

garrison owing to the impossibility of ensuring adequate support by air action whilst, to ensure the successful withdrawal of the garrison, a regular force of some strength had to be sent to Wana. Again, independent action by aeroplanes against the hostile Mahsud sections prior to the ground operations in the Makin area failed to bring about a settlement with the sections concerned.

The experiences are in no way conclusive; the available strength in aircraft was inadequate to deal effectively with so wide an area and at the same time undertake close co-operation with the troops. No definite deductions can therefore be drawn. As far as our limited experiences go, however, they indicate that in the light of our present knowledge it would be unwise to withdraw ground troops and trust only to air control until we have a larger number of aeroplanes available and further proof of their efficiency in controlling the wild tribes of the frontier.

40. The operations have been in the extreme arduous and the troops have throughout experienced great hardships from the rigours of the climate. The intense heat of a Waziristan summer was followed by a bitterly cold winter, while the frequent spates during the rainy season caused serious interruptions of communications by the destruction of the bridges, and a consequent scarcity of supplies at the front.

41. The spirit of the infantry, on whom the greatest strain has always fallen, has been worthy of the highest praise and they have at all times willingly responded to the calls made upon them.

42. The work of the artillery has been most effective. In particular, the accurate and sustained bombardment of the Makin area by 6-inch and other howitzers undoubtedly hastened the submission of the enemy.

43. The engineer services have performed invaluable work. They have contributed largely towards the welfare of the troops by the efficient performance of their many important duties. In the Makin operations the Sapper and Miner companies and the Pioneers displayed great gallantry and expedition in the destruction of hostile villages, while their work on the roads has throughout been of the highest order and in every respect admirable.

44. The signal service has constantly maintained excellent communication in spite of adverse climatic conditions and continual interruptions in telegraph lines caused by enemy action. Great use has been made of wireless which has worked satisfactorily all through.

45. The work done by the administrative services has been excellent.

The Supply and Transport Corps have had to work long hours continuously to maintain the troops in the field and have ungrudgingly given of their best.

The Ordnance service has been extremely well organized and has maintained the ordnance supply without a break.

The Medical authorities have performed invaluable work and by their preventive measures have ensured an exceedingly low rate of sickness, while no epidemics have occurred.

The Veterinary service has been most effective in reducing animal casualties to a

minimum and has been largely responsible for the high state of efficiency of the mule and camel transport on which the success of the operations has largely depended.

46. I wish to pay a special tribute to the admirable work of the Royal Air Force. They have been continuously employed whenever weather conditions rendered flying possible and have cheerfully accepted the serious risks of flying over a mountainous and savage country. Both officers and mechanics have throughout displayed a very gallant spirit and a fine devotion to duty worthy of the highest praise.

47. In conclusion, I desire to draw special attention to the excellent work of the Staff. Their tireless devotion to duty in circumstances of exceptional difficulty and discomfort has contributed largely to the success which has been achieved by the operations in Waziristan.

48. I desire to draw particular attention to the services of the following distinguished officers.

Major-General Sir T. G. Matheson, K.C.B., C.M.G., has been in command of the Waziristan Force throughout the whole of the period and has shown consummate tact and determination in overcoming innumerable difficulties, political, administrative and military. He has carried out his duties to my entire satisfaction and has once again given proof of his sterling qualities as a commander.

Major-General A. LeG. Jacob, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., has commanded the Razmak Force from the 4th November, 1922. He has displayed untiring energy and organizing capacity, and it has been largely due to his skill and knowledge of the frontier that the operations on the Tochi side were completed practically according to programme and at so infinitesimal a cost.

Mr. S. E. Pears, C.I.E., I.C.S., Resident in Waziristan, has invariably rendered whole-hearted and most valuable assistance. The skill and determination which he has displayed in the handling of our negotiations with the recalcitrant tribesmen is very largely responsible for the success of the operations as a whole and I am deeply indebted to him for his able and untiring devotion to duty.

49. A list of names of those whose services have been of particular value will follow.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

RAWLINSON,

Commander-in-Chief in India.

APPENDIX I.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMBATANT TROOPS UNDER THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, WAZIRISTAN FORCE, ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1921.

LADHA—

Headquarters, 9th Indian Infantry Brigade.

1 Section, No. 13 Medium Howitzer Battery, R.G.A.

No. 12 Pack Battery, R.G.A. (less 1 Section).

14th Company, 2nd (Q.V.O.) S. and M. (less 2½ Sections).

1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers.