



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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THURSDAY, 10 JANUARY, 1918.

War Office,
10th January, 1918.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatch addressed to the Chief of the General Staff, India, by Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, K.C.B., late Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force:—

General Headquarters,
Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force,
October 15th, 1917.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit herewith a report on the operations carried out by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force during the period extending from April 1st to September 30th.

2. My previous despatch included a narrative of the operations subsequent to the fall of Baghdad up to March 31st, by which date our Columns had driven the enemy north-east, north and west in divergent directions along the Dialah, Tigris and Euphrates respectively,

and our advanced troops had established a screen covering Baghdad, being disposed approximately on the line Shahraban-Dogameh-Mushaidie-Feluja. In order, however, to provide for the security of Baghdad, which is an open city devoid of means of defence, it seemed desirable to prosecute our operations against the shattered but reinforced Columns of the 18th Turkish Corps, with which we had been so recently engaged, whilst keeping careful watch on the movements of the 13th Turkish Corps, which was falling back before our Russian Allies, lest the enemy should detach troops from this direction against the right flank and rear of our movement towards Samarra. The pressure applied by the Russian Columns which had already reached Karind with advanced troops at Khanikin, assisted by our troops operating in the Jebel Hamrin, as described in my last despatch, now forced the enemy to cross the Dialah and continue his retreat on Kifri.

3. On April 2nd we effected a junction with General Baratoff's troops about Kizil Robot, and as soon as these were well established on