



THIRD SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette.

Of TUESDAY, the 10th of APRIL, 1917.

Published by Authority:

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WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL, 1917.

*Admiralty,
11th April, 1917.*

The following despatches from Vice-Admiral Sir John M. de Robeck, K.C.B., late Vice-Admiral Commanding the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron, and Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn E. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., late Senior Naval Officer, Mudros, describe the naval operations in connection with the withdrawal of the Army from the Gallipoli Peninsula:—

*" Lord Nelson " at Mudros,
22nd December, 1915.*

SIR,—

Be pleased to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the following report on the operations connected with the evacuation of the positions at Suvla and Anzac.

The evacuation was carried out in three stages, as follows:—

(a) A Preliminary Stage.

During this stage all personnel, animals, and vehicles not necessary for a winter campaign were removed. This necessitated no special arrangements, and was completed by

the date on which definite orders to evacuate Suvla and Anzac were received.

(b) An Intermediate Stage.

During this stage all personnel, guns, and animals which were not absolutely necessary for the defence of the positions in the event of an enemy attack at the last moment were removed. This also was carried out without special arrangements beyond the withdrawal of increased amounts of material each night.

(c) Final Stage.

Special and detailed orders were necessary for the operations of this stage, which had to be completed in thirty-six hours, and which included the embarkation of all personnel remaining, and of all guns and animals not previously withdrawn.

The principle decided upon for all three stages was secrecy and the attempt to take the enemy entirely by surprise. It was hoped that he would ascribe any unusual activity, if observed, to the preparation for an attack. Every effort was therefore made during the whole of the operations to maintain the beaches, offing, etc., in their usual appearance, and all embarkations were carried out during the dark hours. The increase in the number of motor