

Thus the whole of the Dervish stock in the Protectorate fell into our hands as well as all the Mullah's rifles, the two machine guns lost by us at Erigo and Gumburu in 1902/1903, and practically all his belongings, including his family. The Mullah himself is still at large—but as a discredited refugee without possessions and without power. Adherents, at all events, he will never get again, for Dervishism as a cause in Somaliland is ended. In my previous despatch I explained the causes of the steady decline of the Dervish power during the last six years; and 23 days of active operations, from the 21st January to the 12th February, have now sufficed to effect its final overthrow. For this the credit is primarily due to the Royal Air Force, who were the main instrument of attack and the decisive factor. They exercised an immediate and tremendous moral effect over the Dervishes, who in the ordinary course are good fighting men, demoralizing them in the first few days. There was thus no serious opposition and the operations assumed, almost from the start, the nature of a hunt. Our casualties among troops were confined to three native ranks killed and eight wounded; and one officer of the Camel Corps was slightly wounded. Neither the Royal Air Force nor the Royal Navy suffered casualties.

22. An outstanding feature of these operations was the sustained and determined pursuit by the Camel Corps, often on half and no rations, over a great stretch of country regardless of privation and fatigue. The pursuit was pressed with success to the utmost possible limits. The success, also, attending the employment of an untrained levy, under one British Officer assisted by Risaldar-Major Muss Farah, has been most striking, and confirms the view that six years of effort on the part of the local administration to build up the power of the tribal leaders and to induce cohesion among the friendlies has not been in vain. Both the King's African Rifles and the Naval Contingent were confronted with difficult tasks in the taking of the Dervish forts at Baran and Galbaribur, defended with great bravery

and the utmost contempt for death by a band of resolute fanatics who held out to the last; and it was only through good leadership and judgment that these forts were reduced without serious casualties. The Wing 101st Grenadiers, given fewer opportunities, performed indispensable duties with energy and keenness. Finally I desire to pay a tribute to the Supply and Transport services—most difficult of all in Somaliland—which, in the capable hands of Major Rayne and Captain Alden, met all the calls made upon them both by the troops and the Royal Air Force over an extended area without breakdown, and indeed, without hitch. Many different units were employed during this short campaign; and I would most strongly emphasize the fact that it was largely due to the spirit of whole-hearted co-operation and enthusiasm displayed by all that the operations were carried through to so speedy and successful a conclusion.

23. The good work of the Officers of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force will no doubt obtain recognition through their own service channel, but I desire to bring to Your Lordship's notice the conspicuous services rendered to the Protectorate by Group-Captain R. Gordon, C.M.G., D.S.O., at request of Air Ministry, and the valuable work performed by Captain G. G. P. Hewett, Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Odin." I am glad to avail myself, also, of this opportunity to acknowledge the great assistance afforded me at all times in the matter of supplies by Major-General Sir James Stewart, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident of Aden.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
G. F. ARCHER,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Somaliland Protectorate.

NOTE.—The names of other Officers and Men who have been brought to notice in this Despatch will be published separately in the London Gazette.

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