



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette
Of FRIDAY, the 6th of OCTOBER.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1882.

War Office, October 6, 1882.

A DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from the General Officer Commanding in Egypt :—

SIR, *Cairo, September 16, 1882.*

I HAVE already had the honour of reporting by telegraph to you that I attacked the entrenched position of Tele-el-Kebir a little before sunrise on the morning of the 13th instant, completely defeating the enemy with very great loss, and capturing 59 field guns, vast quantities of ammunition, military stores, and supplies of all sorts.

The enemy were pursued to Zagazig, 25 miles from our camp at Kassassin, by the Indian Contingent, the leading detachment of which reached that place under Major-General Sir H. Macpherson, V.C., a little after four P.M., and by the Cavalry Division, under General Lowe, to Belbeis, which was occupied in the evening. Major-General Lowe was ordered to push on with all possible speed to Cairo, as I was most anxious to save that city from the fate which befel Alexandria in July last.

These orders were ably carried out, General Lowe reaching the great barracks of Abbassieh, just outside of Cairo, at 4.45 P.M. on the 14th instant. The cavalry marched 65 miles in these two days. The garrison of about 10,000 men, summoned by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Stewart, A.A.G. to the Cavalry Division, to surrender, laid down their arms, and our troops took possession of the citadel. A message was sent to Arabi Pasha through the Prefect of the City, calling upon him to surrender forthwith, which he did unconditionally; he was accompanied by Toulba Pasha, who was also one of the leading rebels in arms against the Khedive.

The Guards, under His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, reached Cairo early on the 15th instant.

The result of the battle of Tel-el-Kebir has been the entire collapse of the rebellion. The only place that has not as yet surrendered is Damietta, and its capture or surrender can be easily effected at our leisure.

The men of the rebel army having laid down or thrown away their arms in their flight, have now dispersed to their homes, and the country is so rapidly returning to its ordinary condition of

peace, that I am able to report the war to be at an end, and that the object for which this portion of Her Majesty's Army was sent to Egypt has been fully accomplished.

Such is a brief summary of the events of the last three days. I shall now endeavour to describe them somewhat in detail.

From the daily reconnoissance of the position at Tel-el-Kebir, made from our camp at Kassassin, especially from the good view I obtained of the enemy's works on the 9th instant, when our troops drove back within their entrenchments the force of 13 battalions, 5 squadrons, and 18 guns, that had attacked our camp in the morning; it was evident their works were of great extent, and of a formidable character, all the information obtained from spies and prisoners led me to believe that the enemy's force at Tel-el-Kebir consisted of from 60 to 70 horsed guns, which were mostly distributed along their line of works, of two Infantry divisions (24 battalions) of about 20,000 men, and three regiments of Cavalry, together with about 6,000 Bedouins and Irregulars, besides a force of about 5,000 men, with 24 guns, at Salhalieh, all under the immediate command of Arabi Pasha. I have since been able to verify these numbers, which are certainly not overstated, except as regards the number of guns at Tel-el-Kebir, which, I believe, to have been 59, the number we took in the works and during the pursuit.

Owing to the numerous detachments I was obliged to make for the defence of my long line of communications from Suez to Ismailia, and thence on to Kassassin, and owing to the losses incurred in previous actions, I could only place in line about 11,000 bayonets, 2,000 sabres, and 60 field guns.

The enemy's position was a strong one; there was no cover of any kind in the desert lying between my camp at Kassassin and the enemy's works north of the Canal. These works extended from a point on the Canal $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the railway station of Tel-el-Kebir for a distance, almost due north, of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The general character of the ground which forms the northern boundary of the valley through which the Ismailia Canal and railway run is that of gently undulating and rounded slopes, which rise gradually to a fine open plateau from 90 to 100 feet above the valley.