



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette
Of TUESDAY, the 25th of AUGUST.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1885.

War Office, August 25, 1885.

THE Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatches from General Lord Wolseley, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., commanding Her Majesty's Forces in Egypt, relative to the recent operations on the Upper Nile and near Suakin:—

From General Lord Wolseley to the Secretary of State for War.

SIR, *Cairo, 15th June, 1885.*

1. ALL the troops on the Upper Nile are now quitting Dongola. Some have already embarked for England, and the others are on their way to their allotted destinations. The withdrawal of our forces to a defensive position on the Wady Halfa Railway in accordance with the orders I have received is now nearly completed. I therefore think it desirable that, before leaving Egypt for England, I should place on record my opinion as to the manner in which all ranks under my command have carried out their respective duties. I wish also to bring to your notice the names of some officers who have specially distinguished themselves, almost all of whom I think it would be in the interests of the Service to promote whilst they are still young and efficient.

2. It is a source of great pride to me as a soldier, and of satisfaction as a British subject, that upon each fresh occasion when I am brought in contact with Her Majesty's troops in the field, I find the army more efficient as a military machine than it was the last time I was associated with it on active service. This improvement is evident in all grades and in all arms and departments, but it is, I think, most marked in the rank and file. Military spirit—the essence of military efficiency—is now established in our army in a higher form, and on a sounder basis than formerly. The soldier is prouder of himself and of his calling than he used to be, and his self-esteem has also been raised by the healthy feeling of liberty arising from the knowledge that if the army does not suit his tastes he can easily quit it, instead of being bound to it for ten or twelve years. Our rank and file are morally better, and militarily more efficient than formerly. The general conduct and bearing of our men in the Soudan left nothing to be desired, and, was not only creditable to the British

army, but should be also a just source of pride to the British nation.

3. The physical appearance of the soldiers who assembled at Korti in last December and January spoke well for the efficiency of our present recruiting service. I have never seen a finer body of troops in the field, and both their appearance and the noble spirit which animated them made me feel that I was safe in relying on them to accomplish any enterprise where success was possible. The great bulk of these men had reached Korti in the whalers expressly built in England for the navigation of the Nile, and the bodily training obtained by rowing, tracking, and portaging gave to these young soldiers the toughness, as well as the outward look, of veterans. No men have ever done harder work than they did, and to their lasting credit, he it said, they did it cheerfully and without a murmur.

4. It would be impossible for any commander to have been more ably seconded by his Chief of the Staff than I was by Major-General Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., K.C.M.G., C.B. To his already well-established reputation as a daring and skilful leader in action he has now added that for great administrative capacity. When the late Major-General Sir Herbert Stewart was wounded, and Colonel Burnaby, whom I had appointed to command at Metammeh, had been killed, I ordered General Sir Redvers Buller to take command of the desert column, and he carried out to my entire satisfaction the difficult operation of withdrawing it from Gubat to Gakdul in the face of an active enemy—an operation requiring great nicety of execution, and a thorough knowledge of the military art. When I received orders that the army was to fall back from its summer quarters on the Nile to the Wady Halfa Railway, I entrusted him with the details of this movement, which was also most ably effected. I beg to recommend this officer to your favourable consideration.

5. Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., was the General of Communications, and brought the utmost zeal to bear upon the arduous and difficult duties of that position. Our line of communications by rail, river, and desert from Alexandria to Gubat was about