

B. L. Gordon, C.B., lately commanding the Burma District, Brigadier-General Auchinleck, commanding the Presidency District, and their Staff, for their labours in aid of the expedition; and also to Mr. J. W. Quinton, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Assam, and to Brigadier-General Collett, C.B., commanding the Eastern Frontier District, for the assistance they gave in the police and military arrangements connected with the movements from Cachar.

From the Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.—(No. 4179-A, dated Simla, July 16, 1890).

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief in India, to forward, for submission to the Government of India, the enclosed Despatches from Brigadiers - General W. P. Symons and V. W. Tregear, describing the operations of the Burma and Chittagong columns of the Chin-Lushai Expeditionary Force.

2. The general objects of the expedition were as follow:—

To punitively visit such of the tribes as had committed depredations in British territory, and had declined to make amends or come to terms; to subjugate others that had remained neutral, but were to be brought within the sphere of British dominion; to explore and open out as much as possible the then unknown country lying between Burma and Chittagong; and finally, to establish, where desirable and necessary, military posts along the country traversed, so as to ensure complete pacification and recognition of British power.

3. These objects have been attained by the expedition in a most complete manner, and His Excellency cannot too highly bring to the notice of the Government of India the excellent conduct of all concerned, in having so cheerfully borne the hardships and overcome the difficulties which had to be encountered—difficulties which were considerably enhanced by the physical conditions of the country, and the severe sickness which attacked the force, and which crippled the Burma columns to almost a dangerous extent.

4. In such adverse circumstances, the results which have attended the operations of the expedition must be regarded as eminently satisfactory; for not only has communication between Bengal and Burma been established, and the tribes which had previously given annoyance fittingly dealt with, but all the principal tribes inhabiting the country have been brought under subjugation,—a large number of captives who had been in the hands of these tribes restored to their own homes,—and military posts at certain places for the preservation of order, and as evidence of British supremacy, established.

5. Not the least satisfactory feature of the expedition has been the cordial relations which have at all times existed between the civil and military authorities, and which have in a large measure contributed towards the success of the expedition. The services of the civil officers, in connection with the negotiations which were entered into with the several tribes, have been most useful.

6. His Excellency fully concurs in the remarks made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, regarding the good services rendered by Major-General (now Lieutenant-General) B. L. Gordon, C.B., lately commanding the Burma District, for his careful supervision of the arrangements for the organization and equipment of the Burma columns; and to Brigadier-General

W. L. Auchinleck, commanding the Presidency District, His Excellency also desires to convey his acknowledgements for similar services in connection with the Chittagong Column.

7. To Brigadier-General Symons fell the responsible duty of conducting the extended operations of the Southern Burma Column, and of co-operating with the Northern Burma and Chittagong columns. These duties he has performed with much ability, judgment, and tact, and the thoroughness which characterized his dealings with the tribes, as also the indomitable spirit in which he encountered and overcame the numerous difficulties the expedition met with, shows how fully he has justified the confidence which was placed in him at the time of his selection for this important command.

8. The operations of the Chittagong Column, under Brigadier-General Tregear, have also been conducted with much success, and the column is to be complimented on the section of the mule road which, despite great difficulties, was completed as far as Haka.

9. Colonel C. McD. Skene, D.S.O., 42nd Gurkha Light Infantry, who commanded the Northern Burma Column, was very successful in dominating the Northern Chin tribes, and in operating against the Tashons in conjunction with Brigadier-General Symons' column; and the same success also attended the independent operations against Lienpunga and the sons of Vutai undertaken by Colonel G. J. Skinner, 3rd Bengal Infantry, in command of the Northern Chittagong Column.

10. His Excellency also desires to bring to the notice of the Government of India the excellent arrangements and working of the Commissariat-Transport and Medical Departments, and of the river transport under the charge of Mr. Holland, of Her Majesty's Indian Marine Service, whose invaluable services in organising the transport, and in conveying stores to the base of the Southern Column under circumstances which are known to have been most discouraging, have very appropriately been brought to special notice by Brigadier-General Symons and the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army. The Telegraph Department also worked extremely well throughout the expedition.

11. Finally His Excellency takes the opportunity of recording here his deep sense of regret at the loss which the army has suffered by the death of such valuable officers as Major Ind, Royal Artillery, Major Gordon-Cumming, 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment, Major Stoney, 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, and Major Barr, 3rd Bengal Infantry.

12. The list of officers who are considered to be specially deserving of reward will be submitted separately.

From Lieutenant-General Sir C. G. Arbuthnot, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, Madras, to the Adjutant-General in India.—(No. 1847-W., dated Ootacamund, the 27th June, 1890).

IN forwarding the despatch, dated 1st May, 1890, of Brigadier-General W. P. Symons, on the operations of the Chin-Lushai Expedition, together with a letter No. 2293, dated 28th May, 1890, from Lieutenant-General B. L. Gordon, C.B., late in command of the Burma District, I beg to endorse the high terms in which the latter officer refers to the services of Brigadier-General Symons.

I desire also to bring to the favourable notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in