

report on position and defences and Lieutenant Henderson's sketch attached). Position after position was stormed almost at the point of the bayonet by the 44th with the greatest gallantry. At about 2.30 P.M., the 44th were in possession of about one-third of the enemy's works. The guns, however, were too far off to render efficient assistance to the storming party, and as the nature of the ground left me no alternative but to use them at very long ranges or to bring them quite close, I moved them over to the village itself and got them into such a position as to enable them to deliver a fire at about 100 yards directly into the front breastworks, but they were too light to do much harm, as we could see the enemy repair any damage almost as quickly as it was done. Under cover of the fire one or two assaults were made gallantly, led by Colonel Nuttall, C.B., but were unsuccessful; and after a further continued artillery fire as evening was setting in and the guns were without ammunition, I determined on delivering a final assault and then closing operations for the day. This assault, again led by Colonel Nuttall, proved most fatal, and our loss in officers was the gallant Major Cock, my Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, mortally wounded, Lieutenants Ridgeway and Forbes dangerously so, and the Subadar-Major and many of the flower of the native ranks of the 44th killed and wounded. As the losses of the storming party had now been unusually heavy—one-fourth of the whole engaged,—as the gun ammunition was exhausted, and as night was closing in, I determined to hold on to the ground we had gained, to entrench myself there, and to renew the attack in the morning. I accordingly called in the 43rd, who had captured a sunga in the rear of the enemy's position, and I made arrangements for getting more gun ammunition from Suchema. About 10 P.M. howls and yells were heard in the enemy's works and bursts of flames arose in their position, and I anxiously awaited an assault, or else concluded that they were evacuating their stronghold; about 12 o'clock all was silence. At dawn I sent out a few scouts to reconnoitre, and as these men gradually advanced without molestation, others followed, and it was evident that the enemy under cover of the great conflagration had evacuated their position during the night, and effected their escape to the upper heights of the Bural Mountains some 8,500 feet, where they had previously erected similar works to those at Konoma, but where I have not thought it necessary to follow them, as I feel sure they must either perish from cold, starvation, and want of water, or else submit to our terms. Dead Nagas were lying all around, and men from friendly villages informed me that the enemy acknowledge a loss of over 70 killed and wounded, but I have reason to think that their losses were much heavier.

5. Could the assault have been delivered from the south, no doubt the work would have been easier, and greater damage inflicted by the guns; but as the enemy had other forts higher up the hill, the guns would have been placed between two fires, to say nothing of the very great difficulties to be encountered in getting them there, as the coolies carrying them would have had to pass through a very heavy musketry fire for over a mile. The valley through which the only route lay is terraced for cultivation, with drops from terrace to terrace of from three to eight feet, and is not more than 1,000 yards across at its widest point, and is thoroughly commanded by the village of Konoma on the one side, and on the other by mountain sides covered in parts with dense jungle which held Naga skirmishers.

6. Where all behaved with such extreme gallantry and self-devotion, it would be almost invidious to make distinctions, but I cannot help particularly mentioning the brave Colonel Nuttall, who was always the first to lead and the last to withdraw when an assault had been made; the late gallant and much lamented Major Cock and Lieutenant Ridgeway also behaved most gallantly, and the manner in which Lieutenant Mansel, R.A., assisted by his three bombardiers (John Watts, H. McAndrew, and Thomas Portman), served the guns brought up under the very walls of the enemy with little or no cover, elicited most deserved admiration from all.

7. To the Medical Staff, Deputy Surgeon-General DeRenzy, Surgeons O'Brien and Campbell, my best thanks are due, as they frequently had to perform their errand of mercy under heavy fire, and their arduous duties were most nobly and ably performed.

8. I cannot conclude this despatch without expressing my deep gratitude and indebtedness to the following Political Officers who accompanied the force, as in addition to their own duties they have on every occasion joined the troops in active operations and proved themselves thorough soldiers at heart.

Colonel Johnstone, Political Officer of Muni-pore, as his Excellency is already aware, relieved the beleaguered garrison of Kohima with the Maharajah's troops. On my arrival at Suchema, he joined my camp and personally accompanied me throughout the operations against Konoma, providing and taking entire charge of the transport train for the carrying of the guns—a most arduous duty on the hills on which they had to act, and which he alone could have performed, as the men were Kookies brought by him from Muni-pore; the labour performed by these little hill-men was incredible and invaluable; two of them were wounded. Throughout the latter assault on the village, Colonel Johnstone was at my side and joined in the last attack, and when operations for the day were over, he volunteered to return to Suchema to bring up more gun ammunition for the next day's proceedings (our supply having been expended in the day's operations), which was a most dangerous duty, as the road might have been beset with Nagas. Colonel Johnstone's admirable arrangements for the supply of local transport have elicited the praise and thanks of every one, and I feel sure that his valuable services will not fail to receive the thanks of the Government.

Captain Williamson, Inspector-General of Police, also joined my camp with Colonel Johnstone, and from his personal knowledge of the country he has been of the greatest service to me. He further joined in the attack on Konoma, attaching himself to Major Evans' detachment with a small body of Frontier Police, and succeeded in harassing the rear of the enemy. He was the first who proposed returning to Suchema to bring up a fresh supply of gun ammunition; and he and Colonel Johnstone both did so at dawn the following morning.

Lieutenant Maxwell, Assistant Commissioner, has also been with my camp, but was not present at the assault on Konoma, owing to wounds he had received in the attack on Sephema; but his services have been most valuable.

9. I feel that a special tribute is due to the late gallant Major Cock, my Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General, who was one of the bravest officers in our army, and as a staff-officer unsurpassed by any. His loss to me, both publicly and privately, is irremediable, and his melancholy death has cast a