

SUPPLEMENT

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REPORT ON OPERATIONS IN WAZIRIS-TAN 25TH NOVEMBER 1936 TO 16TH JANUARY, 1937. (1st Phase.)

I. EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE OPERATIONS.

1. During April 1936, there was some unrest amongst the Daur tribe of the Tochi valley in connection with a lawsuit in Bannu concerning the abduction and the alleged conversion to Mohammadanism by a Muslim student of a young Hindu girl. The Chief Agitator amongst the Daurs was a priest, the Faqir of Ipi, whose efforts culminated in the raising of a Daur lashkar, which was dispersed by a blockade of the villages concerned, carried out by Tochi Scouts supported by troops. The offending Daurs were punished, and the incident was thought to be closed, the Faqir taking refuge in the Khaisora valley.

2. Between April and November 1936 the Faqir, however, continued his anti-Government propaganda amongst the Wazirs in the Khaisora valley and also amongst the Mahsuds. With the latter he had little success, but with the former his insidious propaganda began to bear fruit, and certain elements of the Tori Khel Wazirs became unruly. He thus collected a following of Tori Khel irresponsibles and a few Mahsud malcontents, and by November 1936 there was evidence of his influence spreading.

3. Efforts were made to persuade the Tori Khel Maliks to expel the Faqir from their limits or to put an end to his anti-government activities. It was pointed out to them that the tribe had only recently concluded an agreement with the Government whereby they had contracted not to afford shelter in the Lower Khaisora valley to any persons hostile to Government, and whereby Government forces were at liberty to move in the Khaisora valley. Whilst the jirgah admitted their responsibilities, they professed themselves unable to control the activities of the Faqir and his supporters unless Government gave some indication of their intention and ability to avail themselves of the rights guaranteed to them by the agreement. The Government of India therefore decided to send a force into the Khaisora valley in the hope that this would stiffen the progovernment party, and put an end to the Fagir's activities. No punitive or offensive measures were contemplated, the march being intended as a peaceful demonstration. decision was announced to the Maliks who raised no objections to the proposed march but stated that they were unable to guarantee that it would be unopposed.

PLAN OF OPERATIONS.

4. The plan was that the Razmak column (Razcol) and the Tochi column (Tocol) should concentrate at Damdil and Mir Ali respectively by the evening of 24th November, and