

FORT MCDOWAL, JUNE 27, 1803.

The following voluntary declaration was this day given by Corporal G. BARNSELY, of the Colonel's Company, in his Majesty's 19th Regiment, in the presence of the undersigned,

C. H. MADGE, Capt. 19th Regiment.

C. PEARCE, Do. Do.

G. GILLESPIE, Assist. Surg. Malay Corps.

That on the 23d inst. a little before day-light, the Candians commenced an attack on the Hill Guard, in the rear of the Palace, on which was a 3-pounder, and took it. That soon afterwards a strong party of the enemy, headed by a Malay, made a charge at the eastern barrier, to endeavour to take a gun, which was posted there, who were opposed by Lieutenant Blakeney, at the head of a few men of the 19th Regiment, and who himself fell in the contest; that an incessant fire was kept up on both sides, until about two o'clock in the day, when, as the enemy was breaking in at the back of the Palace, Major Davy sent out a flag of truce, offering to surrender the town, on being permitted to march out with his arms; this they consented to, and in consequence Major Davy, after having spiked the guns, marched out above five o'clock, and proceeded to *Wallapolaga**, where he was obliged to halt at night, from being unable to pass the river. The next morning the Candians sent out four Modeliers, to propose, that if Major Davy would give up Bowdoo Samney, their King, who had retreated with him, they would assist him with rafts and boats to cross the river; whereupon Major Davy instantly gave him up a prisoner. After which another message came, viz. that there was plenty of bamboos and other materials at hand; and that they might make rafts themselves. All that day was employed in endeavouring to make rafts, but they could not get a rope across the river, from the depth and rapidity of the stream; but next morning, at ten o'clock, Captain Humphries, of the Artillery, reported that he had succeeded in getting a warp across, at which time the Malays and gun Lascars began to desert in small parties, with their arms, over to the enemy; upon which Major Davy ordered the remainder to ground their arms, and to follow him, with all the Officers, back to the garrison. As soon as they had proceeded about 200 yards on their way thither, the Candians stopped them, took the Officers on one side, and kept them prisoners for half an hour, when the declarant says, he heard a shot in the direction of the place where the Officers were prisoners, which he supposed to be the execution of Major Davy; that immediately afterwards they took out the European soldiers, two and two, and leading them a few yards along the road, knocked them down with the butt-end of their pieces, and beat out their brains. That this declarant was in his turn led out with his comrade, and received a blow under the right ear, and a wound with a sword in the back of the neck, which the enemy conceiving to be sufficient, proceeded to the murder of the remainder. He lay as dead for some time, and in that situation, when all the men had been killed, he distinctly heard a firing at the place where the Officers were confined, which he supposed to be the putting them to death. That while this was doing, he took the opportunity of crawling by degrees into the jungle, where he lay all day, and proceeded to Fort McDowal by night, to give the necessary information.

His mark.

(Signed)

GEO. BARNSELY, Corp. 19th Reg.

The officers murdered of the 19th Foot are, Lieutenants Nixon, Byrn, Plendericath, Blakeney, and MacLaine; Ensign Smith, Assistant-Surgeon Hope, and Quarter-Master Browne, with about 150 men.—Malay Regiment, Major Davy, Capt. Rumly, Lieutenant Mercier, Ensigns Barry, Gunfil, and Fanthome, Garrison Surgeon Holloway, Lieutenant Ormsby, 51st Regiment Commissary; and Captain Humphries, Bengal Artillery.—Officers who have died during the campaign by the jungle fever: Lieutenant-Colonel Barbut, 73d; Major Blair, Commissary; Captain Carrington, Malay Regiment; Capt. Bullock, 65th Regiment; Lieutenants Patrick Campbell, Peter Campbell, Robinson, Moore, and Dr. Reader, 51st Regiment; Lieutenant O. Henrawshaw, 65th Regiment; Lieutenant Gillie, Coast Artillery; Lieutenant Voliere, Ceylon Regiment; Lieutenants Bouisset and Drifberg, Malay Regiment; Adjutant Flenderfon and Ensign Moses, Malay Regiment.—All the Officers at Fort McDowal were saved.

Officers murdered, 17; Privates, 19th Foot, 150; Officers deceased, 16; Privates, 19th, 200; without including the 51st, who have lost 200 men.

* Two miles from Candy.