

NOTE

THE publication of Sir Roger Keyes's Dispatches of May 9 and June 15, 1918, at length affords an authentic record, by its organizer and leader, of an achievement which a French Admiral has characterized as 'the finest feat of arms in the naval history of all times and all countries'. As a story of pure gallantry, it may be, the Dispatches do not add to the information already accessible. But they correct many glaring current inaccuracies, based on irresponsible statements and incomplete knowledge.

Above all, they present us for the first time with an authentic exposition of the purpose and tactics of the operations, and permit us to view their incidents in proper perspective. For the first time, too, we realize the magnitude of the design, its colossal intricacy, its patient weaving.

Narrative of the Raids were issued through the Press Bureau on May 26 and May 15, 1918. Having regard to their mode of publication, but on that ground alone, these articles, written by an exceedingly competent and well-informed journalist, may be described as official. There has also found its way into the public press an unusual amount of first-hand information in the form of interviews with actors in the events. Much of it is unreliable, as statements hot upon the event generally are. But there remains a residuum which is valuable and worthy of recovery.