and it was not until the 6th of February that the English force occupied Ellore. After seizing the French factory of Narsipur, Forde advanced and stormed the fort of Konkale on the 3rd March, and thence continuing his march to Masulipatam, arrived there on the 6th.

The fort of Masulipatam was a position of great natural strength, surrounded on three sides by a swamp of considerable extent. Almost at the outset of the siege the English found themselves in a most critical position; their treasure chests were empty; their retreat by the road by which they had come was cut off by the recapture of Rajahmundry by the French under du Rocher; and, the siege of Madras having been raised, a powerful army under General Lally was marching thence to the relief of Masulipatam. At this critical moment the European troops broke into open mutiny, but were pacified and re-assured by Colonel Forde, and the preparations for the assault pushed on with vigour. At length at midnight on the 7th of April the attempt was made; Captain Knox led the 1st Bengal Battalion in a false attack, while the remainder of the force was formed in three divisions for the real assault. The plan was completely successful, and, the principal defences having been carried by storm, on the morning of the 8th of April, de Conflans surrendered. The conduct of the Bengal troops on this occasion was excellent, and they emulated the Europeans in their gallantry. Our loss was 3 officers, 22 British and 50 Native soldiers killed; 62 British and 150 sepoy wounded. The enemy lost of Europeans alone 113 killed.

The effect of this success was to damp the ardour of the Nizam, who had previously been lending aid to the French, and he opened negotiations with Colonel Forde: meeting, however, with but indifferent success, he at length in disgust withdrew his force towards Hyderabad. The expected French reinforcements arrived off Masulipatam

1739.

Siege and
storming of
Masulipatam



a week after its capture, and being apprised of that event, sailed for Ganjam, which place they fortified. In October Colonel Forde, accompanied by Captain Knox, returned to Calcutta, leaving Captain Fischer in command of the detachment, now reduced to some 1,100 men, of whom 300 were Europeans. The latter was ordered to return by land to Calcutta: marching by the route by which they had advanced in the preceding year, news reached Fischer at Rajahmundry that the French from Ganjam had occupied Coconada. He reached that place on the 28th December, and the fort was surrendered on the following day without a struggle.

Thus terminated the efforts of the French on the east coast, and by the success of Forde's expedition in the face of great difficulties those districts were acquired for England which had formerly constituted the most valuable possession of France in Hindustan.

Captain Fischer continued his march with the two Bengal battalions of his detachment, sending the Europeans and artillery by sea; and arrived at Calcutta in March, 1760.

Meanwhile the past year had been a busy one in Bengal. To make up, in some degree, for the absence of such a large detachment in the Northern Circars, a fifth battalion of sepoys was raised at the end of 1758, the command of which was given to Lieutenant George Wilson, whose name it bore. In the midst of the work of organising recruits and strengthening the defences of Fort William, Clive's attention was called to fresh danger threatening from the north. Since the death of Aurangzeb the power of the Delhi dynasty had been rapidly decreasing: internal strife and external reverses had sapped the strength of the once all-powerful empire; and the time now under review found the reigning Emperor Alam Gir Sani a mere puppet in the hands of his favourite minister, Ghazi-u-din Khan, commonly called Umed-ul-Malk. Early in 1759 the Emperor's eldest son, Shahzada Ali Gohar, who subsequently ascended the throne as Shah Alam, impatient of the control of his father's minister, raised the standard of revolt in Rohilkhand and, prompted by the interested counsels of the chiefs who joined him, marched, in the first instance, towards Patna, with the intention of seizing the rich provinces of Bengal and Bihar. Clive, who saw the motives for, and the instability of, the support accorded to the Shahzada, declared his intention of suppressing the rebellion against the emperor, and marched towards Patna with a



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force of 450 British and 2,500 sepoy, comprising the 3rd and 4th Battalions, and part of the 5th. In company with Miran, the son of the Nawab Mir Jafar Khan, he reached Patna on April the 8th, where he found that the Rajah Ram Narayan had already successfully repelled the attack of the Shahzada's force, and that the latter had, as Clive had conjectured, fallen to pieces at the first sign of a reverse. The Shahzada himself took refuge with Monsieur Law in the French station of Chatarpur, and Clive, having spent some weeks in quieting the surrounding districts and strengthening the defences of Patna, where he left a detachment of European troops and five companies of sepoy, returned to Calcutta in June, 1759.

Scarcely had he arrived there when rumours of yet another enemy reached him. For some time past the Dutch stations in Bengal had viewed with apprehension and jealousy the growing influence of the English. Encouraged, doubtless, by the attitude of Mir Jafar Khan, who was faithless and ungrateful enough to side against his foreign allies at any moment when it seemed to his advantage to do so, the Dutch brought matters to a head in October, 1759, when a fleet of seven vessels full of troops arrived in the Hooghly; while in the meantime their forces at Chinsura had been strengthened by the enlistment of sepoy and the arrival of European recruits. The English strength was inferior both by sea and land. Three Indiamen comprised the whole of their fleet, while their army was weakened by detachments at Patna, Midnapore, Vizagapatam and several other stations. Clive, however, was not shaken by the difficulties of the situation from the customary firmness of his attitude. Hostilities were commenced by the Dutch in November, when their ships seized several trading vessels bearing the English flag, and the factories of Palta and Raipur were destroyed. On this Clive ordered Captain Wilson, who acted as commodore of the English fleet, to engage the enemy immediately: a hard-fought action ensued on November the 24th, which ended in the complete discomfiture of the Dutch and the capture of every one of their ships.

Dutch invasions
of Bengal.

On the same day the British army under Colonel Forde, who had arrived opportunely from Vizagapatam and assumed command, engaged the Dutch force from Chinsura at Chandernagore, and drove them back on their base with great loss. On the following day he again gave them battle at Badara and, after half an hour's sharp

Battle of
Badara,
25th Novem-
ber, 1759.



fighting, completely defeated and dispersed them. The loss of the English was trifling, while that of the Dutch amounted to 320 killed, 300 wounded, and upwards of 600 prisoners. The 3rd and 4th Bengal Native Battalions were engaged in this action.

After these reverses the Dutch were only too eager to come to terms, and a treaty was shortly agreed on, by which they acknowledged themselves the aggressors, promised to pay ten lakhs indemnity, and disavowed the conduct of their fleet; receiving back in return the ships and prisoners which had been taken by the English.

increase of the
Army.

The close of the year was occupied by Clive in finding fit successors to himself in the command of the army and in the post of Governor of Bengal, with a view to his own departure for England: for the former post he chose Major Caillaud and for the latter Mr. Vansittart, both of the Madras service. He also gave his attention to obtaining recruits for the Bengal European Battalion, and to raising the strength of the five Native battalions to 1,000 men each; the complement of officers allowed to each of these battalions was one Captain, one Lieutenant and one Ensign, with four European non-commissioned officers. Finally, he organised an expedition under Major Caillaud against the Shahzada, who was again threatening the Northern Provinces, and accompanied it in person as far as Murshidabad. This done, he took his departure from India on the 25th of February, 1760.

x760.
Second expedi-
tion against
the Shahzada.

Major Caillaud's force, with the troops of Mir Jafar Khan under the command of Miran, left Murshidabad on the 18th January, 1760, on their way to Patna. But news now reached them which considerably altered the aspect of affairs and the position of the Shahzada himself. The old Emperor was put to death at the end of 1759 by his minister Umed-ul-Mulk (Ghazi-u-din), who forthwith proclaimed a younger son, under the title of Shah Jahan Sani, as Emperor. On this news reaching the Shahzada he immediately assumed the emblems of royalty, caused himself to be proclaimed emperor under the name of Shah Alam, and demanded acknowledgment of his title from all rulers of provinces. As the eldest son of the late emperor and the rightful heir, numbers flocked to support him, and he became a much more powerful enemy than when merely an outlawed and needy adventurer. These facts did not, however, alter the determination of the English and Mir Jafar, who, having for years regarded the sovereignty of Delhi as an empty name, were not inclined to suffer



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its encroachments quietly. This being so, the force hastened on to the support of their frontier ally, the Rajah of Patna. As in the former expedition, however, Shah Alam arrived at Patna before the English army, but, although Ram Narayan, less successful than on the previous occasion, was completely defeated,* the emperor neglected to follow up his victory, and was found by Major Caillaud still investing Patna. In the action which ensued (Sirpur, 22nd February, 1760) the emperor's army was completely broken and dispersed, a result to which the steady firing and determined bayonet charge of the sepoy battalions largely contributed.

But the obstinacy and indolence of Miran wasted the advantages which might have been the result of this victory: until the 29th of February he refused to move from Patna, and was only induced to some show of energy by the news that the emperor, having recovered from his reverse, was marching boldly on Burdwan. For a whole month the allied forces of Major Caillaud and the young Nawab prosecuted a stern chase after the emperor through a difficult and almost unknown country; and it was only by the extraordinary indecision of the latter that they were finally enabled to come up with him. Meanwhile the news of the emperor's advance on Burdwan had thrown Mir Jafar and the authorities at Calcutta into the greatest alarm, which was not decreased by the appearance of a Mahratta force, threatening the capital from the direction of Midnapore. While endeavouring to make terms for himself with the emperor, Mir Jafar marched with his whole force towards Burdwan, whither a part of his army, assisted by 300 of the Company's troops under Captain Speir, had already been sent; on the 23rd of March this force was augmented by Captain Fischer with 500 more men, while the two battalions of sepoys from the Northern Circars under Captain MacLean were advancing through Midnapore to effect a junction with the army. On the 1st of April Shah Alam was within a few miles of the Nawab's camp, but hesitated to attack him, and on the 4th the Nawab was joined by his son and Major Caillaud. Still the emperor refused to give battle, which Major Caillaud, being without cavalry was unable to force on him, and the apathy of the Nawab, only equalled by that of the enemy,

* In this action, which was fought at Masimpur on the 9th February, 1760, the British detachment which had been left at Patna by Clive was almost annihilated. The only officer who survived was the Surgeon, William Fullarton, who was also, some years later, the sole survivor of the atrocious Patna massacre.—P.



denied the British commander assistance. At length Shah Alam entirely abandoning the object of his march, returned by the route he had come and hastened against Patna.

The garrison of that place was in a precarious condition; the defences were weak and the force behind them consisted of only Ram Narayan's troops, with a small detachment of sepoys and no officer but Dr. Fullarton. The emperor's army was joined at Bihar by Monsieur Law and a small force of French, whence the whole proceeded to invest Patna. The defence was a most gallant one, but the little garrison was all but at its last stand when it was relieved on the 28th of April by a detachment under Captain Knox, of which the 1st Native Battalion from the Northern Circars formed a part.*

On the following day a sally by Knox compelled the emperor to retire, and drove his army back to Gaya Manpur; while a fortnight later a large force under the Nawab of Purnea, who was marching to join the emperor, was encountered and completely dispersed by the English—an engagement (Birpur, 16th June, 1760) in which the 1st Native Battalion greatly distinguished itself.

Major Caillaud joined the force at Patna within a few days, but, after chasing the Nawab of Purnea into the district of Bettiah, * again left for Calcutta on the 31st August, having been summoned to meet Mr. Vansittart, the new Governor. One of the first of his acts on return to head-quarters was to endeavour to raise some cavalry, the want of which he had felt so much during his past campaign. With this view he caused two troops of European dragoons and one of hussars to be raised from the European infantry; while a short time previously he had succeeded in raising two rissalahs of cavalry, called the Moghal Horse, composed of, and officered entirely by, Natives, who provided their own horses, arms and accoutrements, and received Rs. 50 a month pay.

The greater part of the autumn was occupied in settling the internal affairs of Bengal which had been thrown into confusion by the misgovernment of Mir Jafar: to this end Mir Muhammad Kasim Ali Khan, his son-in-law, was appointed the Nawab's deputy, and invested

* It was during this expedition that Miran, the son of Mir Jafar and the commander of his forces, was struck dead by lightning, 3rd July, 1760—three years, to the day, after he had procured the murder of Siraj-ud-Daulah.—P.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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with the administration, while Mir Jafar himself was removed from Murshidabad to Calcutta, and retained there under British protection.

In November, Lieutenant-Colonel Caillaud was appointed to command the Madras Army, and Major Carnac arrived in Calcutta to relieve him: he remained, however, for some time longer in Bengal.

The last two months of the year were occupied in settling the provinces of Midnapore, Burdwan, Birbhum and Monghyr, all of which had been disturbed by the emperor's invasion and the subsequent changes of Government. In the attack on, and defeat of, the rebellious Rajah of Kharakpur, near Monghyr, a detachment of sepoys showed great gallantry, carrying the rajah's positions and dispersing the enemy at the point of the bayonet.

At the beginning of 1761, Major Carnac assumed command of the Bengal Army, and immediately resumed hostilities against the Emperor Shah Alam: the latter had profited by his long rest, and had considerably increased his influence and strength: his head-quarters were established at Bihar, and towards that place Carnac marched in the first days of January. The emperor met him at Suan, about three *kos* west of Bihar, on the 15th of the month, and was defeated and his army dispersed. The English, following up the flying enemy, came in contact with Monsieur Law and his party, who were endeavouring to cover the retreat; these after some resistance were thrown into disorder and Law, with about 14 officers and 50 men, surrendered.

The English continued a harassing pursuit of Shah Alam until the 29th of January, when the latter, finding his followers deserting him and his position daily becoming more precarious, opened negotiations with Carnac, and all hostilities ceased.

It had by this time become apparent that the Bengal Army was insufficient to meet the increasing demands on its services. Accordingly two more battalions of sepoys were raised, one at Patna by Captain Stibbert and one at Chittagong by Lieutenant Mathews. They were numbered, respectively, the 6th and 7th Battalions; the former became the 1st Battalion of the 8th* in 1796, and the latter, after most distinguished service, was disbanded for mutiny in 1784.

The total strength in Bengal now amounted to 200 British and 200 Native cavalry, 200 artillery, and 900 British and 8,400 Native infantry, including local companies.

1761.

6th and 7th
Native Battalions raised.

* Having been stationed at Jellalore for some time this battalion acquired the designation of *Jallasur-ki-paltan*.—P.



THE SERVICES OF THE

CSL

In April, 1761, Captain Champion, who had been left with a detachment at Gaya, attacked and defeated Kamgar Khan, Nawab of Tirhut, who had formerly been Shah Alam's chief adviser.

Two months later, the emperor determined to make an effort to seize the throne of Delhi, and set out for this purpose, escorted to the frontier in great state by a British force.

In April Lieutenant-Colonel Coote arrived in Bengal, and assumed the post of Commander-in-Chief; he shortly afterwards proceeded to Patna to take command of the army in the field, but such were the disputes which immediately arose between him and the new Nawab, Mir Muhammad Kasim, that both he and Carnac were recalled to Calcutta by the Governor, leaving at Patna, under Captain Carstairs a detachment consisting of one company of artillery, four companies of the European Battalion, and the 2nd and 3rd Native Battalions.

Nor were matters improved during the remainder of 1761 or in the following year: several changes occurred in the Council, and the party which had the ascendancy in all matters were men who at every turn increased the growing hostility of the Nawab to the English. Thus, affairs went from bad to worse, until in June, 1763 it was evident to all parties that a crisis was at hand.

At this time the army of Mir Muhammad Kasim was in a state of efficiency and discipline very different from the disorganised rabble of his predecessors. The cavalry were well organised and mounted; the infantry, divided into *najibs* and *telingas*, of whom the latter were modelled on the pattern of the Bengal sepoy, were excellently equipped and armed; and the artillery, also organised on the European model, was in no way inferior to that of the English, as far at least as their weapons and ammunition were concerned.

In the Bengal Army, on the other hand, various changes were introduced, as a collision with the Nawab became more and more a matter of the immediate future. During 1762, the independent companies at Burdwan were increased to a battalion, whose number in order of raising was the 8th, but which was always known as the *Burdwan-ki-paltan*. Early in 1763 a second Burdwan Battalion, the 9th, was raised, commonly known as the *Chota Burdwan-ki-paltan*. These two corps were commanded, respectively, by Captains MacLean and Smith, and became, in 1796, the first battalions of the 1st and 9th Regiments. The independent companies at Midnapore were also formed into a battalion (the 10th,—afterwards the 1st battalion of the

Colonel Coote,
Commander-in-
Chief.

1761.

1763.

Raising of the
8th, 9th, 10th,
11th, and 12th
Native Battalions.

1762-63.



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6th) under Lieutenant Archibald Swinton; * a local battalion, the 11th, was raised at Chittagong by Lieutenant Lewis Brown; and about April, 1763, a 12th Battalion was raised at Calcutta, the command of which was at a later period given to Captain John Trevanion; this in 1796 became the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Regiment.†

These additions to the army raised the total force in Bengal to about 1,500 Europeans and 10,000 Natives: of these, four companies of British Infantry, 220 in all, and one of artillery, 40 strong, with the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Native battalions, 2,500, were at Patna, under the command of Captain Carstairs; at Burdwan were two Native battalions; in Midnapore three companies of Europeans, some artillery, and a troop of Native cavalry; at Chittagong two Native battalions; and the remainder of the force at the Presidency.

In accordance with the expectations of all concerned, hostilities between Nawab Mir Muhammad Kasim and the English began towards the end of June 1763. On the 24th of that month, Mr. Ellis, the Agent at Patna, hearing that reinforcements of the Nawab's troops were coming from Monghyr to strengthen the garrison of the former place, determined to seize the city before their arrival. The plan was carried into execution in the early morning of the following day, but the victors did not even complete their success to the extent of possessing themselves of the citadel, and gave themselves up to unbridled license and plunder. Within a few hours the Nawab's troops arrived from Monghyr, and, after a very short resistance, completely turned the tables on the British force, which retreated in confusion to the factory. The loss in the taking of the place was as follows:—killed, four officers and 8 other Europeans: wounded, 5 officers, 10 European soldiers, and 100 sepoys. Finding himself hard-pressed, Mr. Ellis attempted to retreat into Oudh, but after a harassing march of two days the force was completely surrounded by the enemy and the whole either killed or taken prisoners; all the Europeans who were taken prisoners were carried to Patna and there massacred three months later, with the exception of Dr. Fullarton, who was spared, and of four sergeants who escaped.

Hostilities commenced with the Nawab.

Fighting at Patna.

Battle of Manji.

* From a corruption of this officer's name this battalion acquired the name of *Sooltan-ki-paltan*.—P.

† At one time known in the Native Army as *Teerbanis-ki-palton*; at a later period, however, it was called *Duffal-ki-paltan*, from Captain Duffield, who commanded it for some years.—P.



Captain Carstairs was killed at Manji, where the force made their last stand (1st July, 1763).

War was declared at Calcutta against Mir Muhammad Kasim on the 7th of July, and Mir Jafar Khan was restored to power and proclaimed Subadar of Bengal; but before the main army under Major Adams* could move from the Presidency, the Nawab had reached Kasimbazar, the factory at which place he attacked and captured without difficulty.

On July the 17th, a brilliant combat was fought by a detachment composed of the 2nd Burdwan Battalion, who were escorting treasure and supplies from Burdwan for the main army. Near the Adji river the battalion, under Lieutenant Glenn, was attacked by overwhelming forces of the enemy, who, encouraged by the hopes of rich plunder, returned again and again to the onslaught, but were finally driven off with enormous loss, and Glenn, with his convoy, reached Katwa the same evening. Here he found the fort defended by a weak and dispirited detachment of the enemy; notwithstanding his previous hard work, he boldly attacked the place, which, after a feeble resistance, was evacuated. Glenn, with his little force, joined the main army, under Major Adams, on the following day.

On the 19th of July, the first general engagement took place between Major Adams' force and the army of the Nawab under Muhammad Takki Khan opposite Katwa and close to the field of Plassey. The English gained a complete victory, though with considerable loss, and, following up their success on the 23rd, marched to Murshidabad, which was abandoned by the enemy after the loss of the outlying intrenchments at Motijhil.

On the 25th, Jafar Khan made a triumphant entry into the city, and took his seat on the *masnad*.

On the 2nd of August, Major Adams' army was again in the presence of the enemy, who were drawn up on the plains of Gheriah to the number of nearly 40,000 men, of whom 12,000 were cavalry: confident in their own strength, the enemy advanced to the attack, and in the battle which ensued the British position was several times in danger, but the steadiness and gallantry of the English and Native infantry at length bore down all opposition, and after a hard-fought action Adams remained master of the field, having gained a brilliant

The battle of
Gheriah 2nd
August, 1763.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

CSL

victory and captured the whole of the enemy's artillery (seventeen guns) and large quantities of stores. Among the killed on this occasion were Lieutenant Kaylor, of the Artillery, and the gallant Lieutenant Glenn above-mentioned.

On the 5th of August, Major Adams resumed his march, and on the 11th encamped nearly parallel to the enemy's fortified lines at Udwah-nala. The latter position was a very strong one, and it was not until September the 5th that the assault was attempted. At day-break on that day the place was carried with but small loss on our side, though it included Captain John Broadbrook* who had for many years commanded the 1st Battalion of Sepoys. The enemy fled to Monghyr, which place was invested by Major Adams and surrendered to him on the 22nd of October.

The Barr
Udwah-n
5th Septe
1763.

The fall of Monghyr was the death-knell of the unfortunate persons whom the Nawab had captured in their retreat from Patna at the beginning of the war. Hitherto Mir Muhammad Kasim had been content to keep them as hostages, and near his own person; now, overcome with blind fury, he ordered their execution, which was carried out in the most brutal manner on the 5th of October.

The Patu
massacre.

Meanwhile Adams advanced on Patna and commenced the siege on the 28th of October, the Nawab having fled at his approach and established himself at the village of Bakrim, about twenty miles distant. Seven days were occupied in breaching the defences, and on the 6th of November the place was carried by assault after a stubborn resistance on the part of the garrison, and with considerable loss to the British force. Major Irving, a very gallant officer, who had recently been transferred to the Company's service from the 84th Foot, was mortally wounded in the assault.

Conclusion
the camp
and death
Major Ada

Major Adams, with his victorious army, continued to pursue Mir Muhammad Kasim until early in December, when he took refuge with the Nawab of Oudh. The campaign was thus brought to a successful termination, the whole of Bengal and Bihar having been reduced in the short space of four months, four strong positions captured by assault, and the enemy, with vastly superior numbers, defeated in two hard-fought battles.

* There appears to have been considerable doubt as to what this officer's name really was,—see *Broome*, 204. When he was in the 39th he appeared in the War Office Army List as "John Bradbridge."—P.



The commander, Major Adams, who had thus so well performed the work assigned him by the Government, returned to Calcutta with the intention of proceeding to England. But his health, which was completely shattered by the fatigues and exposure of the past months, gave way as he was about to embark, and he died in Calcutta on the 16th of January, 1764, deeply regretted by the army and the Government.

The past year had seen a great increase in the Native army of Bengal. Besides the battalions, from the 8th to the 12th, raised early in the year, several additions had been made during the autumn campaign. In August, the 13th and 14th Battalions were raised at Kasimbazar and Calcutta, respectively, by Captain Robert Campbell and Captain Gilbert Ironside; these became in 1796 the 1st Battalions of the 3rd and 5th, respectively.* In October was raised the 15th Battalion by Captain John White at Monghyr, which afterwards became the 1st Battalion of the 12th, or *Hote-ki-paltan* (a corruption of White). The 16th was formed in Midnapur in October, and the command subsequently given to Captain Hampton; it became the 2nd Battalion of the 1st in 1796.† About the same time, another corps, the 17th, was raised at Burdwan by Captain Witchcot, which afterwards became the 1st Battalion of the 4th.‡ The commencement of 1764 saw yet further additions to the army. In January, on the removal of the 13th Battalion from Murshidabad, another corps was raised there by Captain Goddard; this was the 18th (afterwards the 1st Battalion of the 7th, or *Gaurud-ki-paltan*): while the warlike rumours which reached Calcutta two months later, relative to the movements of the Nawab of Oudh and the Emperor, in support of Mir Muhammad Kasim, caused orders to be issued in March for the raising of two more corps, the 19th and 20th Battalions, the former at Murshidabad by Captain Dow (afterwards the 1st Battalion of the 11th,—*Doo-ki-paltan*), the other at Jellalore by Captain Scotland (afterwards the 1st Battalion of the 10th,—*Escotten-ki-paltan*). Finally, at the end of the same month, the 21st Battalion was raised at Patna by Captain

* The Native names of these corps were *Gowan-ki-paltan* (derived from Captain Clotworthy Gowan) and *Ranseet-ki-paltan* (a corruption of Ironside).—P.

† *Bailun-ki-paltan*,—from Captain Robert Blane, who was appointed to the command about 1773.—P.

‡ *Crawford-ki-paltan*,—from Captain James Crawford (senior), appointed to the command in 1768.—P.



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James Morgan: this corps, after a very distinguished career of service as *Morgan-ki-pallan*, was incorporated with the 10th Bengal Native Infantry in 1796.

In the same month attention was paid to the provision of an efficient cavalry force for the army. The three weak and expensive troops of European cavalry were formed into one troop of serviceable strength, and, after a good deal of discussion, the irregular Moghal Horse was increased to 1,200 men, each *rissallah* under Native officers, with a few Europeans attached to the whole. The Council at Calcutta had been desirous of forming a body of regular Native cavalry on the European system, but was dissuaded by Major Carnac, who declared that "the Moguls, who are the only good horsemen in the country, can never be brought to submit to the ill-treatment they receive from gentlemen wholly unacquainted with their language and customs."

In the following month, April, 1764, the eighteen existing battalions (the 2nd, 3rd and 5th having been destroyed at Patna in the preceding year), which had previously taken rank according to the dates of their captains' commissions, were definitely numbered according to the rank of their then captains.

The following list gives the names of the commanding officers in their order, with the original numbers of the battalions according to the dates of their raising:—

	Order of raising		Order of raising.
1. Captain Giles Stibbert	6	10. Captain Gilbert Ironside	14
2. " Lachlan MacLean	8	11. " James Morgan	21
3. " Hugh Grant	4	12. " John White	15
4. " Robert Campbell	13	13. " Archibald Swinton	10
5. " Thomas Witcheot	17	14. " Samuel Hampton	16
6. " John Trevanion	12	15. " John Stables	7
7. " Lewis Brown	11	16. " James Scotland	20
8. " William Smith	9	17. " Thomas Goddard	18
9. " Primrose Galliez	1	18. " Alexander Dow	19

At this period the establishment of a battalion consisted of three British officers, a Native commandant, and a Native adjutant. There were ten companies (two of which were grenadiers), with each of which was a subadar and three jemadars: each company had a stand of colours attached to it, of the same colour as the men's facings, in the centre of which was the subadar's device, such as a sabre, a dagger, or a crescent: the grenadier companies bore the British Union, in the upper corner, as a distinction. The dress of battalions and the



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colour of their facings were at this time regulated by commanding officers, but when once fixed, could not be altered without permission from the Board : thus, the Morgan Battalion when first raised had white facings, white turbans with red ends, and white *kamarbands* with a red cross ; its colours were the flag of St. George. It would seem from this description that the head-dress of the men resembled to some extent a Native *pagri*.

The beginning of 1764 found the greater part of the army in camp at Sarwant on the Dargauti, near the then boundary of the dominions of the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh, the various provincial posts being held by the new battalions which were just in process of being raised.

1764.
duty in the
Army.

On his departure to Calcutta, Major Adams handed over the command of the army to Major Knox ; but that officer was himself in such a bad state of health that he had in turn to resign the command to Captain Jennings, and followed Major Adams to the Presidency, where he too died soon afterwards. Captain Jennings found the command to which he had temporarily succeeded a task of great difficulty and danger. The late Nawab, Mir Muhammad Kasim, from the security of Oudh, occupied himself in tampering, by the aid of his emissaries, with the fidelity of the British troops, European and Native, especially with the French and Germans, who composed a large proportion of the former. Disaffection gradually spread throughout the army, until in February, 1764, the Europeans broke out into open mutiny, and 160 of them deserted and marched to Allahabad, where they took service in various native armies. The example of mutiny was followed by the Native corps on the 13th of February, and the danger was only avoided by the tact and coolness of Captain Jennings. However, tranquillity was shortly restored by the distribution of a money donation presented by the Nawab Mir Jafar Khan, and the commanding officer, deeming it advisable to keep the men employed, broke up the camp at Sarwant and marched to Sasaram, and thence on the 5th of March to Hariharganj. Here on the following day Major Carnac and Major Champion joined the army, and the former assumed command.

Battle at
Patna,
3rd May, 1764.

Meanwhile Mir Muhammad Kasim, after his expulsion from Bengal, had joined the Nawab of Oudh (Shuja-ud-Daulah) and the Emperor Shah Alam at Allahabad, and their allied forces were now marching towards Benares with the intention of reducing Bihar. Accordingly, on March 13th—17th, Major Carnac marched to Buzar,



where he took up and strengthened a defensive position. Want of supplies, however, compelled him to retire again to Patna in April; and here the English force was attacked by the whole strength of the enemy on the 3rd of May. The battle was stubbornly contested, but the superior numbers of the enemy could make no impression on the steady ranks of the British and sepoys, and the assailants were compelled to retire, having suffered very heavy loss. Unfortunately Major Carnac stopped all pursuit, so that the victory was not as decisive as it might otherwise have become; and the enemy, retiring unmolested, took up a position at Buxar at the end of the month. Major Carnac, in his despatch to the Council, reporting this battle, remarks—"I cannot say too much of the good behaviour of the army in general, and in particular of the sepoys, who sustained the brunt of the attack."

On the retreat of Shuja-ud-Daulah a detachment under Major Champion crossed the Ganges, wasted the Ghazipur district, and advanced as far as the banks of the Ghagra, when the approach of the monsoon compelled them to return. Meanwhile Major Carnac continued to pursue an inactive and dilatory course, notwithstanding repeated orders from the Council that he should take more forward measures. At length, on the 28th of June, letters arrived from the Court of Directors ordering his dismissal from the service, in consequence of disagreements with Mr. Vansittart, the Governor, in the previous year, and he was succeeded in the command by Major Munro,* who arrived on the 13th of August. The long period of inaction had been most prejudicial to the discipline of the troops, and a spirit of disaffection was rife amongst the sepoys; this developed into open mutiny in the case of the 9th Battalion (*Gillis-ki-palan*) on the 8th of September. The whole of the mutineers were captured by the Marines† and Trevanion's battalion on the 11th of that month, and Munro, thinking an example necessary, ordered twenty-four of the ring-leaders to be tried by drum-head general court-martial.

Mutiny of the
9th Battalion.

* Major Hector Munro, of His Majesty's 89th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders). Afterwards General Sir Hector Munro, K.B., Commander-in-Chief in Madras, and Colonel of the 42nd Regiment (Royal Highlanders.) Died on the 26th December, 1805.—P.

† Captain Maurice Wemyss' company of the Marines, which had been landed from the squadron when the mutinies of March, 1764, occurred, and afterwards sent up the country to join the army in the field.—P.



These were sentenced to death and were blown away from the guns, the grenadiers amongst the condemned claiming (according to Captain Williams) to be tied to the guns on the right, as the right had been their place in action.

Major Munro now made preparations for prosecuting the campaign against the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh and Mir Muhammad Kasim, and, assuming the offensive, marched from Bankipore on the 9th of October. His force consisted of 900 Europeans of all arms* and eight battalions of Native infantry, selected for their efficiency; these were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 13th, and 15th; and in addition 1,000 Moghal horse. Besides the above, Captain Goddard, with the 17th Battalion, was sent on an expedition against Rhotasgarh, which place he occupied without resistance.

Major Munro's force met the enemy in a skirmish at Kalwarghat, on the banks of the Son, on the 10th, and again in a severe cavalry affair near the Bunas Nala on the 13th of October, where our loss was 14 Europeans and 60 of the Moghal horse killed and wounded. On October the 23rd a pitched battle was fought at Buxar, when the sepoy troops behaved with the greatest gallantry, and steadily repelled the furious charges of the enemy's cavalry. At length Munro ordered a general advance of his line, when, after a faint resistance, the whole of the enemy's force broke up and fled in disorder; the Nawab Shuja-ud-Daulah, having retreated across the Torah Nala, destroyed the bridge by which he had crossed, and the remnants of his retreating army, finding the bridge broken, threw themselves into the stream, where thousands were drowned or suffocated in the mud in their attempts to cross. The loss of the British force amounted to 825 killed and wounded, of whom 205 sepoys were killed, 414 wounded, and 58 missing. The Moghal horse, 1,000 strong, lost 45 killed and 22 wounded.† The only officers who were killed were Lieutenant Francis Spilsbury of the 96th Foot, and Ensign Richard Thompson of the Bengal European Battalion. In 1829 the surviving

* The European infantry was composed of the Bengal European Battalion, two weak companies of the Bombay European Battalion, and small detachments of Marines and of His Majesty's 84th, 89th and 96th Regiments.—P.

† The losses of the British Army at the battle of Buxar are somewhat differently stated in *Broome's History* and other publications. The figures given in the text are taken from Major Munro's official return, published in the *London Gazette* of the 18th June, 1765.—P.



corps which shared in this important victory were granted authority to inscribe "BUXAR" on their colours.

It may here be mentioned that on the day before the battle of Buxar Mir Muhammad Kasim, robbed and deserted by his immediate followers, was ignominiously driven from the camp of his so-called ally, Shuja-ud-Daulah. He escaped into Rohilkhand, and eventually, after experiencing many vicissitudes of fortune, died, in extreme indigence, at Delhi, in 1777.

On the 24th, Major Sir Robert Fletcher joined the army with reinforcements, including the 10th (Ironside's) Battalion, and on his arrival Major Champion was sent to the Midnapore frontier, which was threatened by the Mahrattas, taking with him two recently formed companies of the European battalion, a detail of artillery, and two battalions (the 14th and 16th) of Native infantry.

The whole army crossed the Ganges on the 27th of October, and on the 8th November advanced to Benares, from which place a ransom of four lakhs of rupees was exacted. Meanwhile the Emperor Shah Alam had been making overtures to the English, representing himself as merely a state prisoner in the hands of Shuja-ud-Daulah; eventually he came to the English camp, and pitched his own close to it for security. Authority having been received from the Council, measures were taken for his protection, and a treaty was signed. The following curious order was published on this occasion:—"Such of the Officers as will be off Duty to-morrow, who choose to wait on the King and wish him Joy of being put in Possession of Sujah-ud-Dowlah's Country by the English, are desired to meet at the Head-Quarters at 9 o'clock to-morrow Morning; it is necessary to acquaint them that it is customary to make him a salam on the occasion, and the least that should be given by a Captain is five gold Mohurs and three by a Subaltern."

Two more companies of Europeans from Patna re-inforced the army, and an expedition was despatched under Major Pemble to lay siege to the fort of Chunar: this detachment consisted of the European grenadiers, three battalions of sepoy, the company of pioneers, company of cadets, and 50 artillery-men. Two assaults were made on the fortress on the 2nd and 4th of December, but, although the behaviour of the troops was excellent, both attacks were repulsed with loss. On the 5th of December, the detachment was recalled, and Major Munro fell back on Benares, where he took up a position



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covering the city. The remainder of December was passed in un-
availing negotiations with Shuja-ud-Daulah.

Early in January Major Munro left the army to proceed to Eng-
land, and Major Carnac, having been re-instated in the army with the
rank of Brigadier-General, was appointed to succeed him; meantime
the command temporarily devolved on Major Sir Robert Fletcher.

In the same month the Nawab Mir Jafar Khan died, and his eldest
surviving son, Najm-ud-Daulah, was appointed his successor by the
Government at Calcutta, in supersession of the direct heir, who was
a child of Miran, Mir Jafar's eldest son.

On the 14th January, Sir Robert Fletcher recommenced active
operations against Shuja-ud-Daulah, and advanced towards Allah-
abad, driving the enemy's army before him. Meanwhile he sent Major
Stibbert to command at Benares, with instructions to again attempt
the capture of Chunar; this fortress surrendered on the 8th of Febru-
ary, and on the 11th Allahabad was surrendered to Sir Robert
Fletcher after a feeble resistance.

Brigadier-General Carnac arrived in camp at Chunar on the 13th
of February and assumed command of the Field Force, which was
at this time divided as follows:—

Main force at Allahabad, under Sir Robert Fletcher.

- 14 companies of European infantry (about 700).
- 1 company of artillery.
- 1 company of European pioneers (60 men).
- 1 troop of European cavalry (60 men).
- 4 squadrons of Moghal horse (800 men).
- 8 battalions of sepoys.

Brigade at Benares and Chunar, under Major Stibbert.

- 6 companies of European infantry (300 men).
- 1 company of artillery (a large proportion of lascars).
- A detail of pioneers.
- 2 squadrons of Moghal horse (400 men).
- 6 battalions of sepoys.

On joining the army Brigadier-General Carnac issued orders for the
concentration of the whole force at Allahabad, with the exception of
two Native battalions left to garrison Benares and Chunar. On the
junction being effected, one Native battalion was left to garrison
Allahabad, and a small brigade was left near that place under Sir
Robert Fletcher, while Carnac and the main army advanced into
Oudh, occupied the principal towns, collected revenue, and finally



pushed on with all the cavalry and one sepoy battalion to Fyzabad, the old capital, where he remained during the greater part of April, regulating the affairs of the province and receiving the submission of the various chiefs and zemindars. Meanwhile Shuja-ud-Daulah had gained the support of the Mahrattas, and was preparing for an advance from Rohilkhand upon the Lower Doab. General Carnac re-united his army at Sujapur, in the Doab, on the 2nd of May, and on the 3rd met the enemy near Korah, where a skirmish with the Mahratta horse took place, resulting in the flight of the latter. On the 11th of May, a detachment under Major Stibbert was despatched with orders to reduce the Khairabad district, which duty was successfully accomplished, and Stibbert cantoned his force at Lucknow during the rains. Meanwhile the Mahrattas, who had retired across the Jumna after the affair at Korah, re-entered the Doab and advanced close up to the British camp at Jajmau: on the 16th of May the force advanced to attack them, and on the 20th encamped on the bank of the Jumna, opposite to Kalpi, in the neighbourhood of which place the enemy had taken up a position. On the 22nd a strong detachment, under Sir Robert Fletcher, crossed the river, and attacked the enemy; an action ensued, which after an hour resulted in the complete defeat and dispersion of the Mahrattas, who made the best of their way towards Gwalior. The Doab was thus freed from any immediate prospect of attack, and the army returned to Allahabad, where it arrived on the 25th of June.

Battle at
Kalpi, May
22nd, 1765.

General Carnac returned in advance of the army, to prosecute negotiations with Shuja-ud-Daulah and the Emperor. The former, finding the Mahrattas unreliable and the Rohillas very lukewarm in supporting him, had early in May sought to arrange terms with the English; in this he had been so far successful that he now joined General Carnac, and, under the auspices of the latter, a reconciliation took place between him and the Emperor at the end of June, when all three proceeded to Allahabad, and afterwards to Benares, there to await the arrival of Lord Clive from Calcutta.

Clive had been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief and had arrived in Calcutta in May: the business of the civil administration had, however, detained him at the Presidency, and it was not until August the 1st that he joined General Carnac at Benares. Thence a few days later they proceeded to Allahabad, where the conditions of the treaties between the Company, the Emperor, and

Treaties with
the Emperor
and Shuja-ud-
Daulah.



Shuja-ud-Daulah were agreed on. These were in the main the restoration of all his possessions to the Nawab-Wazir with the exception of Chunar, which was retained by the English, and the provinces of Korah and Allahabad, which were ceded to the Emperor, a British force being stationed at Allahabad for the protection of the Emperor; while on the British side the most important item of the treaty was the grant to the Company, by the Emperor, of the Dewani of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.

Re-organisation of the Army, August, 1765.

Raising of the 19th, 20th and 21st Battalions.

Lord Clive had, immediately on his arrival, turned his attention to the army, an extensive re-distribution and re-organisation of which was now arranged.

Towards the end of the previous year another battalion of Bengal infantry had been raised at Calcutta under Captain Douglas Hill, so that there were at this time nineteen battalions in existence. According to Clive's organisation, the army was to be divided into three brigades of similar strength and composition, namely,—one company of artillery, one regiment of European infantry (for which purpose the Bengal European Regiment was now re-organised as three distinct regiments or battalions), one *rissalah* of Native cavalry, and seven battalions of sepoys. For this object, the troop of European cavalry was disbanded, and the men transferred to the infantry and artillery, only a small body-guard for the Governor being retained; the Moghal horse was dismissed, with the exception of 300; and two more battalions of sepoys were raised. Of these, one was formed at Allahabad under the superintendence of Colonel Smith, and its command given to Captain David Scott; it was raised during the month of Moharram, and hence obtained the name of *Husseini-ki-paltan*; it was numbered the 20th Battalion, and posted to the second brigade. The 21st battalion was raised at Bankipore by Colonel Sir Robert Barker, whose name it bore. These two corps, in the re-organisation of 1796, became, respectively, the 2nd Battalion of the 10th and the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Bengal Native Infantry.

The three brigades were now formed and stationed as follows:—

First Brigade: Head-Quarters, Monghyr.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher, Commanding the Brigade.

- 1st European Regiment, under Major Alexander Champion.
- 1st Company of Artillery, under Major William Jennings.
- 1st Rissalah of Cavalry, under Lieutenant James Skinner.



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Native Infantry.

2nd Battalion, under Captain Christian Fischer.	
3rd " " " Arthur Achmuty.	
4th " " " Robert Campbell.	
5th " " " Wm. MacPherson.	
10th " " " Gilbert Ironside.	
13th " " " Benjamin Wilding.	
17th " " " Thomas Goddard.	

Second Brigade: Head-Quarters, Allahabad.

Colonel Richard Smith, Commanding the Brigade.

- 2nd European Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Peach.
- 2nd Company of Artillery, under Captain Ralph Winwood.
- 2nd Rissalah of Cavalry, under Lieutenant George Bolton Eyres.

Native Infantry.

1st Battalion, under Captain Arthur Forbes Achmuty.	
7th " " " Lewis Brown.	
8th " " " William Smith.	
15th " " " James Nicol.	
16th " " " James Scotland.	
18th " " " Alexander Dow.	
20th " " " David Scott.	

Third Brigade: Head-Quarters, Bankipore.

Colonel Sir Robert Barker, Commanding the Brigade.

- 3rd European Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Chapman.
- 3rd Company of Artillery, under Captain Nathaniel Kindersley.
- 3rd Rissalah of Cavalry, under Lieutenant John Mair.

Native Infantry.

6th Battalion, under Captain Vernon Duffield.	
9th " " " Primrose Galliez.	
11th " " " James Morgan.	
12th " " " John White.	
14th " " " Samuel Hampton.	
19th " " " Douglas Hill.	
21st " " "	

The Corps of Engineers had been fixed by an order of October 22nd, 1764, at the following establishment:—

- One Chief Engineer, to rank as Captain.
- Two Sub-Directors, to rank as Captain-Lieutenants.
- Four Sub-Engineers, to rank as Lieutenants.
- Six Practitioner Engineers, to rank as Ensigns.



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A fourth company of artillery was reserved for duties at Fort William and the redoubts at Palta and Budge-Budge.

The Native cavalry *rissalahs* consisted of 1 British officer, 1 sergeant-major and 4 sergeants, 4 Native officers, 2 trumpeters, 6 *dafadars*, and 100 privates.

The Native infantry establishment was fixed at 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 3 sergeants, 3 drummers, a Native commandant, and 40 Native officers, a Native adjutant, 10 trumpeters, 30 tom-toms (drummers), 130 non-commissioned officers, and 690 privates. To each battalion were attached two 3-pounder field pieces.

The close of the year saw the enforcement by Lord Clive of a measure which was destined within a few months to imperil the safety and indeed the very existence of the Company in India. This was the abolition of double field batta, with regard to which orders had previously been several times received from the Court of Directors. In the course of the discussion on the subject, two senior Captains of the Presidency had, by orders of the Council, drawn up an estimate of such extraordinary monthly expenses as they considered necessary on field service; the list of these is curious and includes the following items:—

				R	a.
Madeira wine, 30 bottles at R1-8 each	.	.	.	45	0
Beer 30 " " " 0-12 "	.	.	.	22	8
Arrack 15 " " " 0-4 "	.	.	.	3	12
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				71	4

The above monthly allowance is headed as "necessary for a Captain during a campaign."

However, notwithstanding all protests, the Court was determined, and, in December, 1765, orders were issued by Clive that at the Presidency or in its immediate neighbourhood troops in garrison should receive no batta; in cantonments half batta; in the field single batta; but that beyond the Karamnasa river troops in the field should receive double, and in cantonments single, batta.

These arrangements came into force in January, 1766, without any apparent demur on the part of the officers; and Clive, congratulating himself on the peaceable operation of his measures, turned his attention to another matter deeply concerning the officers of the Company's service. This was the disposition of a legacy of five

Abolition of
double batta.

1766.
Lord Clive's
Fund.



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lakhs of rupees bequeathed to him personally by the late Nawab Jafar Khan. Although nothing in the covenants lately framed by the Court of Directors prohibited the acceptance of such a legacy, yet Lord Clive determined not to appropriate the money to his own use, but to apply it to the formation of an invalid pension fund for the Company's military servants. On being informed of his intentions, the Council expressed their "lively sense of his generous and well-placed donation," and, after preliminary reference to the Court of Directors, an indenture was eventually drawn up, by the terms of which Lord Clive hands over in trust to the Company the sum of "three lakhs of rupees, Rs50,000 in money, Rs50,000 in jewels and one lakh in gold mohurs, in all five lakhs of rupees . . . of the value of £62,833-6-3," the interest of which is to be paid yearly for the benefit of the Company's military servants and their families.

While Lord Clive was thus occupied in promoting the interests and welfare of the service, the officers of the Company's army were busy with secret preparations for a movement which they hoped and expected would force the Council to rescind the obnoxious new batta rules. It was agreed throughout the three brigades that all the captains and subalterns in the service should resign their commissions on the 1st of May. This step was actually carried out by the first and third brigades, the former of which was throughout the movement the most violent and mutinous: indeed all discipline was relaxed in this command, and the European soldiery followed the disgraceful example of their officers. Clive was in complete ignorance of the storm which was brewing until the end of April, when the magnitude of the danger was suddenly revealed to him with a clearness that would have terrified a weaker man. He saw clearly that to yield would be to show the army its power, and so to sap the foundations of all discipline and order in the Company's territories. He determined to hold out inflexibly, unless the mutinous officers should cause the men to join them in obtaining their demands, in which case no course seemed to be open but to yield. However, any organised resistance by force on the part of the troops was in no case attempted; and the vigorous and determined measures with which Clive met the difficulties of the situation soon convinced the malcontents of the rashness with which they had acted. By the end of May the disturbance in all three brigades was quelled, and

Combination
against the
batta rules.



a number of officers having been sent down to Calcutta for trial, the remainder hastened to tender their submission. A number of court-martials were held in the following months for the trial of the principal offenders: among these the most interesting was that of Sir Robert Fletcher, who, in command of the First Brigade, had not only encouraged the officers in their mutinous conduct, but even seems to have been the originator of the whole combination. He was found guilty of mutiny, was cashiered, and proceeded to England: but within a few years his commission was restored to him by the Court of Directors, and he was sent out as Commander-in-Chief to Madras.

Meanwhile the difficulties of Lord Clive had been greatly increased by the attitude of the Mahrattas, who throughout the year had been threatening the frontiers of Allahabad and Korah: and the necessity of keeping a strong brigade in those provinces made the fact evident that the existing battalions were not sufficient for the requirements of Bengal. Orders were therefore issued for the raising of six new corps, which were designated Parganna Battalions, and were employed under the Revenue Department in the districts: for this same purpose three battalions of sepoy (the 2nd, 7th, and 14th) had already been told off, but they were found quite inadequate for the work. The six new corps were numbered from 22nd to 27th, and were attached two to each brigade—the 22nd and 25th to the First Brigade, the 23rd and 26th to the Second, and the 24th and 27th to the Third: two more battalions (the 28th and 29th) of a similar nature were raised shortly after, and attached, respectively, to the First and Second Brigades, and in the following year another was raised and attached to the Third Brigade, thus bringing the number of Bengal battalions up to thirty.

At the same time various internal reforms and improvements were introduced in the regular brigades of the army, including the framing and publishing of a code of regulations, together with a fixed standard of staff, contract, and contingent allowances.

These were the last measures of Lord Clive for the advantage of the Bengal Army. The dangers and abuses, to meet and reform which had been his special mission from the Court of Directors when he accepted the Government two years before, had all been averted and restrained. Fresh and unforeseen difficulties had arisen, and these too had been successfully surmounted: peace and order



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had been restored where the British influence had been threatened with blight and extinction: in the army, an efficient and well regulated force had been created, where all had been insubordination, corruption, and extravagance. At the moment little remained to be done which ordinary capacity and firmness could not undertake. Clive found his health daily breaking, and determined to depart in the beginning of the year: Mr. Verelst was nominated to succeed him as Governor, and Colonel Richard Smith as Commander-in-Chief in succession to Brigadier-General Carnac, who was also going home. On the 29th of January, 1767, he left India, and with his departure "closes the first, and not the least eventful epoch in the History of the Bengal Army."



Chapter II—(1767—1796).

Events in India (*Hough*)—British India (*Mill*)—Bengal Infantry (*Williams*)—Bengal Army (*Brinme*)—Military Regulations, 1817—History of the Madras Army (*Wilson*)—G.G.O. and G.O.C.C.—Selections from Government Records, 1772—1785 (*Forrest*)—Hickey's Gazette, 1780-81.

1767.
Expedition to
the Northern
Circars.

In the year 1767, the only occurrence of note in Bengal was the despatch by sea of a detachment from the First Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel William Smith, to assist the Government of Fort St. George in the Northern Circars on the outbreak of the war with Haidar Ali. This force consisted of 350 European infantry, 50 artillerymen (with five guns), and three Native battalions, *viz.*, the 3rd, 4th, and 13th. It remained on this service for two years, during which Colonel Smith died and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Peach of the 1st European Regiment. The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Captain A. F. Achmuty, proceeded to Madras, and was actively employed under Brigadier-General Joseph Smith, during the operations in the Baramahal and Mysore, in 1768-69. The remainder of the detachment landed at Masulipatam and marched into the Nizam's Dominions, and was instrumental in bringing the Nizam to submission and procuring the cession to the Company of the Northern Circars (February, 1768). In May and June, 1768, the detachment was actively employed, in the districts of Chicacole and Kimeri, against an insurgent chief, named Narayan Deo, who was defeated near the fort of Jalumur on the 24th May, and that place itself was captured on the 30th of the same month. In 1769, the detachment (now completed by the junction of the 3rd Battalion) was actively employed in the Ganjam district. In the early part of 1770 the whole of these troops returned to Bengal, a part by sea, but the greater portion by land, marching through Cuttack. Of the former, the two grenadier companies of the 4th (or Gowan's) Battalion were lost at sea, the ship on which they were embarked never having been heard of again,—an unfortunate occurrence which made a fatal impression on the mind of the Bengal sepoys in regard to sea voyages, and was afterwards a fruitful source of trouble.

1768—1773.
The Sanyasis.

About this time the Sanyasis, who are described by Williams as "religious plunderers," became very troublesome in Northern Bengal, moving about the country in large bands, plundering, burning, and destroying. Some of the Parganna battalions were



employed against them, but with small success, as they almost invariably misbehaved when brought into contact with the enemy. It thus happened that no less than three detachments were disgracefully defeated and almost destroyed by these plunderers; one, under Lieutenant Keith at Rangpur, in January, 1770; a second, under Captain Thomas, in December, 1772; and a third, under Captain Edwards, in March, 1773. In consequence of their misconduct, all the Parganna battalions, with the exception of the 24th, were broken up in 1773, the three regular battalions employed on Parganna duty being at the same time returned to their respective brigades.)

Against these insurgents was engaged, for the first time, the new native Body-Guard, called "The Governor's troop of Moguls," which brings us for the first time to a corps which survives at the present day. It was raised and disciplined by Captain Sweny Toone in 1773, to act as a Body-Guard to the Governor-General in time of peace, and to accompany the Commander-in-Chief on campaigns. It was commanded by a Captain, with a subaltern and four sergeants under him, and there were no Native officers. It served afterwards in the Rohilla campaign under Colonel Champion.

The Governor-General's
Body-Guard,
1773.

In 1772 the Bhutiahs descended from their mountains and overran the province of Cooch-Bihar. The 6th Battalion, under the command of Captain John Jones, was sent up from the Presidency to expel them, and was engaged in some arduous operations. On the 21st December, Captain Jones stormed the fort of Cooch-Bihar, not without considerable loss, he himself and Lieutenant Dickson being amongst the wounded. During the following months he succeeded in driving the Bhutiahs out of the province, and even carried the war into their own country, taking Dhalimkot by storm in April, 1773.

Operations
against the
Bhutiahs.

About this time the number of subalterns in sepoy battalions was increased by two, making a total of three Lieutenants and three Ensigns. The company colours were also abolished, and only two stand allowed to each battalion, as in the Company's European regiments, and all the tom-toms and trumpeters were dismissed, and fifes and drums substituted.

Meanwhile, in 1771, the Emperor Shah Alam, notwithstanding the failure of his efforts to gain English aid, determined to march to Delhi, there to regain his father's throne: he left Allahabad in December and placed himself under the protection of the Mahrattas, thereby, as the Court of Directors declared, forfeiting his right to the



provinces of Allahabad and Korah, which had been ceded to him by the English. Having entered Delhi in state, he found that his turbulent supporters were eager only for fresh lands to plunder: the Rohilla country was their first object of attack, and having forced their way in, they overran a great part of Rohilkhand, and threatened the territory of the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh.

Fearing an invasion of his own territories, the Nawab-Wazir advanced to the frontiers of Oudh, with some British troops under the command of Sir Robert Barker, then Commander-in-Chief. Here he was visited by Hafiz Rahmat Khan, Chief of the Rohillas, and in June, 1773, a treaty was agreed upon between the Nawab-Wazir and Hafiz Rahmat Khan, in which the former undertook to drive the Mahrattas out of Rohilkhand, and to do so again if they invaded the country after the rainy season, in return for which the Rohillas promised to pay the Nawab-Wazir forty lakhs of rupees. The Mahrattas had in the meantime retired from Rohilkhand, but in November, 1773, they attempted a fresh invasion, which was defeated by the Oudh troops, aided by a British detachment. Hafiz Rahmat Khan, who, in order to avoid paying the subsidy of forty lakhs had entered into treacherous correspondence with the Mahrattas, now that their expulsion from Rohilkhand was accomplished, shuffled and hesitated in making payment of the sum due under the treaty, until at length the Nawab-Wazir determined to take possession of the province as a recompense for the Rohilla breach of faith. To effect this he asked for British support and assistance, which, after some hesitation on the part of Warren Hastings, who had come out in 1772 as the first Governor-General, was conceded by the Select Committee.

Rohilla War.

In January, 1774, therefore, the Second Brigade, under Colonel Champion, received orders to join the Nawab-Wazir, and marched accordingly from Dinapore. The force was composed of the 2nd Company of Artillery the "Select Picket,"* the 2nd European Regiment, a battalion of Sepoy Grenadiers (probably formed from

* During the period from 1772 to 1775 there was a great dearth of vacancies in the commissioned ranks of the Bengal Army. Accordingly the gentlemen cadets arriving from Europe were formed into a separate company, and carried arms until vacancies occurred. This company was called "The Select Picket," and was posted on the right of the advanced guard of the Army in the field. Sir Henry White, Sir Gabriel Martindell, and other distinguished officers carried arms, as cadets, in "The Select Picket."—P.



the flank companies of the Native battalions of the brigade), and the 1st, 8th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 20th Battalions of Bengal Native Infantry. With these troops Colonel Champion, on the 24th February, joined the Nawab-Wazir, and on the 17th April the united armies entered the Rohilla country. On the 23rd April the rival forces met in a pitched battle on the Baighul river, between Miranpur-Katra and Tissua, twenty-three miles to the south-east of Bareilly,—an engagement, from the day on which it was fought, long known as “the battle of St. George.” In this the Rohillas were defeated, though they fought with great gallantry, and their brave leader Hafiz Rahmat Khan himself fell. No sooner was the fighting over than the Nawab’s cavalry proceeded to plunder the Rohilla camp, in which they found much booty, and it was this that led our own troops to observe—“We have the honour of the day, and these banditti the profit.” The British losses were 39 killed and (including two officers) 93 wounded. The losses of the Nawab’s troops amounted to 80 killed and 174 wounded.

In 1775, the then Commander-in-Chief, Sir John Clavering, ordered a complete re-numbering of the sepoy battalions. There existed at this time twenty-one regular battalions and one Parganna Battalion (the 24th), and it was directed that all the regular battalions should be numbered consecutively by brigades, beginning with the First Brigade, which was to have the first seven numbers, down to the Third Brigade, which was to have the last seven: the 7th Battalion was made independent and localised at Chittagong, while its place in the line was taken by the 24th, which then became the 14th. By this scheme the number of every battalion, except the 21st, was altered.

1775.
Re-numbering
of battalions.

On the 10th June, 1776, was fought the brilliant action of Korah. In the preceding month Lieutenant-Colonel Parker had been detached from Belgram, in Oudh territory, with part of the 2nd Company of Artillery and the 15th and 16th Battalions of Native Infantry, to watch the motions of one Mahbub Khan, a disaffected officer in the service of the Nawab-Wazir, who was posted at Korah, about twenty-five miles below Cawnpore, with a force of seven battalions and nineteen guns. It being an object to gain possession of these guns, Colonel Parker marched on Korah, and demanded their surrender. Mahbub Khan himself was not present, but the demand was resisted by the next in command, upon which Colonel Parker moved forward to enforce it: a sharp conflict ensued, resulting in the complete

Battle of
Korah,
1776.



defeat and dispersion of Mahbub Khan's troops and the capture of the whole of his guns. The loss sustained by Colonel Parker's detachment is not recorded, but it appears to have been considerable: Captain Gravely, commanding the 15th Battalion, was dangerously wounded and subsequently died of his wounds; Lieutenant Erskine, of the 16th, was killed. In 1829, the two corps engaged (which had then become the late 1st and 10th Regiments of Bengal Native Infantry) received permission to inscribe "KORAH" on their colours.

The latter half of 1777 saw another important addition to the Native army.

In 1776, the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh agreed to keep up a mixed force of all arms, which should be disciplined by British officers: in the following year, however, when the numbers agreed upon were not yet completed, and the troops were only partially disciplined and organised, a Minute of Council, dated 4th August, 1777, ordered the transfer of the whole to the Company's service. The force at this time consisted of two regiments of cavalry, three companies of *golandaz* or native artillery (their first employment by the British) and nine battalions of infantry.

The infantry battalions were brought down to the strength of those in the Company's service, were numbered from the 22nd to the 30th, and three posted to each brigade. Of these only the 23rd, 26th, 27th and 30th survived the re-organisation of 1796, becoming then respectively the 2nd Battalion of the 6th, the 2nd of the 3rd, the 2nd of the 5th and the 2nd of the 9th; the last-mentioned battalion still survives as the 1st Bengal Infantry.*

The two cavalry regiments were reduced to a strength of 400 men each, and with a third regiment, which was now raised, a brigade was formed under Colonel Stibbert. The new regiment was raised, as far as possible, on the *silladar* system, the men furnishing their own horses.

Early in 1778, at the request of the Bombay Government, who were hard-pressed by the Mahrattas, six battalions of sepoys from the First Brigade (numbering 5,400 men), a regiment of Native cavalry (600 strong), a company of Native artillery, and a body (500) of so-called "Kandahar Horse" were assembled at Cawnpore under Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Leslie, and subsequently marched across India to the

* The Native names of these corps were, in order, *Rajeh-ki-paltan*, *Ung-ki-paltan* (from Captain George Young), *Baillio-ki-paltan* (from Captain, afterwards Lieutenant-General Sir Ewen Baillie), and *Neel-war-ki-paltan* (from Captain Thomas Naylor).—P.

1777.
Transfer of
troops from the
Nawab's
service.

1778.
Detachment to
Bombay.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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Bombay Presidency, where they served with distinction against the Mahrattas until 1784. The battalions of infantry sent on this expedition were the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th.

The "Kandahar Horse" was a body of cavalry in the service of the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh, by whom they were lent to the Company for this service. They were entirely Pathans, and distinguished themselves greatly during their service in the Bombay Presidency.

To make up for this loss of strength in Bengal, nine more battalions of infantry were raised during 1778; of these, the first three were raised at Cawnpore in July, and were numbered from the 31st to 33rd; the next six, numbered from the 34th to the 39th, were also raised in July, mostly about Benares. These latter were ordered to be raised at the expense of Chet Singh, Rajah of Benares. (G.O.C.C., 15th, 26th and 30th July, 1778). Of these nine battalions only the 32nd and the 34th survived the re-organization of 1796, when they became respectively the 2nd of the 2nd and the 2nd of the 8th.*

1778.
Nine additional
battalions
raised.

The force under Colonel Leslie commenced its march in the hottest month of the year, an urgent message having been received from Bombay desiring its immediate despatch. It crossed the Jumna at Kalpi on the 19th of May, not without opposition, and advanced as far as Chatarpur, in Bundelkhand. Here Colonel Leslie remained for a month carrying on fruitless and unauthorised negotiations with the neighbouring rajahs; he subsequently moved on to Rajgarh, on the Kân River, and again halted; so much, indeed, did he delay that, after one or two warnings, orders were at length despatched by the Council directing his supersession and appointing Colonel Goddard to command the expedition. However, on the 3rd October, before the arrival of this order, Colonel Leslie died.† During this detention, Colonel Goddard took the town of Mau by storm, with a loss on our side of 6 killed and 20 wounded, and frequent skirmishes took place with the Mahratta horsemen.

Proceedings
of the Bombay
detachment.

On the 8th October, Goddard moved forward from the Kân, and after a trying march, during which the detachment was continually

* The Native names of these two corps (*Bole-ki-paltan* and *Dobie-ki-paltan*) were derived from Captain Charles Bowles and Captain William Davis.—P.

† Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Leslie had been for many years an officer of the 48th Foot, with which he served in North America during the Seven Years' War. He was Assistant Quarter Master General of Braddock's force in the disastrous expedition to Fort du Quesne, and was wounded in the battle of the Monongahela River (9th July, 1755), in which Braddock himself fell. He was afterwards Assistant Quarter Master General of the force which, under the Earl of Albemarle, besieged and captured the Havannah, in 1762.—P.



harassed and annoyed by the enemy's cavalry and rocketteers, reached Hoshangabad, on the Nerbudda, on the 1st December. Here he halted, awaiting orders from Calcutta, until the 16th January, 1779, when he again moved forward, and reached Burhanpur on the 30th. At this place he was detained for a week by contradictory orders from the Government of Bombay, whose forces had during that month made an advance on Poona, been worsted, and compelled to agree to the disgraceful convention of Wargaum, one of the terms of which was that the force under Goddard should be sent back to Bengal. Having received accurate information regarding these events, Goddard, disregarding the convention, left Burhanpur on the 5th February, and directed his course for Surat, where he arrived on the 25th. At this place the force remained for the remainder of the year, while various negotiations with the Mahratta powers were being carried on, and during this period Goddard was granted the rank of Brigadier-General, and invested by the Supreme Council with certain political powers that rendered him, to a considerable extent, independent of the Government of Bombay.

The negotiations with the Mahratta powers produced no result, and, on the 1st January, 1780, Goddard once more took the field. Crossing the Tapti, he proceeded to the northward, and on the 19th captured Dabhoi after a trifling resistance. He next marched against Ahmedabad, which was, after a siege of five days, taken by storm on the 15th February, with a loss on our side of 106 killed and wounded, including amongst the former Captain Gough, commanding the 5th Battalion, who fell in the breach. About the end of the month Goddard marched to the southward in pursuit of Sindhia and Holkar, the two principal Mahratta chiefs, who were ravaging the country near Baroda, and some fighting took place at Pawangarh on the 17th, 18th, and 19th March, but the enemy declined a decisive engagement, though they kept hovering round the British force. However, finding a favourable opportunity, Goddard succeeded in surprising Sindhia and Holkar before daylight on the morning of the 3rd April, captured their camp, and for the time dispersed their troops. About the middle of May he was reinforced by a detachment from Madras, consisting of a company of artillery, with six guns, a battalion of sepoys, and a battalion of the Madras European Regiment, and shortly after the advent of the rainy season necessitated the suspension of further operations.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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In the meantime reinforcements for Goddard's army (a company of artillery and 2,400 Native infantry drafts, organised in four battalions) had been prepared in Bengal and placed under the command of Captain Popham, but at the last moment it was decided to employ them in creating a diversion on the Northern Mahratta borders. The energy of Captain Popham effected more than the most sanguine could have expected from so small a force; for, having driven back a plundering horde of Mahrattas from Gohad, he besieged and carried by assault the fortress of Lahar on the 20th of April 1780.* But the most brilliant and unlooked-for success of this little army was that of the 3rd of August, when he stormed and captured, almost without a shot being fired, the celebrated fortress of Gwalior, which had always been regarded as impregnable.

Popham's detachment.

Taking of Gwalior, 3rd August 1780.

Goddard's operations.

On the termination of the rainy season, Goddard, who had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, once more took the field, but the campaign in the west of India opened under circumstances of great difficulty. Bombay was quite unable to support the expense of the war, and even Bengal, whose efforts had been more limited, was at a loss for money; while the troops of Goddard's army were clamouring for the payment of their arrears. Madras, too, was in great straits by reason of the hostilities which had just commenced with Haidar Ali. However, the first military event of the campaign was an important success,—namely, the surrender, on the 11th December, after a month's siege, of the strong fortress of Bassein.

About this time, Goddard, under the authority of the Council, proposed terms of peace to the Mahrattas, but the latter knew very well the straits to which the English were reduced, and looked for more advantage from a prosecution of hostilities than from any treaty which should terminate them; they therefore treated all Goddard's overtures with silence and contempt.

About the middle of January, 1781, Goddard captured the fort of Arnalla, and this was followed, in February, by his forcing the Bhor Ghaut and advancing on Poona, a measure which he conceived would prove more effectual in bringing the war to a conclusion than the reduction of the numerous forts scattered over the country. But in this he committed a mistake: the force under his command

1781.

* The loss of Popham's detachment, at the storming of Lahar, was two British officers (Lieutenant Logan and Ensign Gardiner), one Native officer and 19 men killed, and 2 British and 7 Native officers and 94 men wounded, making a total of 125.—P.



THE SERVICES OF THE

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(about 6,000, of whom only 640 were Europeans) was not strong enough for the purpose, and in April he was forced back and compelled to retreat down the Ghaut with heavy loss, not the least item of which was the fall of the gallant Lieutenant-Colonel Parker, who had commanded at the battle of Korah in 1776. He eventually retired to Kalyan, where he took up quarters for the monsoon.

Towards the end of 1780, Major Popham was relieved in his command by Lieutenant-Colonel Camac, who brought considerable reinforcements with him. The force under Camac amounted to about 5,000 men, and being intended for operations against Sindhia, it marched to the southward, took the fort of Sipri, and reached Sironj in February, 1781.

Here he was greatly harassed by the enemy, and his supplies being cut off, he was reduced to great distress and compelled to call for reinforcements. These were despatched under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Muir, but before they could arrive Camac found himself under the necessity of retreating. Halting at Mahatpur he was followed by Sindhia, of whom he finally relieved himself by a daring night attack (24th March), resulting in the total defeat of the enemy and the capture of all his guns, camp equipage, elephants, and stores.

For some months longer the war languished, but Sindhia was beginning to desire an end of the contest; he received with favour overtures which were made to him in August by Colonel Muir, who was now in command, and at length in October a treaty was concluded. The news of this event decided, if it did not hasten, the Poona Government to come to an arrangement with the English; and a cessation of hostilities was effected early in March, 1782. A treaty was concluded on the 17th of May, but it was not ratified until February, 1783. The Bengal troops in the west of India returned to their own presidency by the route taken by them when proceeding towards Bombay in 1778, and reached Cawnpore in April 1784, reduced in numbers to about half their original strength. Their services were warmly acknowledged in General Orders by the Governor-General, medals and other rewards were conferred upon the officers and men, and in 1829 the corps engaged in these operations, from 1778 to 1784, were authorised to inscribe the word "GUZERAT" on their colours.*

* By some extraordinary mistake the Bengal European Regiment, which had absolutely no part in General Goddard's operations in the west of India, was included in the grant of this honour, and it is still borne on the colours of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.—P.

1781.

Camac's
operations
against
Sindhia.

Camac
included.



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Before detailing the other operations of the Bengal army during the years 1781 and 1782, it will be necessary to notice the great changes which, in the former year, took place in its constitution and numbers. In November, 1780, the four battalions of sepoy drafts which had been under the command of Major Popham, and which had, later on, been re-organised in three battalions, were constituted regular battalions and numbered the 40th, 41st, and 42nd, and the command conferred, respectively, on Captains Clode, M'Clary, and Bruce. Of the forty-two battalions of Bengal infantry now existing, the six in Bombay were regarded as not on the Bengal establishment, and the period of their return being quite indefinite, they were left outside of the new organisation now introduced. At the same time the 20th Battalion, which had exhibited a mutinous spirit in connection with the distribution of the prize taken on the occupation of Chandernagore, when war with France broke out in 1778, was broken up. This left thirty-five battalions on the Bengal establishment, and these by Minutes of Council dated 26th December, 1780, and G.O.C.C., dated 10th January, 1781, were augmented to 1,000 rank and file each, and formed into thirty-five regiments of two battalions of 500 men each. The regiments so formed were each commanded by a Major Commandant, and each battalion by a Captain. Another regiment (the 36th) was raised soon after at Berhampore, and the command given to Major John Fullarton.

At the same time the Bengal European infantry, which had, in 1779, been formed into three double battalion regiments, was once more re-organised in three regiments of a single battalion each.

Shortly before these changes (G. O. C. C., 30th October, 1780) a detachment, the command of which was conferred upon Colonel T. D. Pearse, of the Bengal Artillery, was ordered to assemble at Midnapore to proceed by land to Madras to the assistance of the army of that Presidency, which was hard-pressed by Haidar Ali, the ruler of Mysore: at the same time, the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Eyre Coote, proceeded to Madras by sea, taking with him two companies of artillery, with 630 lascars and 350 men of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Bengal European Regiment. The force under Colonel Pearse consisted of one company of artillery, six companies of lascars, and five regiments of Bengal Native infantry completed to the new establishment, viz., the 12th, 13th, 24th, 25th, and 26th: the 20th had also been detailed for this service, but, as already stated, this corps was

Re-organisa-
tion of the
Bengal Army.

Expedition to
Madras, 1781.



disbanded before the detachment marched. The detachment left Midnapore early in the year, but was much delayed on the march, especially at Ganjam, where it arrived towards the end of March and was detained by the violence of an infectious disease; this, together with numerous desertions, considerably thinned the ranks of the battalions before a junction was effected with Sir Eyre Coote and the Madras army, which was not accomplished until the 3rd of August, 1781, at Pulicat. At this place the detachment was broken up, and the several regiments distributed amongst the brigades of Coote's army, the orders with regard to which had been published as early as January, 1781. By this arrangement the 12th and 25th were posted to the 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Ross Lang; the 13th was in the 3rd Brigade, under Colonel Pearse; the 24th was in the 4th Brigade, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Owen; and the 26th in the 5th Brigade, of which the brigadier was Lieutenant-Colonel George Brown. This mixture of Bengal and Madras troops does not, however, seem to have answered well, judging from the following General Order, dated the 22nd September, 1781:—

"The General is much concerned to have so many reports daily of disputes between the Bengal and Coast sepoys. The appellation 'Bengalee' made use of by the Coast sepoys should be particularly explained to their men by the Officers Commanding the Bengal Native corps, as the general designation by which the sepoys of this country know those of the other establishment, and without attaching to it the same meaning as it has in Bengal."

Yet throughout the campaigns in the Carnatic, the Bengal troops acquitted themselves honourably. Prior to the arrival of Pearse's detachment, the Bengal troops which had accompanied Sir Eyre Coote to the coast had been engaged at the capture of Karanguli, the relief of Wandiwash, the attack on Chilambram, and the great battle of Porto Novo. The first action in which they were engaged after the junction of Pearse's force was that fought on the 27th August at Pollilur, on the very ground on which Haidar Ali had, in the preceding year, cut off and destroyed Colonel Baillie's detachment. The position taken up by Haidar was a strong one, the advance against him being rendered peculiarly difficult by the number of water-courses which cut up the ground; the British force was indifferently handled, but eventually the enemy was forced out of his position, and during the night



Haidar retreated to Conjeveram, leaving the English masters of the field. On the 27th of the following month, Coote came up with Haidar at Sholingarh, and inflicted on him a severe defeat, the Bengal troops (especially the 13th Regiment) taking a prominent share in the victory. On the 23rd October, the grenadier company of the 1st Bengal European Regiment and the 24th Bengal Native Infantry, forming part of a detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Owen, took part in an action near Virakandalur. On this occasion the grenadiers greatly distinguished themselves, re-capturing a gun which had fallen into the enemy's hands. In November, the army retired in the direction of Madras, and was cantoned at Poonamallee.

In January, 1782, an advance was again made towards Vellore, which was in need of provisions, and that place was relieved on the 11th. Subsequently the Bengal troops took part in many important operations. In September of this year, Sir Eyre Coote went to Bengal on account of his failing health; he returned in the spring of 1783, but died at Madras (27th April 1783) before he could resume command of the army, which was now held by Major-General Stuart.*

1782.

Early in the summer of 1783, preparations were made for the recovery of Cuddalore, which had been taken in April, 1782, by the French, who had for some time been actively assisting Haidar Ali: an attack was made on the 13th June, 1783, on the entrenched position held by the French outside the fort; from various causes it was only partially successful, but it ended in the enemy abandoning their position and withdrawing into the fort. They made a vigorous sortie on the 24th, but were repulsed. The conduct on this occasion of the 24th Bengal Native Infantry, under Captain Williamson, was very distinguished: they met the French with the bayonet, defeated them, and drove them out of the trenches, taking several prisoners, including the Chevalier de Damas, who led the attack, and Bernadotte, afterwards king of Sweden, then a sergeant in the French army.† Among

1783.
Siege of
Cuddalore.

* Major-General James Stuart of Torrance. This officer, when Lieutenant-Colonel of the old 90th Regiment, commanded the storming party at the capture of Fort Moro, Havannah, in 1762.—P.

† In some places this exploit is ridiculously attributed to the late 7th Bengal Native Infantry, a regiment which was at that time serving in the west of India under General Goddard. The error probably originated in the fact that the 24th Regiment was, under the re-organization of 1796, incorporated with the *old* double-battalion 7th Native Infantry, which afterwards, in 1824, became the late 10th and 13th Native Infantry.—P.



the Bengal officers who were killed during the operations at Cuddalore were Captain Durey, 25th, and Lieutenant Grueber, 24th Regiment.

The position of the English was at this time very critical, diminished as their forces were by casualties and disease. Fortunately at this juncture news was received of peace having been concluded between France and England, and hostilities ceased. A treaty with Tippoo (Haidar having died in December, 1782) followed in March 1784.

Throughout this campaign the hardships of the army were great from the scarcity of money and supplies. The consequence was that desertions were constant, and in this respect the Bengal troops, who were in a foreign country and therefore doubtless suffered more than the Madras sepoys, unfortunately set a prominently bad example.

On the 19th of April, 1784, the Bengal troops received orders to march for their own Presidency, where they arrived in January, 1785, reduced in numbers from over 5,000 to less than 2,000 men. The force was visited at Ghiretti by the Governor-General, and thanked in General Orders; honorary standards were granted to each battalion; subadars and jemadars received gold and silver medals, respectively, and non-commissioned officers and sepoys similar medals of inferior value. In 1829, the surviving corps were authorised to inscribe "CARNATIC" on their colours.

In Bengal itself the three years during which Colonel Pearse's detachment was fighting in Madras had been comparatively uneventful ones from a military point of view. The only important event near the Presidency was the revolt of Chet Singh, the Rajah of Benares, and its subsequent suppression by a force under Major Popham. As has too often been the case in Indian history, the outbreak of the revolt was marked by circumstances of great barbarity. In consequence of continued signs of disaffection, orders were issued for the arrest of the Rajah in his palace at Benares: this was effected on the morning of August 16th, 1781, and he was left in the charge of Lieutenant Stalker, 27th Native Infantry, under a guard, consisting of two companies of grenadiers of Major Popham's regiment (the 35th Native Infantry), commanded by Lieutenants Scott and Symes. Unfortunately, through some mistake, the party had left camp in the morning without any ammunition. As soon as the omission was discovered, reinforcements were sent by Major Popham, but before these could arrive, the two defenceless companies at the palace were attacked

1784.

Return of the
detachment.

1781-1784.

Revolt of the
Rajah of
Benares.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

CSL

by a multitude of the Rajah's followers and massacred, almost to a man, among the slain being Lieutenants Stalker, Scott, and Symes. The Rajah immediately fled to Latifpur, a strong fort belonging to him about ten miles south-east from Chunar. On the 19th a considerable body of his forces occupied Ramnagar, on the right bank of the Ganges opposite Benares, and on the following day a rash and ill-judged attack was made on this place by some detachments under Captain Mayaffre, of the Artillery, who paid for his foolhardiness with his life, Captain Doxat, commanding the company of "Foreign Rangers," and a number of men being also killed. This defeat further inflamed the rebellion, and the Governor-General, who was at Benares at the time, was obliged to retreat to Chunar. Reinforcements, however, soon appeared on the scene and further operations followed, the regiments employed being the 1st Battalion of the 6th, and the 7th, 19th, 30th and 35th. On September 4th, Captain Blair, with a detachment of 550 men and two guns, attacked the enemy at Patita, seven miles from Chunar: the Rajah's troops (4,500 men with six guns) fought with great steadiness, but an opportune and gallant attack made on their guns by the grenadier companies of the 35th compelled them to retire with considerable loss, leaving four guns in the hands of the victors. Shortly after a combined attack on Patita and Latifpur, by two columns, was organised. Major Popham commanded the first of these columns and seized the fort of Patita after a faint resistance. Major Crabb, who commanded the other column, experienced more opposition. A powerful body of the Rajah's troops met him at Lora on the 20th September, but they were defeated after a sharp action and driven with loss through the pass of Sukrut to Latifpur. On hearing of this double disaster, the Rajah fled to Bijai-garh, in the Kaimur Hills, which was his last resource, and the whole of his army dispersed. Major Popham advanced rapidly on Bijai-garh, when the Rajah again fled, and the place was taken (10th November), and found to contain treasure to the amount of twenty-five lakhs of rupees, which was immediately distributed to the troops.

We have now reached a period of several years' peace, during which the Bengal Army was reduced as much as possible, and every effort made to lessen the drain on the impoverished exchequer.

Reduction of
the army.

As early as the middle of 1783, reductions had been made in the army which remained in Bengal. In accordance with the Minutes of Council of the 28th August, 1783, a general reduction of the army



to peace establishment took place. Regiments of infantry were reduced from 1,000 to 700 men, battalions being divided into five companies of 70 men each.

The first point to be noticed in the changes which now took place is the further re-numbering of the infantry regiments.

In 1782, the regiments of the line, exclusive of the six corps, in Bombay, were reduced to thirty-five in number by the mutiny of the 35th (Major Popham's) Regiment at Berhampore. This corps was ordered on service to the Northern Circars early in 1782; but a rumour getting abroad that they would be sent by sea, the men refused to go, and declared that they would prevent the advanced party from marching. This was one of the results of the unhappy loss at sea, in 1770, of the grenadier companies of the then 4th Battalion, already mentioned. The 4th, 15th and 17th Regiments at Barrackpore, which had also been ordered on this service, shared in a lesser degree in the insubordinate conduct of the 35th. For this offence two subadars and two sepoy were executed by being blown away from guns, in accordance with the sentence of a court-martial, and the 35th Regiment was disbanded and "dismissed the service in a public and ignominious manner" (G. O. C. C. 20th March, 1782). The number of the disgraced regiment was given to the 36th.

On the return of the Bombay detachment it became necessary to give the six infantry battalions included in it places amongst the brigade regiments. "In order to effect this without increase of the establishment, six of the present brigade regiments are to be reduced, viz., the 33rd, 34th, and 35th (being the youngest regiments), and the 4th,* 15th, and 17th on account of their unsoldierlike conduct when ordered on service in March, 1782,"—(Minutes of Council, 19th January, 1784). The returned regiments were brought on to the establishment with their original numbers, and the thirty-five regiments were accordingly numbered as follows:—

Previous to 1781.	1781.	1784.	REMARKS.	Previous to 1781.	1781.	1784.	REMARKS.
1st	...	1st	In the detachment to Bombay.	5th	...	5th	In the detachment to Bombay.
2nd	...	2nd	Ditto.	6th	...	6th	Ditto.
3rd	1st	3rd	7th	...	7th	Ditto.

* This was the celebrated *Matthews-hi-palian*, one of the most distinguished corps of the Bengal Native Army. It was raised in 1761, and had served with much distinction under Adams and Munro, especially at the battles of Gheriah and Buxar.—P.

Mutiny and
reduction of
the 35th

Re-numbering
of 1784.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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Previous to 1781.	1781.	1784.	REMARKS.	Previous to 1781.	1781.	1784.	REMARKS.
4th	...	4th	In the detachment to Bombay.	8th	2nd	8th	
11th	5th	10th		9th	3rd	9th	
12th	6th	11th		27th	20th	23rd	
18th	12th	12th	In the detachment to Madras.	31st	24th	24th	In the detachment to Madras.
19th	13th	13th	Ditto	32nd	25th	25th	Ditto.
13th	7th	14th		33rd	26th	26th	Ditto.
14th	8th	15th		28th	21st	27th	
15th	9th	16th		29th	22nd	28th	
16th	10th	17th		30th	23rd	29th	Now the 1st Bengal Infantry.
17th	11th	18th		34th	27th	30th	
21st	14th	19th		35th	28th	31st	
23rd	16th	20th		36th	29th	32nd	
25th	18th	21st		37th	30th	33rd	
26th	19th	22nd		38th	31st	34th	
				39th	32nd	35th	

The history of the native cavalry during the preceding twenty years had been a rather varied one, and requires some special notice. The three *risalaks* of Clive's organisation of 1765 were not, as might have been expected, a very efficient force; and they were criticised as follows, about 1770, by General Smith, the Commander-in-Chief, previous to his resigning his command:—

"The black cavalry are at present of no further use than to attend the Commander-in-Chief and Colonels of Brigades, and are too inconsiderable to be of service in time of war; for I know by experience it is impossible, from the viciousness of the horses, to discipline cavalry here to any tolerable degree of perfection, and castrating the horses ruins their spirit.... On the commencement of a war, the best cavalry in Indostan may be procured within six weeks, either Durannees, Tartars, Persians, or Mahrattas.Subalterns at present command the three troops and enjoy the emoluments of them, which, together with the clothing, is said to amount to little less than Rs20,000 a year.

In consequence, apparently, of these strictures, the whole body of cavalry was disbanded in 1772, and not a single mounted man remained in the service of the Company in Bengal. However, in the following year, 1773, the Body-Guard was raised, and in 1776 the Nawab-Wazir agreed to keep up a contingent of six cavalry regiments, officered by Englishmen, and did actually raise two, which were transferred to the Company in the following year; and these, with a third, raised at that time, were formed into a brigade under Colonel Stibbert. One of these regiments has been mentioned

Native Cavalry, 1765-1784.



as forming part of Colonel Gaddard's detachment, employed against the Mahrattas in the west of India. The other two were now (Minute of Council, 5th May, 1783) entirely reduced, the horses sold, and the men discharged, except such as might be selected for infantry service.

On the return of the Bombay detachment, we find the order recorded (Minute of Council, 19th January, 1784) that "the two *risalahs*" of cavalry included* in that force are to be retained in the Company's service for the present. This, apparently, refers to the regiment of Bengal native cavalry and the Kandahar Horse.

In the course of the following year, a considerable further reduction was made in the infantry, the 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th and 35th Regiments being reduced and also several of the then existing independent (*i.e.*, local) corps.—(Minutes of Council, dated the 27th January and 15th February, 1785).

This was followed, in 1786, by the disbanding of the Chittagong Independent Regiment (Minutes of Council, dated the 22nd March, 1786). The disbandment of the Ramgarh Light Infantry was also ordered, but before it could be carried into execution, a letter arrived from Europe which led to the retention of the regiment. By the same Minutes of Council the double battalion organisation was abandoned, and the Native infantry was re-organised in thirty single battalion regiments of ten companies each, styled "battalions." These arrangements had not yet been completely carried into effect when the letter mentioned above (dated 21st September, 1785) arrived from the Court of Directors ordering the adoption of a somewhat similar measure and directing in addition that the existing Native infantry was to be re-organised in 36 battalions, each of a strength of 640 natives of all ranks, with 10 European officers and 8 European Sergeants,—(Minutes of Council, 22nd May, 1786). This was done; the Ramgarh Light Infantry was brought into the line as the 31st Battalion,* the 32nd Battalion was formed of drafts from four battalions at Fatehgarh, the 33rd and 34th by drafts from seven battalions at Cawnpore and Fatehgarh, the 35th by drafts from four battalions at Chunar, and the 36th by drafts from seven battalions at Barrackpore, Dacca, and Midnapore, and from the Ramgarh Light Infantry,—(G. O. C. C., 18th May, 1786). The five regiments formed from drafts were popularly known as the "Chari

* In 1796 this battalion became the 2nd of the 4th. Its native designation (*Chota Crawford-ki-paltan*) was derived from Captain James Crawford, junior.—P.



Yarl," or "Four Friends," in allusion, it is said, to the supposition that they had each been formed from drafts of four regiments.

The strength of the single battalion regiments now formed was eight companies of 80 all ranks, and the peace establishment for Bengal was fixed (Minutes of Council, 22nd May, 1786) as follows :—

- 3 battalions of European artillery.
- 6 Ditto ditto infantry.
- troops of Native cavalry.
- 36 battalions of Native infantry.
- 30 companies of lascars.
- 1 corps of engineers (consisting of 22 officers only).

The army was divided into six brigades of sepoy regiments, with one European battalion in each.

The two existing *risalahs* of cavalry were reduced to troops of 80 each of all ranks, and stationed one at Cawnpore, the other at Fatehgarh. This order, however, only remained in force for one year, when each troop was augmented by one native officer and 53 men,—(Minutes of Council, 2nd July and G. O. C. C., 21st October, 1787). Towards the end of the year a further augmentation was made, each corps being formed into a regiment of three troops, each troop consisting of one British and two native officers and 55 men. These corps were now designated "the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Cavalry," and a captain was appointed to the command of each.—(Minutes of Council, 7th December, and G. O. C. C., 14th December, 1787.)

Some short notice is here necessary also of the artillery, in which the changes since 1777 had been frequent. In that year, it will be remembered, the first companies of Golandaz were received into the Company's service from that of the Nawab-Wazir of Oudh. Their strength was three British and four Native officers, three British and sixteen Native non-commissioned officers and 80 men to each company, while the whole three were commanded by a major (Patrick Duff), with a staff of an adjutant, a quarter-master and a sergeant-major. Six companies of lascars were attached to each Golandaz company. In 1778, on the advice of Colonel Pearse, three battalions of Golandaz were raised, the men for them, besides two of the existing companies, being selected from the companies of lascars. The third original Golandaz company had meanwhile accompanied Brigadier-General Goddard's expedition to the west of India. The artillery was now formed into a separate brigade of one European and three Native battalions. Notwithstanding the success of this experiment and

Native Artillery, 1777-1785

the efficiency of the native artillery so formed, the Golandaz battalions were reduced in 1779, and the old system of lascars revived : and, though a company was raised from the old material to accompany Colonel Pearse to Madras in 1780, yet, in 1784-85, both this company and the one which had rendered such excellent service with Brigadier-General Goddard in the west of India were reduced.

In 1787, Lord Cornwallis (who came out as Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in September, 1786) inspected all the corps of the army, and placed on record that he "viewed with no less admiration than astonishment the very high military condition and proficiency of the Native corps in Bengal."

Of the interior economy, etc., of corps, the following details are gleaned from General Orders and other sources. The recruiting ground for the infantry at this time, and for many subsequent years, was principally about the Ganges in Bihar and Oudh. A general officer, writing in 1809,* says :—

"During the last forty years the Native army has been almost entirely recruited from the countries extending on both sides of the Ganges, from Patna or Dinapore up to Anoopsheher and Rohilcund. The tract which has furnished the greatest number of recruits for the Native infantry in that period is included between the Ganges and the Gogra, from the junction of these rivers near Manjee to Shahjehanpore, on the eastern confines of Rohilcund. The zemindars throughout this tract are almost entirely Bramins and Rajpoots, and are a brave, manly race of people."

The establishment of a Native infantry battalion by the organisation of 1786 was as follows :—

Staff.	Commandant.	Two companies of grenadiers and six battalion companies of the following strength :—
	Adjutant.	
	Surgeon Assistant.	
	Black doctor.	1 Subaltern.
	Sergeant-Major.	1 Sergeant.
	Quarter-master Sergeant.	1 Subadar.
Non-effective.	Drill Havildar.	1 Jemadar.
	Drill Naik.	4 Havildars.
	Drum and Fife Major.	4 Naiks.
		1 Drum.
		1 Fife.
		68 Privates.

The old appointment of Native Commandant was abolished in 1781, and the pay of battalions was drawn in one abstract by the



commanding officer, and ordered to be issued to the men in the presence of company commanders.

In a General Order dated 18th July, 1778, we find, with reference to the training of the men, that ten rounds of ammunition are to be allowed per man yearly for musketry practice: "the targets are to be made of painted canvas, and a butt of earth erected behind them to preserve the balls."

In the cavalry, at the same time, the staff allowance for field officers, for horses and regimental furniture, is fixed at ₹150, and for captains and for subalterns at ₹100. And a little later (G. O. C. C., 9th November, 1780), commanding officers of the native cavalry regiments are directed to send to the Presidency one dafadar and twelve troopers to be instructed in military riding, training, and breaking horses.

In 1787, a scale of camp equipage was laid down, that for a sepoy battalion being as follows:—7 marquees for the officers and surgeons, 3 private tents for the sergeants and quarter guard, 11 bell tents (probably for the sepoys' arms, who at this time had no shelter for themselves), and 3 necessary tents.

The Bengal army continued on a peace establishment until the outbreak of the Mysore War in 1790, the only important event in the meantime being the despatch in 1789 of a detachment of Native infantry to re-inforce the Company's settlement at Fort Marlborough, Bencoolen, on the north-west coast of Sumatra, where disturbances were threatened. One object held in view by Lord Cornwallis in despatching these troops was to overcome the aversion of the Bengal sepoys to service beyond sea, against which the disaster of 1770, already related, had deeply prejudiced them. Volunteers were called for from the 1st, 30th, and 32nd Battalions, and a bounty of ₹10 per man was offered. The detachment (of the strength of four companies) was completed in a few days, notwithstanding that two subadars of the 32nd tried to deter the men from volunteering, for which offence they were publicly discharged from the service with ignominy. The promised bounty was paid to the volunteers before they started, and not a single desertion occurred. On the voyage every care was taken of the men, but during their stay at Bencoolen they suffered much from sickness, and many deaths occurred. The detachment returned to Calcutta in December.

In order that the narrative of the war in Mysore may not be interrupted, it is convenient to mention in this place that in January,

1790.

Detachment to
Bencoolen.Operations on
the coast of
Malacca.



1791 two companies of the 30th Battalion were detached on service to Prince of Wales' Island (Penang). In the following April these companies were employed in some operations in Quedah territory, on the coast of Malacca, opposite Penang, and Lieutenant Thomas Williamson, who commanded them, was wounded in action at Point Pria Fort on the 12th of that month.

The outbreak of war with Tippoo Sultan in the beginning of 1790, and the necessity of affording aid to the Madras Presidency, led to the augmentation of Bengal infantry battalions to ten companies and the addition of a dafadar and 20 troopers to each troop of cavalry,—(Minutes of Council, 1st February, 1790). Lord Cornwallis, who was determined to prosecute the war in the most vigorous manner, gave orders on the same date for the formation of a detachment for service in the Carnatic: this consisted of the 76th Foot and six battalions of Bengal native infantry, *viz.*, the 3rd, 7th, 13th, 14th, 26th, and 28th (completed to ten companies each by drafts from the 8th, 9th, 20th, 23rd, 33rd, and 35th Battalions), with the 2nd Battalion of Artillery and twelve companies of lascars, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerell, Quarter-master General of the Army in Bengal. The detachment (except the 76th Foot and part of the artillery, which went by sea) marched to Midnapore, and thence to the southern bank of the Subanrika River, in three divisions, and proceeding onwards on the 22nd March, 1790, arrived at Conjeveram on the 1st August, where it joined a force called "the Centre Army" under the command of Colonel Kelly of the Madras Army. It was inspected by that officer on the 4th of August, and complimented on its appearance and on the small diminution in its numbers which had occurred during the long march from Bengal. It is certain, however, that numerous desertions did take place, for special General Orders on the subject were published on the 12th April and the 29th June; in the latter we find the following:—"The Commander-in-Chief has observed that by far the greatest number of men who have deserted from Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerell's detachment are natives of Oudh and the countries beyond Benares. An experience so unquestionable must satisfy every person that whatever advantages such men may possess in point of height and appearance, they are by no means so fit for soldiers in the Company's service as the natives of our own provinces. It is therefore directed that commanding officers of battalions of sepoys do receive as few



men as possible from the countries to the west of Benares, but fill up all vacancies in these battalions, as far as may be practicable, with natives of the Company's provinces; and that battalion which is composed of the greatest number of men of the latter description will, in the estimation of the Commander-in-Chief, be the most useful corps and the most to be relied on."

On this expedition the authorities, mindful of the disturbances which had occurred eight years before, brigaded the Bengal troops separately from the Madras sepoys. The 3rd, 13th, and 26th Battalions formed, with the 74th (Highland) Regiment, the 1st Brigade of the Centre Army, under Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, 74th; the 7th, 14th, and 25th Battalions, with the 76th Foot, formed the 2nd Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerell.

Little was effected during the remainder of 1790, and the Centre Army was not engaged with the enemy, except in a few trifling skirmishes.

At the end of the year Lord Cornwallis, being dissatisfied with the result of the campaign, determined to take the field in person, and at the same time re-inforce the army in the field in the Carnatic with additional troops from Bengal. In G. O. C. C., dated 8th November, 1790, the 1st Regiment of Bengal Cavalry was ordered to be made up to six troops of regulation strength by drafts from the 2nd Regiment, and to go by sea to Madras; and, at the same time, a volunteer force of 1,400 sepoys was called for, who were also to accompany the Commander-in-Chief to Madras by sea. More than the required number volunteered, and proceeded to Madras, where on arrival they were formed (G. O. by Earl Cornwallis, dated 3rd February, 1791) into two battalions, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of Bengal Volunteers, the command of which was conferred upon Captains Thomas Welsh and Henry Hyndman. A reinforcement of 50 artillerymen also proceeded to Madras. It does not appear how the Bengal cavalry were employed, but they were probably used merely as a Body-Guard by Lord Cornwallis. They returned to Bengal in the autumn of 1791.

Cornwallis
takes com-
mand.

On the 29th of January Lord Cornwallis assumed command of the troops in the field, at Vellout, and having determined to carry the war into the enemy's country and assail Seringapatam, he moved forward on the 5th February. Ascending the Mugli Pass without opposition, and capturing the forts of Kolar and Uskata, he



advanced on Bangalore, before which fortress he arrived on the 5th of March. On the following day a cavalry action took place, in which the British, who were at first successful, pushed their pursuit too far, and, becoming entangled in a country intersected with ravines, were driven back in confusion with a loss of 20 killed, 48 wounded, and 3 missing, Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd, commanding the cavalry, being amongst the badly wounded.

Taking of
Bangalore.

On the 7th the *pettah* (or walled town) of Bangalore was carried by assault by a detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerell, consisting of His Majesty's 36th, the 26th Bengal Battalion, a detachment of artillery, and some pioneers, supported by the 76th Foot, the 3rd Bengal Battalion and the 1st Bengal Volunteers. Later on the same day an attempt was made by Tippoo to recover the place, but this was perceived in time by Cornwallis, who re-inforced the troops in the town with the 76th, which had been withdrawn in the course of the morning, and the enemy were driven back after severe fighting. The British loss on this occasion was 131 killed and wounded, out of which the Bengal battalions had 3 killed and 18 wounded; the loss of the enemy was about 2,000.

The siege of Bangalore fort was now prosecuted with as much vigour as possible, but under great difficulties, as the besiegers were constantly threatened by the whole of the enemy's very superior force. The assault was delivered on the night of the 21st of March, the 7th and 26th Bengal Battalions forming part of the storming party: it proved completely successful, though this fortunate result would have been less assured but for the hesitation and timidity of Tippoo. Hundreds of the enemy were killed, while our loss amounted to only 17 killed and 86 wounded, of which the share of the Bengal battalions was 3 killed and 15 wounded. The total British loss before Bangalore was 120 killed, 305 wounded, and 8 missing,—433 in all.

Having effected a junction with the Nizam's cavalry, amounting to 10,000 men, in April, Lord Cornwallis made preparations for the siege of Seringapatam, and marched towards that place on the 3rd of May. On the 13th he received information that Tippoo, with his whole army, was encamped in a formidable position at Arikera, eight miles from Seringapatam; and determined, by making a night march, to surprise him, if possible, turn his left flank, and cut him off from his capital. This plan was frustrated by a violent storm during the night, which impeded the march of the troops; but Lord Corn-

Battle of
Arikera, 13th
May.



wallis persevered, and at daybreak attacked Tippoo, who had now changed his front and assumed a fresh position. A severe engagement ensued, ending in the complete defeat of the enemy, who were driven under the walls of Seringapatam. The Bengal troops engaged in this action were the 2nd Battalion of artillery, the 7th, 13th, 14th, 26th and 28th Battalions of Native Infantry, the 1st Volunteer Battalion, and Lord Cornwallis' guard, which was probably a detachment from the 1st Regiment of Bengal Cavalry. Their casualties, out of a total of 426, amounted to 36 killed (including Ensign Ross and Subadar Tahir Muhammad, 13th Battalion, and Jemadar Dharu Singh, 26th Battalion), 141 wounded (including five British officers, of whom one, Lieutenant Duncan Macpherson, of the Artillery, died), and 3 missing,—making 180 in all.

On the 18th Lord Cornwallis moved to Kaniyambadi, eight miles to the west of Seringapatam, in order to facilitate a junction with Major-General Abercromby* and a force from Bombay, which had advanced over the Ghâts from Malabar and was now at Periapatam, about forty miles to the west of Seringapatam. Owing, however, to the mortality amongst the draught cattle, the complete failure of supplies, and the incessant bad weather, combined with the non-arrival of a Mahratta army which was to have co-operated with him, Lord Cornwallis found it impossible to prosecute the siege of Seringapatam at this juncture, and determined to retire. He accordingly directed Major-General Abercromby to retrace his steps to the Malabar coast, and after halting a few days to cover that officer's retrograde movement, he burst all his heavy guns, destroyed the stores for which carriage could not be found, and, on the 26th May, began his retreat towards Bangalore. The same day he was joined by the long-expected Mahratta army, 40,000 strong, accompanied by two Bombay battalions under Captain Little, which had been engaged at the siege of Dharwar. The earlier arrival of this force would have completely changed the course of events, but the activity of the enemy's horse had prevented all intelligence of its approach reaching Lord Cornwallis, and thus rendered nugatory his successes up to this period. The destruction of the siege train and stores made an immediate return to Seringapatam impossible; the retirement was therefore continued, and Bangalore was reached on the 11th July.

While the preparation of a fresh siege train and other arrangements for a renewed attack on Seringapatam were in progress, a part of the

Retreat to
Bangalore.

Reduction of
hill forts.

* This was Major-General Robert Abercromby, a younger brother of the celebrated Sir Ralph Abercromby, who fell in Egypt in 1801. He died in 1827.—P.



army was employed in reducing Tippoo's hill forts. Of these, the first to offer any considerable resistance, was Nandidrug, built on the summit of a hill about 1,700 feet high, with precipitous and, except in one place, inaccessible sides, which rises sheer from the plain, about twenty-eight miles north of Bangalore. The village at the foot of the hill was taken on the 22nd of September, and the fort itself was carried with but small loss on the 17th of October. The 13th Bengal Battalion took part in the siege, and its flank companies were engaged in the assault.

On the 31st of October the 7th Bengal Battalion was present at the storming of Penagra, in the Baramahal, with a detached force under Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell; and on the 8th November it took part in the unsuccessful assault of Kistnageri, when Lieutenant Edward Bird was severely wounded. The 3rd, 13th, 14th, 26th, and 28th Battalions took part in the operations before Savandrug in December, but not in the assault. Ramgiri and Shivanagiri surrendered to a detachment under Captain Welsh, which included the 28th Bengal Battalion. On the 24th of December the strong fort of Utradrug was stormed by a party consisting of the light infantry companies of the 52nd and 72nd Foot, and the 26th Bengal Battalion.

In the autumn of this year the battalions stationed at Barrackpore, Berhampore and Dinapore were called upon (G.O.C.C. 9th August, 1791) to furnish another body of 850 volunteers for service in the Carnatic. These were quickly forthcoming: they were despatched by sea to Madras in September, 1791, and on arrival in Mysore the men were distributed to fill vacancies in the eight Bengal battalions then with Lord Cornwallis. At the same time twenty subaltern officers were sent from Bengal for service with these battalions, and a large number of lascars were also despatched.

Towards the end of January, 1792, the confederated armies were assembled near Huliadrug, about forty miles south-west of Bangalore, and thence, on the 1st of February, they marched for Seringapatam. The strength of the British forces was—

Artillery (1,145 Europeans and 3,077 Natives)	4,222
Engineers (including 21 Natives)	41
Pioneers	1,049
British cavalry (one regiment)	404
Native cavalry (two regiments and two body-guards)	702
British infantry (seven battalions)	4,482
Native infantry (seventeen battalions)	11,133
TOTAL	22,033

The ordnance (including the siege train) amounted to 86 pieces. The Nizam's and the Mahratta armies (18,000 and 12,000 strong, respectively) consisted entirely of horse.



BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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Of the Bengal troops, the 3rd, 13th and 26th Battalions and the 2nd Battalion of Volunteers formed the 3rd Brigade under Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerell, while the 7th, 14th and 28th Battalions composed the 4th Brigade under Major George Russell of the Bengal Infantry.

On the 5th of February the army arrived within six miles of Seringapatam and encamped under cover of the Kapilair Hills. The whole of Tippoo's army was posted in an enclosed and strongly fortified camp on the north bank of the Kaveri. The enclosure was an irregular triangle in shape, about three miles in length and about 3,000 yards broad at the base, which was towards the west. The whole was surrounded by a strong hedge of prickly pear, except towards the river; a large redoubt called the Idgah stood at the north-west angle; the apex of the triangle was flanked and protected by the defences of a rocky eminence known as Karighat hill, while the centre of the camp was strengthened by a double line of redoubts. Immediately behind the camp was the island in the Kaveri on which stood the fort and town of Seringapatam.

Attack on
Seringa-
patam,
February 6th.

After carefully reconnoitring the enemy's position Lord Cornwallis decided on making an immediate attempt on Tippoo's camp without waiting for the arrival of the Bombay force, which had again ascended the Western Ghâts, and was once more moving on Seringapatam. The attack was made in three columns on the night of the 6th of February, the 3rd Brigade forming part of the Right Column under Major-General Medows, and the 4th being included in the Centre Column under Lord Cornwallis himself. As is not unusual in night assaults, much confusion prevailed, and at one period the attacking forces were perilously near to repulse, but in the end the operations were completely successful, and our forces were firmly established in the position from which they had expelled the enemy. To enter a little into detail, the Right Column carried the Idgah redoubt, and then moved down to the extreme left and reached Karighat hill. Part of the Centre Column, after forcing their way through the enemy's camp, crossed the river and made good their position in the island, capturing several batteries which lined the bank; another portion, with which was the 14th Bengal Battalion, seized one of the large redoubts in the camp, while the remainder, with which was Lord Cornwallis himself, was hotly engaged with a large force of the enemy, and on the repulse of the latter withdrew towards Karighat hill, and eventually joined the Right Column, which had wandered off in that



direction in the dark, after the capture of the Idgah Redoubt. The Left Column, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, 74th Highlanders, carried the defences of the Karighat hill without much opposition, forced its way into the entrenched camp, and eventually followed the lead of the Centre Column across the river.

Throughout the 7th the enemy, who were still in possession of several redoubts within the camp, made strenuous efforts to dislodge the British from the positions they had gained, but in vain; and during the night they abandoned the camp, and retired across the river into the fortress of Seringapatam.

The loss of the British in the twenty-four hours' fighting was 108 killed, 383 wounded, and 44 missing, making a total of 535; of this number, 28 of the killed, 101 of the wounded, and 11 of the missing, 140 in all, belonged to the Bengal troops. Lord Cornwallis was slightly wounded, and Captain John Archdeacon, commanding the 14th Bengal Battalion, Lieutenant-Fireworker Alexander Buchan, Bengal Artillery, and Lieutenant Patrick Stewart, Bengal Engineers, were amongst the killed. The loss of the enemy was enormous: the killed alone were estimated at 4,000, and with wounded, prisoners and deserters the total loss was probably not less than 20,000. Seventy-six pieces of cannon were taken in the camp and on the island.*

On the 16th of February, Major-General Abercromby arrived with the Bombay force (about 6,000 strong, consisting of four British and seven Native battalions, with a proportion of artillery), and on the 19th he crossed the river and took up a position south-west of the fort with three British and six Native battalions.

After several unsuccessful attempts to dislodge the detachments on the island, and a sharp attack on the Bombay troops on the 22nd February, in which the latter sustained casualties to the extent of 104 killed and wounded, Tippoo expressed a desire to treat. Hostilities ceased on the 24th of February, and peace was concluded on the 18th of March. By this treaty the Company acquired a great accession of territory, while large portions were ceded to the Nizam and Mahrattas: an indemnity of three crores and thirty lakhs was paid by Tippoo, and a grant from this, added to the prize-money of the campaign, together with a gratuity from the Court of Directors,

* These figures are taken from Lord Cornwallis' despatch, published in the *London Gazette* of the 2nd July 1792. They differ somewhat from the figures given by Dirom and other writers.—P.



produced a substantial sum for all ranks. The following were the amounts received by the Native ranks:—Subadar £27 12s., Jemadar £13 16s., Havildar £11 16s. 2d., other ranks £5 18s. 1d.

The Army marched from Seringapatam on the 26th March, and in July the Bengal detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Cockerell encamped at Nellore. It marched for its own presidency about the end of September, having received the thanks of the Madras Government for its services. Its orderly conduct on the march through the Northern Circars was brought to the special notice of the Governor-General, by whom the men were thanked on their arrival at Calcutta. (G. O. C. C., 3rd January, 1793). Honorary standards were granted to each battalion, and medals conferred on the Native portion of the troops who had served in Mysore, and in 1829 the service was further commemorated by the grant of permission to the surviving corps to inscribe "MYSORE" on their colours. The men of the two volunteer battalions returned to their respective regiments.

The close of the war was marked by the reduction of the strength of Bengal infantry battalions to the peace establishment of eight companies of 68 men each. The 1st Regiment of Native Cavalry had previously (G. O. C. C., 13th January, 1792) been reduced to its former strength of three troops.

Early in 1793, at the request of the reigning Rajah, a detachment, consisting of fifteen companies of infantry, amongst which were the 16th Battalion and a detachment of the 27th, was despatched under Captain Thomas Welsh to Assam, where it was engaged in the suppression of disturbances raised by a powerful body of rebels, who had all but overturned the Rajah's authority and had actually captured his capital, Gauhati. The rebels were routed and Gauhati recovered without difficulty, but the disturbances did not cease until the following year, and in a skirmish with some of the insurgents, in April, 1794, Lieutenant W. Cresswell, of the 27th Battalion, was killed. The troops were withdrawn from Assam in July, 1794, and the country soon relapsed into a state of anarchy.

Early in 1794, a threatened incursion by the Burmese from Arakan, into the British province of Chittagong, necessitated the assembly of a small force to protect the frontier. The 3rd European Battalion, the 34th Native Battalion, and a detachment of artillery, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Erskine, were on the frontier for sometime, but no hostilities took

Expedition to
Assam, 1792.

Threatened
Burmese
incursion into
Chittagong.