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THE following General Order and Despatches, describing the operations of the Miranzai Field Force, have been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL ORDER.

FIELD OPERATIONS.—MIRANZAI.

Simla, the 3rd July, 1891.

THE Most Honourable the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the following letters from the Adjutant-General in India, dated the 16th March and the 22nd June, 1891, together with the Despatches of Brigadier-General Sir William Lockhart, K.C.B., reporting the operations of the first and second Miranzai Expeditions.

The object of the first expedition was to inflict upon certain sections of the Orakzai tribe the punishment they justly deserved for raids into British territory and outrages upon British subjects; penalties were imposed upon the offenders in the shape of the destruction of fortified towers and the infliction of fines, but the expedition encountered practically no opposition. The march of the columns was made over a mountainous country presenting great physical obstacles, in the depth of winter, and in heavy rain or snow; and His Excellency in Council desires to express his opinion that these difficult operations were conducted with ability by the General Officer Commanding, and carried out by all ranks with endurance and soldier-like spirit.

The object of the second expedition was to punish the Orakzais for treacherously attacking, on the 4th April, 1891, the guards of the 29th Bengal Infantry which were covering the working parties employed in making roads and posts within British territory on the Samana Range, and to take measures to ensure, as far as possible, the future peace of the border. The troops were quickly concentrated, and on the 17th April and following days the Samana Range was carried, the enemy who occupied strong positions, being driven therefrom with great loss.

In the further operations the force was entirely successful; it marched through the countries of the offending tribes; terms of peace were imposed upon and accepted by them, and the previous rights of the British Government to occupy the

crest of the Samana, for the purpose of affording protection to its subjects in the Miranzai Valley, were enforced.

The Governor-General in Council heartily concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in India in his high appreciation of the vigour and ability with which Sir William Lockhart has conducted these operations, and of the gallantry of the troops under his command. In Sir William Lockhart's despatch the services of the Commanders of the columns, and of the staff and regimental officers, are brought to notice, and mention is also made of several warrant officers, native officers, non-commissioned officers and men. His Excellency in Council congratulates them on the honourable distinction they have thus received.

The Viceroy is glad to have an opportunity of expressing his sense of the valuable services rendered by Mr. R. Udny, Commissioner of the Peshawar Division, and by Major H. P. P. Leigh, Political Officer, assisted by the other officers, British and Native, alluded to by Sir William Lockhart.

His Excellency in Council is pleased to notice the efficiency of the Commissariat-Transport Department both in the field and in the preparation and concentration of the force, when many difficulties of time and distance had to be overcome in furnishing supplies and transport. That these difficulties were successfully surmounted is greatly due to the power of organization displayed by Lieutenant-Colonel R. Patch, Commissary-General of the Western Circle, and by the officers working under him. It is also a source of satisfaction to His Excellency to observe that Sir William Lockhart has commended in appreciative terms the services of the Public Works, Telegraph, and Postal Departments.

The Governor-General in Council desires, in conclusion of this General Order, to express his sincere acknowledgments to the head of the Government of the Punjab, the Honourable Sir James Lyall, K.C.S.I., and to the civil officers concerned, for the assistance given by them, and for the readiness with which the resources of the Provincial administration were placed at the disposal of the military authorities, not only in this campaign, but in the other expeditions which have been undertaken within the last three years on the frontiers of that province.