CHAPTER TWO

THE LUSHAI AND THE ENGLISH:

(i) EARLY PHASE

Ever since the annexation of Cachar into the British dominion, the local authorities had to deal with the incursions of the Lushai tribes in the south. Scarcity of food and fertile land often led to the Lushais to enter into the plains for their lust for plunder and slaves and not unoften they indulged in raiding their neighbouring territories.1 The captives or slaves had to do all the jhuming and household works of their respective owners. The authorities in Cachar had to despatch a series of punitive expeditions against the raiders. The first of this was sent in 1844 under the command of Captain Blackwood. Its primary object was to punish Lalchokia who committed a raid on Sylhet frontier. The latter surrendered and was tried and transported for life.2 The Lushais continued raids both in the Manipur state and in Sylhet in 1847 and 1849 wherein many persons were killed and several captives carried off.3 These outrages called for action on the part of the government and Colonel Lister, Superintendent, Cachar, was directed by Bengal government to punish the aggressors. He marched from Silchar on 4 January 1850 and arrived at the village of Mullah (Ngura) which was burnt and destroyed and a certain number

2. BJP., 6 January 1845, No.192; also 12 February 1845, No.192; also 12 February 1845 Nos.104-06.
3. Ibid., 5 December 1849, Nos.108-17.
of British subject in captivity were released.\footnote{Ibid., 27 February 1850, No.37.}
Lister found that the Lushais were armed and well-trained and their instructors were all Burmese.
Lister's report opened the eyes of the authorities in Calcutta as to the military strength of Lushais.
Realizing that retaliatory measures could never effectively check the Lushais from incursions,
the government of Bengal decided to adopt conciliatory measures. Accordingly Captain Stewart,
Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, sent out a large number interpreters to the leading chiefs Sukpilal,
Vagnolian and others, with the intention of earning their goodwill. The mission was successful.
Some of them even sent down muntries or agents while Vagnolian (Vanhnuailliana), Sookpilal and
Vanpilal personally came down to Silchar and met the Superintendent.\footnote{BJP., June 1866, No.79; Commissioner, Dacca, to Secretary, government of Bengal. After the death of Mulla, the Chief against whom Lister headed the expedition, his minor son Vanpilal succeeded his estate. Vagnoilen was the subordinate chief of the former. The designation Superintendent was substituted for Deputy Commissioner later. Captain Stewart was the first Superintendent.} In the south Thomas H. Lewin,
Deputy Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, was he who suggested that not to govern these hills for themselves, but administer the country for the wellbeing and happiness of the people
dwelling therein. He proposed to open up an annual 'Mela' (fair) at Kosalang for a closer contact with the Lushais. The government of Bengal readily agreed; since then Kosalang Fair played an important part in the Anglo-Lushai relationship.

The conciliatory policy proved before long unsuccessful. The Lushais being an isolated tribes were naturally suspicious of outsiders, and this required careful and tactful handlings on the part of the local authorities. Sookpilal recollected that sad plight of Lalchokla which intensified his suspicions of the bonafides of the government. He entered into alliance with Kanai Singh, a Manipuri Prince who took refuge among the tribals of Cachar border, and aspired to the throne of Manipur by force. A joint attack was made on the Tea estate of Monierkhal at Cachar in January 1869 by Kanai Singh and Sookpilal. The Monierkhal raid convinced the authority at Silchar that the security of the tea plantations of Surma Valley was at stake and therefore decided to send an expedition against Kanai Singh and the Lushais. The expedition failed to achieve anything tangible due to difficult communication and inclemency of the weather.

7. BJP., November 1868, No.74; Secretary, government of Bengal to Commissioner, Chittagong.
8. FPP(A), February 1869, No.104.
9. Ibid.
10. FPP., March 1870, No.80.
In the meantime the Lushai chiefs approached the Superintendent of Cachar, then changed into Deputy Commissioner promising mutual understanding. Accompanying them J.W. Edger, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, undertook a tour into the Lushai country. While negotiations had been going on, the Lushais perpetrated extensive raids on the border of Cachar, Sylhet and Chittagong. In January 1871, the Lushais raided upon Ainerkhai and Nagdigram, and killed many persons and many others were taken prisoners or captives. Mr. Winchester, a planter himself, was murdered and his child Mary Winchester was captured when Alexanderpur was raided. This was followed by a number of raids which was carried out not only from Lushai Hills but also from Hill Tripura and Manipur. 11 The renewal raids revealed the failure of conciliation. William Grey, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and local officers strongly advocated for a fresh military expedition against the offending tribes. The government of India though adhered to its policy of conciliation ultimately gave way; on 11 July 1871, orders were issued for an expedition into Lushai Hills. 12 The object was neither annexation nor mere retaliation but to strengthen the previous policy of conciliation. A military expedition consisting of two columns entered into the hills in the cold season of 1871. The right or the Chittagong column was under General Brownlow and the left or Cachar column under General Bourchier. The Cachar

11. BJP., April 1871, No.253; Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, to Commissioner to Dacca.
12. FPP(B)., September 1872, No.186; Secretary, Government of India, to Secretary, Government of Bengal.
column, after reaching Champhai, subdued the tribes of Vanpilal, Poiboi, Vonolel and dictated terms upon Vonolel's widow. The Chittagong column compelled the powerful Howlong chiefs Bengkhuia (Bengkhuia), Savonga and others to tender their submission. Several Syloo (Sailo) chiefs representing the Syloo tribe also submitted on the same terms as the Howlongs under which the Lushais must allow free access to British agents to their villages, surrender the guns taken at Monierkhal and Nagdigram, release the captives including the daughter of late Winchester, and pay a large quantity of fines in kind. A line of strong outposts was established along the whole southern frontier of Cachar and Sylhet.¹³

As a result the Lushais were forced to acknowledge the existence of a superior power. By opening the whole country the English laid down a firm and secure basis for their future relations with the Lushais. The power of the Eastern and Western chief was, to a great extent, crippled, and their traditional fighting prestige was adversely affected. This served as a demoralising effect among the Lushais. Before long, a certain number of less important chiefs gave up their allegiance to their masters and began to cultivate friendship with the British. In any case the expedition was a great relief to the inhabitants of the border areas; it brought peace at least for a decade.

The Lushais and people of Cachar became closer, and improved commercial relations led to the increase of exchange of goods and the establishment of bazars at Changsil (formerly Bepari bazar), Sonai and Tipaimukh. This was followed by gradual advance of the Lushais northwards towards southern Cachar.¹⁴ The local authority deputed regularly one of its officers to visit the Lushai chiefs in a friendly manner, and at the same time the frontier posts were kept well guarded.¹⁵

In 1882 a terrible famine* broke out followed by plague and pestilence which carried a large number of people of the hills. Not only the jhum exhausted ¹⁴. Ibid. pp.17-8. ¹⁵. AS., Bengal government paper, File No.192/320 of 1872.  * FPP(A)., August 1882, Nos.88-91; J.K., Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, explained the cause of the famine in the following words: "After certain interval of time the bamboo plants swell considerably, and as a sort of seed is formed within them resembling ordinary paddy seed. The existence of such rich supply attracts rats in swarms, and as these animals were naturally very prolific, abundance of food causes a still greater number to appear, which of course increased in a geometrical proportion. The rats then spread and consume everything that is eatable, sparing neither paddy crops, kachu (Arum), nor even cotton seeds..." This Mautam (flowering of bamboo, usually takes place after interval of fifty years in the Hills.
but rubber, most important medium of exchange were dying out because of over-tapping. They had no means to raise money to purchase food. Utter destitution and acute depression originated the idea of plunder as the only means of survival. Thus there was unrest throughout the Lushai country. J.Knox Wight, the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, received reports of the possible attack upon border areas. He advised the government of Assam to take the responsibility of the tribes and strongly urged on the necessity of a speedy annexation of the territory. The proposal was turned down with a feeling that a display of force would prevent a possible outbreak, and accordingly force, consisting of three-hundred men, was despatched along the frontiers with the double object of making a demonstration of strength and at the same time of inspecting and repairing boundary pillars. 17

The show of force was certainly not the answer and therefore produced no tangible effect. Once again, the Lushais indulged in border raids in quick succession. In November 1883, the tribes fell upon a party of Frontier Police between Burkul and Demagiri, and killed two sepoys and a servant. A party of about twenty Lakhers attacked on six Chackmas in February 1886, and killed two of them. On 3 February 1888, a survey Party, under the command of Lieutenant Steward, was

17. BPP(B)., July 1881, File No.184, No.4; Boyd to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
stormed at a place only eighteen miles from Hongamati by Housata and his party killing Stewart and two European Surgeants. In December 1888, Pakunaiani's village was raided by a party of Vuta's son, and killed forty two persons, and sixteen taken prisoners. A still more serious raid was undertaken by Lianphuna Sailo on the Changri Valley. No less than sixty captives were seized of whom one was selected as a victim for the play of the chief's son. Since the situation drifted from bad to worse, the government of India agreed with local authorities that this fresh and atrocious outrage made it "necessary that active measures should be immediately undertaken". The objects of the expedition should, however, be to prevent raiding, to maintain communications by means of road from Demagiri, to construct a line of telegraph between Chittagong and Rangamati to Demagiri, to make a good road as the force advanced, to establish a post, and punish the chiefs concerned in the recent raids on the Chittagong frontier and the murder of Stewart.

From the beginning the operation was successful. The southern Howlong chiefs were made to undertake an oath of loyalty, and forty two miles of good hill road was constructed up to Lungleh where a stocked post was established. It was garrisoned by 200 men of the

18. AS., For B, July, 1894, Nos.147-9; Also see FPP., June, 1891, No.139.
Chittagong Frontier Police. To complete the work already begun, a far larger force again entered the Lushai country in 1888-9. The object was to visit certain tribes that raided British territories and declined to come to terms, to open the country between Burma and Chittagong, to establish semi-permanent posts in the region visited, and to ensure complete pacification and recognition of British power.

The three columns - Chittagong, Cachar and Burma acting from a different directions, successfully carried out the main objects of the campaign. The Burma column constructed a mule road from Pokoko to Hakha. Advancing from Lungleh, the Chittagong column constructed roads towards Haka and established post at Fort Tregear. The Aijal column established posts at Aijal and at Changsil, which was the termination of river communication with Silchar. In short, communications between Bengal and Burma was established. The principal tribes inhabiting the country were brought under subjugation and a large number of captives restored to their own homes. Military posts were established at Demagiri, Aijal, Lungleh and Fort Tregear for the preservation of order and as evidence of British supremacy.

22. Ibid., Pol and Judl A, Mily, August, 1890, Nos.68-102.
(ii) LATER PHASE

In 1890, British supremacy was established in Lushai Hills, and Political Officers were posted both at Aijal and Lungleh. While Captain H.A. Browne was appointed Political Officer in the North Lushai Hills, Mr. Murray was nominated and took charge as the first Superintendent of South Lushai Hills on 1 April, 1891. Browne was clearly instructed that he should employ diplomatic skill in order to induce the chiefs to submit to the administration and to stop them from open raidings. He should also receive revenue from the willing chiefs in money or in kind as tendered, but no attempt should be made, at present, to exact it from tribes unwilling to pay. In spite of these instructions in a meeting at Aijal Browne announced that Lianphunga was to be deposed for four years, revenue and labour should be paid and supplied to the government. The western Lushai chiefs sharply reacted and raised a strong

24. Ibid., Pol and Judl, For A, August, 1890, Nos.47-77; The creation of the post of Political Officer was in a sense of informal annexation of the Lushai Hills.
26. AS., For A, June, 1891, Nos.5-9. Chief Commissioner's to Browne, Political Officer, North Lushai Hills, 12 April 1890.

* The Lushai Expeditionary Force of 1889-90 could not bring the surrender of Lianphunga who managed to escape Colonel Skinner and Mr. Dalay. Being influential chief and the son of Sukpilal, he had a hold over the Lushais of the western clan. It was they who had saved him rescue at the time of his danger. Captain Browne was charged with causing the capture of this evasive chief. But the former failed to obtain support of the Lushai chiefs to deliver Lianphunga.
voice against the imposition of punishment upon Lianphunga and of labour and revenue. The conference broke up upruptly and no mutual understanding could be made. 27

Uprising of the Western Lushais

Taking advantage of the Lushai chief's animosity against Browne's declared policy, Khalkam (Kalkhama), organised Western chiefs and plotted revolt against the British. Browne was unable to collect information in time nor did he expect a rebellion because the Lushais seemed to be docile and pacified even after the meeting. The Western Lushai chiefs under Khamkam rose in a body, ** in September 1890. On 9 September Browne was ambushed while he was on his way down from Aijal to Changsil with an escort party of only four police sepoys. He was severely wounded in the arm, and died shortly after reaching Changsil. Three of his men were killed on the spot. It was followed, on the same day, by simultaneous attack on the stockades at Aijal and Changsil. From Silchar a relief force of 200 men of the Surma Valley Military Police were sent against the rebels. R.R. Jwinton, Officer Commanding

27. FPE(A), January, 1891, No. 123. Also see McCall Lushai Chrysallis, p. 58.

**. The cause of this rising may be ascertained from Khalkama's statement made before McCole, Political Officer, North Lushai Hills. The former said that he as well as other Lushai chiefs did not like the idea of paying any revenue to the British government, and that the Lushais would not even be allowed to hunt in their jungles. Vide FPE(A), January 1891, No. 123.
was killed in a fight which took place on their way up the Dhaleswari river towards Changsil. Several men were wounded but the detachment got through and advanced to its destination. Soon Changsil and Aijal were relieved.  

Meanwhile, R.B. McCabe was transferred from the post of Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, as Political Officer in succession to Browne. Immediately he set out and arrived at Changsil on 5 October 1890. In less than two months the outbreak was suppressed, and all offending villages were destroyed. Between the last days of November and first days of December, Lenkhunga (Liankunga), Lalhrima, Sailenpuia (Sailianpuia), Thangula, Lienpunga and Khalkam surrendered. It was Lenkhunga's men who were responsible for the death of both Browne and Swinton. Khalkom, Lungenpu and Thangula were deported to Hajaribagh Jail where the two former chiefs hanged themselves.  

**Eastern Lushais**

The Eastern Lushai Chiefs did not come to the aid of the Western Lushais when the latter rose in rebellion against the British ruler in September 1890. McCabe erected a stockade at Sonai Bazar and a "promenoda", lasting from the 24 January up to the  

28. AS., For A, May, 1892, Nos. 3-110.
29. Ibid., 1891, File 26-7. Submitting to the government of India, Foreign Department, copy of a report from the Foreign Department, copy of a report from the Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh, regarding the suicide of the Lushai chiefs Lengphunga and Khalkom. But Thangvela was allowed to return on July 1895 long before the ten years term was expired. See AS., for a, November 1896, Nos. 13-30.
5 March 1890, was undertaken in the Eastern Lushai country. The purpose of this was to make the acquaintance of the chiefs, and to inform the tribes that they were under the control of the British government and that they would have to pay revenue. McCabe said that he would enter into relations with the chiefs who agreed to pay house-tax and supply rice and labour.\(^{30}\)

McCabe's demands opened their eyes and Lalboorah, one of the principal chiefs, refused to pay house-tax or supply coolies and rice to the British. Poibo and Bungteva showed signs of recalcitrance, but remaining chiefs agreed to pay the tax. To enforce this demand, McCabe, at the head of a garrison, advanced towards Lalbura's village and reached on 29 February. Before proper position against attack was taken, some 300 Lushais opened fire to McCabe's party, and severe fighting followed, but McCabe and his party could repulse the assailants and established themselves in the village. Lalboorah joined Poibo, Bungteva and Langkham and made repeated attack on McCabe's position but was repulsed. On 4 April, a party of Lushais from Maite, Poibo and Lalboorah raided Baruncherra Tea Estate in the Hailakandi Subdivision of Cachar district. Their object was to divert the attention of McCabe's forces from the Eastern Lushais but failed.\(^{31}\)

A re-inforcement, under Captain Lock arrived Lalboorah's village which was used as a main base. Before the end of May resistance ended and Lalbura became a fugitive; Poibo and Bungteva were captured.

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31. AS., For A, December, 1892, Nos.14-141* neporu of McCabe 23 July 1892, on the expedition against the Eastern Lushais.
The power of the Eastern Lushai chiefs was completely destroyed. In sympathy with the eastern Lushais, the Howlongs, in South Lushai country, took up arms against the British. They succeeded in preventing Shakespear from joining hands with McCabe at Lungtheva's village; but on arrival of reinforcement from Burma, Shakespear destroyed partly villages of Lalnima (Lunima), Kanglova, Tlongbuta and Rochungnunga. 32

**Southern Lushais**

After the establishment of British authority in the Lushai Hills and the ceremonial hoisting of Union Jack, there broke out a revolt in South Lushai Hills*. The revolt was due to the injudicious action on the part of Murray, the then Superintendent of South Lushai Hills. When Murray and his party

32. Ibid., McCabe's to the government of India No. 4873-P, 23 October, 1892.

*. Like the North Lushai Hills Administration, the South Lushai Administration levied tribute and labour. Supply of coolies was essential to the rapid works of construction of road, but their supply posed a thorny problem to the chiefs. The imposition of forced labour, a system quite contrary to the spirit of independence of the Lushais, and a concept completely foreign to their social and political ideas might have resulted into armed rebellion.
visited Jacopa (Zakopa) on 8 February 1891, a friendly reception was given to them by the chief. Murray's demand for 'coolies' were supplied by Dookapa (Dokapa), a subordinate chief of Jakopa. There was no record to testify the restiveness of the Jakopa's people from the beginning of Murray's entry into the village. But the latter rose into rebellion on the third day of Murray's arrival. Murray was reported to have advanced and burnt granary consisting of thirteen houses packed with rice, but on the way back, his party was ambushed by the Lushais. Some of his advance guards were killed and Taylor was severely wounded and Murray escaped to save his life. Captain Hutchinson advanced, at the head of a garrison, from Fort Tregear to Zakopa's village, and succeeded in capturing several chiefs except Zakopa, the most powerful one. They were, however, liberally treated for their offences.  

The successful operations of 1892-3 firmly established British position in the South Lushai Hills. Shakespear remained the Superintendent till 1897, when he was transferred to North Lushai Hills. The most important task of Shakespear in the year 1893-4 was the capture of Ropulieni (Ropuliani) who was a bitter enemy of the British, mother of...

33. BPP(A)., April, 1891, File No. L/10, No. 1-38; from Bengal government to the government of India, 27 March 1891.
Lalthuama, widow of Vandula and daughter of vonolei, the chief against whom the Cachar column was directed in 1871-2.

It came to light that Southern chiefs, Kairuma, Zaduna (Zahluna), Kaphleia (descendants of Vuta), and relatives of Zakopa were determined to maintain their independent position and refused to supply coolies. A joint expedition from Falam, Mijal and Lungleh was undertaken against those hostile chiefs in December, 1895 and all of them were forced to come to terms. The long series of Lushai expeditions ended with the close of operations against Kairuma. Kairuma's power and prestige was completely broke. It effectually dispelled the idea that any Lushai chief, by reason of his supposed inaccessibility from Aijal, could safely ignore the orders of the Political Officer.

Porteous, Political Officer of North Lushai hills, observed in his report of the 1896-7:

I leave the district, with all the chiefs reconciled to Government, and with, I believe, not the least likelihood of any future disturbance of the peace... Lalbura received me in his village in March like any other chief, while Kairuma met me outside his village, no sepoys, however, being present.

34. AS., For A, November 1896, Nos.13-30.
35. AS., For A, July, 1896, Nos.7-41; Porteous made the above observations in his report on the history of the year 1896-7.
Already in 1895–6, Shakespear reported that he was firmly convinced that the Lushais in the southern hills completely abandoned all ideas of resistance, and "generally accepted that tribute must be paid and coolies must be supplied whether for transport or for buildings". He advocated that the "rough coercive measures" of the past could safely be changed for gentle ones, yet any chief who disobeyed orders should be severely dealt with. Now, peace conditions were prevailing throughout the Hills and the villages were completely free from the constant dread of inter-tribal feuds which had been the orders of the day in the past.  

(iii) DEFENCE MEASURE: MILITARY POSTS

In a country like Lushai Hills where the natural barriers were the main obstacles in enforcing order, military posts were absolutely necessary for the consolidation of the British rule. These posts were the basis of military operations during the Chin-Lushai expedition of 1889–90. In the subsequent revolts they served the purpose of the British in suppressing the rebellions. Besides, the defence arrangement was inter-linked with the system of communication. The principal roads connected one military post with the other. The Chin-Lushai Conference recommended that the expenditure of the

36. BPP(A); May,1896, Nos.17-21; Report on the Administration of the South Lushai Hills for 1896-7.
construction of the Aijal-Lungleh road be re-imburse
ed from the imperial revenue.° The important military
posts like Aijal, Lungleh and Demagiri were either
the termini or the starting points of the road system.
Built in the most strategic areas, these posts and
outposts had both the defensive and offensive
arrangements. Their military prestige, showmanship
and impressive structure commanded an allegiance
of the recently subjugated Lushai chiefs.

With the object of demonstrating the strength
of British garrison, the two large brass canons that
were recovered from the 34 N.I of Chittagong mutineers
and were used during the South Lushai rising in
1891-2, were transferred from the Fort Lungleh to
Fort Aijal.® Regular display of guns, march past
and sound of bugles from these military posts might
have struck terror into the hearts of the tribesmen.
There is no doubt that this sort of display of strength
quelled the Lushai chiefs for they had respect only
for the superior power.

The military posts had a direct bearing upon
the communication system in the Chin-Lushai country.
To supervise the maintenance of the roads was the
duty of the Military Police posted there. The impor-
tance of Aijal grew up after the formation of the
Lushai Hills district in 1898, but the communication
system of Fort Aijal was not so good as that of the

37. FPE(A), Sept.1892, No.32.
Fort Lungleh. But, with the improvement of the route from Silchar up the Dhaleswari river, the latter was opened to boats as far as the present Sairang Ghat, fourteen miles from Aijal. Between Sairang and Aijal a cart road was subsequently constructed. This lessened the cost of transporting rations and stores into Aijal, and Changsil ceased to exist as a post. Being the headquarters of the Lushai Hills Military Police Battalion, Aijal began to command the all other military posts in the Lushai Hills.

On the other hand, Lungleh which had the unique military strategy and which played the most vital role in subjugating the Lushais lost its former importance. Till 1895, this post was not merely the headquarters of the South Lushai Military Police Battalion, but was also the important centres of administration. Under the instruction of the Government of India, Lungleh was the frequent meeting place of the Officers of Chin Hills, North Lushai Hills and South Lushai Hills to discuss the Chin-Lushai problem. From the stand point of communication, this post became favourite of the authorities of Calcutta. It was the only post in the heart of the Lushai Hills where the army could be despatched easily, straight from Calcutta.

Fort Tregear, built before the Chin-Lushai expedition of 1889, was the most important of all the military posts. It earned an important military prestige in subjugating the Chin-Lushais. Located on the border of Chin Hills and South Lushai Hills,

40. Ibid.
this Fort was the sentry in the frontier of India and Burma. In 1892, it was burnt by an accidental fire but was rebuilt. Owing to the scarcity of water supply, Fort Tregear was reluctantly given up in 1898. A new post called South Vanlaiphai was selected and it was nine miles further east. The post of North Vanlaiphai was established in 1896. Champhai, on the east of Aijal, was also selected for an important post in 1898. But at an elevation of 6000 feet, this post had since been commanding strategic frontier of Assam and Burma. In the North Lushai Hills this is the most favourite of all the posts. 41

The oldest of all the military posts in the Lushai Hills was the post of Demagiri near the border of Chittagong Hill Tracts and South Lushai Hills. Originally, the post had been the old fort of the Lushai chief, Rutton Posa. 42 The Demagiri post served the purpose of the strong military base of the English since the Lushai Expedition of 1871-2. It witnessed a large number of diplomatic measures throughout the Anglo-Lushai relationship in the nineteenth century. In a sense, the post served as the gateway of the Lushai Hills. The creation of Pakistan and recently of Bangladesh disrupted the communication of Demagiri,

42. Ibid., August, 1872. No.1; Hankey to the officiating Secretary, Judicial Department, Government of Chittagong Hill Tracts.
but its importance has all the more increased because it is the last border post in the Indo-Bangladesh border.

After the Lushai Hills district was incorporated into the administration of Assam, the district came closer to the local authorities of Cachar. Silchar, thus, became the base of military supplies in the Lushai Hills. In the half-way of the Silchar-Aijal road, a new post called Kolasib was established. From the standpoint of transport, it assumed a tremendous importance. Like Demagiri, it became the gate of the Lushai Hills in the north. Another important outposts on the border of Burma were Darngon and Sharngan.

These military posts were the nerve centres of British administration in the Lushai Hills. In course of time, many of those military posts outlived their utility, but they were revived in times of emergency excepting Fort Tregear. In 1966, the armed rebellion in the Mizo Hills considerably altered the military strategy of this area. The regrouping of villages in the Mizo District in consequence of "Operation Security" undertaken recently by the Indian Army led to the establishment of entirely new posts and outposts, but the importance of the old military posts established by the English could never be outlived. Not only being the centre of administration, Fort Aijal and Fort Lungleh command the Indian Security Forces with confidence in a most sensitive frontier of Burma and Pakistan.