

the vehicles available. In spite of the strain on their endurance, these men carried out their duties with a fortitude and efficiency which deserves unstinted praise, and proved themselves equal to the task of moving all the tonnage required for the maintenance of the forces in the field. It may here be mentioned that upwards of 500 tons of supplies and stores were transported daily from Peshawar and Jamrud through the Khaibar, a figure which was only reduced during the period of the Afghan threat on the Kurram, when a portion of the mechanical transport was diverted to that area from the Khaibar.

10. The reserves of supplies in position on the outbreak of war proved ample for the needs of the army. The standard laid down was sixty days' stocks, of which half had been placed in forward positions west of the Indus, and half in the base depôt at Lahore and at the ports of Bombay and Karachi. Within three days of mobilisation being ordered the reserves at the ports had been despatched, according to a pre-arranged schedule, to Lahore and the forward areas. New field service scales of rations were introduced in this campaign, and have proved highly satisfactory from a dietetic point of view; the items additional to the old scale include condensed milk, tinned or dried fruit, fresh fruit, cigarettes and sweets for British troops; and fresh meat, condensed milk, tobacco, cigarettes, sweets, and ground nuts for Indian soldiers.

11. In previous frontier campaigns units had been left to make their own arrangements for canteen supplies; but the system of relying on *bunniahs* and the peace canteen contractors of British units was unsatisfactory. The War Office were unable, however, to accede to my request that the Expeditionary Force Canteen organisation should take the matter in hand, and a general contract was therefore made with a Calcutta firm of large experience and reputation, to whom special railway and transport facilities were given. This arrangement proved satisfactory on the whole, and was certainly an improvement on the former arrangement; but I hope that in future a system may be devised which will enable us to ensure the provision on mobilisation of Field Force Canteens fully equipped with personnel and supplies.

12. In order to provide rest and refreshment for troops moving by rail and to mitigate the hardships inseparable from a journey across India during the summer months, rest camps were established at Peshawar, Nowshera, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Ambala, Quetta and Chaman, and the number of "Monro Soldiers' Canteens" (which had been established at all the principal railway stations) was increased to meet the additional demands made upon them. Tea rooms were also opened for the special use of Indian troops, not only at the chief railway stations, but also at all standing camps within the forward areas. Messes for British officers and for warrant and non-commissioned officers travelling in small parties or independently of their units, were organised and equipped at seventeen of the main halting places, in advance of railheads, on the various lines of communication.

13. The requirements of the Veterinary Service necessitated the formation of three Camel Veterinary Hospitals for 500 camels each, a Camel Convalescent Depôt and Horse Convalescent Depôt for 1,000 animals each, as well as additional Field and Mobile Veterinary Sec-

tions and Base Depôts of Veterinary Stores. The creation of these units imposed a severe tax on available sources of recruitment, and some difficulty was experienced in obtaining personnel of the right stamp. But on the whole the existing organisation stood the test well. The mortality among animals was never excessive, amounting to a weekly average of .2 per cent. in the case of horses and ponies, .04 in the case of mules, .3 in the case of bullocks and .3 in the case of camels, as compared with .2, .06, 1.6, and .1 per cent. respectively during the period May to September, 1918, in Mesopotamia. The evacuation of sick animals was on the whole well carried out, but there was a tendency to maintain too many ineffective animals with units. This fault was corrected in course of time. Considerable inefficiency was caused by the incidence of foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest in bullocks. The organisation of the Remount Service stood the test well and calls for no comment.

14. I was fortunate in obtaining two Ordnance Mobile Workshops, complete with personnel, from Mesopotamia. These were pushed up to Peshawar to supplement the heavy workshops established in the Ordnance depôt there immediately on the outbreak of war. A number of R.A.O.C. personnel were obtained from among the troops awaiting demobilisation, and these rendered invaluable service in the Ordnance depôts in the forward areas. In other respects the existing Ordnance organisation proved sufficient for the needs of the army. An ample reserve had been provided of special stores, such as heavy tents, hand fans, mosquito nets, sun goggles, etc., which experience has shown to be necessary for the health and comfort of troops during a summer campaign.

15. As regards the Medical Service, the number of regular R.A.M.C. and I.M.S. officers available in India was short of our requirements for complete mobilisation. The source of recruitment of these categories in India is small, and it had been found impossible to make good the deficiency from home. I was fortunate, however, in obtaining the services of 107 officers and 1,280 other ranks of the R.A.M.C. who happened to be in India en route from Mesopotamia to the United Kingdom. The Field medical units of the Field Army were already partially mobilised with personnel when the outbreak of war occurred, and the equipment of other field medical units and of 21 General Hospitals was held ready for issue in medical mobilisation stores. The number of mobilised medical units employed during the campaign amounted to 29 Field Ambulances, 12 Casualty Clearing Stations, 53 Staging Sections, 15 Sanitary Sections, 8 Advanced Depôts of Medical Stores, 1½ Base Depôt Medical Stores and 16,000 beds in General Hospitals, i.e., 5,000 for British and 11,000 for Indians. The General Hospitals were established at Landi Kotal, Peshawar, Nowshera, Rawalpindi, Gharial, Kuldana, Kohat, Bannu, Dardoni (near Miranshah), Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Manzai, and Quetta. In addition to these, convalescent camps provided accommodation in the Murree Hills for 1,200 British at Upper Topa and Lower Gharial, and for 3,000 Indians at Kohat and Rawalpindi. Medical transport included two British and eight Indian broad-gauge ambulance trains, one combined British and Indian narrow-gauge ambulance train, and over a hundred specially fitted railway ambulance coaches for use with the ordinary passenger service.