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THE following General Order regarding the operations of the Hunza-Nagar Field Force has been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 29th of April, 1892.

FIELD OPERATIONS.—HUNZA.

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 a Despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. A. Durand, British Agent in Gilgit, commanding the Hunza-Nagar Field Force, in which are described the operations of the force between the 30th November, 1891, and 10th January, 1892.

2. The object of the expedition was to disperse the gatherings of Hunza and Nagar tribesmen which were threatening the Kashmir Fort of Chalt and the road between Chalt and Gilgit, and generally to bring under control the Hunza and Nagar chiefs, who had broken their engagements with the British Agent, and had long acted in open defiance of their nominal superior, the Maharaja of Kashmir. These objects have been fully attained.

3. The Governor-General in Council cordially endorses the approval expressed by the Commander-in-Chief in India of the energy displayed in carrying out the operations in this exceptionally mountainous and difficult region; and of the gallantry shown both in the attack on the fort of Nilt, and subsequently on the 20th December in storming the almost inaccessible position held by the enemy. The greater part of the troops engaged in this thoroughly successful expedition were supplied by those corps of the Kashmir army which His Highness the Maharaja has loyally reorganized for Imperial Service, and it is with special gratification that the Governor-General in Council has observed the good spirit displayed by these troops on this the first occasion of their employment against an enemy for an object of Imperial interest.

4. His Excellency in Council desires to convey to Lieutenant-Colonel Durand, and to all the officers and troops employed, the acknowledgments of the Government of India for the excellent service rendered by them on this occasion.

No. 2130-A.—FIELD OPERATIONS.—Dated Fort William, 24th March, 1892.

From — Major-General W. Galbraith, C.B., Adjutant-General in India.—To—The Secretary to 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, a despatch, with enclosures, from Brevet-Major and local Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. A. Durand, Indian Staff Corps, British Agent in Gilgit, describing the operations of the Hunza-Nagar Force between 30th November, 1891, and 10th January, 1892, and to express His Excellency's warm approbation of the manner in which the expedition was conducted.

2. In assembling and providing his troops in a thinly populated region of mountains and glaciers devoid of supplies, Lieutenant-Colonel Durand had to encounter very great difficulties, augmented by an unusually early winter, which closed many of the passes, and, but for his energy and resource, would have involved the postponement of all movements for several months. He was further deprived at the outset of the services of his second-in-command, Captain Barrett, 1st Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles, and a number of his men, who were disabled by frost-bite. By the 29th November, however, all arrangements were completed, and on the 1st December he entered Nagar territory, and the next day captured the strong fort of Nilt, as more fully described in the enclosures to my No. 279-F-C of the 13th January, 1892. In this brilliant affair he was severely wounded, and obliged to make over command to Captain Bradshaw, 35th (Sikh) Bengal Infantry.

3. For some days the obstacles to a further advance proved insurmountable, but a practicable path was at length discovered by Sepoy Nagdu, of the Kashmir Body-Guard Regiment, and on the 20th December the position was carried by Captain (now local Major) Colin Mackenzie, Seaforth Highlanders, with a loss of only two men wounded, the enemy suffering severely. This success was promptly followed up, and Major Mackenzie occupied Nagar on the 21st and Hunza on the 22nd, when all opposition ceased.

4. Despite the inclemency of the season the health of the troops was excellent, and their conduct all that could be desired.

His Excellency notices with satisfaction the good services rendered by the soldiers of the Kashmir regiments, who, on this, the first, occasion of the employment of Imperial Service troops in the field, gained the confidence of the officers