

# MILITARY REPORT ON THE CHIEF OF THE COUNTRY

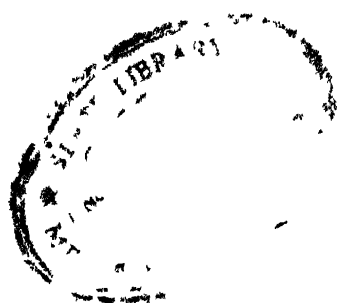
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# Military Report on The Chin-Lushai Country

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## **A NOTE**

For facilities of scholars engaged in research on various aspects of Mizo Culture & History, this rare report is reprinted by the Tribal Research Institute, Aizawl, with the help of grants received from the Dept. of Education, Govt. of Mizoram.

**Tribal Research Institute,  
Aizawl**

**Dr. (Mrs.) N. Chatterji  
Senior Research Officer**





## HISTORY



When we first took the Cachar district, the hills to the south were occupied by various clans of the tribe called Kuki by the Bengalis. Villages under the Poitoo chief held the Hachik range up to the Gutar, East of the Dhallessur were the Thado chiefs. The Bhuban range was held by the Thlangums, and the Changsils inhabited the range which runs south of it.

The Saihreem chiefs were east of the Tipai. Besides these there were many other clans, such as Hraltis, Waipies, &c. All these were people of the same race, speaking dialects of the same language, wearing the same dress, and having the same customs, form of politics, and religious belief. But they were constantly at war with one another, and when one chief became more powerful than any of his rivals, the latter used to move up into Cachar, taking with them as many of their people as remained faithful, for the majority went over to the village of the stronger chief.

About 1810 a chief named Lalul, of the Lushai clan, whose village was then situated far to the south-east, began to get formidable to his neighbours, and he pushed his village on towards our frontier, driving into our territory the chiefs that he had dispossessed.

He had five sons—

Lalungroom  
Lalsavoong,

Mongper  
Boota,

and one, name unknown.

Each of these, when grown up, started a village on his own account, and so successful were they that at about 1851 Mongper had driven out the Poitoos, and got their villages up to the Pakwa, north of Chuttachura.

Lalungroom had all the country between Dulleram (Dhallessur) and the Tipai, the Thado, Changsil, and Shlangum (or Thlangum) chiefs having taken refuge in Cachar.

Lalsavoong completely broke up the Saihreems and got their hills east of the Tipai, while Boota had got the land to the south of Lalungroom.

We seem to have first come in contact with the Lushais in

1844, when one Lalchokla, a chief of the Poitoo clan of independent Tipperah, is said by the Kukis to have surrendered to Captain Blackwood on a promise of pardon, but was tried and transported for life; and his son, Mischoibon, is said to have sworn to take vengeance on us—a vow which he religiously kept.

In 1849 Mora, or Mulla, the son of Langroom, made a raid on a Thado village, whose people had been pushed onwards from the south by more powerful enemies, and had settled down about 1842 on the Roopacherra, about 8 miles south by east of Chargola, killing several of the inhabitants, and carrying off others as slaves.

The boundary line extended from a few miles above Lakhipur on the Barak to the northern limits of Hill Tipperah, passing through the southern extremity of the Chattachura range, and the Lushais had been warned that any depredations committed on the British side of this line would be severely punished. As soon, therefore, as it was clearly proved that the plundered village was in British territory, and the whereabouts of the raiders was ascertained, orders were issued to Colonel Lyster, Political Agent, Khasia and Jyntia Hills and Commandant, Sylhet Light Infantry, to go against them. Colonel Lyster's arrangements were quickly made, and on the 4th January 1850 he started

Cachar Frontier,  
1850. Colonel  
Lyster's expedi-  
tion.

from Cachar and marched nearly 100 miles due south without coming across any habitation, and at daybreak on the 15th reached the village of Mora or Mulla, and burnt it. The village consisted of 800 or 1,000 houses regularly built, and filled with grain, cotton cloths, &c.

He estimated the strength of the enemy at from 5,000 to 7000 fighting men. He only halted there one night and returned to Cachar.\*

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\*Force consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel Lyster, Political Agent and Commandant, Sylhet Light Infantry, Commanding, 1 subaltern, and 235 men of all ranks, Sylhet Light Infantry.—(*Proceedings of the United Service Institution, Vol. II, No. 7, page 36*)

Soon after this Mulla died, leaving a son Vompilal, during whose boyhood the affairs of the clan were managed by Impanee, 'widow of Mulla. Vompilal died about 1869, leaving an infant son Lalhai. The consequence of the early deaths of Mulla and his son was that the clan became very weak, and lost almost all the land between the Dhallessur and the Sonai, which was annexed by Sukpilal, son of Mongper.

Impanee, in order to strengthen herself, invited Boota to move a village north to a hill south of Dalling, and about due east of Mehtong, between the Sonai and Tipai. Boota was anxious for this, but Impanee changed her mind and allowed Khalkom, son of Sukpilal, to settle there instead. To avenge this, Boota's people plundered Impanee's village in 1870, and in 1871 burned Thangtiboon, a small village of Hraltis belonging to her.

In spite of this Khalkom held on, and the villages of Sukpilal and his sons extended from the 1871 Gutar to the Tipai.

Two of Lalsavoong's sons, Lalpung and Vonolel, became great chiefs; the son of the former was Poiboi, whose village has lately attained notoriety. Vonolel's sons are Lenkom, Deonti, and Lalbura, who succeeded to his father's village.

The great foe of the Eastern Lushais at this time was Kamhow,† who is said to have burnt Tongdong's village while Tongdong was making a raid on us. Tongdong was nephew of Vonolel and cousin of Lalbura.

Having now given some account of the internal history of the Lushai country, we must revert to their relations with, and attitude towards, the British Government. From the year of Colonel Lyster's expedition in 1850, the frontiers of Sylhet-Cachar were for some years tolerably free from disturbance; but early in 1862 a series of aggressions occurred in Sylhet, terminating with one known as the Adampur massacre, and from that time raids occurred almost annually in both districts. At the end of 1865 Government contemplated

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† Founder of the tribe on the Burma frontier north of the Tashons.

sending an expedition against Sukpila, who had threatened war if certain demands (in revenge for the death of three his men, who had been killed while attacking a tea garden in Hylakandi) were not acceded to. But Sukpila, hearing a police force was being collected, made overtures of peace, and promised he would be a peaceful neighbour in future. For a year or two the frontier was unmolested, but the policy of conciliation only made the Lushais bolder, and in 1868 another raid was made on Adampur, and other villages were sacked and outrages committed. In 1869, on the 15th January, the tea gardens of Monierkhal and Noarbund were attacked, and Government gave orders for the despatch of two columns from the Cachar district—one to proceed along the course of the Sonai in the direction of Sukpila's villages; the other by the valley of the Dhallessur towards Gutur Mukh and Bepari Bazar, while a small detachment of military and police was directed to advance as a feint from Cumberghat in the Sylhet district. The two parties started about the 20th February, and, owing to the lateness of the season, returned to Cachar by the middle of March without having effected anything. It was urged upon Government that an expedition should be sent in the cold season of 1869-70, but the Government of India declined to consent to any renewal of active military operations, and expressed a decided opinion that the time had arrived for the trial of another policy, which may be briefly described as follows :—

- (i) To locate an officer in the Lushai hills for the purpose of entering into engagements with the chiefs.
- (ii) To require them to refer to him for adjustment all disputes between themselves and the villages on the frontier.
- (iii) To demand from them a nominal tribute, and generally to place our intercourse with them on a sound and improved basis.

At the same time it was directed that the frontier should be put in a fitter state for resisting sudden attack.

About this time some of the tribes intimated their intention

of sending messengers into Cachar to confer with the local authorities in view to bringing about a better understanding between their tribes and the British Government. These overtures were eagerly responded to, and Mr. Edgar was sent with the return messengers to the Lushai country to endeavour by their help to obtain an interview with some of the leading chiefs.

On the 20th December 1869, Mr. Edgar left Cachar accompanied by Major Macdonald of the Revenue Survey, three sepoy, Dost Muhammad, an inspector of police, 21 constables, two or three native officials, and a few Lushai guides or scouts.

Mr. Edgar reached Bepari Bazar on the 21st February, and after being encamped there till 22nd March, succeeded in including Sukpial to visit him in camp and arranged a new boundary; the new boundary to commence at Tipai Mukh and meet the old one on the southern extremity of the Chat-tachura; and this boundary Sukpial agreed, on behalf of the western chiefs, to respect for one year. During his stay in the country Mr. Edgar ascertained that the Thados and other tribes in the Cachar district had been doing all they could to work up the Lushais to raid on the tea garden, as the great object of their life was to return to the villages from which they had been expelled by the more powerful tribes.

Mr. Edgar concurred generally in the views of the Government, but with regard to locating an officer permanently in the Lushai hills he objected strongly—

*1st.*—On account of the unhealthiness of the climate.

*2nd.*—Expenses of maintaining an officer with a suitable guard.

*3rd.*—Difficulty of finding a good position and conveying stores to the place selected.

*4th.*—Extreme dislike of the people to such a measure.

In 1870-71 Mr. Edgar was allowed to repeat his visit to Lushai hills, and Majors Graham and Macdonald were deputed to proceed from the Chittagong side towards the villages of Ruttunpoi and the Syloo territory, while Mr. Edgar,

with a tea planter, Mr. Burland, made his way towards Sukpilal's country *viā* Doarband and the Rengtipahar. He reached the Dhallessur on the 23rd December, and on the 15th February 1871 Sukpilal paid him a visit. A written engagement regarding the new boundary, in which it was clearly defined, was explained to him clause by clause, and he declared himself perfectly satisfied with it and accepted all responsibility so far as it related to the country between the Sonai and Chattachura range, but said that he had no authority east of the river. The engagement was then signed by Sukpilal and his munries and by the civil officer, and made over to Sukpilal.

While this was taking place, outrages of a more serious character than had ever been known before were being committed.

The first raid occurred in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on 31st December, a little more than a day's journey from the Chima outpost. The enemy were about 200 strong, but whether of the Howlong or Shendu tribes was never ascertained. On the 23rd January 1871 the village of Ainerkhal, on the extreme west of the Cachar district, was burned, 23 persons killed, and 37 taken prisoners.

The same day the tea garden of Alexandrapore was destroyed by a party of the Howlong tribe under Sangboong and Benkuia; Mr. Whinchester, the planter, being killed, and his child Mary, a girl of 6 years carried off. A few hours later the adjoining garden of Kütlicherra was attacked, but the enemy were driven off by two planters. The following day a second attack was made on Kutlicherra, when two Lushais were wounded.

On the 26th January the raiders surprised some sepoy and police in the Monierkhal garden, killed one sepoy, and wounded one sepoy and one policeman, and commenced to attack the stockade and cooly lines: reinforcements arriving they retired with a loss of 57 men killed and wounded; the loss on our side being six killed, six wounded, and one cooly missing. Simultaneously with the attack on Monierkhal a

party raided the adjoining garden of Dhurmikhal, but did little damage.

Emboldened by their successes, the enemy penetrated as far as Nugdigram, and on the 27th January killed 11 and carried off 3 persons. The following morning they attacked a rear guard of 8 men, 4th Native Infantry, soon after leaving Nugdigram, who fought most gallantly, only one man escaping. The Lushais lost 25 men on this occasion.

On the 23rd February the Jhalnacherra tea garden was attacked by a party, who killed and wounded seven coolies.

This was the last aggression in Cachar, but in Sylhet, Tipperah, and Manipur raid continued until the beginning of March.

On 23rd January the village of Cachenpora, near Chargola in Sylhet, was burnt, upwards of 20 people killed, and several young women captured. The following day an attack was made on a village quite close to the outpost, and two men killed. On 27th February a village near Alinagur was attacked, but the enemy was driven into the hills by a party of the 44th, losing three men, besides several wounded.

In Hills Tipperah, between the end of January and 2nd March, several villages were destroyed, and many of the inhabitants killed and wounded. In Manipur on 15th February a village was plundered, 40 persons killed, and about 20 carried off.

It was pretty conclusively proved that the raids in South Cachar were committed by the Howlongs and Syloos, and the raids in Eastern Cachar were traced to the sons of Vonolel, assisted probably by the people of Vonpikal and Poiboi.

The raids in Sylhet and Tipperah were believed to have been made by the people of Sukpikal and certain followers of his sister, Baniatangi, as two of Sukpikal's sons were said to have been recognized.

This concludes the history of Lushai outrage and hostility on the Assam frontier up to 1871. During this period villages on the Chittagong frontier had been frequently devastated by the people of the hills.

In 1845, 1847-48, 1849-50, and 1850-51 there were raids, culminating in what is called the great Kuki invasion of 1860, where 15 villages were burnt or plundered, 188 British subjects killed, and 100 carried into captivity. In 1864 raids recommenced, and were continued in 1866-67, 1868-69, 1869-70 and in 1870-71.

Less was known on the Chittagong frontier about the authors of the raids than on the Cachar side, and little more is known than that the raids took place.

Meanwhile detachments were being hurried down from Shillong and brought up from Dacca for the protection of the frontier, and great anxiety was entertained for the safety of Mr. Edgar, who was in Sukpila's country, and a detachment under Captain Lightfoot was sent up the Sonai to search for him. On the 21st February Captain Lightfoot, with 50 men of the 44th, reached his camp, and Mr. Edgar started on his

return on the 24th, and arrived at Cachar before the end of the month. Urged by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief and all

the local officers, Government decided upon an expedition against the tribes during the ensuing cold weather, and called upon the Commander-in-Chief to submit his proposals for the campaign. The main features of His Excellency's proposals were that two columns should start on 1st November 1871—the one from Chittagong, the other from Cachar—each column to consist of—

Royal Artillery	...	...	...	‡ mountain battery.
Sapper and Miners	...	...	...	1 company.
Native Infantry	...	...	...	1,500.

That whilst the co-operation of the Rajas of Manipur and Tipperah was very desirable, their troops should confine themselves to the protection of their own frontiers, and to opening out roads and maintaining communication through their own territories.

That no tents should be allowed, each man being supplied with a waterproof sheet.



Baggage followers to be reduced to a minimum and every one rationed by the commissariat.

These suggestions were approved and orders were issued accordingly, and by the beginning of September the fitting out of the two columns had fairly commenced.

*Left or Cachar Column.*

Brigadier-General G. Bouchier, C.B., Commanding  
Half peshawar Mountain Battery.

No. 1 Company, Sappers und Miners.

22nd Punjab Native Infantry, 500 rank and file.

42nd Assam „ „ 500 „ „

44th Sylhet „ „ 500 „ „

*Right or Chittagong Column.*

Brigadier-General C. A. Brownlow, C.B., Commanding.  
Half Peshawar Mountain Battery.

No. 3 Company, Sappers and Miner.

27th Punjab Native Infantry, 500 rank and file.

2nd Gurkhas 500 „ „

4th Gurkhas 500 „ „

The expedition of 1871-72 has been graphically and fully described by Colonel Woodthorpe and Sir A. Mackenzie, and it is only necessary to refer to the results achieved. The left column marched *via* Tipai Mukh to Kholel (Lalhai's village), Chelam (Poiboi's village), Champhai (Lalbura's village), and thence to Chumsin, the village of Vonolel's mother (the present chieftainess of Maite), where terms of peace were made. These terms were that—

*1st.*—Government agents should have free access to Lalbura's villages.

*2nd.*—That the guns taken at Monierkhal and Nugdigram should be surrendered.

*3rd.*—That a fine of two elephant tusks, one set of war gongs, one necklace, 10 goats, 10 pigs, 50 fowls, and 20 maunds of husked rice should be paid.

Our present experience leads us regard these terms as unduly lenient, the fine being one that the smallest Lushai

village could easily pay ; but still the fact remains that from 1872 to 1892 the Eastern Lushais gave us no serious trouble. The feuds which had been temporarily laid aside in 1871 were again renewed, and the history of the Eastern Lushais for the past twenty years is a succession of disputes with the Western Lushais and with the descendants of Vuta and of futile attempts to obtain the re-establishment of the Sonai and Tipai Mukh bazars, from which they had at one time derived no inconsiderable revenue.

*Right or Ohittagong Column.*

On the 26th October 1871 General Brownlow, C. B., arrived at Chittagong. A depot was established in advance at Kassalong. The force moved on to the first range of hills (the Ohipum range) on the 1st December. On the 15th General Brownlow occupied Vanunon's village. From here two parties were sent out north-east and south-west, which destroyed several villages. The head-quarters after this moved on to Vanhulien's village (Savunga), and after attacking and destroying several villages in the vicinity moved on to Laljika's village. Here the captive Mary Winchester was given up. Leaving a garrison at a village called Savung Syloo, the principal village of the Syloos, the force marched against the Howlongs and received the submission of the Howlang chiefs at the village of Chungnama. The Syloo chiefs then made their submission.

It was still necessary to compel the submission of the Eastern Howlongs. This was now easily accomplished by a four companies with one mountain gun. The chief Vandula, however, never appeared in person.

## DEFENCE OF THE FRONTIER AND ENDEAVOURS MADE TO MAINTAIN PEACEFUL RELATIONS.

The first attempt to provide defence for the people of the plains against the raids of the hill people took place in 1850, when, at Colonel Lyster's suggestion, a levy was raised of Kukis, Cacharis, and other tribes to occupy posts on the

southern frontier of Cachar. An attempt to get tribes of similar race to the Lushais to settle in this tract and act as a buffer failed.

In 1860, after a long series of raids on the people of the plains, in which hundreds were killed and carried off, the Tipperah Raja was compelled to adopt measures for the defence of his frontier.

He established five frontier posts of 20 men each connected by a road, a stockaded post on the Fenny river connected with the above posts by a road, and garrisoned by 150 men, and received six drill instructors from our army.

South of Tipperah the Poang Raja had been entrusted with the defence of the frontier. In this year (1860) the hill tracts of Chittagong were placed under a separate officer. The Poang Raja kept up five posts, and in 1864 we added four more police posts. In 1866 the Poang Raja's guards being found ineffectual were replaced by our own police.

In 1867 posts of 50 men each were established at Myami Kassalong, and Kungo Tong, and small intermediate posts of 20 men each at Kurkuria, Saichul, Pharoo, Plumdoo, and Chima.

There were also executive (civil) police stationed at Rumghar, Manikserai, Golabari, Rangamatti, and Pola Khiji, connected with a line of posts along the Arakan frontier.

These posts proved of no protection, and the hill tribes continued to raid with impunity. After the expedition of 1871-72 the question of frontier defence was reconsidered, and in 1874 posts were established on the Cachar and Sylhet, frontier at Jirighat, Mainadhar, Monierkhar, Noarbund, Jhalnacheria, Chattachura, Oliviacheria, Lakhimamla, Fatehkuli, and Adampur.

In Tipperah at Dharmanagar, Koilashut (Chirakuti), and Kamalpur.

In the Chittagong district at Demagiri, Sirthay, Ohipum (1), Ohipum (2), Saichul, Sungoo Valley, and Politai.

In Arakan at Kulukwa and Daletmai.

The frontier officers also endeavoured to keep up frontier

Trading marts and durbars. relations by means of bazars and annual meetings with chiefs, at which feasts were held and presents given, before 1871 at Kassalong, and afterwards at Demagiri. About 1871 bazars were established on the main rivers within the hill at Tipai Mukh, and at what is now called Sonai Bazar on the Sonai. A little later a third bazar was established at Changsil on the Dhalleswar river. Bengali traders were allowed to have shops here, but no direct protection was afforded to them by Government. These bazars afforded a good means of communication with the hill people and helped to maintain friendly relations with very remunerative to the traders, who bartered salt, cloth, and iron for India-rubber and other forest products. India-rubber, the only really valuable product, became exhausted by the wasteful method of tapping employed by the Lushais; and owing to that and other causes, mainly quarrels between the chiefs as to rent of the shops, the Tipai Mukh bazar ceased to exist at the end of 1888.

The Sonai bazar only lasted till 1884 owing to quarrels between the chiefs about rent, and all attempt to re-establish it failed.

The Changsil bazar was withdrawn in 1884, but was re-established, and lasted till 1888.

After the expeditions of 1871-72, and the subsequent establishment of a cordon of frontier posts and the inauguration of trading marts and durbars, the hill people remained quiet for some time.

In 1875 rumours regarding hostile movements of the southern chiefs against one another were rife. Actual hostilities appear to have been prevented by the action taken by the Chittagong authorities.

In January 1875 Sukpial's agent reported great scarcity of rice in that chief's country, and some was sent up.

Hostilities were reported between the Lushais and Suktes.\* The latter were said to have been defeated, and forced to pay

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\* Another name for the Kamhows.

a tribute in guns and cattle. Three bazars were established beyond our border, and were supplied with goods by native traders from Cachar.

There was apparently a gradual advance of the Lushais northwards toward our border. It was supposed they were closely pressed on the south and east by the Suktes, and in consequence the southern tribes were coming north and the eastern tribes coming west.†

In the begining of 1877, Mr. Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, spent about three weeks in the Lushai hills. He paid a visit to, and received one from, Sailengpui, who was said to be the favorite son of Sukpilal, and experienced much hospitality from the inhabitants. It was reported that an expedition had been undertaken by Sukpilal's sons, Lempong and Laljika, in October 1876, against Pugrying, a Syloo village, in which the village was plundered and several people carried into slavery. News was also received that fighting had broken out in the begining of 1877 between Khalkom, the most powerful of Sukpilal's sons, and the Eastern Lushais under Poiboi. The quarrel originated through the former having cultivated lands which Poiboi claimed. In 1875 Tantow, a petty eastern chief, was attacked and robbed by Poiboi, and he and twenty-two families of his village were allowed to settle in a Kuki village opposite the mouth of the Jhiri river.

In July 1877 hostilities broke out between the eastern chiefs, Lengkom, Lalbura, Chungleng, and Bungte, and the western chiefs Sukpilal, Kalkom, and Lenpunga, about some jum land.

On the 28th July Pibuk died, and was succeeded by her daughter Baniatangi. Towards the end of September Lengkom attacked Khalkom, and carried off 15 heads.

In October 35 of Lalhais people fled from the Lushai country through fear of Poiboi; they were allowed to settle in a village opposite the Monierkhal guard.

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† This has since found to have originated at the point where the Tashons, Hakas, and Lushais touched one another, viz., at the Khewering range, north of Haka.

Eventually, the eastern and western chiefs asked for the mediation of the British Government, and were offered a safe meeting ground in Cachar ; but, although both parties were heartily tired of their feud and would have been very glad if some authority whom all could recognise would have intervened, a false pride prevented either of the contending parties from making the first overtures for peace.

Early in 1878 one of Sukpilal's villages went over to the Pois.

In October the bazar at Changsil was plundered by a party who could not be identified, and Sukpilal after some demur consented to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000 and remit bazar dues to the same amount on condition that the bazar should be reopened.

In April 1879 a party of Sukpilal's tribe started to attack the villages of Poiboi, Lengkom, and of their subsidiary chief Chungleng ; but they were induced to abandon their warlike designs by the friendly offices of the grandmother of Poiboi, a Rani, whose territory lay between villages of the two belligerents.

In addition to these disputes, the Eastern Lushais were threatened by some of the Kuki clans living still further to the east. Some Poitoos, nominally subject to the Maharaja of Manipur, attacked the village of Bontong, a brother of Lalbura. No retaliation was made by the Lushais, who have been further disturbed by a demand for tribute made on them by the Suktes.

On the 16th November, Ratun Singh, a runaway cooly and one of Khalkom's followers, murdered four women and three children, one of the former supposed to be a sorceress, and whose murder was paid for by Khalkom.

In the early part of the year 1881 there were incessant hostilities among the chiefs inhabiting the eastern and central tracts. In the beginning of April three chiefs, Lengkom, Chungliena, and Poiboi, attacked and burnt the village of Thangula, which contained about 450 people, killing 150 of them and taking 30 prisoners. Directly after this, Lengkom

attacked a village of Darkang's and killed many. Twenty-eight people from this village and 22 from Thangula took refuge in the Cachar district. In October Khalkom made an abortive attack on Lalhai ; but these wars not being relished by his people, 400 of them immigrated into the Cachar district. Shortly after this the pressure of famine began to be felt, and three principal chiefs, Poiboi, Khalkom, and Lalhai, met and agreed to a cessation of hostilities, and at once sent men into the Cachar district to obtain supplies of food.

The famine arose from the depredations of rats, who multiplied exceedingly the previous year owing to the ample food they obtained from the seeding of the bamboos.

About 18,000 maunds of rice and 2,000 maunds of paddy were imported from Cachar, and the British Government expended about Rs. 1,240 on famine relief of which about 1,040 were recovered from sales to traders. As the season advanced, there was no increase in the famine pressure, but the contrary ; and most of the people who had gone to Cachar returned to prepare their own lands for cultivation ; and by the commencement of the rainy season, 1882, all apprehensions of further distress ceased.

In 1882 some 3,000 Paites,\* who had been much oppressed by the Lushais, moved off into Manipur territory.

In January 1882 a body of 250 or 300 hillmen, described as as Shendus and Moliempuis, headed by a chief named Howsata, attacked and took a village of a Lushai chief named Lalseva, situated about 4 miles beyond our border on the Lung Rung range of hills. Twenty-nine Lushais were killed, 7 wounded, and 92 persons carried off as prisoners. Lalseva applied to us for help, but this was refused, as he lived beyond our border.

On the 18th November 1883 a party of the frontier police started from Burkul to go to Demagiri in eight boats. Police attacked between Burkul and Demagiri.

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\* There seems much reason to believe that Poltoos and Paites are the same tribe, but there is a want of evidence on this subject. The spelling has been adopted from previous reports as they stand.

Two of these boats, each with four police on board, went ahead of the others, and were attacked by a party of Kukis and fired upon. One of the boats was capsized, a servant of one of the police was shot, and two sepoys were drowned. The raiders, eight in number, were afterwards found to be Moliempuis, who had come as scouts for a large body of Shendus. One of them was shot, but the remainder fell back on the main body, and the whole retired.

On the 1st February 1886 six Chakmas were attacked by  
 1886 a party of about twenty Shendus; two were  
 Attack on killed and three wounded, the heads of the  
 Chakmas. dead men being taken.

On the 3rd of February 1888 a survey party, under Lieutenant J. F. Stewart, 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment, was  
 1888 attacked by a large band of Shendus under  
 Raid on Lieutenant Howsata. The camp was situated near the  
 Stewart's Saichul range, at a place 18 miles in a straight  
 camp. line from Rangamatti, and 10 miles within  
 our boundary. The party consisted of Lieutenant Stewart,  
 two European soldiers, one naik, five sepoys, and two native  
 servants. Of these, Lieutenant Stewart, the two Europeans,  
 and one sepoy were killed, and their heads, fire-arms, and  
 other things in the camp, except provisions, were taken away  
 by the raiders.

On the morning of the 15th February 1888 an attack was  
 Attack on a village made on the village of Prankyne Raja in the  
 of Prankyne Chima valley to the south of the Chittagong  
 Raja in the Hill Tracts. The attacking party consisted of  
 Chima valley. 50 or 60 Shendus. The village consisted of  
 but 10 houses, with 62 inhabitants, of whom 6 were killed, 1  
 wounded, and 23 taken prisoners.

On the 6th May 1888 a party of some 360 Shendus of the  
 Attempted attack Taungshat clan attempted to raid the village  
 on the village of of Thamai Raja, but were discovered, and  
 Thamai Raja in retreated without inflicting any loss on the  
 the Chima villagers.  
 valley.



On the morning of the 13th of December 1888 the village of Pakinna Rani, situated within our territory, and only 1 mile from Demagiri, was raided by a party believed to have been headed by Khalkom, son of Sukpilal. The Rani and 21 men were killed, 13 heads were taken, and 15 persons carried off. The raiders were pursued by the police, but without success. This last raid induced the Government to sanction the Lushai expedition of 1888-89.

The news of this last raid reached Calcutta on the 16th of December 1888, and it became evident to Government that the existing system of frontier force defence was powerless to check the raiding, and that nothing less than the appearance of an armed force in their territories would prevent the tribes crossing our frontier.

A council was accordingly held, and sanction was given to punish the raiders and to establish a post in the vicinity, if practicable, of Vandula's village.





