

concentration took place at Ainabo on the 15th January as directed and, after completing work on the aerodrome, Captain Gibb moved forward with the tribal rifles to take up his position at Duhung (lat. $8^{\circ} 33'$, long. $47^{\circ} 23'$), on the line Yaguri (lat. $8^{\circ} 43'$, long. $46^{\circ} 57'$), to Gerrowei (lat. $8^{\circ} 20'$, long. $48^{\circ} 20'$) which he proposed to hold. On the 19th January 500 riflemen under 13 Akils were sent forward to Gaolo (lat. $9^{\circ} 2'$, long. $48^{\circ} 14'$) with orders to watch Tale.

9. On the 4th January Group Captain Gordon informed me that he would have to postpone the date of the opening attack on Medishe until the 21st January. But by the 17th the concentration of Royal Air Force *personnel* and stores at Eil Dur Elan was complete. Wireless communication had been established with Berbera on the 31st December. On the 5th January the Camel Corps, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Ismay, moved out from Burao and on the same day the Officer Commanding Troops left Berbera for the advanced base. I arrived at Eil Dur Elan with the Headquarters of Government on the 18th January. All arrangements were now complete. "B" Force, under Lieut.-Colonel Wilkinson, composed of one composite battalion King's African Rifles at a strength of 700 rifles (less one platoon and two Lewis guns at Las Khorai), with two Stokes guns, four machine guns and 14 Lewis guns, supplies for two months, and field ambulance, portable wireless and transport, was concentrated at Musha Aled ready to advance on Baran 24 hours before "zero" day. "A" Force, composed as under, was concentrated at Eil Dur Elan with supplies, transport and water ready to move forward on the 19th:—

Headquarters and Staff.

Somaliland Camel Corps, 700 rifles, 2 Stokes guns, 8 machine guns, 4 Lewis guns.

1st/101st Grenadiers, under Captain R. Le Fleming, M.C., 400 rifles (less 2 platoons posted for the defence of "Z" Force Camp, Eil Dur Elan), 2 Stokes guns, 8 Lewis guns.

Field Ambulance, tent section and bearer section, under Surgeon-Commander E. Cameron, Royal Navy, with 6 Medical Officers.

1/2 kilowatt portable camel-pack wireless set.

300 *Illaloes*, under the orders of Captain J. F. Godman, Royal Field Artillery.

On the 17th January His Majesty's ship "Clio" (Commander C. H. Jones, D.S.O., Royal Navy), carrying Mr. H. M. O'Byrne as Political Officer, left Berbera to inform the local Italian authorities at Alula of the impending operations and to ask for the co-operation of the Mijjertein Sultan Osman Mahmoud in the event of the Mullah escaping across our border in that direction. On the 18th "A" Force camp was struck at Eil Dur Elan and the force bivouacked for the night in readiness for the forward move to begin the following day. On the 19th seven machines arrived from Berbera and another on the 20th with Group Captain Gordon. Meanwhile scouts returned from the Jidali area reported that there were no signs of special activity at Medishe and the Mullah himself remained unsuspecting in the Dervish *haroun*.

10. On the 21st January six machines left Eil Dur Elan for the attack on Medishe, but, owing to clouds and the difficulties presented

by the intervening country, which was unknown and unmapped, only one machine found the position. Four machines located and bombed the Dervish fort and stock at Jidali, and one was forced to proceed to Las Khorai and land with engine trouble. The machine that found Medishe inflicted great damage. Subsequent reports of captives and deserters, present at the time, show that Amir Hassan, the Mullah's uncle and one of the best known of the Dervish leaders and ten riflemen were killed by the explosion of the first bomb. The Mullah himself, standing by Amir, narrowly escaped death, his clothing being singed. It is said by Dervishes that he saw in the approaching aeroplanes a divine manifestation; by others that he was informed by a Turk in the *haroun* that they were Turkish aeroplanes on their way to him from Stamboul to convey the Sultan's greetings. None at Medishe apparently knew that the European War was ended. However that may be, it is known that on the approach of the aeroplanes (the whole flight passed within sight of Medishe) the Mullah collected his people around him and awaited their coming under the white canopy used on State occasions. In the subsequent bombing and shooting up on this day the total casualties amongst the Dervishes in the *haroun* amounted to some twenty killed and twenty wounded. On the two succeeding days the aerial attacks on Medishe and Jidali were maintained morning and afternoon, causing further casualties and great panic among the Dervishes, who finally fled in all directions utterly demoralised. Machines descended to 800 feet bombing and to 300 feet machine gunning. The *haroun* was set on fire by incendiary bombs and the stock scattered.

11. Meanwhile the Camel Corps, with Colonel Summers and his staff, moving rapidly forward from Eil Dur Elan, arrived at Eil Afweina early on the morning of the 21st January, and work was begun at once on the construction of a defensive post and the preparation of an emergency landing ground. Parties of *Illaloes* were pushed forward that night to Gud Anod (lat. $10^{\circ} 6'$, long. $47^{\circ} 20'$) and Durdur Dulbeit, while the mounted troops, held in readiness to move out at a moment's notice, if required, remained at Eil Afweina waiting for the infantry and supply column (3,500 camels) to come up. This column arrived on the afternoon of the 22nd. Eil Afweina was now established as an advanced base with one month's supplies and reserve ammunition for the whole of "A" Force, wireless telegraph station and section field hospital. A fresh line of supply to the south could thus be organised from this point without delay, and it proved of the utmost value in the later stages of the operations. The post was held by 130 rifles 1st/101st Grenadiers and 1,700 transport camels were kept here in reserve. At the same time a supply column of 1,800 camels carrying three weeks' rations, reserve Stokes gun and rifle ammunition, hand grenades and explosives was organised to follow in the rear of the mounted troops towards Jidali, under escort of one company 1st/101st Grenadiers and one dismounted company Somaliland Camel Corps. On the afternoon of the 23rd the Camel Corps moved forward to Gud Anod and thence, on the 25th, to Eil Der. As yet no sign of the enemy had been seen, nor was there any information as to his movements. The results of the aerial bombardment had been communicated to the Officer Commanding