

Pressure was maintained on the Tori Khel and unsuccessful tribal approaches were made to hostile leaders to induce them to make their peace with Government.

17. In December there was a recrudescence of hostility in South Waziristan on the part of recalcitrant Manzai Mahsuds and others to the west of Kotkai. In order to support the Maliks (Elders) this area was visited by the Razmak and Wana Columns. During the march of the Razmak Column to Kotkai there was some sniping and minor opposition. The Shabi Khel Mahsuds within whose limits this opposition occurred, were subsequently punished by fines. The movement through Manzai-Mahsud country was unopposed and all the hostile agitators were either surrendered or satisfactory settlements made for their future good behaviour. Further south it was necessary to proscribe by air action an area occupied by the Nazar Khel and Abdur Rahman Khel Mahsuds for having harboured Mullah Sher Ali and his gang.

18. Since the failure of his venture to the north-west of Wana in August the Faqir of Ipi had been harboured in Madda Khel Wazir country, in contravention of the undertaking given by that tribe at the end of June. Some weeks were allowed to elapse in order to judge the effect of tribal approaches which were made to the Faqir to induce him to make his peace with Government. As no response to these approaches was forthcoming, pressure was brought to bear by air action, on the villages and sections harbouring him. By this means he was kept continually on the move and prevented from re-establishing a headquarters from which to organize further hostilities.

19. *Operations of the Royal Air Force.*—The Royal Air Force units employed in Waziristan continued to act in the closest co-operation with the troops, and excellent liaison was maintained between the two services. Their independent employment in blockading recalcitrant tribes, in proscribing hostile areas, and with punitive air action has been a valuable factor in bringing quick and effective retaliation to bear on hostile elements at a distance from military centres.

20. *Casualties.*—The casualties to personnel of Government forces during the period covered by this Despatch amounted to 62 killed and 206 wounded; details are given in Appendix 2.

21. *Conclusion.*—General Sir John F. S. D. Coleridge, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, has continued to exercise control of operations and general political control in Waziristan to my entire satisfaction.

He has been most ably assisted by Major-General A. F. Hartley, C.B., D.S.O., and Air Commodore C. C. Darley, C.B.E., A.M., who have commanded respectively the Army and Air Forces engaged.

I am most grateful to Sir George Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., and the officers of the Political Department associated with the Forces for their cordial co-operation. The work of Mr. H. J. Vickers, C.I.E., the Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Peshawar, and his staff have been of the greatest assistance.

The conduct of the fighting forces, Regular Army, Royal Air Force, and Civil Armed Forces, during this period has been admirable.

The operations necessitated a sustained effort requiring considerable endurance on the part of both officers and men. They have maintained a high standard of discipline and efficiency for a long period of service in Waziristan during which the hostiles, avoiding battle, resorted to methods of sabotage, sniping and bomb-planting. The maintenance of this high standard testifies to the fine spirit which has animated all ranks of the Forces.

R. A. CASSELS, General,
Commander-in-Chief in India.

APPENDIX I.

ORDER OF BATTLE IN WAZIRISTAN—
16TH DECEMBER 1937 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1938.

HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters, Commander in Waziristan.
Headquarters, Waziristan District.
Headquarters, Razmak Brigade.
Headquarters, Bannu Brigade.
Headquarters, Wana Brigade.
Headquarters, 1st (Abbottabad) Infantry Brigade.
Headquarters, 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade.

STATION STAFFS.

Station Staff Office, Bannu.
Station Staff Office, Mir Ali.
Station Staff Office, Razmak.
Station Staff Office, Manzai.
Station Staff Office, Dera Ismail Khan.
Station Staff Office, Mari Indus.
Station Staff Office, Wana.

CAVALRY.

Skinner's Horse (1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry).
Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers).

ROYAL ARTILLERY.

4th (Cole's Kop) Field Battery.
80th Field Battery.
Headquarters, 23rd Mountain Regiment.
3rd (Peshawar) Mountain Battery.
8th (Lahore) Mountain Battery.
12th (Poonch) Mountain Battery.
17th (Nowshera) Mountain Battery.
18th (Sohan) Mountain Battery.
19th (Maymyo) Mountain Battery.
Section, 20th/21st Medium Battery.
Section, 26th Medium Battery.
Headquarters, Frontier Post Group, Razmak.
Frontier Post, 4.5" howitzers, Razmak.
Frontier Post, 4.5" howitzers, Mir Ali.
Frontier Post, 18 pounder guns, Wana.
Frontier Post, 4.5" howitzers, Kohat.
Frontier Post, 2.75" guns, Razmak.

ENGINEERS.

No. 6 Army Troops Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners.
No. 2 Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners.
No. 9 Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners.
No. 12 Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners.
No. 14 Field Company, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners.
No. 19 Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners.
Base Engineer Park, Bannu.