



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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TUESDAY, 6 APRIL, 1920.

War Office,

6th April, 1920.

The following despatches on operations in Russia have been received by the Secretary of State for War:—

DESPATCH No. 1 (with Appendix).

From Major-General F. C. Poole, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces in Northern Russia, covering the period from 24th May to 30th September, 1918.

General Headquarters,
Archangel,

5th October, 1918.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report of the action of the North Russia Expeditionary Force from its inception on 24th May, 1918, up to 30th September, 1918.

According to orders received from the War Office, I proceeded to Murman, where I disembarked on 24th May, 1918, to assume command of the Allied Forces in North Russia. My in-

structions were to organise the Czecho-Slovaks, of whom there were said to be some 20,000 en route to Archangel and Murman, and these troops, together with any local troops I might be able to raise, were to form the bulk of my force, stiffened with a few Allied troops of whom I might ultimately hope to obtain about 5,000.

Situation at Murman on my Arrival.

On arrival at Murman, after discussing the situation with Rear-Admiral Thomas W. Kemp, C.B., C.I.E., S.N.O. White Sea, and with the various Officers of the Garrison, I found that the situation was as follows:—

1. Our forces were holding Murmansk with a detachment down at Kandalaksha, thus holding the Kola Peninsula. We also had a Naval detachment from H.M.S. Cochrane holding Pechenga, from which port they had lately driven out a force of White Finns. The rest of the railway line as far as Svanka was nominally held by detachments of the Red Army. Our troops had been landed at Murman to defend the port on the invitation of the Soviet Government of Moscow.