

from the direction of Thal-in-Kurram. The 9th Infantry Brigade was opposed by some 150 tribesmen on whom casualties were inflicted. On the two following days, the fortified towers of certain well-known hostiles in the Spinwam area were destroyed. On the 23rd October the brigade withdrew to Mir Ali without opposition. Units of No. 3 Indian Wing, Royal Air Force, co-operated throughout these operations and, before the arrival of the column, dropped supplies on Spinwam Post on the 17th, 18th, and 19th October.

These operations, coupled with those of the Bannu Brigade at Mamirogha, which have been referred to previously had a quietening effect on the Madda Khel and neighbouring Wazir tribes.

#### FURTHER MINOR OPERATIONS IN SOUTH WAZIRISTAN.

12. Meanwhile, in South Waziristan, Sher Ali had collected another gang of 150 hostile tribesmen. On the 19th October this gang was engaged by South Waziristan Scouts in the area west of Tiarza Post. On the following day the gang was engaged by troops from Wana and, as a result of these two actions, was dispersed. The Royal Air Force provided close support on each occasion.

13. Owing to the participation of the Abdur Rahman Khel and Shaman Khel Mahsuds in an attack on a piquet at Sarwekai in September, air action, after due warning, was undertaken in the Splitoi area, between Jandola and Sarwekai, from the 5th to the 13th October. On the latter date the offending sections made their submission. The area was visited by the Razmak Brigade between the 12th and the 21st October without opposition.

#### EVENTS DURING NOVEMBER 1937.

14. During November the tribal situation as a whole showed an improvement, and there was perceptible progress towards a return to normal conditions. The scale and frequency of minor offences declined, raids into the administered districts practically ceased and several hostile leaders made their peace with government. The Faqir of Ipi remained relatively inactive, while constantly changing the location of his headquarters.

15. In North Waziristan, certain areas were visited by the 1st Infantry Brigade (Brigadier R. D. Inskip, D.S.O., M.C.) from Mir Ali and by the 9th Infantry Brigade from Miranshah. These two brigades subsequently concentrated, without opposition, at Biche Kashkai in the Khaisora Valley; the 9th Infantry Brigade moving to Biche Kashkai *via* the upper Tochi Valley, Damdil and the Jaler Algad.

Between the 16th and 18th November the 1st Infantry Brigade and attached troops moved from Biche Kashkai into the lower Shaktu Valley, which had not been visited for some considerable time and which had served as a base for hostile gangs. There was some opposition from about 150 bad characters belonging to a variety of tribal sections, under a few notorious leaders. In order to facilitate future control in this area a motorable road was constructed from Rocha, near the eastern end of the Khaisora Valley, to the village of Karkanwam in the lower Shaktu Valley and thence to join the Frontier Road at Jani Khel post in the

Bannu District. On the conclusion of these operations the 1st Infantry Brigade proceeded to Spalvi in Bhitanni country while the 9th Infantry Brigade returned to Mir Ali.

#### CONCLUSION OF THE OPERATIONS.

16. By the end of November the general situation was quiet and the road construction programme had been completed. The return of the troops additional to the normal garrison, to their peace stations, was begun early in December. Two new Scout Posts were established, one in the Khaisora Valley at Biche Kashkai, and the other at Ghariom in the Sham Valley.

The 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade and attached troops remain in Waziristan, for the time being, to supplement the normal garrison and are located at Mir Ali with detachments at Damdil and Tal to support the khassadar posts on that section of the line of communication to Razmak.

On the 15th December, Wazirforce ceased to exist. Military and political control in Waziristan, with certain reservations, was delegated by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, to the General Officer Commanding Waziristan District.

#### OPERATIONS BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

17. During the period covered by this report the operations of the Royal Air Force were similar to those carried out during the first and second phases of the campaign. The Royal Air Force units employed in Waziristan acted in the closest co-operation with the troops and in addition, by their independent action on numerous occasions, played an important part in obtaining the restoration of peaceful conditions.

During this period 3,250 hours of operational flying, representing a distance of some 350,000 miles were carried out.

Bomber transport aircraft continued to be used extensively for the transportation of military personnel and stores and for the evacuation of casualties, particularly in connection with the garrison of Wana until normal road communication was restored in December and the Bomber Transport (India) Flight was withdrawn.

#### CASUALTIES.

18. The casualties to personnel of the Army, Royal Air Force, and Civil Armed forces during the period 16th September 1937 to 15th December 1937 amounted to:—

Killed 30 and wounded 106.

Details are given in Appendices III and IV.

#### RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE OPERATIONS.

19. The task allotted to Wazirforce in April 1937 by the Government of India was "to restore peaceful conditions in Waziristan and in tribal areas on the Waziristan border under control of the Deputy Commissioners of the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Districts".

The results achieved by the subsequent operations are summarized as follows:—

##### (i) *Waziristan.*

The Faqir of Ipi, who has been the centre of tribal resistance, is still at large, but with a greatly reduced prestige and following. Other remaining hostile leaders are one by one making