

night of the 24th. On the 25th Dodgul was destroyed, and the force proceeded down the Shuran Algad and bivouacked at a place called Bitt Malik Shahi (marked on the map as Mahsud), not far from the Razmak Kotal. On November 26th a reconnaissance was made towards the Shaktu. No opposition was met with. On November 27th Colonel Tonnochy made a dash for Makin, a considerable portion of which was destroyed. The force then retired to their bivouac at Bitt Malik Shahi. This was a very brilliant feat of arms, but at the same time a somewhat risky one, as had the column, as was probable, been heavily followed up, it would have been in a somewhat serious position. However, the result justified Colonel Tonnochy's judgment and enterprise, and had a marked effect upon the enemy. On November 28th, the column returned to Datta Khel, being followed up half-heartedly by the enemy for part of the way.

No. 2 Column.

No. 2 Column left Jandola on the night of the 24th November, and proceeded to Kot Shingi, which was partially destroyed. At Kot Shingi, serious opposition was encountered, and as there had been several casualties, Colonel McRae decided to return to Jandola, which he reached on the afternoon of the 25th, being followed up by the enemy to within about four miles of Jandola and having suffered about twenty casualties. Next day the column reconnoitred up to the Shahur Tangi, and returned the same day, not having encountered any opposition.

No. 3 Column.

No. 3 Column left Sarwakai in the early morning of November 25th, and penetrated to Badshah Khan's village. They returned to Sarwakai on November 27th.

No. 4 Column.

No. 4 Column left Wana on the night of the 24th November, and proceeded via the Insar Narai into the Khaisara Valley. During this and the three following days this column, aided by a small mixed column detached from the Wana garrison under Captain A. E. McBarnet, 5th Punjab Cavalry, on the 25th and 27th, completely gutted the Khaisara villages. The column returned to Wana on the 28th.

7. Simultaneously with the operations of the above columns the Southern Waziristan Militia, under Major R. Harman, D.S.O., operated in the Shaman Khel country, rendering excellent service.

8. Feeling it to be of great importance that the blow thus struck should be followed up as quickly as possible, General Dening, in consultation with the Commissioner on special duty, Mr. W. Merk, C.S.I., now submitted proposals for further operations, and at the same time asked for two additional battalions to enable him to carry them out. The proposals received sanction, and two additional regiments, viz., the 52nd Pioneers and the 38th Dogras, together with two sections of a field hospital, were despatched to Tank. In the meantime, I had been directed to proceed to Tank and assume control of the operations, and four additional regiments were being sent me.

Second Series of Operations.

9. On the 4th December, 1901, Brigadier-General Dening marched to Kot Shingi, which was destroyed, and bivouacked at Derajat Kalai. General Dening had subdivided his force into two columns under Colonel H. N. McRae, C.B., A.D.C., 45th Sikhs, and Lieutenant-Colonel W. du G. Gray, 1st Punjab Infantry.

10. The next day (5th) the force moved out, destroying several villages. The troops were then ordered to bivouac: Lieutenant Gray's column, with the baggage, leading, and Colonel McRae's column covering the retirement. Lieutenant-Colonel Gray's column met with little or no opposition, and the march was continued to Guri Khel, where bivouac was formed. Meanwhile, the rear column under Colonel McRae became heavily engaged, and owing to the unauthorized withdrawal of a picquet, his left flank was so seriously threatened that he deemed it necessary to retake the position. By this time it was nearly dark, so Colonel McRae decided to remain where he was for the night, and continued his march next day across the Umar Raghza to Guri Khel, where he arrived about 11 A.M.

11. The force remained in bivouac at Guri Khel during the 6th. The enemy made frequent attacks on the picquets, but were invariably repulsed, on one occasion at the point of the bayonet by a company of the 29th Punjab Infantry under Captain H. A. Vallings.

12. The enemy were now seen in large numbers working round both flanks, and fearing for the safety of a convoy which he had ordered to come out from Jandola with supplies, General Dening resolved to retire on Jandola.

13. On the 7th December the force retired to Murga Band, the enemy following up the picquets and rear-guard. On one occasion they attempted to rush a picquet of the 29th Punjab Infantry under Captain Vallings, but were repulsed with a loss of forty killed.

14. Their losses on this and the previous day must have been very heavy, as they made no further attempt to follow up the column, which returned to Jandola on the evening of the 8th. The retirement on this day was covered by the 38th Dogras, under Colonel F. G. Vivian, which I had sent out from Jandola for that purpose.

Third Series of Operations.

15. The previous operations towards the Shinkai had shown General Dening that large villages were situated in the Dwe and Tre branches of the nullah, while at the same time the Splitoi had not yet been visited. Proposals were therefore submitted for operations in that portion of the country. In the meantime the following movements had taken place:—

On the 10th December a column under Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Hogge, 23rd Pioneers, marched from Jandola to Sarwakai, which it reached on the 11th. On the 15th December a reconnaissance under Colonel Hogge was made to Turan China; no opposition was met with. On the 17th December a demonstration was made by Major F. G. Lucas, D.S.O., 5th Gurkhas, commanding at Wana, into the Khaisara.

16. On the 19th December a force left Jandola under command of Brigadier-General Dening, and proceeded to Umar Raghza. No opposition was encountered.

17. On the same date a column left Sarwakai under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hogge, 23rd Pioneers, and proceeded up the Shahur. Their orders were to move into the Splitoi and, having hurried this valley, to cross the range forming its northern boundary, and to effect a junction with General Dening's force on the evening of the 21st at Darakai, in the Tre Shinkai.

18. General Dening's operations in the meantime had been as follows:—

On the 20th December, the force moved to Ahmadwan, and thence up to the Trenullah for some three or four miles, the enemy offering but slight resistance. Heliographic communication