

the same length to Tarkasam. Rain fell during the night and throughout the 11th, when the force halted.

On December 11th, reconnaissances of the Uchpal and Sapri Passes were made, and the road towards the crest of the latter was improved by the Sappers and Miners attached to the division and the 21st Madras Pioneers.

On December 12th and 13th, the whole division crossed the Sapri Pass, the crest of which is 5,350 feet above sea level, and passing through Mamanai on the 14th and 15th concentrated near Bara Fort on the 17th. The casualties in the 1st Division between December 7th and 17th amounted to four British and two Native soldiers wounded.

7. During the march from Bagh through Dwatoi down the Bara valley the troops of the 2nd Division were almost unceasingly engaged with the several sections of the Afridis, through whose country they passed, and towards the end of the march they were followed up by a large gathering representing every section. The flanking, picquet, and rear guard duties in the presence of such an active and enterprising enemy were exceedingly onerous, while the line of march was along the bed of a river, the water of which was of icy coldness and had to be repeatedly forded. The followers and kahars suffered most from the cold, and to assist the latter wounded men had to be frequently carried by their own comrades.

The 1st Division while moving from Mastura to Bara Fort met with slight opposition, but the march was an arduous one and in all respects was carried out in accordance with my wishes.

8. On December 15th and 16th, the Peshawar Column under Brigadier-General Hammond, left Swaikot for Jamrud, which was reached on the 17th. There it was joined on the 19th by the troops of the 1st Division, together with the Gurkha Scouts and the head-quarter wing of the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers.

The Peshawar Column and the 1st Division, Main Column, were halted at Jamrud from December 19th to 22nd, the troops which had returned from Tirah needing rest after their fatiguing march. At this time three British corps in the Main Column, which had been much weakened by losses in action or by sickness, were relieved by battalions from India, the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, being replaced by the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, from Peshawar, the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, by the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, from Rawal Pindi, and the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment by the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, also from Rawal Pindi. Shortly afterwards the same reason obliged me to dispense with the services of the head-quarter wing of the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers.

9. The plan of the operations now about to be undertaken comprised measures for reopening the road through the Khyber Pass, for reconstructing the Khyber posts which had been destroyed by the Afridis in August last, including the defensible serai at Landi Kotal, for restoring the Landi Kotal water supply, and for destroying the defences of the Zakka Khel villages in the Khyber.

The Bazar valley had also to be visited in force, and the defences and towers of the principal Zakka Khel and Malikdin Khel villages destroyed.

On December 23rd, the Peshawar Column

advanced unopposed to Ali Masjid and re-occupied the posts at that place and at Fort Maude, two guns of No. 3 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, and the 45th Sikhs being detailed as the garrison for Ali Masjid, and Fort Maude being held by a detachment of the Khyber Rifles.

On December 24th, the 1st Division, covered by the Peshawar Column, marched to Lala China, three-quarters of a mile below Ali Masjid. During the day I joined the 1st Division from Jamrud, escorted by two squadrons of the 4th Dragoon Guards, and accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Havelock-Allen, V.C., G.C.B., M.P., who remained my guest while I was in the Bazar valley. A few shots were fired at night into camp, one British soldier being wounded.

On December 25th, the 1st Division advanced into the Bazar valley, its right being covered by the Peshawar Column which held the Aspoghar heights. I marched with the left column, consisting of the 2nd Brigade, No. 1 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, No. 2 Derajat Mountain Battery, No. 3 Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners, and the Gurkha Scouts, under the command of Brigadier-General Gaselee, and reached Chora unopposed. The road was comparatively easy, and but little labour was needed to render it passable by laden transport animals. The right column, which consisted of the 1st Brigade, No. 1 Kohat Mountain Battery, No. 1 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners, and the 21st Madras Pioneers, under Brigadier-General Hart's command, was accompanied by Major-General Symons and the staff of the 1st Division. The road being bad, only a portion of the column reached Karamna, the remainder halting for the night at Alachi. Very slight opposition was met with. During the afternoon Major-General Symons reconnoitred the Bori Kandao from Karamna, and found the road extremely difficult.

On December 26th, the left column marched eleven miles from Chora to China, the principal Zakka Khel village in the Bazar valley, where it encamped. The tribesmen, though not in any considerable strength, molested our advance, the casualties for the day being one British and one Native soldier killed, and two British and two Native soldiers wounded.

On the same date the right column occupied Burg. The road between Karamna and Burg was found to be so bad that the 1st Brigade could not reach Bararkas, as had been at first intended. During the march to Burg opposition was met with, our casualties being one British soldier killed, and three British and two Native soldiers wounded.

On the 26th, the Peshawar Column proceeded to Landi Kotal, the General Officer Commanding having orders on arrival there to reconnoitre the road between Lala Beg and the Bori Kandao, and to report to me whether it was practicable. Brigadier-General Hammond carried out his instructions and found the road unfit for laden transport animals, but owing to the cloudy weather it was impossible to establish heliographic communication with him, and the messengers he sent to my camp failed to reach me, so that his report on the subject was not received until some days after the withdrawal of the force from the Bazar valley. In view, however, of Major-General Symons' account of the road between Karamna and the Bori Kandao, and of the fact that scarcely any water was obtainable at the