

the Chin tribes would suffer a blow from which they would never recover, if they permitted an armed force to approach their hitherto inviolate capital. Thus they were urged to fight; but doubts of being able to successfully resist us, added to the prayers of the outlying villages to be saved from destruction, overcame their pride, and they were obliged to acknowledge themselves defeated.

From the above it will be obvious how correct was the policy of accepting the submission of the tribe only at the Ywama.

35. On the return of the Northern Column to Fort White, operations were actively resumed against the Siyins; whilst the Southern Column was employed to the end of the season in numerous reconnaissances and explorations, which have taught us much regarding these unknown regions.

36. The following is a list of the principal reconnaissances carried out by the Burma Columns, embracing a total of 628 miles of country, of which good road reports and sketches have been made and submitted:

- I. Yokwa to Gangaw.
- II. Haka to the Tashon Ywama.
- III. Fort White to the Tashon Ywama.
- IV. Tashon Ywama to Sihaung.
- V. Sihaung to Hanta.
- VI. Haka, west, to Hmün-li-pi.
- VII. Haka, west, to Tao Klau, two routes.
- VIII. Haka, south to Naring, and Hripi.
- IX. Haka, east, to Myintha, via Wunhia.
- X. Yokwa, south, to Thetta and Kapi.

37. Numbers I, IV, V, and IX, together with the Kan-Haka route, comprise all the main roads that lead from the Burma frontier into the Tashon and Baungshé circles.

38. Number VIII, Haka to Naring and round by Hripi, was an extremely interesting exploration. It lasted ten days, during which 132 miles over a very hilly and broken country were covered, and much added to our knowledge of the Southern Baungshé country. Naring lies 56 miles south of Haka, on the Boinu River. It contains 300 houses, and the inhabitants possess large herds of cattle. They do not know the value of money, and refused to take any for supplies which they liberally presented. A large number of villages were brought under British control; and the Boinu River was traced in its eccentric windings through a wild country, and its identity with the Tipi, now known to be the upper waters of the great Kolodyne River, established.

39. As the result of the operations, I would claim for the forces engaged that they have carried to a successful termination each and every object of the expedition, and this in spite of sickness from which all ranks have suffered in a great and abnormal degree, and which caused me extreme and unceasing anxiety from the commencement to the end of the operations.

That success under the circumstances was possible, is due no less to the very liberal and complete manner in which the columns were found and equipped in men and matériel, than to the care and forethought with which the expedition was planned, placed, and kept going in the field.

40. The suppression of Chin raids in Burma territory has also been an important object, kept ever in view. From the commencement of field service on the 15th November, 1889 to date, there has been only one Chin raid within the field of operations. In this case, 18 Burmans were taken captive. All were recovered within

five weeks of the outrage, and the Chin villages implicated were punished.

Again, the Northern and Southern columns of the Burma Field Force have recovered and restored to their homes 187 captives. There is not a single Burmese captive or slave left with the Tashon or Tlan-Tlang tribes; the Haka and Yokwa Chins have given up all theirs. A very few are still in the southern, and as yet unvisited, Baungshé villages; whilst the Siyins and the Kanhows, though surrendering daily, have yet some Manipur and Burmese slaves in their possession. There is no reason to doubt that the few left with the tribes will all be got hold of in a short time.

As the result of this season's operations, raiding both for slaves and heads has been put a stop to for ever down the western frontier of Upper Burma; and the inhabitants of the Kale and Myittha Valleys have been released from the reign of terror under which they have lived and suffered for years past.

41. The Chin Bok operations, though in no way under my direction or command, but ably, even brilliantly, conducted by Lieutenant Rainey, Commandant of the Chin Levy Military Police Battalion, have squared well with our work, and settled an adjoining belt of country beyond our capability to touch.

42. The Chin situation, as I leave it, is most satisfactory and quiet. Where not settled, it is settling quickly. These wild tribes have accepted the inevitable, and will become peaceable and good neighbours.

43. The discipline and behaviour of the troops and followers throughout have been exemplary.

44. The 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers joined the Southern Column with a strength of 14 officers and 502 men. They did a lot of hard marching and road making. The regiment lost one officer (Lieutenant Foster) killed, 6 officers invalided, including two commanding officers in succession, whilst 21 men died from sickness, and 273 were invalided.

45. The detachment of the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment with the Northern Column saw more service, and were also unfortunate in losing two commanding officers—one invalided, and the other, Major Gordon-Cumming, to my great regret and that of the whole Field Force, shot in ambush.

46. The 42nd Gurkha Light Infantry have performed services for the past eighteen months in the Chin Hills that cannot be over-estimated.

47. The 2nd Battalion 4th Gurkhas, a young regiment, on their first experience of active service, has pleased me greatly. They give every promise of sustaining the reputation and traditions gained in our service by their older battalions.

48. No. 6 Company of the Madras Sappers and Miners did continuous and arduous work, both on the roads and in building the post at Haka. Their services have been very valuable. Between the 15th of November, 1889, and the 30th of April, 1890, the company lost through sickness three officers and 72 men.

49. The Burma Company of the Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners also did good work in the Kale Valley and at Haka. It has established its *raison d'être*.

50. The post at Haka has been constructed to hold a garrison of—

- 300 Native Infantry.
 - 25 Madras Sappers.
 - 75 Followers.
- with quarters for—

A commanding officer.