

Telephone : VICTORIA 4066.

Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

CORRESPONDENCE  
with  
GENERAL SIR BEAUCHAMP DUFF.

---

3/97

3

April 23rd 1917.

Dear Sir Beauchamp Duff,

I am sorry I cannot yet tell you exactly when our Report will be published, but I should think it would not be at any rate for a fortnight or three weeks.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff,

Hatton Castle

Turriff, N.B.

4  
HATTON CASTLE,  
TURRIFF, N.B.

20<sup>th</sup> April 1917.  
—

Dear Mr. Duff.

If it be possible I should be very much obliged if you could give me any indication as to when the report of the Mesopotamia Commission is likely to appear. I should like to arrange to be in London when it is published and therefore my plans are considerably affected.

Sincerely yours

Beauchamp Duff.

J/50

March 7th 1917.

Dear Captain Ross,

Many thanks for your letter. I feel I am very much indebted to you for the prompt and able assistance you have invariably afforded me in all, and sometimes complicated, matters in which I have been forced to consult you, and I think your assistance has been of great use to the Commission in finding their way about the voluminous papers submitted to them.

I am sorry not to have seen you to say Goodbye.

Yours sincerely,

Captain Ross,

United Service Club

Pall Mall.

D/o

6



United Service Club  
Pulse Magazine  
Per,

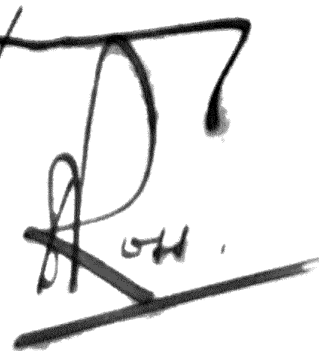
6. 3. 17.

1917

Dear Gen. Duff,

Sir Beauchamp's final witness is being sent to you today & our office closes tomorrow. I shall be in England till early in April & the above address or 40 H.S. King St, 4 Pulse Magazine will find me some where out in Town. I mention this in case I can be of any assistance to you when though office is closed.

I must apologize for not having been able on every occasion to produce papers required, but the records have been voluminous for one man to deal with. I hope the failure to produce such papers has not been of serious inconvenience to you in your heavy work.

Yrs. &  
  
J. R. Duff.

To

General Sir Beauchamp Duff.

GCB GCSI KCHV GIE

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,  
S.W.

Dated, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1917

D. 61.

Gen W. Duff.

I return herewith proof of my evidence given on  
February 27th and have made the necessary corrections  
therein.

As my office is now closed, I should be grateful  
if the final proof of this evidence could be sent to me for  
signature to my private address; the Caledonian Club, St.  
James Square.

Sincerely yours.

Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

To

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office, *Q*  
King Charles Street, S.W.

Dated, *6<sup>th</sup>* March, 1917



*Secret*

*D.50.*

*Dear Mr. Duff*

In continuation of my letter No. D/41 dated 22nd January 1917, I forward correspondence just received from India.

The tables (last four pages of enclosure), attached to the copies of telegrams, give the further detail promised.

The only error in the cable as received here on which my letter No. D/41 was based is paragraph 2, Numbers invalided to India July 1916, last column, "Followers" for 1010 read 1110.

*Sincerely yours*  
*Beauchamp Duff.*

R.G. Duff, Esq.

Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

To

No. 15509/4  
(D.M.S. 5.)

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject, the above number may be quoted, and the letter addressed to—  
"The Commander-in-Chief in India,  
Army Headquarters,  
India."



9  
Army Headquarters, India.

2<sup>nd</sup> ~~January~~ February 1917

REPORTS & RETURNS.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your Cipher Telegram No. 28006 dated 15th January 1917, and my Cipher Telegram No. 3581 dated 17th January 1917, I have the honour to forward herewith the accompanying post copy of Cipher Telegram No. 3526 and Word Code Telegram No. 3597 dated 17th January 1917 together with a copy of Tables giving fuller details.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Surgeon General

for Commander-in-Chief in India.

To

General Sir Beauchamp Duff.

G.C.B., G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., C.I.E.

C/O Secretary.

War Office. London.



Cipher Telegram No. 3526, dated 17th January 1917.

Despatched 5.0 p.m.

From - The Chief of the General Staff, Delhi.

To - - Sir B. Duff, C/O Secretary, War Office, London.

For reply to your No. 24783 of 8th November 1916 (Diary No. 90796) please see my code telegram No. 3527 of today.

1. Monthly percentage of sick, exclusive of wounded, is shown under paragraph 1. Read one British troops and officers, two Indian troops and officers, three ~~followers~~ followers. Three headings in all for each month.
2. Numbers invalided to India from sickness are shown under paragraph 2. Headings should be read as in para 1 of this telegram.
3. Number of deaths monthly from sickness shown under para. 3. In this paragraph there are nine headings for each month. British troops and officers referred to under headings one to three. Indian troops and officers referred to under headings four to six. Followers referred to under headings seven to nine.

In each case the three headings refer to deaths. Deaths in Mesopotamia shown under 1. Deaths en route from Mesopotamia shown under 2. Deaths in hospitals in India under 3.

-----  
Record copy to D.M.S.

D.M.S.  
D.

Word Code Telegram No. 3597, dated 17th January 1917.

Despatched 6.45 p.m.

From - The Chief of the General Staff, Delhi.

To -- - Sir B. Duff. C/O Secretary, War Office, London.

Reference my cipher telegram No. 3526 of today.

Paragraph one. June 1915 six point three, four point one, four point three, July ten point zero, nine point three, nine point five, August six point two, eight point nine, eight point one, September six point nine, five point five, seven point one, October five point one, four point zero, four point nine, November six point six, three point eight four point seven, December excluding Kut garrison from new onwards seven point five, four point five, four point four, January 1916 three point seven, three point eight, four point seven. February two point nine, six point two, three point two, March three point seven, six point one, four point one, April two point two, one point nine, two point zero, May three point eight, six point six, three point zero, June eleven point three, six point five, five point nine, July twenty nine point two, eighteen point nine, twenty one point nine, August fifteen point five, twelve point three, twelve point six, September twenty point seven, eighteen point four, seventeen point two, October figures not available.

Paragraph two. December 1914, zero, three hundred and thirteen, twenty two, January 1915 thirtysix, one hundred and seven, fifteen, February fifteen, seventy one, five, March seventeen, one hundred and sixty seven, eight, April zero, four hundred, fifty one, May ninety five, four hundred and seventy five, fifty four, June thirty one, two hundred and nine, zero, July one hundred and thirty eight, nine hundred and ninety nine, forty two, August one hundred and eighty six, two thousand one hundred and two, forty seven, September ninety nine, two hundred and nine, five, October one hundred and twenty four, four hundred and nineteen, eleven, November one hundred and twenty seven, six hundred and one, one hundred and two, December two hundred and twenty six, five hundred and forty five, sixty six, January 1916, five hundred and two, two thousand and ten, one hundred

and two, February eight hundred and eighty three, two thousand six hundred and thirty eight, five hundred and eighty five, ~~Mar~~ March six hundred and forty four, one thousand eight hundred and twenty five, one hundred and seventy two, April two thousand one hundred and twenty six, two thousand six hundred and thirty six, three hundred and fourteen, May two thousand nine hundred and ninety one, four thousand one hundred and forty two, six hundred and twelve, June two thousand six hundred and ninety seven, four thousand eight hundred and twenty seven, eight hundred and thirty three, July five thousand three hundred and forty four, seven thousand five hundred and forty three, one thousand one hundred and ten, August three thousand seven hundred and ninety five five thousand three hundred and four, nine hundred and thirty seven, September three thousand one hundred and eighty nine, six thousand five hundred and seventy eight, one thousand four hundred and twenty four, October one thousand nine hundred and forty, four thousand seven hundred and ninety, one thousand two hundred and sixty.

Paragraph 3. January 1915, unknown, unknown, zero, unknown, unknown, six, unknown, unknown, two, February unknown, zero, zero, unknown, eleven, six, unknown, zero, zero, March unknown, one, zero, unknown, four, eleven, unknown, three, one, April unknown, one, zero, unknown, eight, twelve, unknown, six, one, May unknown, one, zero, unknown, nine, twenty-eight, unknown, zero, six, June seventeen, three, one, twenty seven, zero, eighteen, fourteen, zero, two, July ten, two, one, fifteen, four, fourteen, twenty one, two, three, August twenty seven, two, three, thirty three, ten, fifteen, six, seven, two, September eighteen, zero, one, twelve, two, eighteen, eight, one, nine, October seventeen, zero, two, eight, eight, thirteen, twelve, one, three, November thirty one, one, zero, fifteen, two, twenty four, twelve, two, & four, December thirty nine, three, zero, sixty nine, two, eight-teen, thirty nine, two, five, January 1916 twenty, zero, two, one hundred and seventeen, nine, thirty, zero, two, three, February twenty one, two, two, one hundred and thirty three, eight-teen, twenty three, zero, six, four, March twenty four, three,



T A B L E S.

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Monthly percentage of sick exclusive of wounded ;--

(a) No figures for sick available between December 1914 and May 1915 inclusive.

(b) Figures from June 1915 to April 1916 inclusive contained in Table

AUG: B. Vincent Commission Report cannot be improved on.

(c) Complete Table from June 1915 to October 1916 is shown here.

	STRENGTH.		NOS: SICK.	PERCENTAGE.
JUNE 15.	1 British Troops & Officers	6866	433	6.3
	2 Indian Troops & Officers	20279	847	4.1
	3 Followers.	7758	339	4.3.
JULY	1.	6167	620	10.0
	2	20215	1898	9.3
	3	7976	773	9.5
AUGUST	1	6153	385	6.2
	2	20107	1799	8.9
	3	8398	679	8.1
SEPT.	1	6399	441	6.9
	2	19368	1072	5.5
	3	8626	615	7.1
OCT:	1	6914	358	5.1
	2	21339	861	4.0
	3	8841	436	4.9
NOV:	1	7439	494	6.6
	2	23754	922	3.8
	3	9143	438	4.7
* DEC:	1.	3929	294	7.5
	2	12071	539	4.5
	3	6446	287	4.4
JAN:16	1	10241	388	3.7
	2	30662	1169	3.8
	3	9970	469	4.7
FEB:	1	17487	522	2.9
	2	43205	2719	6.2
	3	15750	515	3.2
MAR:	1	22107	821	3.7
	2	49335	3041	6.1
	3	16488	677	4.1
APR:	1	40989	911	2.2
	2	58759	1157	1.9
	3	22695	470	2.0
MAY	1	39352	1516	3.8
	2	60015	3964	6.6
	3	25949	781	3.0

\* Kut garrison figures not available.

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Month	Day	British Troops & Officers	Indian Troops & Officers	Followers
*JUNE	1.	39200	4462	11.3
	2	60124	4207	6.5
	3	30627	1830	5.9
JULY	1.	49733	14554	29.2
	2	68067	12919	18.9
	3	32857	7218	21.9
AUG:	1	43019	6712	15.5
	2	62405	7714	12.3
	3	38108	4823	12.6
SEPT:	1	40605	8404	20.7
	2	55386	10181	18.4
	3	37092	6401	17.2
OCT:	1.	not available	4216	...
	2	available	4200	...
	3		3826	...

\* Estimated.

NUMBERS INVALIDED TO INDIA MONTHLY FROM SICKNESS AS OPPOSED TO WOUNDS:-

Month	Day	1. Sickness	2. Wounds	British Troops & Officers	Indian Troops & Officers	Followers
DEC:14	1.	Sickness		0	313	22
	2	Wounds		-	15	-
JAN:15	1			36	107	15
	2			5	6	-
FEB.	1			15	71	5
	2			--	5	-
MAR:	1			17	167	8
	2			-	11	-
APR:	1			-	400	51
	2			-	40	-
MAY	1			95	475	54
	2			6	25	-
JUNE	1			31	209	-
	2			3	37	-
JULY	1			138	999	42
	2			8	101	--
AUG:	1			186	2102	47
	2			30	363	-
SEPT:	1			99	209	5
	2			-	59	-
OCT:	1			124	419	11
	2			64	129	-

16.

	1	127	601	102
	2	85	111	--
DEC:	1	226	545	66
	2	132	255	--
JAN:16	1	502	2010	102
	2	232	409	--
FEB:	1	883	2638	585
	2	408	465	--
MAR:	1	644	1825	172
	2	252	475	--
APR:	1	2126	2636	314
	2	988	645	2
MAY	1	2991	4122	612
	2	849	547	7
JUNE	1	2697	4821	833
	2	198	287	4
JULY	1	5344	7543	1110
	2	92	148	--
AUG:	1	3795	5304	937
	2	26	44	--
SEPT:	1	3189	6578	1424
	2	58	82	--
OCT:	1	1940	4790	1260
	2	30	69	--

NUMBERS OF DEATHS MONTHLY FROM SICKNESS.

(a) In Mesopotamia.

	<u>British Troops &amp; Officers.</u>	<u>Indian Troops &amp; Officers.</u>	<u>Followers.</u>
JUNE 1915	17	27	14
JULY	10	15	21
AUG.	27	33	6
SEPT.	18	12	8
OCT.	17	8	12
NOV.	31	15	12
DEC.	39	69	38
JANY. 1916	20	117	--
FEB.	21	133	--
MAR.	24	184	18
APR.	41	277	40
MAY	345	186	77
JUNE	391	171	106
JULY	771	203	216
AUG.	177	82	165
SEPT.	144	62	136
OCT.	52	33	94

(b) En route from Mesopotamia

FEB, 1915	--	11	--
MAR	1	4	3
APR:	1	8	6
MAY	1	9	--

17

JUNE	3	-	-
JULY	2	4	2
AUG	2	10	7
SEPT.	-	2	1
OCT.	-	8	1
NOV:	1	2	2
DEC:	3	2	2
JANY: 1916	-	9	2
FEB:	2	18	6
MAR:	3	5	3
APR:	3	1	6
MAY	3	20	13
JUNE	7	11	8
JULY	50	23	40
AUG.	7	15	20
SEPT.	21	4	12
OCT.	2	6	2

(c) In India.

JANY:1915.	-	60	2
FEB:	-	6	-
MAR:	-	11	1
APR.:	-	12	1
MAY	-	18	6
JUNE	1	18	2
JULY	1	14	3
AUG.	3	15	2
SEPT	1	18	9
OCT	2	13	3
NOV.	-	24	4
DEC.	-	18	5
JANY. 1916	2	30	3
FEB	2	29	4
MAR	2	24	9
APR	6	37	15
MAY	4	46	15
JUNE	17	40	19
JULY	35	41	22
AUG	38	52	27
SEPT.	26	28	23
OCT.	11	30	17.

18/11



J/48

18

*Confidential*

March 5th 1917.

Dear

I have to thank you for your letter No.C/3  
of to-day's date, remitting all the documents lent  
to you by the Commission according to your attached  
list.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff  
Room No 53, 2nd Floor  
H.M. Office of Works  
King Charles Street.

S.W.

19  
Room 53, 2nd. Floor,  
H.M. Office of Works,  
King Charles Street,  
S. W.

February 28<sup>th</sup> 1917.

March 5<sup>th</sup> 17.

Confidential.

C/3.  
Dear Mr. Duff.

With reference to your letter No. E/1 dated October 25th. 1916, I return herewith all copies of evidence and statements that have been forwarded to me from your office, with the exception of the spare copies of my statement and proof copy of my evidence.

I should be grateful if you would kindly acknowledge the receipt of these documents as I am closing my office.

Sincerely yours

Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.  
Secretary to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office, 20  
King Charles Street,  
Dated, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 S.W.

D/49  
Dear Mr. Duff.

With reference to Commander Wedgewood's question during my evidence yesterday, I forward copy of a despatch which I wrote in March last year dealing with the minor military operations undertaken since the outbreak of the present war on the North West Frontier, etc.

This deals briefly with the more important incidents on the Frontier between the outbreak of war and March 1916.

I fear the British casualties are not touched upon in the despatch, and to obtain these I suggest that the India Office be approached by you.

As I am closing my office here it <sup>is</sup> ~~would be~~ useless for me to try and get this information from India.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.,  
Secy. to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,  
S.W.  
Dated, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

21

✓  
Dear Mr Fitzwilliam

I am directed by General Sir Beauchamp Duff to inform you that he is closing his office here on March 7th.

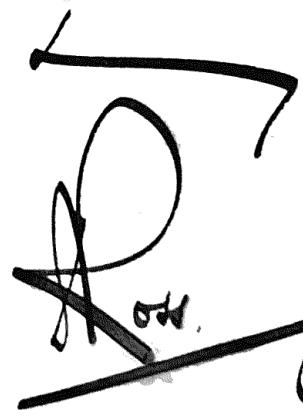
After that date his address will be :-

Caledonian Club,  
St. James Square,  
S.W.

while my address will be :-

C/O H.S. King & Co.,  
9 Pall Mall.

J. Fitzwilliam, Esq.,  
Assistant Secretary to  
The Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

✓  
  
Ant. Wilby

8/47

C-76616

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,  
S.W.

22

Dated, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1917

Dear Mr. Duff.

I should be most grateful if you would kindly  
let me know whether the Commission have come to a  
decision as to the date of my re-appearance to give  
further evidence.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.  
Secretary to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

H/89

6.2.1917.

Dear Sir:-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter D/44 of the 3rd. inst. enclosing signed proofs of your corrected evidence; your D/45 to Mr. Duff; the points raised by you therein shall be laid before the Commission, also D/46 of the same date, enclosing reports on the sick and wounded.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

General Sir Beauchamp Duff  
Room No 53, 2nd Floor  
His Majesty's Works Office  
King Charles Street.  
S.W.

8/46

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.

24

Dated, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1916

Dear Mr. Duff.

I understand from Captain Ross that Mr. Fitzwilliam telephoned to him saying the Commission wished me to forward any reports on the sick and wounded which I could trace as having been sent by General Nixon.

Copies of such reports as I have been able to find are forwarded herewith.

Sincerely yours.

Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, esq.

Secretary to the

Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Of 44.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office. 25  
King Charles Street, S.W.  
Dated, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917

Dear Mr. Duff.

The corrected proofs of my evidence, in which  
I have made certain proof corrections, are returned  
herewith.

Sincerely yours,  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.,  
Secretary to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.



8/45-

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.

26

Dated, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917

Gen W. Duff.

Please refer to Mr. Fitzwilliam's letter No.H-75  
of January 30th.

I have taken the necessary action to obtain copies  
of the correspondence required.

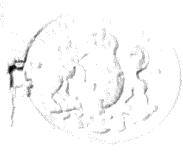
Having read Major General Cowper's evidence I am now  
in a position to say that I am desirous of again giving  
evidence before the Commission, and in accordance with our  
previous correspondence on the subject I understand I shall  
probably be called for that purpose on some date after  
February 15th.

Among the points I am desirous of touching upon are:-

- (a) Field Force canteens.
- (b) Alleged shortage of 60-pr. ammunition.
- (c) The telegrams referred to in Mr. Fitzwilliam's above  
quoted letter.
- (d) System of addressing correspondence from the field to  
the Chief of the General Staff.

Sincerely yours,  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.,  
Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission



*S/44.*

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.  
Dated, *26<sup>th</sup>* January, 1917

*Dear Mr. Duff.*

Many thanks for your letter No.H-65 of 25th instant. I quite understand the position and it would suit me better to defer my voluntary re-appearance before the Commission until such time as the Commission have decided upon the points, if any, on which they require further evidence from me.

I do not propose, therefore, to apply as yet to re-appear and indeed I am unable to give a decision even as to my subsequent voluntary re-appearance until I have seen Major General Cowper's and Commander Lumsden's evidence.

*Sincerely yours*  
*Beauchamp Duff.*

R.G. Duff, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Mesopotamia  
Royal Commission.

Telephone: Vauxhall 4006.

28

Massachusetts Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

25.1.1917.

Dear Sir Beauchamp Duff,

In reply to your letter of yesterday, my conversation over the telephone with Captain Ross was not intended to deprive you of the right (which the Commission had already conceded to you) of re-appearing before them, in case any of the evidence subsequent to your own, in your opinion, necessitated your giving further evidence of your own. All I meant to say was, that as the Commission had decided that it might be necessary for them to recall you on certain points after they had drafted their Report, it would perhaps be better for you to defer any voluntary re-appearance of yourself as a witness, until the Commission have decided as to the points, if any, on which they will themselves require you to give evidence.

So far as I can see, we should not be in a position to ask you to come before us again for at least three weeks from the present day, and I think I could undertake to let you have at least a week's notice.

Perhaps you will be good enough to let me know whether you have yet arrived at a decision as to whether, so far as you are concerned, you wish to give evidence, and if so, on what points?

General Sir Beauchamp Duff.  
His Majesty's Works Office  
King Charles Street  
S.W.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office, 29  
King Charles Street, S.W.

Dated, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

8/43.  
Dear Mr. Duff.

With reference to the question of my re-appearance to give further evidence before the Commission, I understand that the proposal now is that instead of being permitted to say if I am desirous of appearing at the end of the present month, I shall be called for to give further evidence, if necessary, when the Commission have drafted their report. This I understand will be probably some two or three weeks after the taking of evidence has been concluded.

I should be grateful if you would kindly let me know how much notice you think you will be able to give me before the date on which the Commission will require me to re-appear.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.  
Secretary to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

H/68

30

24.1.1917.

Dear Sir:-

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter D/40, of the 22nd January explaining an apparent discrepancy in figures; also your D/41, enclosing a copy of a telegram, giving monthly percentages of sick; also your D/42 of the 23rd January together with a copy of a telegram asking for a medical return.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff  
Room No 53, 2nd Floor  
His Majesty's Works Office  
King Charles Street  
S.W.

*File*  
Room No.53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office, 31  
King Charles Street, S.W.

D. 42  
Dated, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1917

*Dear Mr. Duff.*

I understand the Commission require a copy of the telegram, despatched by me, calling for the medical return which the Commission asked for and which I forwarded with my letter No.D-41 dated 22nd January 1917.

I accordingly forward a copy of the telegram in question.

*Sincerely yours*  
*Beauchamp Duff.*

R.G. Duff, Esq.

Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal

Commission.

Room No 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,  
S.W.

32

H/58

D. 39

Dated, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

22.1.1917.

Dear Mr. Duff,

Dear Sir:- To assist the Commission in examining the  
information available regarding the strength of

I acknowledge with thanks your letter to  
me in Mesopotamia in October 1915, I forward a

Mr. Duff, No. D/39, dated 20th January, enclosing a note

Should the Commission require any further  
on the subject of the strength of units in Mesopotamia.  
information, perhaps they would obtain it direct

for the information of the Commission. Mesopotamia  
Expeditionary Force.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

Beauchamp Duff

Assistant Secretary

General Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B.  
Room No 53, 2nd Floor  
His Majesty's Works Office  
King Charles Street

Secretary to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor, <sup>33</sup>  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.  
Dated, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

~~Letter~~  
D. 39

Dear Mr. Duff.

To assist the Commission in ~~examining~~ the information available regarding the strength of units in Mesopotamia in October 1915, I forward a brief note on the subject which I have drawn up.

Should the Commission require any further information <sup>in this point</sup> perhaps they would obtain it direct from the General Officer Commanding, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.

Sincerely yours.

Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.,  
Secretary to the  
Mesopotamia Royal Commission.



H/55

34

19.1.1917.

Dear Captain Ross,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt  
of your letter D/38 of the 18th inst. and a copy of  
Force "D" telegram No. 766/204/Q, dated 19th January 1916.  
your office I forward a copy of Force "D" telegram

No. 766/204/Q, dated 19th January 1916.

Captain Ross

Room No 53, 2nd Floor

His Majesty's Works Office

King Charles Street.

S.W.

Received  
20K

J. Fitzwilliam, Esq.,

Assistant Secretary to

The New Zealand Royal Commission.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor.  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.


Dated, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

~~Secret~~

D/38

*Mr. W. Fitzwilliam.*

In compliance with a telephonic request from  
your office I forward a copy of Force "D" telegram  
No. 766/204/Q, dated 19th January 1916.

W. 

J. Fitzwilliam, Esq.,  
Assistant Secretary to  
The Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

H/46

2/17

36

His Majesty's Secret Office,  
165, King Charles Street,  
London, W.C.2.  
17.1.1917.

Dear Mr. Duff

Dear Sir Beauchamp Duff,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday on the subject of your coming again before the Commission to give evidence.

I note the contents of your letter, and think I ought to let you know that the Commission propose to close their evidence on February 1st. next: it will, therefore, be necessary to come to a final decision on the subject matter of your letter on, or before that date.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

Beauchamp Duff

General Sir Beauchamp Duff G.C.B.

R.G King Charles Street.

Secretary to the Commission.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor. 37  
His Majesty's Works Office.  
King Charles Street, S.W.

Dated, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

D/37.

Dear Mr. Duff.

So far as I have seen hitherto the evidence taken since I was myself examined has not been such as to require my reappearance, but it is not possible as yet to say that subsequent evidence may not compel me to ask the Commission to allow me to reappear.

I have no wish to occupy the time of the Commission needlessly but I would ask that it should not be decided that I am not to reappear until the last of the evidence is in my hands.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

H/44

38

17.1.1917.

Dear Sir:-

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter D/36 of the 15th inst. to Mr.Duff, enclosing copies of cables for the information of the Commission.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary

General Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B.  
Room No 53, 2nd Floor  
His Majesty's Works Office  
King Charles Street  
S.W.

7.10  
17.17.  
Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office, 39  
King Charles Street, S.W.

D. 36.  
Dated, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

Dear Mr. Duff.

From a perusal of some of the evidence taken subsequent to my appearance before the Commission, it was clear to me that considerable doubt was felt as regards the accuracy of the return of the strength of Force "D", dated 1st October 1915, which I submitted to the Commission.

I therefore referred to Army Headquarters, India, and in reply have received cables from the Chief of the General Staff, Delhi, and the 3rd Echelon, Basrah.

I enclose copies of these cables for the information of the Commission.

It will be observed that although the return in question included those sick in hospital and field ambulances, etc., yet the effective strengths of the various units in Mesopotamia on October 1st, 1915, were not generally speaking particularly low.

Sincerely yours

Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.  
Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission



Telegram No.1956, dated 10th January 1917  
 From. The Chief of the General Staff, Delhi  
 To. Sir Beauchamp Duff.

Your telegram January 5th 21036. I have no reasons to doubt the substantial accuracy of the return questioned which doubtless included all men in Mesopotamia whether sick or away from Headquarters. General Basrah has been asked to furnish whatever information he has.


On October 5th 1915 the effective strength of combatant units in Mesopotamia were as follows:-

Unit	British other ranks	Indian all ranks
Royal Flying Corps	64	5
"S" Battery, R.H.A.	<del>126</del>	15
63rd Battery, R.F.A.	140	21
76th Battery, R.F.A.	145	39
82nd Battery, R.F.A.	149	51
1/5th Hampshire Btty.R.F.A.	126	56
No.86 Coy. R.G.A.	89	62
No.104 Coy. R.G.A.	83	84
Volunteer Battery	78	nil
23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery	nil	286
30th Mountain Battery	nil	272
No.6 Ammunition Column R.F.A.	49	272
<del>2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment</del>	<del>646</del>	nil
2nd Norfolk	781	nil
<del>2nd Bn. Royal West Kent Regiment</del>	<del>717</del>	nil
1st Bn. Ox and Bucks Light Infy.	780	nil.
1/4th Hampshire Regiment	391	nil
Wireless Signal Squadron	55	25
Army Corps Signal Company	17	6
Bridging Train	nil	27
No.12 Coy. 2nd Sappers and Miners	2	172

On September 24th September 27th 1915 the following drafts sailed :-

	British ranks	Indian all ranks
Heavy Artillery Batteries	nil	30
Volunteer Battery	12	nil
R.H.A. and R.F.A.	34	nil
Mountain Battery	nil	46
Wireless Troops	7	nil
Field Companies Sappers and Miners	nil	208
Sirmoor Sappers	nil	24
Signal Company	20	38
Bridging Train	nil	5
7th Hariana Lancers	nil	37
16th Cavalry	nil	12
33rd Light <del>Infantry</del> Cavalry	nil	71
4th Rajputs	nil	26
7th Rajputs	nil	80
11th Rajputs	nil	81
20th Punjabis	nil	90
22nd Punjabis	nil	182
24th Punjabis	nil	29
43rd Erinpura Regiment	nil	43
44th Merwara Infantry	nil	42
48th Pioneers	nil	171
66th Punjabis	nil	122
67th Punjabis	nil	92
76th Punjabis	nil	10
90th Punjabis	nil	62
96th Berar Infantry	nil	26
103rd Mahratta Light Infantry	nil	87
104th Wellesley's Rifles	nil(?)	298
110th Mahratta Light Infantry	nil	150
117th Mahrattas	nil	184
119th Infantry	nil	141
2/7th Gurkha Rifles	nil	20





These were not included in ~~sixth~~ either of those effective strengths or actual strengths. The reason that the effective strengths were low is because Sir John Nixon on July 8th 1915 asked for all drafts be held up in India during July ~~xx~~ and August and not to be despatched before end of September owing to the adverse climatic conditions prevalent in Mesopotamia during those months.

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44

Telegram No.A.G./581/2/126, dated 10th January, 1917  
From. 3rd Echelon, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, *Basra*.  
To. General Sir Beauchamp Duff.

Reference this office number 5/5/5/A.G. dated 28th November 1915. It is now impossible to ~~check~~ the accuracy of this return but it is believed that it cannot have been very accurate for the following reason. This return was compiled from Army Forms B-213 furnished by units and in those days units were wrongly instructed to furnish on those Army Forms B-213 the following information effectives at headquarters, effectives on detachment, men sick in hospitals and field ambulances, and men at the base. Units had actually no means of knowing the numbers of men of their units sick in hospital and field ambulances of (or?) enroute from Base to unit or at the Base. A unit commander could not know when furnishing the return what men had been invalided to India, had died or had arrived at the Base as reinforcements.

The return in question however professes to show every man with the force no matter whether sick or well or whether with his regiment or on detachment or in field ambulances and hospital or en route to unit or the base.

Addressed Sir Beauchamp Duff, repeated Chief of the General Staff, Delhi, reference to his 1526, repeated to General Headquarters, reference his A-575/7.

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H/29

45  
12.1.1917.

Dear Sir:-

I am instructed by Mr. Duff to send you Statements drawn up by Captain Lumsden, and Colonel Hehir, which please find attached herewith.

I am also to send you Statement by Major-General Cowper, which shall be forwarded as soon as it is received from the printers.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff G.C.B.  
King Charles Street.

Assistant Secretary.

47  
Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
Her Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,

48

22  
H/20

9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

46

10.1.1917.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt  
of your letter D/34 of the 9th inst. enclosing copies of  
two telegrams, also your D/35 of the same date, together  
with a Memorandum.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

*Beauchamp Duff*

Assistant Secretary.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B.,

King Charles Street.

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.

42

Dated, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

Letter

Dear Mr. Duff.

In continuation of my letter No. D-33 of Saturday last, I forward copy of a telegram which I have received from India together with copy of the telegram to which it is a reply.

The Commission will notice that the telegram from India indicates the reason, which I also suggested in my evidence, why the Secretary of State's telegram of October 21st, 1915, was not communicated to Sir John Nixon.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff Esq.

Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.



Lower. 49

Telegram No. 21035, dated 5th January 1917

From. Sir Beauchamp Duff, London.

To. Chief of the General Staff, Delhi, India

Please see Diary No. 25082-A (Secretary of State's telegram of October 21st 1915) and cable me if the possible increase of Turkish Forces mentioned in first paragraph was communicated to Nixon.

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Letter

D. 35

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor, 51  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, S.W.

Dated, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917

Dear Mr. Duff

I understand that you telephoned to Capt. Ross asking if I could put in any papers relating to the question of an advance to Baghdad when that point was raised by Sir Percy Cox in November 1914.

As His Majesty's Government were not disposed to authorize the suggestion made by Sir Percy Cox, the question was not examined in any detail, but I have certain notes on the subject made at the time and submit these for the information of the Commission.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.  
Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.



Secret 52

An appreciation of an advance from Basrah to Baghdad

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1. Reports indicate that the disposable Turkish troops in the vicinity of Baghdad are not likely to exceed 15,000 in the aggregate of whom not more than 4,000 will be properly armed, organised and equipped; also 16 to 20 guns.
  
2. It is essential that the Arabs should cooperate with us, and in this case it might be possible for the force now at Basrah to reach Baghdad by using river transport, which, so far as we know, should be sufficient to take up about one brigade with horses and guns on one trip. We have wired to ask how much of this transport is now in our <sup>a</sup>hands. Under the conditions mentioned by Sir P. Cox, a force of this size might be able, if sent promptly, to sieze and occupy Baghdad.

The round trip will probably take 14 days and the force at Baghdad would have to maintain itself for a fortnight unsupported.
  
3. Eventually a division should be kept in the neighbourhood of Baghdad to re-assure the Arabs, secure their continued co-operation and make the position even moderately safe.
  
4. Another division should be available between Baghdad and Fao, to secure Basrah, Amarah and Kut-al-Amarah, and provide for a reserve for the Baghdad force.
  
5. This second division can only be obtained by
  - (a) diverting one brigade from Egypt;
  - (b) utilising one brigade from the 4th Division;
  - (c) making up a composite brigade of troops from Masqat, North China, Mauritius, and Territorials.
  - (d) artillery to be found from India.



6.

Reports indicate that the Turkish Army is now opposite the Russians in the Caucasus. Against Baghdad their base of operations will be Mosul - 250 miles in a straight line.

The Tigris from Mosul is reported navigable by rafts only, thus it is apparent that information should be obtained of any movement from Mosul in time to reinforce Baghdad by steamers from the Lower Tigris.

While therefore two divisions might be sufficient so long as Russia occupies the Turkish armies in Armenia, in the event of a Russian repulse, or snow in the ~~Sea~~ Caucasus closing operations, it seems possible, even likely, that Turkish forces will be diverted against our isolated detachment at Baghdad. If this happened, as we should be unable to reinforce them further, we should have either to withdraw or run the risk of a considerable disaster.


7.

Looking to the ultimate strategical effect of the occupation of Baghdad, which it is agreed should be permanently occupied if taken at all, it seems that a victorious Russia is sure to push her Caucasus frontier southwards; and in this case there seems little doubt that Baghdad, always an important place, will be much closer to the Russian frontier than to our own <sup>a</sup>base - the sea.

Under these circumstances the ultimate strategical value of its position is very doubtful, while it is clear that such an addition to our military responsibilities will entail increase to our Army and consequent expenditure.

8.

In its immediate strategical aspects, the diversion of more troops to what is, after all, only a



secondary objective, and still more the hostage which the division at Baghdad would be to both Arabs and the Turks, render the expedition of more than doubtful advantage.

It will thus be seen that, however desirable politically the seizure of Baghdad may be, the military considerations indicate that even success would result in our general strategical position being weakened rather than strengthened.

(Sd) P. Lake,

C.G.S.

Dated,

26th November, 1914.