



The Battle of Plassey 1757

By Stuart Reid

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Thoroughly researched with a brisk narrative.

— *Military Heritage*, March 2018 – reviewed by Christopher Miskimon

Over half of this book and the epic story it vividly recounts is appendices, a rich trove of information!

— *Military Historical Society*

Readers with a particular, and deep, interest in the early military campaigns of the East India Company are likely to want to purchase this book and will appreciate the author's research.

— *Reviewed by Arthur Harman for Miniature Wargames*

Britain was rapidly emerging as the most powerful European nation, a position France long believed to be her own. Yet with France still commanding the largest continental army, Britain saw its best opportunities for expansion lay in the East. Yet, as Britain's influence increased through its official trading arm, the East India Company, the ruler of Bengal, Nawab Siraj-ud-daulah, sought to drive the British out of the sub-continent and turned to France for help.

The ensuing conflict saw intimate campaigns fought by captains and occasionally colonels and by small companies rather than big battalions. They were campaigns fought by individuals rather than anonymous masses; some were heroes, some were cowards and most of them were rogues on the make. The story is not only about Robert Clive, a clerk from Shropshire who became to all intents and purposes an emperor, but also about Eyre Coote an Irishman who fought with everyone he met, about Alexander Grant a Jacobite who first escaped from Culloden and then, Flashman-like was literally the last man into the last boat to escape Calcutta and the infamous Black Hole.

The fighting culminated in Robert Clive's astonishing victory at Plassey where just 3,000 British and sepoy troops defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah's Franco-Bengali army of 18,000 in the space of only forty minutes. The victory at Plassey in 1757 established Britain as the dominant force in India, the whole of which gradually come under British control and became the most prized possession in its empire. Few battles in history have ever had such profound consequences.

Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1: Mercantile Soldiering

Chapter 2: Calcutta

Chapter 3: Into the Black Hole

Chapter 4: To Fulda and Back Again

Chapter 5: Drums along the Hoogli

Chapter 6: The Battle of Plassey

Epilogue: Patna

Appendices

Notes

Bibliography

Index

About the Author

Stuart Reid was born in Aberdeen in 1954 into a family with a tradition of service in the Army stretching back through the Battle of Mons to Culloden and beyond. He is the author of numerous military history publications and has written extensively upon Scottish military history during the seventeenth century Civil War and the Jacobite period.