



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette.

Of FRIDAY, the 5th of MARCH, 1920.

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 3 ounces, except in the case of Canada, to which the Canadian Magazine Postage rate applies.

MONDAY, 8 MARCH, 1920.

War Office,
8th March, 1920.

The Secretary of State for War has received the following Despatch from Major-General Sir George F. MacMunn, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., officiating Commander-in-Chief, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, describing events since 1st January, 1919, including various operations between March and September, 1919:—

General Headquarters,
Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force,
Baghdad.

12th November, 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a report on operations in Mesopotamia since Sir William Marshall's despatch dealing with events up to 31st December, 1918. (*Published in the London Gazette of 11th April, 1919, No. 31287.*)

These consist of:—

(a) Two minor operations against recalcitrant Arab Chiefs, on the Lower Euphrates in April and May.

(b) Certain operations of the force in North Persia in conjunction with a Persian Cossack Brigade, and

(c) Two separate more serious campaigns in Southern and Central Kurdistan.

Sir William Marshall left for home on leave early in February and was succeeded by Sir Alexander Cobbe who handed over Command to me at the beginning of May.

2. The first few months succeeding the Armistice were occupied in demobilising troops surplus to the force considered necessary for the Army of occupation and generally reducing all auxiliary services, during which time there were no local disturbances.

The long delay in coming to a decision as to the future of the country which originally looked to an effective British control as certain and immediate, has had a deteriorating result. Pan-Arab enthusiasts, Pan-Islam and Pan-Turk propaganda, the activities of the Committee of Union and Progress, and the approach of Bolshevism towards Persia, have all had an adverse effect. Intrigue of all kinds has been rife and there have been many disturbing rumours in the air, which were not long in having evil results.

In March and April Sir Alexander Cobbe found it necessary to undertake minor operations against the tribes on the lower Euphrates who were defying the Civil Authorities and refusing the usual revenue. Disturbances had