

Khozdar, 110 miles south of Kalat, had been looted. Owing to the insubordinate attitude of Sardar Khan Muhammad, premier chief of Jhalawan, who was responsible for this outrage, it was thought that the trouble might spread. Military assistance was asked for by the Agent to the Governor-General and, with the approval of His Excellency the Viceroy, I accordingly authorized the despatch of a small column consisting of the 106th Hazara Pioneers and a section of Sappers and Miners, under the command* of Lieutenant-Colonel A. LeG. Jacob, C.I.E., D.S.O., 106th Hazara Pioneers, to deal with the situation.

The column reached Kalat on June 4th and subsequently visited certain neighbouring places. The presence of the troops rapidly restored order and prevented any spread of the disturbance; the rebel chief was declared outlaw by a *jirgah* of Kalat sirdars and fled. The column arrived back at Quetta on July 19th.

In reporting these operations Lieutenant-General Sir M. H. S. Grover, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., Commanding 4th Quetta Division, states that the troops made some very good marches at a trying season of the year.

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

The Tochi Valley and Derajat.†

11. During October and November, 1914, various reports were received that attempts were being made to stir up fanaticism along the frontier.

At the end of November, 1914, certain influential *mullahs* in independent territory led a Khostwal *lashkar* of some 2,000 men to the neighbourhood of Miranshah in the Tochi Valley.

On November 29th a portion of the North Waziristan Militia, under Major G. B. Scott, attacked the enemy and, in a skilfully fought action, inflicted a severe defeat on the tribesmen, who fled in a demoralised condition.

Meanwhile, on the news of the gathering being received, I had arranged for the despatch of suitable reinforcements to Bannu and Thal, and had directed the General Officer Commanding, Derajat Brigade, to reinforce Tank at his discretion.

Major-General H. O'Donnell, C.B., D.S.O., Commanding the Bannu Brigade, whose services I have already brought to notice, had proceeded up the Tochi Valley with the Moveable Column, and had reached Miranshah on December 3rd. At the request of the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, the column did not proceed beyond Miranshah.

The prompt and vigorous action of the North Waziristan Militia checked what might have been a serious rising.

Further reports of hostile gatherings, which threatened the Tochi posts, necessitated the retention of additional troops on this border during December and part of January, but a march carried out by the 4th Brigade along the Bannu border, south-west of Bannu, at the end of December, 1914, had a quieting effect.

On January 7th, 1915, operations were carried out by the Bannu Moveable Column and a portion of the North Waziristan Militia with a view to defeating a large Khostwal *lashkar*

that had crossed into British territory and attacked Spina Khaisora post.

Of the British forces, only the North Waziristan Militia were actually engaged with the enemy, but the operations were successful, the enemy losing some 50—60 men killed and being driven in confusion over the frontier. In his report on the above action Major-General O'Donnell states that great credit is due to the North Waziristan Militia for the dash and spirit they displayed in the action against great odds and after a long march.

For his most conspicuous bravery in this action, in attempting at the cost of his life to rescue one of his men, Captain E. Jotham, 51st Sikhs (Frontier Force), was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Although some further gatherings were reported, I was able, on January 11th, to order the withdrawal of most of the extra troops that had been sent to this portion of the frontier, leaving sufficient to ensure its safeguarding.

Early in March, 1915, reports of hostile gatherings intended to attack the Tochi posts, and the alleged presence of a Mahsud *lashkar*, again compelled me to order troops to concentrate on the Derajat, Bannu and Kohat borders.

On March 26th, 1915, the Bannu Moveable Column, together with a portion of the North Waziristan Militia, the whole under the command of Brigadier-General V. B. Fane, C.B., whose services I have already brought to notice, moved out from Miranshah and attacked a large Khostwal *lashkar*, estimated at 7,000 to 8,000 men, which was threatening that place.

The attack was entirely successful. The enemy's losses were estimated at 200 killed and 300 wounded, and they retreated rapidly across the frontier.

Our success was largely due to the skilful manner in which a column under Major G. B. Scott, Commandant, North Waziristan Militia, by means of a night march gained a position in rear of the enemy in time to combine with the frontal attack.

Brigadier-General Fane brings to notice the name of Mr. J. A. O. Fitzpatrick, I.C.S., Political Agent, Tochi, who assisted him with sound advice and good information.

12. With the exception of raiding, this portion of the frontier remained quiet until October, 1915, when unrest among the Mahsuds necessitated precautions being taken in the Derajat Brigade area.

A militia piquet was attacked on November 12th and on the 18th a detachment of the 45th Rattray's Sikhs on piquetting duty near Khajuri Kach in the Gomal was fired upon by some 80—100 Mahsuds. The enemy was driven off and fled and the convoy proceeded to its destination in safety. Brigadier-General F. J. Fowler, C.B., D.S.O., Commanding the Derajat Brigade, states that the detachment behaved very well indeed and maintained the high reputation of their regiment.

The successful operations mentioned above, combined with pressure brought to bear upon the Mahsuds by the civil authorities, has prevented any tribal outbreaks on a considerable scale, but raiding has been constant, which has necessitated constant vigilance and action on the part of the troops.

Mohmands, Swat and Buner.

13. Towards the end of 1914 information was received of anti-British preaching by certain

* Owing to Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob falling sick, the command was taken over by Major G. L. Carter, 106th Hazara Pioneers.

† A report of these operations was published in The London Gazette of 20th March, 1916.