

THE
EAST INDIA
MILITARY CALENDAR;
CONTAINING
THE SERVICES
or
GENERAL AND FIELD OFFICERS
OF THE
INDIAN ARMY.

*"I ordained, that the Right of the Warrior should not be Injured, and that the Soldier who had grown in Years
"should not be deprived of his Station or his Wages; And that the Actions of the Soldier should not be
"Suppressed ; For men who sell their Permanent Happiness for Perishable Honour, Merit Compensation
"and are worthy of Reward and Encouragement."* Institute of Timoor.

BY
THE, EDITOR OF THE ROYAL MILITARY CALENDAR.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The Editor cannot allow this volume to go forth to the public without renewing his sincere acknowledgments to his friends, and others, whose contributions have enabled him to put on record services and achievements, most of which have hitherto been but imperfectly, if at all, known to the public.

It will be observed in this, as well as in the former volume, that the career of several officers extend through a period of more than half a century, of continuous military service in a hostile climate and a foreign land; and that even when the services are for a less period, they are generally of a most active and exemplary nature. Such being the case, it is, to be regretted that this record should appear without the appendage, in several cases, of the most subordinate designation of national distinction to the names of officers whose brilliant career it delineates, a defect that has arisen from the absence of the requisite information, and is in some degree the fault, rather than the misfortune, of distinguished officers, owing to their neglect in bringing forward, at a proper time, a statement of their services, for the information of those authorities to whom it could not have been submitted in vain.

The Editor has endeavoured to place on record services as brilliant, zeal as ardent, firmness, attachment, and devotion, as conspicuous, as could be performed by any soldiers in the world, and he cannot but flatter himself, that, when such splendid services are known to those with whom the pleasing and grateful duty rests of bringing under the notice of a most gracious and just Sovereign the merits and pretensions to Royal favour of His Majesty's subjects, that the achievements of the most prominent military characters of the Indian Army, not hitherto so honoured, will be duly remembered; and that before the mortal career of its veterans shall come to an end, the distinctions in the gift of the Sovereign will be conferred on them;—for even if the prospect of their enjoyment is but brief, they will adorn the tomb to which the earthly cares of these gallant men must be shortly consigned.

Among the original military papers in this volume, the Editor must particularly direct the attention of his readers to the account of the defence of Onore, a service that, from the extraordinary ability with which it was throughout conducted, and the hardships and privations patiently endured by the garrison, cannot be

too warmly extolled. The Editor has had the gratification of accompanying this narrative with an accurate plan of the Fort, shewing the manner in which it was commanded in every direction lay the enemies' batteries, and also the various ingenious contrivances of its gallant Commandant for its defence. He has particular satisfaction in recording the events of this siege, as they do not appear to have come within the notice of a distinguished military Historian of Indian affairs.

Of the Journal of the, late Brigadier General Monson's retreat, a service which was, and is still, much discussed, and imperfectly understood, the Editor need only observe that it is both original and authentic.

The narrative of the defence of Delhi, and the subsequent operations of the late Major General Burne's detachment, is a record of service that may peculiarly command the attention of the army.

It would be invidious to particularize the services of living officers most deserving of attention: there are none that do not reflect lustre on the Indian arms; there are none that do not place the Indian army on an equality with the King's army.

Throughout this Volume, the Editor, at the desire of his friends, has brought forward a variety of ideas on subjects connected with the Indian Army, and affairs of the Honourable East India Company. He trusts that they will be received as respectful suggestions, and that if any point has been particularly enforced, it will be attributed to zeal, and not to presumption.

To meet the opinion expressed in the literary Review of the First Volume, the Editor has introduced in this, the services of several of those early military characters, whose talents led to the foundation and acquisition of the Honourable East India Company's possessions in Asia; and also of some of the most distinguished " King's Officers" who have served in India.

It would have been satisfactory to the Editor, had it been possible, with this Volume to have terminated the Work ; but, although in abundance of matter it greatly exceeds the former Volume, he has not been able to insert numerous services in his possession ; and as he is promised further assistance, it is his intention hereafter to CONCLUDE the work with a third Volume, in which he will endeavour to do justice to such contributions of his friends, that want of space alone has prevented his attending to in the present.

The Editor has published the services of two distinguished officers, of the rank of Captain, and he would gladly avail himself of those of any other Officers of that rank

who may have equal claims on public attention, and record their career before themselves or their friends, and the generations likely to feel an interest in them, shall have passed away, the individuals, and their services by which they have exalted the character of the Nation, and the reputation of the British Arms, in a foreign land, be alike consigned to oblivion

Duke-Street, Westminster, Oct 1824.

CAPTAIN SOLOMON EARLE#.

(Bengal Establishment.)

This officer was appointed a Cadet 29th Dec. 1767; and arriving in Bengal 21st Aug. following, was appointed an Ensign, and ordered to join the 1st, brigade stationed at Monghyr; in the beginning of 1769, he was posted to the 17th batt. of sepoy's commanded by Capt: Brisco and the 11th June 1770, promoted to Lieut.

About this time he was ordered on an expedition under L.-Col. (the late B.-Gen) Goddard, to attack Burrareah, a strong mud fort about: 40 miles to the northward of Chuprah. The killedar did capitulate until a practicable breach was made, and every thing ready to storm, when but little was found remaining in the fort of any value to the captors : the detachment then returned to Dinapore. In the autumn of 1770, the 17th batt. was ordered to Buxar, where it remained until Jan. 1772, when it was ordered to Benares, and soon after to Fyzabad, where it joined the first brigade, and a large body of, troops belonging to the Vizier Sujah Dowlah, commanded by the Nabob in person ; here the detachment remained only a few days, when it proceeded by Lucknow into the Rohilcund country, in pursuit of the Mahrattas, and came up with them near Ram Ghaut, on the banks of the Ganges, and very soon obliged them to cross. Lieut. Earle was, at this period, appointed Adj. to 6 batts. of sepoy's.

The detachment now crossed the Ganges, and took up a position in the neighbourhood of Anopsheer, where it continued a few days, to adjust some disputes, between the Vizier and the Rohilla chief, and then returned, in two divisions, to Sultaunpoor. Lieut. Earle was now appointed Adj. and Q.-Master to the division commanded by Maj. Auchmuty. The brigade erected temporary cantonments at Sultaunpoor, and as soon as the rains had subsided, it proceeded to the Presidency, and arrived at Chitpoor, within a few miles of

As a reason for introducing the services of this officer in a work, the original, plan of which, did not embrace those under the rank of Field Officer; the Editor begs to observe, that had Capt. Earle continued on the strength of the army, he would now have stood among the Lieut.-Generals of the Bengal establishment. Further, his services, though performed under a subordinate designation of rank, do honour to the Indian army, and the period of time to which they have reference.

Calcutta, in Nov. 1773.

In 1774, Lieut. Earle accompanied his batt. to Midnapore, and served with it for several months, opposed to a Chief residing in the hills, who had rebelled against the Company: in this service, one third of the batt. was either killed or wounded, and every man who fell into the hands of the enemy suffered the most cruel death : the jungles were so thick, that there was, no opportunity of seeing the enemy, nor could the troops form any idea of their being near, until they felt the effects of. their arrows and, matchlocks: On the day the battalion entered the enemy's country, Lieut. Earle had charge of the rear-guard, consisting of a subadar, 2 Jemedars, and 40 sepoy's. Every precaution had been previously, taken to secure the bazaars, baggage, &c. by sending out flanking parties; notwithstanding which, the jungles were so impenetrable, that in a few minutes the subadar, 1 Jemedar, and 27 sepoy's,; were either killed or wounded: and had not Lieut. Earle been immediately reinforced, it would have been impossible to have prevented the remainder, as well as the wounded, from falling into the hands of the enemy.

After many harassing marches in pursuit of the enemy, to very little purpose, on account of the forests by which the country was surrounded ; and after losing a great many brave fellows, the commanding officer adopted a different mode of carrying on the war, which had, in the end, the desired effect; this was, to send out a party consisting of 1 Lieut., 1 Ensign, and from 80 to 100 men, almost every night, so arranged as to arrive at the destined spot about. break of day ; by this means the enemy were generally discovered by the smoke either from their villages or from their temporary huts in the jungles: and many prisoners were brought in, as well as great quantity of cattle, in which their principal riches consisted. It fell to the lot of Lieut. Earle to command the last party so employed, and he was so fortunate as to surround a very large body of the enemy, so as to prevent the possibility of escape : their desperate situation, and the property they had at stake, induced them to make a stout resistance, in which they suffered very considerably. The number of prisoners far exceeded in quantity the strength of Lieut. E.'s party. He also captured upwards of 800 head of cattle, bullocks, and buffaloes, with near 400 goats, besides other plunder of little or no consequence to the captors, but of so much value, to the enemy, that the Chief sent in. his vakeel to beg a truce, which was followed in a few days, by a peace, and his paying all arrears due to the Company, and giving fair promises for his future good conduct. On this occasion Lieut Earle received the thanks of the

Commanding officer in Public Orders.

The part of the country in which the detachment had been following the enemy for 6 or 8 months, was overrun with very thick, forests and very hilly, which rendered it remarkably prejudicial to the health of Europeans, all of whom suffered severely. Lieut. Earle was confined from April to Nov., and during that time, was sent to Ballasore with 3 other officers, for the benefit of the sea air. On his return without reaping the good effects he expected, and being so, emaciated that he could not stand, his palanquin was surrounded by a party of Mahrattas between Balasore and Jellasore, and the bearers immediately took to flight, when a chief of some consequence with the party threw back the curtain, and flourishing a broadsword over his head, demanded his baggage, &c., but on perceiving his situation, and receiving an assurance that the baggage had preceded him 5 or 6 hours, and that it must have got to the other side of the river at Jellasore, if it had not fallen into the hands of his party ; the chief, in pity to Lieut. Earle's situation, ordered some of his people to go in search of the bearers, and on their return, directed them to be careful of him and that they should have nothing to fear. After thanking his generous enemy, Lieut. Earle proceeded on his journey unmolested to Midnapore.

In 1776, Col. Leslie removed Lieut. Earle from the 17th batt, in which he was 3rd Lieut. to the 2nd batt. as senior Lieut. commanded by Capt. Popham, at that time stationed at Suib Gunge, in Coos Behar. Lieut. Earle accompanied the Bengal detachment, originally sent under the command of Col. Leslie, to march across the peninsula of India to Bombay; and to which command the late B. Gen. Goddard succeeded, (see services in this vol.) .

On the 21st Aug. 1779, when on active service in the Guzerat, and having charge of the 2d batt, of sepoys as senior Lieut. in the absence of Capt. Popham, he, on that officer's promotion to the rank of Major, was appointed: to the command of the batt, with the rank of Captain.

Capt. Earle next served under B.-Gen. Goddard at the siege and capture of Ahmedabab ; at the action of, Pawauighur, and in the subsequent movements of the army, under that

gallant Soldier. In May 1780, B.-Gen. Goddard, when on his return to Surat, deeming it necessary to leave a part of his force at Sinnore, in the neighbourhood of Fatty Sing's capital, and for the Protection of the pergunnahs; ceded to the Company by that Chief, Capt. Earle was appointed to command the 2d and 4th batts. of sepoy, with a small park of artillery, the whole consisting of upwards of 2,000 men, to watch the motions of Holkar and Scindia, who threatened destruction to the whole of Guzerat With all army of 30,000 men, encamped within two days, march of Baroda,

On the breaking up of the rains Capt. Earle made frequent excursions round the country ; in one of which, he deemed it necessary to chastise an insolent fellow who had taken possession of a neat town called Chumpaneer, near Pawanghur, surrounded with a wall which he supposed to be very strong. He afterwards proceeded against Khyseer cawn, chief of the Grashees, a country bordering on the newly ceded pergunnahs, a most notorious rebel to the Company, who had destroyed several villages, and murdered many inhabitants; and had the audacity to fix their heads on the walls of Duboy, a city belonging to the English. Capt. Earle being very desirous of securing this chief, left the 4th batt., and artillery with capt. Archdeacon, and by a forced march and great good fortune surprised and captured Khyseer Cawn at day-break. he immediately sent intelligence of this affair to the Council at Baroche, who expressed their great satisfaction in a flattering compliment, but at the same time, requested Khyser Cawn might be liberated after a severe reprimand; however, as Capt. Earle was not under their authority, he took the liberty of obliging the Chief to pay all the arrears due to the Company, and give security for his future good behaviour.

On captain Earle's return to his cantonments at Sinnore he received a letter from Maj. Forbes, commanding the Guzerat province, informing him, that he was surrounded by at least 10,000 Mahrattas, and as his force was not sufficiently strong having only two Bombay batts. of sepoy with him, he had taken his post at Soanghur, a very strong fort, about 80 miles off, and begged Capt. Earle's assistance, with all possible expedition. The Captain immediately placed his heavy artillery, sick, and, whatever could impede his march, at Ramghur (a strong little fort) under the charge of a jemedar and 30 sepoy ; and with his tumbrils and light field-pieces, reached the Major in 3 days, after a most fatiguing march across a country without the vestige of a footpath. As the enemy had fallen back near Nowapoor, About 16 miles from the Major, it was resolved to make an attack on them the following night, and as the Major took charge of Capt. Earle's detachment, he proceeded with the grenadiers of his own batt. and two 6-pounders as the

advanced guard. Capt. E. fell in with the enemy's pickets just as the day broke, and on their giving the alarm, the enemy, who constantly kept their horses saddled during the night, was quite clear of their ground in a few minutes, They made a short stand on a hill, about half a mile in their rear, but on Capt. Earle bringing his guns to bear on them, they precipitately retreated, leaving 8 men killed, and 13 horses behind, nor did they ever return to the Guzerat during the campaign.

As soon as it was ascertained that the enemy had entirely quitted that part of the country, Capt. Earle resumed his command at Sinnore, and after settling the Ryots in the peaceable possession of their villages, and clearing the country of the enemy to the entire satisfaction of the Chief and Council of Baroche, and the Resident of the newly-ceded pergunnahs, as well as of Futtu Sing; his detachment returned to Surat, where he received instructions from B-Gen, Goddard to proceed to the court of Futtu Sing; to settle some misunderstanding which had taken place between the B-Gen. and the Rajah. After a stay of 3 months, Capt. Earle had the satisfaction of adjusting the differences to the mutual approbation of both parties.

On his return to Surat, Capt. Earle accompanied B.-Gen.. Goddard to the neighbourhood of Brodera, where he was met by the Rajah Futtu Sing, and the following day he was honoured with the appointment: of Resident at the Court of Brodera, on the part of the English government, and was presented to the Rajah by the B.-Gen as his adopted son: this had a wonderful effect on his behaviour during Capt. Earle's stay at Brodera, which was upwards of 2 years ; nor did he quit the Durbar until the conclusion of peace, at the end of 1783, between the English and the Mahratta states. Capt. Earle then returned to Surat, and from thence by land to Bombay.

The war being at an end, and his health very indifferent, Capt. E. was advised by the faculty to repair to Bengal by sea as the army was ordered to return thither, nearly by the same route it came, under the command of Col. C. Morgan, who succeeded B-Gen. Goddard# On that officer's return to Europe.

#The following Letter was addressed by this officer to Capt. Earle, at this Period. "*It is my particular wish, that the Honorary colours I have ordered to be presented to your battalion may be made up with all possible haste. The Hon. Company's arms are to be represented on the first, the device on the other I leave to yourself: the motto I have determined on, viz;. "Humashah Hauser" (Always Ready) as a compliment I think you truly deserving of, from the very high state of discipline to which you have brought your battalion, and more particularly from my always finding you ready, on all occasions; to execute my orders with the greatest alacrity. It Is my particular wish that you adopt the above motto for your own, in remembrance of your sincere friend,* (signed) "Thomas Goddard"

On his arrival in Bengal in 1784, Capt. Earle was strongly recommended by Col. Morgan to Gov.-Gen. Hastings, and to L-Gen. Stibbert, Com.-in-Chief Gen. Stibbert desired him to remain at Calcutta until he had an opportunity of providing for him, which he expected would be soon. In the meantime, Col. Ironside proposed to Capt. Earle to appoint him his Aid-de-Camp, but which offer he declined, relying on the promise of the Com.-in-Chief, who in a few days nominated him to the 1st batt. 30th reg: this command he held until he obtained leave of absence for 3 years, to return to Europe for the recovery of his health. He arrived in England the latter end of 1788 after an absence of 20 years. Not having it in his power to return to India at the expiration of his furlough, Capt. Earle applied to the Court of Directors for permission to remain another year in Europe, which was immediately granted, and he was on the eve of proceeding in the Hon. Company's Ship Rose, in the following year when he was again prevented by the state of Mrs Earle's health: As soon as possible after her recovery, he applied at the India House, in 1791, for leave to return to his duty, when he was informed that unless he could procure the votes of a great majority of the proprietors, it was impossible that such permission could be granted, being contrary to the established regulations of the Company, he having exceeded the time specified in his furlough. Capt. Earle, some years after solicited an appointment to the Hon. Company's depot at the Isle of Wight; and in June 1804, he obtained the situation of Capt. and Adj.; and in April 1814, that of Capt. and Paymaster. He has lately been allowed to retire on a pension, when no longer able, under the decline of years and health, to perform the duties of the office.