



THIRD SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE, 1916.

War Office,

21st June, 1916.

The following despatches have been received by the Secretary of State for War from General Sir John Maxwell, K.C.B., on military operations in the Egyptian Command:—

DESPATCH No. I.

From Lieut.-General Sir J. G. Maxwell, K.C.B., C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding the Force in Egypt.

Army Headquarters, Cairo,

16th February, 1915.

Sir,—

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Secretary of State for War the accompanying report from Major-General A. Wilson, C.B., Commanding the Suez Canal Defences, who has conducted the operations to my complete satisfaction. He has been ably assisted by Brigadier-General A. H. Bingley, C.I.E.

I fully endorse what General Wilson says of the conduct of the regimental officers and men, both British and Indian.

The French Hydroplane Squadron and the

detachment Royal Flying Corps have rendered very valuable services. The former, equipped with hydroplanes with floats, ran great risks in undertaking land reconnaissance, whilst the latter were much handicapped by inferior types of machines. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, they furnished me regularly with all information regarding the movements of the enemy.

I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Secretary of State for War the great services rendered by the Count de Serionne and the officials of the Suez Canal Company; they have one and all been most helpful, and have unreservedly placed their own personal services and the entire resources of the Suez Canal Company at my disposal. The success of our defence was greatly assisted by their cordial co-operation.

Also Sir George Macauley, K.C.M.G., Major Blakeney and Captain Hall, of the Egyptian State Railways. In addition to building two excellent armoured trains, these officers worked most assiduously in organizing and superintending the railway arrangements, both along the Canal and in the transportation of reinforcements from Cairo. No difficulties of any sort were made, and such difficulties as existed were speedily overcome, and I

cannot sufficiently express my obligation to them.

Also Major Liddell, late Royal Engineers, Director of Telegraphs under the Egyptian Government. This official was largely responsible for the excellent system of inter-communication which prevailed throughout the Canal Defences.

It is needless for me to add that from Admiral Peirse and the ships of His Majesty's Navy, as well as those of France under his command, most important and valuable assistance was received.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. MAXWELL, Lieut.-General,
Commanding the Force in Egypt.

Headquarters, Canal Defences, to the General Staff, Headquarters, Cairo.

Ismailia,

11th February, 1915.

Sir,—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the recent attack on the Suez Canal. In order to make the narrative complete, I will preface it with a brief account of what has taken place since I took over command of the Canal Defences.

2. I landed at Suez on the 16th November, 1914, and went to Ismailia the same day, having been preceded ten days before by Brigadier-General A. H. Bingley, my Chief Staff Officer, who was sent from India in advance of the troops to make preliminary arrangements for their landing and despatch to destination. I there took over command of the Canal Defences from Colonel W. G. Walker, Commanding 9th Indian Brigade, which had been detached from the 3rd (Lahore) Division for temporary duty in Egypt.

3. In accordance with the instructions received from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, the Canal Defences were organized in three sections, with headquarters at Suez, Ismailia Ferry, and Kantara, respectively, my own headquarters and the general reserve being placed at Ismailia, with the advanced base at Zagazig and base general hospital at Cairo.

These arrangements were completed by the 5th December, 1914, when the last units of the force arrived from India.

4. Preparations for defence.—The months of November, December and January were devoted to a systematic development of the naturally strong line of defence afforded by the Canal, thus completing the work which had been initiated previous to my arrival. A number of defensive posts were prepared on the east bank, to cover the more important ferries and provide facilities for local counter-attacks. Trenches were dug on the west bank to cover the intervals between posts and frustrate attempts at crossing. Communications were improved by the construction of landing stages and removable pontoon bridges for use at important points. A flotilla of armed launches, manned by the Royal Navy, was organized for canal patrols. A complete system of telegraph, telephone, and wireless

communication was installed, linking up all the posts with headquarters. A system of defence was established for the protection of the railway, the telegraph lines, and the sweet water canal. The detachment of the Royal Flying Corps was organized, staffed with observers, and equipped with accommodation for its planes.

5. The resources of the Suez Canal Company in tugs, launches, lighters, &c., were carefully examined, so as to utilise them for military purposes. Arrangements were made with the Railway Administration for the collecting of rolling stock at convenient places, in order to expedite the dispatch of reinforcements to threatened points. Provision was also made for the organization of the water supply of the troops and the formation of supply depôts, as well as for the rapid collection and evacuation of the sick and wounded. A system of intelligence, censorship and police surveillance was established, and plans were devised, in consultation with the Canal Authorities, for the control of shipping in the event of an attack. Last, but not least, a scheme for making inundations, and so limiting the front over which the enemy could attack, was carried out successfully by the Irrigation Department at Port Said and the engineering staff of the Canal Company at El Cap, Kantara and Ballah.

6. During this period no active operations took place, except a Bedouin raid made by the enemy in the direction of Kantara. A patrol of the Bikanir Camel Corps under Captain A. J. H. Chope, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, consisting of one Indian officer and twenty other ranks, encountered a force of some 200 Bedouins and Turks on the 20th November, 1914, near Bir-el-Nuss, and in spite of the enemy's treacherous attack, due to the abuse of the white flag, extricated itself successfully from a somewhat difficult position. Our patrol, which lost one Indian officer and twelve other ranks killed and three Sepoys wounded, inflicted some sixty casualties on the enemy. For their gallant conduct on this occasion, No. 1534 Sepoy Ali Khan was awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, and No. 115 Sepoy Faiz Ali Khan the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

7. General summary of events.—During the first fortnight in January little direct news of the enemy's advance was forthcoming, though reports of considerable preparations in Syria were constant, and information was received to the effect that advanced posts and depôts had been formed at Khan Yunis, El Arish, El Auja, and Kosseima. The country to the east of the Canal within the radius of our aeroplane reconnaissances remained clear of formed bodies of hostile troops, though frequently visited by Bedouin patrols which, in some cases, were accompanied by German officers in Arab dress. About 15th January, however, it became clear that hostile forces of some strength had entered Sinai, and on the 20th the Canal Defence troops were reinforced from Cairo by the 1st and 3rd Brigades R.F.A., East Lancashire Division, T.F., which proceeded at once to previously prepared positions.

8. On 18th January a hostile force of 8,000—10,000 was located near Bir-es-Saba by a French naval hydro-aeroplane, and on 22nd a Turkish force was reported to be at Moiya, Harab, having arrived there from Gifgaffa. This was confirmed by aerial reconnaissance the

next day, and about the same time reports of the presence of hostile troops at Ain Sadr were received, and our mounted troops obtained touch with hostile patrols near Bir-el-Duedar.

9. On the 22nd small detachments were told off from the reserves to hold lightly the trenches prepared along the west bank. On the 26th forces of some 2,000—3,000 men each were located at Bir Mabeuik, Muiya Harab, and Wadi Muksheib, and the enemy advanced and engaged our covering troops near Kantara, retiring at 3.30 p.m. On the same day two battalions 32nd Brigade (33rd Punjabis and 4th Gwálor Infantry) were sent to hold the trenches along the west bank from Bench Mark post to Ballah, while G.O.C.'s of sections reinforced the west bank trenches in their sections from local reserves. The New Zealand Infantry Brigade arrived from Cairo, the Otago and Wellington battalions proceeding to reinforce Kubri, while Headquarters and the Auckland and Canterbury battalions detrained at Ismailia. H.M.S. "Swiftsure," "Clio," "Ocean," and "Minerva" entered the canal, taking station near Kantara, Ballah, El Shatt, and Shalouf respectively.

10. During the 27th and 28th the enemy was further reinforced, and established himself in an entrenched position about five miles east of Kantara, astride the El Arish road. On the morning of the 27th attacks on the Baluchistan and El Kubri posts in No. 1 Section were made at about 3 a.m. Both were beaten off without loss. On the morning of the 28th the outposts at Kantara were attacked, and the enemy was driven off with little difficulty. One battalion from 31st Brigade (2nd Rajputs) was sent to reinforce Serapeum.

11. From the 29th-31st the enemy closed towards the Canal, the largest concentration appearing in the vicinity of Gebel Habeita. The 5th Battery, Egyptian Artillery, was sent to Toussoum.

12. On the 1st February an advance from the north-east towards the Ismailia Ferry post was detected, and that post, as well as Bench Mark post, was reinforced under the orders of the General Officer Commanding No. 2 Section. On the 2nd February our advanced troops from Ismailia Ferry encountered the enemy at some distance from the post, and a desultory action ensued. This was broken off at 3.30 p.m., and the enemy then entrenched himself about 2½ miles south-east of our defences. In the course of the day considerable bodies of troops were also seen on the move in front of El Ferdan, Bench Mark, Toussoum and Serapeum. During the night of the 2nd-3rd some firing at El Kubri took place, but nothing further of note occurred in No. 1 Section.

13. At about 3.30 a.m. on the 3rd a determined attempt was made to effect a crossing some 2,000 yards south of Toussoum. The enemy brought up a number of pontoons and rafts, several of which they succeeded in launching, while two, if not more, actually crossed the Canal. This attack was covered by heavy rifle and machine-gun fire from the east bank. It was met by parties of the 62nd Punjabis under Major Skeen and Captain Morgan, as well as by fire from the 5th Battery, Egyptian Artillery. Several pontoons were sunk, and all the men who crossed were disposed of, except twenty, who hid under the west bank and surrendered to the 2nd Rajputs next morning.

14. At daylight the enemy were found to

have closed on the Toussoum post, and a counter-attack pushed forward from Serapeum encountered a large force about half a mile from camp. The enemy's attack was not pushed closer than three-quarters of a mile from our position, and they retired about 2 p.m. after shelling our positions intermittently up to that time. Seven officers and 280 men were taken prisoners opposite Toussoum during the course of the fight. A large number of the enemy's dead were found outside Toussoum post and along the east bank of the Canal.

15. At 4.30 p.m. two battalions 31st Brigade (27th Punjabis and 128th Pioneers) arrived at Serapeum, and Major-General A. Wallace, Commanding 11th Division, took over command of the Section from the Great Bitter Lake to Lake Timsah. During the morning H.M.S. "Hardinge" was struck by two 6-inch shells, her funnel being split and forward steering gear disabled. She moved into Lake Timsah, and later in the day to Kantara, her place being taken by H.M.S. "Swiftsure." H.M.S. "Ocean" also moved up into this section of the defence. At Ismailia Ferry post the enemy were found at daylight to be entrenching some 700-800 yards from the defences, and two hostile batteries opened fire shortly afterwards. The infantry attack was not pushed home, and no casualties occurred, though many shells burst in the camp and in the vicinity of the town. Shipping detained in Lake Timsah was under fire and suffered slight damage, but no loss of life.

16. Circumstances were similar at El Ferdan, where a considerable number of shells were fired, chiefly at the Canal Gare and railway station, both of which were damaged. No casualties occurred.

17. At Kantara the outposts were attacked between 5 and 6 a.m., the enemy being driven off, leaving many killed and wounded and unwounded prisoners. Later in the day a partial attack from the south-east was stopped some 1,200 yards from the position.

18. During the day H.M.S. "Swiftsure," "Clio," "Hardinge," and the French ships "Requin" and "D'Entrecasteaux" were engaged, as were also the torpedo boats and armed launches, all rendering valuable services. The bulk of the fighting fell to the 22nd and 29th Infantry Brigades, but the 28th, as well as portions of the 31st, 32nd, and New Zealand Infantry Brigades, the Artillery and Engineers of the Lancashire Division, T.F., and No. 3 Field Company Australian Engineers, were also engaged. Very efficient service was rendered by the detachment Royal Flying Corps, several reconnaissances over the enemy's lines being undertaken during the day.

19. The enemy engaged at different points along the Canal on the 3rd appeared to number some 12,000 to 15,000 men in the aggregate, and six batteries, with at least one 6-inch gun, were located. It appears from accounts received from prisoners that the attacking force consisted of the VIIIth and portions of the IIIrd, IVth, and VIth Turkish Army Corps, and that Djemal Pasha was in chief command. The enemy's plan contemplated simultaneous attacks on Kantara, Ferdan, Ismailia, Shalouf, and Suez, coupled with the main effort to cross the Canal near Toussoum. At the first three of the above-mentioned places their efforts were only half-hearted, while at

Shalouf and Suez no attacks materialised, though forces are known to have been in the vicinity of those places.

Headquarters, with the 7th and 8th Battalions, 2nd Brigade, 1st Australian Imperial Force, arrived at Ismailia during the evening of the 3rd February.

20. On the 4th February, as some firing had taken place from the east bank during the night, two companies of the 92nd Punjabis were sent out at 8 a.m. to clear that bank, and located a body of some 200 to 250 men still entrenched there. On the approach of this detachment the enemy made signs of surrender, but subsequently reopened fire. Supports of one double company each of the 27th and 67th Punjabis and 128th Pioneers were despatched under the command of Major Mac-lachlan, 92nd Punjabis, who concentrated his men, opened a heavy fire, and then charged. This time the enemy threw away their rifles and surrendered, six officers, 251 men, and three machine guns being captured; 59 men, including a German officer (Major von den Hagen), were found killed at this point.

21. The trenches in front of Ismailia and Kantara were found to have been deserted, and the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, supported by infantry, moved out from the Ismailia Ferry post. A large body of enemy, estimated at three to four brigades, were encountered seven miles east of Toussoum, and another body some miles to the north. Twenty-five prisoners and ninety camels were captured. No other incident occurred along the front.

Reinforcements, consisting of the Herts Yeomanry, 2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons), and one squadron Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, arrived at Ismailia the same evening.

22. On the 5th instant our aeroplanes reported that the enemy were retiring towards Katia, while those who had been in front of No. 2 Section appeared to have concentrated about Gebel Habeita. Mabeuik was still occupied, and a reconnaissance from No. 1 Section encountered some of the enemy's infantry near Gebel Murr during the day. There was no change during the 6th, the enemy being still in strength near Gebel Habeita. A reconnaissance by a mixed force, which had been contemplated this day, was cancelled owing to information gathered from prisoners to the effect that considerable reinforcements of the enemy were expected and might be at hand about this time. On the 7th, however, our aeroplanes found this camp deserted. Mabeuik was also found to have been vacated, and the nearest enemy on the northern line appeared at Bir-El-Abd. On the 9th the only enemy located were in camps at El Rigum, Wadi Muksheib, and Moiya Harab. On the 10th instant only some 400 men were left at Rigum camp, and these appeared to be moving eastwards.

23. The actions at Toussoum and Kantara.—I will now supplement the general summary of events given in the foregoing paragraphs with a more detailed account of the fighting that took place at Toussoum on 3rd February, and at Kantara on 28th January and 3rd February.

24. The troops in the Toussoum—Serapeum—Deversoir portion of No. 2 Section on the morning of 3rd February were as follows:—

The 19th Lancashire Battery, R.F.A.,

T.F. (four guns), commanded by Major B. Palin Dobson.

The 5th Battery, Egyptian Artillery (four mountain guns and two maxims), commanded by Major I. D'E. Roberts, R.A.

1st Field Company, East Lancashire Royal Engineers, T.F. (two sections), under Captain J. G. Riddick.

Canterbury Battalion, New Zealand Infantry (two platoons), under Major C. B. Brereton.

2nd Queen Victoria's Own Rajputs, under Lieut.-Colonel F. P. S. Dunsford.

62nd Punjabis, under Lieut.-Colonel E. W. Grimshaw.

92nd Punjabis, under Major T. R. Mac-lachlan.

2/10th Gurkha Rifles, under Lieut.-Colonel F. G. H. Sutton.

128th Pioneers (two platoons, acting as escort to 5th Battery, Egyptian Artillery), under Lieutenant R. A. Fitzgibbon.

137th Field Ambulance, under Major R. W. Knox, I.M.S.

25. These troops were disposed as follows:—

(a) On the east bank, in the posts of Toussoum, Serapeum, and Deversoir, a half battalion in each, furnished by the 92nd, 62nd, and 2/10th Gurkha Rifles, respectively.

(b) On the west bank, from the entrance to Lake Timsah to Deversoir inclusive, 12 posts, each held by two platoons. Each platoon was allotted some 600 yards of front and found three sentry groups, about 200 yards apart.

(c) In reserve at Serapeum, three double companies.

26. At about 3.25 a.m. on 3rd instant, the enemy were seen on the east bank near mile 47'4. As the firing was heavy, a double company of the 62nd Punjabis was sent from the reserve to support this point, and this double company was subsequently reinforced by six platoons of the 2nd Rajputs.

27. The enemy made three distinct attempts to cross the Canal at points between miles 47'4 and 48'4. One boatload of the enemy landed opposite mile 48'3, and were charged by a small party under Major O. St. J. Skeen, 62nd Punjabis. All were killed or wounded. Two more boatloads landed opposite mile 47'6, and these were promptly attacked by Captain M. H. L. Morgan, 62nd Punjabis, who was wounded. Six Turks were killed and four captured at this point, and some 20 who got away and hid themselves under the west bank were captured later by a party of the 2nd Rajputs.

28. At 8.40 a.m. Colonel S. Geoghegan, commanding 22nd Brigade, after a personal reconnaissance of the enemy's positions, sent a detachment consisting of four double companies drawn from the 2nd Rajputs and the 2/10th Gurkha Rifles to clear the east bank. As this counter-attack developed, the enemy fled in large numbers from the broken ground whence they had made their attempt to cross. Meanwhile the enemy, from their camp at Kateid El Khel, deployed a force estimated at two brigades with at least six guns, and formed a line about two miles north-east of Serapeum, and facing that post. Our troops, delivering a counter-attack, now occupied a ridge about half a mile north-east of Serapeum, and formed a line facing the enemy with their left flank drawn back to the Canal. They consisted of two

double companies 92nd Punjabis facing north-east, two platoons 2nd Rajputs facing north, with six platoons 2/10th Gurkha Rifles in support. The whole was under command of Lieut.-Col. F. G. H. Sutton, 2/10th Gurkha Rifles.

29. The advance northward on the east bank of the two platoons, 2nd Rajputs, was checked short of the broken ground by fire from the enemy posted there, aided by the fire of small parties which were still hidden at the foot of the west bank. It was here that Captain R. T. Arundell was killed while gallantly leading his men.

30. While this attack was in progress, the Commander of H.M. T.B. No. 043, Lieutenant-Commander G. B. Palmes, R.N., was asked by Colonel Geoghegan to destroy the enemy's pontoons which were lying on the east bank. Those on shore were destroyed by shell fire, and a party then landed from the boat to see whether there were any others lying behind the bank. The leading party found themselves in front of a trench full of the enemy, and on getting back to their boat Lieutenant-Commander G. B. Palmes, R.N., and Sub-Lieutenant C. V. Cardinall, R.N.V.R., were wounded.

31. The enemy's main attack from the north-east did not get within 1,200 yards of our line. They, however, shelled our positions on the west bank intermittently until about 2 p.m., when their main body retired eastwards, and our forces withdrew to the positions held in the morning. A small party of the enemy reached the ridge which we had vacated, but they were shelled off it by our artillery, and soon disappeared.

32. In the attack on the Toussoum post, about 350 of the enemy managed to establish themselves during the night in some of the outer trenches which are only occupied by the garrison by day. A number of this party were killed as soon as it was light by the fire of our machine guns, and the remainder were either driven out or killed, and some 80 prisoners captured by a local counter-attack which was skilfully led by Lieutenant J. W. Thomson-Glover, 92nd Punjabis. Seven Turkish officers and 280 other ranks, with much material, were taken on this occasion.

33. At 4.30 p.m. reinforcements from the 31st Infantry Brigade began to arrive at Serapeum, and in the course of the evening four double companies were placed in support at various points on the west bank, and the garrison of the Serapeum post was strengthened.

The armed launches commanded by Lieutenants W. H. B. Livesay and E. H. Daughlish, R.I.M., rendered valuable service in this section during the day, and were frequently under fire of the enemy's snipers.

34. On the morning of the 4th instant, as there was no sign of the enemy's main body to the east, and as the armed launch "Mansura" had been fired upon on the previous evening and some sniping had taken place during the night from the east bank, Major-General A. Wallace, who had taken over command at Serapeum from Colonel S. Geoghegan, ordered two double companies of the 92nd Punjabis to move north along the east bank of the Canal to examine this locality. This party, which was commanded by Captain L. F. A. Cochran, got to the south edge of this area, which they found to be held by the enemy, and then ex-

tended round to the east and north-east to round the latter up. The enemy held up a white flag and made signs of surrender, whereupon Captain Cochran and some of his party advanced towards them. After three Turks had surrendered, fire was re-opened by the enemy, and our troops had to fall back. Major-General Wallace then ordered out reinforcements, consisting of one double company each of the 27th and 62nd Punjabis and the 128th Pioneers, the whole under Major T. R. MacLachlan, 92nd Punjabis. The latter collected his men and charged, and the enemy immediately threw down their arms. The prisoners taken here numbered six officers and 251 men, of whom 52 were seriously wounded. The enemy's killed numbered 59, and among them was a German officer, Major von den Hagen. Three machine guns were captured, as well as a quantity of miscellaneous stores. It was in this second attack that Captain Cochran was killed.

35. Turning from events at Toussoum to those at Kantara, the only engagements that need be referred to are the attacks made by the enemy on our outposts on the 28th January and 3rd February. In the attack of the 28th January, the enemy advanced along the telegraph line on one of our piquets, consisting of a detachment of the 14th Sikhs under Captain Channer, which they attacked about 2.45 a.m. The action continued for about half an hour, and the enemy attempted to advance, but was unable to do so. Firing gradually ceased, and by daylight the enemy had withdrawn gradually to Point 70 on the Kantara—El Arish road, from which they were driven out by five rounds of lyddite shell fired by H.M.S. "Swiftsure."

36. The attack of the 3rd February was conducted on much the same lines, and was directed on two of our piquets furnished by the 89th Punjabis. The enemy's advance was stopped without difficulty, and at daylight 36 unwounded prisoners were found in our entanglements. The enemy left 20 dead on the ground, but their casualties were very much heavier, as they removed many of their killed and wounded.

37. As the events described may represent but the opening phase of the campaign, I do not propose, at this stage, to mention the staff and departmental officers who have rendered specially good service. I, however, submit the names of the following regimental officers whose conduct is deserving of notice:—

19th Lancashire Battery, R.F.A. (T.F.).—This battery rendered excellent service, and was well commanded by Major B. Palin Dobson. He was ably seconded by Captain P. K. Clapham.

5th Battery Artillery, Egyptian Army.—This battery took a prominent part in defeating the attempts of the enemy to cross the Canal, and its fire sank two or more pontoons. It was skilfully commanded by Bimbashi (Major) I. D'E. Roberts, R.A. Mulazim Awal Effendi Helmi, who was killed, showed conspicuous gallantry, and fought his gun under a heavy fire at short range. He would have been recommended for reward had he survived.

Imperial Service Troops.—Major A. K. Rawlins, 24th Punjabis, and Captain G. C. W. Willis, 31st Lancers, Special Service Officers, have displayed energy and enterprise, their

reconnaissance work being particularly valuable.

2nd Queen Victoria's Own Rajputs.—Captain R. T. Arundell led his double company with great gallantry in the counter-attack on the 3rd February, in which engagement he was killed.

Jemadar Partab Singh proved himself a cool and capable leader in trying circumstances. Jemadar Assa Singh held an exposed position throughout the day, and the skill with which he controlled and directed a covering fire proved of great assistance to troops crossing gullies where they were exposed to the enemy's fire.

62nd Punjabis. Major O. St. J. Skeen displayed great promptitude and courage in charging the enemy when disembarking from their pontoons on the 3rd February. His skilful leading in the attack of the 4th February was instrumental in causing the surrender of the enemy, upon whose trenches he brought to bear an effective enfilading fire.

Captain M. H. L. Morgan, by his exertions and example, frustrated a very determined attempt of the enemy to effect a landing. Though wounded early on the 3rd, he continued in command of his double company throughout the day.

Subadar Kalu Khan and Jemadar Sher Zaman Khan supported Major Skeen very pluckily on the 3rd, and Jemadar Sher Zaman Khan again distinguished himself in the action of the 4th February.

92nd Punjabis.—Major T. R. Maclachlan commanded the garrison of the Toussoum post with great ability on the 3rd February, and showed resourcefulness and capacity for command in the final stage of the fight on the 4th.

Captain W. H. Hastings, as machine-gun officer at Toussoum, rendered valuable service in stopping the enemy's attempts to bring boats on to the Canal and in preventing the retreat of the enemy when they were turned out of the trenches which they had occupied.

Lieutenant J. W. Thomson-Glover, 35th Sikhs (attached 92nd Punjabis), led the counter-attack at Toussoum very gallantly.

Lieutenant H. Greene took over the command of Captain Cochran's double company after the latter was killed, and handled it very well.

Subadar Major Farman Ali led his men very gallantly and ably assisted Lieutenant Thomson-Glover.

128th Pioneers.—Lieutenant R. A. Fitzgibbon behaved with conspicuous gallantry. When severely wounded he ran a considerable distance under fire with a message to the 5th Egyptian Battery. He has since died of his wounds.

2nd Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles.—Captain H. E. Weekes led his double company skilfully and displayed promptitude and initiative in supporting the double company of the 2nd Rajputs after Captain Arundell had been killed.

137th Field Ambulance.—Major R. M. Knox, I.M.S., and his officers were energetic and expeditious in the disposal of the large number of wounded on their hands.

38. I submit a list of the non-commissioned officers and men whose names have been brought to notice for gallant conduct, with particulars of the services they have rendered.

39. All the units engaged proved cool under fire and did their duty in a highly satisfactory

manner, the conduct of officers and men being all that could be desired.

40. In conclusion I desire to express my high appreciation of the valuable work done by the pilots and observers of the French hydro-aeroplane squadron and the detachment Royal Flying Corps in the numerous reconnaissances carried out by them previous to and during the advance of the enemy. They were constantly under shrapnel and rifle fire and carried out their difficult and dangerous duties with courage, resourcefulness and success.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. WILSON, Major-General.

Non-Commissioned Officers and Men who took part in the Action at Toussoum, Kantara, and Ismailia Ferry, whose Services have been brought to Notice:—

No. 1397. Havildar Hira Singh, 2nd Rajputs. Showed great coolness, and volunteered for several missions which entailed his coming under a heavy fire.

No. 2393. Lance Naick Badan Singh, 2nd Rajputs. Showed great coolness as No. 1 of his Maxim gun detachment when under fire from hostile machine guns which could not be located.

No. 284. Havildar Muhammad Khan, 62nd Punjabis. Showed exceptional pluck under fire.

No. 279. Naick Safdar Ali, 62nd Punjabis. Commended for bravery in action (killed).

No. 1878. Sepoy Sher Khan, 62nd Punjabis. Commended for bravery in action (seriously wounded).

No. 1675. Sepoy Amir Khan, 62nd Punjabis. Commended for bravery in action.

No. 1618. Lance Naick Muhammad Khan, 62nd Punjabis. Showed exceptional pluck under fire.

No. 1686. Sepoy Bahadur Ali, 62nd Punjabis. Showed exceptional pluck under fire.

No. 2131. Sepoy Dasunda Singh, 89th Punjabis. Brought up ammunition under heavy fire nine times, and each time carried a killed or wounded man back to the dressing station some 800 yards in rear.

No. 2121. Sepoy Pala Singh, 89th Punjabis. Brought up ammunition to the firing line several times under a heavy fire.

No. 1343. Sepoy Mehr Singh, 89th Punjabis. Brought up ammunition to the firing line several times under a heavy fire.

No. 897. Sepoy Mithan Singh, 92nd Punjabis. Carried messages under a hot fire during the action at Toussoum and Serapeum.

No. 1753. Havildar Muhammad Azim, 92nd Punjabis. Was wounded in the side at Serapeum, but nevertheless remained in action encouraging his men, who had a short time previously been treacherously fired upon by the enemy, who had made sign of surrender. He was present when the enemy surrendered, and marched back to camp with the Guard on Prisoners, refusing any attention to his wound until he got in.

No. 805. Rifleman Joglal Rai, 2/10th Gurkha Rifles. Very pluckily carried a written message about 100 yards under a heavy fire, and was wounded while doing so.

No. 2062. Driver Abdulla, 33rd Mule Corps. Carried a box of ammunition into the firing line, and walked up and down the latter, under fire, distributing ammunition.

DESPATCH No. II.

Army Headquarters, Cairo,
19th August, 1915.

Sir,—

I have the honour to forward the accompanying despatch of Major-General A. Wilson, C.B., Commanding the Suez Canal Defences.

The troops under General Wilson's command have been on service for over eight months, and though the actual fighting they have experienced has not been severe, yet their work has been heavy and monotonous owing to the large amount of patrolling necessitated by the enemy's attempts at minelaying and to cross the Canal.

Owing to the withdrawal of troops to other theatres of war, and to sickness incidental to the hot season, this patrolling has become very arduous, especially at night.

The list of recommendations for rewards in which I concur and forward is not, I submit, excessive, having regard to the strength of the force, which rose in February and March to 30,000 men.

A considerable number of the officers mentioned are now serving either in the Dardanelles, Aden or France, some have been killed and many wounded, but, none the less, I feel it my duty to mention their services in Egypt.

It will be seen that a good many recommendations on behalf of the administrative staff have been made, especially the Medical Branch, but as Egypt has developed into an Intermediate Base and Clearing Station for the Indian Forces serving in France and in the Mediterranean, the work and responsibilities of the administrative staff and services have greatly increased, and are consequently specially deserving of consideration.

In conclusion I would like very specially to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for War the eminent services of Major-General A. Wilson, C.B., who has commanded the Canal defences with ability, tact, and resource since the 16th November, 1914.

I have, &c.,

J. G. MAXWELL, Lieut.-General,
Commanding the Force in Egypt.

From the General Officer Commanding,
Canal Defences, to The General Staff, Army
Headquarters, Cairo.

Headquarters, Canal Defences,
Ismailia,

1st August, 1915.

Sir,—

On the 11th February, 1915, I submitted a report on the operations which took place early in the month in the Canal zone, and also a brief *resumé* of events since I assumed command of the Canal Defences on 16th November, 1914.

At the time this report was made it appeared from information at our disposal that the operations under reference might only be a preliminary to further hostilities, and that a more determined attack on the Canal would be undertaken in the near future. These anticipations have, however, not been realised, and though the enemy has continued to hold the Sinai Peninsula in some strength and has undertaken several minor enterprises, with a view to causing damage to the Canal and the shipping using it, no further advance in force

has taken place. This result may be attributed to the fact that the losses suffered by the enemy in the attack on the Canal were, according to subsequent reports from Turkish sources, heavier than had been originally estimated, while the demoralisation of the force, consequent on its retreat across the desert, necessitated a considerable pause for reorganization.

2. Now that the hot season is well established, and also as considerable forces of the enemy have been withdrawn to other theatres of operations, it is probable that the existing state of affairs will continue for some months: I therefore consider it a suitable opportunity to forward a narrative of events subsequent to my last report, and also to submit the names of officers whose services during the past eight months are, in my opinion, worthy of mention:

3. My last report dealt with the operations in the vicinity of the Canal up to 10th February, 1915, by which date hostilities in its immediate neighbourhood had ceased for the time being.

On the 12th February, in accordance with instructions from Army Headquarters, a $\frac{1}{2}$ -battalion 2/7th Gurkha Rifles, under Lieut.-Colonel Haldane, embarked at Suez on board H.M.S. "Minerva" to proceed to Tor, with a view to dispersing a force which had been threatening that place for some time past. This force landed at Tor during the night of the 12th/13th, and, in conjunction with 150 men of the 2nd Egyptian Battalion, which had been in garrison at Tor, attacked the enemy at dawn on the 13th. The attack was completely successful, the enemy losing some 60 killed and 102 prisoners; our losses were 1 killed and 1 wounded. Since this occasion no further forces of the enemy have appeared near Tor.

4. For the remainder of February and till the 22nd March no incident of note took place. The Imperial Yeomanry Brigade, as well as the Australian and New Zealand Infantry, who had reinforced the troops on the Canal, returned to Cairo.

Several reconnaissances, principally to Abu Zenima (by sea), El Haitan, Wadi Muksheib, Moiya Harab and Katia, were pushed out, but no enemy encountered.

From information received from agents and through aerial reconnaissances, it appeared that during this month the Turks had concentrated mainly at El Arish and Nekhl, while considerable bodies of the beaten troops were withdrawn to Syria, being, it was rumoured, replaced by fresh formations from the north.

5. On 22nd March an infantry patrol moving from Kubri Post encountered a force of some 400 men north-east of that post at dawn. The enemy withdrew on being engaged by troops from the nearest posts, and a subsequent aerial reconnaissance discovered a force of some 800 infantry and 200 mounted men with guns about 10 miles east of the Canal.

From the report furnished it appeared that the Turks were entrenching and intended to stay, and, consequently, orders were issued for a column, consisting of 2 squadrons Hyderabad Lancers, 1/5th Lancashire Battery R.F.A. (T.F.), detachment Bikanir Camel Corps, 51st and 53rd Sikhs, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -battalion 1/5th Gurkhas, to move out next day to engage and drive off the enemy.

This column, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Boisragon, V.C., moved out from Kubri at daylight (23rd), and attacked the

enemy in an entrenched position some 10 miles east of the Canal. After some resistance the enemy fled hastily, leaving behind a quantity of equipment and rifle ammunition, the heavy going across the sandhills preventing our cavalry from cutting off their retreat. Our casualties on 22nd and 23rd were 5 killed and 19 wounded (Indian ranks). The enemy's losses were estimated at about 50.

6. The only other incident of note during the course of the month was the departure of the 30th Brigade for the Persian Gulf on 23rd. Its place in No. 1 Section was taken by the 28th (F.F.) Brigade, which in turn was relieved by the 31st Brigade from the reserve. Towards the end of the month reports were received of a considerable concentration of the enemy near Es Sirr, some 80 miles due east of Ballah. These reports were verified later by aeroplane observation, which estimated the hostile force as some 4,000, with guns.

7. On the 7th April our mounted patrols from Kantara encountered a hostile force, estimated at 1,200 men, which withdrew after shots had been exchanged. On the same day an aerial reconnaissance reported considerably fewer numbers retiring through Dueidar. The Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade was moved up to Kantara the same day, and on the 8th moved out in conjunction with part of the Kantara garrison. No enemy was encountered and the cavalry moved back to Ismailia, reconnoitring the country for some distance east of the Canal. On the 8th April, owing to suspicious tracks having been noticed on the east bank of the Canal between El Kap and Kantara, the Canal was dragged and a mine discovered and destroyed. The mine had evidently been placed in the Canal under cover of the demonstration of the previous day. Owing to this occurrence it became necessary greatly to increase our patrols. Intermediate night piquets were established between Posts and a system of hourly patrols along the east bank instituted. Arrangements were made for a thorough search of the Canal bank at daylight every morning, and Officers Commanding Posts were authorized to stop shipping in case of any suspicious circumstances being detected.

8. On the 28th April a reconnaissance of 90 rifles, Bikanir Camel Corps, encountered a hostile force estimated at some 200 men, with guns, about 12 miles due east of Ismailia Ferry Post. After a short skirmish the patrol withdrew to the Ferry Post with the loss of 3 killed, 4 wounded, and 2 missing; the enemy did not follow up their retirement. Later in the day an aerial reconnaissance located a body of the enemy in bivouac near El Hawawish, and the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (eight squadrons), supported by half-battalion 27th Punjabis and one section Egyptian Artillery, crossed the Canal after dark with a view to engaging the enemy at his camp next morning; or, should he have moved towards the Canal during the night, to cut off his retreat. During the night 28th/29th a hostile party, evidently from Hawawish, opened fire on a dredger in the Canal north of Bench Mark Post, but retired when engaged by one of our piquets. At daylight on 29th an aeroplane found Hawawish evacuated, but later on located the hostile force moving into Mahadat from the south-west, and the cavalry were directed on that place. Our column, however, only succeeded in engaging the rearguard at about 2 p.m.,

by which time the enemy had left Mahadat and was moving on Bada. The pursuit was carried on for three to four miles, but the great exhaustion of men and horses, owing to the heat and heavy going through the sandhills, prevented it from being carried further.

Our losses were one British, one Indian officer, and one sowar killed; one British officer and seven rank and file wounded. The enemy's losses in killed were about 20, and 13 prisoners were taken. The column returned to Ismailia early on the 30th.

9. On 7th April, the 7th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade left the Canal Defences to join the Mediterranean Force, and on 26th the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade left for the same destination, being replaced in No. III Section by the East Lancashire Brigade (Territorial Force).

10. On 1st May a half battalion 56th Rifles were despatched from Suez to Abu Zenima owing to rumours of an attack on the Egyptian garrison of that place. This detachment returned on 3rd, no enemy having appeared in the vicinity. On several occasions during the month hostile patrols were located at some distance from the Canal, but these all retired eastwards as soon as forces moved against them. On the 29th a small party reached the shore of the Little Bitter Lake, and, wading out, boarded a Suez Canal pile driver, destroying one small boat and taking prisoner an Italian employee of the company. Pursuit was undertaken from the nearest Post as soon as the occurrence was reported, but without result.

On the night of the 30th/31st a party of Turks was detected trying to approach the Canal between El Ferdan and Ballah. On being fired on they retired, leaving behind a mine, which was discovered and brought in next morning. The next night the party returned with the evident intention of recovering the mine, but hastily retired on being fired on by a piquet which had been left near the spot to deal with any such attempt.

On the night of the 2nd/3rd June, parties of the enemy opened fire on the Posts of Kantara and El Ferdan, but withdrew hastily when engaged. Small columns from the above Posts moved out in pursuit, but were unable to come up with the raiders, who appeared to be all mounted men. One Turkish officer was taken prisoner.

11. Several changes in the garrisons of the Canal Defences took place during the month of May. Early in the month the Artillery and Engineers, as well as the East Lancashire Brigade of the Lancashire Division (T.F.), left to join the Mediterranean Force; the 4th Mounted Brigade and Divisional Artillery, 2nd Mounted Division, arriving in replacement. On the 29th May orders were received for the 1/5th and 2/10th Gurkha Rifles to reinforce the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade with the Mediterranean Force, and these battalions left on the 31st May and 1st June respectively.

Consequent on the above changes and reductions certain modifications in organisation became necessary, and were carried into effect during the month. It was decided to abolish the divisional organisation of the 10th and 11th Divisions and to include the whole of the forces in the Canal zone in one command with a Headquarter Staff approximating to that of a division. These changes were brought into effect from the 1st June.

12. During the month of June there was little change in the situation.

Early in the month the 9th Bhopal Infantry and 125th Rifles arrived from France and were taken on the strength of the Canal Defence Force in replacement of the 1/5th and 2/10th Gurkha Rifles.

On the 11th and 12th five Turkish deserters arrived at El Shâtt saying that they had deserted from a force of some 300 men who had reached the vicinity of Mabeiuk with a view to attacking the Canal. A column was at once organised at Kubri to deal with the threat, but nothing materialised, the enemy withdrawing to Nekhl.

A party of somewhat similar strength was located by an aeroplane near Katia about the middle of the month, but retired on El Arish without undertaking any offensive.

On the 30th of the month the British s.s. "Teresias" struck a mine laid in the Naval Section of the Canal Defences, near the South end of the Little Bitter Lake. From investigations it appeared that a party had reached the East bank of the lake, waded out to the main channel, and succeeded in evading the naval launches which patrol this section and in placing a mine. Thanks to the skilful handling of the ship and the prompt action of the Canal Company's officials, the accident only blocked the Canal for 14 hours, and the ship, though seriously damaged, has since been towed into Alexandria for repair.

13. During July nothing of any note occurred. On two occasions, owing to the reported presence of Turkish patrols in the neighbourhood of Katia, a small column was moved out from No. III Section to engage or cut them off should they approach the Canal; but on each occasion the hostile party retired without touch having been obtained. The extreme heat in the desert made military operations very difficult, and practically confined all movements to the night time.

On the 8th July orders were received for two batteries R.H.A. (T.F.) and one infantry brigade to proceed urgently to Aden, and accordingly "B" Battery, H.A.C., the Berkshire Battery, R.H.A. (T.F.), and the 28th (T.F.) Brigade (51st, 53rd Sikhs, 56th Rifles and 62nd Punjabis) left Suez on the 12th and following days.

The Artillery were replaced by the 1/15th and 1/17th Batteries, E. Lancs. R.F.A. (T.F.), while the Derbyshire Yeomanry (dis-mounted) were also sent to the Canal Zone.

14. From the foregoing it will be seen that no fighting of any importance has taken place during the past six months, and it appears evident that, owing to the lack of water, climatic conditions and inability to prosecute campaigns on so many fronts, the Turks will be unable to undertake serious operations in this region till the cold weather arrives and a considerable change in the strategical situation takes place.

At the same time there is no doubt of their intention to detain as many of our troops as possible on the defence of the Canal by attempts to endanger navigation, and, if possible, to block the Canal by sinking a ship in the fairway. Consequently the chief danger that has had to be guarded against, since the main attack in February, has been that of minelaying in the Canal; and, to meet this danger, it has been necessary to employ a large number of men on night patrol duty, especially

along the east bank. Up to date, however, except during the actual attack, traffic has continued practically as in times of peace.

15. During the period under review the morale and, with certain exceptions, the health of the troops has been well maintained. During March an outbreak of dysentery occurred in one battalion, while one or two others were less seriously affected. A great improvement has, however, taken place lately, and the health of the Force may now be taken as normal for the conditions under which it is serving.

When it became apparent that a large force would have to be kept on the Canal during the hot weather, a scheme for providing shelter against the sun was initiated and efficiently carried out. It has proved of great value, especially in the case of the British mounted troops.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. WILSON, Major-General,
Commanding Canal Defences.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

Abbott, Maj. L. H., 11th Rajputs.
Arthur, Maj. L. F., 26th Cavalry.
Bainbridge, Bt.-Lt.-Col. W. F., C.M.G.,
D.S.O., 51st Sikhs.
Bingley, Maj.-Gen. A. H., C.B., C.I.E., Ind.
Army.
Burden, Lt.-Col. H., F.R.C.S., C.I.E.,
I.M.S.
Bruce, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) M. E. L., Military
Accounts Dept.
Cox, Brig.-Gen. H. V., K.C.M.G., C.B.,
C.S.I., Ind. Army.
Chamier, Capt. (temp. Maj.) J. A., 33rd Pun-
jabis.
Duxbury, Maj. C. D., Supply and Transport
Corps, Ind. Army.
Dickinson, Maj. A. T. S., 51st Sikhs (killed).
Duncan, Maj. H. C., D.S.O., 9th Gurkha Rif.
Graham, Maj. J. D., M.B., I.M.S.
Geoghegan, Lt.-Col. S., C.B., 62nd Punjabis.
Howard, Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. T. N. S. M.,
W. York R.
Hughes, A. J., Esq., Ind. Postal Dept.
Jennings-Bramly, Lt.-Col. A. W., Chief In-
telligence Officer, Egyptian Army.
Jones, Capt. S. W., I.M.S.
Kitson, Comdr. H. K., R.N.
Langhorne, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. A. D.,
R.G.A.
Longhurst, Maj. A. L. 7th Gurkha Rif.
Maxwell, Capt. P. A., 3rd Brahmans.
Moberly, Maj. B. R., D.S.O., 56th Rif.
Macdonald, Comdr. W. B., R.N.
Mason, Maj. H., Inspector, Veterinary Serv.,
Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture.
McMinn, H. C., Esq., Ind. Postal Dept.
Macmullen, Maj. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) C. N.,
D.S.O., 15th Sikhs.
Melliss, Maj.-Gen. C. J., V.C., K.C.B., Ind.
Army.
McKenna, Capt. J. C., 16th Rajputs.
McRae, Capt. H. St. G. M., 45th Sikhs.
Nelson, Capt. C., 3rd Brahmans (killed).
Pulvermann, Lt. A. W., 128th Pioneers, Asst.
Dir. Army Signals.
Pepys, Capt. G. L., D.S.O., 57th Rif.
Robinson, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) W. H. B.,
C.B., I.M.S.
Radcliffe, Lt.-Col. W. C. A., R.A., Asst. Dir.
Ordnance Serv

Russell, Maj. R. E. M., D.S.O., R.E.
 Shairp, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) A., C.M.G.,
 Supply and Transport Corps, Ind. Army.
 Smith, Lt.-Col. and Bt.-Col. F. A., 2nd Light
 Infy.
 Underhill, Capt. G. E. C., 62nd Punjabis.
 Wood, Capt. H. O. B., 8th Rajputs.
 Wilkes, Maj. G. S., R.A.
 Wilkes, Maj. C. D. S., Supply and Transport
 Corps, Ind. Army.
 Wallace, Maj.-Gen. A., C.B., 27th Punjabis,
 Watson, Maj.-Gen. W. A., C.B., C.I.E., Ind.
 Army.
 Ward, Capt. H. C. S., 2nd Lrs.
 Wilmer, Capt. H. G., 14th Sikhs (killed).
 Wagstaff, Capt. L. C., 2nd Rajputs.
 Watson, Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) H. D.,
 C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O., Ind. Army.
 Younghusband, Maj.-Gen. Sir George,
 K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., Ind. Army.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

Massy, Bt.-Maj. S. D., 29th Punjabis.
 Reilly, Capt. and Bt. Maj. H. L., 82nd Pun-
 jabis.
 Rickards, Capt. G. B., Spec. Res.
 Royle, Capt. L. V.A.
 Ross, Bt.-Maj. A. J., R.E.
 Tweedie, Lt. D. R.

ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Staff.

King, Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) A. D'A.,
 D.S.O., Res. of Off.
 Parker, Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) J. L., C.M.G.
 Roberts, Maj. I. D'E., Egyptian Army
 (killed).

1st East Lancashire Brigade (Territorial Force).

Bickerdike, Maj. R. B.

3rd East Lancashire Brigade (Territorial Force).

Dobson, Maj. B. P.
 Clapham, Lt. (temp. Capt.) P. K.

ROYAL ENGINEERS (TERRITORIAL FORCE).

Mousley, Capt. (temp. Maj.) J. H., East
 Lancs. Divl. Engrs.
 Wells, Capt. (temp. Maj.) L. F., East Lancs.
 Divl. Engrs.

IMPERIAL SERVICE TROOPS.

Bikanir, Colonel His Highness the Maharajah
 of, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., A.D.C.
 Afsar ul Mulk, Lt.-Col. the Nawab Sir,
 K.C.I.E., M.V.O.
 Desraj Urs, Col., C.I.E., M.V.O.
 Idar, Maj. His Highness the Maharaja of.
 Zorawar Singh, Capt.
 Muhammad Akbar Khan, Capt., Khan of
 Hoti.

Indian Army Officers serving with Imperial Service Troops.

Howell, Capt. C. H., 18th Lrs.
 Henderson, Maj. M. H., 26th Light Cav.
 Willis, Capt. G. C. W., D.S.O., 31st Lrs.
 Rawlins, Lt.-Col. A. K., D.S.O., 24th Pun-
 jabis.
 Chope, Capt. A. J. H., D.S.O., 2nd Gurkha
 Rif.
 Scott, Capt. H. St. G. S., D.S.O., 4th Gurkha
 Rif., Signalling Officer.

Bikanir Camel Corps.

Jeoraj Singh, Commdt.
 Moti Singh, Asst. Commdt.
 Kishen Singh, Asst. Commdt.

Mysore Lancers.

Chamraj Urs, Commdt.
 Mir Muhiyuddin, Risaldar.
 Subba Ray Urs, Risaldar.

Hyderabad Lancers.

Mahomed Azmatulla, Maj.
 Kasim Ali Khan, Capt.

Patiala Lancers.

Nand Singh, Col.
 Balwant Singh, Capt.

Bhavnagar Lancers.

Mohbat Sinhji, Risaldar.

Alwar Infantry.

Daod Khan, Col.

Gwalior Infantry.

Girdhari Singh, Lt.-Col.

Patiala Infantry.

Sardar Gurbaksh Singh, Lt.-Col.

Bahawalpore Rifles.

Isa Khan, Subadar.

INDIAN ARMY.

INDIAN MOUNTAIN BATTERIES.

21st Kohat Mountain Battery (Frontier Force).

Fergusson, Bt. Lt.-Col. (temp. Lt.-Col.) A. C.,
 R.A.

Rawson, Capt. C. D., D.S.O., R.A.
 Mit Singh, Subadar.

26th Jacobs Mountain Battery.

Bruce, Maj. J. E. L. (killed).
 Whitting, Maj. E. Le G., R.A.
 Jwala Singh, Subadar, I.O.M.

2nd Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners.

Bassett, Bt. Maj. T. P., R.E.
 Hogg, Capt. D. McA., R.E.
 Day, Capt. A. F., R.E.

2nd Rajput Light Infantry.

Dunsford, Lt.-Col. F. P. S.
 Arundell, Capt. R. T. (killed).
 Shiuratan Singh, Subadar Maj.
 Partab Singh, Jemadar.
 Assa Singh, Jemadar.

14th (King George's Own Ferozepore) Sikhs.
 Palin, Bt. Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) P. C.
 Meade, Lt. R. J. F. P. (killed).

24th Punjabis.

Climo, Bt. Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) S. H.,
 D.S.O.

27th Punjabis.

Quinan, Capt. E. P.
 Heriz-Smith, Capt. G. V.

33rd Punjabis.

Ridgeway, Lt.-Col. R. T. I.
 Vincent, Capt. M. H. (died of wounds).
 Price, Capt. R. St. J. L. (killed).

51st Sikhs (Frontier Force).

Beadon, Lt.-Col. W. (killed).
 Knapp, Maj. P. E. (killed).
 Forbes, Capt. H. (killed).
 Tilok Singh, 1st Cl. Sub-Asst. Surg.

53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force).

Davies, Lt.-Col. C. H., D.S.O.
 Finnis, Maj. J. F. (died of wounds).
 Tomes, Capt. G. (killed).

56th Punjabi Rifles (Frontier Force).

Elsmie, Lt.-Col. A. M. S., C.M.G.
 Browne, Maj. F. D. (died of wounds).
 Champion de Crespigny, Capt. H.
 Firoz Khan, Subadar Maj.

62nd Punjabis.

Grimshaw, Lt.-Col. E. W. (killed).
Skeen, Maj. O. St. J., D.S.O. (killed).
Morgan, Capt. M. H. L., D.S.O.
Kalu Khan, Subadar.
Sherzaman Khan, Jemadar.

69th Punjabis.

Harding, Lt.-Col. M. F.
Copeland, Maj. F. (killed).
Jagandar Singh, Subadar Maj.

89th Punjabis.

Prentis, Lt.-Col. W. S.
Crawford, Capt. J. D., Adjt.
Engledue, Capt. and Bt. Maj. R. S.
Sundar Singh, Subadar Maj.

92nd Punjabis.

MacLachlan, Lt.-Col. T. R., C.M.G.
Thomson-Glover, Capt. J. W., 35th Sikhs.
Hastings, Capt. W. H.
Greene, Lt. H. (killed).
Farman Ali, Subadar Maj.

128th Pioneers.

Creagh, Lt.-Col. A. H. D., M.V.O.
Forbes, Capt. and Bt. Maj. A. (killed).
Farebrother, Capt. F. H.
Fitzgibbon, Lt. R. A. (died of wounds).
Hasan Khan, Subadar Maj.

1st Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles.

Boisragon, Bt. Col. G. H., V.C.
Boddam, Lt.-Col. E. B. C.
Erskine, Lt. K. C. S.

1st Battalion, 6th Gurkha Rifles.

Bruce, Bt. Col. the Hon. C. G., M.V.O.
Birdwood, Capt. C. W. B. (killed).
Poynder, Lt. L. E.

2nd Battalion, 7th Gurkha Rifles.

Haldane, Lt.-Col. C. L., C.M.G.

2nd Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles.

Sutton, Lt.-Col. F. G. H.
Stewart, Capt. J. M. V.
Weekes, Capt. H. E.
Moran, Lt. W. P., Brigade Signalling Officer
(killed).

Supply and Transport Corps.

Mayo, Capt. G. L. L., Transport Corps.
Cobb, Capt. C., Supply and Transport.
Clements, Condr. I.
Humphreys, Sub-Condr. A.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

Pridmore, Lt.-Col. W. G., C.M.G., M.B.,
I.M.S., No. 5 Ind. Genl. Hosp.
Smith, Lt.-Col. J. B., M.B., I.M.S., Bombay
Presidency Genl. Hosp.
Lumsden, Lt.-Col. P. J., I.M.S., No. 8 Ind.
Genl. Hosp., Cairo.
Kelly, Maj. T. B., F.R.C.S. Edin., I.M.S.,
105th Ind. Fd. Amb.
Knox, Maj. R. W., D.S.O., M.B., F.R.C.S.,
I.M.S., 137th Ind. Fd. Amb.
Battye, Maj. W. R., D.S.O., M.B., F.R.C.S.,
I.M.S., 108th Ind. Fd. Amb.
Ritchie, Maj. W. D., M.B., I.M.S.
Bharucha, Capt. R. H., I.M.S.
Walker, Maj. J. Norman, I.M.S., 108th Ind.
Fd. Amb.
Fielding, Capt. C. H., M.B., I.M.S., 89th
Punjabis.
Hogan, Asst. Surg. H. F., I.S.M.D.
Abdur Razzak, No. 1065 Sub-Asst. Surg.,
1st Cl., I.S.M.D.
Gurditt Singh, No. 1099 Sub-Asst. Surg.,
1st Cl., I.S.M.D.

Narain Singh, No. 1149 Sub-Asst. Surg.,
2nd Cl., I.S.M.D.

India Miscellaneous List.

Bartlett, Hon. Capt. E. L.
Crosbie, Hon. Lt. C. S.

Ordnance Department, Northern Army.

Walters, Condr. R.

Special Service Officers.

Ferguson-Davie, Lt.-Col. A. F., C.I.E.,
D.S.O., 54th Sikhs (died of wounds).
Bogle, Maj. J. S., Corps of Guides.
Routh, Maj. G. S. F., 56th Punjabis Rif.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

Elgood, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) P. G., C.M.G.,
Res. of Officers.
Parker, Capt. (local and temp. Lt.-Col.) A. C.
Grant, Temp. Lt.-Col. A. C., Capt. Res. of
Officers.
Kendall, Comdr. C. J. J., D.S.O., R. Ind.
Marine.
Flower, Temp. Maj. S. S., Capt. Res. of
Officers.
El Miralai Shehata-Bey Kamel, Egypt. Army.
El Sagh Ishak Effendi Pawfik, Egypt. Army.

Civil Departments.

Macauley, Capt. and Bt. Maj. Sir George B.,
K.C.M.G., Res. of Officers, Egyptian State
Railways.
Hall, Capt. G. C. M., D.S.O., Res. of Officers,
Traffic Manager.
Grundy, R. T., Esq., Asst. Traffic Supt.
Liddell, Maj. J. S., D.S.O., Res. of Officers,
Insp.-Gen. Egyptian Telegraph Dept.
Hunter, Local and Temp. Col. G. G., C.M.G.,
Egyptian Coastguard Administration.
Morice, Capt. G. I., Asst. Prov.-Marshal,
Canal Defences.
Semple, Lt.-Col. Sir David, Director-Gen. of
Dept. of Public Health.
Cresswell, Dr. J., i/c Government Hosp., Suez.
Hayward, Dr. W. C., i/c Government Hosp.,
Port Said.
Heron, Maj. G. W., R.A.M.C., Health
Officer, Suez Canal Area.

Officials of Suez Canal Company.

Sérionne, Comte de.
Berét, Mons. V., Chef Adjoint du Service du
Transit.
Combouliu, Dr. Louis, Med. Officer of Suez
Canal Co. at Ismailia.
Perrier, Mons. L., Ingénieur-en-Chef.

DESPATCH No. III.

Army Headquarters, Cairo.

1st March, 1916.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to submit this report on Military Affairs in the Egyptian Command since the Turks attacked the Suez Canal in February, 1915, which attack was made the subject of a separate Despatch. I feel it my duty to make this report because so much of the arduous work done in Egypt by the Force under my Command, with the cordial assistance of the Egyptian Government, was in connection with the operations of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in the Dardanelles.

So far as I am aware, no detailed mention of the services performed has been made in any other Despatch.

The entire resources of Egypt, Military and

Civil, were unstintingly given to further the necessities of that expedition.

The operations in the Gallipoli Peninsula by threatening Constantinople drew off the bulk of the Turkish forces belonging to Djemal Pasha's command, which had already been beaten back from the vicinity of the Suez Canal. It was therefore possible, whilst retaining just sufficient force to safeguard the Canal, to move troops to other theatres where their presence was most required. But throughout the summer and autumn of 1915, my principal cause of anxiety was the possibility of trouble on the Western Frontier, which might lead to serious religious and internal disorders. The attitude of Sayed Ahmed the Senussi was becoming more and more truculent notwithstanding my efforts to preserve peaceful relations; everything possible was done to avoid hostilities, and they were avoided until late in the year, when hostile acts on his part led to the withdrawal of the Egyptian Frontier post at Sollum and subsequent operations.

Suez Canal Zone.

The duty of guarding the Suez Canal was allotted to the Indian Expeditionary Force "E" under the command of Major-General Sir A. Wilson, K.C.B.

This force was gradually reduced by calls on it for other theatres; thus the 29th Brigade under Major-General Sir H. Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.I., was sent to Gallipoli; subsequently the Punjabi-Mohammedan battalions of that brigade were withdrawn from the Peninsula and replaced by Gurkha battalions taken from brigades on the Canal; two double companies of Sikhs from the Patiala Imperial Service Regiment were sent to replace losses in the 15th Sikhs, and every British and Indian officer who could be spared was sent to replace casualties; the 30th Brigade under Major-General C. J. Melliss, V.C., K.C.B., was sent to Basrah, the 28th Brigade under Major-General Sir G. Younghusband, K.C.I.E., C.B., was sent first to Aden and then to Basrah; the force was further weakened by the exchange of tired units from the Indian divisions in France with some of the best battalions on the Canal.

To this force fell the tiresome and onerous duty throughout the entire summer of exercising ceaseless vigilance over the 100 miles of Canal front. Great credit is due for the way this duty was performed; indifferent troops would have been demoralised. Though small bodies of the enemy were constantly endeavouring, occasionally with success, to place mines in the Canal or damage the railway, yet no accident of importance occurred except that one merchant ship, the s.s. "Teresias," struck a mine. She fortunately escaped with but little damage. The passage of the Canal was interrupted on this one occasion for only a few hours.

A little affair, creditable to the Imperial Service Troops engaged, occurred on the 23rd November, when a squadron of the Mysore Lancers operating 15 miles east of El Kantara came upon a force of 60 or 70 Turks, the advance party of a raiding party 200 strong. These they pursued for 7 miles, killing seven, capturing 12 and wounding many others. Amongst the dead was a Bedouin leader named Rizkalla Salim, who was responsible for most

of the raids on the Canal; since his death they entirely ceased.

Part of 30th Squadron Royal Flying Corps, under the command of Brevet Major S. D. Maasy, I.A., with Headquarters at Ismailia, carried out daily reconnaissances without a single important accident.

The French Naval Seaplane detachment, with Headquarters at Port Said, under the command of Capitaine de Vaisseau de l'Escaille, whose services were placed at my disposal for Intelligence purposes, was continually employed in reconnoitring the Syrian and Anatolian Coast from the requisitioned vessels "Raven" and "Anne." The results of their work were invaluable. The "Anne" was torpedoed near Smyrna during an armistice while employed by the Royal Navy, but was fortunately able to reach Mudros, where she was patched up and returned to Port Said. I cannot speak too highly of the work of the seaplane detachment. Lengthy land flights are extremely dangerous, yet nothing ever stopped these gallant French aviators from any enterprise. I regret the loss of two of these planes whilst making dangerous land flights over Southern Syria.

I would be failing in my duty were I not to bring to Your Lordship's notice the valuable and whole-hearted assistance always readily given by the Count de Serionne and his able assistants of the Suez Canal Company. The whole of the resources of this Company were put unreservedly at my disposal.

It is perhaps needless for me to report that His Majesty's Royal Navy, under Vice-Admiral Sir R. Peirse, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, were always ready and anxious to help and facilitate the duty of protecting the Canal and advising in any enterprise that needed Naval assistance. To the Navy fell the duty of guarding the Bitter Lakes.

To the Vice-Admiral Commanding the French Syrian Squadron I am especially indebted, in that he and the Officers and ships under his command maintained a constant watch throughout on the Syrian and Anatolian Coasts. They supplied me with the fullest information of enemy movements that it was possible to obtain by means of agents, etc. I had only to express a wish and it was at once carried out.

I now submit my report as follows:—

OPERATIONS ON THE WESTERN FRONT TO 31st JANUARY, 1916.

Outbreak of Hostilities on the Western Front.

Early in November, during my temporary absence from Egypt to meet your Lordship at Mudros, the situation on the Western Frontier, which, as your Lordship is aware, had for some months been a subject for anxiety, became suddenly acute, and a series of acts of hostility committed against our frontier posts at Sollum and Barrani made final rupture with the Senussi inevitable.

As early as May, 1915, signs were apparent that the steadily increasing pressure brought to bear upon the Senussi by the Turkish party in Tripoli, under the leadership of Nuri Bey, a half-brother of Enver Pasha, was beginning to take effect.

For some time, even after the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Turkey in 1914, the anti-British influence of this party

was not strongly felt, and the attitude of the Senussi towards Egypt remained friendly. It was not until the advent of Gaafer, a Germanised Turk of considerable ability, who arrived in Tripoli in April, 1915, with a considerable supply of arms and money, that this attitude underwent a change.

From that moment it became evident that the Turkish influence was gaining weight, and it was only by means of great forbearance, and by tactful handling of a delicate situation by Lieutenant-Colonel Snow, commanding the Western Desert, that a rupture was so long deferred.

The first incident of importance occurred on August 16th, 1915, when two British submarines, sheltering from the weather near Ras Lick, on the coast of Cyrenaica, were treacherously fired upon by Arabs under the leadership of a white officer, casualties being suffered on either side.

The incident was, however, closed by the acceptance of the Senussi's profound apologies, and of his assurances that the act had been committed in ignorance that the submarines were British.

A period of quiet followed, but at the beginning of November a series of events occurred which placed beyond all doubt the insincerity of the Senussi's continued assurances of friendship.

In the first week of that month (November) the crews of H.M.S. "Tara" and of H.M.T. "Moorina," torpedoed by enemy submarines on the 5th and 7th respectively, were, on landing in Cyrenaica, captured and held prisoners by the Senussi, who, in reply to strong representations for their immediate release, merely feigned ignorance of these occurrences, which they pretended to discredit.

Even then a last effort was made to preserve peace, and Sayed Mohamed el Idris was sent to arrange negotiations whereby the Senussi should get rid of his Turkish advisers in return for a sum of money. But before any decision could be reached matters had got beyond control, and the negotiations collapsed. On the 9th an Emergency Squadron of the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division was sent to strengthen the post at Sollum, which three days earlier had been shelled by enemy submarines, the Egyptian Coastguard Cruiser "Abbas" being sunk at her moorings, and another, the "Nur el Bahr," receiving considerable damage from shell fire.

On the night of the 14/15th two Egyptian sentries at Sollum were rushed by Mohafizia (Senussi regulars), and were severely handled and their arms carried off; the following night the camp at Sollum was systematically sniped, though no casualties resulted.

On the 17th the Zawia at Sidi Barrani (50 miles east of Sollum) was occupied by a force of some 300 Muhafizia, and on the 18th the Coastguard Barracks at that place were twice attacked during the night, one coastguard being killed.

This was followed on the 20th by an attack on the Coastguard Outpost at Sabil, a small post about 30 miles south-east of Sollum, though in this case, as at Barrani, the attack failed.

In view of these circumstances there was clearly no alternative but to recognise a state of war and to take action accordingly.

The events recorded above had caused a spirit of great unrest to prevail throughout the country, and the possibility of internal disturbances was a source of greater anxiety than the external danger.

This unrest was especially evident amongst the Arab population inhabiting the western edge of the cultivation—amounting in the Behera Province alone to over 120,000.

The religious influence of the Senussi is great amongst these people, and their natural sympathies are inclined towards their brethren in the Western Desert.

The above considerations made it imperative, on the one hand to keep the sphere of hostilities as far as possible to the west of the Delta and, on the other hand, to avoid anything in the nature of a reverse.

In pursuance of this policy it was decided to withdraw the Western Frontier posts to Mersa Matruh, and to concentrate at that place a force sufficient to deal swiftly with the situation; to secure the Alexandria—Dabaa Railway as a secondary line of communication by land with the railhead at Dabaa; to occupy the Wadi Natrun and the Fayum as measures of precaution; and to watch closely by constant and careful reconnaissance the Oasis of Moghara.

This course offered the following advantages:—

(a) The advance of the enemy would be opposed at the most westerly point at which a suitable harbour could be found, within one night's journey by sea from Alexandria, defensible on the land front.

(b) The enemy would be met on ground generally practicable to all arms and comparatively well supplied with water.

(c) The Egyptian Beduin of the coastal belt east of Matruh would be protected if loyal, and coerced if disaffected.

(d) Native opinion in the Delta would be affected favourably by an offensive policy.

(e) As more troops and transport by sea became available an opportunity would be afforded of striking at the enemy's main lines of communications by means of a landing at Sollum.

On the 20th November orders were issued for the assembly of the following force at Alexandria:—

In Command.—Major-General A. Wallace, C.B.

Composite Mounted Brigade.—Under Brigadier-General J. D. T. Tyndale Biscoe:—

Three Composite Yeomanry Regiments (from details 2nd Mounted Division).

One Composite Regiment Australian Light Horse (from details Australian Light Horse Brigades).

Notts Battery Royal Horse Artillery and Ammunition Column.

Auxiliary Services.

Composite Infantry Brigade.—Under Brigadier-General the Earl of Lucan:—

1/6th Battalion Royal Scots (T.F.).

2/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.F.).

2/8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.F.).

15th Sikhs.

Auxiliary Services.

A Detachment Egyptian Army Military Works Department (no Royal Engineers being available).

Divisional Train, 1st Australian Division.

The 2nd Battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade, one Company 15th Sikhs, a detachment of 150 Bikanir Camel Corps with an attached Egyptian Army Machine Gun Section, and one armoured train garrisoned by the 1/10th Gurkha Rifles with two 12½ pdr. guns of the Egyptian Army Artillery, were despatched on the 21st instant to make good the Alexandria-Dabaa Railway and patrol to Moghara Oasis.

The 1/1st North Midland Mounted Brigade, with the Berks Battery Royal Horse Artillery, were sent on the 29th November to preserve order in the Fayum, and on the same date a Squadron of Egyptian Army Cavalry and a detachment of 50 Bikanir Camel Corps occupied the Wadi Natrun.

Finally, to provide for possible contingencies among the Arab population of the Western Behera Province, a Composite Battalion was made up from details of the 29th Division at Alexandria, detachments being despatched to Hosh Isa and Damanhur on December 7th.

By November 23rd concentration was completed, and on the night of the 23rd/24th the first detachments of the 15th Sikhs, under Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. R. Gordon, sailed from Alexandria, arriving at Mersa Matruh the following morning.

The presence of enemy submarines necessitated the sea journey being performed by night only. Moreover, the depth of water over the bar in Matruh Harbour limited the ships immediately available for transporting troops and supplies to six trawlers and two small Coastguard Cruisers. Four additional small steamers were obtained as soon as possible, and a third cruiser was fitted up as a hospital ship.

The mounted troops and transport were assembled at railhead at Dabaa, and an advanced force was sent forward to make good and develop the wells at Abu Gerab, Baggush and Jerawla, which constitute the only watering places on the 85 miles of desert which separate Dabaa from Mersa Matruh. The condition of the wells at the extreme end of the dry season only permitted of two squadrons being passed across at a time.

The concentration of the force at Mersa Matruh, less five squadrons left at railhead on account of insufficiency of water, was completed on December 7th, and on the same date Major-General Wallace moved his headquarters to Matruh.

Meanwhile Sollum post had been evacuated by sea on the afternoon of the 23rd November, such motor cars of the Royal Naval Armoured Car Squadron as could be moved having been despatched by land previously.

In the evacuation it was unfortunately found necessary to disable and abandon three light Ford cars and the two Egyptian Army 9 c/m Krupp guns, and to abandon an outlying post of one Egyptian officer and fourteen other ranks which failed to reach the beach in time to embark, and were made prisoners.

The garrison of Sollum—strength, British, five officers and twelve other ranks, Egyptian, two officers and ninety other ranks—reached Matruh safely on November 24th.

The evacuation of the posts at Bagbag and Sidi Barrani was effected by land on November

23rd, everything of value being removed, except four light cars at the latter post, which were disabled before abandonment. During the march, and after arrival at Matruh, a number of desertions took place among the Egyptian Coastguard Camel Corps. These desertions amounted in all to twelve native officers, two cadets, and 120 other ranks, the deserters taking with them their arms, equipment, and 176 camels.

A detailed distribution of the Western Frontier Force on the 10th December, and of troops garrisoning districts in the West of Egypt, in which the population was mainly Arab, and therefore likely to be affected by the invasion, is given in Appendix "A" (not printed).

It must be acknowledged that this force, although the best available in Egypt at the moment, was by no means well adapted for the task which lay before it. Regiments and Staffs had been somewhat hastily collected, and were not well known to one another. The Composite Yeomanry Brigade, to give an instance, contained men from twenty or more different regiments. Before a really efficient fighting force could be collected much rearrangement was necessary, with the result that the composition was constantly changing; and it was, in fact, not until the middle of February that the conditions of the Western Frontier Force could be considered really satisfactory.

Moreover, the lack of sufficient and suitable transport made it necessary for General Wallace to withdraw his troops to Matruh after each engagement.

I mention these facts because it should be realised that General Wallace had to overcome many difficulties beyond those caused by the enemy.

On the 11th December the undermentioned force moved out from Mersa Matruh, with orders to disperse a hostile gathering reported in the neighbourhood of Beit Hussein and Ras Um Rakhum, and to reconnoitre towards Unjeila:—

Commander, Lieut.-Colonel J. L. R. Gordon, 15th Sikhs (350 men).

2nd Composite Yeomanry Regiment (three squadrons with three machine-guns).

One section Nottinghamshire Battery, Royal Horse Artillery (Territorial Force).

Detachment Royal Naval Armoured Car Division (six armoured cars, one wireless car).

One section South Midland Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force).

Marching at 7 a.m., the force moved westwards by the Coast road, and on reaching Wadi Senaab the cavalry, pushed forward in advance of the column, became engaged with the enemy holding the southern side of the Wadi in considerable strength.

Owing to the bad going marching was difficult, and the infantry were unable to cooperate, but, on the arrival of a reinforcement of a squadron of Australian Light Horse in the afternoon, the enemy were finally driven out of the Wadi with loss estimated at not less than 100 killed and wounded.

Our casualties on this day were one officer and thirteen other ranks killed, and two officers and sixteen other ranks wounded. Among the former I regret to report the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Snow, killed late in the

day by an Arab whom he was endeavouring to persuade to surrender. In the death of this experienced officer the force suffered a heavy loss.

In the action valuable assistance was rendered by the armoured cars of the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division. After dark the column concentrated at Um Rakhum, where the night was spent. On the 12th, owing to the fatigue of the Yeomanry horses, nothing further was attempted than the clearing up of the Wadi Shaifa, which resulted in the capture of some twenty-five prisoners and a number of camels and cattle abandoned by the enemy in his retreat.

Meanwhile air reconnaissance disclosed the presence of the enemy in some force at Ras Manaa, about thirteen miles west of Um Rakhum.

The column was accordingly reinforced by two companies of the 1/6th Royal Scots from Matruh, and orders were issued for an advance on Ras Manaa on the following day.

On the 13th the column moved at 8 a.m. in the direction of Beit Hussein, but on crossing Wadi Shaifa became engaged with the enemy, and a sharp and somewhat critical action developed.

The enemy, estimated at about 1,200 with two guns and machine guns, attacked with considerable vigour, but after a critical period the arrival of reinforcements (two guns Notts Royal Horse Artillery and two squadrons Australian Light Horse) from Matruh, turned the scale in our favour, and the enemy were driven back about a mile with heavy loss, though dark put an end to further pursuit.

The column retired for the night to Um Rakhum, and the following morning returned to Matruh.

Our casualties in this operation amounted to nine rank and file killed and six officers and 50 other ranks wounded. The enemy's losses, on the other hand, as estimated from observation and confirmed by subsequent reports, must have reached a total of at least 250, of whom about 180 killed.

On the night of the 14/15th December the posts at the wells of Abu Gerab, Baggush and Gerawla were withdrawn owing to their somewhat dangerous isolation, this operation being carried out without incident.

From the 15th to the 23rd no operation of importance was undertaken, the period being devoted to the further organizing and strengthening of the force at Matruh.

The experience of the operations of the 11th and 13th December had clearly shown that to obtain a rapid and decisive result more strength was necessary.

During the third week of December, therefore, the force at Matruh was reinforced by the 1st Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade, two Naval 4-in. guns and "A" Battery, Honourable Artillery Company (2nd Mounted Division), while shortly afterwards the 161st Brigade (54th Division) relieved the 2nd New Zealand Rifle Battalion on the lines of communication, the latter being withdrawn to Alexandria.

In the meantime the enemy was concentrating in the neighbourhood of Gebel Medwa, about eight miles south-west of Matruh, and by December 24th his strength at that place was estimated from air reconnaissance and other sources to have reached about 5,000 men, of whom more than half were Mahafzia, or

regular soldiers, with four guns and some machine guns, the whole under the command of Gafer.

In Command Main Body.—Major-General A. Wallace, C.B.

Right Column.—Lt.-Colonel J. L. R. Gordon, 15th Sikhs.

Royal Bucks Hussars.

1 Section Notts Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.

1st Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade. 15th Sikhs.

2/8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (T.F.).

Notts and Derby Field Ambulance.

Water Section, Australian Train.

Left Column.—Brigadier-General J. D. T. Tyndale Biscoe.

Brigade Staff and Signalling Troop (2nd Composite Yeomanry Brigade).

Notts Royal Horse Artillery (less 1 Section).

2 Troops, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.

1 Troop, Derbyshire Yeomanry.

2 Troops, City of London Yeomanry.

1 Squadron, Herts Yeomanry.

Composite Regiment, Australian Light Horse (3 Squadrons).

Yeomanry Machine Gun Section.

Yeomanry Field Ambulance.

Against this concentration, on December 25th, the force detailed above, with Major-General Wallace personally in command, moved out from Matruh. General Wallace's plan was to divide his force into two columns:—

(i) The right column, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, 15th Sikhs, and comprising the bulk of the Infantry, with the Bucks Hussars and a section of Royal Horse Artillery, to advance directly on Gebel Medwa.

(ii) The left column, under Brigadier-General Tyndale Biscoe, including the remainder of the mounted troops and Horse Artillery, to make a wide detour southward round the right flank of the enemy to deny his retreat to the west.

H.M.S. "Clematis" to assist as occasion offered with gun fire from the sea.

Both columns moved before daylight, and by 7.30 the Cavalry had cleared the Wadi Toweiwa, about seven miles due south of Matruh.

Meanwhile the right column followed the Khedivial Motor Road westward, until, at 6.30 a.m., the advance guard came suddenly under fire from artillery and machine guns from the south-west. The enemy were soon driven off, and by 7.15 a.m. the main body had crossed the Wadi Raml and could see the enemy occupying an escarpment about one mile south of Gebel Medwa.

At 7.30 a.m. the 15th Sikhs were ordered to attack the enemy from his right flank, the Bucks Hussars and 2/8th Middlesex to co-operate by a containing attack along his front, to be delivered simultaneously with the attack of the Sikhs.

The 15th Sikhs accordingly deployed west of the road and commenced their advance, despatching one company to occupy Gebel Medwa in order to secure their right. At the same time the Bucks Hussars moved forward, while the Middlesex Battalion, keeping to the

north-east of Gebel Medwa, sent a company to relieve that of the 15th Sikhs occupying the hill, which thereupon rejoined the battalion.

The section Notts Royal Horse Artillery, which came into action on the high ground near the road 2,000 yards east of Gebel Medwa, quickly silenced the enemy's artillery, therein greatly assisting the advance of the infantry, and at 7.45 a.m. H.M.S. "Clematis" opened an accurate and useful fire at a range of about 10,000 yards.

By 9.30 a.m. the Sikhs, reinforced by two companies of the 1st New Zealand Rifle Brigade (from the Reserve), were still meeting with considerable opposition, and shortly before 10 o'clock a third company of New Zealanders was ordered up to prolong their line to the left and to clear a Nullah running parallel to the line of advance from which the Sikhs were suffering casualties.

Before this company could reach its position the crest in front of the Sikhs was carried, and that battalion, with the two New Zealand companies on the right, pushed rapidly forward, driving the enemy into caves and small gullies, all of which had in turn to be cleared.

At 11 a.m. the western edge of the plateau was reached, and the left column could then be seen operating about two miles to the south-west. Signal communication was opened, and the left column, which had been a good deal delayed by some hostile mounted troops, then changed direction north-east, and subsequently north, along the Wadi Majid, where it again became engaged.

By 2.15 p.m. the Nullahs at the head of the Wadi Majid had been thoroughly cleared, and after an hour and a half sharp fighting the Wadi was in our possession—over 100 dead, 34 prisoners, 80 camels, and much live stock, as well as 30,000 rounds of small arm ammunition and three boxes of gun ammunition, falling into our hands. At 4 p.m. the Cavalry Column joined up with the left of the 15th Sikhs, having finally driven off the enemy, with whom they had been engaged since 2 o'clock.

Unfortunately the remnants of the enemy had already made good their escape westwards along the sea shore, and the approach of darkness precluded the possibility of further pursuit.

After nightfall the Cavalry returned to Matruh, the Infantry bivouacking for the night at Gebel Medwa and returning to Matruh the following morning.

Our casualties during the day, which amounted in all to 14 rank and file killed and 3 officers and 47 other ranks wounded, were very light in comparison with those of the enemy, of whom over 370 dead and 82 prisoners were accounted for apart from the wounded—probably a considerable number—whom they were able to get away. Amongst the booty were the office and personal effects of the enemy's commander, Gaafer, abandoned by him in his flight.

The energy, resolution, and initiative displayed by Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon throughout this operation is deserving of the highest praise, and in his difficult task he was magnificently backed up by his own regiment, the 15th Sikhs, temporarily commanded by Major Evans, and by the 1st Battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade, under Major Austen.

The immediate result of the action was the retirement of the Senussi with his Staff and

the remains of his force to Unjeila and Bir Tunis.

General Wallace was now free to deal with the situation between Matruh and Dabaa, and to this end, on 28th December, a small column, under the command of Brigadier-General the Earl of Lucan, was despatched from Mersa Matruh to Jerawla. Several enemy encampments were visited, but no resistance was encountered, and on the 30th the column returned to Matruh, having destroyed some eighty tents and large quantities of grain, and bringing in nearly 100 camels and 500 sheep.

During the early days of January the weather made active operations impossible.

On the 1st of the month a collection of eighty tents was reported by aeroplane at Gebel Howimil, and a column was formed to clear up the situation in that neighbourhood. On the 2nd, however, torrential rain fell, which continued, with rare breaks, almost incessantly for a week, the country becoming a sea of mud, so that the start of the column was postponed from day to day. Finally, on the evening of 9th January, the weather cleared, and by the 12th the roads were sufficiently passable to warrant a start being made.

On the 13th the column reached Baggush, and on the 14th the march was continued to Gebel Howimil, where several small camps were destroyed, a quantity of stores burnt, and some camels and live stock taken; nowhere was opposition encountered. The column returned the same evening to Baggush, having covered during the day close upon fifty miles.

Under cover of this operation the damaged telegraph line between Matruh and Dabaa was successfully restored by the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division, and by the evening of the 14th communication was restored.

On 15th January the section Honourable Artillery Company and two squadrons Australian Light Horse left the column for Dabaa, the remainder of the force returning to Bir Gerawla, and the following day to Matruh. Marching throughout had been very difficult and tedious owing to the deep going and swampy condition of the ground.

On 19th January aerial reconnaissance discovered the presence of a considerable force of the enemy at Hazalin, twenty-five miles south-west of Matruh, the camp comprising at least 100 European and 250 Bedouin tents, including that of the Grand Senussi, which was recognised by Captain Royle, the observer.

In view of the estimated strength of the enemy, General Wallace decided, before striking, to await the arrival of a reinforcement of one battalion of the South African Infantry Brigade, then under orders to sail from Alexandria. This battalion reached Mersa Matruh on the 20th and 21st, and on 22nd January, air reports showing that the enemy's position at Hazalin was unchanged, the force shown below set out with General Wallace in command, reaching Bir Shola (16 miles) after dark, where troops bivouacked for the night:—

- 1 Squadron, Royal Bucks Hussars.
- 1 Squadron, Dorset Yeomanry.
- 1 Squadron, Herts Yeomanry.
- 1 Squadron, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.
- 1 Squadron, Surrey Yeomanry.
- 1 Squadron, Australian Light Horse.
- "A" Battery Honourable Artillery Company (less one Section).
- Notts Battery Royal Horse Artillery and Ammunition Column.

Australian Signal Section.
 1st Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade.
 2nd South African Regiment.
 15th Sikhs.
 1/6th Battalion, Royal Scots (T.F.) (less two Companies).
 2/8th Battalion, Middlesex Regt. (T.F.) (less two Companies).
 1st South Midland Field Ambulance.
 137th Indian Field Ambulance.
 Royal Naval Armoured Car Division (Detachment).

At 6 a.m. on January 23rd the force moved off disposed as under:—

Right Column.

Commander.—Lt.-Colonel J. L. R. Gordon, 15th Sikhs.
 1 Squadron, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.
 Notts. Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.
 15th Sikhs.
 2nd South African Regiment.
 1st Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade.
 (Right Column on compass bearing to reported position of Senussi Camp.)

Left Column.

Commander.—Brigadier-General J. D. T. Tyndale Biscoe.
 1 Squadron, Australian Light Horse.
 3 Squadrons, Royal Bucks. Hussars.
 1 Squadron, Dorset Yeomanry.
 1 Squadron, Herts. Yeomanry.
 Mounted Brigade Machine Gun Section.
 "A" Battery, H.A.C. (less one Section).
 (Left Column echeloned to the left front of the right moving parallel to and in close touch with it.)

Reserve.—Two Troops Yeomanry, 1/6th Battalion, Royal Scots (less half Battalion) and S.A.A., moved half a mile in rear of the Right Column. The train, with half Battalion, 2/8th Middlesex Regiment, remained parked at Bir Shola.

At 8.30 a.m., when the Right Column were about 7 miles from Bir Shola, the Left Column reported that the enemy could be seen about 2 miles ahead of their advanced Squadron, and shortly afterwards the latter (Australian Light Horse) became engaged. The Bucks. Hussars and H.A.C. were immediately sent forward in support, and simultaneously Colonel Gordon's Column pushed on in attack formation, the 15th Sikhs leading.

Relieved by the advance of the Infantry, the mounted troops pressed on, endeavouring to work round the enemy's right, and at the same time covering the left flank of Colonel Gordon's attack. The latter, spread over a front of nearly a mile and a half, led across ground absolutely destitute of cover, while mirage in the early stages made it impossible for a considerable time to locate the enemy's positions. During this advance the Infantry suffered somewhat severely from artillery and machine guns, the enemy's fire being both rapid and accurate. Nevertheless, the enemy was gradually pressed back, but his retirement of nearly 3 miles on to his main positions was conducted with great skill, denying all our efforts to come to close quarters.

By 2.45 p.m. the Sikhs and South Africans, with part of the New Zealand Battalion, on the left of the Sikhs, had reached the enemy's main line. But in the meantime the flanks had not made equal progress, and bodies of the

enemy were working round both north and south, the line gradually forming the arc of a semi-circle.

Soon after 1 p.m. so great was the activity of one of these detachments on our right, or northern flank, that the reserve Battalion (1/6th Royal Scots) had to be put in to restore the situation, but by 2.30 p.m. all danger from that quarter was past. On the extreme left, however, by 3.30 p.m. the Cavalry of the Left Column had been forced to give some ground, and with the H.A.C. guns were occupying a position nearly 1,000 yards in rear of the Field Ambulance.

Colonel Gordon was called upon to detach 2 companies of New Zealanders to assist the Cavalry, who were being pressed. With this reinforcement the threat against our left rear was finally repulsed and the enemy driven off.

In the meantime the main attack by Colonel Gordon's Column had progressed satisfactorily. By 3 p.m. the enemy had been driven from his positions, and shortly afterwards his camp was occupied and burnt, the work of destruction being completed by 4.30 p.m.

As darkness was approaching, and the exhaustion of the cavalry horses forbade pursuit, General Wallace decided to bivouac the force about 2 miles east of the captured position, where the Field Ambulance had been placed, and whence it could not be moved owing to the deep mud. Throughout the day this factor—of mud—had played an important and unfortunate part. The whole country had been converted by the abnormal rains into a quagmire, which had hampered the operations of the mounted troops, preventing their full co-operation with the Infantry. Owing to the mud, again, the Infantry were deprived of the support of the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division, intended to co-operate against the enemy's left flank, a loss seriously felt during the day.

The troops spent the night in considerable discomfort, as the train was unable to proceed further than about 3 miles west of Bir Shola; neither supplies nor blankets could be brought up, and the night was intensely wet and cold. The enemy showed no inclination to renew operations, and at 8.30 a.m. on the 24th the force started for Bir Shola.

The march to Bir Shola, through deep mud, proved an arduous undertaking, all vehicles having to be drawn by hand, but, above all, the transport of the wounded presented the greatest difficulty. Those unable to ride had to be carried on stretchers, a severe strain upon the troops, tired and thirsty after a cold and sleepless night. Eventually, however, the train was met where it had parked, about three miles west of Bir Shola, and the infantry were relieved of their burden, the force reaching bivouac at Bir Shola at about 5 p.m.

On the 25th the weather cleared and the troops marched back in good spirits to Mersa Matruh, the whole column getting in by 4.30 p.m.

Our casualties in the action of the 23rd were unfortunately heavy, as the figures show:—

	Killed.	Wounded.
British Officers ...	1	10
British other ranks ...	11	164
Indian Officers ...	—	3
Indian other ranks ...	19	114
Total ...	31	291

Nevertheless those of the enemy must have been far heavier, and, although difficult to gauge accurately, a conservative estimate based on observation and on the reports of prisoners places his losses at not less than 200 killed and 500 wounded.

In this action the enemy received a very severe blow, and, if deserters are to be believed, the effect of this reverse, following upon that at Gebel Medwa on December 25th, has gone far to discourage the Senussi and to shake the faith of his followers in the cause.

It was unfortunate that in this, as in previous actions, it was impossible for the infantry to pursue their success to the full, owing to the intense difficulties of transport experienced on every occasion. With greater mobility, allowing of an active pursuit, particularly after the action on Christmas Day, the success obtained would undoubtedly have been far more complete, and would have contributed largely to a more speedy termination of the campaign.

In the success attained on the 23rd especial praise is due to the leading of Colonel Gordon, who commanded the main attack, and to the gallantry of the Sikhs, the South Africans and the New Zealanders, who fought with invincible dash and resolution throughout the day.

It was at this stage of the campaign that General Wallace felt himself obliged, owing to age, to tender his resignation of the command which he had held with unvarying success for the past three months.

I had decided that the time had now come to undertake the reoccupation of Sollum, and as General Wallace considered that the operations involved a physical strain which would be beyond his powers, I appointed Major-General W. E. Peyton, C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., in his place.

By this time the force was thoroughly well adapted and equipped for its work. The loss of the 15th Sikhs, ordered to India, was severe, but it and the New Zealand Battalion had been replaced by the South African Brigade. The Composite Yeomanry Brigade had vanished, and its place had been taken by the 2nd Mounted Brigade. Two sections of Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery had joined, and with the necessary services this little force was complete in every respect. Lord Lucan's Composite Brigade of three Territorial regiments was almost all that remained of the original command.

In closing this account of the operations on the western frontier up to the end of January, 1916, I wish again to emphasise the unvarying and whole-hearted support accorded throughout by the Royal Navy. In the onerous and often difficult task of transporting troops and material by sea to Mersa Matruh, and in the active co-operation of H.M.S. "Clematis," which by her vigilant patrolling of the coast considerably lightened the burden of the troops, and by her effective gunnery materially assisted in the operations in December; the assistance and the support of the Navy has been from start to finish as ungrudging as effective.

The Western Frontier Force also owes much to the Royal Flying Corps, whose work was, as always, of a high order. Special mention should be made of a flight by Lieutenant Van Ryneveld to Qara, by Lieutenant Tipton from the Fayum to Moghara, and regular flights to Baharia. The distances covered were very

great, and flights of 200 miles have become quite common.

I desire to place on record my high appreciation of the invaluable co-operation of all Departments of the Egyptian Government.

My relations with His Highness The Sultan and his Ministers have been most close and cordial, and their influence has set a tone which has been followed by the better-class Egyptian throughout the country.

The intricacies and difficulties of martial law in a cosmopolitan country such as Egypt have been made comparatively easy by the advice and assistance of the advisers to the Ministry of Finance and Interior. To Lord E. Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Sir R. Graham, K.C.M.G., C.B., Sir W. Brunyate, K.C.M.G., Sir M. Macdonald, K.C.M.G., Mr. Burnett-Stuart, of the Ministry of the Interior, and Mr. Ward Boys, of the Ministry of Finance, my thanks are especially due. I am also greatly indebted to Colonel Harvey Pasha, C.M.G., and Colonel Hopkinson Pasha, C.M.G., the Commandants of the Cairo and Alexandria Police respectively, for their strenuous and difficult work in keeping order under most difficult circumstances in these large cities, and who, in addition to their civil duties, have taken on that of Provost-Marshal at my special request.

In fact, every branch of the Egyptian Government has been used to the uttermost with their whole and ungrudging consent. Consequently the resources of Egypt have been probed and developed with a result which has surprised even those who knew them best, and I have not only been able to carry on the administration of my command, but also to assist materially the interests of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force which were centred here, and to administer Martial Law without inconvenience and with a staff scarcely larger than that of the small garrison maintained here before the war.

I therefore desire to bring to your Lordship's notice for favourable consideration the names of those officials of the Egyptian Government whom I have mentioned.

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude for the assistance and advice of His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner, Sir H. MacMahon, G.C.V.O., etc., and to bring to your notice the valuable work and assistance of Major-General H. E. Stanton, Brigadier-General in charge of Administration, and Brigadier-General N. Malcolm, Brigadier, General Staff.

I am submitting in a separate Despatch the names of those I wish to bring to your Lordship's notice for favourable consideration on account of the services they have rendered.

I have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's obedient Servant,
J. G. MAXWELL, General,
Commanding the Force in Egypt.

DESPATCH No. IV.

Army Headquarters, Force in Egypt.
Cairo, 16th March, 1916.

MY LORD,—In continuation of my despatch of the 1st March, 1916, I have the honour to

submit the names of officers and other ranks whom I desire to bring to your notice:—

Part I.—In connection with operations on the Western Front.

Part II.—In connection with Administration in Egypt.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. G. MAXWELL, General,
Commanding the Force in Egypt.

PART I.

OPERATIONS ON WESTERN FRONT.

COMMANDERS AND STAFF.

Maj.-Gen. A. Wallace, C.B., Ind. Army.
Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) J. D. T. Tyndale-Biscoe.
Local and temp. Col. G. G. Hunter, C.M.G., Egyptian Coastguard Administration.
Lt.-Col. J. L. R. Gordon, 15th Sikhs.
Lt.-Col. E. P. Sewell, M.B., R.A.M.C., A.D.M.S.
Lt.-Col. C. L. Snow (Egyptian Coastguard Service) (killed).
Capt. H. W. Tobin, 128th Pioneers.
Temp. Capt. L. V. Royle (Egyptian Coastguard Service (Intelligence)).

Royal Naval Armoured Car Division.

Lt.-Comdr. C. Lister, R.N.V.R.
Lt. F. A. Yeo, R.N.V.R.

Royal Flying Corps.

Bt. Maj. A. J. Ross, R.E.
Capt. A. G. Moore, Manch. R. (Spec. Res.).
Temp. Capt. H. A. Van Ryneveld.
Lt. (temp. Capt. in Army) R. J. Tipton, R.F.A. (T.F.).

Yeomanry.

Berks Yeomanry.

Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. T. Wigan.
No. 2071 Pte. E. A. Constable.

Buckinghamshire Yeomanry.

No. 717 Serjt. L. G. Little.

Dorset Yeomanry.

No. 641 Lce.-Corpl. H. J. J. Guppy.

Warwickshire Yeomanry.

Surg.-Maj. and Hon. Surg. Lt.-Col. R. Bullock, T.D.

Royal Artillery.

Maj. and Hon. Lt.-Col. J. F. Laycock, D.S.O., Notts. R.H.A. (T.F.).
Maj. O. L. Eugster, H.A.C. (T.F.).

Royal Army Medical Corps.

No. 9862 Staff Serjt. (Acting Serjt.-Maj.) W. F. Raven.

Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force).
Lt.-Col. T. H. Forrest, M.B., 1st South Midland Mtd. Bde. Field Amb.
No. 1916 Corpl. S. Page, 1st South Midland Mtd. Bde. Field Amb.

AUSTRALIAN, NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES.

3rd Regiment Australian Light Horse.

No. 1479 Pte. P. E. Nance.

Composite Regiment Australian Light Horse.
Capt. (temp. Maj.) Hon. D. R. H. Pelham.

Australian A.S.C.

Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) A. A. Holdsworth.
Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. H. Francis.
Lt. C. E. Thomas (killed).

1st Bn., New Zealand Rifle Brigade.

Maj. W. S. Austen.
No. 23/334 Qrnr.-Serjt. A. L. McCormick.
No. 23/483 Corpl. R. Lepper.
No. 23/536 Rifleman T. Nimmo.

2nd Bn. South African Infantry.

No. 3782 Co. Serjt.-Maj. W. L. King.
No. 3110 Lce.-Serjt. W. R. Dewar.
No. 429 Pte. N. J. Vlok.
No. 3188 Serjt. A. Wedderburn (died of wounds).
No. 2179 Serjt. J. C. Hilson.
No. 4768 Serjt. G. H. W. Beckman.
No. 2146 Lce.-Serjt. W. J. M. Husband.
No. 348 Coy. Serjt.-Maj. E. E. Prebble.

INDIAN ARMY.

15th Sikhs.

Maj. G. Pennefather Evans, 19th Punjabis.
Capt. C. F. W. Hughes.
Subadar Phuman Singh.
No. 4616 Havildar Bhagwan Singh.
No. 3989 Havildar Bishn Singh.
No. 4752 Havildar Bachan Singh.
No. 4429 Havildar Budh Singh.

PART II.

ADMINISTRATION IN EGYPT.

COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Maj.-Gen. H. E. Stanton, C.B., D.S.O., Brig.-Gen. in charge of Administration.
Maj.-Gen. J. Spens, C.B., Res. of Off., Comdg. Aust. and N.Z. Training Depôt.
Surg.-Gen. R. W. Ford, C.B., D.S.O., D.M.S.
Vice-Adml. Sir R. H. Peirse, K.C.B., M.V.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.
Rear-Adml. H. R. Robinson, P.N.T.O.
Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) N. Malcolm, D.S.O., Arg. and Suth'd Highrs., Senior Gen. Staff Off.
Col. H. B. H. Wright, C.M.G. (late R.E.), Chief Engineer.
Col. T. B. Beach, A.M.S.
Capt. (temp. Lt.-Col.) G. F. Clayton, C.M.G., ret. pay (Res. of Off.), Gen. Staff Off. in charge of Intell. Sec.
Lt.-Col. A. W. Jennings Bramly, Intell., Egyptian Army.
Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. E. N. Broadbent, K.O. Sco. Bord., D.A.Q.M.G.
Maj. R. E. M. Russell, D.S.O., R.E., Gen. Staff Off.
Maj. W. S. Whetherley, 7th D. G., Gen. Staff Off., Aust. and N.Z. Training Depôt.
Capt. A. G. McClintock, 5th Lrs., D.A.A.G.
Maj. B. H. W. Taylor, S. Staff. R., D.A.A. and Q.M.G.
Surg.-Maj. B. Pares, D.S.O., R.H. Gds., A.D.M.S.
Maj. H. V. Bagshawe, R.A.M.C., A.D.M.S. Sanitary.
Capt. and Bt. Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. N. Brown, Manch. R. (T.F.), Embarkation Staff Off., Alexandria.
Capt. (Local and Temp. Maj.) C. Garvice, D.S.O., Intell., Alexandria.
Capt. (local and temp. Maj.) H. A. Engledue, Deputy Chief Censor.
Capt. and Bt. Maj. H. O. B. Wood, 8th Rajputs, Embarkation Staff Off., Suez.

Capt. P. A. Maxwell, 3rd Brahmans, Embarkation Staff Off., Port Said.
 Capt. A. G. C. Dawney, C. Gds., Gen. Staff Off., Aust. and N.Z. Training Depôt.
 Lt. C. L. Price, 4th Aust. Lt. H., Asst. Embarkation Staff Off., Alexandria.
 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) B. H. G. Arkwright, Derbyshire Yeo., Asst. Embarkation Staff Off., Alexandria.
 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) E. R. Harris, 2nd County of Lond. Yeo., R.T.O.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

Bt. Maj. S. D. Massy, 29th Punjabis, attached R.F.C.

CAVALRY.

Royal Horse Guards.

No. 590 Squad. Corpl.-Maj. B. H. Jones.

Royal Engineers.

Maj. D. McKechnie.
 Capt. G. C. M. Hall, D.S.O., Res. of Off. Qrnr. and Hon. Lt. H. N. Hartnoll.
 No. 27969 Serjt.-Maj. T. Nealon.
 No. 5512 Qrnr.-Serjt. F. R. Myhill.
 No. 29503 Qrnr.-Serjt. C. Rivett.
 No. 18916 Engineer Clerk Serjt. S. Trenam.
 No. 5747 Serjt. W. T. Bichan.

INFANTRY.

Grenadier Guards.

Maj. E. M. Colston, M.V.O.

Border Regiment (Service Battalion).

No. 5961 Coy. Serjt.-Maj. J. A. Merrick.

King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Maj. G. T. Lee.
 Maj. F. L. Purdoe, D.S.O.

Manchester Regiment (Territorial Force).

No. 994 Serjt. J. Wood.

Connaught Rangers.

Capt. I. A. S. Cooke (Spec. Res.).

Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Maj. N. P. Clarke.

London Regiment.

No. 2402 Pte. W. G. Bloom.
 No. 2503 Pte. F. Vercoe.
 No. 2295 Pte. W. H. Jones.

Army Service Corps.

Bt. Col. E. I. Ward, A.D.S. and T. Qrnr. and Hon. Lt. H. Rawle.
 No. S/15024 Staff Serjt.-Maj. J. Hyland.
 No. S/17913 Staff Qrnr.-Serjt. E. F. Baker.
 No. S/12407 Staff Qrnr.-Serjt. J. Thorneycroft.
 No. S/18373 Staff Qrnr.-Serjt. J. Burd.
 No. S/20993 Staff Serjt. J. de la Mare.
 No. S/16081 Staff Serjt. H. S. Field.
 No. T/12711 Serjt. (Acting Co. Serjt.-Maj.) J. A. Stanley.

Army Service Corps (Territorial Force).

No. S/400 Staff Serjt. H. J. Bartlett, 2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade, A.S.C.

Army Ordnance Department.

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) A. H. Woodfield.
 Lt.-Col. C. A. Fisher.
 Commy. of Ord. and Hon. Maj. C. Wiggins.
 Dep. Commy. of Ord. and Hon. Capt. T. W. Fasson.
 Insp. of Ordnance Machinery 2nd Cl. and Hon. Capt. H. J. Jones.

Army Ordnance Corps.

No. 220 Armt. Qrnr.-Serjt. A. O. Ferris.
 No. 3614 Staff Qrnr.-Serjt. G. Jolley.
 No. 4615 Serjt. S. Brand.

No. 6079 Lce.-Corpl. C. T. Saville.
 No. 6958 Lce.-Corpl. H. A. Miles.

Remount Services.

Lt.-Col. J. G. Fair, D.S.O., Res. of Off.
 Capt. (temp. Lt.-Col.) V. R. Hine Haycock, D.S.O., Res. of Off.
 Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) G. W. Dowell, ret. pay.
 Bt. Col. W. H. Darby, ret. pay.
 Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) A. J. King, D.S.O., Fife and Forfar Yeo., Res. of Off.

Army Veterinary Corps.

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) G. M. Williams.
 Temp. Qrnr. and Hon. Lt. W. McClure.
 No. S.E. 914 Pte. (Acting Serjt.) H. McLoghry.

Army Veterinary Corps (Territorial Force).
 No. 2 Serjt. C. G. Kimber.

Army Medical Service and Royal Army Medical Corps.

Col. C. W. R. Healey.
 Col. F. W. G. Gordon Hall, M.B.
 Temp. Col. F. D. Bird, M.B., F.R.C.S.
 Lt.-Col. O. L. Robinson.
 Lt.-Col. H. E. R. James, C.B., F.R.C.S., ret.
 Maj. J. M. Darling, M.B., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh.

Maj. A. N. Fraser, M.B.
 Maj. C. P. Thomson, M.D.
 Temp. Maj. C. C. Choyce, M.D., F.R.C.S.
 Temp. Maj. W. T. Prout, M.B., C.M.G.

Capt. R. E. Todd, M.B.
 Capt. H. W. Carson, M.B.
 Capt. E. C. Lambkin, M.B.

Capt. W. W. Treves, M.B., F.R.C.S.
 Capt. C. Robb, M.B.
 Capt. S. W. M. Jones (Spec. Res.).
 Capt. E. J. Bradley, M.B. (Spec. Res.).
 Temp. Capt. G. Blacker, M.D., F.R.C.S.
 Temp. Capt. S. A. Boyd, F.R.C.S.

Temp. Lt. J. G. Willmore.
 Qrnr. and Hon. Lt. E. Bennett.
 Qrnr. and Hon. Lt. C. F. Houston.
 No. 15808 Serjt.-Maj. C. M. Primer.
 No. 32196 Serjt.-Maj. A. McNeill.

No. 8994 Serjt.-Maj. C. Kingston.
 No. 33913 Serjt. (Acting Qrnr.-Serjt.) A. Guerin.

No. 43124 Qrnr.-Serjt. A. B. Grindlay.

No. 5015 Serjt. R. J. Beisly.
 No. 1509 Serjt. A. Warren.
 No. 4310 Serjt. F. H. Tomlyn.
 No. 4082 Corpl. J. Morrison.
 No. 57592 Pte. M. Price.
 No. 9237 Pte. W. J. Gallagher.

No. 43167 Pte. J. W. R. Robertson.
 No. 36799 Pte. F. Carter.

No. 36688 Pte. H. J. Williams.
 No. 17772 Pte. A. Callaghan.
 No. 41916 Pte. W. Chalkley.
 No. 36749 Pte. W. J. Allsopp.

No. 36592 Pte. G. E. Barlow.
 No. 47012 Pte. E. Duffy.
 No. 44943 Pte. H. Hodson.

No. 43732 Pte. J. Smith.
 No. 5854 Pte. W. Newby.
 No. 6750 Pte. M. Mooney.
 No. 35177 Pte. G. Sales.
 No. 5687 Pte. G. Wright.
 No. 68037 Pte. H. D. Hubbard.
 No. 28150 Pte. H. W. Johnson.

Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force).

Lt.-Col. A. H. Lister, M.B., 1st Scottish Genl. Hosp.
 Capt. E. W. H. Groves, M.D., F.R.C.S., 2nd Southern Genl. Hosp.

Capt. D. G. Kennard.
 Capt. C. Kerr, M.B., 1st Scottish Genl. Hosp.
 Capt. W. R. Douglas, M.B., E. Lancs. Divl.
 Fd. Amb.
 Lt. (temp. Capt.) G. R. Rickett, M.D.

Consulting Surgeons.

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) C. Stonham, C.M.G.,
 F.R.C.S. (deceased).
 Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) A. H. Tubby, M.B.,
 F.R.C.S.
 Maj. (temp. Col.) A. W. Mayo Robson,
 C.V.O., F.R.C.S., D.Sc.
 Capt. (temp. Col.) V. W. Low, M.D.,
 F.R.C.S.
 Capt. (temp. Col.) Sir V. A. H. Horsley, Kt.,
 F.R.S., M.B., F.R.C.S.

Army Pay Department:

Col. G. D. Collings, D.S.O.
 Capt. R. A. B. Young.
 No. 868 Staff Qrmr.-Serjt. C. H. Parratt.
 No. 943 Staff Qrmr.-Serjt. R. Smyth.
 No. 997 Staff Serjt. F. W. Lowry.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY
 NURSING SERVICE.

Miss S. E. Oram, R.R.C., Temporary Matron
 in Chief, Egypt Command.

Matron.

Miss J. E. Dods, Citadel Hospital, Cairo.

Acting Matrons.

Miss M. Grierson, No. 15 Gen. Hosp.
 (Abbassia Schools).
 Miss D. M. C. Michell, Mil. Hosp., Ras-el-
 Tin.
 Miss M. E. Medforth, No. 18 Stationary
 Hosp., Mudros.
 Miss M. E. Neville, No. 17 Genl. Hosp. (Vic-
 toria College).

On Hospital Ships.

Acting Matrons.

Miss E. R. Collins.
 Miss K. F. Fawcett.
 Miss M. H. Graham.
 Miss S. W. Wooler.

Army Nursing Service Reserve.

Miss E. E. Wraxall.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.
 Matrons.

Miss A. S. Bond.
 Miss S. Lamming.

Acting Matrons.

Miss G. Hughes.
 Miss J. Murphy.
 Miss K. F. G. Skinner.
 Miss M. E. Howell, Army Nursing Reserve.
 Miss J. Orr, Army Nursing Reserve.
 Miss A. L. Wilson, Army Nursing Service.

Sisters.

Miss I. M. Johnston, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss A. E. M. Beamish, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss E. M. Bishop, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss B. Cole, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss G. Corder, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss I. Anderson, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. Clayden, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss C. E. Crawford, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss E. Davidson, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. B. Everitt, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss J. L. Griffiths, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. (killed).

Miss H. M. Hayward, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss S. F. Haywood, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss G. E. Keen, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. H. Klamborowski, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss K. A. Prendegast, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss N. Stewart, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss E. M. Weiss, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. E. Wragge, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss D. Webley, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

Staff Nurses.

Miss J. K. Baird, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. N. Caird, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. Dixon, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. A. Dunbar, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss J. McRobbie George, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss K. Morris, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. J. Monk, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss G. Sampson, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss E. Wadsworth, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Mrs. E. J. G. Jeans, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

On Hospital Ships.

Acting Matrons.

Miss E. V. L. Clarke, Q.A.I.M.N.S.
 Miss F. C. Craig, Q.A.I.M.N.S.
 Miss K. Lowe, Q.A.I.M.N.S.
 Miss M. Willes, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

Sisters.

Miss E. Moore, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss H. Perfrement, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss A. Wormald, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

Staff Nurses.

Miss A. D. Beaton, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss A. G. Boyd, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. Boothman, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss J. Frewin, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss D. M. Green, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss A. L. Hartrick, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss L. Jeans, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. M. McNab, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss F. Oppenheimer, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss E. M. Parkinson, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss A. Ross, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
 Miss M. A. Robertson, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.

Acting Matrons.

Miss M. A. Brown.
 Miss W. Friend.
 Miss K. Mann.
 Miss M. Newbould.

Sisters.

Miss M. E. Coxeter.
 Miss K. Conway-Jones.
 Miss A. Hills.
 Miss E. Lister.

Civilians Locally Engaged.

Sisters.

Miss A. Stuttle.
 Mrs. C. D. Cooke.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND FORCES.
 Staff.

Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) V. C. M. Sellheim,
 C.B., Aust. Imp. Force.
 Lt.-Col. A. B. Charters, N.Z. Mil. Forces.
 Lt.-Col. N. Fitz-Herbert, N.Z. Mil. Forces.
 Capt. W. J. D. Evans, Aust. Imp. Force.
 Capt. J. W. Donnelly, Aust. Imp. Force.
 Lt. W.O., R. W. Murphy, Aust. Imp. Force.
 No. 472 W.O., F. Ballhausen, Aust. Imp.
 Force.
 No. 19 W.O., J. J. Gillies, Aust. Imp. Force.
 No. 6 W.O., L. R. Walker, Aust. Imp. Force.

No. 13 Staff Serjt. T. A. Fraser, Aust. Imp. Force.
No. 16 Staff Serjt. J. S. Conroy, Aust. Imp. Force.

Australian Troops.
1st Light Horse Regiment.
No. 705 Serjt. L. G. Andrews.
3rd Battalion (New South Wales).
Qrmr. and Hon. Maj. G. Wall.
4th Battalion (New South Wales).
No. 1307 Staff Serjt. S. Forbes.

5th Battalion (Victoria).
No. 182 Serjt. H. F. Coleman.
11th Battalion (Western Australia).
Capt. A. M. Phillips.

Army Service Corps.
Maj. and Hon. Lt.-Col. J. G. Tedder.

Army Medical Corps.
Col. (Hon. Surg.-Gen.) W. D. C. Williams, C.B.

Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) H. C. Maudsley.
Lt.-Col. B. J. Newmarch, V.D.
Lt.-Col. J. B. McLean.
Capt. (temp. Maj.) T. F. Brown.
Capt. (temp. Maj.) D. S. Mackenzie.
No. 1008 Qrmr.-Serjt. J. S. A. Dowling.
No. 12 Staff Serjt. Dowd.
No. 5 Staff Serjt. B. Brown.
No. 748 W.O., G. Reid.
No. 706 Lce.-Corpl. J. S. Jones.
No. 1 Pte. H. W. Allen.
No. 157 Pte. C. Skidmore.
No. 657 Pte. O. E. Carlson.
No. 666 Pte. J. Coleman.
No. 1580 Pte. F. M. Noble.
No. 1603 Pte. C. W. Crawford.
No. 7867A. Pte. A. G. Grueber.

Army Veterinary Corps.
Capt. M. Henry.
Maj. W. A. Kendall.

Postal Corps.
Capt. C. S. Cunningham.

Army Pay Corps.
Lt.-Col. A. G. Farr.

AUSTRALIAN NURSING SERVICE.
Nursing Sisters.
Miss E. A. Conyers, Matron-in-Chief, A.A.N.S.
Miss G. Wilson, Principal Matron.
Miss J. B. Johnson (Sister), No. 2 Aust. Genl. Hosp.
Sister E. S. Davidson, Mena.
Sister A. G. Douglas, No. 1 Aust. Genl. Hosp.
Sister J. Twynam, No. 2 Aust. Genl. Hosp.
Sister R. J. Langford, No. 1 Aust. Aux. Hosp.
Sister M. Hobler, No. 3 Aust. Aux. Hosp.

Australian Army Nursing Service.
Sisters.
Miss A. Gordon-King.
Miss B. Pocock.
Miss I. Radcliffe.
Miss M. Kellett.
Miss P. Humbert.

Staff Nurses.
Miss Creswell.
Miss E. H. Chapman.
Miss A. King.
Miss E. Peters.
Miss D. D. Richmond.

Miss F. E. Spalding.
Miss V. Wionaski.
Miss O. Lee-Brown.
Miss B. M. Giblings.

Australian Army Nursing Sisters serving in British Hospitals.

Miss M. Burns.
Miss T. Cosby-White.
Miss B. Earl.
Miss F. R. Herring.
Miss E. Shepherd-Cook.
Miss E. A. Eglinton.
Miss E. Mosey.
Miss L. F. Smart.
Mrs. McHardie-White.

Australians attached to Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
Miss B. Coffey.
Miss A. J. Florey.
Miss A. D. McKibbin.
Miss A. Wilkinson.

NEW ZEALAND TROOPS.
Auckland Mounted Rifles.
Lt.-Col. C. E. R. Mackesy.
Staff Serjt.-Maj. J. T. Notley, N.Z. Staff Corps.

Wellington Battalion.
Capt. W. S. Cooper.
No. 15/71 Serjt.-Maj. J. Prideaux.

Waikata Battalion.
No. 12/649 Serjt. A. J. Bond.

PIONEER BATTALION.
2nd Lt. R. J. L. Thompson.

New Zealand Divisional Train.
Lt.-Col. G. T. Hall.

New Zealand Medical Corps.
Lt.-Col. P. C. Fenwick, M.B.
Maj. C. E. Maquire.
Maj. F. T. Bowerbank.
Serjt.-Maj. W. M. Duncan.
Serjt. H. A. Jones.
Serjt. F. V. Fisher.
Pte. L. J. Anderson.
Pte. P. Munro.
Pte. T. Wright.
Pte. J. A. Biss.
Pte. D. Jack.

New Zealand Veterinary Corps.
Lt.-Col. A. R. Young.

New Zealand Army Pay Department.
Lt.-Col. J. W. Hutchen.

New Zealand Nursing Service.
Sister Vida McLean, N.Z.A.N.S.
Sister Fanny Wilson, N.Z.A.N.S.
Sister Francis Price, N.Z.A.N.S.
Sister Ida Willis, N.Z.A.N.S.
Sister Elizabeth Nixon, N.Z.A.N.S.
Sister Marie H. Wilkie, N.Z.A.N.S.

Staff Nurses.
Cora Anderson, N.Z.A.N.S.
Jean G. S. Ingram, N.Z.A.N.S.
Edith A. Harris, N.Z.A.N.S.
Emily Nutsey, N.Z.A.N.S.
Eva M. Livesey, N.Z.A.N.S.
Mildred Ellis, N.Z.A.N.S.
Daphne R. Commons, N.Z.A.N.S.
Rose Fanning, N.Z.A.N.S.
Janet A. Moore, N.Z.A.N.S.
Mary McBeth, N.Z.A.N.S.
Elizabeth Porteous, N.Z.A.N.S.
Agnes Williams, N.Z.A.N.S.

New Zealand Army Nursing Service in British Hospitals.

Matrons.

Miss M. M. Cameron.
Miss B. Nurse.

Sisters.

Miss A. Buckley.
Miss C. E. Cherry.
Miss F. Speedy.

CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

No. 2 Canadian General Hospital.

Lt.-Col. F. Etherington, C.M.G.
Lt.-Col. H. R. Duff (deceased).
Capt. G. E. Kidd.
No. 831 Staff Serjt. L. D. Stevenson.
No. 824 Serjt. E. Sanger.
No. 846 Pte. F. B. Walsh.
No. 765 Pte. G. L. Bell.
No. 840 Pte. R. W. Whittaker.
No. 879 Lce.-Serjt. W. T. McCree.

Matron.

Miss B. J. Willoughby.

Nursing Sisters.

Miss A. B. Armstrong.
Miss E. Finlayson.

GENERAL LIST.

Maj. (Bt. Lt.-Col.) Lord E. H. Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Res. of Off.
Lt.-Col. Sir J. G. Rogers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B., ret., A. Med. Staff.
Temp. Col. Sir C. Thomson, Kt.
Temp. Col. G. S. A. Harvey Pasha, C.M.G., Provost-Marshal, Cairo.
Capt. (temp. Col.) H. C. B. Hopkinson Pasha, C.M.G. (Res. of Off.), Provost-Marshal, Alexandria.
Capt. and Bt. Maj. Sir G. B. Macauley, K.C.M.G., Res. of Off.
Maj. C. S. Spong, D.S.O., F.R.C.S., ret. pay.
Capt. (local and temp. Lt.-Col.) A. C. Parker, Intell.
Local and Temp. Capt. M. S. Macdonnell, Intell.
Temp. 2nd Lt. C. L. Woolley, Intell.
Temp. 2nd Lt. T. E. Lawrence, Intell.
Sagh Adjt.-Maj. Essani Ahmed (Egyptian Army), Intell. at Tor.
Local and temp. Lt. N. R. Bawden, Egyptian Government P.W.D., attached R.E.
Local and temp. Capt. Annesley De R. Gordon, Egyptian Veterinary Service.
(Local Maj.) Dr. W. Hastings.
(Local Maj.) Dr. E. V. Oulton.
(Local Maj.) Dr. A. F. MacCallan.
(Local Maj.) Dr. W. Hayward.
(Local Maj.) Dr. C. Ekins.
(Local Maj.) Dr. L. P. Phillips, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P.
Dr. H. V. Keatinge, C.M.G.
Dr. J. E. Cresswell.
Dr. Armand Ruffer, C.M.G.
Vice-Adml. Moreau, commanding 3rd Squadron Premier Armée Navale.
Lt. de Vaisseau de L'Enaille.
Count. de Serionne (Suez Canal).

Officials, Egyptian Government.

Sir R. Graham, K.C.M.G., C.B.
Sir W. Brunyate, K.C.M.G.
Sir M. Macdonald, K.C.M.G.
Sir David Semple.
N. T. Borton Pasha.
Burnett Stewart, Esq.
E. M. Dowson, Esq.
Ward Boys, Esq.

Dr. A. Granville.

C. H. Ambruster, Esq. (Sudan Government).

Ladies.

H. E. Lady McMahan.
Lady Maxwell.
Lady Henry Bentinck.
Lady Howard de Walden.
Lady Graham.
Lady Douglas.
Lady Rogers.
Lady Godley.
Mrs. Phillips.
Mrs. Ford.

DESPATCH No. V.

Army Headquarters, Cairo.

London, 9th April, 1916.

My Lord,

On 1st March I submitted a report on the Force in Egypt up to the 31st January, 1916. I now have the honour to supplement that report up to 19th March, 1916, the date on which I handed over command to General Sir A. J. Murray, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

The present Despatch describes the operations under Major-General W. E. Peyton, C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., for the re-occupation of Sollum. I also venture to submit herewith, for Your Lordship's favourable consideration, the names of those officers, non-commissioned and men, who have especially distinguished themselves during the period covered by this despatch.

I have the honour to be

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

J. G. MAXWELL, General.

The Re-occupation of Sollum.

My last Despatch ended with the successful engagement at Hazalin†, and General Wallace's resignation of the command of the Western Frontier Force, on grounds which have already been explained.

General Peyton's assumption of command on the 9th February practically coincided with the final reorganisation of the force, and the provision of sufficient camel transport to render the column completely mobile. Henceforth it was possible to follow up any success, instead of having to return to Matruh after each engagement. This meant that the re-occupation of Sollum, which had already received War Office sanction, was now a possibility, and preparations were pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Information from various sources was to the effect that the main hostile force, with certain reinforcements, was in the neighbourhood of Barrani, and that another smaller body was in the Camp at Sollum. It was clear that if the country was to be pacified these forces must be beaten. Two courses were open to me:—

(i) To attack at Barrani, and simultaneously to land a force at Sollum by sea.

(ii) To move by land, to supply the force by sea at Barrani, and to arrange for naval

† The correct name of this place is now known to be Halazin. The incorrect spelling is adhered to in this Despatch, as it is that on all our existing maps.

co-operation at any point which might be necessary.

The Navy were, as always, prepared to give me every assistance in whichever course I might decide to adopt.

On the one hand, Sollum Bay is completely commanded by encircling heights, and, as it would be necessary to remove the mines which had been laid at the entrance, surprise would be impossible. On the other hand, the country between Barrani and Sollum was known to be almost devoid of water, and the physical difficulties to be overcome would certainly be great.

After visiting Matruh, and going into the question on the spot with General Wallace, who had not yet left, and with Commander Eyres Monsell, Royal Navy, I decided to utilise the land route only; supplies to be put by sea into Barrani and Sollum as soon as possible after their re-occupation by us.

These were my instructions to General Peyton when he left Cairo to take over command. As you are already aware, he carried them out, with the assistance of the Navy, to my complete satisfaction.

Just as the preparations for the advance were approaching completion, news was received that a hostile force had occupied the Baharia Oasis on the 11th February. This oasis lies some 200 miles south-west of Cairo and about 100 miles from the rich and thickly populated districts of Fayum and Minia. The strength of this force, which was discovered by an air reconnaissance on the day of its arrival, was said to be about 500 men; it was increased on the following day to about 1,000. Further reinforcements are known to have arrived from the west, and the more southerly oases of Farafra and Dakhla had both been occupied by the 27th. All reports are to the effect that an orderly form of Government has been set up—indeed in most cases the Egyptian officials are believed to be carrying on their ordinary duties, but a few Copts have been induced to embrace the Moslem faith. This move of the enemy had, of course, been foreseen, and I had obtained War Office sanction to organise a command, under Major-General J. Adye, C.B., for the defence of the southern provinces of Egypt. This command had recently come into being, and General Adye was able to establish his headquarters at Beni Suef and to arrange for a thorough system of patrols from the Fayum to the neighbourhood of Assiut and the south, with a small guard on the important bridge over the Nile at Nag Hamadi. Subsequently, as our successful operations cleared the situation in the north, and the centre of gravity began to shift southward, General Adye was able to strengthen and to extend his defensive line until, at the moment of handing over my command to Sir A. Murray, his most southerly detachment was at Esna.

Meanwhile I had withdrawn the Civil Officials from the Kharga Oasis as soon as it was known that Dakhla was in the enemy's hands. I had the choice of occupying and protecting that oasis or of withdrawing from it everything which would be of value to the enemy, and contenting myself with occasional patrols. The strategic importance of these oases is, of course, very obvious, but in view of the uncertainty as to what troops would be under my command at any moment I considered that any

enterprise distant from the Nile Valley would be out of place, and I restricted General Adye to purely defensive measures, with, however, instructions to prepare a small mobile column with which he could strike at the enemy should he approach the cultivation.

All this time the oases were kept under constant observation by means of aeroplanes. Very long flights were necessary, and to reduce them as much as possible a system of advanced depôts in the desert was started. The credit for originating this system is due to Lieut. (now Captain) Van Rynefeld, R.F.C., and to Mr. Jennings Bramley, of the Sudan Civil Service, and was first put into practice on the occasion of the flight to Qara mentioned in my previous Despatch.

Such was the situation when I handed over my command on the 19th March.

Meanwhile the preparations for the advance in the North were steadily proceeding. An advanced depôt was established at Unjeila on the 16th February, and, on the 20th February, General Peyton despatched a force, under Brig.-General H. T. Lukin, C.M.G., D.S.O., consisting of one squadron Royal Bucks Hussars, Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry, Notts Battery, R.H.A., 1st South African Brigade, less the 2nd and 4th Battalions, a detachment 1/6th Royal Scots and two field ambulances, with orders to establish itself at Barrani, and thus to secure the second stepping-stone on the way to Sollum.

On the following day the hostile forces were located by air reconnaissance at Agagia, some fourteen miles south-east of Barrani. Reports by surrendered Bedouin confirmed the accuracy of this information, and added that both Nuri Bey and Gaafer Pasha were in the camp, although Sayed Ahmed himself had left for Siwa.

As General Peyton considered that the advanced force was sufficiently strong to overthrow any opposition which it was likely to encounter he ordered General Lukin to continue his march and to attack so soon as he was within striking distance of his enemy.

In accordance with this order the original March programme was adhered to, and on the 24th February General Lukin camped at the Wadi Maktil. The 25th was to be a day of rest preliminary to a night approach and attack at dawn on the 26th. However, as on all previous occasions, Gaafer Pasha again showed that he was by no means disposed passively to await attack, and at 5.30 p.m. on the 25th two field guns and at least one machine gun opened fire upon the camp. The action which followed was without importance as the enemy's artillery was soon silenced and the threatened attack was repelled with a loss to ourselves of one man killed and one wounded. Nevertheless it had been sufficient to bring about a change in General Lukin's plans, and the night march was abandoned in favour of daylight operations.

A Yeomanry reconnaissance sent out at daylight on the 26th found that the position occupied by the enemy on the previous evening had been vacated during the night, but aerial reconnaissance and officers' patrols discovered him in his old position near Agagia. Having collected sufficient information to enable him to form his plans General Lukin moved out at 9.30 a.m. with his whole force except for a small detachment left to guard his camp. By

10.15 a.m. the Yeomanry had seized a hillock 4,000 yards north of the enemy's position, and three-quarters of an hour later the attack was developed. In the centre the 3rd South African Infantry advanced on a front of about 1,700 yards, the Yeomanry (less one squadron) and two armoured cars operated on the right flank with orders to pursue the moment the enemy should break; on the left was the remaining squadron with two more armoured cars. The 1st South African Infantry and two armoured cars formed the general reserve.

As the attack developed the enemy opened a fairly heavy fire with rifles and machine guns, and two or three field guns distributed their fire over the field. The 3rd South African Infantry moved forward with admirable steadiness. Then, acting exactly as on previous occasions, the enemy's infantry moving very rapidly, attempted an outflanking movement against General Lukin's left. This was met by a company from the reserve sent up in echelon behind the threatened flank, and the counter-attack at once faded away.

As soon as the danger was over General Lukin, acting with admirable promptitude, withdrew his squadron from his left flank and sent it to strengthen his main pursuing force on his right, and there is little doubt that this quick decision did much to ensure the success of the subsequent operations. As the firing line was now within 500 yards of the position, General Lukin threw into the fight the greater portion of his reserves, including his last two armoured cars, and at the same time sent a staff officer to warn Colonel Souter, of the Dorset Yeomanry, to be ready for his opportunity. In the face of this vigorous action the enemy was compelled to evacuate his position, and, in exact accordance with the plans, the fight was taken up by the cavalry. The rest of the story may be told in the words of Colonel Souter's report:—

"About 1 p.m. I received a message from the G.O.C. saying that he wished me to pursue and to cut off the enemy, if possible. It was my intention to let the enemy get clear of the sandhills, where there might have been wire or trenches, and then to attack him in the open. I therefore pursued on a line parallel to, and about 1,000 yards west of, the line of retreat, attacking with dismounted fire wherever the horses wanted an easy. About 2 p.m. I saw for the first time the whole retreating force extend for about a mile with a depth of 300 to 400 yards. In front were the camels and baggage, escorted by irregulars, with their proper fighting force (Muhafizia) and maxims forming their rear and flank guard. I decided to attack mounted. About 3 p.m. I dismounted for the last time to give my horses a breather and to make a careful examination of the ground over which I was about to move. By this time the Dorset Regiment was complete, and as the Squadron of the Bucks. Yeomanry had gone on ahead and could not be found, I attacked with Dorsets alone. The attack was made in two lines, the horses galloping steadily, and well in hand. Three maxims were brought into action against us, but the men were splendidly led by their squadron and troop leaders, and their behaviour was admirable. About 50 yards from the posi-

tion I gave the order to charge, and with one yell the Dorsets hurled themselves upon the enemy, who immediately broke. In the middle of the enemy's lines my horse was killed under me, and, by a curious chance, his dying strides brought me to the ground within a few yards of the Senussi General, Gaafer Pasha."

At this moment Colonel Souter was alone, except for Lieutenant Blaksley and Yeoman Brown, both of the Dorset Yeomanry, who had also had their horses shot under them. Around them about 50 fit or lightly wounded enemy, and the situation was distinctly threatening until the arrival of the machine gun section decided the issue. Gaafer Pasha and his staff were then escorted from the field to a place of safety.

For this happy result great credit is due to Colonel Souter, whose resolution and coolness stood him in great stead at a very critical moment. His name has already been submitted to Your Lordship for reward.

Colonel Souter adds—

"It is difficult accurately to express the effect of this cavalry charge on the enemy. Throughout the day he had fought with extreme boldness, but when the horses got into him he had only one thought, and that was to get away."

The losses in this remarkable exploit were severe, but they were justified by both the moral and material result achieved. One squadron was deprived of all its leaders, two being killed and two having their horses killed under them. Without their officers' control the men carried on too far, and it was this squadron that suffered most of the casualties. The enemy's losses were also heavy, and it is most improbable that anything would have induced them to stand up to well-handled cavalry again.

This action on the 26th completed the first stage of General Peyton's advance on Sollum, for Barrani was occupied without further opposition on the 28th February. The next stage was to bring up the remainder of his force and to put sufficient stores into Barrani to enable the advance to be continued. This was a naval operation. For various reasons the advance had been begun some days earlier than I had intended or than the Navy had been led to expect. The Australian Train, which had worked splendidly, was required for duty elsewhere, and, although 2,000 transport camels had been provided, we were still dependent upon the supply ships. Fortunately, these had been provided and stocked in ample time, and Captain Burmester, R.N., and Commander Eyres Monsell were, in fact, able to put supplies into Barrani about a week earlier than the date originally given to them.

The remainder of the South African Infantry Brigade and the second Mounted Brigade, together with the two sections of the Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery, were accordingly brought from Mersa Matruh, and the whole force was assembled at Barrani by the 8th March.

After their defeat at Agagia on the 26th February the enemy retreated westwards towards Sollum, and the Egyptian Bedouin (Aulad Ali) began to desert him in large numbers and to appeal to General Peyton for pardon. A number of prominent Sheikhs came into his camp, but the necessity of push-

ing on the operations made it impossible to enter into lengthy negotiations for the moment. Air reconnaissance and native report established the fact that the enemy had re-occupied their old camps at Bir Warr and Msead, which had been Sayed Ahmed's headquarters before the opening of hostilities, and it was possible that reinforcements might be coming up from Cyrenaica.

From Barrani to Sollum two possible routes were open to General Peyton. One, following the Khedival road along the coast line; the other climbing on to the inland plateau by the Nagb Medean or some other of the various passes, and then following along the higher ground towards the camp at Msead. Tactically and strategically the latter route was undoubtedly to be preferred, since at Sollum the escarpment rises sheerly from the shores of the bay, and to climb it there in the face of opposition must entail heavy loss of life. As is usual in African campaigning the water question was as important as either tactics or strategy. In this case all information was to the effect that a good supply could be found in the wells at Augerin, and that there were large cisterns at the Nagb Medean and Siwiat. This meant that by careful use of the reserve water park which had been organized, and by moving in two bodies, the whole force could use the inland road by the plateau.

The first column, which comprised all the infantry and slow moving troops, left Barrani on the 9th March, under General Lukin, with orders to secure a foothold on the plateau, using the Nagb Medean. The second column, comprised of mounted troops, horses and camels, was to leave two days later and to reach Augerin on the day after the Nagb Medean had been secured. That is to say, that the whole force would have been concentrated at Augerin with its outposts in the high ground ready to make its final and decisive attack upon Bir Warr and Msead. This plan was upset by the discovery, on March 12th, that previous reports as to water were far too optimistic. The supply at Augerin was found to be quite inadequate, and the cisterns at Medean and Siwiat were both reported to be dry. Some re-consideration, therefore, became necessary. The situation at that moment was as follows:—The armoured cars had reached the plateau, using the most westerly pass near Alim er Rabia. Telephone conversation cleverly intercepted at Barrani by a Turkish-speaking operator showed that the enemy was anxious, and in two minds whether to fight or fly; and Captain Blunt, R.E., had discovered a cistern at Alim Tejdid containing sufficient water for two battalions for one night. General Peyton was still rightly averse to risking the losses which he would suffer if compelled to attack the Sollum heights from the coastline, especially as he had already made good a footing on the plateau. On the other hand, the water on the inland route was only sufficient for a portion of his troops. He therefore decided to send two battalions of infantry, the armoured cars, his camel corps company, and his mountain guns under General Lukin along the top of the escarpment, while the remainder of his force was to move by the coast. At midnight on the 13th/14th General Lukin was at Siwiat, the remaining infantry was at Alim Tejdid, and the mounted troops at Bagbag. On the morning of the 14th both columns moved

towards Sollum; at 9 a.m. aeroplane reconnaissance reported that the enemy was evacuating his camps. The mounted troops under General Peyton then joined General Lukin's column on the high ground, and, as the aeroplane had discovered a hostile force some 20 miles to the west, the armoured cars, under Major the Duke of Westminster, were sent on in pursuit.

The result of this pursuit has already been fully reported. It resulted, as Your Lordship is aware, in the capture of all the enemy's guns and machine guns, together with about 40 prisoners, including three Turkish officers, and in inflicting on the enemy a loss of 50 killed and many wounded. Our loss in this exceptionally successful affair was one British officer slightly wounded.

By the re-occupation of Sollum and this pursuit by the armoured cars, the defeat of the northern column operating against Egypt was made complete. In little more than three weeks General Peyton's force had cleared the country of the enemy for 150 miles, had captured his commander, had taken all his artillery and machine guns, and had driven his scattered forces far beyond the Egyptian frontier.

Nevertheless, one more object remained to be achieved. It was known that somewhere in Cyrenaica the Senussi held some 95 British prisoners, survivors from the "Tara" and "Moorina," which had been torpedoed in November. After thorough examination of prisoners taken on the 14th, Captain Royle came to the conclusion that these prisoners could be found at a place some 75 miles west of Sollum. It was decided to make the attempt, and, as has also already been reported, it also was a complete success. The task was again entrusted to the light armoured car battery, under Major the Duke of Westminster, accompanied by the motor ambulances. The distance travelled was 120 miles, and the fact that the rescue was effected without any loss of life does not, in my opinion, detract in any way from the brilliance of the exploit. To lead his cars through perfectly unknown country against an enemy of unknown strength was a feat which demanded great resolution, and which should not be forgotten even in this war, where deeds of rare daring are of daily occurrence.

With the rescue of the prisoners and the safe return of the armoured cars, the campaign in the west came to an end, and I think it may fairly be claimed that seldom has a small campaign been so completely successful or had such far-reaching results.

The effect of this success has been to remove the anxiety which was at one time felt as to the possibility of hostile outbreaks in Egypt itself, where agitation was known to be rife. The attitude of the people in Alexandria, and more especially of the very large Bedouin population of the Behera province, has completely changed, and any prestige which we have lost through the evacuation of Sollum has been more than recovered. Moreover, through his failure as a temporal leader, Sayed Ahmed has lost much of the influence which was attached to him as a spiritual head.

On the west the Aulad Ali, who had been induced to throw in their lot with the Senussi in the belief that they would soon be able to raid the rich lands of the Delta, have been re-

duced to a state of starvation, and are now surrendering in such large numbers that feeding them has become so serious a problem that it has been necessary to establish a special branch of the administration for their protection and control.

On the east, the failure of the Turks to carry out their threat to attack Egypt and seize the Suez Canal has similarly resulted in a loss of credit and prestige. In the south, scattered forces still hold the Oases, and the inherent difficulties of desert campaigning will make them troublesome to deal with; but the failures in east and west have, it may fairly be claimed, had the result of establishing our hold upon Egypt more firmly than ever, and of convincing all the more enlightened of the people that they can gain nothing by intriguing with our enemies.

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Personal Staff.

Anglesey, Temp. Capt. C. H. A., Marquis of Lt., Res. of Off.
 Battenberg, Capt. H. H. Prince Alexander of, G.C.V.O., G. Gds.
 Walford, Temp. Lt. W., 2nd Co. of Lon. Yeo.

General Headquarters Staff.

Ainsworth, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) W. J., D.S.O., Durh. L.I.
 Alberty, Capt. I. J., 3rd City of Lond. Yeo.
 Bazley-White, Capt. R. B. L., R. W. Kent R.
 Blakeney, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) R. B. D., D.S.O., Res. of Off.
 Boyle, Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.), R. C., C.B.
 Burmester, Capt. R. M., C.M.G., R.N.
 Eaton, Capt. R. W., 3rd Co. of Lond. Yeo.
 Elliott, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) W., A.S.C.
 Eyres-Monsell, Lt.-Comdr. (Acting Comdr.) B. M., R.N., M.P.
 Hardy, Comdr. (Resident Naval Officer) G. C., R.N.
 Hunter, Local and temp. Col. G. G., C.M.G. Egyptian Coastguard Administration.
 Griffith, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) D. M., D.S.O., R.E.
 Hodgson, Capt. C. B. M., R. W. Surr. R. (Spec. Res.).
 Holdsworth, Maj. A. A., Aust. A.S.C.
 Howard, Maj. H. M., A. Ord. Dept.
 Koe, Lt.-Comdr. W. P., R.N., ret.
 Lukin, Brig.-Gen. H. T., C.M.G., D.S.O., S. Afr. Inf. Bde.
 Lucan, Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) G. C. The Earl of, Composite Inf. Bde.
 McClintock, Maj. A. G., 5th Lrs.
 Mitchell-Baker, Maj. J., S. Afr. Def. Forces.
 Peyton, Maj.-Gen. W. E., C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., Commanding Western Frontier Force.
 Royle, Local and temp. Capt. L. V. A., Egyptian Coastguard Administration.
 Russell, Capt. N. H. C., Worc. Yeo., ret. pay.
 Sewell, Lt.-Col. E. P., M.B., R.A.M.C.
 Tobin, Capt. H. W., 128th Pioneers.

Royal Flying Corps.

Jenkins, Capt. F. H., Spec. Res.
 Ross, Capt. and Bt. Maj. A. J., R.E.
 Wellesley, Capt. Lord George, G. Gds.
 Coleman, 2nd Lt. E. H., R.F.A. (T.F.).
 Stent, 2nd Lt. F. W., Spec. Res.
 Girod, 2nd Lt. M., Ches. R. (Spec. Res.) (died of wounds).

Berks Yeomanry.

Wigan, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. T.

Buckinghamshire Yeomanry.

Primrose, Lt. the Hon. N. J. A.
 Bulteel, 2nd Lt. (temp. Lt.) J. C.
 Higgins, 2410 Corpl. R. P.
 Beale, 1137 Lce.-Corpl. A. St. J.
 Chapman, 966 Lce.-Corpl. (Acting Corpl.) C. J.

Dorset Yeomanry.

Souter, Temp. Lt.-Col. H. M. W., D.S.O., Maj., Ind. Army.
 Reeves, Capt. (temp. Maj.) V. C. M. (killed).
 Gordon, Capt. R. G. S.
 Dammers, 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) G. M.
 Blaksley, 2nd Lt. J. H.
 Paulet, 2nd Lt. C. H. (killed).
 Littleworth, 187 Squad. Serjt.-Maj. A.
 James, 74, Squad. Qrmr.-Serjt. W. R.
 Andrews, 139 Serjt. N. E.
 Gibbs, 213 Serjt. (Acting Staff Serjt.-Maj.) W.
 Cadie, 591 Corpl. E.
 Collins, 826 Lce.-Corpl. C.
 Bradley, 624 Serjt. C. J.
 Guy, 869 Corpl. R. E.
 Ashley, No. 1119 Pte. H. D.
 Brown, 846 Pte. W.

Gloucestershire Yeomanry.

Bengough, 2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.) J. C. (killed).

Royal Horse Artillery.

Laycock, Maj. and Hon. Lt.-Col. J. F., D.S.O., Notts. R.H.A.
 Cholmondeley, Lt. Lord G. H., Notts. R.H.A.

Royal Engineers.

Blunt, Capt. W. S.

Light Armoured Car Batteries:

Westminster, Maj. H. R. A., Duke of, G.C.V.O., D.S.O., Cheshire Yeo.
 Bald, Capt. E. H. C., Res. of Off.
 Amphlett, Temp. Capt. C. E., Motor Mach. Gun Service.
 Protheroe, Temp. Capt. A. H., A.S.C.
 Leslie, Lt. J., 12th Royal Lrs., Motor Mach. Gun Service.
 Gill, 4315 Staff Serjt.-Maj. C., 4th Queen's Own Huss.
 Roshier, 1806 Serjt. S. W., 17th Lrs.
 Steele, 4766 Serjt. H., 4th D.G.
 Macfarland, 5552 Serjt. J., 20th Huss.
 Judge, M2/120798 Pte. (Acting Serjt.) W. A., A.S.C.
 Sawyer, M2/120794 Pte. (Acting Corpl.) H. A., A.S.C.
 Murphy, 2706 Pte. (Acting Corpl.) J., 8th Huss.
 Puplett, M1/07685 Pte. (Acting Corpl.) T. J., A.S.C.
 Powell, M2/133755 Pte. G., A.S.C.
 Page, M2/120793 Pte. W., A.S.C.
 Barton, 4607 Pte. G., 11th Huss.
 Morrison, M2/120792 Pte. A., A.S.C.
 Allport, M2/0777136 Pte. G. R., A.S.C.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

Tweedie, Lt.-Col. A. R., F.R.C.S. (T.F.).
 Forrest, Lt.-Col. T. H., M.B. (T.F.).
 Thomson, Maj. C. P., M.D.
 Brechin, Capt. W. A., M.B. (T.F.).
 Robinson, Capt. G. E. J. A., M.D. (T.F.).
 O'Brien, Temp. Lt. J. W., M.B.

1st Australian Divisional Train.

Francis, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) F. H.

South African Infantry.

1st.

Dawson, Temp. Lt.-Col. F. S.

2nd.

Tanner, Temp. Lt.-Col. W. E. C.

3rd.

Thackeray, Temp. Lt.-Col. E. F.

4th.

Jones, Temp. Lt.-Col. F. A., D.S.O.

Miscellaneous.

St. Quentin, Lt. le Comte de, French Army.

Moberley, Kaimakam (temp. Maj.) M.,
Egyptian Ministry.

Grundy, R. T., Esq. (graded Maj.), Asst.
Traffic Manager, Directorate of Railway
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