

FLIGHT

The
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ENGINEER
&
AIRSHIPS**

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Founder and Editor: STANLEY SPOONER

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.



ONE of the most fascinating official documents to be published in recent years is the supplement to the *London Gazette* of June 10, 1924, containing the despatches of Air Vice-Marshal Sir John M. Salmond, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Air Officer Commanding British Forces in Iraq. These despatches describe the operations carried out in Kurdistan against the pro-Turk intrigues of Shaikh Mahmoud, Governor of Sulaimaniyah. Extensive extracts from Sir John's despatches are published on pp. 393-394 of this issue of FLIGHT, and these should be carefully read by all interested in this latest use of the air arm, a use which, on the authority of Sir John Salmond himself, may well be vastly extended in the future as more experience is gained.

The R.A.F. in Kurdistan

It is difficult, in fact well-nigh impossible, for us at home fully to appreciate the difficulties with which the British forces in Iraq had to contend. An examination of even a large-scale map merely reveals the fact that the operations were carried out in very difficult hill country, and it is easy to see that Sir John spoke no more than the bare truth when he stated that "even the most recent maps are of small value for military operations." In order to fix ideas somewhat, and thus be able the more clearly to follow Sir John's despatches, it may be stated that Kirkuk is the railhead some 150 miles due north of Baghdad, and approximately 100 miles south-east of Mosul. Sulaimanieh, the headquarters of Shaikh Mahmoud, is situated some 60 miles east north-east of Kirkuk, near the Persian border, and in a range of hills difficult of access. Serdash, or Sardasht as it is usually spelled on maps, to the neighbourhood of which Shaikh Mahmoud fled when his section of Sulaimanieh was bombed, is just inside the Persian border, some 30 or 40 miles to the north of Sulaimanieh.

The whole of Sir John Salmond's despatches should be carefully read, and a perusal of such extracts as we have been able to publish should serve to indicate how vastly interesting are the full despatches them-

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Club Secretaries and others desirous of announcing the dates of important fixtures are invited to send particulars for inclusion in the following list:—

1924

- June 21 F.A.I. Conference Opens, Paris
- .. 24 Independent Force (R.A.F.) 6th Annual Reunion Dinner at R.A.F. Club
- .. 25 R.N.A.S. and 5th Group, R.A.F., annual dinner
- .. 28 Royal Air Force Pageant, Hendon
- July 24-Aug. 10 Tour de France for Light 'Planes
- July 26 King's Cup Race
- Aug. 4 Aerial Derby at Lympne
- .. 4 Holiday Light Aeroplane Handicap at Lympne
- Sept. 8-13 Light 'Plane Competitions at Lympne
- Oct. 2 Aero Golfing Society. Autumn Meeting, at Moor Park Golf Club, for A.G.S. Challenge Cup presented by Cellon (Richmond) Ltd.
- October Schneider Cup Race, Baltimore, U.S.A.