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THE following General Orders, dated 3rd December, 1897, publishing Despatches from Major-Generals Sir B. Blood, K.C.B., and E. R. Elles, C.B., regarding the operations of the Malakand and Mohmand Field Forces, have been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 3rd December, 1897.

FIELD OPERATIONS.

MALAKAND.

No. 1317.—THE Right Honourable the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council directs the publication of the subjoined communication from the Adjutant-General in India, submitting, under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief in India, a Despatch from Major-General Sir Bindon Blood, K.C.B., Commanding the Malakand Field Force, detailing the operations of that Force from the 6th September to the 27th October, 1897.

2. The Governor-General in Council concurs in His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's expression of approval of the general conduct of these operations and of the skill and resource shown by Sir Bindon Blood. His Excellency in Council also shares with the Commander-in-Chief his appreciation of the gallantry and discipline displayed by all ranks throughout the operations.

From the Adjutant-General in India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department—(No. 2094-F—"Field Operations—Malakand"—dated Simla, the 11th November, 1897).

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a Despatch from Major-General Sir B. Blood, K.C.B., detailing the operations of the Malakand Field Force from the 6th September to the 27th October, 1897.

2. The plan of operations which the Commander-in-Chief had in view when recommending to the Government of India the movement of this force was, that two brigades should enter the Mohmand country from the north, while a division of similar strength under Major-General E. R. Elles, C.B., was to advance into the same country from the south, and by their combined movements the Mohmand country was to be traversed in the shortest possible time, and in the most complete manner.

3. The rising of the Mamunds and other tribes in South Bajaur necessitated an alteration in this plan, the 3rd Brigade only of the Malakand Field Force being employed against the Mohmands, the 1st and 2nd Brigades being fully occupied in subduing Bajaur.

4. The movements of the 3rd Brigade after its junction with the Mohmand Field Force will be found in detail in a despatch from Major-General E. R. Elles, C.B., which has already been submitted to the Government of India.

5. The Commander-in-Chief considers that Brigadier-General Jeffreys' disposition of the troops under his command on the 16th September showed that that officer had greatly underestimated the fighting power of the Mamunds as regards both numbers and strength of position. His Excellency has, however, much pleasure in endorsing Major-General Sir Bindon Blood's commendation of the subsequent operations of this brigade.

6. Sir George White desires me to express his approval of the general conduct of the operations carried out under Sir Bindon Blood's directions, and of the resource and appreciation of the situation he evinced when confronted with unexpected difficulties. He also concurs in the terms in which Major-General Sir Bindon Blood speaks of the services rendered by Brigadier-Generals W. H. Meiklejohn, C.B., C.M.G., and J. H. Wodehouse, C.B., C.M.G., the latter of whom was severely wounded in the night attack on the 3rd Brigade on the 20th September.

7. The gallantry and discipline of the troops were, in Sir George White's opinion, conspicuous throughout the operations, especially so in the night attacks made by the enemy on the 14th, 16th and 20th September, as well as during the trying incidents of the 16th September, and in the attack on the villages of Agra and Gat on the 30th September.

The valuable reconnaissances made by the 11th Bengal Lancers under Major Beatson, when establishing connection with Major-General Elles' force, and the skilful handling of the cavalry of the Corps of Guides by Lieutenant-Colonel Adams on the 30th September, appear to the Commander-in-Chief to be specially worthy of commendation.

8. His Excellency has much pleasure in endorsing the favourable terms in which Sir Bindon Blood has mentioned Colonel A. J. F. Reid, who was responsible for a great portion of the Line of Communication and for the efficient supply of the troops at the front, as well as in commending to