



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

103

Dated, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Dear Mr. Duff.

I have received your D/O letter No. E/49 dated 8th instant, with which you kindly forwarded Lord George Hamilton's letter of November 7th and enclosure.

I am preparing my statement on the lines indicated and will forward it to you in draft form in due course.

I find there are various additional minor headings which I shall have to touch upon, so it will not be possible for me to confine myself strictly to the headings given in Lord George's enclosure to his letter.

Sincerely yours

Beauchamp Duff.

R.G.Duff, Esq.



D/S

Adk 9 11 16  
Room No 53, 2 Floor 184  
Hun. Works Bldg.  
King Charles St.

Dear Mr. Duff.

Mr. Beauchamp Duff  
directs me to forward a copy of  
this paper on Old Stone. The machine,  
as it is understood from a telephone message,  
from Mr. Fitzwilliam that this paper  
is required by the Commission.

Telephone : VICTORIA : 4066.

Mesopotamia Commission,  
22 Abingdon Street,

109

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

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Dated, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1916



D/7.

Secret

Gen. W. Duff.

Captain Ross has shown me the Table of headings of my papers which you kindly prepared.

I have been into the matter and I suggest that the papers should be grouped as in the typewritten Table which I forward herewith; this you will see is very similar to your Table.

I would add that the Table is subject to amendment as I may find it necessary to add further papers.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

B. C. Duff Esq.

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Telephone : VICTORIA : 4066.

E/49

109  
Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

8.11.1916.

Dear Sir Beauchamp Duff,

A propos of our interview on Monday last, I think you would like to see the enclosed copy of a letter which Lord George has sent to me.

With regard to your papers, I will send them round to the Commission in divisions grouped as in the typewritten table, which you forwarded. I quite understand that the table is subject to amendment.

With kind regards,

General Sir Beauchamp Duff

His Majesty's Works Office,

King Charles Street. S.W.

t

Room No.53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office, 110  
King Charles Street,  
S.W.

Dated, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Secret

Dear Mr. Duff.

I find that the statement which I brought with me regarding River Craft contains a certain number of errors, and in view of the importance of the subject I am anxious that it should be free of such.

I am therefore desirous of having this paper reprinted and should be very grateful if this could be done in your office. My own staff will do the necessary proof correcting if you would kindly have the proofs sent to my Assistant Military Secretary.

When the printing is finished would you kindly retain the fifteen copies required by the Commission and let me have ten for my own use.

The graphics might perhaps be removed from the present copies and rebound in the reprint.

I also enclose a draft of a supplement to the River Craft paper and should be very grateful if this also could be printed off and 25 copies sent to me. I need not trouble you to have the telegrams connected with this supplement printed as, on receipt of the 25 copies, I will bind them up with the telegrams which are all ~~ready~~ printed and which I have ready.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G.Duff Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Telephone : VICTORIA : 4066.

Mesopotamia Commission,  
28, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster.

7th November, 1916.

Dear Sir Beauchamp Duff

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt  
of your letters D4 and D5, both of 6th November, 1916, and  
of the enclosed papers.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff

His Majesty's Works Office,

King Charles Street. S.W.

~~NOV~~

File

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Letter

Room No. 53, 2nd Floor.

Attn. War Office,  
King Charles St.

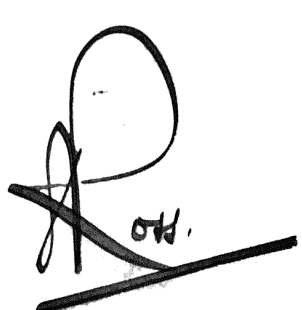
7. 21. 16.

Dear Mr Duff.

The list of Sir Mauchant  
Duff's papers, serially numbered, has been  
retyped as requested by you & forward  
a couple of copies herewith.

The schedule is also being

sent to you

Yours,  
  
R. O. H.

- 15. .. . . . supplies, other than Food and Forage.
- 16. .. . . . S. & T. Corps Personnel.
- 17. .. . . . Land Transport.



- 20. Remarks on précis of War Diaries, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. ( Two volumes).

Military Secretary's Branch.

- 21. The contribution of India to the War as regards British Officers.

Medical Branch.

- 22. Papers are not yet completed, having been unavoidably delayed.

Ordnance Branch.

- 23. Memorandum by the Director General of Ordnance on the Contribution of India to the War.

Military Works Branch.

- 24. Officer and Permanent Subordinate Establishments.
- 25. Temporary Subordinate Personnel and Artizans engaged for Works Directorate.
- 26. Labour Corps.
- 27. Electrical and Mechanical Installations.
- 28. Water Supply.
- 29. Supply of Engineering Stores and Materials.
- 30. Mechanical Transport.

Army Department.

- 31. Summary of papers dealing with the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report upon the organization for dealing with the wounded and sick in Mesopotamia.
- 32. Memorandum by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia.
- 33. Review of the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the Medical arrangements in Mesopotamia.
- 34. Summary of correspondence relative to the Impressment of vessels.
- 35. .. . . . . the Administration of the Port of Basrah and measures for the control of shipping traffic in Mesopotamia.
- 36. .. . . . . Surveying operations and River Conservancy in Mesopotamia.
- 37. .. . . . . R.I.M. and Warrant Officers.



38. Summary of correspondence relative to the institution of workshops in Mesopotamia for the repair of river craft.
39. Summary of papers dealing with the transfer of the control of operations in Mesopotamia from the India Office to the War Office.
40. Memorandum on the Contribution by India to the War in Men, Material and Money.
41. Private correspondence between General Sir Beauchamp Duff and Earl Kitchener.

for the use of  
His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief

when giving evidence before the

Royal Commission on the Campaign in Mesopotamia.

Secret.

List of the Various Papers prepared at  
Army Headquarters, India,  
for the use of  
His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief,  
when giving evidence before the  
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*Dist General & Accounting Dept*  
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Quartermaster General's Branch.

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Military Secretary's Branch.

E ✓ The contribution of India to the War as regards British Officers. 21

Medical Branch.

M Papers are not yet completed, <sup>g</sup> having been unavoidably delayed. 22

Ordnance Branch.

Memorandum by the Director General of Ordnance on the Contribution of India to the War. 23

Military Works Branch.

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- E 4. Electrical and Mechanical Installations. 27
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Army Department.

- M 2. Memorandum by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia. 32
- M 3. Review of the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia. 33
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Private Correspondence between Gen. Sir B. Duff & Earl Kitchener.

NO.D / 5.

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Ad

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

Dated, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Secret

Dear Mr Duff

In accordance with a telephonic message from Mr. Fitzwilliam to my Assistant Military Secretary, I forward for the information of the Commission copies of certain telegrams to and from Sir John Nixon regarding the exercise of economy in the expenditure of Ordnance Stores.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff General

R.G.Duff, Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Diary No. 31381.

Telegram P. No. S-31381, dated 20th December 1915.

Despatched at 10-30 p.m.

From. The Commander-in-Chief in India

To. Sir John Nixon, Basrah.

120

3 sets.

15 by Theo.

I am being caused great anxiety by the extent of your demands for ordnance stores. Stores of this nature fall under two heads :- (1) those which must be imported; (2) those which can be produced in India. In some cases stocks are exhausted and in all cases are low, and, if your demands continue on the present scale it will be impossible for the supply of these stores, whose manufacture takes a long time, to keep pace with them, although all possible sources of supply of those which can be procured in India are being developed and tapped. It is impossible for the home authorities, having regard to demands from other theatres, to meet our demands for imported stores sufficiently quickly or to help us regarding many stores which are usually produced in India. You must, therefore, be prepared to face delays in having your demands complied with. In the expenditure of these stores you must, therefore, exercise every possible economy. The circumstances in which great wastage has occurred and your conditions generally are realised by me, but at the same time I desire that very strict orders should be issued by you to all units impressing upon them the necessity for the very greatest care in the curtailment of their demands to absolute necessities in the preservation of their equipment and in being as economical as possible in the expenditure of gun ammunition, particularly of the higher natures.

I am of the opinion that the present rate of expenditure could be reduced without any loss of efficiency if all officers would realise the very great difficulties in supplying munitions.

May 10, 1955

Telegram F-10-1150-04, dated 20th December 1954.  
Subject: 9 para, Summary 10-1150-04, 20th Dec 1954.  
From: Mr John Finn, Durrat.  
Re: Mr Percy Lane, Durrat.

Following is proposed. Your request to increase the  
equipment to Form 10, shows the earlier form, but is  
there, as far as I know, no limit of time. During the  
late operations the various losses incurred owing to the  
instability of the air transport or lack the field of  
battle particularly, after the transport equipment, and  
to the equipment, before a general situation form, as  
yet. Further losses is not yet essential have occurred  
in fact, and until that point is achieved, must continue  
to occur. I have based my demands on your F-10 ~~estimate~~  
cartridges, engineering tools, artillery, supplies, sign  
writing and telephone equipment, on the approximate  
losses known ~~give give~~ a percentage to cover subsequent  
loss which is bound to occur until relief of fact. I  
based my demands for an increase in the reserve amount  
100 per cent to be expended in Bangladesh principally  
on the fact that it takes a month to six weeks after  
ammunition has been ordered for by telegram for it to  
reach the advanced point of operations from India, and  
not purely on grounds of anticipated expenditure in  
battle. Above is the main reason, but, obviously,  
the actual expenditure on the field of battle is  
controlled by tactical considerations. Therefore I  
cannot comply with your suggestion to lay down a fixed  
scale for use in action. But I may be relied upon to  
exercise every care in the expenditure of ammunition  
and in the maintenance of equipment, and to base my  
demands for both ammunition and equipment on the bare  
necessities of the military situation in this country.

This refers to your S-11501-Private, dated 20th  
instant.

Diary No.32174

Telegram P.No.1108-5-Q, dated 24th December 1915.

Despatched 1 p.m., received 25th December 1915.

From. Sir John Nixon, Basrah,

To. Sir Percy Lake, Delhi.

Personal. When Commander-in-Chief personally cables me through you in future, shall be pleased if you make that fact quite clear, as your private telegram of 20th December, No.S-31381, contained nothing to signify it emanated directly from the Commander-in-Chief. It was signed "Chief of the General Staff". Kindly let the Commander-in-Chief know that the necessary orders, as directed in your cable to which this is a reply, have been issued by me and assure him again that every possible means will be used, and have been used, here to husband ammunition and preserve equipment.

This refers to your personal telegram of 23rd December, No.D S-31802.

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Arch. 3. 11. 16.

No. D / 4

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*Beauchamp*

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

Dated, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Dear Mr. Duff.

In continuation of my letter No. D/2, dated 1st November 1916, I forward one copy of each of the papers mentioned in the attached list.

I should like the papers marked with a x on the list to be placed before the Commission; as regards the remainder, I can furnish the required number of copies of any of the papers that the Commission may care to see.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G.Duff, Esq.

Commission

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LIST OF PAPERS.

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  - X 2. The contribution of India to the war as regards British Officers.
  3. Officers and Permanent Subordinate Establishment.
  4. Temporary Subordinate Personnel and Artizans engaged for Works Directorate.
  - X 5. Labour Corps.
  - X 6. Electrical and Mechanical Installations.
  7. Water Supply.
  8. Supply of Engineering stores and materials
  - X 9. Mechanical Transport.
  10. Summary of correspondence relative to Royal Indian Marine and Warrant Officers.
  11. Summary of correspondence relative to the Impressment of vessels.
  - X 12. Summary of correspondence relative to Surveying Operations and River Conservancy in Mesopotamia
  - X 13. Summary of correspondence relative to the Administration of the Port of Basrah and measures for the control of shipping traffic in Mesopotamia.
  - X 14. Summary of correspondence relative to the institution of workshops in Mesopotamia for the repair of river craft.
  15. Summary of papers dealing with the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report upon the organization for dealing with the wounded and sick in Mesopotamia.
  16. Summary of papers dealing with the transfer of the control of operations in Mesopotamia from the India Office to the War Office.
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in
- (Cubas:  
A.W.D.)

No. D / 3.

Arch. 3. 11. 16.

12.15.  
Room No.53, 2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,

S.W.

Dated, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916.

*Dear Mr. Fitzwilliam.*

Please refer to your demi official letter No.E/28 dated November 1st which I have shown to Sir Beauchamp Duff.


In reply I am directed to forward fourteen copies of each of the papers mentioned in the list attached to Sir Beauchamp Duff's letter, No.D / 2 of November 1st to Mr. Duff, with the exception of the private correspondence between Lord Kitchener and Sir Beauchamp. (Yellow books, No.9 on list.).

With regard to that collection I am to explain that we have no spare copies, and I am therefore to ask if Mr. Duff could very kindly allow it to be printed up in your office. This would be in accordance with my conversation with you which it is understood Mr. Duff concurred in. I am to add that the necessary proof correcting can be done by me.

Sir Beauchamp would be greatly obliged if Mr. Duff would kindly let him have 10 copies of the collection in question when printed up.

J.Fitzwilliam Esq.

Asst. Secy. to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

*42*  


*(Copy: A.W.S.)*

E/28

November 1st 1916.

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Dear Captain Ross,

2nd Floor,  
His Majesty's Works Office,  
King Charles Street,  
S.W.

Could you possibly let us have fourteen more copies of the 10 papers which you sent over to Mr. Duff to-day, as we should like to circulate them to the Commission in the course of to-morrow's (Thursday) session?

I understand from Captain Ross that in the  
**Faithfully yours,**  
you require one copy of each of the papers, which were prepared at Army Headquarters, India, for my use when giving evidence before the Commission.

**Assistant Secretary.**

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

Commission.

I shall have a further series of papers to send you shortly.

*Thank you  
Beauchamp Duff*

B.S. Duff, Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

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No. D / 2.

128

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

S.W.

Dated, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1916

Sever

Dear Mr. Duff.

I understand from Captain Ross that in the first instance you require one copy of each of the papers, which were prepared at Army Headquarters, India, for my use when giving evidence before the Commission.

I therefore send under separate cover one copy of each of the papers mentioned in the enclosed list.

I should like all these placed before the Commission.

I shall have a further series of papers to send you shortly.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G.Duff, Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

LIST OF PAPERS.

1. Short memorandum on the inception, difficulties and results of the Mesopotamian Campaign.
2. Orders received by the Government of India with special reference to preparations keeping pace with policy.
3. Summary of papers dealing with ~~policy~~ military policy in Mesopotamia from the commencement of operations to the capture of Kut-al-Amarah, September 29th, 1915.
4. Summary of papers connected with the advance from Kut-al-Amarah on Baghdad 1915.
5. Summary of papers dealing with military policy in Mesopotamia during the period between the battle of Ctesiphon, 22nd November 1915, and the end of July 1916.
6. Statement showing the distribution of units on the Indian Establishment at various periods during the war.
7. Diagram showing the strength of Force "D" from November 6th 1914 to August 31st 1916.
8. Delimitation of areas of responsibility for Intelligence between the War Office and Army Headquarters, India.
9. Private correspondence between General Sir Beauchamp Duff and Earl Kitchener.
10. Memorandum showing the units and draft reinforcements sent to Mesopotamia, 1914 - 1916.

H.G. Duff, Esq.

Secretary

  
Secret.

No. 2/1.

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

130  
Ok. 1.11.16

S.W.

Dated, 3/10<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

Dear Mr. Duff.

Mr. Fitzwilliam informed my Assistant Military Secretary that the Commission wished to see "the instructions sent by India to the General Officer Commanding, Indian Expeditionary Force "D", in December 1915, not to use high explosive shell brought with batteries from France."

I forward herewith a collection of telegrams on the subject which I think must be those to which the Commission refer.

Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.

R.G. Duff, Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Diary No. 32353

Telegram P No. 32353, dated 20th December 1915. 32353 31  
 Despatched 5 p.m. 32353, dated 20th December 1915. 132

From. The Commander-in-Chief in India,  
 To. The Secretary, War Office, London.  
 To. The General Officer Commanding, Force "D".

Will you kindly let me know if the high explosive ammunition which has destroyed so many guns in France and that which was brought to Force "D" by the 18 PF. Q.F. batteries are of the same unreliable description. I cannot run the risk of the destruction of guns and carriages on service by premature action of high explosive shell, because the stocks of these guns and carriages are very limited. Do you, under the circumstances, consider the use of the above ammunition prudent? Your advice should be telegraphed urgently please.

This is with reference to your telegram of  
 December 20th, NO. 11223 ( Dy. NO. S-3141/5 ).



Diary No. 32354

Telegram P.No. S-32354, dated 28th December 1915. 132

Despatched 5 p.m.

From. The Chief of the General Staff.

To. The General Officer Commanding, Force "D".

Immediate instructions should please be issued prohibiting the use of the 18 pr. Q.F. high explosive ammunition brought by batteries from France, until the receipt of further orders. Doubts exist regarding the reliability of this ammunition. It is feared that this may be the same pattern which has destroyed so many guns in France owing to premature action.

War Office have been referred to on the question and a further communication will be made on receipt of reply.

P.O. This refers to my telegram No. ~~S-31033~~ 31033, dated 17th December.



Diary No. 32007

Diary No. 32594

135  
134

Telegram P.No.1102-11-Q, dated 29th December 1915  
Despatched 12-15 p.m., received 12-15 a.m. 30th Dec. 1915  
From. The General Officer Commanding, Force "D".  
To. The Chief of the General Staff.

Your 32354.

Action is being taken as suggested by you, but I would like to explain that I spoke ~~personally~~ personally to the O.C., 9th Brigade, R.F.A., Lieut. Col. Musgrave, when he arrived here from France, and was told by him that the 18 pr. H.E. shell issued to him and used by him in France had given extremely useful results on the enemy and had caused very few burst guns.

It was recommended by him as great damage was produced by H.E. shell charged with T.N.T. with No.100 fuse, and with gaine.

It is essential that, in order to enable me to cope effectively with the elaborate entrenchments invariably made by the Turks, I should be supplied with a good proportion of H.E. shells for all 13 pr. and 18 pr. batteries with this force. If, therefore, it is thought that the H.E. shells already issued to batteries from France are not to be relied upon, request must be ~~made~~ made to the War Office to send without delay H.E. shells which can be relied upon.

Does India not manufacture any H.E. shells for these batteries?

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Diary No. 32667

Telegram P.No. 32667, dated 30th December 1915.  
Despatched 2-55 p.m.  
From. The Chief of the General Staff,  
To. The General Officer Commanding, Force D<sup>n</sup>.

Clear the line.

War Office telegraph that the 18 pr. high explosive shell sent from France to you may be used with reasonable safety provided they are fitted with a felt wad under the gaine, which is a recent introduction to lessen the chance of a premature occurring. Therefore please order all high explosive 18 pr. ammunition, <sup>f</sup>wether sent as a reserve or with batteries, to be examined immediately. It must not be used unless examination shows it to be fitted with the felt wad. Report by cable please result of examination. Should a burst in bore of gun occur if high explosive shell is used under above stipulation, batteries are now to be instructed to discontinue its further use at once.

<sup>f</sup>Satisfactory patterns of either 13 pr. or 18 pr. high explosive ammunition have not yet been evolved, though the number of prematures that have occurred recently in France has diminished. You have been informed before that India cannot manufacture these shells with their special filling, fuses and gaines which are used with them and designed to meet the emergency in Europe.

5,000 18 pr. high explosive shell, which War Office report are being despatched to Bombay, and are, presumably, of a reliable pattern, will be despatched to you as soon as received.

We are asking ~~the~~ War Office again to despatch for your 13 pr. battery, 2,000 high explosive shell.

This refers to your 1102-11-Q of 29th December.

NO. C/1

Room No. 51, 2nd Floor

War Office, London

Diary No. 32668

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Telegram P.No.S-32668, dated 30th December 1915

Despatched 3-30 p.m.

From The Commander-in-Chief in India.

To The Secretary, War Office, London.

Kindly order for the battery in Force "D" the immediate supply to Bombay of 2,000 complete rounds of 13 pr. high explosive shell.

The information given in your telegram of December 20th, No.11523-M.G.O. (Diary No.S.32592), is also noted, and action in accordance therewith is being taken.

H.G. Staff, Secy.

Secretary to the Executive Royal Commission

*Asst. Secy. R.C. Staff*

King Charles Street

*Fili*

NO. C/1  
Room No. 53, 2nd Floor  
H.M's Works Office,  
King Charles Street, <sup>137</sup>  
S.W.

Dated, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1916.

*Dear Mr. Duff.*

I am obliged for the papers which you kindly forwarded with your letter No. E/1 of 25th October.

In comparing the papers with the list that accompanied your letter I notice that the papers given under serial Nos. 48, 121, 122 and 123 are not among those which I received.

*Sincerely yours  
Beauchamp Duff.*

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

*No. 48 Received*  
*[Signature]*  
*31/x/16*

EEI

October 25th 1916.

Dear Sir Beauchamp Duff,

I have submitted to the Chairman your request to be allowed to see the evidence already submitted to the Commission, and in reply I am directed to forward you here- with copies of such evidence in accordance with the list which which accompanies this letter.

I should explain that the copies of the oral evidence are uncorrected proofs, and also that I will send you copies of future evidence as it comes to hand.

I am to add that you will, of course, understand that the Documents now submitted to you are highly confidential, are forwarded to you solely for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of your evidence, and are to be returned to the Commission after your evidence has been taken.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff.  
Room 52  
H.M.'s Works Office  
King Charles Street.

D/90

Room No. 52-53, 2nd. Floor,

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H.M.'s Works Office,

October 21st 1916. Street,

Dear Captain Ross,

Since seeing you yesterday, I have shown the list of papers you kindly gave me to Mr. Duff, who thinks it will be as well not to have them printed until he has seen the papers themselves; so would you be so kind as to let us have one copy only of all the papers as soon as you receive them?

The work is not done. If you could authorize this could you kindly let me know. Drafts of such work could be initialled by Mr. Beauchamp or myself.

Our telephones are not up yet, directly they are ready I will let you know our numbers.

Room No. 52-53,  
H.M.'s Works Office,  
King Charles Street.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
[Capt.]  
(Assistant Military Secretary)

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

*[Handwritten note:]*  
Copy of order of Duff  
Papers also



Room No. 52-53, 2nd. Floor,  
H.M.'s Works Office, 140  
King Charles Street,

x. 16.


File

Dear Sir Duff.

Sir Beauchamp Duff directed me to let you know our office address, it is as above.

Sir Beauchamp also directs me to say that we have a certain amount of printing to be done for the Commission and I am to ask if we could have it done through your office. The work is not much. If you could authorize this would you kindly let me know. Drafts of such work would be initialled by Sir Beauchamp or myself.

Our telephones are not up yet, directly they are ready I will let you know our numbers.

Yrs. sincerely  


[Capt.]  
(Assistant Military Secretary.)

When paper home

R.G. Duff, Esq.

Secretary to the Mesopotamia Royal Commission.

Copies of evidence of Duff  
Papers also.

COPIES OF TELEGRAMS BETWEEN  
SIR BEAUCHAMP DUFF & SIR PERCY LAKE.

From Sir Beauchamp Duff, personally

To Sir Percy Lake Commanding Force "D".

No.35420 of 20 January 1916.

Please warn General Cowper that if anything of this sort  
accurs again or I receive any more querulous and petulant  
demands for shipping I shall at once remove him from the  
Force and will refuse him any further employment of any  
kind.

From Sir Percy Lake

To Sir Beauchamp Duff (c)

Personal No - dated Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Delhi

Your personal wire of January 20th No 35420.

I am responsible for my wire No 766 (204)G of 19th. regarding personnel of river craft for it was seen and amended by me, tho' I now observe that it is susceptible of a different interpretation from that which I intended.AAAAA. Last half of message was meant to be read literally as a statement of fact showing serious effect of present river transport situation. AAAA. Nothing in nature of a threat was intended for I fully concur in regarding retention of Kut as of very highest importance.AAAA. I have held back this reply in order to verify reports on which my wire under reference was based.AAAA Facts are as follows: Aylmer is subsisting largely on previously accumulated reserves, taken with him and supplemented as far as possible by supplies pushed up from rear but he is gradually consuming his reserves. AAAA. He has with him a number of vessels which he must retain to transport his baggage food and ammunition and to help

to help in crossing river, otherwise he will be immobilised  
 AAA He can only send vessels back as he empties them, and  
 at present rate the existing vessels at our disposal are  
 not sufficient to enable us to replace the supplies he  
 consumes AAAA If he could reach and relieve Kut he could  
 there afford to empty his vessels and sand them down to be  
 refilled AAA We could then just manage to maintain him and  
 Townshend and reinforcements now between him and Amara  
 plus drafts to replace his casualties, but without other  
 reinforcements. And this does not provide for accidents or  
 losses of vessels which must be expected AAA These facts  
 were in my mind when I said I might be compelled to with-  
 draw from Kut or leave only a smaller force there, for  
 Aylmer's force would be only three divisions not four.  
 Since we cannot under existing conditions and with our  
 reserves depleted as described maintain a fourth division  
 beyond Amara. AAAA. In our calculations we have considered  
 local purchases and help from hired mabelas AAA The solu-  
 tion of the difficulty lies in the arrival here in the near  
 future of fresh river craft from India completely equipped  
 with Captains, engineers and drivers, which ratings we can-  
 not obtain here AAA If all those due reach us we can cope  
 with situation A AA Had Nixon's calculations regarding time  
 fulfilled the present acute situation would not have devel-  
 oped AAA The reserves at the front would not have been  
 depleted before the release of Aylmer's river craft would  
 have ensured replenishment of supplies on a sufficient scale  
 pending arrival of additional shipping expected from India  
 AAA In future justice to General Cowper I have ascertained  
 and feel constrained to make it perfectly clear that all  
 previous telegrams referring to urgent requirements in river  
 craft and personnel were drafted under the orders of my  
 predecessor and were approved by him before despatch with  
 the object of making clear to Army Head Quarters and the  
 Government

the Government of India how acute a situation was developing as regards the supply of troops up the Tigris Line.

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ENB

From Sir Beauchamp Duff

To Sir Percy Lake.

Dated 25th January 1916.

Your personal wire 766/219/Q January 21st

My personal wire 35420 January 20th was written with  
reference to a paraphrase of your 766/204/Q January

19th I have now seen original of last mentioned  
telegram and my telegram above quoted should be  
regarded as cancelled.

(Sir B.Duff's explanation)