



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

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MONDAY, 15 MARCH, 1920.

India Office,

15th March, 1920.

The following despatch from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India regarding the operations against Afghanistan has been received from the Government of India:—

*Army Headquarters, India,
Simla, the 1st November, 1919.*

FROM
HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL SIR
CHARLES CARMICHAEL MONRO,
G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., A.D.C.;
Commander-in-Chief in India.

TO
THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA,
ARMY DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith, for the information of the Government of India, an account of the recent operations against Afghanistan.

INTRODUCTORY.

2. For the proper consideration of these operations, it is necessary to refer briefly to the conditions prevailing in India at the time hostilities broke out. As the Government of India are aware, the standard of military preparation in this country was regulated by the instructions of the War Committee of the Cabinet received through the Secretary of State for India in 1916, *viz.*, that operations on the Indian frontier were to be of a defensive nature, and that, should the offensive be forced upon us, it was to be strictly limited in scope. The Field Army maintained for this purpose, namely, four divisions, three frontier brigades and four cavalry brigades, had necessarily suffered from the demands made upon it to supply additional units and draft reinforcements for overseas theatres; and this had to a certain extent affected its efficiency; moreover, many of its best qualified officers were employed out of India, and there was considerable deficiency in medical and engineer personnel which could not be made good from home. Since the commencement of the war in 1914, India had been engaged in providing personnel, material and munitions of war to