

12. During the month of June there was little change in the situation.

Early in the month the 9th Bhopal Infantry and 125th Rifles arrived from France and were taken on the strength of the Canal Defence Force in replacement of the 1/5th and 2/10th Gurkha Rifles.

On the 11th and 12th five Turkish deserters arrived at El Shâtt saying that they had deserted from a force of some 300 men who had reached the vicinity of Mabeiuk with a view to attacking the Canal. A column was at once organised at Kubri to deal with the threat, but nothing materialised, the enemy withdrawing to Nekhl.

A party of somewhat similar strength was located by an aeroplane near Katia about the middle of the month, but retired on El Arish without undertaking any offensive.

On the 30th of the month the British s.s. "Teresias" struck a mine laid in the Naval Section of the Canal Defences, near the South end of the Little Bitter Lake. From investigations it appeared that a party had reached the East bank of the lake, waded out to the main channel, and succeeded in evading the naval launches which patrol this section and in placing a mine. Thanks to the skilful handling of the ship and the prompt action of the Canal Company's officials, the accident only blocked the Canal for 14 hours, and the ship, though seriously damaged, has since been towed into Alexandria for repair.

13. During July nothing of any note occurred. On two occasions, owing to the reported presence of Turkish patrols in the neighbourhood of Katia, a small column was moved out from No. III Section to engage or cut them off should they approach the Canal; but on each occasion the hostile party retired without touch having been obtained. The extreme heat in the desert made military operations very difficult, and practically confined all movements to the night time.

On the 8th July orders were received for two batteries R.H.A. (T.F.) and one infantry brigade to proceed urgently to Aden, and accordingly "B" Battery, H.A.C., the Berkshire Battery, R.H.A. (T.F.), and the 28th (T.F.) Brigade (51st, 53rd Sikhs, 56th Rifles and 62nd Punjabis) left Suez on the 12th and following days.

The Artillery were replaced by the 1/15th and 1/17th Batteries, E. Lancs. R.F.A. (T.F.), while the Derbyshire Yeomanry (dis-mounted) were also sent to the Canal Zone.

14. From the foregoing it will be seen that no fighting of any importance has taken place during the past six months, and it appears evident that, owing to the lack of water, climatic conditions and inability to prosecute campaigns on so many fronts, the Turks will be unable to undertake serious operations in this region till the cold weather arrives and a considerable change in the strategical situation takes place.

At the same time there is no doubt of their intention to detain as many of our troops as possible on the defence of the Canal by attempts to endanger navigation, and, if possible, to block the Canal by sinking a ship in the fairway. Consequently the chief danger that has had to be guarded against, since the main attack in February, has been that of minelaying in the Canal; and, to meet this danger, it has been necessary to employ a large number of men on night patrol duty, especially

along the east bank. Up to date, however, except during the actual attack, traffic has continued practically as in times of peace.

15. During the period under review the morale and, with certain exceptions, the health of the troops has been well maintained. During March an outbreak of dysentery occurred in one battalion, while one or two others were less seriously affected. A great improvement has, however, taken place lately, and the health of the Force may now be taken as normal for the conditions under which it is serving.

When it became apparent that a large force would have to be kept on the Canal during the hot weather, a scheme for providing shelter against the sun was initiated and efficiently carried out. It has proved of great value, especially in the case of the British mounted troops.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. WILSON, Major-General,
Commanding Canal Defences.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

Abbott, Maj. L. H., 11th Rajputs.
Arthur, Maj. L. F., 26th Cavalry.
Bainbridge, Bt.-Lt.-Col. W. F., C.M.G.,
D.S.O., 51st Sikhs.
Bingley, Maj.-Gen. A. H., C.B., C.I.E., Ind.
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Burden, Lt.-Col. H., F.R.C.S., C.I.E.,
I.M.S.
Bruce, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) M. E. L., Military
Accounts Dept.
Cox, Brig.-Gen. H. V., K.C.M.G., C.B.,
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Chamier, Capt. (temp. Maj.) J. A., 33rd Pun-
jabis.
Duxbury, Maj. C. D., Supply and Transport
Corps, Ind. Army.
Dickinson, Maj. A. T. S., 51st Sikhs (killed).
Duncan, Maj. H. C., D.S.O., 9th Gurkha Rif.
Graham, Maj. J. D., M.B., I.M.S.
Geoghegan, Lt.-Col. S., C.B., 62nd Punjabis.
Howard, Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. T. N. S. M.,
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Hughes, A. J., Esq., Ind. Postal Dept.
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telligence Officer, Egyptian Army.
Jones, Capt. S. W., I.M.S.
Kitson, Comdr. H. K., R.N.
Langhorne, Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. A. D.,
R.G.A.
Longhurst, Maj. A. L. 7th Gurkha Rif.
Maxwell, Capt. P. A., 3rd Brahmans.
Moberly, Maj. B. R., D.S.O., 56th Rif.
Macdonald, Comdr. W. B., R.N.
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Macmullen, Maj. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) C. N.,
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Melliss, Maj.-Gen. C. J., V.C., K.C.B., Ind.
Army.
McKenna, Capt. J. C., 16th Rajputs.
McRae, Capt. H. St. G. M., 45th Sikhs.
Nelson, Capt. C., 3rd Brahmans (killed).
Pulvermann, Lt. A. W., 128th Pioneers, Asst.
Dir. Army Signals.
Pepys, Capt. G. L., D.S.O., 57th Rif.
Robinson, Lt.-Col. (temp. Col.) W. H. B.,
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