



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1915.

Admiralty, 8th December, 1915.

The following Despatch has been received from the Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope Station:—

“Challenger,”
15th July, 1915.

Sir,—Be pleased to lay before their Lordships the following report of the operations against the “Königsberg” on the 6th and 11th instant:—

In accordance with orders issued by me, the various vessels concerned took up their appointed stations on the 5th July, in readiness for the operations on the following day.

At 4.15 a.m. on the 6th July, H.M.S. “Severn,” Captain Eric J. A. Fullerton, R.N., and H.M.S. “Mersey,” Commander Robert A. Wilson, weighed and proceeded across the bar into the Kikunja branch of the Rufiji river, which they entered about 5.20 a.m.

The “Severn” was anchored head and stern and fire was opened on the “Königsberg” by 6.30 a.m. The “Mersey” was similarly moored and opened fire shortly after.

Both Monitors were fired on with 3-pounders, pom-poms and machine-guns when entering the river and on their way up, and they replied to the fire.

At 5.25 a.m. an aeroplane, with Flight-Commander Harold E. M. Watkins as pilot, and carrying six bombs, left the aerodrome on Mafia Island. The bombs were dropped at the “Königsberg” with the intention of hampering any interference she might attempt with the Monitors while they were getting into position.

At 5.40 a.m. another aeroplane, with Flight-Commander John T. Cull as pilot, and Flight Sub-Lieutenant Harwood J. Arnold as observer, left the aerodrome for the purpose of spotting for the Monitors.

At 5.45 a.m. I transferred my Flag to the “Weymouth,” Captain Denis B. Crampton, M.V.O., and at 6.30 a.m. proceeded across the bar, with the Whalers “Echo” and “Fly” sweeping, and the “Childers” sounding ahead; the “Pyramus,” Commander Viscount Kelburn, being in company.

The “Weymouth” grounded on the bar for a few minutes on the way across, but soon came off with the rising tide, and advanced as far as the entrance to the river, where she anchored.

Fire from small guns was opened on her, and on the Whalers, from the shore, but beyond one shell, which struck the “Fly,” no damage was sustained. A few rounds from the