



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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THURSDAY, 8 JULY, 1920

Admiralty, April 29th, 1920.

SIR,—

In accordance with Admiralty letter dated April 19th, 1920, I have the honour to enclose herewith for submission to Their Lordships a despatch dealing with Naval affairs in N. Russia during 1918.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient Servant,
 T. W. KEMP,
 Rear-Admiral, Retired.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

SIR,—

I beg you will lay before Their Lordships the following despatch dealing with Naval affairs in North Russia during the year 1918:—

In December, 1917, it was decided to withdraw from Archangel all Naval elements. I therefore embarked these in H.M.S. "Iphi-

genia" on December 19th, together with as many British subjects as could be induced to leave, arriving at Murmansk next day.

The position, whether regarded from a political or military point of view, was very simple. The complete breakdown of the Russian Military system had left Russia open to German invasion. This reacted on the naval position in Murmansk.

It was, nevertheless, decided to retain an allied footing in Murman Province, which afforded the only means of physical communication with European Russia. This decision in itself involved no ulterior motive with regard to the internal policy of Russia. Such elements of Russian life as were friendly to the above aims were to be welcomed, and such as were hostile were to be opposed. This, put in simple terms, was the gist of my instructions. At the same time I was given plainly to understand that the military situation elsewhere did not admit of the despatch of an expedition, and