



# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1897.

*India Office, September 3, 1897.*

THE following General Order, dated 9th July, 1897, with reports regarding the attack made by Madda Khels on the Political Officer's Escort at Maizar on the 10th June, 1897, has been received from the Government of India:—

**GENERAL ORDER.**

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

*Simla, the 9th July, 1897.*

**FIELD OPERATIONS.—TOCHI.**

No. 773.—THE Right Honourable the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council directs the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, submitting, under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, reports from Lieutenant-Colonel W. du G. Gray, Commanding the Troops in the Tochi Valley, relating to the attack made by Madda Khels on the Political Officer's Escort at Maizar on the 10th June, 1897.

These reports are to be regarded as despatches.

2. The Governor-General in Council entirely concurs with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his appreciation of the gallantry and devotion of the British officers, and of the coolness, bravery and discipline of all ranks when deprived of their leaders and compelled to retire under the most difficult conditions.

The conduct of both officers and men on this trying occasion was worthy of the best traditions of the Punjab Frontier Force, and will add to the high reputation for soldierlike conduct which the force has ever enjoyed.

No. 181-T, "Field Operations, Tochi," dated Simla, the 8th July, 1897, from the Adjutant-General in India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward the enclosed letters from Lieutenant-Colonel W. du G. Gray, Commanding Tochi Valley Troops,\* reporting on the attack on the Political Officer's Escort at Maizar on the 10th June, 1897.

2. His Excellency feels assured that there can be but one opinion as regards the behaviour of all ranks after the attack commenced. The report describes in graphic language the gallantry and devoted example of the British officers who, though wounded, continued to direct the withdrawal of the force until incapacitated by their injuries; the coolness and heroic conduct of the

\* Nos. 230 and 233, dated 16th and 20th June, 1897, respectively.

native officers, non-commissioned officers and men; the determined stand at the garden wall, where those who fell gave their lives to cover the withdrawal of their wounded comrades; and the admirable discipline exhibited in the deliberate and systematic withdrawal of the force, carried out as it was under a heavy fire and under most trying circumstances. These are some of the leading characteristics of the combat, and it is with a deep sense of satisfaction that His Excellency submits this record of a gallant deed of arms, second to none in the annals of the Indian Army.

3. The march performed by the reinforcements from Datta Khel, who traversed a distance of 9 miles in an hour and half under the burning sun of a June afternoon, shows the stamina and soldierlike spirit of the party and deserves marked commendation.

4. His Excellency desires also to express his hearty concurrence in the remarks made by Lieutenant-Colonel Gray on the valuable assistance rendered to the troops by Mr. Gee, Political Officer, during the retirement.

5. The staunchness and devotion of the whole force, and particularly the excellent conduct of the native officers when thrown on their own resources, are worthy of the highest praise; and, while deploring the loss of so many brave soldiers, it is with a deep sense of admiration and appreciation of their conduct that His Excellency directs the submission of these reports, with a strong recommendation that they may be regarded as despatches and published under the orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

No. 230. "Disturbances," dated Datta Khel, the 16th June, 1897, from Lieutenant-Colonel W. du G. Gray, Commanding Tochi Valley Troops; to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Punjab Frontier Force.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report\* on the occurrences of the 10th instant.

2. An escort consisting of 12 sabres, 1st Punjab Cavalry, two guns, No. 6 Bombay Mountain Battery, 200 rifles, 1st Sikhs, and 100 rifles, 1st Punjab Infantry, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Bunny accompanied Mr. Gee, Political Officer, to one of the Maizar villages. Mr. Gee's object in going there was partly to discuss with the tribesmen the realization of a fine, but mainly to select a site for a levy post.

\* Enclosures, one sketch map, three casualty lists.