

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL ORDER.

FIELD OPERATIONS.—MANIPUR.

Simla, the 19th June, 1891.

WITH reference to G. G. O. No. 581, dated the 12th June, 1891, notifying the rewards which the Governor-General in Council had been pleased to bestow upon the Native officers, soldiers, and followers of the detachment under the command of Lieutenant (now Major) C. J. W. Grant, 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) of Madras Infantry, in recognition of the conspicuous bravery and devotion displayed by them at Thobal, in Manipur, in March and April last, and to G. G. O. No. 597 of this date, republishing the London Gazette of the 26th May, 1891, in which it is notified that the Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross upon that officer for his conduct on the same occasion, His Excellency in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, with which is submitted a report from Lieutenant Grant describing the operations of the detachment under his command from the 28th of March to the 10th April, 1891.

No. 369-M—"Field Operations—Manipur."

Dated Simla, the 5th June, 1891.

From Major-General W. Galbraith, C.B.,
Adjutant-General in India.

To Major-General E. H. H. Collen, C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India, Military
Department.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward a letter from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, enclosing a report from Lieutenant C. J. W. Grant, 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) of Madras Infantry, describing the operations of the detachment under his command from the 28th March to the 10th April, 1891.

2. The Commander-in-Chief has already noted in this office letter No. 236-M, dated 24th April, 1891, his high opinion of Lieutenant Grant's conspicuous personal daring and unflinching resource, and of the endurance and heroism displayed by all ranks under his leading, and this estimate is fully borne out by the enclosed report, which, in His Excellency's opinion, may be published as an example of what it is possible for one British officer with a handful of devoted Native soldiers to accomplish by prompt initiative, resolute courage, and soldier-like skill.

3. Sir Frederick Roberts trusts that the rewards already recommended for the Native officers, rank and file, and followers in this office letter above quoted may, as a special case, be granted, and notified at an early date.

No. 2132-W—"Field Operations—Burma."

Dated Ootacamund, the 26th May, 1891.

From His Excellency Lieutenant-General the
Honourable Sir J. C. Dormer, K.C.B., Com-
mander-in-Chief, Madras Army, to the Adj-
utant-General in India.

IN forwarding Lieutenant Grant's report of his operations, as called for in your telegram No. 308-M of the 11th instant, I beg to enclose copy of letter No. 2079-W, dated the 7th April last, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, and to say that I cordially agree with the remarks of the Brigadier-General Commanding the Tamu Field Force and of the General

Officer Commanding the Burma District recorded on the report.

2. I consider that the admirable conduct of the expedition by Lieutenant Grant marks that young officer out as a soldier of rare military acquirements, and I strongly recommend him for the rewards specified in my letter to the Government of Madras referred to above.

3. I trust, moreover, that the promotions and rewards recommended by Lieutenant Grant for all the Native officers and non-commissioned officers mentioned in his despatch may be approved, and that every man of the small force under his command who fought so splendidly may be given some signal reward.

Dated Palel, the 13th April, 1891.

From Lieutenant C. J. W. Grant, 12th (Burma)
Regiment of Madras Infantry, Commanding
Advanced Party, Manipur, to the Adjutant
12th Madras Infantry.

I HAVE the honour to submit this my report of operations from 28th March, 1891, to 10th April, 1891.

In consequence of my telegrams of 27th March, 1891, I received orders from the Assistant Adjutant-General, Myingyan, at 10.30, 27th March, 1891, to march on Manipur with all speed.

At 5.30 A.M., 28th March, 1891, I marched from Tamu, strength as per margin.* About four miles a small party of Chins tried to ambush us, but my advanced guard flanked them, and their shots did no harm. They escaped in jungle. Arrived at Lockchau river at 5 P.M., the elephants unable to carry their 600 lbs. faster than one mile an hour.

29th March, 1891.—Marched at 2 A.M., arriving at Kogaung; signal shots were fired by enemy, who retired over ridge near Tunglebun. About 20 shots were fired at us by Manipuri picket. Arrived at water at 2 P.M., 12 hours' march. Found camp burnt and prepared for defence, but not held. Elephant useless in these hills with over 300 pounds load.

Marched at 11 P.M., moon-rise. Order of march,—Gurkha Light Infantry 10; 12th Burma 30; fighting party,—Gurkha Light Infantry 20; 12th Burma 20; baggage guard and reserve. Found wire cut and twisted across road all along, causing great delay; 8 or 10 shots fired from hills at 12 midnight. Found road blocked by number of trees felled across; impassable for elephants and ponies. The 10 Gurkhas cut away with kukris,† while 20 of 12th Burma scrambled over and through for covering party; suddenly heavy fire broke out above, but we were too close under to be hurt; covering party going to right front took enemy on their left flank, and after few shots we rushed them. But the Manipuri sepoy were too quick for us, and they bolted into thick jungle, and we couldn't find them in the moonlight. Found ourselves in a shelter trench 90 yards long commanding the road below. While in trench were fired on from above; rushing up found two small trenches empty. Hunted about, finding three guns, lots of ammunition, and eight or nine rough pharwas,‡ which we took along. Heard what we supposed to be wounded moving in thick jungle below, but it was pitch

* 43rd Gurkha Rifles: 1 jemadar, 30 rifles,—60 rounds per man. 12th (Burma) Madras Infantry: 1 subadar, 50 rifles,—160 rounds per man.

† Kukri,—a heavy curved knife, the national weapon of the Gurkhas.

‡ Pharwa,—a native spade.