

detachments of the Lahore Light Horse, the 1st and 5th Punjab Cavalry, and the 17th Irregular Cavalry; the 42nd, 64th, 78th, 79th, 82nd, and 93rd Foot, the 2nd and 22nd Punjab Infantry (the latter now the 30th Bengal Infantry), and the Baluch Battalion (now the 27th Bombay Infantry). Brigadier Jones, having subsequently been sent to relieve Shahjahanpore, where a small garrison was beleaguered, was himself attacked (15th May) by the notorious rebel, Maulvi Ahmad-ulla of Fyzabad; repulsing him with ease, Jones followed up the rebels and again defeated them at Mohamdi on the 25th May; and the rebels then retreated into Oudh. The Maulvi himself was shortly afterwards killed in a fight with a fellow-rebel, the Rajah of Pawayan, in the Shahjahanpore district.

In Oudh numerous bodies of rebels kept the troops fully employed. Against one of these, which had assembled near Bari, under the command of the Maulvi above-mentioned, Sir J. Hope Grant, in the month of April 1858, led a force which included a squadron of Hodson's Horse, a squadron of the 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry, and a wing of the 5th Punjab Infantry: he encountered them on the 13th and totally defeated them, and again overthrew them at Sirsi, near Nagar, on the 12th May. In the following month a strong column, under the same officer, moved out against the rebels: it was composed of two squadrons of the 2nd Dragoon Guards, the 7th Hussars, 500 of Hodson's Horse, 150 of the 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry, 250 mounted police, some horse artillery, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Rifle Brigade, and the 5th Punjab Infantry. This force met and, after a sharp conflict, in which it sustained a loss of 67 officers and men killed and wounded, inflicted a severe defeat on the rebels at Nawabganj on the 13th June. On the 22nd July, Grant with a detachment marched to the relief of Rajah Man Singh, an influential chief who, after much vacillation, had thrown in his lot with the British, and whom the rebels were now besieging in his fort of Shahganj, near Fyzabad; the enemy, however, retired without risking an action, and Fyzabad was re-occupied. A fortnight later another column started under Brigadier Horsford, and was afterwards joined by Sir J. Hope Grant and the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. It consisted, besides artillery, of the 7th Hussars, the 9th Lancers, 300 of Hodson's Horse, the 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry, the 53rd Foot, the 1st Madras Fusiliers, and the 5th Punjab Infantry. Without encountering any serious opposition the column



reached Sultanpore on the 20th August, and found the enemy in great force on the opposite bank of the Gumti; the passage of the river was effected on the 27th, upon which the rebels made off. No further movement of importance took place in Oudh until after the termination of the rainy season.

In other parts of the country, too, during this period various forces were actively employed against the rebels. In the Soraon district a column under the command of Brigadier Berkeley, which included the 7th Punjab Infantry (now the 19th Bengal Infantry) and detachments of the Lahore Light Horse and the Regiment of Ferozepore, was engaged in July 1858, in the reduction of the forts of Dhainawan (miscalled "Dehaign" in the despatches) and Tiraul, from which the enemy were expelled with considerable loss. At the end of the following month a small force, consisting of detachments of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry and the 17th and 24th Punjab Infantry (now the 25th and 32nd Bengal Infantry), the whole under the command of Captain Browne, attacked a large body of rebels and mutineers at Sirpura, near Pilibhit, and after a severe contest, in which Browne was badly wounded and lost an arm, completely routed and dispersed them, killing upwards of 300 of them, including their leader. Some months later (15th January 1859), another severe action took place in this district, at Sissia-ghat, on the Sarda or Ghagra, in which the rebels were routed and driven over the river, but not before they had inflicted on the small British detachment opposed to them a loss of 13 killed and 39 wounded, including an unusually large proportion of officers. Amongst the latter was Lieutenant Kemp, commanding a detachment of the Kumaon Levy, who was mortally wounded.

Immediately on the termination of the rainy season the Commander-in-Chief (now Lord Clyde) entered on the task for which he had for some time been preparing, of expelling the rebels and mutineers from Oudh, in which province the bulk of them, flying from various quarters before the advance of the British troops, had now taken refuge. The measures by which this object was to be accomplished were very skilfully planned, and, briefly described, consisted of the simultaneous employment of a number of independent columns, the combined movements of which were to sweep the Baiswara district (lying between the Ganges and the Gumti) and drive the rebels beyond the Ghagra, and, that accomplished, by a

Re-conquest  
of Oudh, 1858





further series of movements to force them across the Rapti and into the Nepal hills. These plans were carried out with great thoroughness and success by various columns commanded by Sir J. Hope Grant, Brigadiers Kelly (from Azamgarh), Wetherall (from Soraon), Pinckney, Eveleigh, Horsford, Barker, Troup (from Rohilkhand), Rowcroft (from Gorakhpur), and other officers,—the whole under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief himself. To describe in detail the operations of these several columns during the months from October 1858 to March 1859 would far exceed the scope of this work, but it may not be out of place to allude to some of the most notable of the many sharp encounters which took place during this period. On the 21st October, after having defeated a numerous body of rebels at Jamo, near Sandila, Brigadier Barker took the strong fort of Birwa by storm, after a severe conflict in which his force sustained losses to the extent of 15 men killed and 7 officers and 104 men wounded. On the 3rd November the column under the command of Brigadier Wetherall (which included part of the 1st Punjab Cavalry, the 9th Punjab Infantry—now the 21st Bengal Infantry—and the Baluch Battalion) stormed the fort of Rampur Kassiah, on the Sai River, in Southern Oudh, and carried it after a prolonged contest and with the loss of 79 officers and men killed and wounded: the fort was held by 4,000 rebels, of whom half were sepoys of the 17th, 28th, and 52nd Native Infantry; 300 of these were killed and the regimental colour of the 52nd was captured. On this occasion the 9th Punjab Infantry greatly distinguished itself and sustained considerable loss. A few days later Brigadier Eveleigh took the fort of Simri with trifling loss, and on the 24th of November the Commander-in-Chief, with the troops of two of the columns operating in Southern Oudh, completely defeated Beni Madho Singh, the most powerful of the Baiswara chiefs, at Doundiakhera and Baksar Ghat: this action was the final stroke in the clearance of the Baiswara district and opened the way to the transfer of the operations to the country lying to the north-east of the Ghagra, the tracts lying to the west of that river having already been pretty well cleared of rebel bands by the operations of Brigadiers Troup and Barker, the former of whom, advancing from the Rohilkhand side with the force under his command (which included Cureton's Mooltani Horse and the 66th Gurkhas) had captured Mithauli on the 9th November and advanced to Biswah



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on the 1st December, at which point Brigadier Barker, who had been operating in the districts to the north-west of Lucknow, also arrived on the 3rd. Sir J. Hope Grant crossed the Ghagra at Fyzabad on the 25th November, and defeated a body of the enemy on the left bank the same day: he subsequently advanced to Gonda and Sikrora and afterwards joined Brigadier Rowcroft at Tulsipur, at which place the force under the latter officer (which included part of the 1st Punjab Cavalry and the Regiment of Ferozepore) had defeated Bala Rao, the brother of the Nana, on the 23rd December. A few days later Grant routed Bala Rao's force at Kamda-Kot and captured fifteen of his guns. In the meantime Lord Clyde, who had crossed the Ghagra at Fyzabad on the 11th December, and moved northwards by Sikrora, Bahraich and Nanpara, had defeated the rebels at Barjidia and captured the fort of Masjidia, and he finally on the last day of the year routed the enemy at Sidinhia Ghat, and drove them with heavy loss into and over the Rapti, thus accomplishing the task which he had set himself and effecting the reconquest of Oudh. Subsequently permission was given to the British forces to follow the rebels into the territory of Nepal, and in February 1859 Brigadier Horsford with a force which included the 1st Punjab Cavalry and the 5th Punjab Infantry crossed the Rapti and defeated the enemy at Sitka Ghat, capturing fifteen guns. In the following month Brigadier Kelly, whose force included Murray's Jat Horse, the 3rd Sikh Infantry, and the 7th Punjab Infantry, twice defeated the rebels near Bhutwal, in the Nepal hills; and in May Sir J. Hope Grant again overthrew them in the Jarwa Pass.

With the reconquest of Oudh the story of the War of the Indian Mutiny—so far as the Bengal Army is connected with it—comes practically to an end. Not that the rebels had then entirely ceased to trouble the land, for up to the autumn of 1859 skirmishes still occasionally took place with parties of them emerging from the hills and jungles of Nepal, and in Bundelkhand and Central India a number of small flying columns were actively employed even up to the spring of 1860 in hunting down and dispersing wandering bands; but there was nothing in these operations to call for special notice or description here. Beyond the scope of this work, too, are the campaigns of 1857-58 in Central India, for in the achievements of Sir Hugh Rose, Major-General Whitlock, and other commanders, the regiments of the Bengal Army bore no part, except the unenviable one of swelling the





ranks of the enemy with their mutinous sepoys. One honourable exception, however, must be made, namely, that of the 31st Native Infantry,—now “the 2nd (the Queen’s Own) Bengal (Light) Infantry,” whose conduct during the trying months of the hot weather of 1857 was beyond praise—an example to other corps, which it would have been well for the latter had they copied. However, the regiment took no part in the more extensive operations which ensued, although it was constantly engaged against the rebels in the Saugor district throughout the whole of 1857 and 1858.

The general rewards granted for the mutiny were a medal, with clasps for Delhi, for the defence, the relief and the capture of Lucknow, and for Central India; and six months’ batta, with extra special batta for the siege of Delhi, the defence of Lucknow, and the so-called “defence of Arrah.” Every native soldier in the original garrison of Lucknow received the Order of Merit. By G. G. O. No. 4 of 1864 the regiments engaged in those operations were permitted to bear on their colours the words—“DELHI,” “LUCKNOW,” and “CENTRAL INDIA.”

Thus, after a struggle of more than two years, disappeared the last smouldering embers of this great revolt, which had at one time threatened to entirely overthrow British supremacy in Northern India, and to undo the work of a hundred years. To a great part of the Bengal Army of the Company the mutiny was a dishonourable and suicidal death; but from its remains arose, phoenix-like, a new Army more efficient and more valuable, and destined to win a renown as glorious as that which had been gained under Adams and Munro; Goddard and Coote, and Cornwallis, and Lake, and Ochterlony.

Whilst the turmoil of the mutiny was occupying all men’s minds both in India and at home, there was little time to consider the affairs of the Punjab Frontier; but any who turned their eyes in that direction must have been more and more impressed with the prudence of a policy which, by the employment of vigorous measures and capable men, had, in the short space of seven years, not only secured the faithful allegiance of the Punjab, but had even succeeded in curbing to some extent the unruly spirits on its borders.

During 1857 and 1858 only two small outbreaks occurred on the North-West Frontier, and both were occasioned by the conduct of some Hindustani fanatics who had settled amongst the Khudu

North-West  
Frontier  
Expeditions,  
1857-1862.

Hindustani  
Fanatics, 1857.



Khels, and who now, in the summer of 1857, raised the standard of religious war in the villages of Shekh Jana and Narinji, on the Yusufzai border. Detachments of the Peshawar Mountain Train Battery and of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry and the 5th Punjab Infantry captured the village of Shekh Jana on the 2nd July, and on the 21st of the same month the fortified village of Narinji was taken by a force composed of detachments of the above-named corps and of the 4th Punjab Infantry, with a loss on our side of five killed and twenty-one wounded. On the 3rd of the following month a strong column of about 1,400 men, which included detachments of the Peshawar Mountain Train Battery and of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, the 21st Native Infantry, and the 5th, 6th, and 16th Punjab Infantry, again moved against the village of Narinji, where the fanatics, aided by some of the Swat and Chamla tribes, had re-assembled in greater strength than before, and destroyed it after a little opposition, and with the loss of only one killed and eight wounded. In all these affairs the British forces were commanded by Major Vaughan.

In consequence of an outrage on the Assistant Commissioner of Yusufzai, another expedition was despatched against the Hindustani fanatics and the Khudu Khels in April 1858. The force was under the command of Major-General Sir Sydney John Cotton, K.C.B., and was composed of detachments of the Peshawar Light Horse, the 7th and 18th Irregular Cavalry, and the Guides Cavalry; of the Peshawar Light Field Battery, the Peshawar Mountain Train Battery, and the Hazara Mountain Train Battery; of the Bengal Sappers and Miners; and of the 81st and 98th Foot; the 21st Native Infantry, the Regiment of Kalat-i-Ghilzai, the 2nd Sikh Infantry, the 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th, and 18th Punjab Infantry, and the Guides Infantry;—making up a total of 4,877 men. These troops (excepting portions of the Peshawar and Hazara Mountain Train Batteries, the 2nd Sikh Infantry and the 6th and 12th Punjab Infantry, which moved up from Hazara) were assembled on the left bank of the Kabul river, opposite Nowshera, and moving forward first crossed the frontier on the 26th April. Operating in several columns, the troops took and destroyed Panjtar, Chinglai, and Mangal Thana, the strongholds of the Khudu Khels and the fanatics, without experiencing any opposition. On the 3rd May an advance was made against Sitana, where the main colony of the fanatics was located, and on the following day that place was also destroyed, after a sharp

Sitana, 1858.





engagement in which the 21st Native Infantry, the 2nd Sikh Infantry, the Guides Infantry, and the 9th and 18th Punjab Infantry, were engaged, and in which a loss was sustained of one native officer (Subadar Dalu Mal, 18th Punjab Infantry) and five men killed, and one British officer, one native officer and twenty-seven men wounded. Three days later the force re-crossed the frontier, having accomplished all the objects of the expedition. The India medal was granted to the survivors of this expedition in 1869.

In December 1859 a strong expeditionary force was despatched, under Brigadier-General N. B. Chamberlain, C.B., against the Kabul Khel Waziris, to punish them for harbouring marauders who had killed Captain Meham, of the Bengal Artillery. It included detachments of Nos. 1 and 2 Punjab Light Field Batteries, of the Peshawar and Hazara Mountain Train Batteries, of the Guides Cavalry and Infantry, and of the Sappers and Miners; the 2nd Punjab Cavalry; the 4th Sikh Infantry, and the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 24th Punjab Infantry,—the whole amounting to nearly 4,000 men, with thirteen guns. The force entered the Waziri country by the Gandiob Pass on the 22nd December, and on the same day a column composed of the Peshawar Mountain Train Battery, the Guides Infantry, and the 4th Sikh Infantry, encountered the Kabul Khels at Maidani; they met with a brave resistance; but the enemy, being ill armed, were soon repulsed with but small loss on our side. The Waziri encampments were destroyed, and on the succeeding days various forays were made into the hills, resulting in the capture of some of the flocks and herds of the enemy. The tribesmen eventually made submission, and the objects of the expedition having, as far as possible, been accomplished, the force returned across the frontier, having lost one killed and eighteen wounded. The troops engaged in the operations received the India medal in 1869.

Of all the border tribes, none was more notorious for turbulence than the Mahsud Waziris. For many years the list of their offences had been increasing, until in March, 1860, they attacked the town of Tank, and were only prevented from sacking the place by the vigour and gallantry of Risaldar Saadat Khan and a detachment of 158 men of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, which was stationed there. It was recognised that the punishment of the tribe could no longer be delayed, and the formation of an expeditionary force for that purpose was therefore directed. The following troops were accordingly

Kabul Khel  
Waziris,  
1859-60.

Mahsud  
Waziris, 1860.



assembled at Tank on the 16th April, under the command of Brigadier-General Chamberlain :—Detachments of Nos. 2 and 3 Punjab Light Field Batteries, of the Peshawar and Hazara Mountain Train Batteries, and of the Guides Cavalry, the 3rd Punjab Cavalry and the Mooltani Cavalry; the 1st Company of Bengal Sappers and Miners; the Guides Infantry; the 4th Sikh Infantry; the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 14th, 24th (Pioneers) and 25th (Gurkha) Punjab Infantry; and the 6th Punjab Police Battalion,—the whole numbering over 5,000 men, with thirteen guns. The force entered the Mahsud country by the Tank Zam on the 17th April, and reached Palosin on the following day. Leaving a portion of his force at this place, under Lieutenant-Colonel Lumsden, Chamberlain advanced up the Shahur Zam on the 20th for the purpose of reconnoitring the route in that direction, and reached a point within fourteen miles of Kaniguram, the chief town of the Mahsud Waziris, on the 23rd; as he had no intention of attacking Kaniguram from this direction, he fell back on the 24th; and, retracing his steps, encamped on the 26th within a short distance of Palosin. The force left at that place had in the meantime had a sharp experience of Waziri tactics, having been suddenly attacked at *reveille* on the 23rd by a body of three thousand of the enemy, who made a desperate attempt to rush Lumsden's camp. The attack was delivered with determined bravery, and was not repulsed before considerable loss had been inflicted on both sides, that on ours amounting to no less than 63 killed and 166 wounded. Some days were now passed in making preparations for an advance on Kaniguram by the northern route, through the Tank Zam; during this period the Mahsuds made an offer of submission, but as our terms were unpalatable to them, the negotiations were without result. On the 2nd May Chamberlain advanced to Shingi Kot, and on the morning of the 4th he reached the Barari Pass, which the enemy were found to be holding in great strength,—variously reported at from 4,000 to 7,000 men. Two columns of attack were immediately formed to assail the heights on either side of the pass; that on the left, under Lieutenant-Colonel Lumsden, met with scarcely any resistance; that on the right, composed of the Hazara Mountain Train Battery and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Punjab Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Green, which had to move over most difficult ground, was fiercely opposed and its first assault repulsed by the enemy, but eventually, after a severe contest, the breastworks were carried and





the enemy put to flight, though not without severe loss on our side, Lieutenant Aytoun, 94th Foot, attached to the 2nd Punjab Infantry, one Native officer and twenty-eight men having been killed, and Lieutenant Ruxton, 3rd Punjab Infantry, five Native officers and eighty men wounded,—a total of 116 casualties. On the 5th the force continued its advance, and the same day reached Kaniguram, no further opposition having been offered. On the 9th the force marched northwards and on the following day reached Makin, the next most important town of the Mahsuds, which, as the enemy still stubbornly refused to submit, was destroyed on the 11th. The failure of supplies now rendered a further stay in the hills undesirable, and continuing his course by the Khaisora route, Chamberlain emerged from the mountains at Spinwam, in the Bannu Valley, on the 18th May, his force having during these operations sustained a total loss of 100 killed and 261 wounded. For his services in these operations Brigadier-General Chamberlain was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, and all the survivors of the force received the India medal in 1869.

Nor at the same time was the North-East Frontier entirely free from the troubles arising from turbulent and savage neighbours. A small expedition, numbering some 140 fighting men, with two howitzers, the whole under the command of Captain Lowther, 1st Assam Light Infantry, was despatched in 1858 against the Abors, a predatory tribe inhabiting a range of hills on the borders of Upper Assam, but it failed to effect its object and was obliged to retire. In February of the next year another force was despatched into the same country, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hannay. This was composed of 60 men of No. 4 Naval Brigade, Indian Navy; 35 men of the Assam Local Artillery, with two howitzers and two mortars; 166 men of the 1st Assam Light Infantry; and 150 Auxiliaries. Pashi and Rong-Kong, the principal villages of the Meyong Abors, were reached on the 27th February, and though strongly situated and defended by many stockades they were, in spite of an obstinate resistance, stormed on the same day, with a loss on our side of one man killed and one officer (Indian Navy) and forty-three men wounded.

The relations between Great Britain and China, which had been in a more or less strained and unsatisfactory condition ever since

The Abor  
Expeditions,  
1858-59.

The Second  
China War.



the conclusion of the first war, were openly ruptured in October 1856, in consequence of the Chinese authorities at Canton having seized a vessel under English colours, and refused redress for the outrage. Negotiations having failed to secure reparation, hostilities were begun by Sir Michael Seymour, the British Admiral, who on the 23rd October took possession of the Canton forts, and on the 29th captured a portion of the city, with a loss of two killed and eleven wounded. Hostilities continued in a desultory way for some time, and eventually led to the despatch of an expedition from England, but the out-break of the Mutiny caused the troops (the 23rd, 82nd, 90th and 93rd Foot) to be diverted to India, and thus little was done during 1857 to settle the Chinese difficulty, though slight engagements took place from time to time. At the end of December 1857, with the assistance of a French force, Canton was stormed and captured, and a few months later reinforcements arrived from India in the shape of three faithful regiments of the old Bengal Army. The first of these was the 70th Native Infantry, which had set the example of volunteering for foreign service, while their comrades were mutinying in the North-West: they arrived in China in February 1858, and were followed in May by the 47th and the 65th Native Infantry. In June a treaty of peace was concluded at Tien-tsin, and the war was supposed to be over, but it was little regarded by the Chinese authorities at Canton, who continued as aggressive as ever, and there were consequently frequent collisions between our troops and the Chinese "braves." The 70th were engaged in the White Cloud Mountain operations in June 1858, and in the expedition to Nam-tow in August, losing on the latter occasion Lieutenant Danvers, who was mortally wounded. In an action at Shek-tsin in January 1859, a portion of the 65th was engaged and had two men wounded.

The treaty of Tien-tsin did not in any way terminate our difficulties with China: its terms were not only disregarded by the authorities at Canton but ignored all over the country; the approach of the plenipotentiaries to Peking was barred by the closing of the mouth of the Pei-ho river, and an attempt by Rear-Admiral Hope to force a passage was disastrously repulsed (25th June 1859) with a loss of 81 killed and 345 wounded, and three vessels sunk. The allied British and French Governments had now no choice but to enforce the details of the treaty, and a force more equal to the requirements of the case was despatched to China in the early part of





the following year. Hostilities were resumed in April 1860, and the island of Chusan occupied. By the 23rd of April the British force, under Lieutenant-General Sir J. Hope Grant, was collected on the promontory of Kow-loon, adjoining Hong-Kong. It included the following Bengal troops:—The 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry (then known as Probyn's Horse), Fane's Horse (specially raised for this service), the Regiment of Ludhiana, and the 8th, 11th, 15th (Pioneers), and 19th Punjab Infantry. Of these corps, the Regiment of Ludhiana and the 11th Punjab Infantry were soon after sent to garrison Shanghai, and the 19th was detached on other duty. These corps consequently did not share in the operations of the allied forces in Northern China.

After considerable delays the allies sailed for the Pei-ho river, and disembarked on the 1st August near Peh-tang, which town was occupied without opposition. An advance was made on the 12th of the same month, when the enemy were defeated at Sinho: on this occasion the Tartar horse was driven from the field in disorder by the two regiments of Indian cavalry and two squadrons of the 1st Dragoon Guards. Two days later a further advance secured the fort of Tang-ku. In the various skirmishes up to this point our losses amounted to only three killed and twenty-seven wounded.

The way was now open for an attack on the Taku forts, and on the 21st August, at 5 A.M., a vigorous cannonade was opened on both sides and continued for three hours; after which a combined assault was made by the allies on the inner North Fort. The Chinese fought with great bravery and determination, and it was only after a severe conflict that the place was eventually carried. The outer North Fort was then attacked and taken without opposition, and the South Forts were evacuated by the enemy the same day. Our losses in the storming of the inner North Fort amounted to 17 men killed, and 21 officers and 163 men wounded, while the casualties in the allied French Force reached a total of 130.

The town of Tien-tsin was entered on August 24th, and after a fortnight's halt the march was continued, and Ho-sei-wu, half-way to Peking, reached on September 13th. Leaving that place on the 18th September, the allied force came on the Chinese army drawn up at a place called Chang-tsia-wan on the Chow-Ho. In the battle which ensued the French force made a flank attack on the right, sup-



ported by a squadron of Fane's Horse, which gallantly charged and drove back the whole of the Tartar cavalry in that quarter. On the left the heavy masses of the enemy were charged and thrown into confusion by only 100 of the 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry, led by Major Probyn; the 15th Punjab Infantry, pushing on after the defeated enemy with great spirit and advancing beyond Chang-tsia-wan, captured a large Chinese camp and several guns. The allied forces in this battle did not exceed 4,000 men, while those of the Chinese were estimated at 20,000, and the enemy lost 600 in killed alone, while the British loss was no more than 20, and the French only 15.

On the 21st September the march was resumed and an action with the enemy took place on the same day near Tang-chow, in which the 1st Dragoon Guards and Fane's Horse distinguished themselves. The enemy were at once defeated with great loss, our own casualties amounting to no more than two men killed, and three officers and twenty-six men wounded. After a delay of about two weeks the advance towards Peking was resumed on the 5th October, and the Summer Palace, outside the city, was reached and occupied without opposition on the 7th. On the following day some prisoners who had been treacherously captured by the Chinese near Tang-chow on the 21st of the preceding month were brought into camp, and nine more were given up on the 12th; the remainder (sixteen in number), including Lieutenant Anderson and nine sowars of Fane's Horse, had died in captivity from the barbarous ill-treatment to which they had been subjected.

Peking surrendered on the 13th of October: the treaty of Tientsin was ratified in the course of the month, and on the 7th and 8th of November the British Army left the capital. The 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry and the 8th, 15th and 19th Punjab Infantry returned almost immediately to India; Fane's Horse was detained at Tientsin until the following October; the Regiment of Ludhiana did not embark for India until April 1861; while the 11th Punjab Infantry was employed in and around Shanghai until May 1862, and was constantly engaged in skirmishes with the Taiping rebels.

The 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry, Fane's Horse, and the 8th and 15th Punjab Infantry received permission in 1862 to bear the words "TAKU FORTS" and "PEKIN" on their colours and appointments (G.G.O. No. 132 of 1862), but it was not until 1882 (G. G. O. No. 188) that the remaining regiments which had served in China (now the 7th,





10th, 11th, 15th, 22nd and 27th Bengal Infantry) were authorised to bear similarly the word "CHINA,"—with the dates "1858-59," or "1860-62," according to the operations in which they had taken part. Medals were granted for the operations of 1857-59 and of 1860-62, with clasps for the Taku Forts and Peking, but were not allowed to corps employed in garrison work at Chusan, Shanghai, and Canton.

Sikkim Expedition, 1860-61

One more small affair requires notice; this was the Sikkim expedition, which was necessitated by an unprovoked attack on the Political Agent and his escort in November 1860. The force employed was about 1,800 strong, and was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gawler, of the 73rd Foot; it was composed of wings of the 6th Foot, the 3rd Sikh Infantry, and the 73rd Native Infantry, the head-quarters and a detachment of the Bengal Police Battalion (Rattray's Sikhs), and some other details. The expedition concentrated at Darjeeling in December 1860 and January 1861, and a forward movement was made on the 1st February. The enemy collected in force on the left bank of the Rangeet, but did not dispute the passage of the river; nor did they at any time during the operations risk a conflict with the British troops. Colonel Gawler advanced as far as the town of Tamlung, when the Sikkim rajah sued for peace, and a treaty was concluded on the 29th March.

Re-organization of the Army, 1860-61.

The course of events has now brought this sketch down to the period when the Bengal Army, remodelled and re-organised after the great struggle of 1857, assumed the shape in which, with but small modifications, it has existed ever since. This chapter may be closed by a cursory survey of the changes so produced and the re-organisation which followed them.

The confusion occasioned by the outburst of the mutiny, and the isolation of the main army from the head-quarters of Government, afford sufficient explanation of the difficulty which attends any search after definite orders for the raising of the many regiments which were hastily formed to take the places of those which had mutinied, and to put down the rebellion. Nor in many cases were official orders published,—the only authority being a letter from the Commissioner, or even, perhaps, verbal instructions. Thus, in quick succession, sprang up Hodson's, Wale's, Murray's, Cureton's, and Lind's Horse; the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sikh Irregular Cavalry; Beatson's, Meade's, Roberts' and Alexander's Horse; the Benares, the Rohilkhand, and the 1st and 2nd Mahratta Cavalry. Of infantry there were the "Sikh



Volunteers" (formed from the faithful Punjabis of regiments below Allahabad), the Delhi Pioneers, eighteen regiments of Punjab Infantry and a number of levies formed at various places in the North-West Provinces. All through the autumn of 1857 and the spring of 1858, as regiment after regiment of the old army joined the stream of mutiny, fresh troops succeeded to the places deserted by their faithless predecessors. It is unnecessary here to enter into the details of all these corps, nor to trace the fate of the regiments whose history ended so disgracefully in 1857. A few facts may, however, be noted, as marking the rapid development of the new Army. By G. G. O. No. 736 of 1858 the formation of four regiments of European light cavalry was ordered, in substitution of eight of the regular Bengal Native cavalry corps, and the officers of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th 7th, 9th and 10th Light Cavalry were transferred to the new regiments. On the 9th September 1859, an order (G. G. O. No. 1277) was published by the Governor-General detailing the regiments and parts of regiments which had shown themselves "proof against temptation, fanaticism, and threats," and mentioning the special services of all such corps. The order concludes by enumerating the regiments which would thenceforward cease to exist in the Bengal Army. In June of the same year, as active operations against the rebels became by degrees confined to a few isolated districts, the reduction of the exceptional numbers of troops in Bengal was commenced; a number of corps, including the Sikh and Gurkha regiments, were reduced to 700 sepoys, formed in ten companies of 70 men each; the newly-raised Hindustani levies were brought down to a strength of 600; and the whole of the irregular cavalry to 420 sowars per regiment.

On the 5th of January 1860 orders were issued for the disbandment of the 3rd Regiment of Hodson's Horse, while on the same date volunteers were called for to form another irregular corps for service in China. There the new regiment won distinction as "Fane's Horse," and it still exists as the 19th Bengal Lancers.

G. G. O. No. 903, dated the 11th September 1860, ordered the transfer from the control of the Punjab Government to that of the Commander-in-Chief of the four regiments of Sikh irregular cavalry and of the Punjab infantry regiments numbered from 7th to 24th: this order was to take effect from the 15th February 1859.





## THE SERVICES OF THE

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In 1861 orders were published re-organising the confused crowd of regiments, old and new, regular and irregular, which the storm of the mutiny had left to represent the army of Bengal. The cavalry was re-organised by G. G. O. No. 494, dated 31st May 1861. In the August of the preceding year there existed seventeen native cavalry regiments under the orders of the Government of India and twenty-nine under the Commander-in-Chief. Of the former, the regiment of Nagpur Cavalry was disbanded; Meade's Horse was incorporated with the Central India Horse; the remainder, including the Guides Cavalry and five Punjab regiments, remained unchanged. Of the other twenty-nine, ten were disbanded,—namely, the 3rd, 9th, 12th and 16th Irregular Cavalry, Alexander's Horse, the Benares Horse, and the 1st Mahratta Horse, the 3rd Sikh Irregular Cavalry, the Ramgarh Irregular Cavalry, and Lind's Pathan Cavalry. The remainder were numbered and designated as follows:—

- 1st Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 1st Irregular Cavalry.
- 2nd Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 2nd Irregular Cavalry.
- 3rd Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 4th Irregular Cavalry.
- 4th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 6th Irregular Cavalry.
- 5th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 7th Irregular Cavalry.
- 6th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 8th Irregular Cavalry.
- 7th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 17th Irregular Cavalry.
- 8th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 18th Irregular Cavalry.
- 9th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 1st Regiment of Hodson's Horse.
- 10th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 2nd Regiment of Hodson's Horse.

- 11th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry (Wale's Horse).
- 12th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 2nd Sikh Irregular Cavalry.
- 13th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 4th Sikh Irregular Cavalry.
- 14th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly Murray's Jat Horse.
- 15th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly Cureton's Mooltani Horse.
- 16th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the Rohilkhand Horse.
- 17th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly Robarts' Horse.
- 18th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly the 2nd Mahratta Horse.
- 19th Bengal Cavalry,—formerly Fane's Horse.

Each regiment was to consist of 420 sowars, in six troops, as follows:—

- 3 Risaldars, on Rs300, 250 and 200 a month, respectively
- 3 Ressaidars, on Rs150, 135 and 120.
- 1 Wurd-Major, on Rs130.



## BENGAL NATIVE ARMY.

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- 6 Jemadars, 2 each on R80, 70 and 60.  
6 Kot-Dafadars, on R47.  
48 Dafadars, } on R38.  
6 Nishanbardars, }  
6 Trumpeters, on R34.  
420 Sowars, on R27.

The first reorganisation of the infantry had been notified a month before—(G.G.O. No. 400, dated 3rd May 1861); by it the strength of all infantry corps was fixed at 600 privates, each regiment being divided into eight companies of the following strength:—

1 Subadar.	5 Naiks.
1 Jemadar.	2 Drummers.
5 Havildars.	75 Privates.

Corps in possession of honorary colours were allowed to retain the special Native officers already allowed for the purpose of carrying them.

In August 1860 the number of infantry regiments existing was as follows:—

Regular Infantry . . . . .	15	} under the Commander-in-Chief.
Irregular and extra infantry . . . . .	30	
Punjab Infantry . . . . .	18	} under the Commander-in-Chief, and under the Government of India.
Sikh and Guides Infantry . . . . .	7	
Hyderabad Contingent . . . . .	5	} under the Government of India.
Nagpur Irregular Force . . . . .	6	
Local corps . . . . .	3	
	7	

The fifteen regular regiments were the 4th, 21st, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 42nd, 43rd, 47th, 58th, 59th, 63rd, 65th, 66th (Gurkhas), 70th, and 73rd. Of these the 4th, 58th, and 73rd were now disbanded.

The 30 irregular and extra regiments were —

The Regiment of Kalat-i-Ghiltzai.	The Shekhawati Battalion.
The Regiment of Ferozepore.	The Alipore Regiment.
The Regiment of Ludhiana.	The Regiment of Lucknow.
The Nasserli Battalion.	The Loyal Purbiah Regiment.
The Sirmoor Rifle Regiment.	The Kamrup Regiment.
The Kumaon Battalion.	1st Gwalior Regiment.
The Extra Gurkha Regiment.	2nd „ Regiment.
The Bhagalpur Hill Rangers.	





The 1st Assam Light Infantry Battalion.  
The 2nd " " " "  
The Sylhet " " "  
The Arakan Battalion.  
The Allahabad Levy.  
The Fatehgarh Levy.  
The Mainpuri Levy.

The Bareilly Levy  
The Meerut Levy.  
The Agra Levy.  
The Aligarh Levy.  
The Shahjahanpur Levy.  
The Cawnpore Levy.  
The Moradabad Levy.  
The Kumaon Levy.

Of these the Nasserri Battalion and the 2nd Gwalior Regiment and the last three of the levies were broken up.

The Kamrup and Arakan Battalions and the Bhagalpur Hill Rangers were transferred to the police, and either broken up or absorbed in the general police.

Of the Punjab regiments, the first six and the last were under the Government of India. The remainder were under the Commander-in-Chief, and of these the 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th were broken up.

The four Sikh regiments and the Corps of Guides remained unchanged.

Of the local corps, the Pegu Light Infantry Battalion and one Nagpur regiment were broken up; the Mhair and Mhairwara Battalions were regarded as police.

The remaining line regiments of the Army were now numbered and designated as follows:—

*1st to 12th Bengal Native Infantry*,—formerly the 21st, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 42nd, 43rd, 47th, 59th, 63rd, 65th, 66th (Gurkhas) and 70th Native Infantry.

*13th to 22nd Bengal Native Infantry*,—formerly the Regiment of Kalati-Ghilzai, the Shelkawati Battalion, the Regiment of Ferozepore, the Regiment of Ludhiana, the Sirmoor Rifle Regiment, the Kumaon Battalion, the Extra Gurkha Regiment, the Regiment of Lucknow, the Loyal Purbiah Regiment and the Alipore Regiment.

*23rd to 36th Bengal Native Infantry*,—formerly the 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Punjab Infantry.

*37th to 45th Bengal Native Infantry*,—formerly the Allahabad, Fatehgarh, Mainpuri, Bareilly, Meerut, Agra, Aligarh, and Shahjahanpur Levies and the 1st Gwalior Infantry.

*46th to 48th Bengal Native Infantry*,—formerly the 1st and 2nd Assam Light Infantry Battalions, and the Sylhet Light Infantry Battalion.

Within six months, however, under instructions from the Secretary of State, this arrangement was again altered; all the Gurkha corps, including the 66th Light Infantry (the original Nasserri Battalion) were withdrawn from the line, and numbered separately from the 1st to the 4th,—the Hazara Gurkha Battalion, attached to the Punjab Irregular Force, being numbered the 5th.



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The line regiments of Bengal Native Infantry were then (G. G. O. No. 990, dated October 29th, 1861) finally numbered in the following order:—

New Number, Bengal Native Infantry.	Old number or name.	New Number, Bengal Native Infantry.	Old number or name.
1st	21st Native Infantry.	23rd	15th Punjab Infantry (Pioneers).
2nd	31st Native (Light) Infantry.	24th	16th " "
3rd	32nd Native Infantry.	25th	17th " "
4th	33rd " "	26th	18th " "
5th	42nd Native (Light) Infantry.	27th	19th " "
6th	43rd " "	28th	20th " "
7th	47th Native Infantry.	29th	21st " "
8th	59th " "	30th	22nd " "
9th	63rd " "	31st	23rd " "
10th	65th " "	32nd	24th " " (Pioneers).
11th	70th " "	33rd	Allahabad Levy.
12th	Regiment of Kalat-i-Ghilzai.	34th	Fatehgarh " "
13th	Shekhawati Battalion.	35th	Mainpuri " "
14th	Regiment of Ferozepore.	36th	Bareilly " "
15th	Regiment of Ludhiana.	37th	Meerut " "
16th	Regiment of Lucknow.	38th	Agra " "
17th	Loyal Purbiah Regiment.	39th	Aligarh " "
18th	Alipore Regiment (Calcutta Militia).	40th	Shahjahanpur Levy.
19th	7th Punjab Infantry.	41st	1st Gwalior Regiment.
20th	8th " "	42nd	1st Assam Light Infantry Battalion.
21st	9th " "	43rd	2nd " " " " " "
22nd	11th " "	44th	Sylhet Light Infantry Battalion.

At the same time the Artillery and the Corps of Engineers whose great deeds in the past had added so much to the glory of the Bengal Army, and whose lists had given so many honourable names to history, were transferred to the Royal Corps, and ceased to exist as separate bodies.

Bengal  
Artillery and  
Engineers.

No notice has been made of the greatest change of all, namely, the transfer of the Indian forces to the Crown. This event, however, though of great importance politically, affected the Native Army in little more than name and in the conditions of service of its British officers, into the details of which it is neither necessary nor convenient to enter here. The announcement was made on the 1st November 1858, that Her Majesty had assumed the Government of India; and from that day the Honorable East India Company passed away into the pages of history.

Transfer of the  
Indian Army  
to the Crown.





Changes in  
equipment, etc.

As far as concerned the arming and equipment of the Native soldiers, but few changes were made in these years, fraught with such important reforms elsewhere. The attempt to introduce the new Enfield rifle with its novel cartridge was made one of the direct causes of, or at any rate the pretext for, the mutiny; and in consequence the infantry remained for many years after with no better weapon than the old smooth-bore percussion musket. In the cavalry, however, a new weapon was introduced, called the "Victoria carbine," with which all regiments were armed (G. O. G. G. 27th April 1860). Other innovations were the introduction of *khaki* clothing for native regiments; and the abolition of the leather stock, a small matter seemingly, but one which made a good deal of difference in the soldier's comfort.

So ends the third great division of the military history of Bengal. With this chapter we seem to pass altogether to another epoch—to turn from ancient history to modern. The great Company which raised the fabric of the British Empire in India has passed away; the regiments it created, which won its battles and upheld its power, have disappeared; but a new Army has arisen, and we turn now from the ashes of the past to tell of the living deeds of the Bengal Army of to-day.



## Chapter IX—(1862–1879).

Marshman's Abridgement—Bhotan War (*Rennie*)—Abyssinian War (*Holland and Howier*)—Lushai Expedition, '71 (*Woodthorpe*)—Official Papers on the Lushai Expedition—Official Papers on Disturbances in the Khasiah Hills, '62—Perak and the Malays (*McNair*)—Our Malay Conquests (*Maxwell*)—Official Papers on the Naga Expeditions of '75, '78, '79, '80—Frontier Expeditions (*Paget and Mason*)—G.G.O., G.O.C.C., and S.O.

In the chapter which follows we must pass in review a long period of comparative inactivity for the Indian Army, although the little wars which are inseparable from a great colonial empire afford constant and sufficient incident to prove that service on the Indian frontier offers more experience of active soldiering than is to be found in any position elsewhere.

The first of these small expeditions was on the North-East Frontier, in suppression of a rebellion of the tribes in the Khasiah and Jaintiah Hills of Assam in December 1862, and the two following months. The country had been in a disturbed state for several months and outrages had been frequent: it was not, however, until December that regular operations were commenced. The force in the disturbed districts was composed of the Eurasian Company of Artillery, the 21st, 28th, 33rd, and 44th Bengal Native Infantry, the Bengal Military Police Battalion ("Rattray's Sikhs"), and some local military police, and was commanded by Colonel Dunsford. The first engagement was an attack on a convoy escorted by a party of the 21st near Jaintiapur, in which a sepoy was killed. On the 25th December a detachment of the 28th and a few of the 44th, under Lieutenant Sadleir, surprised and captured the rebel leader Ukiang Nongba. During January and February 1863 several engagements took place with the rebels, in which the 21st and 44th took the principal part, and the stockaded villages of Umkai, Umkiang and Nongbarai were captured. The losses in the operations were small, notwithstanding the difficulties of the country and the strength of some of the positions, and amounted in all to 3 killed and 19 wounded: among the latter were Lieutenant-Colonel W. Richardson (at Umkiang, 5th January) and Captain A. I. Shuldham, of the 44th, and Lieutenants H. Collett (Naung-floot, 2nd February) and R. S. Robertson (Sartiong, 23rd February), of the 21st Native Infantry.

Operations in  
Khasiah and  
Jaintiah Hills,  
1862–63.





Ambela  
Expedition,  
1863.

The active operations terminated in March 1863.

Towards the end of the same year the conduct of the Hindustani fanatics necessitated the despatch of an expedition against them and the tribes that were harbouring them, and this eventuated in the most severe and sanguinary conflict that had yet taken place on the North-West Frontier. These pestilent fanatics, when expelled from Sitana in 1858, had retired to Malka, on the northern face of the Mahaban Mountain, but they had subsequently returned to Sitana and had, for a series of years, by their raids and incursions, kept the Hazara and Yusufzai borders in a constant state of unrest. Contrary to their treaty obligations, the Gaduns and Utmanzais refused to expel the fanatics, and the troubles on the border having increased during the spring and summer of 1863, a recourse to military operations at last became unavoidable. The force detailed for the purpose of expelling the fanatics from their mountain fastnesses and of punishing those who had aided and abetted them in their depredations, was placed under the command of Brigadier-General Sir N. B. Chamberlain, K.C.B., and was composed of the following corps:—Half of 'C' Battery, 19th Brigade, Royal Artillery,\* half of No. 3 Punjab Light Field Battery; the Peshawar Mountain Train Battery; the Hazara Mountain Train Battery; detachments of the Guides Cavalry and 11th Bengal Cavalry; the 4th and 5th Companies of Bengal Sappers and Miners; the 71st Foot (Highland Light Infantry); the 101st Foot (Royal Bengal Fusiliers); the 14th (Sikhs), 20th (Punjab) and 32nd (Pioneers) Bengal Native Infantry; the Guides Infantry; the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 6th Punjab Infantry; and the 4th and 5th Gurkha Regiments. The effective strength of the force was about 5,500 men.

The advanced column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wilde of the Guides, entered the Ambela Pass† on the 20th October, and having driven back small parties of the enemy which opposed its march, was followed later in the same day by the main column under Sir Neville Chamberlain. Intelligence was at this time received that the Bunerwals had been persuaded by the fanatics to take part in the hostilities against us; and this report was confirmed on the 22nd when a reconnoitring force, which advanced as far as Kuria, in the Chamla valley, was attacked by the Bunerwals in its retirement and

\* Now the 35th Field Battery, Royal Artillery.—P.

† Called also the Pau-dara and the Sarkhawai Pass.—P.



hard pressed by their superior numbers; the retirement was covered with great steadiness by the 20th Native Infantry, which formed the rear-guard, and the force got back to camp after dark, having sustained a loss of 3 killed and 23 wounded, amongst the former of whom was Lieutenant Gillies, Hazara Mountain Battery.

The hostility of the Bunerwals necessitated considerable alterations in the plan of the campaign, as an advance on Malka through the Chamla valley, with this powerful and warlike tribe menacing our left flank, was an operation too full of risk to be undertaken. The force, moreover, was quite inadequate for any such operation; and the only alternatives were either to abandon the expedition and retire, or else to take up a defensive position and allow the combined tribes to break their strength against it. The latter appeared to Chamberlain to be the plan best calculated to uphold the honour of our arms, and he adopted it accordingly. He therefore took up a position at the head of the pass, and this was held with slight modifications for several weeks, until the arrival of reinforcements.

On the 25th October, the picquets of the right defence being menaced by the Mahaban tribes, Major Keyes, who commanded on the spot, taking the initiative, attacked and dislodged the tribesmen from the position they had taken up on a neighbouring ridge, and following up the success, drove them, with heavy loss, from a conical hill on which they had assembled in great force. On the following day the Bunerwals made a vigorous assault on the left flank of the position, on the Guru mountain, and especially on a picquet stationed on a rocky knoll known as the Eagle's Nest. Lieutenant-Colonel Vaughan, who commanded on this side, made his arrangements with great skill, and though the fighting continued for several hours, the enemy did not succeed in making any impression on the defence; the 20th Native Infantry was again conspicuous by its steadiness, and a gallant charge was made by the 6th Punjab Infantry, which, however, suffered severely in its retirement. The attack was finally repulsed, but not before two British officers (Lieutenant Clifford, 1st Punjab Cavalry, a volunteer with the 3rd Punjab Infantry, and Lieutenant Richmond, 20th Native Infantry), Subadar-Major Mir Ali Shah, 20th Native Infantry, and 25 men had been killed, and one British officer, seven Native officers, and 84 men wounded. The enemy, too, lost heavily, not less than 250 of





them having been killed, and of these more than thirty were Hindustani fanatics. A simultaneous attack was made on the front of the camp, when one man was killed and one British officer and two men wounded.

On the 27th the enemy were joined by large re-inforcements from Swat, Bajaur, and other parts of the country, and in fact we were now face to face with a general combination of almost all the tribes from the Indus to the borders of Afghanistan, the numbers in arms against us being not less than 15,000 men. On the 30th a united and determined attack was made on the camp in front and on the right. In the latter quarter a small but important post, known as the "Crag Picquet," held by a party of the 1st Punjab Infantry, was rushed by the enemy in force and its defenders compelled to retire; a detachment of the same regiment arriving, however, to the support of their picquet, recovered the post at the point of the bayonet, led in the most gallant manner by Major Keyes, Lieutenant Pitcher and Lieutenant Fosbery.\*

The front attack, made by the Swat contingent, was repulsed without difficulty, as also was a feeble effort against the defences on the left. Our losses in the day's fighting amounted to 14 killed and 41 wounded, Major Keyes and Lieutenant Pitcher being amongst the latter.

At this period a change in the line of communications was carried out, the line of the Ambela defile having become untenable in consequence of the hostility of the Bunerwals; a new line, leading down to the plains from the right of the position, through the villages of Khanpur and Sherdara, was decided upon, and working parties employed in cutting a new road towards Ambela along the western slopes of the ridge on the right of the position, to supersede that by the gorge of the pass, which was commanded to a great extent from the Guru mountain. The next engagement with the enemy, which took place on the 6th November, began in an attack on the detachments covering the working parties on this road; the tribesmen advanced with great boldness while the working parties were being withdrawn for the day, and a sanguinary conflict ensued, in which severe losses were sustained by our troops, in consequence

\* The gallant conduct of Lieutenants Pitcher and Fosbery was subsequently rewarded with the grant of the Victoria Cross.—P.



of some of the covering parties having stood their ground too long after the general retirement began, and being overwhelmed by their assailants as they retreated. The casualties this day amounted to 38 killed and 40 wounded, among the former being Major Harding, Commandant of the 2nd Sikh Infantry, who was on the staff of the field force, Lieutenant Dougal, 79th Highlanders, attached to the 71st, and Ensign Murray, of the 71st Highland Light Infantry.

On the evening of the 11th November it was apparent that a general attack was imminent. The enemy advanced at 10 P.M. and assaulted the Crag Picquet with great fury; they were repulsed, but returned again and again to the charge; and at one moment were so near carrying the post that it was only saved by the gallantry of a small party of five men of the 20th Native Infantry. The attacks continued until 4 A.M. on the 12th, when the enemy, having suffered severely, retired. The picquet remained constantly under arms until the morning of the 13th, when it was relieved by a detachment of the 1st Punjab Infantry. Hardly had the change been effected when the post was again attacked in great force; Lieutenant Davidson, who was in command, was killed, and the picquet of the 1st Punjab Infantry driven out in confusion. The enemy's success did not, however, extend further, being checked by the gallantry of another party of the 1st Punjab Infantry, aided by a few of the Guides and the 14th Native Infantry under Major Ross of the latter corps; re-inforcements presently arrived, and the 101st, with these detachments, stormed the crag and re-took the position. Our losses, however, were heavy, amounting to no less than 51 killed and 107 wounded.

On the 18th the position of the camp was changed, the left being withdrawn from the Gufu mountain to the south of the Ambela pass. The enemy, supposing that this withdrawal was made as a preliminary to a retreat to the plains, immediately advanced in great numbers and furiously attacked what was now the left front of the position. Every attempt was, however, repulsed and at the close of the day the tribesmen retired, having lost nearly 400 of their numbers in killed and wounded. Our own loss, too, was considerable, amounting to 43 killed and 75 wounded, among the former of whom were Captain Smith, 71st Foot, Lieutenant Jones, 79th, attached to the 71st, Lieutenant Chapman, 101st, and Lieutenant Mosley, 14th Native Infantry.



On the 19th some skirmishing took place, in which Captain Aldridge, of the 71st, was killed.

On the 20th the tribesmen again advanced in large numbers and vigorously assailed the position at various points, and in the afternoon they once more succeeded in capturing the Crag Picquet post; but it did not remain long in their possession; the 71st Highlanders and the 5th Gurkhas were promptly pushed forward, and under cover of a close and accurate fire of artillery these two regiments stormed the position and re-took it, driving the enemy over the hills in the direction of Lalu. Our losses this day amounted to 27 killed, and 110 wounded, Ensign Sanderson and Assistant-Surgeon Pile, of the 101st, being amongst the former, and Sir Neville Chamberlain himself amongst the latter.

For more than three weeks after this engagement the enemy made no movement of importance. During this period Sir Neville Chamberlain was compelled, in consequence of the severity of his wound, to relinquish the command of the force and retire to the plains; he was succeeded by Major-General Garvock, who arrived on the 30th November. During this interval, too, the force was raised to a strength of nearly 9,000 men by the arrival of considerable re-inforcements, consisting of the 7th and 93rd Foot (the Royal Fusiliers and the Sutherland Highlanders), the 23rd Bengal Native Infantry (Pioneers), and the 3rd Sikh Infantry. The tribesmen still continued in our front in undiminished strength, for though deserted by several clans and sections who, dispirited by repeated defeats, had gone off to their homes, they too had received powerful re-inforcements, amounting to nearly 10,000 men, from Dir, Bajaur, and even Kunar. Several attempts at negotiation were made with the object of breaking up the hostile combination, but they came to nothing, and eventually General Garvock determined on making a forward movement and assailing the tribesmen in their position in his front. Accordingly on the 14th December orders were issued for an advance on the village of Lalu. The force was divided into two columns, which were placed under the command respectively of Colonel Turner, 97th Foot, and Lieutenant-Colonel Wilde; both advanced on the 15th against the enemy's position and stormed in a brilliant manner the Conical Hill on the right, driving the enemy down to Ambela; the first column then advanced and seized and destroyed Lalu. Several desultory counter-attacks were made by



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the enemy on the left and on the camp, all of which were repelled; and a brilliant charge by a detachment of the 1st Punjab Infantry, under Major Keyes, finally scattered the assailants in this quarter. The columns bivouacked on the ground, having lost in the day's fighting 16 killed and 67 wounded.

On the 16th the two columns moved forward into the valley. The enemy took up a strong position to resist their further advance, but being out-flanked by the first column they retired without firing a shot, and retreated slowly towards the pass leading into Buner. Colonel Turner made a movement to cut them off from this point, which was answered by a sudden and furious attack on the part of the Pathans and fanatics: the brunt of the charge fell upon 23rd and 32nd Native Infantry, who were staggered for the moment by the violence of the onslaught, but recovering themselves they turned on their assailants and destroyed the whole of them, not one man escaping. The advance was then continued, and finally the enemy were driven into the mouth of the pass. In this sharp affair our losses amounted to Lieutenant Alexander, of the 23rd, and seven men killed, and four officers and 76 men wounded.

This was the last engagement of the campaign. The Bunerwal chiefs tendered their submission on the following day; the Swatis retired hastily to their homes, and the Hindustani fanatics fled into the hills. A few days later Malka, the stronghold of the fanatics, was visited by some British officers escorted by the Buner tribesmen, and completely destroyed. The British force was then withdrawn to the plains, having sustained during the campaign a loss of 15 British officers, 4 Native officers and 219 men killed, and 21 British officers, 27 Native officers, and 622 men wounded. The India medal, with a special clasp, was afterwards granted to all survivors of the expedition (G. G. O. No. 812 of 1869).

Simultaneously with the Ambela campaign occurred a descent on the British frontier by some of the Mohmand tribes under Sultan Muhammad Khan. The garrison of the fort of Shabkadar was engaged with the enemy on the 5th December 1863, when Lieutenant Bishop, 6th Bengal Cavalry, was killed. Two days afterwards another skirmish took place, the troops engaged (detachments of the 8th Native Infantry and the 4th Sikh Infantry) sustaining a loss of two sepoy killed, and one jemadar and three sepoy wounded. For three weeks after this various fanatical *mullas* were engaged in

The Mohmands, 1863-64.





stirring up the tribes and collecting adherents from the surrounding districts, until, by the 1st January 1864, their numbers amounted to 5,600. The force at Shabkadar had in the meantime been considerably increased, and now reached a total of 1,800, including half a battery of horse-artillery, detachments of the 7th Hussars and of the 2nd and 6th Bengal Cavalry, the 3rd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, the 2nd Gurkha Regiment, and a detachment of the 4th Sikh Infantry, the whole under the command of Colonel Macdonell, of the Rifle Brigade. The enemy again came down on Shabkadar on the 2nd January: Colonel Macdonell moved out and engaged them, and in the action which followed completely routed and dispersed them, the loss on our side amounting to only 2 men killed, and 17 wounded. The India medal was granted for this affair by G. G. O. No. 116 of 1884.

The Bhutan  
War 1864-66.

The history of the year 1864 again carries us to the Northern and North-Eastern Frontiers of Bengal where a long continued series of raids and incursions into British territory, culminating in an outrageous insult to a British Mission, forced on a war with the Government of Bhutan in November 1864.

The forces detailed for the operations against Bhutan were divided into four columns as follow :—

*Right Column*,—to move from Gauhati against Dewangiri :—Half of the Eurasian Company of Artillery, one squadron of the 5th Bengal Cavalry, one company of Sibandi Sappers, and the 43rd Native Infantry (Assam Light Infantry).

*Right Centre Column*,—to move from Goalpara against Bissen-giri :—Half of the Eurasian Company of Artillery, one squadron of the 5th and two of the 14th Bengal Cavalry, one company of Sibandi Sappers, and a wing each of the 12th and the 44th Native Infantry (Sylhet Light Infantry).

*Left Centre Column*,—to move from Cooch Behar against Baksa and Bala :—Half of No. 5 Battery, 25th Brigade (mountain guns) and half of No. 6 Battery, 25th Brigade Royal Artillery (mortars); one company of sappers and miners, a wing of the 11th Native Infantry, and the 3rd Gurkha Regiment.

*Left Column*,—to move from Jalpaiguri against Dhalimkot and Chamurchi :—Half of No. 5 Battery, 25th Brigade, (mountain guns) and half of No. 6 Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery (mortars); two squadrons of the 5th Bengal Cavalry, one company of sappers



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and miners, a wing each of the 11th and 18th Native Infantry, and the 30th Native Infantry.

The two columns on the right were placed under the command of Brigadier-General Mulcaster, those on the left under Brigadier-General Dunsford.

The left column, under Brigadier-General Dunsford, was the first to move. Marching from Jalpaiguri on the 28th November, it arrived before the hill fort of Dhalimkot on the 5th December, and on the following day the place was taken after a bombardment of several hours, with a loss on our side of 3 officers and 7 men killed, and 3 officers and 56 men wounded. A considerable portion of the loss was occasioned by the premature bursting of a shell, which resulted in the death of Captain Griffin, Lieutenant Anderson, Lieutenant Waller, and several men of the artillery. No further opposition was met with, and the occupation of Dhalimkot by a detachment of the 17th Native Infantry from Darjeeling having been arranged for, the column returned to the plains and marched eastwards along the foot of the hills towards Chamurchi. In the vicinity of that place a reconnoitring party was attacked by the enemy on the 29th December, and in the skirmish which ensued the detachment had twelve men wounded. On the 31st, the post of Chamurchi was attacked and carried after a slight resistance, in which the force suffered a loss of two men killed and three wounded.

The left centre column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Watson, met with little opposition in its advance; the fort of Baksa was occupied on the 6th December, and the Bala Pass was forced, and Tazagong captured, on the 21st.

The right column, under Lieutenant-Colonel R. Campbell, 43rd Native Infantry, and accompanied by Brigadier-General Mulcaster, left Gauhati on the 2nd December, and on the 10th entered the Daranga Pass, at the top of which the fort of Dewangiri was situated. On the same day Dewangiri was captured by a party of Military Police under Captain Macdonald, who had gone up by another route, with a loss on our side of one man killed and five wounded, and on the 11th Brigadier-General Mulcaster arrived there with part of the column. On the 17th December the column was broken up and returned to the plains, Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell having been left at Dewangiri with six companies of the 43rd Native





1865.

Infantry, two guns of the Eurasian Battery, a company of sappers, and some police.

The right centre column advanced from Goalpara and, on the 8th January 1865, occupied Bissengiri unopposed.

The objects of the expedition having apparently been accomplished, orders were issued for the breaking up of the field force. Suddenly, however, when least expected, although warnings had not been wanting, almost simultaneous attacks were made on Dewangiri, Bissengiri, Baksa, Tazagong in the Bala Pass, and Chamurchi. In the attack on the first-named place (29th January) one officer and five men were killed, and one officer and thirty-two men wounded. The enemy then almost surrounded the post, cut off the water-supply and the communication with the plains, and pressed the garrison so severely that Colonel Campbell, considering his force insufficient to dislodge his opponents, determined to retreat, and evacuated Dewangiri before daylight on the morning of the 5th February. The main column lost its way in the darkness and a panic set in, in which some of the wounded were abandoned and the guns (which were thrown down a ravine) and all the baggage lost.

The attacks on Bissengiri (25th January) and Baksa (26th January) were repulsed without much difficulty by the detachments of the 44th Native Infantry and 3rd Gurkha Regiment stationed at those places. That on Tazagong (27th January) was not so easily disposed of; the post there was hard pressed for several days, and even after the arrival of re-inforcements it was found impossible to dislodge the enemy from the position they had taken up, an attempt to do so proving unsuccessful, with a loss on our side of one officer (Lieutenant Millett, 11th Native Infantry) killed, and two officers (one mortally) and thirteen men wounded. The post at Chamurchi (which was held by a detachment of police) was also hard pressed, and it was not until a part of the 30th Native Infantry was sent up as a re-inforcement that the enemy were driven off.

Re-inforcements (which included the 55th and 80th Foot, a company of sappers and miners, and the 19th, 29th, and 31st Native Infantry) were quickly sent up, and two independent brigades were formed. The Left Brigade, under Brigadier-General J. M. B. Fraser-Tytler, included, besides the troops already on the spot, No. 7 Battery, 22nd Brigade, Royal Artillery, a wing of the 55th Foot, the



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head-quarters of the 80th Foot, and the 19th and 31st Native Infantry; the Right Brigade was placed under Brigadier-General Tombs, and included No. 3 Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Artillery, the Eurasian Battery of Artillery, a detachment of the 14th Bengal Cavalry, a company of sappers, the head-quarters wing of the 55th Foot, the 12th, 29th, and 44th Native Infantry, and a detachment of the 13rd.

The advance of the two brigades was followed by the speedy conclusion of hostilities. The enemy's stockades at Tazagong, in the Bala Pass, were captured on the 15th March by a part of the Left Brigade, with a loss of only three men killed and one officer and nineteen men wounded; and Baksa and Chamurchi were both relieved by the 24th March. On the latter date a forward movement was made by the Right Brigade from Kumrikata, and the Daranga Pass was taken the same day by detachments of the 14th Bengal Cavalry and of the 12th, 29th, and 44th Native Infantry, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stevens, after a smart skirmish, in which a loss was sustained of 2 men killed and Lieutenant Beddy, 29th Native Infantry, and 13 men wounded. On the 1st April the final advance on Dewangiri was made, and on the following day the place was taken by storm. The storming party consisted of three companies of the 29th Native Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Beddy (described by Brigadier-General Tombs as "a most gallant young officer, who had already distinguished himself more than once"), supported by detachments of the 55th Foot and the 12th Native Infantry. On the signal to assault being given these troops advanced with a rush and soon effected an entrance into the works; the enemy were in great strength, three thousand at least, and made a desperate but unavailing resistance; about 130 of them were killed, and they left about 120 wounded behind them. Our loss amounted to seven men killed, and four officers and 99 men wounded.

This practically concluded the war, but the Bhutiahs were not yet subdued, and it being an object of importance, moreover, to recover the guns lost at Dewangiri in February, it became necessary to keep a considerable force on the frontier until the time should arrive for the renewal of operations. During this period the troops suffered terribly from the deadly climate of the Terai. Towards the end of





the year, some negotiations took place with the Bhutan Government and the surrender of the guns was made one of the conditions of the re-establishment of peace. The guns were, however, in the hands of the Tongsoo Penlow, the leading spirit in the war against us, and as the surrender of them was delayed, Colonel Richardson, who was commanding the right column of the Bhutan Field Force, moved forward from Dewangiri into Bhutan early in February 1866, with a force consisting of a company of sappers, a wing of the 9th Native Infantry, two companies of the 12th, and the whole of the 26th Native Infantry. On the 6th February he advanced to Salika, with a loss of two men wounded, and on the 7th seized the bridge over the Monas river. Being short of transport the force had to halt for some time, and in the meantime, on the 23rd February, the Bhutials surrendered the guns which had fallen into their hands and the troops then returned to Dewangiri. Peace having been concluded, the field force was broken up in the spring of 1866, and the troops returned to quarters. By G. G. O. No. 86 of 1870 the India medal, with a special clasp, was granted to all troops actively engaged with the enemy in the Bhutan war.

Abyssinian  
War, 1867-68.

In the autumn of 1867 insults offered to the British representative and the wanton imprisonment of British subjects by King Theodore of Abyssinia, necessitated the despatch of an expedition to that country. The nature of the undertaking, which involved a march of some hundreds of miles from the coast to the capital, through an unknown country deficient in supplies and water, and against a fortress known to be of considerable natural strength, demanded the exercise of great foresight in the arrangement of preliminaries. This received the most careful attention from the officer appointed to command,—Lieutenant-General Sir Robert C. Napier, then Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army,—and the event justified his selection, for seldom or never has an expedition on so large a scale been so thoroughly well prepared or so successfully carried through without a single hitch or *contretemps*.

The total force detailed for the expedition amounted to nearly 14,000 men, and consisted of four regiments and a half of cavalry; seven batteries and one native company of artillery; eight companies of engineers and sappers; and four regiments of British and ten of native infantry. Of this force Bengal contributed two regiments of native cavalry and two battalions of native infantry. These were



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the 10th Bengal Cavalry (Lancers) and the 12th Bengal Cavalry, the 1st Native Infantry and the 23rd Native Infantry (Pioneers).

The Bengal troops embarked at Calcutta in December and January, 1868, and the 10th Bengal Cavalry, who were the last to arrive, completed their disembarkation on the 6th March. The 23rd Native Infantry were the first at Zula, the port of disembarkation in Annesley Bay, and accompanied Sir Robert Napier's advance up the country; the 1st Native Infantry was employed in garrison duty at the base and at various posts on the road. The 12th Bengal Cavalry overtook the main column at Antalo, half-way between the coast and Magdala, the Abyssinian capital, and the head-quarters advanced with the army to the latter place. The 10th Bengal Cavalry were also ordered up in haste, but were too late to be present at the taking of Magdala.

The army advanced from Antalo on the 12th March, and arrived within a few miles of Magdala on the 7th April. Here a reconnaissance in force was commenced by the advance guard, which resulted in the first and only serious conflict of the campaign. The advance of the British troops was met by a vigorous, though scattered, attack of the enemy at Arogi (10th April); the brunt of the first charge was borne by the 4th Foot (the King's Own), whose quick-firing Enfield rifles drove the enemy back before they could get to close quarters. Another vigorous assault was made on the left, which was met and repulsed with great gallantry by the 23rd Bengal Native Infantry. The British loss was insignificant, amounting to no more than one officer and 19 men wounded; but the enemy suffered very heavily, so much so that, rather than face a second engagement, a great proportion of Theodore's army deserted during the next two days.

Some days were spent in endeavours to induce the king to surrender, and were so far successful that the release of the British subjects who were prisoners in his fortress was accomplished. Nothing more definite, however, could be gained, and at length, after due preparation, a general advance against Magdala took place on the 13th April. As the British force advanced, the king's troops, remembering the fight at Arogi, deserted by hundreds, and fled in all directions from the fortress, so that when the storming party reached the gates the band of adherents who remained by their master's side was reduced to a mere handful. The place was taken with hardly any resistance; such of the garrison as remained surrendered; and Theo-

Taking of  
Magdala, April  
13th, 1868.





dore, when he found that all was lost, discharged a pistol into his mouth and blew his brains out. Our loss in the assault amounted to only 15 wounded, but of these no less than four were officers.

With the capture of Magdala the active operations of the campaign terminated. The retirement commenced within a few days, and by the end of May the last detachment of Bengal troops had sailed for India. Sir Robert Napier was rewarded for the complete success of the expedition with a peerage; a medal was issued to all the troops engaged, and six months' donation batta was granted; and the word "ABYSSINIA" was authorised to be borne on the colours and appointments of the corps employed (G. G. O. No. 1181 of 1869).

The next twelve years of the history of the Bengal Army are marked by a number of expeditions, of greater or less importance, on the North-West Frontier of the Punjab and the Eastern, North-Eastern and South-Eastern Frontiers of Bengal, as well as by two expeditions beyond sea. These will now be noticed in due order of date.

The first of these events was an affair with the Bizoti Urakzais in the Ublan Pass, about six miles from Kohat, on the 11th March, 1868. In order to repel a raid by these people, Major Jones, commanding at Kohat, moved out from that place with detachments of No. 2 Punjab Light Field Battery, the 3rd Punjab Cavalry, and the 3rd and 6th Punjab Infantry. In the engagement which ensued the enemy, though at first driven back, succeeded in repulsing two attacks on the position they had taken up, and night coming on the troops had eventually to be withdrawn, after sustaining considerable loss—11 killed and 44 wounded,—among the former of whom were included Captain Ruxton and Subadar Ram Singh of the 3rd Punjab Infantry,—the latter described as "one of the bravest officers of the Punjab Frontier Force."

In the autumn of 1868 it became necessary to send an expedition against the tribes of the Black Mountain, in Hazara. At the end of July in that year a police post at Ughi, in the Agror valley, was suddenly attacked by a mixed band of Chagarzais, Akazais, Hassanzais, and Pariari Saiads, about 500 in number. Though repulsed with some loss they still hung about the valley; presently the whole of these tribes were up, and, being joined by most of the Swati clans, the insurrection began to assume a grave aspect. On the first news of the outbreak Lieutenant-Colonel Rothney promptly moved into the

Bizoti  
Urakzais,  
1868.

The Black  
Mountain  
Expedition,  
1868.



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Agror valley, from Abbottabad, with the Peshawar Mountain Battery and a wing of the 5th Gurkha Regiment, but, though he was subsequently joined by a wing of the 2nd Punjab Infantry, his force was inadequate to cope with the numerous bodies in his front, and he was compelled to remain almost entirely on the defensive; nor was he able to prevent the burning by the insurgents of a number of British villages. To punish the tribes concerned in the creation of these disorders, it was decided to organise an expedition forthwith which should ascend the Black Mountain and visit the settlements of the offenders, and the troops detailed for this service were collected with wonderful rapidity; in particular the 20th Native Infantry marched, in the hot month of August, 232 miles in ten days; the 31st covered 422 miles in twenty-nine days, and two companies of the Sappers and Miners nearly 600 miles in the same time.

The force was composed of the following troops, which were organised in two brigades:—"D" Battery, "F" Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery, "E" Battery, 19th Brigade, Royal Artillery, No. 2 Battery, 24th Brigade, Royal Artillery; the Peshawar and Hazara Mountain Batteries; a detachment of the 9th Bengal Cavalry; the 16th Bengal Cavalry; a detachment of the Guides Cavalry; two companies of the Sappers and Miners; the 1-6th and the 1-19th Foot; the 20th and 24th Bengal Native Infantry; the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Gurkha Regiments; the 3rd Sikh Infantry, and the 2nd Punjab Infantry.

The 1st Brigade was commanded by Colonel P. O. Bright, 19th Foot, and the 2nd by Colonel J. L. Vaughan; the whole force was under the command of Brigadier-General A. T. Wilde, c.b.

On the 3rd October the operations were begun by a forward movement from Ughi. The 2nd Brigade, moving on Kilagai, met with no opposition, while the 1st Brigade experienced but faint resistance in their advance as far as Mana-ka-Dana. On the next day the position of the enemy there was carried by the 1st and 5th Gurkha Regiments, and the 1st Brigade reached Chittabut, the 2nd moving on to Mana-ka-Dana; and on the 5th October the heights of the Machai peak were carried by the 20th Native Infantry, supported by 1st and 5th Gurkha Regiments, the resistance of the enemy being still feeble and half-hearted. During the next eight or ten days, various movements were made without much opposition from the enemy, who now entered into negotiations and tendered their submission. Only





the Pariari Saiads remained refractory for a while, and their villages having been destroyed, and a fine inflicted, the campaign was brought to a conclusion. The total casualties during the operations were 5 killed and 29 wounded. By G. G. O. No. 86 of 1870 the India medal was granted for this expedition.

In February 1869, when the Bizoti Urakzais were again located in their winter settlements, an expedition was planned against their village of Gara, on the further side of the Ublan pass, to punish them for their raid of the previous year and for one of which they had since been guilty. The arrangements were made with profound secrecy, and the force (two guns of No. 1 Punjab Mountain Battery, and the 1st and 4th Punjab Infantry,—the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes), having left Kohat at 1 A.M. on the 25th, gained the summit of the pass without opposition; advancing into the valley beyond, they rushed the village of Gara, which was carried after a brief struggle and forthwith destroyed. The force then commenced its retirement, but the movement was one of considerable difficulty, and was not effected without loss. The casualties during the expedition amounted to three killed and 33 wounded.

The operations which come next in order of date occurred at the opposite extremity of the Empire, on the Eastern and South-Eastern Frontiers of Bengal. For a long series of years the Lushai clans had been guilty of predatory inroads into British territory, where they had committed numerous outrages on the inhabitants: latterly these had increased in frequency, and in the autumn of 1871 affairs had arrived at such a stage that the punishment of the offenders could no longer be delayed. For the accomplishment of this object two distinct columns were accordingly organised, to enter the Lushai country from Cachar and Chittagong, respectively.

The Cachar column (which was placed under the command of Brigadier-General G. Bouchier, C.B., and was composed of half of the Peshawar Mountain Battery, a company of sappers and miners, and 500 men each of the 22nd, 42nd, and 44th Bengal Native Infantry) left Cachar on the 21st November, and advanced without meeting with any opposition, or being hindered in any way except by the difficulties of the country, as far as Tipai Mukh, where it arrived on the 15th of December. Thence the advance was continued across the Tawibhum stream towards the Vongpial villages, where some opposition was met with, and the force was annoyed by being continually fired

Bizoti  
Urakzais,  
1869.

The Lushai  
Expedition,  
1871-72.



on, in consequence of which several villages were destroyed. Our loss between the 24th and 29th of December was 6 killed and 11 wounded. On the 9th January, 1872, a further advance was commenced through Pachui and Chipui to Kungnung, which place was defended, and was only carried with a loss of 4 killed and 11 wounded, Brigadier General Bouchier himself being among the latter. On the 1st February the final advance to Sellam was commenced, and thence through a very mountainous and densely-wooded country, the force moved to Champhai, the principal village of the Chief Lalburah, situated in latitude  $23^{\circ} 26' 32''$  and longitude  $93^{\circ} 21'$ , which was reached on the 17th. Throughout this last advance but very slight resistance had been met with, and the people generally seemed disinclined for hostilities. The main objects, therefore, of the expedition having been attained, the column began its return march on the 21st February, and reached Cachar on the 10th of March.

The Chittagong column, under Brigadier-General C. H. Brownlow, C.B., was composed of half of the Peshawar Mountain Battery, a company of sappers, the 27th Native Infantry, and the 2nd and 4th Gurkha Regiments. Leaving Chittagong early in December, it marched to Kassalong, whence it advanced through Demagiri to Vanunah, which village was reached on the 14th December. On the 18th a slight skirmish took place between some Lushais and a party of the 2nd Gurkha Regiment; on the 30th Savunga was reached, and taken with slight opposition; and on the 4th January 1872, a detachment of the 2nd Gurkha Regiment attacked and seized the village of the Chief Lal Gnura, losing in the affair one man killed and Captain Battye and nine men wounded. The advance continued throughout January, and at the end of the month, as a proof of their readiness to treat, the child of an English planter, who had been carried off in the preceding year, was given up by the enemy. Brigadier-General Brownlow continued his advance against the Northern Howlongs, until, on the 18th February, their chiefs tendered their submission. The Southern Howlongs also submitted, peace was concluded, and the troops returned to Chittagong in March 1872.

The India medal, with a special clasp, was granted to the Lushai Expeditionary Force by G. G. O. No. 1295 of 1872.

No further disturbance occurred on the North-West Frontier until 1872, when the misbehaviour of the men of Lower Dawar, on

The Dawaria  
1872.





the Bannu border, necessitated punitive measures. On the 7th March a dash was made into their country by a force under Brigadier-General Keyes, composed of two guns of No. 3 Punjab Light Field Battery and detachments of the 1st and 2nd Punjab Cavalry, 1st and 4th Sikh Infantry, and 1st Punjab Infantry. The Tochi pass, leading into the Lower Dawar valley, was traversed and the valley entered without opposition; the head-men of two villages joined the force and professed their eagerness to treat, but on the village of Haidar Khel being approached, a hot fire was opened on the troops by the inhabitants. The guns were quickly brought into action and at the same time the village was stormed with great gallantry by the 1st Sikh Infantry. More than forty of the enemy were killed; the rest surrendered, and the inhabitants of all the other villages in the valley tendered unconditional submission. The British force returned to camp at the mouth of the Tochi pass the same night, having lost only six men wounded.

At the end of 1874 an expedition was organised and despatched under Brigadier-General Stafford, C.B., against the Daphlas, a savage tribe inhabiting the hills on the borders of the Darrang district in Lower Assam, who had been guilty of plundering in British territory: the troops employed were half of the Hazara Mountain Battery and detachments of the 16th, 42nd, 43rd, and 44th Native Infantry. The column advanced some distance into the hills, without meeting with any opposition; and the chiefs having tendered their submission, Brigadier-General Stafford retraced his steps, and the force was broken up early in March 1875.

In consequence of a treacherous attack on, and the massacre of, a survey party under Lieutenant Holcombe at Ninu, on the 2nd February 1875, a punitive expedition was despatched into the Naga Hills, Assam frontier, at the end of the same month. It consisted of detachments of the 42nd and 44th Native Infantry, numbering 308 in all, and was commanded by Colonel J. M. Nuttall. Leaving Dibrugarh on the 27th February, the expedition advanced by Bor Matan, across the Tesing and Desang rivers, through a thickly populated country, to the large village of Ninu, which was taken after a smart skirmish on the 19th March. A week was spent in scouring the country with detachments, and in the destruction of villages which had taken part in the massacre of February. On the

The Daphla  
Expedition,  
1874-75.

Naga Hills  
Expedition,  
1875.



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26th the column was re-united at Ninu, when the persons most directly implicated in the massacre having been captured, or given up, the troops returned to Dibrugarh, arriving there on the 11th April.

For some months after this the Nagas maintained a comparatively peaceful attitude, but in December they again displayed their hostility in an attack on another survey party, in which Captain Butler, Political Officer in the Naga Hills, was mortally wounded.

At the end of 1875 an outbreak at Perak, in the Malay Peninsula, in which the Resident, Mr. Birch, was killed, was the cause of a force of some strength being asked for from India. In a very short space of time the troops detailed to proceed from India, which included the head-quarters and 400 men of the 1st Gurkha Regiment, arrived on the scene of action, under the command of Brigadier-General John Ross. By that time, however, the disturbances had been to a great extent suppressed, and but little remained for the force from India to accomplish. Detachments were, however, twice engaged with the Malays: first, on the 20th December, when storming the Bukit Patas Pass stockades, where one man was killed and another wounded; and, secondly, at the village of Kota Lama, on the 4th January, 1876, when a detachment was surprised by a party of Malays, one officer (Major Hawkins, Brigade Major of the Indian Brigade) and two men being killed and four men wounded. After two months of jungle work, the force returned to India in March 1876.

Perak  
Expedition,  
1875-76.

The India medal, with a special clasp, was granted for the expedition by G. G. O. No. 242 of 1880.

Towards the end of 1877, the Naga tribes again became aggressive, and several outrages having been committed in British territory, it became necessary to adopt punitive measures against the raiders. A force of two hundred men of the 42nd Native Infantry, under Captain Brydon, was despatched in December against the important village of Mozima, which was taken and destroyed on the 8th of that month. Further than this Captain Brydon was unable to move owing to the smallness of his force; indeed, his position at Mozima was somewhat precarious until the arrival of 100 men of the 43rd Native Infantry on the 9th of January, when the Nagas sued for peace, and tranquillity was temporarily restored.

Naga Hills,  
1877-78.

In the autumn of 1877 it became necessary to send an expedition against the Jowaki Afridis, to inflict punishment for a long series of

The Jowaki  
Afridis,  
August 1877.





outrages in British territory of which this tribe had been guilty. The troops engaged were No. 1 Mountain Battery and detachments of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sikh Infantry, 6th Punjab Infantry, and the Guides Infantry, the whole under the command of Colonel Mocatta, Brigadier-General C. P. Keyes, who was to have commanded, having been suddenly taken ill. The troops advanced into the Jowaki country (29th August) in three columns by different routes, destroyed several villages, and again retired by the same roads, having lost one man killed, and one officer and nine men wounded.

The Jowaki  
Expedition,  
1877-78.

Colonel Mocatta's raid did not have the effect of modifying the hostile attitude of the Jowakis, who continued their forays into British territory as before, plundering several villages and murdering many of the inhabitants. As the only means of putting an end to these outrages, it was decided at last to carry out a second invasion of the Jowaki hills, and to occupy the country until the offending clans had submitted and had made due reparation. For this purpose two strong columns were detailed to enter the hills,—the one from Kohat and the other from the Peshawar side,—and to the command of these Brigadier-General C. P. Keyes and Brigadier-General C. C. G. Ross were, respectively, nominated. The former force was composed of Nos. 1 and 4 Mountain Batteries, the 29th Native Infantry, and detachments of No. 2 Mountain Battery, the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, the Guides Infantry, the 1st and 3rd Sikh Infantry, the 4th, 5th and 6th Punjab Infantry, and the 5th Gurkha Regiment; while the latter (which was divided into two brigades, commanded respectively by Colonels Doran and Buchanan) consisted of a battery of horse artillery, a heavy battery, two companies of sappers and miners, three battalions of British infantry, and the 14th, 20th, 22nd, and 27th Native Infantry.

The force under Brigadier-General Keyes entered the Jowaki country on the 9th November, in three columns, of which, after some skirmishing, the first and second occupied Pajah, and the third Kahkto. On the 12th an attack was made on the latter column, but was repulsed by a company of the 5th Punjab Infantry; and on the following day the whole force concentrated at Pajah. For a fortnight operations were hindered by excessive rain, but at length on the 1st December an advance was made into the Jamu valley; some skirmishing took place during that and the next three days, and



the column then took up a position at Bagh. On the 7th the village of Ghariba, which had long been notorious as the Alsatia of the Jowaki robbers, was captured and destroyed.

During this time Brigadier-General Ross's force had been prevented by incessant rain from starting from Peshawar, and it was not until the 4th December that it was able to move forward. On that day the two passes leading into the Bori valley were seized, the ridges above occupied, and the towers and villages in the valley destroyed.

Notwithstanding this occupation of their country, the enemy showed as yet no signs of surrender; and it was therefore decided that a simultaneous advance should be made from the north and south on the Pastaoni valley. A preliminary reconnaissance was made on the 25th December by the Peshawar force, and on the 31st Brigadier-General Ross advanced almost unopposed, and took the village of Pastaoni, where he was joined by Brigadier-General Keyes. During the next three weeks the British columns continued to move through the Jowaki country. No opposition was encountered, except by a column under Colonel Mocatta, consisting of detachments of No. 1 Mountain Battery, and of the 1st and 3rd Sikh Infantry and the 29th Native Infantry; this column advanced from Turkai on the 15th January, into the Nara Khula defile, which was defended in some strength by the Jowakis, but it was forced without much difficulty and with little loss.

At length, on the 23rd and 24th January, the troops were withdrawn on both sides; and the movement was followed almost immediately by the complete submission of the Jowaki tribesmen. Our total loss during the ten weeks' operations amounted to 11 men killed and one officer and 50 men wounded.

The India medal, with a clasp inscribed "JOWAKI," was subsequently granted for the operations between the 19th November and the 19th January. (G. G. O. Nos. 143 of 1879 and 285 of 1880.)

In March 1878, shortly after the conclusion of the Jowaki campaign, an expedition was sent against the village of Skakot inhabited by the Swati tribe of Ranizais, who had lately been giving trouble on the border. The force employed was the Hazara Mountain Battery and the Guides Cavalry and Infantry, under Major R. B. P. P. Campbell. Marching from Mardan on the evening of the 13th March, the detachment reached the village at 2 A.M. on the 14th

Skakot, 1878





The Utman  
Khels, 1878.

and surrounded it before daybreak, when the inhabitants, finding resistance hopeless, accepted the inevitable and surrendered. The troops returned to Mardan the same day.

At the same time operations were in progress against the Utman Khels, who had made an unprovoked attack on a body of unarmed labourers employed on the Swat Canal, of whom a large number were cruelly massacred. Against the perpetrators of this outrage a detachment of the Guides (280 strong), under the command of Captain W. Battye, was sent in February, 1878, when the village of Sapri was surprised and the leader of the raiders killed. As some of the Utman Khel villages still refused to make reparation for the outrage, it became necessary to take measures to coerce them, and for this purpose, on the 20th March, a force under Lieutenant-Colonel Jenkins, commanding the Corps of Guides, marched from Mardan and crossed the Utman Khel border on the following morning. But little opposition was met with; the refractory villages submitted, and the force retired the same evening.

Expedition  
to the  
Mediterranean,  
1878.

In 1878, the result of the Russo-Turkish war and the advance of the Russians on Constantinople was the cause of an event of considerable interest to the Indian Army,—the employment for the first time of a Native force in Europe. Under instructions from the Secretary of State an expeditionary force was, on the 17th April 1878, detailed to proceed on service to the Mediterranean. It was composed of two field batteries of Royal Artillery, two regiments of Native cavalry, four companies of sappers, and six regiments of Native infantry. The Bengal corps detailed were the 9th Bengal Cavalry with a squadron of the 10th Bengal Lancers attached, the 13th (Shekhawati) and 31st (Punjab) Native Infantry, and the 2nd (the Prince of Wales' Own) Gurkha Regiment.

By G. G. O. No. 347 of 1878 these regiments of Native infantry were allowed extra batta while on foreign service; while the Native cavalry were authorised to draw free rations or ration money.

The force reached Malta in May, and there, in the following month, these troops were inspected by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Commanding-in-Chief, who afterwards issued a most complimentary order, in which he referred to the Indian Forces in the following terms:—"His Royal Highness cannot speak too highly of their soldierly qualities. Their uniform good conduct and smartness



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reflects the greatest credit on all ranks. Their steadiness under arms and drill and the excellent state of their camps leave nothing to be desired." The Indian troops left Malta in July and proceeded to Cyprus, where they occupied various posts until towards the end of August, when they embarked on their return to India.

An attack, in the autumn of 1879, on Mr. Damant, the Political Agent, in which that gentleman, Jemadar Prem Singh, and ten sepoy of the 43rd Native Infantry were killed and five sepoy wounded, there being besides many casualties among the police, compelled the Government once more to despatch an expedition against the Naga tribes.

Naga Expedition,  
1879-80.

The force detailed for this service, which was placed under the command of Brigadier-General Nation, was composed of a small party of the 34th, a detachment (300 men) of the 43rd, and the whole of the 44th Native Infantry, with two mountain guns. It was concentrated at Piphima on the 21st November, previous to which (15th November) a detachment of the 43rd, under Major Evans, attacked and took the village of Sephima, with a loss of two men killed and one officer and two sepoy wounded, while, on the 14th, a detachment of the 44th occupied the important position of Sachima. Thence, on the 22nd November, an attack was made on the Naga stronghold of Konoma. In the belief that but slight resistance would be made, the attacking force was split up into several parties, with the unfortunate result that after a whole day's fighting the artillery ammunition was found to be exhausted and the storming parties had lost a fourth of their numbers, while only a small portion of the enemy's works had been carried. Fortunately the place was evacuated during the night, and the enemy retired to an entrenched position a mile higher up the mountain. In the day's fighting one Native officer (Subadar-Major Narbir Sahi, 44th Native Infantry) and seventeen men were killed, while the wounded amounted to four British officers (two mortally), two native officers, and 27 men (three mortally). Lieutenant R. K. Ridgeway, who was severely wounded, was awarded the Victoria Cross for distinguished gallantry in the assault.

Leaving a detachment to garrison Konoma, Brigadier-General Nation retired to Sachima. On the 27th November the village of Jotsoma was destroyed without opposition. The remainder of the month and the whole of December were passed in inaction, awaiting the arrival





of supplies, transport, and re-inforcements. A wing of the 42nd Native Infantry having arrived towards the end of December, active operations were immediately resumed, the village of Cheswejuma being destroyed, and Poplongmai surprised and taken, with a loss of one killed and four wounded. Further re-inforcements, consisting of a wing of the 18th Native Infantry, arrived on the 12th March 1880, and the operations were prosecuted with vigour until the 28th, when the enemy sued for peace and terms were arranged. In the course of these operations our losses (including those sustained in the attack on Mr. Damant's escort) amounted to two native officers and forty-four men killed, and five British officers, two native officers and fifty-eight men wounded. Major C. R. Cock, Assistant Adjutant-General, Lieutenant H. H. Forbes, 44th Native Infantry, and twelve men died of their wounds.

The India medal, with a special clasp, was granted for the Naga Hills Expedition by G. G. O. No. 344 of 1881.

During the period under review a noteworthy event occurred in India, which may not inappropriately be mentioned in this place. This was the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, at which, on January 1st, 1877, Her Majesty the Queen was proclaimed Empress of India, and which was attended by about 17,000 troops, consisting of 8 batteries of artillery, 3 regiments of British cavalry, 7 regiments of British infantry, 6 regiments of Native cavalry, 4 companies of sappers, and 13 regiments of Native infantry, besides a representative body of the Volunteer Forces of India.

This chapter may now be brought to a close with a cursory survey of such internal changes in the Bengal Army during the eighteen years of which it treats as may seem to be of interest.

The numbering and constitution of the army remained unaltered, with the exception of the addition of one regiment to the infantry list: this was the 1st Bengal Police Battalion, which, as "Rattray's Sikhs," had rendered such excellent service in Bihar in 1857-58. In 1864, by G. G. O. No. 326, the corps was added to the Bengal Army as the "45th Bengal Native Infantry (Rattray's Sikhs)."

In other respects the period under review was remarkable for many changes in the interior economy of corps. This is readily accounted for by the fact that the re-organisation of the army was but just completed, and it was inevitable that many measures, which were but

The Delhi  
Assemblage,  
1876-77.

Internal  
history.

45th Bengal  
Infantry, 1864.

Composition of  
Bengal  
regiments,  
September,  
1864.



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tentative, should require modification. Foremost among the changes was the new scheme for the composition of Bengal Native regiments, as notified in 1864.\* The tabulated order was as follows:—

## *Cavalry.*

REGIMENTS.	Mooltanis.	Hindustani Musalmans.	Trans-Indus and Border Tribes.	Punjab Musalmans.	Hindustani Hindus.	Sikhs.	Dogra and Hill-men.	Bundelas.	Jats.	Total Troops.	REMARKS.	
1st Bengal Cavalry .	The composition of the corps to remain as previously, viz., entirely Hindustani Musalmans.											
2nd     "     .	To be composed gradually, but eventually, of Musalmans, Dogras, Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs, Brahmans, and Mahrattas, in equal numbers, and mixed together in the several troops.											
3rd     "     .	The same as 2nd Bengal Cavalry.											
4th     "     .	Ditto					ditto.						
5th     "     .	Ditto					ditto.						
6th     "     .	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	6	That is, class troops.	
7th     "     .	The same as 2nd Bengal Cavalry.											
8th     "     .	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	6		
9th     "     .	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	...	6		
10th   "     .	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	1	6		
11th   "     .	...	...	1	1	...	3	1	...	...	6		
12th   "     .	...	...	1	1	...	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	6		
13th   "     .	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	...	6		
14th   "     .	To remain as formerly a class regiment of Jats only.											
15th   "     .	To remain as formerly a class regiment of Mooltanis, Duranis, Pathans, Baluchis, &c.											
16th   "     .	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	6		
17th   "     .	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	6		
18th   "     .	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	6		
19th   "     .	1	...	1	1	...	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	6		

\* Adjutant-General's Circular No. 117 N, dated the 9th September, 1864.











At the same time the organisation, pay, promotion, &c., of British officers under their new conditions of service formed the subject of much correspondence and of many orders during the early years of this period, into the particulars of which it is impossible to enter here. At length, on the 29th October 1863, a G. G. O. (No. 161-A) was published, which fixed the establishments of British officers with Native regiments under the new "Irregular" system, and laid down the scale of staff salary attaching to each appointment. According to this, the British officers with a native cavalry regiment were to be a commandant, a second-in-command, two squadron officers, an adjutant and a doing-duty officer. In infantry corps there was no second-in-command; the establishment authorised included a commandant, two wing commanders, an adjutant, a quarter-master, and a doing-duty officer. On the 20th January 1864, further particulars regarding the various duties of the above-named officers were published by the Commander-in-Chief, and on the same date the regiments of the Bengal Army were completed with officers of all grades.

Other orders of interest to the army generally were (1) the grant by G. G. O. No. 812 of 1869 of the India medal to the survivors of the troops engaged in a number of frontier expeditions since the annexation of the Punjab; (2) the alteration of the rules for good-conduct pay in 1877 (G. G. O. No. 1),—one, two, and three rupees being given to the cavalry after three, nine, and fifteen years' service, instead of, as formerly, after six, ten and fifteen years; (3) the introduction by G. O. No. 101 of 1870 of a weekly holiday on Thursday, on which no field days or parades, except musketry, should take place, nor general, district, or regimental court-martials should sit, unless the exigencies of the public service absolutely required it.

The following orders apply particularly to cavalry:—

At the re-organisation in 1861 the system of Chanda Funds, involving monthly subscriptions from all ranks, was abolished; casualties were provided for by general subscriptions from the troops in which they occurred. It is obvious that such a system would place a premium on keeping horses as long as possible, however old and unfit for the service; and in 1868 the old Chanda Fund system was reverted to in most regiments, and in the course of a short time again became universal.

In 1864 it was determined that standards should be abolished in the native cavalry: regiments in possession of standards were allowed



to retain them, but they were not in future to be carried on parade or in the field; nor were any to be issued to regiments not possessing them. The appointment of *nishanbardar* consequently ceased; and all existing ones were gradually absorbed, pending which they were regarded as lance-dafadars.

In the same year (G. G. O. No. 278) good-conduct pay was first granted to the Bengal cavalry, the scale being, as mentioned above, one, two and three rupees after six, ten, and fifteen years' service.

In 1865, the rank of naib-risaldar was abolished, and those existing were absorbed, one promotion to jemadar being given for every two vacancies in the rank of naib-risaldar.

In G. O. C. C., 3rd May 1864, it was notified that the 10th, 11th, 13th, and 14th Regiments of Bengal Cavalry were to be designated "Lancers," and to these the 19th was added some five months later. Dafadars and sowars of these regiments were to be armed with lance, sword, and pistol. At the same time orders were issued that corps armed only partially with, or with various descriptions of carbine, should receive the regulation "cavalry carbine," which would be issued free to all who gave fire-arms in exchange, and at half-price to others. Carbines were to be carried slung across the back, over the left shoulder. Lances were to be of bamboo, bayonet-shaped head, not less than 10 feet long, nor more than 11½ feet; and the weight not over four pounds.

By G. O. No. 245 of 1866, the rank of risaldar-major was given to the senior risaldar of native cavalry regiments, with the same advantages as those enjoyed by subadar-majors.

G. O. No. 70 of 1875 directs the formation at Saharanpur and Hapur of an army reserve of 1,000 horses, only such animals to be received as were temporarily useless from various causes, such as bad training, tricks, obscure forms of lameness, debility, or skin diseases, but which, with careful treatment, were likely to become serviceable in the course of a few months.

Turning to orders affecting infantry corps only, we find the following:—

G. O. No. 280 of 1864 orders that native officers of infantry shall receive pay by classes, as in the cavalry, the following being the scale of rates:—

2 subadars, at Rs100 a month	4 subadars, at Rs67 a month
2     "     "     80     "	4 Jemadars, at Rs35
	Jemadars, at 30



G. O. No. 515 of 1867 publishes a letter from the Secretary of State which announces that a Royal Crown shall be substituted as a device on the colours of Native infantry corps, for the Lion and Crown, which was the device of the East India Company.

During the years following the re-organisation of 1861, the Enfield rifle, the introduction of which had been made the pretext for the outbreak of 1857, was gradually issued to corps of the Native Army. Most regiments, however, did not receive that weapon until the beginning of the next decade, when yet another change was imminent; for in 1874 the first issues of the Snider rifle were made to Native corps.

In 1876 (G. O. No. 60) colours were granted for the first time to the 17th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 27th, 30th, 31st, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, and 45th Native Infantry.

In the following year (G. G. O. No. 1) some important concessions and changes were made in the matter of pay, &c. A grant of R30 was authorised to every artillery, infantry, or sapper recruit towards the provision of his kit; and a further annual allowance of R4 towards its up-keep to every non-commissioned officer and private. By the same order the pay of the commissioned ranks was raised to the following scale:—

4 Subadars, at R100	4 Jemadars, at R50
4     "      "      80	4     "      "      40

The matter of dress is a very prominent one in the standing orders of this period, and the following notes from the Dress Regulations for the Native Cavalry, published in 1863, will be found of some interest:—

*British Officers :*

- In the first eight regiments, an *alkhalak*.
- In the last eleven regiments, a tunic.
- Shoulder cords of curb-chain or chain-mail.
- Helmet of grey felt, with bronze bars, binding, spike and chain.
- Pantaloon of blue or green cloth, as the case may be, with a double stripe, the color of the facings.
- Hessian boots.
- Forage cap the colour of the facings.

*Native Officers :*

- Alkhalak*, or loose frock.
- Pyjamas* the same as the British officers' pantaloons.
- A native sword.

The men wore in summer a white drill *alkhalak* or frock, instead of serge, and used a native saddle.



The above, however, were subject to constant change. In 1868 gilt was substituted for bronze in the helmet ornaments, white Melton pantaloons replaced the blue or green cloth for British officers, and *Mullani-matti dasuti* was ordered for the *pyjamas* of Native officers and men : jack-boots even with the top of the knee, took the place of Hessians ; and the non-commissioned ranks received what was called the "Nolan saddle." In 1874 other changes were made, blue pantaloons being ordered for officers of lancer regiments and Napoleons being substituted for jack-boots.

In the Native infantry, too, several changes in the matter of dress took place during the period. G. O. No. 199 of 1869 introduced zouave tunics, with slashed cuffs, and serge *pyjamas* ; No. 31 of 1871 orders Native regiments dressed in green to wear helmets of that colour ; and No. 188 of 1877 substituted *putties* or *jaji* trousers for white gaiters.

The chapter which we here conclude is one of no common interest to the Bengal Army ; it opened on a number of raw, untrained corps, the majority of them not half-a-dozen years old, raised in an emergency, fostered under circumstances of exceptional excitement and by men of exceptional calibre. It closes on a well-trained, well-trying and well-equipped army ; matured in many campaigns and improved by the careful work of many years of peace.





## Chapter X—(1878–1881).

The Afghan War (*Hensman*)—Afghan War (*Shanbalt*)—Afghan War (*Sir C. M. MacGregor, official*)—Frontier Expeditions (*Paget and Mason*)—G. G. O. and G. O. C. C.

The course of events takes us back once more to the North-Western Frontier, where the close of the year 1878 found us involved in a war with the Government of Afghanistan: and here it may be observed that as this sketch advances, the materials at hand naturally become more voluminous, and the information derived from them more complete, and that in proportion the difficulty of keeping within the requisite bounds of a narrative like this becomes greater. The remark, however, which we made with reference to the Indian Mutiny is equally applicable to the Second Afghan War,—namely, that a subject which has been already so completely dealt with requires here nothing but a sketch of its principal outlines, and that a minute examination and criticism of its details would be both unnecessary and out of place.

The relations between the Indian Government and Sher Ali, Amir of Afghanistan and son of Dost Muhammad, had, in 1878, been for some years in a strained and unsatisfactory condition. This was due entirely to the causeless hostility and the ingratitude of the Amir himself. Sher Ali had been able to secure himself on the throne of Kabul mainly by the assistance given to him by the British Government in arms and money; by the influence of the British Government his sovereignty over Wakhan and Badakshan, till then disputed by the Government of Russia, had been admitted and made sure; and his subjects had been allowed to pass freely through the Indian Empire for purposes of trade, enjoying full protection in doing so. For these extensive favours the Amir made absolutely no return. On the contrary he requited them with active ill-will and open discourtesy, closing his territories against British subjects, maltreating British subjects who ventured within his jurisdiction, cruelly mutilating and putting to death subjects of his own on the mere suspicion that they were in communication with the British Government, and openly by



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word and deed, endeavouring to stir up religious hatred against the English and to incite to war against the Indian Empire. Finally he filled up the measure of his offences by receiving formally and entertaining publicly an embassy from Russia, a country with which we were then on the verge of war in connection with the affairs of Turkey, and by ignominiously repulsing at Ali Masjid, while the Russian embassy was still at his capital, an English envoy of high rank (General Sir Neville B. Chamberlain) of whose coming he had formal and timely notice from the Viceroy. The repulse of the British embassy brought matters to a crisis, and an ultimatum was addressed to the Amir, setting forth that unless reparation was made by the 20th of November, war would be declared and the British troops would cross the frontier. To this ultimatum no reply was given: war was accordingly declared and promptly begun.

The interval between the despatch of the ultimatum and the 20th of November was actively employed in organising forces for service in the field, and when the declaration of war came the preparations were practically complete. The troops detailed for the invasion of Afghanistan were formed into three distinct forces,—the Peshawar Valley Field Force, to operate on the line of the Khaibar; the Kuram Column to advance up the valley of that name; and the Kandahar Column to assail the southern part of the Amir's dominions. The operations in which these forces were severally engaged will now be noticed in order.

The Peshawar Valley Field Force was placed under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel J. Browne, K.C.B., and was composed of two Divisions, the First of which, under the immediate command of Sir Samuel himself, comprised the following troops:—

The Peshawar  
Force.

### *Cavalry.*

10th Hussars (two squadrons). 11th Bengal Lancers.

Guides Cavalry.

### *Artillery.*

4 batteries of Royal Artillery. No. 4 Mountain Battery, Punjab Frontier Force.

### *Engineers.*

Head-quarters and 4 companies of the Bengal Sappers and Miners.

### *Infantry.*

1st Brigade. { 4th Battalion, Rifle Brigade.  
                  { 20th (Punjab) Native Infantry.  
                  { 4th Gurkha Regiment.





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- 2nd Brigade. { 1-17th Foot.  
                  { Guides Infantry.  
                  { 1st Sikh Infantry.
- 3rd Brigade. { 81st Foot.  
                  { 14th Native Infantry (Sikhs).  
                  { 27th (Punjab) Native Infantry.
- 4th Brigade. { 51st King's Own Light Infantry.  
                  { 6th Native (Light) Infantry.  
                  { 45th Native Infantry (Sikhs).

The Second Division, which was in reserve of the first, was assembled in the first instance at Rawal Pindi under the command of Lieutenant-General F. F. Maude, c. b., v. c., and included the following troops :—

### *Cavalry.*

- 9th (The Queen's Royal) Lancers.  
10th Bengal Lancers.  
13th Bengal Lancers.

### *Artillery.*

Two batteries of horse and one of field artillery.

### *Infantry.*

- 1st Brigade. { 1-25th Foot.  
                  { 24th (Punjab) Native Infantry.  
                  { Bhopal Battalion.
- 2nd Brigade. { 1-5th Foot.  
                  { 2nd Gurkha Regiment.  
                  { Mhairwara Battalion.

Capture of  
Ali Masjid.

The forward movement into the Khaibar Pass and against the stronghold of Ali Masjid was begun on the evening of the 20th November. The 1st Brigade, under Brigadier-General H. T. Macpherson, marched from Jamrud at 2 A.M. on the 21st, with orders to occupy a position on the Rhotas heights which would command the fort. Eight hours earlier the 2nd Brigade, under Brigadier-General J. A. Tytler, had marched with orders to take post at Katakushtia, in the rear of Ali Masjid, by which the enemy's position would be turned and from which the Afghans could be cut off if they retreated. The remaining two brigades moved forward into the Khaibar Pass at 7 A.M., to make a direct attack on Ali Masjid.

These arrangements, however, were destined to attain only partial success; unforeseen difficulties of ground appeared which the necessarily imperfect reconnaissance of the country had not disclosed. The consequence was that the 1st and 2nd Brigades had not reached their positions when the general attack in front was begun by Sir Samuel Browne at mid-day on the 21st. The General, however, seeing



how matters stood, wisely did not press the attack, but withdrew his troops to wait for a more favourable opportunity, after having lost two officers—Major Birch and Lieutenant FitzGerald, 27th Native Infantry—and 14 men killed, one officer and 33 men wounded, and two men missing. On the following morning it was found that the Afghans, becoming aware of Brigadier-General Tytler's turning movement, had evacuated the fort, which was occupied without further opposition. Brigadier-General Tytler's brigade reached the enemy's line of retreat in time to take a considerable number of prisoners.

Leaving the 4th Brigade, under Brigadier-General W. B. Browne, to hold Ali Masjid, Sir Samuel Browne, with the rest of the force, advanced to Dakka, which was occupied on the 23rd. Early in December the Second Division moved up to Jamrud, in support of the First, and on the 17th of that month Sir Samuel Browne, leaving the 2nd Brigade at Dakka, moved forward to Jalalabad with the 1st and 3rd, and the cavalry and horse artillery, and occupied that place without opposition on the 20th, Lieutenant-General Maude taking charge of the Khaibar and the communications.

About the same time an expedition was undertaken against the Zaka Khel Afridis of the Bazar and Bara valleys, who had been giving trouble on the line of communications in the Khaibar; it was commanded by Lieutenant-General Maude, and was composed of two columns, which moved from Ali Masjid and Dakka respectively. The first of these consisted of three guns, a troop each of the 11th and 13th Bengal Lancers, detachments of the 5th and 51st Foot, the 2nd Gurkha Regiment and the Mhairwara Battalion; and the second, under Brigadier-General Tytler, of two guns, one company of sappers, and detachments of the 17th Foot and the 27th and 45th Native Infantry. Operating on their respective lines the two columns came into communication near the village of Walai on the 20th December, up to which time no opposition had been experienced by either. Subsequently, however, some skirmishing occurred while the troops were engaged in destroying the defensive towers of the Zaka Khel villages, and during the return march to Dakka the rear-guard of Brigadier-General Tytler's columns was hotly assailed by the Afridis. On the 22nd the two columns returned to Ali Masjid and Dakka, having accomplished the task of punishing the Zaka Khels, with a loss of only one killed, nine wounded, and one missing.

First Bazar Expedition, 1878.





Some of the principal Afghan chiefs now declared in favor of the British, and attended a durbar held by Sir Samuel Browne at Jalalabad on the 1st of January, 1879: the year thus opened propitiously. The military operations which were undertaken in its early months were mostly of a minor character and were all thoroughly successful. On the 11th January, a small expedition, under Brigadier-General Jenkins, was despatched against the Mohmands in Kama, north of the Kabul river, which met with complete success. On the 23rd the villages of Nikoti Miani and Raja Miani, near Peshbolak, which had been concerned in the murder of a *bhisti* of the 17th Foot, were visited and destroyed.

As the Zaka Khel Afridis of Bazar and Bara still continued to give trouble in the Khaibar Pass, it was decided, towards the end of January, 1879, to send a second expedition into the Bazar valley, with a view to punishing the marauders and putting a final stop to their incursions. The troops detailed for the expedition, which was under the command of Lieutenant-General Maude, were organised in three columns, which moved forward almost simultaneously from Jamrud, Ali Masjid, and Basawal, respectively. The first column included detachments of the 13th Bengal Lancers and the 24th Native Infantry; the second, portions of the 6th Native Infantry, the 2nd Gurkha Regiment, and the Mhairwara Battalion; and the third, detachments of the Guides Cavalry, Bengal Sappers, 27th and 45th Native Infantry, and 4th Gurkha Regiment. The three columns marched into Bazar on the 25th and 26th of January and, co-operating with one another, visited various parts of the valley during the next few days, blowing up the towers and destroying the fortified villages of the recalcitrant tribesmen, with whom a good deal of skirmishing took place. It was proposed to wind up the operations with the invasion of the Bara valley, but this, it was found, would have involved the Government in a war with the whole of the Afridi clans, which at that juncture would have been in the last degree inconvenient. That project was therefore abandoned, and the Afridis having tendered their submission, with promises of good behaviour for the future, the several columns were withdrawn from the Bazar valley on the 3rd February. The casualties on our side, during these operations, amounted to five killed and thirteen wounded, Lieutenant Holmes, 45th Native Infantry, being among the latter.

Second Bazar  
Expedition,  
1879.



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Early in February Jalalabad was threatened by the Mohmands who, on the 7th of that month, actually entered the Kama district. A force (which included the Hazara Mountain Battery and detachments of the 11th Bengal Lancers, the 20th Native Infantry, the 4th Gurkha Regiment and the 1st Sikh Infantry) was immediately sent across the Kabul river, under Brigadier-General Macpherson, to drive the Mohmands out. Some distant firing took place, but the enemy declined a conflict, and, retiring hastily to the hills, they dispersed.

Affairs on the  
Khaibar line  
1879.

On the 28th of February, a survey party was attacked above Michni by a gathering of Mohmands, and in the conflict two men of the 24th Native Infantry were killed and three wounded. A similar outrage was committed by Shinwaris on the 17th March at Maidanak, on which occasion a havildar of the 45th Native Infantry was killed and Lieutenant F. M. Barclay, of the same regiment, mortally wounded. A punitive expedition was accordingly despatched against them, but the offenders made submission without attempting any resistance. Another branch of the same clan, the Shinwaris of Deh Sarak, brought punishment on themselves by an unprovoked attack (18th March) on an escort of the 27th Native Infantry. Brigadier-General Tytler was sent against them with a force consisting of two guns and detachments of the 11th and 13th Bengal Lancers, 5th and 17th Foot, 27th Native Infantry, and 2nd Gurkha Regiment, and marched from Basawal accordingly on the 24th. The enemy stood their ground near the village of Mausam, but were charged with great effect by the cavalry, who cut up large numbers of them and dispersed the rest. Mausam and other villages having been destroyed, the troops were directed to retire; in this movement they were assailed by the enemy, but, owing to the skilful manner in which they were handled, without effect, and the withdrawal was effected without difficulty. The casualties amounted to only two killed and twelve wounded.

On the 31st March intelligence was received that the Ghilzai Chief Azimatullah Khan had moved into the Lughman Valley, for the purpose of raising the people against us and of inciting the Khugianis to threaten Fatehabad, on the road to Kabul. Two columns, commanded by Brigadier-General H. T. Macpherson and Brigadier-General C. J. S. Gough, were in consequence put in motion at once, and at the same time a squadron of the 10th Hussars and another





of the 11th Bengal Lancers were detached across the Kabul river to intercept Azimatullah Khan, should he attempt to move in that direction; this detachment, however, met with a singular misfortune; starting at 10 P.M. from Jalalabad and attempting to cross the river, the squadron of the 10th Hussars missed the ford in the darkness, and one officer and forty-five men were drowned.

The column under the command of Brigadier-General Macpherson (which included the Hazara Mountain Battery, a company of sappers, and detachments of the 20th Native Infantry and 4th Gurkha Regiment) returned to Jalalabad on the 2nd April without having encountered the enemy. The force under Brigadier-General Gough, which was intended for the protection of Fatehabad, included a battery of Royal Horse Artillery, three troops of the 10th Hussars, three of the Guides Cavalry, and detachments of the 1-17th Foot and the 27th and 45th Native Infantry, and marched from Jalalabad on the 1st April. At Fatehabad, on the 2nd, this force came into conflict with about five thousand of the enemy, who after a smart engagement were defeated and driven from the field, with a loss of about 400 men. Our own loss amounted to six killed and forty wounded, among the former being Major Wigram Battye, a well known and most gallant officer of the Guides, Ressaidar Muhammad Khan, of the Guides Cavalry, and Lieutenant Wiseman of the 17th Foot.

Brigadier-General Tytler, with the 2nd Brigade, joined Brigadier-General Gough on the 4th April, when the combined forces marched to the village of Khugiani, nine miles beyond Fatehabad, and there took up a position. On the 12th Sir Samuel Browne, having left a suitable garrison in Jalalabad, marched thence with the remainder of the troops at the head-quarters of the First Division, and on the 14th encamped at Safed Sang, within three miles of Gandamak.

On the 21st April, the Mohmands having crossed the Kabul river for the purpose of attacking the posts in the Khaibar, two companies of the Mhairwara Battalion, under the command of Captain Creagh, were detached from Dakka for the protection of the village of Kam Dakka, the inhabitants of which had called for assistance. At this place Captain Creagh was attacked on the following morning by a large body of Mohmands, and being completely surrounded, and the ammunition running low after a long day's fighting, the detachment was in serious danger of being



cut off: it was, however, relieved by the opportune arrival of a troop of the 10th Bengal Lancers and detachments of the 5th and 12th Foot, with two guns, and a gallant charge made by the troop of the 10th Bengal Lancers having driven back the enemy, the Mhairs, covered by the rest of the detachment, were brought off in safety. The casualties amounted to five killed and twenty-four wounded. Captain Creagh received the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in this affair.

The force detailed for service in the Kuram Valley was placed under the command of Major-General F. S. Roberts, C.B., V.C., and was composed of the following corps and detachments:—

*Cavalry.*

10th Hussars (one squadron) } Under Colonel H. H. Gough.  
12th Bengal Cavalry . }

*Artillery*

A battery and a half of Royal Artillery.

Nos. 1 and 2 Mountain Batteries, Punjab Frontier Force.

*Engineers.*

One company of sappers and miners.

*Infantry.*

1st Brigade. { 2-8th Foot.  
                  { 29th Native Infantry.  
                  { 5th Punjab Infantry.  
2nd Brigade. { 72nd Highlanders.  
                  { 21st Native Infantry.  
                  { 2nd Punjab Infantry.  
                  { 5th Gurkha Regiment.  
23rd Native Infantry (Pioneers).

To these troops the 5th Punjab Cavalry and the 28th Native Infantry were subsequently added.

Crossing the frontier on the 21st November, the force advanced towards the formidable position held by the Afghan troops on the Paiwar Kotal. A reconnaissance was made on the 28th, which though conducted as thoroughly as possible (at a cost of about a dozen casualties) was necessarily very imperfect in the information gained with regard to the interior of the enemy's position. The attack on the Afghan position was arranged for the 2nd December. Major-General Roberts' plan of operations was that the main force, under his personal command, should, by a night march, surprise and turn the enemy's left on the Spin Gawai Kotal, while the 8th Foot and the 5th Punjab Infantry, with the 12th Bengal Cavalry and five guns, were to remain in camp under Brigadier-General Cobbe, and assail the enemy's front as soon as the attack on the left flank had developed.

Operations in  
Kuram, 1878-79.





The main force started at 10 P.M. on the 1st December and attacked the Spin Gawai Kotal at 6 A.M. next morning, when the enemy's position was carried by a brilliant rush of the 72nd Highlanders and the 5th Gurkha Regiment. Advancing towards the centre of the position, they were checked by a precipitous ravine, the opposite side of which was held in force by the Afghan troops. It soon appeared that further movement in this direction was impossible, and General Roberts therefore decided to threaten the line of the enemy's retreat by a further turning movement towards Zabardast Kila, and thus to take the Afghan position in reverse. A vigorous attack was now made in front by the force left in camp, and the Afghans, finding themselves threatened in rear and subjected to a galling fire from the front and the left flank, retreated precipitately, abandoning their camp and a great quantity of stores and ammunition, all of which, with several guns, fell into our hands. The loss on our side was twenty-one killed, including Major A. D. Anderson, 23rd Native Infantry, and Captain J. A. Kelso, commanding No. 1 Mountain Battery, and seventy-two wounded, including Brigadier-General Cobbe.

On the 6th December General Roberts advanced to Ali Khel and on the 8th reached the Shutargardan Pass, which was reconnoitred on the following morning. In the return march towards Kuram, General Roberts determined on exploring the southern route through the Sapari or Mangiar defile, and accordingly moved in that direction from Ali Khel on the 12th, taking with him No. 1 Mountain Battery, a wing of the 72nd, the 23rd Native Infantry, and the 5th Gurkha Regiment. The main body got through the defile unmolested on the following day, but the rear-guard and baggage were attacked in force by the Mangal Pathans; the steadiness and gallantry of the 5th Gurkha Regiment on this occasion were most conspicuous: they repelled every attack made by a bold and numerous enemy during a space of five hours, and brought the baggage into camp without having lost a single load. Our loss amounted to five killed and seventeen wounded, amongst the latter being Captain F. T. Goad, Assistant Superintendent of Transport, and Captain C. F. Powell, of the 5th Gurkha Regiment, both of whom subsequently died of their wounds.

The head-quarters of the column reached Fort Kuram on the 14th December, and thence, early in the following month, a flying



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column started under General Roberts for the reduction and occupation of the Khost district. It included a squadron of the 10th Hussars, three troops of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, Nos. 1 and 2 Mountain Batteries, a wing of the 72nd Highlanders, and the 21st and 28th Native Infantry. The fort of Matun was given up without resistance on the 6th January 1879, but on the same day the camp was threatened by a hostile gathering of several thousand Mangals. These were attacked by General Roberts on the 7th January, and were entirely dispersed by Colonel Gough with the cavalry, No. 2 Mountain Battery and the 28th Native Infantry, on the north-west of the camp; while on the south and east Colonel Drew was equally successful with No. 1 Mountain Battery, a troop of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, the 72nd Highlanders, and the 21st Native Infantry. Three weeks were passed in exploring and surveying the district, and the column returned to Fort Kuram on the 31st January.

The remainder of the winter and early spring passed without any striking incident in the Kuram Valley.

The Kandahar Column (afterwards designated the Southern Afghanistan Field Force) was composed of two divisions, of which the First was assembled at Mooltan under Lieutenant-General D. M. Stewart, and the Second at Quetta under Major-General M. A. S. Biddulph. These two divisions included the following corps:—

### 1st (Mooltan) Division:—

#### *Cavalry*—

- 15th Hussars.
- 8th Bengal Cavalry.
- 19th Bengal Lancers.

#### *Artillery*—

- 10 batteries of Royal Artillery, with a siege-train.

#### *Engineers*—

- 3 companies of sappers and miners.

#### *Infantry*—

- |              |   |                                |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1st Brigade. | { | 2-60th Rifles.                 |
|              |   | 15th (Sikh) Native Infantry.   |
|              |   | 25th (Punjab) Native Infantry. |
| 2nd Brigade. | { | 59th Foot.                     |
|              |   | 1st Gurkha Regiment.           |
|              |   | 3rd Gurkha Regiment.           |

### 2nd (Quetta) Division:—

#### *Cavalry*—

- 1st and 2nd Punjab Cavalry.
- 2nd Sindh Horse.

#### *Artillery*—

- 1 field and 2 mountain batteries—One of which was No. 3 (Peshawar) Mountain Battery.

#### *Engineers*—

- 1 company of sappers and miners.

#### *Infantry*—

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1st Brigade | { | 70th Foot.                                |
|             |   | 19th (Punjab) Native Infantry.            |
|             |   | 30th Bombay Native Infantry.              |
| 2nd Brigade | { | 26th (Punjab) Native Infantry.            |
|             |   | 1st Punjab Infantry.                      |
|             |   | 29th Bombay Native Infantry.              |
| {           |   | 32nd (Punjab) Native Infantry (Pioneers). |
| {           |   | 2nd Sikh Infantry.                        |

The Southern  
Afghanistan  
Field Force  
1878-79.





The Second Division, marching from Quetta, entered the Pishin Valley on the 22nd November, reached Haikalzai on the 27th, and was concentrated in the vicinity of the Kojak Pass on the 12th December. The leading troops of the First Division reached Dadar on the 5th December, and the head-quarters of the Division arrived at Quetta on the 8th, from which date Lieutenant-General Stewart assumed command of all the troops detailed for operations in Southern Afghanistan. Moving forward from these points the Second Division advanced towards Kandahar by the Kojak Pass, while the First Division moved by the Ghwaja Pass over the Khoja Amran range, both converging towards Takht-i-pul. On the 4th January the advanced guard of the field force encountered some regiments of Afghan cavalry between Saif-u-din and the Ghlo Pass, and in the skirmish which ensued eleven officers and men of the 15th Hussars and the 1st Punjab Cavalry were wounded. The united divisions then moved forward on Kandahar, which was abandoned by its garrison, and occupied without opposition on the 8th January.

From this place part of the First Division, under General Stewart, marched to Kalat-i-Ghilzai, and occupied the fort there on the 21st January; leaving a garrison there temporarily, the head-quarters, with the cavalry and the 1st Infantry Brigade, returned to Kandahar on the 11th February, and the garrison was withdrawn a few weeks later. Meanwhile part of the Second Division, under General Biddulph, marched to the river Helmand and Girishk; on the 29th January camps were formed on both sides of the river, and during the succeeding days the country beyond the river as well as that on the left bank was explored and surveyed. This position was maintained until the 23rd February, when the return march to Kandahar was commenced. The retirement was the signal for hostilities on the part of the Alizais, who on the 26th attacked the rear-guard of Bombay troops at Khushk-i-Nakhud, but were routed with heavy loss after a sharp conflict in which the casualties on our side amounted to 5 killed and 24 wounded.

The Second Division reached Kandahar on the 28th February, and was immediately afterwards broken up, a large number of the troops returning to India under General Biddulph, & Thal-Chotiali. During this movement one of the returning columns, composed of a squadron each of the 8th Bengal Cavalry and 2nd Sindh Horse, two guns each of the Jacobabad and Peshawar Mountain Batteries, and



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the 1st Punjab Infantry, the whole under the command of Major Keen, 1st Punjab Infantry, was twice attacked by local tribesmen. In the first attack (March 21st) one sepoy of the 1st Punjab Infantry was killed; in the second, at Baghao on the 24th March, which was repulsed by the 8th Bengal Cavalry and the 1st Punjab Infantry, our loss was two killed and five wounded, that of the enemy being 150 in killed alone.

About the same time (27th March) a detachment under the command of Major Humfrey, 30th Bombay Native Infantry, which included half a troop of the 1st Punjab Cavalry, was attacked at Saiad-Bud, in Shorawak, by a body of 1,600 Barechi insurgents, who were completely routed with the loss of nearly one hundred of their number, including several of their chiefs.

Nothing of much importance occurred in Southern Afghanistan during the remaining period of the first phase of the war.

Amir Sher Ali Khan having died at Mazar-i-Sharif on the 21st February, his son Yakub Khan succeeded to the throne of Kabul. Yakub Khan, having expressed his readiness to treat, was received by the British authorities at Gandamak, where a treaty was concluded on the 26th May. The withdrawal of the Northern Force was at once commenced, but the hot weather was then at its height and the result was most unfortunate, for cholera having broken out in the Khaibar the troops passing down the line suffered terribly, and many regiments sustained heavy losses from this cause. The Kandahar Force was fortunately kept stationary in order to avoid the unhealthiness of a march in the hot weather.

Treaty of  
Gandamak,  
26th May.

The thanks of both Houses of Parliament were voted to the Viceroy, to the Commander-in-Chief in India, and to all engaged in the campaign (G. G. O. No. 1085 of 1879); a special medal was granted to all troops employed in Afghanistan between the 21st November 1878 and the 26th May 1879, with clasps for the actions of Ali Masjid and Paiwar Kotal, which names were afterwards authorised to be borne on the colours and appointments of the corps engaged. Six months' batta was granted to all ranks by G. G. O. No. 804 of 1879.

The conclusion of peace was followed by the instalment of a British Resident, Major Sir P. L. N. Cavagnari, K.C.S.I., at Kabul, together with an escort of twenty-five sowars and fifty sepoy of the





Outbreak at  
Kabul, 3rd  
September  
1879.

The Second  
Campaign,  
1879-80.

Queen's Own Corps of Guides, under Lieutenant W. R. P. Hamilton. For two months affairs seemed settled and likely to remain so, but in August it became evident that a strong feeling of hostility existed towards the British Residency on the part of a powerful section of the Afghan people. A chance *emeute* on September 3rd excited this hostile feeling into open outrage, and the consequence was an attack on the Residency, in which, after a gallant resistance, Cavagnari, his suite and escort were massacred almost to a man.

The receipt of these terrible tidings in India was the signal for the adoption of prompt and energetic measures for the re-establishment of British influence in Afghanistan, and the punishment of the treacherous Kabulis. The first order issued was that the Shutargardan Pass, leading from the Kuram valley to Kabul, should be secured; this was followed by directions for the immediate advance, by this route, of a strong force under Major-General Sir F. S. Roberts. The first object was secured by No. 2 Mountain Battery, the 23rd Native Infantry (Pioneers), and the 5th Gurkha Regiment; while the following troops, making a total of about 6,500 of all ranks, were detailed to form a field force for an advance on Kabul from the Kuram valley:—

*Artillery—*

“F” Battery, “A” Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery.

“G” “ “ 3rd Royal Artillery.

No. 2 Mountain Battery, Punjab Frontier Force.

Two Gatling guns.

*Cavalry—*(under Brigadier-General W. G. D. Massy)—

9th Queen's Royal Lancers (one squadron).

12th Bengal Cavalry.

14th Bengal Lancers.

5th Punjab Cavalry.

*Engineers—*

7th Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners.

*Infantry—*

*1st Brigade:—*

Brigadier-General H. T. Macpherson. { 67th Foot.

{ 92nd Foot (Gordon Highlanders).

{ 28th (Punjab) Native Infantry.

*2nd Brigade:—*

Brigadier-General T. D. Baker. { 72nd Foot (Highlanders).

{ 5th Punjab Infantry.

{ 5th Gurkha Regiment.

23rd (Punjab) Native Infantry (Pioneers).

The remainder of the troops in the Kuram valley were organised in two brigades, to the command of which Brigadier-Generals T. E. Gordon and J. A. Tytler were appointed.



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At the same time the small force left at Ali Masjid and Landi Kotal at the termination of the first phase of the war was rapidly augmented, and, with some changes of corps, formed into a Division under the command of Major-General R. O. Bright, to advance towards Kabul on the line of the Khaibar. This Division was organised in three brigades, commanded respectively by Brigadier-Generals C. J. S. Gough, C. G. Arbuthnot and J. Doran, and, when completed, comprised the following corps :—Four companies of sappers and miners, three batteries of Royal Artillery, No. 4 (the Hazara) Mountain Battery, the 6th Dragoon Guards, the 3rd, 10th and 17th Bengal Cavalry, the Guides Cavalry, the 2-9th, 1-12th and 51st Foot, the 8th, 24th, 27th, 30th, 31st and 45th Bengal Native Infantry, the 2nd and 4th Gurkha Regiments, the Guides Infantry, and the 4th Madras Native Infantry. The troops moving on the Kuram and Khaibar lines were designated respectively the First and Second Divisions of the Kabul Field Force, and it was decided that as soon as they came into communication, after the occupation of Kabul, the command of the whole should be vested in Sir Frederick Roberts.

Concurrently with these arrangements the Kandahar force, under Sir Donald Stewart, who was at the time actually on the move to return to India, was directed to stand fast. This force comprised six batteries of artillery, two companies of sappers and miners, the 19th Bengal Lancers, the 1st and 2nd Punjab Cavalry, the 59th and 2-60th Foot, the 15th, 19th, and 25th Bengal Native Infantry, the 3rd Gurkha Regiment, the 2nd Sikh Infantry, and the 29th Bombay Native Infantry. Of these the 19th Bengal Native Infantry and the 2nd Sikh Infantry were in the Quetta District.

On the 24th September the advance from the Shutargardan was begun by Brigadier-General Baker, No. 1 Mountain Battery, the 21st (Punjab) Native Infantry and the 3rd Sikh Infantry having now been detailed to hold that position, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Money. On the 27th Sir Frederick Roberts marched from Alikhel to the Shutargardan with the head-quarters of the cavalry brigade, a squadron of the 9th Lancers, the 5th Punjab Cavalry, the 28th Native Infantry, and a detachment of the 5th Punjab Infantry; during this movement the troops were annoyed by an incessant and irritating fire from parties of Mangals and Ghilzais, which occasioned several casualties. On the same day the Amir Yakub

Advance from  
Kuram.





Khan came into General Baker's camp at Kushi, in the Logar valley, professing his regret for the tragedy of the 3rd and his powerlessness to have averted it. Sir Frederick Roberts himself arrived at Kushi on the 28th, and on the 1st of October the whole of the field force was assembled there. The advance from that point was continued with as much expedition as possible, though it was delayed by insufficiency of transport, the want of which was keenly felt, and on the 5th the whole force (excepting two mountain guns, a squadron of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, a wing of the 67th Foot, and the 28th Native Infantry, which were still one march in the rear, under Brigadier-General Macpherson, escorting reserve ammunition and commissariat stores), reached the village of Charasia, on the heights in advance of which, on both sides of the Sang-i-Nawishta Pass, the Afghans had taken up a formidable position.

Battle of  
Charasiab,  
6th October.

On the following morning dispositions were made for forcing the Afghan position. The main attack, under Brigadier-General Baker, was designed to turn the enemy's right and dislodge him from his position on the heights, while a feint was made at the pass by a detachment under Major White, of the 92nd Highlanders. As soon as the real nature of Brigadier-General Baker's attack was realised by the enemy, every effort was made by them to strengthen their right and a vigorous resistance was offered to the British advance. But all opposition was borne down by the gallantry of the 72nd Highlanders, the 23rd Pioneers, the 5th Punjab Infantry, and the 5th Gurkhas, and by 3-45 P.M. the position was carried. At the same time the feint on the British right was changed into a real attack, and mainly owing to the personal gallantry of Major White, supported as it was by the bravery and dash of the Highlanders of his own regiment, the Sang-i-Nawishta was also carried, and soon the Afghans were flying in confusion towards Chardeh, with the loss of twenty guns and many hundred men.

The British casualties in the battle amounted to Jemadar Khani-mulla, 5th Punjab Infantry, and nineteen men killed, and three British officers and sixty-four men wounded, of whom seven afterwards died.

On the 7th October the force encamped at Bini Hisar, and on the 8th the cavalry brigade advanced to Kabul. The enemy, who were in force on the Asmai heights, to the north-west of the city, were to have been attacked on the morning of the 9th, but they dispersed during



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the night, leaving behind their stores and artillery; on the 9th the British force encamped at Siah Sang, and on the 12th Sir Frederick Roberts formally took possession of the Bala Hisar. Vast stores of powder and ammunition of all kinds were found in the arsenal, and, notwithstanding all precautions, a considerable explosion took place on the 16th October, in which several lives were lost. Partly as a punishment of the city, partly as a precaution, orders were issued for the demolition of the fortifications of the Bala Hisar, which work was at once commenced. About this time Yakub Khan expressed his determination of abdicating, and the Government was vested temporarily in Sir Frederick Roberts, who was soon after raised to the local rank of Lieutenant-General in Afghanistan. Yakub Khan was deported to India on the 1st December.

While these events had been happening at Kabul, the little garrison at the Shutargardan had been hard pressed by the Ghilzais. The first attack was made on the 2nd October, and the second on the 14th; in both the enemy were beaten off with considerable loss, the casualties on our side being only seven wounded on the former, and two killed and eight wounded on the latter occasion. Simultaneously with the attack on the 14th an effort was made by the tribesmen against Alikhel, which was garrisoned by three guns of C-4th Brigade, Royal Artillery, and detachments of the 12th and 13th Bengal Cavalry and 5th Punjab Cavalry, and of the 8th Foot and the 11th and 29th Native Infantry: the attack was easily repulsed, with heavy loss to the enemy, our own amounting to no more than seven men wounded. During the following days considerable additions joined the enemy's forces; the Shutargardan position was completely surrounded on the 16th, and a determined attack was commenced on the 18th October. On the following day, however, re-inforcements under Brigadier-General H. H. Gough, consisting of four guns, the 5th Punjab Cavalry and the 5th Punjab Infantry, arrived at Kushi from Kabul. Colonel Money, with the Shutargardan garrison, at once assumed the offensive; the enemy were quickly defeated, and dispersed in all directions, the loss on our side amounting to no more than seven men wounded.

Fighting at  
the Shutar-  
gardan and  
Alikhel.

The Khaibar route having now been opened, the Shutargardan was abandoned for the winter and the garrison withdrawn. The 1st Native Infantry retired to Alikhel, while No. 1 Mountain





Battery and the 3rd Sikh Infantry, together with two squadrons of the 9th Lancers which had just arrived from Sialkot, accompanied Brigadier-General Gough on his return to Kabul.

Early in November the camp at Siah Sang was abandoned, and the troops moved into and occupied the fortified cantonment of Sherpur, north of the city of Kabul.

On the 1st November a mixed force under Brigadier-General Macpherson, which was afterwards joined by Sir Frederick Roberts, was despatched to establish communication with the troops moving up from the Khaibar. This having been effected (Macpherson met General Bright at Kata Sang on the 6th), several reconnaissances were undertaken in the Lughman valley, etc., after which the force returned to Sherpur. During this expedition an engagement took place at Doaba, on the 10th November, in which we had six men killed (including a sepoy of the 28th Native Infantry) and an officer and four men wounded. Later on, another force, under Brigadier-General Baker, marched into the Maidan district, where a slight collision occurred with the Ghilzais.

During the preceding two months the feeling of hostility towards the British, inflamed by their continued occupation of the country, by the destruction of the Bala Hisar, and by the deportation of the Amir to India, had been assuming more and more threatening dimensions. Aroused by their *mullas*, who everywhere were preaching a *jihad* against the foreign invaders, crowds of tribesmen were joining the standards of revolt. Mir Muhammad, an aged *mulla* of great reputed sanctity and commonly known as the Mushk-i-Alam, Muhammad Jan, a Wardak leader of some note, and Mir Bucha, a prominent Kohistaui chief, headed the insurgents; and early in December it was reported that a plan had been matured for surrounding Kabul and overwhelming the British force in Sherpur.

Measures were immediately taken to defeat this intention; the Corps of Guides was called up from the Khaibar line, and on the 8th and 9th December two columns were sent out by Sir Frederick Roberts to meet and disperse the Afghan forces advancing from the north and from the west, before they could unite in the vicinity of Kabul. The first, under Brigadier-General Macpherson, was composed of four guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, four guns of No. 1 Mountain Battery, a squadron of the 9th Lancers, two of the

Rising of tribes  
round Kabul,  
December.



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14th Bengal Lancers, and detachments of the 67th Foot (six companies), 3rd Sikh Infantry (509 men) and 5th Gurkha Regiment (393 men). The second column, under Brigadier-General Baker, consisted of four guns of No. 2 Mountain Battery, five troops of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, and 450 each of the 92nd Highlanders and the 5th Punjab Infantry.

Macpherson, having left his cavalry (except one troop of the 14th Bengal Lancers) and horse artillery at Aushar, marched to the Surkh Kotal, near Karez-i-Mir, eight miles north of Kabul, and on the 10th December attacked a large body of Kohistanis who were advancing to join Muhammad Jan, drove them down the hill with heavy loss, carried their breastworks at Karez-i-Mir, and dispersed them, losing himself only seven wounded in the day's work.

During the same day Brigadier-General Baker marched round the Korogh range, south and west of the capital, and then, turning northward, advanced towards the Paghman valley, and encamped a short distance to the west of Maidan.

On the 11th Macpherson moved in a south-westerly direction from Karez-i-Mir, through the Surkh Kotal, towards Arghandeh, with the object of driving Muhammad Jan towards General Baker and of cutting off his retreat, and at the same time Brigadier-General W. G. Dunham Massy, with four horse artillery guns, two squadrons of the 9th Lancers, and one of the 14th Bengal Lancers, was ordered to move from Aushar towards Arghandeh, and bring himself into communication with Macpherson, with whom he was to co-operate. The combination, however, failed. Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding, Massy moved by a shorter route than was intended, and in consequence, near the village of Kila Kazi, where Muhammad Jan had taken up a position the night before, he came face to face with an overwhelming force of Afghans (nearly 10,000 in number) while Macpherson was yet far away near the Surkh Kotal. The dense hordes of Afghans advanced unchecked by the fire of the four guns; the cavalry charged gallantly, but in a country cut up by watercourses and canals it was impossible that so small a body could drive a charge home with sufficient force to have any perceptible effect on the immensely superior masses opposed to them. Sir Frederick Roberts, who had arrived on the scene, and who had ordered a second charge of cavalry in the hope of saving the guns,

Action at  
Kila Kazi,  
December  
11th.





now ordered a retreat to the village of Deh-i-Mozang, while he sent for immediate reinforcements of infantry from Sherpur. The enemy pressed hard on the retiring force; the four guns stuck in a deep ditch and had to be spiked and abandoned, and the advance of the Afghans was only checked by the timely arrival of 200 of the 72nd Highlanders, whose fire barred their passage through the Deh-i-Mozang gorge. Muhammad Jan then turned aside and occupied the Takht-i-Shah, where he was in a position to threaten the Bala Hisar.

While these events were in progress, Macpherson had continued his movement towards Arghandeh, but hearing the booming of guns he swung round his right and moved towards the point whence the sounds came, and about an hour after Massy's force had begun retiring he arrived on the ground where the action had been fought. Here he came on the rear of the enemy, whom he speedily dispersed and drove off the field. He pursued them to Kila Kazi, whence he was ordered to fall back on Deh-i-Mozang, where he arrived late in the evening. The ground where the guns had been abandoned having by these movements been partially cleared, Colonel MacGregor, the Chief of the Staff, with the assistance of Major Badcock, Captains Deane and Martin and other officers, and a few men, was able to extricate them and bring them in.

On the same day Brigadier-General Baker, moving northwards, found the road into the Chardeh valley occupied, and was obliged late in the afternoon to force a passage for his brigade. He encamped that night at Arghandeh; next morning he was informed of the enemy's movements, and was recalled to Sherpur.

Our losses on the 11th December in the two brigades of infantry were three killed and nineteen wounded. In the cavalry and artillery they amounted to twenty-seven killed and twenty-five wounded. Four officers were killed, among whom was Lieutenant Forbes, 14th Bengal Lancers.

During the night following these events, the Corps of Guides, cavalry and infantry, which had been called up from Jagdalak on the Khaibar line, arrived at Kabul, and formed a very welcome re-inforcement.

On the 12th December Brigadier-General Baker marched into Sherpur, his rear-guard annoyed on the way by a running attack

Fighting  
round Kabul,  
December  
11th-14th.



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from the enemy, who, however, were kept well at bay by the 5th Punjab Cavalry, and the 5th Punjab Infantry. His losses were one killed and two wounded.

The position taken up by the enemy on the Takht-i-Shah was a very formidable one, and they had further increased their security by breastworks. General Macpherson received orders to dislodge them and accordingly attacked them on the morning of the 12th with detachments of the 67th and 72nd Foot, 3rd Sikh Infantry and 5th Gurkha Regiment, supported by two guns of No. 1 Mountain Battery, the assaulting force being commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Money, of the 3rd Sikh Infantry. Notwithstanding the vigour and gallantry displayed by the force, the strength of the position rendered the attempt unsuccessful; and it was determined to wait until the co-operation of Baker's force could be obtained for a concurrent attack from the direction of Bini Hisar. Macpherson's loss in this attempt amounted to four killed and twelve wounded, one of the latter being Major Cook, v.c., of the 5th Gurkha Regiment, who afterwards died of his wounds.

On the following day, as previously arranged, simultaneous attacks were made on the Takht-i-Shah, from the north under Macpherson and from the south-east under Baker. The force under the latter included four guns of G-3rd Brigade, Royal Artillery, and four of No. 2 Mountain Battery, one squadron of the 9th Lancers, the 5th Punjab Cavalry, six companies of the 92nd Highlanders, seven of the Guides Infantry, 300 of the 3rd Sikh Infantry, and 100 of the 5th Punjab Infantry. In the course of his movement to the attack Baker found it necessary to seize the Bini Hisar ridge, which, though held by the enemy in great strength, was carried by the 92nd, but not without a fierce struggle in which that gallant regiment sustained considerable loss. Advancing thence, the 92nd and the Guides Infantry, after a stubborn resistance on the part of the enemy, stormed and carried the Takht-i-Shah position, portions of the 72nd Highlanders, the 3rd Sikh Infantry and the 5th Gurkhas, of Macpherson's force, reaching the summit at the same time from the northern side.

While these operations were proceeding on the heights, the people of the city rose and in great numbers joined the insurgent tribesmen, part of them assembling at Siah Sang and the rest seizing and occupying two strongly fortified villages situated between Siah





Sang and the Bala Hisar. Leaving a detachment to hold the Takht-i-Shah, Baker, under instructions from Sir Frederick Roberts, proceeded to deal with these bodies of the enemy. The two villages were stormed and captured with little difficulty, and the cavalry under Brigadier-General Massy (one squadron of the 9th Lancers and two of the 14th Bengal Lancers) as well as the Guides Cavalry having been sent to his assistance, the enemy at Siah Sang were, after a stubborn contest, in which the 9th Lancers and the Guides Cavalry made some splendid charges, routed and driven from the field with heavy loss. This concluded the operations of the day, during which our losses amounted to two officers and 12 men killed, and two officers and 44 men wounded.

Feeling the necessity of having more troops to face the combination against him, Sir Frederick Roberts now telegraphed to Major-General Bright to direct Brigadier-General C. J. S. Gough, with the 1st Brigade of the Second Division of the Kabul Field Force (then at Gandamak, Pezwan, and Jagdalak) to move up to Kabul as quickly as might be possible.

Foiled in their attacks from the west and south of Kabul, the enemy now made an attempt from the north of the city, and early on the morning of the 14th seized and occupied the Asmai heights in great numbers. Sir Frederick Roberts determined to dislodge them at once, and to accomplish this object despatched Brigadier-General Baker at 9 A.M., with a force consisting of four guns of G-3rd Brigade, Royal Artillery, four of No. 2 Mountain Battery, the 14th Bengal Lancers, 190 of the 72nd and 100 of the 92nd Highlanders, 460 of the Guides Infantry, and 470 of the 5th Punjab Infantry.

Baker began his operations by seizing a small conical hill forming the northern shoulder of the Aliabad Kotal. Leaving a small detachment to hold this point, he proceeded with the remainder of his force to expel the enemy from their position on the Asmai heights, Colonel Jenkins of the Guides heading the attack. The Afghans, favoured by the rugged nature of the ground, made a prolonged and obstinate resistance, but the forward gallantry of the Highlanders and the Guides overcame all obstacles, and by 12-30 P.M. the enemy were driven headlong from the heights, and the entire position was in our possession. Reinforced, however, by large numbers of insurgents moving up from the south-west, the Afghans rallied and



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returned to the encounter, and assailing the small detachment holding the conical hill they succeeded, by sheer weight of numbers, in carrying that post and capturing two mountain guns, Captain Spens of the 72nd falling covered with wounds in a heroic attempt to stem the overwhelming rush of the enemy. The lost guns were afterwards recovered.

While these events were in progress on the Asmai heights, large bodies of the enemy were found to have assembled at Siah Sang, whence they were endeavouring to make their way round the eastern flank of the Sherpur cantonment. Some cavalry and horse artillery were sent out under Brigadier-General H. H. Gough to disperse them, but they got away to the hills before they could be intercepted, except a body of about 400 who came into collision with a troop of the 5th Punjab Cavalry under Captain Vousden, who charged them with great gallantry, routed them with heavy loss, and drove them from the field.

It was now evident that the numbers combined against us were too overwhelming to admit of our holding on to isolated positions, and that concentration was becoming absolutely necessary. Roberts therefore recalled all the troops into Sherpur, and at night-fall the enemy were in possession of Kabul and the Bala Hisar.

Our losses during the operations of the 14th amounted to two British officers, two native officers and 30 men killed, and three British officers, 6 native officers and 99 men wounded. The native officers who were killed were Subadar Rup Singh of the Guides, and Subadar Raghbir Nagarkoti of the 5th Gurkha Regiment. Subadar Jawala Singh of the Guides, Jemadar Gopal Singh of the 14th Bengal Lancers, and Jemadar Jhanda Singh of the 5th Punjab Cavalry, afterwards died of the wounds they received this day.

The British force was now besieged in the Sherpur cantonment, a rectangular enclosure, a mile and a half long and rather more than two-thirds of a mile broad, the northern side of which was formed by the Bemaru ridge, and the other three sides by massive mud walls.

For a week no actual attack upon the cantonment was made by the enemy, though they kept up a desultory fire, which occasioned several casualties. On the 16th a body of about a thousand made an attempt on the post of Lataband, which formed a connecting

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December  
15th—23rd.





link with the forces on the Khaibar line and was held by the 28th Native Infantry and a wing of the 23rd Pioneers, but they were repulsed with considerable loss. On the morning of the 22nd the 12th Bengal Cavalry were sent out to join the troops at Lataband and return with Gough's force, which was short of cavalry: the junction was accomplished with a loss of only three killed and three wounded. On the evening of the 22nd reliable information was received in Sherpur that a determined attempt would be made on the following day to carry the position by assault, and at daybreak on the 23rd the attack began. For some hours strenuous and continued efforts were made by the Afghans to effect an entrance into the position; but enormous as were their numbers, amounting to not less than 60,000, and determined as were their assaults, they were unable to stand before the steady and continuous fire of the garrison. At length, when their attacks began to flag, they suddenly found themselves taken in flank by a detachment consisting of four guns and the 5th Punjab Cavalry, which had issued from the north side of the cantonment. Disheartened as they were by their ill-success, the sudden alarm rapidly became a panic, and the vast hordes broke and fled in all directions, pursued by the British cavalry. By 1 P.M. the firing had nearly ceased, and on the following morning not an enemy was to be seen.

From the 15th to the 23rd inclusive, the British losses amounted to two British officers and 16 men killed, and five British officers, two native officers and 61 men wounded; of these five were killed and 33 wounded in the final action of the 23rd December. Lieutenant Montanaro of No. 2 Mountain Battery, and Jemadar Jag Bahadur, of the Corps of Guides, died of their wounds. During the whole of the operations, from the 10th to the 23rd December, our casualties amounted to 10 British officers, 2 native officers, and 91 men killed, and 15 British officers, 9 native officers, and 239 men wounded, a total of 366. The losses of the enemy during the same period were not less there 3,000 in killed and wounded.

On the 24th Brigadier-General C. J. S. Gough arrived at Kabul with his brigade, consisting of four guns of the Hazara Mountain Battery, a company of sappers and miners, the 2-9th Foot, a detachment of the 72nd Highlanders, and the 2nd and 4th Gurkha Regiments: these regiments were, however, all weak, and the total strength of the brigade scarcely reached 1,400 men. The 12th Bengal



Cavalry, the 28th Native Infantry, and the wing of the 23rd Pioneers marched into Kabul with Gough.

The enemy having fled, the city and the Bala Hisar were speedily re-occupied. Comparative tranquillity was soon restored in the neighbourhood, and on the 27th December Brigadier-General Baker was detached into Kohistan with a small force (four guns of No. 4 Mountain Battery, the Corps of Guides, the 67th Foot, the 2nd Gurkha Regiment, and the 5th Punjab Infantry) to mete out punishment to Mir Bucha for his share in the late disorders. This Chief's stronghold was reached on the 29th and found deserted: having destroyed it, Baker returned to Kabul on the 31st.

The operations on the Khaibar line now claim attention. While the principal interest of the war was naturally centred in the operations at Kabul, the troops at Peshawar and in posts on the Khaibar line had been constantly employed in arduous and harassing duties. Major-General Bright took command of the force at Peshawar on the 13th September; and as troops began to arrive Brigadier-General Gough advanced with all possible speed to Dakka, and thence to Jalalabad. More trying and more destructive than a hard-fought action was the terrible sickness which now set in on the Khaibar route, several regiments being rendered unfit for even the lightest duties of garrisoning the posts on the road. The forward movement, of the division, however, continued. General Bright reached Gandamak on the 2nd November; thence he and Gough advanced and met General Macpherson at Kata Sang, as already related, after which they again returned to Gandamak. Advancing once more to Jagdalak, Gough, on the 15th December, received orders from Sir Frederick Roberts to push on to Kabul with all possible speed. For some days, however, until the arrival of further reinforcements, Gough was unable to comply with these orders, and in the meantime there were constant skirmishes with the Ghilzais on the road between Gandamak and Jagdalak, the corps principally engaged being detachments of the Hazara Mountain Battery, the 10th Bengal Lancers, the 2-9th Foot, the 24th Native Infantry, and the 2nd Gurkha Regiment. At length, having been reinforced by Colonel Norman with detachments of the 24th and the 2nd Gurkha Regiment, Gough advanced on the 21st and reached Sherpur, as we have seen, on the 24th. During these operations the force under his

Fighting on  
the Khaibar  
line in  
December.