

demoralising effect on the Turkish Arab auxiliaries, and to have produced the intended result, viz., preventing the withdrawal towards the Yemen of Turkish troops from Lahej.

In maintaining the active defence of Aden during this period, the assistance and co-operation of the Royal Navy, which has been readily afforded at all times, has been invaluable.

3.—OPERATIONS IN SOUTH PERSIA.

Owing to disturbances in Southern Persia and the consequent necessity for raising a Persian force under British officers to enable the Persian Government to restore and maintain order, a mission under Brig.-Gen. Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., was despatched from India.

With a military escort of all arms amounting to about 500 men, Sir P. Sykes marched from Bandar Abbas, viâ Kerman and Yezd, to Isfahan, where he joined hands with the Russians. Subsequently, the mission moved south to Shiraz, where it now is. The Persian force is in process of formation.

No opposition was met with on the march. Portions of the force under Sir P. Sykes were, however, in action on the occasions mentioned below.

In September, 1916, a mixed force was despatched from Isfahan under the command of Major S. M. Bruce, Lancers, to bring in a large convoy which was held up by raiders on the Lynch Road, some 50 miles from Isfahan. On the return journey the convoy was attacked near Kaleh-i-Shahi. The raiders were dispersed with considerable loss, and the convoy reached Isfahan in safety.

After the arrival of the mission in Shiraz, a rising broke out in Kazerun and neighbourhood on 17th December. A detachment of all arms was sent out from Shiraz, but, meeting with strong resistance at the Pir-i-Zan Pass, it withdrew to Shiraz.

A small force, under the command of Major L. C. Wagstaff, operating in the district of Sirjan, drove a force of Baharlus and rebels from the town of Saidabad on the 28th September, 1916.

4.—OPERATIONS IN SOUTH-EAST PERSIA.

In conjunction with the Russians a small force was maintained in Eastern Persia to ensure the tranquillity of this region and frustrate the activity of German agents. Raids on the lines of communication of the force were made by certain tribes of Persian Baluchistan, notably the Damanis of Sarhad. In order to prevent these, and to control the Damanis, Brig.-Gen. R. E. Dyer, Commanding in Eastern Persia, moved a part of his force to Khwash in May, 1916.

In July the hostile attitude of the Damanis necessitated punitive measures. The Damanis are divided into two main sections, the Yarmahomedzais and the Gamshadzais. Brig.-Gen. Dyer determined to move to Gusht in order to intervene between these two sections, and to deal with each in detail. Operations in the vicinity of Gusht from 12th July to 29th July resulted in the capture of the bulk of the Yarmahomedzai flocks and herds, the infliction of considerable loss, and the separation of the two Damani sections. During this period several small actions were fought under trying conditions of climate and terrain, the chief engagement being one at Kalag, near Gusht, on 21st July.

During August General Dyer traversed without opposition a large part of the Gamshadzai country, returning to Khwash on 24th August.

On the 5th October, 1916, Brig.-Gen. Dyer returned to India on account of ill-health, and was succeeded in command of the Sistan force by Brig.-Gen. C. O. Tanner.

As a result of the above operations agreements were arrived at with the chiefs of the Damanis, by which they promised to pay certain fines and to refrain from future hostility. The fines imposed have now been paid in full, and the settlement has allowed of a portion of the Sistan force being withdrawn to Quetta.

The troops maintaining a cordon in Sistan were engaged with hostile bodies on three occasions.

At Lirudik on 13th April, 1916, a force of 70 men of the Punjabis with a party of levies, under Capt. A. D. Bennett, Punjabis, inflicted considerable loss, on a lashkar estimated at 700 men.

At Kalmas, on 26th September, a party of 23 men of the Light Cavalry and 36 levies, under the command of 2nd Lt. Wahl, attached Light Cavalry, defeated a party of gunrunners, capturing a large number of rifles, ammunition, and camels. 2nd Lt. Wahl was killed on this occasion.

Near Chorab, on the 24th March, 1917, a party consisting of 16 men of the Light Cavalry and one British officer and 25 men of the Punjabis, the whole under the command of Captain J. A. C. Kreyer, Cavalry, attacked a gunrunner's caravan. The whole of the transport of 20 camels, as well as 447 rifles and some 23,600 rounds of ammunition were captured.

5.—MEKRAN MISSION.

In view of the disturbed state of the Mekran border, due in a great measure to the intrigue of German agents, a political mission under Major Keyes, of the Political Department, traversed this region with a regular escort of one platoon Gurkha Rifles, one company Baluch Light Infantry, and one section Indian Field Ambulance, the escort being under the command of Captain C. H. G. H. Harvey-Kelly, Baluch Light Infantry. This mission left Gwadur in April, 1916, traversed Persian Baluchistan as far north as Khwash and returned to Chahbar, arriving on the 2nd February, 1917. No opposition was met with, but the march was a trying one for the troops, and it has had results which appear to have been very satisfactory. The mission escort co-operated with General Dyer's force in dealing with the Damanis referred to in paragraph 4.

6.—OPERATIONS IN JHALAWAN.

During the first half of 1916 considerable unrest existed amongst certain Jhalawan tribes of the Kalat State who had organised roving bands of marauders to terrorise the country.

It was decided to send an escort with Lt.-Col. A. B. Dew, C.S.I., C.I.E., the Political Agent, Kalat, to restore order in that region.

The services of this officer in connection with these disturbances have been brought to favourable notice.

The escort, under the command of Lt.-Col. C. L. Carter, Pioneers, and consisting of five British officers and 250 men of the Pioneers, one section Mountain Battery, one Indian