

Infantry, one company Madras Sappers. Encamped and working on the railway between Zoolla and Koomeylee. A wing of the 2nd Grenadiers Regiment Native Infantry. A wing of the 18th Regiment Native Infantry. A portion of a company Madras Sappers and Miners.

AT KOOMEYLEE.

Head-quarters wing of the 2nd Grenadier Regiment Native Infantry. A portion of Madras Sappers.

At the posts in the Passes :—

The 21st Bengal (Punjab) Native Infantry.

On assuming command of the Zoolla district there were four companies of the 45th Regiment encamped with the wings of the 2nd Grenadier and 18th Regiments Native Infantry, on the plain between Zoolla and Koomeylee, that had been for about six weeks employed in plate-laying and laying sleepers in making the road for the rail. Orders had been received to send the 45th to the front; but labour not being procurable, and their services being urgently required for the railroad they were detained; they left for the front about the 20th of March. All the troops, both British and Native, did good work, and when it is remembered that the railroad was entirely constructed by military labour, no other record of their good work is necessary.

I cannot speak too highly of the services performed by the 5th Brigade 25th Battery of Royal Artillery under the command of Major Bogle. This battery was detained at Zoolla, and its men and mules were constantly employed in carrying and escorting treasure, and ammunition from Zoolla to the highlands. In this service they marched nearly 1,000 miles. The cheerfulness with which Major Bogle, and his Officers, and men undertook this duty is deserving of the highest praise. Major Bogle was not satisfied with merely performing the duty when ordered, but came forward on all occasions, expressing a wish that his battery might be employed for the good of the service, rather than remaining in garrison here. Considering that his battery was the only portion of British troops on the plains, I think the willing work done highly creditable. I made to the Assistant-Quartermaster-General a special report.

The Madras Sappers have been constantly at work in increasing the width of the pier, making embankments along the shore to prevent the invasion of the sea, erecting hospital and other buildings, and assisting in the making of the railroad.

Those of the Sappers at Koomeylee were employed on the railroad, and at the wells, and they all performed their work with untiring energy. The Commanding Engineer will doubtless report on them.

The 2nd Grenadiers and 18th Regiment Native Infantry landed at Zoolla early in February, and have been continuously employed in working parties, landing stores, or on the railroad. Wings of these regiments under the command of Captain Boyd, officiating second in command, 2nd Grenadier Regiment and of the 18th Regiment Native Infantry, under Major Alexander, were for nearly four months encamped between Zoolla and Koomeylee, cutting through embankments and making the road for the rail, carrying sleepers and laying them, and all such work appertaining to the formation of a line of rail—these men encamped in a hot plain, digging and carrying sand, removed from all excitement, and not even having the recreation of camp life, and its pleasures, deserve credit for the will-

ing performance of not interesting work; and I think the men and their Commanding Officer deserving of praise. Colonel Muter, Commanding the 2nd Grenadier Regiment, and commanding at Koomeylee, carried out his varied and arduous duties most efficiently. The arrangements necessary to provide for the comfort of the troops passing through and for their carriage, and the general superintendence of so large a camp, with some 8,000 transport animals in it, are not light; in addition to this, the management for the supply of water was a matter requiring constant attention; all these prove that he had great responsibilities, and I think he showed himself equal to them.

The head-quarter wing of the 2nd Grenadier Regiment was employed at Koomeylee in working parties on the railroad, wells, and other works, and the remarks on the other wing apply equally to this one.

The 2nd Grenadier and the 18th Regiments have been both similarly employed in working parties at Zoolla and on the rail, and the remarks on one apply equally to the other regiment. So hard was the work at Zoolla, every man that could be spared being sent to labour on the railroad, that they scarcely ever had two nights in bed, and frequently not this, and in addition had to furnish working parties to land stores, working at the pumps for water, &c.

Lieutenant-Colonel Combe, commanding 18th Regiment Native Infantry, gave me every assistance, and met every demand on his overworked men. As a General Officer was in command at Zoolla, his duties were not so various as had he been detached, but he most effectually assisted myself and the General Officer Commanding before me.

The 21st Punjab Native Infantry, under the command of Major Thelwall, occupied the posts in the pass, two companies being for some time at Senafé.

This regiment worked most cheerfully and with energy. They had to patrol daily in armed parties, up and down, half-way between stations. Other parties had to patrol likewise to collect and burn dead animals. The several posts which I inspected in the latter part of April were kept in excellent order. The men's lines were tastefully laid out, and neatness and order prevailed. The encampments for convoys and for troops were judiciously selected and arranged. The sanitary condition of the stations and of the line of road between them were decidedly good; without seeing the work that had to be done, and how efficiently it was carried on, it is scarcely possible to form an estimate.

Major Thelwall commanding the corps, and Major Hudson second in command, who commanded at various times at Undul Wells, Captain Collett who commanded at Rary Guddy, and Captain Tyler who commanded at Sooroo. I would especially bring to the notice of His Excellency, they and their men did excellent work, and when it is to be remembered to continual streams of convoys passing through their posts at all times, and that order and cleanliness prevailed, I think all deserving of credit.

The 26th Cameronians landed on the 2nd April and were sent up to Senafé in detachments, they were utilized in working parties of from 200 to 350 men daily as long as they remained, embanking the pier, on the railroad embankments and carrying commissariat stores, their services were at the time of great value, as labour was not procurable—when they did march they were sent in escort of treasure.