

Artillery, were employed. This fact has without doubt considerably raised the prestige of the Indian Army on the frontier, and increased the esprit de corps of the troops engaged.

Amongst the many battalions that have done well, I wish particularly to bring to your notice the 4-39th Garhwal Rifles. This battalion fought with magnificent spirit, eagerly engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting, and obtained a moral superiority over him that reacted at once throughout the force. In addition to this battalion, the following units have distinguished themselves in numerous actions in the Tank Zam, in the vicinity of Makin and Kaniguram, and in the Upper Baddar Toi:—

- 55th Field Company Sappers and Miners.
- 3rd Battalion Q. O. Corps of Guides.
- 3-34th Sikh Pioneers.
- 1-55th Coke's Rifles.
- 2-76th Punjabis.
- 109th Infantry.
- 2-150th Infantry.
- 4-3rd Gurkha Rifles.
- 2-5th Gurkha Rifles.
- 2-9th Gurkha Rifles.
- 3-11th Gurkha Rifles.

53. I take this opportunity to bring to notice the admirable work which the Royal Air Force has performed. The difficulties and dangers of flying over the Mahsud country are particularly great, but, in spite of the high hills and deep and narrow valleys, pilots and observers showed no hesitation in flying at the lowest altitudes in order to obtain successful results against the minute targets that existed.

In tactical co-operation with troops the bold and fearless manner in which the machines were handled gained the admiration of the Infantry and the respect of the enemy. At the start of the campaign all ranks were filled with the desire to force the submission of the Tribes by bombing, and daily, for weeks on end, all available machines were out on this difficult and dangerous duty.

The Brigade of Mountain Artillery was fortunate in the possession of a considerable number of experienced personnel in its batteries, and its work reached a high standard of efficiency. No. 6 British and No. 27 Indian Mountain Batteries accompanied the Derajat Column throughout, and especially distinguished themselves.

A peculiarly heavy burden was imposed on the Engineer and Works Services, both preparatory to and during operations. They had to deal with a vast amount of work, which included the collection and issue of the varied material now required by troops in the field, the erection of temporary buildings, mostly for hospital purposes, and the construction, improvement and repair of roads to suit the requirements of the many varieties of transport. They met every demand made on them with praiseworthy rapidity, and I desire to express my appreciation of the excellent work they have done.

The Signal Service performed its duties with its customary efficiency and untiring energy, in spite of the shortness of British personnel, especially wireless operators.

The working of the Postal Service was most expeditious and regular, and thereby did much to ameliorate the discomforts of the campaign.

The detachment of the Survey Department did excellent work, not only in the rapidity and accuracy with which it produced maps of an

unsurveyed country, but also in the valuable and willing assistance it always gave in the reproduction of aeroplane photographs, panorama sketches and matters of a similar nature.

In spite of the difficulties with which they were confronted, the Supply and Transport Services were admirably administered throughout by all ranks and grades of the Corps. The march discipline of the various transport corps and the excellent condition of the animals was most creditable to all.

The heroism of the Army Bearer Corps gained the universal admiration and gratitude of all ranks. The following units have been especially brought to my notice as deserving of the highest praise:—

- No. 1 Bearer Unit.
- No. 2 Indian Field Ambulance.
- No. 42 Combined Field Ambulance.

The evacuation of the sick and wounded was most efficiently performed, and in no single case throughout the operations did any delay occur in this most important service. At each stage on the way down the Lines of Communication the wounded received all possible attention. Only the most serious cases were evacuated to India; other cases were treated locally and returned to their units. Much of the comfort of the hospitals, which were provided with every necessity, may be attributed to the presence of Nursing Sisters, who devoted themselves with untiring care and zeal to their work of mercy.

The unique standard of comfort and efficiency which obtained in the hospitals could only have been achieved by administrative ability of the highest order and by minute attention to detail on the part of all ranks. My thanks are due to the Senior Medical Officer with the Force and to his subordinate officers for their devotion to duty and their solicitude for the sick and wounded.

At the Bases the following hospitals have been brought to my notice for work of high order:—

- Bannu General Station Hospital.
- 43rd Indian General Hospital at Dera Ismail Khan.
- 49th Indian General Hospital at Manzai.

Particularly heavy work fell on the Ordnance Service, especially at the beginning of the operations, when, owing to demobilisation, it was short of British personnel at a time when they were most required. In spite of these difficulties this branch supplied the needs of the Force with unfailing accuracy.

The work of the Veterinary Service was ably carried out. By foresight and close attention to detail, Directors and Officers of the Corps eliminated all possibility of a breakdown of the transport service from disease. Many of the animal Transport Corps were without experienced transport officers, and the Veterinary Service made up the deficiency by advice and constant inspections.

The Remount Service was administered to my entire satisfaction.

54. The comfort of the troops depended greatly on the efficient working of the Lines of Communication. Modern conditions have largely increased the amount of stores of all sorts required, and, especially in frontier warfare, the systematic and regular delivery of these stores to the troops is a complicated matter, owing to the varied forms of transport and the difficulties of the roads. Throughout