

## KASHMIR REBELS WILT BEFORE INDIAN ARMY

The threat to Srinagar has been foiled. The beautiful capital of Kashmir on the River Jhelum is safe under the rule of Sheikh Abdullah, to whom the Maharajar, Sir Hari Singh, entrusted power, when he retreated to his winter-palace at Jammu. Energetically recruiting a national militia Abdullah resolved that the defence of Kashmir should not wholly depend upon units of the Indian Army. And while the invading tribesmen were only twenty miles away the recruits were ~~being~~ licked into shape. Dakota troop carriers, dispatched by orders of Hindu leader Pandit Nehru, flew over the forbidding summits of the Western Himalayas separating Kashmir from the Punjab.

On the rough airfield outskirting Srinagar the ~~tribesmen~~<sup>aircraft</sup> made a safe landing with their flying column of some of the finest warriors of India, the fighting Sikhs. When Kashmir elected to join India, though containing a large Muslim population, elements in Pakistan inflamed the war-like tribesmen of the North-West Frontier to invade Kashmir, and when the Sikhs arrived, much of the northern part of the Vale lay in the marauders' hands. Villages in the neighbourhood of the capital were aflame, burning witnesses of the fierce hatred of the tribesmen towards the peaceful inhabitants of Kashmir. Armoured vehicles and twenty-five pounders hurriedly advanced north towards the town<sup>ship</sup> of Baramula, thirty-two miles away, ~~and strongly held~~<sup>in to hands</sup> the invaders. That was the stronghold to which the tribesmen retreated, and which they were determined to ~~hold~~

*retain*  
~~hold~~ The path of the Indian Army lay through ravaged country, scarred by ~~gross~~<sup>grievous</sup> evidence of Oriental ferocity.

*cpu*  
 (after body) Baramula was recaptured. Against the disciplined, well armed Sikhs the fierce fighting-spirit of the frontier-marauders could not prevail. Systematically the prisoners were searched. Questioning disclosed the strength of the invaders, and though parts of the northern end of the Vale of Kashmir were still held, the raid was now defeated. Sheikh Abdullah, back in Srinagar, told the people that for the time being danger was averted. He may hold a plebiscite to settle the question of Kashmir's future, with India or Pakistan. Meanwhile peace has returned to the <sup>fair</sup> ~~fair~~ Vale of Kashmir, and its ~~fair~~ capital, Srinagar.