



THIRD SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette.

Of TUESDAY, the 21st of JANUARY, 1919.

Published by Authority.

*The Gazette is registered at the General Post Office for transmission by Inland Post as a newspaper. The postage rate to places within the United Kingdom, for each copy, is one halfpenny for the first 6 ozs., and an additional halfpenny for each subsequent 6 ozs. or part thereof. For places abroad the rate is a halfpenny for every 2 ounces, except in the case of Canada, to which the Canadian Magazine Postage rate applies.*

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY, 1919

War Office,  
22nd January, 1919.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatch from General Sir George F. Milne, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commanding-in-Chief, British Salonika Force:—

General Headquarters,  
British Salonika Force.  
1st December, 1918.

My Lord,—

I have the honour to submit the following report on the operations of the British Army in Macedonia from 1st October, 1917, to the present date.

During the greater part of this period I continued to be responsible for the eastern sector of the Balkan front. This part of the Allied line ran north-westward from the mouth of the Struma River, past Lake Tahinos and its marshes, up the broad valley to the junction of the Butkova and Struma Rivers. Here it turned westward, along the slopes of the Krusha Balkans, to Lake Doiran, and then near Doiran town swept south-east to the Vardar Valley. The whole sector was some 100 miles long and distant between fifty and sixty

miles from the town of Salonika. On the north-east it barred the way against an advance from Serres and the Rupel Pass; on the north-west it both guarded and threatened the Vardar Valley, the enemy's main line of communication and his shortest and easiest road to Salonika.

In view of the diminution in the strength of the Army caused by the transfer of two divisions and two cavalry brigades to another theatre, the question of the construction of communications, in order that troops might be moved rapidly from one point to another, and of the preparation of retired positions, became of primary importance. This work was methodically carried out. At the beginning of 1916 the rough and broken Serres Road had been, apart from the railway which fed the Doiran front, the only line of communication. Now good metalled roads run to Serres, to Doiran and to Karasuli on the Vardar River. Neohori, on the mouth of the Struma River, and Snevce and Rajanova at the foot of the Krusha Balkans can be reached by road and light railway; circular routes by road and rail give lateral communications behind both the first and second zones of defence. In the beginning of September, 1917, an entrenched