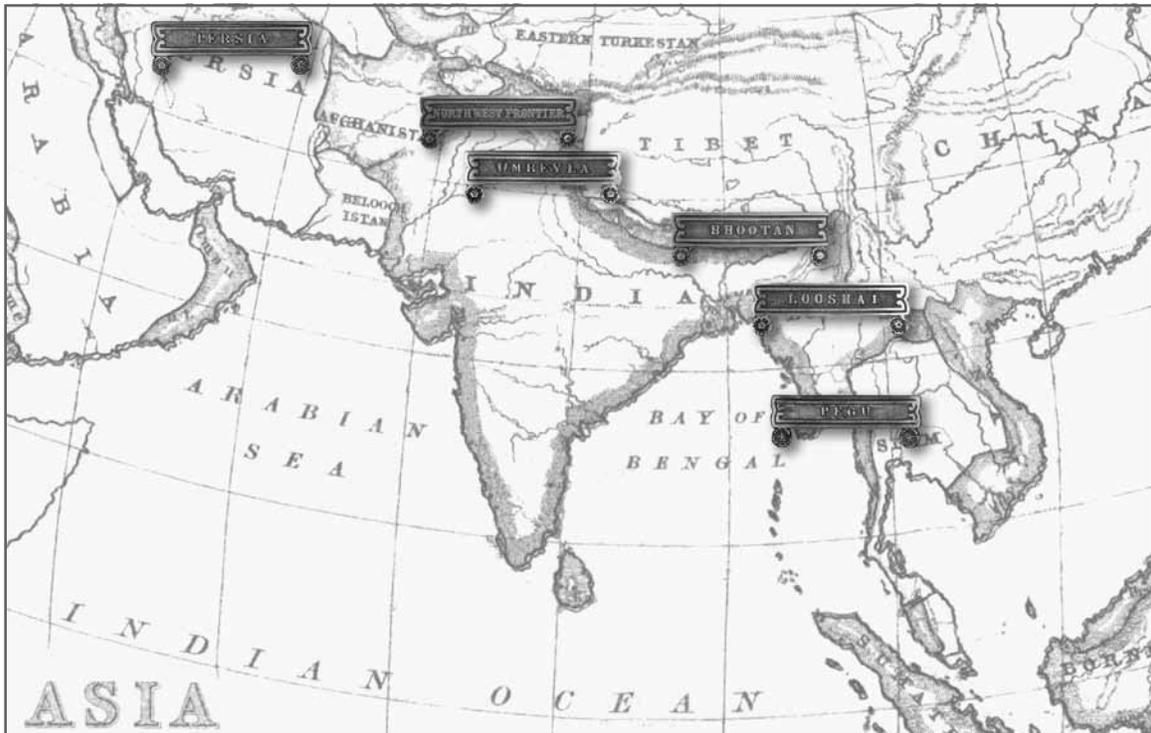

A DANGEROUS GAME

BRITISH COLONIAL WARFARE
on the Indian Sub-Continent 1854-1895



VOLUME I

PARRITT

LONDON

LOOSE PAGE PUBLISHING

2010

WAIBEL

VANCOUVER

INDIA GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL

1854-1895



VOLUME I

THESE VOLUMES ARE DEDICATED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS
WHO WISH TO STUDY MILITARY HISTORY AND ENHANCE THE
MEMORY OF THOSE INVOLVED BY THE COLLECTION
OF THEIR DECORATIONS AND MEDALS.

BRIGADIER B.A.H. PARRITT CBE & JOACHIM M. WAIBEL
RESEARCHED FROM 2006 TO 2009

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Reflections

This new edition of Brian Parritt's *Red With Two Blue Stripes* is long overdue and is to be much welcomed. Since the publication of "Part One" in 1979, which covered the early clasps up to and including that for Bhootan, there has been much anticipation of further 'Parts'. To some small degree this was fulfilled by the publication of a series of articles covering some, but not all, of the subsequent clasps. However, due to the commercial constraints of a dealer's list, these later articles were heavily edited and, although helpful, did not tell the full story and it has no doubt been a cause of frustration to Brian that the results of his dedicated research over many years have lain largely unpublished for so long. Now, with the timely intervention and encouragement of Joachim Waibel, it is possible to take up the story once again.

As Brian rightly says in his introduction to "Part One", the India General Service Medal 1854-95 is 'unique amongst British Military Campaign medals'. Originally termed the 'India Medal of 1854', its intention was to obviate the continued plethora of medals that had been thrown up by the numerous battles and campaigns in India over the prior decade or so. The recent issues of the Naval and Military General Service Medals, and those to the Army of India, retrospectively commemorating events of the previous five decades, helped to cement the practice of individual clasps for battles or campaigns that had evolved with the medals of the 1st and 2nd Sikh wars to give a new medal with which to reflect the many and varied conflicts that would directly concern the British Empire in India – no fewer than 55 separate qualifying actions in nearly as many years.

The medal was later designated the India General Service Medal 1854 to more accurately reflect the 'general service' that would be covered by the 23 different clasps eventually attached to it. Interestingly, none of these clasps commemorate events that took place in the geographical area that is now recognized as India. It is also striking that many of these areas of conflict from over 100 years ago remain areas of conflict today, from Iran in the west to Burma in the east, and that nothing much has changed on what was known as the North West Frontier of India, now part of Pakistan and forming the eastern border of Afghanistan.

There are few areas of our hobby that have been so in need of an approachable and informed work of reference as the many campaigns, large and small, that are covered by the India General Service Medal 1854-95. Brian Parritt's hard work deserves recognition for bringing long forgotten episodes of empire to the fore and should help to encourage others to explore this rich kaleidoscope of Victorian military and naval campaign history. As editor, Joachim Waibel is to be congratulated for his relentless search for the illustrations which have given new focus to the individual campaigns and for his dogged persistence which has ensured that this great endeavour has finally borne fruit. Without his dedicated drive over the past five years this would not have been possible.

I am confident that this new work "A Dangerous Game" will meet with the universal approbation of both medal collectors and military historians from around the world.

Nimrod Dix
Director, Medals
Dix Noonan Webb Ltd
Auctioneers & Valuers
London 2010

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Foreword

The aim of this book is to help the ever-growing number of people who are interested in British Army medals and the men who earned them. The emphasis has, therefore, been focused primarily on the actions of units and particularly on the actions of individuals who were involved in the 55 actions which qualified for the India General Service Medal 1854. Throughout the narrative wherever a person can be named, be he Officer, Private, Sepoy or Civilian, his name is given. If it has been possible to find a personal account of the action, this has also been included. The book does not claim to be an exhaustive list of everyone who earned the medal; medal rolls are available for more detailed research. An endeavor has been made, however, to highlight those men who distinguished themselves, or in some way, came to notice.

Accuracy has been the key word in the compilation of the book but it has been a most elusive goal. In particular it has been difficult to ensure that names are correct, as there are cases of names differing between the Army List, the Official History of the Campaign, the Regimental History, and the Regimental War Memorial. In such cases alternatives have been given but if a collector has a medal bearing a name spelled differently to the one quoted in this book, there could be many explanations.

DISCLAIMER

The book has taken many years to prepare and has been built up like a jigsaw puzzle from numerous sources. The problem has been where to strike a balance between a reasonably sized book and the perpetual wish to include yet more detail. It is hoped that this final product will supply a good idea of what each unit did in each campaign and, with a bit of luck, will "Mention" any particular man who may be of interest.

The designation of units and formations is based on contemporary descriptions which can be very confusing to the modern reader.

Notes on the India General Service Medal 1854

HISTORY

Although it was eventually agreed that the North West Frontier Expedition of 1849 should qualify for the medal, the concept of an India General Service Medal came in 1852. In that year the question of issuing a medal for the campaign in Burma was raised and Lord Dalhousie, who was then Governor General of India, wrote a minute on the subject to the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

“Whether it be intended to confer any medals for service in future or not, the Government of India has no means of knowing. But in the event of its not being intended to withhold them altogether, I would respectfully submit, for the consideration of the Hon. Court, whether it would not be better for the future, instead of issuing a separate medal for each campaign, to have one medal, such as the ‘Indian Medal’, which should be issued once to each individual entitled: the particular service for which it is granted being recorded upon a Bar, and every subsequent service which may be thought to deserve distinction being recorded by an additional Bar. This plan would avoid the multiplication of medals, which has accumulated of late years, which I humbly think is undesirable.”

Lord Dalhousie’s sensible suggestion was agreed and the issue of a General Service Medal with bars for subsequent actions was sanctioned. It is doubtful, however, whether Lord Dalhousie ever envisaged that the same medal would be retained for 51 years.

DESCRIPTION

In the initial documents the medal was called the India Medal of 1854, but subsequently the name changed and it was designated the India General Service Medal 1854. Its description is as follows:

OBVERSE: The diademed head of Queen Victoria and the legend VICTORIA REGINA.

REVERSE: The winged and standing figure of Victory who is crowning a seated figure dressed in a Roman toga believed to be General H.T. Godwin the victor of the Second Burma War. In the exergue is a lotus flower and four leaves to denote the connection with the East.

SIZE: 1.42 inch diameter. The clasps are 1.4 by 0.3 inches less the Pegu clasp which is 1.3 by 0.3 inches.

RIBBON: 0.25 inches wide. Red with two blue stripes.
 SUSPENSION: By means of floriated swiveling suspension. The rivets at the junction of the suspender and clasp covered by a rosette.
 DESIGNER: Obverse: W. Wyon, R.S. Reverse: L. C. Wyon

The medal was never issued without a clasp and the total list of clasps to silver medals is as follows:

Pegu	Naga 1879-80	N.E. Frontier 1891
Persia	Burma 1885-7	Hunza 1891
North West Frontier	Sikkim 1888	Burma 1889-92
Umbeyla	Hazara 1888	Lushai 1889-92
Bhootan	Burma 1887-89	Chin Hills 1892-93
Looshai	Chin Lushai 1889-90	Kachin Hills 1892-93
Perak	Samana 1891	Waziristan 1894-95
Jowaki 1877-8	Hazara 1891	

Certain medals can also be found with a clasp, Burma 1887-89. This is because although the Burma 1887-89 die was held by the Calcutta Mint, the Royal Mint held one with '1887-89' and did produce a number of medals. At least 10 such medals are known named to genuine recipients, one being to Private G. Shaw, which is on display in the Regimental Museum of the South Wales Borderers. As in the case of most medals and in particular General Service Medals, there are instances of a second I.G.S.M. 1854 being awarded when the recipient should really have received only a clasp. Two such cases are Surgeon J.H. Sylvester who received medals with Persia clasp and Umbeyla, and Private J. Everson, 98TH Regiment who was given two medals with the North West Frontier clasp.

BRONZE MEDALS

In 1885 it was decided that bronze medals should be awarded to noncombatants who took part in expeditions but who had previously been ineligible. Thereafter the following medals and clasps were also issued in bronze:

Burma 1885-87	Samana 1891	Burma 1889-92
Sikkim 1888	N.E. Frontier 1891	Chin Hills 1892-93
Hazara 1888	Hazara 1891	Kachin Hills 1892-93
Burma 1887-89	Hunza 1891	Waziristan 1894-95
Chin Lushai 1889-90		

There is a wide variety of ranks and titles engraved on the bronze medals and they provide an intriguing study. In some cases they are far more interesting and evocative than their silver equivalents.

Bhisti	Transport Driver	Sweeper
Water Bhisti	Duffadar	Shepherd
Bellows Boy	Driver	Duffadar, Unorganized Transport
Bearer	Dooley Bearer	Servant
Mahout	Compounder	Private Servant
Muleteer	Syrce	War Servant
Weighman		

Some bronze medals have merely the name of the Regiment, for example 1st Madras Lancers, Norfolk Regiment or K.R.R.C.

CLASPS

Theoretically the clasps are supposed to read upwards, but very often when a man was issued with the medal with a single clasp, he cut off the side lugs which made it impossible to fix a clasp on top. For this reason it is common to find the oldest clasp at the top and subsequent clasps in the correct order, i.e. set from the bottom to the top. Other genuine medals read from top to bottom. Some men tried to disobey the regulations with the result that clasps can be found joined together in the most unorthodox of ways with wire, metal rings or solder. Medals can also be found that have been converted into menu holders and brooches. Although General Sir A.W. Lockhart earned seven clasps and the Official History of the Services of the Bengal Army states that "some Officers and Native soldiers possessed as many as nine and ten" the most the author can trace, is six.

NAMING

It is impossible to be categoric about the naming of this medal. There are however examples of different scripts on virtually every issue. As a general guide, however, Roman upright letters were used for the medals issued up to the Bhootan clasp, less that awarded for Perak, thereafter medals were engraved in a running script which is often extremely 'flowery' and difficult to read. Jowaki is however the exception, for the authorities again reverted to Roman capitals. Mr. A. A. Purvis in his excellent book "Collecting Medals and Decorations" gives examples of different namings, but the overall conclusion must be that the type of naming on the I.G.S.M. 1854 is not a reliable guide to authenticity.

The situation is aggravated since the Government awarded renamed medals for the last two campaigns of Kachin Hills 1892-93 and Chin Hills 1892-93. The decision to grant the I.G.S.M. 1854 for these two campaigns took seven years after the new India Medal 1895 had been authorized, and so in the interests of economy it was decided to erase the names on medals which had remained unclaimed and rename them using an engraved script. This practice was adopted for those who submitted very late claims for other campaigns, and so officially renamed medals do sometimes appear on the market.

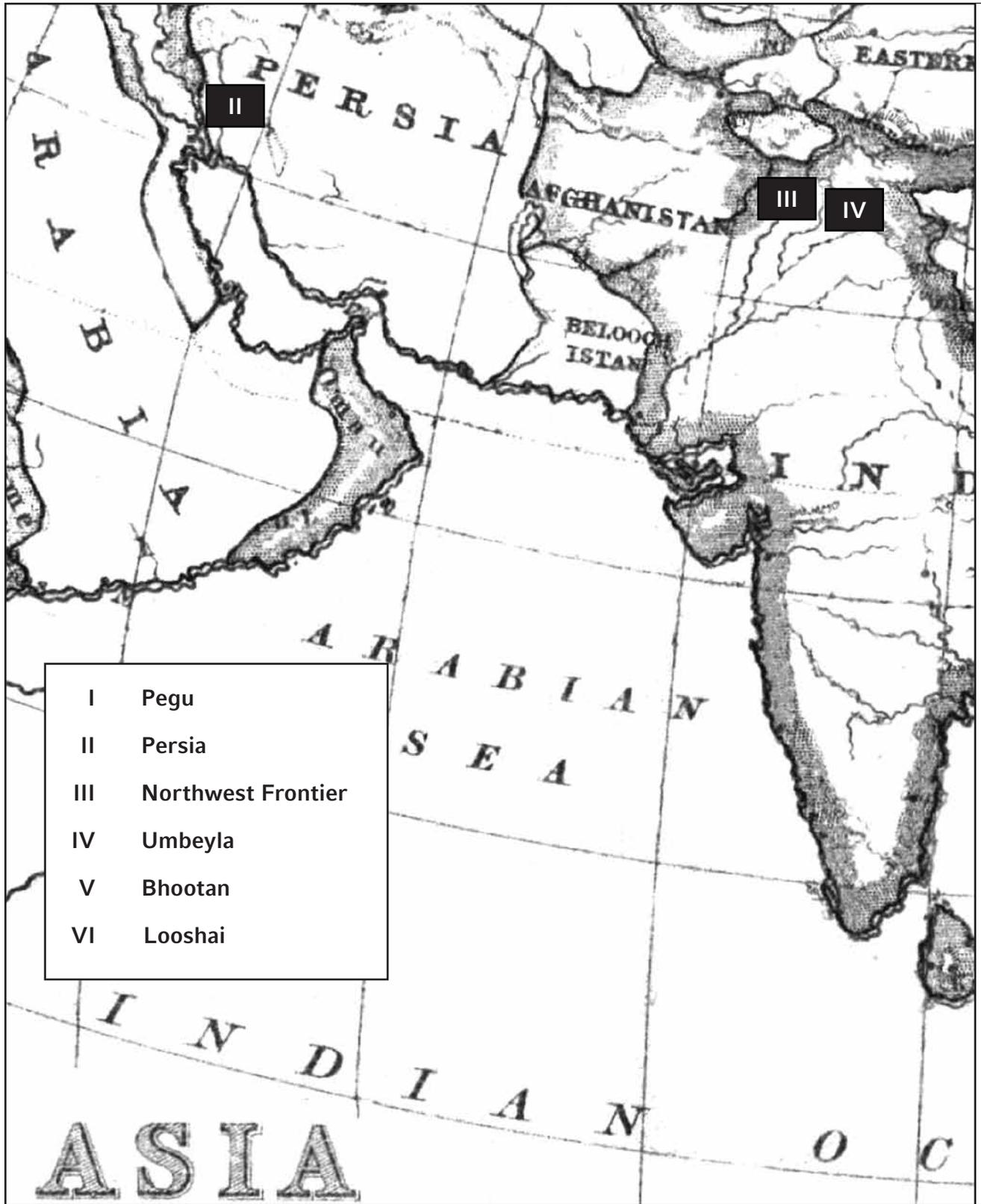
Introduction

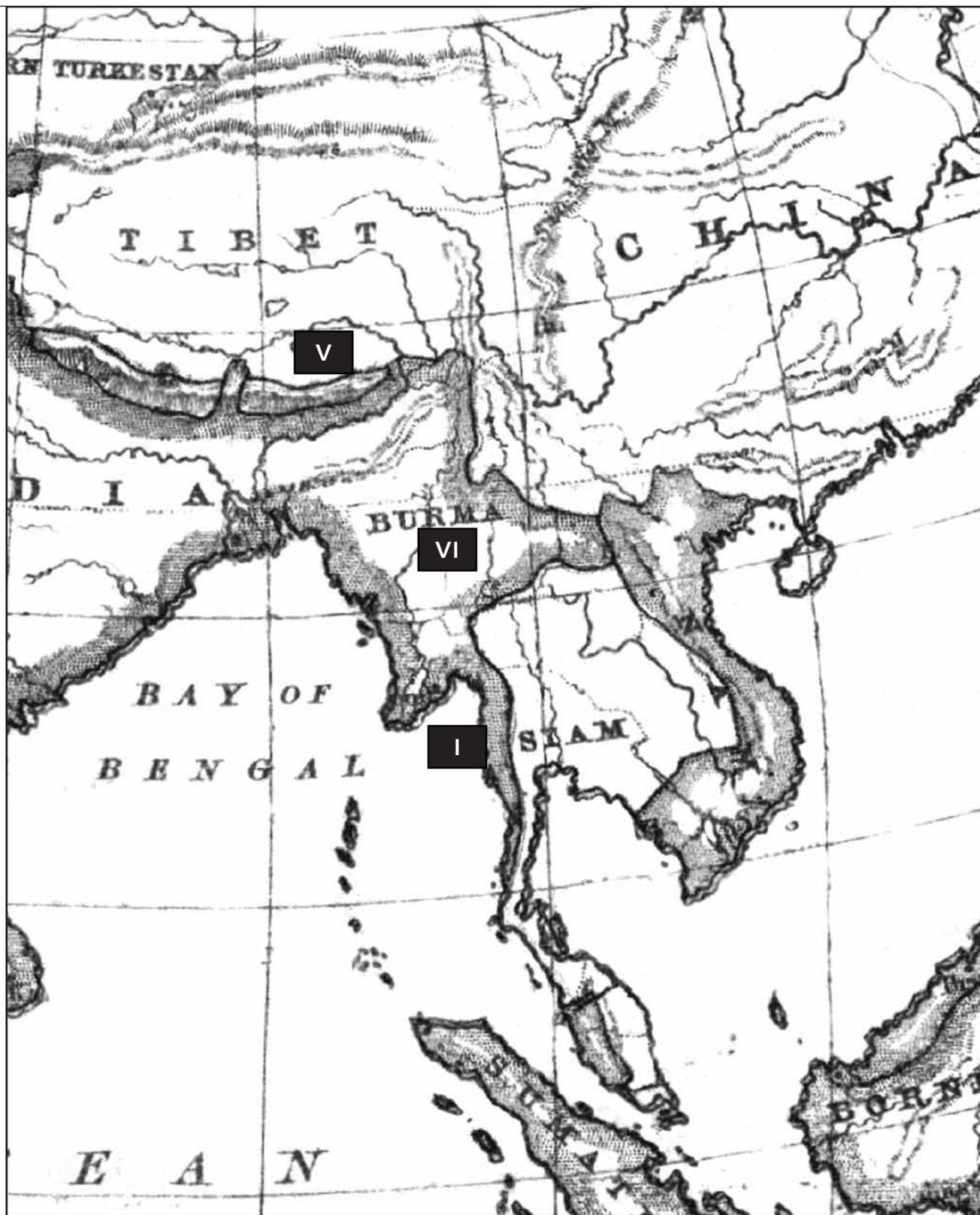
The India General Service Medal 1854 is surely one of the most exciting medals ever issued. It covers an unprecedented span of years and was worn by men who served in the Peninsular War of 1810 as well as by men who served in the Second World War of 1939-45. The medal can, therefore, be included in any group of medals issued between the reigns of George III and George VI. This makes it unique amongst British Military Campaign medals.

Not only does the medal cover such a long period and include such a large number of soldiers, the story of the I.G.S.M. 1854 also covers an immense variety of countries and climates. The type of ground where fighting took place ranges from the dark jungles of Burma to the arid harshness of the North West Frontier of India, from the blazing deserts of Persia to the freezing Himalayan Mountains of Sikkim. The numbers involved in the various actions also changed with fascinating frequency, after the battle of Mandalay the Dacoit War involved an army of 20,000 Officers and men, in the Hunza Campaign less than 20 Officers and 1,000 men took part.

But it is not merely the wealth of action and contrast which gives the I.G.S.M. 1854 its appeal, it is the fact that it represents Great Britain at the peak of her military power. The theme of the medal, consistently recurring, is the gallantry and self-confidence of the British Officer in the 19th Century. Time and time again victory was achieved because a young Officer supported by loyal soldiers and in spite of seemingly insuperable odds, adopted a bold course and attacked. This is the thrilling story which emerges from a study of the I.G.S.M. 1854.

A DANGEROUS GAME





PEGU 1852-53



CHAPTER I

Pegu 1852-53

MARCH 28, 1852 – JUNE 30, 1853



THE CLASP WAS AUTHORIZED ON DECEMBER 22, 1853

Naming: Impressed in block capitals, the letters on the naval medals are smaller than those found on the army medals.

REGIMENTS PRESENT

Detachment of Irregular Horse

2 Co. 5 Battalion Madras and Bengal Artillery

Madras and Bengal Sappers & Miners

Ordinance Department

Quartermaster General's Department

18TH (1,028)

51ST (900)

80TH (460)

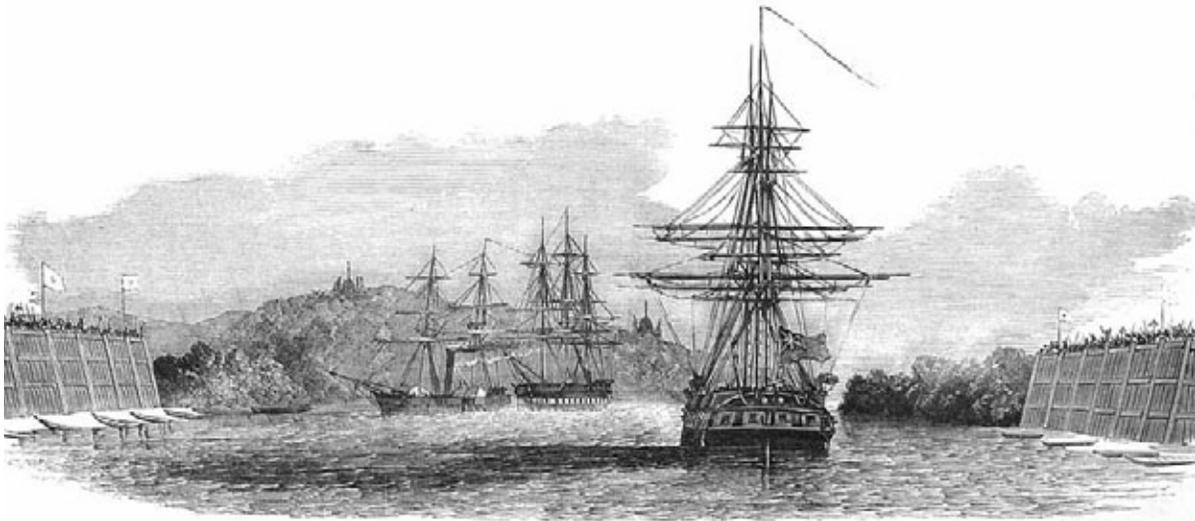
1ST European Bengal Fusiliers (1ST Royal Munster Fusiliers)

1ST Madras Fusiliers (1ST Royal Dublin Fusiliers)

5TH, 9TH, 19TH, 26TH, 30TH, 35TH, 46TH, 49TH, 79TH Madras NI

10TH, 37TH, 40TH, 67TH, 68TH Bengal NI

4TH, 15TH Sikhs



HER MAJESTY'S SHIPS

Bittern (136)	Hermes (159)
Sparta (180)	Cleopatra (235)
Rattler (163)	Sphinx (236)
Contest (107)	Salamander (138)
Styx (157)	Fox (426)
Serpent (130)	Winchester (479)
Hastings (530)	

BENGAL MARINE SHIPS

Bhagurette (25)	Lord William Bentinck (121)
Pluto (174)	Damoodah (100)
Luckia (23)	Proserpine (134)
Enterprise (94)	Mahanuddy (125)
Soane (25)	Fire Queen (214)
Nemesis (84)	Spy (58)
Indus (67)	Nerbuddah (98)
Sutledge (30)	Krishna (100)
Phlegethon (127)	Tenasserim (284)

INDIAN MARINE SHIPS

Berenice (255)	Hugh Lindsay & Medusa (84)
Sesostris (178)	Ferooz (275)
Moozuffer (351)	Zenobia (351)

□ View towards Rangoon with HMS Hermes and Fox, and the Burmese King's ship

A DANGEROUS GAME

If you own an I.G.S.M. 1854 with the Pegu clasp then there can be little doubt that you own a medal which was well earned. As the story of the I.G.S.M. 1854 unfolds it becomes clear that whereas in other campaigns and expeditions some men qualified for the medal in a very easy way, in Burma it was hard for everyone.

Three main factors contributed to the difficulties of the British troops – the terrible jungle terrain, the extreme monsoon climate and above all the terror of cholera. But, as well as these natural hazards, the troops had to face the clever tactics of the Burmese. The battles of Burma, which lasted from 1852 until 1892, were not the open conflicts of Africa and Egypt where infantry squares continually proved to be successful against mass attacks by ill-equipped Natives. In Burma, the soldiers were required to assault well defended stockaded villages and then endure the misery of ambush and counter ambush on narrow jungle paths.

Following the First War in 1824 the King of Burma signed the Treaty of Yandabo guaranteeing the security of British merchants and commerce. By 1852 however the conditions of this Treaty were being completely ignored by the Burmese, leaving British merchants to suffer a great deal of restriction and harassment. In January 1852, a naval force was sent to Rangoon to negotiate for an improvement in the situation but was treated with such deliberate insult by the King that the Naval Commander, Commodore G.R. Lambert, R.N., confiscated a royal Burmese ship which was lying off Rangoon and ordered all British residents to evacuate the country. As this force sailed down river it was fired upon from shore batteries and, as the official history states, 'with this mutual determination commenced the Second Burma War.'

The Indian Government decided to send two brigades to Burma, a Bengal Brigade and a Madras Brigade, both under command of Major General H.T. Godwin, CB. The selection of General Godwin was a wise move, he had commanded the 41st Foot during the First Burma War and had suffered badly from the weak administration of that campaign. He therefore insisted that his troops should rehearse drills for attacking stockades, made strenuous preparations to combat cholera before the force sailed and took many extra doctors with him.

On April 2, 1852 the Bengal Brigade under Brigadier G. Warren arrived off the mouth of the Salween River consisting of:

18th Foot (Royal Irish), Lt-Colonel T.S. Reigolds

80th Foot (South Staffordshire), Lt-Colonel R.A. Lockhart

40th Native Infantry, Lt-Colonel G. Thomson

2ND Company, Major C.S. Reid
5TH Battalion Bengal Artillery

Because of various delays the Madras Brigade had not yet arrived so General Godwin first attacked the town of Moulmein. On April 5, the Naval Squadron bombarded the town and the Right Wing of the 18TH Foot plus a wing of the 80TH Foot and 26TH Madras Native Infantry (which had arrived from the Madras Brigade) landed and advanced. Included in the force were two Companies of the Madras Sappers & Miners under Lieutenant B. Ford.

It proved a short sharp affair. The Grenadier Companies of the 18TH and 80TH dashed up to the wall of the city, which was about 15 feet high. Lieutenant G.A. Elliott, 18TH Foot, has described what took place:

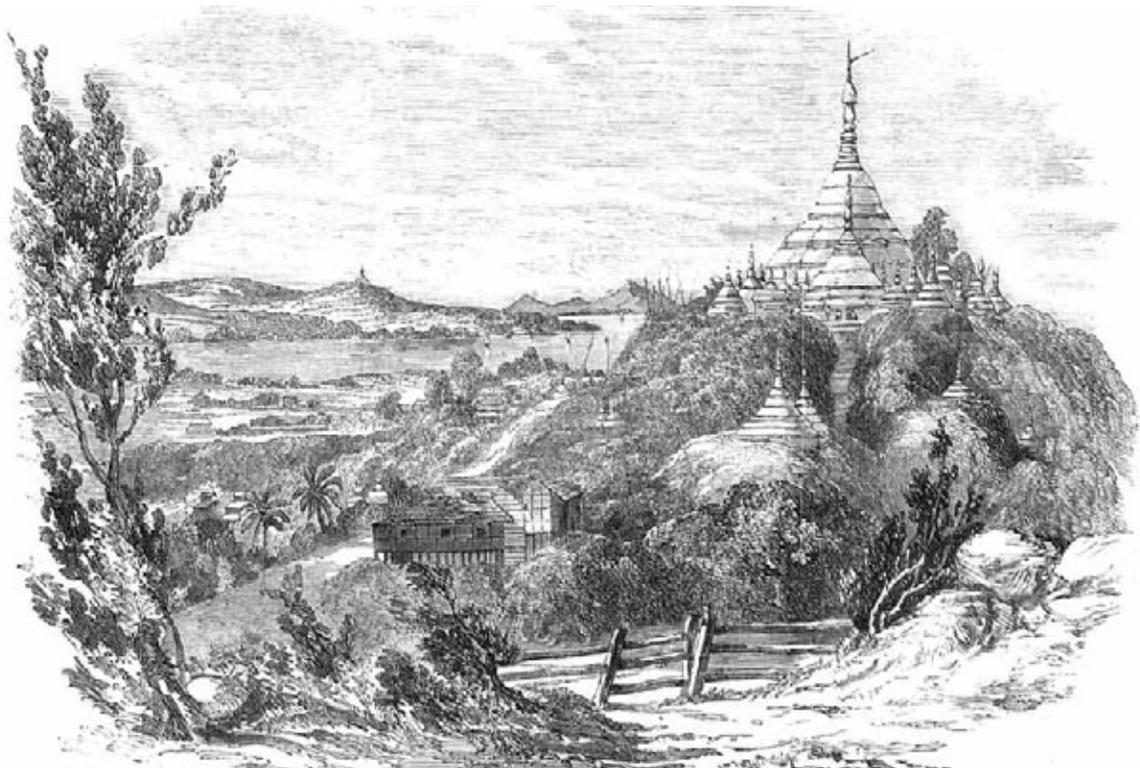
‘When the bullets began to fly, Private Fergusson received three in his left arm, and died of his wounds, John Donovan two in his left hand, Coleman one through his left arm. We ran up and got close under the wall in extended order; the General was seen to take off his hat and give a cheer which our men returned and then quickly sprang up the wall, and rushed upon the Burmese, who quickly retired to some jungle, whence they fired, though without much effect. We then advanced, and joining part of the 80TH, and one of our own companies, skirmished up one of the hills enclosed by the wall, driving the Burmese before us, and charging them whenever they appeared in numbers.’

There were only eight British casualties in this attack of whom seven were of the Royal Irish Regiment. Lt-Colonel C.S. Reignolds was "Mentioned" for his conduct in taking over the Brigade, as was Captain A.M. Campbell who took over command of the 18TH Wing and Captain A. Gillespie who led the Grenadier Company and was the first man over the enemy wall.

Leaving the 26TH Native Infantry under their Commanding Officer Lt-Colonel N. Johnson to garrison Martaban, General Godwin then returned to the mouth of the river and met the Madras Brigade under Lt-Colonel W.H. Elliot (Colonel W.H. Elliot already had the Military General Service Medal with five clasps including Badajoz and Salamanca and the Waterloo Medal), 51ST Regiment. It consisted of:

ARTILLERY

Commander of Artillery, Lt-Colonel H.S. Foord
Brigade Major of Artillery, Captain J.D. Scott
D Company 2ND Battalion, Captain C.J. Cooke



D Company 3RD Battalion, Major H. Montgomery
A Company 4TH Battalion, Major A.F. Oakes

ENGINEERS

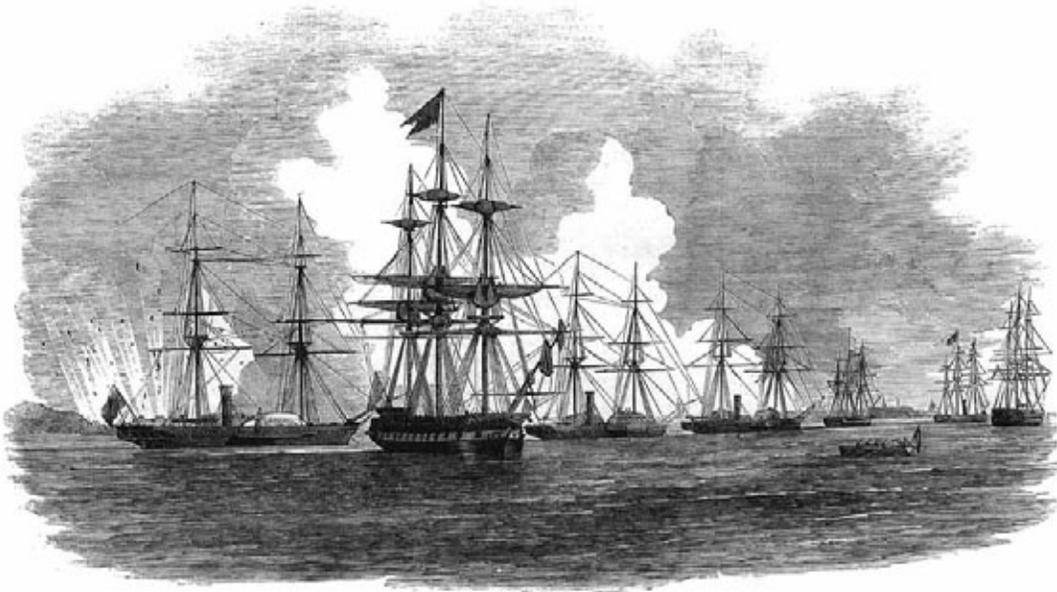
C Company Madras Sappers & Miners, Captain J.W. Rundall
E Company Madras Sappers & Miners, 2ND Lieutenant G. Dennison

INFANTRY

51ST Foot. Lt-Colonel E. St. Maur
5TH Madras Native Infantry., Lt-Colonel M. Poole
9TH Madras Native Infantry, Lt-Colonel W.E.A. Elliott
35TH Madras Native Infantry, Lt-Colonel E. Apthorp

On April 11, the combined force reached Rangoon where the naval guns opened fire and soon succeeded in destroying the coastal batteries and outer stockades of the city. During this action an unfortunate young officer, Ensign A.N. Armstrong, of the 51ST, was struck in the shoulder by a Burmese shell and died two hours later.

□ View of Moulmein with Martaban in the distance



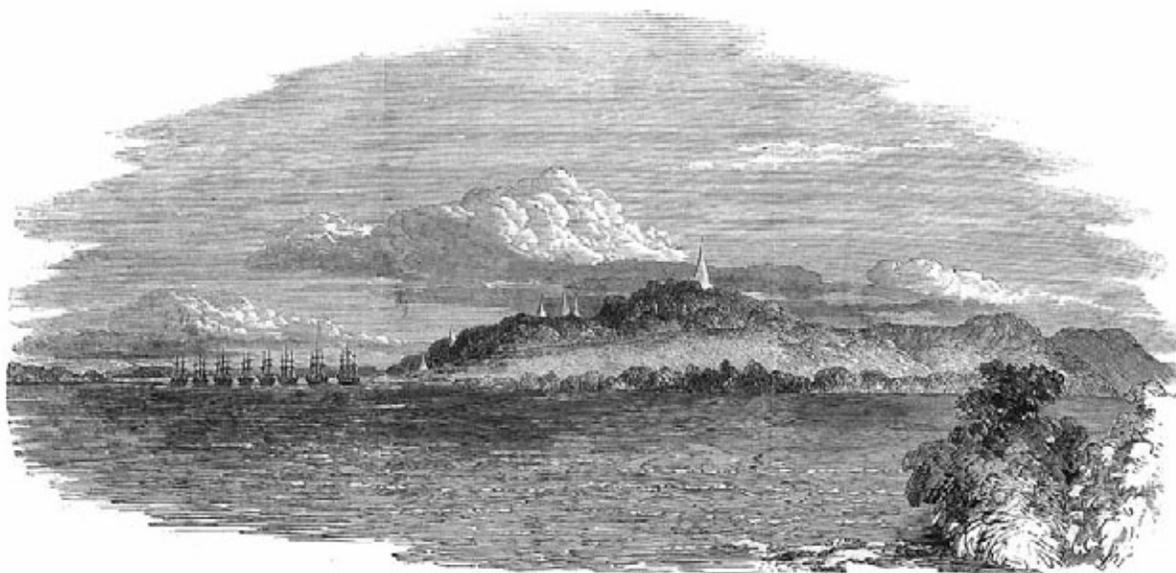
On April 12, General Godwin decided to assault the city itself. Rangoon was built in a rough square, with sides approximately three quarters of a mile in length surrounded by deep ditches and walls sixteen feet high and eight feet thick. The Shwe Dagon Pagoda was turned into a citadel by mounting cannons upon the three tiers of the huge terraces. It was a little over a mile from the landing place on the river to the gate in the southern wall and the Burmese, remembering that in 1826 the troops had marched by that road, concluded that the tactics would be repeated in 1852 and had therefore concentrated the greater part of their artillery and about ten thousand troops on the southern section of the defences. Godwin, however, completely upset this scheme of defence by declining to attack where he was so obviously expected.

At 4 a.m. on April 12, the 18TH Foot and 51ST Foot plus the 40TH Bengal Native Infantry and some artillery were disembarked and after driving off a number of skirmishers the force came to a major stronghold, called the 'White House Stockade'.

It became clear that this stockade must be captured before the advance could continue so Major J. Turton ordered a battery of four guns under Major C.S. Reid and Major A.F. Oakes to come forward and make a breach. The 51ST Foot were selected to lead the assault and Major A.C. Errington has left a vivid report of the attack:

'On the morning of the 12th, the right wing of HM's 51ST Light Infantry under the command of Lt-Colonel E. St. Maur, was directed to advance, with orders to support the guns, to cover the flanks, and eventually to storm the stockade. After passing the guns,

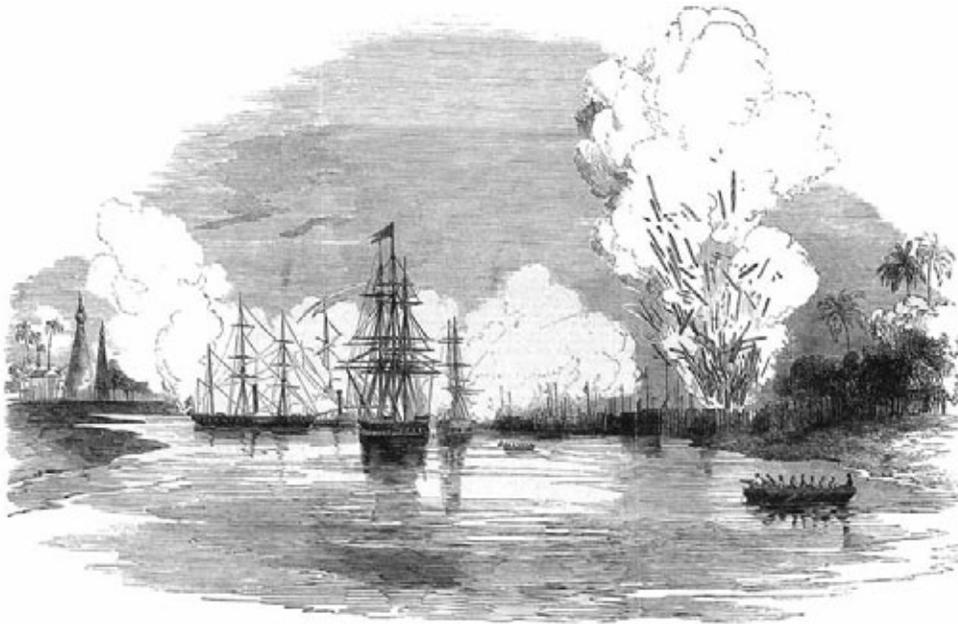
□ Ships Moozuffer, Fox, Sesostris, Ferooz, Rockcliffe, Rattler and Atalanta bombarding Rangoon on April 11th, 1852



No. 1 Company, under the command of Lieutenant E.C. Singleton was ordered to cover the front of the reserve, reinforced by No. 2 Company under Captain H.R. Manners. I believe you were an eye-witness of the steady manner in which the companies skirmished; a sharp fire was opened upon these skirmishers, and steadily returned by them. They had not advanced far when the two sub-divisions were ordered to clear the jungle on the left of the covered pathway leading to the front of the stockade. The two right sub-divisions marched over some rising ground, leading to the left face of the stockade, and encountered a great number of the enemy's skirmishers, whom, according to Captain H.R. Manners' report, they drove before them in the most gallant manner. It was here that Captain Manners was requested, by an officer of Engineers, to render him assistance in getting the scaling ladders carried to the front, which was immediately complied with; but on emerging from the wood and water, about one hundred yards off the stockade, Captain Manners saw several soldiers of the 51ST entering by the steps and over the parapet, upon which he left the ladders and entered himself by the front.

I should be much wanting in duty were I not here to call to your notice the skilful conduct of Lieutenant R. Pilmer, who commanded the left sub-division of No. 1 Company. This Officer, observing that the reserve was suffering from the enemy's fire in front, made a dash to take the enemy, which they no sooner observed than they evacuated the front face and sallied out by the rear in great numbers with the intention of making for the stockade at some distance in rear of the White House. Thus was his object partially effected, and would have been completed by cutting off the whole party, had he not been prevented by Captain Slater, (probably Captain M.J. Slater, 5TH Bengal

□ Rangoon Town showing fortifications and Dagon Pagoda

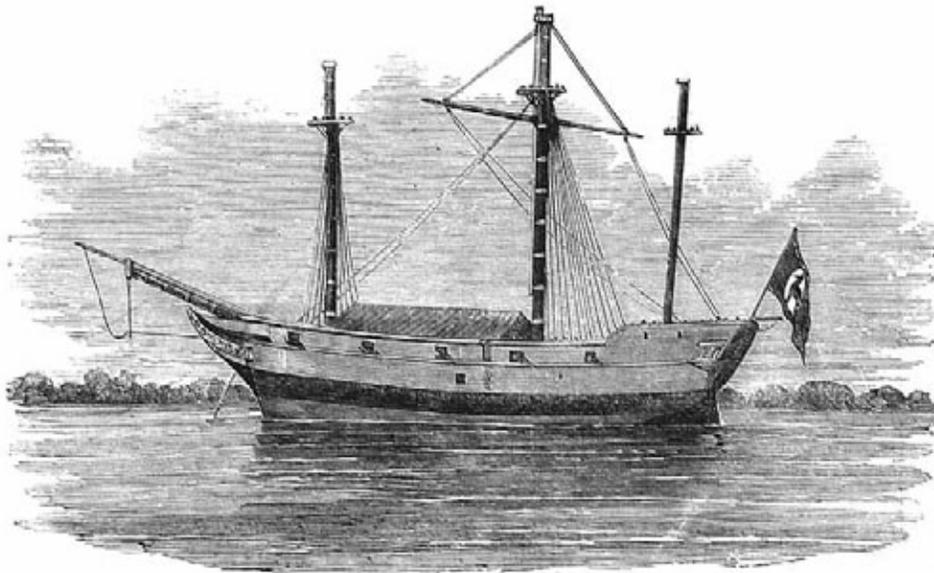


Native Infantry), who ordered the men not to follow farther. The reserve consisting of No. 3 Company under Captain D.G.A. Darroch, No. 5 Company under Captain W. Blundell, and No. 6 Company under Lieutenant S.A. Madden, was ordered to halt in some open cover, but only for a few seconds. It was here, when ordered to storm the stockade, and in the act of gallantly leading on his men, that Captain W. Blundell was shot in the abdomen by a musket ball. The wound proved fatal in a few days. His loss was deeply regretted by officers and men. His cheerfulness and thoughtfulness for the suffering of others were remarkable, whilst being carried to the rear.

Captain D.G.A. Darroch, calling upon his men to follow him, moved rapidly up to the stockade, where he found some ladders being carried by the soldiers of the 51ST, who, placing them, followed Captain Darroch, who pushed forward with the greatest alacrity, calling out 'On men! The place is our own.' In a few minutes, he and his men were in the stockade. The ladders alluded to were placed against the parapet by order of Lieutenant S.A. Madden, commanding No. 6 Company, by which the men entered the stockade, Lieutenant Madden leading the way.

Before concluding my report, which has been drawn up from those sent to me by the officers commanding the different companies, I beg leave to bring to your notice the gallant conduct of Major W.H. Hare of the regiment under my command, who mounted the first ladder, following Captain J.W. Rundall of the Madras Engineers, who was preceded by Major H. Fraser of the Bengal Engineers. It affords me much pleasure that the last officer reported to me, after our operations had terminated, that a European soldier was the first man in the stockade and who must have been a soldier of the 51ST,

□ Destruction of the Expense Magazine and a stockade by a shell from the Naval Squadron



as no other European regiment was engaged in the attack. I believe the soldier to be Private Johnson of Captain Blundell's company.

I beg to annex a return of the killed and wounded on this occasion.

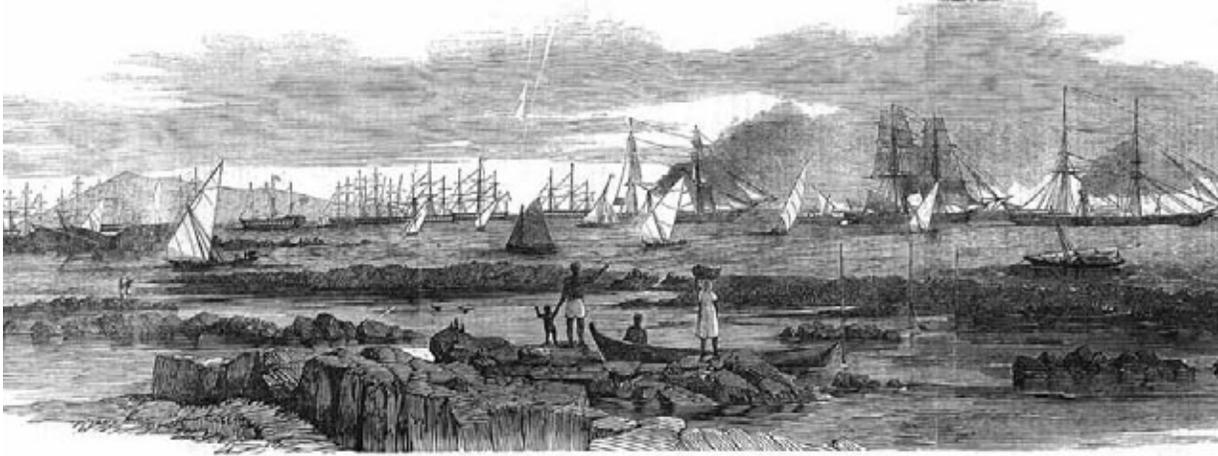
Captain Blundell (mortally wounded), one sergeant (slightly wounded), as well as two corporals and eleven privates wounded.

(Signed) A.C. Errington, Major 51ST KOLI'

The attack had taken until 11 o'clock and as the exhausted troops had been engaged since 4 a.m. General Godwin deferred any further advance until the following day. The officers and men were still at this time dressed in the same thick uniform that they wore in winter in England, it is not surprising, therefore, that so many began to fall from heat stroke. On this day Brigadier G. Warren, Lieutenant H.S. Foord and Lt-Colonel E. St. Maur suffered so badly from the heat that they had to be sent back to India, and Major A.F. Oakes and Brigade Major H. Griffiths, 11TH Bengal Native Infantry, both died from sunstroke.

The force rested throughout the 13th although Lieutenant C. Woodwright of the 18TH Foot led a retaliatory attack to defend a water site, and Colour-Sergeant Kelly was killed. At 5 a.m. on the 14th the attack was continued with the great Shwe Dagon Pagoda as the main objective. The 18TH, Royal Irish, and 40TH Bengal Native Infantry led the assault, the 51ST Foot and 35TH Madras Native Infantry were in the second line and the 80TH Foot were ordered to protect the artillery. It proved to be a hard day's fighting. The infantry reached the eastern walls of the city by marching through the jungle and came

□ Burmese Man Of War captured by HMS Hermes



under such a sharp fire that they had to wait while, with a prodigious effort, the artillery pieces were marshalled forward. To help Major J. Back and Lieutenant G.E. Voyle move their guns, Lieutenant J.W. Dorville, RN, of H.M.S. Fox used 120 sailors of the Naval Brigade.

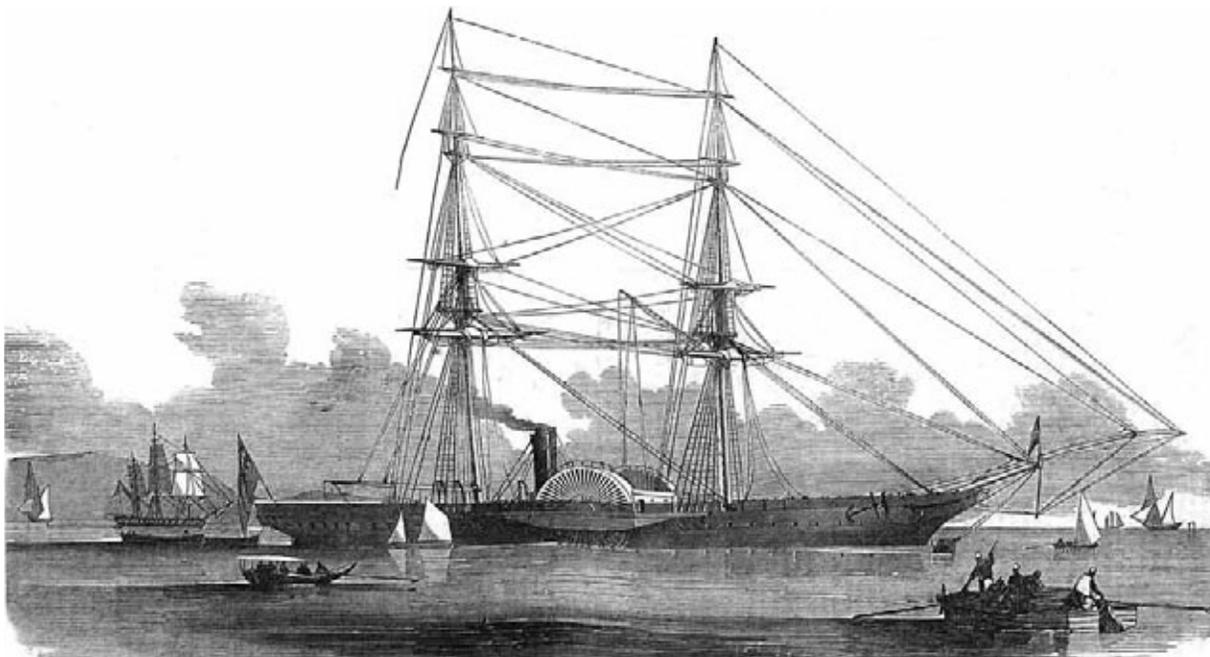
So aggressive were the Burmese that General Godwin had to deploy 500 muskets to keep them off. At 11 o'clock the forward troops discovered a city gate which had been opened to let out Burmese skirmishers. General Godwin seized his chance and ordered an immediate assault. Lt-Colonel C.J. Coote, Royal Irish, was put in command and given two companies of the 18TH under Lieutenant I.H. Hewitt, a wing of the 80TH under Lt-Colonel R.A. Lockhart and two companies of the 40TH Bengal Native Infantry under Lieutenant J.S.D. White. At the sound of a bugle the troops stood up and charged. They had to cross 800 yards of open ground before reaching the Pagoda but, in spite of an accurate and deadly fire which brought down over a hundred men, 'they swept like a tidal wave over terrace until the Pagoda was won.' For the second time in history, British bayonets had captured Shwe Dagon.

Lieutenant R. Doran, 18TH Foot was killed by four bullets on the steps of the Pagoda, and his place as adjutant was taken by Lieutenant E.W. Sargent.

Lt-Colonel Coote, commanding the attack, was severely wounded and Captain J.J. Wood, who brought the Regiment out of action, was "Mentioned" by General Godwin. Also "Mentioned" in the 18TH was Captain G.F.S. Call, acting as Brigade Major.

The part played by the 40TH Bengal Native Infantry has been described by their Adjutant, Lieutenant A.A. Beche:

□ Indian Naval Steam Squadron leaving Bombay for Rangoon



'The Light Company and Number Six Company, the former commanded by Lieutenant J. Burn with Ensign E.G. Stone attached and the latter by Lieutenant J.S.D. White, formed part of the storming party and entered the Pagoda at the same time as the companies of the 18TH and 80TH. During the advance these companies under Major R. Chitty were employed skirmishing through the jungle to the right. The rest of the Regiment remained to protect the guns and afterwards escorted them into the stockade. Major H. Cotton, Major F.C. Minchin, Lieutenant F.C. Maisey and Lieutenant R.R. Harris, all of the 67TH Bengal Native Infantry, were doing duty with the 40TH on this day.'

The 51ST had not really been engaged in this attack although a company under Lieutenant E.C. Singleton and Lieutenant W. Agg had a brush with the retreating enemy, and another company under Captain H.R. Manners acted as General Godwin's personal reserve and entered the Pagoda with him.

The Madras Sappers who had taken part in Colonel Coote's assault had both Captain J.W. Rundall and Lieutenant B. Ford wounded, while Naik Mumiah and Private Ramasami who had volunteered to carry tools forward in the assault both received the Order of Merit (3RD Class).

Having secured Rangoon, General Godwin decided to send a force to capture the old Portuguese Citadel of Bassein which would then give him sovereignty over the whole sea-board of Pegu. Major A.C. Errington, 51ST, was placed in command and took 400

□ Steam Frigate Feroze I.N.

officers and men of his own regiment, 300 from the 9TH Madras Native Infantry under Captain W. Borthwick, and 67 sappers under Lieutenant B. Ford. They reached Bassein in the late afternoon on April 19, and found the town to be quiet and unsuspecting with the sun peacefully glittering off a large golden Pagoda. The 7,000 Burmese troops were not expecting any attack and Captain T. Latter, 67TH Native Infantry, acting as interpreter, landed peacefully with the 51ST and began to talk to the residents. Suddenly, someone threw a stone at Latter and within seconds firing broke out and two men were killed and another wounded. Major Errington's report again tells what took place:

'The whole force had not landed when the enemy opened fire upon us. This was a signal for the troops to advance, which was done in the most gallant style. The stockade was surrounded, the Chief Pagoda carried, and the enemy driven in every direction. Considering the sharp fire opened upon us in this attack, our loss in killed and wounded was small. Having formed the troops in the Pagoda, companies were sent out to disperse the enemy. Still a most important duty remained to be performed. The enemy's stronghold, a fortified position to the south of the town, was unmolested. A company of the 51ST under Captain A.T. Rice and two of the Madras Native Infantry under Captain W. Borthwick were selected to assault this position. I accompanied the detachment in order to be an eye-witness of what I knew would be a most dashing operation. I halted the party for a few minutes on the road as Captain Borthwick had not come up, when it was joined by a few seamen and marines under Captain A.C. Rice, while a party of Madras Sappers with ladders, under Lieutenant B. Ford, and also by a sub-division of the 9TH Native Infantry, under Lieutenant T.C. Ansley. As it was getting late, I decided upon not waiting for the remainder of the 9TH Native Infantry. Taking a circuitous route, we came out in rear of the stockade in an open place which afforded us a distant view of this formidable position. I here detached Lieutenant T.C. Ansley with his men to attack on the South-East side. Further progress being impeded by water and low thick jungle, we were obliged to take another direction, which brought

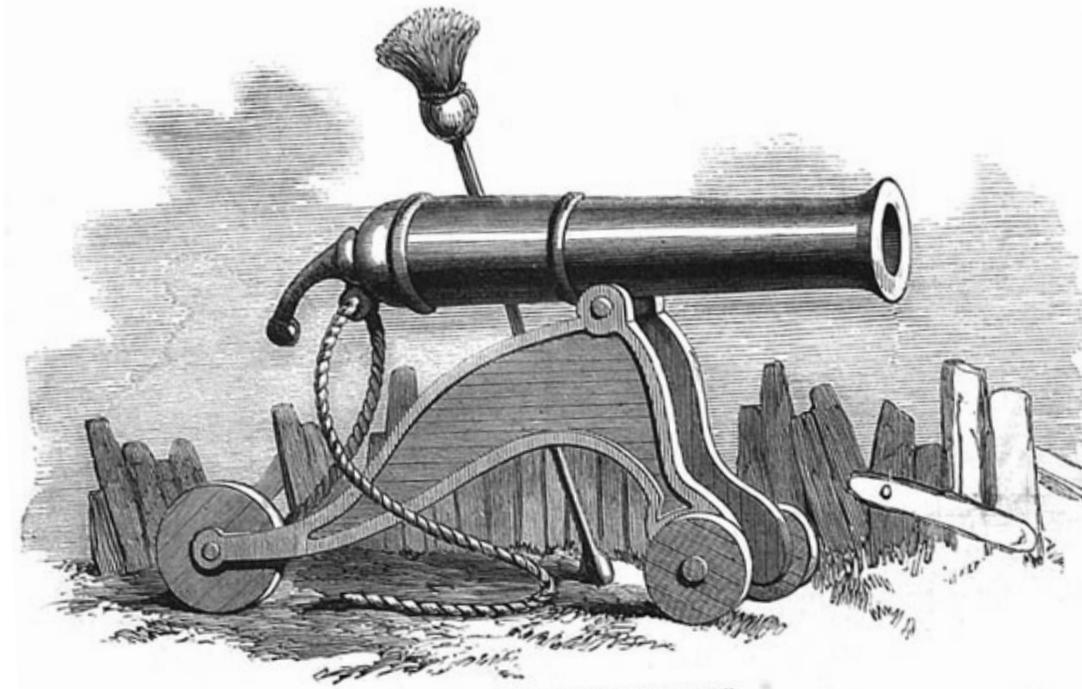


□ Burmese soldier, sketched at Rangoon

A DANGEROUS GAME

us out on a brick road leading straight up to the North–East angle of the work. Upon the opening of the position, and when within fifteen yards of it, a severe fire of musketry, guns and jingals was opened upon us. I was struck in the arm and disabled at once. Captain A.T. Rice, 51ST, was shot through the lower part of his neck as he led his company to the assault. His place was gallantly taken by his subaltern, Lieutenant S.G. Carter, who, followed by his men, was first on the parapet. He was struck down by a musket ball; but insisted upon being carried forward into the work. Lieutenant T.C. Ansley of the 9TH Native Infantry, and Lieutenant B. Ford of the Madras Sappers mounted the parapet in the most gallant manner though the former received a wound through the right hand. Thus, in forty minutes from the time the troops landed, the whole of the enemy's works were in our possession.'

The first man into the stockade was Private Lyons of the 51ST and it was Sergeant Williams Froud who had carried forward the wounded Lieutenant S.G. Carter. Lieutenant B. Ford and his sappers were highly commended, including Naik Mauttuvirapan who was awarded the Order of Merit (3RD Class) for shooting one and bayoneting two Burmese who had been attacking Ford while that officer was busy 'shivering the skull of a Burmese who was thrusting a spear at him.' Assistant Surgeon J. McCosh was also commended for his action in this attack.



□ Burmese Gun, captured at Rangoon

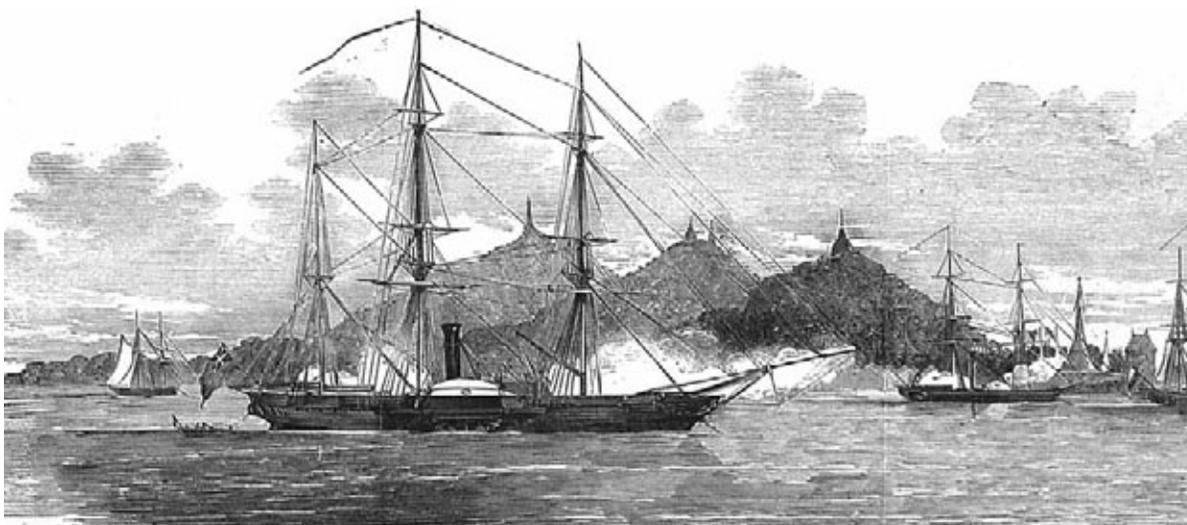
The Battles for Pegu

Pegu was the next objective, taken in June 1852 by Major H. Cotton of the 67TH Bengal Native Infantry, who with 100 of the 80TH Foot under Captain A. Ormsby, 100 of the 67TH under Captain E.W. Hicks and 30 sappers under Lieutenant H. Macintosh and 2ND Lieutenant J.O. Mayne, captured the city without loss. Captain S.T. Christie commanding the Grenadier Company of the 80TH Foot and Captain A.T. Welsh of the same Regiment came to notice for their gallantry and dash.

In August the Governor General, Lord Dalhousie, who was accompanied by the Military Secretary Major J.S. Banks, visited Rangoon to see for himself what should be done next. The situation he found was that although Pegu Province was in British hands, no-one had yet been able to contact the Burmese King in order to negotiate a treaty. After his visit Lord Dalhousie returned with the conviction that a continuance of the war was unfortunately unavoidable on the grounds that if he evacuated the country, within a very short time the situation would return to the same unsatisfactory condition that existed before the invasion. More troops were therefore sent and by September 1852 the following force was in Burma:



□ Building used as a field hospital after the storming of Rangoon



BENGAL DIVISION

STAFF

Brigadier Sir John Cheape, K.C.B., Commander

Ensign E. Thomson, 67TH Bengal Native Infantry, A.D.C.

Captain W.T. Bruce, 18TH Foot, D.A.A.G.

Lieutenant H.R. Garden, 2ND Bengal Native Infantry, D.A.Q.M.G.

Captain W.S. Ferris, 12TH Bengal Native Infantry, Paymaster

The Rev. H.B. Burney, M.A., Chaplain

1ST BRIGADE

Brigadier T.S. Reigholds, C.B., Royal Irish, Commander

Captain G.F.S. Call, 18TH Foot, Brigade Major

18TH Foot, Royal Irish Regiment

40TH Bengal Native Infantry

67TH Bengal Native Infantry

2ND BRIGADE

Brigadier T. Dickenson, 10TH Bengal Native Infantry

Commander Major R. Hawkes, 80TH Foot Brigade Major

80TH Foot, South Staffordshire Regiment

10TH Bengal Native Infantry

4TH Sikh Local Infantry

□ HMS Rattler, Prospeine, and Salamander bombard Martaban

3RD BRIGADE

Brigadier G. Huish, 37TH Bengal Native Infantry, Commander
 Captain J. Bontein, 37TH Bengal Native Infantry, Brigade Major
 1ST Bengal European Fusiliers
 37TH Bengal Native Infantry
 Regiment of Loodianah

MADRAS DIVISION**STAFF**

Brigadier S.W. Steel, C.B., Commander
 Lieutenant E.A.B. Travers, 2ND Madras Native Infantry, A.D.C.
 Major J.G. Neill, 1ST Madras European Fusiliers, D.A.A.G.
 Major E.H. Atkinson, 10TH Madras Native Infantry, D.A.Q.M.G.
 Captain G. Gillilan, 5TH Madras Native Infantry, Paymaster
 The Reverend J.V. Bull, B.A., Chaplain

1ST BRIGADE

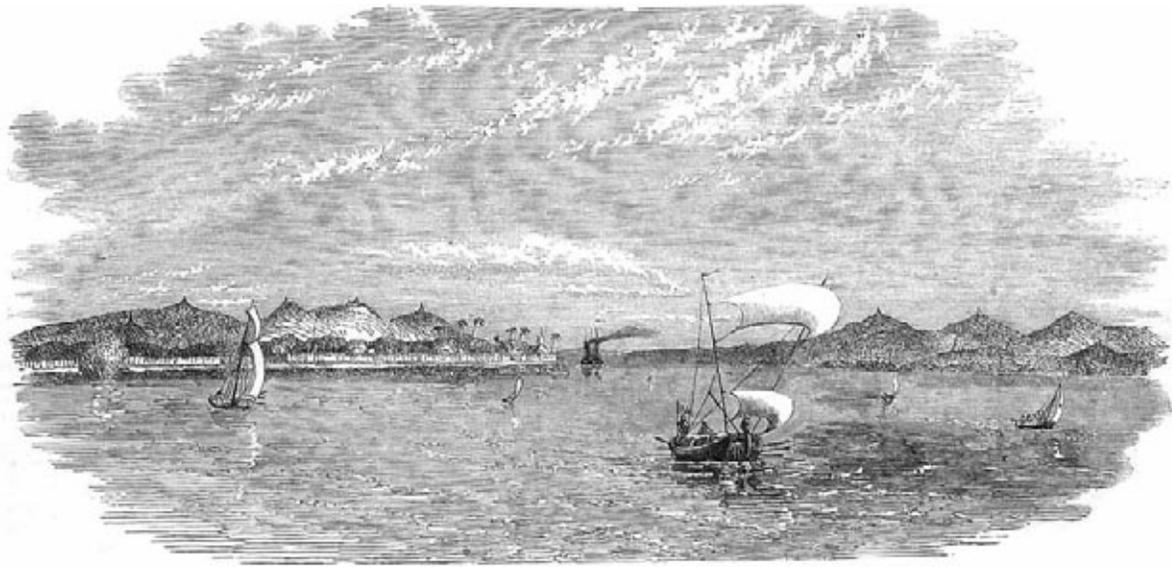
Brigadier W.H. Elliott, 51ST Foot, Commander
 Captain J. Smith, 13TH Madras Native Infantry, Brigade Major
 51ST Foot, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
 9TH Madras Native Infantry
 35TH Madras Native Infantry

2ND BRIGADE

Brigadier M. McNeill, 7TH Light Cavalry, Commander
 Captain T. Haines, 9TH Madras Native Infantry, Brigade Major
 1ST Madras European Fusiliers
 5TH Madras Native Infantry
 19TH Madras Native Infantry

3RD BRIGADE

84TH Foot, York and Lancaster Regiment
 30TH Madras Native Infantry
 45TH Madras Native Infantry



On November 21, General Godwin was forced to attack Pegu once again as the Burmese Army had re-occupied the city after Major H. Cotton's departure. His force was as follows:

1st Bengal Fusiliers (300), Lt-Colonel J.C. Tudor

1st Madras Fusiliers (300), Major W. Hill

5th Madras Native Infantry, Lt-Colonel M. Poole

80th Foot (small detachment), Captain A. Ormsby

Sappers & Miners (70 men), Lieutenant V.J. Shortland and Lieutenant A.M. Harris

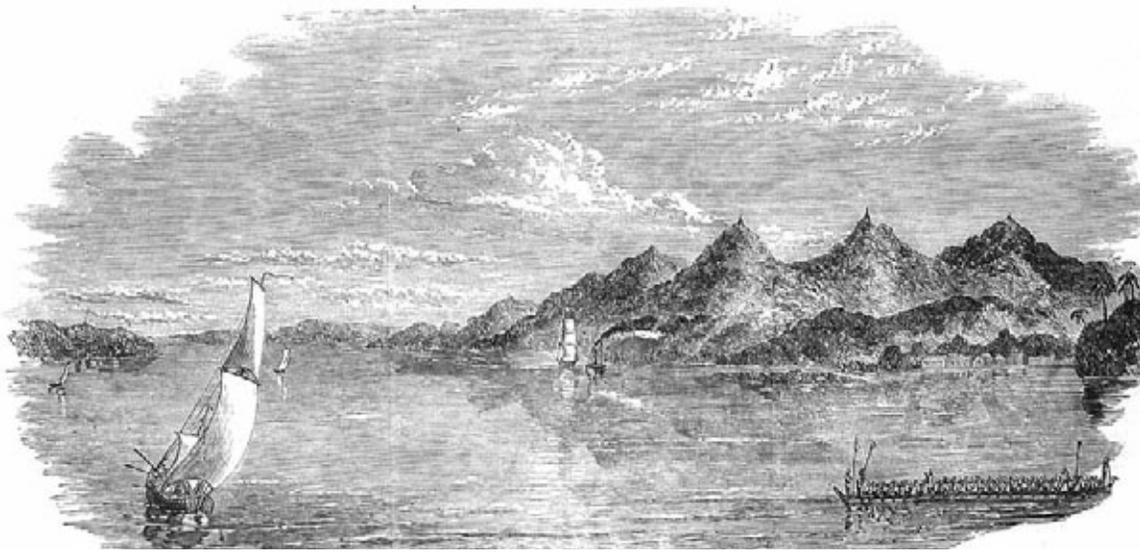
Artillery Company 2 x 24 pdr howitzers, Captain Z.M. Mallock

Brigadier M. McNeill was in command, although General Godwin went as well.

In the Madras Fusiliers was a Private Smith who had been in hospital in Madras under escort for desertion, when he discovered his Regiment was sailing to war he escaped from custody, hired a catamaran and joined the fleet at sea. In Rangoon he was re-tried, but the prison sentence was 'not approved' so Smith rejoined his company and was later promoted to be an N.C.O. 'for his conduct in the fighting.'

The troops landed just below Pegu and in spite of the thick mist moved forward to the main Pagoda. It was hot, fatiguing work but eventually the troops were formed up, with the Madras Fusiliers and Bengal Fusiliers in the front line. After an hour's rest General Godwin came forward and shouted to each Fusilier Regiment in turn 'You are Bengalis. You are Madrassies. Let me see who are the best men!' It was a sure-fire start, and with a loud cheer both Regiments charged forward with the bayonet. By noon Pegu and the Pagoda had been captured.

□ Prome sketched from Irrawaddy



Sergeant Major John Hopkins of the Bengal Fusiliers was promoted to 'unattached ensign' for his gallantry in this charge and continued service until his promotion to Lt-Colonel. (He died in Merrut in August 1881). Captain J.L. Stephenson who led the Madras Fusiliers was commended for his work as were Lieutenant C.S. Elliot and Lieutenant E.S. Daniell, who were the first two men into the Pagoda.

After this second capture of Pegu, General Godwin stationed a British force in the city and returned to Rangoon. The force that he left, however, proved to be too small. Major W. Hill, Madras Fusiliers, was in command with Lieutenant E. Dangerfield as his Staff Officer. He had two companies of his own Regiment, 200 of the 5TH Native Infantry, some gunners under Lieutenant M. James, plus thirty sappers under Lieutenant J.D. Campbell, and Lieutenant A.M. Harris.

This time the Burmese took the offensive and on September 27, Major Hill and his men came under heavy attack. He sent for reinforcements and 240 more Madras Fusiliers were dispatched but, because of difficult terrain and stiff enemy resistance, the Fusiliers were unable to break through to the beleaguered garrison. General Godwin now fully alive to the gravity of the situation started up river for Pegu with 1,300 men. At the same time he sent off a land column under Lt-Colonel W.M.N. Sturt, 67TH, consisting of artillery, sappers, half a troop of the Ramghur Cavalry and a wing of his own 67TH.

Major W. Hill had no easy task. Lieutenant J.D. Campbell had fortified the Pagoda with barrels of pork and biscuits as there were no sandbags, and between 6,000 and 8,000 Burmese continually assaulted and bombarded the position. Private McClory and Private

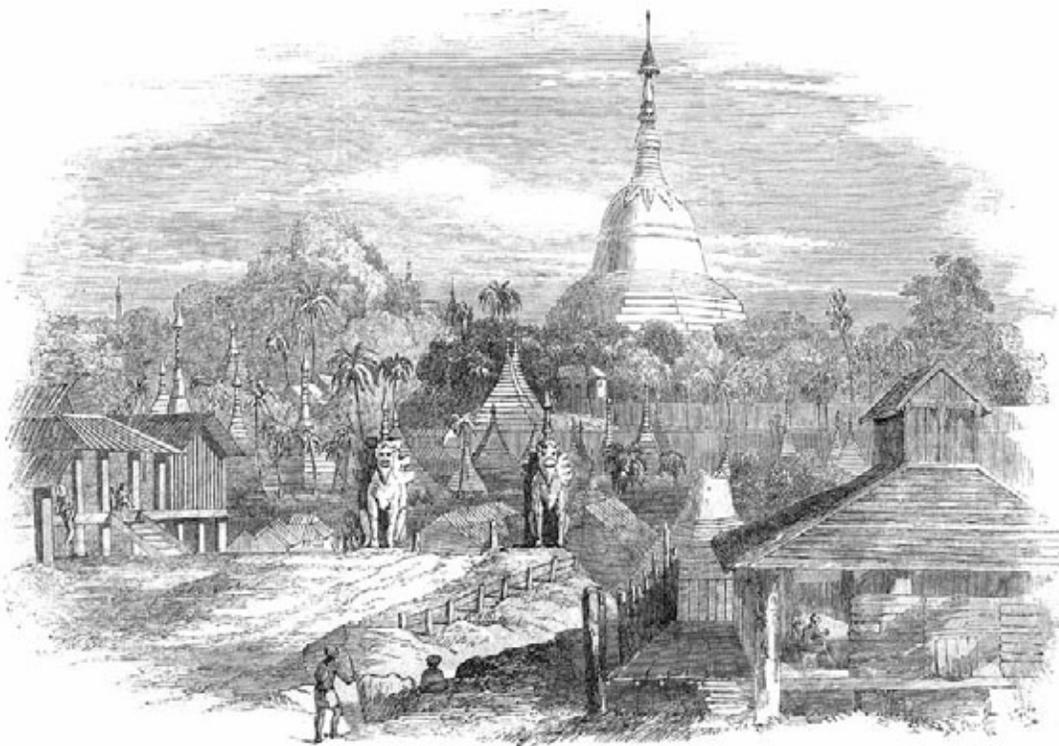
□ Yenbenzeik, as seen from Prome

A DANGEROUS GAME

Kelly of the Madras Fusiliers found an old iron gun and this was brought into action. 2ND Lieutenant S.H. Jones–Parry has described it:

‘It was a bulldog looking thing with a touch hole as large as the handle of a church door. We had an excellent instructor in Bombardier Sale, as grand an old soldier as ever wore a belt. The men who volunteered to form a gun crew were from No. 10 Company and their names, as far as I can remember, were Liptrot, Vincent, G. Moore, Weir, Saunders, Dunsheath, and Denis Kelly. The fault of this infantry gun crew was that they were too fond of loosing off, thus causing a useless expenditure of ammunition, but it was difficult to check their ardour. On one occasion, however, Lieutenant E.S. Daniell was found seated on the gun, in front of an open embrasure, in order to prevent its being fired off unnecessarily.’

In one attack Private Clancy ‘greatly distinguished himself’ by saving stores which had caught fire and so did Private McClory (finder of the gun) who rescued 2ND Lieutenant Jones–Parry when he was nearly cut off in an enemy attack. On December 5, the Burmese made a determined assault and Captain T.F. Nicolay with 2ND Lieutenant Parry–Jones and 2ND Lieutenant J.H. Bowen had to go out and rescue a party of twenty sepoy of the 5TH Native Infantry. On December 14, Lieutenant P.A. Brown and four



□ Dagon Pagoda at Rangoon

men were wounded including Private McKinley who was hit as he left the mess and subsequently died of tetanus.

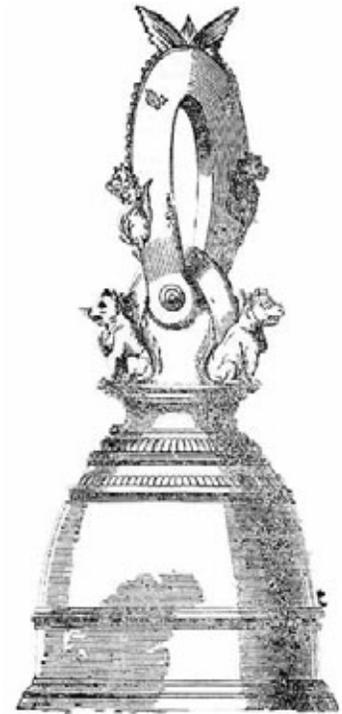
General Godwin arrived at Pegu on December 14, and landed about six miles from the Pagoda. His relief force consisted of:

Brigadier T. Dickinson

Madras Fusiliers (250), Captain S.G.C. Renaud
 Bengal Fusiliers (150), Major J.G. Gerrard
 4TH Sikhs (350), Major G.C. Armstrong
 2 Ships Guns, Captain C.F.A. Shadwell R.N. H.M.S. Sphinx

BRIGADIER S.W. STEEL, C.B.

10TH Bengal Native Infantry (200), Captain R. Munro
 Bengal Fusiliers (450), Lt-Colonel J.C. Tudor

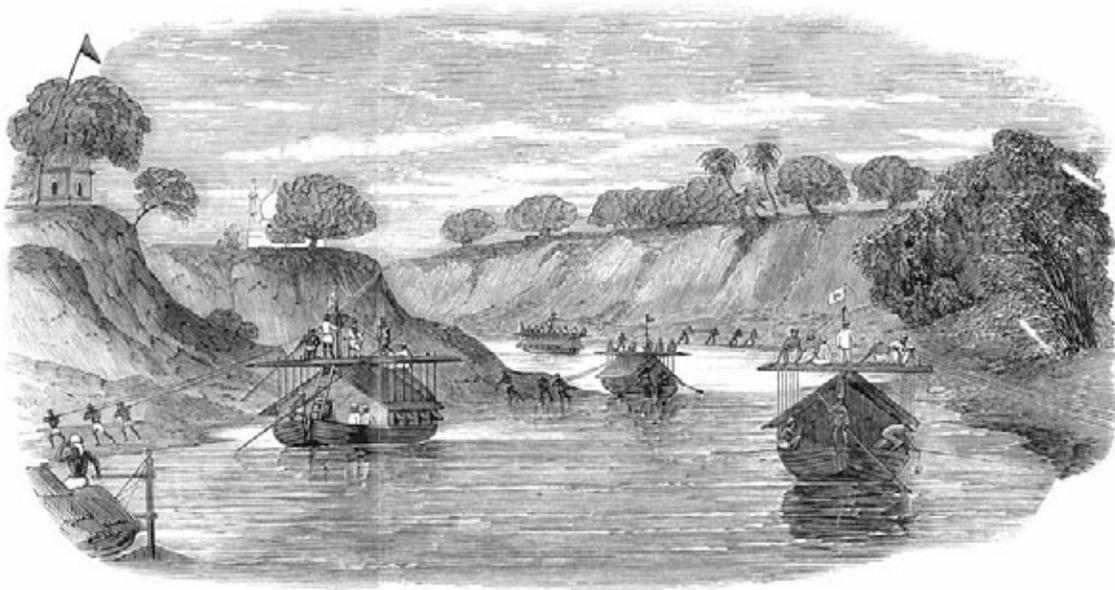


Once again it was a hot and fatiguing march for the soldiers, and at one stage the whole force was led in the wrong direction by a false guide but eventually the Pagoda was reached. There was a lot of firing taking place and General Godwin who was searching anxiously through his telescope for signs of the besieged force was greatly dismayed to see a Burmese soldier standing on the roof of the Pagoda. Fortunately, however, this man was then identified to be a Madras lascar and the Relief Force pressed on and reached Major Hill at approximately noon. Lieutenant S.H. Parry-Jones from inside the Pagoda described how the defenders saw the relief:

‘On the morning of 14th December we were all anxiety. It was not, however, till about eleven that we heard firing on our east face. It grew nearer and nearer ... presently we heard a cheer, then saw our men’s red coats and in a few seconds more Elliot of ‘Ours’ was in through the embrasure of our No. 10 Company ... General Godwin, on meeting Major Hill on the upper terrace, said ‘I had given you up till ten minutes ago!’ As a result of the fighting on this day Major J.G. Gerrard, Major D. Seaton and Lieutenant G.C. Lambert of the Bengal Fusiliers were "Mentioned".

Now the enemy were ‘on the run’. General Godwin did not wait until the cavalry of Lt-Colonel W.H.N. Sturt in the land column had caught up but set out to catch and destroy the retreating Burmese Army. He soon came upon their position which comprised of three lines of entrenchment with their right resting on a river. Godwin sent Major D. Seaton with 200 men of the Bengal Fusiliers immediately to assault their left.

A DANGEROUS GAME



This they did, but to the chagrin of the rest of the force the General did not commit them to battle and so the Madras Fusiliers saw the Burmese straggle away without interference. Captain T. Latter sent out his guides to discover what had happened and they returned with the intelligence that 'the enemy were now twenty miles away'. It was all a little unsatisfactory and the force had to return to Pegu without battle. On December 20, General Godwin sailed back to Rangoon leaving Captain S.G.C. Renaud in charge of the garrison.

December 1852 marked the end of the 'Official Campaign' of the Second Burma War. The Governor-General determined not to advance beyond Pegu but declared the annexation of Pegu Province. Captain (later General Sir Arthur) Phayre was appointed Commissioner, and letters to this effect were sent to the King of Burma. There was a sharp reaction to the letters at Prome, where the Burmese attacked the positions of Brigadier Sir John Cheape, but this proved to be the last clash as suddenly all the Burmese troops disappeared from the area leaving only 'dacoits and marauders'. The reason for this abrupt evacuation was the outbreak of a palace revolution in the King's Capital and the troops had hurried back to take part in it. There was a great deal of internecine blood spilled and when it was all over, a new King was on the throne. Lord Dalhousie's letter concerning the annexation of Pegu was, therefore, delivered to this new King, and although he would not sign a document accepting the loss of the Province, he refrained from taking arms against the British in order to give himself time to achieve stability in the rest of his Kingdom. Britain now had the task of governing a very large and unruly new province.

□ Regiment of Loodianah (Gordon's Sikhs) on their voyage down the River Goumtee from Lucknow to embark at Calcutta for Rangoon

THE PACIFICATION PROGRAMME

There is a strong resemblance between the last phase of the Second Burma War 1852 and the last phase of the South African War 1899–1902. In both cases the principal town was seized and the campaign was thought to be at an end; but in practice neither the fall of Pegu nor the fall of Pretoria resulted in an end to the fighting. Upon General Godwin, as upon General Kitchener, fell the unenviable task of catching and destroying groups of clever men who avoided direct confrontation but used their detailed knowledge of difficult country to attack, kill and disperse.

The war in Burma degenerated into a pattern which was to be followed throughout the 1880's, and which would lead to the issue of three more clasps to the I.G.S.M. 1854 i.e., Burma 1885–7, Burma 1887–9 and Burma 1889–90. It involved long fatiguing patrols through hot unhealthy jungles in the hope of catching an elusive enemy. It was a hazardous business and one of the first officers to be killed was Captain E.C. Gardner, 40TH Bengal Native Infantry, who died as a result of a shot fired from an unseen enemy as he led his patrol through dense jungle.

The troops formed base areas in the main towns and then sent out raiding parties. On December 29, Brigadier S.W. Steel, C.B., now commanding at Rangoon, with Colonel P. Anstruther, C.B., as his Commander Royal Artillery and Lieutenant A. Fraser as his Field Engineer took out a force called the Martaban column to capture Tounghoo:

D Coy 3RD Battalion Madras Artillery, Lieutenant W.F.B. Laurie
 Coy Madras Sappers & Miners, Lieutenant V.J. Shortland
 1ST Bengal Fusiliers (450), Major J.G. Gerrard
 1ST Madras Fusiliers (150), Major A.A. Geils
 10TH Bengal Infantry (Wing)
 5TH Madras Native Infantry (Wing)
 Ramghur Irregular Cavalry (detachment), Lieutenant F.W. Graham

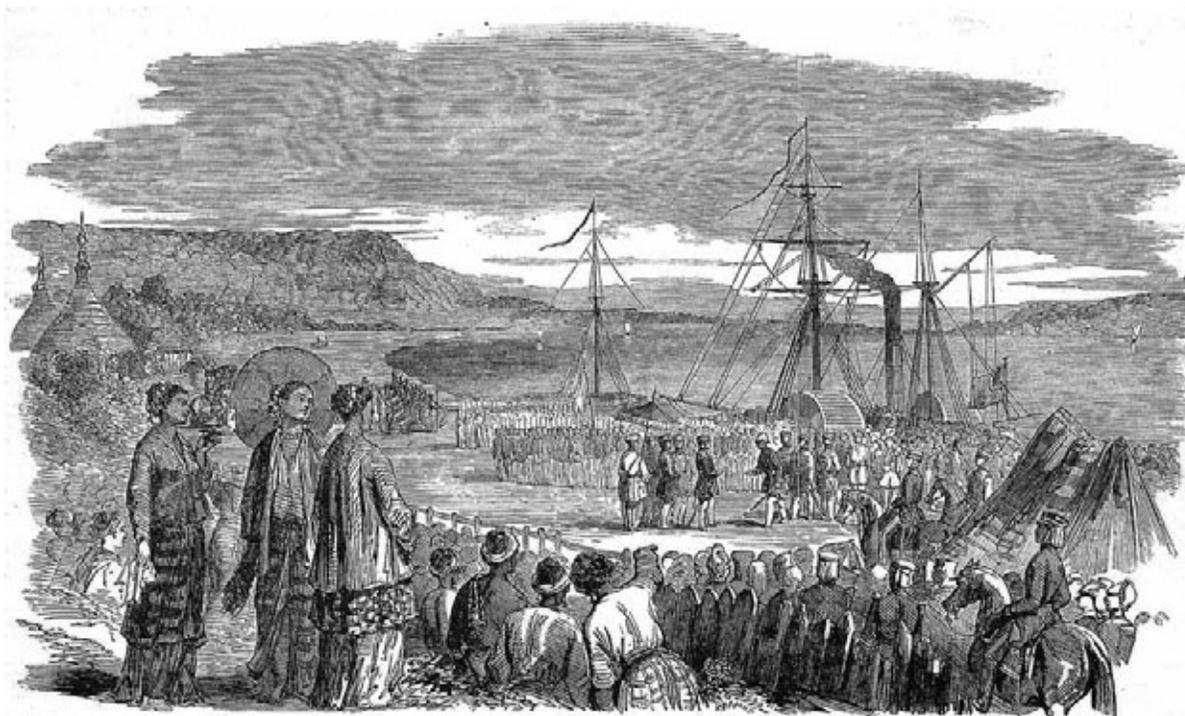
Very little enemy resistance was encountered and the force marched 240 miles through an unknown jungle in thirty–four days. Major A.A Geils, Lieutenant E.L. Grant, Lieutenant P.A. Brown and Lieutenant R. Menzies of the Madras Fusiliers were "Mentioned" for their part in the affair. Major D. Seaton of the Bengal Fusiliers was also "Mentioned" for leading seventy–five men of the regiment into a stockaded breastwork at Gongoh.

A DANGEROUS GAME

After reaching Shoegeen a 'light division' of the Martaban column consisting of some 900 men set out for Tounghoo which was reached on February 15, and the Ramghur Horse was sent out to look unsuccessfully for the enemy. Captain R.W.H Fanshaw and Captain H. Maxwell of the Bengal Fusiliers accompanied this cavalry force.

At Shoegeen Captain E.D. Byng, Bengal Fusiliers, died of heat exhaustion. He had been on leave in England but when war was declared had hurried back to join his Regiment but was overpowered by the climate. During this time Major D. Seaton sent out Captain G.C. Lambert and Lieutenant W. Davidson with a company of Bengal Fusiliers to capture a stockade at Beeling. On reaching the stockade they were fired upon and although Lieutenant G. Hearn was wounded the troops rushed forward, scaled the palisade and opened the gates from the inside.

On January 6, Captain W.F. Nuthall with a force of 150 Arakan Local Battalion made a similar successful sortie, as did Brevet Major C.A. Edwards and Captain J. Borrow of the 18TH (Royal Irish). But the main events of 1853 were undoubtedly the two attacks on the stronghold of a rebel chief named Myat Tun. The first attempt which ended in disgraceful failure was under the command of the Captain of H.M.S. Winchester, Captain G.G. Lock, C.B., R.N. Captain Lock set out in February with 240 seamen and marines, plus 300 men of the 67TH Bengal Native Infantry under Major F.C. Minchin with two small guns

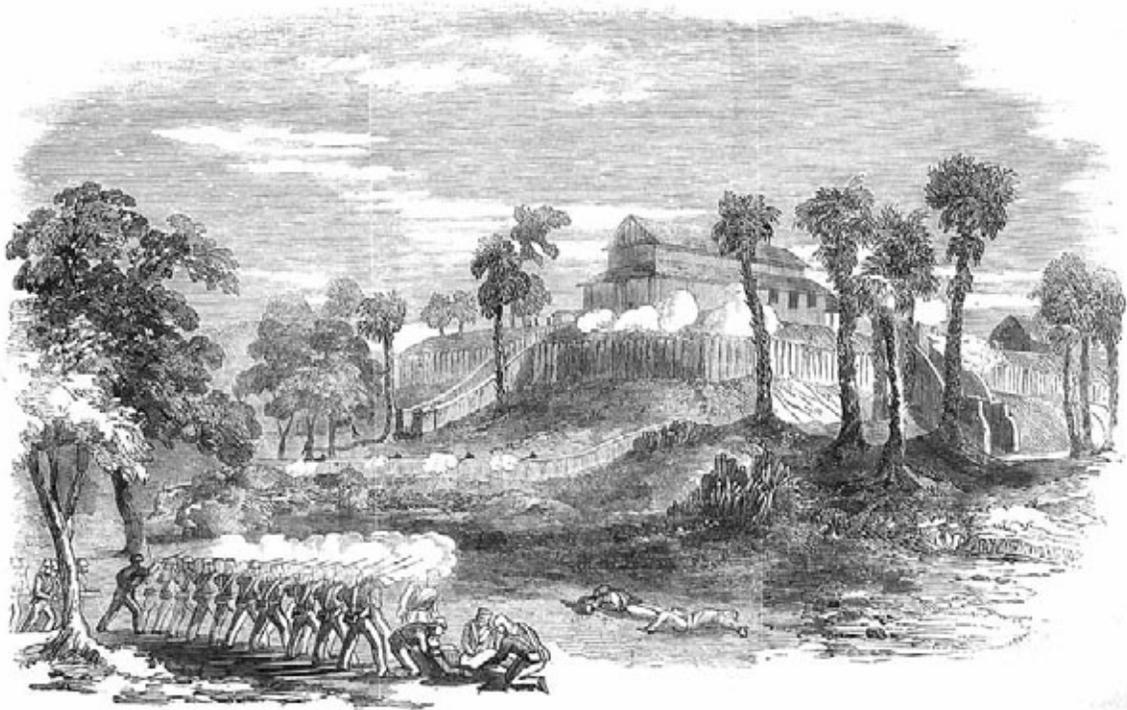


□ Departure of General Godwin from Prome

mounted on field carriages. After a time the creeks became impassable for his boats and Field Marshall Sir Garnet Wolseley, who was an Ensign with the 80TH Foot at this time, has written scathingly about what took place:

'Whereupon he unwisely determined to land his men, and leaving his boats behind, to march the twenty-five miles which were supposed to lie between the Irrawaddy and the point aimed at. This at once converted the affair into a land operation, and the Naval Captain should have placed himself under the orders of the Officer commanding the Native Regiment. This he did not do, recklessly pushed forward along a very narrow track through the dense jungle before him without adopting any of the simplest military precautions that are essential for safety, or even to avoid surprise. The Colonel of the sepoy regiment was a man with not enough self assertion to insist upon assuming command, but it was said, and generally believed, that he did venture to remonstrate with Captain Lock upon the foolish rashness of his proceedings. Report at the time said, and I can only write what was then believed and left uncontradicted, that Captain Lock pooh-poohed the Colonel, and vowed that he did not want him or his men, and that his own blue jackets and marines were quite able to do the job alone.

If this were so, it was fortunate for all concerned that the snubbed Colonel resolved to follow in the rear, for when this rashly-led body of sailors was surprised, many being shot down, and a regular stampede had begun, it was only the steadiness and military

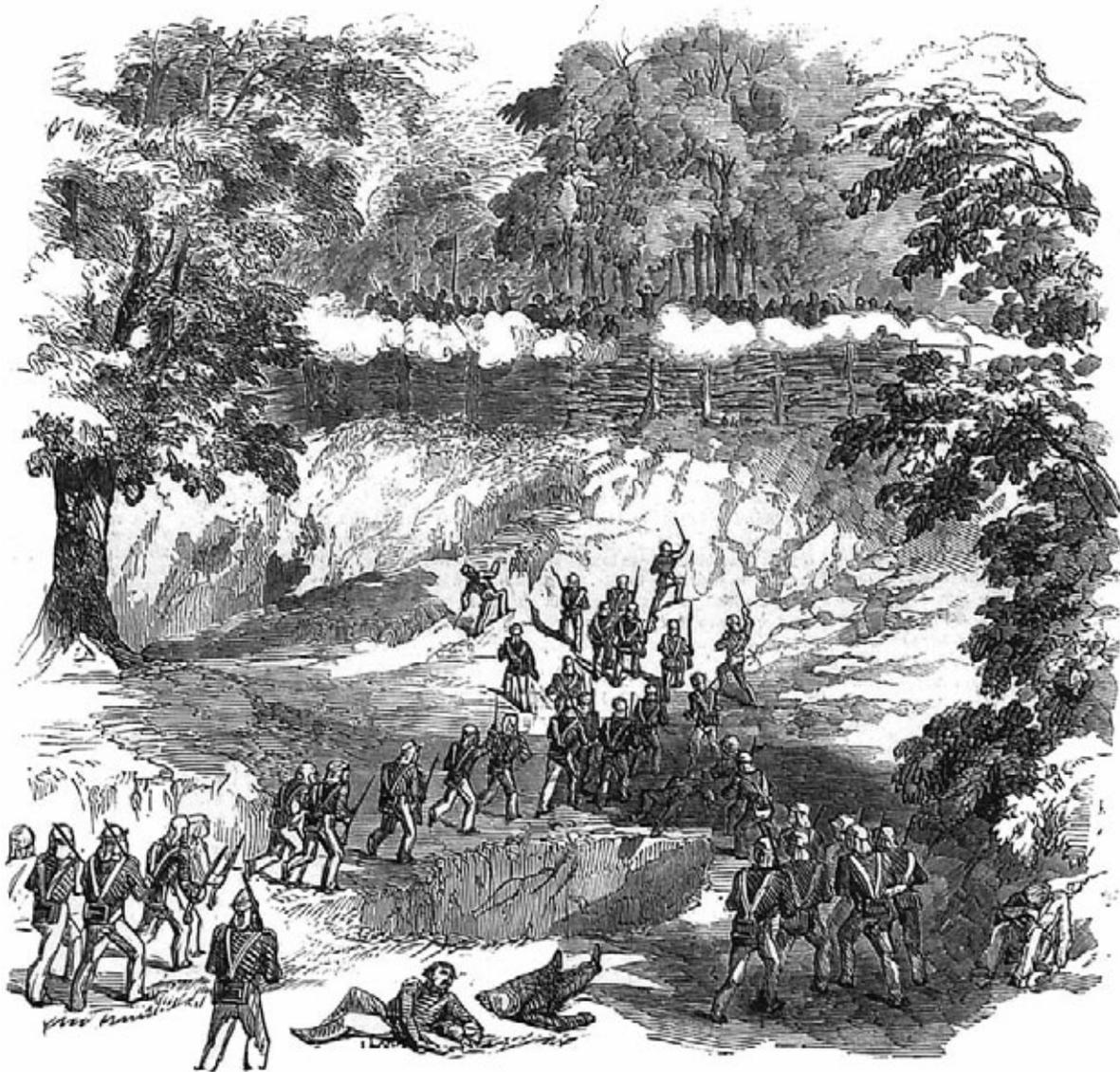


□ Storming and capture of the White House Stockade at Rangoon

A DANGEROUS GAME

training of the sepoy, under their own officers, that preserved Captain Lock's party from annihilation.

The more I learned subsequently as to what took place, the more evident it became that this disaster was occasioned by Captain Lock's ignorance of military tactics and the precautions to be taken when marching through a strange forest occupied by an enemy. I prefer to draw a veil over all that followed, but in the confusion of a hurried retreat, the guns, rocket tubes, ammunition, and even the dead, were abandoned to the enemy, and the gallant sailor who commanded died of his wounds a few days afterwards. The loss was thirteen killed, including Captain R. Price, 67TH, Lieutenant C.B.D. Kennedy, R.N., H.M.S. Fox, and seventy-nine wounded. The enemy followed and harassed the



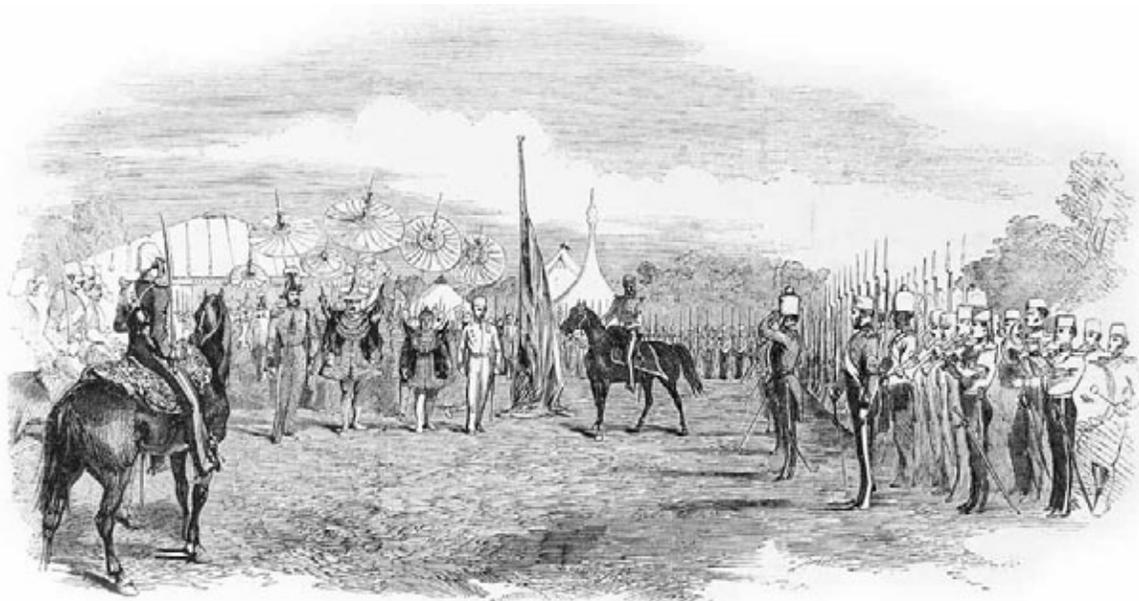
□ Storming and capture of Myat Tun's Stockade, Donnebew

retreating party nearly as far as Donnabew, and more than once they tried to head the party to cut it off: It was only the disciplined steadiness of the Native infantry which then saved the position. My own experience makes me feel that the stern and excellent discipline on board ship is not always so trustworthy when sailors are converted into infantry soldiers ashore!’

As soon as news of the affair reached Prome a much larger force was gathered under command of Brigadier Sir John Cheape, their aim was to exact vengeance and recover the lost guns:

4TH Sikhs (200), Major G.C. Armstrong
 18TH Royal Irish (200), Major F. Wigston
 80TH Foot (86), Lt-Colonel E.A. Holdich, C.B.
 51ST Foot (200), Captain A.H. Irby
 67TH Native Infantry (Coy), Captain E.W. Hicks
 Sappers & Miners (70), Lieutenant J. Mullins
 Artillery (2 guns), Major C.S. Reid

Arriving at Donubyu on March 3, it was found that the whole town had been burned by Myat Tun and that not a house nor an inhabitant remained. Owing to the reported strength of the enemy’s position General Cheape decided to defer his advance until the arrival of reinforcements which were expected from Rangoon. These reinforcements

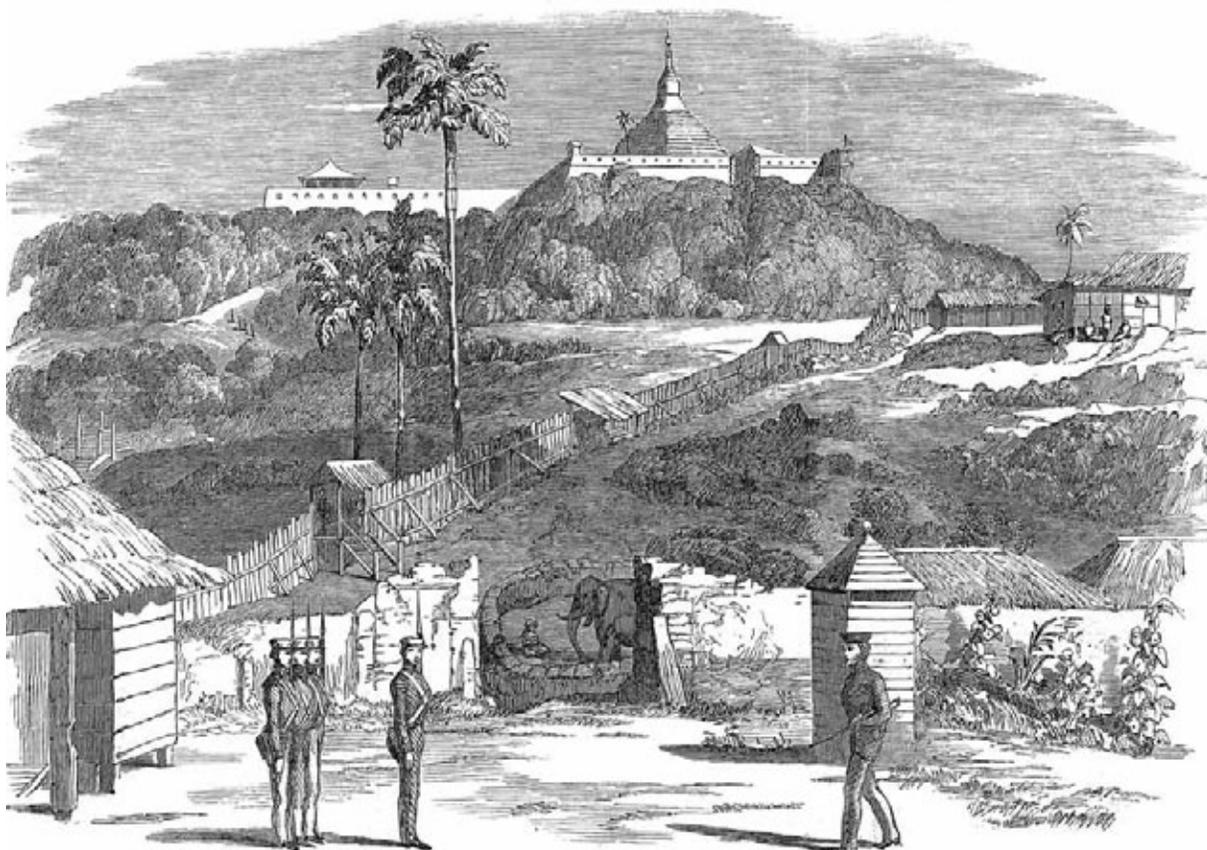


□ Interview between the Burmese Envoy and British Commissioners at Prome

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arrived on the 6TH and consisted of 130 of the 80TH Foot under Major E.A. Holdich, 300 of the 67TH Bengal Native Infantry under Lt-Colonel W.M.B. Sturt, two mortars under Lieutenant J. Percival and a large supply of commissariat stores under Lieutenant J.N.P.D. Mackeller.

Morning fogs are particularly heavy in this area and often do not clear away for several hours; the usual practice was therefore to let the Force eat breakfast before commencing the day's march. On March 9, a start was made at approximately 9 a.m but around midday it was thought that the guide was taking the wrong road. He was consequently sent to the rear and another guide was called up to take his place. The new guide turned to the left and after a most tedious march under a glaring sun brought the weary troops back to the identical place from which they had started. Such were the difficulties with which the unfortunate General, without maps, and compelled to trust himself to guides, had to contend. The right road was eventually found and the column set out once again and arrived by nightfall at Kyontani where it was decided to halt. Sergeant Cocks, Bengal Artillery, died in the night.



□ Temporary stockade at Martaban

This rather bare account of the exhausting marches and counter marches which led up to the final attack on Myat Tun's main stronghold is very well described by Corporal James Smith, 51ST Foot, who published an account soon after in a Calcutta newspaper:

'We crossed a large creek at Monnoo without accident over a bridge of boats, and bivouacked in a couple of houses for the remainder of that night and all the following day, having lost the commissariat department, the men had only a day's provision in their haversacks. I shall pass over the remainder of our toils up to the 27th, on which morning we were first apprised of the presence of the enemy, for under a thick fog we were fired at from the opposite bank of a creek near where we were bivouacked. Two men of No. 10 Company, Privates Patrick McDonald and John Dempsey were wounded and subsequently died. That company crossed the creek and scoured the surrounding jungle for two miles; but not an individual was to be seen. We retired without having fired a shot. Want of provisions now rendered it necessary to return to camp; accordingly we started fasting and thirsty, without even having a glass of grog. In this predicament we marched about nineteen miles under a scorching sun, reaching the shipping at a place called Raline, half way between Donnabew and Henzadah. We steamed from the latter place to Donnabew, Lieutenant R. Pilmer proceeding for more troops and a supply of boots and tobacco.

We now expected a rest, but were supplied with spades, billhooks and thus armed we performed five or six days hard labour, clearing jungle, cutting roads and building a sort of barrack room outside a Pagoda compound which we fortified. So between pulling down buildings, raising others and performing other work we ate no idle bread. At length we were again ready to start, and supplied with seven day's provisions. Here also we received a considerable reinforcement of H.M.'s 80TH – recruits, and part old soldiers – who joined the right wing of the force. Two companies of Bengal N.I., under Lieutenant Colonel W.M.N. Sturt, also joined the left wing, that officer assuming command.

I have omitted to mention that at Henzadah we were joined by No. 5 Company under Captain E.C. Singleton.

In the morning the 51ST and 67TH N.I. crossed the creek and were soon hotly engaged with the enemy. We drove them out of their position behind twelve breastworks erected along the bank of the river. The Bengal riflemen acted bravely and would not suffer us to go out in the overpowering heat; but volunteered to cover the front themselves whenever the enemy was disposed to fight, allowing us to take cover under the shade of trees and bushes. The whole day was occupied in transporting our baggage across the creek.

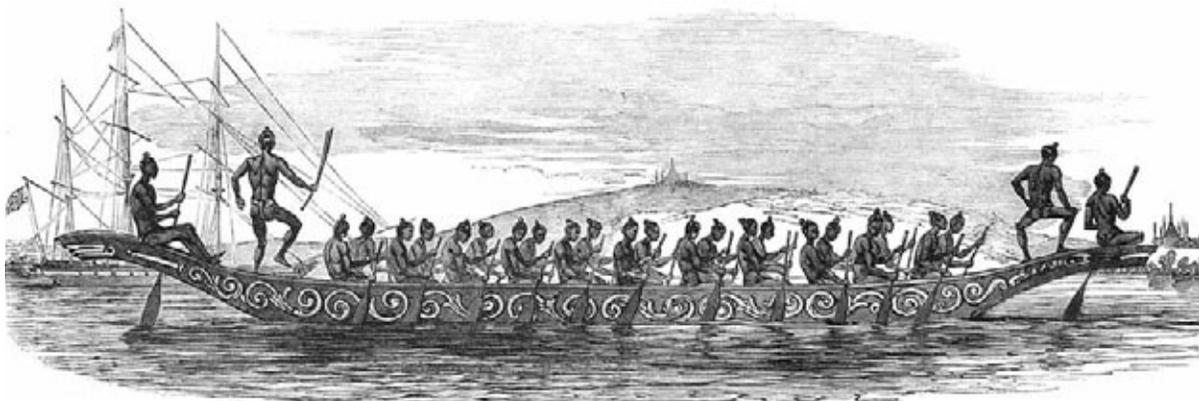
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On the morning of the 9th our little army started as soon as the fog had cleared off, and continued its march exposed to the burning sun, and even in danger of losing its baggage, for whenever we happened to be in the centre of a large plat of elephant grass, the enemy set it on fire all around us. In defiance, however, of all opposition in skirmishes and at the breakworks erected along the route, we got safely to a large creek on the banks of which was once a considerable town, called Kyanthonov. Here the General decided to occupy both banks, to prevent the annoyance we experienced at the last creek.

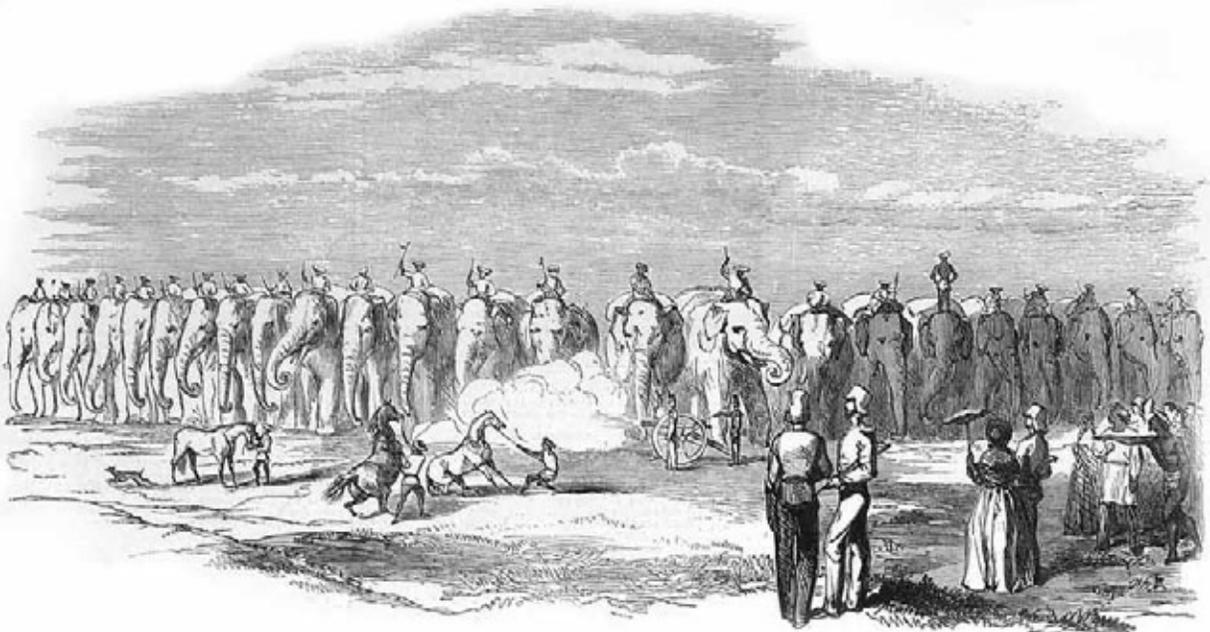
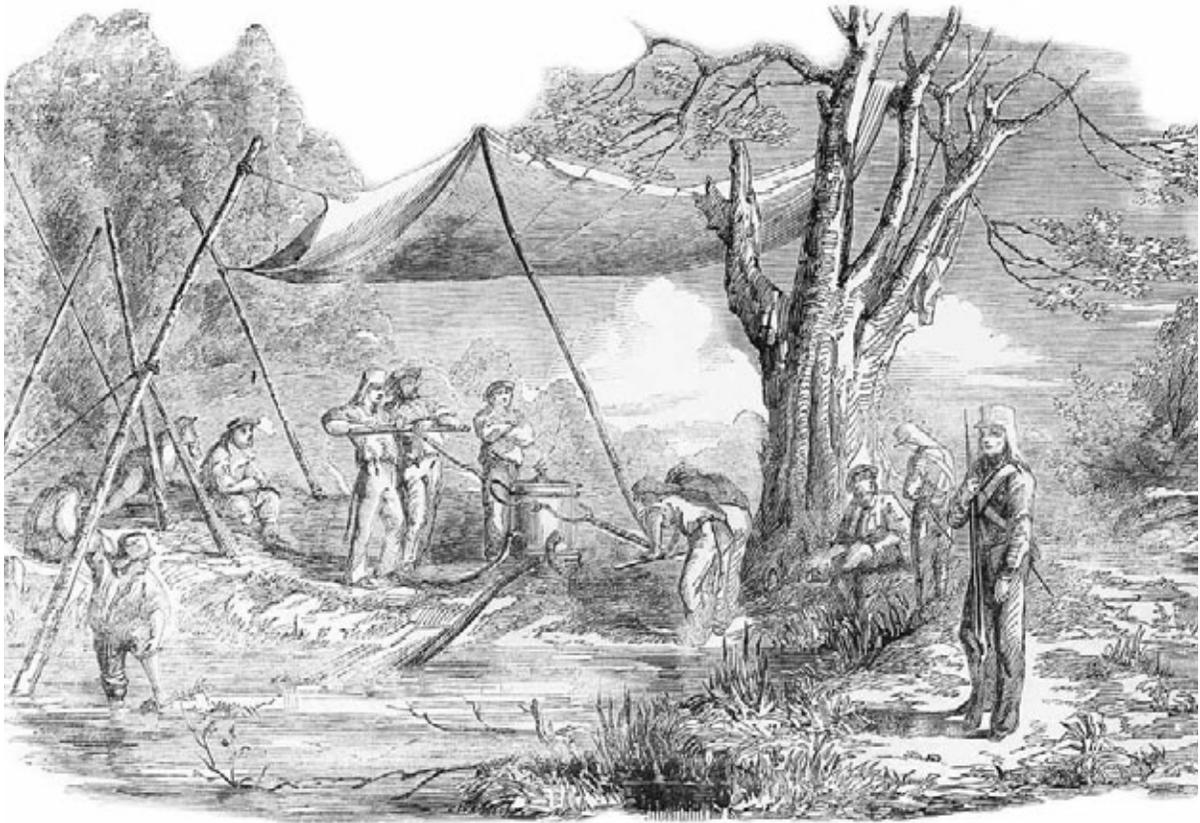
Accordingly two companies of the 18TH and a rifle company of the 67TH under Captain A.H. Irby of the 51ST, crossed the creek and found the enemy napping on a large open plain. A hot skirmish ensued and lasted for a considerable time, the enemy behaving admirably under Shamboo, one of their most distinguished chiefs. They contested every inch of ground, and when the 'retire' sounded, which our men very reluctantly obeyed, the men cheered most vociferously. At this time No. 9 Company, commanded by Lieutenant J.H. Dickson, and eleven men of No. 5 Company, 51ST regiment, having just crossed the river, the 18TH and Rifles were sent out extended along the bank to attack the enemy in front. Under the command of Captains A.H. Irby and E.C. Singleton, the men noiselessly made their ways through the grass, surprised the enemy's flanks and soon dispatched 'General' Shamboo and about a dozen of his men. Shamboo was shot through the heart by Captain B. Seymour, R.N. His followers then dispersed.

The remainder of the 51ST then crossed the river, and although we had fasted all day, and were wearied with our work, we were forced to entrench ourselves during the night.'

On March 17, the force was still seeking the main enemy position when the advance guard met strong opposition, as Corporal Smith describes:



□ Burmese War Boat



- Watering party at the Bassein Creek
- Elephant Brigade at Moulmein