



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 4th of APRIL, 1916.

Published by Authority.

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WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL, 1916.

War Office,
5th April, 1916.

The following Despatch from General Sir John Nixon, K.C.B., relative to the operations in Mesopotamia from the middle of April to the end of September, 1915, has been forwarded by the Government of India for publication:—

General Headquarters,
I.E.F. "D," 1st January, 1916.

From.

General Sir John Nixon, K.C.B., A.D.C.
General, Commanding Indian Expeditionary Force "D."

To

The Chief of the General Staff, Army Headquarters, India.

Sir,—

I have the honour to forward a report on the operations of the Forces under my command for the period from the middle of April, 1915, up to the end of September, 1915.

1. The floods of last season, which are said to have been the highest for 30 years, formed

an inland sea of water and reeds varying from two to six feet deep, which extended for 40 miles north of Qurnah, down to Basrah, and stretching from Nasiriyah in the west to Hawizeh (50 miles north-east of Qurnah) in the east. Consequently, until the subsidence of the floods at the end of July, operations in this area were of an amphibious nature.

2. During the month of April a Brigade at Ahwaz, first under Major-General Davison, and subsequently under Brigadier-General Lean, had been containing a hostile force consisting of some eight battalions of Turks with eight guns and about 10,000 Arab auxiliaries, which had advanced from Amarah via Bisaitin and Khafajiyah (on the Kharkeh River) into Persian Arabistan.

At this time another British Detachment was at Qurnah, where it had been opposed since January by a Turkish force of some six battalions with 10 guns and the usual following of Arab tribesmen, which had descended the Tigris from Amarah.

By the defeat of the Turks at Barjisiyah (20 miles south-west of Basrah) on 14th April the hostile forces in the vicinity of Basrah had been dispersed and driven to Nasiriyah, enabling me to take active measures against