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A DESPATCH and its Enclosure, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State for War from the General Officer Commanding the Force in Egypt:—

NILF EXPEDITION, 1898.

BATTLE OF KHARTUM.

From the General Officer Commanding the Force in Egypt to the Under Secretary of State for War.

*Head-Quarters, Cairo,
September 16, 1898.*

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward a Despatch from Major-General Sir H. Kitchener, K.C.B., Sirdar, describing the later phases of the Sudan Campaign and the final action on 2nd September.

2. The Sirdar, in this Despatch, recounts in brief simple terms the events of the closing phase of one of the most successful campaigns ever conducted by a British General against a savage foe, resulting in the capture of Omdurman, the destruction of the Dervish power in the Sudan, and the re-opening of the waterway to the Equatorial Provinces.

3. The concentration of the Army on the Atbara was carried out to the hour, and the arrangements for the transport of the force to the vicinity of the battlefield were made by the Sirdar and his Staff with consummate ability. All difficulties were foreseen and provided for, and, from the start of the campaign to its close at Omdurman, operations have been conducted with a precision and completeness which have been beyond all praise; while the skill shown in the advance was equalled by the ability with which the Army was commanded in the field.

The Sirdar's admirable disposition of the force, the accurate fire of the Artillery and Maxims, and the steady fire discipline of the Infantry, assisted by the gunboats, enabled him to destroy his enemy at long range before the bulk of the British and Egyptian Force came under any severe rifle fire, and to this cause may be attributed the comparatively small list of casualties. Never were greater results achieved at such a trifling cost.

4. The heavy loss in killed and wounded in the 21st Lancers is to be deeply regretted. But the charge itself, against an overwhelming force of sword and spear men over difficult ground, and,

under unfavourable conditions, was worthy of the best traditions of British Cavalry.

5. As regards the force employed, I can say with truth that never, in the course of my service, have I seen a finer body of troops than the British Contingent of Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, and Infantry, placed at the disposal of the Sirdar, as regards physique, smartness, and soldierlike bearing. The appearance of the men speaks well for the present Recruiting Department, and was a source of pride to every Englishman who saw them.

6. While thoroughly endorsing the Sirdar's recommendations, I desire to call attention to the good work done by Major-General Henderson, C.B., and Staff at Alexandria, who conducted the disembarkation of the Force, and by my own Staff at Cairo.

On Colonel H. Cooper, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. Hope, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General, fell the brunt of the work in the despatch of the British Division to the front.

I also desire to acknowledge the services of Brevet Colonel A. O. Green, Commanding Royal Engineer; Surgeon-General H. S. Muir, M.D., Principal Medical Officer; Lieutenant-Colonel F. O. Leggett, Army Ordnance Department; Colonel F. Treffry, Army Pay Department; Veterinary-Captain Blenkinsop, and the junior Officers of the various departments.

Major Williams, my C.R.A., was indefatigable in organizing the mule transport for the 32nd and 37th Field Batteries.

7. I have received the greatest assistance from the Egyptian Railway Administration in the movements of the troops both going south and returning.

Thanks to the admirable system organized by Iskander Bey Fahmy, the Traffic Manager, all the services were rapidly and punctually carried out.

8. I am sending this Despatch home by my Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant H. Grenfell, 1st Life Guards, who acted as Orderly Officer to Brigadier-General Honourable N. G. Lyttelton, C.B., Commanding Second British Brigade in the Sudan.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS GRENFELL,
Lieutenant-General,
Commanding in Egypt.