

his brigade which was at Sanghao, it being equipped with camel transport; and I directed him to proceed by easy marches to the Ambela Pass, where I intended to join him later. The 10th Field Battery accompanied Brigadier-General Jeffreys.

18. The first move in force from Kingargali was made by Brigadier-General Meiklejohn into the Bazargai Valley on the 10th January, with a small column consisting of two battalions, one battery, two squadrons and a detachment of Sappers.

19. On the 11th I received a report that preparations were being made by the enemy to offer resistance near Tursak to my further advance. I had arranged to organize my first brigade under Brigadier-General Meiklejohn as a brigade of all arms* and to march with it through Buner to Chamla, dealing with the various sections of the tribes during the movements; and on hearing of the intended resistance I made preparations to add a battalion and three squadrons temporarily to this brigade, if necessary; while at the same time I directed Brigadier-General Jeffreys, who was still at Katlang, to march at once on the Ambela Pass, and to make himself felt there as soon as possible.

20. However, the intended opposition fell through, as the Bunerwals came to the conclusion that the risk of defeat, and of the destruction of their property which would have followed it, was too great, and I accordingly sent the extra battalion and three squadrons to join General Jeffreys via Sanghao and Katlang, as I did not consider it advisable to take them on with me.

21. On the 12th January I moved the force at Kingargali (except half a battalion left to garrison the post) to Tursak, where Brigadier-General Meiklejohn joined me with his column from the Bazargai Valley on the same day. On the 13th Brigadier-General Meiklejohn marched with a small column of all arms to Bai, near the famous shrine of the Pir Baba, which was visited by the Mahomedan officers and soldiers of the column; and on the 14th he moved to Hilai. On the same day I completed the provisioning of the 1st Brigade up to the 24th January, and, having dropped communication with Sanghao, I marched the troops at Tursak on the 15th to Dagar, sending Brigadier-General Meiklejohn with his column from Hilai to Rega to destroy the house and property of Mulla Snidulla, the Mad Fakir. On the 16th Brigadier-General Meiklejohn moved to Barkilli, close to the Buner Pass, where I joined him, and the force at Dagar marched under Lieutenant-Colonel Adams, V.C., to Bajkatta.

22. I had now reached the south-eastern border of Buner, and all the Bunerwal sections had paid up their fines and made submission as I passed through or near their several districts.

23. Meanwhile Brigadier-General Jeffreys, on receiving my telegram of the 11th directing him to push on towards the Ambela Pass, marched to Rustam the same day, and thence to Surkabi, at the mouth of the pass, on the following day. Some slight show of opposition was made to him at first, which resulted in the loss to the enemy of three killed and two wounded, but by the evening of the 16th he had fully occupied the pass, while Major E. Blunt, Royal Engineers, under his orders, had opened a road fit for camels down to its foot on the Chamla side. General Jeffreys received 900 mules from Peshawar on the 16th, and in accordance with my instructions prepared to march his brigade into Chamla on the 17th.

* Four battalions, two batteries, two squadrons, one company Sappers.

24. On the 15th Colonel V. A. Schalch, the Commandant of Communications, evacuated Sanghao, and the line thence to Mardan, and on the following day he had opened the line from Mardan to Surklabi, forming the advanced depot at Rustam.

25. On the 17th I moved from Barkilli to Ambela in Chamla with Brigadier-General Meiklejohn's force, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Adams' force at Bajkatta for one more day, in order that the survey of that neighbourhood might be completed. At Ambela I met Brigadier-General Jeffreys, who occupied Kogah and Nawagai with his brigade, and proceeded to reconnoitre the lower end of the Chamla Valley with the 10th Bengal Lancers, under Major F. A. Blyth.

26. The Chamlawals had paid up all fines by the afternoon of the 18th, and consequently on that and the following day I moved the whole of my force over the Ambela Pass into British territory; so that the Buner expedition was concluded on the twelfth day after its commencement on the 7th January.

27. The discipline and conduct of the troops throughout the expedition were all that could be desired. The 1st and 2nd Brigades were most ably and efficiently commanded by Brigadier-General W. H. Meiklejohn, C.B., C.M.G., and Brigadier-General P. D. Jeffreys, C.B., respectively; and I have the honour accordingly to recommend these officers strongly to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

28. It will be understood from the smoothness and rapidity with which the operations of the force were carried out, that the staff duties of all kinds—divisional, brigade, line of communications, and at the base—were performed in a very perfect manner by the officers concerned, each in his own sphere. The names of the principal staff officers who thus contributed so largely to the success of the expedition are as under, and I have the honour to recommend them all to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—

Divisional Staff.

Major H. H. Burney, Gordon Highlanders, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Masters, 2nd Central India Horse, Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Captain H. E. Stanton, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, Intelligence Branch.

Captain E. V. O. Hewett, Royal West Kent Regiment, Superintendent, Army Signalling.

Surgeon-Colonel J. C. G. Carmichael, Indian Medical Service, Principal Medical Officer.

Brevet Colonel W. Aitken, C.B., Royal Artillery, Commanding Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. Peacocke, C.M.G., Royal Engineers, Commanding Royal Engineer.

Major E. Blunt, Royal Engineers, Field Engineer.

Major M. C. Barton, Royal Engineers, Field Engineer.

Captain C. L. Robertson, Royal Engineers, Survey Officer.

Captain L. G. Watkins, Royal Artillery, Ordnance Officer.

Major H. Wharry, D.S.O., Staff Corps, Chief Commissariat Officer.

Captain A. R. Burlton, Staff Corps, Commissariat Officer.

Captain C. G. R. Thackwell, Staff Corps, Divisional Transport Officer.