

attacked khassadar posts in the area between the Sharawangi Narai and Torwam in South Waziristan. He also instigated an unsuccessful raid on the village of Chaudwan in the Dera Ismail Khan District. In order to deal with Sher Ali, air action, after due warning, was undertaken in proscribed areas in the Upper Baddar and Main Toi valleys, West of Kani-guram, whence the hostile gang had originated and this, combined with the threat of similar action in other areas, brought about an immediate reduction in the strength of the gang. In order to restore order in the area and punish those known to have taken part in the raids and attacks, operations were also undertaken by the Waziristan Division. The Razmak Brigade (Brigadier H. V. Lewis, D.S.O., M.C.) moved from Razmak to Ladha, and the Bannu Brigade (Brigadier F. H. Maynard, C.B., M.C.) already at Asman Manza, near Kani-guram, operated in the Upper Baddar Valley and later moved southwards to Torwam in order to restore order in the Khaisora Valley.

4. These land and air operations resulted in the dispersal of Sher Ali's forces and the submission of the offending tribal sections, on whom fines were imposed. Warnings were given to the Maliks (tribal leaders) as to their future behaviour. By the end of September the Bannu Brigade had returned to Razmak, the Razmak Brigade remaining at Asman Manza.

ACTION AGAINST HOSTILE GANGS IN NORTH WAZIRISTAN.

5. In spite of the dispersal of Sher Ali's gang a slight increase in minor hostile activities, instigated by the Faqir of Ipi and his lieutenants, occurred in North Waziristan. Small gangs of Mahsuds and Wazirs, totalling some 300 tribesmen in all, collected in the Razmak area with hostile intent. On the 27th September this gathering was dispersed by the Bannu Brigade, assisted by two battalions of the Razmak garrison, casualties being inflicted on the tribesmen. The remnants of the gang remained hidden in the hills north of Razmak and were engaged subsequently by the detached flight of No. 1 Squadron, Indian Air Force.

Between September 29th and October 3rd the Bannu Brigade carried out operations in the Mamirogha area, some five miles north-west of Razani, the inhabitants of which had been involved in offences against Government.

Between the 18th and 26th September, air action was taken against the fortified tower of Khonia Khel, a leading Mahsud hostile, in the mountainous Saruna district north of Bhitanni country.

6. In spite of the continued efforts of the Faqir of Ipi to obtain support from the tribes, the prompt measures taken by land and air forces against gangs as soon as they assembled, had a settling effect on the Mahsuds and Wazirs and enabled troops to be concentrated for the purpose of pacifying the Bhitannis, whose attitude towards Government had been unsatisfactory throughout the year.

OPERATIONS BY 1ST (INDIAN) DIVISION IN BHITANNI COUNTRY.

7. As has been described in the preceding report, the Bhitanni tribes had been prominent in raiding into the administered districts of Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan during the

summer of 1937 and early in September a large part of their country had been proscribed for air action. This was undertaken by aircraft of No. 1 (Indian) Wing, Royal Air Force, based on Kohat and Manzai. Proscription was suspended twice during September, to enable the Maliks (Elders) to negotiate for the return of Hindus kidnapped during raids and the air operations were eventually brought to a successful conclusion on the 17th October, when all captives had been restored.

It had been decided that, for their part in the recent hostilities and their numerous offences of raiding and kidnapping, government peace terms to the Bhitannis should not be announced until troops had visited their country; also that a motorable road should be constructed to Kot, the main Bhitanni Village, in order to facilitate future control in that area. On the 12th October representatives of the tribe were informed of this decision, and a warning was given as to the consequences of opposing the advance of our forces.

8. In the operations which followed troops of the 1st (Indian) Division (Major-General E. de Burgh, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.) were employed. The advance into Bhitanni country was carried out by the 2nd Infantry Brigade (Brigadier C. D. Noyes, M.C.) and attached troops, assisted by one battalion from the 1st Infantry Brigade, and by the Royal Air Force. Between the 11th and 16th October the force was concentrated at Sulaiman Khel, near the Bhitanni border.

9. The advance began on the 16th October. No opposition was met with on that date and a camp was established at Spalvi in the Rod Algad west of Nungar. Reconnaissances carried out during the next two days were unopposed. On the 19th and 20th October opposition was encountered from 300 tribesmen, including Mahsuds, Tori Khel Wazirs and Bhitannis, and in the ensuing actions considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy. After the 22nd October all opposition ceased and reconnaissances were carried out without incident from a new camp which had been established at Qalandar Khel Kalai.

10. On the 22nd October, the Bhitanni "jirga" (representative assembly) was interviewed. Certain conditions were made known and complied with and rifles and hostages were handed in as security for good behaviour. On the 16th and 18th November further jirgas were held and peace terms announced to the tribe, which were subsequently complied with.

ACTION BY 9TH (JHANSI) INFANTRY BRIGADE IN SPINWAM AREA.

11. Meanwhile the Faqir of Ipi had moved to Madda Khel Wazir country near the Indo-Afghan frontier and his anti-Government propaganda led to an increase in minor hostilities, particularly in the area about Spinwam in North Waziristan. Between the 12th and 17th October, a gang of some 150 tribesmen, including Tori Khel and Madda Khel Wazirs attacked khassadar posts, damaged and blocked the road between Mir Ali and Spinwam and opposed parties sent to carry out road repairs. Accordingly, on the 20th October, this area was visited by the 9th (Jhansi) Infantry Brigade (Brigadier E. P. Quinan, C.B., O.B.E., A.D.C.); two companies of infantry from Kohat and a section of Light tanks from Peshawar, co-operating