

**THE ZAKKA KHEL
AND
MOHMAND EXPEDITIONS.**

COMPILED AND EDITED

BY

C. V. MILES, EDITOR, *Punjab Times.*

*Being a detailed account of the Field
Operations against these tribes and
containing both the official and press*

VERSION OF THE EXPEDITIONS,

ALSO GIVING

A List of the Casualties, and
recommendations for rewards, &c, made

BY

SIR JAMES WILLCOCKS,

K. C. M. G., C. B., D. S. O.

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BY KIND PERMISSION

This little Volume is Dedicated

BY THE AUTHOR ~~(35)~~

To that distinguished and Gallant Commander

EUT.-GENL SIR JAMES WILLCOCKS,

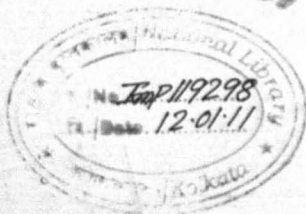
K. C. M. G., C. B., D. S. O.,

whose name is a household word among all ranks
and to whose able and Brilliant Command is
due the rapid and successful termination
of the two expeditions herein dealt with.



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PREFACE.

In April 1908 there was some question whether there would be a rising in the Mohmand land. This question was more subjected to criticism owing to the fact of General Sir James Willecocks having quelled the Zakkha Khel affair only a couple of months before. It might be remembered that our tribes on the frontier which might be classed as "No man's land" did create a disturbance by a raid on Peshawar city, in which a wealthy Hindu Banker and others in British territory lost considerably.

Sir Harold Deane, at that time Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Provinces gave the tribal leaders every chance of coming to a friendly meeting. He invited every one of them to a *Jirgah* which he held at Peshawar.

At that *Jirgah* he was distinctly and plainly told, by all the representatives of "no man's land," that they would use and bring their influence to bear on all tribes except the Zakka Khels. They put forward as a plea that the Zakka Khel tribe were a formidable weapon. They said that they would and were in a position to bring all the other tribes to subjection, but they feared the Zakka Khels.

However, as the assembly at Sir Harold Deane's *Jirgah* brought no satisfactory success, it was decided by Sir Harold Deane to send an expedition into their land. As a natural consequence the wires were resorted to. Messages were exchanged between Sir Harold and the foreign office. The result was that when Sir Harold handed over his Civil powers to the Military, Sir James Willecocks, the General Officer Commanding, Peshawar Division at the time, took charge. In thirty six hours time, a magnificent assembly, of the North West Frontier Troops was mobilised, they advanced into the territories of the Zakka Khels and as Sir James Willecocks thought at that time, the expedition was brought to a close in fourteen days. The Field Force mobilized was of a gigantic nature, but no use was made of the greater portion of it which was garrisoned at Nowshera.

This quietness was however to remain but for two brief months; and shortly after the withdrawal of our troops another raid on Peshawar city and other parts of British Territory were perpetrated by the Afridis, which forced us into a subsequent expedition in April into the Mohmand country. It is of these two expeditions, that this little volume is confined to. And in its pages we have attempted to give both the official account and the Press accounts as telegraphed by correspondents.

We have been very careful to include in it all the engagements that the various units have taken part in both the expeditions, and we trust, that we have achieved one great object of being fair to every one.

With this preface we put the volume before our readers

RAWALPINDI, 25th January 1909

C. V. MILES.

INTRODUCTION.

The Zakka Khel Expedition.

At the request of many of the military readers of our newspaper the *Punjab Times* we have decided to print this little volume giving both the official version, and also a reprint of all the important press messages that appeared at the time of the Zakka Khel and Mohmand Expeditions which operated on the frontier in the earlier months of last year.

From the published official report of Sir James Willcocks, K. C. M. G., C. B., D. S. O., Commanding the Bazar Valley Field Force, to The Chief of the Staff, Army Head Quarters, Calcutta, we are able to give to our readers the following introductory particulars of the operations of the Field Force in the Zakka Khel Expedition which was under the command of that distinguished General.

From Sir James' report, it appears that he received telegraphic orders from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the 3rd February 1908, which informed him that a punitive Expedition against the Zakka Khel Afridis had been approved by the Secretary of State for India. He was asked to keep the matter secret and to so arrange that within a few days the troops which were to form the Expeditionary force should be ready to move at once on the orders for an advance being issued. He also received written instructions which gave a general idea of what was to be done; with detailed orders for the composition of the force and a scheme of operations as a guide up to the time the troops entered the country of the Zakka Khel.

The following were the strengths:—

FIRST BRIGADE.

1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment,
53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force), 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force),
3rd Battalion, 5th Gurkhas (Frontier Force).

SECOND BRIGADE.

1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders,
28th Punjabis,
45th Sikhs,
54th Sikhs (Frontier Force).

THIRD BRIGADE (IN RESERVE).

1st Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers,
23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery (Frontier Force),
1st Battalion, 6th Gurkha Rifles,
55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force).

DIVISIONAL TROOPS.

- 2 Squadrons, 19th Lancers.
- 2 Squadrons, 37th Lancers.
- 23rd Sikh Pioneers.
- 25th Punjabis.
- No. 3 Mountain Battery, R. G. A.
- 4 Guns, 22nd Derajat Mountain Battery.
- No. 6 Company, 1st Sappers and Miners.
- No. 9 Company 2nd Sappers and Miners.
- Attached 800 Khyber Rifles.

Later on, General Sir James Willcocks received instructions to be ready to move forward from Peshawar as soon as the Chief Commissioner, North West Frontier Province had interviewed the Afridi Jirgahs which had meantime been ordered to assemble there.

During the few days remaining all the railway transport, supply medical and other arrangements, were completed mostly by verbal orders, and in communication with the General Officer Commanding Rawalpindi Division, the troops and followers from this division which were to form part of the field force were held in readiness.

As is well known in Rawalpindi, up to the last moment secrecy was maintained and not until within a few hours of starting were all ranks of the advanced troops equipped with field service clothing. In fact everyone thought, that there were going to be big manœuvres and no one suspected an expedition.

On the 12th February the Chief Commissioner, North West Frontier Province interviewed the Afridi Jirgahs. This same afternoon troops began to move forward and the next day the picquets in the Khyber Pass were taken over by detachments of the Field force; and line of communication posts were established at Jamrud and Ali Musjid. Half a battalion 5th Gurkhas marching to Landi Kotal. During the 12th February the 2nd Brigade from Nowshera and other troops from outside the 1st Division area arrived by road or rail at Peshawar, and the force which was to make the first advance was completed. The troops moving from the above two stations being at once replaced by the Reserve Brigade which arrived by train. On the 13th February the 1st and 2nd Brigades, and Divisional Troops left Peshawar and bivouacked at Jamrud. No tents were carried and all officers were on half field service scale of baggage. On the 14th February the Force moved to Lala China near Ali Musjid.

Sir James Willcocks felt convinced, considering the quiet way in which the force had been mobilized, and how little was even known of its departure from Peshawar that by a rapid march into the centre of Bazar he should not only morally surprise the enemy but forestall

them in any of the positions they might have selected to defend. Accordingly at dawn on the 15th February the following troops under the command of Major-General Barrett C.B., left Lala China, Sir James accompanying the divisional staff of this column:—No. 3 Mountain Battery, Seaforth Highlanders, 28th Punjabis, 43th Sikhs, 54th Sikhs, Wing 2-5th Gurkhas and No. 6 Company Sappers and Miners.

Excepting a very small proportion of water, ambulance, and other necessary mules, no transport accompanied this advance, and officers and men carried three days rations on the person.

The route taken was by Chora in Malikdin country. The strong fort belonging to Yar Mahomed Khan at this place was occupied by troops from General Anderson's brigade which moved from Ali Musjid this same day. No opposition was met with until after passing Chora when the Zakkas began firing on the advanced guard near Tanda Tangi. Only one casualty occurred, a gunner of the 3rd Mountain Battery being wounded.

It was getting late now and a position for the night was selected. The Seaforth Highlanders swarmed up Khan Ghundai, a steep hill 1000 feet above the bivouac and established themselves in Sangars on the summit. During the night one Highlander and 1 Sepoy of the 28th Punjabis were killed both in the picquets. The Highlanders also had an officer and 4 men struck by rocks hurled from close quarters into the Sangars. The Zakkas lost three killed and seven wounded on Seaforth's hill.

General Sir James then goes on to report that thus within twelve hours of leaving the Khyber, two columns had established themselves in the heart of the Zakka country.

On the 16th February the advanced camp was moved up the Walai Stream. Here the telephone apparatus of the Peshawar division was set up and proved most useful. Head Quarters being connected with the two Brigades and all important picquets rendering immediate communication safe and easy.

Before day break on the 18th February a column under Major-Genl. Barrett moved out to destroy the towers and enclosures at China. With the Divisional Staff Sir James accompanied this column whose strength was Seaforth Highlanders, No. 3 Mountain Battery, 54th Sikhs, 5th Gurkhas, 23rd Pioneers and No. 6 Company Sappers and Miners.

The Seaforths and Gurkhas moved by Sarmundo and Khwar, and covered by the Mountain Guns occupied the hills north of China. Lieut Macfadyen of the Seaforths was mortally wounded in this advance.

After destroying the main towers the column began returning to camp and the Zakkas at once closed in on the rear guard and flanks. Many Zakkas were here placed *hors-de-combat*. On the 21st February General Willcocks moved with two columns under command of Generals Barrett and Anderson, keeping a squadron of the 37th

Lancers with him in case an opportunity for employment of cavalry presented itself. The following comprised the columns:—

BARRETT'S COLUMN.

3rd Mountain Battery, 500 Seaforths, 28th Punjabis, 4 Companies, 54th Sikhs, 500 Khyber Rifles.

ANDERSON'S COLUMN.

22nd Mountain Battery, No. 9 Company Sappers and Miners, 400 Warwicks, 500 of 5th Gurkhas, 53rd Sikhs, 59th Rifles.

The 28th Punjabis of Barrett's Brigade occupied the China heights soon after daylight and held them during the day to cover the retirement. The Khyber Rifles and No. 6 Company Sappers, moved by the Bazar Nala and destroyed the towers of Kago Kamar. The Seaforths occupied the Saran hills and kept the enemy to the South and West of Halwai. After destroying the stacks of timber in Halwai the force commenced its return march. It was whilst gallantly directing his rearmost companies at this stage of the fight that Major the Hon'ble Forbes-Sempill, Seaforth Highlanders was killed.

On the night of the 22nd the tribesmen tried the effects of sniping from several directions simultaneously, but although they wounded a Sergeant of the Warwickshire their own casualties are reported to have been a good deal heavier.

During the afternoon of the 23rd February the first of the Afridi Jirgahs arrived in camp and asked for terms and mercy for the Zakka Khel and expressed their eagerness and ability to deal with them in the future. Sir James Willcocks gave them 48 hours to complete these arrangements and they all left for Halwai. Operations were then suspended for that period.

On the 27th February the combined Afridi Jirgahs about 1100 men including 300 Zakka Khels arrived at China from Halwai with white flags. Lieut. Colonel Ross-Keppel, Chief Political officer went out alone half way to China to meet them and conducted them into camp.

The next day Sir James held a public jirgah at which they presented a petition. They deposited 53 rifles of English manufacture as a guarantee of keeping their promise to punish the individual raiders and begged that the Zakka Khels might be spared; undertaking to hold themselves responsible for the conduct of the tribe in future. These terms in Sir James Willcocks' opinion having more than satisfied the demands of government, he accepted them and a formal agreement was drawn up and signed by 322 Chiefs and Elders, representing all the Afridi tribes including the Zakka Khel. Secret orders were then issued for the entire force to leave the Bazar Valley at dawn on the 29th. At daylight on the 29th Feb. the troops began to leave for Ali Musjid, and from the time they left China till their arrival in British India not a shot was fired by the Zakkas.

PRESS MESSAGES.

A magnificent account of the Zakka Khel Expeditionary Force as they entered the Khyber pass on their way to Ali Musjid appeared at the time in the columns of our paper the *Punjab Times*. We give an extract of it. It runs as follows.

Operations against the Zakka Khels actually commenced on the 12th February with the departure from Rawalpindi of the 25th Punjabis, No. 3 Mountain Battery, No. 9 Company Queens own Sappers and Miners and the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Thus the first move against the Zakka Khel practically begun, and with the despatch of all the mule cadres excepting two, Arsenal equipment over three hundred Million rounds of ammunition, Supply and Transport and a large number of Supply and Transport men, there is no doubt that the move across the border could be made at any moment.

That such a large body of troops as will concentrate at Nowshera and Peshawar should ever take place leads many to believe that some grave obstacles are to be expected.

It was at the time predicted that there would be a general rising not only of the Zakka Khels, but also their more formidable neighbours the Sepah Khels, Kaka Khels, Kamba Khels, Malikdin Khels and Kamal Khels. If all these tribes did, as it was at the time feared, combine, their number would have amounted to over thirty thousand. In that case the magnitude of the war that would be cut out for the expeditionary force would have been much greater and more difficult than was at first anticipated. The duration of the expedition might have run into six or eight months instead of merely a fourteen days affair.

The scene on the Railway line between Peshawar and Jamrud the entrance of the Khyber was nothing but one of martial activity. Trains running hourly between the two places, Peshawar itself was in a state of excitement and the roads and streets, barracks and offices was one display of *kakhi* every where, soldiers were every day sent on to Jamrud the Fort on the India side of the Khyber pass.

The following account which appeared in the *Punjab Times* of the 15th February gives exactly the state of excitement in Peshawar at the time, and also the composition of the expeditionary force:—

The latest news from Peshawar go to show, that never before for a long time, in the annals of the history of Peshawar has such a huge camp as that which has sprung up at Peshawar, been seen. Troops are still marching into Peshawar from Nowshera. The great encampment on Thursday morning included the 1st Seaforth Highlanders, 29th Punjabis, 54th Sikhs, 45th Sikhs and a number of British and Native field hospitals. Their march from Nowshera to Peshawar with innumerable horses and donkeys, tents, mess kits, ammuni-

tion, etc., followed by the Supply and Transport Corp and Mule Corps, was indeed a most imposing spectacle. As this great cavalcade marched into Peshawar, quite a number of the residents of the city turned out to see them. They encamped for the night and early on Friday morning many of the regiments proceeded to Jamrud, on the eve of their departure onwards to the hills behind that *Kakhi* which is the Indian fort this side of the Khyber, to take part in the more exciting game of real warfare, which has perhaps, by this time begun.

The following comprise the expeditionary force against the Zakka Khel Afridis:—The first Brigade consists of the 1st Royal Warwickshire regiment 53rd Sikhs, 59th Scinde Rifles, 2nd 5th Gurkhas and No. 3 Mountain Battery from Rawalpindi. The second Brigade is made up of the 1st Seaforth Highlanders, 28th Punjabis, 54th Sikhs and No. 22 Mountain Battery. The third Brigade which is now held in reserve at Nowshera comprise the 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers from Rawalpindi, 23rd Mountain Battery, 1st 5th Gurkhas, 55th Coke's Rifles. The Divisional troops and line of communication—2 Squadrons 37th Lancers, No. 6 and No. 9 Companies Sappers and Miners.

The following is the staff detailed for the expedition. Sir James Willcocks Commands the Force. Lieutenant Langhorne, A. D. C., Chief Staff Officer General H. Mullaly; Signalling Officer Captain Whatman—First Brigade Staff Brigadier General Anderson, Brigade Major, Capt. A. James; Second Brigade, G. O. C., Major General A. Barrett, Brigade Major Captain H. Norman; Third Brigade, G. O. C. Major General H. Watkins; Lieutenant-Colonel A. Dick, 2nd Cavalry has been appointed Base Commandant and Major H. R. Blore, Kings Royal Rifles as D. A. A., and Quarter Master General.

A Jirga which has probably for a very long time not been held in Peshawar was held on Thursday by Sir Harold Deane the Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Province. It commenced with a meeting at the Victoria Hall where the Chief Commissioner met over two hundred Afridis the meeting was private so that it is difficult to give what actually transpired, but it would appear that Sir Harold had placed before the assembly the views of the Government regarding the Zakka Khels of which tribe no representative was present. He said that Government wanted the Afridis to use their influence to keep back the Zakka Khels from incursions on our borders. The Afridis it is said explained that although the other border tribes were in the main friendly to the British, the Zakka Khels were powerful tribes and hard men so that the Afridis could not promise one way or the other. The meeting is said to have broken up with no successful event. Reports current in Peshawar assert that the Zakka Khels refuse to give up five outlaws whom they have amongst them, and that they will not accede to other demands made of them.

Troops coming into Peshawar are daily being entrained off to Jamrud.

On Friday morning a regiment of Gurkhas from Abbottabad, another of Sikhs from Nowshera, and about 750 men of the 25th Punjabis from Rawalpindi besides a large number of men of the Supply and Transport Corps were sent on to Jamrud. They were despatched in two trains and had full military equipment. The men appeared quite happy and gay with the prospects of fighting.

Four hundred men of the 2nd 5th Gurkhas under Major Lucas left on Wednesday morning from Peshawar to Jamrud. The road from Peshawar to

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Jamrud is one continuous line of the horses with mounted escorts conveying provisions. Between Jamrud fort and the hills the ground is dotted with tents. The telegraph department are most conspicuous with their wire and baggage. In what part the troops concentrated will begin their operations is not yet known, but their base will certainly be Jamrud. Further particulars state that many troops have gone on to the front but their destination is at present secret.

The departure of the expedition against Zakka Khels has now been definitely announced. The special correspondent to the *Civil and Military Gazette* telegraphs a most descriptive account to that paper. The correspondent says under date February 13th to-day has been a busy one for the troops are being pushed on to the front. To one who like myself has been in the thick of matters, who has gone along hot—and dusty roads, with men on the march, there remains a confused recollection of many perspiring soldier, British and natives, strings of donkeys laden with baggage of all descriptions, men and beasts struggling through thick and heavy clouds of the dust, often stony tracks, across a ceaseless plain with always the grim perspective of the hills some of which are tantalisingly capped with snow. But this seeming confusion, this apparent muddle of men and animals on analysis becomes an orderly progress. To sort it out it is necessary to begin with the huge camp which sits down on the Peshawar parade ground yesterday evening. It was composed of the first and second Brigades which were made up as follows first Brigade under Command of Brigadier General Anderson, who had Captain Traver as Staff Officer, Lieutenant Forbes as Orderly Officer and two other Officers one of whom acted as Gholper; 1st Warwickshire regiment, 53rd Sikhs, 59th Scinde Rifles 23rd Sikh Pioneers, a Native Mountain Battery and the 5th Coy 1st Sappers and Miners, 2nd Brigade under General Barrett; Seaforth Highlanders, 45th Sikhs, 28th Punjabis and half Company of the 2-5th Gurkhas. The other half Company, of British Mountain Battery and a Company of Sappers and Miners entrained yesterday for Jamrud. This was the large force which in one night changed the whole parade ground into a martial town of tents, with its herd of horses, bullocks, and camels and this was the last night on which men lay down with the certainty of a whole nights unbroken rest. Early on Thursday morning the reveille sounded and the business of the formation of the marching order was undertaken by nine o'clock. It is believed that there are already large encampments at Ali Musjid, Landi Kotal, and Landikana. Whether the Troops are yet in Bazar Valley is not known, but there is a strong feeling that fighting has a ready commenced. The third brigade mobilized at Rawalpindi is expected in Peshawar on Monday and include the Munsters, the 1st, 6th and 2nd 6th Gurkhas and 25th Punjabis.

The main body of the Division consisted of two Infantry Brigades and Divisional Troops of all arms which bivouacked together at Peshawar and marched away quietly at dawn with Transport and supplies required for the expedition. Their places were automatically filled by units of the reserve brigade which railed behind the main concentration. Simultaneously the main troops moved forward from Jamrud taking up necessary positions in the Khyber Pass and sending an advance column by a rapid march to Landi Kotal.

Thus within twenty four hours of the order to move the main line of the communication of thirty miles leading to the principal gates of the Bazar Valley had been occupied by the troops of the field force. The celerity with which the movement had been carried out proved the wisdom of preparing in peace for the practical requirements of war. The *Malliks* of other sections of the tribes, presented themselves before the General Officer Commanding in Camp on Saturday and said that the movements of the troops were unexpectedly rapid.

The spirit of the troops that left Peshawar was excellent and most enthusiastic.

After the departure of the troops from Peshawar, and the rush and tramp of soldiers on march there was a general quietness.

A detachment of the Gurkhas of the third brigade garrisoned the station.

The force is in excellent touch with its base. The telegraph line from Jamrud to Landi Kotal has been considerably strengthened, here and there a group of men in the *kakhi* uniform of the Telegraph department attending to wires and inspecting posts. The 28th Punjabis and Seaforth Highlander are now at Landi Kotal. Telegraph communication has been set up from the heights of the Khyber to Landi Kotal—and other Commanding peaks of the Mountains, and messages are now flashed from block house to block house.

After writing on the lines of communication between those block houses the Special correspondent to "Civil and Military Gazette" most graphically describes his incursion into the Khyber pass eight miles beyond Jamrud. The correspondent says:— "As I have said Ali Musjid was unable to reach, but I climbed up the hill overlooking the Valley and saw the mystery of the explained. There they were or at least some of them for many of the troops must have gone even further than this point. There they were hundreds of little brown specks jumping here and there, sometimes in ones or twos and threes and often in clusters. The mounted officer was easily described, because he formed rather a larger speck and now and then the sun would flash on his accoutrements. At the further end of the valley close against the strongly fortified block houses at Ali Musjid was a large body of troops while at the near end the gorge leading into it implied itself of a continuous stream of camels, mules and bullock waggons. I learnt that many troops had already been pushed further than this point, and that fighting would not yet commence.

Owing to some unknown reason the Gordon Highlanders departure for Calcutta which should have been last Sunday has been indefinitely put off and it is said in some quarters that the reason of their detention is due to the probability of the regiment being sent to the front. Both officers and men of the corps are most enthusiastic at the news, as they all are most eager to take part in the expedition.

The following is the official summary of the despatch issued to-day by the Army Head-Quarters:—General Willcocks left Lala China in the Khyber at daybreak on the 15th instant with General Barretts Brigade and half the 2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkhas the 3rd Mountain Battery and a detachment of No. 6 Company, Suppers and Miners; all ranks carried 3 days' rations on their person. This force crossed the Alack Ghar and arrived at Walei near China in the Bazar Valley the rear guard arriving at 7 p.m. After passing the Tsa Khum which is a Malikdin Khel outpost in the Bazar Valley on the summit of a steep overlooking the Bazar Tihji firing commenced on the left flank of the march.

The left flank picquets were engaged after this the whole way into camp was covered by the fire of the guns of the 3rd Mountain Battery, but everything tends to show that the force was not expected in the Bazar Valley until the 16th and that the Zakka Khels were taken by surprise and did not have time to occupy their strongest positions on the hill above Walai called Khargundai which is now held by the picquets of the Seaforth's. Up till 8 p.m. the 15th the only casualty reported was No. 22834 Gunner H. Salter No. 3 Mountain Battery dangerously wounded in the chest on the night of the 15th. Most of General Anderson's Brigade was at Chora in the Bazar Valley in occupation of the fort and village with half a battalion holding Chota Kotai.

The Field Force above described then concentrated beyond Ali Musjid and crossed the passes. Small resistance was anticipated, and the passes were cleared.

The following despatch regarding the Frontier was issued in Calcutta on the 17th February:—

The following despatch about the frontier is issued this evening:—Lieutenant-Colonel Roos-Keppel reached China in Bazar Valley on the night of the 15th February without opposition, but his picquets were fired on during the night. He reports no casualties up to 11 a.m. on the 17th. General Willcocks joined hands with Lieutenant-Colonel Roos-Keppel's Column on the 16th and moved his camp near to China that day. On the 16th, the 45th Battery's Sikhs which formed part of the escort for a large convoy marching from Chora to China whilst picquetting the hills close to China were attacked by the enemy in some considerable strength. General Willcocks ordered the 45th to take the hill on which the enemy were posted, supporting them by the Seaforth Highlanders 2 guns of No. 3 Mountain Battery and the 22nd Derajat Mountain Battery. The hill was carried with following casualties:—Subadar Sangur (Sangar) Singh, 45th Sikhs, Mal Singh, 45th Sikhs, both dangerously wounded. The wing of the 2-5th Gurkhas that marched in with General Willcocks was ordered by him on the 15th to hold a commanding hill on his line of communication. The Gurkhas were sniped that night but reported only a few mules wounded. No. 4512 sepoy Khaja Mahomed, 26th Punjabis has died of his wounds.

Following news about frontier issued by Army Head Quarters this morning:—On the night of the 16th, there was desultory firing into General Willcocks camp at China but no casualties. On the morning of the 17th his picquets reported that there were a body of about 300 men moving amongst the hills near China and building *Sangors*. They were dispersed by a few shells.

At 6 p.m. on the 17th, the column with General Willcocks was in camp east of China. No further casualties had been reported up to that hour.

There is no doubt that the Home Government were very reluctant to sanction the expedition, but viewing the situation at the moment in the same light as experienced frontier officials would have done, they eventually came to the conclusion that a punitive expedition was necessary.

The tact and reticence of Lord Kitchener, the Commander-in-Chief in India, is really worthy of note. So much so in deed, that His Excellency, at this moment, excluded Press correspondents in accompanying the expedition.

At this news the, Central News Agency at Simla, took up the question, and after discussing, the necessity of these correspondents, it was decided at home that Press correspondents should be allowed to accompany the Field Force, but that their reports should be subjected to censorship by the General Officers Commanding Brigades.

The Mobilization of the Zakka Khel Field Force at Rawalpindi, was really marvellous; but, we are not at the present moment concerned, with that. Everyone knows, how troops were ready in this station at twelve hours notice. At the time we gave a very true and interesting account as much as it relied in our power to do of the various regiments who were for the front.

TOWERS OF CHINA DESTROYED REPEATED ATTACKS BY ZAKKA KHELS.

CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.

Calcutta, Feb. 19.—The following news about the frontier is issued to-day. On the night of the 18th General Willcocks' Camp East of China in the Bazar Valley was again fired into. However authentic information was received that during the night firing on the 15th instant Seaforth Highlanders picquets had wounded Dadai the leader of the recent raids into the British territory, besides killing 3 and wounding 7 others of the enemy. On the morning of the 19th General Willcocks' accompanied a mixed column under the command of General Barrett and destroyed the fortified towers, of China. On leaving to return to camp the column was persistently attacked by the Zakka Khels, During morning there were 3 Officers and 8 men hit.

The following is the list of casualties:—

Seaforth Highlanders. 2nd Lieutenant F. C. Macfadyen (unattached list) dangerously wounded, gunshot wound in the abdomen; No. 9274 Private J. Eathen Seaforth Highlanders severe gunshot wound left forearm.

No. 3 Mountain Battery, Lieutenant J. F. King slight gunshot wound in the foot; Lieutenant P. A. F. W. Beckett, slight gunshot wound right hand; No. 11002 sergeant F. Pounds, severe gunshot wound left ankle. No. 33589 Gunner E. Mitchell More slight gunshot wound right hand. No. 5953 Gunner T. Simpson, (No. 3 Mountain Battery) slight gunshot wound left hand.

2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkhas, No. 2121, Rifleman Basram Singh Thapa severe gunshot wound right forearm.

54th Sikhs, No. 2003 Lance Havildar Partab Singh slight gunshot wounded both thighs.

23rd Pioneers, No. 4557 Sepoy Bhag Singh severe gunshot wound leg.

No. 6 Bombay Sappers and Miners, 35 Driver Mohamed Alam slight gunshot wound in the abdomen.

Calcutta, Feb 20 — General Willcocks' Camp near China is strongly posted on the Walai stream. It is encircled by Khan Gundai Hill on the South and a Circle of hills on the North of that stream all the heights being strongly held by his picquets. General Willcocks' reports that the position of this camp enables him to have a complete command of the Bazar Valley, whilst on the other hand he retains a secure line of communication with Chora.

The fortified towers of Walai have been destroyed. On the 18th, eight forts at China with the usual frontier type of towers were partially destroyed. The work of demolition was completed on the 19th by a column under General Anderson.

The Zakka Khel opposition was markedly less than it had been previously. No further casualties on our side occurred on the 19th and reliable information was received that there has been heavy casualties, for this type of warfare among the enemy. Among the Zakka casualties already reported, the killed include Chinas, a notorious raider, and it is confirmed that the well-known leader Dadai was dangerously wounded; also Umr bin Khusrugi a well-known leader was killed and another wounded and China by the Landi Kotal Column. The latest news, dated the 20th instant reports that the Zakka Khel lost 8 killed and 17 wounded in the fighting of the 15th and 16th instant. The killed include Khair Jan Khusrugi, Samimulla, Ghon-i-Janis and Khel Jan, Shinwaris in addition to the notorious men already reported. The news that Dadai was dangerously wounded on the 15th is fully confirmed. It is reported that the Zakkas lost very heavily in the fighting of the 18th, but no accurate information has been received yet.

2nd Lieutenant F. Campbell Macfadyen, (unattached list) attached to the Seaforth Highlanders died of his wounds on the 19th instant.

Allahabad.—Feb 20 —A Peshawar correspondent says:—Frontier rumours go to show that the Zakka Khels have done their best to obtain the assistance of the neighbouring Afridi tribes to help them to oppose the columns which are now in the Bazar Valley. They are said to have sent messages with an urgent appeal for help to all who were thought likely to give it on the frontier. It is often the unexpected which happens but so far there do not appear to be any unusual signs of restlessness among the Afridis in general, and the number of transborder men who flock into the Peshawar Valley during the cold weather does not appear to be sensibly diminished. It is reported that a certain number of Shinwaris who are near neighbours of the Zakkas are preparing to give assistance, but as far as can be seen at present there is little likelihood of a general rising among the trans-frontier Afridi tribes, though doubtless some of the young bloods from other Khels will take the opportunity of joining in any fighting which may take place. This however is only to be expected and is quite without significance. The Chief mullah in the Bazar Valley is Sayed Akbar who is said to have sent word to all Zakkas immediately after the dismissal of the last *Jirga* in Peshawar, when the departure of the punitive expedition was announced, to be ready with arms and food within seven days. He is believed to have wished to proclaim a *Jehad* against the British Government but according to the views of the mullahs, *Ghaza* or religious war can only be proclaimed by the independent sovereign and consequently the Zakkas are precluded from claiming assistance from their co-religionists on the plea of a religious war.

Artillery Cornered.

Chora Camp with its many troops, hospitals and the always busy Supply and Transport Corps presents a most magnificent site. It is surrounded by over a dozen picquets placed on the hills around these reply to the guerilla warfare of the enemy who incessantly keep sniping throughout the night. The real work, however, of the expedition appears now to be centred at Walai about eight miles further on from Ali Musjid. Here the enemy's losses have been very heavy as well as at Lala China which has been totally destroyed by our troops. At Walai the enemy appear to have been discovered in a nullah and the fighting was very severe for some time. The Zakkas got rather close to the British guns and were finally driven off with heavy loss, but it was a touch-and-go affair for some time for the gunners. The enemy were out the whole night with lanterns; looking for the dead, one of the leaders of the raiders was so severely wounded in the thigh that he is not expected to live.

The fortified towers at Khwar and Sarmando have been entirely destroyed by General Anderson's Brigade. The advance guard was fired on from the hills on both sides of the pass and the left flanking battalions were fired on by the Zakka Khels on the hills west of China. The enemy are now reported to be mainly in the neighbourhood of Halwai and Nikhal where they are said to have prepared *sansured* positions. Captain Mac Arthur has been slightly wounded in the firing by the enemy of our Camp at Chora. He has received injuries to his left arm.

Reports from various sources say that the Zakka Khel lost more heavily on the 18th instant than on any previous occasion. Their casualties are estimated at forty and among those killed are the notorious raiders Nagari Anna Zakka Zaul Shah, Subadar and Zari Gul Khusrogi.

It is reported that the principal head men of the Afridis, other than those of Zakka Khels are making great efforts to secure the formal submission of the latter.

On the 21st February General Willcocks attacked the enemy's position at Halwai about 7 miles westwards from the camp near China. The force advanced in two columns under the command of Generals Barrett and Anderson. The enemy were in considerable strength and strongly gathered on the high hill commanding Halwai. General Barrett made the frontal attack. Having seized the hills North of China he occupied them with the 28th Punjab and sent the Seaforth Highlanders and Khyber Rifles along the Bazar more towards the position, the 54th Sikhs moving in support. General Anderson moved up the valley of the Walai stream, North of the China Ridges and debouching over a Kotal, West of China he delivered a flank attack in combination with the frontal attack. The troops carried the enemy's position without a check and held them whilst the towers below were destroyed.

On leaving Halwai to return to camp the enemy who were reinforced by considerable numbers from the direction of the Halwai Pass clinging to the flanks and rear of the troops but could nowhere make any impression. The retiring was well carried out particularly by the Seaforths, the 33rd Sikhs and the 59th Rifles and efficiently covered by the guns of the 22nd Derajat Mountain Battery.

CASUALTIES.

General Willcock's slight losses, 1 officer killed and 10 men wounded, point to the fact that practice in the tactics of mountain warfare now form part of the peace training of our troops. He reports that Major Forbes Sempill was killed whilst gallantly leading his men. Troops are in excellent health and all wounded are doing well. The following casualties occurred on the 21st: killed Major the Hon Douglas Forbes Sempill, Seaforth Highlander; wounded (all are gunshot wounds) 28th Punjabis, No. 3954 sepoy Rizalu, abdomen, dangerously; No. 4960 sepoy Shiama right thigh dangerous; No. 2921 sepoy Abbas Khan, neck, severe, No. 2921, Naick Kapura right forearm, severely; No. 4636 sepoy Kapura right thigh severely; No. 2624 Color Havildar Abdulla Khan, right hand, severe, No. 3592 sepoy Gurmukh Singh, left shoulder slight; No. 424 sepoy Rama, left hand slight; 22nd Derajat Mountain Battery, No. 767 driver Mangal Singh, right thigh, severe; 59th Rifles No. 3247 sepoy Prithi Singh side severe.

Calcutta, Feb. 24.—There is no further news of Military interest for communication to the press. An Afridi Jirga representing the tribes other than Zakka Khel is now being collected. At Chora No. 3954 Sepoy Rizalu, 28th Punjabis, died of his wounds on the 23rd instant. All others wounded are doing well.

On the night of the 22nd General Willcocks' camp east of China was more heavily sniped at than usual. Some men pushed in close up to the Pickers. No. 4015 Col-Sergt. Christopher Wright, Royal Warwicks, was severely wounded by a gunshot wound in the left thigh. As the enemy had been observed collecting on the hills near China on the 22nd, a column under General Anderson was sent to attack them. On the 23rd only slight opposition was experienced and although the Zakkas pursued their usual tactics in following up the troops on their return to camp they did so in a half-hearted way and no casualties occurred on our side. A tower that had remained standing was destroyed and two sappers and followers were injured by the explosion.

The casualty list:—No. 9 Company Sappers and Miners No. 3084 Sepoy Miry Kumar fracture of left leg, No. 2236 Sepoy Aric Sawami severe contusion right shoulder. Bhisti Sachki slight contusion of back. The name of the officer of the Indian Medical Service reported as having been wounded on the 20th is Captain Robert Malcolm Carter.

General Willcocks reports on the 24th that all has been quiet in the Bazar Valley since the 23rd. Only a few shots were fired into camp on the night of the 23rd and on the morning of the 24th several small columns under Colonel Buchanan, 54th Sikhs, searched the country. In the south eastern portion of the Bazar near Jabagai only trifling resistance was encountered and few of the enemy were seen. The fortified tower at Jabagai was destroyed and the columns returned with out a casualty. All the wounded are doing well.

Bombay, Feb. 25.—A shop of Borah dealer in arms and ammunition was found broken into on Sunday night last and eleven revolvers stolen. This created some commotion in the town but fears of the people were allayed today when it was found that the Police had arrested three Pathans and recovered all revolvers from them. The Pathans belong to a frontier tribe and it is presumed the theft was committed with the intent to send the revolvers to the frontier. The Pathans were arrested at midnight in their room where the revolvers were found buried under the floor in the room. They were placed before the Magistrate. The case was remanded.

Allahabad, Feb. 25.—Reports from the Frontier are to the effect that the Governor of Jelallabad summoned a meeting of the Mohmand Shanwari and Ringrahar head men and intimated to them the orders of the Amir regarding Zakka Khel affairs. These were to the effect that the British and Afghar Governments were in friendly alliance in accordance with the terms of the existing treaties which must be strictly observed. It was accordingly ordered that no help should be given to the tribesmen.

Peshawar, February 25th, Swift and sure punishment which General Willcocks has been able to inflict upon the Zakka Khels has already produced the desired effect. The Afridi Jirga which recently waited upon the General and Colonel Roos Keppel, expressed penitence of Zakkas and assured to stand security for their good behaviour in the future. It is stated that Colonel Sir Harold Deane, Chief Commissioner N. W. F., has accepted assurance and recommended final terms of settlement to supreme government and their approval is also anticipated. The punitive force has done their work and unless nothing extraordinary happens their stay in Bazar Valley will not be long. Unhappily small raids still continue to be reported and it is desirable that substantial security should be obtained from tribal leaders to keep their outlaws in check and under proper surveillance.

There is no news of active operations from General Willcocks. Negotiations are still in progress.

All sick and wounded are doing well. The health of force continues good.

Peshawar, February 27th.—There is a strong rumour current here for which there is no official confirmation that the Secretary of State as well as the Government of India have accepted the proposals made recently by the Jirga which waited upon General Willcocks and Colonel Roos Keppel. A formal settlement is now expected every day but the only disturbing element is recent raids on Frontier for which careful precautions will have to be taken to keep the outlaws in check.

It is well known that the Royal Munster Fusiliers did not have the chance of proceeding to the Zakka Khel country. They were quartered at Nowshera during the troubles, being included as they were in the Reserve Brigade. As a surprise to the whole nation, General Sir James Willcocks quelled those troubles with the Zakka Khels in twelve days and was congratulated by the newspapers at home and the following report from His Excellency Lord Kitchener.

Sir James was also the recipient of a message of congratulation from His most Gracious Majesty the King.

ZAKKA KHEL EXPEDITION.

London, March 2. The newspapers heartily congratulate General Willcocks and also Lord Kitchener on the demonstration of the army's efficiency given by the Zakka Khel expedition.

In the Commons this evening Mr. Morley read a despatch from General Willcocks announcing the terms of submission of the Zakka Khels.

General Willcocks said that he cannot speak too highly of the ability and tact of Colonel Roos-Keppel in effecting the settlement and of the valuable services of his assistant.

The Zakka Khel Expedition.

LORD KITCHENER'S REPORT.

The despatches relating to the recent Zakka Khel expedition have been published (see our introduction) Lord Kitchener's opinion is expressed as follows:—The speed with which the force was mobilised and the rapidity of its movement into the Bazar Valley and subsequent operations contributed very largely to the quick and successful termination of the expedition. To secure speed in movement the troops operated on a much lighter scale of equipment and transport than has been adopted on previous occasions on the frontier but although the climatic conditions were severe the health of the force and the admirable spirit displayed by all ranks left nothing to be desired. The losses inflicted on the Zakka Khel were unusually heavy and were due to the excellent handling of the troops and to their training and efficiency in the field. Lord Kitchener is confident that the Government of India will consider that the work done reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. His Excellency desires especially to commend to the notice of Government the excellent services of Major General Sir James Willcocks who so ably conducted the operations and brought them so rapidly to a successful conclusion; he trusts also that those who have been brought to notice in this despatch may be considered as deserving of commendation. Sir James Willcocks gives a detailed despatch relating to details of fighting and especially mentioned the following officers Brigadier General Mullaly, Colonel A. W. Money, Captain A. W. Whatman, Captain Livingstone Learmonth, Lt A. P. Y. Langhorne, Captain Rich. R. E. Major Mullaly, Brigadier General Anderson, Lieut. Colonel F. M. Stewart, Captain Sansmaro, Captain Traver, Major General Barrett, Captain K. F. Buchanan, Captain H. A. H. Rice and Lt. S. R. Shirly, Captain F. P. Viliers Stewart, Lieutenant C. B. Harcourt and Captain Bickford Littlewood.

The following are also mentioned in despatch Colonel Biddulph, 19th Lancers commanding the line of communication, Lt. Colonel Kerim, R. A. M. C. Senior Medical Officer to the Force, Lieut. Colonel W. Dunce, C. I. E. Commanding Royal Engineer Force, Major Sanders, Supply and Transport Corps, Chief Supply Officer with the Force, Major Gregory, 19th Lancers, Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master, General Major Lucas, D. S. O. 5th Gurkha Rifle, Captain Lushington, Supply and Transport Corps, Captain Duke 127th Baluch Light Infantry, Commandant 6th Mule Corps, Captain Charles, D. S. O. R. E. Commanding No. 6 Company 1st Sappers and Miners, Captain and Adjutant Milward, 53rd Sikhs, No. 31873, Sergeant Charles No. 3rd Mountain Battery Royal Garrison Artillery, Sergeant-Major Norman Reid the Seaforth Highlanders, No 2739 Colour Sergeant John Smith, The Seaforth Highlanders, Conductor W. J. Lytle, 6th Mule Corps.

INTRODUCTION.

THE MOHMAND EXPEDITION.

Unfortunately however, and after a couple of months of quietness on the frontier, in the interval of which there were some raids on Peshawar City, our other tribes the Mohmands gave us trouble. It was at first thought that they were in co-operation with the Zakka Khels, and that what Sir James Willcocks quelled only a few weeks before was a repetition of broken pledges on behalf of that tribe.

It was thought at home and wired out here that the first thing the Government should do was to deprive the Mohmand tribes men of the aid of their Afghan Allies, to which they were so near, and that His Majesty the Amir should be expected to remind his subjects that they owe allegiance to him and not to peripatetic Mullahs.

There appeared, however to be no settled decision on this point, and the Frontier Field Force so lately demobilized, was once more mobilized to settle the Mohmand question. The whole of the Division again under the Command of General Sir James Willcocks consisted of the following units

Brigade Supply Column.

1ST BRIGADE.

1st Battalion the Northumberland Fusiliers, Peshawar.

The 53rd Sikhs, Peshawar.

57th Wilde's Rifles, (Frontier Force) Peshawar.

59th Scinde Rifles, (Frontier Force) Peshawar.

Sections A and B No. 1 British Field Hospital.

No. 101 Native Field Hospital.

2ND BRIGADE.

1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, Nowshera.

Queen's Own Corps of Guides (Lumsden's Infantry) Mardan.

28th Punjabis Nowshera.

55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force).

Sections C and D No. 1 British Field Hospital.

No. 102 Native Field Hospital.

3RD BRIGADE.

1st Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, Nowshera.

21st Punjabis, Jhelum.

22nd Punjabis, Jhelum.

40th Pathans, Jhelum.

Sections A and B No. 7 British Field Hospital, Rawalpindi.

No. 112 Native Field Hospital.

Sections A and B No. 113 Native Field Hospital.

DIVISIONAL TROOPS.

- 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force).
- No. 8 Mountain Battery, R. G. A., Rawalpindi.
- No. 23 Peshawar Mountain Battery, (Frontier Force).
- No. 28 Mountain Battery, Abbottabad.
- No. 6 Company, 1st P. W. O. Sappers and Miners, Peshawar.
- No. 1 Company, 1st P. W. O. Sappers and Miners, Rawalpindi.
- 34th Sikh Pioneers, Lahore.
- No. 103 Native Field Hospital, Peshawar.

The above represents the formation of the Field Force and we could not do better in our introduction of the eventual field operations than resorting to that excellent despatch sent by Sir James Willcocks to the Commander-in-Chief at the conclusion of the expedition. From that valuable document we take the following summary. During the early part of April all our posts on the Mohmand border were considerably increased in strength and on the 17th April 1908, Major General Sir James Willcocks despatched 2 field guns, and 700 Infantry to Shabkader to re-inforce Lieutenant Colonel Fane, 21st Cavalry who was in command. New posts had been established at Mutta to which place Sir James himself proceeded and Garhi Sader. On the 19th April 1908 parties of Mohmands crossed our border, fired after dark into several of the camps and attacked a party of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, causing us some casualties. They really meant to bring on a fight at all costs. Brigadier-General Anderson was then ordered from Peshawar to Shabkader with a squadron of Cavalry, 2 field guns and 1000 Infantry. Shortly re-inforcements were also ordered from Nowshera to Peshawar, and 2 squadrons from Nowshera cavalry cantonments to Shabkader.

On the 21st April several of our posts were fired into and our telegraph and telephone lines cut in all directions. The same occurred on the 22nd April by which date our camps had been re-arranged, and surrounded by strong barbed wire entanglements. During the night the enemy destroyed our telegraphic wires.

By the 23rd April over 2000 troops were located on the Mohmand border and Sir James decided to attack the enemy, who had been erecting sangars, and entrenchments within sight, of our camps. By this time their *lashkars* had been increased to several thousand men, and their standards were defiantly plucked on the low hills west of Mutta, and at the mouth of the Gunda valley opposite Shabkader. The mahomedan Friday appeared to have given them extra encouragement, whilst Sir James on his part made no movement out of his camps, so as to draw them on as near to his troops as possible.

During the night the enemy had their last opportunity of firing into our posts and made most determined attacks on Garhi Sader and Mutta, and also attempted to destroy one of our bridges, but all these attacks were repulsed causing us several casualties.

On the 24th April there was a gallant fight before Mutta and an advance up the Gundab Valley opposite Shabkader totally defeated the enemy and drove them headlong over the border and back into the hills from which they never again emerged.

The left column consisting of 8 guns and 650 infantry under command of Colonel Unwin, 21st Cavalry cleared the enemy from their sangars and followed them up to the vicinity of the village of Hafiz Kor. As the tribesmen, who were in considerable numbers, kept retreating up the broad Gundab Valley with the object of drawing the column into the hills, Colonel Unwin according to orders retired slowly to Shabkader. The Seaforth Highlanders, with 250 men of the Warwicks and 28th Punjabis ward off all attacks during this retirement.

The 18th Field Battery used the new quick firing guns on this occasion, which Sir James believes was for the first time in action and their fire had a great effect in holding off the enemy. Our casualties were one British Officer and two men wounded. Brigadier-General Anderson's column consisted of 2 squadrons, four guns, and 1150 infantry made up of six different corps. The enemy numbered 4000 strong and occupied strong sangars on the hills west of Mutta, and defended them with courage and determination, refusing in some instances to yield until charged with the bayonet.

By 9 A.M. 2 companies of the Royal Warwicks had carried a commanding hill on the enemy's right centre. This attack, Sir James says was made with great *elan* and resulted in the enemy losing heavily as they attempted to escape up a narrow gorge. The companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers, 57th Wilde's Rifles, 59th Scinde Rifles, with equal gallantry drove the enemy from their sangars, on our right front, the two latter regiments, frequently using the bayonets. These combined attacks supported by the 53rd Sikhs and well covered by the guns of the 80th Field Battery which had by this time approached to short range, altogether, disconcerted the tribesmen, who fled towards the Borjinas Pass, being severely punished by the combined fire of all the troops. The losses inflicted on the Mohmands and their allies were very heavy; and Anderson's attack was carried out with the spirit and dash which Sir James says are so characteristic of this fine soldier, and have earned for him the respect of all who had the honour of serving with him in the field.

On the 27th April Sir James Willcocks received orders appointing

him to command the Mohmand Field Force. He at once despatched messengers to call in the Jirgahs, but this method of settling matters did not meet with success, nearly all the sections sending evasive or defiant replies. On the 1st May Sir James learnt that large numbers of Afghans under the leadership of Sahi Sahib had crossed the British border, and were threatening Landi Kotal, also that Afghan emissaries were endeavouring to bring about a general rising in Tirah; on this information Sir James, with that fore thought and tact that is always in him sent immediate orders to hold the third Brigade in Peshawar and some other troops in readiness to start for the Khyber.

On the 2nd May the Political Agent, Khyber, telegraphed asking for regular troops to be despatched to Jamrud in support of the Khyber Rifles. Accordingly the third Brigade under Brigadier-General Ramsay with the 28th Mountain Battery, one Squadron 19th Lancers, and 4 guns 80th Field Battery left Peshawar at once and that night Jamrud and Ali Musjid were both occupied. At the same time Sir James despatched the following troops under command of Major-General Barrett from the Mohmand Border, by a forced march *via* Peshawar to the Khyber; *viz*: 2 guns 18th Field Battery; 23rd Mountain Battery; Seaforth Highlanders and Guides Infantry. Sir James himself left Shabkadr and joined Ramsay that night at Jamrud.

On the 3rd May Ramsay's column reached Landi Kotal, while General Barrett after a very fine march occupied Ali Musjid the same evening. The Khyber was thus secured. The next morning Sir James attacked the enemy in their Sangars near the villages of Khurgali, when they retired precipitately over the Afghan Border. The troops advanced in 2 columns; the right under Lieutenant-Colonel Roos-Keppel consisting of a dismounted half squadron 19th Lancers, Khyber Rifles, 2 companies 21st Punjabis, and 4 guns 80th Field Battery.

The left column was commanded by Brigadier-General Ramsay. The 28th Mountain Battery, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2 companies 21st Punjabis and 40th Pathans. During most of the day a violent storm of wind and rain raged, and the bitter cold after the previous day's heat was trying.

By the 9th May, in accordance with the orders of the Commander-in-Chief all our troops (excepting two guns 28th Mountain Battery) left the Khyber and were concentrated at Peshawar. This task Sir James reports was well made under trying circumstances, as cholera made its appearance amongst the troops. Owing to the gradual spread of cholera several changes had to be made in the constitution of brigades. The following was the final distribution:—

1st Brigade:—Brigadier-General Anderson C. B.

22nd Punjabis, 53rd Sikhs, 57th Rifles, 59th Rifles.

2nd Brigade :—Major-General Barrett, C. B.

1st Seaforth Highlanders, 28th Punjabis, 54th Sikhs
55th Rifles.

3rd Brigade :—Brigadier-General Ramsay, C. B.

1st West Yorkshire Regiment, 19th Punjabis, 21st
Punjabis, 40th Pathans.

Divisional Troops :—21st Cavalry, 18th Field Battery, 8th British Mountain Battery, 28th Mountain Battery, 23rd Mountain Battery No. 6 Company Sappers and Miners, No. 1 Company, Sappers and Miners, 34th Sikh Pioneers, Guides Infantry.

On the 13th May the advance into Mohmand Country commenced. The route was up the Gurdab Valley. The heat was excessive, but as it was vitally important to secure the tank at Nahakki, our only water supply, Sir James hurried on with General Anderson and 2 battalions of his Brigade and also 2 squadrons and 4 guns and reached that place over the Kharappa and Nahakki passes on the 14th May without opposition. The remainder of the 1st and the whole of the 2nd Brigade followed later, and posts were established at Dand and Ghalanai on the line of communications.

On the 16th May the 1st Brigade moved up the Bohai Dag to punish the Khwaizais and reconnoitre the Khapak pas. The towers of eight villages were destroyed. On the 17th May portions of the Kamali and other jirgahs came in and asked for terms, but they were informed that they must bring in representative men. At night the camps of both brigades were heavily fired into for some hours. During the 18th, 19th and 20th May, the 2nd Brigade with the addition of the 57th Rifles and some Divisional troops were employed in the Bohai Dag. The 28th Punjabis supported by the 34th Pioneers and 2 guns 28th Mountain Battery, carried the hills on the south of the valley; whilst the 57th Rifles attacked and cleared in fine style the steep ridge on the North which formed the enemy's main position, covered by the fire of the 23rd Mountain Battery and 55th Rifles who were on the lower spans. The 57th Rifles at Mutta again used the bayonet, taking no denial and capturing some prisoners in their final rush. The hillsides were soon alive with tribesmen making for the crest under heavy fire of shrapnel and rifles supplemented by the Maxim guns of the Seaforth Highlanders, who with the 54th Sikhs were in reserve. A general advance was then made on the large village of Khan Bes Khor, the heights overlooking which were carried by the Seaforth and 54th Sikhs, the enemy holding on to the crests until driven from them.

On approaching the village of Umra Kili, it was found to be occupied and General Anderson proceeded to attack it. The enemy

were driven across a deep ravine by the 53rd Sikhs and 57th Rifles, whilst the 21st Cavalry working wide, kept them off our flanks. As soon as the village had been occupied and the transport animals parked, the advanced infantry was ordered to withdraw in order to complete the perimeter defences before dark. The tribesmen at once taking advantage of the very broken ground and nullahs advanced boldly, many parties of Ghazi swordsmen trying to get to close quarters. The guns of the 8th British Mountain Battery firing rapidly over the infantry did much execution.

It was here that we lost two British Officers, Lieutenant Soole, 21st Cavalry and Lieutenant Archibald, 82nd Punjabis, and one native officer and three sepoys were killed and one native officer and 19 rank and file wounded. Next morning the Brigade was reinforced by the 55th Rifles and two guns of no 28th Mountain Battery from Nahakki, and the advance continued. A large number of towers and enclosures were blown up. On 22nd May the Brigade moved up the valley and after destroying several towers arrived at the Lakarai Pass, entered Gurbuz San country. The village of Bagh was burnt as a warning. Notwithstanding that their valley had been spared the enemy fired heavily into our camp during the night causing many casualties. In consequence Sir James destroyed the towers of another of their villages the following morning.

On the 23rd May, Sir James moved down the Pipal valley to Shato Khel. At two the brigade was in Utmanzai territory and many towers and enclosures were destroyed. The Utman Khel who had committed many raids on our border was the next tribe dealt with by Sir James Willcocks. On the 24th May the column continued its march and nearing the high ground overlooking the village of Kargha in the Ambar Valley the enemy was found holding many Sangars. They consisted chiefly of Utman Khel and Bajauris and numbered over 2000 men with many standards. After severely punishing them, on the 25th May the column crossed the Kota Taraf pass and bivouacked at Mulla Killi on Isa Khel limits. Before leaving Utman Khel country all the villages belonging to the notorious raider Mirbaz were destroyed as well as a few towers and enclosures in the Ambahar Valley. On the 26th May the column was joined by General Barrett with a convoy of provisions, from Nahakki. The next to be punished were the Utmanzai and Dawizai Khels, on the 28th May the 1st Brigade and No 8 British Mountain Battery left Mulla Killi for India via Pandiali. All the tribes on this route had submitted in full and no opposition was met with.

The same day Sir James Willcocks with Barrett's Brigade and Divisional Troops moved from Nahakki up the Boliai Dag into the

Bachai country to carry out the last operation of the expedition. The troops Sir James says had every reason to hope for a rest, but all ranks understood the necessity for this final call on them and cheerfully responded to it. Early next morning 29th May the force moved on Khuda Khel, the habitant of the Baezai, the original instigators of the rising. They had at first moved across the Afghan border, but believing themselves safe, had later returned to their villages, and joined in several attacks on our camps. The Guides Infantry, 51th Sikhs and Seaforth Highlanders supported by the guns of the 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery and two guns, 28th Mountain Battery soon cleared the hills overlooking the Kaula Khel Valley, and occupied the highest peaks. Khuda Khel with its towers was destroyed; the fort of Mirbaz being razed to the ground. Our casualties were one British Officer Lieutenant Young, 67th Punjabis, killed and 14 rank and file wounded. By the 1st June all troops had left Mohmand country and the demobilization of the force was commenced.

At Ghalanai on the 30th May the various Jirgahs assembled and such as had not already paid their fines, etc. did so then. They voluntarily subscribed to an agreement to keep the Baezais out of their limits in future as far as raiding parties were concerned; and in case of their inability to do this to give warning to our Government officials.

Sir James Willcocks concludes his despatch with the following tribute to all ranks, and we close this introduction with the very words used by him. These are his words

"The Commander-in-Chief has already in a telegram received the day we crossed the border, congratulated all ranks on their discipline and good conduct in the Field. I would beg to add that the hardships and privations were borne with a cheerfulness which could not be exceeded. The incessant marching under a fiery sun, with only a very limited amount of indifferent water; the choking dust and plague of flies were all a severe test of endurance by day, whilst at night the men were generally kept awake at their posts for hours together, owing to the constant fire kept up by the enemy; and which would have proved even more costly than it did, but for the labour expended on the entrenchment and which added considerably to the daily work they were called on to perform. I can unhesitatingly say that no troops could have rendered better service in the field. The elasticity of the Divisional Brigade systems, each with its own permanent peace staffs proved well adapted to all requirements. For when the temporary dislocations of Brigades (to meet the sudden call from the Khyber) was followed by the outbreak of cholera on the Mohmand border, necessitating further readjustments, no difficulty was found in immediately meeting the demands owing to the fact

that the troops removed from Peshawar and Nowshera, had not only been replaced under orders from Army Head Quarters, but the Khyber and Malakand movable columns stood ready equipped with field service transport; thereby placing practically two extra Brigades on a war footing. The consequence was that every deficiency caused by cholera was immediately replaced, enabling the force to advance on the very date fixed.

Moreover once my plan of operations had been approved, I was given a free hand which enabled me to complete the work before the hottest season of the year had set in on the frontier."

PRESS MESSAGES AND COMMENTS.

We reproduce the following telegrams from the *Pioneer's* special correspondent dated the 21st April which will give an idea of the beginning of hostilities:—

Allahabad, April 21.—The *Pioneer's* Peshawar correspondent states:—It is now evident that a large body of tribesmen gathered together on the border and that in spite of the warning conveyed to them that any further raiding into British territory will entail reprisals on the part of the Indian Government, they have not hesitated to attack the troops posted in the forts and villages within our borders. On Sunday afternoon a party of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in charge of a convoy while marching to Muttah, were attacked. One man was killed and wounded. Last night the various camps were heavily shelled firing continuing through the greater part of the night. The camps have been strengthened with barbed wire entanglements. The greater part of Peshawar garrison is now posted along the Mohmand border.

The correspondent also states that it is believed that the gathering of trans-border men includes the Shinwaris and the men of the Halimzai, Musa Utmanzai and Tarakzai Khel of the Mohmand tribe. The exact number is not known. There are however various reports, placing the numbers between eight and twelve thousand men.

Information has been received by the *Pioneer* that Tagno Mullah with several thousand Afghans crossed the Kalai river at Dakka to join the Mohmands. No effort has apparently been made by the Amir's officials to stop him. This movement of the Afghan tribesmen is the most serious feature of the affair. The *Pioneer* also states:—The position on the Mohmand border seems to grow more and more serious. Contingents from Afghanistan, Bajour and the Kunar Valley tracts continue to pour into the Mohmand country, and fanatical preaching by (mullahs) is extending. No effort seems to be made by the Amir's officials to check this or prevent bands from Ningrahar and Jelalabad district from passing freely towards the Peshawar frontier. Moreover there is evidence of an organised arrangement for providing *lashkars* with supplies and ammunition. This shows that something more than the customary tribal practice is being followed and that the leaders are confident of keeping the men together. There must now be in the immediate vicinity of the Michni-Siabkadr-Abazai line some 12,000 tribesmen.

The *Pioneer's* Peshawar correspondent states that the Shabkader picquet were again attacked last night by Mohmands. A few of the cavalry horses

were wounded. Numbers of the tribesmen were visible on the ground in front of the posts scattered about in groups during the day, and the guns have had an opportunity of trying shells upon them. Meantime the posts are being strengthened as much as possible against a possible rush by the tribesmen. Most conflicting rumours are current in the bazars about the present gathering and what it may mean. Some say that it is the natural result of the Bazar valley expedition and that no importance is to be attached to it as the tribesmen will shortly return of themselves to the fields where the crops are now ripening. On the other hand, alarmists are not wanting who state that a *Jehad* is being actually preached along the border by the frontier mullahs and that serious trouble is in store.

The Simla correspondent to the *Tribune* also wired the following details about the genesis and the subsequent development of the Mohmand Expedition:—

During the past few weeks there have been considerable signs of unrest in the Mohmand country north-west of Peshawar. It appears that during the recent Zakka Khel Expedition, mullahs were inciting the tribesmen in the Mohmand country to combine with the Zakka Khel against government. Their efforts were so far successful that help actually raised a small "Lashkar" which arrived on the scene of operations too late owing to the rapidity with which the expedition was brought to a conclusion. Not unnaturally the tribesmen once excited were disinclined to return quietly to their homes. The immediate outcome was a series of raids committed along the Mohmand Peshawar border towards the end of March. On the night of the 24th the village of Marozini, six miles north-west of Shankargarh Police Station, was raided, two hindus being killed and one wounded. The garrison at Abazai and Shabkadar turned out but the raiders escaped. On the following night the village of Mirzadher, two miles from Taroza, was attacked, several hindu houses being looted and burned and one hindu carried off. Malik Ghulam Khan of Paudian through whose villages the raiders passed on their return rescued the hindu and arrested two raiders. This malik is a well-wisher of Government and remained loyal throughout the rising of 1897. On the 30th March a further raid was combined at Chikkar, nine miles south-east of Shankargarh, several hindu houses being looted. In consequence of these raids the military detachments at Abazai and Shabkadar were strengthened at the request of the Civil authorities and a military garrison was placed in Mutta Mughal Khel so as to set free the border military police for patrolling duties. The action of Malik Ghulam Khan in rescuing the hindus and arresting the two raiders added fuel to the fire. The Mullahs over the border commenced to raise a "Lashkar," with a view to wrecking vengeance on Ghulam Khan and to committing raids in British Territory. The reinforcement of the border posts apparently afforded a pretext to the Mullahs for proclaiming that government intended to invade the Mohmand country. A few days later reports were received that certain Mullahs with a large following had crossed the Kabul river at Lalpura about the middle of April. In order to give no colour to the rumour that the British government intended to invade the Mohmand territory further reinforcement was not despatched to the frontier until it was announced that a gathering numbering 5,000, 2,000 of whom were said to have come from the Afghan side

of the Border, and that the tribesmen were flocking to the Mullahs' standards. As the villages on the frontier were in a state of panic, and at the urgent request of the political authorities, Sir James Willcocks, commanding the Peshawar Division despatched, on the 17th April, reinforcements numbering 550 Infantry, 1 Squadron Cavalry and 2 Field Guns to strengthen the lines Minchi-Shabkader-Abazai. On the 19th it was ascertained that the gathering had increased to some 50,000 men and that Ghulam Khan's village in Pandiala was being attacked. On the same day a few shots were fired at a patrol west of Matta Mughal Khel inside the British boundary. Another party moving from Garhi Sadda to Matta was fired upon from both sides of the road. The post at Matta was also fired into, Number 9138 private R. G. Adams, Warwickshire Regiment, being killed and Private Picard, Warwickshire Regiment, slightly wounded one sepoy 28th Punjabis and one syce 19th Lancers severely wounded. Accordingly on the 20th April a further column of 2 guns and 1300 men under Brigadier-General K. A. Anderson moved out from Peshawar. Orders were also issued for a force consisting of 1 Field Battery, 2 Mountain guns and 1300 Infantry to proceed from Nowshera to Peshawar and for 2 Squadrons of Cavalry to march from Nowshera to Shabkader. Sir James Willcocks left Peshawar for Shabkader on the 20th at 8 o'clock. On the morning of the 31st a party of Mohmands crossed the border in the open and fired on the standing patrol west of the camp. The Matta Mughal Khel party persisted in remaining on our side of the border. Three shells were eventually fired at them which had the effect of dispersing them. The body of troops collected on the border under Sir James Willcocks is now sufficiently strong to prevent any serious violation of the frontier. The presence of cavalry and field guns will act as a strong deterrent to hostile bodies issuing from the hills. The health of the troops is good, notwithstanding considerable heat. The situation is being carefully watched and the authorities are prepared for any possible developments.

The news from the Mohmand border on Thursday is as follows:—General Willcocks who was in Peshawar yesterday, for the purpose of conferring with Sir H. Deane, returned to Shabkader during the course of the afternoon. Last evening's news was received from General Anderson at Shankargarh to the effect that the whole line of foot-hills from the Swat river to Subban Khwar was occupied by considerable bodies of the enemy who had maintained a desultory fire throughout the day with the result that one havildar of the 53rd Sikhs was slightly wounded. Later General Willcocks reported that during the afternoon a large body of Mohmands advancing on Garhisadar was dispersed by shell fire. The Chief Commissioner of Peshawar also reports that the Sufi mullah's son with 3,000 men, had reached the mouth of the Gandab nullah, and that the general attitude of the Mohmands had become more aggressive. A novel feature in tribal warfare was also reported from several sources, viz., that the enemy possessed a well organised transport and supply train, by means of which food-stuffs, ammunition and cash were steadily arriving at the front, most of these supplies being from Afghan territory. In consequence of the more serious aspect of affairs, General Willcocks last evening ordered to the front the following additional troops: 18th Field Battery, 2 guns; Derajat Mountain Battery, 500 of the Seaforth's and 200 of the 28th Punjabis, thus bringing the total force at his disposal to some 3,200 men and 12 guns on the line between Abazai and Michai. There was at first no news from the front

this morning, the telegraph wire between Shabkader and Peshawar having been cut at 11 o'clock last night. This afternoon a telegram was received from General Willcocks stating that during the night the enemy had attacked the bridge head at Abizai—which is marked Hajizai on the map. The attack was repulsed, one of our *sowars* being wounded. Shabkader fort was also sniped at during the night. A sharp attack was also made on Matta, where again one *sowar* was wounded. The firing here caused a stampede amongst the cavalry horses with the result that several were killed or wounded by the barbed wire fencing. While this was taking place parties of the enemy attacked and looted the village of Katuzai, which lies five miles within our administrative border. Garhisadar post was also attacked, the enemy being driven off with the loss of four men killed and seven wounded. The incessant unprovoked attacks by the tribal *lashkars* leave no room for doubt that the movement is purely of an aggressive and fanatical character. Moreover, information reported by the political authorities points to the whole area between the Kunar river on the west and the Panjshira on the East, including as far north as Jandoh, being more, or less seriously affected by the preaching of a holy war. Large bands of Afghans and Bujauties are said to be now on their way to join the Mohmand *lashkars* being led in most instances by prominent *mullahs* and *sheiks*. Having regard to the state of affairs, orders have been issued for the following military measures to be taken forthwith, and these are now in progress:—Two complete brigades with a proportion of mountain guns, cavalry sappers, and pioneers, as divisional troops have been ordered to concentrate under General Willcocks's orders on the Mohmand border. A third brigade has been ordered as reserve to Peshawar. The Khyber and Malakand moveable columns have also been completed to an authorised strength. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will return forthwith to Simla.

IMPORTANT DESPATCH.

From General Willcocks, Shankargah, 24th April, timed 19-50. The column consisting of all the available troops on this border to-day reconnoitred and searched out the enemy's *lashkars* on the foothills two miles west of Shabkader. A column under Colonel Unwin, 21st Cavalry, consisting of one squadron of 21st Cavalry, 18th Battery, R. F. A., two guns Dorajet Mountain Battery 100 Warwicks, 490 Seaforths and 150 of the 28th Punjab moved up Gandab Valley as far as the village of Shalibax Ker. The enemy's strength was ascertained and the position of his *sangars*. The enemy was mostly armed with Lee Metfords and Martinis:—Casualties Lieutenant Clive Gray, Seaforth Highlanders, my orderly officer, attached to Colonel Unwin dangerously, wounded, gunshot wound on chest; No. 9143; Private Bain Alexander, "B" Coy, Seaforth, severe wound face. A column under Brigadier General Anderson, consisting of 300 Northumberland Fusiliers, 290 Royal Warwicks, 250 53rd Sikhs, 220 57th Rifles 154 59th Rifles one squadron 21st Cavalry, and four guns 80th Battery R. F. A., moved against the enemy's *sangared* position N. W. of Matta. The enemy offered a determined resistance but all his positions were gallantly carried by the troops. One *sangar* was taken by 57th Rifles with the bayonet. The Warwicks found the enemy escaping through a gorge, and inflicted heavy loss on them with Rifles. The enemy was estimated at a "minimum" of 4,000 men General Anderson's

ded with much dash and has inflicted a heavy blow on the Mohmand. The following casualties occurred: Northumberland Fusiliers killed, Private R. J. Rose, Private F. Morris, 57th Rifle killed, Sepoy Nazir Singh, Sepoy Suchet Singh, Lance Naik Devi Singh; 19th Lancers, killed, Sowar Raj Mal. The following are wounded:—Northumberland Fusiliers Captain C. W. Wroford Brown, gunshot wound on thigh dangerous; 2nd Lieutenant A. L. Hume Spry, gunshot wound in abdomen, dangerous 2nd Royal Warwicks, Lance-Corporal Walter Moore.

On the 24th April General Sir James Willcocks sent the following important despatch to Army Head Quarters, Simla,

GENERAL GATHERING OF THE TRIBES.

Allahabad, April 24.—The *Pioneer's* Peshawar correspondent states regarding the stampede of cavalry horses of Shabkader that the men who camp evidently thought that the Cavalry were making for them, and apparently decamped hastily as the sniping instantly ceased. The general opinion in the bazar continues the correspondent, appears to be that there will in all probability be a general gathering of all tribesmen to-morrow (Friday), and that this may be followed by a general attack on the British posts and camps. As the nights are now dark and tribesmen fully aware of the presence of cavalry in the camps it is thought that if the Mohmands decide to force the pace they will make a night attack and endeavour to overpower the post by weight of number. News received from Jellalabad shows that the Sirdar Nasrullah Khan and Sirdar Inayatullah Khan have both arrived at that city. There are persistent rumours that arms and ammunition manufactured in Afghanistan are now being openly sold in Jellalabad, and that large quantities have been brought by the men who are flocking to the *lashkar*. It is also reported that Sufi *Mullah* has been very active in stirring up trans frontier men to join the Mohmands, and that this *mullah* recently went to Jellalabad to ask permission of the Amir to proclaim a *Jehad* against the British, this however was refused.

A number of Afghan soldiers belonging to the Dakka district have left their homes, and have joined the Mohmand *lashkar* at Kandial, taking with them arms and ammunition which are of good quality. When this information reached Sirdar Nasrullah Khan, an order was sent by him to Sirtib of Dakka at once to recall them and to take measures to prevent any more Afghan soldiers crossing the Afghan border with the object of joining in the present fighting. It is said that the *mullah* Tawancy of Ningrahar who was with Umra Khan during the Chitral Campaign is at the head of the Afghan soldiers and that he induced them to throw in their lot with the Mohmand.

ENEMY'S HEAVY CASUALTIES.

Simla, April 25.—No details of any further fighting have been received, but General Willcocks telegraphs enemy have lost over 100 killed. Other intelligence reports that the Mohmands feeling that they were hopelessly committed were bent on fighting but were experiencing considerable difficulty in supplying their *lashkars* in advanced and barren localities. It is stated that and amongst the enemy's killed was the brother of Shakar, Naib Kotwal of Jellalabad, who has taken so prominent a part in the organisation of the Mohmand *lashkars*.

News from Ningrahar is to the effect that parties of Afghans continue to cross the river at Lalpura en route for the scene of fighting whilst in Ningrahar itself there are at least two large *lashkars*, whose objective is not as yet fully declared. The Sufi Sahib of Drabgai, a very prominent Afghan *mullah* is apparently the organiser of *lashkars*. It is the son of this *mullah* who is now with the Mohmand forces. Frontier reports also state that emissaries have been sent to Tirah for the purpose of preaching a *Jihad*, but these require further confirmation, and at the moment of writing everything remains quiet in the country south of the Kabul river. According to news received to day from the Malakand side the local Khans and levies state their intention and ability to defend the Panjkora bridge against any attack from Bajaur side. Nothing has yet been heard of the attack on it which has been projected for last night.

Simla, April 26th.—There is news of further fighting. Lieutenant G. D. Martin, Royal Warwick, has died from the effects of his wound. All the other wounded are doing well.

Allahabad, April 26th.—*The Pioneer* states:—The Swatis are quiet. The Mahsud *Jirgas* are trying to influence their fellow tribesmen to accept the government demand.

The Pioneer's Peshawar correspondent give details of the Mohmand border fight. The tribesmen in great force attacked the fortified camps at Mullah Moghal Khel and Sadarzarh. They were stopped by barbed wire entanglements, but for half an hour poured incessant rifle fire into the entrenchments which were carefully constructed with high parapets and screens and numerous traverses. The troops had ample protection from the fire poured in the shots passing harmlessly overhead. The shots kept hitting the parapet and screens, burying themselves in the earth, others recocheting off the top. About 6-30 in the morning General Willcocks decided to attack the position occupied by the tribesmen in front of the line. The advance was over rough ground. The enemy were turned out of the position with gallantry. During the advance some tribesmen, caught *mullah* were severely punished. After the attack our troops followed the enemy, but the latest advices say that no sign of them is now to be seen. The tribesmen admit they have lost a hundred and six killed, with wounded probably about six hundred. Since the attack the enemy has been busily engaged picking up the dead and wounded. The neighbouring villages were ransacked for available *charpoy*.

Simla, April 26th.—General Willcocks yesterday made a reconnaissance beyond the village of Hafis Kor. He saw no signs of the enemy all their positions and encampments in front of the Shabbakdar Abazai line having been abandoned. As a further testimony to the fight of *lashkars* caused not only by the loss of the previous day, but by difficulties they experienced in supply it may be added that for the first time for many nights no sniping, raiding or wire cutting took place on the night of Friday or Saturday. Late last night a rumour was brought in of some of the enemy collecting in the neighbourhood of Michal but so far nothing further has been heard of this gathering. It seems beyond doubt that the main body has returned in the Radol Dag. From reports now coming in the Ningrahar it would appear that the enemy suffered severe losses in Friday's action killed and wounded men are being carried through Lalpura and it said that some of those accompanying the wounded

admit 240 casualties. Shankar, Naib Kotwal of Jellalabad has returned to Hazratnagar wounded in the head, and bringing with him the corpse of his brother. I am late an officer of the Amir's *Khassars*. The Afghans of Ningrahar are said to be considerably disheartened by the extent of their losses. But small parties of the *Ghazies* continue to pass up to the Mohmandan country through Lalpura whilst there is no sign yet of the dispersal of the two *lashkars* already reported in Nihgrahar.

There seems little reason to doubt that deliberate efforts are now being made to stir up the Afridis against us several emissaries for the Afghan *mullahs* having recently arrived in Afridi territory for this purpose. So far they do not appear to have met with any marked success. There is news yet of any attack on Punjkora bridge but it is reported that a *Bajuri lashkar* who object it is supposed as Mainkilli.

The following corrections and addition to the casualty list have been received from General Willcocks on the night the 24th April—Accidentally shot at. Shabkader killed 4107. Corporal John Stachwell; dangerously wounded 8953 Private Alfred Muir, forearm, both Royal Warwicks. In connection with two casualties previously reported 4422 Sepoy Kakra Singh belongs to the 57th not the 59th Rifles, 4448 Sepoy Gulam Khan 59th Rifles was not Gurdit wounded 53rd Singh; jaw severe. The number of Sepoy Amil Din, 57th Rifles killed at Sardarghari on the night of the 23rd was 2190 57th Rifles; at Sardarghari of the 23rd, 2731 Sepoy Bir Singh gunshot wound left foot severe; 1958 Lance Naik Shibbin Singh gunshot wound right side slightly; also 33rd Sikhs, 7091 Hay Tera Singh wounded in camp, on 22nd thigh severe.

Telegraphing this evening General Willcocks reported that all the wounded were doing well.

IMPORTANT DESPATCH.

Simla, April 25th.—The following is the continuation of General Willcocks despatch as published in the second edition of our last issue:—

2nd Royal Warwicks, Lance-Corporal Walter Moore, gunshot wound in the abdomen, dangerous; Private Bert Wynenp, left thigh, severe; Private Edward Coul, left thigh, severe; Private John Carney, left foot, severe; Private Harry Lloyd, chest severe; Private Daniel Gregory, right shoulder, slight; Private Arthur Jay, right ear, slight; Private Henry Dixon, left arm, severe; Private George West, right foot, severe; Private Oswald Oliver, right arm, slight; Private Albert Stone, fracture of right thigh, severe; Northumberland Fusiliers Private William Downe, gunshot wounds in both thighs and right hand, severe; Colour Sergeant Albert Pearce, arm slight; Sergeant William Blakdes, face, slight. 80th Battery R. F. A. Sergeant Hedley Morgan, left shoulder, slight. 57th Rifles Jamadar Bhagat Singh, right thigh, slight; Lance Naik Dorab Khan, left thigh, slight; Sepoy Din Singh, left foot, slight; Sepoy Ferman Ali, right foot, slight; Sepoy Gyan Singh, right arm, slight; Fateh Mohammad, right thigh, slight; Havildar Ghar Singh, left thigh, severe; Sepoy Hamid Gul, head dangerous; Sepoy Hakim Singh, left shoulder, severe; Havildar Bahawal Khan, left knee, severe; Sepoy Mir Zaman, left hand, severe; Lance Naik Diwan Singh, right arm, severe; Sepoy Zaman Ali, neck, dangerous; Lance Naik Shylo Diyal Singh, thigh, severe; Lance Naik Ahmad Khan, right thigh

forearm, severe; Sepoy Buh-tawar, left forearm, severe; 59th Rifles; Havildar Sultan Ali, left leg, slight; Sepoy Gul Mir, mouth, severe; Sepoy Gurmukh Singh, chest, right side, severe; Sepoy Bishan Singh left thigh, severe; Sepoy Asghar Khan, chest, severe; Sepoy Amar Singh, right knee, severe; Sepoy Tara Singh, left arm, slight; Sepoy Towahir Singh, right leg, severe; Jamadar Jahandad Khan, right ankle, slight; Sepoy Ghulam Jan, leg, slight; Sepoy Kala Singh, left arm, severe. The following casualties occurred at Garhisahar during the sniping last night:—57th Rifles Sepoy Amal Din, killed, and two wounded. Names not yet reported.

It will be seen by this despatch, that our force did not expect to meet the resistance of the enemy as fully as happened. This fact is corroborated the more in the telegram of Sir James of the 29th April which runs as follows:—

Allahabad, April 29.—The concentration of the Mohmand Field Force is being rapidly carried out. Peshawar is filling rapidly with troops. The Munster Fusiliers arrived here from Rawalpindi on Saturday; and also the 84th Sikh Pioneers from Lahore Cantonment, on Sunday, and the 8th Mountain Battery from Rawalpindi on Monday. The troops are forming a third reserve brigade. The 21st Punjabis, the 22nd Punjabis, and the 40th Pathans from Jhelum are expected.

The Mohmands are endeavouring to get help from the neighbourhood. The tribes continue incursions into British territory. It is now tolerably certain that two *lashkars* are in the Mohmand country. Possibly others are coming to their assistance. Emissaries have been sent north and south to various tribes to try and incite a like movement among the Swatis or tribes of the Tirah. The Zakka Khel appear to be taking no part.

Sufi Mullah did not take part in the fight on Thursday night. It is stated in the *bazars* that the Shinwaris and Migrohars from Afghan territory are still joining the Mohmand *lashkar*, and that the Afghan sympathise openly with the Mohmands.

There are rumours in Peshawar that the Amir is dead. These rumours are not authenticated. It is known, however, that the Amir is seriously ill, one side of his body being paralysed.

Work is still proceeding on the Loi-Shirman line, which is protected by 200 of the 18th Punjabis.

The Royal Munster Fusiliers, moved on and were in the vicinity of Shabkader, when the news came through the wire, from Sir Harold Deane, that the *Jirga* arranged by him never came off as none of the tribes were present and that negotiations fell through and settlement was remote. The situation was then regarded as serious:

Afghan help to the enemy was feared but letters from Kabul from the Amir to the Government of India assured Lord Minto, that every activity on the part of his subjects would be discouraged by him.

Thus the Amir, observed a neutral policy, which it might be said to his credit, was a policy which even Sir James Willcocks never expected.

The following telegrams will confirm this:—

Simla, May 2nd.—The *lashkar* from Ningrahar has assumed a more threatening attitude. All necessary military precautions have been taken in the Peshawar Division. The summons sent to the Mohmands to attend a *Jirga* at Shikader on 4th May has met with various replies. The Bazar have refused to come others have sent evasive replies and some have promised to attend. It is reported that the Mulahs are renewing their activity among the Mohmands. All remains quite in Dir and Swat the Khan of the former place maintains his friendly *lashkar* at the Panjkora Bridge.

Letters from Kabul as late as 25th April contain no reference to the Amir being ill or to there being unusual excitement there.

Simla, May 2nd.—A telegram from the front says: Owing to Afghan activities, the situation on frontier has taken a critical turn and there was sharp fighting near Landikotal and Michni yesterday. Details are not available but it is understood our casualties are trifling General Willcocks reached Landikotal at 2 this evening and an engagement is considered imminent. The Reserve Brigade under General Ramsay consisting of 1st Battalion, Munsters, 21st and 22nd Punjabis and 40th Pathans have gone out to his aid. Colonel Roos Keppel is there with Khyber Rifles and General Anderson also co-operates. Afghans are still coming in and a section of the Amir's officials, it is believed, are openly assisting the Mullahs.

The Amir is at Kabul, far from well.

The Viceroy held a special meeting of Council on Saturday to consider the situation. Simla is full of war rumours, some even predict another Afghan War.

Simla, May 3rd.—No news has been received of any *Jirga* with Colonel Sir Harold Deane which was fixed for to-day and it is believed that there were some negotiations which have however fallen through and the chance of settlement remote. The situation is regarded as grave.

Simla, May 3rd.—An Afghan *lashkar*, the strength of which was variously estimated at from 13,000 to 20,000 men crossed from the Afghan side of the border on Friday night in two parties. The large and better armed half going towards Landikotal whilst the other, under the Sufi Sahib in person went to the upper portion of the Bazar Valley. During Saturday the enemy was plainly seen some three miles to the west of Landikotal Fort. On Saturday night the enemy concentrated their main attack on the Michni Kandas block-house, held by a detachment of the Khyber Rifles which they made repeated and determined efforts to take. A heavy fire continued there until eight o'clock this morning. The garrison under Subadar Tor Khan inflicting some loss on them. At 10 P. M. last night the enemy opened fire on Landikotal Fort and this was continued from all sides at intervals throughout the night. The Afghans also made repeated efforts to capture and burn the *carvan serai* but heavy fire from our block houses defeated their attempt. They have now withdrawn to the hills around Khurgal to the south of the Landikotal—Landi Khana Road. The Dargai Shinwaris occupying the villages around Landikotal was also attacked during the night by the enemy but repelled all the efforts of the latter. In the meanwhile the Zakka Khel elders have come to offer their services to Colonel Roos, Keppel and report that so far no Aridis have come to

join the Sufi Sahib. In consequence of the threatening state of affairs on the Khyber side urgent orders were sent to General Willcocks late on Friday night. Shortly after midday on Saturday the Reserve Brigade under General Ramsay marched out to Peshawar and was joined at nightfall by Sir James Willcocks at Janrud. This morning the whole brigade pushed on to Landikotal together with eight guns and a squadron of Cavalry. General Willcocks reached Landikotal with the Cavalry at 2 P. M., the Infantry Brigade an hour later. A few of the enemy were showing on the hills west of Landikotal and a few shots were fired. General Barrett with another Brigade is timed to reach Ali Masjid this evening. On the Mohmand border everything is reported quiet.

Landikotal, May 4th.—Though the Sufi Mullah before General Willcocks arrived here, had departed for pastures new in the Bazar Valley, the *Lushkar* he had brought with him into British territory, still remains, and the enemy lit their fires on Sunday night to make their presence in the neighbourhood. Some sniping occurred on Sunday night, evoking from the troops in the picquet outside the fort a reply, perhaps a trifle too heartily responded. It was clear in any case that the enemy had to be taught a lesson, and at 6-30 on Monday morning General Willcocks moved out with two columns to the Michai Kandas blockhouse at the end of the Khyber gorge.

One column composed of fifty dismounted men of the 19th Lancers, two companies of the 21st Punjabis the Khyber Rifles, and four guns of the 80th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, was commanded by Colonel Roos Keppel. The other comprising the Munster Fusiliers, 40th Pathans, two companies of the 21st Punjabis and four guns of the 28th Mountain Battery, was under the command of General Ramsay. The columns proceeded by two roads on each side of the Khyber gorge to Michai Kandas about two miles from Landi Kotal. At this point they diverged. The left or General Ramsay's column took up a position on one of a series of parallel ridges to the west, while Colonel Roos Keppel's column, after leaving the battery just below the east walls of the Michai Kandas blockhouse, debouched into the fairly wide "nullah" which leaps towards Dakka on the Kabul river.

The head of the column had hardly arrived at Michai Kandas when firing began, the enemy holding a strong position, the centre of which was at the village of Khargali about two miles to the north-west of Michai Kandas blockhouse, and a mile and a half below the high crest along which runs the Durand line. The left column had to advance over a series of small ridges across very difficult ground to Khargale, the enemy gradually retiring before the vigour of the attack. The field and mountain guns were giving any small groups that came into view a very hot reception.

The Gunners got their ranges with remarkable accuracy, considering the weather for from about 8-30 till noon the rain came down in torrents, a heavy mist at times rolling across the bridges, and concealing the enemy's movements. There was an icy wind blowing at the same time, and altogether it was bitterly cold. Several of the enemy, in attempting to cross the high crest in the background over which a steep zigzag path leads to the Durand Pass in the Shinwari country—came in for heavy fire from the battery below Michai Kandas.

Early in the night a *mullah* was seen decamping up the steep path as fast as his pony would carry him. He made a fine target but escaped apparently unhurt. Whether he was the famous Shinghi Khel, Naib *mullah* or the Mir Sahib of Thappar is not known but both these high ecclesiastical dignitaries were present at the beginning of the fight:—

Certain portions of the enemy avoided the perilous ascent of the crest, and sought refuge in the *nullah* just beyond Landi Khana—hoping no doubt to find a safe retreat towards Dakka. They had reckoned, however, without their host, for Colonel Roos Keppel was in readiness for them and his men opened fire upon them directly they put in an appearance.

The left column advancing ridge by ridge eventually drew the enemy from Khargali village, and seized a ridge beyond.

The brunt of the attack fell upon the 40th Pathans, supported by the 21st Punjabis and the Royal Munsters, the latter having their first taste of frontier fighting since the Umballa campaign of 1873. Early in the advance Lieutenant Campbell of the 40th Pathans was hit by a stray bullet, which inflicted a flesh wound in the leg.

Major Rennie, of the same regiment, had an exciting experience; *ghazi* at very close quarters rushing upon him with sword. The man was shot down within a few paces of the gallant Major.

For the most part the enemy kept at a very respectable distance, but the 40th Pathans and Munsters were within a few hundred yards of the enemy Khargali.

Except for Lieutenant Campbell and one of the Munsters wounded during the retirement, there were no casualties on our side, though a sepoy of the 40th Pathans had a splintered rock knocked in his face by a bullet.

The attack was carried out with great dash. The retirement, too, was most effectively performed. As usual in frontier war fare, no sooner had the word been given for retirement than the enemy began to pluck up courage. The right column were seen slowly winding their way back to Michi Kandas, having driven off all the enemy in small numbers commenced to press back. Several snipers kept up a brisk fire, a small group on a ridge to the extreme west being absolutely interred by the shower of lead hurled upon them by the mountain guns at about 1,000 yards distance. The 40th Pathans, Munsters and mountain guns performed their part of difficult work admirably. The ground was evidently adapted to the sniping tactics of the enemy, but snipers even kept at a distance, and when the narrow defile below Michni Kandas was reached, the Khyber Rifles were in readiness on a high crest to the west of Michi Kandas to keep off any of the enemy that might venture to come too close.

Though the weather conditions spoil all chances of inflicting any very severe losses on the enemy it taught them a lesson which they will take to heart.

The Michni Kandas blockhouse, it may be mentioned, was the scene of a very plucky stand, the other night by Subadar Torhhan and about fifty men of the Khyber Rifles. The enemy, some 4,000 strong, invested the blockhouse for about seventeen hours, and actually planted one scaling ladder on to the wall of the blockhouse. The Subadar and his men, however drove off the attackers, and now have the scaling ladder in their possession as a trophy of war, of which they are naturally very proud.

General Barrett's Brigade is now at Ali Musjid, having covered the 38 miles from the Michni Mullah line in 23 hours, a fine performance.

Simla, May 4th.—This morning General Willecocks attacked the remnant of the Afghan *lashkar* on the hills west of Landi Kotal. The enemy does not appear to have been in any strength nor have they offered any prolonged resistance. The *mullah* who led them was observed to, flee on horseback early in the day. The whole of the enemy present were driven over the Afghan border. Our casualties were small: Lieutenant G. D. Campbell, 40th Pathans, gunshot wound in thigh, slight. The Royal Munster Fusiliers No. 6938, Private Lynch gunshot wound in shoulder, severe. One sepoy of the Khyber Rifles slight wound in cheek.

The Sufi Sahib with a small *lashkar* is reported to be near the Tsatsobi Pass. The majority of the Zucka Khel are in the maize sowing season. Those left in the Bazar Valley definitely refused to join the Sufi Sahib, and threaten to oppose his advance.

All is quiet on the Mohmand border, and there are no signs of the enemy, who is reported to be busy with harvesting.

THE MOHMAND EXPEDITION.

On the 5th May 1908 the *Civil and Military Gazette's* special correspondent wired as follows from Landi Kotal.

Reports coming in now place the enemy's casualties yesterday at about sixty, including three minor members of the *mullah* fraternity killed by a shell from the Field Battery while holding a *pow waw* behind the Darband Crest. Had it been possible to push the advance right up to the Darband Crest, it seems likely that large numbers of the enemy would have been discovered concealed in the *mullah* just below the crest—a trap from which they could not easily have made good their escape,—but this was not possible as General Willecocks orders prohibit him from acting offensively except inside our own border, and an advance right up to the Darband Crest would in any case unquestionably have entailed a retirement late in the afternoon. As it was, by stopping the advance of the left column just beyond the village of Khargali, and by recalling the right column at the same time, the troops were able to get back to Landi Kotal by 3.30.

General Willecocks is still at Landi Kotal, but he may leave for Peshawar at any moment. His return to Peshawar or Shabkader most necessarily depend on the course of events in the Khyber region. If the *lashkars* at Khargali dwindle away, as at present it seems likely to do, there will be no need, for the time being at any rate, of any reinforcement of the normal garrison up here.

It appears that before the arrival of General Willecocks here the *lashkars* in the neighbourhood of Landi Kotal Fort, the Talus post, a few hundred yards to the west, and the new lines about the same distance to the east of Landi Kotal, were all attacked at intervals from 10 p. m. of Friday night till 2.30 on Sunday afternoon. There were only two casualties on our side—one man at the Talus post and one man in the Michni Kandas block-house being slightly wounded.

The enemy must have suffered severely, though no reliable statistics are available as to their exact losses.

Two more brigades, I believe, are being mobilised. At present it is only possible

to hazard guesses regarding military movements, since there are so many pieces on the political chess board to be taken into account.

The Sufi Mullah is still apparently in the Bazar Valley, but is not making much progress with his propaganda. The failure of the *mullahs* to carry out even part of their promises to their following should have a somewhat dispiriting effect. The *mullahs* might blow their ecclesiastical equivalent of trumpets. The walls of Landi Kotal are like those of Jericho, still standing intact. The idea the Sufi Mullah and his principal backers apparently had in view was to avoid an engagement with the regular British troops. The Khyber posts might be attacked but only because they were held by a force drawn from the frontier people. The Sufi would seek to rouse the Afridis and so start a conflagration such as broke out in 1897. If Afghans were then found fighting side by side with the tribesmen, whose fault would it be? How could Afghan officials be held responsible for Afghan subjects joining the ranks of men of their own race and blood? It would then be more a case of a frontier rising of British subjects, not an incursion of Afghans. The Afridis, in short, are the most important factor in the situation. They can either make or mar the *mullahs'* cause. Unfortunately they show no signs of listening to his preaching, and in the fight forced on the *lashkar* at Khargali not a single Afridi, except possibly a few stray *badmashes* of raiding propensities, was present.

The Sufi has made a great effort, but he has failed so far, and it looks as if he may have to return quite discredited to his own country.

Allahabad, May 7th.—The following are further details regarding the part played by the left column in the action at Khargali:—Two columns proceed by two roads on each side of the Khyber gorge, the left descending into the gorge just below the Michni Kanda blockhouse and thereafter turning up the narrow path leading sharply to the west. As the column turned the corner of the high cliffs opposite Michni Kardas it was observed that the enemy were holding a position on the crest commanding the mouth of the gorge. The 40th Pathans accordingly pushed forward, advancing to the attack with great dash, and carried the crest in a few minutes. Meanwhile the mountain guns and one company of the Royal Munster Fusiliers occupied the first series of ridges, behind which is Khargali village.

Two companies of the Munsters now moved forward, and two companies of the 21st Punjab and three of the 40th Pathans on the left flank. An advance was made ridge by ridge, by four companies of the 40th Pathans and three companies of the Munsters, driving the enemy out of the village of Khargali and occupying to cover the movement. It was close to the walls of the village that Major Rennie of the 40th Pathans, had his encounter with a *ghazi*—the man lying concealed behind a bush. The retirement was ordered about noon, the 40th Pathans retiring through the Munsters, and the latter, with the mountain guns, performing admirably the arduous duty of covering the retirement. The enemy displayed much determination, following up till the final ridge overlooking the mouth of the gorge was reached. Here the fire became somewhat hotter on the three companies of the Royal Munsters, who were with the Khyber Rifles on the high cliffs behind, covering the final retirement through the gorge.

A private of the Royal Munsters had an exciting experience—one shot hitting his pouch and exploding all five cartridges in the flap inside. The bullet penetrated the man's chest but did no further damage.

It appears that Multan, the Peshawar raider, was present during the earlier portion of the fight.

The Sufi Mullah is at Chinar, eight miles within the Afghan border, and is reported to have threatened to prevent the Afridis in Bazar Valley from crossing into Afghan territory. Hazrat Mullah is also reported to be moving out of Mohmand country for his home in Ningrahar—a poor result of his warlike mission.

All is quiet at Dir, Swat and Bajaur the Zakka Khel remain staunch in face of the extravagant promises of the mullahs.

TROOPS LEAVING THE KHYBER.

Simla, May 7th.—It is reported that the Sufi Sahib's *lashkar* has now broken up, and that the members thereof are *en route* for their homes.

Our troops are now leaving the Khyber.

All is reported quiet in Dir and Swat. The Khan of Dir's force is still guarding the Panjkora bridge. There were no signs of any Mohmands on the Michni-Akzai line this morning. It is said the tribesmen are consulting amongst themselves as to whether the *Jirgah* should come in.

It is stated that the Principal Afghan mullahs have now returned or are on their way back to Afghanistan.

RAID ON A RAILWAY STATION.

Last night there occurred a raid on the Katchagarhi station which was defended by eleven armed Khyberis, who successfully beat off the raiders. No damage was consequently done, and one Afridi was found two miles off, dead from a bullet wound.

The expedition into the Mohmand country was definitely sanctioned on the 9th May 1908. The following telegrams appeared at the time in the Indian Press.

The *Pioneer's* special correspondent reports the departure of the Sufi for Chinar, and the failure, as it seems, of the Hazrat Sahib's mission, indicating, it appears, peace rather than war. The Hazrat Sahib, it is true, has not yet left Mohmand country. The Sufi may return to Nasrulla Khan and is a actor still to be taken into accounts one of the chief complications of the moment. Certain things still require explaining at Kabul and that many Mohmand *jirgahs* sent a defiant answer to the Government's summons. Pressure, no doubt, short of an expedition, can be exerted on the Mohmands. One fact is clear. The failure of the Sufi is a political triumph for Colonel Roos Keppel. The loargai Shinwaris refused to allow, to be drawn by the mulla's baits. The Zakka came forward of their own accord with offers to drive away the Sufi.

I regret to report the death of Major Coope-Smith at Ali Masjid last evening. It appears that a small band of raiders had taken off seven camels. Major Coope-Smith with a few men of the 19th Lancers and Guides went out to recover them. Darkness coming on it was decided to abandon the attempt when the raiders opened fire a bullet hitting Major Coope-Smith in the chest. The men supported him, in an unceremonious condition, on a horse on the way back to the camp, but he died just before the camp was reached. Few officers of the Indian Army, were better known in Northern

India; none was more popular or had so wide a circle of friends. His act was attended by grave risks, but Major Cope-Smith was ever the man to take risks. The funeral was at Peshawar yesterday, and it was attended by General Willcocks and staff, large number of officers and private friends were also present. The coffin was borne along on a gun carriage covered with the Union Jack and many wreaths. So me of the Warwicks furnished the firing party.

Information from the Frontier appears to show that while portions of the tribe are willing to send in *jirgahs*, the remainder have replied in truculent terms hence the interrupted Punitive expedition into the Mohmand country will probably be proceeded with, but to-morrow will decide what course is to be pursued.

Allahabad, May 10th.—The expedition into the Mohmand country is now definitely sanctioned and will probably start in a few days. General Willcocks has left for Shabkader village by motor.

The meeting with the *Jirgahs* has broken down. It appears that only the Halimzis and Pandialis are with *Jirgahs*. The Baizls and others are defiant. Among the Handialis are many of Ghulam Khan's enemies and the question is whether signs of repentance at the eleventh hour should save those who have recently done all they could to be as one of the few real friends of the Indian Government in the Mohmand country.

At present no political complication is to be apprehended. The Afghan bogey appears to be laid. The Amir has come to his senses and there is little to fear from that quarter.

Good rain might do much to diminish the water difficulties in the Mohmand country—a problem seriously to be considered.

It is clear that the truculent attitude of many of the tribes is due to nothing more than the firm condition that our bark is worse than our bite. Had General Willcocks had troops and transport to follow up vigorously the victory at March on the 24th April, the whole Mohmand trouble would probably be over by this. As it was, he had to be content with inflicting one sharp lesson and allowed the enemy to disperse in the hills, defeated but not pursued. As matters are there appears to be some hesitation to strike, so the raiders go on raiding, and moveable columns are discovered to be anything but speedily movable. It is an unwise policy, for it generally is the point now reached.

The expeditionary force will be composed of two brigades, first and second under Generals Anderson and Barrett, with a reserve brigade under General Ramsay.

An order has just been issued for the Seaforth Highlanders who belong to the second Brigade, and the whole of the third Brigade under General Ramsay consisting of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, 21st and 22nd Punjabis, and 40th Pathans to march out of Peshawar to-morrow morning. It is understood they will proceed to Shabkader and other parts along the Mohmand border, and will eventually garrison the line hitherto held by the first Brigade. Of the further movements of the troops nothing is apparently known.

The situation is complicated by the undoubted presence of cholera in Peshawar Valley and among the troops, and the need of taking measures to cope with it.

Simla May 10th.—The following news has been given out this evening. All is quiet on the Mohmand border, this evening no enemy in sight. In Swat it

is reported that the Sartor *Fakir* with some, following has arrived in Assi Khel territory, about forty miles up the river from Chakdora. No excitement is reported locally everything is quiet on the Khyber side. The Amir has replied to the letter sent him by the Government of India on the subject of the invasion by Afghans of British territory. He expresses regret and states that he has issued stringent orders recalling all Afghans and *mullahs* who have crossed the border to assist the tribesmen.

Simla, May 11th.—A press *Communiqué* says:—The *mullahs* are again making efforts to win over the Mohmands, Salarzais Churmung's, and others of Bajaur. It is not yet known whether their efforts have met with any measure of success, but Nawagai, Dir and Swat are loyal and are concerting measures to checkmate the *mullahs*. The Khan Khel *Jirgah* have issued a proclamation to the effect that the Sartor *Fakir's* programme is opposed to the doctrines of Islam, and calculated to harm the people and that they will have nothing to do with it.

Some of the Upper Swat tribes are reported to have put the Sartor *Fakir* under supervision to prevent his moving the Gandab and Kamali Halimzais and the Piddial. The Mohmands received by General Willcocks at Shabkadez on the 10th May were dismissed as they were not representative of the Mohmand tribe. At the *Jirgah* held on the 8th May the Afridis decided not to rise against the British, unless the latter first broke the peace with them. They also decided to fine anyone making mischief in Tirah.

All is quiet on the frontier and no military operations have taken place.

Simla, May 11.—Colonel Birdwood Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief has left Simla, to join General Willcocks, he having been appointed Chief of the Staff to the Mohmand expedition.

LANDI KOTAL.

When our troops were eventually withdrawn from the Khyber after the military operations of 1897-98, the old fortified *Serai* at Landi Kotal—wrecked by the Afridis—had been replaced by a redoubt so well-planned and so strongly fortified to be proof against any enemy not armed with artillery. Its interior was arranged to give good accommodation for several hundred of Khyber Rifles with their British officers, and at the same time to admit of large reserves of food-supplies, water and ammunition for the permanent garrison in case of an attack. By the free use of steel shutters and guard plates men lining the parapets were secured against dropping or enfilading fire from the adjacent hill; and there were none of these "dead-angles" which had proved so fatal to the defenders of Saragarhi. On a small scale the fort was a triumph of engineering skill; and though there was some criticism as to the elaborate precautions taken to make it exceptionally strong, expert military opinion was well satisfied with the whole work. Probably no one engaged in its construction thought that it would ever be attacked in force; but the unexpected has happened; and on the night of the 1st instant Colonel Ross-Koppel and his Khyber Rifles had the satisfaction of testing its defensive qualities. The attacking party this time were Afghans and not Afridis, and the result was what might have been anticipated; the garrison were absolutely secure, and held their own with the greatest ease. At the same time that the fort was built a series of block-houses was also constructed, not only near Landi Kotal, but at various commanding points along

the Khyber Road. These also were of a new pattern, masonry and steel alone being used, and each was made practically impregnable. Flood and water for forty days could be stored in them; and with ample ammunition the small detachments told off to hold them could defy attack. Last week when it became clear that the Khyber region might be invaded by the Afghan *lashkars* gathered at Pesh Bolak, everything was made snug in these miniature forts, and the Rifles confidently waited the development of events. The Michni Kandas block-house, which is placed so as partly to command the road up from Landi Kotal, had to stand the blunt of the main attack. The Afghan recognised its importance, and made determined efforts to capture it. They failed completely though they were in great strength. They also tried to take the *Serat* in which the caravans are placed when halting at Landi Kotal, but here again they came under the fire of more block-houses and they had to retire. The Landi Kotal defences were thus put to a severe test, and they came satisfactorily out of it. It is quite certain that if Ali Masjid or any of the smaller posts had been attacked, similar results would have followed. With the appearance on the scene of Sir James Willcocks and a Brigade from Jamrud any investment of Landi Kotal fort was rendered impossible, and as another brigade also moved up to Ali Masjid a few hours later the safety of the Khyber was secured. If further operations now have to be undertaken, we shall reap the full advantages of the measures taken in 1898-99 to strengthen the defences of the Pass. There is alternative route through the Mullagori country, with a military road all the way, lying open for use in case of a large concentration of troops at or beyond Landi Kotal. Strategically the position is far more satisfactory than many years ago.

A press *communique* on 12th May, says:—All was quiet on the Mohmand border this morning, there being no enemy in sight. Further on in tribal territory some excitement is reported amongst the Mohmand sections, and *Jirgahs* have been held with a view to deciding on plans for resistance. The Sartor *Fakir*, who was there on the 10th May, has since moved down to the neighbourhood of Manglaor. He is endeavouring to stir up trouble in Lower Swat, but the local *maliks* state that they will oppose his advance, whilst the Political Agent is holding the Swat levies in readiness.

The *Pioneer's* special correspondent from Peshawar on the 10th May says: The first Brigade is now encamped along the grove of trees about a mile from Shabkader, the third Brigade about a mile further on the road to Michni, while the second Brigade is on its way out. A start will probably be made in a day or two. Colonel Birdwood, Chief of the Staff is arriving to-morrow.

It is quite cool in camp, nor is there any plague of flies. Cholera has declined and appears to be dying down. As the Guides have had a case or two of cholera lately the 55th Sikhs take their place in the second Brigade. There is no news from over the border.

The *Pioneer's* special correspondent at Shabkader wiring on the 12th May, says:—The first Brigade moves out towards Gandab Valley to-morrow early. Owing to few cases of cholera the place of the Northumberland Fusiliers in the first Brigade will be taken by the 22nd Punjabis.

Captain A. G. Stuart from the first Brigade Staff is appointed D. A. Q. M. G., Field Force Staff, vice Major Ferguson Davis placed on the sick list.

Orders have been issued by General Willcocks that Gandab Halimzais in the south of the Nahaki Pass having shown no hostility the villages and crops

are not to be destroyed unless these people now prove unfriendly. As regards the prospects of fighting, the Kindashis, Gurbaz and Safah are said to be collecting in Lakia, north of Nahakki, and the Baizai and Khawazai at Khel to the north-west of the Nank Pas.

The second Brigade moved out to Hafiz Kor this morning.

MOHMAND PREPARATIONS FOR FIGHTING.

Simla, May 13th.—A *Communique* issued to day says:—There is no change in the general political situation. Yesterday General Willcocks' cavalry reconnoitred up the Gandab Valley as far as the village of Dand. There was no sign of the enemy, and houses were found everywhere dismantled, and property removed in anticipation of our advance. Reports coming in say that the various sections implicated in the recent disturbances intend fighting, and to that end have sent their women and children away to places of security. To-day General Willcocks advanced to Dand.

The Frontier first Brigade arrived at Dand on May 13. The advance guard under General Anderson has moved up Gandab Valley: it is composed of two squadrons of the 21st Cavalry, two battalions of infantry, four guns of No. 8 Mountain Battery, and one section of No. 6 Company Sappers and Miners.

The political situation is unchanged. The tribesmen are dismantling their houses and removing the families and property in anticipation of the advance. General Willcocks has advanced to Dand.

General Willcocks made a further advance this morning up the Gandab valley, meeting with no opposition. Full reports as to the precise composition of the forces with him are not at present available, but it would appear probable that he has with him generally the first and second Brigades, with only such alterations as have been necessitated by the slight outbreak of cholera. For example, it is probable that the Northumberland Fusiliers have been replaced in the first Brigade by the 22nd Punjabis from the reserve Brigades, and the Guides Infantry in the second Brigade by the 55th Sikhs. The Seaforth Highlanders continue to hold their place in the second Brigade.

A press *Communique* says:—All is quiet in the Khyber Agency.

On the 12th May the Peshawar Border Military Police and the villagers of Shah Alam Jor encountered a party of armed raiders (supposed to be Utman Khels) in Khudao Palosi, near Tangi, and dispersed them, killing one and wounding one.

Up to the moment of wiring, no further fighting has been reported from any part of the Frontier.

A FIFTH BRIGADE.

Simla, May 15. The fifth Brigade of the Mohmand Field Force, consisting of two battalions of the 5th Gurkhas, one battalion of the 6th Gurkhas and the Royal Irish Regiment were railed from Kala Seral to Nowshera yesterday.

WHERE MOHMANDS GET THEIR ARMS?

One of the most unsatisfactory features of the present position on the north-west Frontier is the abundance of Martini-Heuri ammunition among the tribesmen, and more particularly among those who live in Afghan territory. Since the rearmament of Indian Army with the 303 rifle there has been a dearth of 450 cartridges in the tribal country. They could not be bought or

stolen in India, and prices rose to a very high figure. At the same time the breach-loading rifles of that calibre dropped in value, for the Afridi, Shinwari, Ghilzai, etc. found little use for a weapon for which ammunition could not readily be obtained. The gun-runners of Muscat and the Persian Gulf became aware of this state of things and immediately began smuggling cartridges as well as rifles. Then trade developed in a remarkable way, for they offered 100 rounds with each rifle, and undertook to supply more if required. The big seizures of ammunition together with rifles, near Robat on Perso Baluch border last year, revealed the extent to which this illicit traffic had grown. The Afghan traders were furious at the interference of the British authorities, and they have taken greater precautions this summer to get their consignment across Baluchistan. Successful smuggling in the past may account in part for the large supply of ammunition now in the independent tribal country; but, as regards Ningshar, where the packets are being sold at one eighth of the normal market price, it is certain that the cartridges have come from the Kabul arsenal. The Cartridge Factory which Sir Salter Pyno built and equipped with the best machinery has a large output, and it is known that many millions of rounds have been accumulated in the past ten years. This reserve has hitherto been most jealously guarded, but now some one in authority at Kabul has opened the arsenal doors and ammunition has been freely supplied at nominal prices to *lashkars* that have been on the move towards our frontier. This is a proceeding that cannot be overlooked and a very clear understanding will have to be reached on the point before the relations of the two Governments can be as they were.—*Pioneer*.

On the 14th May General Willcocks advanced to the neighbourhood of the Nahakk Pass. There was no opposition but a little sniping at night without result. The road up the Gandab valley was found to be in a very bad state. The health of the column was reported good and though the heat of the day time was great the nights were cool. The Royal Munster Fusiliers were unfortunately afflicted with cholera but elsewhere it seemed to abate.

Later reports said that owing to the outbreak of cholera the Mohmand Field Force had been reconstituted as follows:—

Divisional Troops:—No. 8 Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery, 28th Native Mountain Battery, (guns at Landi Kotal), 21st Cavalry, No. 1 Company, 1st Sappers and Miners, No. 6 Company 1st Sappers and Miners, 34th Sikh Pioneers, Guides Infantry, 1st Brigade 2nd Punjabis, 53rd Sikhs, 57th Rifles, 59th Rifles;—2nd Brigade, 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, 54th Sikhs, 28th Punjabis, 55th Rifles, 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion P. W. O. West Yorks Regiment, 19th Punjabis, 40th Pathans, 4th Brigade, 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 15th Sikhs, 29th Punjabis and 1st Battalion, 4th Gurkhas.

The *Pioneer's* correspondent from Dand on the 13th May says:—

The first Brigade marched to-day to Dand on the right bank of the Gandab.

nulak, nine miles from last night's encampment on the Michni-Shabkadar road. The head of the column started about six in the morning, reaching Dand between 10.30 and 11 o'clock. For a mile the route lay over a sandy plain covered with scrub. Then came low foot-hills with the circular hill *aykrabad*, on the left marking the Mohmand border. Soon to Hafiz Kor where the second Brigade moved yesterday, the meeting of the Brigades affording mild excitement to the bored inhabitants of the camp.

The scenery is now wilder and the road is more stony in many places. The old road built by the Sappers on the last Mohmand campaign, eleven years ago, was found to have disappeared. The Sappers and Miners and Pioneers to-day are busy from early morning, removing rocks or hacking a new path for the camels, horses and mules. The Mohmands have naturally neither knowledge nor inclination to preserve the work of our engineers. The last mile of the road to Dand was suggestive of the bed of a mountain torrent, up and down which the horse had to be led by their riders. The route taken passes several times over the ground of the *nulak*, a thin stream of fairly clear water being all that is left of what in the map is shown as the Gandab River. Dand itself deserves distinction. The name Dand in Pushtu signifying "pool," something rare. The staff here is encamped practically on the site of the old village. Two years ago the people of Dand levied tolls on a *kafila* passing by. An avenging *lashkar* came down and the village is no more. Dand is perhaps peculiar for it boasts of several trees, small bushes here and there along the road, and also patches of coarse grass. The trees one might count on the fingers in this land of crag, ravine, rock and shale. There is no shade; fortunately the sun is just now not at its fiercest. The first Brigade moves to-morrow to Gilalai, when it will be joined by the second Brigade. A report has reached camp that the Bazar and Khwazai recognising their powerlessness to offer serious resistance to the advance, have despatched their womenfolk to their homes, and have decided to restrict their energies to guerilla warfare.

Nahaki, May 15.—The remainder of the first Brigade came in this afternoon. There is already reported firing in the direction of the Khapak Pass. It appears that the cavalry in reconnaissance thither were fired on, two men being slightly hit one hurt by a fall, and three horses killed. The enemy allowed the *sowars* to get into a *nulak* which was difficult of egress. Troops were sent in support, but were withdrawn later. The Pass is not being pressed.

Simla, May 16.—Yesterday General Willcocks reconnoitred beyond Nahaki and also in the direction of the Khapak Pass. The latter was found to be held in some strength. Three *sowars* of the 21st Cavalry were slightly wounded.

All remains quiet in other parts of the Frontier.

Nahaki, May 16.—Major-General Willcocks and Major-General Anderson, with two squadrons of the 21st Cavalry, four guns, No. 8 British Mountain Battery, and the 57th and 59th Rifles, proceeded down the Bohai Dag Valley as far as the mouths of the Kharappa Pass, a portion of the second Brigade over-taking on the other side of the Pass. There was some sniping, especially on the way back, the casualties being four men wounded and one horse killed. The enemy were found only in small numbers. Several Kharazai villagers were burned and crops destroyed.

General Anderson and the troops are staying the night at Kasai, two miles north of Nahaki. General Willcocks returned here where the 2nd Brigade now is.

It appears that the total casualties in yesterday's retirement amounted to twelve, the enemy following up with great persistency and remaining close to the vicinity of Kasai camp. When, therefore, picquets were sent out they met with considerable opposition, one picquet to the south of camp being established at the cost of three casualties and only after the guns had been turned on the enemy.

Two picquets of the 22nd Punjabis to the north-west were also severely attacked, the most northerly one being reinforced at 10 o'clock—after a message for help—by 100 men Major Climo, 24th Punjabis and Lieutenants Money and Webb, 22nd Punjabis, reinforcements arrived safely without casualties, despite very heavy fire. Firing continued, and Major Climo asked for assistance to remove the wounded, and for blankets owing to the pouring wet night.

At one a. m. 150 men, under Captain Cooke 24th Punjabis, Captain Clifford and Lieutenant Leslie Smith, 22nd Punjabis relieved the picquets. The wounded were brought in but no rifles apparently were lost. Many dead bodies of Mohmands seen at night were removed by the morning. The total casualties in the Kasai camp and picquets last night were eighteen natives—thirty-three altogether. No British officers were wounded or killed.

Nahaki May 15.—One or two shots were fired from the hills last night on the central Nahaki village, where the troops were encamped. Nahaki itself consists of one main village and two small outlying hamlets in the valley some 3000 feet directly below the Nahaki pass. This went out to destroy the small village called Sro, about a mile away. The walls pulled down the rafters, removed and a considerable quantity of grain and other property was discovered, either inside the wall or buried in the ploughed fields close by. At the same time General Anderson and a portion of the troops conducted a reconnaissance down the valley to the north of Nahaki.

As General Anderson has not yet returned it is impossible to say what the result of the reconnaissance is likely to be. Firing can be heard in the direction of Khapak Pass. Possibly if the enemy are found in large force there may be an engagement in that direction to-morrow.

The rest of the 1st Brigade move in here to-day, the 2nd Brigade being at Gallanai.

A friendly letter has been received from the Khan of Nawagai offering assistance if his services are required.

THE MARCH TO NAHAKI.

PESHAWAR 17TH MAY 1908.

Nahaki 15th May.—*By Post to Peshawar.* Three days have come and gone since the first Brigade left Shabkader for the Mohmand country. The advance guard of the first Brigade are now at Nahaki and as I write the remainder of the Brigade are coming in, having done the journey from Dand in two stages. It was a trifle hotter to-day than it was yesterday, and the eleven miles march from Halanai was necessarily a somewhat trying ordeal. The telegraph was established here to-day.

Further details of the advance guard's march from Dand may be of interest. The advanced guard left Dand at 5-30 in the morning and had covered the seven miles to Ghalanai about 11 a. m. A long hal was then called before

the force proceeded to its destination. The halt was needed as both men and animals had a stiff march. For the two miles there was a steady climb then a level bit, to be followed by a further ascent on the summit of the Kharappa Pass. The first four miles of the road had been greatly improved by Sappers and Pioneers under the supervision of Colonel Dundee the day before. Thereafter one travelled along a narrow, shingly, rocky line to the foot of the Kharappa. Here massive boulders bestrewed the two-foot path, horses and mules being dragged up what in places was nothing else but sheer rock. Horses slipped and mules fell, but the long line went slowly up till from the top of the Pass, could be seen the plains. In the far distance behind, and a slight drop in front the Gandab Valley with cultivated fields, a long stretch of green and yellow, in effective contrast to the dreary, desolate hills that hemmed it in on either hand. Water, too, there was in the *nullah* for man and animal, a small stream welling up below Ghalani, only to disappear again a little distance further down the valley. Beyond Ghalani the route lay along the dry bed of the wide *nullah*, the heat given out by sand and shingle being intense. The barrier of hills to the north, was slowly approached, giving, however, little idea of the ascent to be faced. A turn round the corner of the fronting hills and Nahaki Pass came into view with a narrow, zigzag road clearly outlined, leading to the summit.

Another wearisome climb over stone and shale had its reward in the prospect of the other side. A broad, fertile valley stretched for many miles north east and west, encircled by the inevitable barren hills that meet the eye wherever one turned in the Mohmand country. Nahaki itself comprises a central village and two outlying hamlets. It lies some 670 feet below the top of the Nahaki Pass, the road pursuing its zigzag course down into the Kamalai valley. Nahaki marks the boundary between the Kamalai, one Gauda-Halimzai, several of the inhabitants of the Gandab valley having houses at Nahaki. The road from Dand to Nahaki has received great attention from the engineers, and is now passable even for camels.

Nahaki 16th May.—I have just despatched a Morse wire with a few details of the march down the Bohai Dag undertaken with the double object of cutting off the retreat of the enemy in the Khapak Pass, should they be found there, and also of burning the village and destroying the crops of the Khawalzai. The force started early reaching Ato Kbel, the boundary between the Kamalai Halimzai and Khawalzai, at about 8 a.m. Thence the route lay down the valley to the corner, where the Khapak Pass enters the Bohai Dag, about seven miles from Nahaki. There was some sniping on the way, Captain Rich, R.E., Survey Officer, being slightly bruised in the arm by a spent bullet. The men were few in number and appeared to be badly armed, Lee Metfords being conspicuous by their absence. As no *lashkar* could be discovered, the work of destruction was proceeded with crops and houses being destroyed. We had a few casualties on the return march, and sniping has begun here at Nahaki, and will also take place, no doubt, at Kassi, where General Anderson now is.

The Bohai Dag, so far as we saw it to-day is a fertile valley about two miles in width with rocky hills flanking it in on either side. The Danish Kal flows down the centre, but there is now water in the *nullah* among the villages seen to-day was one to be especially the head quarters of the Hazarat Sahib.

Allahabad, May 17.—Owing to the outbreak of Cholera among the troops, several changes in the regiments forming the first three Brigades have been

made, almost at the seventh hour. The Northumberland Fusiliers, originally in the 1st Brigade, have not been able to take their place in their Brigade as a few cases of cholera have occurred among them but the latest reports fortunately show them free from cases. The Guides Infantry who returned from Landi Kotal with cholera, were also prevented from going. Their place was taken by the 19th Punjabis from the 4th Brigade. The most serious outbreak among the Royal Munster Fusiliers began with a few isolated cases, and appeared to have exhausted itself after the change of camps. Suddenly, however more cases occurred. Up to-date there have been some forty cases, this effectually preventing the gallant regiment from taking any part in the expedition now in progress. The West Yorkshire Regiment, which arrived from Nowshera at almost the same time as the 4th Gurkhas, marched out at once to Shabkader and is now with General Willcocks. The Khan had been approached a short time ago by the *Mullick* especially Mir Sahib Jan Badshah, with proposals to join a fanatical combination. Their proposals were rejected. His letter is a further proof of friendliness and loyalty.

GENERAL WILCOCKS' ADVANCE.

DESTROYING THE TOWERS.

The following Press *Communique* was issued on Saturday, the 16th May.

General Willcocks advanced with a view to dispersing the Lashker already reported as holding the Khapak Pass. The enemy fled without awaiting for the attack. Subsequently General Willcocks destroyed the towers of some villages belonging to Khwāizai Mohmands in the neighbourhood of Ahad Kor as also some Konali Jalinzai village towers near Surdag. Our casualties during the operations were Captain E. F. Rich, R. E. (Survey officer) slightly wounded in left arm, three men of 56th Rifles and one man of 59th Rifles all severely wounded.

Last night during a heavy thunder storm the picquets surrounding the camp of the first brigade at Darwazagai were attacked in a most determined fashion and General Anderson between 10 and 11 p. m. found it necessary to reinforce a hardly pressed picquet of the 22nd Punjabis. The enemy were not finally driven off until 5-15 a. m. leaving many of his men dead in the hills round the picquets. During this attack our casualties were as follows:—22nd Punjabis, one native officer, seven rank and file killed, four men dangerously wounded, five men slightly wounded; 57th Rifles, one man slightly wounded; 59th Rifles, one native officer killed, one native officer slightly wounded, one man dangerously wounded, five men severely wounded, two men slightly wounded, total 2 native officers and 7 native rank and file killed, one native officer and 23 men wounded.

The health of the troops in the field continues good and to-day's cholera telegram announces only one fresh case—a native follower.

The unrest in Buner mentioned by certain newspapers is believed to be greatly exaggerated if not entirely without foundation.

The Mohmands opposition is breaking up and General Willcocks occupied the Khapak pass on Saturday without any fighting. Desultory fight, however followed in which Captain L. T. Rich, R. E. who distinguished himself in the Zaka Khel Expedition was slightly wounded there being no other European casualties.

The most determined fighting however took place at Darwazagai and General Anderson was able to punish the enemy severely, the casualties being very

heavy. The brunt of the fighting fell upon the 22nd Punjabis who dislodged the enemy but they had no less than twenty-two killed and wounded. The Mohmands are not likely to attempt fresh opposition as it is evident that they are incapable of resisting a force so superior in numbers and so much better organised. Colonel A. B. C. Williams has joined the field service and Colonel Lowry has taken over charge of the Divisional Supply and Transport Office, Peshawar.

There is no truth whatever in the statement telegraphed from Simla to the *Civil and Military Gazette* that the Royal Irish Regiment and two battalions of the 5th Gurkhas had been railed from Kala Sarai to Nowshera on the 14th May. The Royal Irish regiment remains in Rawalpindi and the 5th Gurkhas at Kala Sarai; yesterday General Willcocks reconnoitered beyond Nahaki and also in the direction of the Khapak Pass. The latter was found to be held in some strength. Three sowars of the 21st Cavalry were slightly wounded. All remains quiet on other parts of the Frontier.

The progress of the Mohmand expedition will be found in the following Press messages, which we extract and give below. They were all telegraphed from Simla and also from the scenes of operations:—

General Willcocks reports that on the night of the 18th the camp of the 1st Brigade at Nahaki was attacked by some 500 men Ulgansai and Dawasai. The enemy came on from three sides encouraged by the shouts of Mullas and the banging of tom-toms. They failed however to push his attack home. Sniping continued during the night but our troops who were well entrenched suffered hardly any casualties, one sepoy of the 22nd Punjabis and one transport driver being slightly wounded and a few horses and mules hit. The 2nd Brigade under General Barrott marched yesterday to Lohai Dag with the intention of destroying the village of Khan Beg Kor the head-quarters of the Hazarat and other Afghan mullas. During their recent stay in the country strong opposition was met with from Baiyars, Khwazais and others in the neighbourhood of Ganawar. China the hills on both sides of the valley being held by the enemy who were dislodged with heavy loss. The 58th Rifles cleared the hills on the north side, the 23rd Punjabis those on the south in each case with great dash. While a party of the 34th Pioneers were destroying the towers of Ganawar China they were charged by a body of twelve Ghazis who were all bayoneted after killing three and wounding two Pioneers. The village of Khan Beg Kor was reached and destroyed, Gudlai Tahgi village was also burnt. An Afghan Sirdar Khan of Gandab on the Kabul River led the enemy in one of the fights. Amongst the prisoners a Chilizai of Dehsaha near Kabul was captured. The enemy numbered about 2,000 and fought well losing about sixty killed. Our casualties were; Lieutenant Evans, 26th Punjabis attached 54th Sikhs dangerously wounded; Finlay 58th Rifles and Lieutenant Sparling, both slightly wounded. In the 23rd Punjabis one Sepoy severely and slightly wounded; 57th Rifles one Sepoy killed, two severely, one slightly wounded, 34th Pioneers three Sepoy killed, two severely wounded; 55th Rifles, one Sepoy killed three severely, one slightly wounded; 23rd Mountain Battery one Sepoy slightly wounded; 21st Cavalry one Sower slightly wounded. The Brigade camped for the night in the neighbourhood of Khan Beg Kor.

Nahaki, 20th May a full and representative *Jirgah* of the Mitai Musa Khel section of the Buzai came in here yesterday and were interviewed by Major

Blakeway, Chief Political officer. This section for the last four and a-half years have refused to take their allowances, and during the last few months have adopted an extremely truculent attitude. Their present inclination towards peaceful submission is therefore of some importance. The *Jirgah* were informed of the terms to be granted to them, and were told to put in an appearance again at Kakani, a day hence.

General Willcocks last evening addressed the men of the 22nd Punjabis in-fucent Hindustani, praising the bravery of the picquets at Kasai on Saturday night, and informing the regiment that the names of those officers and men who had shown gallantry on the occasion would be handed up to the Commander-in-Chief. It was an impressive ceremony, both General Willcocks and General Anderson's staff being present. General Willcocks afterwards spoke a few words to the British and Native officers of the regiment and the regiment then marched past. The main incidents in the story of the fighting at the picquet have already been told. To-day's ceremony was connected particularly with four names, Jemadar Mir Afzal, son of Resildar-Major Shere Dag Khan of the Central India Horse, who though twice severely wounded in the body, and the head concealed the fact from his men, and continued to command his picquet till he received his third and final wound; Naik Jehan Dad Khan, who took over the command of his picquet after the death of Mir Afzal, and of the senior non-commissioned officers; Havildar S. Jhu Singh, who in spite of being shot in the hand continued to command his picquet till it was relieved; and finally Ram Singh, Signaller, who stuck to his duty through heavy fire, and at great personal risk. Naik Jehan Dad Khan was specially promoted to Naik. Altogether in the two picquets eight men were killed and ten wounded. Two of the latter have since died.

Nahaki, 20th May. There was another vigorous attack on the camp last night, a tremendous fusillade taking place. The *tom-toms* and loud cries were again in evidence, and the enemy in some cases got very close to the entrenchments. Our casualties were one man wounded.

In a telegram received early this morning, General Willcocks reports that the camp of the 1st Brigade at Nahaki was again attacked between 9 and 12 on the night of the 19th. The enemy showed much daring, and crept up to the close quarters through the many ravines in the neighbourhood of the camp, some being even bayoneted on the breastworks. Owing to the good cover provided our casualties were slight—One sepoy, 22nd Punjabis killed, one sowar, 21st Cavalry wounded, and several transport animals killed and wounded.

Yesterday, the 20th, the 1st Brigade, accompanied by General Willcocks moved to the Utmanzai country. On the 19th instant the 2nd Brigade marched to Kung a place prominent in the early days of the present rising as a *rendezvous* for *mullahs*, and destroyed its towers. On the 20th the 2nd Brigade returned to Nahaki since the last *communiqué*, it had suffered the following additional casualties:—Seaforth Highlanders: No. 9546 Private John White, accidentally killed; 21st Cavalry: one man severely wounded; 54th Sikhs one man killed; two dangerously and three severely wounded; 55th Rifles: one man severely wounded.

All is quite elsewhere on the Frontier.

Umra Killi, 21st May. Generals Willcocks and Anderson and the first Brigade arrived here yesterday. As the head of the column emerged from a *nullah* on to a slight rise in front of Umra Killi, it was observed that the enemy

were still in the village. The line accordingly advanced across the ground in extended order, the 53rd on the left and the 57th on the right with No. 8 Mountain Battery in the centre. Desultory fighting resulted in a fairly sharp action, the enemy being driven from Umra Killi and a small village to the right down into the ravines and cultivated ground which lay between Umra Killi and Yakhdand. The latter place stands in a hollow with one high crest in the back ground and flanking it in on the west and another hill hemming it on the east. As the enemy were driven towards the hills and the Yakhdand, they were largely reinforced from Yakhdand, and the troops moved back on the perimeter, it not being our object to advance so far as Yakhdand.

The enemy showed great pluck, following close on the heels of our troops, one band of eight *ghazi* swordsmen being clearly observable. Most of these were laid low by shells from the Mountain Battery. The enemy persisted vigorously in their attacks, and on the east advanced right up to the water tank, a few hundred yards in front of the small village. Here they eventually were driven back by Maxim. They also planted a white flag within a few hundred yards of our troops.

Heavy firing continued until a late hour last night. The troops occupied Umra Killi village and the small village already mentioned to the right, such entrenchments being made as the lateness of the hour allowed.

Umra Killi lies in the Utmanzai country. Yakhdand being the place where the Gun Mullah was recently preaching.

Our casualties were severe, including two British officers killed, these being Lieutenant Archibald, attached to the 57th Rifles and Lieutenant Soole, 21st Cavalry. Four of the rank and file were killed and about 20 wounded. The enemy lost heavily; they were seen towards evening carrying off their dead and wounded, in long lines.

On the 20th May, General Willcocks, with the 1st Division, marched from Nahaki to Umra Kelli, a distance of some six miles almost due north. The enemy was found to be occupying a position of considerable strength with a deep and very intricate *nullah* in front and hills beyond. The first Brigade proceeded to dislodge the enemy who made stubborn resistance there being frequent sword charges. In the course of these operations the enemy lost heavily it being computed that over two hundred fell, very many dead bodies being counted by our officers. In spite of this punishment as dusk fell they closed in on our entrenchments and during the night made several half hearted attacks. Towards evening numbers of the enemy could be seen leaving their main body for the purpose of removing the dead and wounded.

It is stated that this *lashkar* was composed of Dawizai Utman Khel and Safis.

CASUALTIES.

Our casualties were Killed:—Lieutenant G. H. Soole, 21st Cavalry; Lieutenant G. F. Archibald, 22nd Punjab, attached to the 57th Rifles. Slightly wounded; Lieutenant G. E. Bruce, 53rd Sikhs. Native ranks, killed one native officer, 57th Rifles, one sepoy, 53rd Sikhs. Wounded: one gunner No. 8 Mountain Battery and one gunner 11st Heavy Battery (employed as signaller) Native ranks; wounded; one Subadar; three sepoys of the 53rd Sikhs; six sepoys of the 57th Rifles; two sowars of the 21st Cavalry and three followers. Several horses and mules were also killed and wounded.

General Willcocks remains in the same neighbourhood to-day.

It is reported that a few cases of cholera have occurred at Chalanai on the line of communications, and Lieutenant Wells, of the Guides, has succumbed to the disease. Elsewhere on the Frontier everything remains quiet.

Haji Khel 21st May. The village described as Umra Killi is really Haji Khel, Umra Killi lying to west and the small village of Kasim Kor to the east with the tank a few hundred yards in front. When the column reached a point south of Umra Killi and Haji Kor, it turned round in the direction of these villages, the 53rd being on the left and the 57th Rifles on the right with cavalry on the left flank. The advance was made in extended order the cavalry on the left coming to very close quarters with the enemy in broken ground leading to the deep *nullah*; which ran across from a few hundred yards in front of the Haji Khel to a short distance in front of Kasim Kor tank on the east. Beyond lay Yakhdand in the hollow with the crest running from west to north, an another ridge on the east. The 57th Rifles advanced in extended order in 5 or 6 lines to right through Haji Khel with the right flank overtopping. They then seized Khen Kor and attacked, Lieutenant Archibald on the right flank being shot through the head near the tank. The 57th Rifles advanced from broken ground into the end of the *nullah* that lay between Haji Khel and Yakhdand. Being told not to advance too far, they withdrew to in front of the *nullah*. They retired within the perimeter later in the evening. They necessarily came in for very heavy fire, losing 2 men killed and 8 men wounded, 1 subsequently dying.

Meanwhile the cavalry advancing on the left towards the *nullah* were fired on at a few yards' distance. Lieutenant Soole, being killed, 53rd Sikhs took up a position in front of Haji Khel, the guns being immediately to their right rear. The 53rd Sikhs also advanced into the deep *nullah*, but withdrew on receiving orders to retire. Their retirement was the signal for the ghazi charge.

The *nullah* in which these operations were going on was a very deep one, and enemy were careful to let the troops get well into it before opening fire. The enemy were in considerable force, and showed extraordinary daring, getting at times within 50 to a 100 yards of our front line.

KUDDA KHEL PETITION THE AMIR.

Simla 22nd May. The Khuda Khel Mohmands are reported to have sent a petition to the Amir to the effect that they attacked the British at the instance of the frontier officials and yet have now been deserted and that if they do not receive help at once they will hand over their country to the British. The Afridis are said to have written to a leading *nullah* that they want no more *nullahs* in Tirah, and have no desire to bring trouble on themselves, to be disavowed and by the instigators as the Mohmands have been.

There is no news of importance from the Mohmand country to-day.

General Willcocks on the 21st May was engaged in destroying villages and towers in the Kandahari Sufi country, the *Jirgahs* of the tribe having rejected the very moderate terms offered yesterday. He advanced northwards to Labarai which was found to be held in considerable strength. The enemy, however, did not await the attack but erected a white flag and negotiations with their *Jirgahs* are proceeding.

Reports from Panjkora indicates that the tribesmen suffered heavy losses in the Umra Killi affair. All remains quiet elsewhere on the frontier. The usual

sniping continues nightly at Nahaki. The only additional casualties in General Willcock's force since the last *communiqué* are:—Captain O'Grady 59th Rifles, gunshot wound in thigh severe; one sepoy 55th Rifles, slightly wounded; one transport driver dangerously wounded.

FURTHER ADVANCE.

Lakarai, 22nd May.—Yesterday and to-day's marches brought us into the Sufi country. A *Jirgah* from the Shinwabri Gurbaz and Mahsud sections came into Chingai Banda, where the troops were encamped yesterday. The Matai Musa Khel were also represented. The latter accepted, government's terms straightway, and their *Jirgah* is expected to come here any moment. The Sufis on the other hand, haggled and haggled with result that after an all night sitting they had finally to be dismissed within a few minutes of the troops starting on their march hither. The force accordingly advanced, carrying out its punitive measures as it proceeded towards the Lakrai Kotal.

The Kotal itself was found to be strongly held. Dispositions to carry it by assault were at once made, and the attack was on the point of developing when a *Jirgah* came in under a white flag, begging now to accept General Willcock's irreducible medium. General Willcock immediately ordered the "stand fast" and gave the *Jirgah* a short time to withdraw their men from the Kotal. In less than an hour the enemy had evacuated their section, and the force passed without another shot being fired, to Lakarai, where it is now encamped.

Early in the day Captain O'Grady, of the 59th Rifles, was severely but not seriously wounded in the thigh and hand. We had only a few other minor casualties.

Simla, 24th May.—General Willcock's having exacted terms from the Matai Musa Khel and the Khandahari Sufis, has moved on through the Dawizai country towards that of the Amhabar Utman Khel. His camp at Lakarai was fired into on the night of the 22nd, 23rd by bands of Mohmands. Dawizai and others. There was, however, no opposition during his march of the 23rd.

Yesterday General Barrett made a reconnaissance northwards from Nahaki, and found very few of the enemy about.

The health of the troops continues good.

Elsewhere on the Frontier everything is reported quiet.

A press "communiqué" dated the 23rd instant says:—General Willcock's continued his march down the Pipel valley, destroying *en route* the hamlet of Insarai, the cold weather residence of the *Qud mullah*, one of the organisers of the recent disturbances. Yesterday, continuing his march General Willcock's found opposite Kargha at the bend of the Ambaha river a force of some 2000 Utman Khel in a strongly sanded position. A few rounds of shell from the mountain guns sufficed however to disperse this gathering.

General Barrett from Nahaki, yesterday reconnoitred to within a short distance of Multa Kili from the Danish Kol, but with no opposition.

Major MacLachlan, Seaforth Highlanders, was accidentally shot dead in the Brigade camp yesterday.

All is quiet on the line of communications and the health of the troops good. Lieutenant Evans, who was dangerously wounded in the Sohail Dag operations, is now practically convalescent, and passed through Shabkader *en route* for Peshawar yesterday.

A movement of religious enthusiasm from Maidan towards Bajaur with a

view to stirring up opposition to General Willecocks has been stamped out by the prompt and energetic measures of the Khan of Dar.

All is reported quiet in the Khyber Agency, and there is no fresh move from other parts of the Frontier.

Shato Khel, 23rd May —The first Brigade force arrived here to-day, the men marched from Lakarai being without futures. Last night at Lakarai the enemy, comprising mostly Mohmands engaged in a steady fusilade on the camp the mountain guns firing a few star shells and the troops in the entrenchment firing at the points on the hills which the shell hit in two sepoys and one followers were hit and there were a few casualties among mules and the horses.

The Sufis were not firing on us down the remainder of the valley. Punitive measures were confined to the towers of the Shinwaris and Dawizai.

A BRUSH WITH THE UTMAN KHEL.

Hadd, May 24 —There was some desultory sniping at Shato Khel last night.

To-day the force marched into Ambahar, the Utmán Khel country. News came in early of the presence of a large *lyshkar* composed of all the Utmán Khel sections, holding strong *sungared* positions commanding the approach to the Kwabhar river. The only way to turn the position was to seize a high ridge to the right, and a half battalion of the 57th Rifles was accordingly detached with this object, the 22nd Punjabis and the other half battalion of the 57th Rifles being ordered to advance on the right of the river. A number of the British Mountain Battery, the 53rd Sikhs the 21st Cavalry and two mountain guns acted as a pivot on the left. Descent the 57th Rifles turning movements had sufficiently developed the guns in the centre opened fire, forcing the enemy to abandon their main position in the stricken ground along the Ambahar river. As the enemy now appeared to be in full retreat, the whole column was ordered to advance, horses and mules revelling in the water of the Ambahar river.

THE END OF FIVE "GHAZIS."

Suddenly five *ghazis* who had been hiding in some ruined building to the right opened fire on the troops moving down the river bed. The 59th Rifles and 22nd Punjabis, however rushed their position killing all five of them, and secured five rifles, two standards and two swords. Meanwhile the 21st Cavalry got well on the hills the enemy, accounting for some twenty in the open. A large body of the enemy were at the same time observed attempting to escape up a steep hill on the left. The mountain guns soon got the range, and the enemy fugitives must have left many of their number behind.

The enemy are computed to have lost about 80 to 100 killed, our casualties being one killed and nine wounded.

Just as the fight began emissaries arrived from the Nawab of Nawagai with a suggestion for his services as mediator. General Willecocks replied that his advance could not now be delayed, and that the Utmán Khel could treat with him direct on his arrival in camp.

THE FIGHT AT KERGAH.

There is no fresh news from General Willecocks: only more detailed accounts of the 24th May, supplementing his Heliographic message of that date. It appears that General Willecocks moved on 24th from a village named Shato Khel, North-East down the Pipal valley towards Kergah. At the latter place he found the enemy some 2,000 strong, holding a very strong *sungared*

position. The Lashkhar was led by Mulla Jan Sahib, and was composed of men of all sections of the Utman Khel together with contingents from various parts of Bajaur. The 57th Rifles were detached to work round the enemy's left flank and when this movement was well developed and our guns had opened fire, the enemy, who had come in considerable numbers with flags flying and much beating of drums, abandoned their *sangars*, and took refuge in the network of *nullahs*, by which their position was intersected. Thence they were driven by our steady advance, suffering heavily as they were driven into the open. The 53rd Sikhs accounted for fifty men killed in one *nullah*, while the guns poured in a heavy and continuous fire on crowded masses at a range of 2,400 yards. A squadron of the 21st Cavalry also got in among a party of the enemy in the open, and sabred at least twenty.

Our casualties were slight, being two men killed and nine men wounded, all of the native ranks.

The heat was intense but General Willcocks reports the spirit and health of the troops as excellent. Two standards and several rifles were captured. The wounded are all doing well, including Captain O'Grady.

The Kamali Halimzai *Jirgah* has arrived at Nahaki, and tendered an unqualified submission.

From the Panjkora bridge reports have been received of the punishment inflicted on the enemy by General Willcocks. Apparently a very heavy defeat is admitted by the tribesmen, and large numbers of killed and wounded are being brought back to Bajaur. The Shamozai Utman Khel have sent their *Jirgah* to the bridge, begging for a letter to General Willcocks asking him not to invade them, and stating their willingness to pay any fine.

Elsewhere on the frontier all remains quiet.

Lieutenant Barff, West Yorks, died of enteric fever yesterday at Peshawar.

LAST SECTION OF MOHMANDS SUBMITS.

Simla, 26th May.—General Willcocks force arrived yesterday at Mull Killi on the Danish Kol. The Pundiali *Jirgah* has arrived at Nahaki, and tendered its submission, this being the last section of the Mohmands to be dealt with. This morning's telegrams report all quiet on the line of communications. The wounded are all doing well, and there are only a few cases of cholera amongst the men and followers.

Mullah Killi 27th May.—General Barrett with the Seaforth Highlanders and a convoy arrived here yesterday. General Willcocks and General Barrett, leave to-day for Yakhland in the Utmanzai country. General Anderson with a somewhat reduced Brigade proceeding to-morrow into Pandiala. No opposition is expected from the latter, owing to the submission of the Isa Khel and Burhan Khel. Owing to my having accompanied the first Brigade I have been unable to chronicle the doings of the second Brigade at Nahaki. The following summary may be of interest:—After departure of the first Brigade there was sniping for a day or two at night.

On Saturday, the 23rd, a Seaforth's Highlander's Signaller was seriously wounded. That evening a *Jirgah* came in and accepted the terms offered, on behalf of the Kamalai Halimzai.

MAJOR MACLACHLAN'S DEATH.

On Saturday, 24th, the death of Major Neal MacLachlan of the Seaforths

cast a gloom on the whole camp. It was the result of an accident. His revolver, which he always kept loaded, was in its case and it went off while he was lying down in his tent, killing him instantaneously. The deceased officer was very popular in his own regiment, and has a wide circle of friends in India to mourn his loss.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

Simla, 27th May.—Before leaving Amdahar Utman Khel limit, General Willcocks destroyed the towers of Kad and Gumbatai, the *Jirgahs* having failed to come in.

The enemy at Kargah on the 24th instant were very heavy. They acknowledged 140 killed, including four leading Maliks, as well as large numbers of wounded. In consequence of this punishment, General Willcocks' march over the Kota Tarau Pass to Mullah Killi was practically unmolested, whilst for the first time since the original crossing of the Nahaki Pass, there was no sniping into camp on the night of 25th, 26th May.

The heat is described as intense, but the spirit of the troops excellent, and the work done by the Army Bearer Corps beyond praise.

All is quiet on the Mohmand border, and only one fresh case of cholera is reported. Sick and wounded officers, including Captain O'Grady, are doing very well. No further reports considered necessary. Lieutenants Ivens, Ross, and Hunse-Spry are all doing well.

On the 26th May, the Dawazai and Utmanzai sections of the Mohmands refused the terms of submission offered to them by General Willcocks. The latter accordingly moved yesterday to Yakhdan, and was preparing to take the necessary coercive measures when the *Jirgahs* of both sections came in and tendered submission. General Willcocks thereupon moved to Nahaki, accompanied by that portion of General Barrett's Brigade which had gone to meet him at Mullah Killi. At Nahaki the *Jirgah* of the Khwazai Mohmands, hitherto recalcitrant, appeared and made submission. The Sufis have paid their fine, and Musi Khel have already sent in half of theirs; thus the only section of the Mohmands still standing out is the Bazai, and it is possible that the measures of General Willcocks may result in the submission of this tribe also.

MARCH BACK.

Simla, May 28.—The Mohmand Field Forces had begun their return march to India and General Anderson's Brigade starts to-day *via* Pandiali.

GENERAL WILLCOCKS FINISHING HIS WORK.

The following Press *Communique* Simla, 29th May, issued yesterday:—

General Willcocks with the 2nd Brigade and some divisional troops proceeded from Nahaki to Khan Bag Kor. There was no opposition *en route* to-day to the Bazais having throughout maintained a truculent demeanour. General Willcocks destroyed their towers. In Koda Khel summit there was some opposition but no casualties are as yet reported. The first Brigade under General Anderson marched yesterday to Day in Pandiali and moved to-day to Ligham. On the line of communication, all is quiet. There are still a few cases of cholera. Elsewhere on the frontier everything remains normal. The two mountain battery guns which have been at Landi Kotal since the 3rd May are now being withdrawn.

THE FIGHT AT KHODA KHEL.

Ata Jar 29th May, General Willcocks and Barrett, with the greater portion of the second Brigade, moved out from this camp to-day against Khoda Khel,

the headquarters of the Baizai. The Baizai had declined to send in a *Jirgah*, and to pay the fine imposed on them, and the work of the expedition would have gone unfinished had they been left unpunished. Khoda Khel, a village of nine towers and eight enclosures, lies in a small offshoot of the Bobai Dog, the Durand boundary line running along a range of hills close behind the village, and the Khwaizai territory adjoining Khoda Khel on the south-west.

The enemy had to be dislodged from positions overlooking the village by the Guides and 54th Sikhs, with the Seaforth Highlanders in support on the left flank, every precaution being taken not to cross the Durand line. There was considerable firing during the course of the morning, but the enemy did not show great keenness in following up the troops beyond Khoda Khel when the order for retirement was given. The towers including that belonging to Mahasai, a notorious raider, were all destroyed, as also a quantity of fodder. The official casualty list is not yet out.

The second Brigade leaves for Galanai en route for Shabkader to-morrow, the first Brigade now being in the middle of the Pandiali country.

Ganandi, 30th May.—Before the second Brigade left Nahaki yesterday, a large number of representatives of all the assured Mohmand clans except the Pandialis—whose *Jirgah* are accompanying General Anderson's Brigade through their country—were received in *Jirgah* by General Willcocks. The *Jirgah* was important as the outward and visible sign of Mohmand submission. Nothing new apparently stands in the way of reopening those friendly relations which have been suspended during the last few months. Some eighty *mullicks* were present, and when all had been seated in a semicircle facing General Willcocks, Major Blackway, the Chief Political Officer, addressed the gathering in fluent Pushtu on behalf of General Willcocks, the following being a translation of his speech;—*Mullicks* last month you were led astray by the bad advice and intrigues of your *mullahs* and evilly disposed persons. The Government, therefore, was compelled to despatch troops to your country and to punish you for the wrongful attack made upon British territory. You have now felt the Power of Government and have seen that its troops can penetrate to every part of your country at any season of the year. The Government, however, which is just and merciful, does not wish you to suffer permanently for your wrong doing. As announced to you on my arrival in the country, none of your country will be annexed. Moreover, as you have made complete submission, and as those tribes which have been sentenced to pay fines, in addition to other punishment, have either paid those fines or given hostages for payment of the same, those relations will be resumed with you which were broken in consequence of the disturbances of last month. The allowances which have been undistributed have of course all been forfeited, but your allowances, as before will be paid to you from the date of this announcement on the condition of good behaviour in the future."

OPERATIONS FINISHED.

Peshawar, 31st May, General Willcocks arrived in Peshawar this afternoon. The 1st Brigade at present is at Adezai and the second at Hafiz Kor. The next few days at Peshawar will probably be taken up with the remobilisation of the Brigades.

LIEUTENANT YOUNG'S DEATH.

Lieutenant Young died of his wounds yesterday, shortly after reaching Gallmai, his funeral taking place in the afternoon and being attended by General Willcocks and General Barrett.

An important *jirga* was held at Gallinai yesterday afternoon, representatives of the Khwayzai, the Gondal, Halimzai, Kamalzi, Halimzai, and the Pandialis making an announcement to General Willcocks on their own initiative, to the effect that these tribes had agreed together to concert measures against the Bazai and prevent bad characters from passing through their territory.

General Willcocks, through Major Blakeway, Chief Political Officer, expressed his pleasure at this announcement.

THE RETURN MARCH.

Simla May 30.—In his punitive operations yesterday against the Bazai Monmands of the Bohri Dag, General Willcocks reports that he reinforced the 3rd Brigade with the Guides Infantry and 34th Pioneers from the line of communications, the 55th Rifles being left at Nahaki. In the fighting around Khuda Khel the following casualties occurred yesterday:—Lieutenant W. Young, 67th Punjabis attached to the 54th Sikhs, gunshot wound in abdomen, dangerous.

One Havildar and five sepoy of the 54th Sikhs and four sepoy of the Guides Infantry, wounded.

On the march back to Khan Beg Kor yesterday afternoon, the enemy only followed up a short distance to-day the 2nd Brigade with General Willcocks crossed the Khapar and Nahaki Passes, simultaneously, on its return march to India. There was no firing and this afternoon the Brigade encamped at Ghalani. It will move to-morrow to Hafiz Kor, and the remaining troops are expected to arrive at Shabkader on Monday.

The 1st Brigade marched to-day from Langham to Matta Moghal Khel and moves to-morrow to Peshawar. All demobilisation arrangements are now in progress, the necessary orders having been given for the early return to their respective stations of the various units which were mobilised to take the place of the corps on field service. Elsewhere the Frontier remains quiet.

Lieutenant W. Young, 67th Punjabis, has died of his wounds.

On return from the tribal territory of the Mohmand Field Force to-day General Willcocks received the following telegram from the Commander-in-Chief "Please convey to all under your command my appreciation of their services during the expedition from which you have just returned. The conditions have been trying the marches long, and the heat and discomfort great, while on all occasions on which they have come in contact with the enemy the behaviour of the troops in action has been admiring."

The following further casualties are reported on the night of the 29th 30th May, and at the withdrawal of picquets on the evening of the 30th;—one private, Seaforth Highlanders, and four sepoy wounded.

General Willcocks arrived at Hafiz Kor this morning.

DEMobilISATION PROCEEDING.

Peshawar, 1st June.—Demobilisation of the Field Force is rapidly proceeding, and will probably be complete in a few days time. The troops that have taken an active part in the various operations are wonderfully well considering the trials they have gone through, but one and all from the General down to the private soldier are thankful that the war is over.

Cholera, of course, is still unhappily prevalent in one or two quarters, and such troops as have recently had cases will have to go through further quarantine before being allowed to return to their respective stations.

The Peshawar Railway officials will no doubt have a busy time during the next week or so, and already one hears of difficulties in booking accommodation.

General Willcocks has been the recipient of many congratulatory messages, one being from Lord Kitchener, which does justice to the labours of the Force. The conditions of the campaign have assuredly been trying, and the behaviour of the troops admirable in all respects, whether when fighting the enemy by day being fired upon at night, or marching along under a blazing sun and in clouds of dust. The authorities have the order, General Willcocks in his thorough-going fashion gave liberal expression to it, and the troops under his command have been nobly responding to the call. All that remains is for the authorities to be generous, not in deeds and words, and grant to the troops the *batta* they so richly deserve.

WHAT THE EXPEDITION HAS DONE

Looking back upon the expedition now happily concluded, one cannot help being struck with its success in all directions. The invasion of the Mohmands' country has not been followed by political complications elsewhere on the Frontier. The Afridis and the Shinwars have been entirely in different to the Mohmand people's fate. The more restless spirits among the Mohmands, it is true, lent a hand on occasion to the Utmanzai and Safis but they soon went home, disgusted with their allies and with their own failure. General Willcocks, in fact has been able to punish the Mohmands without raising any hornets' nest on his extreme flanks. The prophets who foresaw such complications must be anxious by now to forget their dismal predictions. As to the punishment inflicted on the Mohmands and the Utman Khel it has undoubtedly been received in the Mohmand country has been visited from end to end, one hundred and seventy towers have been destroyed, and the enemy thoroughly beaten wherever they have put up a fight. Not the least sufferers have been the Buzai of Khoda Khel, living close to the Afghan border and trusting to that propinquity to escape the punishment their countless misdeeds fully deserved. General Willcocks is not the man to leave his work unaccomplished, even in the smallest particular. The tribes that held out to the end, thinking that the troops would not come their way again, found themselves grievously mistaken. They had hardly returned to their fortified villages, in the belief that they were now secure, before they were made unpleasantly aware of General Willcocks's presence in their vicinity. The result is that a lesson has been taught which will not easily be forgotten in the whole length and breadth of the Mohmand country.

VICEROY'S CONGRATULATIONS TO SIR JAMES.

The following telegraphic correspondence has passed between the Viceroy and General Willcocks, commanding the Mohmand Field Force:—From the Viceroy dated 1st June. "I send you my hearty congratulations on the satisfactory termination of the expedition which you have so ably conducted, and would ask you to express to Major Blakeway my thanks for his political assistance. Please convey to all ranks of the Mohmand Field Force my warm appreciation of their excellent service in the field." From General Willcocks:—I beg to thank Your Excellency for your very kind telegram. I have conveyed your thanks to Major Blakeway, and am publishing your message in the Mohmand Field Force orders. I need hardly say that Your Excellency's warm appreciation will be most welcome, and much valued by all ranks.

APPENDIX I.

THE ZAKKA KHEL EXPEDITION.

Commendations made by Sir James Willcocks in his despatch to the Commander-in-chief at the conclusion of the Zakka Khel Expedition.

"The various departments of the Force were all satisfactory, especially the transport service, where the discipline and order that prevailed were very noticeable.

The good conduct of the Khyber Rifles many of whom were actually serving against their own kith and kin is a remarkable testimony to their efficiency and loyalty. Not a rifle was lost by the corps, nor was there a single desertion."

General Sir James then goes on to say:—"I have much pleasure in bringing to the favourable notice of His Excellency the commander-in-chief the names of the following officers and others who have rendered exceptionally good service:—

Divisional Staff.

Brigadier-General H. Mullaly, c. b., Chief Staff Officer.—I cannot speak too highly of this officer. From start to finish his work was done with a thoroughness which left nothing to be desired. His knowledge of staff duties, his ability and his untiring energy in the field have all helped considerably in bringing the operations to a successful issue. I specially recommend him for advancement in the service.

Colonel A. W. Money, Royal Artillery, Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General.—An excellent Staff officer who materially helped in organising the force. His past experience in the field combined with his decided ability, energy and zeal have been of the greatest assistance and I specially commend him to the Commander-in-Chief's notice.

Captain A. B. Whatman, D. S. O., Somersetshire Light Infantry, Chief Signalling Officer.—No officer in the Force did better work. The signalling to and from India and tactically in the field was of a very high order. His energy, perseverance under trying conditions and his coolness in all circumstances are remarkable and I strongly recommend him for advancement.

Captain N. J. O. Livingstone-Learmonth, 15th Hussars. A fine soldier. Did very good work in the field and was most helpful in all the duties of a Staff officer.

Lieutenant A. W. Y. Langhorne, Royal Artillery, Aide-de-Camp.—An exceptionally good officer, very zealous and energetic and possesses plenty of common sense. He rendered the valuable aid in the field and I specially commend him to the Commander-in-chief.

Captain E. T. Rich, Royal Engineers.—A very good officer, most energetic and always to the fore. His maps and reports were of great assistance during operations. He has completed a very careful survey of the Bazar Valley.

Major A. Mullaly, D. S. O., Divisional Transport Officer.—A very practical and useful officer in the field. Under his orders everything worked most satisfactorily.

First Brigade.

Brigadier General C. A. Anderson, C. B.—Twice commanded columns with marked success, also covered the retirement from the Bazar Valley—high operation was conducted with skill. He is a very good Brigadier; and possesses the thorough confidence of all ranks.

Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Stewart, 2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkhas.—An excellent Battalion Commander who was frequently assigned difficult duties which he invariably carried out most satisfactorily.

Captain Ode Sausmarez, D. S. O., R. A. 22nd Mountain Battery.—A gallant soldier and very good gunner, did splendidly on every occasion that the battery was employed.

Captain A. L. Tarver, 124th Baluchistan Infantry, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, 1st Brigade.—A good Staff officer whose work in the field was exceedingly well performed.

Second Brigade.

Major General A. A. Barret, C. B.—Commanded the Brigade in the first advance into Bazar and again on 18th February near China when enemy were very severely handled. He has much frontier experience and is a most reliable soldier.

Captain and Adjutant K. G. Buchanan, Major R. S. Vandeleur, 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders.—I specially bring these two officers to His Excellency the Commander in Chief's notice. The Seaforths have throughout the operations proved themselves a very fine Battalion and have done a great share of the work of the Force. Had Major the Hon'ble Forbes-Sempill lived I should have recommended him for a reward for his distinguished services.

Lieutenant Colonel K. J. Buchanan, 5th Sikhs (Frontier Force).—An able and energetic commanding officer. Has a fine regiment and has shown himself a capable leader of men.

Captain H. A. H. Rice, Lieutenant S. R. Shirley, 51th Sikhs (Frontier Force).—These two officers behaved with great gallantry before China on 18th February, and I recommend them for some mark of distinction.

Captain J. P. Villiers-Stuart, 55th Rifles, Orderly Officer to General Barret. A good soldier, active and resourceful. Did very good work in the field.

Lieutenant C. B. Hargourt, 28th Punjabies.—Acted with coolness and much judgment on 21st February during the withdrawal from China hills.

Khyber Rifles.

I strongly commend to the favourable notice of the Commander in Chief and of Government the services of—

Lieutenant Colonel G. O. Roos-Keppel, C. I. E., Chief Political Officer with the Force.—He commanded the column which advanced from Landi Kotal on 15th February. This duty was well carried out. He also accompanied me every day with the various punitive columns. It is due to his tact, judgment and thorough knowledge of all the Afridi tribes that the settlement of the Zakka Khel question was so rapidly and satisfactorily brought to a conclusion. I cannot speak too highly of his valuable services which are deserving of full recognition.

Khan Bahadur Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum, Assistant to the Chief Political Officer.—I have brought his services prominently to the notice of the Foreign Department of the Government of India, and I would here only add that his assistance to the troops during our first advance was thoroughly appreciated by us all.

Mr J. W. Littlewood, District Traffic Superintendent, North Western Railway. — Gave me great assistance and at the shortest possible notice arranged for the many trains necessary to move up the Reserve Brigade to Nowshera.

For His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's information I have attached on a separate list—the names of officers, warrant, and non-commissioned officers, and men (British and Native) who did extra good work during the operations.

I beg to recommend the following native non-commissioned officers and men for distinguished gallantry in the field:—

28th Punjabis.

No. 2992 Havildar Hari Singh. No. 4165 Naik Gurdit Singh. No. 4178 Sepoy Munshi.

54th Sikhs (Frontier Force).

No. 1877 Sepoy Bishen Singh.

Khyber Rifles.

Havildar Tar Baz.

List of casualties in action Bazar Valley Field Force from 15th to 29th February 1908.

SUMMARY.

Officers—1 killed, 4 wounded, *nil* missing. Non-commissioned officers and men—2 killed, 33 wounded, *nil* missing.

I—Killed.

Major, The Hon'ble D. Forbes-Sempill, 1st Seaforth Highlanders, Gunshot wound of chest penetrating heart.

II—Wounded.

Lieutenant, J. E. King, 3rd Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Slight Gunshot wound, left foot. Lieutenant, P. A. F. W. A'Beckett, 3rd Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Slight, Gunshot wound, right hand. 2nd Lieutenant, Ian Campbell MacFadyen, 1st Seaforth Highlanders, Dangerous, Gunshot abdomen (died). Captain, R. M. Carter, Indian Medical Service, Severe, Gunshot wound left arm.

III—Missing—Nil.

Names of non-commissioned officers and men killed, wounded and missing.

I—Killed.

British troops.—No. 9043 Private, R. Fordyce, 1st Seaforth Highlanders, Gunshot wound head. Native troops.—No. 188 Sepoy, Gordial Singh, 45th Sikhs, Gunshot wound, neck back and chest with injury to arteries.

II—Wounded.

British troops.—No. 1102 Sergeant, F. Pounds, 3rd Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Slight, Gunshot wound left ankle. No. 45954 Gunner J. Simpson, 3rd Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Slight Gunshot wound left hand. No. 33529 Gunner, B. Mitchelmore, 3rd Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Slight, Gunshot right hand. No. 22834 Gunner, H. Salter, 3rd Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Severe, Gunshot wound chest. No. 4015 Colour-Sergeant C. Wright, 1st Royal Warwicks, Severe, Gunshot wound left thigh. No. 9272 Private, J. Eisthen, 1st Bn Seaforth Highlanders, Severe, Gunshot left forearm (accidentally shot by a comrade).

The Mohmand Expedition.

APPENDIX II.

Commendations made by Sir James Willcocks in his despatch to the Commander-in-Chief at the conclusion of the Mohmand Expedition :—

The total casualties in action, etc., sustained by the Force amounted to 52 killed (or died of wounds) and 205 wounded of all ranks ; whilst the enemy lost about 450 killed. Notwithstanding the fact that a very large percentage of our casualties, as must always be the case in frontier warfare, were caused during retirements from advanced positions, or after carrying out the necessary punitive measures the troops captured and brought in 20 prisoners, nearly all of whom were released after enquiry. As is well known to any one with any knowledge of the tribesmen, they never leave behind a wounded man risking anything rather than that he should be made a prisoner.

In no instance was any man missing from our Force.

The amount of firing done by the enemy may be gauged from the fact that 185 horses and mules were killed and wounded, a large proportion of which were hit in our camps at night.

I beg to bring to the favourable notice of His Excellency the Commander in Chief the names of the following two officers and men for conspicuous gallantry in the field :—

Second Lieutenant William Platt, 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Lieutenant Gerald Francis Waterworth, 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire regiment.

8221 Private Harry Lloyd, 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire regiment.

I recommend the following officers for a reward for their distinguished service in the field :—

STAFF—Colonel W. R. Birdwood, C. I. E., A. D. C., Chief Staff Officer. An able and resourceful officer who never acknowledges difficulties and by his influence and tact secured the smooth working of the entire Staffs of the Forces. He was always in the right place during a fight and rendered most valuable service throughout the operations.

Colonel A. W. Money R. A., Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master General. As in Zakka Khel, this officer did excellent work. He possesses great powers of organisation and thoroughly understands all the multifarious duties of a senior Staff Officer.

Lieutenant A. P. Y. Langhorne, R. A., Aide-de-camp. I particularly bring this officer to notice for his coolness in action combined with his zeal and energy. He moreover possesses decided ability, and rendered me valuable aid in the field.

STAFFS—First Brigade.

(i) Brigadier-General C. A. Anderson, C. B. An excellent soldier commanded the Column at Muttu on 24th April and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. In every action in which his Brigade was engaged he did uniformly well and richly deserves a reward.

(ii) Captain A. L. Tarver, 124th Baluchistan Infantry, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General.

(iii) Captain E. E. Barwell, 57th Rifles, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General.

Second Brigade.

(i) Major-General A. A. Barrett, C. B. Commanded his Brigade, and on several occasions mixed Forces, with unqualified success. At Sardag on 18th May he drove the enemy from their positions without a check, and his retirement from Khuda Khel was a fine sample of Frontier warfare. I specially commend him to his Excellency's notice.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS.—1st Brigade.

22nd Punjabis—Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Fowler. Major S. H. Climo, D. S. O., 24th Punjabis :—Lieutenant W. F. R. Webb.

53rd Sikhs—Major P. J. Miles. Major J. F. Finnis.

57th Rifles—Major F. W. B. Gray. Captain C. G. Ames, 52nd Sikhs. Lieutenant W.

S. Trail. Captain and Adjutant R. S. Gordon,

59th Rifles—Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Carruthers, Lieutenant B. E. Anderson, Captain H. DeO O'Grady.

28th Punjabis—Colonel W. E. Phillips, Captain M. R. Pocock.

51st Sikhs—Major R. W. Falcon.

55th Rifles—Captain A. M. Houston.

Divisional Troops.

21st Cavalry—Colonel G. B. Unwin, Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel V. B. Fane, Captain F. A. Jackson, Captain and Adjutant J. M. Lyke.
 8th British Mountain Battery—Major F. W. S. Stanton.
 28th Mountain Battery—Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Fuller.
 6th Company Mappers and Miners—Captain J. P. E. Charles, D. S. O., R. E.
 24th Punjabis—Major G. E. L. Gilbert
 Roman Catholic Chaplain—Rev. Father Looman.

Medical Service.

Major O. R. A. Julian, C. M. G., R. E. M. C.

Supply and Transport.

• Major C. H. G. Moore, D. S. G., Supply and Transport Corps. Lieutenant E. H. Lancaster 1st Mule Corps. 2nd-Lieutenant Kunwar Pirthi Singh, 51st Camel Corps.

For distinguished service at Muttā :—

Major P. T. Westmoreland. 2nd-Lieutenant A. L. Hume-Sprey (died of wounds), 1st Battalion, Royal Warwick Regiment. Major D. Sapte, 1st Ban., Northumberland Fusiliers. The undermentioned officers did exceptionally good work :—
 Brigadier-General J. G. Ramsay, C. B. Colonel H. R. Whitehead R. A. M. C. Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. C. Williams, Supply and Transport Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Dick, 22nd Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Strange Royal Field Artillery. Lieutenant G. C. Crawford, 40th Pathans, Captain J. Woods, Indian Medical Service, Captain J. R. Brown, Khyber Rifles, Captain H. Fawcus, 80th Field Battery, R. A., Lieutenant L. V. Bond, Royal Engineers.

The following non-commissioned officers and men specially distinguished themselves by gallantry in the field :—

No. 955 Private Edward Baines, 8211 Private Joseph Peter Carruthers, 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers 5307 Sergeant Joseph Milledge 332 Lance-Corporal Walter Moore, 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

I commend the undermentioned warrant and non-commissioned officers to His Excellency. They have been brought to notice for exceptionally good work. Conductor H. G. Hooth, Supply and Transport Corps. Staff-Sergeant G. H. Sercombe, Telegraph Department. Sergeant J. Elder, Supply and Transport Corps. 1st class Assistant Surgeon J. Lee, Indian Subordinate Medical Department.

My best thanks are due to Major Blakeway, Chief Political Officer with the Force, for his advice and assistance in all political matters. The valuable service rendered by him will be known to Government through the separate reports sent to the Foreign Department.

Captain W. J. Keen, Indian Army, who was Political officer on the border before the formation of the Field Force, and was present at the action of Muttā, did most useful work and much assisted us in our arrangements during those trying times.

I desire to bring to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief the following native officers for their gallantry and faithful service in the field. Seven thousand native troops were engaged in the fighting area and they have well upheld the high traditions of the Indian Army. The story of Jemadar Mir Afzal Khan, 22nd Punjabis, who was killed at Kasal, is in itself alone an episode that will live in frontier history.

Rissaldar-Major Janmeja Singh, Rissaldar Thakur Singh, 21st Cavalry (Frontier Force) Jemadar Faiza, 23rd Mountain Battery. Jemadar Jalal Khan (attached to 22nd Punjabis), 19th Punjabis. Subadar Kwaja Mahomed, 20th Punjabis. Subadar-Major Kartar Singh, Subadar Allah Nur, Jemadar Mir Afzal Khan (killed), 22nd Punjabis. Subadar Mihan Singh, Subadar Umraz Khan, 28th Punjabis, Subadar-Major Narayan Singh, Subadar Natha Singh, 34th Sikh Pioneers. Subadar Said Ali, Jemadar Sorban Singh, Jemadar Arsla Khan, 53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force) Subadar Dayal Singh, 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force) Subadar Major Zargun Shah, Bahadar, 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force). Subadar-Major Bischo Singh, Subadar Arsla Khan, Hospital Assistant Kehr Singh, 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force) Subadar-Major Ditt Singh, Subadar Makhmad Jan, Jemadar Jehandad Khan, 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force) Subadar-Major Jawas Khan, Subadar Tor Khan, Khyber Rifles. Rissaldar Nozir Mahomed, 50th Silladar Camel Corps.

List showing Casualties in Action, Mohmand Field Force, from 19th April to 1st June 1908.

SAMMARY OF OFFICERS BRITISH AND NATIVE

Officers : 4 killed, 3 died of wounds, 9 wounded, Nil missing. Non-commissioned Officers and men, 29 killed, 13 died of wounds, 177 wounded, Nil missing. Followers, 2 killed, 1 died of wounds, 19 wounded ; Nil missing.

1—Killed.

Rank.	Name.	Nature of wound
Major	N.C. MacLachlan, 1st Seaforth Highlanders	Gunshot wound, head accidental.
"	H. Coape-Smith, 11th Lancers	do. chest.
Lieutenant	G. H. Soole, 21st Cavalry	do. chest.
"	G. F. Archibald, 82nd Punjabis (attached 57th Rifles)	do. head.

II—Died of Wounds.

Rank.	Name.	Name of wound.
Lieutenant	G. D. Martin, 1st Royal Warwick Regt.	Gunshot wound, thigh
"	W. Young 6th Punjabis (attached 6th Sikhs)	do. abdomen.
2nd "	A.L. Hume-Spry, 1st Royal Warwick Rgt.	do. do.

III—Wounded

Rank.	Name.	Description of wound dangerous, severe or slight.	Name of wound
Captain	E. T. Rich, Royal Engineers	Slight	Gunshot wound, left arm.
"	C. W. Wroford-Brown, D.S.O., 1st Northumberland Fusiliers.	"	do. thigh.
Lieutenant	H. T. C. Ivens, 26th Punjabis (attached 54th Sikhs).	Dangerous	do. chest.
"	C. O. V. Gray, 1st Seaforth Highlanders.	"	do. "
"	G. D. Campbell, 40th Pathans	Severe	do. left thigh
"	G. E. Bruce, 53rd Sikhs	Slight	do. right upper extremity.
"	S. J. B. Sparling, 57th Rifles	"	do. skull.
Captain	R. F. Finlay, 58th Rifles, (attached 57th Rifles).	"	do. left arm
"	H. de C. O. Grady, 59th Rifles.	Severe	do. left arm and thigh.

IV—Missing—Nil.

I—Killed.

Regtl. No.	Rank.	Name.	Nature of wound.
<i>British Troops.</i>			
9513	Private	S.H. Morris, 1st Northumberland Fus.	Gunshot wound abdomen
893	"	H. G. Rose, " do. " do. "	" " chest.
4167	Corporal	J. Satchwell, 1st Royal Warwick Regt	" " accidental.
9138	Private	W. Adams, " do. "	" " abdomen.
4546	"	J. White, 1st Seaforth Highlanders...	" " head accidental.
<i>Native Troops.</i>			
2954	Sowar	Raj Mah, 19th Lancers	Gunshot wound, head.
417	Sepoy	Farid Khan, 15th Punjabis	" " accidental.
3874	Jemadar	Natha Singh, 21st Punjabis	" " "
	Jemadar	Mirafazal Khan, 22nd Punjabis	" " head and chest.
3917	Lance-Havildar	Badan Singh, " "	" " head.
3564	Naik	Narain Singh, " "	" " neck.
374	"	Mansa Singh, 22nd Punjabis	" " head.
4389	"	Pir Bukhsh, " "	" " "
3966	Sepoy	Kirpa Singh, " "	" " "
3361	"	Prem Singh, " "	" " "
3794	"	Fazal Beg, " "	" " "
416	"	Natha Singh, " "	" " "
2663	"	Shib Singh, " "	" " chest.
5665	Naik	Nidhan Singh, 34th Pioneers	Sword cuts, multiple.
1262	Sepoy	Bhulla Singh, " "	" " "
2629	"	Ganda Singh, " "	" " "
2781	"	Sham Singh, 54th Sikhs	Gunshot wound abdomen
	Jemadar	Ganda Singh, 57th Rifles	" " chest.
2110	Sepoy	Amal Din, " "	" " head.
1553	"	Devi Singh, 57th Rifles	" " chest.
2148	"	Suehet Singh, " "	" " neck.
5021	"	Abdulla, " "	" " chest.
2371	"	Dost Mohamad, " "	" " "
	Subadar	Pateh Singh, 59th Rifles	" " head.

II—Died of wounds.

Regtl. No.	Rank	Name.	Name of wound.
<i>British Troops.</i>			
Nil.			
<i>Native Troops.</i>			
339	Lance Naik	Shafuddin, 8th Mountain Battery	Gunshot wound, chest.
2725	Trumpeter	Roe Singh, 21st Cavalry	" " head.
4313	Sepoy	Jawala Singh, 22nd Punjabis	" " abdomen.
203	Sepoy	Nur Muhamadd, 22nd Punjabis	" " chest.
3449	"	Nawab Ali, " "	" " back and abdomen.
4712	"	Punjab Singh, 28th Punjabis	" " head.

II—Died of wounds.

Regtl. No.	Rank.	Name.	Name of wound.
<i>Native Troops.</i>			
3901	Sepoy	Kashmir Singh, 53rd Sikhs	Gunshot wound, head.
2443	"	Labb Singh, 54th Sikhs	" " abdomen.
1846	"	Chand Khan, 55th Rifles	" " chest
2364	"	Wazir Singh, 57th "	" " abdomen.
2243	"	Bharku "	" " "
4427	"	Asghar Khan, 59th Rifles	" " chest
4277	"	Bahadur Singh "	" " left thigh

III—Wounded.

Regtl. No.	Rank.	Name.	Description of wound dangerous, severe, or slight	Nature of wound
<i>British Troops.</i>				
25889	Gunner	H. Price, 8th Mountain B., R. G. A.	Dangerous	Gunshot wound
21131	"	G. H. Colenutt, 71st Coy., R. G. A.	Slight	" right forearm.
794	Sergeant	H. Morgan, 8th Battery, R. G. A.	Severe	" left shoulder.
5199	Sergeant	A. Pearce, 1st Northumberland Fus.	Slight	" right arm
2995	Sergeant	W. H. S. Blaues, "	"	" chin.
7805	Private	W. Dewes, "	Severe	" both thighs and wrist.
332	L. Corporal	W. Moore, 1st Royal Warwick Regt.	Dangerous	" abdomen.
9134	Private	A. Pickard, "	Slight	" arm.
426	"	A. Pickard, "	Severe	" left thigh.
6731	"	C. Gould, "	"	" "
316	"	J. Gurney, "	"	" left foot.
9101	"	B. Lloyd, "	"	" chest.
11	"	H. Nixon, "	"	" left arm.
34	"	G. West, "	"	" right foot.
832	"	A. Stone, "	"	" Fracture, right right
277	"	D. Gregory, "	Slight	" Gunshot wound, right shoulder.
7774	"	O. Oliver, "	"	" right arm.
8136	"	A. Jay, "	"	" right ear.
4921	"	J. Spiers, "	"	" right ear.
8453	"	A. Mule, "	Severe	" left fore-arm
6535	"	H. Homer, 1st Seaforth Highlanders	"	" accidental, left lower extremity.
9541	"	H. King, "	Slight	" back
9145	"	A. Bain, "	Dangerous	" neck
3736	C. Sergeant	J. Brown, 1st Royal Munster Fus.	Severe	" right arm.
6582	Private	T. Carroll, "	Slight	" right arm.
6988	"	E. Lynch, "	Severe	" left arm.

The following Brigade order by Brigadier-General J. G. Ramsay, C. B., Commanding 3rd Brigade, M. F. F., Dated Fort Shankargarh 21th May 1908, speaks for itself. The Royal Munster Fusiliers were very unfortunate, at Shabbakar having lost 46 of their men from Cholera:—

The Brigadier General Commanding 3rd Brigade and Lines, of Communication wishes to express his high appreciation of the conduct and bearing of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers whilst under his command.

He has seen the regiment within the field where its bearing is all that can be desired, and he has seen it fighting a far more deadly foe in the recent epidemic which has so cruelly hit the corps.

The Brigadier General feels he cannot express his admiration of the pluck and patience of the Brigade under the late distressing circumstances which thank God have now disappeared.

He is proud to have commanded such a fine Battalion on his Brigade and in wishing, Colonel Le Marchant, and the Munsters good bye, he hopes that at Gharial the Brigade will enjoy the rest which it has so worthily deserved.

A TRIBUTE TO SIR JAMES WILLCOCKS.

And now, as we have come to the last leaves of our little book, whose pages we trust, have proved interesting to our readers, we feel that we cannot close the incidents related herein, without paying a brief and humble tribute to Lieutenant-General Sir James Willcocks, the Commander of the two expeditions, in admiration of his magnificent triumph over of the Frontier tribes. There is a clique of journalists in India who persistently distort and disparage the merits of punitive expeditions. According to the ignorant criticisms of some of these irresponsible scribes—it would appear that expeditions of the nature of the ones brought to such successful issues as those conducted by Sir James—are nothing more than uncalculated for, absolute destruction of life and property and the introduction of pernicious and unpopular measures, adding a swell to the Indian expenditure, and involving the retention of taxes that may otherwise be abolished. This criticism destitute as it is of fact and truth only deserves the contempt it should and has received, and that is to be pitched into the waste paper basket.

We however, are not concerned with those opinions, they are the opinions of rather insane, than sane men. What we however do know is, that never before in the annals of frontier warfare, has any expedition been organised and pushed with the marvellous rapidity and effect into the very heart of the territories of the offending tribes, as the two expeditions we have related. Such an event, is truly a record and will ever remain a remarkable page in the history of frontier warfare. The celerity and the speed, and the absolute secrecy of the events themselves, were so wonderful—and the mysterious and rapid mobilization so marvellous—leading to the rapid and successful termination, in bringing the tribes to their bearings—and making them to beg for mercy—that Sir James, rightly and really deserved the message of congratulation which His Majesty King Edward VII was graciously pleased to telegraph to him direct.

What better tribute than this could ever be paid to such a distinguished general? Could there be a greater tribute bestowed on anyone, than that of the King to his General? We know of none. Sir James' success was the subject of the day, and the London press which knows so well to give credit where credit is due, most honourably eulogised the commander of the expeditions. But we have only spoken of Sir James as a commander. He is more than that.

Sir James as everyone who has come in contact with him knows is not only a soldier to the very heart—but he is also the soldier's friend. If anyone wants to know the truth of this, he has only to ask Mr. Thomas Atkins—and Mr. Thomas Atkins will tell him too in straight and blunt Irish that "Ginral Willecocks is the finest man he has ever seen"—he will tell him also that the "ginral" is Mr. Thomas Atkins' best friend. A stern disciplinarian with the grandest instincts of a general while on the field, but out of it—the soldier's best comrade and friend. The Native soldier will tell him the same.

Such a general then, with such soldiers who love him, and will go anywhere with him, sent out to quell such troublesome frontier tribes, what must be the result? The result must naturally be the brilliant success that was achieved.

In therefore wishing Sir James, long life, happiness and still greater achievements in the future, we cannot conclude this humble tribute without giving our readers a brief account of the general's war services. Sir James belonged to the Leinster Regiment and served in the Afghan war 1878-1880; He was mentioned in despatches during the Mahsood Wazaree Expedition 1881. Went through the Sudan expedition 1885—Sudan and received medal with clasp and the bronze star. Took part in the Burmese Expedition 1885-89 and was Transport officer and in charge of the Field Commissariat also acted as Road Commandant, was mentioned in despatches and received medal with two clasps and the D. S. O. For Services in the Chin-Lushai Expedition 1889-90, Sir James received another clasp—He then took part in the Manipur Expedition 1891 as Chief Transport officer. He was again mentioned in despatches and received a clasp. Took part in the N. W. F. of India Expedition 1897-98, Tochi, on the Staff was mentioned in despatches received medal with clasp and Brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel. West Africa 1897-98, Operation on the Niger. In command of the forces in Borgu mentioned in despatches, received O. M. G. promoted Lieut.-Colonel—medal with clasp. W. Africa (N. Nigeria) Kaduna Expedition clasp West Africa 1900 Operations in Ashantee) In command of the Field Force Relief of Kumassi Brevet of Colonel received medal with clasp. K. O. M. G. S. African War 1902. Employed on special service graded as Colonel on the Staff. Queen's medal with clasp.

* IN MEMORIAM; SHABKADER.

They are gone, they are gone, yet their memory is cherished,
Our brave boys who perished and crossed O'er the bar
O'er their graves now the wild hawk doth mournfully hover,
In that lone dreary Jungle called Shabkader.
Stricken down in their bloom and the prime of their manhood,
But God's will be done, its the fortunes of war.
With no fond mother's words to console their last moments
Far from their homesteads in wild Shabkader.
In the highest of spirits they marched through the Khyber,
And scattered that laskhar o'er high hills afar.
Not knowing their days on this Earth were numbered.
When the regiment arrived at wild Shabkader.
May they rest, may they rest unallotted in glory,
Though their graves they be cold beneath that lone Indian Star
Yet their presence is missed from the ranks of the Munsters,
The heroes who slumber in Wild Shabkader.

* These lines are written by Private Brick, H. Company, Royal Munster Fusiliers to the Memory of his dear Comrades who died at Shabkader.