

*India Office, November 11, 1895.*

**T**HE following General Order, dated 27th September, 1895, with Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir R. C. Low, K.C.B., regarding the operations of the Chitral Relief Force, has been received from the Government of India:—

**MILITARY DEPARTMENT.  
GENERAL ORDERS.**

*Simla, the 27th September, 1895.*

**FIELD OPERATIONS.—CHITRAL.**

No. 998.—HIS Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, dated the 20th August, 1895, forwarding a Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir R. C. Low, K.C.B., Commanding the Chitral Relief Force, recapitulating the operations of the force under his command, and bringing to notice the services of officers and men who have been specially distinguished during the operations.

2. The Governor-General in Council takes the opportunity afforded by the return of the Relief Force to British India to signify the cordial recognition of the Government of India of the distinguished manner in which the force has acquitted itself, during the arduous and completely successful operations now brought to a close.

3. The troops were hastily called into the field in March last to undertake the relief of the fort of Chitral, where the British Agent in Gilgit and a small force, mainly composed of the Imperial Service troops of the Kashmir State, were beleaguered by a large body of tribesmen under the direction of Umra Khan, the Chief of Jandol, and of Sher Afzal, an aspirant to the Mehtarship of Chitral. His Excellency in Council observed with satisfaction the rapidity and ease with which the mobilization of the force was carried out, and considers that this reflects credit both on the originators of the mobilisation scheme, and on those by whom it was worked out and carried into effect. The excellent work done by Colonel Boughhey, Royal Engineers, Manager of the North-Western State Railway, and those under him, contributed very largely to the successful mobilization of the force, and merits special acknowledgment.

4. The Governor-General in Council fully concurs with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the opinions he has expressed regarding the skilful dispositions made by Lieutenant-General Sir R. C. Low, the admirable conduct of the troops, and the excellent spirit displayed by all ranks, not only in their encounters with the enemy, but also in overcoming the exceptional difficulties which presented themselves in the nature of the country. His Excellency in Council desires to express the thanks of the Government of India to Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Low, to the officers Commanding the Brigades of the force under his orders, and to all the officers and men engaged in the operations, for their most valuable services, through which the intentions of the Government have been fully carried out.

5. His Excellency in Council notes with much satisfaction the efficient manner in which the onerous duties of the Commissariat and other departments of the army and of the Telegraph and Postal Departments were performed. His Excellency has specially observed the excellent arrangements made by Major-General Stedman and his staff for the organization of the line of communications after the cessation of active hostilities, and the success with which the difficult task of carrying out the supply of the force has been accom-

plished. The transport trains placed at the disposal of the Government of India by the Maharajahs of Gwalior and Jeypore proved to be of the greatest value, and their high state of efficiency reflects much credit on the British officers who superintended their training in quarters, and worked them in the field. The Governor-General in Council is specially pleased to notice the terms of praise in which Lieutenant-General Low has spoken of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of these transport trains.

6. The services of the officers of the Royal Engineers, of the companies of Sappers and Miners, and of the battalions of Pioneers have been of special value in this campaign. The Governor-General in Council entirely agrees with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his high estimate of the work done by the officers of the Royal Engineers. But for the remarkable skill displayed by these officers in constructing and maintaining bridges over the Swat and Panjkora Rivers, the operations would have been greatly retarded.

7. The officers of the Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster-General's Department, and of the Survey Department of the Government of India, have done work which will be of lasting value. The Governor-General in Council appreciates the ability and energy shown by these officers in carrying out their laborious duties.

8. His Excellency in Council deplores the loss of the officers and men who have bravely fallen in the performance of their duty, or have succumbed to disease brought on by the conditions under which the operations were conducted. A special tribute is due to the memory of Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Batiye, by whose death, at the moment when he had, with great gallantry and skill, brought the battalion under his command out of a position of peculiar difficulty, the Indian service has lost one of its most admirable officers.

9. The mobilisation and advance of the Chitral Relief Force were the signal for very numerous offers of personal service, assistance, and co-operation from Native Chiefs throughout India, including especially those who maintain Imperial Service Troops, and from native noblemen and gentlemen of every station and degree. This widespread evidence of an earnest and vigilant loyalty has afforded the deepest gratification to the Governor-General in Council. Although the circumstances of the expedition did not afford to the British Government an opportunity which could be taken of employing the troops of India's loyal States, the Governor-General in Council none the less cordially tenders his acknowledgments to all who came forward ready to render service and prove their devotion.

No. 1086-G, "Field Operations," dated Simla, 20th August, 1895, from Major-General G. de C. Morton, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

IN continuation of my letter No. 758-G, dated 21st May, 1895, I have the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying Despatch\* from Lieutenant-General Sir R. C. Low, K.C.B., Commanding the Chitral Relief Force.

2. As this is Sir Robert Low's final Despatch on the operations of the Force, it will be desirable

\* No. 1174-A, dated 27th July, 1895.