

opening up of Sollum, Bardia and Tobruk, thereby shortening the L. of C. and releasing Motor Transport for the vital task of stocking up successive Field Supply Depots.

56. During the operations the Royal Air Force, under the able direction of Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, obtained and maintained, in spite of inferior numbers, complete superiority over the Italian air force. They thereby contributed greatly to the successes won

by enabling our ground forces to move freely, with little interference or loss from enemy air attack. They also provided accurate information of enemy movements, and on many occasions inflicted considerable loss on his forces. The Army owes a special debt to Air Commodore R. Collishaw, commanding air forces in the Western Desert, for his whole-hearted co-operation and for the energy and optimism which were an inspiration to all.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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S.O. Code No. 65-37628