



TENTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WEDNESDAY, 1 JANUARY, 1919.

*Air Ministry,
1st January, 1919.*

The Secretary of State for the Royal Air Force has received the following Despatch from Major-General Sir H. M. Trenchard, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commanding the Independent Force, Royal Air Force:—

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the work of the Independent Air Force from the 5th June to the signing of the Armistice on the 11th November, 1918.

I have also mentioned in the earlier part of this report the work done in the attack on Germany by the squadrons from a base south-east of Nancy before the establishment of the Independent Air Force.

In May, 1918, you informed me that you considered it advisable to constitute an Independent Force to undertake the bombing of the industrial centres of Germany.

You further intimated to me that you intended to place the whole of the British effort in attacking Germany from the air under my command, and that it would be probable that squadrons would be available to carry out this

work from England, as well as from the eastern area of France.

On the 2nd May, 1918, I proceeded to the Nancy area, where the 8th Brigade, R.A.F., under the local command of Brigadier-General C. L. N. Newall, consisting of:—

- No. 55 Squadron, De Hav. 4, 275 h.p. Rolls Royce;
- No. 99 Squadron, De Hav. 9, 200 h.p. B.H.P.;
- No. 100 Squadron, F.E. 2b, 160 h.p. Beardmore;
- No. 216 Squadron, Handley-Page, 375 h.p. Rolls Royce;

was already established under Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

With the exception of No. 99 Squadron, this Force had been in this area since the 11th October, 1917.

I took over from Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig the tactical command of this Force on the 5th June, and the administrative and complete control on the 15th June, 1918.

From the 11th October, 1917, to the 5th June, 1918, this small Force had, in spite of a very severe winter, carried out no less than