

and that of their rulers, to assist in the defence of the Empire.

16. During the Tirah Expedition the Mountain Artillery had an important part to play, and fully sustained its reputation as one of the most efficient branches of that arm of the service.

17. Much work of a responsible and arduous nature, principally road-making and the destruction of village defences, devolved on the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Companies of Sappers and Miners, and the Pioneer Regiments. This work was carried out in a creditable manner.

18. The several departments of the army, and of the civil departments attached to the army in the field, were well administered under their respective heads. The promptness with which military requirements were met, and difficulties overcome, conduced most materially to the success of the operations and the well-being of the troops. In particular the Commissariat-Transport Department carried out its duties to my entire satisfaction. Owing to the nature of the country, these duties were exceptionally heavy, and it speaks highly for the capacity of its senior officers, and for the spirit pervading all ranks, that supplies were invariably forthcoming, and that the inferiority of a portion of the transport did not more seriously affect the mobility of the force.

19. The officers of the Army Medical Staff and of the Indian Medical Service have fully maintained their high reputation by their attention to the sick and wounded, both under fire and in hospital. The hospital arrangements were generally excellent, but I consider that the field equipment is too heavy and elaborate for mountain warfare, and that it might be materially reduced without hardship to the patients. The conspicuous colour of the canvas with which the doolies are covered is very objectionable, as it attracts the enemy's fire.

20. My special thanks are due to the officers and men employed on signalling duties. These were performed, often under circumstances of considerable difficulty and risk, to my entire satisfaction. The same remarks are applicable to the officers and subordinates of the Survey Department, the area for the first time explored and mapped amounting to 1,084 square miles.

21. I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief in India the assistance rendered to the Tirah Expeditionary Force by Mr. C. Dhanjibhoy, *Khan Bahadur*, who placed his resources at the disposal of the military authorities for the purpose of establishing an efficient mail and tonga service, and facilitating the transport of the sick and wounded to the base hospitals. These services have been performed at a pecuniary loss, and I consider that the public spirit evinced by Mr. Dhanjibhoy is deserving of special recognition.

22. I have the honour to record my obligations to the following General Officers in command of the several units of the Expeditionary Force:—

Lieutenant-General Sir A. P. Palmer, K.C.B., has commanded the Line of Communication to my complete satisfaction, and has displayed administrative talents of a high order.

Brigadier-General (local Major-General) W. P. Symons, C.B., has commanded the 1st Division with marked ability, and in a manner which has gained the confidence of all ranks.

Major-General A. G. Yeatman-Biggs, C.B. (the late) was in a very bad state of health

from the outset, but his indomitable spirit carried him through the whole of the operations, only to die at Peshawar on the 5th January. I would fain have sent him back to India from the Samana or subsequently from Karappa, but the responsible medical officers considered him fit to remain in the field, a decision which gratified him, although I personally could not agree with it.

Owing to a regrettable accident to Brigadier-General I. S. M. Hamilton, C.B., D.S.O., Brigadier-General R. Hart, V.C., C.B., was sent to relieve him. Brigadier-General Hart joined the 1st Brigade on October 24th, and has commanded it throughout the expedition with great ability and energy.

Brigadier-General A. Gaselee, C.B., A.D.C., has fully maintained his high reputation, and proved himself to be an admirable leader in mountain warfare.

Brigadier-General R. Westmacott, C.B., D.S.O., has performed excellent service, more particularly when withdrawing from the Bara Valley on December 13th and 14th.

Brigadier-General A. G. Hammond, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., though until lately he has not participated in the active operations of the force, has commanded the Peshawar Column to my satisfaction.

23. I am also much indebted to the officer commanding the Kurram Moveable Column, Colonel W. Hill, who has shown energy, capacity, and judgment in the performance of his duties. His troops were well handled both in the reconnaissance to Hissar and during the operations against the Khani Khel Chamkannis.

24. I desire to bring to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief and the Government of India the following officers, who have rendered exceptionally good service during the operations under report:—

Brigadier-General W. G. Nicholson, C.B., Chief of the Staff. An officer of brilliant abilities, fertility of resource, and experience in war, the value of whose assistance it is difficult for me to acknowledge in adequate terms. I would very specially put forward his services for recognition and reward.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Barrow, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Major G. H. W. O'Sullivan, Assistant Quarter-Master-General, have fully justified their selection for important posts on the Army Staff. I consider that these officers are well deserving of advancement.

Captain J. A. L. Haldane, Gordon Highlanders, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, is a staff officer of high promise, of great ability, and of untiring mental and physical energy.

I am indebted to Brigadier-General C. H. Spragge, commanding Royal Artillery, for valuable advice and assistance. Brigadier-General Spragge brings to special notice the services of his Brigade-Major, Captain C. de C. Hamilton, who is an excellent staff officer.

Brigadier-General J. E. Broadbent, commanding Royal Engineer, performed his duties to my full satisfaction. Unfortunately he had to be invalided towards the end of November, and was replaced by Brigadier-General J. W. Otley, C.I.E.

I endorse the favourable opinion expressed by the commanding Royal Engineer, Tirah Expeditionary Force, of the services of the Brigade-Major, Royal Engineers, Captain S. L. Craster.

Surgeon-Major-General G. Thomson, C.B., Indian Medical Service, has been my principal