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TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1924.

*Army Headquarters, India,
General Staff Branch,
Simla, the 11th June, 1924.*

From His Excellency General Lord Rawlinson
of Trent, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O.,
K.C.M.G., Commander-in-Chief in India.

To the Secretary to the Government of India,
Army Department.

SIR,

In my last despatch, dated the 25th July, 1923, I dealt with the operations which took place in Waziristan up to the 20th April, 1923; I now have the honour to submit a further and final despatch on the operations of Waziristan Force covering the period 21st April, 1923, to 31st March, 1924, on which latter date the Force, as such, ceased to exist.

During this period no active operations on a large scale were undertaken, for no such operations were found necessary; it was rather a period of steady progress in the work of giving effect to the declared policy of the Government of India for the control of Waziristan. This policy, it will be remembered, comprised three main features:—

(a) The completion of the mechanical transport road from Idak via Razmak and Sorarogha to Jandola, the construction of mechanical transport road from Jandola to Sarwekai, and, simultaneously, the improve-

ment to a mechanical transport standard of the cisborder road from Draband to Ghazni Khel.

(b) The permanent occupation of Razmak by regular troops.

(c) The withdrawal from Waziristan of all regular troops other than those employed at Razmak and on the Tochi-Razmak line of communications; law and order to be maintained elsewhere by a system of Scout and Khassadar posts.

It will also be remembered that, on the 23rd February, 1923, the Government of India decided that the withdrawal of regular troops from the Takki Zam line, which it had originally been intended to carry out early in 1923, should be postponed for nine months, as it was felt that their presence was needed to ensure the completion, within that period, of the section of the "circular road" between Sorarogha and Razmak.

2. At the end of April, 1923, Major-General Sir T. G. Matheson, commanding Waziristan Force, proceeded to England on leave for six months, during which time, *i.e.*, up till the 1st November, when he resumed command, Major-General J. R. E. Charles held the officiating appointment of Force Commander.

3. As recorded in my last despatch, the troops in Waziristan were in April, 1923, organized in two distinct Forces, namely,