Cachar was surrounded by warlike tribal population in the Southern, Eastern, South-Eastern, North-Eastern and North-Western boundaries of the district. The Superintendents of Cachar were vested with the powers of Frontier Officer in Cachar. They were to deal with the tribals as Frontier Officer under the subordination of Colonel Lister, Political Agent of Cherapunji during 1832-53. The Political Agency of Cherapunji was abolished in 1854. Since then Superintendents of Cachar, having better knowledge of the spot, were vested with full independent powers as Political Agent and Frontier Officer. This enabled them to negotiate with and control the wild tribes scattered along the frontiers and to decide all disputes and other matters
connected with these ferocious tribes of Cachar frontier. This arrangement was made for the preservation of peace and order situation in Cachar.\(^1\)

All the Superintendents (1832-66) of Cachar from Thomas Fisher to R Stewart dealt with the Nagas, Kukis, Lushais, Khasis, Jaintias, Mikirs, Manipuris, to restore peace and order in Cachar. They provided with settlements, rewards, established military outposts, Ghats, maintained trade and matrimonial relations and sometimes undertook military operations against those warlike tribes of Cachar frontier. In this mission, Superintendents of Cachar succeeded in restoring peace and order in Cachar in all dimensions.\(^2\)

Thomas Fisher (1832-35) was the first Superintendent of Cachar. He followed a conciliatory policy towards the Manipuris, Nagas, Kukis, Lushais, Jaintias as Frontier Officer for the consolidation of this newly annexed Cachar District. He instituted the Cachar Levy in 1835 having headquarters at Silchar to keep watch over the Naga, Kuki and Lushai tribes of the frontier region of Cachar.\(^3\) He also provided settlements to the Naga and Kuki clans of Southern Hills in Lakhipur and Hill areas within Cachar along with financial support for their rehabilitation.\(^4\) Thomas Fisher established some Manipuri villages on the abandoned Lushai frontier of South to deal with the Lushai tribes in 1835.\(^5\) He maintained trade relation with the Nagas and Kukis of
Jiri frontier region ceded to Manipur in 1833. Police guards were stationed in the border of Manipur for the security of Cachar. Fisher restored 4 posts in Cachar having 65 men at Haritikar, Barkhola, Telyn, Udharbond and some guards were stationed in the border region of Cachar and Manipur. For instance, the guards at Badarpur consisting of one Subedar, three non-Commissioned Officers were restored to watch over the Manipuri feuds. (See Appendix - V). He also provided a monthly stipend of Rs. 500 to the Rajah of Manipur during 25 January, 1834 - 9 January, 1835 and Manipur was restored to its ruling dynasty by Thomas Fisher. Jaintia kingdom was annexed with Cachar in 1834. Since then, Fisher had to bear dual responsibility of 2 separate districts. He instructed the Darogah of Jaintiapur to furnish a small party of Barkandazes to protect the Rajbari of Jaintia Raja Rajndedra Singh. He also operated the detachment of Sylhet Light Infantry to deal with the frontier policy in Cachar.

J G Burns (1836-39) dealt with the warlike tribes - Manipuris, Nagas, Kukis, Khasis, Jaintias for the defence of Cachar frontier. He followed both conciliatory and forward policy towards these tribes of Cachar frontier. He provided settlement to some Manipuri families in Sonapur to the South-East and Jaffirbund to the South-West Frontier of Cachar. He also encouraged them to clear a considerable tract of land in the said frontier region granting advance money of Rs. 2636. This
arrangement was made to protect Cachar from frequent Kuki incursions.\textsuperscript{13}

Burns also provided settlement to the Nagas and Kukis.\textsuperscript{14} He appointed one qualified person having knowledge of Khasi Language at a monthly salary of Rs. 4 to deal the Khasi Hills problem and matrimonial relation between Bengali and Jaintias was allowed as per Jaintia custom.\textsuperscript{15} He also favoured the transfer of Jaintia to Sylhet.\textsuperscript{16} The Nagas and Kukis were arrested through military operations and sent to Sylhet Jail by him.\textsuperscript{17}

E R Lyons (1839-49) also dealt with the Kukis, Manipuris, Jaintias of Cachar frontier through trade and commerce, providing settlements and stationing police post in the border region of Cachar.\textsuperscript{18}

Lyons engaged a guard house of 1 Havildar, 1 Naik and 12 Sepahis at Bundraj to protect Kuki in roads in Cachar. But the Kuki incursions being subsided, trade relation was maintained between Kukis of Manipur and Bengalis of Cachar.\textsuperscript{19} Subsequently, the Kukis settled themselves in Lakhipur Bazar of Cachar.\textsuperscript{20} He maintained trade relation with the Manipuris through the permit ghat at the mouth of Jiri river.\textsuperscript{21}

He also made attempt to suppress the Manipuri princes in Cachar under the Sylhet Light Infantry stationed at Silchar for their frequent disturbances upon the royal throne of Manipur.\textsuperscript{22} So, the
young *Rajah* and his mother accompanied by 30 to 40 followers were provided with shelter and security in 1844 engaging one *Havildar's* party. Next *Rajah* and *Rani* were sent to Faridpur under a guard from Sylhet Light Infantry for their security. Lyons also maintained commercial ties with the Jaintias for mineral resource - iron which was not available in Cachar.

G Verner (1847-57) dealt with the Lushais, Kukis, Nagas, Manipuris who frequently created a situation of potential danger in the Cachar frontier.

Verner suppressed the raids made by the Lushais of southern frontier in 1849 under Colonel Lister. In 1850, strong Kuki Levy of 200 was raised from the local Kukis of Cachar. Outposts were set up along southern frontier of Cachar. So, the Lushai Chief Sukpilal arrived at Silchar in 1850 to establish peace with Cachar authority. Verner established Scout establishments in 1850 in expense of Rs. 48 per month to watch over the Lushai Kukis.

G Verner gave muskets to the people of Udharbond to protect themselves from Naga attacks. The Nagas came down to Udharbond for trade in 1851 but Nagas and Lushais were forbidden from trading at the *ghats* of Cachar. He also realised House Tax of 1 Rs. per house per annum from 113 villages of Naga, Kuki, Cacharis and the Nagas of Badripar were protected from Kuki Levy.
G Verner dealt with the Manipuri princes settled in Cachar through military operations and recruited police force at Lakhipur. The instigator to attack Manipur were imprisoned at Cachar jail and advocated for the increase of jail guard. Silchar-Banskandi road was repaired in 1853 to conduct Cachar-Manipur trade via Jiri frontier. Finally Barak was made the eastern boundary of Cachar and Manipur.31

R Stewart (1857-66) was the last Superintendent and first Deputy Commissioner of Cachar. He, for the restoration of peace and order in Cachar, followed a conciliatory policy towards the Kukis, Lushais, Manipuris, Khasis, Nagas, Jaintias, Mikirs, Barmans, Tripuris who resided around the frontiers of Cachar. He opened markets, police outposts, roads, provided appointment, Kuki Levy and establishment was enlarged for the defence of this district from these warlike tribals of Cachar frontier.32

R Stewart proposed the augmentation of Kuki Levy from 200 to 640 with an additional establishment at an extra pay of Rs. 105 and advocated for the withdrawal of existing Detachment of Sylhet Light Infantry Battalion.33

The Lushai-Kukis were being found peaceful, R Stewart abolished the Scout establishment prevalent during his predecessor G Verner.34 Accordingly, Lushai-Kukis were appointed as sepoy on
payment of Rs. 50 each during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 in Cachar. R Stewart shifted the Kukis in the plains and formed a tribal ring around Cachar. He also established Lushai Hat and Lakhipur Bazar for their use. He followed appeasement policy towards Lushai-Kukis for the protection of tea tracts of Cachar and opened some roads for making military operations against them. He also appointed Nagas and Kukis in tea gardens of Cachar for the clearance of jungles at a monthly salary of Rs. 9 of the Lakhipur region and trade relation was maintained to fulfil their needs. R Stewart did not accept the proposal made by J Davidson, Superintendent of Cachar Tea Company, for the remittance of House Tax upon the Nagas and Kukis to serve in the tea gardens of Cachar.

Police personnel were placed on the Jaintai frontier to oppose the Khasi disturbances in Cachar. Mikirs were rewarded for seizing runaway tea labours at Rs. 5 each by the Tea planters from the Court Compound of Cachar. This system was not accepted by R Stewart.

R Stewart placed strong guards and police posts on the frontier region of Cachar to oppose Manipuri inroads into Cachar. He established a police station at Lakhipur in 1858 to watch upon the Manipuris in the frontier of Cachar. R Stewart also maintained trade relation with Manipur and imported Baffaloes, Cows, Ponies from Manipur and amicable relation was maintained with them.
Thus, all the Superintendents of Cachar (1832-66) as Frontier Officers dealt with the Nagas, Kukis, Manipuris, Lushais, Jaintias, Khasis, Kikirs etc. of Cachar frontier tactfully. They succeeded in restoring peace and order where the Cachari Rajahs failed to maintain peaceful situation in pre-colonial era. This was the need of the hour to derive maximum benefit of peaceful situation. That would provide the extra mileage to the foreign rule economically because unless peace at the frontier was restored trade and commerce would not thrive.

When we will examine the major rays of the spectrum in the concluding Chapter 8 this extra mileage of the British rule will be crystal clear.

NOTES AND REFERENCES


   Letters Received from Govt. (Duplicate copy), Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August.


   Letters Received from Govt. (Duplicate Copy), Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August.

   1839, BGP, File No. 393, Letter No. 125 of 1838.

   CR, Nos. 91, 100 of 1837, 204 of 1841, 78 of 1843, 34 of 1845.


*FPP, 1832, July 23, Nos. 64-66.*

7. *Letters Received from Govt. (Duplicate copy), Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August, Nos. 33-40.*


"Jaintia was annexed (1834) and tagged to the administration of Cachar. Thomas Fisher (1832-35), the first Superintendent was designated as the Superintendent of Cachar and Jaintia." *(Suhas Chatterjee, *A Socio-Economic History of South Assam*, Jaipur, 2000, p. 185).*


"In addition to the uncleared lands in the vicinity of old Talooks, there are vast tracts of country to the SE and SW of this, detached from any of the non-cultivated country bearing the traces of once having been thickly inhabited and highly cultivated, the soil specially of the former in SE portion is by far the finest in Cachar, to clear these effectually however would require European energy and capital, the return however would be both certain and remunerative, much has been done in this way by the two Raj Koours Triboonjeet Singh and Pubitter
Singh who aided by advances from Government have settled many Families and cleared much jungle, the Jumnah in Jaffirbund to the SW and the latter in Sonapur to the SE of this and their locations on these borders have been of most material benefit as a protection to our more inland Talooks from the predatory incursions of the Kookees.” (1839, BGP, File No. 393, Letter No. 387, 17th September, 1837).

“The Rajkooar Perbettur Singh, with the aid of advances from Government has cleared a considerable tract on our SE Frontier and established many Munneepur Families there, there are a great protection from the incursions of the Kookee savages who in former times committed sad havoc since the Munneepuries have been settled there, no incursions have taken place, since his clearings have been assessed at the usual rate, Perbittur Sing has repeatedly remonstrated with me on their being so high and in the event of their not being altered, he is ready after paying up arrears to tender his Estuffa indeed I may say he has already done so—and I have only put him off in the hope that some amelioration would take place were be to give up this tract, the advantage of a secure frontier would be lost and a fine reclaimed country would again run to jungle. The same result may be expected in our South Western Frontier, where the Rajkooar Tribunjeet Singh has made extensive clearings, his rent free terms has not yet expired.” (1839, BGP, File No. 393, Letter No. 125 of January, 1838).

14. CR, Nos. 91, 100 of 1837).


17. Ibid, Nos. of 212 of 1839, 78 of 1843.


19. Ibid., No. 16 of 1840.

“The Rajahs who paid me a visit never set foot on the plains of Cachar until the present invasion and they evinced a considerable desire to trade with the Bangalees, when I pointed out to them the advantages they were likely to reap by
exchanging the produce of their hills for commodities obtainable here." (CR, No. 34 of 1845.).

20. Ibid., No. 22 of 1847.

21. Ibid., No. 82 of 1843.

22. Ibid., No. 470 of 1842.

23. Ibid., Nos. 13, 15, 116 of 1844.

24. Ibid., No. 204 of 1841.

25. Ibid., Nos. 57, 157 of 1852.

   W J Allen, op. cit., p. 10.

   B C Allen, op. cit., p. 36.


   "Friendly relations were formed by degrees with Sookpilal’s people, messages and presents were frequently exchanged and when tea gardens were first established in Cachar the Looshais from time to time came down and worked upon them, while traders and wood cutters from Cachar made annual visits into their country." (BJP, 5 February, 1851, Nos. 86-87).


28. CR, Nos. 66, 144 of 1851.

   Letters No. 50 of 1857 (DCRRS).

30. CR, No. 21 of 1853.

W J Allen, _op. cit._, p. 21.


31. CR, Nos. 52, 157, 179 of 1852, 11, 12, 21, 158 of 1853.

32. _Book No. 8A, Letter Nos. 5, 14, 17 of 1862 (DCRRS)._  

_Books No. 22, Letter No. 85 of 1866 (DCRRS)._  


Suhas Chatterjee, _op. cit._, pp. 11, 20, 68.

33. _Letter No. 50 of 1857 (DCRRS)._  

Lieutenant Stewart has proposed to withdraw the Sylhet Light Infantry Battalion, now on duty at Cachar, to augment the Kookie Levy from 200 to 640 men and to entrust the defence of the Province to the Kookie Levy thus augmented, which is to be placed under the command of the Superintendent or of his Assistant.

If it be determined to retain the Kookie Levy on its present footing, the increase noted on the margin, is absolutely necessary to enable it to perform its duties with moderate efficiency.

Staff pay for a Havildar Major Rs. 8 per monsum.  
Ten Naiks, at 7 Rs. 8 As. each " 75 "  "  
Four Buglers, at 5 Rs. 8 As each " 22 "  "  

Total increase Rs. 105 "  "

(W J Allen, _op. cit._, pp. 38-40.)

34. _Ibid._, p. 10.

_Book No. 8A, Letter No. 5 of 1862 (DCRRS)._

36. Suhas Chatterjee, *op. cit.*, p. 11.


   *Judl. Proceedings, April, 1862, Nos. 432-435*


38. DCF, *Cachar Papers*, File No. 67, Nos. 100, 242 of 1865.


40. Book No. 14, Letter No. 6 of 1858 (DCRRS)


42. *Judl. PV, November, 1864, Book No. 75, Proceeding No. 99 of 1864.*


45. Letter No. 50 of 1857 (DCRRS).