

guns under Captain F. M. Rundall, 4th Gurkha Rifles, the position was stormed and carried after an obstinate hand-to-hand combat with a loss of one Native officer and one sepoy killed, and four British officers,* two Native officers, two non-commissioned officers, and five sepoy wounded. A report by Captain Rundall of this brilliant affair is attached for the information of Government.†

The other two columns met with no serious opposition from the enemy, and the whole force arrived before Manipur on the 27th April, the date appointed for the concentration.

5. His Excellency heartily endorses the high opinion expressed by Major-General Collett and the commanders of the Tamu and Silchar Columns of the indomitable energy and cheerfulness displayed by the troops in overcoming the difficulties and discomforts of an advance through unhealthy country without tents, and exposed to much suffering from intense heat and heavy rain.

6. Sir Frederick Roberts desires to bring to the notice of the Government of India the services of Major-General Collett, C.B., commanding the Field Force, Major-General Graham, C.B., commanding the Tamu Column, Lieutenant-Colonel Rennick, commanding the Silchar Column, and the officers mentioned by them, especially Major H. St. P. Maxwell, Deputy Commissioner, Kachar, and Mr. A. W. Davis, Civil Service, Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, whose hearty co-operation and personal influence were invaluable in procuring transport for the Silchar and Kohima Columns, and facilitating their advance.

7. A list of officers recommended for special rewards will be submitted separately.

No. 59, dated the Palace, Manipur, the 2nd May, 1891.

From Major-General H. Collett, C.B., commanding the Manipur Field Force, to the Adjutant-General in India.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the Kohima Column of the Manipur Field Force, strength as detailed in the margin,‡ marched from Kohima under my command on the 20th April.

2. The column arrived at Manipur at ten o'clock on the 27th April, having experienced no opposition on the way except a few shots, which were fired at the advanced guard on the 24th April.

3. The only stockade which the Manipuris had erected on the road was at Kaithimabi, and this was found deserted.

4. We arrived at Sengmai, a small village at the northern end of the Manipur Valley, and eleven miles from the capital, on the 26th April,

* Captain F. M. Drury, Captain P. M. Carnegie, 2nd Battalion, 4th Gurkha Regiment;
Lieutenant C. J. W. Grant, Lieutenant F. W. H. Cox, 12th Madras Infantry.

† Not published.

‡ Three guns, No. 8 (Bengal) Mountain Battery, under Captain A. H. C. Birch, R.A.

100 rifles, 13th Bengal Infantry, under Lieutenant A. Giles.

200 rifles, 42nd Gurkha Rifles, under Captain H. W. Priestley, 44th Gurkha Rifles.

400 rifles, 43rd Gurkha Rifles, under Colonel H. M. Evans.

300 rifles, 44th Gurkha Rifles, under Major R. K. Ridgeway, V.C.

200 rifles, Assam Military Police, Naga Hills Battalion, under Captain D. C. F. Macintyre.

and I endeavoured to get into communication with the Burma and Silchar Columns, then supposed to be at Thobal and Bishenpur, but owing to unfavourable weather was unsuccessful. I also sent letters by messengers (both of which reached their destination) to the commanders of these columns informing them that I would take up a position about 9 A.M. the next morning on the Ching Maikong Ridge, about 2,000 yards north of and commanding the palace enclosure, and requesting them to halt at a suitable distance from the palace walls, and get into communication with me with a view to concerting any further operation that might appear necessary.

5. During the night of the 26th information was received that the Regent with the three princes, his brothers, had fled from Manipur that evening.

6. The three columns of attack, viz., the Burma Column under the command of Brigadier-General T. Graham, C.B., the Silchar Column under Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. F. Rennick, and the Kohima Column, arrived at Manipur by 11 A.M. on the 27th April, the date which had been previously fixed for the concentration.

7. The villages in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital, the city itself, and the palace enclosure were deserted.

8. The sixty-two British subjects (natives) who had been held in captivity by the Regent were found safe and well.

9. Ample accommodation for the troops of the three columns was found in the palace and the adjacent buildings. This was very acceptable, as it had been raining heavily since the early morning.

10. The spirit and behaviour of the troops have been throughout excellent. Much rain fell during the march, and as we had no tents the men suffered considerable discomfort in bivouac, but it was cheerfully borne as became good soldiers. The only complaint I ever heard was that the enemy did not stay to fight.

11. The transport of the Kohima Column consisted of Naga coolies, and it is entirely owing to the unremitting exertions of Mr. A. W. Davis, Civil Service, Deputy Commissioner of Kohima, and to the personal influence which he exercises over these wild people, that the column was enabled to concentrate at Kohima and march to Manipur.

I venture to hope that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may be pleased to bring the very valuable services rendered to us by this officer to the special notice of the Government of India.

12. I enclose a despatch, dated Manipur, 29th April, from Brigadier-General T. Graham, C.B., commanding the Burma Column, detailing the events which occurred on his march from Tamu; and I beg most cordially to endorse the terms of praise in which he writes of the officers and troops engaged in the brilliant action of the 25th April near Palel. I also enclose a report by Captain F. M. Rundall, 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, describing that action.*

13. Brigadier-General Graham has throughout this short campaign handled his command in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, and I recommend this distinguished officer, and the officers and troops he has named in his despatch, to the particular notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

14. Lieutenant-Colonel Rennick brought up

* Not published.