in the Far East. I also wish to thank Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Company for making available the liquid HCN for these experimental purposes, as well as for all the necessary equipment supplied.

Echoes of the Past.

WAR EXPERIENCES OF A TERRITORIAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

By Major-General Sir Richard Luce, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.B., F.R.C.S.

(Continued from p. 66.)

CHAPTER X.—THE WESTERN FRONTIER.

On reaching Alexandria the Headquarters of the 2nd Mounted Division proceeded at once to Cairo. The remnants of the original brigades of the 2nd Mounted Division were already assembled in the camp close to the Pyramids at Mena, which had been occupied the winter before by the Australian Divisions, and were busy re-organizing. They had picked up their horses and were collecting new equipment and reinforcements. The Divisional Headquarters moved out to Mena on December 29, and established itself in the Annexe of the Mena House Hotel.

The two field ambulances which we had taken to Suvla, the 2nd South Midland and the London, were already at Mena. The other two, which had been left behind, were with the Western Frontier Force, now operating against the Senussi on the coast to the west of Alexandria. The Scottish Horse and Highland Mounted Brigades had not yet arrived from the Dardanelles.

It was arranged that as soon as their equipment was complete the brigades were to move down in succession to Salhia, a desert camp not far from the north end of the Suez Canal. The 1st South Midland Brigade was ready first and moved off to Salhia on January 3, taking with them one section of the 2nd South Midland Field Ambulance.

Of the Notts and Derby Mounted Brigade the Derbyshire Yeomanry had gone to Salonica some time before and taken with them part of the 1st South Midland Field Ambulance, and it was now decided that the remainder of this brigade should follow them. They left about January 14, and took with them a section of the London Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance which, with the section already there, would make up a complete field ambulance for the brigade. The re-organization of the other two brigades took some little time and before it was completed an alteration of plan was made which resulted in the Division being broken up.
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The position of affairs in Egypt at the beginning of 1916 was as follows:

The evacuation of Gallipoli having set free the Turkish army there, it was fully expected that it would be utilized for a renewal of the offensive against Egypt. The main part of our own troops who had been withdrawn from the Peninsula was being concentrated for the defence of the Suez Canal. Moreover, during our absence trouble had arisen on the Western Frontier of Egypt.

Out in the Libyan desert not far from the Tripoli border of Egypt, nearly four hundred miles from the Nile, and about two hundred miles from the Mediterranean coast, lie the two oases of Siwa and Jerabub. They are nominally under the rule of Egypt.

In ancient times Siwa was the site of the famous Temple of Jupiter Ammon, whose oracle had a world-wide reputation, second only to that of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi.

Jerabub, fifty miles to the west of Siwa, had during the latter half of the nineteenth century become the headquarters of a new sect of Mohammedans. The real founder of the sect was an Arab sheik named Mohammed Senussi, though the tenets of the sect had been worked out some thirty years earlier. He set himself up as a prophet, and introducing certain changes in minor points of doctrine founded this new sect, his followers taking the name of Senussi after him. The original scenes of his proselytizing work had been the hinterland of Tripoli and the oases of the Libyan desert, but his influence had gradually spread as far as the western borders of Egypt itself, and in the province of Fayum especially the sect had gained large numbers of adherents.

Mohammed Senussi had always been a firm friend of the British Government, and in spite of earnest solicitations from the Mahdi to join him against us in 1884, he refused to do so, and maintained his friendly relation with England as long as he lived. He died in 1902, and was succeeded by his nephew Mohammed Sayed Ahmet, who adopted the title of "the Grand Senussi."

Mohammed Sayed Ahmet, though a man of little personal courage, had considerable ambition and possessed large ideas of his own importance. During the early months of the War, though bitterly opposed to the Italians, he had posed as a friend of England, but under the influence of Turkish agents, of whom Nuri Bey, a half brother of Enver Pasha, was the chief, and no doubt also encouraged by liberal distribution of German gold, he went over to the side of Turkey. For some time he acted with considerable duplicity, no doubt with the object of improving his bargain with his new friends. He did not declare himself until a rising on the West Coast was thoroughly organized. With the assistance of Turkish officers he had collected a more or less drilled and disciplined army, which was put into some sort of uniform, equipped with modern rifles and a few mountain field guns. How this equipment was brought into the country
it is difficult to understand, it must have been conveyed chiefly in sub-marinies and landed either on the Tripoli coast or at out-of-the-way spots between Alexandria and the frontier.

Egypt, west of the Delta and the Nile Valley, though covering a considerable area on the map, is of little importance politically. Along the Mediterranean coast between Alexandria and the frontier port of Sollum, there is a strip of more or less cultivated land varying from one to ten miles in width. Parts of this are fertile and raise some of the best malting barley in the world. The rest is covered with a rough scrub only fit for grazing, where large numbers of camels are bred and reared. There is a fair rainfall in the winter months which is confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the coast. The whole of the rest of Western Egypt is a vast desert dotted with a few oases.

With the exception of the two already referred to, Siwa and Jerabh, these oases form a chain running north and south more or less parallel with the Nile and at a distance varying from fifty to a hundred miles from it. The names of the principal ones starting from the coast are Moghara, Wadi Natrun, Fayum, Baharia, Farafra, Dakhla and Kharga. The Fayum is densely populated and forms a definite province of Egypt. The others are much isolated from both Egypt and one another, and with difficulty support a small population, of a very low type, by agriculture. The most lucrative crop is dates, which are exported to Egypt.

The Fayum, the largest of the oases, differs from the others in that it is nearer to the Nile Valley and directly connected with it by a narrow strip of cultivated ground. Moreover, it owes its fertility, not to springs like the rest of the oases, but to an efferent branch of the Nile known as the Bahr Jussef. This branch leaves the Nile at Deirut, nearly four hundred miles above Cairo and running down the western edge of the valley parallel with the main stream turns westwards into the desert at a point about forty miles from Cairo. After proceeding some fifteen miles westward, it passes through a narrow gap in the hills and soon after begins to break up into a very complete system of irrigation canals spreading water over the whole 500 square miles of land which forms the Fayum Oasis. The unused surplus water is collected again by a system of drains and makes its way into a small inland lake, known as the Qarun Lake, a miniature Dead Sea which lies 130 feet below sea-level. The province is one of the most fertile parts of Egypt, and besides supporting a very large population, sends much produce to the Cairo markets.

The water of the Bahr Jussef, like the Nile itself, is charged in flood time with that wonderful fertilizing mud which comes down by the Blue Nile from the highlands of Abyssinia and, remaining in suspension till the last minute, is spread in a fine layer over the whole surface of irrigated Egypt. This acts as an artificial manure and has enabled the soil to produce without flagging three magnificent crops a year for the last 4,000 years.
The geographical history of the Fayum is interesting owing to its connexion with the Lake of Moeris referred to by Herodotus, who describes it as 350 miles in circumference and 350 feet deep. The present lake is about six miles long and less than a mile across. Probably, therefore, in his day almost the whole of the existing Fayum was one big lake. He also speaks of the lake as a reservoir used for the irrigation of the Delta. Apparently the water of the Bahr Jussef filled up the lake during the High Nile season and then during the Low Nile it was allowed to flow back into the Nile Valley to be used for irrigation purposes. The present level of the Fayum lake is 130 feet below that of the Bahr Jussef where it enters the Fayum, so that the lake must have been 130 feet deeper in those days than at present.

Much has been written on this interesting subject and different theories have been expounded even as to the position of the Lake of Moeris itself, but this seems the simplest explanation. At some unrecorded point of time, whether because the water of the Bahr Jussef ceased to fill the lake to the required level or because it was found more profitable to reclaim the bed of the lake and use the water of the river to irrigate the newly-drained land, Lake Moeris ceased to be used as a reservoir and the lake began to shrink until it reached its present modest dimensions.

The origin of the other oases is different. They depend for their water supply on natural springs. They are all situated in depressions in the surface of the desert and it seems as if there is a subterranean stream making its way northward parallel with the Nile, which crops up to the surface in these depressions. In some cases, as for instance in Dakhla, when an opening is made through the surface the water rises under pressure as much as a foot from the ground. This subterranean river must come, like the Nile itself, from Central Africa, as there is no rainfall nearer from which its water can be derived. Unfortunately, unlike the Nile, the subterranean water does not bring with it the fertilizing mud which is the feature of the Nile itself. These oases are not, therefore, fertile in the way that the Nile Valley, the Fayum and the Delta are.

The first object of the Grand Senussi and his advisers was to gain possession of the coastal villages which previously had markets for a certain amount of trade with the Bedouin and which had been garrisoned by detachments of the Egyptian Coast Guards. The most important of these villages are Daba, to which a line ran out from Alexandria; Mersa Matruh, a land-locked harbour about one hundred miles west of Alexandria, suitable for small vessels; Barrani, fifty miles further west; and Sollum, on the Tripoli border. A track called the Khedival Road runs along the coast from Alexandria which is usable in fine weather by motor cars, but impassable after heavy rain. The road to Siwa leaves the coast at Mersa Matruh.

The Senussi began operations by forming a camp on the edge of the cultivated area a few miles south of Sollum. Two small ships, a coasting
vessel and an Egyptian gunboat, were sunk in Sollum harbour by a German submarine, and the crews were carried off as prisoners inland.

The garrison of Sollum was withdrawn by sea and at the same time that of Barrani by land to Matruh. A good many of the Egyptian Coast Guards, including a clever N.C.O. named Saleh, deserted to the Senussi. This man played an important part subsequently in the Senussi operations.

Troops were at once sent out from Egypt to occupy Matruh. By the end of November 1915, a fair-sized force had arrived under the command of General Wallace and had constructed an entrenched barbed wire camp. In the meantime, the Senussi, about five thousand strong, had moved eastwards and were threatening Matruh; about one thousand of their troops were so-called regulars and the remainder partially armed Bedouins. A skirmish occurred on December 11 between a yeomanry patrol and the enemy. On Christmas Day General Wallace moved his force out to attack the Senussi camp situated on a hill a few miles south of Matruh. It afterwards transpired that the enemy had been preparing to attack our camp on the evening of the same day, hoping to find the Christians overcome with the festivities of the great day. The action, though successful to our army, was not decisive, as the state of the country after heavy rain made it necessary for the troops to return to their camp at Matruh. Some weeks of inaction followed, during which the alarm spread into the oasis of Wadi Natrun and to the Fayum. The numerous adherents of the Senussi sect in the latter province were very disaffected. Anything like a reverse to the British force on the coast would have brought about a rising against us there.

Sir John Maxwell, who commanded the forces in Egypt, and who was responsible for the defences of the Western Frontier, hurried troops down
to the Fayum, to Wadi Natrun, and to the towns along the Nile as far south as Minia. He also decided to create a special force for the defence of this area, which he called the Southern Force. The command of it was given to General Peyton, just released by the breaking up of the 2nd Mounted Division. General Peyton took with him most of his old staff, and I was appointed Assistant Director of Medical Services (A.D.M.S.). The Headquarters of the Force were established in the old army headquarters in Cairo, General Maxwell's headquarters having moved some time previously to the Savoy Hotel. The troops placed under General Peyton's command were the 53rd Territorial Division, which on its return from Gallipoli had been sent straight to Wardan on the western edge of the Delta; the North Midland Mounted Brigade of Yeomen and the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade, remounted after their return from Anzac. To these were soon added the Highland Mounted Brigade (dismounted) and four battalions of 2nd Line London Territorials.

One brigade of the 53rd Division and the North Midland Mounted Brigade were posted at various points in the Fayum. The Light Horse was partly in the Wadi Natrun oasis and partly distributed along the western fringe of the Nile valley south of Fayum. The Highland Mounted Brigade was sent still further south to Minia. The London Territorials garrisoned the various towns along the Nile.

General Peyton made a complete reconnaissance of the Fayum between January 26 and 30. I accompanied him and in the four days we travelled by car over practically the whole of the province, visiting every garrison and every point of importance.

The Mudir, or Governor of the Province, who was an ex-Egyptian cavalry officer and a Bedouin by descent, gave us a most hospitable reception and a luncheon of twelve courses, while his English Political Adviser...
made our trip a most interesting one by his excellent arrangements. The roads, though very rough for motor cars, were quite passable, and we were able to cover a large amount of ground in the few days. Owing to the irregularities of surface where the stream runs down towards the lake, the scenery is varied and quite unlike the dead monotony of the Delta and the Nile Valley. At the same time one is struck everywhere by the extraordinary luxuriance of growth and by the air of prosperity of the inhabitants. They are no better dressed or housed than elsewhere in Egypt, but the thronged village markets, the crowded trains of the light railway system which extends in all directions through the province, betoken the busy, successful life of the people. They gave no signs of active hostility as we passed, but their looks were far from friendly, and one could not help feeling that only a spark was required to turn them into fierce and fanatical enemies.

In the meantime, a more active policy was being inaugurated on the coast. On January 22 a mixed force left Matruh, bivouacked for the night at Birshola, and engaged the enemy force, numbering about three thousand, at Halasin, the next day. After holding their ground well all day the Senussi began to fall back westwards towards nightfall. Their camp was occupied and burned by our troops, but, owing to the bad weather and difficulties of supplies, the force had to return again to Matruh.

On February 9 General Peyton was transferred from the Southern Force and given command of the Western Force. He at once started an active offensive with a view to dealing the Senussi a crushing blow and regaining possession of the whole coast.

A column left Matruh on February 20. On the 25th they were within twenty miles of Barrani and found a force of the enemy at Agagia. With General Lukiu in command, the column, consisting of the South African Brigade and Dorset Yeomanry, attacked the enemy's position, and after a stiff fight, in which the Dorset Yeomanry made a spirited and successful charge, the Senussi were put to flight. The Commandant, Gaafer Pasha, was captured with his staff. The column marched in pursuit towards Sollum and the enemy was met again about twenty miles west of Sollum, which is the frontier village. This was the day of the armoured cars. They charged in line into an enemy position, wiping out a mountain gun and two machine guns and putting the whole force to flight. Sollum was occupied without resistance. This practically finished this part of the campaign.

On the departure of General Peyton to the Western Force, General Adie was appointed to the command of the Southern Force. It soon became evident that Cairo was not the best place for our Headquarters and we moved on February 12 to Beni Suef, a town of some size on the west bank of the Nile, about eighty miles from Cairo.

The problem of the defence of the Western frontier of Egypt was a
difficult one, though not on account of the numbers and strength of the enemy, for it was impossible for them to muster more than a few thousand armed men against us, and their supply of munitions must always come to them from across a sea on which no hostile vessel dare show itself. The difficulty arose from the immense length of the line to be held, from the mobility of the enemy and from the fact that they were working on interior lines against our right angled frontier. It was impossible for us to send any force into the desert to attack them without making vast preparations for the supply of water and food and for the maintenance of lines of communication for the attacking force. Moreover, we had behind us in Egypt a hostile population who would welcome the advent of a raiding force and probably rise in revolt if it met with any sort of success. It was necessary, therefore, to distribute our troops over the whole frontier, and in such strength at the vulnerable points that a raid could be met at any one point without having to concentrate from a distance.

This involved the employment of a large force to make the frontier safe from attacks of an enemy who could never number more than a few thousands. At one time the strength of the Western Frontier Force was nearly fifty thousand.

A definite move south was made by the Senussi shortly before their final defeat on the coast. Baharia was occupied by them in February and Dakhla on March 7. This move necessitated a corresponding one by the Southern Force. It became a race for the possession of the oasis of Kharga which lies between Dakhla and the Nile Valley, sixty miles from the former and one hundred from the latter. This oasis was already connected with the Nile Valley by a light railway which had been constructed some years ago.
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before by a company formed to develop the oasis commercially. The company had failed and the railway was sold to the State.

The Highland Mounted Brigade, relieved by the South Western Mounted Brigade, which had just joined the Force, was sent south to occupy Kharga. The 1st Light Horse Brigade was also moved south and posted along the Nile Valley at points which might be threatened from Dakhla or from Kharga should it be occupied by the Senussi before we could get there. Some of the London Territorial troops were also sent down south to garrison Esna, a little town on the Nile between Luxor and Assouan, where there is an important barrage or dam of the Nile.

On March 20, the 4th Dismounted Brigade, consisting of the Welsh Border Brigade and the South Wales Mounted Brigade, recently out from England, were added to the Force and stationed at Wardan to replace the 53rd Division which was now moved in to the Fayum.

CHAPTER XI.—CLEARING THE OASES.

On April 3 all fear of successful action by the Senussi on the coast having been removed by their severe defeat and by the occupation of Sollum, the old Western Force was broken up and its residue amalgamated with the Southern Force. Thus was formed the Western Frontier Force, the command of which was given to General Peyton, who made up his staff from both the old forces. I remained on as A.D.M.S. The Headquarters moved back from Beni Suef to Cairo. General Peyton himself went on leave to England and did not return, and the command devolved temporarily upon General Dallas who was commanding the 53rd Division.

The responsibilities taken over from the old Western Force included the garrisons of the coastal towns of Sollum, Matruh and Dabaa. The troops used to form these garrisons were the 2/7th Middlesex Regiment, 1/6th Royal Scots, at Sollum; 2/6th Middlesex at Matruh and the 1/2nd County of London Yeomanry (The Westminster Dragoons) and 2nd Garrison Battalion King’s Liverpool Regiment at Dabaa. The only medical unit taken over was the 16th Stationary Hospital, which was divided between the three places.

The Western Frontier Force administration was divided into two sections: a Northern, consisting of the coastal towns, Wadi Natrun and the Fayum, and the Nile Valley as far south as Minia—and a Southern section consisting of the Nile Valley south of Minia.

The Highland Mounted Brigade was moved up by rail to Kharga on April 18 and occupied the oasis without opposition. This oasis bore a very evil reputation on medical grounds. Some years ago the Egyptian Government, following a precedent dating from Roman times, decided to establish a convict station in the oasis and laid out a considerable sum on buildings for the purpose. It was found, however, that the prisoners were so terribly affected with malaria that the scheme had to be abandoned. The malaria was a bad type of the malignant form; it was not a very cheerful prospect...
for us, therefore, to have to maintain a considerable force there during the coming malaria season. Very careful consideration was given to the selection of the best site for the garrison camp.

Malaria is fortunately a very local disease. The mosquito does not travel far from his breeding place and cannot breed without water. The camp site selected was Sherika near the middle of the north part of the oasis, the headquarters of the old company. Here there were some good permanent buildings in fair repair and there was no native village. A good water supply existed, but no irrigation was being carried on. The troops were encamped on desert sand, except those in the permanent buildings.

As it turned out the selection was a good one. Though some malaria cases occurred, the number was never serious and the health of the troops in Kharga, in spite of the fact that they lived there during the heat of the summer and through the malaria season of the autumn, was on the whole very good.

About the same time that Kharga was garrisoned, General Dallas decided to occupy the oasis of Mogbara, the most northerly of the chain running parallel with the Nile. It lies thirty miles from the Mediterranean coast and about fifty-five miles west of Alexandria. It is uninhabited, though used by the Arabs on trek from Siwa to the Delta and might be used as a jumping-off point for a raid on the Delta. The occupation of this oasis was a most costly business. Every drop of water used by the garrison had to be carried out on camels as the water there is brackish and too salt for consumption by Europeans. The road was so bad and stony that a journey there by motor car was hardly ever accomplished without the destruction of at least one tyre. The oasis was occupied for nearly nine months, and though constant patrols were made from it no Arab convoy was ever intercepted by the garrison.

The camp was converted into a veritable fortress, all the materials for
which had to be carried out on the backs of camels. It was a desolate place and life there was insufferably dull. The only occupation was that of perfecting defences, and the only recreation that of hunting for the fossil bones of extinct animals which abounded in the neighbourhood.

As time went on it was realized that the Libyan desert is particularly suitable for the use of motor cars. Vast areas previously crossed only on rare occasions by adventurous Europeans on camels were now becoming criss-crossed in all directions with the wheel marks of Ford cars. With the exception of certain sand dunes impossible to negotiate—to too steep to be rushed and too long to ride round—there was no part of the desert which was not ultimately found to be accessible by means of the motor car.

The combination of Camel Corps and the light Ford car patrols made it almost impossible for a Bedouin to stir in the desert within the area watched by them without being discovered. So good, too, was the going that it would have been possible for the armoured car batteries to have driven round and round any hostile body caught in the open and to have annihilated them without any appreciable risk to themselves. When this was realized the fear of an invasion or raid practically disappeared, but the Higher Command was taking no risks. The only way to ensure absolute safety was to attack the Senussi in their lairs in those far off, inhospitable oases which still remained to them and to drive them off the map of Egypt altogether.

Whether the very heavy expense that was incurred in carrying out this policy was worth while under the circumstances is a matter which might be debated, but it was the only thorough method and it was adopted.

The oases remaining to them were, in the North, Siwa and Jarabub, in the South, Baharia, Farafra and Dakhla. The last three were to be tackled first. Farafra was practically negligible. Its cultivation was too small to support any addition to its normal population, and it lay between the other two with no outlet save by them. It was decided to send simultaneous expeditions to Dakhla and Baharia. The one from Kharga, already in our possession, the other from the point in the Nile Valley nearest to Baheria.

The risks to an expedition marching out into the desert without proper base and water supply were well realized. Khamsin dust storms are a very real danger. They come on suddenly and often last several days, during which time it is impossible for men to move in the open and at the height of the storm there is nothing to be done but to cover one’s head and face from the dust and turn one’s back to the blast. There is a well-founded historical tradition that in the time of Cambyses, the Persian king who conquered Egypt, an expedition ten thousand strong started to march across the desert from Egypt to Siwa, and that they disappeared in a sand storm and were never heard of again. One can well believe that an army,
overtaken by such a storm, without water and without shelter, might easily be wiped out and leave their well-picked bones to whiten on the burning desert; now covered, now left bare again by the shifting sand as the ages rolled along. Such a risk could not be faced by a British army in order to overthrow a few thousand fanatic Bedouins whose power of offensive had already been reduced to a minimum.

The supply of water and provisions for the expeditions was the great problem.

Baharia was one hundred and twenty miles from the nearest water supply and Dakhla over sixty. Strenuous but ineffective efforts were made to discover water in the desert by boring with costly machinery. Professional water diviners were employed by the anxious authorities but without success.

The original scheme to rush an expedition to Baharia, similar to the attempt made by the Turks to reach the Canal in 1915, with camel transport, was abandoned at the last moment on the representation of the engineers that there was a serious miscalculation in the estimated water supply. The slow but more certain method of constructing a railway had to be resorted to, the method adopted with such great success by Lord Kitchener in his advance to Khartoum in 1897 and to be employed with equal success later in the year, in the advance of our army across the Sinai Desert to Palestine.

The Egyptian State Railway knew all about this method; the heads of the Department were British ex-R.E. officers who had served under Kitchener and were experts in the laying of desert railways. It was obvious, however, that this addition to the programme would add enormously to the expense of the expeditions and cause considerable delay in their accomplishment. Even the Egyptian State Railway, with all its experience and with the excellent labour of the Egyptian Fellahaen at its disposal, cannot advance a railway at a greater rate than a mile per day. To the work of laying the line to Baharia was added that of erecting a series of block house depots at marching distance intervals along the railway, each provided with a good sized masonry reservoir for water.

With the railway completed up to a point within thirty miles of the oasis, it was thought safe for the expedition to jump off from railhead, carrying its own supplies. Many months had elapsed before all arrangements were complete.

In the case of Dakhla it was only necessary to continue the existing railway to Kharga along the route between the two oases for a distance of about another twenty miles. A depot and water store were established at railhead which received the etymologically curious name of Water Dump A.

It was the middle of October before the two expeditions were ready.

The great question was whether the Senussi would stay to receive us. By October 7 reports came in that they were leaving Dakhla. Two days later similar reports came from Baharia. Modifications were hurriedly
made in the plans in order to push on the expeditions, and, if possible, to catch the stragglers, smaller and more mobile forces being employed.

Dakhla was reached on October 16 and Baharia on October 17, without fighting but too late to capture more than a remnant, most of whom were medically unfit to undertake the arduous journey across the desert to Siwa. An attempt was made to cut off the retreating Arabs by a motor machine gun column sent round the north end of Baharia, but it missed them. The inhabitants of the oases received us with open arms. They had grown tired of their visitors, who in the long months of their occupation had eaten them out of house and home and left them almost starving.

Sayed Mohamed and the remnant of the Senussi made their way back to the Siwa which, except Jerabub, was the only habitable spot left to them on Egyptian soil. It only remained, therefore, to turn them out of this last resting place. Making a railway to Siwa was not to be thought of, so it was decided to deliver the coup de grace by means of a motor column, This was fitted out at Matruh under command of Brigadier General Hodgson of the S.E. Mounted Brigade and consisted of Rolls Royce armoured cars, eight Ford patrol cars, about twenty motor lorries and four motor ambulances. The Expedition left Matruh on January 30, 1917.

The remnant of the Senussi army under the deserter Coast Guardsman Mohammed Saleh, who had been the leading spirit in the Southern movement, was known to be encamped in the oasis a few miles to the west of the town of Siwa. The plan of operations was to attack the camp with the main force of cars, sending a detached force to watch a pass some fifteen miles to the west on the road between Siwa and Jarabub, with the intention of cutting off their retreat. The main road into the bed of the oasis was known to be mined, but a new track down the almost precipitous sides was discovered. The Senússi camp was found and attacked at once. A stubborn resistance was offered, for the enemy still possessed two
mountain guns which they used with considerable effect, though fortunately no direct hits were secured on any of the cars. Our machine guns at short range caused considerable losses to the enemy and cut short their one attempt at an offensive. Night came on without a decisive result, but during the night the Senussi trekked off westward, blowing up their ammunition stores before they left.

The detachment of cars that had gone westwards reached the appointed place after considerable difficulties and was in time to ambush the head of the column of Senussi moving westwards the morning after the fight, but the enemy advance guard gave the signal to the remainder to change the route and the nature of the ground prevented further pursuit. Siwa was entered next day and a few captures made, but the prisoners could not be brought away owing to lack of room for passengers in the cars. This most successful expedition ended the Senussi Campaign. No further attempt was made to dispute our control of any part of Egypt.

The Grand Senussi, who had been at Siwa, left for the interior before the battle; Mohamed Saleh, the Coast Guardsman, mounted on a white horse, was recognized directing operations with the Senussi in the fight by one of the British Coast Guard officers who was present with the Expedition. He, too, made his escape with the main body.

Some six months later, in the summer of 1917, the perfidious and elusive Sayed was reported to be on his way in a German submarine from the Tripoli coast to Constantinople. It was obvious after this complete round up of the Senussi and the capture of their last stronghold in Egyptian territory that the functions of the Western Force had practically come to an end, and that most of us must expect to be transferred to other work.

(To be continued.)

Current Literature.


Although this article is written in French the author is an American who is professor of medicine at Temple University, Philadelphia, U.S.A. As the article deals with a vaccine obtained from spinal cords of monkeys, it is indeed fitting that it should appear in a publication issued by the Pasteur Institute. The author has succeeded in preparing a vaccine which he has used with success for immunizing against poliomyelitis. The vaccine is obtained from the spinal cords of monkeys who have been infected with the virus of poliomyelitis. The spinal cord is used in preference to the brain as it contains more virus; one spinal cord will give