

for which the hospital is designed. The establishment allows you to extend the hospital from 1000 ^{beds} to 2000 and it allows you to send out people from the hospital to battalions replace casualties. Take for instance France. That is neat and therefore the difficulty is not so great as at a distance. Since the 1st July in the first six weeks ^{of the} push we had 150 casualties amongst doctors killed and wounded - Battalions cannot go without medical officers for 24 hours; they have to be instantly supplied.

These were all regimental ~~men~~ medical officers and medical officers with field ambulances. They are supplied from the excess establishments of the hospitals. When the thousand bedded hospital was sent out or ought to have been sent out with 22 and 40 respectively the larger numbers were not for treating the sick. ~~The reinforcements are in the hospitals.~~
 It goes on: "On the 15th June the British General Hospital had 635 sick with 6 Medical Officers and 8 Assistant surgeons instead of 7 and 10 respectively" (I do not consider this insufficient) "The Indian General Hospital had 1671 sick and wounded with 13 medical officers and one assistant surgeon with 19 Assistant Surgeons". That is ample. It is very well supplied indeed. ~~They ought to have had 7 and 10.~~ They say that that is a grievance but it is not a grievance. A medical man would have put them right about that. They did not understand

with Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge were the higher figures

37
 a yes, to allow for depletion
 a yes, to replace casualties
 5 ~~1425~~ Lord Hugh Cecil They are a sort of medical reserve

1425 1 Yes. When a regimental medical officer is killed a field ambulance supplies his place at once and the nearest hospital supplies in the place of the man who takes his place.

1426 2 There is no ~~particular~~ ^{great} exaggeration in the Vincent Bingley Report in view of the probability of the demands

a The establishments as laid down is quite correct no doubt but they ought not to have inferred that because the full establishment was not there the establishment that remained was insufficient to look after the sick. In all the hospitals there is ample ~~except in~~ ^{but the} work now could be done especially as there were such cases and not surgical; they were much easier

1427 2 ~~Lord Hugh Cecil~~: Does ~~that~~ ^{this} apply ^{only} to Assistant Medical officers or also to orderlies.

a They are only speaking of the ~~official~~ ^{officer} staff. The Assistant surgeon is a fully qualified medical man in India. He goes through a course in a medical college in India for four years I think and all his courses are recognized for registration purposes over here, but he has not had the five years course that a medical student has here. He can enter the British profession ~~for~~ ^{by} coming here and taking the courses which he has not taken and which are compulsory ^{here}. In a very few months he can qualify in this country and become a fully qualified medical man. He is a fully qualified

registrable man in India. They speak of the
assistant surgeon as if he was not a doctor.

— That is another mistake

1428

Commander Wedgwood & the Assistant Surgeon
Generally a coloured man

He is never a native; he is a half-caste
or European

1429

General Sir Neville Lytton They are the old ~~the~~
~~the~~ Apothecaries

Yes; they are quite capable; they are a very
good class of medical man. In India they
can give evidence in the courts of law, sign
Death certificates and do all that we can do

1430

Chambers I do not know whether you consider
this an unfair question, but ^{on the Commission} admitting that from
the absence of a doctor there may have
been one or two errors as regards the
normal requirements of a hospital, would
you generally endorse the Vincent Bingley
Report

Yes I think it is a good report
2 You say that it does ^{is a thorough and} follow ^{an} exhaustive
examination

1431

Very thorough. One thing that I am very
glad to see in the Report is this: when
I made this précis for some ^{body} ~~one~~ else I said "The Commissioners realise
the difficulty of investigating the medical
arrangements as of things apart from the military
arrangements, since the medical organisation
of a force is an integral part of the military
organisation. The term 'medical arrangements'
is throughout used in its correct sense
and not as synonymous with the duties
of

of the medical authorities". I was very glad to see that at the very outset of their Report they recognised that when you speak of Medical ~~men~~ ^{arrangements} you mean the arrangements made for the care of the sick and wounded, and you do not mean the arrangements made by the Medical Branch for the care of the sick and wounded. You have to draw a very sharp line. ~~You have~~ ^{there are the} arrangements made ~~arrangements~~ ~~and~~ ~~everything~~ ~~done~~ ~~by~~ the Quartermaster General, by the Navy, by the ~~Master General~~ ^{Master General} ~~by the last~~ ~~Commander~~ ~~of~~ ~~Ordnance~~ ^{and everything.} Take the housing of the Wounded ^{for instance.} Do not house the wounded. It is the first time that I have ever seen the term used in a public document in the correct way.

1438

Lt Archibald Williamson. I see ~~that~~ that you were asked to send out a certain number of medical men in February 1916 and you also sent out ~~an~~ at another date a certain number of ~~general~~ ^{dental outfits} ~~dentists~~. Did you send out amongst the medical men or were you asked to send out any dentists?

1 Yes and I have sent all the dentists ^{an officer} asked for.

1439

2 Would it surprise you to hear that ~~an officer~~ ^{an officer} suffering very much from his teeth went down to Basra from the front during this year I cannot give the date and after waiting three or four days found no dentists at Basra and had to go back without anything being done.

Yes They have ^{had} all the dentists they have.

Whitaker's

138

have asked for

1434

2 Having suffered intolerably he went down subsequently to Basra and found a dentist but ~~the~~ ^{he} had to wait four days before ^{the dentist} ~~he~~ could attend to him

A That is very wrong. I have nearly 1000 dentists on my list now waiting to be called for abroad and they can have as many as they like

1435

2 There were dentists specified amongst the requirements?

A Yes and we send dentists out

1436

2 Can you give us any numbers

A I have not got them here but I could get them

1437

2 Are they classed as medical officers

A If they are medical men they ~~can be~~ ^{get} commissions in the R.A.M.C. If they are not medical men they get commissions on the general list

1438

2 What does the General list mean

A As officers - not in any corps

1439

2 Could you give us any figures at all as to the supply of dentists

A I am afraid that I have not any papers here showing that

1440

2 I gather that there must have been some deficiency in the matter of dentistry from the requests you got for dentists outfits

A Quite so

1441

2 "Outfit" merely means the instruments

A Yes. We have an outfit set up for us by dental surgeons as a good thing to send into the field - the various departments

Whether small

instruments dentists use

1442 Q It stationary hospital or whatever it is called has a dental outfit, has it not as part of its equipment

A Not normally but we have supplied a very large number to stationary hospitals

1443 Q It does not imply that there is a dentist

A Not at all

1444 Commander Wedgwood: Do R.A.M.C men pull out teeth

A It is not merely pulling out ^{teeth} it is stopping ^{and sealing}

1445

Sir Archibald McMillan

Q Do you think that the climate has caused more suffering than usual from the teeth

A I could not tell you; that has not been raised

1446

Q It may be the want of dentists that caused the complaint

A Yes They have only to ask for dentists. I have an enormous number on my list

1447

Q There ^{is} may be ^a grievance that you have not taken note

A Quite. I have as many employed in England as we require and I can send as many over as are asked for, but I cannot know whether there are sufficient or not ~~or if there is not food~~

1448

Q You said that on the 21st February after an interview, it was decided that the Department was responsible only for supplying ~~such~~ such medical stores as might be demanded in Mesopotamia. Then you say that since July you are not only responsible for what is demanded but your authority goes

Wheeler Small

39
 1449
 Q Goes much farther than that
 A I said at the beginning, I think, that the question as to when we became responsible or when we did not does not matter as far as I am concerned, because I made myself responsible ^{by} my promise to the Commander-in-Chief on the 19th February to supply ^{them} with everything, and whether I am responsible or not I am prepared to do it

1451
 Q The demands must come from the other end
 A Yes
 Q You ~~had~~ ^{except at} nothing to do with the initial stage of the ^{expedition} ~~had~~ ^{ought} to start it off completely and carefully thought out in all its details

1452
 Q The ^{question of the} ~~matter~~ ^{of} dentists would have to come from the other end
 A Yes

1453
 Q You would not think it necessary to anticipate that a certain number of dentists might be needed

A We might naturally anticipate that, but as a matter of fact we will telegraph and ask what they want and I will send anything they want. I shall be very glad if they will ask for dentists.

1454
 Q You offer to supply ~~chloroform~~ ^{cholera} vaccine and ~~they~~ ^{that offer was} refused as they were ^{preferred} ~~not~~ prepared to make it themselves in India

1455
 A Yes
 Q Is that a good reason

A Yes I think so. I have supplied cholera vaccine to all the armies in the East and all the troops have been inoculated

1456
 Q I take it that many of the troops that went to Mesopotamia were not

Whelan's note

1457

inoculated against typhoid
 that I do not know, that is done in India. Everybody that
 ment from us was inoculated - somewhere
 about 95 per cent - up to the 1st January
 against typhoid and since then against ~~typhoid~~
 of the two varieties typhoid and paratyphoid held

2 There was a conference apparently ~~conducted~~
 where the ~~notes~~ ^{needs} were discussed by the various
 departments before the expedition went. ~~Have~~
 Do I ~~not~~ clearly ~~in my mind~~ understand
 that after that preliminary conference the Director

of Medical service is really not responsible for
 anything unless he fails to fulfil a demand
 made upon him

1458

1 Administration Yes it comes to that

2 If he thinks that things are not going
 right ~~can~~ ^{should} he ~~not~~ first take steps
 Yes, but he ~~must~~ ^{should} certainly, if he thinks
 that things are not going right, and that is
 why we have repeatedly telegraphed to
 Mesopotamia ^{for} information about their requirements

2 A sort of conspiracy of silence has been
 hinted at, the subordinate officers not wishing
 to bring forward complaints and so they have
 not reached headquarters

1459

Do you mean medical officers?

2 Yes. To some extent complaints which were
 justifiable have never reached headquarters

Will you might say that of almost any
 organisation. Men do not like to ~~complain~~
 stand out as ~~and~~ making complaints. There is
 something about the Englishman that prevents
 him from complaining very often

1460

2 In India there is a special feeling
 is

Whether small

is there not that if people complain it goes against them with regard to promotion & I do not believe that there is any truth in that belief, but I can quite readily understand that that would be in peoples minds * I think that men would not like to be conspicuous as making complaints against their superior.

40

1068

2 They are not encouraged to ask for more than a minimum

1069

1 In India certainly not Chairman Is it better here & I think it has been for the last few years. There is that feeling, but I do not think it is peculiar to the medical branch or even the Army. Men do not want to stand out as grievance mongers because it will come against them but I do not think it has come against them in the Army. I do not think I have known an act of ~~anyone~~ official bribery - shall I call it - in my life

1068

2 It is alleged that there was a few years before the war an official campaign against expenditure in the Army in India ^{belief.} I think that that is the general ^{with regard to} ~~of~~ India. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that the medical arrangements in India connected with the Army in India have been for years and years most disgraceful. I say that with a full sense of responsibility. I have served many years in India. I have not been there for some years now but in my opinion ^{things} they are not better

Wheeler 3261

1464 1464 better than they were. Anything more disgraceful than the carelessness and want of attention ^{with regard to} of the sick soldiers in India is impossible to ^{imagine} Sir Archibald Williamson is there not a feeling that expenditure will be ~~exactly~~ guaraged

1465 1465 A Yes General Sir Neville Lytton Does that apply to British troops

A Yes. The nursing of British troops in India has been very much improved in India in recent years but even now it is bad.

1466 1466 2 There has been an extraordinary drop in the figures

A There has been an extraordinary drop in the incidence of disease. That is because of improved sanitation but when a man gets sick in India he is not cared for and looked after and comforted as he ought to be and as he is in this country

16 1467 Sir Archibald Williamson are the hospitals in Bombay to which the troops from Mesopotamia are sent satisfactory. Perhaps that is not within your knowledge

A So far as I know I believe they are The Chairman Thank you; we are very much obliged to you

The witness withdrew
Adjourned for a short time

Wheeler 3rd ed
241
Captain the Hon. Aubrey Herbert M.P. sworn
and examined

1468 Chairman: You were appointed as Intelligence
and Liaison officer to Vice Admiral Sir R. Wemyss and
you arrived at the Front on the 12th April

a Yes

1469 2 You were with the force that was attempting to relieve ^{Rut}
a Yes

1470 2 You came up I suppose just at the time. How did you
get into Kut

a I never was in Kut. ^{When we} ~~we were~~ first went out and
negotiated with the Turks, it was arranged that three
of us were to have gone to Kut but afterwards the
Turks did not agree to that and eventually the only
officer who went to Kut I think was one of the
Naval Officers - Lieutenant Vane Tempest. I
think he was the only competent officer who got to
Kut

16 1471 2 You spent a night and day ^{with} ~~at~~ Halil Pasha

a Yes, but that was outside Kut

1472 2 He was in command of ~~with~~ the Turks

a He was in command of ~~with~~ the Turks

1473 2 How did you get to the Turks

a We just put up a white flag and walked across
and when that happened we had a long bargaining,
~~and~~ a long argument, with the Turks as to whether
they would let us into their lines or not and finally
they allowed us to cross

1474 2 When did you come back

a I left the Front on the 10th May I think

1475 2 You were really ^{there} ~~abroad~~ not much more than
a month

a No. I left Basra on the 14th

1476 2 But you were so impressed with the condition
of

of the wounded and the deficiency of transport and of ^{the} arrangements for the wounded that you considered it your duty to make a special representation

Q Yes I did

1474

Q And you have narrated here in this paper your ^{experience} ^{relevant} ^{relative} [^] and I have related the experience that seemed to me ^{relative} to this Commission

1478

Q We will take this as your general statement and

examine you upon it; you ~~arrived after the~~ ^{apply to Secretary for this}

1479

Q ^{certainly} battle you arrived after what battle.

Q When we arrived on the 10th April the Sumergal fighting was in progress; also the fighting on the right bank. When we first arrived there we heard that we had taken two trenches and were partly in the third Turkish trench. ~~That~~ That fighting went on from I think the 8th April till about the 12th

17

1480

Q And finally we were pressed back were we not

Q Finally we were pressed back. We had a great deal against us: the floods were very bad; the land across which we had to charge was a regular man trap. Later on when it had dried you could see the marks that the feet of our men had made knee deep in the clay, ~~that~~ they had had to charge across under machine gun fire.

1484

Q Who was in command

Q The Army Commander was Sir Percy Lake and General Goringe had command at the front.

1489

Q He superseded General Aylmer

Q He superseded General Aylmer

1489

Q I suppose that the fighting was carried on under the most exceptional conditions

Q I thought they were the most difficult conditions that I had seen

42

1484 2 The floods made it difficult to make flank^{ing} movements and for the reasons you have stated progress was ^{frustratingly} ~~exceedingly~~ slow on account of the heaviness of the soil

a The heaviness of the soil the floods and also there were very great transport difficulties

1485 2 was the fighting force at that time properly fed
a They were on half rations. I could not swear that they were on half rations the whole of that time but I think they were

1486 2 The amount of transport was quite insufficient
a I thought quite insufficient

1487 2 Would the river have carried more
a Well there was that difficulty

1488 2 It would only contain a certain number of boats or vessels

18 a ~~well~~ I think the opinion was that it could have done with another dozen roughly but it was rather overcrowded as it was, even with the amount that it was carrying.

1489 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge we have a statement that the amount of tonnage was increased from 150 tons a day to 250 tons a day
a The river is an ∞ quantity; one never knows what the river is going to do. If the river sinks it can carry less. If it rises it can carry more

1490 Sir Archibald Williamson: If there had been three or four times the number of steamers ~~could~~ not steamers discharged have gone down to allow others to come up
a I am not an expert but that is what I should have thought myself.

1491 Chairman was any other opinion expressed
a ~~no~~ ^{another} there was ~~no~~ opinion expressed ^{was} that you

1492 2 You had no ^{quays} ~~ways~~ I suppose ^{Did you unload} on ^{indefinitely} ~~the~~ ^{lighters} ~~the~~ lighters
 a There were several ways. We had no quays of any description. A ship would come up and ~~enter~~ ^{anchor} opposite one of the Arab Mahallas and planks would go from there and then planks on shore. Some of the bigger ships anchored right alongside and we put planks out and took the stuff out in that way.

1493 2 ^{Did} The current changed very much
 a The current is 4 to 5 knots per hour permanently I think but the river changes every year. If you have an expert river captain who has not been up the river for three years he says "I do not know the river."

1494 2 What broke up the wooden barges - the current?
 a ~~The current~~. The storms there are extremely bad. They are terrific. They are like a storm at sea. You get mountains of yellow water. I remember I saw two or three very bad storms in April

1495 2 But how did the storms break up the wooden barges
 a They drove them on shore

1496 2 It was the storms, not the current
 a I think that normally it would happen with the current. It is a very curious river and you are always going ashore. I have been up it three or four times and I have been ashore twice or three I suppose. You ^{run} ~~lodge~~ on the bank

1497 Lord Hugh Cecil: Driven on the bank by the current do you mean?

a Driven on the bank by the current and you have to be ^{watching} ~~watched~~ out the whole time. You have a man swinging the lead and if he is not efficient and gets wrong soundings you are in difficulty

(43)

1498 ^{Is that} ~~It is not~~ due to a shifting shallow ^{bottom} ~~altogether~~
 a It is due to the thickness of the river - the shifting bottom

1499
 1500 2 The river changes its course
 a It changes its course

1500 Chairman: What is the width ^{at} of the Sanairyal
 a Something over 400 yards

1507 Admiral Sir Cyprus Bridge: That is the width of ~~the~~
 water, not the width of the channel
 a That is the width of water, not the width of the channel

1502 Chairman You have given us the impression that
 were made upon you ~~and~~ there seemed to be
 a general feeling of very bitter discontent with the
 parsimony or assumed parsimony of the ^{Indian} government
 a Yes

20 1503 2 A great deal of what you have put down is hearsay.
 Was there any reason given for believing that the
 Government had starved the Expedition except
 that the supplies were short

a I think that the normal experience of people who
 serve the Indian Government is one of parsimony.

1 I came across it not only there but at Aden and
^{different} at other places. I do not think there can be any doubt
 that that is the government principle

1504 2 Is this parsimonious spirit of recent date or of
 long origin would you say

a I should say that it was of pretty long origin.
 I should say that it dates back a good time

1505 2 You quote here a statement that the Government
 saved £20,000 which caused a good deal of ^{annoyance} ~~of the~~

a Yes
 2 ^{What} ~~There~~ was ^{the} sort of general feeling amongst the
 troops fighting

1506

a The

a The general opinion of the troops who saw that statement in the paper was that the ~~parliamentary~~ £200,000 was saved at their expense

15067

2 A sort of feeling that they were being needlessly sacrificed
a That they were being sacrificed to the ^{economy} ~~system~~ of India.

15068

2 Did that feeling exist amongst white troops as well as coloured troops

a I cannot speak for the coloured troops because I did not talk to them much. I think it was much more the opinion of white troops than coloured troops. The general idea ~~was~~ amongst white troops was that the government of India was in the habit of having to fight mad Mullahs and people like that and that they did it very efficiently ~~and very~~ ^{on very little} in a climate of which the soldiers were natives and that they tried to do the same thing in Mesopotamia

15069

2 They did not know that the whole of the extra expense was paid by the Imperial Government

15070

a The troops out there did not know that
2 I suppose that substance was rather given to the idea from the general shortage

467

a Very much indeed
2 They were getting half rations

a I think that the sort of opinion amongst officers was that the government of India tried to take Baghdad on the cheap and then when they failed they meant to make a scapegoat of Sir John ~~Nicholson~~ ^{Nixon}. That is what ~~was said~~ ^{people} when they heard that a Commission was coming out.

1513

2 Did you see Sir John ~~Nicholson~~ Nixon
a I saw him when I got back. I did not know him before

1513

Sir Archibald Williamson When you got back to England you mean

a When I returned to England

1514

Chairman: You give a number of instances of what seemed to you shortage or neglect.

A good deal of the transport was the property of the Lynch Company

a Yes

1515

2 Was that in use at the time

a Yes that was in use. I cannot quite say how many, but I think four were in use

1516

2 The ~~name~~ Lynch ^{firm} is a firm that runs up ~~to~~ ^{to} the Karu

a Yes

1517

Sir Archibald Williamson: ~~and~~ To Baghdad

a Yes

1518

Chairman: Then you give in your statement a number of instances where certain articles

which were essential were short. There was

a very limited supply of condensed milk and

the drinking water was bad

a Yes

1519

2 Cigarettes were scarce You came to the conclusion that the Turks were better found than our people

a Yes very much as far as I saw

1520

2 Did you see any of the ships that were utilised for the wounded go by with their cargoes of wounded.

a Yes, I saw several ships go by with ^a their cargoes of wounded

1521

2 They were ordinary transports which had just been converted very often without being cleaned

a Yes

1522

2 Would you describe the sort of condition of any

of them

a I am afraid I cannot because my work did not give me time. I really did not come across that very much. I saw a good many pass up.

I was on one of the boats for a short time. I slept one night on the Sikkim before she went up to Thut or rather ^{on the} ~~return~~ journey, and as far as I could see, the thing was well found.

1523 Commander Wedgwood It was ^a the hospital boat
a It was ^a the hospital boat

1524 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: was she weather-tight. It has been said she was not
a I could not answer ~~for~~ that

1525 Chairman I suppose that the casualties were very heavy in proportion to the number of men fighting

a Yes I think very heavy indeed. In one Division I think the battle casualties were over 12000. If you think of the climate and disease and the flies and everything else that is very very heavy

1526 General Sir Neville Liffelton Over 12000 ^{in one} ~~in one~~ ^{action} ~~occasions~~
a In one division

1527 I during the series of battles?

23 a I would not like to pin myself down to that, but I think that the 12000 were between January and April. I cannot swear to that

1528 I At the relief of Kut

a At the relief of Kut

1529 Chairman: what was the battle that you were present at

a I was present at Sanaiyat and Badi Hassa [?]

1530 Chairman In paragraph 44 of the Commission the total cas-

casualties ^{in connection with} of the relief of Toul are put down at
21,900

45
1531
1532
1533

Lord Hugh Cecil: That is January March and April
Chairman: Was the supply of doctors very short
witness I imagine that the supply of doctors must
have been very short by the way that everybody
talked, but when I was up there it did not
strike me as tremendously short. I saw a
fair number of doctors round and when I
was there they were working very well. The
hardship of the country when you are unwounded
is very great and when you are wounded it is
infinitely greater

1534

Chairman In certain cases the men had
^{to be} different transported ^{by} land had they not
a Yes

1535

2 and the transport was of the roughest kind with
springless carts
a Yes. One of the reasons I suppose why the
casualties were so high was that it is an
extraordinarily difficult country in
which to make trenches

24

W. Stueler

Chair

1536

2 ~~Chairman~~ Why

a The soil is extraordinary ~~fertile~~ ^{frail} to begin with. It crumbles ~~renewably~~ and whenever there is a flood you get down ~~the~~ ^{to} water so very quickly

Crayton & Snell

1537

2 The Turks had very strong and well made trenches

a That we could not see because ~~they~~ ^{we} were blindfolded

1538

2 Did you see any German amongst the Turks

a I could not say but I think I saw one German I looked the other way

1539

2 Was there any indication of German organisation
a ~~No~~. They ^{repeated} ~~repeated~~ all that. They said ~~that~~ ^{we} ~~we~~ ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{had} better soldiers than the Germans but they were organised certainly as they had never been before. All the soldiers are inoculated ^{inoculated} in common place now. They were ~~not~~ ^{inoculated} in Gallipoli

1540

2 The Turks

a Yes

1541

2 Were they Arabs or Turks that were fighting against us mostly

a They were mostly Turks; the Arabs ~~had~~ surrendered. When we went out to bargain for an exchange of prisoners. I tried to get Halil Pasha to take Arabs as against our Indians. He said "If you like you can ^{arabs} send me back but if you do I shall hang the whole lot". He said "They are miserable cowards"

1542

2 Do you know where most of the Turkish troops came from

a Some of them came from the Peninsula. I could not out of my head give you the Divisions. I think the 52nd were there. The 35th Turkish Division was the one that surrendered - ~~ours~~ ^{arabs}. There were a good many

many Anatolians.

2 Had they come quite recently from a distance
 & they had come ~~at~~ different ^{ways} some had come
 across from Damascus and others had come
 down from the Caucasus

1544 Commander Wedgwood: Mosul

to Yes

1545 Chairman It was practically a fresh Army
 from that which you had fought before

to Yes, and of very different morale. When they
 surrendered on the Peninsula they were all
 perfectly ^{wretched} and said "The game is up; it is a
 hopeless business". When we took prisoners
 in Mesopotamia they were all tremendously ^{coeka hoop}

1546 2 By the Peninsula do you mean Gallipoli

to Yes

1547 2 You thought them a better fighting force
 than in Gallipoli

to Yes very much better. They were very fine
 troops

1548 Lord Hugh Cecil ^{was} ~~is~~ that the account you heard from
 others or was it your own observation

a My own observation

1549 2 It would not necessarily be so at the beginning
 of the campaign

a It was so when I was there in that
 particular fighting

1550 2 Were the trenches well made

to We had no opportunity of seeing that. ~~The~~
 one was ^{blinded} the whole time
~~say that he~~

1551 Commander Wedgwood You took some

a I do not think that their trenches were
 much better made than ours

1552 Chairman Putting it generally I assume that
 your ^{and is} object has been knowing what is
 going

going on in Mesopotamia, to try to get the intervention of a high authority in order to remedy a state of things which you think most dangerous and detrimental to both the health and efficiency of the Army

1552

Q That expresses my feeling exactly
Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge You heard the Chairman say that the expense of the Campaign in Mesopotamia is not borne by the Indian Government but by the Imperial Government

A Yes

1553

Q That apparently is not known to most of the officers and men serving.

A No, I never knew that ~~the Government of India~~ until I got to well I suppose I did know but not did not

1554

Q That being the case, the deficiencies in transport that you speak of in your statement would not be due to want of money so much as to something else - defective organisation for instance. Would that be the case

A ~~With~~ I am not quite sure but I think I said in the House that if a man has ~~some~~ ^{great} economy in his soul he is not less economical when he is a Trustee

1555

Q In section 7 of your statement ~~was the~~ you say that the opinion of a Staff Officer in Basra on the 10th April was that the Royal Indian Marine were totally unacquainted with the conditions in Mesopotamia

A Yes

1556

Q And their methods were dilatory and unbusinesslike. You give on the same authority some instances of their methods

A Yes

1557

Q We have had evidence put before the

Commission which contains the following 472
 statements as regards the steamers sent to
 Mesopotamia: "On enquiry from the Director
 Royal Duchau Marine we were told that this
 particular steamer could tow two barges
 at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour in
~~still~~ ^{still} water. As the ^{Tigris} ~~river~~ ^{which} has a
 current of four miles and more in many
 places it follows that this steamer is
 very little use for towing up stream.
 Is that the kind of thing you mean

(47)

15659 Q That is not so much want of money
 as sending the wrong kind of vessel

A Yes

15660 Admiral Sir Cyprus Bridge You said that you
 yourself took a passage in the "Sikkim"
 I went up in the Sikkim as far as
 the frontier, as far as the neutral line
 and then I got off

15661 Q This is the evidence we have: She
 is satisfactory though not very weather-
 proof, but it ^{has been found} ~~is proved~~ that she cannot
 tow two barges up and down the Tigris
~~on the flood~~ with safety

15662 Q I should think that she certainly could not

A She was not very suitable

Q I was only on board one night and I
 had to look after Junkie then

15663 Q It did not rain

A When we first went there on the 10th

15664 Q April we had tropical storms every night

Q But when you were on board the
 "Sikkim"

A We

no I did not

It ~~was~~ ~~there~~ rain when I was on the "Sikkim"

1565

Q You speak of the ~~obvious~~ desirability if not necessity of constructing railways to facilitate the transport ^{work} of the Army in Mesopotamia, and you express the belief that the Military authorities in India were against such construction and that it had been refused have you any evidence to show that

A I have only the evidence of the necessity of having another means of transport there and I cannot give my authority, but I am quite certain that a railway was asked for one railway anyhow was asked for

1566

Q The railway was not there
A The railway was not there and therefore we could only conclude that it had been refused

1567 Lord ~~Stough~~ Cecil

The railway on the Euphrates

A I am thinking of the railway on the Tigris I do not know where it was asked for but a railway was asked for

1568

Sir Archibald Williamson To Kasum Kurma

A No. You would not need it up to there or it would be far less necessary than anywhere else. You have a very deep stream up to ^{Kurma} Kasum. You can take quite big ships up there. From there on it is essential.

1569

Lord Stough Cecil we have heard that ~~of~~ a railway was asked for to Nasiriyah but so far we have ^{had} no evidence that any railway was asked for between ^{Kurma} Kasum and Amara

A Very likely not because if you ask for a railway and get snubbed you do not ask again

48

1570

Earl of Donoughmore Is there any railway anywhere ~~near~~ there now

I did not have the opportunity of seeing but I believe that a railway has been constructed somewhere by Basra but only for two or three miles I think you to say

1571

General Sir Neville Lytton I understand just now that patriotism exists to a very large extent ~~Now~~ that it is a matter ^{of long standing} for ~~patriotism~~

I Yes

1572

2 What grounds have you for that opinion
A Again they are heavy grounds I am afraid but they were by way of being famous sayings of predecessors of Sir William Meyer ~~Meyer~~ with regard to economy. One does not want to say anything unfair but I think that Sir Guy Fleckwood Wilson is always credited with having pursued a policy of rather ~~strong~~ economy but that is not within the scope of this Commission; I rather wish it was. At least we saw evidence of it

1574

2 It amounts to this: You have told us in this statement and orally that the belief out there was that the Expedition was started by the Indian Government and notably by Sir William Meyer ^{Meyer} in particular

I Yes, there was no doubt about the expedition being started, what the reason was I cannot say

1575

2 It was believed that it was done deliberately by the Government of India

I Yes that was the belief

1576 General Sir Neville Lytton: Or reckless ^{by} or careless ^{by}

1577

Sir Archibald Williamson Was it not possible that the ^{stores and} source of supplies were ~~short-~~ ^{short-} ~~drawn~~ ^{drawn}

^{up} the river were lying at Basra and not taken up for want of transport

a That was undoubtedly the case I think. The Turks said that when we liked we could send up two ships to ~~bring~~ ^{take} off ~~the wounded from Baghdad~~ - ~~no~~ to take the wounded from Kut up to Baghdad and that they would let us have the ships back again but we could not do that. Transport was very short. Halil Pasha told us that ~~when~~ ^{if} we liked we might send up two vessels to transport general ^{Townsend} ~~Townsend~~ and as many of his forces as possible who were going to be prisoners up to Baghdad. We could not do this though we should have liked to because we had not the steamers

1578

2 Therefore they had to march

1 Yes

1579

2 Did you see the railway material lying at Basra
1 No I did not. I was only at Basra one night

1580

2 Did you yourself find a shortage of condensed milk
1 Yes I saw that there was a shortage of condensed milk

1581

2 You saw that yourself

a I saw that myself

Chaplin

1582

2 You found the drinking water bad
1 ~~that~~ It is always bad when you have to drink unfiltered water in which cholera bodies have been lying

1583

2 It has been stated that efforts were made to provide wholesome drinking water early in the year 1915

1584

1 ^{you} were there in May 1916
3 Yes

1585

2 It was still bad

1586

1 ^{you} said though Cecil you know it to have been unfiltered
a I know it to have been unfiltered

49

drank it unfiltered

1586 Commander Wedgwood: You ~~found them~~ ~~individually~~
 a Yes. On ~~the~~ ~~flag~~ ^{some} boats it was all distilled water

1589 2 Those were naval boats
 a They were naval boats ^{packed a} Soldier's servant who followed ~~me~~ ^{me} up the river some time after what the water was like and he said that there was an inch of mud always at the ^{bottom of the} draught

1588 Sir Archibald Williamson with regard to cholera, did you come across men who had not been inoculated

a I think that when I left very few had been inoculated. I was anxious to get inoculated myself and to get my men inoculated but I could not do it

1589 2 Are you aware that the War Office offered serum in January 1915 for the use of the troops in Mesopotamia and that it was declined by the Indian Authorities

a No I was not aware of that

1590 2 On the ground that they had sufficient in India. It was paratyphoid vaccine I see that was offered in January 1915. Cholera vaccine was offered in April 1916 only a month before you were there. At any rate many had not been inoculated when you were there
 a I think not. I think that they had serum at some of the hospitals but I tried to get my men inoculated on two or three separate occasions and I could not get them done

1591 2 Did you hear any complaint of want of dentists
 a No I did not

25 1592 Commander Wedgwood: You say in your statement that officers speaking Turkish had not been provided with the original army

- 1593 A. I think that there was one officer who talked Turkish before I was there who is now back. He went sick. I do not think that India recognizes Turkish in its curriculum of languages.
- 1593 Q. I suppose that they had interpreters with the force
A. Yes
- 1594 Q. Were they white men or coloured men
A. Well, neither one nor the other quite. They were odd people who came from Mosul and Arabs. I thought that they were most of them bad interpreters
- 1595 Q. Were there Indian officers who could speak Turkish
A. Very few. The man to whom I referred just now as back here is Major Gibbons. He talks Turkish; he took it up as a hobby.
- 1596 Q. Had the Intelligence Department there any officer who could talk Turkish
A. No, I was the only white officer I think who could talk Turkish
- 1597 Q. At the time of the surrender you were the only white officer who could do so
A. I was
- 1598 Q. What was the morale of the troops when you left
A. It is rather difficult to say. Some of the troops that we have had there have ~~been~~ been quite the most magnificent troops there have been anywhere - perfectly splendid, the Dorsets, Norfolks and Devons. I do not think the morale when I left was at all good because the men had been too much shot over. They had had too bad a time of it
- 1599 Q. We have heard that the attack on the Dujailah Redoubt was a big tactical blunder on the part of the General. Did that depress the morale of the troops
A. I think that it had a good deal to do with it. It was a very big disappointment, having got practically

(50)

through to Kut, to have for some obscure reason to retreat and it had a very depressing effect

1600 Q. Was it more the want of food and of comforts or defeats that depressed the morale of the troops

A. The two things together I think

1601 Q. In your opinion would it be possible to restore the morale by improving the food and the conditions generally

A. That no doubt would make a very great difference. What one would like if it was possible would be to have troops who had been having a comparatively good time in Egypt, and so on, to take the place of these troops who have had a very hard time

1602 Q. You think that the best thing for the future success of the campaign on the Tigris would be to replace the troops that are there

A. Yes, if that is practicable

1603 Q. You would not replace them with Indian troops

A. I think not. In one way one is rather reluctant to send Indian troops there at all

1604 Q. On account of the religious question

A. On account of the religious question

1605 Q. On the other hand, you would be reluctant to send white troops on account of the heat, would you not

A. Yes, but I think that white troops can really stand heat almost as well as Indians. Perhaps that is a very venturesome opinion to express, but I believe that we are as good at standing heat as the Indians because we have better physique

1606 Q. You sent a telegram about certain shortages. Have you a copy of that telegram, because I would like to have it read out.

A. I will send you a copy

1607 Q. To whom did you telegraph, and what did you say

A. The

1. The telegram was sent to Mr Austen Chamberlain. The rough draft was sent. I meant to correct it, but as it happened I could not do so. From memory I think it was "I have been at the front for the last month here and from my past experience of this country I foresee that unless immediate action is taken disaster to the health of the troops must follow. All realise here that our past failure is due to the economy of the Government of India, vide the Budget speech of Sir William Meyer. Unless this is recognized in England also disaster must follow." Then I think that I went on to say that oatmeal was ~~very~~ short and that India could not provide it, and that condensed milk was short and that India could not provide it under three months, by which time we should have sustained great and irreparable losses; then that vegetables would fail altogether and a substitute like dried figs must be found if cold storage was not possible and that India could not provide it. Then that ice machines were as essential to prevent heat stroke in the trenches as to cure it in the hospitals, and that unless ice machines were commandeered from clubs and private houses they would not be available. I said that it was impossible to hold the country on the lines of Sir William Meyer and that unless the supply was taken in hand from England and Egypt a calamity to the health of the troops, who were young and not strong, must follow. I meant to talk the telegram over with Sir Percy Lake and to ask him if it would be any help to send it, because all one wanted to do was to help, but when I got there I had no opportunity of seeing him.

I was only at Basra for a quarter of an hour and I had to leave the telegram in its rough and rather uncivilized form. It was then sent to India. It was not within the competence of Sir Percy Lake to send it straight to England. It had to be censored in India and it went to India and I believe the Indian Government afterwards forwarded it to the War Office

57

1608

2. Was it sent on as a telegram or as a letter

A. I think that it was sent on as a telegram

1609

2. When was it sent by you

A. I think on the 12th or the 14th May

1610

2. When you got back here you were instrumental to a certain extent in getting this Commission appointed, were you not

A. I do not know that I was instrumental in doing that

1611

2. You spoke about it in the House

A. I spoke about it in the House. The thing that one was really anxious to do was to have the condition of things out there immediately remedied and to have the people responsible for that condition of things punished or to have an investigation. For myself I thought that the other thing would have been the simpler

1612

2. What good purpose did you think would be served by the appointment of this Commission

A. Well, if I had had my own way this Commission would not have been appointed

1613

2 Go on.

A. What I did think was essential was this: it was perfectly evident to anybody who was out there that India was quite incompetent from one reason or another to deal with the situation. I thought that it could have been dealt with by punishing the people who were evidently mainly responsible for what had happened in Mesopotamia, and by the War Office taking over the whole

whole conduct of the Mesopotamian campaign. But once the question got into the House of Commons it was like throwing a fox to a pack of hounds.

1614 2. Could it have been dealt with except by the appointment of a Commission, do you think?

A. I imagine that the Cabinet would have the power

1615 2. But they could not punish people without trial

A. Could they not?

1616 2. Do you think it possible to put the medical arrangements right by dealing more promptly with that question than with the general question?

A. As you are good enough to ask my opinion personally, I should take the medical question first. This is going on all over the place. I do not know what is happening in Salonika. One has seen very great mismanagement in the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia, and this seems to me to be the most vital question

1617 2. You think it possible to effect reform in the campaign as it goes on apart from deciding who is responsible for it

A. That is one's very earnest hope.

1618 Mr Hodge: Have you any evidence that the Indian Government refused the requisitions of the General Officer Commanding in the field.

A. Only the evidence of my senses. Things that were needed were not there.

1619 2. But you have no knowledge that any demand was made by the General Officer Commanding and of his requirements not being complied with

A. I have talked to a number of officers, and some of the evidence I have put down here. A railway was refused, and boats were not provided with anything like the celerity that one had hoped for.

1620 2. But is there not some evidence that when certain units

units were offered to one of the Generals in command they were refused as being unnecessary

(2)

A. I do not know that

1621

Q. Take field ambulances, for instance

A. This again is hearsay, but I remember that some ambulances were refused, but they were refused on the assumption that the Indian contingents would bring their own field ambulances with them from France, and they did not bring them. That is shaky evidence; it is very hearsay.

1622

Q. In your statement you condemn the Indian Government, but is it fair to condemn it without being able to show that they refused a requisition of the Commander-in-Chief?

A. I condemn the conduct of the expedition in Mesopotamia, and the Indian Government was responsible for that conduct.

1623

Q. But is not the General Staff in Mesopotamia responsible for the details

A. Well, I think that that is for the Commission to find out, is it not? The Commission will find out whether the General Staff did or did not ask for things, and whether if it asked for things, they were refused.

1624

Q. You do not know

A. No; I can only say that things were not there, and I believe that things were asked for and were refused.

1625

Q. Did the condition of things with regard to the wounded and these other matters come within your personal observation

A. Not to a large extent. There were wounded constantly round me, and all that sort of thing, but I had my own work to do and that fully occupied my time.

1626

Q. Were the complaints very frequent and strong

A. They were very frequent. One heard them everywhere.

1627

Q. Complaints as to the disgraceful condition of things

A. Yes - disgraceful.

1627

Lord Hugh Cecil: In your statement what you mainly or exclusively mention I think with regard to deficiency is not medical stores but ordinary articles of military supply

1628

A You mean oatmeal and that sort of thing?

2. You mention provision against flies, shortage of condensed milk, lack of filters, poor clothing instead of warm clothing, absence of balloons, and so on. You say that there were no proper carts for the transport of the wounded but only springless carts for ammunition. Your testimony is not mainly with regard to medical matters

A. My direct testimony is mainly with regard to military matters because I can speak upon that subject myself. My testimony with regard to medical matters is mainly from hearsay.

1630

2. Your case is that there was parsimony on the part of the military administration

A. My belief is that.

1631

2. And that is not affected by the consideration that they were not economizing Indian money but British money

A. My belief is that. That is what we felt

1632

2. Would you be surprised if it were established that the Financial Department did not refuse any of the applications made by the military administration.

A. I am not so sure that I should

1633

2. Your impression is that it was the military administration that had a parsimonious tradition

A. My belief is that the Government of India has a parsimonious tradition, and if that is the case then the military might be reluctant to go and ask for what they require would be refused

1634

Commander Wedgwood: Because it might go against them

A. Yes

53

484

1635

Lord Hugh Cecil: In the Government of India do you include or do you not include, the heads of the military administration like the Commander-in-Chief

A. I should have thought that the Commander-in-Chief in India came under the Treasury of India. I would not include him in the Government of India. He would get his grants of money through the Financial Member

1636

The Earl of Donoughmore: You said that the doctors who were actually there worked hard. My impression from the evidence that we have had is that there was no failure at all from the point of view of keenness with regard to their work on the part of, so to speak, the subordinate medical officers at the particular hospitals. As I understand they all did the best they could with the means that were at their disposal.

A. Yes

1637

Q. You have no doubt at all in your mind about that
A. I have no doubt at all.

1638

Q. I think that that is everybody's impression. You were speaking just now of the fight for the Dujailah Redoubt. When was that fight
A. I think it was on the 8th March

1639

Q. Did I understand you rightly as saying that we were practically through and that Kut was almost relieved.
A. I was told that we were practically right through. I know that an officer on that occasion got into the Turkish trenches and got a bullet through his cap from our own men. There were no Turks there when that happened.

1640

Q. Was that General Aylmer's fight?

A. Yes

1641

Sir Archibald Williamson: In paragraph 17 of your statement there is something definite with regard to parsimony. You say, "I talked with an officer of the Indian Supply and Transport who was passionately angry at the economy practised on the troops"

A. Yes

A. Yes

1642 Q. Did he give you instances

A. He did, and I put some of them down

1643 Q. Take the supply of transport drivers and tents, for instance

A. I think that I put practically everything down

1644 Q. Could you amplify the statement at all

A. I am afraid that I cannot amplify it very much. I went over and saw the officer and talked to him. He was a man whom I should feel very much inclined to trust, and he said that he did not feel ^{that} he was playing the game as an Englishman in taking a pretty good salary and acquiescing in the treatment that his men were getting, and that as far as he could make out it was impossible to do anything at all because of the economy of the Government of India.

1645 Q. The shortage of drivers is suggested as part of the economy

A. Yes

1646 Commander Wedgwood: And the 21 lb. ~~single~~-fly tents

A. Yes

1647 Q. A man inside a tent like that could get sunstroke

through the tent pretty comfortably, could he not

A. Yes, quite comfortably.

1648 Sir Archibald Williamson: It is a thin tent

A. A small bell tent

1649 Commander Wedgwood: In East Africa the sun came through double-fly tents

1650 Sir Archibald Williamson: These are the chief instances brought before your notice

A. Yes

1651 Q. And you are able to speak to them

A. Yes

The Chairman: Thank you very much.

The Witness withdrew

Captain

(54)

486

Captain C. H. Cross I.M.S. sworn and examined

1652 The Chairman: You have presented to us a statement

To/Prigler A. Yes.

Apply to Secretary for this and insert it

(Apply to Secretary for this)

1653 2. I will take it for the purpose of examining you. You were in Mesopotamia for two months, April 1915 to June 1915

A. Yes

1654 2. You went out in medical charge of the 11th Rajputs

A. Yes

1655 2. I suppose that they had their full complement of medical officers and ambulances

A. Only one medical officer, and that was myself.

1656 2. With regard to ambulances

A. ~~Yes~~. They only carry blanket stretchers attached to a regiment the rest with regard to the Indian Army goes with the field ambulance

1657 2. They went up as part of the Division

A. Yes, part of the 12th Division. We went by ourselves in a transport as far as Basra and after about three weeks joined other troops and marched under General Goringe as part of his Division

1658 2. While you were there you were not engaged

A. No.

1659 2. You did not see any of the treatment of the wounded

A. I did see some after the Battle of Shaiba

1660 2. When they came down

A. Yes. They were bringing the wounded back to Basra after the battle

1661 2. Were the arrangements satisfactory

A. Yes, as far as I could see, but I was only there as an onlooker; it was not my business.

1662 2. The casualties were heavy, were they not

A. I do not think they were unduly heavy for a three or four days battle.

- 1663 Q. There were defects with regard to the drinking water, and there was no purification by chemical process.
A. No
- 1664 Q. You thought that the food was sufficient
A. Yes
- 1665 Q. Was there difficulty about getting it
A. No, not while I was there - none whatever
- 1666 Q. It came up the river I suppose
A. There was a big supply base quite close to the camp and they drew their rations from that
- 1667 Q. You were rather well situated in that respect
A. All the troops camped at Mahira Masus were as well off as we were I think
- 1668 Q. You stopped with your regiment for two months, then you got ill and came home as an invalid
A. Yes
- 1669 Q. You were put on board one of the river steamers that ply between Basra and Baghdad
A. Yes
- 1670 Q. You were given a two-berthed cabin to yourself
A. Yes
- 1671 Q. How was it that you were so lucky
A. I do not know. I did not inquire. Perhaps there were not very many sick going back then
- 1672 Q. Was the steamer practically empty
A. I do not know at all. I did not see the top deck. I was carried straight in by the paddle box and put into the cabin. I do not think the steamer was full
- 1673 Q. You had fever
A. Yes, enteric
- 1674 Q. Were you pretty bad
A. Yes
- 1675 Q. You did not see much that was going on
A. No
- 1676 Q. On the whole you thought that the arrangements were satisfactory
A. Yes

1674

2. This was on the Karun

A Yes

1678

2. When you got to Basra you were carried off the steamer and placed in a wooden hut

A Yes

1680

2. You were taken to the base hospital

A Yes - the British General Hospital, to be exact

1680

2. You came home by the hospital ship "Madras."

A Yes

1682

2. Was it specially fitted out as a hospital ship (A) Yes

1682

2. Your treatment was very good

A Yes

1683

2. Have you compared notes with others who were sick and who came home

A Yes; I saw a lot of convalescent officers. I was sent to Otacamund, a rather favourite place for convalescent officers

1684

2. What was their experience

A The more trivial cases were sent back on an ordinary transport and, naturally, they were not so well off. In those days there was only one hospital ship, the "Madras", and the sickness was pretty heavy in the hot weather and they could not cope with all the cases

1685

2. What sort of force was there in Mesopotamia when you came away

A. I cannot speak with any degree of accuracy but I should imagine two weak Divisions

1686

2. The pressure of numbers had not begun to be felt on the transport?

A ~~the~~. One hospital ship was not sufficient in the hot weather. The incidence was very heavy

1687

2. So that the pressure was felt even then

A Yes, from what I heard I should think so, but I am not in a position to say anything definite because I was sick myself

1688

General Sir Neville Lyttelton: You say that on the trip there was

no commissioned medical officer. Does that mean that there was no assistant-surgeon?

A There was an assistant-surgeon, but they are not commissioned.

1689 Q. They are fairly competent?

A Yes

1690 Q. Were there several of them on board

A As far as I know there was only one. I am almost sure there was only one.

1691 Q. How many sick were there

A I do not know

1692 Q. For all that you know the provision might have been sufficient for the necessities

A Yes, as far as I know. The steamer was not very big. It was one of the small paddle steamers

1693 Q. You cannot even guess the number of sick?

A No.

1694 Mr Archibald Williamson: What was the name of the river steamer that you went by

A The "Medjidieh"

1695 Q. Is that not the best boat?

A I only saw two. It was the better of the two that I saw.

1696 Q. Was not that a boat that the British Government were asked to copy

A I do not know

1697 Q. You say that there was no supply of wood or of fuel to boil the water. Was the suggestion made of oil

A. I never heard the suggestion made.

1698 Q. You know that it is frequently done

A. Special burners would be wanted for that and they had not them

1699 Q. There was no ice on board?

A No

1700 Q. Was there no ice factory

A Not when I was there

1707 2. Had not the Oil Fields Company an ice factory
 A. I did not actually see Athwas ; I was only in the cabin.
 I am stating what I understood

1708 2. There was no ice machine on board
 A No

1709 2. The supply of condensed milk you tell us was sufficient when you were there
 A Yes

1710 2. It was subsequently reported short. Most of the comforts required for the wounded and the ill seem to have been available in your time
 A Yes

1711 2. Except fresh milk and eggs
 A Yes, fresh milk and fresh eggs were very scarce

1712 2. You did not find electric fans. They were installed just when you were leaving
 A Yes, within about a week of my departure

1713 2. That was only at Basra
 A Yes

1714 2. On the hospital ship "Madras" were there electric fans?
 A Yes, but not on the "Medjidieh"

1715 Commander Wedgwood: Did you have a mosquito net
 A. I had my own private one, and I had one when I was taken to the base hospital at Basra.

1716 2. The troops did not have them served out to them normally?
 A No, not in the Indian Army. I do not know with regard to the British Army

1717 2. Did you have any anti-fly chemicals
 A. I had a very little quantity of formalin, that is all

1718 2. How did you get that
 A. The officer in command of one of the field ambulances gave me about 4 ounces. That is all he had

1719 2. It was not of much use, was it
 A. It was very useful while it lasted - for about two days.

If I had had more it would have been extremely useful

1714 Q. When you want a drug like that to whom do you apply
 A You apply to the nearest field ambulance. That is where I got mine from

1715 Q. Had you sufficient chloroform
 A Yes, I had all that I wanted for my needs.

1716 Q. You did not require more
 A No. There was a sufficiency of supplies on board the transport going out and the chief officer said that every trip they put a fresh lot on board. I took them all with me.

1717 Q. You took them all off the transport
 A Yes

1718 Q. When you left did you hand them to your successor
 A We took the field service equipment. What I had signed for I suppose my successor took over

1719 Q. You did not apply for any drugs
 A No

1720 Q. You did not hear that other officers were short
 A No

1721 Q. You had the full pramier. Did the men have spine protectors

A. Not the Indian Army. The officers ~~and~~ would have their own private ones

1722 Q. They all had helmets
 A Yes

1723 Q. What sort of tents had you
 A We had no tents at Ahwas

1724 Q. At Basra?

A We had tents there

1725 Q. Were they double-fly
 A No

1726 Q. The sun came straight through

A. Some were double-fly; the men's tents were not. Some

of the officers took very small ones on account of the transport. Our mess tent was double-fly

1727 2. What sort of tents had the men - bell tents

1. It is not a bell tent

1728 2 E.P.

1. It is a special pattern rather like an E.P. It is a 160 lb tent

1729 2. Is that sun-proof

1. It is rather difficult to answer that. How would you describe sun-proof?

1730 2. Can you get sunstroke inside?

1. A European would but I do not think Indian troops would. I think that in that climate European troops would.

1731 2. It is the ordinary tent used for the Indian Army

1. Yes. I do not know about the British

1732 2. Do I understand that the troops came back from Shaiba fairly comfortably? We have had evidence that they came back in sailing boats

1. I took up unofficially some country boats with a motor launch. The water got shallow as we got near and we had to leave the motor launch and punt them up and they had a bad time. Some of the wounded were in a bad condition.

1733 2. You could not dress the wounds

1. The wounds were properly dressed. There was a big clearing station and the wounded had hot coffee and boric. They were taken to the base hospital as soon as possible. As soon as they got to the steam launch it was plain sailing

1734 Lord Hugh Cecil: How did you acquire your illness

1. It is rather difficult to say, but my own idea is that I got it from eating some dates

1735 2. You did not get it from the water

1. I was very careful personally about the water. I saw that it was

was properly boiled. I did it myself

1736 2. At what stage going up the Karun did the water begin to be bad

A. The whole way

1737 2. How was it at Basra

A. The water at Basra was bad at that time. The snows had melted.

1738 2. It was heated in Persian heaters to make it sanitary

A. It was not sufficiently heated, but that portion of it which was boiled was pure.

1739 2. Directly you got on to the Karun all that ceased

A. Yes, the only source of water then was the muddy water from the Karun River

1740 2. It was drunk untreated. With regard to the food, in your opinion was the food provided well suited for the climate or was it not.

A. It is rather difficult to answer that question.

1741 2. It did not strike you that there was anything wrong in the food supplied except when it went bad

A. It was not a question of what we liked but of what the transport carried; it all comes down to that. It was very hot and when you opened a tin the food was in a semi-liquid state and it fell to pieces

1742 Commander Wedgwood: Did you try Maconochie ration

A. I should think that that would be worse. It was a question of the climate, and the heat was appalling

1743 The Earl of Donoughmore: What took you to Ahwas?

A. The regiment formed one of the units of General Goringe's Division which was marching up to Ahwas

4 2. Was there a garrison

A. A Brigade had been stationed there and it got into trouble with the Turks

5 2. With regard to stretchers, is a blanket stretcher an ordinary stretcher with a blanket on it

494

A Just two bamboo poles with a blanket ^{strung} ~~swung~~ between. A sepoy carries it in addition to his ordinary equipment. It is very light and he carries it over his shoulder

The Witness withdrew

Adjourned to Thursday next at 11 o'clock

