



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1891.

Indid Office, August 11, 1891.

THE accompanying General Order and Despatches, describing the operations of the Manipur Field Force, which resulted in the occupation of Manipur on the 27th April last, have been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL ORDER.

FIELD OPERATIONS.—MANIPUR.

Simla, the 19th June, 1891.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, submitting, under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in India, despatches from Major-General H. Collett, C.B., commanding the Manipur Field Force, and from Major-General T. Graham, C.B., and Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. F. Rennick, commanding respectively the Tamu and Silchar Columns of the force. These despatches report the particulars of the simultaneous advance on Manipur of the three columns from Kohima, Tamu, and Silchar, which were sent to restore order in Manipur and to exact retribution for the murder of the Chief Commissioner of Assam and other British officers in March last.

2. The Governor-General in Council cordially endorses the approval expressed by the Commander-in-Chief in India of the indomitable energy displayed by the troops in overcoming the difficulties and hardships of an advance without tents through a mountainous and unhealthy country, exposed as they were to much suffering from intense heat and heavy rain. The association with the regular troops of the volunteer soldiers of the Calcutta Rifle Corps and Surma Valley Light Horse in this expedition is a matter of especial gratification to His Excellency in Council, who also notices with much satisfaction the services of the Assam Military Police with the Kohima and Silchar Columns. The Governor-General also wishes to record his appreciation of the good work done by the Commissariat-Transport Department.

3. The services of Major H. St. P. Maxwell, Deputy Commissioner, Kachar, Mr. A. W. Davis, Civil Service, Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, and Mr. C. A. Soppitt, Political Officer with General Graham, have been especially valuable, while Mr. Dalrymple-Clark has done good work in connection with the transport on the Nigriting-Nichuguard road.

4. His Excellency in Council desires to convey to Major-General Collett, the Officers Commanding the Tamu and Silchar Columns, and to all the officers and troops the acknowledgments of the Government of India for the excellent manner in which the expedition was carried out.

No. 375-M.—“Field Operations—Manipur,”—dated Simla, 11th June, 1891.

From Major-General W. Galbraith, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to Major-General E. H. H. Collett, C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit for the information of the Government of India, despatches from Major-General H. Collett, C.B., commanding the Manipur Field Force, and Major-General T. Graham, C.B., and Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. F. Rennick, commanding respectively the Tamu and Silchar Columns.

2. On receipt of authentic intelligence of the seizure by the Durbar of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, orders were issued on the 29th and 30th March for the formation of three columns at Kohima, Tamu, and Silchar, and for their simultaneous advance on Manipur.

3. Considerable difficulty was experienced in the concentration and advance of the force, the troops for the Tamu and Silchar Columns being furnished from Burma and India, whilst the movements of the Kohima Column were seriously retarded by the difficulty of obtaining coolie transport.

4. The columns moved from their respective bases at Silchar, Kohima, and Tamu on the 5th, 20th, and 23rd April. The advance of the Tamu force was preceded by a gallant attempt on the part of Lieutenant C. J. W. Grant, of the 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) of Madras Infantry, to rescue the captives, a detailed report of which has already been submitted for the information of Government.

On the 13th April Captain Presgrave, 12th Madras Infantry, routed 300 of the enemy near Palel, Lieutenant Grant having his charger shot under him while leading the mounted infantry in pursuit.

On the 25th April an advanced reconnoitring party from the Tamu Column encountered a considerable number of Manipuris strongly posted near the village of Bapam. On the arrival of a reinforcement of 200 rifles and two mountain