

already in our hands. Two of our Companies, however, which had lost nearly all their officers, advanced too far in pursuit. For a moment they captured two batteries, a section of machine guns and many prisoners, but whilst still out of touch with the remainder of our force they were counter-attacked and isolated. They maintained a gallant hand-to-hand fight for some time, but few of them survived. This counter-attack, assisted by the configuration of the ground, and the dust storm, which was now raging, enabled the enemy temporarily to regain the village of Adaim, but, checked here by artillery and machine gun fire, he was unable to debouch, and was ultimately driven out again by 11 a.m., and our infantry firmly re-established themselves in the village. The Turks, aided by a continuance of the dust storm, strengthened their left and secured their line of retreat to the north-east, but towards evening the dust storm died down, and the enemy's second line trenches, his transport, his horse lines and his artillery north-east of the village of Adaim were shelled with good effect. Our troops bivouacked on the ground won and pushed forward patrols to maintain touch with the enemy, but during the night he withdrew, and at 6.45 a.m. on May 1st our aeroplanes reported him in retreat 7 miles away. In the action on the 30th the enemy suffered heavily in casualties, and our captures included 365 prisoners, 1 Hotchkiss gun, 1 machine gun, and rifles, equipment and all kinds of ammunition, whilst 214 enemy dead were buried by us. During this period of hard marching and heavy fighting the Buffs specially distinguished themselves on several occasions.

8. As a result of the fighting during the month of April the enemy's 13th and 18th Corps had been driven back on divergent lines, the former into the Jebel Hamrin and the latter to Tekrit. The 13th Corps had twice taken the offensive, with results disastrous to itself, and the 18th Corps had been defeated and driven from its selected positions on four occasions. Our total captures for the month amounted to some 3,000 prisoners and 17 guns, besides a considerable quantity of rolling stock and booty of all kinds. The objectives which we had set out to reach had been secured, and the spirit of the enemy's troops was broken. The fighting carried out during this month had imposed a severe strain upon the troops, for the heat, the constant dust storms, and the absence of water on occasions, tested their stamina very highly. But as conditions became more trying the spirit of the troops seemed to rise, and to the end of this period they maintained the same high standard of discipline, gallantry in action, and endurance which had been so noticeable throughout the Army during the operations which led up to the fall of Baghdad and subsequently.

9. The increasing heat now rendered it necessary that the troops should be redistributed for the hot weather, and that every provision possible under existing conditions should be made with a view to guarding against the trying period which was rapidly approaching. Whilst it was necessary to hold the positions which had been so bravely won and to strengthen them defensively, the bulk of the troops were withdrawn into reserve and distributed in suitable camps along the river banks, where they could obtain the benefit of such breezes as were available and where a

liberal supply of water for drinking, bathing and washing was obtainable.

For the remaining five months of the period under review the heat was considerable, and during the latter part of June, July and beginning of August it was intense. Consequently movements could not be undertaken by either side without grave risk of incurring substantial casualties from heat stroke and heat exhaustion. The troops enjoyed a well-earned respite from the continuous fighting in which they had been engaged during the five months terminating in April, but they were by no means idle. Our hold over the area was made secure, defensive positions and pivots were prepared, and training was carried on in the early mornings and late evenings as the temperature permitted. Manly sports, too, which are so essential to the well-being of the soldier, especially when temporarily inactive in the military sense, were freely indulged in with beneficial results to the health and future fitness of the Army for service in the field. Arrangements had been made for a proportion of the troops to proceed to India on leave during the summer months, and those who had been on service for a considerable time derived much benefit from the change and rest thus obtained.

10. Early in June a communication was received from our Russian Allies to the effect that in consequence of the increasing heat they had found it necessary to evacuate the line of the Dialah River, and they subsequently withdrew beyond Karind towards Kermanshah. This rendered the occupation of Beled Ruz by us necessary, and this was carried out on the 23rd.

For some time after our occupation of Baghdad tribesmen on the upper reaches of the Dialah, Tigris and Euphrates, above Baghdad, were restless, and it was found necessary to take punitive measures against them. Columns for this purpose operated on the Euphrates from May 3rd to 10th, on the Tigris from May 16th to 24th, and on the Dialah from June 2nd to 8th and June 28th to July 3rd. In each case salutary punishment was meted out to the delinquents. Consequent upon these measures the situation became quiet on each river line, and the tribesmen have, generally speaking, remained peacefully disposed except in the case of the operations against Ramadie referred to below, when the refractory elements were again severely dealt with.

It now seemed desirable to increase our hold on the Euphrates line still further, and it was consequently decided early in July to occupy Sinn El Zibban, some commanding ground on the right bank of the Euphrates about twelve miles up stream of Feluja, which dominates the left bank of that river at its junction with the Saklawie Canal. As this advance on our part would bring our right bank detachment within striking distance of Ramadie, where the enemy was located, the opportunity seemed favourable for attacking him with a view to covering our movement. The enemy's troops at Ramadie, who occupied an entrenched position covering Ramadie from the east and south-east, were estimated at 1,000 rifles with 100 sabres and six guns, besides some 2,000 Arabs of the Delaim tribe.

On the 8th Sinn El Zibban was occupied, and by the 10th the Column destined to attack Ramadie was concentrated there. Careful reconnaissances of the approaches to Ramadie had already been carried out and motor vans