

The Faqir removed himself to Gorwekht, a remote valley, which is within a short distance of the Afghan frontier and there continued to exhort and encourage his followers to commit offences against Government. As a result during February and March minor outrages were committed over a large area, which included cutting of telephone wires, damage to roads and culverts and the sniping of troops and posts. A new feature of hostile gang activity was the planting of bombs of tribal manufacture on roads, parade grounds and tracks. There were also several raids into the Bannu Civil District accompanied by looting of property and cases of kidnapping.

4. *South Waziristan.*—In April, at the instigation of the Faqir, Mullah Sher Ali, a notorious Mahsud irreconcilable, collected a gang of about 150 Mahsuds in the Dargai Sar Area, to the west of Jandola. This gang was dispersed on the 14th April, after a hard-fought action, by a force of South Waziristan Scouts supported by aircraft. Both the enemy and the Scouts suffered casualties, one British Officer being killed.

Air action, after due warning, was taken against the villages which had harboured Sher Ali and his followers, and a large part of the Bahlolzai Mahsud country, consisting of the Upper Baddar, Maintoi and Splitoi Valleys, from which members of the gang had been recruited, was also proscribed. By the 18th May the tribe had fully submitted and were warned that air action would be reimposed if any assistance or harbourage was given to Sher Ali in the future.

5. On the 21st April the Command of the Waziristan District devolved on Brigadier F. H. Maynard, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

6. *Operations in North Waziristan.*—In spite of the punitive air action taken against the Madda Khel in March, this tribe still delayed compliance with Government terms, and after due warning a large part of Madda Khel country was placed under air blockade.

In the meantime the Faqir of Ipi had moved to Kharre, a mountainous locality in proximity to the Afghan border and lying to the east of Madda Khel country. In this locality he collected considerable quantities of supplies and raised a "lashkar" of several hundred tribesmen with three guns of tribal manufacture. At his instigation offences against Government forces and posts increased in number and the situation showed signs of deterioration. On the 27th May, the Khassadar post on the Lwargi Narai and on the 28th May, the Tochi Scouts post at Datta Khel were attacked.

By the 31st May, three considerable bodies of tribesmen were located:—

- 250 with two guns near Lwargi,
- 400 with one gun at Tut Narai, and
- 600 near Drewasta.

It was necessary to disperse these hostile bodies and consequently the Razmak Column was moved to Razani, and the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade to Dosalli.

On the 1st June, Datta Khel Post was again attacked, and 20 shells were fired at it without causing any casualties. Operations began on the 2nd June with an advance from Razani towards Mamirogha.

The enemy was engaged on subsequent days and as a result, by the 6th June, the strength of the "lashkars" had dwindled to some 200.

A post was built at Lwargi and occupied by Tochi Scouts on the 14th June, and the two brigades, then, withdrew to Razmak and Razani. The Barzai area where the remnants of the "lashkar" had been located was proscribed for air action.

On the 28th June, the Madda Khel "jirga" (assembly of tribal Elders) was interviewed, and although it was not fully representative, oaths were taken by those present that the Faqir was no longer harbouring in their country, and that if he returned they would do their best to drive him out or settle with him, failing which they would ask for Government's assistance to help them. The air blockade was therefore raised, the tribe being warned that air action would be reimposed if they broke their agreement with Government.

7. *The Shami Pir.*—At the beginning of June information was received indicating that two religious leaders or "Pirs" were conspiring to unite the Mahsuds, Utmanzai Wazirs, and the Ghilzais (Afghan subjects), with a view to hostile action against the Afghan Government. Steps were immediately taken to remove one of the suspected men from Waziristan. The other, known as the "Shami Pir," who was a foreigner from Damascus, having previously shown no indication of his plans and having denied that he was engaged in any activities hostile to the Afghan Government, revealed them at a large meeting on the 13th June, when he persuaded many tribesmen to follow his leadership into Afghanistan. Although he failed to gain the support of many influential tribesmen, nevertheless, on the 23rd June, accompanied by a "lashkar" composed of Mahsuds and Wazirs he began moving towards the Afghan frontier.

Warnings were at once issued to restrain the Mahsuds and Wazirs from accompanying the Shami Pir and continuous air patrols were established to observe any move towards the frontier. The patrolling aircraft were fired on heavily on several occasions and were forced to take retaliatory action. As a result of this and of political pressure, the "lashkar" began to dwindle in strength as parties of disheartened tribesmen returned to their villages. On the 26th June, the air patrol was discontinued. On the 27th June, the Shami Pir was interviewed, under safe conduct, and, seeing that his cause was unlikely to succeed, agreed to cease his activities. The remnant of his deluded followers dispersed and the Shami Pir was deported from the country.

8. *Further operations in North Waziristan.*—During June, the Faqir of Ipi remained in the Kharre area organizing further hostilities against Government. Early in July he again collected a considerable body of tribesmen, whose presence constituted a danger to communications and posts in the Upper Tochi Valley. It was, therefore, necessary to disperse this gathering.

On the 10th July, a force composed of the Razmak Column and the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier F. H. Maynard, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., advanced *via* Mamirogha to Degan in the Upper Tochi Valley. Thence after being joined by a detachment of the Tochi Scouts, the force moved to Wuzhgai, reaching the Kharre area on the 14th July, after passing through most difficult