

types of air operations, ample warning was, on every occasion, given to enable inhabitants to evacuate the areas involved before air action was taken.

33. The continuous pressure of air action by day and night played an important part in obtaining the submission of the tribes. It secured the surrender of hostages and kidnapped persons, and, on occasions, the mere threat of such action proved wholly effective.

Columns were invariably accompanied by close support aircraft, whose co-operation was of the highest tactical value.

In addition, bomber transport aircraft were used extensively for the transportation of military personnel and stores and for the evacuation of casualties, thereby saving long and trying journeys by ambulance transport.

34. The tasks assigned to the air forces entailed very long flights and patrols, often carried out under very trying flying conditions. Eleven thousand hours of operational flying, representing a distance of over one million miles, were carried out, and the negligible number of forced landings which occurred indicates that aircraft maintenance was of a very high order.

The operations marked the first occasion on which a flight of the newly formed Indian Air Force was employed on active service.

#### IX. CASUALTIES.

35. The casualties to Army, Air Force and Scouts personnel during the period covered by this despatch amounted to one hundred and eighty-three killed and four hundred and forty-nine wounded. The enemy casualties are reliably estimated at nearly seven hundred killed and over three hundred and fifty seriously (as distinct from slightly) wounded.

Details are given in Appendices 3 and 4.

#### X. CONCLUSION.

36. I desire to record my appreciation of the able manner in which the operations were conducted by General Sir John F. S. D. Coleridge, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, who, in the exercise of his political functions, was afforded very valuable assistance by His Excellency Sir George Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, and by the Resident in Waziristan, Major H. H. Johnson, C.I.E., M.M., and his staff.

The execution of the plan of operations was ably carried out by the two Divisional Commanders, Major-General E. de Burgh, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., and Major-General A. F. Hartley, C.B., D.S.O.

I wish to record also the excellent work done by the Tochi and South Waziristan Scouts under the command of Major A. Felix-Williams, M.C., and Major P. R. H. Skrine, who played an important part in the success of the operations. The arduous and difficult task of guarding the settled districts of Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan from the incursions of tribal raiding gangs was ably performed by the military and civil forces, while the co-operation of the Deputy Commissioners and District Officers, Frontier Constabulary, and of the Civil Defence Officers, deserves special mention.

I desire to bring to notice the work and bearing of the troops of the Waziristan Force which was of a very high standard throughout. The exemplary manner in which they have undertaken not only operations but the arduous and often monotonous task of road construction is most praiseworthy. In this connection also I would specially mention the ancillary Services which have carried out their duties most efficiently under very trying and arduous conditions.

Finally I cannot speak too highly of the work of the Royal Air Force during these operations. The close and cordial relations between the land and air forces were a marked feature of the campaign and were in great measure due to the high example and unflinching co-operation of Group Captain N. H. Bottomley, C.I.E., A.F.C., and to his successor, Group Captain A. Lees, A.F.C.

R. A. CASSELS, General,  
Commander-in-Chief in India.

#### APPENDIX I.

##### WAZIRFORCE ORDER OF BATTLE.

15th of September, 1937.

##### HEADQUARTERS—

Headquarters Wazirforce.

Rear Headquarters Wazirforce.

Headquarters Waziristan Division.

Headquarters 1st Indian Division.

Headquarters Bannu sub area.

Headquarters Manzai sub area.

Headquarters Wana Brigade.

Headquarters Razmak Brigade.

Headquarters Bannu Brigade.

Headquarters 1st (Abbottabad) Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters 2nd (Rawalpindi) Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters 9th (Jhansi) Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters 2nd Echelon.

##### CAVALRY.

Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward VII's Own Lancers).

Detachment The Scinde Horse. (14th Prince of Wales's Own Cavalry).

##### ROYAL ARTILLERY—

Section 20/21st Medium Battery (Howitzer).

Headquarters Frontier Post Group, Royal Artillery, Waziristan.

Post Group Royal Artillery 4.5" (Howitzer), (Mir Ali).

Post Group Royal Artillery 2.75" guns (Manzai).

Post Group Royal Artillery 18-pounder guns (Wana).

Post Group Royal Artillery 4.5" (Howitzer) (Wana).

Headquarters 4th Field Brigade, Royal Artillery.

4th Field Brigade Signal Section.

4th Field Battery (Howitzer).

7th Field Battery.