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THE following General Order, dated 29th October, 1897, publishing a Despatch from Brigadier-General E. R. Elles, C.B., regarding the engagement near Shabkadr on the 9th August, 1897, has been received from the Government of India :—

GENERAL ORDERS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 29th October, 1897.

DISTURBANCES.

No. 1188.—HIS Excellency the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, forwarding a Despatch from Brigadier-General E. R. Elles, C.B., commanding the Peshawar District, giving details of the engagement near Shabkadr on the 9th August, 1897.

The Governor-General in Council agrees with the Commander-in-Chief in approving the promptitude with which measures were taken by Brigadier-General Elles to repel the incursion of the tribesmen in the neighbourhood of Shabkadr, and concurs in the opinion expressed by His Excellency regarding the skilful manner in which the troops were handled by him. His Excellency in Council also desires to express his cordial appreciation of the excellent behaviour of the troops engaged on the occasion.

From Major-General G. De C. Morton, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, —(No. 1335-F., "Disturbances—Peshawar," dated Simla, the 4th October, 1897).

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward a report from Brigadier-General E. R. Elles, C.B., commanding Peshawar District, giving details of the engagement near Shabkadr on the 9th August, 1897. His Excellency recommends that the report may be treated and published as a Despatch.

2. In forwarding this report, Sir George White desires me to express high approbation of the prompt measures taken by Brigadier-General Elles to repel and punish an unprovoked raid within our borders, and of the skilful way in which the troops were handled by him, on his arrival at a critical moment on the scene of action.

3. The Commander-in-Chief considers that the troops engaged behaved in a most creditable

manner in the face of the large number of tribesmen which opposed them, more especially as they were called upon to act after 36 hours of continuous heat and hard work. The steadiness of the Infantry and the brilliant charge of the 13th Bengal Lancers are specially brought to notice by Brigadier-General Elles, whose remarks on these points His Excellency cordially endorses.

4. In conclusion, the Commander-in-Chief commends for the favourable consideration of Government, Brigadier-General Elles and all those mentioned by him in his report.

From Brigadier-General E. R. Elles, C.B., Commanding Peshawar District, to the Deputy Adjutant-General, Punjab Command,—(No. 348-M., dated Peshawar, the 10th August, 1897).

I HAVE the honour to make the following report on operations carried out against a rising of Mohmands and other tribes led by the Adda Mullah.

2. Two or three days before the 7th August rumours had reached the Commissioner that the Adda Mullah with his gathering was somewhere in the hills near by, and intended attacking the Hindu village of Shunkargarh under the walls of Fort Shabkadr. I offered to reinforce the Border Police in the Fort with a squadron and two companies, but the Commissioner declined.

3. At about 8.30 P.M. on the evening of the 7th. Saturday, the Commissioner came to me and informed me that Shunkargarh would be attacked and that he wanted troops sent out.

I at once issued orders for the following troops to move without delay :—

51st Field Battery, 4 guns.

13th Bengal Lancers, 2 squadrons.

Somersetshire Light Infantry, 2 companies.

20th Punjab Infantry, the battalion.

Fortunately 100 sapper mules had arrived that morning, so ammunition and pukhal mules could be supplied, but I had been entirely stripped of transport by the Malakand emergency. A number of tum-tums were also taken up to help the British Infantry.

The troops marched between 12 and 1 A.M. on the 8th. The distance to Shabkadr is fully 19 miles, and there was a ferry at 13 miles, the Adizai. It was an intensely hot night, and the troops reached the ferry by daylight. Owing to paucity of boats a large number of the cavalry horses were swum across the stream, over 200 yards wide, and running very strong.