



## SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 3rd of DECEMBER, 1918.

Published by Authority.

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WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 1918.

War Office,  
4th December, 1918.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatch from General The Earl of Cavan, K.P., K.C.B., M.V.O., Commanding-in-Chief British Forces in Italy:—

General Headquarters,  
British Forces in Italy,  
15th November, 1918.

My Lord,—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the part played by the British troops in Italy from September 15th, 1918, to the final defeat of the Austrian Army.

If reference only in general terms is made to the gallant troops of the XIth and XVIIIth Italian Corps which were under my command, it is not because their part was any less brilliant, but because this despatch is written in my capacity of Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Italy and not in the capacity of Commander of the Tenth Italian Army.

2. Early in September, as it appeared unlikely that offensive operations would be undertaken in Italy in the near future, it was decided to assist France with some or all of the British troops in this country.

His Excellency General Diaz not only put no obstacle in the way, but further assured me that his one wish was to assist Marshal Foch in defeating the Germans with all the resources he had available.

In accordance with this idea the 7th, 23rd and 48th Divisions were reduced from 13 to 10 battalions, and the 9 battalions thus released were despatched to France on September 13th and 14th.

The 7th Division was already at rest, and it was intended to despatch this division as soon as a battle-worn division should arrive from France to replace it.

In order that it might be in a position to follow the 7th Division without delay the 23rd Division was relieved by troops of the 12th Italian Corps, the relief being completed on September 27th.

3. As a result of the tactical situation in France and the consequent demands on rolling stock the proposed exchange of divisions was postponed from day to day. The situation in Italy also changed, and finally all three divisions remained in this country.

4. On October 6th I went to Comando Supremo at General Diaz's request.

General Diaz at this interview offered me the Command of a mixed Italian-British Army