

## SUPPLEMENT

TO

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### FRIDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1939

REPORT ON OPERATIONS IN WAZIRIS-TAN, 16TH DECEMBER, 1937 TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

I. The situation in December 1937.—The preceding report covered operations from 16th September 1937 to 15th December 1937 at the end of which period the situation in Waziristan was generally quiet. The network of new roads within the Bannu-Razmak-Jandola circular road had been completed, the formation of new protected areas had been announced, and two new Scouts posts at Ghariom and Biche Kashkai had been built and occupied.

With the exception of the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade and attached troops, retained to supplement the normal garrison for the time being, all other additional troops required for operations had been withdrawn.

Military, Air and Political control, with certain reservations, had been delegated by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, to Major-General A. F. Hartley, C.B., D.S.O., Commanding, Waziristan District and Wazirforce ceased to exist.

2. The Faqir of Ipi and hostile gangs.—During December 1937 and January 1938, the Faqir of Ipi with whom no settlement had been effected and who still remained the focus of active hostility was living in Madda Khel country near to the Afghan frontier. In this inaccessible area he continued to receive money and supplies from his sympathizers, which

enabled him to provide his followers with subsistence and to form gangs to commit offences wherever and whenever the opportunity offered. Some five or six of these gangs remained actively hostile under a number of irreconcilable leaders. During the latter part of December, however, and the greater part of January, there were indications that the more stable elements among the tribes were gaining control over these gangs, and only a few minor incidents occurred.

An exception to this improved state of affairs was an attack on the Tochi Scouts post at Spinwam on the night of the 17th January by a gang under Gagu, a well-known Tori Khel Wazir outlaw. During this attack 10 rounds were fired at the post by a tribal gun. The gang was dispersed by the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade from Mir Ali.

3. Pressure on the Madda Khel.—Since the Madda Khel Wazirs were giving the Faqir harbourage from which to instigate further hostilities, it became necessary to take action against this tribe. On the 8th February a jirga of the tribe was warned that unless they evicted the Faqir from their territory within 20 days, or gave guarantees that they would control his activities, they would be punished. The Madda Khel failed to comply with the orders given; therefore, after due warning to evacuate the area of operations, punitive air action was taken early in March against the property of the more important of their leaders.

The Faqir removed himself to Gorwekht, a remote valley, which is within a short distance of the Afghan frontier and there continued to exhort and encourage his followers to commit offences against Government. As a result during February and March minor outrages were committeed over a large area, which included cutting of telephone wires, damage to roads and culverts and the sniping of troops and posts. A new feature of hostile gang activity was the planting of bombs of tribal manufacture on roads, parade grounds and tracks. There were also several raids into the Bannu Civil District accompanied by looting of property and cases of kidnapping.

4. South Waziristan.—In April, at the instigation of the Faqir, Mullah Sher Ali, a notorious Mahsud irreconcilable, collected a gang of about 150 Mahsuds in the Dargai Sar Area, to the west of Jandola. This gang was dispersed on the 14th April, after a hard-fought action, by a force of South Waziristan Scouts supported by aircraft. Both the enemy and the Scouts suffered casualties, one British

Officer being killed.

Air action, after due warning, was taken against the villages which had harboured Sher Ali and his followers, and a large part of the Bahlolzai Mahsud country, consisting of the Upper Baddar, Maintoi and Splitoi Valleys, from which members of the gang had been recruited, was also proscribed. By the 18th May the tribe had fully submitted and were warned that air action would be reimposed if any assistance or harbourage was given to Sher Ali in the future.

5. On the 21st April the Command of the Waziristan District devolved on Brigadier F. H. Maynard, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. 6. Operations in North Waziristan.—In spite

of the punitive air action taken against the Madda Khel in March, this tribe still delayed compliance with Government terms, and after due warning a large part of Madda Khel country was placed under air blockade.

In the meantime the Faqir of Ipi had moved to Kharre, a mountainous locality in proximity to the Afghan border and lying to the east of Madda Khel country. In this locality he collected considerable quantities of supplies and raised a "lashkar" of several hundred tribesmen with three guns of tribal manufacture. At his instigation offences against Government forces and posts increased in number and the situation showed signs of deterioration. On the 27th May, the Khassadar post on the Lwargi Narai and on the 28th May, the Tochi Scouts post at Datta Khel were attacked.

By the 31st May, three considerable bodies of tribesmen were located:-

250 with two guns near Lwargi, 400 with one gun at Tut Narai, and 600 near Drewasta.

It was necessary to disperse these hostile bodies and consequently the Razmak Column was moved to Razani, and the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade to Dosalli.

On the 1st June, Datta Khel Post was again attacked, and 20 shells were fired at it withour causing any casualties. Operations began on the 2nd June with an advance from Razani towards Mamirogha.

The enemy was engaged on subsequent days

A post was built at Lwargi and occupied by Tochi Scouts on the 14th June, and the two brigades, then, withdrew to Razmak and Razani. The Barzai area where the remnants of the "lashkar" had been located was proscribed for air action.

On the 28th June, the Madda Khel " jirga " (assembly of tribal Elders) was interviewed, and although it was not fully representative, oaths were taken by those present that the Faqir was no longer harbouring in their country, and that if he returned they would do their best to drive him out or settle with him, failing which they would ask for Government's assistance to help them. The air blockade was therefore raised, the tribe being warned that air action would be reimposed if they broke their agreement with Government.

. The Shami Pir.—At the beginning of June information was received indicating that two religious leaders or "Pirs" were conspiring to unite the Mahsuds, Utmanzai Wazirs, and the Ghilzais (Afghan subjects), with a view to hostile action against the Afghan Government. Steps were immediately taken to remove one of the suspected men from Waziristan. The other, known as the "Shami Pir," who was a foreigner from Damascus, having previously shown no indication of his plans and having denied that he was engaged in any activities hostile to the Afghan Government, revealed them at a large meeting on the 13th June, when he persuaded many tribesmen to follow his leadership into Afghanistan. Although he failed to gain the support of many influential tribesmen, nevertheless, on the 23rd June, accompanied by a "lashkar" composed of Mahsuds and Wazirs he began moving towards the Afghan frontier.

Warnings were at once issued to restrain the Mahsuds and Wazirs from accompanying the Shami Pir and continuous air patrols were established to observe any move towards the frontier. The patrolling aircraft were fired on heavily on several occasions and were forced to take retaliatory action. As a result of this and of political pressure, the "lashkar" began to dwindle in strength as parties of disheartened tribesmen returned to their villages. On the 26th June, the air patrol was discontinued. On the 27th June, the Shami Pir was interviewed, under safe conduct, and, seeing that his cause was unlikely to succeed, agreed to cease his activities. The remnant of his deluded followers dispersed and the Shami Pir was deported from the country.

8. Further operations in North Waziristan. During June, the Faqir of Ipi remained in the Kharre area organizing further hostilities against Government. Early in July he again collected a considerable body of tribesmen, whose presence constituted a danger to communications and posts in the Upper Tochi Valley. It was, therefore, necessary to disperse this gathering.

On the 10th July, a force composed of the Razmak Column and the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier F. H. Maynard, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., advanced via Mamirogha to Degan in the Upper Tochi Valley. Thence after being joined by a detachment of the Tochi Scouts, the force moved and as a result, by the 6th June, the strength to Wuzhgai, reaching the Kharre area on the of the "lashkars" had dwindled to some 200. 14th July, after passing through most difficult to Wuzhgai, reaching the Kharre area on the

mountainous country in the face of considerable opposition. The weather was extremely hot and the task of the troops was arduous and exhausting. The Faqir fled before the arrival of the troops, but his headquarters were destroyed and a considerable portion of his resources in rifles, ammunition and supplies were captured. The Royal Air Force rendered most valuable support throughout the operations. The force withdrew without much opposition and air proscription of the area was then instituted to prevent any further gathering of tribesmen.

The tribesmen were disheartened as a result of these successful operations and, for a period, comparative quiet was restored in Northern Waziristan.

9. Further activities of Mullah Sher Ali in South Waziristan.—While operations were in progress against the Faqir in the Kharre area Mullah Sher Ali, with a gang of about 150 tribesmen and a tribal gun, took the field again in South Waziristan, and on the 11th July, the South Waziristan Scouts post at Splitoi was sniped and shelled. The gang, however, withdrew before reinforcements, despatched in motor transport, could arrive. The same gang sniped a Scouts' convoy south of Sorarogha Post on the 13th July and a sharp engagement ensued between the gang and Scouts who moved out from the post. Aircraft co-operated. On the 18th July, a force of Scouts patrolling near Ladha successfully encountered a portion of Sher Ali's gang, inflicting several casualties. In these two engagements Sher Ali's gang was roughly handled. After due warning air action was again taken against certain Bahlolzai Mahsud villages which had been guilty of harbouring the gang.

10. During July Major-General Hartley resumed command and political control in Waziristan. Major-General E. P. Quinan, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., assumed command of the Waziristan District which included the

Waziristan Striking Force.

II. Raids into the settled Districts from the Ahmadzai Wazir Salient.—Hostile acts, at the instigation of the Faqir of Ipi, now started in a fresh area. A gang, under Mehr Dil, an outlaw, based on the precipitous Junighar Hills in the Ahmadzai Wazir Salient, to the north of Bannu, made attacks on villages in the Bannu and Kohat Districts and on traffic on the Bannu-Kohat road.

From the middle of June, onwards, troops and civil armed forces, supported by aircraft when necessary, were employed to protect the road between Bannu and Kohat, and to guard

against raiders.

On the night of the 23rd-24th July, Mehr Dil's gang, reinforced by local sympathizers and bad characters, raided Bannu City. Property was looted and houses and shops were burnt. Fighting with Police, Frontier Constabulary and troops in Bannu City continued for about an hour before the raiders were ejected. The gang dispersed over a wide area rendering pursuit during hours of darkness difficult.

12. Independent Air Operation.—With the object of deterring gangs from using the Salient as a base for raiding a tactical air proscription was after due warning imposed on the whole area involved, from the 31st July to the 26th August. This proscription was carried

out as an independent air operation. No raiding from the Salient took place after the 12th August.

13. Minor outrages on the lines of communication.—No important operations took place during August, but the mining of roads, attacks on civilian lorries, kidnappings, cutting of telegraph and telephone lines, interruption of water supplies and damage to bridges and culverts continued.

During this month the 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade was relieved by the 1st (Abbottabad)

Infantry Brigade.

14. The Faqir of Ipi.—The Faqir, after his ejection from Kharre in July, changed his headquarters frequently, remaining in the vicinity of the Afghan Frontier. In August he was reported to be moving to a locality near the Afghan Frontier to the north-west of Wana, where he hoped to gain sympathy to his cause in a fresh area. On arrival of the Faqir, the locality he intended to visit was proscribed for air action after due warning. This prompt action upset the Faqir's plans and his object of infecting a new area in South Waziristan was frustrated.

15. Further minor operations in South and North Waziristan.—In September it became necessary to use the Razmak-Wana road for the passage of stores and the Razmak and Wana Columns were employed for this purpose. This operation was opposed by Mullah Sher Ali and his followers. In an action near the Sharawangi Narai on the 12th September, the hostile tribesmen were successfully engaged by our troops supported by aircraft and were roughly handled. As a result Mullah Sher Ali remained inactive for a considerable period.

Towards the end of September, three Columns of Tochi and South Waziristan Scouts accompanied by a detachment of Mountain Artillery, all under Major A. Felix-Williams, D.S.O., M.C. (Tochi Scouts), entered the Bannu-Ahmadzai-Wazir Salient, to deal with raiders who were again harbouring there. They were supported by aircraft, while Frontier Constabulary blocked the exits from the Salient. The very precipitous nature of the country made movement difficult, but the operation was successfully carried out and for the time being, raiding across the Kohat-Bannu road practically ceased.

16. The situation at the close of 1938.—By the end of October, the annual migrations of the tribes to their winter locations had taken place. In North Waziristan small gangs of irreconcilables continued to be active and further measures were taken to prevent supplies reaching them. The failure of the Tori Khel Wazirs to control their bad characters, who had been responsible for raids and kidnappings, made it necessary to bring pressure on certain sections of the tribe by denying them the use of their winter grazing grounds.

Owing to the advent of winter and the fast of the Ramzan, November passed quietly in tribal territory, except for attacks on civilian traffic and minor outrages by gangs whose leaders were in close touch with the Faqir.

On the other hand raiding into the settled districts increased. On the 18th November two villages south of Kalabagh, on the Indus, were raided, while six other minor raids also took place, accompanied by casualties to civilians and kidnapping.

Pressure was maintained on the Tori Khel and unsuccessful tribal approaches were made to hostile leaders to induce them to make their

peace with Government.

17. In December there was a recrudescence of hostility in South Waziristan on the part of recalcitrant Manzai Mahsuds and others to the west of Kotkai. In order to support the Maliks (Elders) this area was visited by the Razmak and Wana Columns. During the march of the Razmak Column to Kotkai there was some sniping and minor opposition. The Shabi Khel Mahsuds within whose limits this occurred, were super-v fines. The movement through opposition punished by fines. Manzai-Mahsud country was unopposed and all the hostile agitators were either surrendered or satisfactory settlements made for their future good behaviour. Further south it was necessary to proscribe by air action an area occupied by the Nazar Khel and Abdur Rahman Khel Mahsuds for having harboured Mullah Sher Ali and his gang.

18. Since the failure of his venture to the north-west of Wana in August the Faqir of Ipi had been harboured in Madda Khel Wazir country, in contravention of the undertaking given by that tribe at the end of June. Some weeks were allowed to elapse in order to judge the effect of tribal approaches which were made to the Faqir to induce him to make his peace with Government. As no response to these approaches was forthcoming, pressure was brought to bear by air action, on the villages and sections harbouring him. By this means he was kept continually on the move and prevented from re-establishing a headquarters from which to organize further hostilities.

19. Operations of the Royal Air Force.—The Royal Air Force units employed in Waziristan continued to act in the closest co-operation with the troops, and excellent liaison was maintained between the two services. Their independent employment in blockading recalcitrant tribes, in proscribing hostile areas, and with punitive air action has been a valuable factor in bringing quick and effective retaliation to bear on hostile elements at a distance from military centres.

20. Casualties.—The casualties to personnel of Government forces during the period covered by this Despatch amounted to 62 killed and 206 wounded; details are given in Appendix 2.

21. Conclusion.—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, has continued to exercise control of operations and general political control in Waziristan to my entire satisfaction.

He has been most ably assisted by Major-General A. F. Hartley, C.B., D.S.O., and Air Commodore C. C. Darley, C.B.E., A.M., who have commanded respectively the Army and

Air Forces engaged.

I am most grateful to Sir Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., and the officers of the Political Department associated with the Forces for their cordial co-operation. The work of Mr. H. J. Vickers, C.I.E., the Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Peshawar, and his staff have been of the greatest assistance.

The conduct of the fighting forces, Regular Army, Royal Air Force, and Civil Armed Forces, during this period has been admirable.

The operations necessitated a sustained effort requiring considerable endurance on the part of both officers and men. They have maintained a high standard of discipline and efficiency for a long period of service in Waziristan during which the hostiles, avoiding battle, resorted to methods of sabotage, snip-ing and bomb-planting. The maintenance of this high standard testifies to the fine spirit which has animated all ranks of the Forces.

> R. A. Cassels, General, Commander-in-Chief in India.

### APPENDIX 1.

Order of Battle in Waziristan-16TH DECEMBER 1937 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1938. HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters, Commander in Waziristan. Headquarters, Waziristan District. Headquarters, Razmak Brigade. Headquarters, Bannu Brigade. Headquarters, Wana Brigade. Headquarters, 1st (Abbottabad) Infantry Brigade.

Headquarters, 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade.

STATION STAFFS.

Station Staff Office, Bannu: Station Staff Office, Mir Ali. Station Staff Office, Razmak. Station Staff Office, Manzai. Station Staff Office, Dera Ismail Khan. Station Staff Office, Mari Indus. Station Staff Office, Wana.

### CAVALRY.

Skinner's Horse (1st Duke of York's Own Cavalry).

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

### ROYAL ARTILLERY.

4th (Cole's Kop) Field Battery. 80th Field Battery. Headquarters, 23rd Mountain Regiment. 3rd (Peshawar) Mountain Battery. 8th (Lahore) Mountain Battery. 12th (Poonch) Mountain Battery. 17th (Nowshera) Mountain Battery. 18th (Sohan) Mountain Battery. 19th (Maymyo) Mountain Battery. Section, 20th/21st Medium Battery. Section, 26th Medium Battery. Headquarters, Frontier Post Razmak.

Frontier Post, 4.5" howitzers, Razmak. Frontier Post, 4.5" howitzers, Mir Ali. Frontier Post, 18 pounder guns, Wana. Frontier Post, 4.5" howitzers, Kohat. Frontier Post, 2.75" guns, Razmak.

### Engineers.

No. 6 Army Troops Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners. No. 2 Field Company, King George V's Own Bengal Sappers and Miners.

No. 9 Field Company, Queen Victoria's

Own Madras Sappers and Miners.
No. 12 Field Company, Queen Victoria's

Own Madras Sappers and Miners.
No. 14 Field Company, Queen Victoria's

Own Madras Sappers and Miners.
No. 19 Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Base Engineer Park, Bannu.

### INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS.

Waziristan District Signals.
Detachments, "A" Corps Signals.

Detachments, 1st Indian Divisional Signals.

Detachments, Kohat District Signals.

### British Infantry.

1st Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment. Battalion, The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment).

Ist Battalion, The Northamptonshire

Regiment.

### ROYAL TANK CORPS.

1st Light Tank Company. 7th Light Tank Company. 11th Light Tank Company.

### INDIAN INFANTRY.

and Battalion, and Punjab Regiment. 1st Battalion, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry. 2nd Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own), 6th Rajputana Rifles.

3rd Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles. and Battalion (Prince Albert Victor's), 7th

Rajput Regiment.

3rd Battalion (Duke of Connaught's Own), 7th Rajput Regiment.

3rd Battalion, 8th Punjab Regiment. 4th Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own), 8th

Punjab Regiment.

1st Battalion (Duchess of Connaught's

Own), 10th Baluch Regiment.
3rd Battalion (Queen Mary's Own), 10th Baluch Regiment.

and Royal Battalion (Ludhiana Sikhs), 11th Sikh Regiment.

1st Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own) (Sikhs), 12th Frontier Force Regiment.

3rd Royal Battalion (Sikhs), 12th Frontier Force Regiment.

4th Battalion (Wilde's), 13th Frontier

Force Rifles.

Royal Battalion 6th (Scinde), 13th Frontier Force Rifles.

1st Battalion, 14th Punjab Regiment. 3rd Battalion, 14th Punjab Regiment. 1st Battalion, 16th Punjab Regiment.

3rd Battalion, 16th Punjab Regiment. Battalion (Bhopal), 16th Punjab 4th

Regiment. 1st Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own), 17th

Dogra Regiment. 3rd Battalion, 17th Dogra Regiment.

1st Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles. 1st Battalion, 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment).

and Battalion, 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment).

1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Regiment).

1st Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles.

and Battalion; 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles.

One Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles.

and Battalion, 4th Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles.

1st Battalion, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force).

and Battalion, 6th Gurkha Rifles. 2 2nd Battalion, 8th Gurkha Rifles.

### SERVICES.

Units, detachments, and representatives of the following services:-

Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

Medical Service.

Army Dental Service. Indian Army Veterinary Corps.

Indian Army Ordnance Corps.

Military Grass Farms. Military Dairies.

Army Remount Department.

Military Accounts Department. Military Engineering Services.

No. 5 Battalion.\* (Mahsud Road Construction

Postal Service.

Rest Camps.

Transportation, Government Stores Forwarding Agencies.

### AIR FORCES.

### Peshawar.

Headquarters, No. 1 (Indian) Group. No. 20 (Army Co-operation) Squadron.

Headquarters No. 1 (Indian) Wing. No. 27 (Bomber) Squadron. No. 60 (Bomber) Squadron.

### Risalpur.

Headquarters, No. 2 (Indian) Wing.

No. 5 (Army Co-operation) Squadron.

No. 11 (Bomber) Squadron. No. 39 (Bomber) Squadron. Bomber Transport Flight.

### Miranshah.

No. 1 Squadron Indian Air Force.

Detachments:

Nos. 5 and 20 (Army Co-operation) Squadrons.

39 and 60 (Bomber) Nos. 11, 27, Squadrons.

### Arawali.

Detachment No. 5 (Army Co-operation) Squadron.

### Fort Sandeman.

Detachment No. 31 (Army Co-operation) Squadron.

### Army Personnel attached Air Forces.

Intelligence Liaison Sections, Nos. 5 and 20 (Army Co-operation) Squadrons.

### Civil Armed Forces.

Tochi Scouts.

South Waziristan Scouts.

Detachments, Kurram Militia.

Detachments, Frontier Constabulary.

Troops employed on protection of the road Kohat-Bannu during the period from 16th June-Ist November 1938.

### HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters, Kohat Column.

### CAVALRY.

8th King George V's Own Cavalry.

### ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Section, 20th Mountain Battery.

### ENGINEERS.

Detachment, No. 22 Field Company, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners.

<sup>\*</sup> From 1st April 1938 this unit was redesignated the "Mahsud Battalion", under Civil Administration.

ROYAL TANK CORPS.

One Sub-Section, No. 1 Light Tank Company.

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS.

Detachments, Kohat District Signals.

Detachments, 1st Indian Divisional Signals.

INDIAN INFANTRY.

2nd Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own), 6th Rajputana Rifles.

5th Battalion (Burma), 8th Punjab Regiment.

1st Battalion (Coke's), 13th Frontier Force Rifles.

2nd Battalion (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (Brownlow's), 14th Punjab Regiment.

### SERVICES.

Units, detachments, and representatives of the following services:—
Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

Medical Services.

### APPENDIX 2.

SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES (INCLUDING ROYAL AIR FORCE, CIVIL ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIANS).

Killed or died of wounds

Killea or alea of wounds.					•
	B. Os.	B. O. Rs.	V. C. Os.	I.O.Rs.	Followers.
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Civil Police	_	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del> ·	2	<del></del> ·
Civil M. E. S	_	. —	<del></del>	<del>-</del>	3
South Waziristan Khassadars	_	_	· · — · ,	· I	_
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Military Forces	ı.	15	7	136	4
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Frontier Corps	ı ·		I	29	_`
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Civil M. E. S		•		<u> </u>	I
South Waziristan Khassadars	. <del></del> ·	÷		8	
	.2	16	9	174	5
Grand Total	5	2 <u>T</u>	10	222	10
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