

India Office,
31st July, 1902.

The following General Order, dated 4th July, 1902, publishing a report from Major-General C. C. Egerton, C.B., D.S.O., on the operations undertaken against the Mahsud Waziris, has been received from the Government of India:—

GENERAL ORDERS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 4th July, 1902.

Field Operations.

No. 611.—His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the following letter from the Adjutant-General in India, dated the 24th April, 1902, forwarding a report from Major-General C. C. Egerton, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., on the operations undertaken against the Mahsud Waziris between the 24th November, 1901, and the 8th January, 1902.

2. His Excellency in Council agrees with the Commander-in-Chief in his appreciation of the conduct of the operations under the direction of Major-General Egerton, and of the services rendered by the Officers and men under his command.

From Major-General H. L. Smith-Dorrien, D.S.O., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,—(No. 1916-A, "Disturbances," dated Simla, the 24th April, 1902).

I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying report from the General Officer Commanding, Punjab Frontier District, on the late operations in Waziristan.

2. It will be remembered that the Mahsud Waziris having incurred the displeasure of the Government of India by numerous acts of aggression, and having obstinately refused to pay the fines thereon assessed, it was determined to blockade the tribe. A cordon of troops was, therefore, drawn from Wana to Datta Khel through Sarwaki and Jandola, which from the commencement of the cold weather of 1900 hemmed them in from their usual trade with our stations in the plains. Although put to considerable straits for many of their accustomed commodities of life, the Mahsuds since November, 1900, showed such activity in raiding on and beyond the blockade cordon, even to the extent of capturing some of our Militia and Border Police posts, that the Government of India determined, while maintaining the blockade, to fight the tribe with its own weapons, and to send raiding parties into their country to exact reprisals. This course, for many reasons, was deemed preferable to the old system of sending in an expedition, and has had the desired effect.

3. His Excellency is certain that the Government of India will agree with him in thinking that the admirable work done by the troops under circumstances which rendered their duties specially arduous and trying, is deserving of all praise, and reflects the greatest credit on all engaged in the blockade and the concluding operations detailed in the report.

4. The Commander-in-Chief would specially draw attention to the fact that columns on four different occasions penetrated into the very heart of the Mahsud country with a minimum of transport, indeed at times with none whatever, and inflicted on the enemy probably more serious losses than they have ever experienced before.

The present operations differed so considerably from the tactics of a regular expedition that

in the first series of operations the Mahsuds were taken completely by surprise. Their heavy loss in men (which, with such a comparatively sparse populations, is to them a more serious matter than is generally understood), combined with the heavy losses in cattle and the destruction of crops and defences, should prove a salutary lesson to them, and His Excellency hopes that the severe punishment meted out to the Mahsuds on this occasion will eventually bear good results.

5. Sir Power Palmer desires specially to bring to the notice of the Government of India the excellent services of Major-General C. C. Egerton, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., under whose able direction the blockade and concluding active operations were brought to a successful termination. His Excellency also trusts that the Officers mentioned in this report will be considered deserving of commendation for their good work and valuable assistance, and desires to draw special attention to the many acts of conspicuous gallantry brought to notice.

From Major-General C. C. Egerton, C.B., Commanding the Punjab Frontier District, to the Adjutant-General in India (through the Deputy Adjutant-General, Punjab Command),—(No. 854-B, "Disturbances—Mahsud Blockade," dated Abbottabad, the 15th March, 1902).

I have the honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, the following report on the raids undertaken against the Mahsud Waziris since the 24th November, 1901.

2. During the hot weather the Mahsuds, who had been under blockade since November, 1900; had been very active in raiding on and beyond the blockade cordon, even capturing some of our Militia and Border Police posts.

3. It was therefore arranged that the reliefs for the Dera Ismail Khan garrison and the blockading force should be simultaneously brought down to the Dera Ismail Khan border, and utilized for raiding purposes in conjunction with the blockade troops.

First Series of Operations.

4. The first series of operations was directed against the Mahsuds of the Khaisara and Shahur, combined with demonstrations from Jandola into the Takhi Zam, and from Datta Khel against the north-western portion of Mashud territory.

5. The conduct of these operations was entrusted to Brigadier-General L. Denig, D.S.O., commanding the Derajat District. Their general object was to destroy all Mahsud defences, capture as many prisoners and cattle as possible, to carry off, or destroy, all grain and fodder found; and to return to their basis on the fourth day, after having inflicted all the damage possible.

The force was divided into four columns as under:—

No. 1 Column.—From Datta Khel, under Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Tonnochy, 3rd Sikhs.

No. 2 Column.—From Jandola, under Colonel H. N. McRae, C.B., Aide-de-Camp, 45th Sikhs.

No. 3 Column.—From Sarwaki, under Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. MacLeod, 29th Punjab Infantry.

No. 4 Column.—From Wana, under Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Bunbury, 28th Punjab Infantry.

A Royal Engineer Officer and demolition party was attached to each column.

6. The operations were carried into effect as follows:—

No. 1 Column moved out from Datta Khel on November 23rd, and marched via the Shuidar Narai to Dodgul, where it bivouacked on the