

Officer to visit them, murdered him (March 19th). The attempt to penetrate to Amadia after the murder of the Political Officer, with a military escort, was strongly resisted, and it soon became evident that a large number of the tribes had joined against us, and that the moment was regarded by the whole countryside as a test of our power to hold our own and maintain order.

While the situation was being gauged, a brigade from the 18th Division, under Brigadier-General Nightingale, was ordered to assemble at Sowaira, the outpost 25 miles from Amadia. As soon as the extent of the rising became evident, I assembled a second brigade partly drawn from the 17th Division at Zakkho, under Brigadier-General Wooldridge, the whole under command of Major-General Cassels, and I decided to traverse the whole country thoroughly as the only means of punishing the murderers and generally re-asserting our prestige and authority.

It took a fortnight to assemble the troops and their transport, many of which had to come from Baghdad, owing to the main portion of the 18th Division being still engaged in Southern Kurdistan, but by the end of July all was ready.

The first move was made by Brigadier-General Nightingale, who marched during the night of 1st August and surrounded the rebellious village of Bamurni, with complete success, killing and capturing a considerable number of the enemy and a store of rifles. This move was followed by a steady tramping out of all the neighbouring valleys, with sharp fighting, loss inflicted on the enemy, and the capture and execution of some of the murderers. On the 8th August a reconnaissance was severely handled in most difficult scrub-clad gorges by a Kurdish ambush, which was eventually driven off with considerable loss, and our wounded recovered. The column then moved through the Ser Amadia (8,000 feet) to visit villages and districts beyond, where loss and punishment were inflicted on the Barwaria.

While Brigadier-General Nightingale was traversing the Sar Amadia, a gathering of more distant tribes from the west of the Khabur River attacked the Northern Advanced Base at Sowaira in force just before dawn. Unfortunately, a commanding piquet was lost which took some time to regain. The troops, surprised in their camp, behaved admirably, and, despite considerable casualties, recaptured the piquet and drove off the enemy, inflicting considerable loss. They were much assisted by two aeroplanes which arrived in the middle of the fight. The enemy in this action was extremely well supplied with ammunition.

The above incident necessitated strengthening the lines of communication, and it was not till the 18th August that the next phase of the operations developed. This consisted of Brigadier-General Wooldridge advancing from Zakkho against the Guli tribe who had taken part in the attack on Sowaira, while Brigadier-General Nightingale again advanced into the less accessible country beyond the Sar Amadia.

Brigadier-General Wooldridge now found himself in terrain combining the precipitousness of the more difficult parts of the North-West Frontier of India, with the jungles of the North-Eastern Frontier, which called for great individual enterprise and activity from companies and platoons. The first move was

against Bernuna, a village surrounded by precipitous ridges covered by a large force of the enemy on an adjacent natural fortress. The fighting here was considerable, and in several successive movements through the gorges our troops inflicted loss on the enemy, and sustained few casualties.

By this time a considerable force of Gulis and Goyans had again assembled at Bernuna and Nightingale's column was brought down to assist in the operations. With the exception of a small force surprised in Bernuna the bulk of the enemy evaded our attempt to surround them.

The force had now been joined by the Assyrian battalion, which had been raised from the refugees and had come to us in 1918, via Persia, from the Christian districts beyond Amadia, after the Russian collapse. This battalion under British officers was entirely composed of mountaineers; and proved a most valuable addition to our force, quite equal to the Kurds at their own tactics.

The next few weeks were spent in finishing the tramping out of all the valleys occupied by the hostile tribes, with the result that almost all had sent in to ask for terms, and the programme for Nightingale's column working from Amadia was finished by September 15th. Wooldridge's column was still engaged with a similar object west of the Khabur, and with similar results when a large body of Goyans, whose distant valleys had not been visited but who, it was hoped, had had enough, appeared. After some fighting it was obvious that they were not yet subdued and must be hammered. To ensure a quiet winter I decided it would be necessary to re-enter the gorges and penetrate to Karoar their principal village. As this meant passing through several miles of gorges, Major-General Cassels arranged to concentrate both columns on the one line and move on Karoar. This was done, Nightingale leading; and the Goyans were defeated in an engagement on the Balakish ridge in which the troops showed great dash, the heart of the country reached, and part of Karoar burnt as a punishment for the murder of the Political Officer in March.

The forces then withdrew unmolested and dispersed towards Mosul, the Goyans showing no desire for further hostilities.

This closed a campaign of two and a half months, in which the exertion of the troops, coming at a time when they might well have looked for rest, has been beyond praise. The hills and jungle had been precipitous and scrub-clad, and every day's operations meant ascending and descending two and even three thousand feet. The results promise already to be of the happiest; all the tribes are in a penitent and amenable mood, while the ability of our troops to penetrate the most inaccessible mountains and compete in mountain warfare with pronounced success, has spread through the countryside, and, I confidently hope, will enable the Civil Administration and the Gendarmerie to carry out its duties not only unmolested but with the respectful good will of the tribes.

I have already expressed my acknowledgments to Major-General Cassels for his energy in pushing the campaign and conducting the intricate problem of supply, and would specially acknowledge the skill and determination of Brigadier-General Nightingale, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Brigadier-General Wooldridge.