

from Mamanai at 5 A.M., the troops reached the Shinkamar Kotal, without opposition at 10.30 A.M., and subsequently visited the caves a mile further on to the north. The caves were found to be deserted, and at 1 P.M., which was the hour fixed upon for the withdrawal to camp of all the columns employed, the force under Lieutenant-Colonel Seppings began its retirement from the Kotal. Owing to an order given by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Haughton, 36th Sikhs, being misunderstood, either by the native officer who received it, or by the native non-commissioned officer who conveyed it, a picquet of that regiment occupying a hill on the west, which commanded the road through the defile, was prematurely withdrawn. This hill was immediately seized by the tribesmen, who now began to show themselves, and, before the retirement could be resumed, it was found necessary to retake it,—an operation which was only effected with considerable loss. The enemy, in rapidly increasing numbers, pressed on the western flank and rear of the troops, who were seriously encumbered by their dead and wounded, and inflicted still further loss on them. At 4.30 P.M. Brigadier-General Westmacott, commanding the 4th Brigade, who had received a heliogram from Lieutenant-Colonel Seppings, informing him of the state of affairs, brought up a reinforcement of three hundred rifles and two guns, thus enabling the column to return, without further loss, to Camp Mamanai, which was reached at 7 P.M. The casualties on this day amounted to 5 British officers, 26 British soldiers, and 2 native soldiers, killed; and 3 British officers, 31 British soldiers, and 2 native soldiers, wounded. Among the killed the country has to deplore the loss of Lieutenant-Colonel Haughton, 36th Sikhs, an officer whose able and gallant leading of the fine regiment which he commanded had repeatedly come under my notice.

Only a few cattle were seen and captured by the other columns on January 29th, and this circumstance, added to the fact that the tribesmen concentrated their strength against the column from Mamanai, leads to the conclusion that, though the plan of operations was kept as secret as possible, it had become known to the enemy.

5. On January 31st a force of two thousand rifles from the 3rd and 4th Brigades, with No. 8 Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, proceeded under Brigadier-General Westmacott's command to the Shinkamar Pass, for the purpose of recovering the bodies of such of the killed as the troops engaged on the 29th had been unable to remove.

This was accomplished without opposition being met with, but, during the withdrawal to camp, the enemy followed up the troops, of whom two officers and five men were wounded.

On this date 135 camels were captured on the Kajurai plain by a squadron of the 9th Bengal Lancers, which was well handled by Captain G. P. Brasier-Creagh.

6. On February 8th, after my return from Calcutta, I caused the Afridi Jirga assembled at Jamrud to be informed that the period within which the terms of Government must be complied with could not be extended beyond February 23rd, this being the date of the Id-i-Ramzan, and recommended as a suitable limit of time by my political advisers. I further intimated to the Jirga that, in the event of their several sections failing to submit by the day mentioned, active hostilities would be resumed; and that in the meantime the troops under my command would move in any direction I thought fit, and make

such roads as might be required for further operations.

7. On February 9th the 2nd Division was strengthened by the arrival of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, from Rawal Pindi; and shortly afterwards six hundred Gurkha Scouts, drawn from the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Gurkhas, joined the force.

8. On February 12th Brigadier-General I. S. M. Hamilton, C.B., D.S.O., who a few days before had relieved Brigadier-General F. J. Kempster, D.S.O., in the command of the 3rd Brigade, advanced with the troops noted in the margin* to Barkai, four miles west of Mamanai; and on the 16th the construction of a road from Mamanai to Barkai and onwards towards Gali Khel, along the right bank of the Bara River, was begun. The improvement of the road from Ali Masjid towards Chora in the Bazar Valley was taken in hand at the same time by the 1st Brigade.

9. As the Id approached, the weather became so stormy that communication between the Afridi representatives at Jamrud and their kinsmen in the hills was interrupted, and the collection of fines and rifles in the higher and more remote valleys of Tirah had to be suspended. In view of this fact, and of the evident anxiety of the Jirga to comply with the prescribed terms and thus escape a fresh invasion, I consented to an arrangement whereby the submission of each section should entitle the remaining sections to a few days of grace. The result has proved satisfactory, as up to the present date 754 serviceable breech-loading rifles have been surrendered out of the total of 765 demanded, and Rs. 46,900 paid in out of the aggregate fine of Rs. 47,800. I anticipate that the remaining 11 rifles and Rs. 900, which are due from the Aka Khel, will be handed in within the next few days. Hostages have been taken from that section for the balance of the rifles and fine, and from every section for the restoration of the property captured or stolen during the late outbreak. The tribe has suffered so heavily that the final settlement may possibly be delayed for a few months, but I have every confidence that the claims which are still outstanding will be fully met.

Hostilities practically ceased on February 1st, although a few raiders of the Khasrogi sub-section of the Zakka Khel attacked a picquet of the 3rd Brigade on the Lawata Hill, opposite Suikot, on March 11th, on which occasion Lieutenant H. J. de la Condamine and one soldier of the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, were wounded. A fortnight later a small band of marauders, belonging to the Shan sub-section of the Zakka Khel, fired on some officers and men returning from Mamanai to Barkai, and wounded Captain Margesson, 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, and two soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders. These incidents are to be regretted, but they were unavoidable from a military point of view and of no political significance.

The Afridis are now most desirous of resuming their former friendly relations with the British Government, and admit that the recent operations in Tirah have convinced them of the folly of their unprovoked attack on the Khyber and Samana posts and other hostile acts. They express con-

* 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment.
1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders.
No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery.
No. 4 Company, Madras Sappers and Miners
1st Battalion, 3rd Gurkhas.
28th Bombay Pioneers.
2nd Punjab Infantry.