

fight at Okhan, and that that column was pushing on to his capital.

17. On my arrival at Pinlebu on the morning of the 1st March, I found Captain Hodges and his men in occupation of this very strongly stockaded position. Many of the people had returned to the village, and others were coming in freely with their arms; but I could obtain no reliable information as to the Sawbwa's line of retreat beyond the fact that he fled from the place on the morning of the 27th. Here the great difficulty faced me that before I could proceed northwards in pursuit of the ex-Sawbwa I must again return to Wuntho to obtain fresh supplies; for so urgent was the necessity for pouring troops into Kawlin and Wuntho, and so great was our difficulty in obtaining transport, that our troops were obliged to advance with only a few days' rations carried on such mules and coolies as could be impressed at Tigyaing, whilst the troops from Shwebo brought only ten days' rations with them, carried on carts which were useless beyond Wuntho.

18. However, even had I been able to despatch a column at once in pursuit of the ex-Sawbwa, I believe it could not have overtaken him, as during my advance on Pinlebu on the 28th February the mounted infantry under Captain Custance and the Shwebo Mounted Police under Captain Keary had been given a free hand, and had pushed well forward in a northerly direction without finding any trace of the ex-Sawbwa or his followers.

19. This great difficulty of rationing the troops and improvising transport had engaged the earnest attention of the General Officer Commanding the Burma District and myself before I left Mandalay, and with the help of the civil authorities we were enabled to procure hired Panthay mules; but these animals had to be brought from Bernardmyo to the Irrawaddy, a distance of 65 miles by land, and then by steamer from Thabeitkin to Tigyaing and Katha. All this took considerable time.

20. Meanwhile rations had to be poured into both these bases of operations, which, together with the already existing strain on our marine transport in conveying troops from Mandalay to Tigyaing and Katha, considerably hampered my movements.

21. However, on the 4th March, having satisfied myself as to the peacefulness of Pinlebu and the peoples round about, and having arranged for the establishment of certain posts along that frontier as well as around Wuntho, I was enabled to proceed with a small column—110 rifles of mounted troops—towards Mansè, where I felt mounted troops were then more required than in Southern Wuntho, and making forced marches reached that place, a distance of 71 miles, on the 7th, to find all quiet there, and the place in possession of Colonel Macgregor's advance guard. The first object of the expedition had been accomplished throughout the country by the 28th February; the second and third were so intimately connected that whilst engaged in the one I was giving effect to the other. Thus by the 30th March I was enabled to report that the whole country south of Mansè had been disarmed, and was so peaceful as to be ripe for civil administration. During this time posts had been established throughout the country, and all old Wuntho officials who had accepted the terms of our proclamation deposing the Sawbwa and annexing the country, and established their claims to office, had been reinstated, and other appointments made.

22. In order to bring about this peaceful state of affairs and thoroughly restore confidence, troops were kept moving throughout the country—notably a column under Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, consisting of 100 rifles of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, a few of whom were mounted, which was despatched from Banmank on 16th March towards Mawnaing and thence, travelling southward, scoured the whole western frontier of the country, reaching Wuntho on the 3rd April, via Mettaung.

23. Two other columns were despatched from Mansè in pursuit of the ex-Sawbwa and his father—one under Lieutenant-Colonel Macgregor, D.S.O., to Indawgyi, to open up communication with the Mogaung column under Captain O'Donnell; and the other, consisting of mounted infantry, under Captain Custance, to Shwe-dwin via Seyua, at which place it was then reported that the young ex-Sawbwa was hiding; whilst a third column, with 50 Karens, under Mr. Prendergast, and 30 Gurkhas, proceeded under Lieutenant Owen, Oxfordshire Light Infantry, to the top of Taungtônlon, 5,652 feet high, to endeavour to establish a signalling station there. This was found to be impracticable owing to the density of the jungle and the utter absence of water within five or six miles from the summit.

24. During these movements I found my presence needed at Mansè for the organization of transport, and for making the necessary arrangements (in the event of neither of these columns succeeding in capturing the ex-Sawbwa or his father) for continuing the pursuit on to the jade-mines.

25. The Northern and Mogaung Columns first joined hands at Payani on the 30th March without, I regret to say, effecting the capture of either the young or the old ex-Sawbwa, who were then both reported to have taken refuge at the jade-mines.

26. From this place I found it necessary to despatch the Mogaung Column to punitively visit the Sana Sawbwa in his capital, whilst the Northern Column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Macgregor, marched by the direct route to Indawgyi.

27. Captain O'Donnell having satisfactorily carried out his instructions with regard to Sana, where no opposition was offered and the place found deserted, both columns concentrated at Indawgyi on April 7th. From this the two columns marched by converging routes on to Sauka jade-mines, where I arrived on the 15th without any opposition, and was well received by the people.

28. Next day I marched a column to Tawmaw, one of the workings of the jade-mines, but finding no ground suitable for an encampment, I returned the same day to Sauka. Having selected a good site on which to construct the new post, I detailed the following garrison to hold it:—Two guns of No. 6 (Bombay) Mountain Battery and 132 rifles of the Mogaung Levy under Captain O'Donnell. Here, as elsewhere throughout the pursuit, I could obtain no reliable information as to the whereabouts of the ex-Sawbwa or his father beyond the fact that they had fled towards China, having failed to obtain assistance or protection from the Kansai Sawbwa and other officials in and about the jade-mines.

29. It being impossible to follow up the pursuit, I made a final attempt at cutting off their retreat by blocking the road to Laban, through which the only direct road from the jade-mines to China passes, with a column of the Mogaung Levy under Inspector Crawther; but from in-