

I R A N

The following communique was issued today from British G.H.Q., Simla.

The Shah has ordered his forces to cease hostilities, and Iranian envoys have met our forward troops with this information.

In the Northern Sector British and Indian troops pushing on from SHAHABAD on Thursday were met by a flag of truce from the Iranian Army which has retired to KERMANSHAH.

The Iranian Commander offered to withdraw his troops and to surrender the town if he were given until 1st September.

Having information from a prisoner that the Germans in KERMANSHAH have been advising the Iranians on defence plans, our Commander rightly refused to accept such a delay and insisted that the Iranians should withdraw from defensive positions by successive stages starting immediately. It is significant that during the previous day's action two of the anti-tank guns captured intact with ammunition proved to be of the latest Skoda manufacture.

In the Southern Sector Indian infantry continued the advance up both banks of the KARUN River to AHWAZ which is now in our hands. Royal Air Force fighters provided air protection to our forward troops during these operations. A new Russian column is reported to have reached DILMAN, which lies to the west of Lake URMIA. Their southward advance is continuing.

Local inhabitants have been complaining that Iranian troops have been begging food from them, owing to their rations being short. Our policy is to assist the Persian people by providing foodstuffs to lessen the general shortage that exists throughout the country. For a start arrangements have been made to send about 700 tons of wheat into the area we have occupied in Southern Iran.