

Volume: Volume 8186

Massachusetts Commission,
28, Abington Street,
Worcester.

CORRESPONDENCE
with
MAJOR GENERAL M. COOPER.

Massachusetts Commission TNA.

Telephone: VICTORIA 4066.

3
Mesopotamia Commission,
28, Abingdon Street,
Westminster.

1/62. Copy -

Sent to 17. 14. 8 to
Mr. Gen Conder for
typing in connection with
evidence -

March 9th. 1917 -

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Combined

18 Buckingham Palace Mansions.
London S.W. 4

From

Major General. H. Cowper. C.B. C.S.E.

Indian Army.

late. D.A. & Q.M.G.

Go Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.

The Secretary

The Mesopotamia Commission.

dated 9th February 1917.

Sir,

I beg to attach two bills - one for £12-1-3 and the other for £5-13-3 - total £17-14-8 representing expenses connected with the hire of a stenographer, typing machine, paper, etc, and the typing of various minutes and statements which I was called upon to record for the information of the Mesopotamia Commission.

2). Owing to my recent arrival in England from Mesopotamia combined with the number of statements, etc, which I had to prepare - amounting to some 50 pages of printed matter - it was not possible, seeing that my evidence had to be prepared against time, for me to have recorded what I did, unless I used the services of a stenographer and typists for copying.

3. I understand it is not customary for H.M.'s Treasury to defray expenditure that witnesses may have to incur relating to the recording of evidence tendered by them before Royal Commissions; but in view of the facts stated in para 2 ante, I trust, as a special case, that H.M.'s Treasury may think fit to accord sanction for the sum of £17-14-8, which I have expended out of my own pocket and on service purely connected with the State.

I have the honour, to be.

Sir

your most obedient servant

H. Cowper. Major General. I. A.

late D.A. & Q.M.G. Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.

J/44.

March 1st 1917.

X

Dear Sir:*

I enclose herewith the corrected proof of your evidence, also the copy which you left here containing your alterations. Perhaps you would be so good as to see if there are any other alterations which you would like to make.

I should like to draw your attention to Page 979, Section V, Line 2, Surely this date should be 1915 and not 1914.

Also on page 988 you give a list of ships, and but no dates in connection with them. Will it be possible for you to fill this in?

When you have looked through the corrected proof would you please sign it at the foot, and return both copies to me?

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary.

Major-General Cowper,

18, Buckingham Palace Mansions,

S.W.

18 Buckingham Palace Mansions

3) I should like parts as soon as possible of the
labours & monuments I've put in

4) Lu Percy takes possession on important private

Lie

Dear Sir,

(1) I find the copies of 2 of my minutes are numbered wrongly - that is to say there are 2 Minutes IV. Minute IV proper is 'Pole Dock factories' and Minute VI (wrongly marked IV) relates to 'River Craft'. Will you, please, see the above error is put right by the printer.

2) The following dates & addresses will find me:

|| Tuesday 9th Jan'y } c/o Colonel Weller.
 || Wednesday 10 " } The Moat House
 Sharnbrook Beds

|| Thursday 11 Jan'y to Sunday 14 Jan'y = Putney Dean
 Surrey

|| On Monday 15 Jan'y I return to London -
 and my address will be
 18 Buckingham Palace Mansions
 SW

3) I should like parts as soon as possible of the various statements I've found in

4) Lie Percy some passages on important private letters from Genl Maude giving the views of Sir Ches Moore. (Lie Percy's name is in regard to what had been accomplished in

8

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9

Mesopotamia Commission,
28, Abingdon Street,
Westminster.

G/77

29.12.1916.

Dear Sir:-

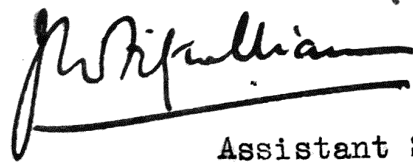
I enclose herewith a copy of the list of your papers which you prepared to-day with Mr. Duff, also a copy of a letter from Sir Archibald Williamson, asking for certain information: perhaps you will let us have a reply to this at your convenience?

The dates of the advances mentioned in 1,2,3 of Sir Archibald Williamson are as follows:-

Kurna to Amara, 23rd May 1915. (Tel. I.O. to Viceroy)
Amara to Kut, 20th Aug. 1915. (Vague assent to an advance 6 Aug. 1915.)
Azizieh to Baghdad, 23rd Oct. 1915. (I.O. to Viceroy)
(Orders reached Nixon 24, 10, 1916)

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,



Assistant Secretary

Major General Cowper
Hotel Winsor.

e

So

General Gowper.

- I. Duties and responsibilities. ✓
- II. Difficulties of the country. ✓
- III. Gtesiphon etc. ✓
- IV. Port and Dock Facilities ✓
- V. Detention of sea-going transports. ✓
- VI. River craft
- VII Labour ✓
- VIII Medical
- IX Engineering projects dealt with
- X Conduct of operations
- XI Railways. ✓

e.
So

Copy.

36, Belgrave Square,

S.W.

24th December 1916.

Dear Mr. Duff,

Would you kindly ask General Cowper to bring with him so that it may go in as evidence a tabulated statement showing the approximate numbers of the force (total) on the dates (1) of the authority for the advance from Kurna towards Amara. (2) of the authority for the advance from Amara towards Kut (3) " " " " " " " " Azizieh towards Baghdad (4) and the most recent estimate. As it is a question of supplies as well as ammunition I think the figures should include followers.

Against (1) (2) (3) I also want the capacity of the river fleet on the same dates. That is how many tons per day, on average, could be sent up from Basra up river. A deduction from deadweight capacity should be made to allow for an average number of troops using space on the craft upwards.

You can give the witness the dates of the giving of the authorities. You might also give him the Vincent Bingley tonnage estimates. I think writing from memory they were 150 tons in Oct. 1915 and 250 in March/April 1916.

Mathematical accuracy of course is not possible or necessary. Followers and other supernumeraries are not essential. So long as like is compared with like at the given dates.

Yours truly,

(Sa.) ARCHIBALD WILLIAMSON.

12

EXPLANATION OF CRAFT SHOWN IN STATEMENT UNDER COLUMN (2).

PADDLERS 39.

Sequence No.	Name.	Official Number.	Owner.	Remarks.
1	BLOSSE LYNCH.	-	Lynch Bros.	
2	MEJIDIEH	-	do.	
3	MALAMIR	-	do.	
4	SALIMI.	-	Aga Jaffer.	
5	KARUN	-	Sheikh of	Useless vessel.
6	MOSUL	-	Mohammerah. Government.	
7	KENTUNG	P-1	Irrawaddy	
8	KANDY	P-2	S.S. Flotilla. do.	
9	GALONE	P-3	do.	
10	YEMIN	P-4	do.	
11	HANTHAWA	P-5	do.	
12	TANTABIN	P-6	do.	
13	TUARRAWA	P-7	do.	
14	AILEE	P-8	Commissioner of Scinde	Hospt boat useless for towing
15	JOHN MULLINS	P-10	Madras P.W.D.	Useless.
16	KALABAG	P-9	N.W. Railway.	
17	SARA	P-11	E.B. State Rly.	
18	RAJA MUNDY	P-12	do.	
19	DAMUKDIA	P-14	do.	
20	KAVUR	P-15	do.	
21	BAJAVATTI	P-16	East India Rly.	
22	LAKSHIMI	P-17	do.	
23	GUNGA	P-18	do.	
24	SARASWATI	P-19	do.	
25	TARA	P-20	do.	
26	PRINCE ALFRED	P-21	E.B. State Rly.	Weak structure cannot be used in narrows.
27	OSAKA	P-23	Irrawaddy S. S. Flotilla.	
28	OTARU	P-24	do.	

PADDLERS 39 (Continued).

Sequence No.	Name.	Official number.	Owner.	Remarks.
29.	MARJORY	P-25	E.B.State Rly.	
30	AMASIS	P-30	Cocks Nile	} Useless vessels } Tonnage capa- } city, practic- } ally Nil.
31	AMENARTAS	P-31	Flotilla do.	
32	HATASOO	P-32	do.	
33	CLEOPATRA	P-33	do.	
34	NEFERTARI	P-34	do.	
35	PRINCE ABBAS.	P-35	do.	
36	EDMUND IRONSIDES	P-40	Thames S.S. Company.	
37.	ALLEYN	P-41	do.	
38	ALLEYN	P-50	Government.	
39	ALLEYN	P-51	do.	

STERNWHEELERS 10.

Sequence No.	Name.	Official Number.	Owner.	Remarks.
1	SHUSHAN	-	Lynch Bros.	At disposal of D.G.P.A. & R.C. Nasiriyah.
2	MUZAFFRI	-	Aga Jaffer	
3	MAHSOUDI	-	do.	
4	FALAM	S - 1	Irrawaddy S. S. Flotilla.	Undergoing extensive repairs.
5.	PIMA	S - 2	do.	
6	MORZAL	S - 3	Calcutta S.S. N. Company	Small and of not much use.
7	HUNZA	S - 4	do.	do.
8	SIKKHIM	H.S-1	Irrawaddy S. S. Flotilla	Hospital boat.
9	COROMANDEL	-	Burma Company Calcutta	do.
10	ARDLUI	H.S-2	Burma Govt.	do.

TUGS 13.

1	SHURUR	-	Lynch Bros.	
2	SHIHAB	-	do.	
3	SHIRIN	-	do.	
4	SABEH	-	Strick Scott & Coy.	
5	SUMARA	-	Government.	
6	-	T-1	India Genl.S N. Company.	At Nasiriyah
7	-	T-2	do.	" Shaikh Saad.
8	-	T-3	do.	At disposal of A.D.A. for Aviation purposes
9	-	T-4	do.	At Shaikh Saad.
10	KANSA	T-5	Calcutta Riv. S.N. Company.	do.
11	-	T-25	India Office	} Not yet ready
12	-	T-26	Government.	
13	QUAND MEME	T-28	do.	

SCREW BOATS 2.

Sequence Number.	Name.	Official Number.	Owner.	Remarks.
1	KAZEMI	-	Aga Jaffer.	
2	BAHMASHIR.	-	Shaikh of Mohammerah	At disposal of A.D.A. for aviation purposes.
3	<i>Julmas</i>	-	<i>Synch Boat</i>	

1st General - 1st Regt
 1st Hussar/1st Baluch Cavalry
 S.K.

H/83

16

3.1.1917.

Dear Sir:-

I am so sorry to trouble you, but we are anxious to get corrected proofs of our evidence as soon as possible, could you, therefore, let me have your corrections, which I am sure you will understand should be of the very shortest nature at an early date? If you find on reading through your answers, that you made statements which, on second thoughts, do not appear quite as you intended, we would allow you to insert notes at the foot of the page to this effect, but no alterations whatever may be allowed in the text. I may also say that the Commission do not appreciate voluminous notes being inserted, so I am sure you will keep the notes you wish to make as brief as possible.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Major-General Cowper
18, Buckingham Palace Mansions.
S.W.

Staff on Rs. 3500

Rs. 200 per mensem is 8.5 per cent increase on my

16A

G/92

1.1.1917

Dear Mr Duff

Will you please, at your leisure, send me the favour of perusing the enclosed papers. The case is merely a personal one, but all the same I shall be glad of
Dear General Cowper,

I have read the papers which accompanied your brief letter of to-day's date, and these papers I return to you.

Whatever may be my personal sympathies with your case, I am afraid I cannot say it is one which the Commission, having regard to their powers, ought to go into. I don't think it would further your case before the Commission in any way to bring it forward. In March 1915 Sir Percy Lake, J.C. was appointed to the post of D.A. of the G.O.C. Force "D" in India for 4 1/2 months - and by that time the War Office, without consulting India thought fit to reorganise the staff of Force "D", and I was consequently displaced by my appointment being abolished and two General Officers being sent to do the work I had been doing for 11 months, India decided as I was leaving Mesopotamia the question was to be dropped!

The United Service Club supported by General Maude, the then G.O.C. of Force "D", Pall Mall S.W. As a settlement I am now offered an extra Rs. 200 p.m. for the whole period I was in Mesopotamia. It was not recommended, neither do I want any increase of pay until the force was increased and Major General Money appointed Chief of the General Staff on Rs. 3500

p.m.

Rs 200

London. 17

1st January 1917.

Dear Mr Duff,

Will you please, at your leisure, kindly do me the favour of perusing the enclosed papers. The case is purely a personal one, but all the same I shall be glad of your opinion if it would be a proper one to produce before the Commission? The papers explain themselves - but briefly the main facts of the case are as follows:-

(a) In March '16 Sir Percy Lake put up a strong recommendation that my pay as D.A. & Q.M.G. Force "D" should be increased from Rs.2340 p.m. to that of a Divisional Commander - viz. Rs.3000 a month or an increase of Rs.660 p.m. This was agreed to in India - but as the decision was delayed in India for $4\frac{1}{2}$ months - and by that time the War Office, without consulting India thought fit to reorganise the staff of Force "D", and I was consequently displaced by my appointment being abolished and two General Officers being sent to do the work I had been doing for 11 months, India decided as I was leaving Mesopotamia the question was to be dropped!

I again appealed and the case was again strongly supported by General Maude, the then G.O.C. of Force "D".

As a settlement I am now offered an extra Rs.200 increase of my pay for the whole period I was in Mesopotamia. I never asked for, nor was it recommended, neither do I want any increase of pay until the force was increased and Major General Money appointed Chief of the General Staff on Rs.3500 p.m.

Rs.200 per mensem is 8.5 per cent increase on my pay, while Rs. 660 which was what was recommended by two Army Commanders in succession is an increase of 27.4, or in other words I am offered 240 per cent less than what was recommended by two General Officers who must know better

than anyone else what was the nature, volume of work and responsibilities I had to do and undertake.

Yours sincerely,

M. Casper

G/77

29.12.1916.

Dear Sir:-

I enclose herewith a copy of the list of your papers which you prepared to-day with Mr. Duff, also a copy of a letter from Sir Archibald Williamson, asking for certain information: perhaps you will let us have a reply to this at your convenience?

The dates of the advances mentioned in 1, 2, 3 of Sir Archibald Williamson are as follows:-

Kurna to Amara, 23rd May 1915. (Tel. I.O. to Viceroy)

Amara to Kut, 20th Aug. 1915. (Vague assent to an advance 6 Aug. 1915.)

Azizieh to Baghdad, 23rd Oct. 1915. (I.O. to Viceroy)
(Orders reached Nixon 24.10.1916)

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary

Major General Cowper

Hotel Winsor.

6 copies

Wm
11/12

G/24

13.12.1916.

*Trigles
Lasson*

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your private letter to Mr. Duff
of the 12th inst. he has instructed me to forward you

a copy of the evidence given by Commander Huddleston;

I should be much obliged if you would kindly return it
at the conclusion of your examination.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary.

1 Cowper
ated Service Club.
Fall Mall

Handwritten notes on the right margin, including the number 5 and other illegible scribbles.

Private
Personal

Permanent address

United Service Club-

Pal Mall London Sts.

Nothing done
Sussex.

12. Dec 1916.

Dear Mr. Duff.

Very many thanks for your letter of the 8th inst, enclosing
a copy of General Davison's evidence - and please
forgive my not acknowledging my receipt before: but I've
had to run about a good deal the last few days.

I am very glad you have sent me this evidence - and of
course it will not be quoted by me - in fact officially I
shall know nothing about it. Davison, as I reported, was
not a satisfactory witness - and apparently the Commission
"sized" him up before they had done with him -
from Dec¹⁵ to April¹⁶ when he went I had to do a
great deal of his work to keep the show going, and
eventually Gen. Lake got out of him.

However, I shall be able to clear up what he could
not. Now, I rather think you have examined
one Commissioned WTB at Huddleston, late P.M.T.O.
Force D. of 21, and you see no objection, I think

would probably help if you could let me see a copy of
his evidence - But in any case - Sir P. Keble and
myself, and I feel certain, make every point clear
by ^{the} Commission in regard to Rivers Drumpart - Croft.
Dovison's evidence, in certain respects, is very misleading
but not intentionally of course. but he did not know what
he should have known - that is all.

I am afraid I shall not be able to let you have
my statement much before the middle of next
week (but I am hard at it). My idea is to deal with
the Rivers Drumpart part as a separate memorandum
attached to my general statement - but when I have
written it - I shall have to come to you and consult
you as regards certain telegrams - whether copies should
be attached or not. and concerning this I'll write
you later on. In the meantime if you can see your
way to let me have Studalbert's evidence - I am
sure it might help -

May I also suggest the following for your consideration, you
have got Capt. G. L. Lumsden's Sir: Royal Indian Service
coming home for examination - well, about an engine
have until you get my statement if at all possible.

In love
your brief

M. G. P. S.

P.S. Please understand I have made the above suggestions, purely
with the view of putting unvarnished facts before the Commission
and they can draw their own deductions.

G/13

24

8.12.1916

Dear General Cowper,

I am forwarding you an uncorrected proof of General Davison's evidence, because you will see that he seems to indicate certain points in connection with Transport which you might be able to clear up.

His evidence may, therefore, be useful to you in preparing your Statement, but I should be much obliged if in dealing with any points raised by General Davison, you will not mention specifically that you have read his evidence.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr Cowper Major General
British Army*

Major General Cowper

The United Service Club

Pall Mall S.W.

4th Dec 1916. 25

UNITED SERVICE CLUB,

PALL MALL, S.W.

Dear Sir.

F/86

Yours of the 1st inst. - which
please forgive my not answering
before, but I had left London
for the week end and you
killed followed me -

I shall make it my business
to call upon you at 11.30
am. on Wednesday the

6th Dec.

Yours sincerely

W. Cowper. Major General
Indian Army.

P.T.O

26

P.S.

Please note for future reference
that my address is.

The United Service Club.

Pale hall S.W.

J.W. FitzWilliam Esq
Asst Secy
Mesopotamia Commission
28 Abingdon Street.
Westminster.

F/86

27
ENG

1.12.1916.

Dear Sir:-

I should esteem it a great favour if you would call at these offices on Wednesday next, the 6th inst. to discuss with me the subject of giving evidence before the Mesopotamia Commission.

Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know whether 11.30 a.m. would be a convenient time?

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary

Major-General Cowper.