

to Northern *circars*. The Raja of Nagpur declined to accept such an inglorious alliance and Wellesley persuaded the Court of Directors to approve his plan of declaring war against the Maratha Confederacy. The war was declared on the 3rd August, 1803 and the British force invaded Orissa both from the north and the south. The main force under Commander Col. Campbell was to march from Ganjam with the instruction that it would bring under control the coastal area of Puri and then to push through the tract up to Cuttack to take possession of the fort of Barabati. The force consisting of about 1,500 native troops started from Ganjam towards Puri but as Col. Campbell, the Commander, suddenly got high fever the command of the army was transferred to Gen. Harcourt. The new Commander on instruction from the Governor-General tried to appease the Hindu population of Orissa by circulating a declaration that henceforward the British Governor would be the guardian of the temple of Jagannath. He issued numerous messages to the Zamindars of Orissa in order to impress upon them that the Christian Government was not alien to Hindu religion and that far from doing harm to the Jagannath worship their intention was to glorify it under their benevolent administration.

The Marathas stationed their main force at Barabati and small detachments were placed at Pipli and Manikapatna to oppose the advance of the British troops. The Maratha army at Manikapatna were easily driven away and Fateh Muhammad, the Maratha Faujdar of Malud, was won over to the side of the British. The help of Fateh Muhammad was of great importance to the British troops and his knowledge about the routes in that part of the territory facilitated them to march onwards. From Manikapatna the force marched up to Narsinghapatna which was not far from the territory of the Raja of Khurda. Harcourt apprehended that the Raja was in secret league with the Marathas and he offered one lakh of rupees to him in exchange of his help in transporting the baggage and artillery and also in sending 3,000 fighting men to co-operate with the British troops. Mukunda Deva II was chaffing under the control of Marathas and was resenting their hold over the Jagannath temple. He readily agreed with the British proposals and with his help Harcourt could easily occupy Puri on the 18th September, 1803. The priests in a body welcomed the British rule and Harcourt placed the Jagannath temple under a guard consisting of Hindus only. Harcourt left two detachments of infantry at Manikapatna and Puri under the command of Lt. Ogilvie and Major Fletcher respectively to safeguard against the Maratha attack and himself proceeded towards Cuttack. The march from Puri to Cuttack was strongly opposed by the Marathas and severe fighting took place at Ahmadpur and Mukundapur. But inspite of their best efforts the

Marathas could not check the advance of the British and subsequently they had to return back to the fort of Barabati. This last Maratha stronghold was occupied on the 14th October and with this the British occupation of Orissa was almost an accomplished fact.

A small British force under Captain Morgan was sent from Calcutta to Balasore by boat in the sea and after landing at Balasore, Morgan entered into an intrigue with Moro Pandit, the Maratha Faujdar of that place. The town of Balasore was occupied by Morgan and after that Capt. Slye and Ensign Scot jointly drove away the Marathas towards Bhadrak and therefrom towards Jajpur. By this time Col. Fergusson marched from Jaleswar and drove away the Marathas from the Ghats between Jaleswar and Balasore. Fergusson proceeded towards Cuttack to help Harcourt and on the way he received the news of the fall of Barabati. Thus by the co-ordinated action of Harcourt, Morgan and Fergusson, the British could occupy the Maratha territories from Jaleswar on the river Suvarnarekha in the north to lake Chilka in the south, and the long desired coastal tracts of Orissa came under British occupation. A more detailed discussion about the British occupation of Orissa will be given in the History chapter of Cuttack District Gazetteer.

It has been pointed out above that Mukunda Deva II, the Raja of Khurda, was negotiated by Harcourt to help the British troops by men and supplies in exchange of one lakh of rupees. The Raja while agreeing to this proposal strongly represented that after the British occupation, the territories consisting of Lembai, Rahang, and Purushottam Kshetra which had been taken away from him by the Marathas since 1760 should be restored to him. Although Harcourt did not accept this proposal, the Raja had a fond hope of getting back those territories at some future date from the British Government. As the British could reduce the fort of Barabati with less difficulty than was apprehended before, there was no need of the full help of the Raja stipulated under the terms of the agreement. The Raja by the time of the fall of Barabati had received from the British about Rs. 50,000 out of one lakh promised to him. In March 1804, Jayi Rajaguru, the Minister of the Raja, proceeded to Cuttack with 2,000 armed men and requested Harcourt to restore the Mahals mentioned above and to pay the balance of stipulated amount. Harcourt agreed to pay Rs. 20,000 and promised to pay the rest at some future date, but as regards the restoration of the Mahals he remarked that 'not a span of land could be given up'. At this, the Raja of Khurda was greatly annoyed and became hostile towards the British

Government. When the Feudatory Chiefs of Orissa signed agreements with the new Government, the Raja of Khurda evaded for a long time to put his signature on such agreement. After making peace with the English, he secretly sought help of the Raja of Nagpur for taking possession of the Mahals. He began to reorganise his troops and improved internal defence of his territory by appointing Maratha Sardars. Moreover, he began to induce the Chiefs of the Tributary States to make a common cause with him against the British. One Sambhu Bharati, a religious mendicant, was engaged by the Raja to unite the Tributary Chiefs against the new British regime and gradually the Raja of Kanika and Kujang and other Chiefs joined hands with Khurda.

In September 1804, the Raja of Khurda was forbidden to exercise his traditional right of issuing orders to persons residing within the limits of the Mughalbandi territory without the express sanction of the British Commissioners. Moreover, he was deprived of the management of the Jagannath temple which came to him as a rude shock.

In October, exactly one month after the issue of the above order, the Paiks of Khurda and the Raja's troops rose in rebellion, presumably with a view to overthrow the British authority, and captured the villages in the vicinity of Pipli. This alarmed the Britishers who apprehended that these local troubles might assume serious proportions and they immediately took quick preventive measures.

Troops were sent from Ganjam and a detachment marched from Cuttack. The rebels being quickly driven out of Pipli retreated to the fort at Khurda, followed by the British troops. This fort, the ruins of which still remain, was situated at the foot of a hill at the east end of the valley of Khurda. The approaches from the south lay through a difficult pass between the Barunai hills which was stockaded and fortified with strong masonry barriers. It was three weeks before the British were in a position to carry these works by storm. When this was at length achieved, the Raja made good his escape southwards with a handful of his followers, the British troops being too exhausted to pursue, but he surrendered a few days afterwards. His territory was confiscated and placed in charge of Major Fletcher who erected the first civil building at Khurda. The estate has since been managed as a Government Estate, the Raja receiving an allowance of Rs. 2,133-5-4 (Rs. 2,133'33) per mensem out of the revenue. Mukunda Deva was sent a prisoner to fort Barabati at Cuttack, from where he was shortly removed to Midnapore. He

was released in 1807, allowed to live in the landed at Balisahi in Puri town, and vested with the superintendentship of the Jagannath temple; but in 1817 he was again made prisoner in consequence of another rebellion.

Paik
Rebellion

This was a rebellion of the Paiks, i. e., the landed militia of Orissa to whom the English conquest had brought little but ruin and oppression. Brave and undaunted as the Paiks were in comparison with the British Sepoys, the nature of the country and their intimate knowledge of it gave them an advantage which rendered the contest very severe. Stirling has written about the Paiks who combine with "the blindest devotion to the will of their chiefs, a ferocity and unquietness of disposition which have ever rendered them an important and formidable class of the population of the Province". They were paid by service lands which they cultivated with their own hands in time of peace subject to the performance of certain military and police duties whenever called upon by their chiefs. People from all classes, Chasa, Pana, Kandara, Bauri, Mohammedans, Telugu, Kaisthas, etc. could become Paiks. In fact, they constituted the second line of defence like the Territorial Army of today.

The Paiks of Orissa were divided into three ranks, distinguished by names taken from their occupation, or the weapons which they chiefly used, viz., (1) The Paharis, who carry a large shield made of wood covered with hide and strengthened by knobs and circles of iron, and the long straight national sword of Orissa, called the Khanda. They are stationed chiefly as guards. (2) The Banuas, who now principally use the matchlock (in lieu of their old missile weapons), but have besides a small shield and sword. It was their duty to take the field principally and to go on distant expeditions. (3) The Dhenkiyas, who are armed with bows and arrows and a sword, and perform all sorts of duties. The war dress of the Paiks consists, or did consist, of a cap and vest made of the skin of the tiger, or leopard, a sort of chain armour for the body and thighs, and a girdle formed of the tail of some wild animal. Their ferocious dress combined with their irresistible courage in the battle ground terrorised their foes. They knew fighting well, both in the open field and in the jungles. They fought a good many bloody battle with the Mughals and did not prove inferior to any infantry which the Marathas ever brought into the field during their government of the Province.

A body of local landed militia of this kind might have been a tower of strength to the British Government, had liberal and conciliatory measures been adopted from the first. But by a fatal and short-