



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

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MONDAY, 1 NOVEMBER, 1920.

War Office,
1st November, 1920.

The Colonial Office has forwarded for publication the following Despatch on military operations in the Somaliland Protectorate:—

From the Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Somaliland Protectorate,
To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor's Camp,
Sheikh,
15th May, 1920.

MY LORD,—

In continuation of my despatch of the 30th April, 1920, I have the honour to forward herewith for Your Lordship's information papers describing the aerial and military operations undertaken in Somaliland in January and February of this year against the Mullah Mohammed bin Abdullah Hassan, which, in the brief space of twenty-three days, resulted in the complete overthrow of the Dervish power. These papers comprise reports by Group Captain R. Gordon, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding "Z" Unit, Royal Air Force, by Colonel G. H. Summers, Officer Commanding

Troops, Somaliland Protectorate, by Captain G. G. P. Hewett, Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Odin," Senior Naval Officer, Gulf of Aden, and by Captain A. Gibb, Officer Commanding Tribal Levy.

2. As Your Lordship is aware, while the plans for these operations were under discussion in London, news was received that the Mullah had left Tale (lat. 9° 9', long. 48° 23'), a strongly fortified position in the south-eastern corner of the Protectorate, where he had been established since 1907. With dramatic suddenness he moved northwards in mid-September to Jidali (lat. 10° 43', long. 47° 43'), with his family and stock and nearly all his fighting men and war material, and established his *haroun* in a strong natural position in the hills at Medishe (lat. 10° 48', long. 47° 33'), twelve miles north-west of Jidali. Although this new development, created by the ceaseless activities of the Mijertein against the Mullah's stock in the open plains around Tale necessitated a change in our proposed line of advance, it was, on the whole, favourable to our plans, as he hereby not only deprived himself of easy access to territory where he would be immune from our pursuit, but increased the distance between