

Officer Commanding Troops, Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Summers,* 26th Cavalry, Indian Army, remarks:—

"Although the stock was not recaptured, severe loss far in excess of the value of the raid was inflicted. The moral effect of the long-sustained, successful pursuit subsequently proved to be great. It is noteworthy that the column traversed 135 miles in 65 hours, including much very difficult and intersected country, before gaining touch with the Dervishes. The troops were under arms for 57 hours, and had only 9 hours' rest in the 75 hours which elapsed between 1600 hours on the 6th October and 1900 hours on the 9th October, 1917. In the course of this operation the Pony Company marched 280 miles in 7 days."

(b) On the 25th February, 1919, telegraphic information was received from Las Dureh that a strong Dervish force was in the neighbourhood of Rajuna. The mounted column under Major C. A. L. Howard, 32nd Lancers, Indian Army, moved out at once, and reached the Ok Pass, 53 miles north-east of Burao, without incident. Major Howard, with two camel companies, moved to Eil Dur Elan to refill at the dump, where he was in a position to cover the friendlies' stock in the Guban plain, while the Pony Company remained at Ok to secure the pass and cover his movements. At dawn on the 1st March this Company, under Captain R. F. Simons, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, was attacked by a force of some 400 Dervish riflemen, but after an hour's hard fighting the Dervishes were driven off, leaving sixty-three dead outside the *zariba* alone. A report having been despatched to Major Howard, the pony company followed the retiring Dervishes, shepherding them towards the Karumba Pass, on the Rajuna-Las Adey track. At 1 p.m. on the 2nd March they withdrew for water, and the Dervishes, elated by this withdrawal and totally unaware of the presence of the main column, blundered into a trap on the 3rd March, and came under very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire from the camel companies. They retired rapidly, but were headed off by mounted troops, and in spite of very gallant efforts on the part of their leaders they broke in all directions, abandoning the stock captured from the friendlies on the 1st March as well as their own camels, and even throwing away their rifles and clothing. The Dervish casualties in the two actions exceeded 200 in dead alone, while our casualties were two rank and file killed, three wounded. This action may be regarded as the most complete defeat inflicted on the Dervishes since Jidballi in 1904.

6. During the period under review there have been constant engagements and skirmishes with the Dervishes of lesser importance and many a great march, testifying to the efficiency, pertinacity, and powers of endurance of officers

and men of the Camel Corps, of which the following are instances:—

(1) On the 18th April, 1915, the pony company under Captain J. Kingdon, 86th Carnatic Infantry, Indian Army, covered a distance of 120 miles in forty hours without water in pursuit of a Dervish raiding party.

(2) Moving from Burao on the 10th June, 1915, the mounted troops under Lieut.-Colonel T. Astley Cubitt, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.F.A., Officer Commanding Troops, patrolled from Burao to El Afweina via Las Dureh and Las Adey to reconnoitre the country along one of the main lines of advance of Dervish raiders from the Jidali district. At Las Adey on the 24th June a party of Dervish horse was encountered; but after a brief skirmish the Dervishes retired towards Jidali. The distance covered on this patrol was 344 miles. Again, on the 2nd August, 1915, Colonel Cubitt made a reconnaissance to Bohotleh, on our southern border, and, returning to Garrero, traversed the whole of the Ain Valley to Badwein. Three Dervish parties were encountered by the Illaloes during this patrol, and defeated in each case with considerable loss. The column returned to Burao via Shimber Berris, having covered a distance of 316 miles.

(3) In May, 1916, a strong Dervish force attacked Las Khorai, on the Makhir coast, inflicting heavy casualties, amounting to 300 or more, on the Warsangli tribe. They were eventually dispersed and driven off with considerable loss by gunfire from H.M.S. "Northbrook" (Commander L. Turton, R.N., in command), and shortly afterwards a strong fortified post, occupied by 200 rifles, 58th Vaughan's Rifles, Indian Army, was established there for the protection of the town.

(4) On the 23rd April, 1917, Lieut.-Colonel G. H. Summers, with the mounted column which had moved out from Burao on patrol on the 13th April, and camped at Ainabo, received news that a Dervish force under Amir was in the neighbourhood of Durdur Dulbeit in readiness for a raid on a large scale. The column moved to Badwein, and thence carried out a lateral march via Adad and Bihen through very heavy country, flooded by recent rain, to Daba Dalol. At this point on the 29th April Dervish horse were seen, but they galloped off towards El Afweina, which was reconnoitred on the same afternoon and found deserted. The column then withdrew for supplies to Las Adey, and thence, via Las Dureh, to Burao. The Dervishes had abandoned their raid and dispersed to Tale and Jidali. The distance covered on this patrol was 335 miles.

(5) In the middle of April, 1919, remnants of the Dervish force defeated at Ok, fearing punishment at the hands of the Mullah if they returned to Tale, and having collected reinforcements, raided the outlying villages of the friendlies on the sea coast west of Ankhor. The mounted column under Major Ismay moved rapidly via Eil Dur Elan to Ankhor, and pressed the pursuit to within 30 miles of the raiders at Raguda, but owing to the extreme difficulty of the intervening country and the distance of the force from its base, the pursuit had

* In January, 1916, Brevet Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) G. H. Summers succeeded Lieut.-Colonel T. A. Cubitt, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.F.A., in command of the troops in the Protectorate.