

Telephone: Victoria 4086

2

Massachusetts Commission,
28, Abington Street,
Westminster.

CORRESPONDENCE
with
GENERAL SIR EDMUND BARROW.

29th March 1817

Secy Mesopotamian Commission

Here with 2nd proof duly corrected
together with 1st proof as requested

E. G. Barrer

Mesopotamia Commission,
28, Abingdon Street,
Westminster.

27. III. 1917.

Dear Sir:-

I shall be much obliged if you will return to me the enclosed corrected proof of the evidence (also your original corrections enclosed for reference) which you gave before the Mesopotamia Commission, with your signature duly appended at the foot, in order that we may be assured that you approve and are cognisant of the corrections which have been made.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. Buff
Secretary.

J/65

March 17th 1917.

Dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

I submitted your letter of the 13th inst. to the Chairman, and he asks me to say that he is unable to waive in your case the rule to which the Commission throughout adhere, and which is indeed enforced upon them by Act of Parliament that all evidence given before them is to remain on record.

With kind regards,

General Sir Edmund Barrow

India Office.

*is no object in being
of diff. unless lined*

Eg Barrow

suggest to him the

mission & returned.

my letter for doing so

is simply that it had

been Lord Kitchener's

name is dragged into

the discussion by me

as he is dead there

5

6

Chambers

INDIA OFFICE
SECRETARY

suggest to him the
mission I proposed.

My reason for doing so
is simply that ~~it~~ need
= lessy Lord Kitchener's
name is dragged into
the discussion by me.
As he is dead there

is no object in taking
up difficulties raised
by him.

Yrs sincerely

E G Parnell

R G Duff Esq
Secy

Mesopotamian Comd

General Sir Edmund Barrrow
India Office



INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

7

March 13th

Dear Mr Duff

With reference to
your letter of March 8th,
which I enclose in case
you have no copy, if you
have no objection I
presume the Chairman has,
so I would ask you to

Telephone: VICTORIA: 4066.

8
Mesopotamia Commission,
28, Abingdon Street,
Westminster.

J/53.

March 8th 1917.

Dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

Thank you for your letter. I accept all your corrections except the parts you propose to delete in answers 22449-51; I agree that these are not very relevant, but I am afraid I have not any discretion as to deleting such evidence.

Wm Young
R. Young

General Sir Edmund Barrow

India Office.

Notched if possible

INDIA OFFICE
WHITEHALL, S.W.

March 8th

My dear Duff

I really need not trouble you with an interview; so I send over the Proof which you sent for correction with the following observations thereon:

- 22364. Some mistake
 - 22377. The last two lines might be struck out. They are not relevant.
 - 22430. The Amplification more fully answers the question
 - 22447] * Parts marked in red might
 - 22450] be omitted. They are not relevant
 - 22451] like Lord & Cecil's remarks (22451)
- Besides we don't want to bring in Lord Kitchener if possible

General Sir Edmund Barrow

India Office

J/53. 1/30

March 8th 1917.

11.2.1917

4

Dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

Dear Sir Edmund Barrow, telegrams I referred to in our...
...to which the Commission...
...were laid before the...
...are as follows:

Thank you for your letter. I accept all

your corrections except the parts you propose to delete

in answers 22449-51; I agree that they are not very

relevant, but I am afraid I have not any discretion in

as to deleting such evidence.

...all F-Class ships. Please procure quickly some...
...light draught tugs or sternwheelers in local...
...present needs and thereby greatly strengthened...
...tions which are very seriously impeded. This is a very
...urgent need."

As to the first of these telegrams we already
have the translation contained in the following letter:
General Sir Edmund Barrow only remain for you to say that
you did not in fact see the telegrams.

India Office. I know the Recd. of the... telegrams
was never sent to the India Office, if to... they
this will be your reply. As I mentioned to... of
source not certain that these points will... to you.
I am merely giving you a friendly warning... in case
they should be.

We shall expect you at 2.30 p.m. on... the
27th unless we hear to the contrary from... A formal
notice will sent to you.

J/33

12

21.2.1917.

Dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

The telegrams I referred to in our conversation this morning as to which the Commission may wish to know whether they were laid before the Holderness Committee are as follows:-

- (1) No 30 in Mr. Collier's blue book
- (2) the following:-

"From the G.O.C., Force "D", Kut-el-Amarah,
To the Chief of the General Staff, Simla No 766-28-Q
Dated 9th October 1915.

Urgent.

Your telegram 2nd October No.S.23127. When may I expect to receive river craft. Ships drawing over 3 feet 9 in. now useless above Kut-el-Amarah and navigate lower reaches with difficulty and frequent groundings. This applies to all P.Class ships. Please procure quickly some powerful light draught tugs or sternwheelers in India which will serve present needs and thereby greatly strengthen military operations which are very seriously impeded. This is a very urgent need."

As to the first of these telegrams we already have the explanation contained in the following letter: I suppose therefore it will only remain for you to say that you did not in fact see the telegrams.

So far as I know the 2nd. of the two telegrams was never sent to the India Office, if this is so, they this will be your reply. As I mentioned to you, it is of course not certain that these points will be put to you, I am merely giving you a friendly warning in advance in case they should be.

We shall expect you at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 27th unless we hear to the contrary from you. A formal notice will sent to you.

General Sir Edmund Barrow

India Office

F/25

21.11.1916

My dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

Many thanks for your letter with the Soane telegrams: I quite agree that they are not pertinent to the question of the Advance on Baghdad in October - November 1915, and I do not think we need carry the matter any further.

General Sir Edmund Barrow
Military Department
India Office.

General Sir Edmund Barrow

13

9/11
My dear Sir Edmund Barrow
Telegrams copied to you to which you replied in the telegram.
You will observe that all these telegrams are dated 15.11.15.
So there will be no doubt that the telegrams are not pertinent to the question of the Advance on Baghdad in October - November 1915, and I do not think we need carry the matter any further.

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

17/XI

My dear Duff

Herewith copies of
the tel gram to which you
referred on the telephone.

You will observe that all
three telegrams ~~are~~ passed
in March '15, i.e. when
we were still at Basra
and Kutna, and before even

15
of information and nature
of same the better!

the battle of Shaiba
i.e. more than to matters
before the question of
adhering to Baghdad
alone.

Do you want this sent
to you officially? We
would rather not, as the
less we mention sources

Yours sincerely
E. G. Barker

Generalissimo Sir Muhammad Baqir

Iraqi Office

Printed *additional* *16*
WHITEHALL, S.W.,
16th October 1916.

D/80

October 18th 1916

My dear Mr. Duff,

With reference to the omission to provide the
Dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

Mesopotamian Commission with

In accordance with your desire I read to the
(1) Telegram No. 3.
Commission yesterday, your letter of the 15th inst. as to the omission
of certain telegrams from the collection sent in by the India Office
to the Commission.

I am desired by the Commission to say that they quite accept
and understand the explanation which you give in your letter as to the
causes of the omissions in question. At the same time I am to say
that the Commission will be glad if you would have the papers at the
India Office carefully re-examined with a view to forwarding to the
Commission any other relevant documents which may have been accident-
ally omitted from those previously sent in.

The Commission do not at present think it necessary to adopt
the suggestion which you kindly made that I should come over to the
India Office and personally examine the papers.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

It was
'as a matter connected
with the deficiency of the Postal Service in India.

When I had to collate the Mesopotamian
I must, unfortunately, forgotten this particular

It never occurred to me to search the General
Registry

General Sir Edmund Barrow

India Office



prints

*Number his copy
additional - see*

A. 18.10.16

17

WHITEHALL, S.W.,

15th October 1916.

*10 copies in the
[unclear]*

My dear Mr. Duff,

With reference to the omission to provide the Mesopotamian Commission with

- (1) Telegram No. H. 6022 of 3rd July 1915 and
- (2) Telegram No. H. 9125 of 14th November 1915.

I understand that the Commission are much perturbed by these omissions and blame me for them! If that is so I must in justice to myself explain the omissions.

When I was called on to prepare papers I recognized the importance of exercising a careful selection so as not to flood the commission with a mass of unimportant or irrelevant papers I therefore at the expense of much time and labour personally examined all the files in the War Section of this Office and ticked off every document that I thought might be useful to the Commission for the purposes of their investigation.

Telegram (1) was not among those papers. It was dealt with in the 'General Registry' as a matter connected with the deficiency of the Medical Service in India. Anyhow when a year later I had to collate the Mesopotamian papers I had, not unnaturally, forgotten this particular telegram, while it never occurred to me to search the General Registry

19

Registry as all War business was ordinarily dealt with in the War Section under my special supervision.

I now find that on the 6th July 1915 that telegram was forwarded under my signature to the War Office with reference to the requirements of India, and the War Office reply was to the effect "that 16 Lieutenants Royal Army Medical Corps will be sent to India."

I trust that this explanation will satisfy the Commission, and we can of course if desired send you the two letters in question.

As regards (2) I can only suppose the omission was accidental or that I omitted it as irrelevant to the objects of the Enquiry which I understood to be connected with the Military disaster and the collapse of the Transport and Medical arrangements on the Tigris. A discussion in November 1915 regarding a railway to Nasiriyeh on the Euphrates did not seem to me to have much bearing on those questions. If every aspect of the campaign has to be investigated it will entail the submission of an enormous mass of additional documents. I believe that I submitted every essential paper in the War Section, but if you have any doubt the best course will be for you to come over here and examine our papers when I think you will be satisfied that unless I had used some discrimination the Commission would

have

have been flooded with irrelevant matter.

I did my best to save you trouble and I can only express my regret to Lord George and the Commissioners if I failed to meet their requirements. I beg that you will put this letter before them.

Yours sincerely,

Edmund Barton

File

20

4

INDIA OFFICE.

WHITEHALLS S.W.

Oct 2 15th 1916.

My dear Mr Duff

With reference to the omission to provide the Mesopotamian Commission with

(1) Tel gram no H 6022 of 3.7.15 and

(2) " " H 9125 of 14.11.15

I understand that the Commission are much perturbed by these omissions and blame me for ~~introducing~~ them! If that is so I must in justice to myself explain the omissions.

When I was called on to prepare papers I recognized the importance of exercising a careful selection so as not to flood the Commission with a mass of unimportant or irrelevant papers. I therefore at the expense of much time and labour personally examined all the files in the War Section of this

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,
Military Department,
India Office,
London, S.W.

and the following reference quoted:—

M. 40767.

TELEPHONE: LO. Extension No. _____

Telegraphic Address:
RETAXANDUM, LONDON.

INDIA OFFICE,

24

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W.

9th October 1916.

Secret

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 29th September No.D.38, I am directed to forward for the information of the Mesopotamia Commission a copy of the marginally noted

From General Officer Commanding Force "D" dated 5th August 1915.
From Government of India dated 15th November 1915.
To Government of India, dated 17th July 1916
From Government of India dated 24th July "

telegraphic correspondence on the subject of the construction of Railways in Mesopotamia. In addition

to these telegrams certain others have recently been received from the Government of India on the same subject for transmission to Mr. J.B.Brunyate, C.S.I., C.I.E., and containing information which he will place before the Commission when he appears before it. Mr. Brunyate proposes to hand these telegrams in at the time of his examination and they are therefore not included in the collection now sent.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. G. B. Anand

The Secretary,
Mesopotamia Commission,
28 Abingdon Street,
Westminster.

21945.

R.M.

2 76

25

26

6

Sept. 19th 1916.

20 8 1916

Dear Sir,

In reply to your telephone message of this morning, please find enclosed copy of first corrections which you made in your evidence.

I shall be much obliged if you would return this copy with the other, as soon as corrected.

General Sir Edmund Barrow
c/o Mrs. Walsley-Butler
Milestone
Co. Louth

Sir Edmund Barrow

E. Barrow

28 8 1916

The Assistant Secretary begs to
acknowledge with thanks the receipt
of General Sir Edmund Barrow's
second letter to-day, with Proof of
2nd. Day's evidence.

General Sir Edmund Barrow
c/o Mrs. Woolsey-Butler
Milestown
Co. Louth

Handed to Sec. E. Bannan

Rd. 28.8.16
Ack 28.8.16

28

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL S.W.

27/8/16

Dear Duff

Herewith Proof of 2nd
Day's evidence. I hope the
directions are legible and suitable
a letter admissible.

If you should want to write to me
while I am away my address will
be c/o Mr's Woolley-Butler
Milestone
Co Louth
Ireland

Yours sincerely

E G Bannan

11
Adumby ^{Rd. 28.8.16}
ack. 28.8.16

29

INDIA OFFICE

WHITEHALL S.W.

D. D

26th Aug 5

Dear Mr Duff

I return herewith the
Proof of 1st Day's Examination
and I will try and send the 2nd
Day's Proof on Monday before I leave.
The corrections I have made are
chiefly verbal, grammatical or
explanatory. eg. p 38. "garrison duty"
not "garrison relief" which is gibberish.
I may have actually said 'relief of the garrison'
but my best 'garrison duty' expresses the
meaning of my copy

In question 75 the Admiral made
an obvious slip which I have corrected
Shots (marks) for Karno.

In P4 and P5 I made a statement
which I later corrected. I have
therefore added a footnote

at Q 125 and 126. I made a gross
error, which I have put right in a
footnote

Q & A 462. I am unable to correct
intelligibly. I suppose ^{Safer} he was talking
interrogatorily and that I replied
casually - Yes there were so many
Divisions, meaning that there was no

Real copy

I am going

which I

wanted

Real Corps organization

I am going away for 3 weeks after
which I am at your service if
wanted.

Yrs sincerely
E. J. Bama

Handled by Sir E. B. ...

33

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO Viceroy, ARMY
DEPARTMENT.

21/8/16

N/34909.

1701.

Please telegraph for information of Mesopotamian
Commission total strength of effectives, combatants only,
in Mesopotamia on following dates.

1st December	1914.
1st May	1915.
1st September	1915.
1st October	1915.
1st November	1915.
1st December	1915.
1st January	1916.
1st February	1916.

Also total officers and men of Indian Volunteer
Corps employed in the field out of India since ~~was~~ began.

Any further communication on this subject
should be addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,
Military Department,
India Office,
London, S.W.

and the following reference quoted :—

M. 34470.

TELEPHONE: LO. Extension No. _____

Telegraphic Address :
RETAXANDUM, LONDON.

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W.

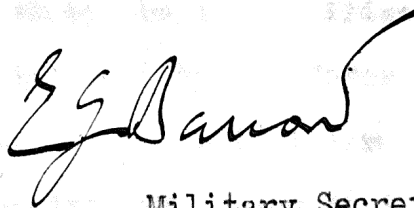
19th August 1916.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 17th August No.B.23, on the subject of the reports made by Colonel Sir George Buchanan and Surgeon General Macneese, I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have been requested, by telegraph, to despatch copies of any reports to this country.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



General

Military Secretary.

The Secretary,

Mesopotamia Commission,

28, Abingdon Street,

Westminster.

17630.

Aug. 17. 1916.

Sir,

I am desired by the Chairman of the above Commission to say that he understands that some time ago Sir George Buchanan, Chairman of the Port Trust at Rangoon, was sent by the Government of India to Basra, to advise and report on the Port and Railway facilities.

Lord George Hamilton also gathers from the papers which have been submitted by the India Office, that Surgeon General Macneece was also sent by the Government of India to Mesopotamia to report on the medical arrangements there,

Lord George desires me to say that he would be glad to be supplied with copies of Sir George Buchanan's report and Surgeon-General Macneece's report above referred to.

It would be convenient if twelve copies of each document could be supplied for the use of the Commission.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State
Military Department
India Office.

copy

38

36

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

16th Aug 15

Dear Mr Duff

On the 4th Inst we sent you a list of sick and wounded Officers of the Indian Army from Mesopotamia now in England

The list contains something like 150 names and unless you want to select these from at random, it may be useful if I suggest certain names to you as officers whose welfare might be useful.

57

Doubtless there are many others
but presumably you don't want a
crowd.

Majr Genl Sir G F Young husband ^{May 1915}

Colonel Clinio

14 March 1915

" " Uery

Sept 1915

" " White I.M.S.

Indian med source
Jan 16 1915

Gt Col

Giffard I.M.S.

Dec. 1915

Majr Grant V.C.

Jan 15

Capt^r Plowden

March 15

" " MacKenzie

Apr 16

Rev Brown

Yes indeed

E G Dumas

B.11.

Copy

38

Telephone. Victoria 4066.

Referring to Letter M.33409.

MESOPOTAMIA COMMISSION.

28. Abingdon Street.

Abingdon Street,
August 15th 1916.

Dear Sir,

I am receipt of your letter of the 12th inst.

and thank you for same.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State for India,

Military Department,

India Office,

London, S.W.

Your obedient servant,

39

Room 35 Local Government Board

MESOPOTAMIA COMMISSION.

Mesopotamia Commission

28, Abingdon Street.

August 13th 1916.

Dear Sir

Dear Sir Edmund Barrow,

I am requested by Lord George Hamilton the Chairman of the above Committee to ask you if you would be so good as to have the papers etc. you take to Board of Expeditionary Forces

Lord George Hamilton asked me to say that he is quite willing, if it suits your convenience, for you to have one or two assistants in the room with you to help you find papers etc. I ought perhaps to add that as the Commission have practically decided to take all evidence on oath, it will probably be necessary for me to "swear" you before you give your evidence.

If there is any other way in which I can assist you, will you please let me know.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary.

Sir Edmund Barrow,

Military Secretary.

India Office.

S.W.g

Aug 12 1916

Copy 40

Room 35. Local Government Board.

Mesopotamia Commission

Dear Sir,

I am requested by Lord George Hamilton, the Chairman of the above Committee to ask you if you would be so good as to have the papers etc of the A. B and C Expeditionary forces detailed on paper for the use of the committee

I beg to remain Sir,

Your obedient servant -

James Vignall

Assistant Secretary

May Sir.

Sir. Ed Baines

Military Secretary

India Office

*Any further communication on this subject
should be addressed to—*

*The Under Secretary of State for India,
Military Department,
India Office,
London, S.W.*

and the following reference quoted:—

M. 33409.

TELEPHONE: I.O. Extension No. _____

*Telegraphic Address:
RETAXANDUM, LONDON.*

Sk.

a

41

ENS

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.

12th August, 1916.

Dear Mr. Duff,

We have received a telegram from the Government of India stating that a supply of copies of the Report of the recent Commission on Medical &c. arrangements in Mesopotamia, together with the Commander in Chief's memorandum on the subject, were sent home by the mail of 28th July. Copies of the Appendices containing the evidence were despatched by the P. & O. S.S. "Mandala" which left Bombay on 6th August.

Yours sincerely,

E. G. Duff

General,
Military Secretary.

R. G. Duff Esq.,

Local Government Board.

17090.