

responsibility on these officers, and the task was carried out without a hitch or difficulty of any sort.

44. In their retreat the Austrians left many hospitals full of sick and wounded of all nationalities behind them. In many cases these hospitals were bereft of provisions and attendants. The British Red Cross, under the supervision of Colonel Sir Courtauld Thompson, K.B.E., C.B., spared no efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the inmates, and undoubtedly saved the lives of many Austrian as well as Italian patients.

45. I again desire to express my most grateful acknowledgment of the services rendered by my Major-General, General Staff, Major-General The Honourable J. F. Gatherne-Hardy, C.B., D.S.O., whose unerring judgment and readiness to help in any difficult situation did much to bring about the very decisive results of the battle of Vittorio.

I also desire to thank all subordinate members of my Staff for the smooth working of a difficult operation, and in particular my Chief Engineer, Major-General C. S. Wilson, C.B., C.M.G.; my G.O.C., R.A., Major-General W. H. Kay, D.S.O.; my D.A. and Q.M.G., Major-General H. L. Alexander, D.S.O., who

met enormous demands for food for prisoners—which far exceeded the most sanguine estimate—as well as for a starving population and a never ceasing flow of Italians, military and civil, returning to the liberated country; Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Mitchell, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., head of the Intelligence Section; Colonel O. C. Mordaunt, D.S.O., Deputy-Director of Signals; Major The Honourable P. W. Legh, my Military Secretary; and Major-General J. A. Strick, D.S.O., Inspector-General of Communications.

46. Lastly, I have the very greatest pleasure in informing your Lordship that I have always been able to obtain the ready ear of Comando Supremo in all important matters. Their extreme courtesy and kindness to myself and to the British troops adds much to the happy memory of the campaign in Italy.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,
Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

CAVAN,
General,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Forces in Italy.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1;
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Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by WYMAN & SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, Fleet St., London, E.C. 4.
Wednesday, 4 December, 1918.

Price Fourpence Net.