

2nd or Jandola Brigade.

Brigadier-General W. P. Symons, C.B., Commanding.

1st Punjab Cavalry (one squadron).

2nd Punjab Cavalry (one squadron).

No. 8 (Bengal) Mountain Battery.

One Maxim gun, with detachment of Devonshire Regiment.

No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners.

4th Punjab Infantry.

1st Battalion 5th Gurkha (Rifle) Regiment.

33rd Regiment of Bengal Infantry.

38th (Dogra) Regiment of Bengal Infantry.

3rd or Bannu Column.

Colonel C. C. Egerton, D.S.O., Commanding.

3rd Punjab Cavalry.

No. 1 (Kohat) Mountain Battery.

1st Sikh Infantry.

2nd Punjab Infantry.

6th Punjab Infantry.

The brigades were concentrated on December 17th at Wana, Jandola, and Mirian, respectively. The plan of operations was as follows:—The 1st Brigade, leaving the 20th Bengal Infantry to garrison Wana, to march to Kaniguram via the Sharawangai Kotal; the 2nd Brigade to move from Jandola to Makin via the Tank Zam; and the Bannu Column from Mirian via the Khaisor Valley to Razmak. In the case of the last every endeavour was to be made to secure the co-operation of the Darwesh Khel Waziris, through whose country the route lay. In order that the three columns might arrive at their destinations on the same date it was necessary that the Bannu Column should start one day before the others, and accordingly I ordered Colonel Egerton to move forward on the 17th and the other two columns to advance on the 18th December.

5. These movements were duly carried out. The Bannu Column marched from Mirian on the 17th and reached Razmak on the 21st. No opposition was met with beyond shots fired into camp at night and at rear guards on the march, two sepoy of the 1st Sikhs and one follower being wounded.

The 2nd Brigade, accompanied by myself and the Field Force head-quarters, marched from Jandola on the 18th and reached Makin on the 21st. Several towers belonging to hostile sections were blown up *en route*, and the village of Marobi, belonging to Mulla Pawindah, was completely destroyed, with the exception of the mosque, which by my orders was spared. No organized opposition was met with, but camps and picquets were fired into, and the rear guard was annoyed by small bodies of the enemy, who succeeded in one case in killing three Pawindah camels and wounding several others. The only other casualty was one sapper driver killed near the Mulla's village.

The 1st Brigade marched from Wana via the Wucha Tiarza Pass into the Khaisara Valley, and thence crossing the Sharawangai Kotal, reached Kaniguram on the 21st. Brigadier-General Turner reported that he had met with great difficulties at the Sharawangai Pass and had been annoyed by bands of Mahsuds hanging on the flanks and rear of his column, one sepoy of the 3rd Sikhs and one sepoy of the 4th Gurkhas being severely wounded.

6. On December 22nd the Bannu Column joined me at Makin. On the same date a party from the 1st Brigade was despatched to the village of Karam, near Kaniguram, belonging to one of the hostile sections, and blew up its towers. The enemy, occupying a breastwork above the village,

opened fire on the troops, and, before he could be dislodged, two Officers and four sappers were wounded.

7. The Mahsuds were now reported to have taken refuge with their property and cattle in the glens running up to Pirghal, and I accordingly issued orders on the 22nd for a combined movement in six columns up those valleys. The 1st and 2nd Columns (from the 3rd Brigade) were ordered to advance from Makin up the Dara and Badinzai Valleys, respectively; the 3rd and 4th Columns (from the 2nd Brigade) to move from Makin up the Potwela and Murdar Valleys; and the 5th and 6th Columns (from the 1st Brigade) to advance from Kaniguram up the Trikhan (Pirghal) and the Badar Valleys. These movements were successfully carried out. The columns bivouacked for two nights and visited every settlement. Many towers belonging to the Abdul Rahman Khel, Abdullai, Badinzai, Langar Khel, and Garerai, all of whom had joined in the attack on Wana Camp, were blown up. A considerable quantity of forage and grain was carried off by the troops, and numerous flocks and herds were captured and brought to camp. Little opposition was offered, the people appearing to be cowed by the simultaneous advance of so many bodies. Our only casualties were two men of the Border Regiment severely wounded. Heavy snow had fallen and the troops suffered from great cold.

8. On December 31st a force under Colonel Egerton, D.S.O., consisting of the troops noted in the margin,* with mule carriage only, marched for the Shakhtu Valley with eight days' supplies. Colonel Egerton had orders to thoroughly explore the northern portion of the Mahsud country, to inflict punishment on the refractory sections, and to capture, if possible, the Mahsud flocks and herds reported to have been concealed in and about the Suzha Valley. On the following day the remainder of the Bannu Column marched for Jandola, and in the first march lost two sepoy of the 1st Sikhs—one mortally and the other severely wounded.

9. On December 31st I went to Kaniguram, returning to Makin on the following day. On January 2nd Brigadier-General Turner, taking the troops noted in the margin,† with mule carriage and six days' supplies, marched from Kaniguram to visit the Abdul Rahman Khel settlements in Splitoi and the country to the east of the Zaterni (Bar Pit) range.

10. On January 2nd a small column from the 2nd Brigade moved up the Shuran Algad, and blew up the towers belonging to the Abdullai at Spin Kamar, without opposition, returning to Makin on the following day.

11. As all the higher valleys belonging to the Mahsuds had now been visited by the troops, and as the cold (18° of frost the night I was at Kaniguram) was telling severely on the men, numerous deaths having occurred from pneumonia, I determined to evacuate Kaniguram and Makin, and to move the troops to lower levels.

On January 4th the remainder of the 1st Brigade marched from Kaniguram towards Marghaband, there to await the arrival of Brigadier-General Turner, and then to proceed to Jandola. During the first march of this brigade a private of the

* No. 1 (Kohat) Mountain Battery (4 guns); half No. 5 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners; 1st Sikh Infantry (600 rifles); 2nd Punjab Infantry (500 rifles); 6th Punjab Infantry (500 rifles).

† 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment (350 rifles); No. 3 (Peshawar) Mountain Battery (4 guns); No. 2 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners; 1st Battalion, 1st Gurkha (Rifle) Regiment (400 rifles); 3rd Sikh Infantry; 1st Battalion, 4th Gurkha (Rifle) Regiment (400 rifles).