

Background

This book contains the memoirs of Solomon Earle's services in India from the time of his departure from England in 1768 at an age of about 14 until his return in 1786 eighteen years later. The record was collated by his grandson Percy Sheaffe (son of Rosalie Danvers Earle) about 100 years later.

Not a lot is known about his father John and whether or not he had a military career, however, we do know that Solomon's three sons served in the Native Infantry (NI) and three of his daughters married military men who also went to India. Many of their children also became involved with the NI as well. The daughter of Solomon's eldest son (John Lucas Earle) Harriet married a Robert Tytler. They were both present at the siege of Delhi in 1857, Harriet being the only English lady in the camp for much of the time. Harriet later wrote her memoirs which were subsequently published in 1986 "An Englishwoman in India; the memoirs of Harriet Tytler 1828-1858" Edited by Anthony Sattin Oxford University Press.

A year after returning to England Solomon married Rose and they had at least 8 children. He continued to work within the military in England until his retirement in 1816 when his last position was as Captain and Paymaster to the 1/30th NI at Chatham Kent. He died in 1824 and is buried at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.

Production of this electronic copy.

A photocopy of the original document was given to me by Stephen Sheaffe (Brisbane, Australia) who is a great grandson of Percy.

I created this electronic copy to aid distribution by email etc. This was done by scanning the photocopy and using OCR software to enter the output into Microsoft Word. I then created the PDF file after editing. The software does a good job but black marks on the original or photocopy can sometimes lead to misinterpretations of letters and punctuation. I have proof read the output and I believe I have corrected all of these errors. I have also corrected the occasional typesetting error such as a letter set upside down or a lower case letter used where there clearly should have been an upper case one. I have tried to match the page size, justification and text layout as much as possible to the original hence the unusual page size.

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LEAVES
FROM THE
JOURNAL OF MY
GRANDFATHER'S SERVICES
IN INDIA.

BY

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No. 1 Co., 5th REGIMENT,

NEW SOUTH WALES VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

PRINTED BY J. J. RUTTER, AT THE TIMES OFFICE, MILTON.

1880.

In 1767 Mr Sullivan, one of the Directors of the E. I. Company, a very particular friend of our family, proposed to send me to India, as a writer in the Honorable Company's Service, but on my arrival in London from Devonshire in October, I found no writers were to be appointed for that season; it was therefore proposed to send me out as a Cadet, or to keep me back another year, it being unfortunately left to my choice, and not knowing the advantage of the Civil Service over the Military, and having taken leave of my friends in the country, I preferred the former, rather than wait another year in England, and was appointed a Cadet on the 29th December.

I sailed from the Downs on the 21st of March 1768, in the "Salisbury," Captain Wynche, for Bengal. We first made Madeira, and took in wine; we then proceeded to St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verde Islands, where we staid about ten days, taking in water &c., &c. In doubling the Cape of Good Hope, which we saw in the distance, we experienced a tremendous storm. We passed through the Mozambique Channel, and had several views of Madagascar, and anchored for several days at Johannah a delightful little island, situated between the African coast and the North of Madagascar; it is about the size of the Isle of Wight and abounds with cattle, and delicious fruits, such as Pines' Oranges, Bananas &c., all growing spontaneously; the country is hilly and well watered, abounding with game.

After supplying ourselves and the ship's company with necessaries as well as with luxuries, we proceeded on our voyage, and made the Island of Ceylon, and coasting along shore for some time, we saw several of the Madras settlements, and having anchored for a day or two at Masulapatam, our ship continued her voyage, and arrived at our destination at Hoglee on the 21st day of August 1768.

On landing at Calcutta, I heard of the death of my uncle Captain Mills, the senior Captain on the Madras Establishment; also of my cousin Captain Adams of the Engineers, both of whom died a few months prior to my arrival. These were heavy losses to me, but I was young, (15 years) and soon recovered my spirits in the new success around me, receiving great kindness from several gentlemen both in the Civil and Military Service, to whom I had letters from my friends, Mr. Sullivan and Sir Robert Palk. I remained at the Presidency but a few days, when I was ordered to join the first Brigade stationed at Moaghip, and soon after I was appointed an Ensign, and in the beginning of 1769, posted to the 17th Battalion of Sepoys, commanded by Captain Briscoe, and in June 1770, I received my Lieutenant's Commission.

About this time we were ordered on an expedition under Lieut. Colonel Goddard to attack Burrareah, a strong mud Fort about 40 miles to the north of Chuprah. This was the first, and had nearly been the last time I had seen service. Being officer of the day, a part of my duty was to post the sentinels at night as near the ditch as possible, (in the day time they were placed at a greater distance from the fort.) Conceiving I heard a canoe crossing the ditch, and it being very desirable to prevent the escape of the Killadar, I crept on my hands and knees to the brink whence I could just discover the canoe move on the opposite side and at that instant the guard on the Bastion taking the alarm, I perceived 20 or 30 men with their matchlocks lighted by the blue lights; these were thrown directly over me, and I expected a volley about my ears, but as I escaped, I imagine they must have heard the sentinels, and had no idea of my being so near them I need not say I hastened back at a tolerably quick pace the moment their blue lights were extinguished.

The Killadar did not capitulate until a breach was made, and all ready to storm, when we found but little in the fort of any value to the captors, all having been removed before we took possession. After adjusting matters with the Killadar, the detachment returned to Dinapore.

In the Autumn of 1770, the Battalion was ordered to Buxar, there we remained till January 1772, when we were ordered to Benares; we joined the first Brigade of a large body of troops belonging to the Vizier Sugah ul Dowlah, commanded by the Nabob in person. Here we remained a few days only, when we proceeded to Lucknow, into the Rohilcund country, in pursuit of the Mahrattas, and came up with them near Rhamgaut on the bank of the Ganges, and very soon obliged them to cross the river, it being fordable at this point. During the engagement the wheels of one of the gun carriages caught my foot, but the soil being very sandy I escaped without much injury, and after the engagement, was appointed adjutant to six battalions of Sepoys In a few days I was able to do my duty, but was very lame for some weeks.

As the Mahratta army had taken post on the opposite side of the Ganges, and seemed resolved to dispute the passage, Colonel Champion ordered four Battalions of Grenadiers to form the advanced Guard. The whole army followed, and although the river was deep and rapid, the Mahrattas after firing a few shots took to flight, and we formed ourselves dripping wet, on the ground they had quitted, remaining in this sorry plight for some hours. As our troops were obliged to carry their firelocks and cartouch boxes on their heads, and the cannon had been absolutely under water, a most favorable opportunity offered to the enemy to have cut us to pieces, but they must have been thunder struck at the boldness of the attempt, and therefore made off.

What induced the Commander in Chief to have followed the enemy at such a disadvantage was the astonishment of all who were capable of judging properly on the occasion, but for myself I thought the Colonel a second Alexander crossing the Granicus.

After waiting some time in expectation of an attack from the enemy (which no man in his senses could have looked for, after their permitting us to wade the river unmolested) the whole recrossed with the loss of a few drowned and wounded by random shots, and

thus ended one of the most ridiculous manoeuvres I ever witnessed. The army continued in the neighbourhood of Anopshuria a few days to adjust some disputes between the Vizier and the Rohliah Chief, and then returned in two divisions to Suttanpore. To the division commanded by Major Achmuty I was appointed Adjutant and Quartermaster. At this time the Brigade built temporary cantonments, and as soon as the rains had subsided, we proceeded to the Presidency and arrived at Chillipore within a few miles of Calcutta in November 1773.

In January 1774, while in command of the forts at Budge Budge (a few miles below Calcutta,) three French Ships of war with a pilot sloop, anchored during the night opposite the forts, and, as a war with that country was daily expected, I sent a note to the Commodore to desire that he would immediately weigh, and proceed either up the river (the French settlement of Chandernagore being above Calcutta,) or to drop further down, as it was contrary to my instructions to permit ships of any foreign nation to anchor within reach of the fort guns. and receiving a reply to the effect that he would not move his station until the tide was up to enable him to proceed up the river, I immediately ordered every gun to be loaded, and made as formidable an appearance as possible; I then dispatched a note by my sergeant, declaring, if he did not weigh anchor and drop down (as he could not proceed) and place his squadron out of reach of my guns, I would instantly do my utmost to destroy it. This threat had the desired effect, the ships then dropped down the river for about two miles, and when they anchored, I sent intelligence to the Governor General, and the Officer commanding in Fort William, and was honoured with a very flattering reply. On the return of the tide, the French Squadron proceeded up the river to their settlement Chandinagore, the garrison was under arms on their passing Fort William, as it was a very unusual thing for so many ships of war belonging to any foreign nation to be seen in the Hoogley River.

In the same year, 1774, our Battalion was ordered to Midnapore,

and employed for several months against a Chief residing in the hills, who had rebelled against the Company. This was the most unpleasant service I was engaged in, we had one third of our Battalion either killed or wounded, and every one who had the misfortune to fall into the hands of these wretches, was sure to suffer a cruel death. The jungles were so thick that we could not see the enemy till we felt the effects of their arrows or matchlocks. On the day we entered the enemy's country, I had charge of the rear guard, consisting of a Subedar, two Jamedars, and forty Sepoys, Every precaution had been taken to secure the Bazars, baggage &c., by sending out flanking parties, notwithstanding the jungles were so thick, that in a few minutes I had the Subedar, one Jamidar, and 27 Sepoys killed, or too badly wounded to render me any assistance; and had I not been immediately reinforced, the few that remained (13 only) must have fallen a sacrifice to the enemy; but this timely aid enabled me to carry off my wounded, and to secure the whole of the Bazar &c., without the loss of a single article; having kept the whole between the battalion and my small party. After many harrassing marches in pursuit of the enemy, to very little purpose, on account of the forests by which the country was surrounded, and after losing many brave men, the commanding officer adopted a different method of carrying on the war, which in the end had the desired effect. This was to send out a party consisting of one Lieutenant, one Ensign, and from 80 to 100 men almost every night, so arranged as to arrive at a given point about day break, by which means we generally found the enemy either by the smoke of their village, or from their temporary huts in the jungle; and this brought in many prisoners and quantities of cattle, in which their principal riches consisted. It fell to my lot to command the last party so employed, and I was fortunate enough to surround a large party of the enemy, and prevent the escape of a single man of them, Their position being desperate and having considerable property at stake, they made a stout resistance, and suffered considerably before they would surrender.

The number of prisoners far exceeded the strength of my party; I took 800 head of cattle, more than 4000 goats, and other plunder of little value to the captors, but of infinite importance to the enemy, so much so, that the Chief immediately sent his Vakeel to beg a truce, which was followed in a few days by a peace; and his payment of all arrears due to the Company, besides fair promises of future good conduct.

On this occasion the commanding Officer was pleased to compliment me in orders. The part of the country through which we had been pursuing the enemy for several months, was covered with thick forests which rendered it peculiarly unhealthy to Europeans, we lost two excellent officers Lieutenants Blair and Smith, besides non-commissioned officers, very few of us escaped severe illness. I was confined from April to November, and was sent to Ballasore with three other officers for the benefit of sea air. I returned little benefited in health, and too weak and emaciated to stand, and on my return, my palanquin was surrounded by a party of Maharatas, the bearers at once took to flight, and the chief of the party (a man of some importance) throwing back the curtains of my palanquin and flourishing a Tulwar (broadsword) over my head, demanded my baggage &c., &c, but on seeing my helplessness, and receiving assurance that it had preceded me some hours, and must have got to the other side of the river at Tillasore, he was disposed to pity my situation, and ordered some of his people to go and search of my bearers, and then bade them be careful of me and fear nothing from his party. I thanked my generous enemy, and proceeded unmolested on my way to Midnapore.

In the same year, 1776, my friend and shipmate, Colonel Leslie, removed me from the 17th Battalion in which I was third Lieutenant, to be senior Lieutenant in the second Battalion, commanded by Captain Popham (since Major-General) at that time stationed at Sub Gunge in Coos Behar.

In 1778, the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Battalions of

Sepoys, 2 Troops of native Cavalry, 500 Candahar horse, and a good park of Artillery, the whole commanded by Colonel Leslie, and not exceeding 7000 fighting men, were ordered to cross the Peninsula of India, and forming a junction with a Detachment of the Bombay Army, attack Poonah, the Capital Of the Maharatta Empire.

In 1778, we crossed the Jumna at Culpee, in face of a large" body of Maharattas, a few of our men were wounded while the enemy had both men and horses killed. Our first day's march from the Jumna (3rd June) proved most disastrous, the heat intense, and the roads so bad, that the carriage bullocks could not proceed; At the end of five hours we reached the only well that had been seen on the road, this renewed our spirits, and those who were ready to perish, thought their troubles were at an end when the dismal announcement was made that the well was dry. We proceeded onward more dead than alive, and I am sure that at this crisis, a small force might have destroyed our whole army. Fifty Sepoys and camp followers perished, simply from want of water; we arrived at Murgong, eight coss only from Culpee about noon, the intense heat of the sun, with scorching winds for the preceding four hours upon the barren plain we traversed had been truly dreadful.

At Murgong we found several wells, some stopped up by the enemy, and others poisoned by throwing into them large quantities of the prickly pear, a shrub which abounds in most parts of India. Had all the wells been dealt with in like manner, the total destruction of our whole force had been the probable result, as there was no water between this and the Butawah nullah, nine miles distant.

Upwards of twenty officers fell sick from the sufferings of this day's march, Captain James Crawford, one of the best Officers in the army died raving mad, and five others died from the same causes a few days after. The thermometer was at this time from 114° to 200° in our tents, though they had thick linings and a large fly some feet above them. Numbers of cattle died from want

of water, and as I before stated, fifty Sepoys and camp followers. The latter were in the proportion of five, to one fighting man, so that of our body of at least 50,000, more than 20,000 were followers, a fact which must astonish every military man who has never seen a campaign in India. After a few more fatiguing marches we arrived at Chatterpore, the capital of the Bundelkund, Here the rains set in, and detained us from the 3rd of July to the 12th of October. During this time Colonel Goddard took the city of Mow by storm, but with no great loss of men or officers. On the 15th of August the army marched to the Raji Ghur (15 coss) within a mile of the Cane, a rapid river full of rocks.

Amaroods Sing's army, consisting of 6,000 Cavalry and Infantry had taken possession of the opposite side of the river, We continued at this place until the beginning of October, during which time Colonel Leslie died, and the command devolved on Colonel Goddard. On the 1st of Sepetmber, Captain Popham marched with the 2nd Battalion and 500 Candahar horse, with a view to intercept a body of 20,000 of Amaroods Sing's cavalry, which had crossed the Cane in the hope of cutting off our supplies. We fell in with them next morning at day break, and although they had taken a strong post, soon put them to the rout, with considerable loss to the enemy.

In consequence of this skirmish the fort of Goot Gange fell into our hands, and was put under my charge until the 16th of October, when we joined the army from Raji Ghur and proceeded towards the Narbuddah. During the whole of this march (285 miles) we were much harassed by the enemy who cut off stragglers and carried away our cattle &c., we also suffered much by the rockets they threw into our camp at night which did great execution wherever they fell. On the 1st of December we reached the Narbuddah, and during our march passed the rivers Cutnee and Dusadan, and several nullahs, also the Capital towns of Kimlasah, Korney and Bopoltole, besides numbers of delightful villages, We remained on

the banks of the Narbuddah near Husnabad until the 6th of January 1777, waiting for orders from Calcutta, when we proceeded through a most charming and highly cultivated, country to Burampore, distant about 153 miles, and during this march we crossed the rivers Guzrat, Ballasore, Gorahpurra and Mousar, the forts Chainpoor and Pipar, and passed at a few miles on our right, Assurghur, which I consider the strongest fort in India, belonging to the natives. It is built on the summit of an all but inaccessible mountain, only to be approached by a road so narrow and steep, as to admit of but one loaded bullock to pass. It possesses a tank of excellent water, and land to grow corn, for perhaps 2,000 men; I should therefore think it impossible for any army to take it, and if at a future day this plaice should be taken, I imagine it will be through treachery, or the cowardice of the Killadar; it lies about 14 miles north east of the city of Burampore, the capital of the rich province of Candish.

Assurghur supplied us with abundance of delicious grapes and oranges; that the former should be in perfection at that time of the year, 7th January may seem extraordinary, but we were told that the position of the mountain accounted for it, The walls of the Fort are of stone, and appear to be about three miles in circumference, it stands on a rock, barren of any vestige of tree or shrub, so that I should say it is one of the most; impregnable fortresses in the world.

We remained near Burampore for a week, when the General received intelligence from the Governor of Bombay, of the total defeat of their troops by the Maharattas on the top of the Gauts, with instructions to make every exertion to reach Surat to prevent our being interrupted by the enemy, who were marching against us with their whole force of more than 100,000 men. On the 6th of February we proceeded towards Surat, and arrived On the 25th. During the march we passed through a delightful country, well cultivated and populous, with numbers of small rivers and nullahs, the villages surrounded with pukka and mud walls. The city of Chopperah has a

strong pukka wall around it, and the city of Noondabar is also defended by strong walls and towers, this last is said to be the Capital of Tuckoagee, the Hulcar's country. We also passed close to Soanghur, a lofty hill with a pukka fort on the top:

Culpee to Chatterpore	...	...	...	...	120 miles;
"	"	Rajighur	...	...	30 "
"	"	Buranipore	...	...	126 "
"	"	Surat	...	...	223 "

While the Bengal army lay on the banks of the Narbubda; Captain Popham was appointed Paymaster, and the command devolved on me as senior Lieutenant, and very soon after our arrival at Surat, Captain Popham quitted the army and returned to Bengal by sea; he was soon after appointed Major; when I was promoted to the rank of Captain; and succeeded him in the command of the 2nd Battalion. On the 1st of January 1780 we proceeded to the northward, as the General was resolved to carry on the war with the Maharattas, and in order to prevent having an enemy in the rear, he judged it best to endeavour first to subdue Futtu Sing, the 'Rajah of Guzarat, who was in alliance with the Maharattas; and had a large force at Broderah his capital: We took Dubay a large walled city after a trifling resistance, and the Rajah was soon glad to become an ally of the English, to save his capital and his whole territory from being laid waste. Our new ally joined us with a large body of his troops, and proceeding north soon arrived before the city of Amedabad, the capital of the Guzarat, commanded by a chief in the interest of the Poonah Government. This city is situated on the Suparmattea, a beautiful little river which falls in to the sea at Cambay. We opened our batteries on the 10th of February, and took the city by storm.

On the 15th, Captain Gough who commanded the storming party fell in the attack, and I was commanded to take possession of the city with 500 of the Bombay troops. Our cannon did much havoc in a short time; three practicable breaches were made in the walls, houses &c. were battered down, and hundreds of fighting men,

besides the poor inhabitants lying dead and dying in all directions. The next morning I discovered some thousand barrels of gunpowder, and reported it to General Goddard. Our army was supplied with as much as it could carry, and the overplus was thrown into the river. After remaining in our possession some little time, the city was given to Futty Sing.

I then joined my Battalion, and we returned to the South in pursuit of Sindia and Holkar, two powerful Maharatta Chiefs who were ravaging the country round Brodera, with an army of 60,000 strong. On the 17th of March, and two following days we engaged the enemy, during which time we lost several officers &c. &c. The enemy suffered considerably from our cannon and had they made a stand, as expected from the character of their leaders, the slaughter must have been great on both sides; the principal mischief they did us was by their rockets. As our army advanced the enemy retreated, and finally quitted the country, leaving a large party to harass and cut off our supplies. The Bengal army remained in the neighbourhood of Brodera until the middle of May, and were joined by Colonel Brown with 300 Europeans of the Madras Establishment, and two Battalions of Sepoys from Bombay. A body of near 10,000 Maharattas pushed forward to cut off the Colonel's detachment; before a junction could be made with the Bengal army, and I was detached with the greatest secrecy and haste to reinforce him. I started at nightfall and came up with the Colonel by daybreak, and he, having intelligence of the enemy's intention had taken a strong post in the vicinity of Brodera.

I lost no time in representing to Colonel Brown the urgency of hastening back to join the General, as his situation was critical, having weakened his small army by detaching me with nearly one third of his force; and that he meant to remain under arms during my absence. All this was objected to, and the excuse alleged, was the fatigue my detachment had suffered from so long a march. I pledged myself that they should be ready to return after a rest

of two hours, and of their doing so with cheerfulness, but I could not prevail on Colonel Brown to move before the evening, and give the orders accordingly. The two Bengal Battalions were ordered to form the rear guard; the Madras Europeans in front, and the whole to march as soon as it was dark, and all precautions to be taken to prevent a surprise. We had barely quitted the ground when to my astonishment I observed branch lights in front, and soon after, the Colonel sent us his Aid-de-camp to me with orders that I should take the command of the line, as he meant to proceed with his 300 Europeans only, seeing the Bombay Battalions could not keep up with him, I took the liberty of remonstrating with the A.D.C., representing the impossibility of the four Battalions of Sepoys with their guns, tumbrils, bazars &c. &c., keeping up with a few Europeans, who had no incumbrances whatever. I also expressed my surprise at so many lights in front of the line, after the precautions so much insisted upon in the orders of the morning, but on finding these lights, belonged to the Colonel and his officers, and that he was already two or three miles ahead, I proceeded to obey the orders delivered by the A.D. C., and found the Bombay troops making every effort to keep up with the Colonel. When I found the Europeans at least a mile in front, I ordered a halt until the rear had closed up, which certainly reached two miles. It was a happy circumstance for us, the enemy took no advantage of this opportunity of cutting us to pieces, Colonel Brown with his party arrived safely with General Goddard about midnight, and received a justly severe censure for his conduct. I did not arrive for some hours later, when I was honoured with the General's approbation in the presence of Colonel Brown, and on his (Colonel Brown) retiring, the General declared before the Adjutant General and, several of his own staff, that had the enemy made an attack on our detachment (as he had every reason to expect) before I took the command, the whole must have been inevitably destroyed, and he hoped ere long to have it in his power to show me and the

whole army the high opinion he had of my conduct; on the present occasion only, but on many others since I had been under his command. Those who were present looked on the compliments paid me, very differently from what I did myself, for I was conscious I had done no more than any other officer in the Bengal army would have done in my place, and perhaps the General overrated my conduct the more, to mark his disapproval of that of Colonel Brown.

About this time Sindia and Holkar returned strongly reinforced, and it was supposed their army was very little short of 100,000 strong. For several days they threatened an attack, constantly advancing nearly within the reach of our guns, but could not be brought to engage with us in earnest. On this the General ordered me to move out with my Battalion about half a mile in front as a decoy, and in the event of the enemy retreating, to remain there as an advanced picquet until I should find it necessary to fall back to my ground in the line. Here I continued for some weeks, in expectation of their bearing down on my little party. From day break when they made their appearance, until sunset when they invariably retired, they were often within reach of my two long brass pounders, as well as of the two field pieces attached to my Battalion, so that I had frequent opportunities of playing with them, and must have done great execution. One day they came so near that the General sent me orders to fall back into the line, supposing I might be pursued and a general engagement be the result. But the manoeuvre did not succeed. Being now convinced that the Maharattas only meant to harass us as much as possible, we proceeded towards Surat, in order to get into cantonments before the rain set in. The latter end of May 1780, we arrived at Bonpier Gaut, when the General deemed it advisable to leave two Battalions and a small park of artillery at Sennora on the banks of the Narbudda, for the protection of several Purgunnahs lately ceded to the English by Rajah Futty Sing, as well as for the security of Brodera, his Capital. The whole country being threatened by Sindia and Holkar, who still continued with an army

of about 30,000 horse, within two days march of Brodera, having sent the rest of their army to the eastward. These two Chiefs remained near Bawarree, about 25 coss from Brodera until September, when they quitted the Guzarat. I now had a fresh proof of the General's confidence in receiving the command of the above named detachment, consisting of the 2nd and 4th Battalions, with Artillery &c., the whole amounting to about 2500 men. I immediately set about erecting temporary cantonments between two deep ravines, with the Narbudda in my rear. In this strong position, and in the country between the Narbudda and the river Mahy, the boundaries of my command, I continued nearly 12 months. During the few months the enemy remained in the neighbourhood, I received several insolent and threatening letters from Sindia, and having detected one of his spies who expected death, I gave him his liberty, sending him back with a pressing invitation to his master, which in spite of his threats he had not the spirit to accept, but abruptly broke up his cantonments and proceeded to the eastward.

On the breaking up of the rains I made frequent excursions round the country, in one of which I had occasion to chastise an insolent fellow who had taken possession of a walled town (Cheempaneer) near Pawagur, which he supposed to be very strong. I then proceeded against Khyseer Cown, a most notorious rebel of the Company, who had destroyed several Villages, murdered many of the inhabitants, and had the audacity to fix several of their heads on the walls of Dubay, a city that belonged to the English. This fellow was the chief of the Grashees country, bordering on our newly ceded Purgunnahs, and I was very desirous to secure the villain, so leaving the four Battalions and Artillery under Captain Archer's care, I by forced march and good luck came up with him just at day break; having secured him I intimated the same to the Council of Broach. Great satisfaction was expressed and extraordinary praises lavished, but accompanied by a request that my prisoner might be liberated with only a severe reprimand.

As I was not under their command, I took upon myself to make the ruffian pay all arrears due to the Company, and give security for future good conduct,; I was greatly disappointed at the decision of the Council. I afterwards learned the true cause of their lenity, for I considered that a much severer punishment was due to his offences. I had scarcely returned to my cantonments at Sennore, when I received a letter from Major Forbes, commanding the Guzarat Province, informing me that he was surrounded by at least 10,000 Maharattas, and as his force was not sufficiently strong, having only two Battalions of Bombay Sepoys with him, he had taken his post at Soanghur, a strong Fort about 80 miles from me, and begged my assistance with all possible expedition. I immediately left my heavy Artillery, sick, wounded, and every thing that could impede my march at Rhan Ghur, a strong Fort, under the charge of a Jamedar and 30 Sepoys. After a most fatiguing march with my tumbrils and light field pieces across a country without a vestige of road, or even foot path, I joined the Major in three days. The enemy had fallen back near to Nowapora, about 16 miles distant, so it was resolved to make an attack on them the following night, and as the Major took charge of my detachment, I proceeded with the Grenadiers of my own Battalion and two six pounders, as the advanced guard I fell in with their picquets just before day break, and on their giving the alarm, the enemy was clear of the ground in a few minutes, having their horses saddled all night; they made a stand on a hill in their rear, but on bringing our guns to bear on them, made a rapid retreat; nor did they ever return to the Guzerat during the campaign. As soon as it was ascertained that the enemy had quitted that part of the country, I resumed my command at Sennore, and after settling the Ryots in peaceable possession of their villages, and clearing the country to the entire satisfaction of the Chief and Council of Broach, the Resident of our newly ceded Purgunnahs, and our new ally Futty Sing, my detachment returned to Surat: there I received instructions from General Goddard to

proceed to the Court of Futtu Sing to settle some misunderstanding which had arisen between the General and the Rajah. After a stay of three months, I had the satisfaction of settling all differences. On my return to Surat I accompanied the General to Brodera, where he was met by the Rajah, Futtu Sing, where I was honoured by the appointment of Resident at the Court of Brodera, on the part of the English Government, and was presented to the Rajah by the General as his adopted son, which had a wonderful effect on his behaviour during my stay with him of upwards of two years. I did not quit his Durbar until the peace was finally concluded between the English and the Maharatta States, at the end of 1773, when I returned to Surat, and from thence by land to Bombay. The war being ended and my health much impaired, I was advised by the Faculty to return by sea to Bengal. The army returned to Bengal by nearly the same route, now commanded by Colonel C. Morgan in place of General Goddard, who returned to Europe. Colonel Morgan gave me letters to Mr Hastings, the Governor General, and to the Commander in Chief, General Lubbert. These letters proved of service, and were instrumental in procuring for me a Battalion of Sepoys very shortly after my return to Bengal in August 1773, during which time I refused the appointment of Aid-de-camp to Colonel Ironsides, having been promised the first Battalion that became vacant, which I obtained in September, being appointed to the 1st Battalion 30th Regiment, stationed at Chandernagore, a French settlement, and on its being given up to the French on the conclusion of the war in 1784, the Regiment proceeded to Chunar Ghur.

In May 1775 I was ordered with my Battalion in command to Gazapore, where I remained six months, and on my return to Chunar I found my health so much impaired that I obtained permission to return to England for three years, a step judged necessary by the Faculty. Having returned to Europe in a French ship, we reached L'Orient in June 1776, and landed in England the August following.