

position was occupied by the friendlies by 7 p.m. A number of Dervish riflemen still remained in parts of Silsilat Fort, some of whom were killed, and others escaped during the night. Dervishes were also holding out in Tale Fort, and two unsuccessful attempts were made by the Levy during the night to effect an entrance. But the few defenders opened the door and surrendered in the early morning on being promised their lives. It was past sunset by the time the Camel Corps arrived, and too late to take up at once the pursuit of the Dervish horsemen, but a strong patrol was sent forward with orders to get on their tracks and be ready to guide the column as soon as the moon rose. This patrol returned just after midnight to report that, owing to the hard gypsum surface, it would be impossible to follow the tracks till dawn, and that on their return they had met other parties of Dervishes escaping from the forts under cover of darkness. It was fortunate that the capture of Tale was thus easily effected, for had the Dervishes made a determined stand here, under the cover of their immensely strong forts, we should have become involved, with the limited weapons at our disposal, in a difficult and costly operation. Against this had to be set the fact that the Mullah was once more at large. Much booty, including 600 rifles, 450 camels and cattle, and 40 ponies, fell into the hands of the Tribal Levy at the taking of Tale, and the Turk, Mohammed Ali, and the Arab masons were among those taken prisoner. Many of the garrison were killed, and hundreds of Dervish women and children were captured. Nine men of the Levy were wounded, two severely.

20. Moving at dawn on the 10th February, the Camel Corps took up the final pursuit, following the Mullah's tracks, which led first north and then, turning right-handed, south by east. After crossing the river bed at Halin (23 miles) the tracks began to divide, and by nightfall the column had encountered only exhausted ponies and the debris of the flight. Moving on again by the moon at 3 a.m., the column was checked by the tracks breaking up completely, and patrols were sent forward to clear up the situation. Three miles south-west of Galnoli (lat. $8^{\circ} 40'$, long. $48^{\circ} 38'$), on the frontier, the tracks converged again, and from this point all but the fittest animals were sent back, the pursuit being continued with 150 rifles, three machine-guns and two Stokes guns. At 3.45 p.m. a Dervish picket was caught and information obtained that an enemy party was watering in the Bihen nullah a mile ahead. This party was surprised, and 12 riflemen were shot down at close range, the pony troop galloping round the right flank accounting for the remainder. All the fighting men were killed and all the women, children and ponies captured. The party consisted of the Mullah's wives, children and near relatives under escort of 30 riflemen. At 9 o'clock next morning, the 12th, pickets reported that a force of Dervish horse and foot were approaching Gerrowei. Leaving 20 rifles to guard the prisoners, Colonel Ismay at once gave chase with the rest of his force, and came up with the enemy in the broken ground north-west of Gerrowei stream. "C" Company ponymen galloped straight through the Dervish footmen holding a narrow neck, and, joining hands with another patrol at Gerrowei, went off in pursuit of the Dervish horse. These were eventually galloped down, and only a few

men escaped on foot. The party of footmen soon broke, and most of them were accounted for. Reports as to the whereabouts of the Mullah himself were still conflicting, and an exhaustive drive was now begun. At mid-day a patrol reported the tracks of a few horsemen, footmen and camels further south, moving into the Haud. In the hope that this would prove to be the Mullah's own party, Colonel Ismay, leaving Major C. A. L. Howard, D.S.O., to continue the drive, set out in pursuit with some 20 ponies (all that could go out of a walk) and one camel troop, and by 3.30 p.m. had hunted down the fugitives. They turned out to be a party under the Abyssinian Fitaurari, Bayenna, who had been in the Dervish camp for some years. Subsequent reports show that the Mullah was, in fact, close at hand at this time, and from a neighbouring hill witnessed the fate of the Fitaurari's party, of which eight were killed and two captured. The column concentrated at Gerrowei that evening, and returned to Bihen after dark. The Camel Corps had thus pursued until there was nothing further to pursue—from the sea to the southern borders of the Protectorate. Not less than 60 of the Mullah's personal following had been killed, including seven of his sons and seven close relatives; also four of his *kasooi* (i.e., immediate advisers and leaders). Six of his sons, his five wives, four daughters and two sisters had been captured, and only his eldest son, Mahdi, a brother and three or four well-known Dervishes had escaped, with the Mullah himself. They had left the main party early, keeping to the east and seeking safety in isolation. It is now realised that the Mullah's whereabouts were unknown to any but the few actually with him (at no time more than ten), and he himself consistently avoided water holes and other dangerous places, sending his ponies to water under escort, and often moving to a new position before they had returned, for fear the escort might have been captured and revealed his position. By this means he made good his escape into Abyssinian territory, and finally crossed the Haud to Galadi.

21. This marked the close of active operations. At the final destruction of Medishe by a company of the 101st Grenadiers, 600 rifles were collected, and the King's African Rifles in due course cleared up the whole of the northern area, the Dervish forts at Surud and elsewhere being destroyed. The demolition of Tale, on account of the great strength of the fortifications, had to await the arrival of further supplies of explosives from Egypt, when the work was completed by the Camel Corps. I proceeded myself to Tale by aeroplane on the 15th February to decide the various questions requiring settlement, such as the disposal of the large numbers of Dervish prisoners who had fallen into our hands or had surrendered, and the temporary occupation of new territory; and I was glad to have this opportunity to congratulate the Camel Corps and the Tribal Levy on their very excellent services. As the outcome of one small but very successful operation near Eil Der on the 4th February, much of the Dervish stock from the Surud area was captured by a column under the command of Captain Allden; and five thousand head of cattle and camels, apart from sheep, were brought in to Eil Afweina. The rest was rounded up by the friendlies or intercepted by the Tribal Levy in the Nogal.