

three terraces, and the whole ground was thickly pangied and otherwise prepared with obstacles. The crest of the hill was very narrow here, and the ground was well under fire from the position C.

10. I find it difficult to express in words the strength of the whole position from the north. Even had the village and its paths been very much better known than they were, it would have been quite impossible for an attack from the north to have been made in any other way than it was, namely, by direct assault. It was absolutely necessary to advance up the carefully-defended and enclosed crest of the hill.

An attack from the south would have been far easier, but the plans of the Brigadier-General did not, I believe, allow of this. The mountain guns could have been used with much effect from the slopes of the mountain spur overlooking Konoma, and the troops might have advanced under their fire.

I may add that the Nagas had carefully burnt many houses, and taken the roofs off others, so as to give a clear field of fire and to prevent their being burnt or smoked out.

No. 17, dated 29th November, 1879.

From Brigadier-General J. L. Nation, Commanding Naga Expeditionary Force, to the Quartermaster-General in India.

IN forwarding my despatch on the operations against the Naga village of Konoma, I think it is as well to append a few explanatory notes of the state of affairs for the information of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to be placed before Government, should he approve.

The village of Konoma has always been considered the most formidable, both as regards position, number of muskets, and fighting powers, among the Angami Nagas, and this mountain fastness looked upon as impregnable. Under these conditions, they lorded it over all the surrounding smaller villages, who are all more or less bound to assist them in their forays and misdeeds.

On the murder of Mr. Damant, our Political Officer, all the smaller adjoining villages were, of course, considered bound to join the Konoma people in cutting off and murdering the fugitives, as also in assisting in beleaguering our garrison at the district head-quarters at Kohima. From the moment of the relief of this garrison by Colonel Johnstone from Manipore, if not at an earlier date, it is presumed that the already formidable works at Konoma were put into a still more defensible state, till they were looked upon by them as actually beyond our powers of capture, and so certain must they have felt on this point, that no endeavour had been made to conceal or remove this season's rice, which to some thousands of maunds we found and captured in the village.

As our troops advanced into the country, and they (rebels) were frustrated in the capture of Kohima, all the fighting men, or "young braves," as they are called, of every offending village, retired to Konoma, where the great trial of our strength was to take place, and it is estimated that there were some 3,000 men, 600 or 700 of whom were armed with firearms of kinds, and the rest with spears, war dous, &c.

A description of the works of Konoma has been so fully given by Lieutenant Raban, R.E., attached to the force, that I consider it unnecessary to repeat it here; and as there is no other village in the Angami Naga country which can in any way approach Konoma in its defences, I have no hesitation in saying that I consider any great

armed opposition to our troops as being improbable, and the moral effect of our assault and capture of Konoma is already beginning to tell on the country. Of course, as in all savage warfare, our convoys and communications are incessantly being fired on, and we occasionally lose a man or two, but this in my opinion can only be remedied by time. The trials and privations of the people must be great, as they and their families have taken to the mountains, where there is little or no food to be had; and they must every now and then fall among hostile villages, who will avenge old scores by murdering them as soon as they know it is not in their power to retaliate. On the site of Konoma I had strongly posted 200 men, who, according to the instructions of Government, are daily employed in demolishing every trace of what once formed this great stronghold and to keep in check the large body of men who escaped to the Bural Mountains (8,500 feet high) till such time as hunger and cold shall bring them to terms. On looking down on the works at Konoma from the highest point of the defences, I can only say that I consider its capture with the small force at my disposal was only the act of Providence aiding the valour of our troops, as had the enemy been as determined and stout-hearted as our little Goorkhas, it would, as the Field Engineer expressed to me, have taken 3,000 men supplemented with heavy siege artillery to have carried the place. I regret very much the absence of a good draughtsman or photographer with the force, to give his Excellency anything like a fair idea of the formidability of the works, but I can only say that I consider the assault and capture of Konoma as one of the most brilliant feats of arms that has taken place for many years, and is one more instance of the gallantry and devotion of our native soldiers when led by daring and determined British officers. Our losses, as will be seen by the returns, were unprecedentedly high, but the 44th Sylhet Light Infantry covered themselves with glory, and the moral effect of the fall of the mountain fastness of Konoma is greater, and worth it, and I trust the Government may have no anxieties as to the future, or move more troops than I may solicit, as I think the pacification of the country is now only a matter of time; but the policy must be firm and entire disarmament compulsory.

Should his Excellency concur with me in the great gallantry displayed by the troops, I beg most respectfully that I may be permitted to suggest what rewards would be most valued by the troops engaged, and that the same may meet with his approval and recommendation to Government.

AT the Court at Windsor, the 20th day of April, 1880.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the 22nd of March, 1880, in the words following, viz:—

"Whereas we are of opinion that it is expedient to make certain changes in the provisions for the award of Good Service Pensions contained in Articles 1982 to 1986 of the Regulations for the Government of your Majesty's Naval Service, with a view of rendering the award of such pensions more equitable, we would humbly submit to your Majesty the following proposals, viz:—

(1.) That we be empowered to confer the