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THE following General Order, dated 4th March, 1898, publishing a Despatch from General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., regarding the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from the 1st November, 1897, to the 26th January, 1898, has been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 4th March, 1898.

FIELD OPERATIONS.—TIRAH.

No. 244.—THE Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council has much pleasure in directing the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India submitting a despatch from General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., describing the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from the 1st November, 1897, to the 26th January, 1898.

2. These operations have been conducted in a country of great natural difficulty, and against an enemy of extraordinary boldness and activity, armed moreover with weapons of precision, of which they thoroughly understood the use. The withdrawal from Tirah, necessitated by the season, formed part of the plan of operations from the outset, but it was nevertheless an operation of great difficulty, under the circumstances, requiring not only the most careful dispositions, but also a very high degree of discipline, courage, and endurance on the part of the troops.

3. The Governor-General in Council concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in his opinion that the manner in which the campaign has been conducted reflects very great credit on Sir William Lockhart's skill and judgment, and shares His Excellency's admiration of the devotion to duty and soldierly spirit displayed by the troops on all occasions. His Excellency in Council tenders to General Sir William Lockhart and to all the officers and men of the Tirah Expeditionary Force the cordial congratulations and thanks of the Government of India.

4. His Excellency in Council also fully shares in Sir George White's appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Imperial Service Troops; and takes this opportunity of acknowledging the ready loyalty of the Chiefs who have placed their regiments and transport trains at the disposal of Government, and the personal services rendered by Lieutenant-Colonel Maharaj Dhiraj Sir Partab Singh, G.C.S.I., of Jodhpur, Lieutenant-Colonel His Highness the Maha-

raja of Cooch Behar, G.C.I.E., and Major His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur.

5. His Excellency in Council further desires to acknowledge the services rendered during the operations by the officers of the staff at Army Head Quarters, and of the Departments under the Government of India mentioned by the Commander-in-Chief, and cannot allow this opportunity to pass without conveying to Sir George White his sense of the distinguished ability with which on this occasion, and throughout his term of office, the responsible duties of Commander-in-Chief have been performed.

Letter from the Adjutant-General in India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department—(No. 739-F, "Field Operations—N.-W. F.," Tirah, dated Fort William, 24th February, 1898.)

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying despatch from General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., describing the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from the 1st November, 1897, to the 26th January, 1898.

2. No campaign on the frontiers of India has been conducted under more trying and arduous circumstances than those encountered by the Tirah Expeditionary Force. Its operations have been carried out in a country destitute of roads, the physical configuration of which is such as to present the maximum of difficulty to the movement of regular troops. The enemy were for the most part skilled marksmen, exceptionally active and well armed, and expert in guerilla tactics. While avoiding serious resistance to the advance of our troops, they have lost no opportunity of harassing both on the march and in bivouac, a system of fighting admirably suited to the nature of the country, and which has necessarily occasioned us considerable loss, not only in action, but also from toil and exposure. In spite of these difficulties, severe punishment has been meted out to the tribes concerned, with the result that the entire Orakzai tribe has submitted and complied with the terms of Government, as have also a portion of the Afridis, and it seems probable even now that the remainder of this tribe will not force a repetition of offensive operations, but will tender their submission at an early date.

3. During the operations, the fighting quali-