



SUPPLEMENT

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REPORT ON OPERATIONS IN WAZIRISTAN, 16TH DECEMBER, 1937 TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

1. *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to supplement the normal garrison for the time being, all other additional troops required for operations had been withdrawn.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.