

Peshawar and some other troops, in readiness to start for the Khyber.

9. On the 2nd May the Political Agent, Khyber, telegraphed asking for Regular troops to be despatched to Jumrood in support of the Khyber Rifles. Accordingly the 3rd Brigade under Brigadier-General Ramsay with the 28th Mountain Battery, one squadron 19th Lancers and 4 guns 80th Field Battery, left Peshawar at once and that night Jumrood and Ali Musjid were both occupied. At the same time I despatched the following troops under command of Major-General Barrett from the Mohmand border, by a forced march viâ Peshawar to the Khyber; viz., 2 guns 18th Field Battery, 23rd Mountain Battery, Seaforth Highlanders and Guides Infantry. I myself left Shabkadr and joined Ramsay that night at Jumrood.

10. On 3rd May Ramsay's column reached Lundi Kotal, where firing was still going on; whilst General Barrett, after a very fine march occupied Ali Musjid the same evening. The Khyber was thus secured.

Subadar Tor Khan with 30 men of the Khyber Rifles had made a fine defence of the Michni Kandao blockhouse on the Dakka road, and repulsed all assaults of the Sufi's lashkar. The enemy fired into Lundi Kotal fort and blockhouses during the night of 3rd May, but next morning I attacked them in their sangars near the villages of Khargali, and they retired precipitately over the Afghan border, losing a good many killed and wounded in their flight. The troops advanced in 2 columns; the right under Lieutenant-Colonel Roos-Keppel consisting of a dismounted half squadron 19th Lancers, Khyber Rifles, 2 companies 21st Punjabis and 4 guns 80th Field Battery.

The left column was commanded by Brigadier-General Ramsay. The 28th Mountain Battery, Munster Fusiliers, 2 companies 21st Punjabis, and 4th Pathans. During most of the day a violent storm of wind and rain raged, and the bitter cold after the previous day's heat was trying.

During the march up the Khyber and at Khargali the troops did very well, and nothing more was heard of the Sufi's lashkar. Three mullahs were among the killed, whilst our casualties only amounted to 1 British officer and 3 men wounded.

11. The 45th Sikhs had been despatched some days previously to Warsak on the Loi-Shilman railway, and held the surrounding posts till the end of operations against the Mohmands. This task was well performed under trying circumstances, as cholera made its appearance amongst the troops and railway coolies and many of the latter died.

12. By 9th May, in accordance with the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, all our troops (excepting 2 guns 28th Mountain Battery) had left the Khyber and were concentrated at Peshawar. The following days were spent in distributing the three Brigades along the Mohmand border prior to an advance whenever it should be ordered.

13. Owing to the gradual spread of cholera amongst the troops and followers several changes had to be made in the constitution of Brigades and on 13th May, when the Mohmand Jirgahs had finally refused to come in, the Force advanced up the Gundab Valley in two Brigades, with the third in reserve and on the line of communica-

tions. The following was the final distribution:—

1st Brigade.—Brigadier-General Anderson, C.B.

22nd Punjabis,
53rd Sikhs,
57th Rifles,
59th Rifles.

2nd Brigade.—Major-General Barrett, C.B.

1st Seaforth Highlanders,
28th Punjabis,
54th Sikhs,
55th Rifles.

3rd Brigade.—Brigadier-General Ramsay, C.B.

1st West Yorkshire Regiment,
19th Punjabis,
21st Punjabis,
40th Pathans.

Divisional Troops.—21st Cavalry, 18th Field Battery, 8th British Mountain Battery, 28th Mountain Battery, 23rd Mountain Battery, No. 6 Company, Sappers and Miners, No. 1 Company, Sappers and Miners, 34th Sikhs Pioneers, Guides Infantry.

14. On 13th May the advance into Mohmand country commenced. The route was up the Gundab Valley. The heat was excessive, but as it was vitally important to secure the tank at Nahakki, our only water-supply, I hurried on with General Anderson and 2 battalions of his Brigade and also 2 squadrons and 4 guns, and reached that place over the Kharappa and Nahakki passes on 14th May without opposition, a distance of 25 miles. The remainder of the 1st, and the whole of the 2nd Brigade followed later, and posts were established at Dand and Ghalanai on the line of communications.

15. The following days reconnaissances were sent out in all directions, and several towers and enclosures were destroyed, belonging to sections who were marked for punishment. I may here note that the Tarakzai and Gundab Halimzais, who had kept their Jirgahs in our camp, were not only not molested, but all supplies brought in by them were paid for throughout the operations. On 16th May the 1st Brigade moved up the Bohai Dag to punish the Khwaizais and reconnoitre the Khapak pass from the west in conjunction with a small column from Ghalanai on the east. The towers of eight villages were destroyed. The enemy attacked the rear guard persistently and with much boldness, causing us the loss of one native officer killed and 14 of all ranks wounded, mostly of the 59th Rifles, on whom the fighting mainly fell. Anderson bivouacked at Kasai near Darwazagai and picquetted the surrounding hills. Shortly after dusk the enemy began a series of determined attacks on two picquets held by the 22nd Punjabis and one held by the 57th Rifles. Their repeated efforts to rush the sangars were all repulsed with loss, and many individual instances of gallantry took place which will be brought to notice. Twice Anderson was obliged to reinforce these picquets in the dark, a very trying duty in frontier warfare, and well performed by Major Climo, Lieutenants Webb and Money and parties of the 22nd Punjabis. The tribesmen finally withdrew about 2 a.m., but not before they had suffered severely, many dead being seen by the relieving parties as they moved up to the sangars.

16. On 17th May portions of the Kamali and other Jirgahs came in and asked for terms, but they were informed that they must bring in representative men. At night the camps of both