



## FIFTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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MONDAY, 21 AUGUST, 1916.

War Office, S.W.,  
21st August, 1916.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following despatch from Field-Marshal Viscount French:—

General Headquarters,  
Home Forces,  
Whitehall, S.W.,  
31st July, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a despatch covering the operation of the military forces under my command in France between the date of my last despatch (15th October) and 19th December, the date upon which I left France and assumed the command of the Forces in the United Kingdom.

The exhaustion in men and material, which results after a great battle, necessarily leads up to a time of comparative inactivity, and the period under review was, therefore, somewhat barren in incidents of military importance.

Up to the end of October the most important operation was an attack, which commenced about noon of the 13th, by troops of the 11th and 4th Corps against Fosse No. 8, the Quarries, and the German trenches on the Lens-La Bassee Road.

The Divisions chiefly engaged were the 1st

Division (4th Corps) and the 12th and 46th Divisions (11th Corps).

Speaking generally, the objective of the 1st Division was the enemy's trenches on the Lens-La Bassee Road; that of the 12th Division was the Quarries; whilst the troops of the 46th Division attacked the Hohenzollern Redoubt and Fosse No. 8.

The day's fighting commenced with an artillery bombardment of the objectives of the attack, and in this bombardment the French artillery on our right collaborated.

Shortly before the attack was launched at 2 p.m. smoke was turned on all along our front from the Bethune-La Bassee Road southwards, and under cover of this smoke the attack was delivered. At the same time the heavy artillery lifted to further objectives while the enemy's front trench system was subjected to shrapnel fire.

At 2.10 p.m. it was reported that our infantry had passed the Hohenzollern Redoubt and were bombing up a trench towards the dump of Fosse 8; they were, however, opposed by heavy machine-gun fire from that point and such success as the original attack gained at the Fosse was only of a temporary nature.

At 2.45 p.m. the 4th Corps reported having captured 1,200 yards of trenches on the Lens-La Bassee Road, but as the left battalion of