

No. 2 Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners.  
2nd Brigade.

Commanding:—Brigadier-General W. P.  
Symons, C.B.

3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

6th Bengal (Light) Infantry.

14th (The Ferozepore Sikh) Bengal Infantry.

25th (Punjab) Bengal Infantry.

One squadron, 1st Punjab Cavalry, Punjab  
Frontier Force.

4 guns, No. 6 (Bombay) Mountain Battery.

Line of Communications.

Troops:—100 sabres, 1st Punjab Cavalry.

Of the above troops, three regiments of infantry, four guns, and two squadrons were already in the Tochi Valley. The General Officer Commanding the 1st Brigade left Bannu on the 1st July, and assumed temporary command in the valley. On 6th July I issued final orders for the onward move.

4. The Highlanders arrived at Bannu on the 7th and the Rifle Brigade on the 8th July, completing the force. The long march from Kushalgarh, performed at the hottest time of year along a waterless frontier, was, in my opinion, a very great trial of discipline and endurance, but all corps did it within the specified dates. I left Bannu on the 8th July for the Tochi. Next day I met Mr. Anderson, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Derajat, at Miran Shah, and assumed political control of the valley. The Commissioner left the same day for Bannu.

5. During the advance of the various corps from the base to concentrate at Datta Khel, no opposition was offered, but several posts were fired into by night, resulting in one sepoy of the 14th Sikhs and one sepoy of the 1st Punjab Infantry being killed; two camp followers were also wounded. Brigadier-General Egerton and staff were fired on near Boya. Some Powindah camel contractors, who, by the terms of their contract, travel without guards and march as they please, were also attacked, and, in addition to animals taken, one *sarwan* was killed and three wounded. One party of marauders was pursued from Boya, and 51 men captured and brought into camp. On the 16th July a large gang of Mahsuds drove off some contract camels at graze without guard near Idak; they were promptly followed up and attacked at dusk, and the camels recovered. One sepoy of the 6th Bengal Infantry was dangerously wounded, and had his leg amputated.

6. On the 13th July I issued a proclamation to the tribes in accordance with the orders of Government. This set forth that it was my intention to destroy all the fortified *kots* in Maizar and Sheranni, whether resistance was offered or not, and that the force would remain at Maizar or some convenient spot near it, under my command, as long as should seem desirable to the Government of India. It was also stated that the object was to punish only those who were in any way responsible for or took part in the treacherous attack on the British troops on the 10th June, but that any further unfriendly acts by whomsoever committed would be severely dealt with.

7. On the 20th July the 1st Brigade, with the exception of the 33rd Punjab Infantry, with two guns of No. 6 (Bombay) Mountain Battery, under Brigadier-General Egerton, advanced on Sheranni. I accompanied this force. Sheranni was found to be deserted, and the 1st Punjab Cavalry moving on at once to Maizar, found it had been evacuated; one armed Madda Khel was shot. The name "Maizar" is applied generally to that part of the Shawal Valley, and includes numerous large fortified villages and a great deal of

cultivation, watered by an excellent system of water-ways carried along the hill-sides. Some 500 men had kept abreast of the rear guard on the hills to the south, but disappeared as the force neared Sheranni.

8. On the 21st July the destruction of the fortified *kots* of Sheranni was commenced, and within ten days all such defences as far as Termor on the Tochi were levelled. Over 7,000 maunds of *bhusa*, some grain and a good number of arms and some Government and private property lost at Maizar were found. The troops worked admirably. During the first fortnight of the occupation of Sheranni, the camp was constantly fired into at night, resulting in one man of the Highlanders being wounded and two mules killed; the use of star shell on the first night of firing and the posting of surprise parties outside the intrenchment so disconcerted the enemy that their subsequent efforts were confined to shooting from longer ranges. On the night of the 20th July a Powindah camel driver was killed, and two wounded near Islam Chauki; there was no post occupied by our troops near to this.

9. On the 22nd July I visited Maizar, and went over the scene of the fighting of the 10th June; the gun and baggage mules were still lying where they had been shot; every village in the settlement was deserted; some 6,000 maunds of *bhusa*, which was eventually carried away for our transport animals, and numerous articles of Government and private property were found. This same day two columns under Lieutenant-Colonel Gray, 1st Punjab Infantry, and Major Kemball, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General for Intelligence, left Sheranni to surprise some Madda Khels reported to be harbouring in Termor. Major Kemball's column was fired on just across the Tochi, and Subadar Gulfaraz, 1st Sikhs, was severely wounded in the shoulder. Only a few of the enemy were met and one of them killed. From the date of arrival at Sheranni, daily reconnaissances and survey parties were sent out in all directions, and the entire country thoroughly searched and surveyed.

10. On the 26th July the demolition of the villages in the Maizar and Upper Tochi valleys was begun, and within a month all the fortified *kots* had been destroyed. The troops, British and Native, vied with one another in this arduous duty, performed under a fierce sun and frequently amidst monsoon storms. On the 28th July Brigadier-General Egerton reconnoitred with two battalions and four guns as far as Dotoi, on the Tochi, and close to the Afghan boundary pillars. The villages had been recently occupied. Some of the enemy were seen on the hills, and fired on our main body, but were driven off by a few volleys. On the 30th July a strong reconnaissance went up the Shawal Valley as far as Pangai; the inhabitants had fled, but a good many looted articles were found in the villages. A few shots were fired at the column, which were replied to; a good deal of grain and *bhusa* were brought in. Several reconnaissances were later made to Dotoi, which effectually kept the Madda Khels out of the valleys.

11. On the 3rd August a band of Waziris, estimated at 150, appeared on the low hills near Kajuri, and opened fire on the post, garrisoned by 50 rifles of the 6th Bengal Infantry; a small party, assisted by the escort of a passing convoy, attacked and drove them across the Tochi; our casualties *nil*; the enemy had one man killed. On the 7th August Major Grover, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, 2nd Brigade, with 30 rifles of the 6th Bengal Infantry and a