



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette.

Of TUESDAY, the 8th of APRIL, 1919.

Published by Authority.

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THURSDAY, 10 APRIL, 1919.

War Office,

10th April, 1919.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatch from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, K.T., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France:—

*General Head Quarters,
British Armies in France,
21st March, 1919.*

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following final Despatch in which is described the advance of the British Forces into Germany and the occupation of the bridgehead East of the Rhine at Cologne. I include in this Despatch a brief review of the chief features of military interest which stand out among the operations of the British Armies on the Western front during the time I have been in command of them. I take this last opportunity also to refer by name to some few of the many able and gallant officers who have assisted me in my task, and to thank them personally.

PART I.

THE ADVANCE INTO GERMANY.
(11th Nov., 1918—31st Dec., 1918.)

Arrangements for the Advance.

(1) At 11.00 on the 11th November, 1918, at which hour and date the armistice granted to Germany by the Allies took effect, the British front extended over a distance of about 60 miles from the neighbourhood of Montbliart, East of Avesnes, to just North of Grammont (vide attached map).* This front from South to North was held by troops of the Fourth, Third, First, Fifth and Second British Armies, all of whom were in hot pursuit of the enemy at the moment when the armistice came into operation.

The provisions of the armistice had settled in general terms the course to be followed subsequently by the belligerent groups of Armies. To co-ordinate the action of the Allied Armies, instructions of a more detailed character were issued by Marshal Foch to all concerned, and these formed the basis of the orders given by me during the period covered by this Despatch.

* Not reproduced.