

Telephone : VICTORIA 4066.

Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

2

CORRESPONDENCE

with

MAJOR GENERAL SIR GEORGE KEMBALL. K.C.M.G.

---

J/83

April 17th 1917.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date,  
 I have seen Mr. Duff on the matter this morning, and I  
 enclose a letter drafted according to his instructions,  
 which I trust will meet the case.

Assistant Secretary.

Major-General Sir George Kemball, K.C.M.G.  
 United Service Club.

J/84

ARMY SERVICE CLUB  
1001 MALL

April 17th 1917.

Sir:-

I am instructed to inform you that the Mesopotamia

Commission have now no further need of the presence of

Major-General Sir George Kemball, K.C.M.G.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary.

The Military Secretary

India Office

since been

3. With the exception of Captain Anderson none of these

5

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,  
PALL MALL, S.W.

April 16<sup>th</sup>

Dear Fitzwilliam.

I took this  
to the I.O. and showed it  
to Col Gordon as Sir H Cox  
is away.

He says will you put in  
a date as he understood  
on the phone from you that I  
had been set free a fortnight  
ago?

I think that if you refer  
to Druff ~~that~~ you will find

6

that was not so and  
that though I was told ~~before~~  
I was not to be called again,  
I was purposely not set  
free by the Commission.

If this is so, I suggest that  
you send another letter tomorrow  
worded "will not require  
him from this date".

If no date is definitely  
stated Gordon says the Accountant.

8

General D.O. will only  
hold the thing up & refer  
it back.

I should like to get  
all my pay settled up  
before I leave, probably on  
Friday next, but I fear  
it is only to go back to  
my old job at Karachi  
"faut de mieux".

Yrs sincerely  
McKendall

Telephone: VICTORIA: 4066.

J/82

Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

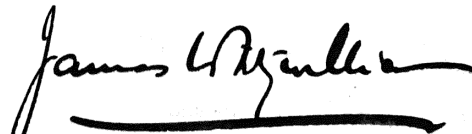
April 16th 1917.

Sir:-

I am instructed to inform you that the Commission have completed their examination of Major-General Sir George Kemball, K.C.M.G., and will not require him to appear before them again.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

  
Assistant Secretary.

The Military Secretary

India Office

Whitehall

*to be  
again  
seen*

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7

J/70

UNITED SERVICE CLUB  
FALL HALL, E.C.

March 14th 1917.  
March 29th 1917.

Dear Mr. Duff. 26<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Sir:-

*As with remembrance*  
*that I wrote a memorandum*  
*which I sent to you on the 26th*  
*inst. concerning the Memorandum you wrote to be submitted*  
*an official letter asking*  
*that the Commission would*  
*forward my memorandum*  
*to the War Office, the same was given to General Sir*  
*Neville Lyttelton together with the other papers for*  
*him to take them to Sir William Robertson.*  
*to the War Office, as it was*

*a technical military matter*

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Major-General Kimball

Assistant Secretary.

Major-General Kimball

United Service Club.

since been killed.

With the exception of Captain Anderson none of these  
the Mesopotamia

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,  
PALL MALL, S.W.

Dear Mr. Duff. 26<sup>th</sup> March

You will remember  
that I wrote a memorandum  
which I enclosed to you with  
an official letter, asking  
that the Commission would  
forward my memorandum  
to the War Office, as it was  
a technical military matter



11  
While the Commission did  
not desire to go into.

I should be much obliged  
if you would be so kind as  
to inform me whether my  
Memorandum was among  
the papers handed to Sir  
Wm. Robertson by Sir N. Lyttelton.

Yours very truly  
Sturtevant

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,  
PALL MALL, S.W.

March 15<sup>th</sup> 1917

Dear Mr. Duff.

I have looked through  
the Aeroplane Reports etc from  
Mesopotamia referred to in  
your 3/6 of yesterday.

They contain little more  
information than that already  
before the Commission, being  
true reports, practically without  
any remark of the nature of  
an appreciation.

I see nothing in them calling for special remark, in connection with opinions I have already expressed in evidence before the Commission.

I am much obliged to the Commission for having sent the papers as to the Dujailah Redoubt to Sir William Robertson by Sir Neville Lytton, as this personal representation will have ensured their receiving attention. Believe me yours truly

R. Duffrey *see newspaper account* G. Keuball

J/60

X

To the Secretary  
Mesopotamia Commission

March 14th 1917.

Dear General Kemplall,

I have now received through the India Office the text of the Aeroplane Reports etc. which we asked for from Mesopotamia. If you come round to my office any time, they will be shown you and after you have examined them you can discuss with me if it is necessary for us to do anything about them.

I have sent on the papers as to the Dujailah Redoubt to Sir Neville Lyttelton and he told me he was going to write to Sir William Robertson to-day about it, with a view to obtaining an interview with him.

- 1. Capt. J. Anderson. Seaforth Highlanders.
- 2. Major C. L. Matthew. London L.I.
- 3. Lt. J. P. Swain Acting. Many other officers.
- 4. Lt. and Cr. R. C. Brodie. The 5/1st Buffs.

Major-General Kemplall  
United Service Club  
Pall Mall.

since been killed.

To the Secretary  
Mesopotamia Commission

From Major General G.V.Kemball C.B. D.S.O.  
United Service Club  
London S.W.  
12th February 1917.

Sir?

With reference to question No 17674 the following officers, if called, could give evidence, I believe, to the neglect experienced by the wounded in Mesopotamia in January 1916:-

- 1. \* Capt.F.Anderson. Seaforth Highlanders.
- 2. Major C.L.Matthews Durham L.I.
- 3. \* Lt.J.P.Swain Acting Adjt. )
- 4. \* Lt.and Qr.H.C.Brodie ) and many other officers
- 5. Major D.L.Weir D.S.O. ) of the 2/Leicestershire Regt.
- 6. Col.C.H.Davies D.S.O. )
- 7. Lieut.C.W.E.Arbuthnot ) 53rd Sikhs F.F.
- 8. \* Lieut.M.R.Keene 97th Infantry
- 9. Major Thorne Royal Sussex Regt.

2. Lieut.Hadden 51st Sikhs another material witness has since been killed.

3. With the exception of Captain Anderson none of these witnesses have I believe been heard by the Mesopotamia Commission, and none of them nor myself nor the Rev. R.Irwin were called by Lieut-General Sir F.Aylmer when he held an enquiry.

I am Sir,

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To, The Secretary,  
Mesopotamia Commission.

From, Major General G. V. Kemball, C.B. D.S.O.  
United Service Club,  
Pall Mall, S.W.

January 31st., 1917.

Sir,

As I am not sure whether I ought to communicate with the Secretary War Office direct, I have the honour to request that the enclosed 'tactical observations on the operations of the Tigris Corps, March 1916,' may be forwarded through the Commission for the consideration of the War Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) G.V.Kemball.

Major General.

P.S. I should be much obliged if I might be supplied with a typed copy of the observations.

17 19

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,

PALL MALL, S.W.

22-1-17 S.W.  
2-16

I have received

from Mr. Pinter a

proof Appendix II

to my statement.

I should like the U.S. to

rather T.S. to correct

it by, and also to keep as  
it as an original document.

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The Secretary

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11 LILLINGTON  
% LYNEBOCH CHARLES LONDON  
TELEPHONE GERRARD 1115

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,  
PALL MALL, S.W.

22.12.16

Dear Sir.

I beg to acknowledge  
receipt of your letter  
requesting my attendance  
at No. 4 Comm<sup>ee</sup> Room

House of Lords at  
11.30 am. Thursday Jan<sup>ry</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

The Secretary  
Messrs Pitt Rivers & Co.

Kemball  
Secy

ter of the  
to cable  
the Tigri  
I will

Servant,

Major General Kemball.



G/65

21.12.1916

WRITTEN SERVICE

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 20th December,  
 we have asked the India Office to cable for a copy of the  
 typed Intelligence Summary of the Tigris Corps of March  
 8th & 9th, which you ask for. I will let you know as soon  
 as it is at hand.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary

Major General Kembell.

United Service Club

Pall Mall S.W.

*By it will be... intelligence...*

200 Central...

United Service...

17 1111

*Considerable extra supplies in response*

*I am - Sir -*

ter to

21

UNITED SERVICE C  
FALL MA

20-12-

Dear Sir.

With reference to

Yours of 9.58.

I will bring my narrative report with me when I appear before the Commission.

The ~~aeroplane~~ Telegram received from Busra will I think do for the present.

By itself it is not very intelligible as no deduction

Assistant Secretary.

are made by the observers  
and there may be difference  
of opinion as to what deductions  
were actually drawn at the  
time.

I would therefore suggest  
that the India Office be asked  
to cable to Burma to send

by post as soon as possible  
a copy of the typed intelligence  
Summary of the Tigris <sup>Corps</sup> covering  
the operations of the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
March last, including deductions

and full aeroplane reports.

I happen to know that this  
document is in existence and  
that it will show clearly

what deductions were made  
on ~~these reports~~ <sup>by the</sup> intelligence staff for

the information of the Tigris  
Corps Commander, and it  
will I think throw a different  
light on the situation than  
represented by General Goring.

It will take a month or  
more to get it but it is  
an important document  
and I think the Commission

G/58

18.12.1916

19.12.1916.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 15th December I am returning herewith your copy of the narrative of operations of Columns "A" & "B", Tigris Army Corps. Mr. Duff does not think it will be necessary for you to add this to your Statement, but would you please bring it with you when you come to give evidence?

I also enclose a copy of Telegram received from Basra with reference to aeroplane reconnaissance on the morning of March 9th 1916. Would you be so good as to let me know if this is what you require?

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary.

Major General Kembell.

United Service Club

Pall Mall

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

18.12.1916

*To the Secretary  
Mesopotamian Commission  
From Major General G. V. Kenball  
18.12.16*

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 16th December I return herewith enclosure and beg to state that I have written to the India Office re your claim, and explained to them that as far as we are concerned you are being kept in England by us as from the date of your arrival until such a time as your evidence has been heard and your work for the Commission has been cleared up: I have also informed the India Office that for the time being the date is very indefinite.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

*period I am to be considered as in attendance on the Commission and what subsistence allowance I am to receive.*

*I arrived in London on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. last to give evidence before the Assistant Secretary.*

Major General Kenball C.B., D.S.O. shall not be called till January.

United Service Club

Ball Mall S.W.

*It will be seen from the Military Secretary's letter that £522-5-6, or about £35 a month is being deducted from my pay from date of embarkation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. last.*

*I have to maintain my house & establishments in India during my absence & am incurring considerable extra expenses in England.*

I am, Sir,

To the Secretary  
Mesopotamian Commission

From Major General G. V. Keimball  
C/O DSO

United Service Club  
Pall Mall  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec 16 <sup>SW</sup>

Sir. I have the honour to enclose a letter  
(return requested) No M. 47984 dated 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 16  
from the Military Secretary, India Office, with the  
request that I may be informed for what  
period I am to be considered as in attendance  
on the Commission in London and what  
subsistence allowance I am to receive.

I arrived in London on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last  
to give evidence before the Commission and  
understand that I shall not be called till January.

It will be seen from the Military Secretary's  
letter that Rs 522-5-6, or about £35 a  
month is being deducted from my pay from  
date of embarkation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last.

I have to maintain my house & establishments  
in India during my absence & am incurring  
considerable extra expenses in England.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

G. Keimball  
Major General

Central Flying School 26  
Upavon, Pewsey  
Wilts.

15.12.16.

Dear General Kemball

I was so glad to hear from you again and hope you are quite fit again.

As far as I can remember there were two battle reconnaissances on March 9<sup>th</sup>. One machine dropped a report on Advanced H. Q., and I am not sure who the observer was, but may be able to find out. The other landed, Observer - Capt. Thomson Glover, 35<sup>th</sup> Sikhs now RFC, St Patrick's Hall, Reading, - Pilot - me. We arrived at H. Q. about 8.30 a.m. or 9.0 a.m. and were almost immediately told that the retreat had been decided on and the H. Q. were to move off at 10.15 a.m. As far as I know we were only fired at by our own people, when landing. I do not remember exactly what Thomson-Glover said about Dijaelah, but I know for certain he made no statement that it was fully occupied. No one with any knowledge of aerial work could possibly suppose that one could see if trenches were occupied from some 6000 ft on a day like that.

I have only twice seen that trenches were occupied from that height and on one of these two occasions stated that trenches had been empty till then, because I saw the Turks going into them and filling them. Even for that I was well chaffed for daring to make such a definite statement. One can sometimes form a fairly strong opinion from various outside signs, but no observer could have made any definite declaration, especially on that day.

Visibility was very poor, we were continually in and out of clouds and went through much rain and hail.

I quite concur about the Turks firing in such cases, on aircraft, but I believe they sometimes held their fire. But people on the ground know more about that than we do. It has to be very bad to bother us owing to the engine noise.

I am writing to several other observers who were there & are now in England, to try and find out who the other observer was.

If I can be of any further use please let me know.

Remember me to Mackenzie, who is I believe with you again.

I am very fit and have got a Squadron here now. It is hard work and rather dreary but I hope to get out to France soon now.

Yours very sincerely

(Signed) Donald Davidson.



Telephone: VICTORIA: 4066.

30

28

*Ford*  
Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

G/33

13.12.1916

Dear General Kemball,

I think I ought to let you know that the Commission will probably want to hear something from you on the question of the charges made against Major Murphy, in regard to which I believe you are in a position to give some special information. If you desire to add anything on this subject, will you kindly forward the draft to me, and I will have it printed and circulated to the Commission with your Statement.

*Nothing special to add - can be cross examined by the Commission  
GMK*

*Yours faithfully,*

*R. G. Duff.*

*W. W. M. S.*

Major-General Kemball. C.B., D.S.O.  
Bracken Hill.  
Borough Green  
Kent.

Commission.

11.12.1916

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6/33

G/33

13.12.1916

Dear General Kemball,

I think I ought to let you know that the Commission will probably want to hear something from you on the question of the charges made against Major Murphy, in regard to which I believe you are in a position to give some special information. If you desire to add anything on this subject, will you kindly forward the draft to me, and I will have it printed and circulated to the Commission with your Statement.

Your obedient servant,

*J. H. Williams*  
Assistant Secretary

Major-General Kemball C.B., D.S.O.  
Bracken Hill.  
Borough Green  
Kent.

Telephone: VICTORIA: 4066.

Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

G/20

11.12.1916

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith a proof and your original copy of the sketch map which you left for us.

Would you please embody any corrections you may think necessary? As they have made a blue print from it, I expect the corrections should be made in black ink on the original, and should suggest that the squares and lettering be darkened considerably; if you like I will have this work carried out here, so as to save you any unnecessary trouble in the matter.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

*J. H. G. ...*  
Assistant Secretary

Major General Kemball C.B., D.S.O.

United Service Club

Pall Mall S.W.

*Yes.*  
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*multi of*  
*36" 7 1/2"*  
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*Z to be bigger*

G/20

11.12.1916

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*See*

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith a proof and your original copy of the sketch map which you left for us.

Would you please embody any corrections you may think necessary? As they have made a blue print from it, I expect the corrections should be made in black ink on the original, and should suggest that the squares and lettering be darkened considerably; if you like I will have this work carried out here, so as to save you any unnecessary trouble in the matter.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary

Major General Kembell C.B., D.S.O.

United Service Club

Pall Mall S.W.

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*1/2*

e 81 1916

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UNITED SERVICE CLUB,  
PALL MALL, S.W.

Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr. Duff -

I am leaving

town today -

my address will be

Bracken Hill

Borough Green

Kent

Telegrams Kemball - Borough Green.

but this Club is my permanent  
address

If you could let me have a written  
proof of my statement &

33

appendices I shall be obliged  
so that I may have one to keep  
when I return the other corrected to  
you -

If you have a copy to spare  
now - the bearer can bring it

If not please post it to me  
at Borough Green -

Yr truly

J. Kimball  
M.G.

4  
UNITED SERVICE CLUB,

PALL MALL, S.W.

Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr. Duff.

Just a line to  
confirm my telephone  
conversation with Mr  
Fitzwilliam today.

He was to ask you  
to see me at 11 am. Friday.

If this all right and I  
do not hear from you I will  
turn up then.

I want to go down to Kent

nb

on Friday afternoon until  
I am wanted by the Com<sup>rs</sup>.

Yours truly

J. Kimball



R. 4. 12.

3

UNITED SERVICE CLUB

PALL MALL,

Sund.

Dear Mr. Duff.

I am confined  
to my bed by influenza  
or I should be able to hand  
you all my papers.

I am not up to writing  
letters and there is a  
good deal I want to tell  
you about certain letters.  
If you could spare Mr.

TELEGRAMS,  
LYNEDOCK CHARLES LONDON  
TELEPHONE CIPHER 2151

ND.  
Fitzwilliam and he would  
be good enough to come  
up to see me in my  
bedroom here on Monday  
I could explain matters to  
him.

Otherwise I must  
wait till Tuesday when  
if I am unable to go out  
Capt Murbenzie will be in  
town & I know will help  
me. But that is your  
Commission day

I am very sorry but it  
can't be helped.

Yours very truly

S Murbenzie  
mg