

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