



SIXTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST, 1918.

War Office,
29th August, 1918.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatch, addressed to the Chief of the General Staff, India, by Lieutenant-General W. R. Marshall, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., Commanding-in-Chief Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force:—

General Headquarters,
Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force,
15th April, 1918.

SIR,—

I assumed the command of this force on the 18th November last on the death of the late lamented Lieut.-Gen. Sir Stanley Maude, and now have the honour to submit a report on the operations in Mesopotamia from October 1st, 1917, till 31st March of this year.

2. The last despatch of General Maude covered the period April 1st to September 30th, 1917, and concluded with the operations which resulted in the capture and occupation

of Ramadi on the Euphrates. At the commencement of the period covered by the present despatch this force was opposed on the north-east by Turks, who were holding the hills known as Jebel Hamrin, while up the Tigris they were entrenched in front of Daur, and the left wing was secure at Ramadi.

3. At the beginning of October it was decided to clear the Turks from the left bank of the Diala, and occupy the Jebel Hamrin, astride of that river, in order that the control of the canals might be in our hands. This operation was entrusted to the corps then under my command. I decided, as a preliminary operation, to drive the Turks out of their forward positions on the right bank of the Diala, where they were holding a line near Deli Abbas, and after that to hold them in front whilst my main attack developed from the south-east against their left flank. These measures had the desired effect of dislodging the enemy from a very strong position with extraordinarily few casualties in my force, but, owing to the Diala being at that time of year fordable in innumerable places, the bulk