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The following General Order, dated 20th March, 1908, publishing a despatch from Major-General Sir James Willcocks, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., regarding the operations of the Bazar Valley Field Force from the 13th February to the 2nd March, 1908, has been received from the Government of India :—

G. G. O. No. 188, dated 20th March, 1908.

The Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council has much pleasure in directing the publication of the following letter from the Chief of the Staff in India, dated the 16th March, 1908, forwarding a despatch from Major-General Sir James Willcocks, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., describing the operations of the Bazar Valley Field Force from the 13th February, 1908, to the 2nd March, 1908.

The Governor-General in Council concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in his opinion that the able manner in which the operations were conducted reflects great credit on Major-General Sir James Willcocks and the Brigade Commanders and Staff working under his orders.

His Excellency in Council also shares with the Commander-in-Chief his appreciation of the soldierly conduct displayed by all ranks throughout the operations.

No. 347-M. C., dated Calcutta, 16th March, 1908.

From the Chief of the Staff, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Army Department.

I have the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying despatch from Major-General Sir James Willcocks, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., describing the operations of the Bazar Valley Field Force.

2. The speed with which the Force was mobilised, and the rapidity of its movement

into the Bazar Valley and subsequent operations, contributed very largely to the quick and successful termination of the expedition.

3. To secure speed in movement, the troops operated on a much lighter scale of equipment and transport than has been adopted on previous occasions on the frontier; but although the climatic conditions were severe, the health of the Force and the admirable spirit displayed by all ranks left nothing to be desired.

4. The losses inflicted on the Zakka Khel were unusually heavy, and were due to the excellent handling of the troops and to their training and efficiency in the field.

5. Lord Kitchener is confident that the Government of India will agree with him in considering that the work done reflects the greatest credit on all concerned.

His Excellency desires especially to commend to the notice of Government the excellent services of Major-General Sir James Willcocks, who so ably conducted the operations and brought them so rapidly to a successful conclusion.

He trusts also that those who have been brought to notice in this despatch may be considered deserving of commendation.

Field Operations, dated Peshawar, 5th March, 1908.

From Major-General Sir James Willcocks, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.; Commanding Bazar Valley Field Force, to the Chief of the Staff, Army Head-Quarters, Calcutta.

I have the honour to submit the following report for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the operations of the Field Force under my command in the Bazar Valley.

1. On the 3rd February I received telegraphic orders from His Excellency which informed me