



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 1919.

War Office,
15th December, 1919.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatches from General Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., on the military operations in the Hedjaz from the 9th June, 1916, to 31st January, 1919:—

[Despatch No. 1.]

Cairo,
25th June, 1917.

My Lord,

I have the honour to present the following report on the progress of military operations in the Hedjaz:—

1. The Arab leaders of the anti-Turkish revolt having expressed their desire for material assistance and the advice of Allied officers, the military control and supervision of all arrangements to that end devolved upon me. The selection of the necessary personnel was not an easy matter. Officers with the qualifications

for such delicate work, necessitating a combination of military experience, tact, knowledge of Arabs and acquaintance with their language, are extremely difficult to find, but we are fortunate in the few whose services it has been possible to secure.

2. Soon after the commencement of the Arab operations it became evident that it would be desirable to place a small force of disciplined troops at the service of the Sherif, and six mountain guns and six machine guns with the necessary officers and other personnel were organised as two complete batteries and despatched to the Hedjaz at the end of June, 1916.

That these troops did good service is evident from a message received from the Sherif on the 21st August, 1916, informing me of his satisfaction with the services executed by them, and bringing to special notice El Lewa Sayed Pasha Ali and Yuzbashia Abdel Hamid Effendi Fuad, and Mohammed Effendi Kamel.

3. When the Arab campaign opened on 9th June, 1916, the Turks were to a great extent taken by surprise, and the Sherif's forces were