

Rundall's column en route. No opposition was met with on the way, and the force was all in quarters in the Thobal village by about 12 noon. The bridge made by Lieutenant Grant over the Arong stream had to be made stronger to allow the battery and transport animals to cross, and this delayed the column for about an hour. Heavy rain fell during the afternoon and night.

8. The column started for Manipur at 4.30 A.M. on the 27th April, and, meeting with no opposition on the way, arrived at the pát at 11 A.M., having been delayed by the very bad state of the roads and bridges. Heavy rain fell throughout the march, which made the road very slippery.

The villagers along the route seemed friendly, and in no way seemed to object to the passage of the column.

9. The behaviour of the troops has on all occasions been all that could be desired; severe marches and intense heat have been endured in a most cheerful manner, and all ranks appeared to be only too anxious to get a chance of showing their metal.

10. In conclusion, I would beg to mention the following officers:—

Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. B. Ternan, my Assistant Adjutant-General, whose knowledge of all details, promptness in meeting all difficulties, and great experience, have been of the most invaluable assistance to me.

Lieutenant C. J. Sackville-West, King's Royal Rifles, my Orderly Officer, has shown himself to be a most useful and intelligent officer.

Lieutenant G. Rippon, Staff Corps, officiating Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, took up his work at Kendat, and by his hard work and the quick way in which he has acquired a knowledge of his duties has proved himself most useful.

Lieutenant F. H. S. Thomas, Staff Corps, Chief Commissariat Officer, has had very heavy and trying work in arranging for and getting up supplies for the column, and has earned my thanks.

Major H. E. C. Kitchener, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Chief Transport Officer, has had very hard work, and by his tact and judgment, especially in the management of the Panthay mule-drivers, has proved himself very useful.

To Mr. C. A. Soppitt, Political Officer with my column, my warmest thanks are due for the great assistance he rendered me all through the march from Kendat to Manipur in obtaining guides and interpreters, and inducing the villagers of deserted villages to come in, thus reassuring the inhabitants of the country passed through.

Major O. S. Smyth, D.S.O., commanded No. 2 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and throughout the trying march from Kendat to Manipur showed himself able to overcome all difficulties. Two guns of his battery were engaged in the affair of the 25th April north of Palel, and made excellent shooting.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Chalmer, commanding the 4th Battalion, King's Royal Rifles, has by his disregard of all difficulties and excellent example of cheerfulness to his men been of the greatest assistance to me. The march to Manipur has been a very trying one; the heat between Kendat and Tamu was intense, and the men under his command suffered much from it, but there was no diminution in the eagerness of the men to get to the front, and I am very sorry this well disciplined and keen regiment had no opportunity of showing the enemy what the British soldier can do.

Major Sir Charles H. Leslie, Bart., command-

ing the 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, was in command of the advanced post at Palel for some days before the head-quarters of the column arrived there, and by his tact in the treatment of the villagers and promptness in dispersing all gatherings of the enemy in the vicinity of the post showed great judgment.

Captain F. M. Rundall, 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, commanded the troops operating north of Palel on the 25th April, and (as he has done in many previous instances in the Chin Hills) proved himself a most excellent officer, and fit for any command.

Captain P. M. Carnegy, 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, led the attack of his men on the 25th April with great gallantry, and was severely wounded.

Captain F. M. Drury, 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, led the attack of his men on the 25th April with great pluck, and was badly wounded in a hand-to-hand fight with the enemy inside their entrenchment.

Subadar-Major Kalpatti Gurung, 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, a very fine old soldier of upwards of forty years' service, ably seconded his officers in the attack on the 25th April, and was severely wounded.

Jamadar Birbal Nagarkoti, 43rd Gurkha Rifles, took part in the attack on the 25th April, and was badly wounded.

Major A. Howlett, commanding the 12th (Burma) Madras Infantry, under great difficulties pushed on his men from the Kubo Valley, and by his promptness enabled me to reinforce Captain Presgrave and Lieutenant Grant on the frontier and hold our advanced posts. The discipline and good tone of this new regiment reflect great credit on him.

Lieutenant C. J. W. Grant, 12th (Burma) Madras Infantry.—This officer has already been reported upon for the excellent service done by him on and after the 28th March, when he held his own at Thobal against 2,000 of the enemy and two guns, although his detachment numbered only about 80 men, having previously turned 800 of them out of the entrenchment he afterwards held. Again at Palel he had his pony shot under him whilst pursuing the enemy on the 13th April, and he also led his men to the attack on the 25th April, when he was badly wounded.

Lieutenant F. W. H. Cox, 12th (Burma) Madras Infantry, was in command of the mounted infantry of his regiment on the 25th April, and in his pursuit of the enemy did excellent service, killing many of them, being badly wounded by one of the fugitives.

Surgeon R. O. Cusack, Medical Staff, has been senior medical officer with the column, and has carried out all his duties very satisfactorily.

Dated Nongba, the 3rd May, 1891.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. F. Rennick, Commanding the Silchar Column, Manipur Field Force, to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Manipur Field Force.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of the General Officer Commanding the Manipur Field Force, a brief report on the Silchar Column, from the 6th April to the 27th April, 1891. Its composition and strength is given in the margin.*

* No. 8 (Bengal) Mountain Battery, 1 British officer, 1 native officer, 62 rifles, 27 followers; 18th Bengal Infantry, 2 British officers, 6 native officers, 364 rifles, 51 followers; 42nd Gurkha Rifles, 3 British officers, 4 native officers, 99 rifles; 43rd Gurkha Rifles, 3 British officers, 7 native officers, 275 rifles, 28 followers; 44th