

namely, to assert our right to move along the crest of the Black Mountain without molestation; and next, and more particularly, to inflict punishment on the tribes concerned for the hostility practised on that occasion. The occupation of the country to be entered will be prolonged until the tribes concerned have made complete submission, and have carried out whatever conditions may be imposed upon them.

The whole of the Hasanzái and Akazái clans are held to be responsible for the hostility displayed towards the force.

It was directed that "to accomplish the above object the force will advance from Darband into the enemy's country in two columns,—one moving *viâ* Baradar and Pailam to Tili, and the other along the river route *viâ* Kotkái and Kunhar. Further movements are left to the General Officer Commanding."

It was, however, subsequently directed, during the progress of the advance, that operations were not to be extended beyond the Hasanzái and Akazái country without the sanction of Government.

3. The concentration of the force was at first ordered to take place by the 1st March, but owing to bad weather the despatch of the expedition was postponed to the 10th March. The River and Tili Columns, afterwards designated the 1st and 2nd Brigades, were commanded respectively by Brigadier-Generals R. F. Williamson and A. G. Hammond, V.C., D.S.O. The weather remained very unsettled, but both columns were able to move from Darband with reduced field service scale of equipment and without tents on the 12th March. The roads on both routes had been previously opened out as far as the British frontier. Beyond the frontier little or no trace of the roads constructed in 1888 could be found. The river route presented no difficulties as far as Kotkái, which was occupied without opposition on the 12th, the 1st Brigade bivouacking on the Towára plain. The 2nd Brigade reached Pailam on the frontier on the same day.

4. To give effect to the objects mentioned in paragraph 2, I proposed, after the occupation of Kunhár and Tili as directed, to push forward both columns,—the 1st Brigade to occupy the Lower Hasanzái country on both banks and the Diliári peninsula of the Akazái country, and the 2nd Brigade to pass through the middle levels of the mountain by Ril and Kungar, and occupy the Khan Khel country. Thereafter the two brigades to work up and down on the north of the Shal Nala through the Akazái country till they met. On a junction being effected, the occupation of the whole country of the two tribes would be completed. As regards punishment, the Hasanzáis who had submitted, were in the event of their return to their villages, to be mulcted in one-fourth of their standing crops. In other cases the troops would subsist on the country, as far as their requirements could be met, until submission took place.

5. The rain continued to fall, and from Brigadier-General Hammond's reports it soon became apparent that, owing to the unusual lateness of the season, some modification of this plan was necessary. The crops in the middle levels were scarcely above ground, and forage had to be brought up from below, even to the comparatively low level of Tili. The continued wet rendered the clay soil almost impassable, and convoys were with difficulty brought to the front. Transport could not be

substituted in the Khan Khel country for at least a month to come. It was accordingly arranged that the 1st Brigade should occupy the plain of Palosi and the Diliári peninsula, where fodder was abundant, while Brigadier-General Hammond, after making a flying expedition to Seri, was to withdraw his brigade from the higher levels, and leaving posts at Ril, Tili, Kunarái, and Makranái, and turning the obstacle of the Shal Nala at its mouth, proceed to extend the line of the 1st Brigade upwards through the Akazái country. As forage became available on the higher levels, the troops would be moved up until the Khan Khel country was reached.

6. This plan was carried out. The upper line of communication from Darband through Pailam was abandoned, and all supplies were brought through Kotkái, where an advance depôt was established. Brigadier-General Williamson proceeded to occupy Kunhár and the Palosi plain. The boat-bridge was established at Kotkái on the 16th March, and reconnaissances were pushed out on both banks of the river. The bridge-head post and the defence of the advanced depôt and communications at Kotkái was entrusted to Colonel Rivaz and the 37th (Dogra) Bengal Infantry. His dispositions were very satisfactory.

Up to the 19th March but little opposition was met with. A few shots had been fired from the right bank on the boats coming up to Towára, but a company of the Corps of Guides cleared the ground. On the morning of the 13th March the picquets of the same regiment under Lieutenant Rich, taking up fresh ground, found the village of Nadrái occupied. Fire being opened on them, the village was rushed with some loss to the enemy.

On the morning of the 19th March a most determined attack was made on the village of Gházikot, our advanced post on the left bank, held by a company (Dogras) of the 4th Sikh Infantry. The attacking force consisted principally of Hindústani fanatics, numbering over 100, assisted by tribesmen. Under cover of the darkness, the Hindústanis collected in front of the village among rocks, and charged sword in hand. They passed by an advanced picquet undeterred by its fire, and the picquet retired in good order by order of Subadar Dheru, who commanded the main body of the company holding the village. The defenders, being outnumbered, were forced back through the village, disputing every wall and street until the last house, the masjid, was reached. Here a stand was made until the arrival of the first reinforcement from Kunhár under Lieutenant Maconchy, 4th Sikh Infantry. The whole company behaved with the greatest gallantry. Subadar Dheru, Havildar Wazíru, Naik Ganesha Singh, and Lance-Naik Alam Khan, have been rewarded with the Order of Merit. Jemadar Darshanu fought bravely until his sword broke and he was cut down. I now beg to bring to the notice of His Excellency the good service of Lieutenant Maconchy, who arrived on the scene at a critical moment, and was himself wounded. Colonel Sir B. P. Bromhead, Bart., 32nd Bengal Infantry (Pioneers), came up shortly after with further reinforcements of his regiment. The enemy left 25 bodies on the field, and their loss amounted to at least 50. The casualties among the defenders were—4th Sikhs, 4 killed, 18 wounded; 32nd Pioneers, 3 wounded.

7. On the 19th March the village of Kunhár, held and covered by picquets of the 4th Sikh Infantry and 32nd Pioneers, was attacked during