

enemy activity in the way of attacking pickets and watering parties. On the Tochi Line four, on the Ladha Line nineteen, and on the Wana Line twelve such minor attacks took place.

15. In the vicinity of Wana the 17th Cavalry operated with marked success and carried out some very successful reconnaissances.

16. On the Ladha Line a successful reconnaissance on Warza, 3 miles south of Piaza, was carried out on the 13th June with the 2-6th Gurkha Rifles, supported by a section of No. 6 Pack Battery, and punishment was inflicted on the enemy who had been responsible for attacks on our troops.

17. On the 29th June 3 companies of the 2-21st Punjabis, under Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. S. Sherlock, with an armoured car, moved out in support of a line-repairing party of the 110th Mahrattas, who had been attacked and had suffered some casualties near Jandola. The force became involved in an action with about 120 Jalal Khel Mahsuds, who had taken up a skilfully chosen position on high ground, and in trying to dislodge them Lieutenant-Colonel Sherlock was killed, in addition to 1 British officer killed and 1 British officer and 1 Indian officer wounded, and 16 Indian other ranks killed and 35 Indian other ranks wounded.

#### *Action of the Shahur Tangi.*

18. In July a great decrease of enemy activity was apparent, only a few cases of sniping occurring on the Tochi, Ladha and Wana lines. A cleverly executed attack, however, was made on the 16th July on a convoy whilst passing through the Shahur Tangi. The Shahur Tangi is a winding gorge about 3 miles long and 1,500 feet deep, with rough, precipitous sides, and, even with heights picketed, it is impossible to obtain immunity from attack. The enemy took up their positions by night, and no hostile movement was detected. Just as the head of the convoy reached the narrowest part of the Tangi bombs were dropped on it from the cliffs above and a heavy fire opened from both sides, the fire being directed markedly at personnel. A large number of details were marching up with the convoy, and Lieutenant T. B. Vickers, I.A.R.O., attached 14th Company 2nd Sappers and Miners, had with him 40 of these as an advance guard. Nine of these fell at the first outburst of fire, but this officer, with great gallantry and initiative, at once collected all available men and succeeded in climbing up the precipitous left bank and joining the protection troops of the 2-102nd Grenadiers, who were working below the permanent pickets and above the Tangi. Lieutenant Vickers was killed later in trying to press home the attack, and but for his action the situation might have been much worse. Protective troops from Chagmalai, and Haidari Kach with the 28th Punjabis, a section 21st Pack Battery and Stokes Mortars arrived, and after several combined attacks the enemy were gradually driven off, and all opposition ceased.

19. The intermittent shelling of Makin continued throughout the month, registration of targets being carried out with the assistance of aeroplanes.

20. During August there was heavy rain and the consequent spates seriously damaged communications throughout Waziristan and made the maintenance of troops in the forward

area very difficult. On the 1st August the new iron bridge above Jandola was washed away and great damage was done to roads and railways. As a consequence the troops had for a time to be put on reduced rations. The floods in the Indus prevented the steamer working the flats for several days at a time, and all railways, roads and signal communication in the area were continually out of action. Above Jandola only pack transport could be used, and the progress of the new road was delayed. By the middle of September the question of supplies became less acute and communications were again in good order.

21. Cholera broke out at the end of June, and by the end of July 31 cases had occurred, with 91 deaths. In August cases decreased, and the disease was finally stamped out in November.

#### *Submission of tribes.*

22. During August and September the enemy resistance had been weakening, and by the 10th September the Wana Wazirs had practically complied with our terms, and the blockade was raised on the 14th September. The Gangi Khel of the Dhana Valley and the Wazirs of Shakai were not included in the settlement.

23. During August the resistance of the Abdullais weakened, and in spite of the efforts of Musa Khan, the leader of the hostile party, a small sub-section came in and surrendered the Government rifles in its possession. Musa Khan and his followers then left for Kabul on the 5th September.

24. The shelling of Makin was now having its effect. The Abdullai has been given little opportunity to sow and look after their maize crops, and on the 14th September they asked for peace and a cessation of shelling to enable them to collect rifles due. They were given a truce of 10 days and a jirga was summoned for the 27th September to hear our terms. These terms were accepted, and, having been complied with for the most part, the blockade was removed from the 13th October.

25. On the 5th November the announcement of our future policy in Waziristan was made to fully representative jirgas of 1,000 Mahsuds at Tank and to 350 Wana Wazirs at Wana on the 10th November. The announcements as made to the Mahsuds and Wana Wazirs are given in Appendices 3 and 4.

26. The Gangi Khel Wazirs now desired to come to terms, and were included in the amnesty announced to the Wana Wazirs, and by the 13th November it was further extended to the Shakai Wazirs, who by then had fulfilled our terms.

#### *Advance to Datta Khel.*

27. During this month it was decided to send the Political Agent, Tochi, into Datta Khel to arrange a settlement with certain tribes in the Upper Tochi and to re-establish a militia post at Datta Khel.

The force, commanded by Brevet Colonel H. E. Herdon, C.I.E., and consisting of—

- 1 troop, 27th Cavalry,
- 113 Pack Battery,
- 13th Company, 2nd Sappers and Miners,
- 2-3rd Gurkha Rifles,
- 2-69th Punjabis,
- 360 North Waziristan Militia,

moved out from Dardoni on the 26th November. They were heavily sniped on the night