

able to land at Baran, at which place the headquarters of the King's African Rifle force were established.

In addition, close reconnaissance of Medishi and Jid Ali was continued, bombs were dropped and machine-gun fire directed on the small isolated bodies of Dervishes and stock which were located in the vicinity. After the very slightest resistance, followed by the headlong flight of its defenders, Jid Ali Fort fell on 28th January to the King's African Rifles. The bombing from the air and latterly the Stokes gun bombardment had been too much for them.

On 29th January, Galibariboa Fort, built on the lines of Jid Ali Fort, was bombed, together with the native huts which surrounded it. Some stock was observed, but few Dervishes.

On January 30th, an important Dervish Sheik gave himself up at Jid Ali, and, at the same time, reported that the Mullah had broken south on 29th January, and was making for his mountain fortress at Tale. The Mullah had, therefore, eluded the net which the Camel Corps, operating from El Afweina, had set for him. The Officer Commanding the Somaliland Field Force at once decided to give chase, and I took immediate steps to arrange the most effective co-operation by the Air Force in this plan.

15. I had previously prepared an advanced base at El Afweina in case operations should move south into this part of the country, and I now placed it in full commission. Aeroplanes which left Eil Dur Elan on 31st January on reconnaissance were ordered to land there.

On this day the ponies belonging to the Mullah's baggage column were located near Daringahuje and attacked by aeroplanes with bombs and machine-gun fire. Numerous ponies were killed and the remainder stampeded in a northerly direction. Deserters who came in afterwards reported that this column which had been attacked consisted of the Mullah's own personal following, consisting of most of his headmen, his wives and his sons, and it was the greatest piece of misfortune that the Mullah himself was not located and hit on this occasion, as he was about three miles away hiding in a nullah.

On 1st February, the Camel Corps arrived at El Afweina, and continued in pursuit of the Mullah. The first air reconnaissance over Tale fortress was carried out on this day, and a large Dervish convoy, estimated at 1,500 camels, burden and otherwise, 500 head of cattle, and 500 sheep and goats was attacked with machine-gun fire and bombs, about five miles north of Berwaise. The convoy was thrown into complete confusion, and set off in disorder in an easterly direction; its location being reported by dropping a message containing the information to the Camel Corps, who were then some ten miles distant to westward.

Touch was now established by aeroplane with the friendlies under Captain Gibb, who were operating against Tale from the neighbourhood of Gaolo, some fifteen miles to the south-west of Tale. This was a most important task, since the friendlies were quite in the dark as to what was happening in the north: efficient co-operation between detached forces has always been the greatest difficulty which military expeditions in Somaliland have had to

contend with in the past owing to the lack of means of communication.

The hospital aeroplane, with which the expedition was supplied, was first employed on this day in conveying an officer who was seriously ill from El Afweina to Eil Dur Elan, where he was successfully operated upon.

The next day was spent in reconnaissance and in carrying information to Captain Gibb and his friendlies at Duhung to keep a look-out for the Mullah, who was still reported to be on his way south, and the following day in preparing the aeroplanes for a big raid on Tale Fortress. On 4th February, three aeroplanes left El Afweina to bomb Tale Fortress. Three direct hits with 112-lb. bombs and four direct hits with 20-lb. bombs were obtained on the large fort itself, and one direct hit with a 20-lb. bomb on the Mullah's private fort, situated outside the perimeter of the large fort. Waabs, or native hutments, outside the forts were set on fire with incendiary bombs, and, fanned by the north-easterly wind, the conflagration became general. In addition, the inhabitants of the waabs and the forts were heavily and effectively engaged with machine-gun fire.

16. For the next few days after this only reconnaissance and inter-communication work between the various detachments of the Somaliland Field Force, which was still in pursuit, were carried out in order to give them time to close in on Tale and reap the fruits which, after our experience of the results of bombing Jid Ali and Medishi, might reasonably be expected from further bombing attacks.

These were, however, rendered unnecessary, since Captain Gibb's friendlies intercepted the Mullah's convoy and rushed and captured Tale, while the Camel Corps, in a magnificent pursuit, destroyed the Mullah's personal following, which had escaped from that fortress.

With this striking success the campaign was ended, and, on 18th February, the machines flew back to Berbera.

17. The demoralisation caused by the suddenness of attack from the air was vividly exemplified by the comparison which can be drawn from the taking of Baran Fort by the King's African Rifles, and the precipitate flight of the Dervishes from the fortresses of Medishi and Jid Ali after they had been bombed.

In the former case Baran was not subjected to an air attack, and only fell to the King's African Rifles when surrounded and heavily bombarded with Stokes guns, and not until the last defender was killed. Medishi and Jid Ali, on the other hand, stronger forts in every way than Baran, were abandoned almost immediately after the air attacks. The utter demoralisation caused is further typified by the fact that quantities of rifles were left behind—an absolutely unheard-of occurrence in any former campaign against the Dervishes.

Tale itself, a fortress which would have otherwise cost many lives, and occupied a long time to take, fell in practically as simple a manner.

18. It is noteworthy that two days after the fall of Tale, which is a mountain fortress some 270 miles south-west of Berbera, His Excellency the Governor of Somaliland was conveyed there by aeroplane, and was thus enabled to thank the friendlies for their excellent work