

the night and withdraw to Khaisora camp next day. The Royal Air Force co-operated closely and efficiently with the troops throughout the 22nd December. Our casualties on this day amounted to 16 killed and wounded, while the enemy are believed to have had 20 killed and 21 seriously wounded.

22. The period 19th to 30th December was devoted to the general improvement of the road and its extension eastwards towards the Sein Gorge. At the same time road construction was commenced from Draghundari with civilian labour. Hostile action was confined to desultory sniping.

During this period the Faqir of Ipi, who had moved to Arsal Kot in the Shaktu valley on the 24th December, announced that tribesmen from outside were flocking to his banner and that a Mahsud lashkar was collecting on his behalf. Though the latter was untrue, the former statement was verified on 27th December when bodies of hostile tribesmen from other tribes were reported in the Khaisora Valley. Owing to the presence of the Faqir and his immediate supporters at Arsal Kot, offensive air action was taken against the Kot on 31st December and 1st January, after due warning had been given. The Faqir and his following, taking advantage of this warning, resorted to some adjacent caves.

VII. PRELIMINARY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

23. On the 28th December a Tori Khel jirgah was interviewed by the General Officer Commanding, Wazir force and the Resident in Waziristan, at which the Tori Khel were ordered to hand in 100 rifles and 100 hostages, as an earnest of good faith, and to expel the intruding tribesmen from their limits. At this jirgah they explained their inability to expel the intruders, the number of whom had increased to about 800 by 1st January.

24. On the 5th January, 1937, another Tori Khel jirgah was interviewed, and the requisite rifles and hostages were produced; but the Tori Khel were informed that until the intruding tribesmen had been ejected from their limits, they could not return to their homes.

VIII. OPERATIONS TO EJECT INTRUDING TRIBESMEN FROM KHAISORA VALLEY—7TH TO 14TH JANUARY, 1937.

25. By the 7th January, although the number of hostile intruders was reported to have fallen from 800 to 500, it was considered necessary to undertake operations to eject them. A combined air and land operation was, therefore, carried out on the 8th January by Razcol, Tocol and the Royal Air Force. Razcol advanced eastwards from Damdil, and Tocol westwards from Jaler, along the high ground north of the Khaisora stream. In conjunction with these movements, the Royal Air Force carried out offensive action in the valley and the hills to the South, and a section of 6-inch Howitzers stationed at Damdil Camp registered targets in the valley, with the help of air observation.

26. On the night 8th/9th January, the 6-inch Howitzers carried out harassing fire on the registered targets, where it was reliably reported that the hostile tribesmen collected at night.

On the 9th January, Razcol moved to Zerpezai and camped there, meeting very little opposition. On the same day Tocol moved to Dakai Kalai unopposed, but on reaching its objective, a piquet of the 2nd Battalion 13th Frontier Force Rifles was heavily attacked. On the 10th January both columns met encountering no opposition. On the same day 5,400 lbs. of supplies were dropped from aircraft on the Khaisora camps. Next day, Tocol withdrew to Khaisora camp, Razcol remaining in Zerpezai. During this period further offensive air action was taken against Arsal Kot to prevent its re-occupation by the Faqir and his supporters.

27. On the 14th January Razcol withdrew to Damdil encountering only slight opposition.

The intruding tribesmen, who began to leave the valley in considerable numbers on the 9th January, had disappeared entirely by the 14th January. The Tori Khel were accordingly summoned to a jirgah on the 15th January.

28. Two factors which contributed in no small measure to the temporary submission of the Tori Khel and their allies were the destruction of the Faqir's headquarters at Arsal Kot by the Royal Air Force and the long-range harassing fire of the medium artillery. The former had an immediate restraining effect on the Shaktu Mahsuds and restricted the subversive activities of the Faqir and his immediate followers; the latter caused a panic amongst the hostile tribesmen in the Khaisora, as a result of which the majority returned to their own country.

IX. SUBMISSION OF THE TORI KHEL.

29. On the 15th January a fully representative jirgah of the Tori Khel was held at Mir Ali, at which the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command, presided. The terms announced enforced:—

- (a) the forfeiture of certain allowances;
- (b) the return of Government property looted or captured;
- (c) the acceptance of responsibility for the good behaviour of hostile elements of their own tribe and of strangers within their limits;
- (d) the adoption by them of measures to ensure the good behaviour of the Faqir of Ipi if he remained in Tori Khel territory.

The attitude of the jirgah was submissive and satisfactory and all sections accepted the terms.

X. DISPERSAL OF TROOPS.

30. From midnight 15-16th January the normal peace organization of Waziristan District was re-established; the ban on movement within the prescribed zone was lifted; and the Tori Khel were permitted to return to their homes.

31. On the 16th January, the dispersal of troops began, the 2nd Infantry Brigade and Tocol remaining in the Khaisora valley to complete road work, clear an emergency landing ground, and build a Scout Post near the site of Khaisora camp. Work on the road was completed on 2nd February, and by the 5th February all troops which had been specially drafted into Waziristan District for the operations, had left for their peace stations.