

5th Punjab Infantry, to escort the guns and Native Field Hospital into Thal during the day.

14. At Thal I found Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott with his force, and by mid-day the whole of my flying column was concentrated, with the exception of the 1-3rd Gurkhas at Doaba.

15. During the temporary halt at Thal some men, subsequently reported to be residents of Thal, fired on the 18th Bengal Lancers while watering in the Kurram River. The regiment quickly mounted and gave pursuit; the enemy had a long start, and the ground was very strong, and intersected with ravines; but I am glad to say that the cavalry were fortunate enough to inflict a punishment of five killed and one wounded\* on the raiders—a most excellent deterrent against future misdemeanours, and greatly steadied the country.

16. At 6.45 P.M. the same day the force marginally noted† left Thal with orders to make Sadda, distant 34 miles, the next day if possible, under Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott.

17. On the 3rd September I moved with four squadrons of the 18th Bengal Lancers, at day-break, and marched as far as Alazai, distant 20 miles, when, finding Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott had moved on, I halted and continued my march towards Sadda early on the 4th September, reaching Sadda about 10 A.M., which place Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott had arrived at at 6.30 P.M. on the 3rd.

18. It was very apparent that the rapid and unexpected approach of the flying column had completely demoralized the enemy, as the tribal gathering, which so recently menaced Upper Kurram, had completely dispersed. I therefore sent orders back to the rest of my column not to needlessly hurry up.

19. I venture to record the fact that the flying column under my command covered as nearly as possible 70 miles in 70 hours, while the advanced portion under Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott covered the last 34 miles in 23½ hours.

20. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief was good enough to record his approval of the performance of the column under my command, which I had much pleasure in communicating to the officers and men composing my column.

21. At Sadda I utilized the garrison to prepare an entrenched position on a plateau north-east of Sadda and about one mile south-west of the Karmanna Darra.

22. On the night of the 16th-17th September, about 10.30 P.M., the camp was attacked by a lashkar, comprising some 2,000 Mazuzais and Chamkannis, who were repulsed with loss shortly after midnight.

23. The report of the engagement was submitted to the General Officer Commanding Kohat-Kurram Force and published in G.G.O., No. 1417, dated Fort William, 24th December 1897.

24. On several occasions tribal gatherings were reported as collecting in the Karmanna Darra for a fresh attack on Sadda, but the punishment inflicted on the 16th and 17th September was sufficiently severe to shake their confidence, and they gave me no further cause for anxiety.

25. On the 1st October, 1897, the flying column under my command was broken up. In submitting this report I venture to hope that the duty allotted to the column has been carried out to your satisfaction.

26. I have the honour to bring to your notice, for the favourable consideration of His Excellency

the Commander-in-Chief, the undermentioned officers:—

Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Abbott, commanding the 15th Sikhs, who was my right-hand man throughout the operations. His vast experience and untiring energy I cannot speak too highly of. He is a most valuable officer.

Captain H. Kennedy, 3rd Punjab Cavalry, was my staff officer from the formation of the flying column to the day I gave up the command. With no staff to assist him and no office, he conducted the duties of Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General and Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General with great zeal and tact. I cannot speak too highly of the services rendered by this officer.

27. My thanks are also due to the following officers to whose services the success attending the movements of the flying column are largely due:—

Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Jameson, commanding the 5th Punjab Infantry.

Captain I. Eardley-Wilmot, commanding the 18th Bengal Lancers.

Captain J. L. Parker, Royal Artillery, commanding No. 2 (Derajat) Mountain Battery.

Captain W. J. D. Dundee, Royal Engineers, commanding No. 4 Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Surgeon - Lieutenant - Colonel H. Hamilton, M.D., in charge of the 42nd Native Field Hospital.

*Foreign Office, May 3, 1898.*

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received the following Note from the American Ambassador at this Court:—

*American Embassy,*

*London, April 23, 1898.*

MY LORD,  
I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have been informed of the intention of the Government of the United States, in the event of hostilities between that Government and Spain, not to resort to privateering, but to adhere to the following recognized rules of International Law:

First, the neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war;

Second, neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under the enemy's flag; and

Third, blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective. I have, &c.,

The Most Honourable JOHN HAY.

The Marquess of Salisbury,

&c., &c.

*Foreign Office, May 3, 1898.*

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received, through Her Majesty's Embassy at Madrid, the following Translation of a Decree issued by the Spanish Government on the 23rd of April, 1898:—

*Royal Decree.*

In accordance with the advice of my Council of Ministers; in the name of my son, King Alfonso XIII, and as Queen-Regent of the Kingdom,

I decree as follows:—

ART. I. The state of war existing between Spain and the United States terminates the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of the 27th October, 1795, the Protocol of the 12th January, 1877, and all other agreements, compacts, and conventions that have been in force up to the present between the two countries.

\* 14 Prisoners,

† 2 guns, No. 2 (Derajat) Mountain Battery; 15th Sikhs; half Company, Bombay Sappers and Miners.