

WAR IN CEYLON.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, July 13, 1803.

The public mind has been in great anxiety ever since it was known that the Candians, on the 23d. ult. had, without any notice, broken the truce, which had hitherto been religiously observed on both sides, and surprized the outposts of Gorigamme and Gallegiddero.

We have since received the dreadful intelligence of the massacre of the British troops which formed the garrison of Candy, upon the 26th ult. after they had evacuated that fort, under a solemn capitulation that they should proceed with arms and ammunition, and without molestation, to Trincomalee; and also, that the sick should be taken care of, and carried down to Colombo after their recovery.

The details of this horrible event have been related by several natives, eye-witnesses of it, as also by a corporal of the 19th, who was left for dead in the massacre, but who found means to escape in the night to Fort Macdowall, where he gave the intelligence to Captain Madge, of the 19th regiment, commanding the post, who having sustained a siege for three days, resolved very judiciously to bring off his garrison to Trincomalee, which he has effected, notwithstanding the constant fire of the Candians on his small force, until he fell within a strong detachment of Malays, commanded by Lieutenant Huskisson, escorting dooleys to Candy, when the Candians fled.

This, and many other proofs of the inability of the Candians to oppose the progress of any collected European or Malay force, however inconsiderable, render it difficult to account for the embarrassments which could induce the garrison of Candy to submit to any infraction of the capitulation which they made, and to deliver up their arms to the orders of the Adigaar, which, it appears, they did; and that, on their return unarmed to Candy, the British soldiers were separated from the Malays, and all inhumanly butchered, with the exception of Major Davie, Capt. Humphreys, of the Bengal artillery, and Captain Rumley, of the Malay corps.

The following is a list of Officers who were at Candy, when the last return was received:

Bengal artillery.—Capt. Humphreys.

His Majesty's 19th Regiment.—Lieutenant Blakeney, Lieutenant Byne, Lieutenant Plenderleath, Lieutenant MacLaine, Ensign Smith, Quarter-master Browne, Assistant Surgeon Hope.

51st Foot.—Lieutenant Ormsby.

Malay regiment.—Major Davie, Capt. Rumley, Lieut. Mercer, Ensigns Barry, Gaupil, and Panthome, Garrison Surgeon Holloway.

Of these, it appears from the reports, that Lieutenants Blakeney and Plenderleath were killed on the 23d. and that Ensign Gaupil, and Quarter-master Browne had died previous to the massacre.

Captain Blackhall, of the 51st regiment, with 50 Europeans and 50 Sepoys, was ordered to march from Colombo to relieve the small garrison of Dambadenia, which had been attacked for ten days by a numerous body of Candians.

This service he performed with the loss of only one man, of the 51st, whose ardour to attack some Candians on the opposite side of the Kaymelle river made him attempt to swim across, when he was carried away by the stream, and drowned.

An attempt was made to surprize the second Adigaar, by sending a party in the night to the place where he was stationed; but upon the approach of it, he escaped with all his people, and fled into the Jungle. The huts and bungalows constructed for their accommodation, were burned by our soldiers.

The following orders by his Excellency the Governor are published by his desire to the troops serving on Ceylon:

Oppressed as the Governor is by grief and indignation at the atrocious act of perfidy and cruelty lately committed at Candy, he has sincere satisfaction at noticing the spirited and successful conduct of the garrisons of Fort Macdowall and Dombadenia.

He requests Capt. E. Madge, of his Majesty's 19th regiment, to accept his thanks for his gallant defence of the former fortrefs, and for the judicious manner in which he brought off his garrison.

He also desires to express to Capt. Robt. Blackhall, of his Majesty's 51st regiment, his perfect approbation of the vigour and activity with which he conducted the relief of Dambadenia, and to Lieutenant Nixon, Ensign Grant, and Ensign Sniellie, his high sense of the spirit with which they defended this port under circumstances of extraordinary distress.