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Reference	IOR/L/MIL/17/5/3255
Title	'WAR DIARY. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, INDIA. [...] I.E.F. "D". Volume 23 PART II (From 16th to 30th June 1916)'
Date(s)	21 May 1916-30 Jun 1916 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 volume (133 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	Unknown

About this record

The volume contains a chronological list of brief summaries of papers relating to the activities of the Indian Expeditionary Force D (also known as the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force) between 16 and 30 June 1916. This is accompanied by appendices containing copies and extracts of these papers, which include: telegrams, letters, tables, and memoranda containing instructions and reports.

The volume mostly relates to:

- Reinforcements and supplies for Force D, including: weapons; airplanes; ammunition; clothing; river and sea craft; equipment; animals; and hospital services
- Staff: appointments; recruitment; changes in command; salaries; illnesses; and leave
- Re-organisation of some staff structures
- Processes for sending packages and gifts to troops
- Prisoners of war
- Updates from the Tigris line, especially at Kut [Al-Kut, also rendered as Kut-al-Amarah in text] and Sannaiyat [As Sina'iyat]
- Updates from the Euphrates line, especially at Badar and Nasiriyah
- Activities and movements of Ibn Rashid, Shaikh of Shammar Arabs [Sa'ūd bin 'Abd al-'Azīz]

Āl Rashīd, Emir of Ha'il]

- Intelligence about the Turkish [Ottoman] Army: commanders; plans towards Kermanshah [also rendered in text as Kirmanshah]; possible attacks on Nasiriyah and Serdesht; distributions on the Caucasus and Persian [Iranian] fronts; status in Syria and on the Tigris line
- Communications with the French Army
- 'Friendly Kurds' between Amadia [Amadiya] and Neri
- Arrests of high-level German army officials in Persia
- Functions of the Arab Bureau
- Construction of railways
- Proposals for a modified inspection centre at Fao [Al-Faw] to prevent enemy ships entering the Shatt-al-Arab
- Violence at Karbala [also rendered in text as Kerbella], including copy of a letter describing the events written by inhabitants of Karbala and addressed to the Persian Government and leaders of the Kashgai [Qashqāy] and Bakhtiari [Bakhtiyārī] (ff 85-86).

The volume also includes:

- Appreciations [reports] from the Directorate of Military Operations summarising the situation in Mesopotamia on 19 June (ff 39-41) and 26 June (ff 100-101)
- Distribution of Force D for week commencing 25 June 1916 (ff 90-94).

A summary of the contents of this volume can be found at the start of IOR/L/MIL/17/5/3254.



CONFIDENTIAL.

L/MIL/17/5/3255

WAR DIARY

Serial No. 7

ARMY HEADQUARTERS, INDIA

(F. S. R., Part II, Section 140; and Staff Manual, War, Section 20)

I. E. F. "D."

Volume 23

PART II

(From 16th to 30th June 1916)

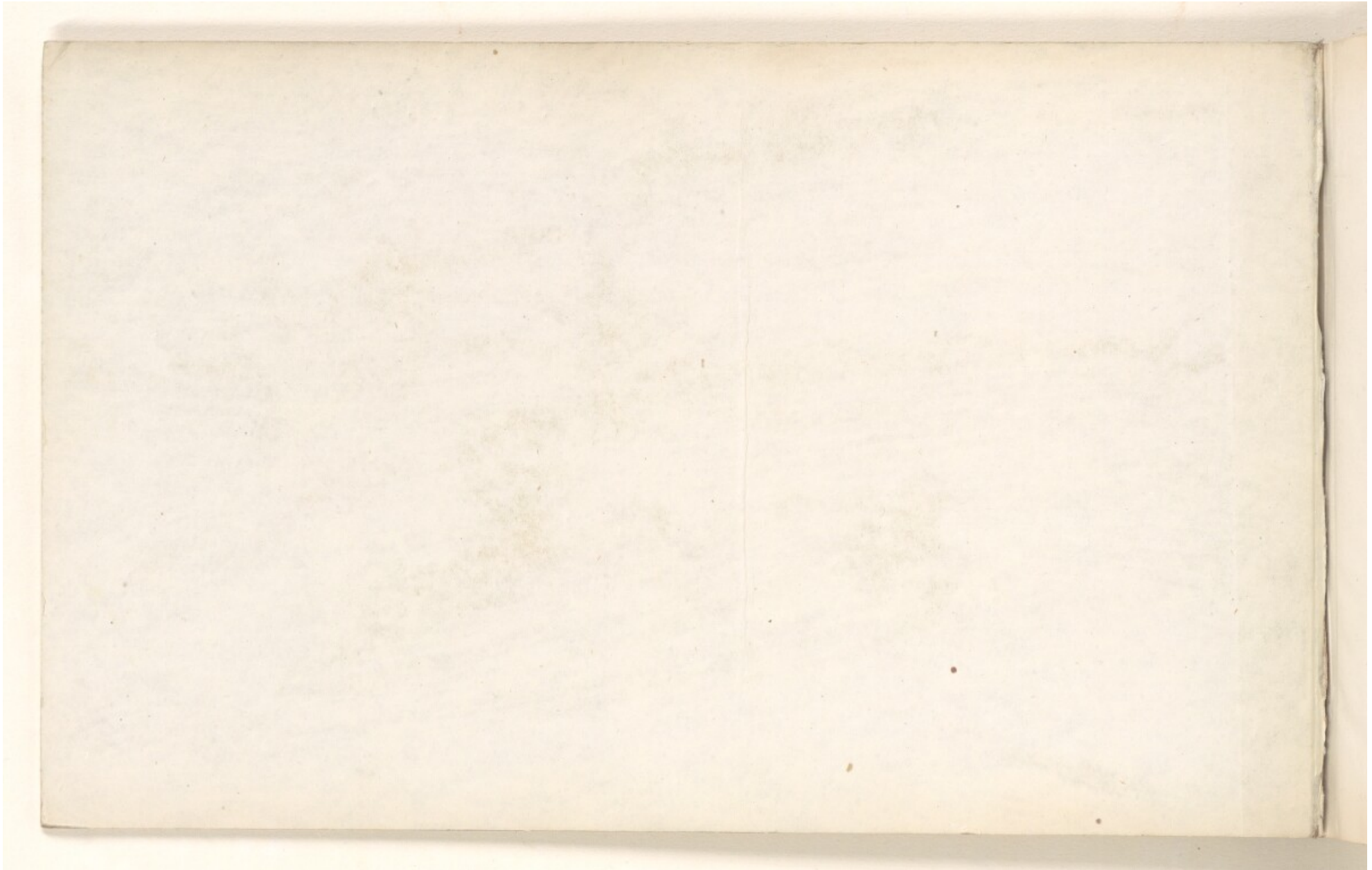


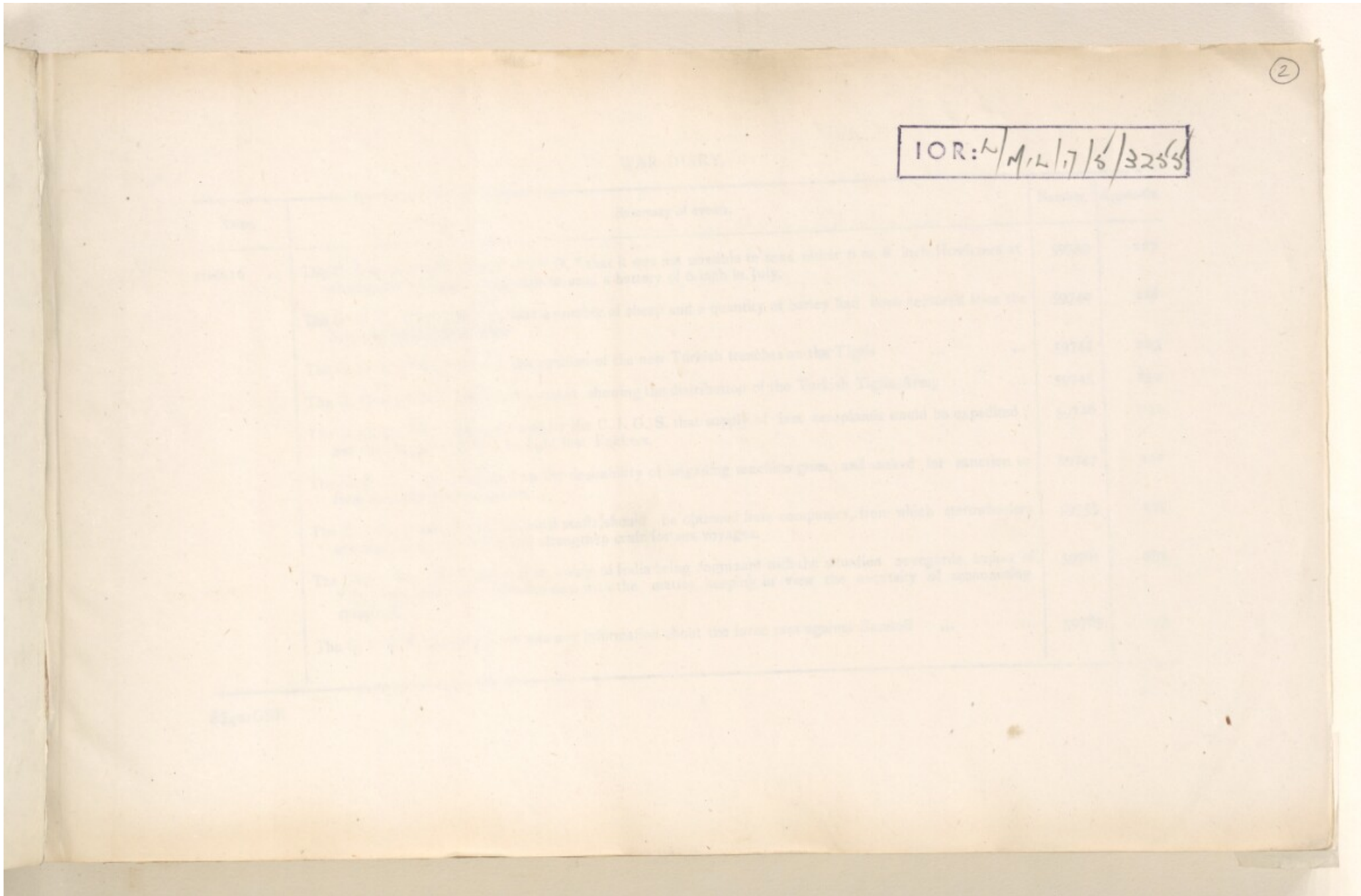


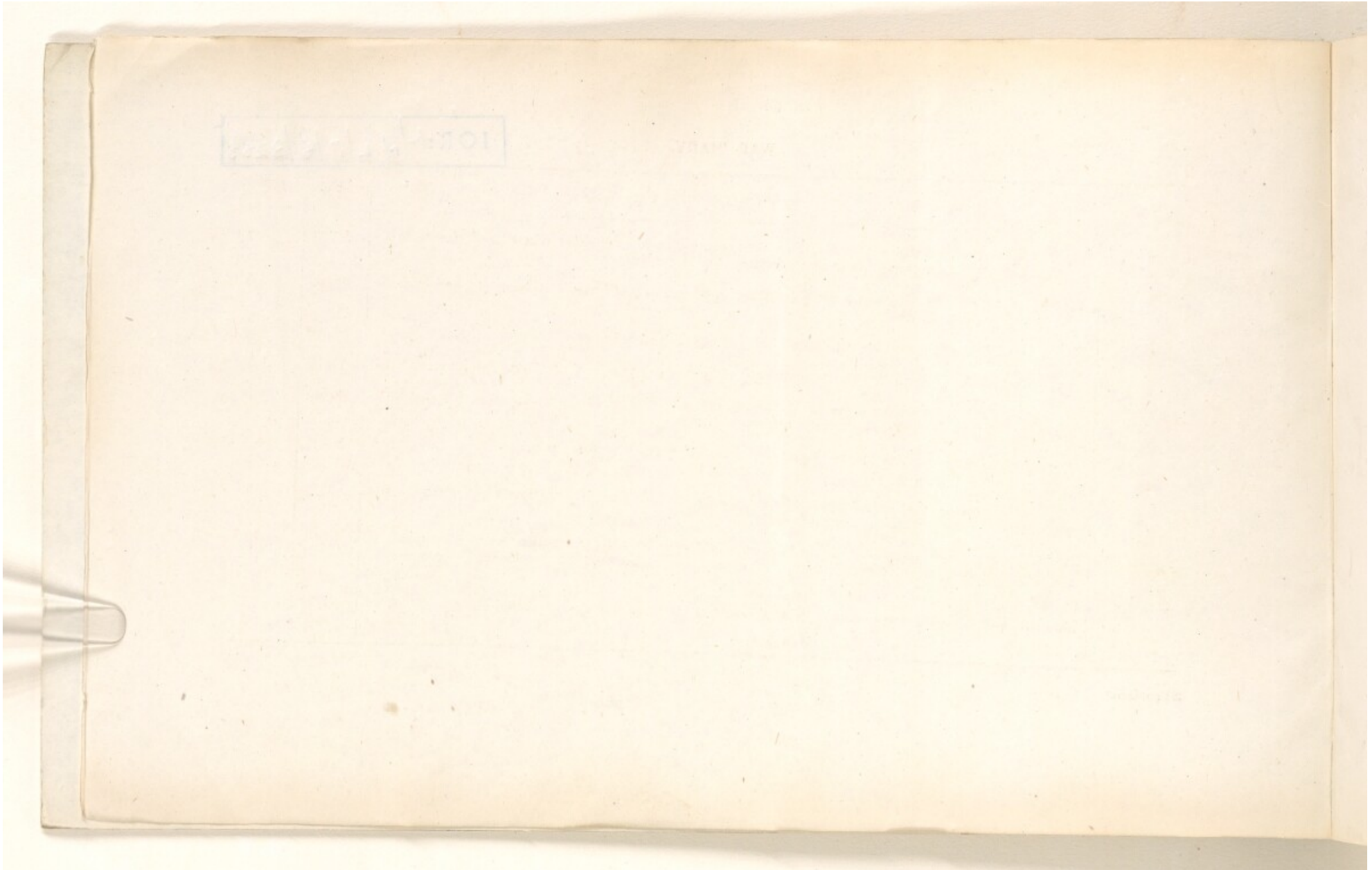














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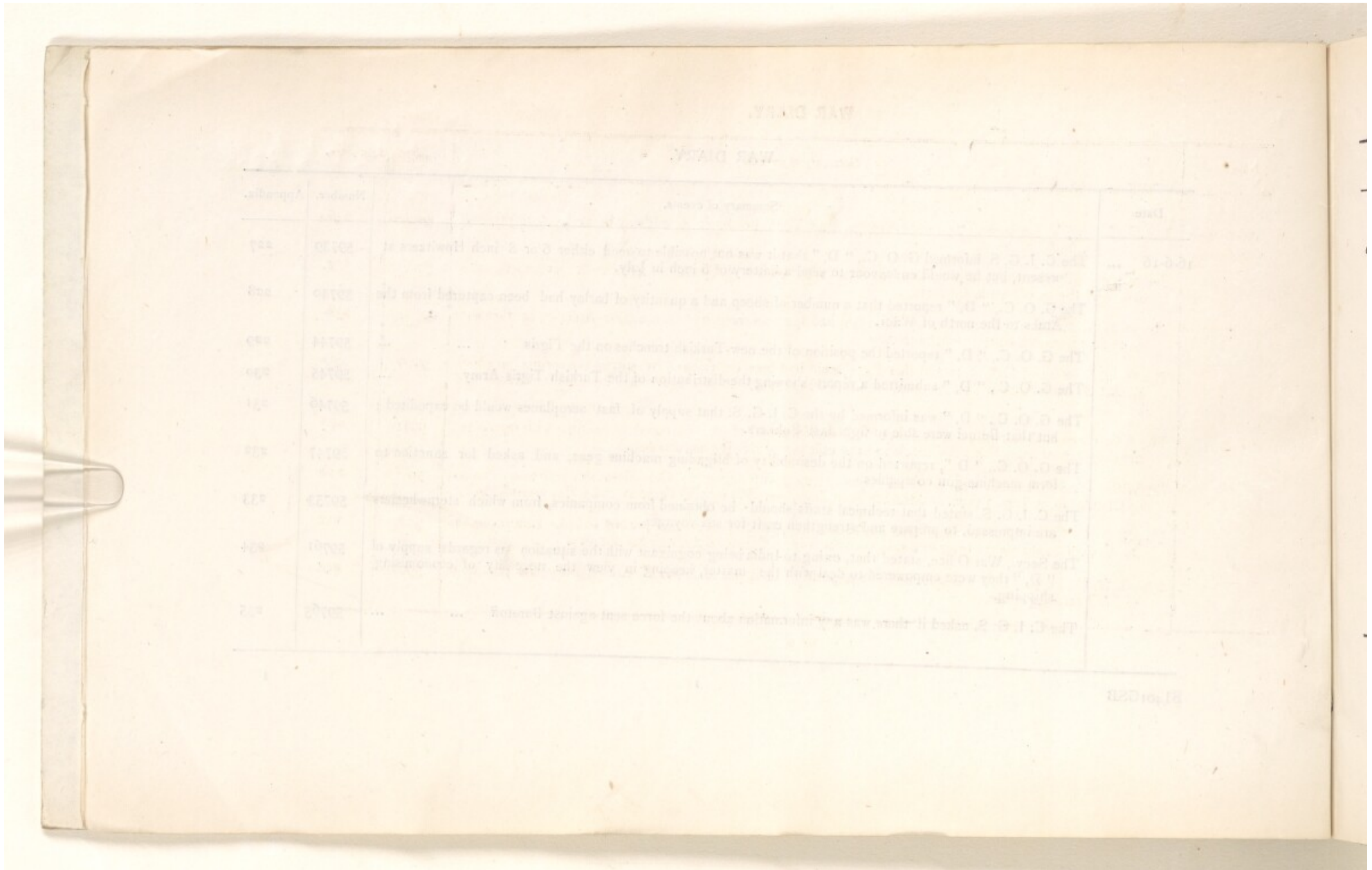
WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
16-6-16 ...	The C. I. G. S. informed G. O. C., " D, " that it was not possible to send either 6 or 8 inch Howitzers at present, but he would endeavour to send a battery of 6 inch in July.	59739	227
	The G. O. C., " D, " reported that a number of sheep and a quantity of barley had been captured from the Arabs to the north of Waai.	59740	228
	The G. O. C., " D, " reported the position of the new Turkish trenches on the Tigris ...	59744	229
	The G. O. C., " D, " submitted a report showing the distribution of the Turkish Tigris Army ...	59745	230
	The G. O. C., " D, " was informed by the C. I. G. S. that supply of fast aeroplanes would be expedited ; but that Betuci were able to fight fast Fokkers.	59746	231
	The G. O. C., " D ", reported on the desirability of brigading machine guns, and asked for sanction to form machine gun companies.	59747	232
	The C. I. G. S. stated that technical staffs, should be obtained from companies, from which sternwheelers are impressed, to prepare and strengthen craft for sea voyages.	59753	233
	The Secy., War Office, stated that, owing to India being cognizant with the situation as regards supply of " D, " they were empowered to deal with the matter, keeping in view the necessity of economising shipping.	59761	234
	The C. I. G. S. asked if there was any information about the force sent against Baratoff ...	59765	235

SI401GSB

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	дпуәриүх.
16-6-16— contd.	The G. O. C., "D," reported the position of the main Tigris floods from midway between Aziziyah and Kut down to Amarah.	59766	236
	The Viceroy informed the S. of S. of the position with regard to paddlers previously demanded, also explained the term Newcastle type.	59774	237
	The D. M. I., London, reported that confirmation had been received that no complete Austrian or German units had passed through Constantinople.	59795	238
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported that Ibn Rashid had been interviewed by special messenger, to whom he stated that he was a Turkish subject in Turkish pay, he also gave his intentions towards the British.	59796	239
	The I. G. Lines of Communications, Force "D" was informed of the proposed procedure with regard to the despatch of store ships to Basrah and the utilizing of floating warehouses.	59819	240
	Lt. Withers and Col. Redl. were informed of the situation with regard to Gen. Baratoff's retirement; arrest of Ubaidullah by Gen. Sykes, and the arrest of Zugmeyer, Wedig and Greisenger by Qavvam-ul-Mulk.	59869	241
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported that the Minister at Tehran had been requested to issue instructions to the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh to ensure safe conduct for the Cossacks through his country.	59872	242
	The G. O. C., Force "D," was informed of the position, as it was understood with regard to the provision of "L" class launches.	59913	243



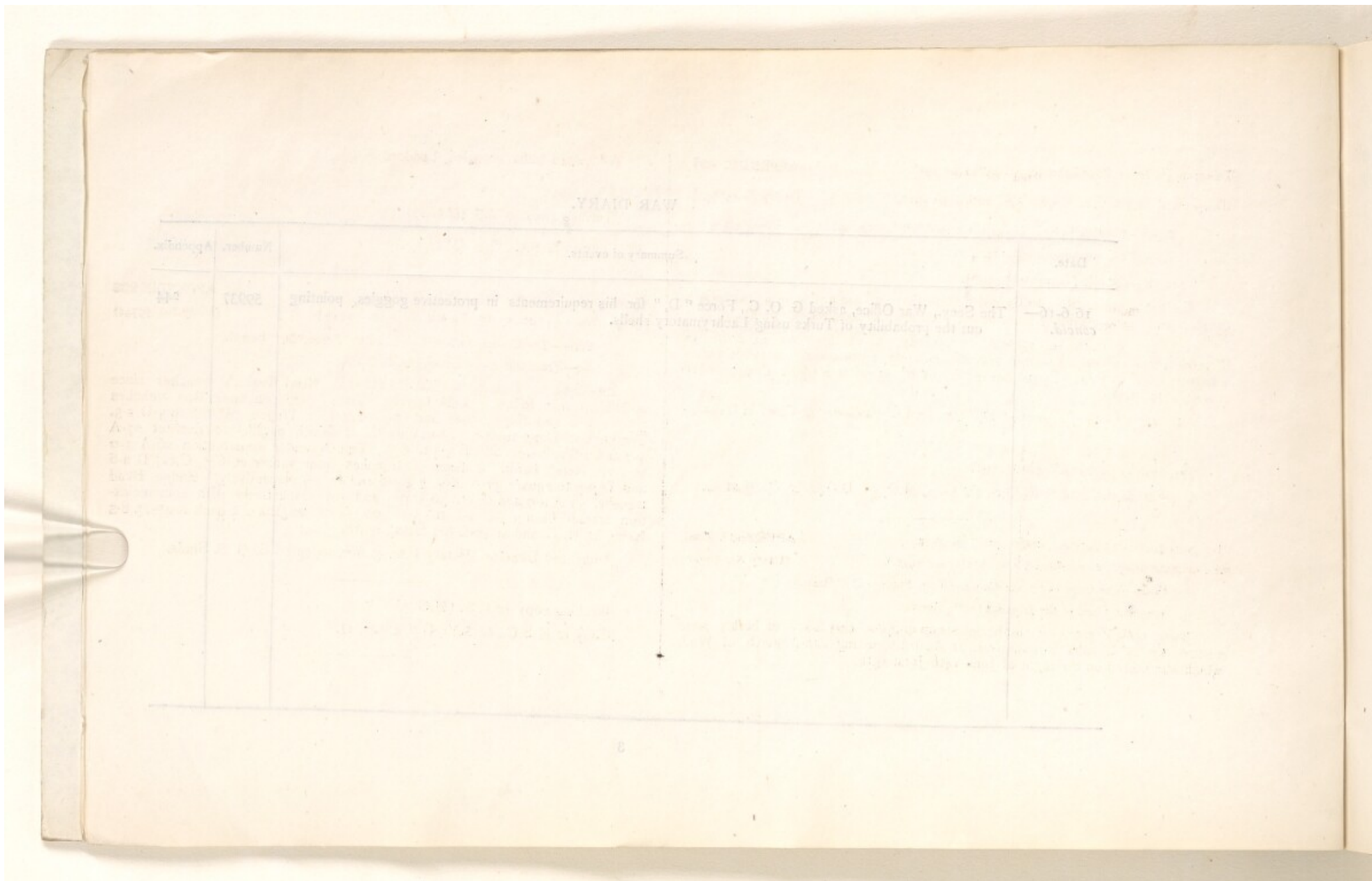
WAR DIARY.

Date	Summary of events.	Number.	Page.
16-6-16	The G. O. C., "D", reported the position of the main Tiger force from midway between Adiyah and Kut down to Amadiyah.	2370	
	The Viceroy informed the S. of S. of the position with regard to prisoners previously demanded, also explained the term "Nizam's force".	2371	
	The D. M. I. London, reported that communication had been received that no complete Aviators or German units had passed through Constantinople.	2372	
	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported that the British had been interviewed by special messenger, to whom he stated that he was a Turkish subject in Turkish pay, he also gave his instructions towards the British.	2373	
	The I. G. Lines of Communications, Force "D", was informed of the proposed procedure with regard to the dispatch of messages to Basra and the sending of leading messages.	2374	
	Mr. Wilber and Col. Reilly were advised of the situation with regard to Gen. Bannock's activities in Iraq of Unpublished by Gen. Saker, and the arrest of Capt. W. and (Arrested by Gen. Bannock).	2375	
	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported that the Minister at Tehran had been requested to issue instructions to the Wall of Fort-Rasht to ensure safe conduct for the Caucasus through his country.	2376	
	The G. O. C., Force "D", was informed of the position, as it was understood with regard to the position of "L" force.	2377	



WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
16-6-16— <i>concl.</i>	The Secy., War Office, asked G. O. C., Force "D," for his requirements in protective goggles, pointing out the probability of Turks using Lachrymatory shells.	59937	244





Telegram P., No. 17883-Cipher, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-35 P.M., received 2 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 184-186-O. (Dy. No. 59531).

The fact must not be overlooked by you that you are acting in a secondary theatre, and that precedence must be given to main theatre requirements.

It is not possible at present, as already stated, to send either 6" or 8" Howitzers. Though I cannot yet say definitely, I will endeavour to despatch a battery of 6" in July. Egypt has no 6" or 8" Howitzers; you already have three 6" Howitzers.

Addressed G. O. C., Force "D," repeated Commander-in-Chief in India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 3), D.G.O., A.G., Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 129-463-O., dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-5 P.M., received 5 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 15th, Tigris.—A number of sheep and 200 cart loads of barley were secured by the Cavalry Brigade from an Arab harvesting camp north of Wadi which was raided on the night of June 14th-June 15th.

APPENDIX 227

(Diary No. 59739)

Addressed India, repeated, London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram No. I. G. 3030, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 2 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

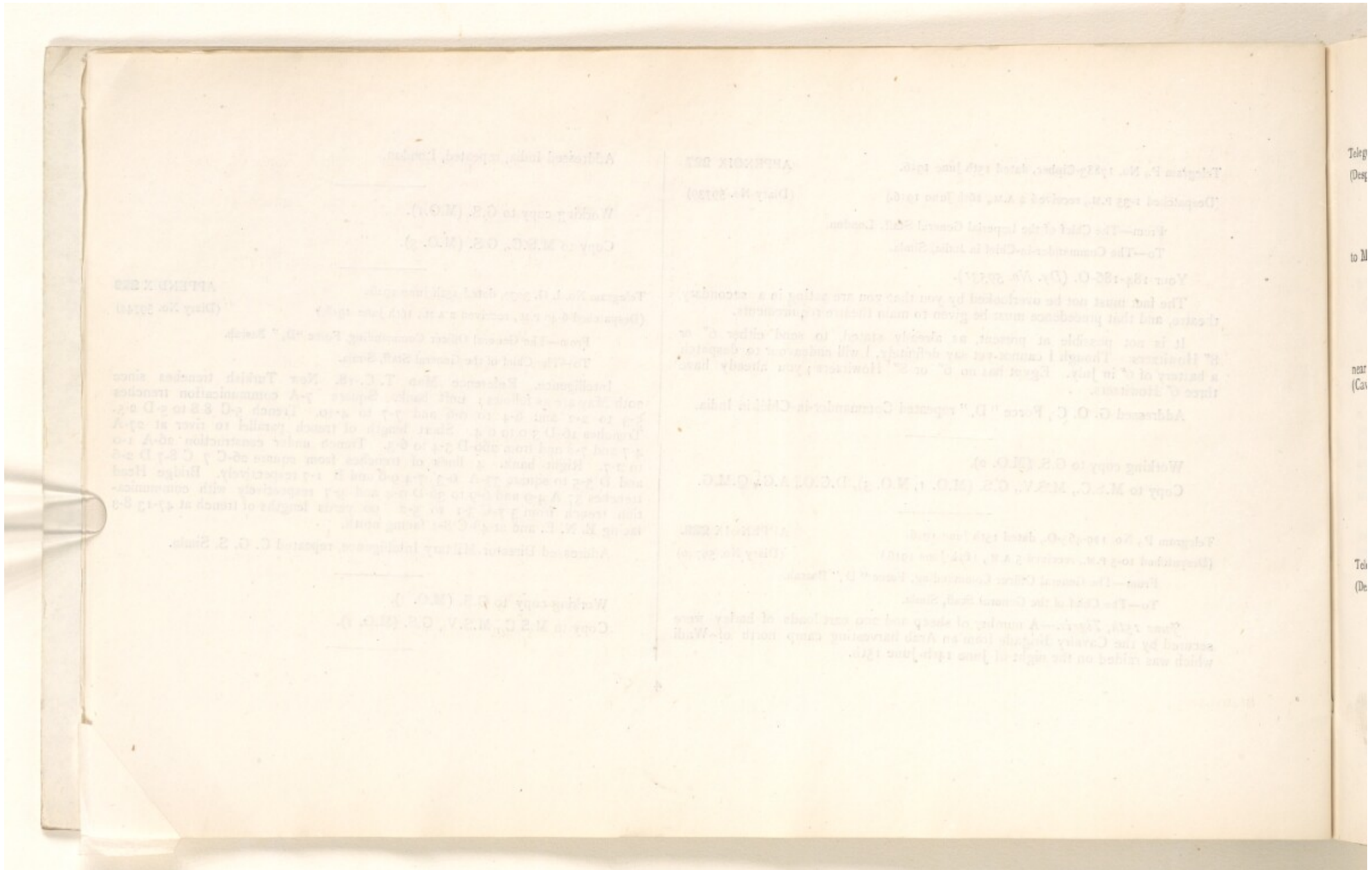
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence. Reference Map T. C.-18. New Turkish trenches since 20th May are as follows: Left bank. Square 7-A communication trenches 5-3 to 2-2 and 6-4 to 0-6 and 7-7 to 4-10. Trench 5-C 8-8 to 5-D 2-5. Trenches 16-D 3-0 to 0-4. Short length of trench parallel to river at 27-A 4-7 and 7-8 and from 26-D 3-4 to 6-3. Trench under construction 26-A 1-0 to 2-7. Right bank. 4 lines of trenches from square 26-C 7 C 8-7 D 2-6 and D 3-5 to square 37-A 6-3 7-4 9-6 and B 1-7 respectively. Bridge Head trenches 37 A 4-9 and 6-9 to 36-D 9-4 and 9-7 respectively with communication trench from 37-C 3-1 to 5-2. 90 yards lengths of trench at 47-13 8-3 facing E. N. E. and at 48-C 8-1 facing north.

Addressed Director Military Intelligence, repeated C. G. S. Simla.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).





Telegram P., No. I. G.-3028, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-30 P.M., received 3-45 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 230
(Diary No. 59745)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D" Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence.—Following is distribution of Turkish Tigris Army. Refer to Map T. C.-18.

Nakhailat and Sannaiyat, 51st Division 3,500.

Sinn left bank, Madug, Kut and Dahra, 35th Division 3,000.

Ataba and Suwada, 52nd Division 4,800 (? in) general reserve.

Shumran, trenches on right bank in loop N. E. of Kut, and Hai bridgehead near junction of Tigris and Hai 45th Division 5,300 *plus* one cavalry regiment (Cavalry ?) detachment Mhairijeh.

Total of 64 guns, including 19 (heavy guns ?), all on left bank.

Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, London; repeated C.G.S., Simla.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2).

Telegram P., No. 17884-Cipher, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-55 P.M., received 2 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 231
(Diary No. 59746)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 129-461-O. (Dy. No. 58994) and 184-186-O. (Dy. No. 59531).

SI401GSB

In France, Betuci are fighting with success daily Fokker aeroplanes. The former should attack in fighting formation and in number.

Supply of fast aeroplanes will be expedited; but enemy's supremacy must be due, not only to material, but also to personnel.

You will receive a further communication from Henderson.

Addressed G.O.C., Force "D"; repeated Commander-in-Chief in India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 2, S.D. 3), A.D. Aviation.

Telegram P., No. 345-59-O., dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-20 P.M., received 12-45 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

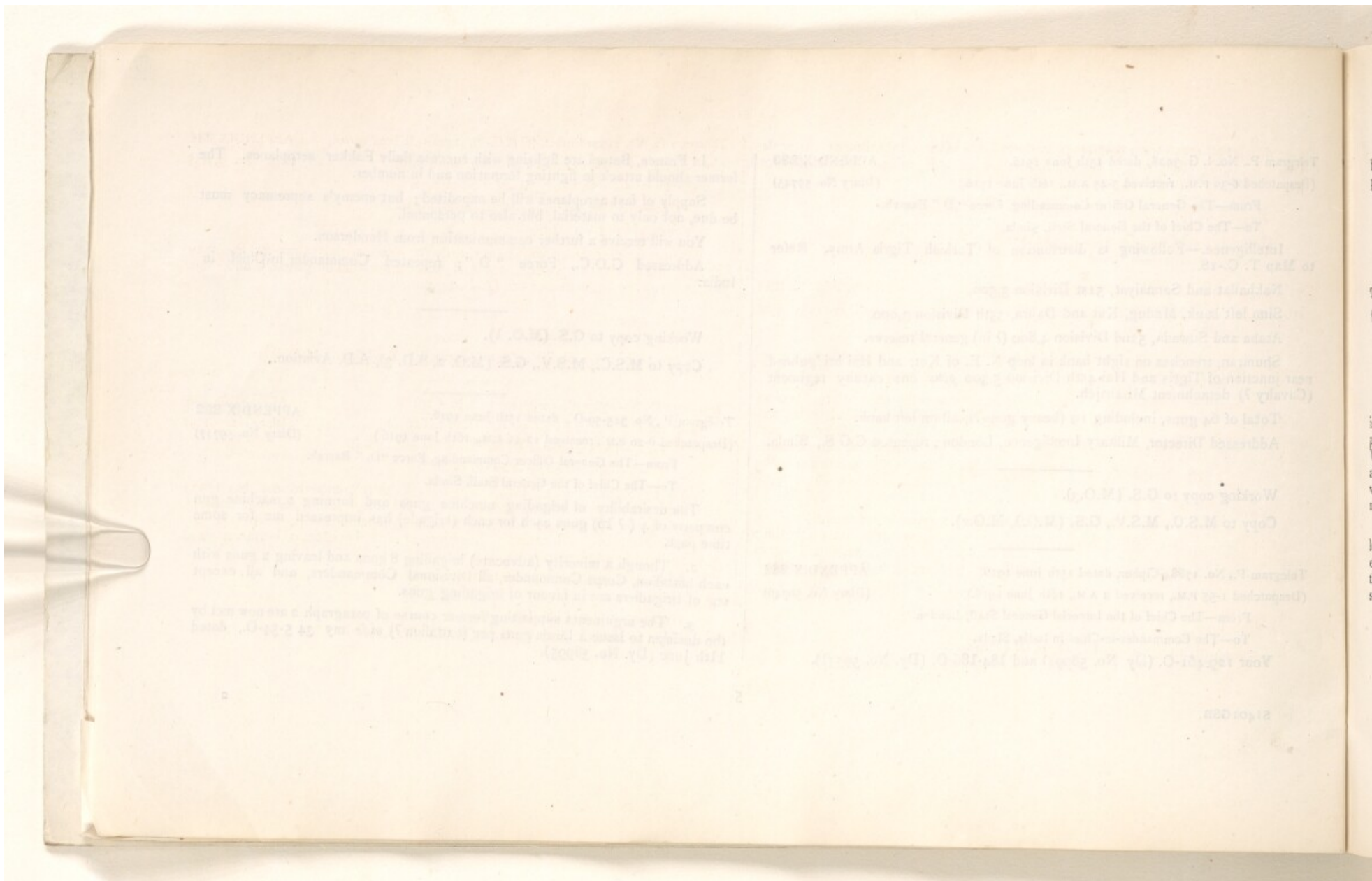
APPENDIX 232
(Diary No. 59747)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

The desirability of brigading machine guns and forming a machine gun company of 4 (? 15) guns each for each (brigade) has impressed me for some time past.

2. Though a minority (advocate) brigading 8 guns and leaving 2 guns with each battalion, Corps Commander, all Divisional Commanders, and all except one of Brigadiers are in favour of brigading guns.

3. The arguments supporting former course of paragraph 2 are now met by the decision to issue 4 Lewis guns per (battalion?) *vide* my 34 5-54-O., dated 11th June (Dy. No. 58995).





4. Sanction to form machine gun companies with establishment on scale based on Army Order 414 of 1915 is requested. I will submit details if proposal is approved in principle.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., A.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 17890-Cipher, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 3-25 P.M., received 5 A.M., 15th June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 58588 of 10th June.

The fact that "Nile" steamers may be more seaworthy than stern wheelers is recognized but we understand that, possibly owing to lack of adequate preparation for the voyage, a large proportion of the latter have foundered at sea. We suggest that the technical staffs of the companies from which the steamers are impressed be employed by you to strengthen and prepare craft for the voyage and also to provide crews to navigate. Losses in Gulf should be minimized thereby.

After arrival at Basrah you should retain the services permanently, of at least a proportion of the officers, engineers and crew, who have previous experience of this particular kind of craft and this even if wages are higher than Indian Marine rates. This was not done in the case of the "Nile flotilla" so we are informed.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O.1), A.D. (Marine).

APPENDIX 233
(Diary No. 59753)

Telegram P., No. 17900-Cipher, (Q.M.G.-2), dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-55 P.M., received 6 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 59157 of 13th June.

Whilst impressing on you the necessity for economizing shipping in every way you are hereby empowered to deal with the situation yourself and this because you are cognizant of the local situation.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.D. (Marine), G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2).

Telegram P., No. 17891-Cipher, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 3-30 P.M., received 5-0 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

My 17300, and Force "D", I.G.-2908. With reference to my No. 17777 (Dy. No. 59190), which forwarded T. L. 170 to Force "D." As regards (the enemy?) force believed to have been sent against Baratoff, have you any information as to its location? Location of 2nd Division, 9 battalions and cavalry brigade appears to be unknown.

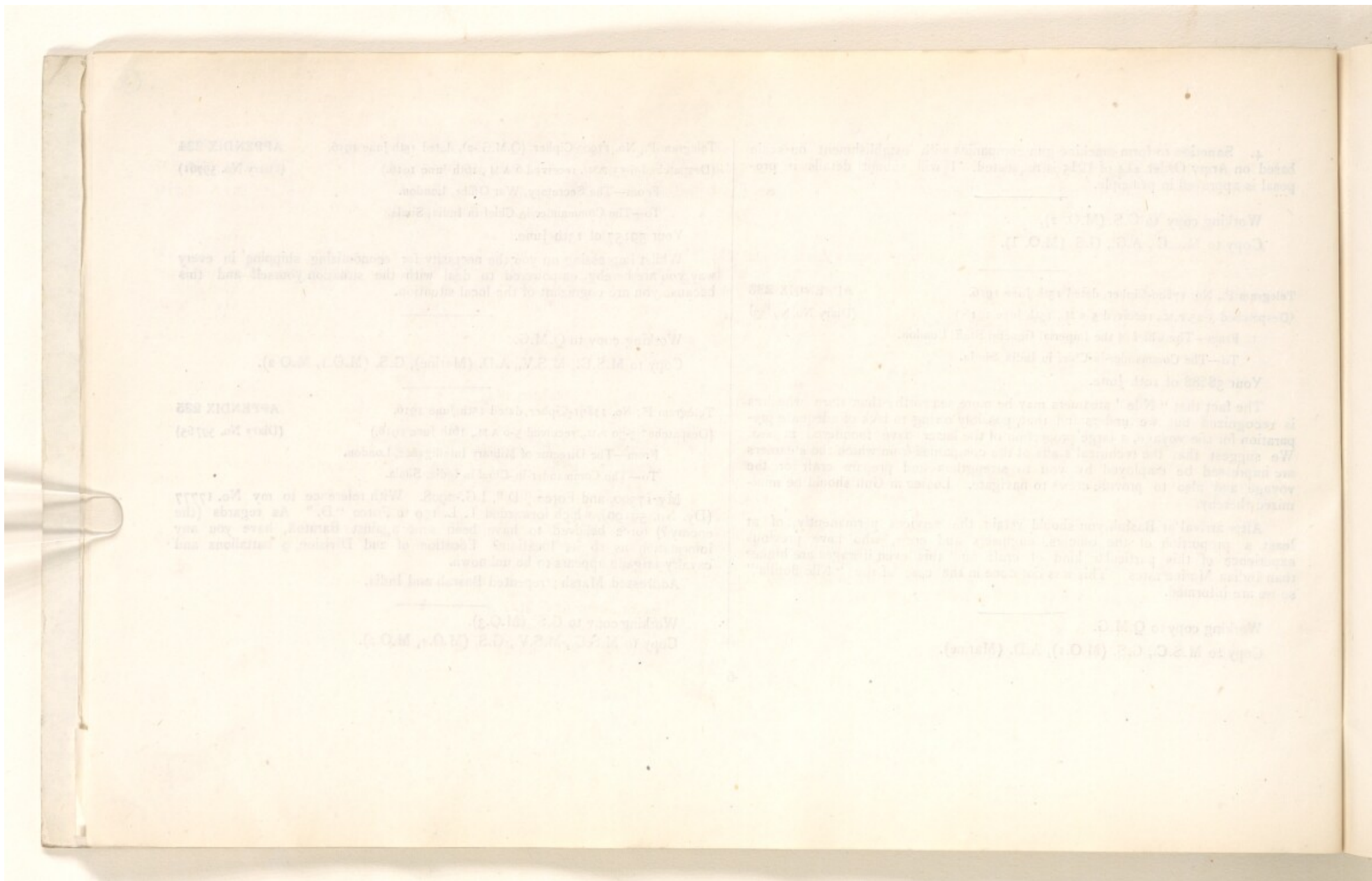
Addressed Marsh; repeated Basrah and India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2).

APPENDIX 234
(Diary No. 59761)

APPENDIX 235
(Diary No. 59765)





Telegram No. I. G.-3029, dated 15th June 1916
(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 8 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence. Main Tigris floods from midway between Aziziyah and Kut down to Amarah are now as follows. Suwaicha marsh southern boundary roughly similar to original outline shown on T. C. 18. Eastern boundary runs N. N. W. from L of Umel Hanah on same map. Northern boundary undefined. Western boundary runs N. E. from Point one North of Shumran bend. Inundation average breadth from W. to E. 5 miles stretches S. S. E. from S. E. corner of Dabuni bend degree sheet 2 H. Inundation average breadth from W. to E. 4 miles stretches south from S. E. corner Husaini bend same degree sheet. These two latter inundations apparently join about 27 miles west of Hai down and extend to at least 40 miles south of Tigris. Inundation from south east end of Musanday reach degree sheet 2 L average from W. to E. 6 miles runs parallel to Tigris as distance of 3 to 5 miles from its right bank and joins area of semi-permanent lakes south-west of Kumait. On left bank the inundations between Shaikh Saad and Kumait are now rapidly drying up and where existent no longer form effective obstacle. Other isolated inundations are as follows. Two lakes each about 8 square miles area lie east of Zenabiyah and west of line drawn south of W. in Qussabs fort, *vide* map T. C. 18. Smaller inundations at and north of Horibujisan. Also smaller lakes at 59 central T. C. 18, and 2 miles south-west of Atali. Lake 3 miles by 3 round 36 central T. C. 18. There is water in horseshoe lake and in narrow lake three miles long E. N. E. of Dahra and running north and south. [Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated Chief of the General Staff, Simla.]

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3.)
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1 M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 236
(Diary No. 59766)

Telegram P., No. H.-5144, dated 15th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 16th June 1916.)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department).
To—The Secretary of State for India.

River Craft for I. E. F. "D." Reference our telegram, dated 9th June 1916, No. H.-4867 (Diary No. 58472). The twenty paddlers demanded therein are in addition to all craft which we demanded previously. We would again urge the immediate construction of these vessels without any further delay. We will very shortly forward to you a separate communication explaining the necessity for this demand.

As regards the term "Newcastle Type" we invite a reference to our despatch of the 20th August 1915, No. 78, and would explain that this term was used to indicate the type of vessel constructed in accordance with the specifications forwarded with the above quoted despatch.

Further as you had also used this term in referring to such craft constructed in England, *vide* your telegram No. S.-10307, dated 6th April 1916 (Dy. No. 47388), we employed it.

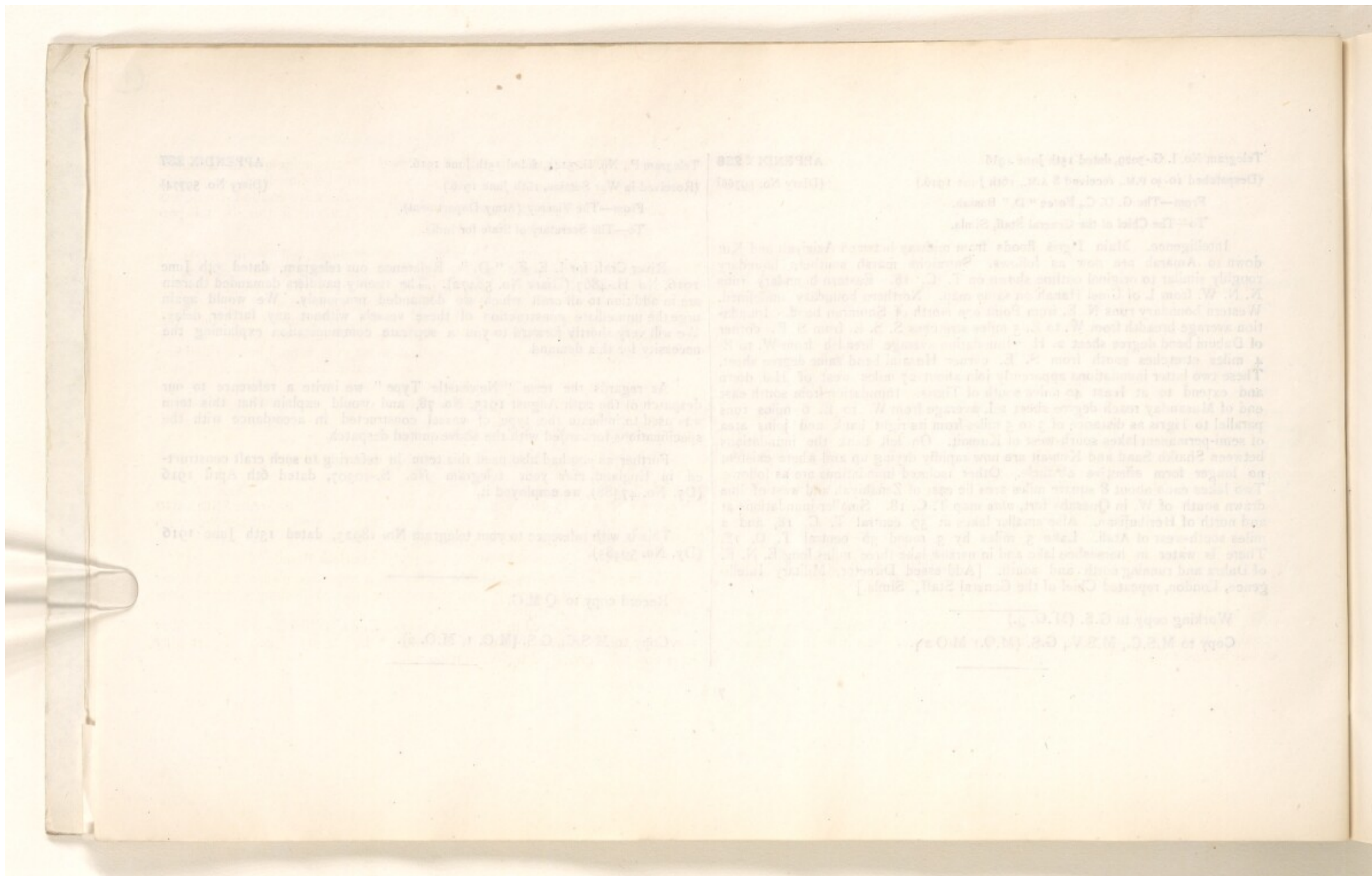
This is with reference to your telegram No. 18923, dated 13th June 1916 (Dy. No. 59485).

Record copy to Q M G.

Copy to M S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 237
(Diary No. 59774)

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Telegram P., No. 1700-Cypher, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 9 P.M., received 9-40 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 238
(Diary No. 59795)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Confirmation has been received from the Military Attaché, Barne, that no complete Austrian or German Units have passed through Constantinople. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of this but great reliance on the informant is held by the Military Attaché.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India, Egypt and Col. Marsh.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. & P., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. I. G.-3025, dated 15th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-40 P.M., received 7-30 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 239
(Diary No. 59795)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah,

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

In continuation of my I. G.-2997 of June 9th (Dy. No. 58778). On June 10th Ibn Rashid was interviewed by a special messenger at Safwan, where he has 300 camel sowars and 300 horsemen and not as previously reported a total of 300 in all. He candidly stated that he himself was a Turkish subject and in Turkish pay and consequently not able to correspond in writing. It was in compliance with Turkish orders that he was now so near to us in order to harass us but he had refrained from doing this.

He says that he has no intentions whatever of being unfriendly to us unless Turkish troops arrive in the vicinity of Zubair when he would of course join them, but that until this occurs he considers his caravans are entitled to access to our markets and that he will do what he can to retaliate if this is not permitted.

A letter has been sent to him in answer to the above telling him to move to or beyond Arkhamieh and that if he complies our markets will be open to his caravans to a reasonable extent as long as he permits no unfriendly action towards us. He is also advised in the letter that on the other hand until he reaches Arkhamieh access will not be given to his caravans and that the sooner he moves there the better or otherwise his fighting men and our cavalry might come into collision. Aircraft reconnaissance over Safwan has verified the strength of his following. Addressed Simla; repeated Director, Military Intelligence, London, and Officer in charge Intelligence.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. & P., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2).

Telegram P., No. 59819, dated 16th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-45 P.M.)

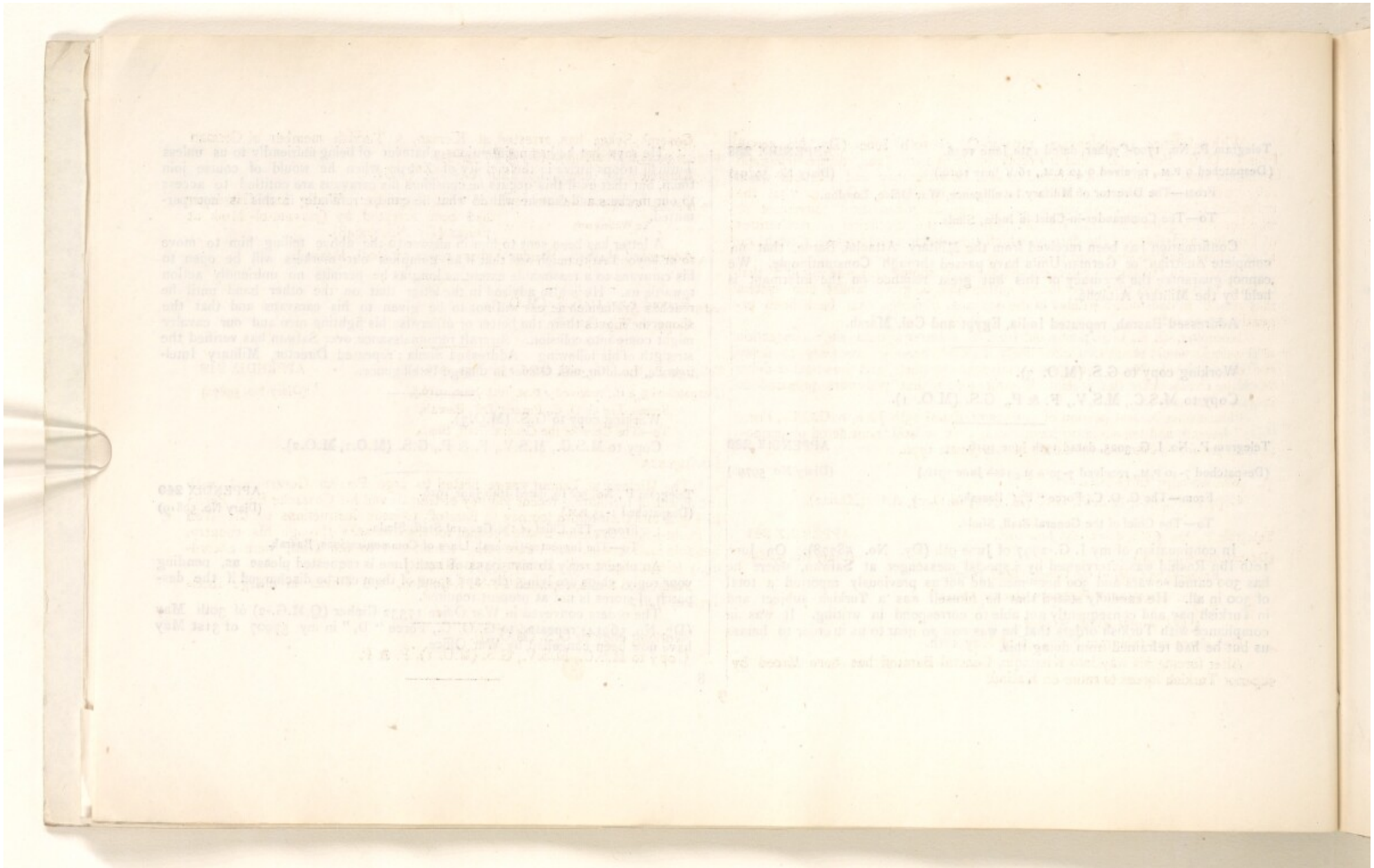
APPENDIX 240
(Diary No. 59819)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The Inspector-General, Lines of Communications, Basrah.

An urgent reply to my 59454 of 14th June is requested please as, pending your reply, ships are lying idle, and some of them can be discharged if the despatch of stores is not at present required.

The orders conveyed in War Office 17332 Cipher (Q.M.G.-2) of 30th May (Dy. No. 56914) repeated to G. O. C., Force "D," in my 57007 of 31st May have now been cancelled by War Office.





With reference to telegram 1152-40-Q. of 10th June (Dy. No. 59048) from G. O. C., Force "D," and my reply 59270 of 13th June, please telegraph definitely whether store ships should be sent from Bombay and Karachi when fully loaded with stores that have been asked for by Force "D," so that the unloading of them at Basrah can be carried out as found most convenient or whether you require that until you have informed the Embarkation Authorities at Bombay and Karachi the date on which the vessels should reach Basrah, no store ships shall be sent from this country.

If you wish the latter system to be adopted it should be borne in mind that at least 14 days' and preferably longer notice must be given whilst this system may result in considerable delay in the despatch of stores that have been urgently demanded.

Moreover, D. R. I. M. points out from this latter system such congestion at the docks would result that most likely it would become necessary to delay the despatch of stores from up country to the ports, and thus further delay would be caused after the receipt of your report that you were prepared to receive such stores.

Please refer to first portion of my 59270, dated 13th June, to G.O.C., Force "D," Basrah, and let me know immediately if it is still considered objectionable to provide a floating warehouse of the Queda type.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2), A.D. (Marine).

Telegram P., No. 59869, dated 16th June 1916.

(Despatched 7-30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To { 1. LIEUTENANT WITHERS, Bandar Abbas.
2. COLONEL REDL, Meshed.

Reference my telegram No. 5446 of May 17th.

After forcing his way into Khaniqin, General Baratoff has been forced by superior Turkish forces to retire on Karind.

General Sykes has arrested, at Kirman, a Turkish member of German mission named Ubaidullah (Dy. No. 59654).

Reference my telegram of 12th May No. 53661.

On 14th instant Tehran reported that Zugmeyer, Wedig and Greisinger had been arrested by Qavvam-ul-Mulk at Shiraz (Dy. No. 59648).

To Withers only.

Addressed Withers, Bandar Abbas; repeated Redl, Meshed.

Record copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No. I. G.-3038, dated 15th June 1916.

(Despatched 9 A.M., received 4 P.M. 16th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah,

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

APPENDIX 242

(Diary No. 59872)

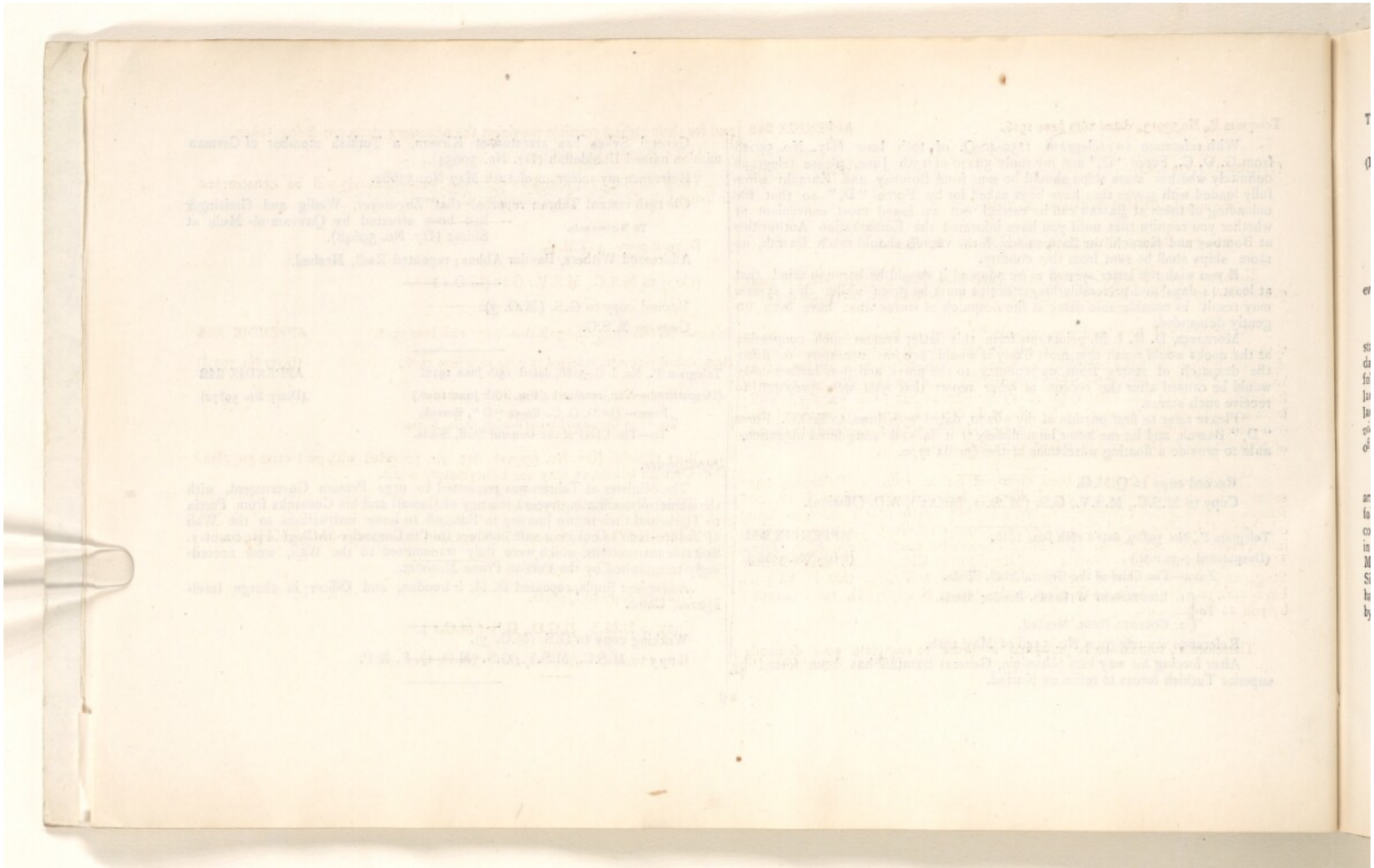
Intelligence.

The Minister at Tehran was requested to urge Persian Government, with the object of facilitating recent journey of Gamali and his Cossacks from Persia to Tigris and their return journey to Baratoff, to issue instructions to the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh to ensure a safe conduct for the Cossacks through his country. Suitable instructions, which were duly transmitted to the Wali, were accordingly telegraphed by the Persian Prime Minister.

Addressed Simla, repeated D. M. I. London, and Officer in charge Intelligence, Cairo.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1), F. & P.





Telegram P., No. 59913, dated 16th June 1916.

(Despatched 11-30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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

Reference your No. 766-751 of 14th June (Dy. No. 5532). We will make every effort to hasten delivery of vessels which steamers can carry on deck.

We understand the situation as regards "L" class launches not to be as stated in your above quoted wire but as follows:—Your total demands up to date which have not been complied with are 39 which total is arrived at as follows:—*Vide* your No. 760-69-Q. of 15th December last (Dy. No. 30833)—10 launches, *vide* your No. 1238-9-Q. of 13th February last (Dy. No. 38749)—24 launches, and in replacement of L. 3, L. 5, L. 6, L. 8, and L. 9 reported lost *vide* your Nos. 766-246-Q. of 28th January (Dy. No. 36546) last and 1600-7-A. of 17th May last (Dy. No. 54720)—5 launches.

The provision of these has been arranged for as follows:—Following have arrived Basrah L-11 to L-17. Following has arrived Bombay L-18, and following are nearing completion L. 19 and 20; seven others are now being constructed by Burn and Coy., Calcutta, and first delivery has been promised in October and completion by middle of December next. Wren, Ellie, Tawa, Mascotte, Chongmoh, Ivy, Sylvia. Debein, Ellinor, Chin, launch item 32 from Singapore, and one launch being built by Burn and Coy. that is 12 in all, have, *vide* your No. 1430-19-Q. of 26th April (Dy. No. 50755), been accepted by you as substitutes.

Therefore to remain to be supplied in order to complete your demands

APPENDIX 243

(Diary No. 59913)

and for their earliest possible provision the necessary steps are being taken. Please confirm the above.

The 8 small tugs required to complete your demands will be constructed in India if they are not obtainable from the rivers.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

(Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1.)

Telegram P., No. 17920-Cipher-S.D.-2, dated 16th June 1916.

(Despatched 1-25 P.M., received 11 P.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 184-186 (Dy. No. 59531). Are you provided with protective goggles? The German howitzers may use lachrymatory shells.

Cable requirements if you are not.

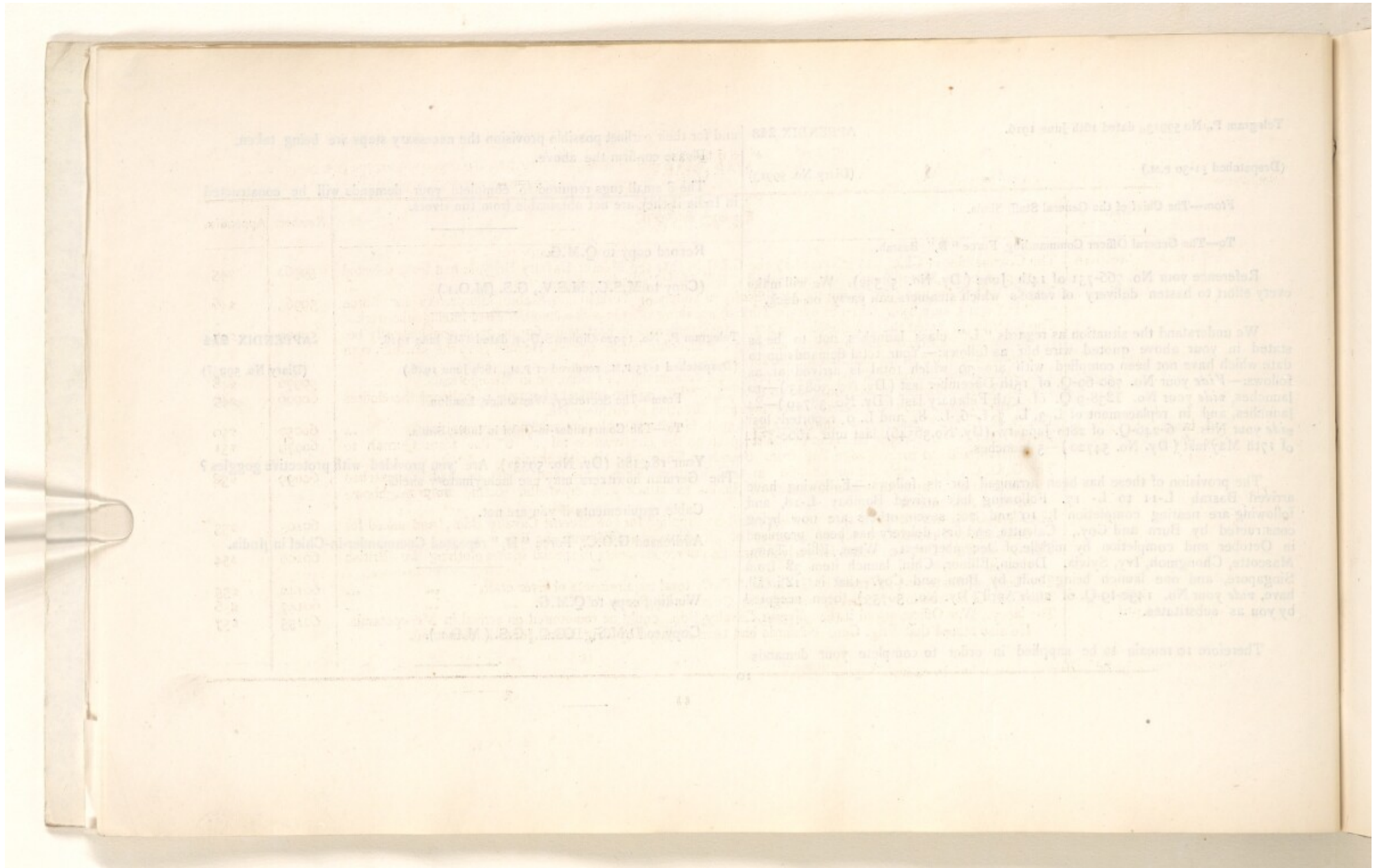
Addressed G.O.C., Force "D," repeated Commander-in-Chief in India.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to D.M.S., D.G.O., G.S. (M.O.1.)

APPENDIX 244

(Diary No. 59957)

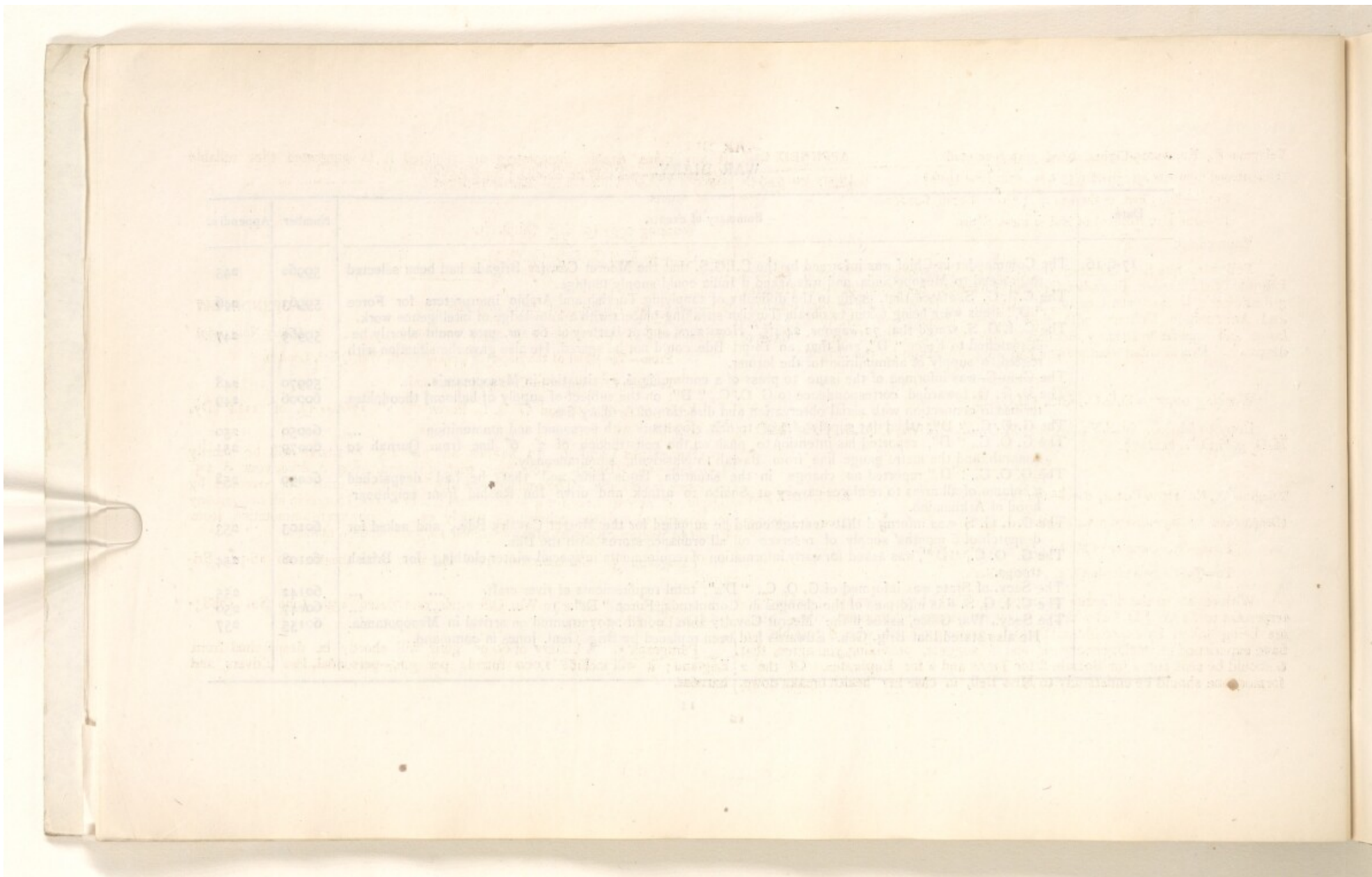




(13)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number	Appendix.
17-6-16	The Commander-in-Chief was informed by the C.I.G.S. that the Meerut Cavalry Brigade had been selected to proceed to Mesopotamia, and was asked if India could supply tentage.	59962	245
	The C. I. G. S. stated that, owing to the difficulty of supplying Turkish and Arabic interpreters for Force "D," steps were being taken to obtain Turkish speaking officers with a knowledge of intelligence work.	59963	246
	The C. I. G. S. stated that 72 wagons, 24 4"5," Howitzers, and at Battery of 60 pr. guns would shortly be despatched to Force "D", and that an 18-pr. Bde. could not be spared. He also gave the situation with regard to supply of ammunition for the former.	59969	247
	The C-in-C. was informed of the issue to press of a communiqué, <i>re</i> situation in Mesopotamia.	59970	248
	The D. G. O. forwarded correspondence to G. O. C., "D", on the subject of supply of balloon theodolites for use in connection with aerial observation and direction of Artillery fire.	60006	249
	The G. O. C., "D", asked for supply of 2 2" trench Howitzers with personnel and ammunition ...	60050	250
	The G. O. C., "D", reported his intention to push on the construction of 2' 6" line from Qurnah to Amarah, and the metre gauge line from Basrah to Nasiriyah, simultaneously.	60079	251
	The G. O. C., "D", reported no change in the situation Tigris Line, and that he had despatched a column of all arms to reinforce cavalry at Shaiba to attack and drive Ibn Rashid from neighbourhood of Arkhamieh.	60099	252
	The C. I. G. S. was informed that tentage could be supplied for the Meerut Cavalry Bde., and asked for despatch of 6 months' supply of reserves of all ordnance stores with the Bde.	60103	253
	The G. O. C., "D", was asked for early information of requirements in special winter clothing for British troops.	60108	254
	The Secy. of State was informed of G. O. C., "D's", total requirements of river craft. ...	60142	255
	The C. I. G. S. was informed of the changes in Commands, Force "D". ...	60147	256
	The Secy., War Office, asked if the Meerut Cavalry Bde. could be remounted on arrival in Mesopotamia. He also stated that Brig. Gen. Edwards had been replaced by Brig. Genl. Jones in command.	60155	257





Telegram P., No. 17929-Cipher dated 16th June 1916.
(Despatched 3-30 P.M., received 1-45 A.M., 17th June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 58345.

Following has been selected to proceed to Mesopotamia. Meerut Cavalry Brigade, Commander Brigadier-General Edwards, consisting of 13th Hussars, 3rd Skinner's Horse, 30th Lancers, V. Battery, R. H. A., machine gun squadron, and Ammunition Column, with field troops, signal troop, cavalry field ambulance and mobile veterinary section. You will be notified later of date of despatch. Please cable whether you can supply tentage for the Brigade.

Working copy to D.G.O., G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.G., Q.M.G., D.G.M.W., D.M.S., G.S., (M.O. 1 M.O. 3, S.D. 1, S.D. 2).

Telegram P., No. 17930-Cipher, dated 16th June 1916.
(Despatched 4 P.M., received 3 A.M., 17th June 1916.)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

With regard to the difficulty of supplying Turkish and Arabic speaking interpreters to Force "D" of which it is reported a certain amount exist. Steps are being taken by me to obtain Turkish speaking officers, who, if possible, will have experience in intelligence work and I suggest, providing you agree, that 6 should be sent out, 2 for Basrah, 2 for Tigris and 2 for Euphrates. Of the 2 former, one should be understudy to Miss Bell, in case her health breaks down.

APPENDIX 245
(Diary No. 59962)

If any more Arabic interpreters are required it is suggested that reliable Syrians can probably be obtained from Egypt.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 17949-Cipher, dated 16th June 1916.

(Despatched 8-30 P.M., received 7 A.M., 17th June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 58945 of 13th and G. O. C. Force "D's" 17-A.-1-Q. of 11th (Dy. No. 58945).

Paragraphs 1 and 2. 72 wagons and 24 4.5" howitzers will be shortly despatched to Basrah. You may wish to send, as a reserve, your 8 4.5" howitzers from India. The replacement of 5" howitzers must be governed by supply of ammunition for 4.5" howitzers; only 16,000 rounds in all accompany the howitzers, and the subsequent supply of 4.5" howitzer ammunition from Egypt to Basrah cannot at present exceed 12,000 rounds a month.

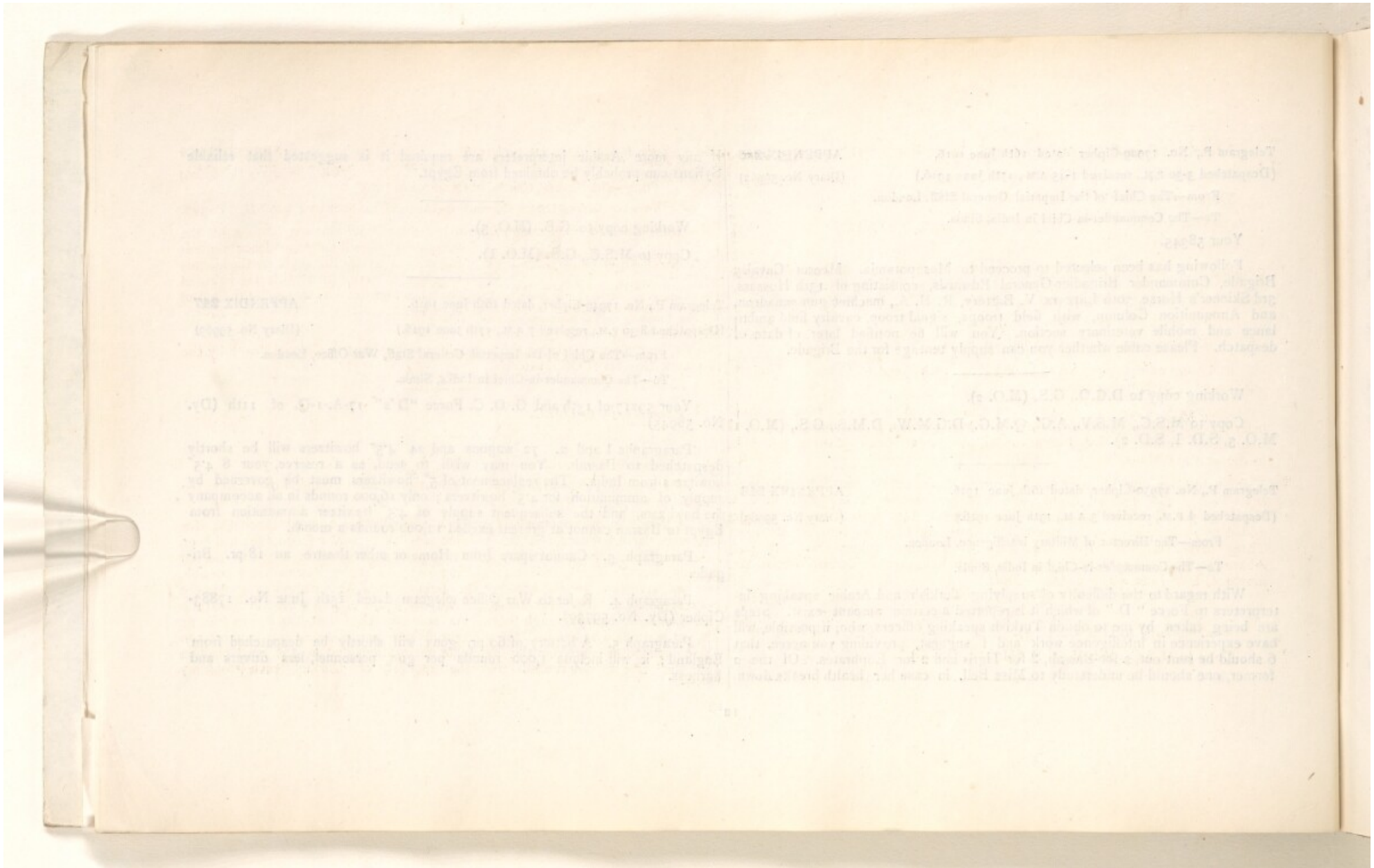
Paragraph 3. Cannot spare from Home or other theatre an 18-pr. Brigade.

Paragraph 4. Refer to War Office telegram dated 15th June No. 17883-Cipher (Dy. No. 59739).

Paragraph 5. A battery of 60 pr. guns will shortly be despatched from England; it will include 1,000 rounds per gun, personnel, less drivers and harness.

APPENDIX 247

(Diary No. 59969)





Addressed C.-in-C., India, repeated G. O. C., Force " D ".

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., D.G.O., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram No. 8248, dated 16th June 1916.

(Despatched 5 P.M., received 4-10 A.M., 17th June 1916.)

From—The C. I. G. S., War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Following communiqué being issued Press 16th June :—*Begins.* Situation unchanged in Mesopotamia.

On North Bank of the Tigris to the east of Kut, our trenches have been pushed forward to within 200 yards of the Turkish Sannaiyat position; on South bank we have occupied an advanced position at Iman Mansura $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of Magasis.

No fighting reported from the Euphrates Line except small punitive successful expedition against Arabs, who had persistently cut telegraph lines to North of Hammbar Lake. On the night of 14th-15th June our cavalry raided hostile Arab tribe, captured 200 cartloads of grain, number of sheep. Three barges on the Tigris were sunk by Turkish artillery fire 10th June. Above incidents appear to form basis on which imaginative Turkish official communiqué, 15th June, was founded.—*Ends.*

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, D.C.C.).

APPENDIX 248

(Diary No. 59970)

No. 5314-200 (O.-5), dated 9th June 1916.

APPENDIX 249

(Diary No. 60006)

From—The Director General of Ordnance in India.

To—The General Officer Commanding, Indian Expeditionary Force " D, " Basrah.

I am directed to forward herewith for your information copies of the marginally noted correspondence regarding the supply of two balloon theodolites required in connection with the fixing of the position of a target by the aid of aeroplanes.

* Copy of a U. O. dated 2nd June 1916, from the Director General of Observatories, to Army Department.
Telegram No. 58228, dated 7th June 1916, from Commander-in-Chief to " Weather " London.
Telegram No. Nil, date 8th June 1916, from " Shaw Director, " to the Commander-in-Chief, Simla.

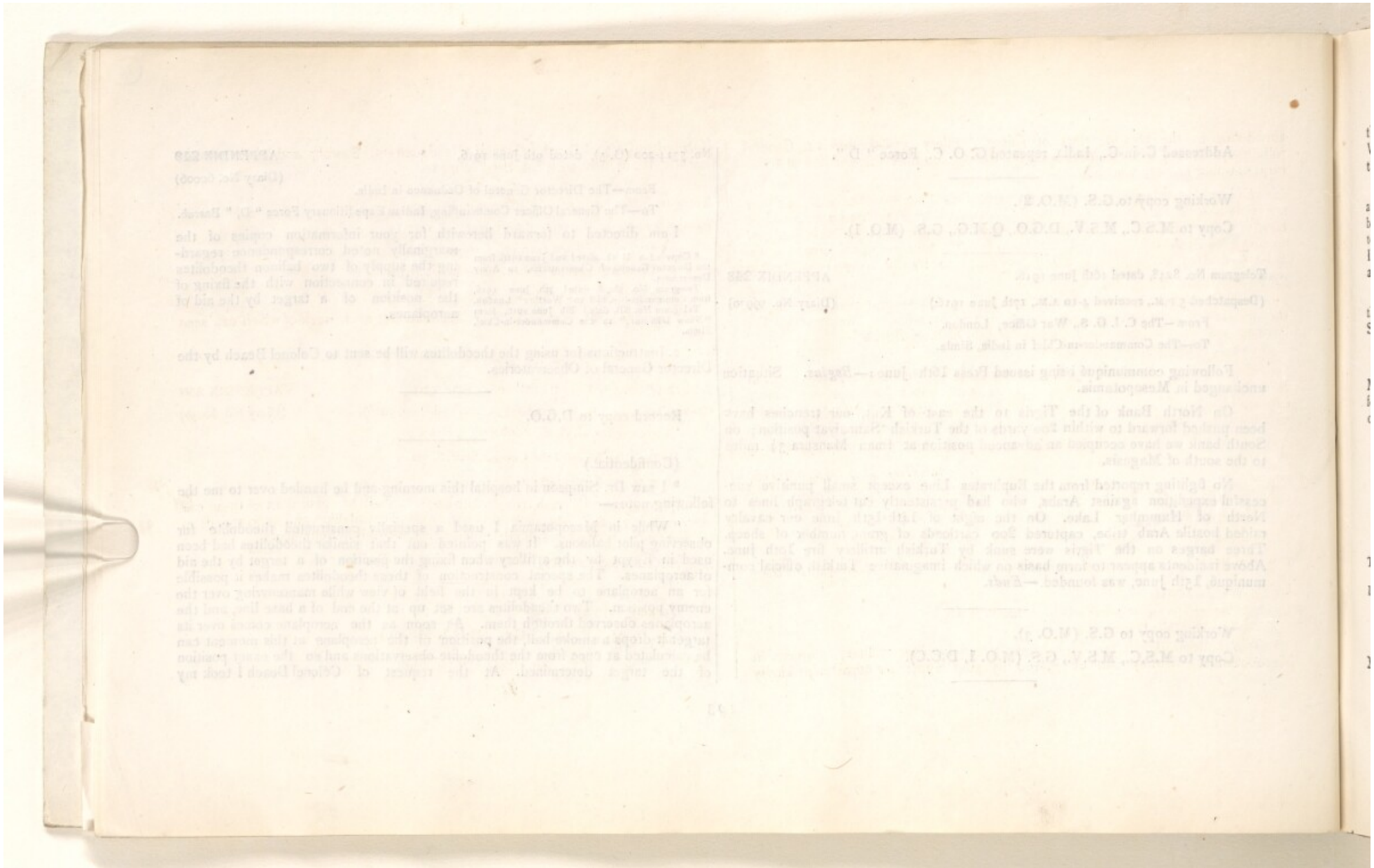
2. Instructions for using the theodolites will be sent to Colonel Beach by the Director General of Observatories.

Record copy to D.G.O.

(Confidential.)

* I saw Dr. Simpson in hospital this morning and he handed over to me the following note :—

" While in Mesopotamia I used a specially constructed theodolite for observing pilot balloons. It was pointed out that similar theodolites had been used in Egypt by the artillery when fixing the position of a target by the aid of aeroplanes. The special construction of these theodolites makes it possible for an aeroplane to be kept in the field of view while manœuvring over the enemy position. Two theodolites are set up at the end of a base line, and the aeroplanes observed through them. As soon as the aeroplane comes over its target it drops a smoke ball, the position of the aeroplane at this moment can be calculated at once from the theodolite observations and so the exact position of the target determined. At the request of Colonel Beach I took my





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theodolite to the Headquarters of Corps Artillery and showed it to General White and Colonel Hardy, who expressed the opinion that this method of fixing targets would be very valuable.

Colonel Beach then asked me if theodolites could be obtained. As they are only used for meteorological work I doubted whether new ones could be bought as they are not stocked by the makers, but I promised to cable England to find if two could be obtained from any of the meteorological observatories. I have drafted the following cable for despatch by the Army Department if approved."

We drew up the following cable together and I suggest that it be sent by the military authorities. On hearing that the instruments are coming Dr. Simpson will send instructions for using them to Colonel Beach:—

To—"Weather", London.

Two balloon theodolites are urgently required for military purposes in Mesopotamia. If they can be spared by your upper air department kindly forward to Colonel Beach, General Headquarters, Basrah, and inform me by cable. If not, how soon can they be made.

GILBERT T. WALKER,
Director General of Observatories.

U. O. I. No. 2919.

Dated Simla, 2nd June 1916.

To the Army Department, Simla.

Telegram No. 58228, dated 7th June 1916.

(Enclosure to Diary
No. 6006).

Despatched 7-45 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

To—Weather, London.

Two balloon theodolites are urgently required for military purposes in Mesopotamia. If they can be spared by your upper air department kindly

forward to Colonel Beach, General Headquarters, Basrah, and inform me by cable. If not, how soon can they be made.

Telegram, dated 8th June 1916.

(Despatched 3-45 P.M., received 6-15, 9th June 1916.)

From—The Shaw Director, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your telegram No. 58228, dated 7th June.

Four theodolites promised by manufacturer next week of which can send two.

Telegram P., No. 1688-1.-Q., dated 16th June 1916.

APPENDIX 250

(Despatched 5-50 P.M., received 12-30 P.M., 17th June 1916.)

(Diary No. 60050)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

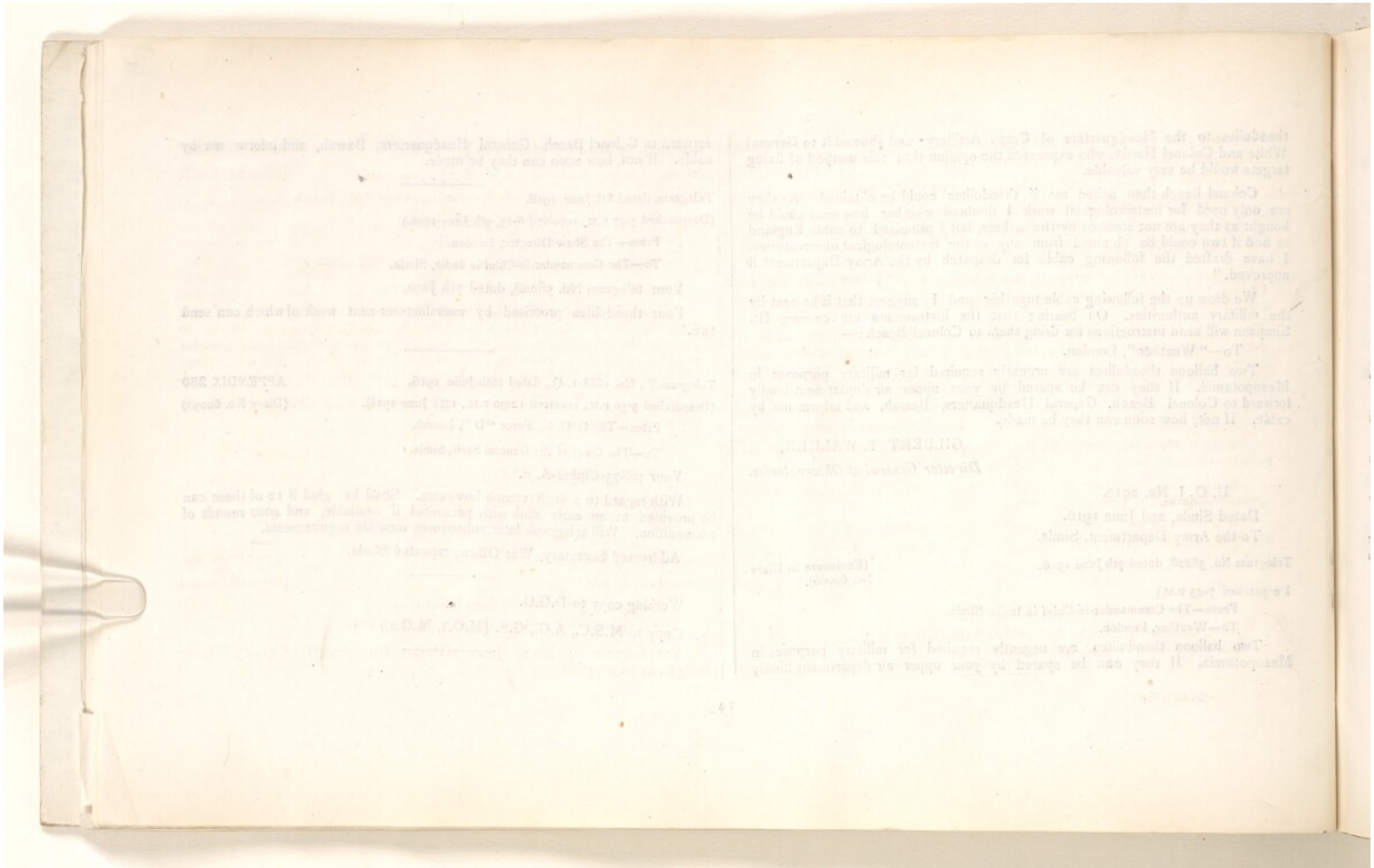
Your 16873-Cipher-A. 2.

With regard to 2 inch trench howitzers. Shall be glad if 12 of these can be provided at an early date with personnel if available, and 4000 rounds of ammunition. Will telegraph later subsequent monthly requirements.

Addressed Secretary, War Office; repeated Simla.

Working copy to D.G.O.

Copy to M.S.C., A.G., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2.)





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Telegram P., No. 356-12-O., dated 16th June 1916.
(Despatched 11 P.M., received 2 P.M., 17th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

5(?)

Your 49200 of 13th.

It is my intention to push on the construction of 2 foot 6 inch line from Qurnah to Amarah and metre gauge line from Basrah to Nasiriyah simultaneously.

2. The former line is the more immediately urgent of the two, since the delivery of supplies at Tigris front will be greatly increased thereby and an alternative provided to river transport through the Narrows, Ezra's tomb to Qalat Saleh. The construction of this section will be undertaken first.

3. Since each taps an entirely different and non-transferable labour supply, it is feasible for construction of both lines to be carried on simultaneously.

4. It is understood you have decided on policy of subsequent construction to 4 foot 8½ inch gauge. Present military requirements do not call for this.

5. It is estimated that the Nasiriyah line will take seven months and the Qurnah-Amarah line 4 to 5 months from present time.

6. Buchanan is making preliminary arrangements up the Tigris and nothing useful can be added to my 1543-11-Q., of May 27th (Dy. No. 56571) until his return.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.2, M.O.3), Q.M.G.
Railway Board, D.G.M.W., F. & P.

51401GSB

APPENDIX 251
(Diary No. 60079)

Telegram P., No. 129-466-O., dated 16th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 3-30 P.M., 17th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

• June 16th Tigris Line.

No change in situation. Shade temperature 111 degrees.

Lines of Communication.

Because of defiant attitude of Ibn Rashid, Shaikh of Shammar Arabs, *vide* my telegram of 15th instant No. I. G.-3025, (Dy. No. 59796) and his refusal to move from the immediate neighbourhood of Zubair, I have despatched a Column of all arms to reinforce cavalry at Shaiba, and have given orders that, unless Ibn Rashid moves at once from his present neighbourhood, he is to be attacked.

Addressed Chief of the General Staff, Simla, repeated Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

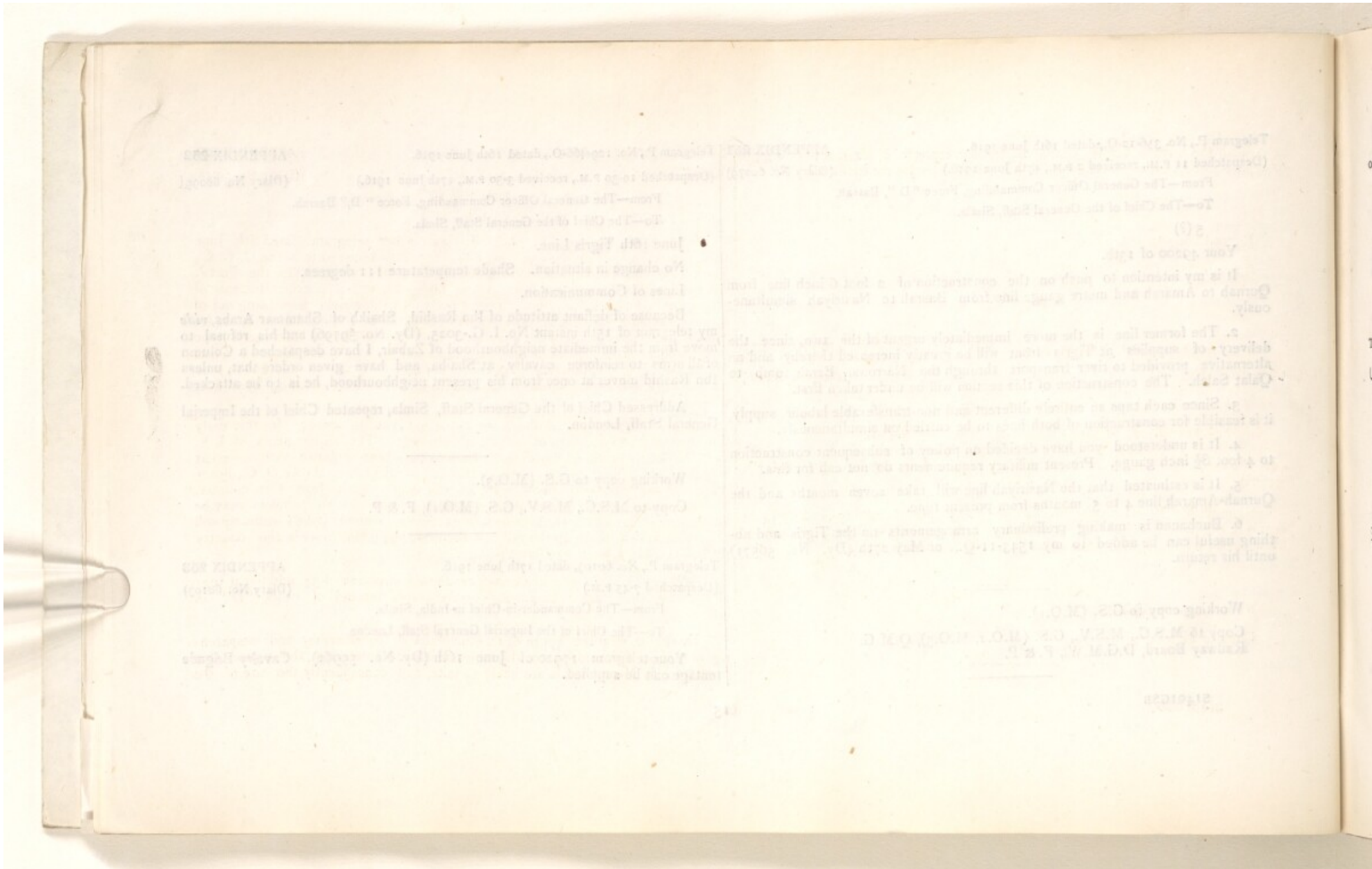
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1), F. & P.

Telegram P., No. 60103, dated 17th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-45 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

Your telegram 17920 of June 16th (Dy. No. 59962). Cavalry Brigade tentage can be supplied.

APPENDIX 253
(Diary No. 60103)





With the brigade kindly despatch for maintenance, a six months' supply of reserves of all ordnance stores. If you will do this please confirm ?

Record copy to D.G.O.

Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram No. 60108, dated 17th June 1916.

(Despatched 7-45 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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

With reference to my letter No. 213999-69, dated 16th June 1916 (Dy. No. 54656).

Shall be glad of very early information if any special clothing is likely to be required this cold weather for British Troops. If required, will probably have to be obtained from England ; consequently, early demand desirable.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C.

S1401GSB

Telegram P., No. H.-5211, dated 17th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 17th June 1916.)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department.)

To—The Secretary of State for India.

River Craft for I. E. F. "D." Reference our telegram dated 8th June 1916, No. H.-4867 (Dy. No. 58472). We have now received from the G. O. C., Force "D," his estimate of the total requirements of river craft for the Force. His calculation is based on a force of five Divisions, with a possible increase of 50 per cent ; he has also allowed for 25 per cent of the river fleet being out of action for repairs, etc. It is estimated by General Lake that he requires for general transport purposes, the equivalent of 51 paddlers of the Medjidieh type and he requests that this craft may be made up of 34 tugs of the Sumana Class and 17 Medjidieh paddlers. The above requirements are in addition to the craft already under orders from India, and England, and the existing river fleet in Mesopotamia.

In our telegram quoted above, we requested you to arrange for the early construction of 20 paddlers of the Medjidieh type. The requirements of I. E. F. "D," for this class of vessel, have thus already been arranged, with an excess of 3 paddlers. We, however, consider that in his calculations the G. O. C., Force "D," has overestimated the value of the craft under orders from this country. It is accordingly strongly recommended that our order for 20 paddlers may be allowed to stand, as the three vessels in excess of General Lake's estimate will not do more than bring up the value of the craft still under order in this country to that placed on them by General Lake.

Will you now kindly place orders for the construction of 34 additional tugs of the Sumana class. This will complete the demand of Force "D" in full.

Having in view the length of time involved in constructing and despatching craft from England, and of the impossibility of foreseeing the course that operations in Mesopotamia are likely to take, and consequently the size of the

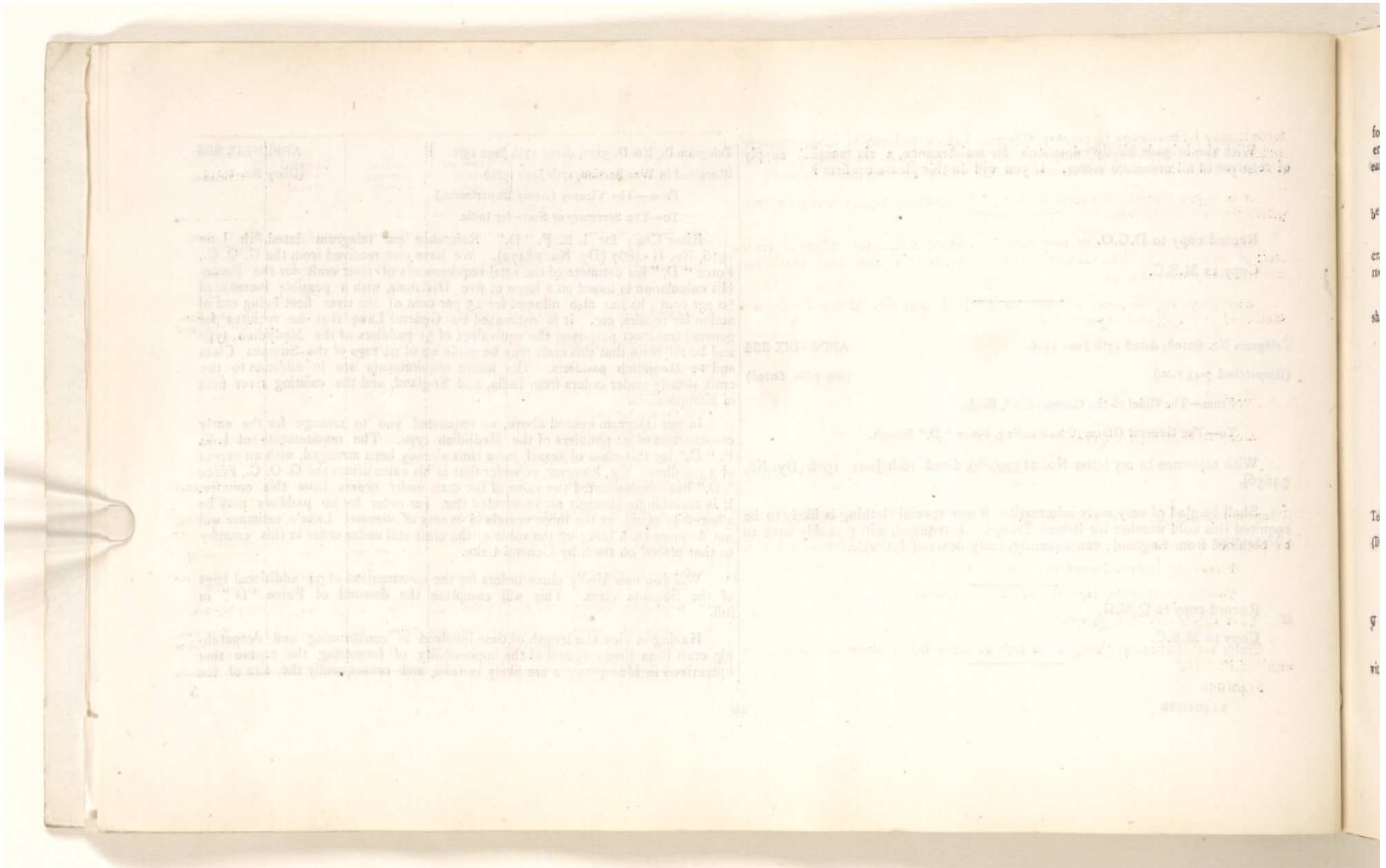
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APPENDIX 255

(Diary No. 60142.)

APPENDIX 254

(Diary No. 60108)





force it may be necessary to employ, General Lake's estimate is most strongly endorsed by us, and we recommend that steps be taken for delivery at the earliest possible date of the full number of craft which has been asked for now.

It is hoped that the full number of craft demanded now may reach Basrah before the end of this year.

We have learned that from past experience the demands for additional river craft of necessity takes several months longer to comply with than reinforcements in men and material.

As regards requirements of craft for Medical purposes of the Force, we shall send you a separate communication.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2, M.O.3).

Telegram P., No. 60147, dated 17th June 1916.

(Despatched 11-15 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla,

To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

☞ Your 14204 (Dy. No. 59055).

Since 14th February, changes as follows have taken place in commands with I.E.F. "D."

S14016SB

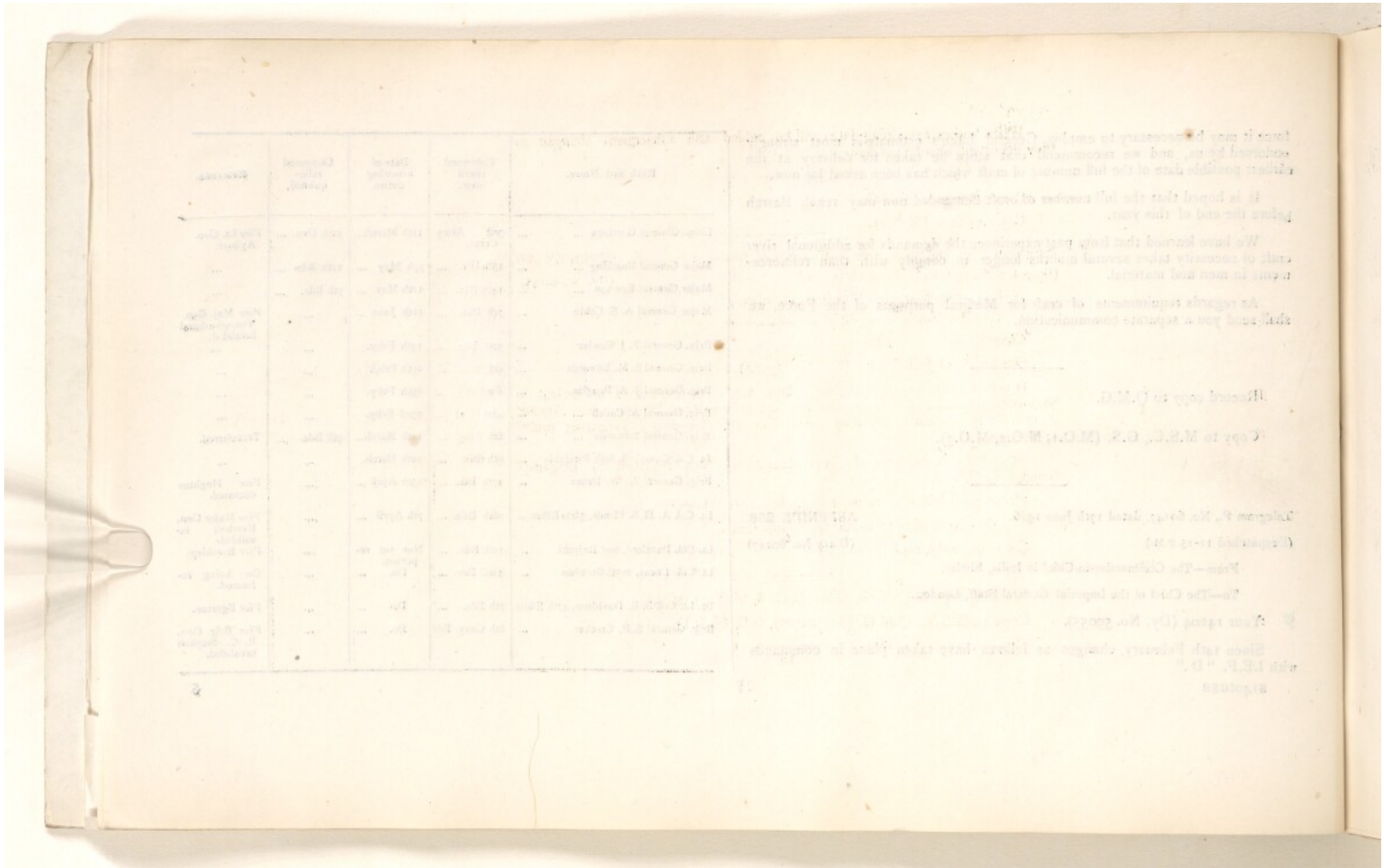
APPENDIX 256.

(Diary No. 60147)

Rank and Name.	Command taken over.	Date of assuming duties.	Command relinquished.	REMARKS.
Lieut. General Gorringe ...	3rd Army Corps.	11th March...	12th Dvn. ...	Vice Lt. Gen. Aylmer.
Major General Brooking ...	15th Div. ...	7th May ...	12th Bde. ...	...
Major General Egerton ...	14th Div. ...	12th May ...	7th Bde. ...	...
Major General A. S. Cobbe ...	7th Div. ...	11th June ...	...	Vice Maj. Gen. Younghusband invalid.d.
Brig. General F. J. Fowler ...	37th Bde. ...	14th Feby.	...	...
Brig. General S. M. Edwards ...	9th Bde. ...	19th Feby.	...	...
Brig. General J. A. Douglas ...	Bush ...	19th Feby.	...	...
Brig. General A. Cadell ...	41st Bde. ...	23rd Feby.	...	...
Brig. General Edwards ...	8th Bde. ...	10th March...	9th Bde. ...	Transferred.
Lt. Col. Campbell, 89th Punjabis ...	9th Bde. ...	10th March.	...	...
Brig. General W. W. Evans ...	17th Bde. ...	13th April ...	...	Vice Hoghton deceased.
Lt. Col. A. M. S. Elsmie, 56th Rifles ...	28th Bde. ...	7th April ...	...	Vice Major Gen. Kemball in-validated.
Lt. Col. Dunsford, 2nd Rajputs ..	12th Bde. ...	Not yet reported.	...	Vice Brooking.
Lt. Col. Lucas, 2-5th Gurkhas ...	42nd Bde. ...	Do. ...	...	On being reformed.
Bt. Lt. Col. S. R. Davidson, 47th Sikhs	7th Bde. ...	Do. ...	...	Vice Egerton.
Brig. General S. F. Crocker ...	6th Cavy. Bde	Do.	Vice Brig. Gen. R. C. Stephen in-validated.

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When known, remaining dates will be cabled and subsequent changes as they occur will also be notified.

Record copy to M.S.C.

Copy to G.S. (M.O.2).

Telegram P., No. 17979-Cipher-S. D.-2, dated 17th June 1916.

(Despatched 4-15 P.M., received 10-15 P.M.)

APPENDIX 257

(Dy. No. 60155)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London,

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Clear Line.

Our 17929 of June 16th (Dy. No. 59962).

It would be preferable that this bridge should be remounted on arrival in Mesopotamia, and this because, if horses are sent with the Brigade, loss among them is likely to occur in the Red Sea. Can this be done? Transport mules will be sent.

Brigadier General Edwards, in command, has been replaced by Brigadier General L. C. Jones.

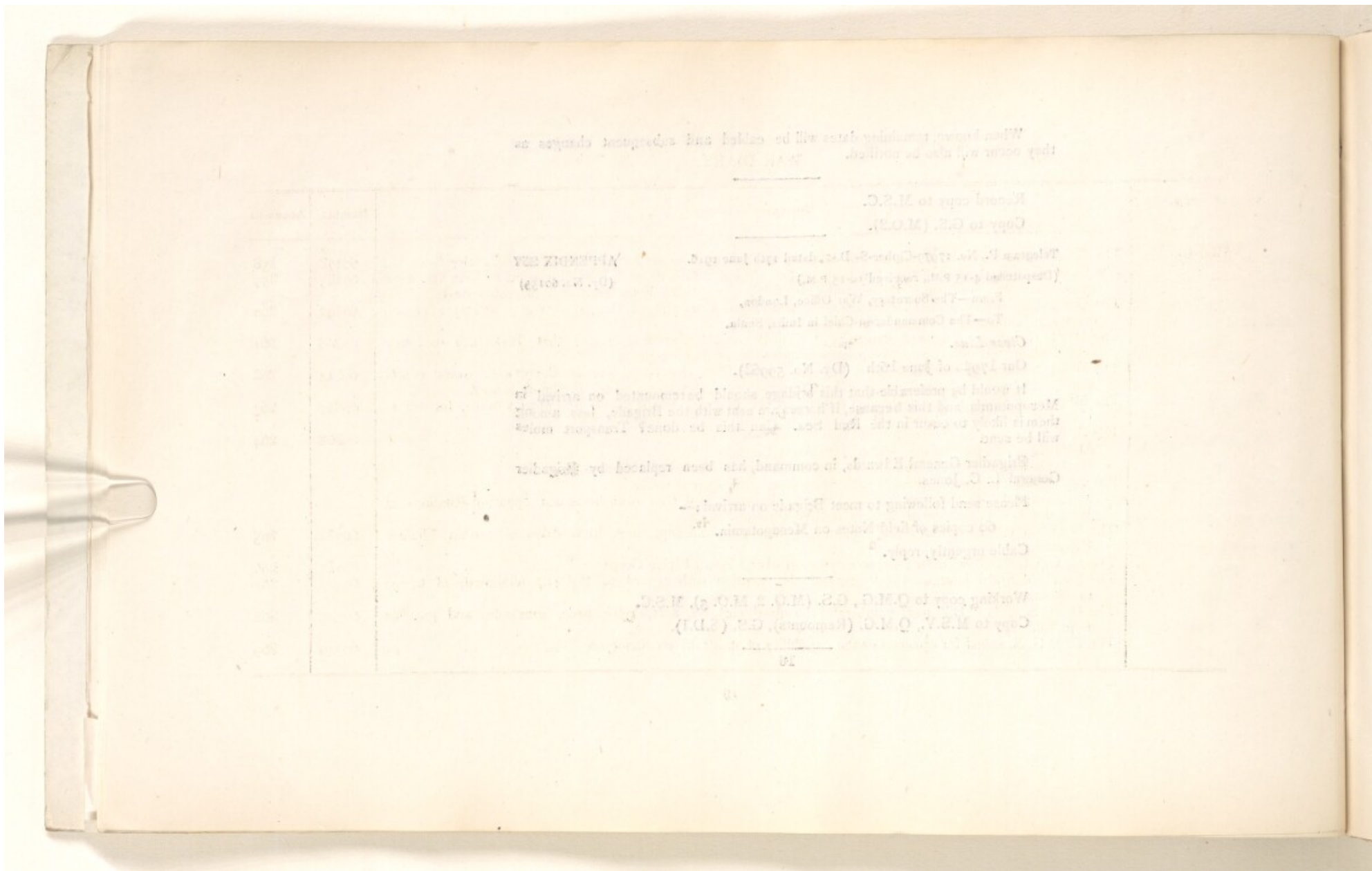
Please send following to meet Brigade on arrival:—

60 copies of field Notes on Mesopotamia.

Cable urgently, reply.

Working copy to Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 2, M.O. 3), M.S.C.

Copy to M.S.V., Q.M.G. (Remounts), G.S. (S.D.1).





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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
18-6-16 ...	<p>The C.-in-C. was informed of the date of despatch and name of vessels to carry the Meerut Cavalry Bde. ...</p> <p>The G. O., C. "D," reported that, for purposes of efficient administration, it was proposed to form volunteer gun detachments into two Batteries, to be called "A" and "B" Volunteer Batteries, respectively.</p> <p>The G. O., C., "D," reported the situation on the Tigris Line, and of the unsuccessful attempts of the enemy to bomb our saps in front of Sannaayat.</p> <p>The D. M. I., London, repeated statement by Gen. Beluselski in which he stated that Turks may recapture Kirmanshah, and that it would be good strategy to allow them to do so.</p> <p>The D. M. I. repeated information from French General Staff that Jemal was at Beyrut and would confer with Enver Pasha at Aleppo, and that French prisoners were working on the Baghdad railway.</p> <p>The Mily. Secy., India Office, forwarded reports on the Medical arrangements in Mesopotamia, for transmission to Sir William Vincent.</p> <p>The D. M. I. repeated following from Major Marsh :— Abdul Kerim Pasha in Command of 11th Army Corps : Mustapha Kiamin Pasha Commands Turkish Troops in Mush-Bitlis Section : Strength and details <i>re</i> the 9th and 10th Army Corps and 13th Division. The 14th and 15th Divisions had been sent to Erzingan, and that Arab horsemen opposing Russians at Khanikin belong to tribe of Al-Tebl and Alfeth Beni Rassah.</p> <p>The S. of S. informed G. O. C., "D," of the arrival at and departures from Aden of certain Thames Paddlers.</p> <p>The G. O. C., "D," submitted the weekly report of the Royal Flying Corps</p> <p>The Secy. of State informed the Viceroy of the position with regard to the pay allotments of troops in Mesopotamia.</p> <p>The D. D. S. & T., "D," gave numbers of mosquito curtains, nets, spine pads, sunshades and goggles required.</p> <p>The C. I. G. S. asked for opinions <i>re</i> the possibility of an attack on Nasiriyah</p>	<p>60178</p> <p>60183</p> <p>60192</p> <p>60208</p> <p>60214</p> <p>60217</p> <p>60262</p> <p>60311</p> <p>60317</p> <p>60327</p> <p>60345</p> <p>60349</p>	<p>258</p> <p>259</p> <p>260</p> <p>261</p> <p>262</p> <p>263</p> <p>264</p> <p>265</p> <p>266</p> <p>267</p> <p>268</p> <p>269</p>



WAR DIARY

Number	Summary of events	Date
1018	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1019	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1020	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1021	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1022	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1023	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1024	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1025	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1026	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1027	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1028	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1029	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1030	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1031	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1032	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1033	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1034	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1035	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1036	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1037	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1038	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1039	The C. I. ...	18-6-16
1040	The C. I. ...	18-6-16



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Telegram P., No. 17981-Cipher (Q.M. 2), dated 17th June 1916. APPENDIX 258
(Despatched 5-10 P.M., received 4 A.M., 18th June 1916.) (Diary No. 60178)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-chief in India, Simla.

My 17929-Cipher (Dy. No. 59962), embarking in Manitou, Georgin, Laomedon, Kalyan, Rhesus and Missouri, Meerut Cavalry Brigade will leave Marseilles for Basrah about 20-24th June. General Officer Commanding, Force "D," should be informed.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2, M.O. 3), A.G. D.G.M.W., D.M.S., D.G.O.

Telegram P., No. 1166-7-O., dated 17th June 1916. APPENDIX 259
(Despatched 5 P.M., received 4 A.M., 18 June 1916.) (Diary No. 60183)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

For purposes of more efficient administration it is proposed to form volunteer gun detachments into two batteries to be called "A" and "B" Volunteer Batteries respectively.

Distribution as under :—

"A" Battery to find the following :—

Two 15 pr. guns B.L.C., two 15 prs. B.L., and one 5 inch gun at Nasiriyah
Two 15 prs. B.L., at Hakikah. Two 15 prs. B.L. at Khamsieh. One 15 pr. B.L. at junction (of ?) post.

"B" Battery to find the following :—

One 15 pr. B.L.C. at Filafilah.
Two 15 prs. B.L.C. at Aligharbi.
One 15 pr. B.L.C. at Mudelil.
Two 15 prs. B.L.C. at Amarah.
Two 15 prs. B.L.C. at Ahwaz.

Small numbers of British Infantry trained locally, where such are available, will assist Volunteer detachments; nevertheless some extra volunteer personnel will be wanted, and, if proposed organization is approved, A.A.G. 3rd Echelon will render demand for these in due course. Excluding British Infantry proposed establishments will be :—

"A" Battery—1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Battery Q.M.S., and 75 other ranks.

"B" Battery.—Same as for A except that there will be 83 other ranks.

Please wire approval. Reference your 59452 of June 14th.

Working copy to G.S.(M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.G., G.S. (M.O. 1), Q.M.G., D.G.O., D.M.S.,

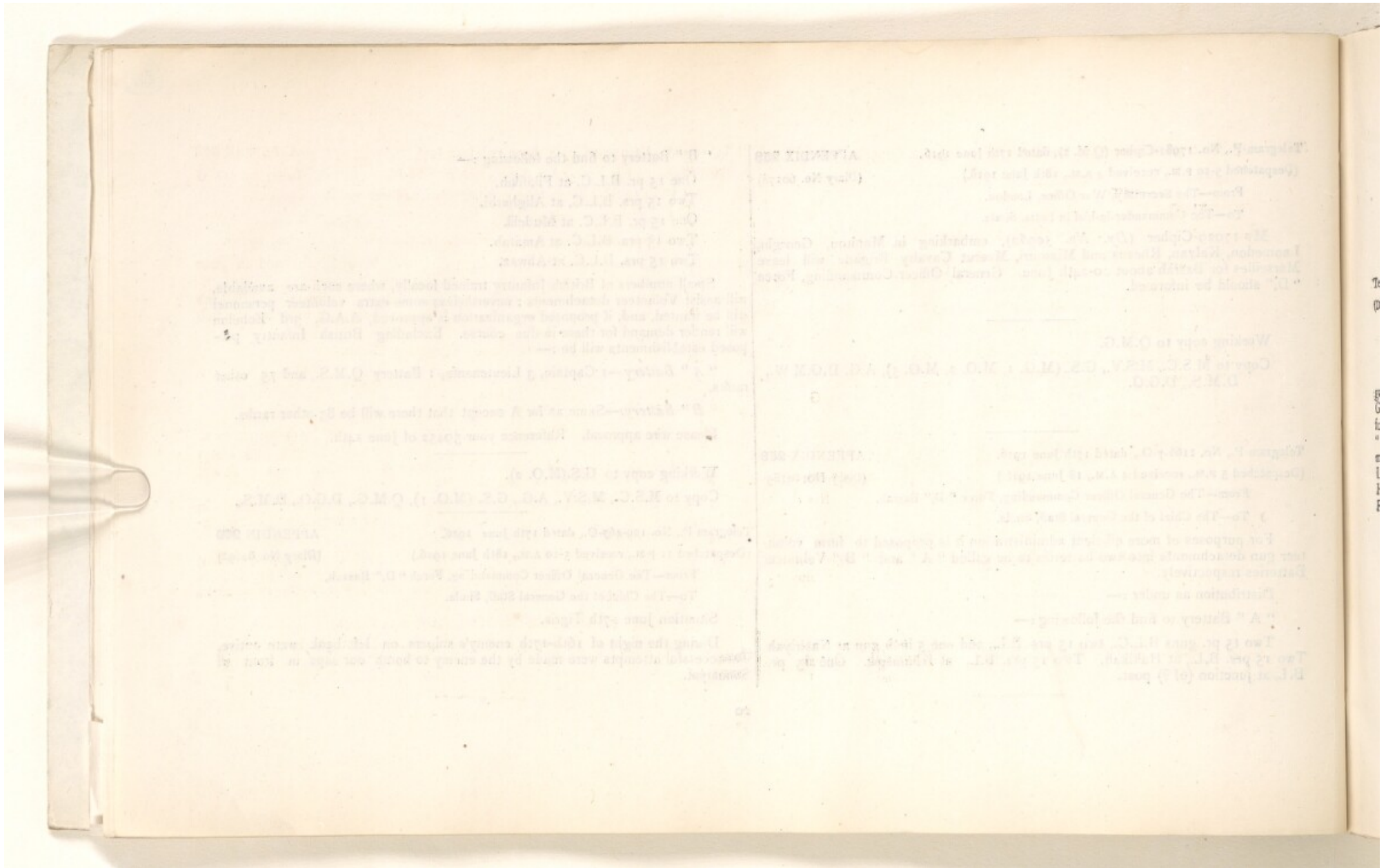
Telegram P., No. 129-467-O., dated 17th June 1916. APPENDIX 260
(Despatched 11 P.M., received 5-10 A.M., 18th June 1916.) (Diary No. 60192)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Situation June 17th Tigris.

During the night of 16th-17th enemy's snipers on left bank were active. Unsuccessful attempts were made by the enemy to bomb our saps in front of Sannaiyat.





Addressed Simla ; repeated London. (See Dy. No. 60358).

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 17999-Cipher, dated 17th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-15 P.M., received 8-30 A.M., 18th June 1916.)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

With reference to your telegram, dated 9th June, Marsh telegraphs that gauge is 42". Wire from Marling dated 15th June *Begins.*—304, Secret. General Beluselski, who has recently arrived from Kirmanshah front, made following statement in course of conversation with British Vice-Consul at Kazvin. "It would not surprise him if Turks recaptured Kirmanshah very soon. As a matter of fact, he thought it a good plan to encourage Turks to lengthen their Lines of Communication, the Russians strengthening and contracting theirs. He asserted that two divisions of Turks were on offensive and striving to clear Russians back into Persia."

With reference to my telegram 17891, (*Dy. No. 59765*), the above is noted.

Addressed G.O.C., Force "D" ; repeated C.-in-C., India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 17995-Cipher, dated 17th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-5 P.M., received 9-45 A.M., 18th June 1916.)

From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

French General Staff Paris, have furnished the following information :—

(1) *Dated May 21st.*—On June 3rd Jemal was at Beyrut and on June 28th would confer with Enver Pasha at Aleppo.

(2) *Dated June 11th.*—A reliable agent recently returned from Balkans states that actually working on the Baghdad there are French prisoners.

Addressed Basrah ; repeated India, Egvpt and Marsh.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 262

(Diary No. 60214)

APPENDIX 263.

(Diary No. 60217)

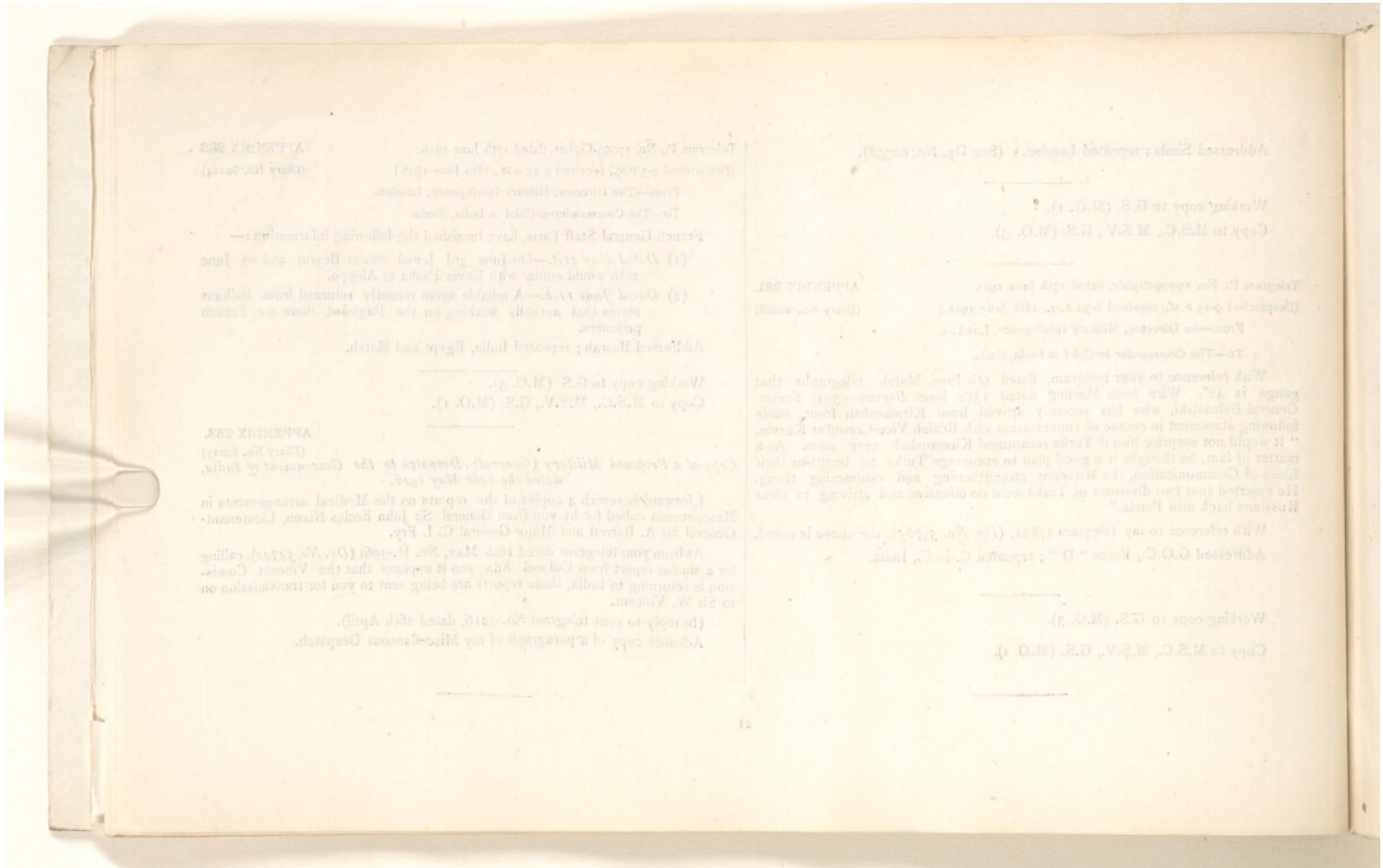
Copy of a Proposed Military (General) Despatch to the Government of India, dated the 24th May 1916.

I forward herewith 4 copies of the reports on the Medical arrangements in Mesopotamia called for by you from General Sir John Eccles Nixon, Lieutenant-General Sir A. Barrett and Major-General C. I. Fry.

As from your telegram, dated 16th May, No. H.-396: (*Dy. No. 54342*), calling for a similar report from Colonel Addison it appears that the Vincent Commission is returning to India, these reports are being sent to you for transmission on to Sir W. Vincent.

(In reply to your telegram No. 3216, dated 26th April).

Advance copy of a paragraph of my Miscellaneous Despatch.





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Telegram, dated 16th June 1916.

APPENDIX 263-A.

(Despatched 9-15 A.M., received 12-15 P.M., 17th June 1916.)

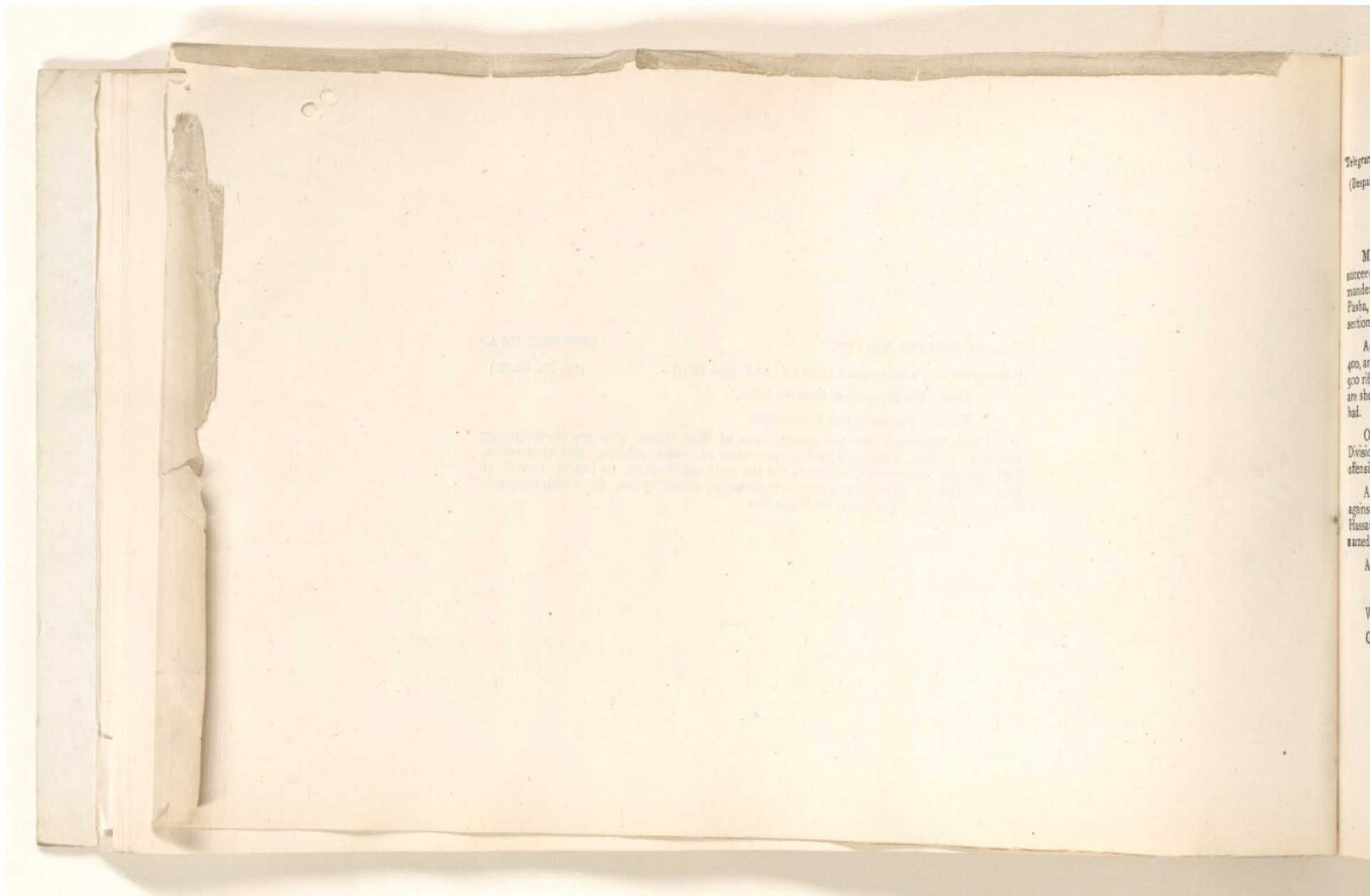
(Dy. No. 60246.)

From—The Secretary of State for India,

To—The Viceroy (Army Department).

Please telegraph, for the information of War Office, who are investigating resources of this country regarding provision of motor vehicles and accessories, full estimate of your requirements for the next six months, or longer period if possible, in lorry chassis, touring car chassis and motor cycles, for which demands have not yet been preferred on this office.

21-1





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Telegram P., No. 17998-Cipher, dated 17th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-25 P.M., received 9-45 A.M., 18th June 1916.)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, War Office, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

APPENDIX 264
(Diary No. 60262)

Marsh has forwarded following:—*Begins.*—Abdul Kerim Pasha has been succeeded by Mirliwa Faisi Pasha (late Commander, 5th Army Corps) as Commander of 11th Army Corps, with Headquarters at Baiburt. Mustapha Kiamil Pasha, late G. O. C., 2nd Army, Commands Turkish troops in Mush-Bitlis section.

According to a prisoner strength of battallions of 9th Army Corps is only 400, and in 10th Army Corps 500 to 600. In the 13th Division Battallions (?) 900 rifles, and 300 sabres in Cavalry Regiments. Ammunition is plentiful, ration are short, horses are deficient, transport is difficult and the moral generally is had.

On June 12th a Turkish officer prisoner stated that the 14th and 15th Divisions had been sent to Erzingan from Sivas, in anticipation of the Russian offensive from Trebizond.

A report, unconfirmed, states 1,000 Arab horsemen, who recently fought against the Russians at Khanikin belong to tribe of Al Tebl and Alfeth Beni Hassan. Their chief, who is keeper of the keys of the Holy Places at Nejef, is named Said Mohammed.

Addressed Basrah; repeated India and Egypt.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 19126, dated 17th June 1916.
(Received 18th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 265
(Diary No. 60311)

From—The Secretary of State for India, London.
To—The Viceroy (Army Department), Simla.

The following is addressed to the General Officer Commanding, I.E.F. "D", and repeated to H. E. the Viceroy:—

Thames Paddlers.—"Brunel" left Aden on the 1st June and "Fitzjailwyn" on the 13th idem, the "Christopher Wren" arrived at Aden on the 3rd of June and the "Carlyle" on the 9th of June.

This is with reference to my 16625, dated 26th May 1916, (*Dy. No. 56551.*)

Working copy to Q.M.G.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

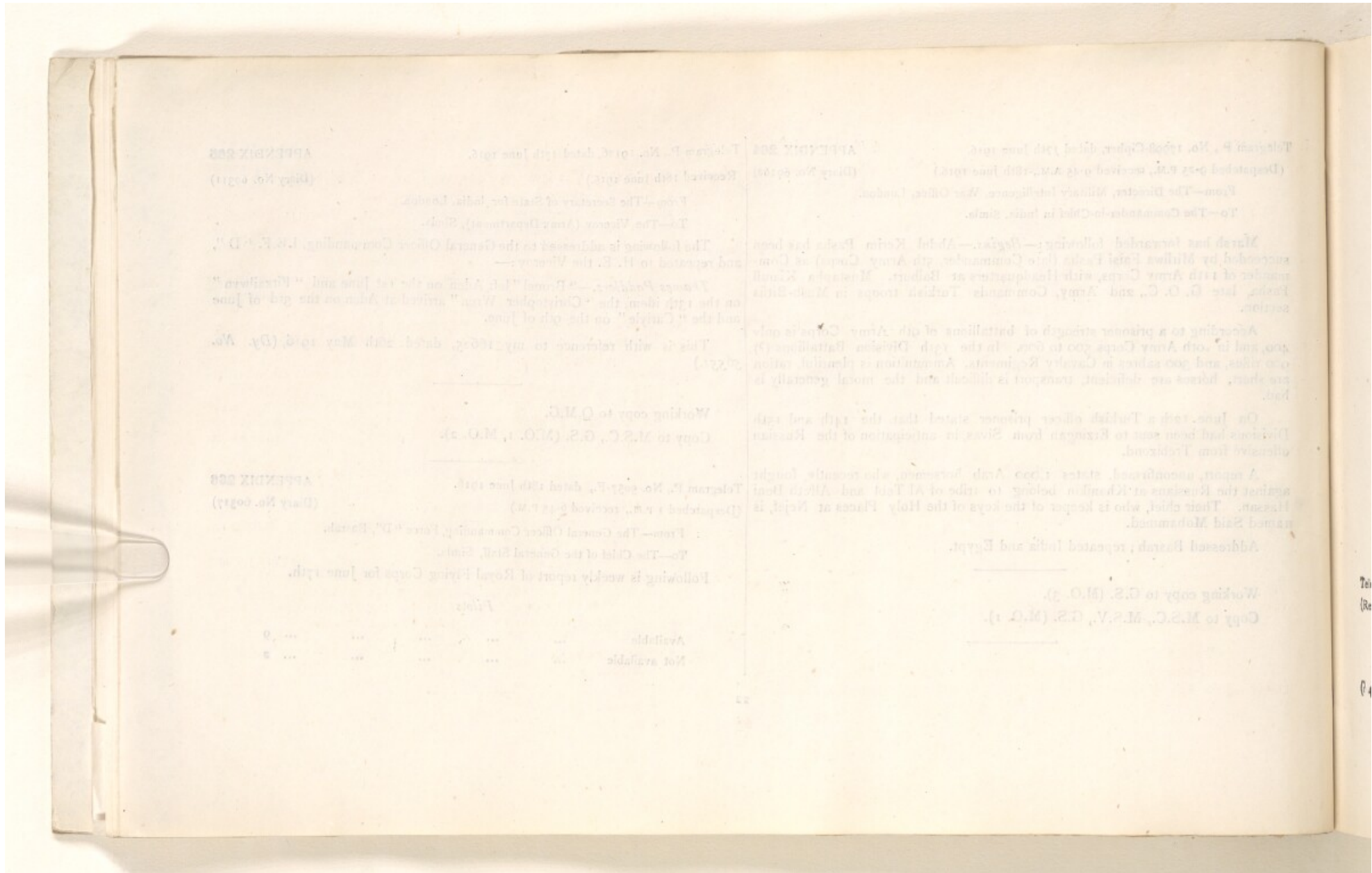
Telegram P., No. 5057-F., dated 18th June 1916.
(Despatched 1 P.M., received 6-45 P.M.)

APPENDIX 266
(Diary No. 60317)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Following is weekly report of Royal Flying Corps for June 17th.

Pilots					
Available	...	...	...	...	9
Not available	...	...	...	...	2





(26)

<i>Betucis.</i>					
Serviceable	...	...	...	...	... 12
Repairable	...	...	...	...	... 5
<i>Henri Farman.</i>					
Repairable	...	...	...	...	... 1
<i>Maurices.</i>					
Serviceable	...	...	...	...	... 3
Repairable	...	...	...	...	... 4
<i>Voisins.</i>					
Serviceable	...	...	...	...	... 2
Repairable	...	...	...	...	... 1

Addressed Secretary, War Office ; repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (S.D. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., A.D.I(A.), G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram, dated 17th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 18th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary of State for India.

To—The Viceroy (Army Department).

With reference to telegram from General, Basrah, to Chief, Simla, 947 (P 44), 43-A., 24th May last, (Dy. No. 55358) and reply from Commander-in-

Chief in India of 28th May last, 55359—pay of troops in Mesopotamia—position here as regards allotments is as follows:—

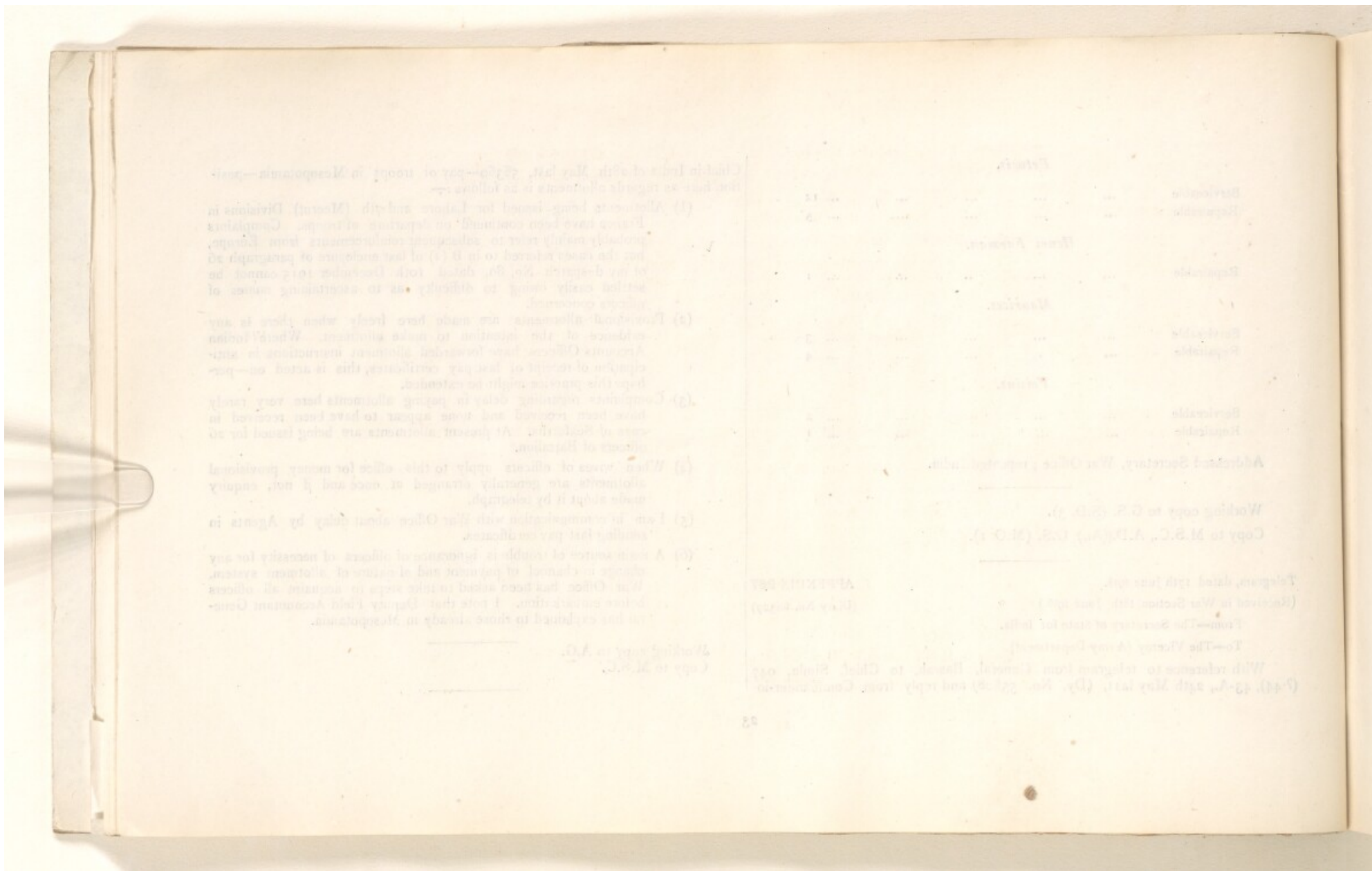
- (1) Allotments being issued for Lahore and 7th (Meerut) Divisions in France have been continued on departure of troops. Complaints probably mainly refer to subsequent reinforcements from Europe, but the cases referred to in B (2) of last enclosure of paragraph 26 of my despatch No. 80, dated 10th December 1915 cannot be settled easily owing to difficulty as to ascertaining names of officers concerned.
- (2) Provisional allotments are made here freely when there is any evidence of the intention to make allotment. Where Indian Accounts Officers have forwarded allotment instructions in anticipation of receipt of last pay certificates, this is acted on—perhaps this practice might be extended.
- (3) Complaints regarding delay in paying allotments here very rarely have been received and none appear to have been received in case of Seaforths. At present allotments are being issued for 26 officers of Battalion.
- (4) When wives of officers apply to this office for money provisional allotments are generally arranged at once and if not, enquiry made about it by telegraph.
- (5) I am in communication with War Office about delay by Agents in sending last pay certificates.
- (6) A main source of trouble is ignorance of officers of necessity for any change in channel of payment and of nature of allotment system. War Office has been asked to take steps to acquaint all officers before embarkation. I note that Deputy Field Accountant General has explained to those already in Mesopotamia.

Working copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C.

APPENDIX 267

(Diary No. 60327)





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Telegram No. S-435, dated 18th June 1916. APPENDIX 268
(Despatched 7-15 P.M., received 4-15 A.M., 19th June 1916.) (Diary No. 60345)
From—The D, S, and T, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 59862, 16th June.

Following are still urgently required for issue to troops at front, Mosquito curtains eight thousand, nets eighteen thousand, spine pads and sunshades, fifteen thousand each and goggles twentyfive thousand.

Please send number available by earliest opportunity and wire despatch. Above is after deducting receipts *ex* "Chanda" which arrived here on 13th June.

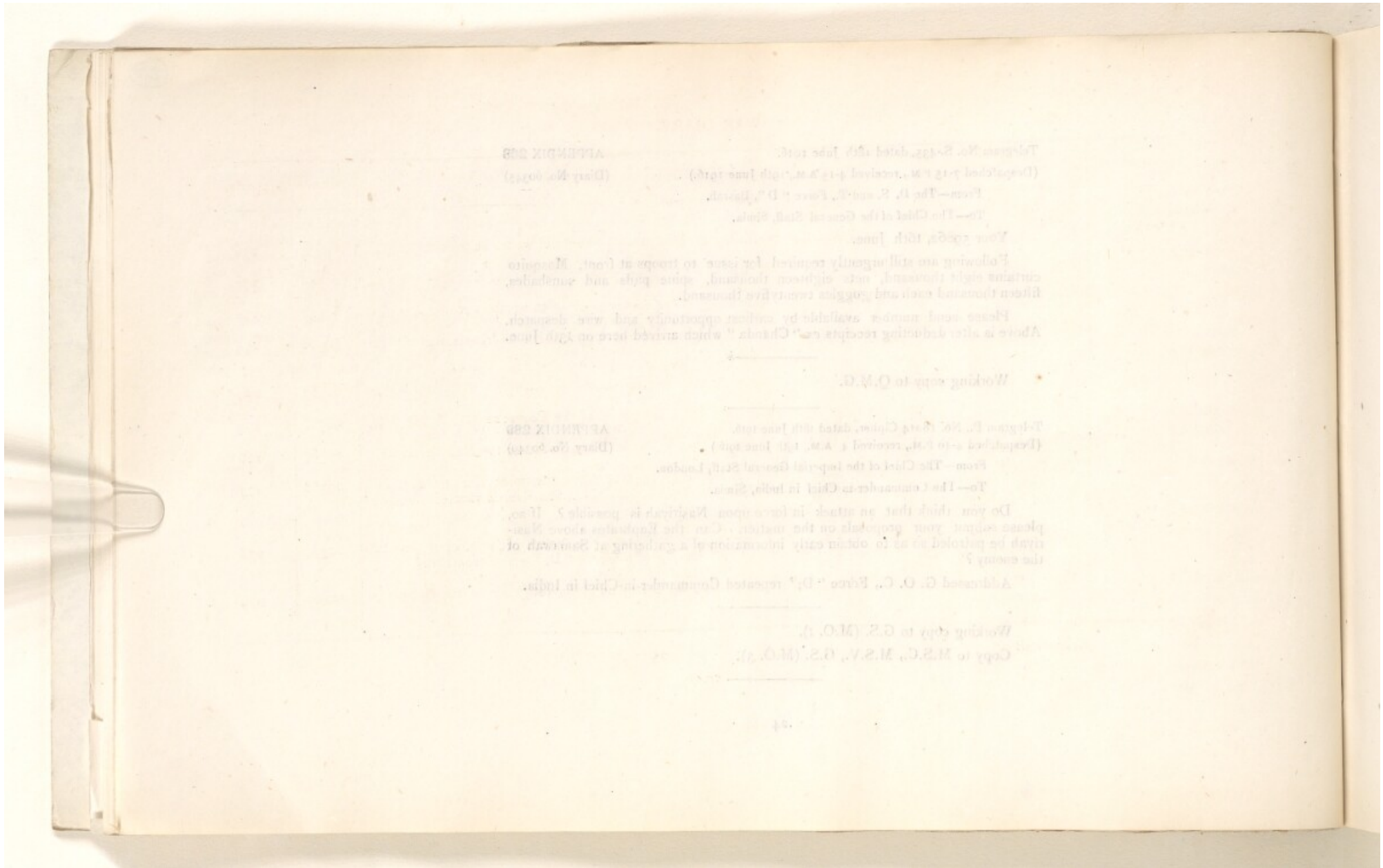
Working copy to Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 18014-Cipher, dated 18th June 1916. APPENDIX 269
(Despatched 4-40 P.M., received 4 A.M., 19th June 1916.) (Diary No. 60349)
From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Do you think that an attack in force upon Nasiriyah is possible? If so, please submit your proposals on the matter. Can the Euphrates above Nasiriyah be patrolled so as to obtain early information of a gathering at Samawah of the enemy?

Addressed G. O. C., Force "D;" repeated Commander-in-Chief in India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 3).



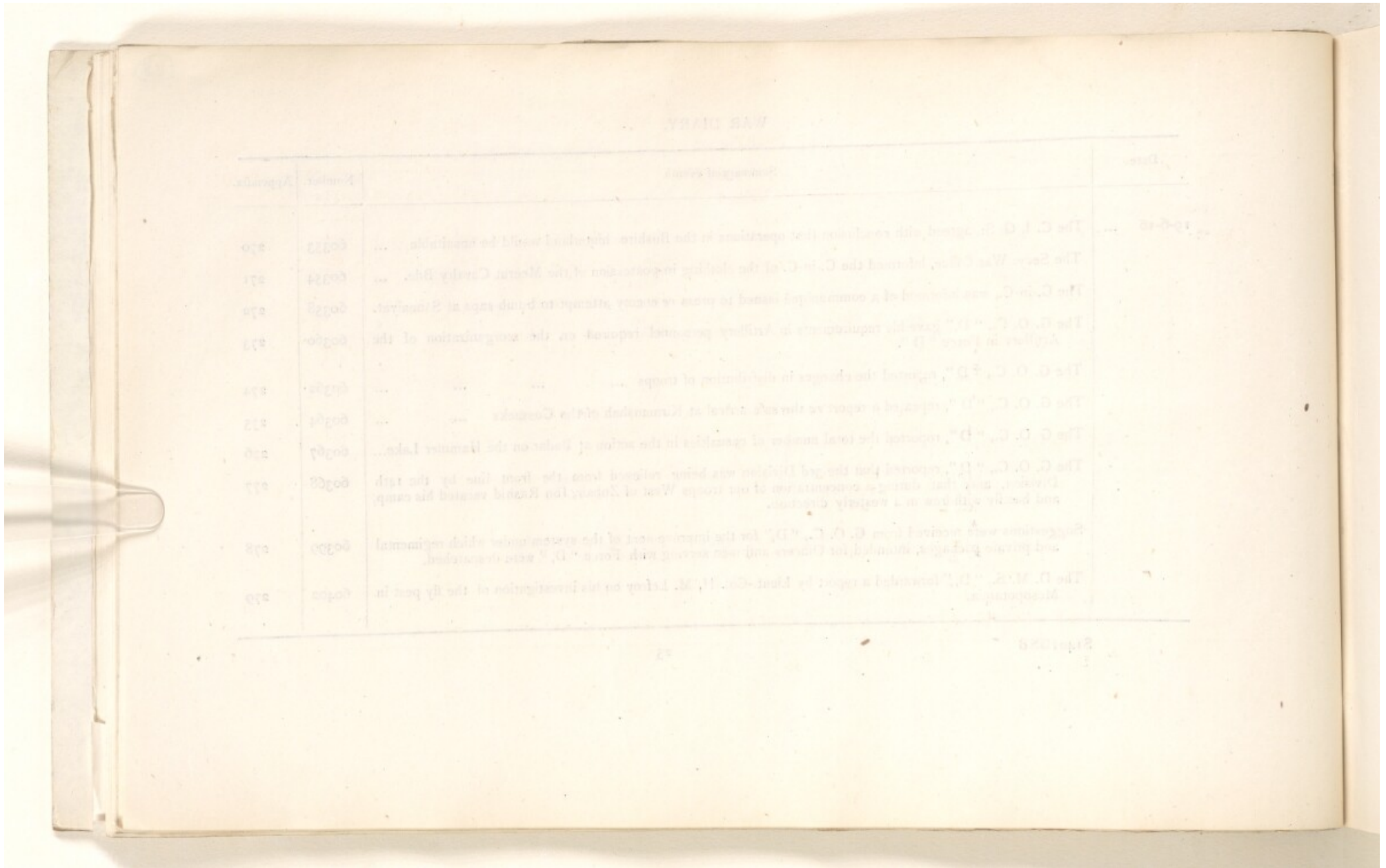


(28)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events	Number.	Appendix.
19-6-16 ...	The C. I. G. S., agreed with conclusion that operations in the Bushire hinterland would be unsuitable ...	60353	270
	The Secy. War Office, informed the C.-in-C. of the clothing in possession of the Meerut Cavalry Bde. ...	60354	271
	The C.-in-C., was informed of a communiqué issued to press <i>re</i> enemy attempt to bomb saps at Sannaiyat.	60358	272
	The G. O. C., "D," gave his requirements in Artillery personnel required on the reorganization of the Artillery in Force "D".	60360	273
	The G. O. C., "D", reported the changes in distribution of troops	60362	274
	The G. O. C., "D", repeated a report <i>re</i> the safe arrival at Kirmanshah of the Cossacks	60364	275
	The G. O. C., "D", reported the total number of casualties in the action at Badar on the Hammer Lake...	60367	276
	The G. O. C., "D", reported that the 3rd Division was being relieved from the front line by the 14th Division, and that during a concentration of our troops West of Zubair, Ibn Rashid vacated his camp, and hastily withdrew in a westerly direction.	60368	277
	Suggestions were received from G. O. C., "D," for the improvement of the system under which regimental and private packages, intended for Officers and men serving with Force "D," were despatched.	60399	278
	The D. M. S., "D," forwarded a report by Lieut.-Col. H. M. Lefroy on his investigation of the fly pest in Mesopotamia.	60402	279

S1401GSB

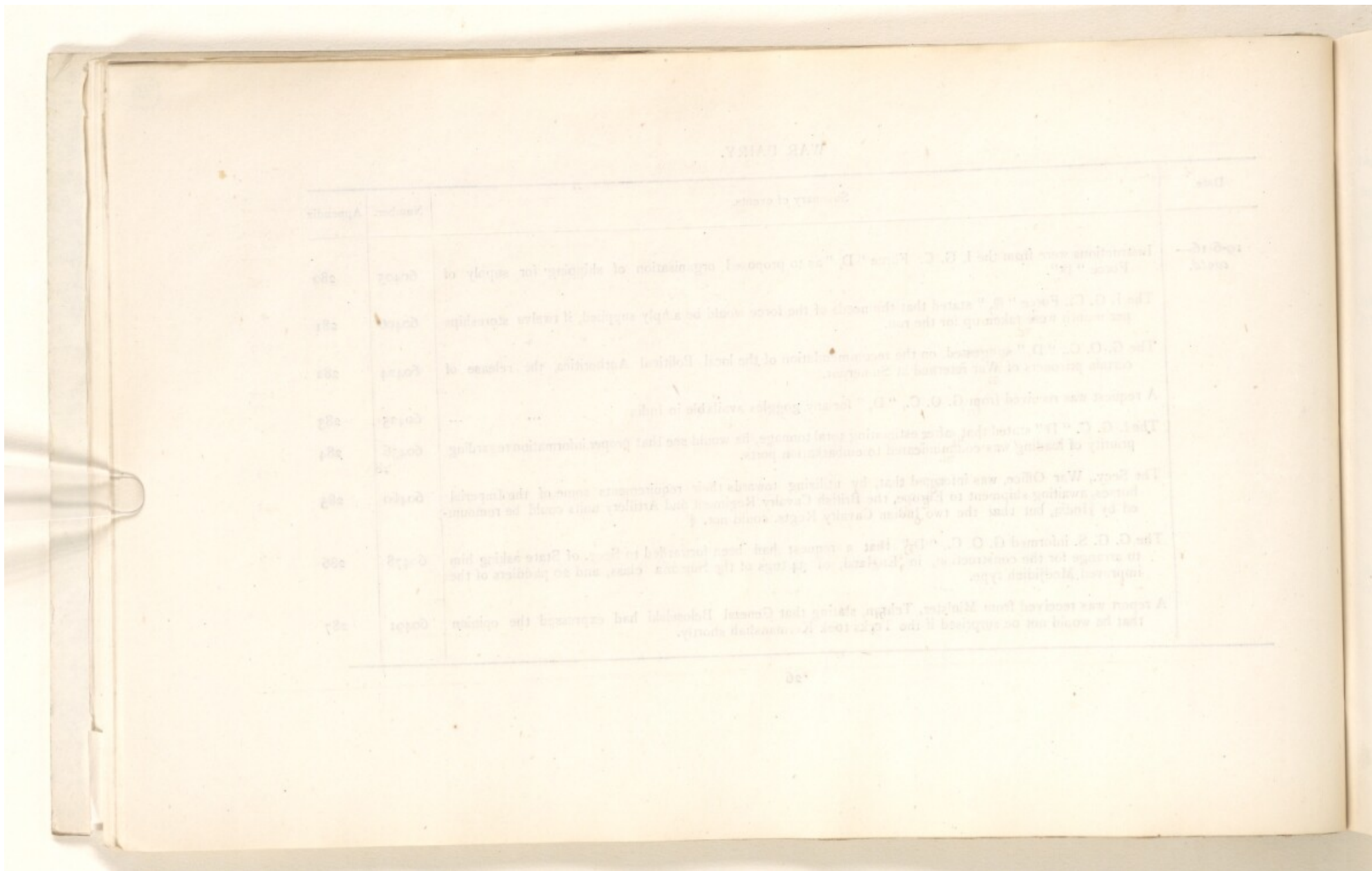




(29)

WAR DAIRY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
19-6-16— <i>contd.</i>	Instructions were from the I. G. C. Force "D," as to proposed organisation of shipping for supply of Force "D".	60405	280
	The I. G. C., Force "D," stated that the needs of the force would be amply supplied, if twelve storeships per month were taken up for the run.	60406	281
	The G. O. C., "D," suggested, on the recommendation of the local Political Authorities, the release of certain prisoners of War interned at Sumerpur.	60424	282
	A request was received from G. O. C., "D," for any goggles available in India	60425	283
	The I. G. C. "D" stated that, after estimating total tonnage, he would see that proper information regarding priority of loading was communicated to embarkation ports.	60436	284
	The Secy., War Office, was informed that, by utilizing towards their requirements some of the Imperial horses, awaiting shipment to Europe, the British Cavalry Regiment and Artillery units could be remounted by India, but that the two Indian Cavalry Regts. could not. ¶	60460	285
	The G. G. S. informed G. O. C., "D," that a request had been forwarded to Secy. of State asking him to arrange for the construction, in England, of 34 tugs of the Sumana class, and 20 paddlers of the improved Medjidieh type.	60478	286
	A report was received from Minister, Tehran, stating that General Beloselski had expressed the opinion that he would not be surprised if the Turks took Kermanshah shortly.	60491	287





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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
19 6-16— <i>concl'd.</i>	The G. O. C. "D" was informed, that the provisional Battalions being formed to replace the three British battalions, lost at Kut-al-Amarah, would have the same designations, and would represent them for the duration of the war.	60495	288
	The Secy. of State asked if the offer made by the Turkish Government to exchange women and children for Otoman officials was agreed to.	60512	289
	The G. O. C. "D" stated that the examination service at Fao would come into force on 1st July ...	60525	290
	The G. O. C. "D" stated that, in connection with the building of the Nasiriyah railway, it would be necessary to place stations beyond Zubair in fortified serais with garrisons.	60539	291
	The G. O. C. "D" forwarded proposals for the organisation of a mobile bridging train ...	60542	292
	The D. M. I. London forwarded a report of a statement of an officer prisoner, giving location of 1st Lancers and 1st and 6th regts., as Bakuba.	60543	293
	The urgency of the Transport question was commented upon by the D. M. O. in weekly appreciation furnished by M. O. 1	...	294



WAR DIARY

Number of entries	Number of pages	Summary of events	Date
288	62432	The G.O. C. "D" was informed that the provision battalions being formed to replace the three British battalions lost at Kut-al-Amara would have the same designation and would represent them for the duration of the war.	19 June
289	62433	The G.O. C. "D" stated that the offer made by the Turkish Government to exchange women and children for German officers was not to be accepted.	19 June
290	62434	The G.O. C. "D" stated that the examination service at Fao would come into force on 1st July.	19 June
291	62435	The G.O. C. "D" stated that in connection with the building of the Kasrabad railway it would be necessary to place stations beyond Kut in fortified areas with garrisons.	19 June
292	62436	The G.O. C. "D" forwarded proposals for the organization of a mobile hospital train.	19 June
293	62437	The D. M. F. Jackson forwarded a report of a statement of an officer prisoner, giving location of the British and the Turkish forces at Fao.	19 June
294	62438	The progress of the Fao mission was commented upon by the D. M. O. in weekly appreciation forwarded by M. O. C.	19 June

Telegram

Despatch

From

To

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India

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31

Telegram P., No. 18010-Cipher dated 18th June 1916.

Despatched 4-20 P.M., received 3-15 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 59629.

Concur in your conclusions that at present time operations in the Bushire hinterland would be unsuitable. The India Office, whom I have consulted, do not consider that there is any urgency in the matter.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 1806-Cipher (Q.M.G.-7), dated 18th June 1916. APPENDIX 271

(Despatched 2 25 P.M., received 3-15 A.M., 19th June 1916.) (Diary No. 60354)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Helmets and khaki drill clothing will be in the possession of British troops Meerut Cavalry Brigade. Only serge clothing will be in the possession of Indian troops and on arrival they will require khaki drill.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C.

APPENDIX 270

(Diary No. 60353)

Telegram No. 8359, dated 18th June 1916.

(Despatched 7-20 P.M., received 4-0 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Following has been communicated Press.

Begins. General Lake reports that on the night of June 16th-17th enem. made unsuccessful attempts to bomb our saps in front of Sannaiyat; description in the Turkish communiqué June 17th of an attempted English landing on north bank Euphrates is either entirely imaginary or else distorted version of punitive successful expedition mentioned in British Communiqué June 16th. (*See Dy. No. 60192*).

Working copy to G.S. (Censor).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1., M.O.3).

APPENDIX 272

(Diary No. 60358)

Telegram P., No. 818-2-15-A-G., dated 18th June 1916.

(Despatched 3-30 P.M., received 1-30 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

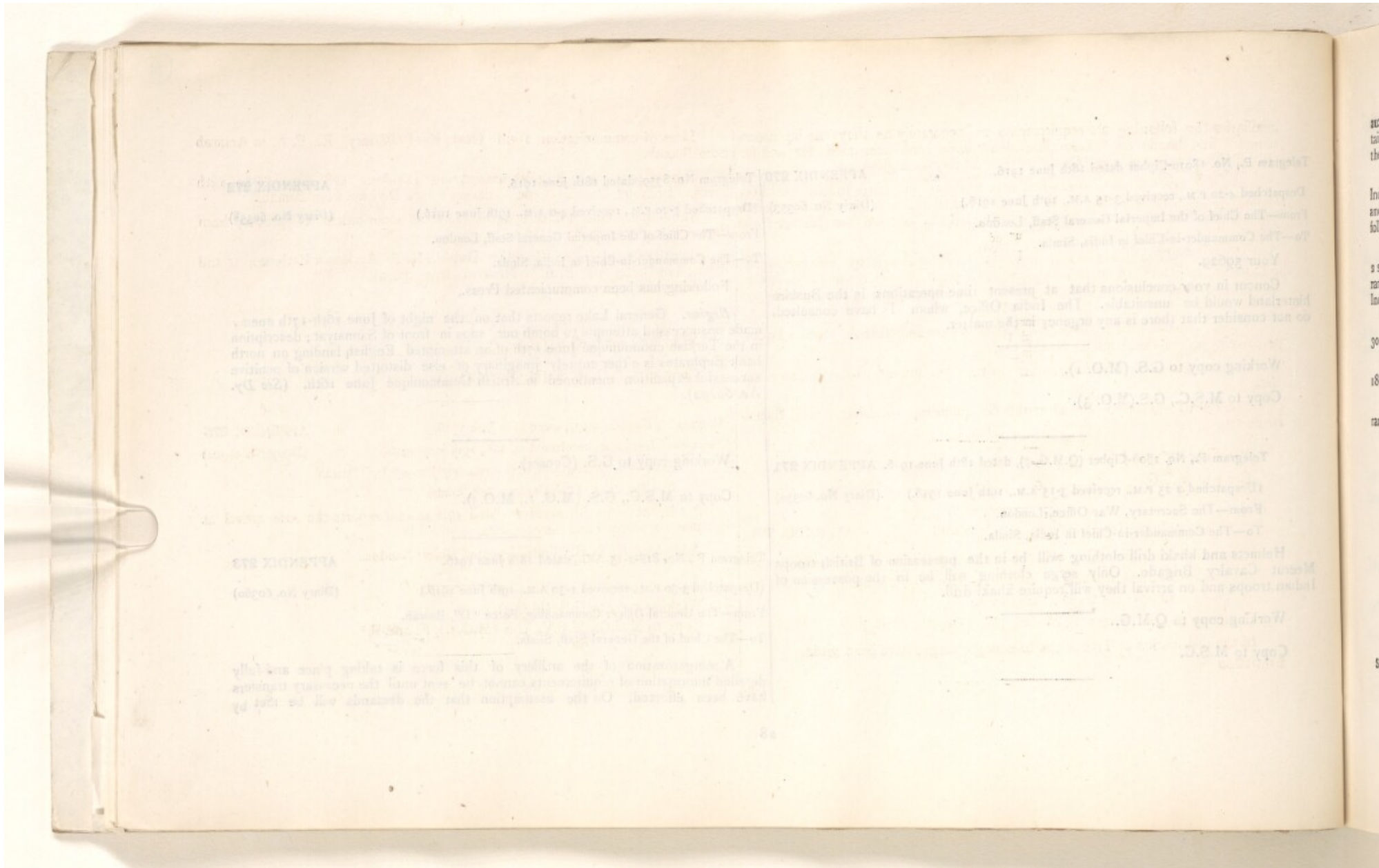
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

A reorganization of the artillery of this force is taking place and fully detailed information of requirements cannot be sent until the necessary transfers have been effected. On the assumption that the demands will be met by

APPENDIX 273

(Diary No. 60360)





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auxiliaries the following are requirements as accurately as they can be ascertained. The details *ex* "Lake Manitoba" have been accounted for and for the 48 British ranks on the "Chakdara" credit has been given:—

Royal Garrison Artillery.—British ranks 50 gunners; Indian ranks 60 Indian horse drivers. The D. D. S. and T. has had the question of bullocks and bullock drivers referred to him and shortly a demand for personnel will follow.

Royal Field Artillery.—British ranks 1,210 gunners, 19 shoemsmiths, 2 saddlers, 43 fitters, 15 farriers, 570 drivers, total British ranks 1,860, Indian ranks 12 ward servants, 25 shoemsmiths, 400 drivers, 160 gunners, total 597 Indian ranks.

Royal Horse Artillery.—Indian ranks 20 gunners, British ranks 1 farrier, 30 drivers, 30 gunners, total 61 British ranks.

Indian Mountain Artillery.—110 drivers, 70 gunners, total Indian ranks 180.

Territorial Artillery.—British ranks 60 gunners, 45 drivers, total British ranks 105.

Working copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No. 131-87-O., dated 18th June 1916

APPENDIX 274

(Despatched 4-40 P.M., received 6-30 A.M., 19th June 1916. (Diary No. 60362)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah,

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Continuation my 131-86-O., of 10th June (*Dy. No. 58763*).

In the distribution of Troops the following changes have been made.

S1401GSB

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Lines of communication 1-3rd West Kent Battery, R. F. A. to Amarah from Basrah.

Tigris Corps. 4th Rajputs arrived 3rd Division. 128 Pioneers to 14th Division from 3rd Division. 90th Infantry to 3rd Division from Basrah.

Karun line. One Platoon 44th Merwaris under orders to proceed from Ban-i-Qir to Amwazh ?).

Basrah. 1-3rd Home Counties Brigade R. F. A. less 2 Batteries. 1-2nd West Kent Battery, R. F. A. to Nasiriyah from Basrah.
Addressed India, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O.1., M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. I.G.-20537, dated 18th June 1916.

APPENDIX 275

(Despatched 10-45 P.M., received 8-30 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

(Diary No. 60364)

From—The General Officer Commanding Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

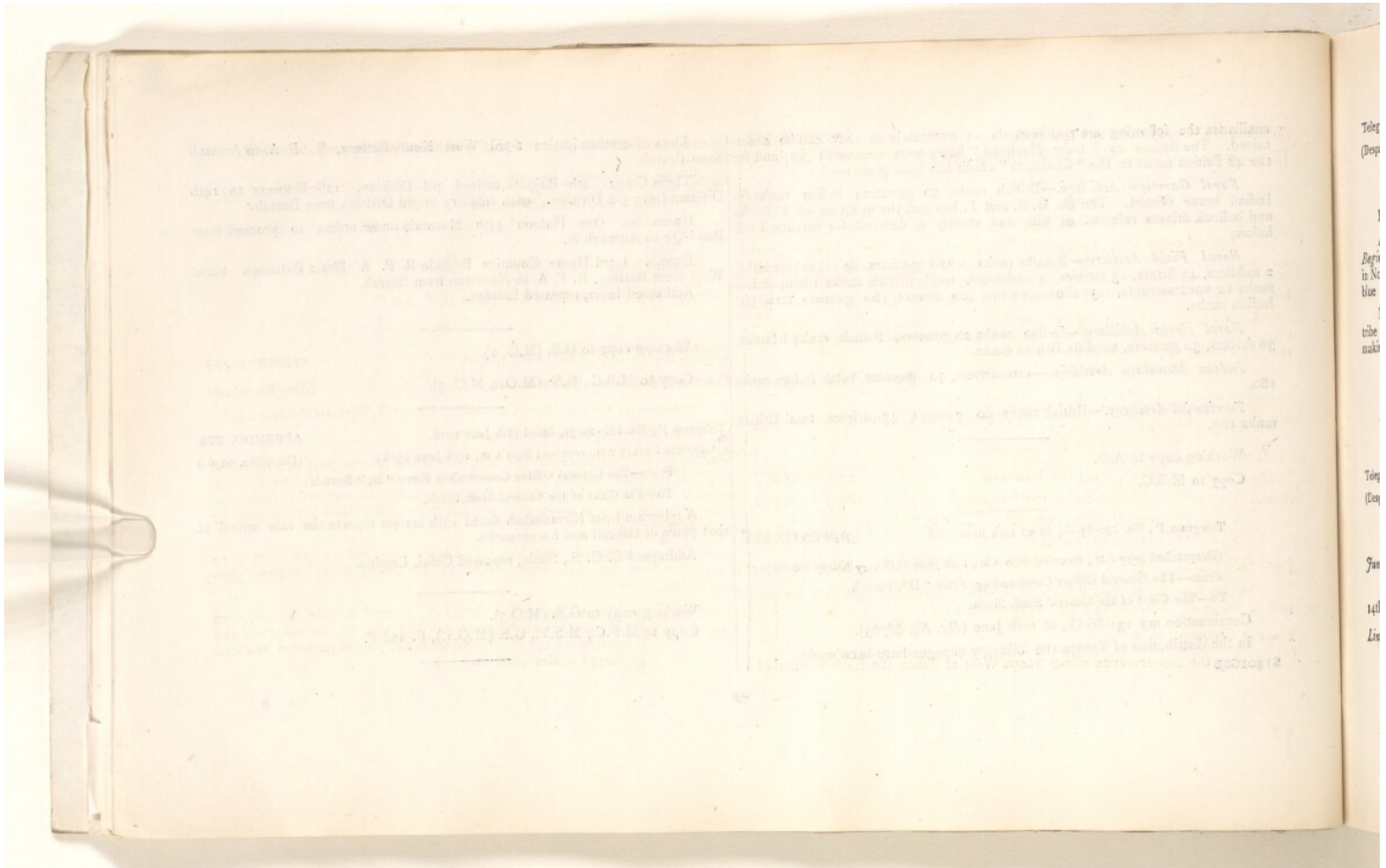
A telegram from Kirmanshah dated 17th instant reports the safe arrival at that place of Gamali and his cossacks.

Addressed C. G. S., Simla, repeated Chief, London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S (M.O.1.), F. and P.

8





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Telegram No. K-3463, dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 5-30 A.M., received 8-30 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The Cable Censor, Karachi.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Following from G.O.C., Force "D":

Addressed Chief of the General Staff, repeated by Candler to London 18th. *Begins.* Basrah 18th June Mesopotamia 16th. In action 9th June at Badar in Northern region of Hammar Lake on Euphrates, our total casualties were 2 blue jackets slightly wounded.

Enemy lost 23 killed, including a son of Shaikh of irreconcilable Albu Salih tribe which has been causing us constant annoyance cutting our telegraph line making punitive expedition necessary. *Ends.*

Working copy to G.S. (D.C.C.).

Copy to M.S.C., P.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.3).

Telegram P., No. 129-468-O., dated 18th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-45 P.M., received 9 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

June 18th Tigris Line.—

The 3rd Division is being relieved in the front line on the right bank by the 14th Division which has completed its organization.

Lines of Communication.—

During the concentration of our troops West of Zubair Ibn Rashid vacated

APPENDIX 276
(Diary No. 60367)

his camp south of that place and hastily withdrew in a westerly direction.

We are not following him up.

Addressed India, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.3), F. and P.

Telegram No. 965-15-Q., dated 30th May 1916.
(Received in War Section, 19th June 1916.)

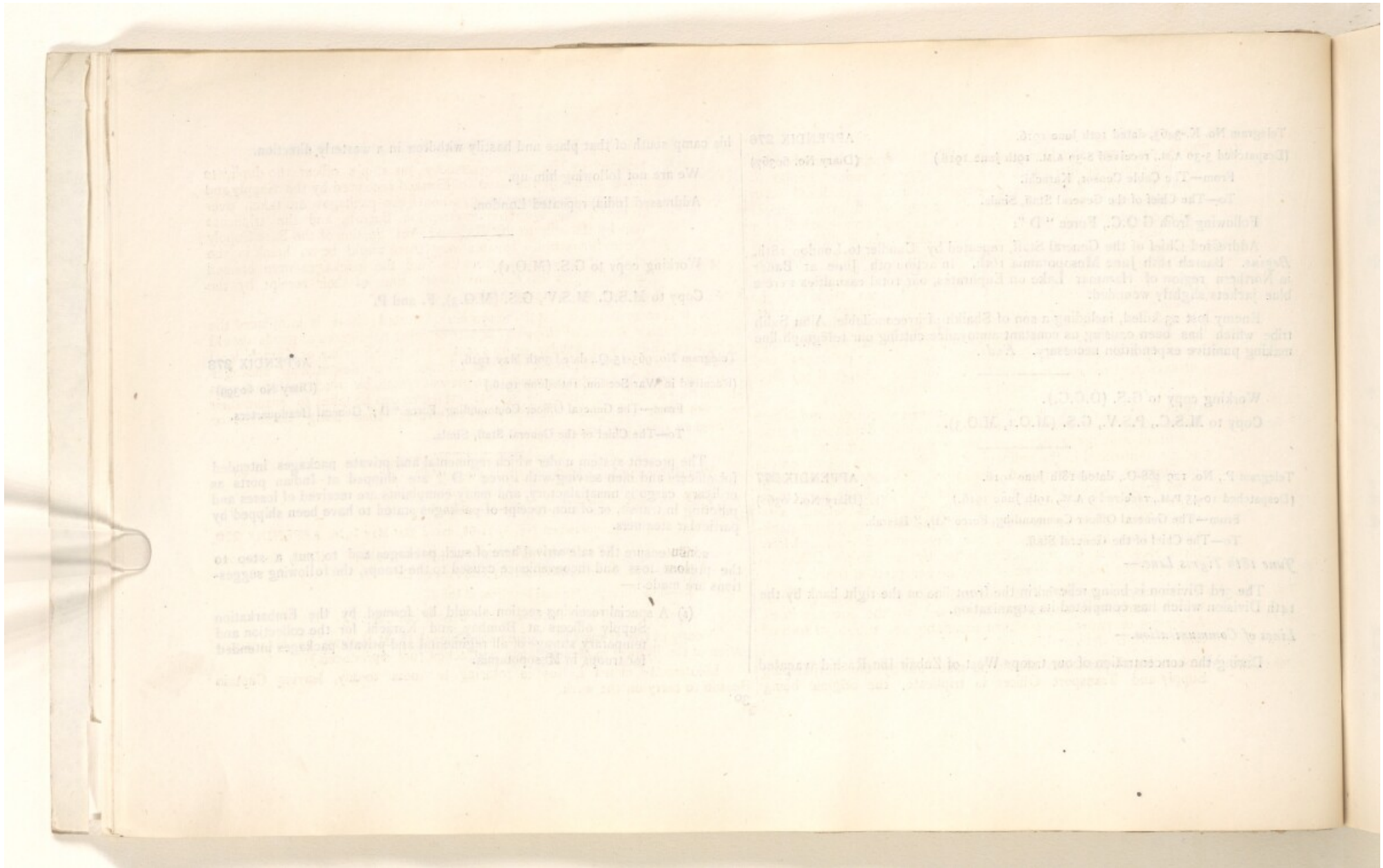
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," General Headquarters.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

APPENDIX 278
(Diary No 60399)

The present system under which regimental and private packages intended for officers and men serving with Force "D" are shipped at Indian ports as ordinary cargo is unsatisfactory, and many complaints are received of losses and pilfering in transit, or of non-receipt of packages stated to have been shipped by particular steamers.

2. To ensure the safe arrival here of such packages and to put a stop to the present loss and inconvenience caused to the troops, the following suggestions are made:—

(1) A special receiving section should be formed by the Embarkation Supply officers at Bombay and Karachi for the collection and temporary storage of all regimental and private packages intended for troops in Mesopotamia.





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- (ii) These packages should be despatched by certain selected ships which should be fitted with a special "baggage room" similar to that in P. and O. and other passenger steamers, and should be in the personal charge of a ship's officer who would grant receipts to the Embarkation Supply officers for all packages handed over by them to him, receiving at the same time a copy of the special invoice in which the packages are entered, and which would give particulars of address, marks, etc.
- (iii) On arrival of the ship at Basrah, the baggage room would only be opened in the presence of a representative of Supply and Transport Corps, who would check the packages with the list in the possession of the Chief Officer, and if correct, sign for their receipt, and would then take delivery of the packages and arrange for their handing over to the Officer in charge E (c) Section of the Base Supply Depot for further disposal.
- (iv) Instances have occurred of private packages for officers and others being delivered on board ships just before their departure by trading firms or shipping agencies; these packages are not accounted for or invoiced in the ordinary way, but are only shewn on the manifest as so many private packages, thus confusing check on other similar packages, or in the event of one being lost, making it almost impossible to trace which package is actually missing. This should on no account be allowed and only such packages as have been delivered at the Receiving Section and from there made over to and acknowledged by the Ship's Officer in charge of the baggage room should be accepted on board.
- (v) No Packages or cases should be accepted by the Receiving Section unless clearly and sufficiently addressed on the package itself. Addresses on paper labels almost invariably get rubbed or torn off and cannot be delivered.
- (vi) Vouchers for all packages should be made out by the despatching Supply and Transport Officer in triplicate, the original being

retained by him and receipted by the ship's officer, the duplicate being kept by the latter officer and receipted by the Supply and Transport representative by whom the packages are taken over from the baggage room on arrival in Basrah, and the triplicate sent by the ship to the Rail and Port Section of the Base Supply Depot for record. In this way there would be no break in the chain of responsibility from the time the packages were handed in at Bombay or Karachi to the time of their receipt by the Supply and Transport here.

2. It is recommended that if the system indicated above is introduced the principal trading firms and shipping agents or other consignors of goods should be notified, either by a circular or by a notice in the Bombay or Karachi local papers as to the correct procedure to be followed when despatching packages to the troops in Mesopotamia; under the present system by which such packages are classed as ordinary cargo, no special measures can be taken to ensure their reaching their consignees correctly or to prevent their being damaged or pilfered *en route*.

Working copy to M.G.

Copy to G.S. (M.O.2).

Memorandum No. A.12-63, dated 31st May 1916. APPENDIX 279.

(Received in War Section, 19th June 1916.) (Diary No. 60402.)

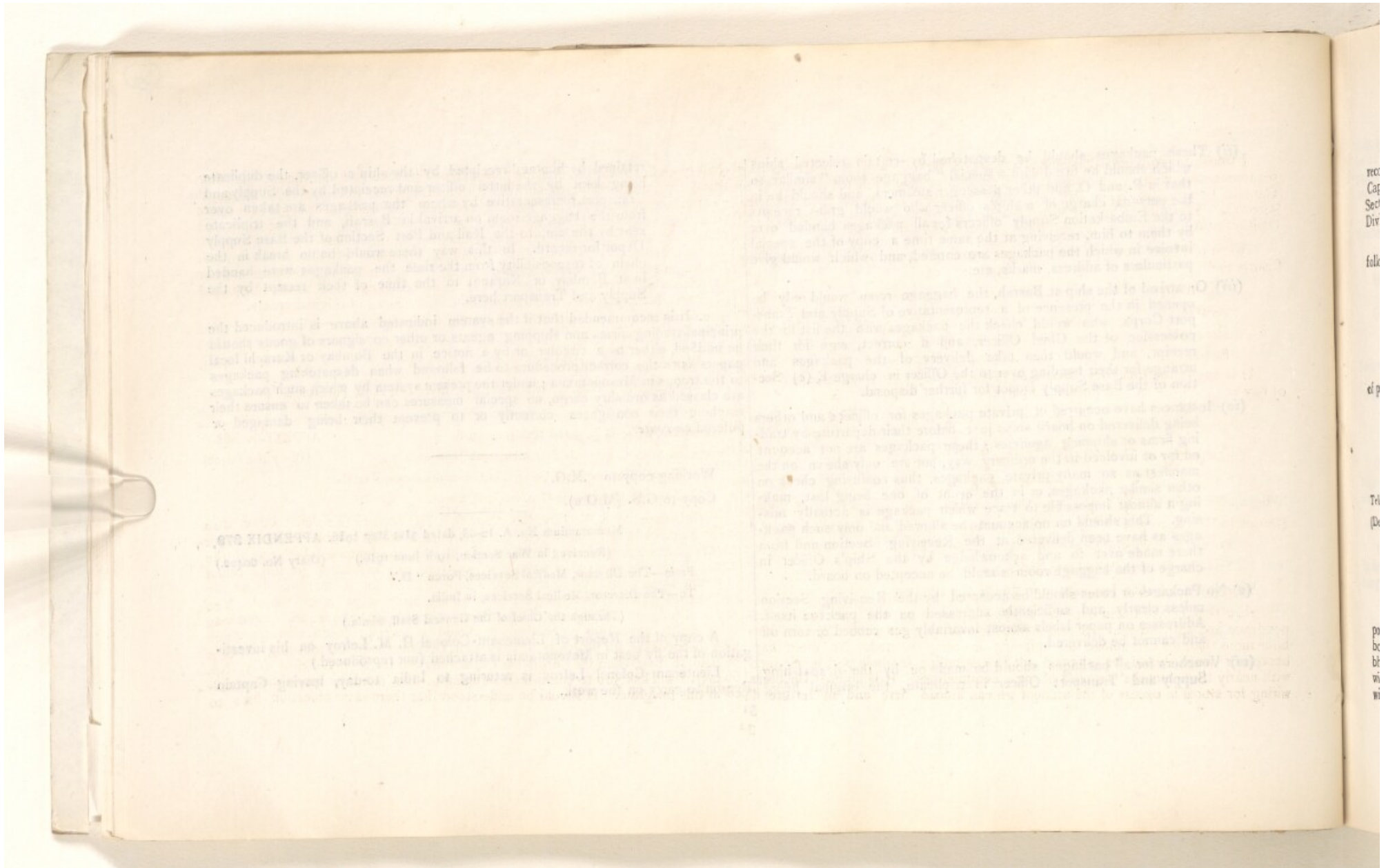
From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D."

To—The Director, Medical Services, in India.

(Through the Chief of the General Staff, Simla.)

A copy of the Report of Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Lefroy on his investigation of the fly pest in Mesopotamia is attached (not reproduced.)

Lieutenant-Colonel Lefroy is returning to India to-day, leaving Captain Beeson to carry on the work.





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I would strongly urge that immediate action be taken with regard to the recommendations made in paragraph 8 of the report. Trained assistants to Captain Beeson should be sent out to be attached to the various Sanitary Sections. Their duties will be carried out under the Sanitary Officers of the Division or Administrative Area to which they are posted.

Seven of these men if available are required now, to be distributed as follows:—

Tigris Corps	...	...	...	...	...	4
Amarah	...	..	...	...	...	1
Nasiriyah	...	...	...	...	...	1
Basrah	...	...	...	...	...	1

It is suggested that they should be given military rank relative to the rates of pay at which they are at present employed.

Working copy to D.M.S.

Telegram No. 828-2 (818-2 ?-L. C.,) dated 18th June 1916.
(Despatched 6 P.M., received 8 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The Inspector General of Communications, Basrah.
To—The Commander-in-Chief, Simla.

Your 59819 of 16th June and your 59454 of 14th June.

Now that I have taken over the shipping please wipe out previous correspondence and start afresh. At present we have many more store ships in harbour more than we can unload and shipping is being wasted. No more hay, bhoosa or wood should be shipped till further notice as whole port is clogged with nearly three months' supplies of these commodities. It is no use Directors wiring for stores in excess of the amount we can unload here and in future I

shall co-ordinate this. All ships now loading may sail as convenient but after that I want no storeship to sail till I give notice and I will give you 21 days' clear notice of any more ships being required. We shall then get the port normal and shall be able to work on lines indicated in my 818-3 of date and reduce the number of ships on the run to economical numbers.

My 818-3 (Dy. No. 60406) gives you total number of storeships required. Buchanan and Brown consider Quida would not help us at all and I concur after experience at Lemnos. As soon port is normal ships can load at Bombay and Kiamari with tonnage for each Directorate in sequence of original orders.

Addressed C. G. S., repeated General Kirkpatrick.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2), A.D. (Marine).

Telegram No. 818-3-L.C., dated 18th June 1916.

Despatched 11 P.M., received 8-15 A.M., 19th June 1916.)

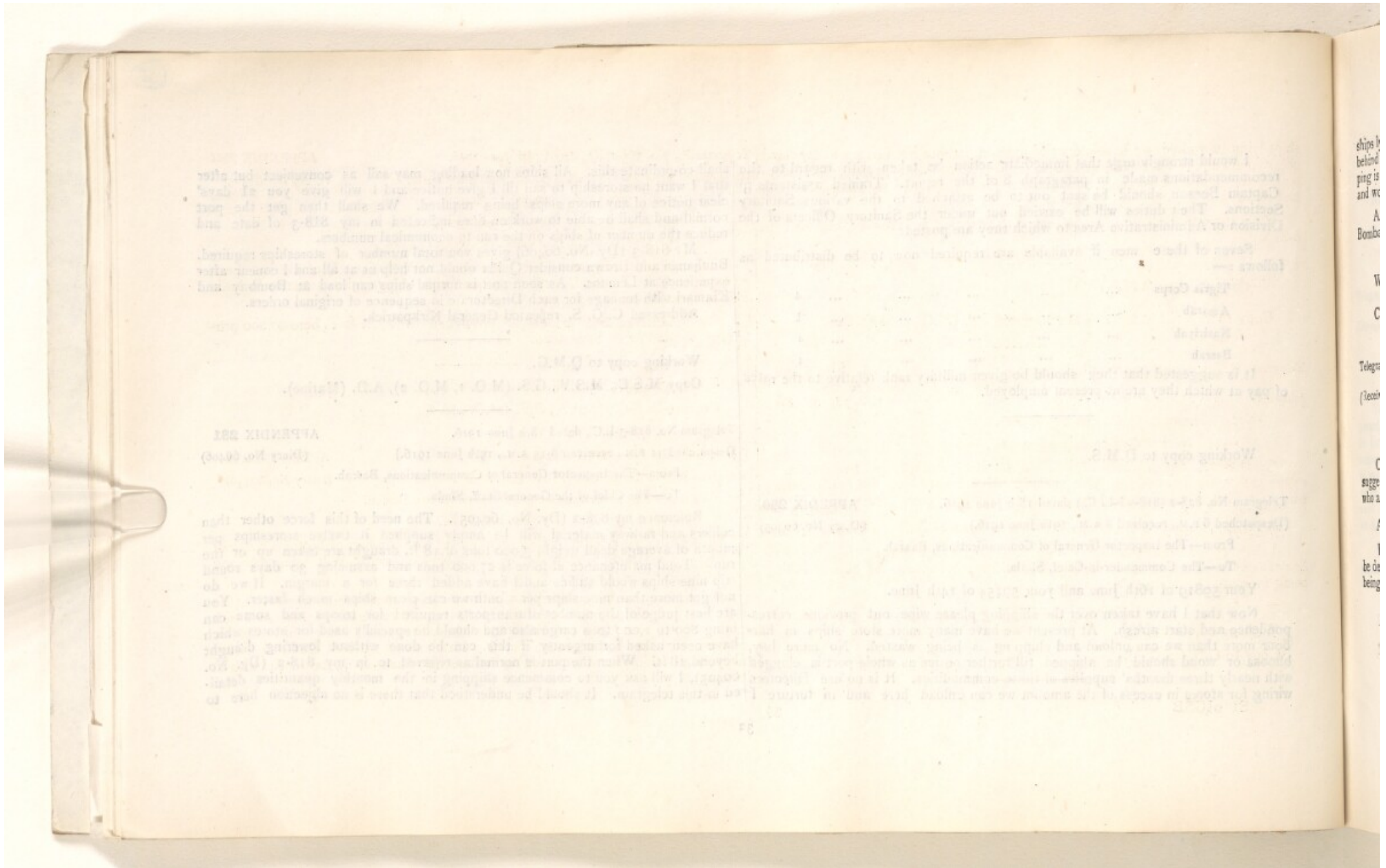
From—The Inspector General of Communications, Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Reference my 8.8-2 (Dy. No. 60405). The need of this force other than colliers and railway material will be amply supplied if twelve storeships per month of average dead weight 3,000 tons of 18 ft. draught are taken up on the run. Total maintenance of force is 27,000 tons and assuming 30 days round trip nine ships would suffice and I have added three for a margin. If we do not get more than nine ships per month we can clear ships much faster. You are best judge of the number of transports required for troops and some can bring 800 to 1,000 tons cargo also and should be specially used for stores which have been asked for urgently if this can be done without lowering draught beyond 18 ft. When the port is normal as referred to in my 818-2 (Dy. No. 60405), I will ask you to commence shipping in the monthly quantities detailed in this telegram. It should be understood that there is no objection here to

APPENDIX 281

(Diary No. 60406)





ships lying unworked, we have plenty of room in harbour but no more dry land behind piers and no more coolies and no more lighters and the waste of shipping is very serious when stores are sent too fast while the amount of bhoosa and wood sent is paralyzing everything.

Addressed C. G. S., repeated General Kirkpatrick in view of his visit to Bombay.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.D. (Marine), G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram No. 1231-32-A, dated 30th May 1916.

(Received in War Section, 19th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

On the recommendation of the local Political Authorities, the release is suggested of the Prisoners of War shewn in the accompanying list (*not printed*) who are believed to be interned in the Prisoners of War Camp, Sumerpur.

All these men are subjects of the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh.

I concur in the release of these Prisoners of War and request that they may be despatched to Basrah at an early date, the name of vessel and date of sailing being intimated to me by cable.

Working copy to A.G.

Copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

S1 oIGSB

Telegram P., No. 565-21-Q, dated 18th June 1916.

(Despatched 10-45 P.M., received 9 A.M. 19th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 17920-S.-D.-2 of 16th (Dy. No. 59937).

The following addressed to the Secretary, War Office, London, has been repeated to C. G. S., Simla, with the request that any goggles available in India may be despatched here at once.

Please send as soon as possible consigned to D., S. & T. here 20,000 protective goggles as we have none.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., D.M.S., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P, No. M.-2, dated 18th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 19th June 1916.)

From—The Inspector General Communications, Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Personal. Your letter 9-6 I am quite sure number of bottoms required for India Basrah line may be considerably reduced. Will telegraph you definite figures in a few days.

Ships now here for a fortnight before we can touch them when might be employed on imperial trade. After estimating total tonnage we can deal with promptly I will see that proper information as regards priority of loading is communicated to embarkation ports. Had some trouble Gallipoli owing directors all asking for more stuff simultaneously than could be dealt with at destination.

APPENDIX 283

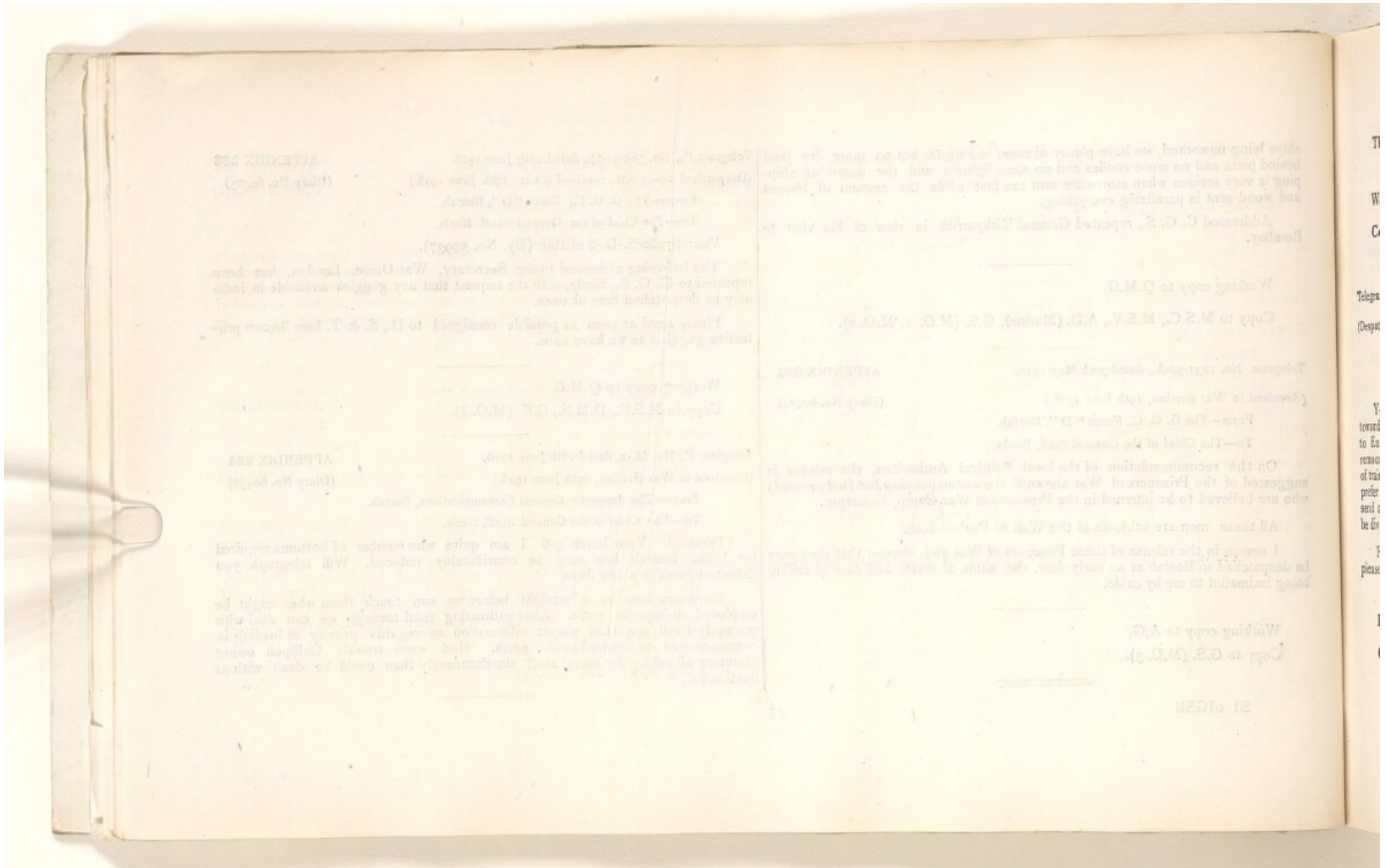
(Diary No. 60425)

APPENDIX 282

(Diary No. 60424)

APPENDIX 284

(Diary No. 60436)





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This subject will be dealt with by me and not Q. M. G. this force.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.D. Marine, G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 60460, dated 19th June 1916.

(Despatched 4-30 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla,

To—The Secretary, War Office, London.

Your 17979-Cipher-S.D.-2 of 17th June (*Dy. No. 60155*). By utilizing towards their requirements some of the Imperial horses now awaiting shipment to Europe, the British cavalry regiment, and the artillery units can be remounted by us. As regards the 2 Indian cavalry regiments, owing to shortage of trained Indian cavalry horses they cannot be remounted by us and we should prefer them as well as remaining units to come mounted. If it is decided to send any units dismounted they should, instead of proceeding direct to Basrah, be diverted to Bombay.

Full details of any units proceedings dismounted to Bombay, should be please wired.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 60478, dated 19th June 1916.

Despatched 6-30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla,

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

Your No. 1614-11-Q. of 9th June (*Dy. No. 58637*). A request has been sent to the Secretary of State to arrange for the construction, in England, of 34 tugs of the "Sumana" class, and 20 paddlers of the improved "Mejidieh" type. Please telegraph the order in which you wish the craft thus demanded laid down and delivered and also what proportion of the 34 tugs are to be twin-screw and independent paddlers.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 394-F., dated 18th June 1916.

(Received 11-38 P.M., 18th June 1916.)

(Received in War Section, 19th June 1916.)

From—H. B. M.'s Minister, Tehran,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Addressed Foreign Office; repeated?)

Secret. General Beloselski who has recently returned from Kirmanshah front made following statement to British Vice-Consul at Kazvin in the course of conversation:—

"If Turks took Kirmanshah very soon he would not be at all surprised. Two Turkish Divisions he added were acting on the offensive and trying hard to push Russians back into Persia. In fact in his opinion it would be well to encourage them to lengthen their line of communication while the Russians shortened and strengthened theirs."

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

APPENDIX 286

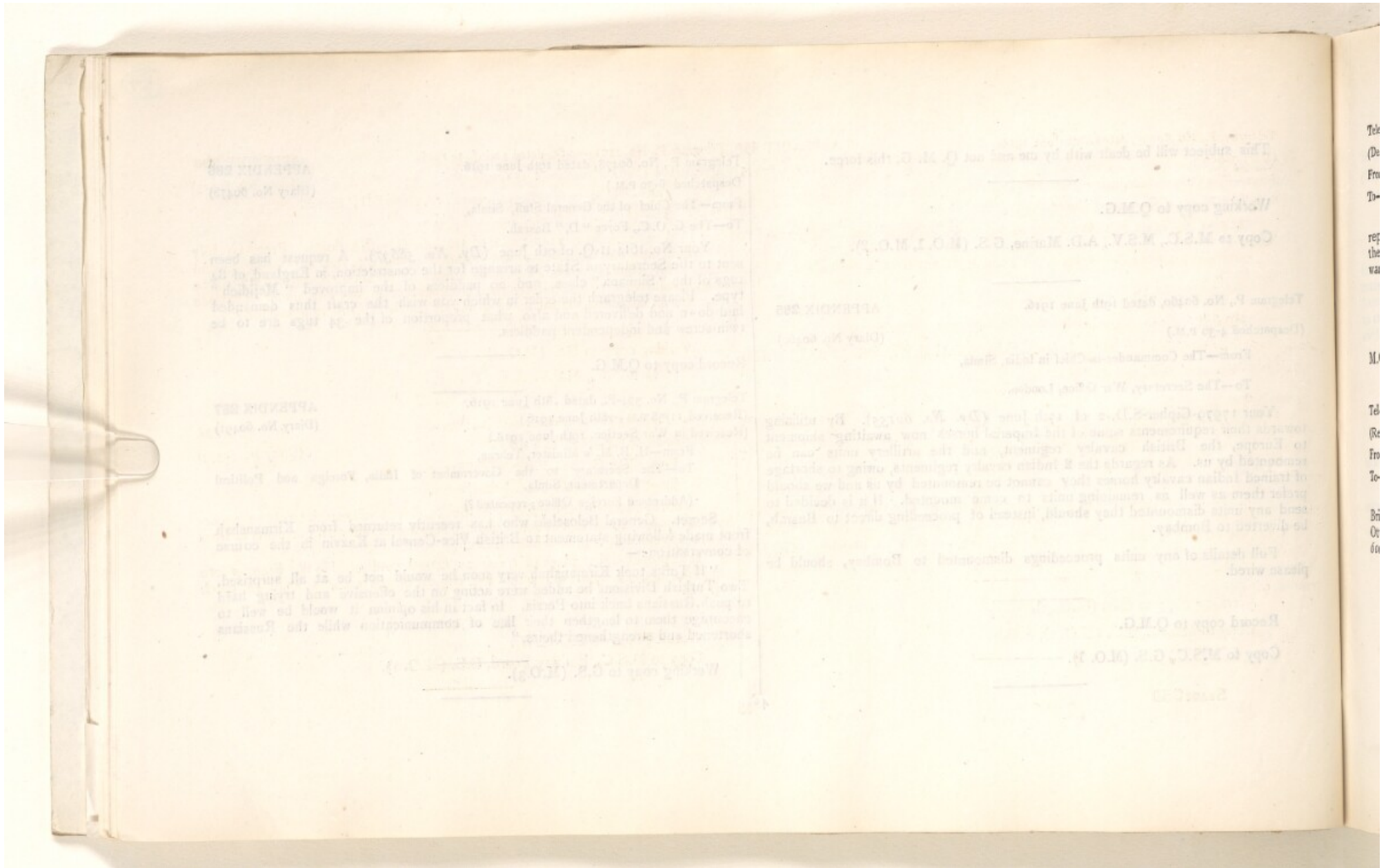
(Diary No. 60478)

APPENDIX 285

(Diary No. 60460)

APPENDIX 287

(Diary No. 60491)





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Telegram P., No. 60495, dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

It should please be noted that the provisional battalions being formed to replace the three British battalions taken prisoner at Kut-al-Amarah will have the same designations as the latter, and will represent them for as long as the war lasts.

Record copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., Q.M.G., D.G.O., D.M.S., D.G.M.W., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2, M.O.3.)

Telegram P., dated 16th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 19th June 1916.)

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—His Excellency the Viceroy (F. & P. Department).

Do you agree to offer now made by Turkish Government to exchange British women and children lately imprisoned at Baghdad for twenty-five Ottoman officials mentioned in my *en clair* telegram of 16th instant (Dy. No. 60686).

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1), A.G.

S1401GSB

APPENDIX 288
(Diary No. 60495)

Telegram P., No. 11111-12-O., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 12 NOON, received 6-15 P.M.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

In continuation my 11111 11-O. of 1st June (Dy. No. 60994). From 1st July the examination service at Fao will come into force; you are being posted rulings for same. Masters of vessels intending to enter Shatt-el-Arab will be handed orders by pilots. Reference last paragraph of wire under reference when may I expect the detachment of Royal Garrison Artillery asked for?

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.G., F. & P.

APPENDIX 289
(Diary No. 60512)

Telegram P., No. 356-13-O., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-50 P.M., received 8 P.M.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla,

In connection with the building of the Nasiriyah railway it will be necessary to place stations beyond Zubair in fortified serais with garrisons of from 100 to 200 rifles in corner of blockhouse.

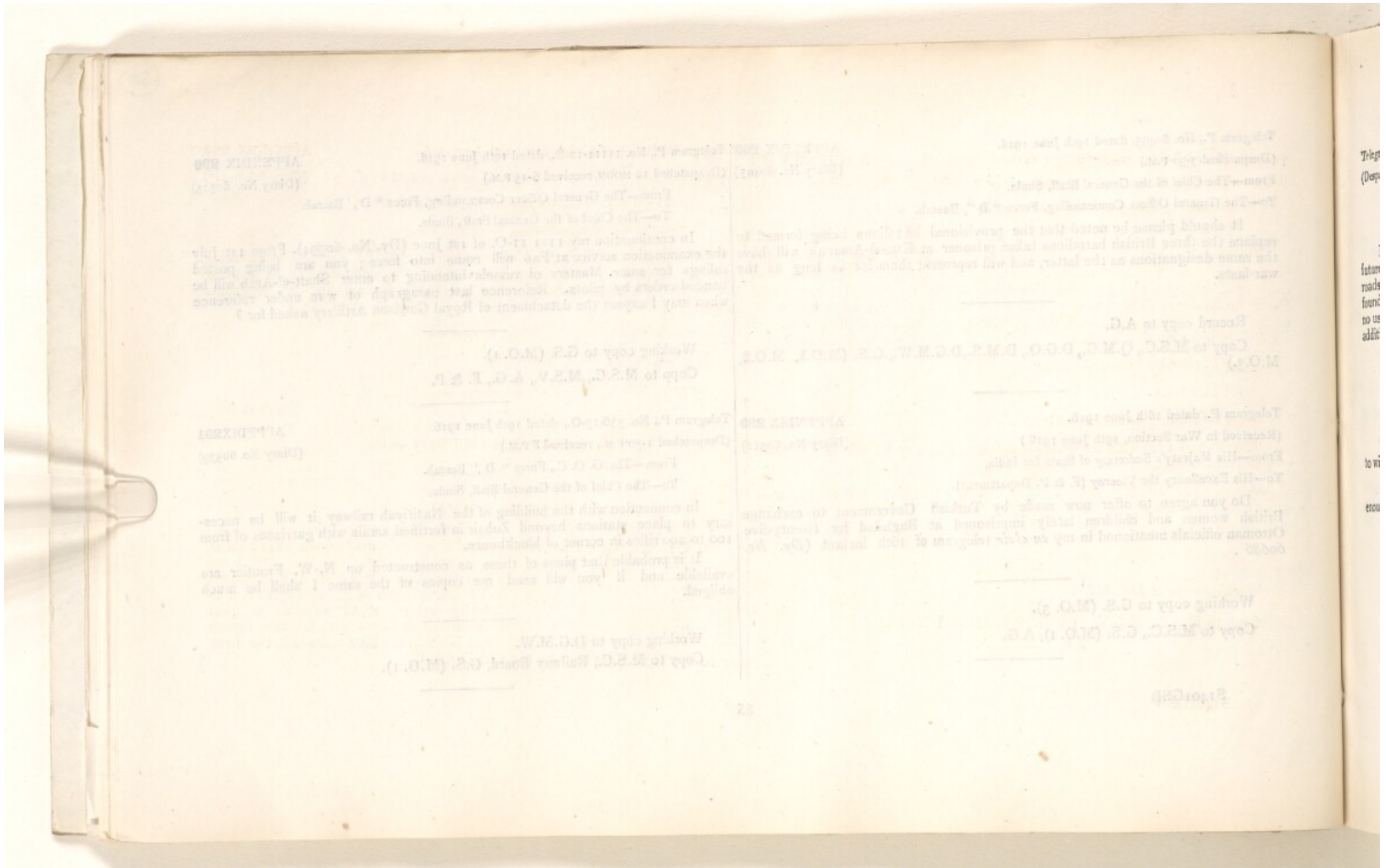
It is probable that plans of these as constructed on N.-W. Frontier are available and if you will send me copies of the same I shall be much obliged.

Working copy to D.G.M.W.

Copy to M.S.C., Railway Board, G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 290
(Diary No. 60525)

APPENDIX 291
(Diary No. 60539)





Telegram No. 1159-5-O., dated 18th June 1916.
(Despatched 8-30 A.M., received 2-45 P.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

I propose to organise a mobile bridging train which will enable me during future operations to transport a pontoon bridge across country. In absence of roads or of country with a hard surface the ordinary pontoon wagons have been found unsuitable. They are very heavy and when not in use with pontoons of no use for any other transport. Chief desiderata for vehicle I require are in addition to lightness of draught.

(a) Broad wheel bearing surface.

(b) Low body.

(c) Width between sides sufficient.

To take half a bipartite pontoon without upending it on its side as we have to with G. S. wagon.

Goringe suggests a light buck wagon of South African type if this is wide enough between sides.

Could you wire South Africa to ascertain particulars of these.

Working copy to D.G.M.W.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

S1401GSB

APPENDIX 292
(Diary No. 60542)

Telegram P., No. 18026-Cipher, dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 12-40 P.M., received 8-45 P.M., 19th June 1916.)

From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

My 17891 (Dy. No. 59765) following from Marsh T.L.-193. The following from Williams is the only indication received, "it is stated by officer prisoner that on 1st June the 1st Lancers with 8 guns and the 1st and 6th regiments were at Bakuba."

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

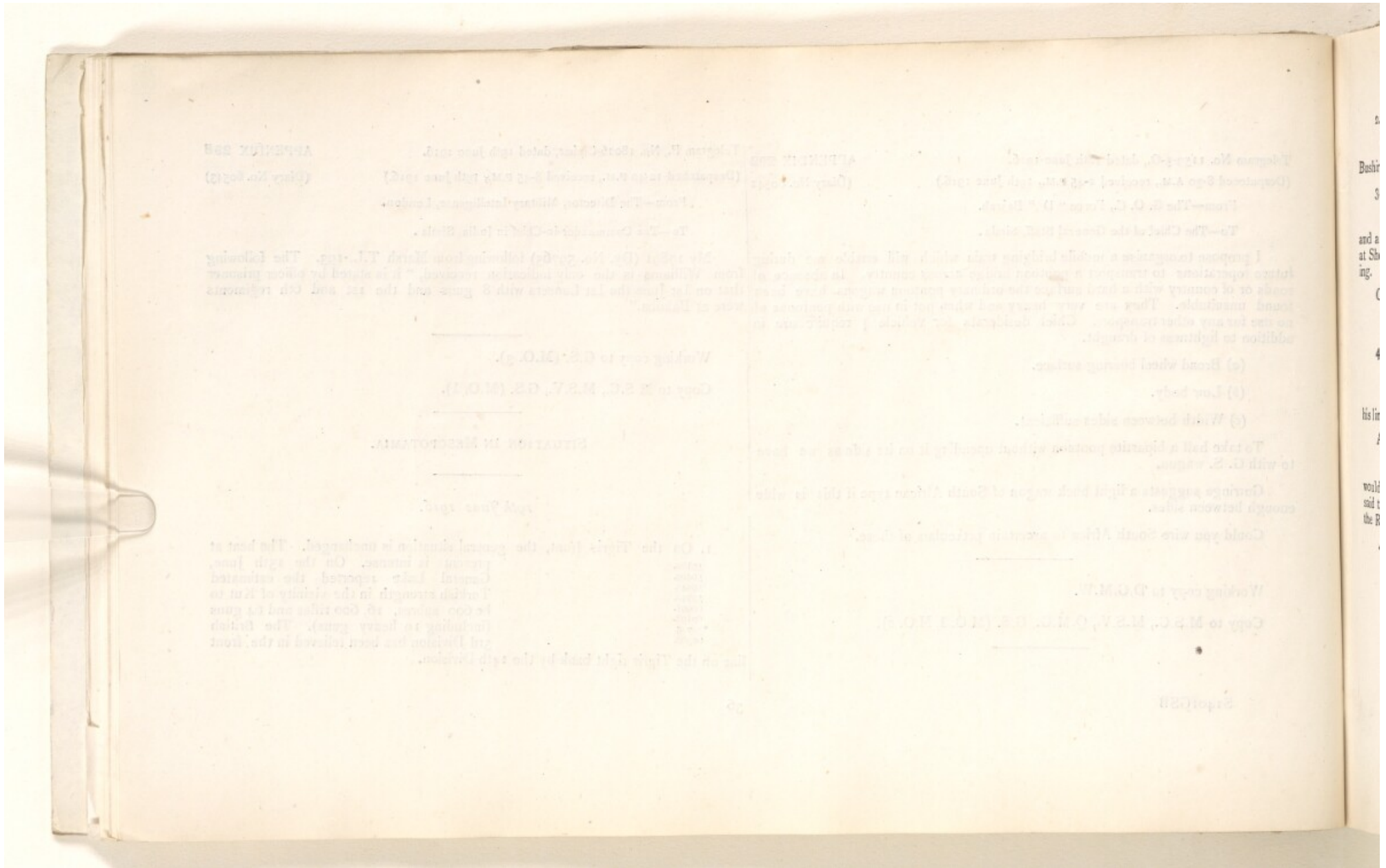
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

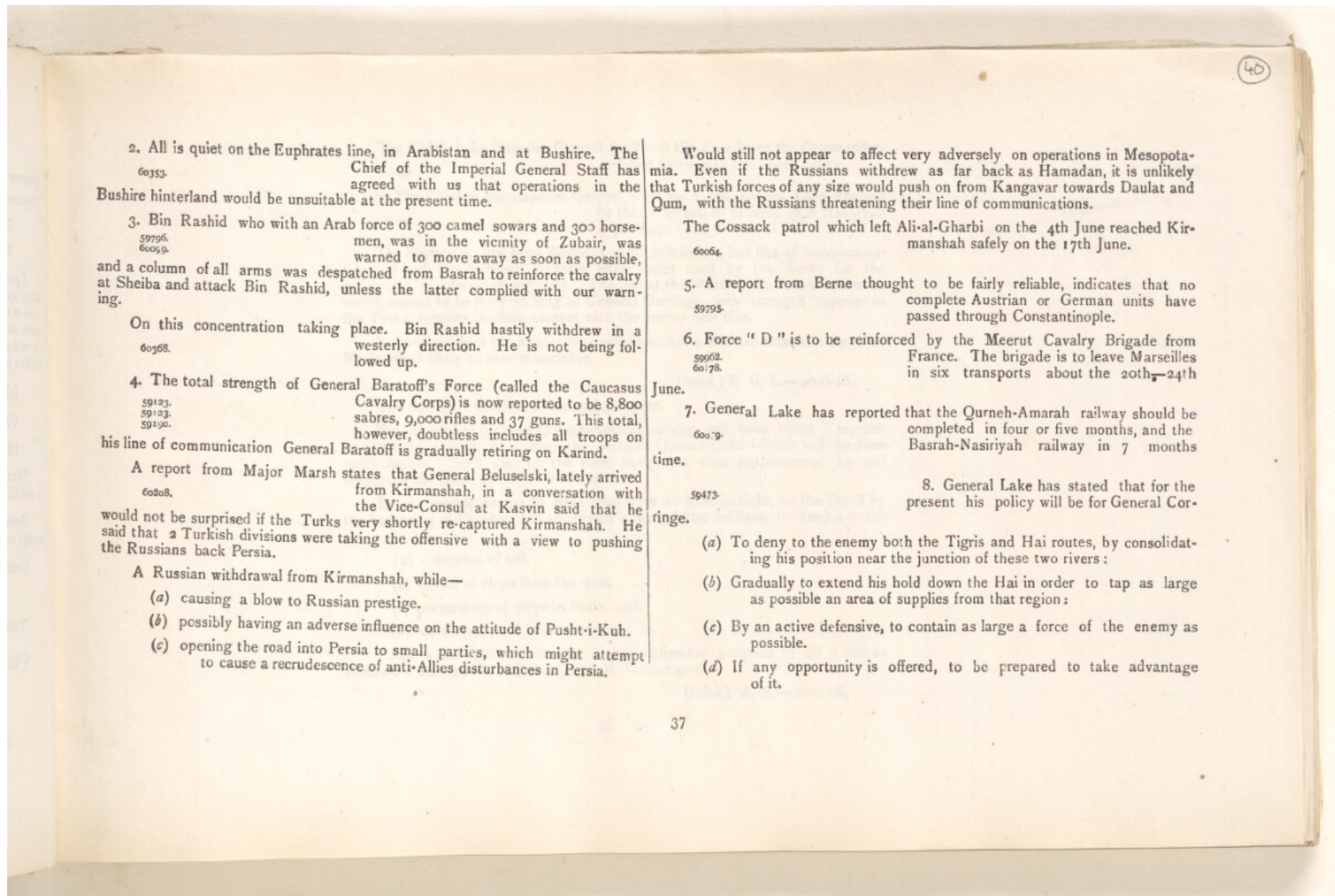
SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

19th June 1916.

1. On the Tigris front, the general situation is unchanged. The heat at present is intense. On the 15th June, General Lake reported the estimated Turkish strength in the vicinity of Kut to be 600 sabres, 16, 600 rifles and 64 guns (including 19 heavy guns). The British 3rd Division has been relieved in the front

line on the Tigris right bank by the 14th Division.





2. All is quiet on the Euphrates line, in Arabistan and at Bushire. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff has agreed with us that operations in the Bushire hinterland would be unsuitable at the present time.

3. Bin Rashid who with an Arab force of 300 camel sowars and 300 horsemen, was in the vicinity of Zubair, was warned to move away as soon as possible, and a column of all arms was despatched from Basrah to reinforce the cavalry at Sheiba and attack Bin Rashid, unless the latter complied with our warning.

On this concentration taking place. Bin Rashid hastily withdrew in a westerly direction. He is not being followed up.

4. The total strength of General Baratoff's Force (called the Caucasus Cavalry Corps) is now reported to be 8,800 sabres, 9,000 rifles and 37 guns. This total, however, doubtless includes all troops on his line of communication. General Baratoff is gradually retiring on Karind.

A report from Major Marsh states that General Beluselski, lately arrived from Kirmanshah, in a conversation with the Vice-Consul at Kasvin said that he would not be surprised if the Turks very shortly re-captured Kirmanshah. He said that 2 Turkish divisions were taking the offensive with a view to pushing the Russians back Persia.

A Russian withdrawal from Kirmanshah, while—

- (a) causing a blow to Russian prestige.
- (b) possibly having an adverse influence on the attitude of Pusht-i-Kuh.
- (c) opening the road into Persia to small parties, which might attempt to cause a recrudescence of anti-Allies disturbances in Persia.

Would still not appear to affect very adversely on operations in Mesopotamia. Even if the Russians withdrew as far back as Hamadan, it is unlikely that Turkish forces of any size would push on from Kangavar towards Daulat and Qum, with the Russians threatening their line of communications.

The Cossack patrol which left Ali-al-Gharbi on the 4th June reached Kirmanshah safely on the 17th June.

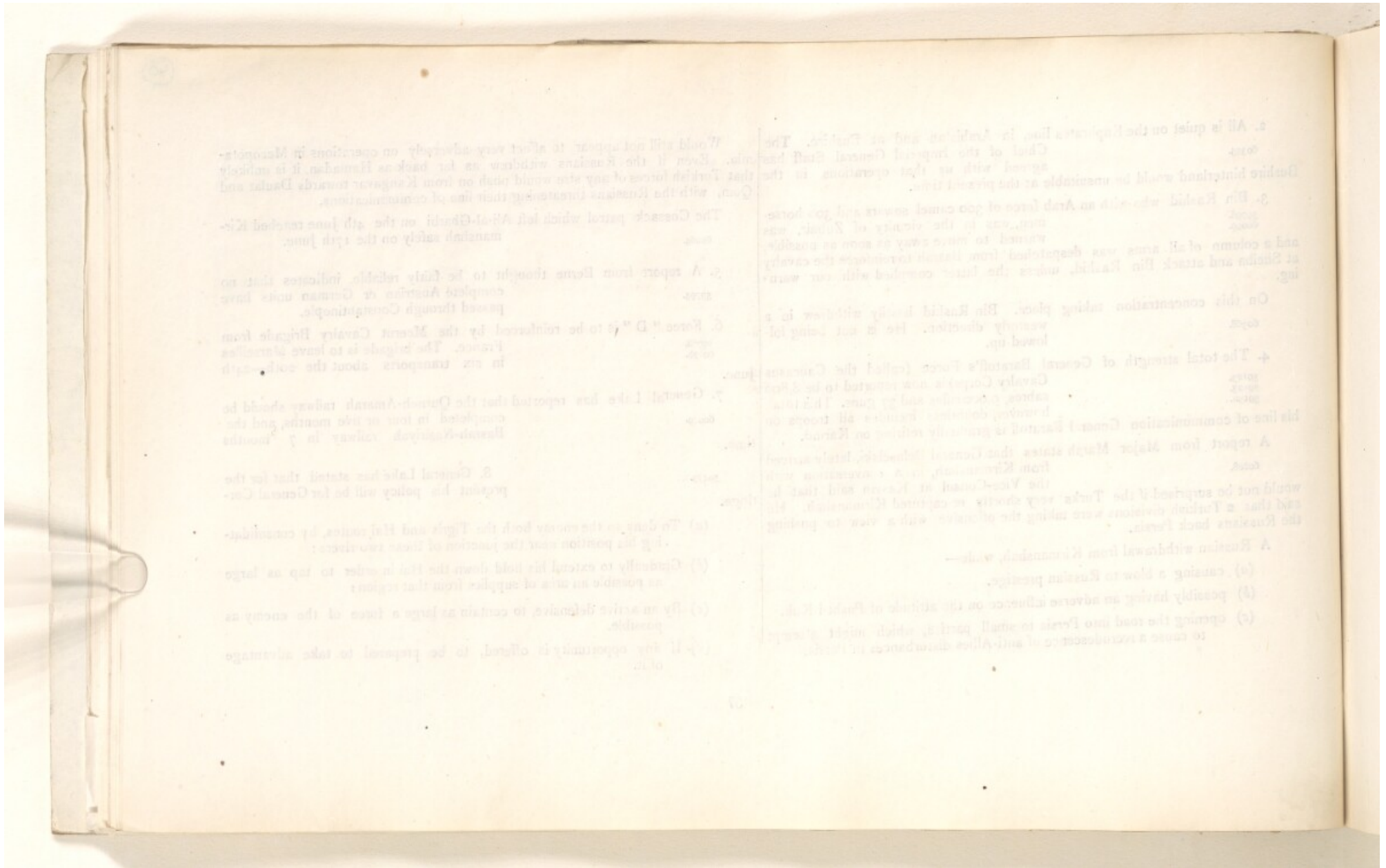
5. A report from Berne thought to be fairly reliable, indicates that no complete Austrian or German units have passed through Constantinople.

6. Force "D" is to be reinforced by the Meerut Cavalry Brigade from France. The brigade is to leave Marseilles in six transports about the 20th—24th June.

7. General Lake has reported that the Qurneh-Amarah railway should be completed in four or five months, and the Basrah-Nasiriyah railway in 7 months time.

8. General Lake has stated that for the present his policy will be for General Corringe.

- (a) To deny to the enemy both the Tigris and Hai routes, by consolidating his position near the junction of these two rivers:
- (b) Gradually to extend his hold down the Hai in order to tap as large as possible an area of supplies from that region:
- (c) By an active defensive, to contain as large a force of the enemy as possible.
- (d) If any opportunity is offered, to be prepared to take advantage of it.





(41)

The Chief of the Imperial General Staff and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief agree with the above policy.

69738.

9. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff has asked General Lake whether he thinks an attack in force upon Nasiriyah is possible.

60349.

The Euphrates line from Baghdad to Nasiriyah is a bad line of communication and had, it is believed, hitherto never been used by the Turks for the movement of a force of any size. The use of the Shatt-al-Hai line of approach would appear to be risky so long as General Goringe, with strength superior to the Turks, remains in close contact with the enemy near Kut.

It therefore does not appear very probable that a Turkish attack in force on Nasiriyah is likely to ever materialize.

(Initd.) S. G. L.—20-6-16.

The transport problem is becoming urgent.

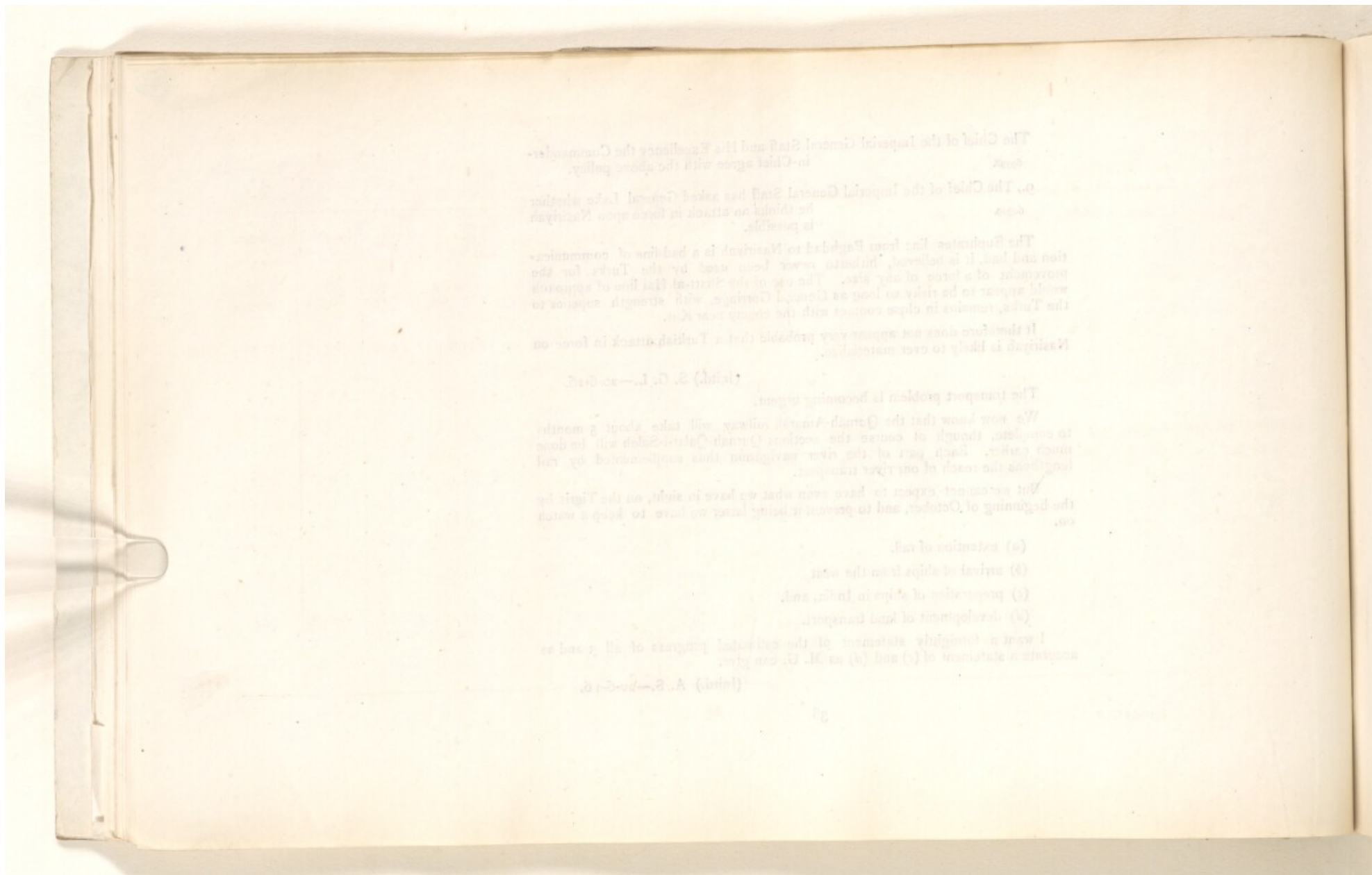
We now know that the Qurnah-Amarah railway will take about 5 months to complete, though of course the sections Qurnah-Qalat-i-Saleh will be done much earlier. Each part of the river navigation thus supplemented by rail lengthens the reach of our river transport.

But we cannot expect to have even what we have in sight, on the Tigris by the beginning of October, and to prevent it being latter we have to keep a watch on.

- (a) extension of rail.
- (b) arrival of ships from the west
- (c) preparation of ships in India, and.
- (d) development of land transport.

I want a fortnightly statement of the estimated progress of all 3 and as accurate a statement of (c) and (d) as M. G. can give.

(Initd.) A. S.—20-6-16.



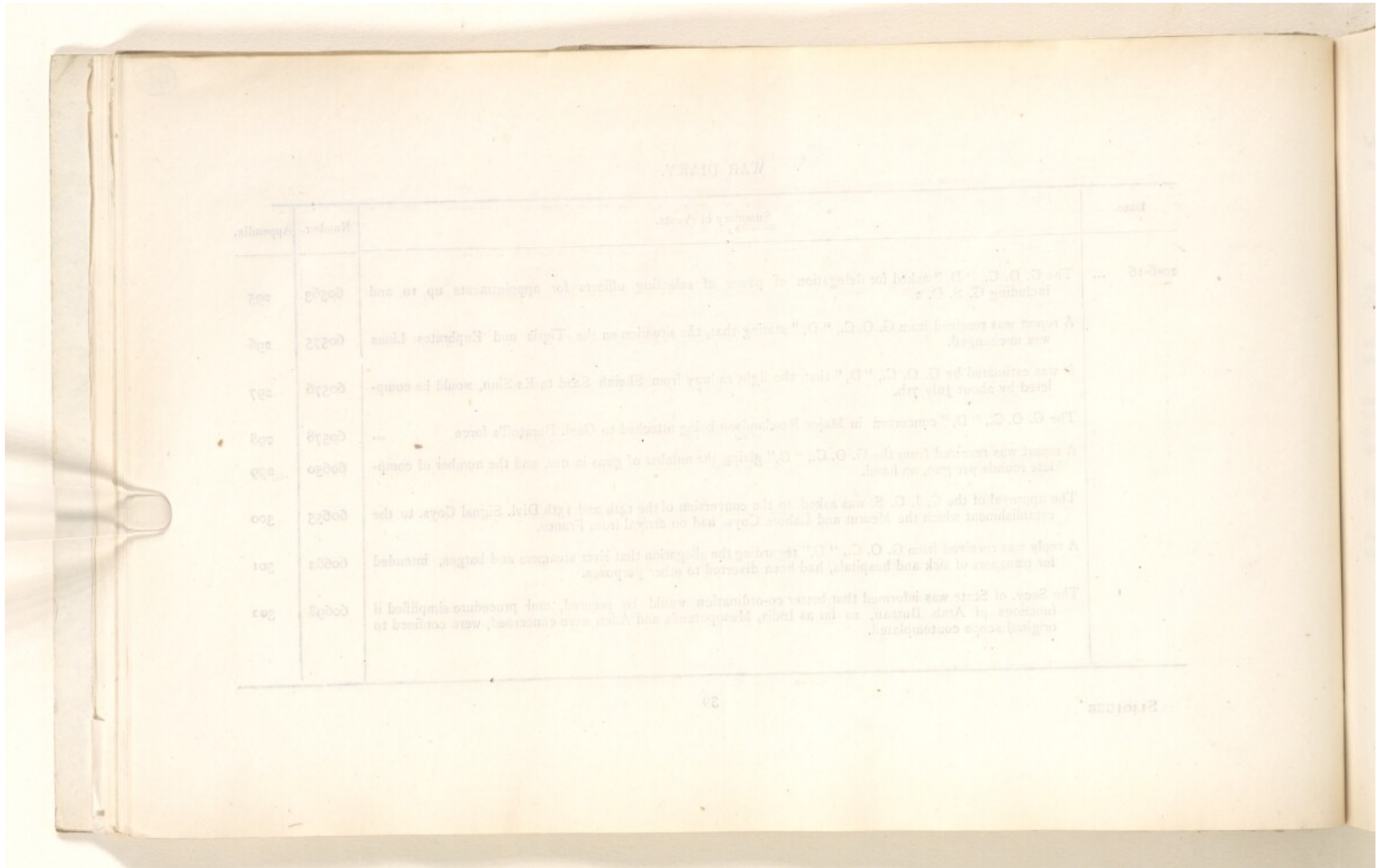


42

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
20-6-16 ...	The G. O. C., "D," asked for delegation of power of selecting officers for appointments up to and including G. S. O. 2.	60563	295
	A report was received from G. O. C., "D," stating that, the situation on the Tigris and Euphrates Lines was unchanged.	60575	296
	It was estimated by G. O. C., "D," that, the light railway from Sheikh Saad to Es-Sinn, would be completed by about July 7th.	60576	297
	The G. O. C., "D," concurred in Major Rowlandson being attached to Genl. Baratoff's force ...	60578	298
	A report was received from the G. O. C., "D," giving the number of guns in use, and the number of complete rounds per gun, on hand.	60650	299
	The approval of the C. I. G. S. was asked, to the conversion of the 14th and 15th Divl. Signal Coys. to the establishment which the Meerut and Lahore Coys. had on arrival from France.	60655	300
	A reply was received from G. O. C., "D," regarding the allegation that river steamers and barges, intended for transport of sick and hospitals, had been diverted to other purposes.	60662	301
	The Secy. of State was informed that better co-ordination would be secured, and procedure simplified if functions of Arab Bureau, so far as India, Mesopotamia and Aden were concerned, were confined to original scope contemplated.	60698	302

S1401GSB





(43)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
26-6-16— <i>concl'd.</i>	A report was received from the G. O. C., "D," giving further changes in the British Advance Depôt at Amara, and asking for sanction.	60716	303
	The D. M. I. London forwarded a report from Marsh regarding Kurds between (Amadia and Neri?) being friendly, also reporting the sending of a punitive expedition, by the Turks, against Kizil Bash Kurds of Dersim.	60743	304
	The G. O. C., "D," forwarded his views, regarding the possibility of an attack in force on Nasiriyah ...	60775	305
	A report was received from the G. O. C., "D," giving the number of days rations in transit up stream and in hand on 18th June.	60780	306

S1041GSB



WAR DIARY

Number of pages	Number of entries	Summary of events	Date
303	60716	A report was received from the G. O. C. "D" giving further changes in the British Advance Depot at Amant, and asking for action.	26-6-16
304	60717	The D. M. I. London forwarded a report from March regarding (Amant and Nadi) being friendly, also reporting the sending of a punitive expedition by the Turks against Kaili Han Kurds of Daulat.	
305	60718	The G. O. C. "D" forwarded his views regarding the possibility of an attack in force on Nadihan.	
306	60720	A report was received from the G. O. C. "D" giving the number of days (Amant) is to be held up in train and in hand on 26th June.	



44

Telegram No. 1162-3-O., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 4.45 P.M., received 1.15 A.M., 20th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

I shall be grateful if His Excellency will delegate to me the power of selecting officers of this force for appointments up to and including G.S.O.-2.

Paragraph 2. The present practice by which even junior staff appointments are invariably referred to India for sanction is not one that tends to efficient working in the field.

Paragraph 3. I am bound to make provisional arrangements to meet each case locally and if these provisional arrangements are eventually not sanctioned the disadvantage of a double change is involved.

Paragraph 4. In practice these provisional arrangements are often upset since I hesitate to make immediately the actual disposition. I recommend to India if the same involves exchange from say the Tigris to the Euphrates Line or to the Line of Communication in case the transfer has eventually to be cancelled under orders from India.

Paragraph 5. The present abnormal sick rate is likely to accentuate the disadvantages of the present system.

Paragraph 6. It is highly desirable that I should if possible have with this force a small reserve of staff officers who pending appointment could be attached to existing staffs and acquaint themselves with local conditions.

Working copy to M.S.C.

Copy to G.S. (S.D. 1).

s140135B

APPENDIX 295
(Diary No. 60563)

Telegram P., No. 129-469-O., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 10 P.M., received 4.45 A.M., 10th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 19th Tigris Line situation unchanged.

Nothing to report Euphrates Line.

Addressed Chief of the General Staff. Repeated Secretary of State.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. & P., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 1119-55-O., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 10.0 P.M., received 3.30 A.M., 20th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

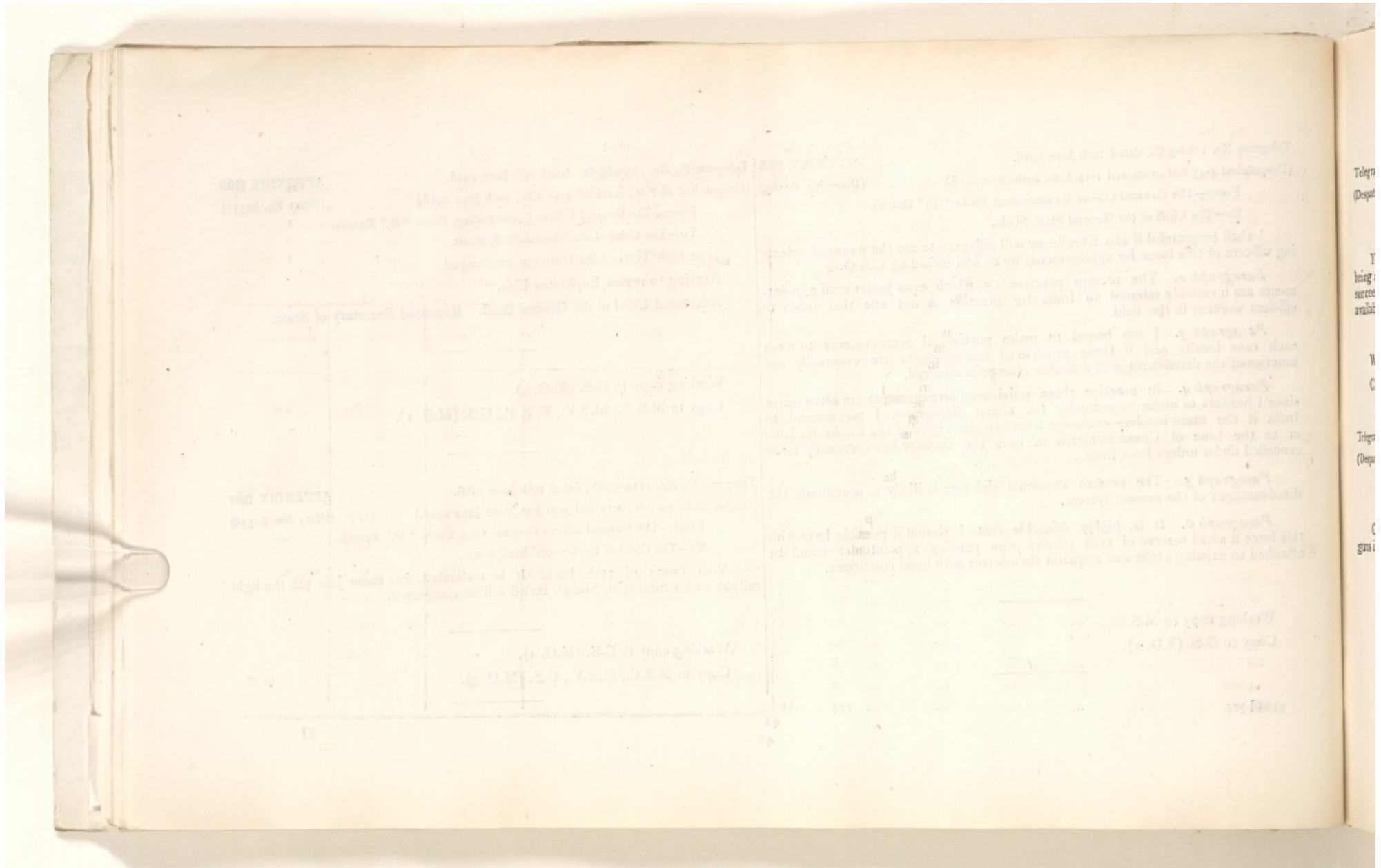
Your 60123 of 17th June. It is estimated that about July 7th the light railway to Es Sinn from Shaikh Sa'ad will be completed.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 3).

APPENDIX 296
(Diary No. 60575)

APPENDIX 297
(Diary No. 60576)



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Telegram P., No. 7590-1-A., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-45 P.M., received 1-30 A.M., 20th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 57409 and 59906 agree in the circumstances to Major Rowlandson being attached to Baratoff's force. As soon as possible kindly send an officer to succeed him as Brigade-Major, 34th Infantry Brigade. In the force no one is available.

Working copy to M.S.C.

Copy to G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2, M.O.3, S.D. 1).

Telegram P., No. 3280-Ord., dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-30 P.M., received 1-45 A.M., 20th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Continuation of 76-Ord. of 12th June (Dy. No. 59119). In Mesopotamia guns in use :—

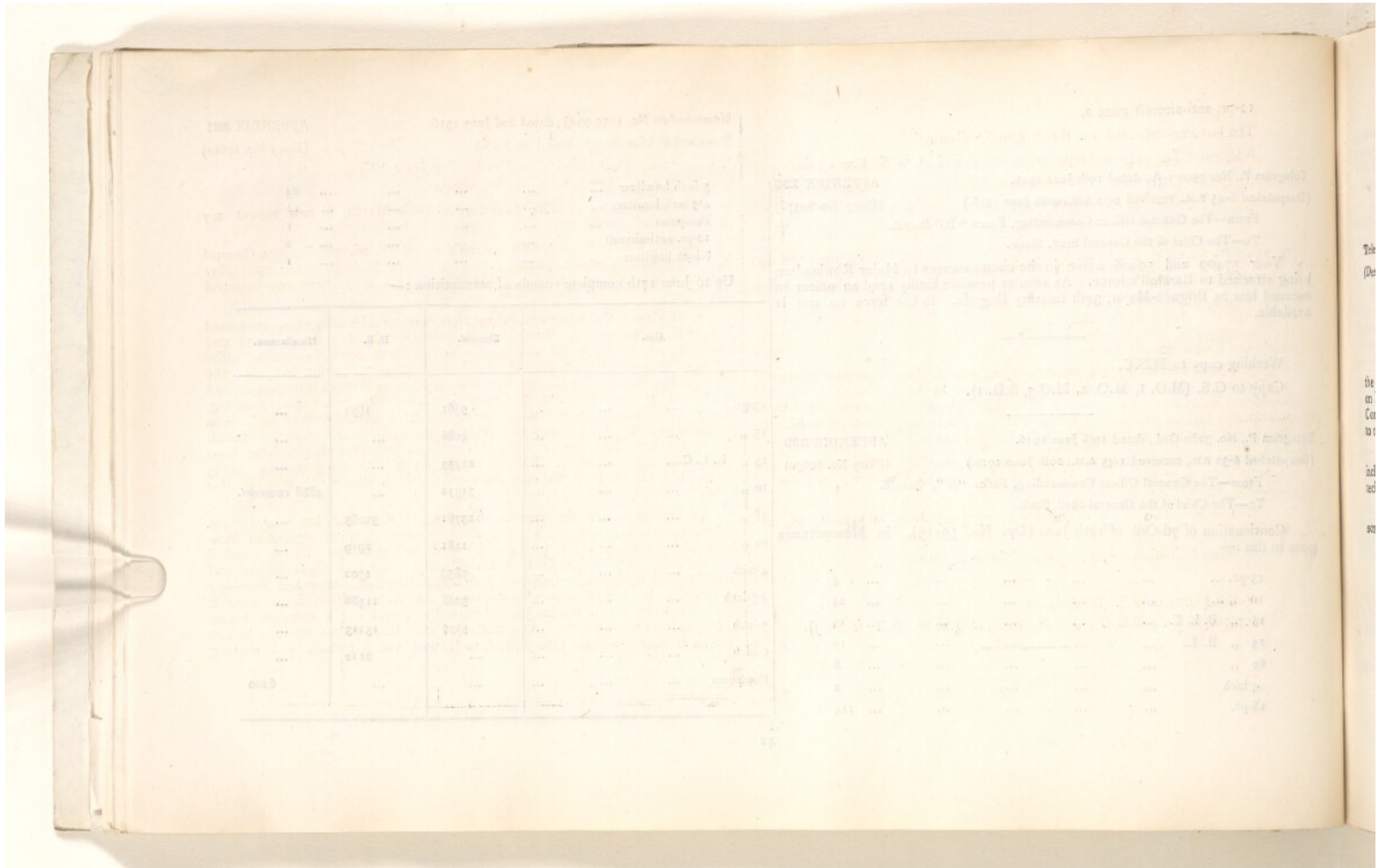
13-pr. ...	...	...	...	...	4
10 ,, ...	...	...	...	...	24
15 ,, B. L. C. ...	...	...	...	...	12
15 ,, B. L. ...	...	...	...	...	10
60 ,, ...	...	...	...	...	8
4-inch ...	...	...	...	...	2
18-pr. ...	...	...	...	...	114

APPENDIX 298
(Diary No. 60578)

5-inch howitzer ...	...	...	...	...	24
4.5 inch howitzer ...	...	...	...	...	12
Pompoms ...	...	...	...	...	1
12-pr. anti-aircraft ...	...	...	...	...	2
6-inch howitzer ...	...	...	...	...	1

Up to June 17th complete rounds of ammunition :—

Gun.	Shrapnel.	H. E.	Miscellaneous.
13-pr. ...	9561	1894	...
15 ,, ...	4086	...	...
15 ,, B. L. C. ...	21753	...	...
10 ,, ...	31372	...	2888 common.
18 ,, ...	113781	31263	...
60 ,, ...	1181	2919	...
4-inch ...	2859	1302	...
4.5-inch ...	3228	11586	...
5-inch ...	5177	15113	...
6-inch ...	...	2122	...
Pompoms ...	...	...	6200





12-pr. anti-aircraft guns 2.

The last ship unloaded was the "Alnwick Castle."

Addressed Troopers, and repeated to Egypt and C. G. S., Simla.

Working copy to D.G.O.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 60655, dated 20th June 1916.

(Despatched 3-45 P.M.)

From— { 1. Chief, India.
 2. C. G. S., India.

To— { 1. C. I. G. S., London.
 2. General, Basrah.

If War Office can supply equipment and you approve, I propose to convert the 14th and 15th Divisional Signal Companies in Mesopotamia, which are still on Indian Establishments to the establishments which the Meerut and Lahore Companies had on arrival from France and in order to adapt to local conditions to make certain necessary additions to the equipment of all four companies.

Detail of the equipment required has been forwarded to you by post and includes 25 wagons limbered R. E. and 18 wagons cable R. E. with majority of technical fittings.

It is unlikely that this conversion will entail any additional drafts of personnel.

Addressed Chief, London ; repeated General, Basrah.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., D.G.O., Q.M.G., A.G., D.G.M.W., G.S., (S.D. 3).

APPENDIX 300

(Diary No. 60555)

Memorandum No. 1135-93-Q., dated 2nd June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 20th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D".

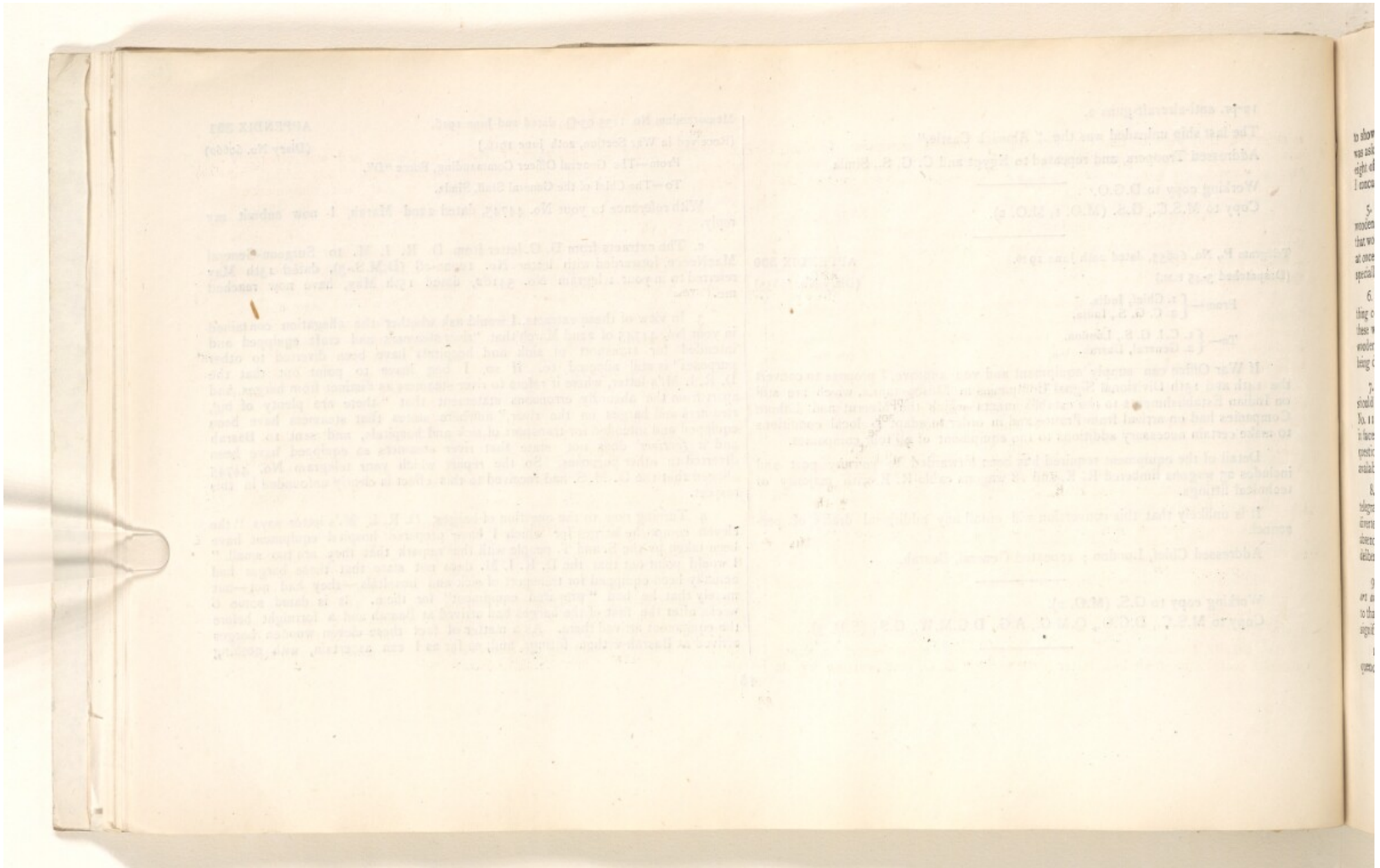
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

With reference to your No. 44745, dated 22nd March, I now submit my reply.

2. The extracts from D. O. letter from D. R. I. M. to Surgeon-General MacNeece, forwarded with letter No. 10020-28 (D.M.S.-3), dated 15th May referred to in your telegram No. 54182, dated 15th May, have now reached me.

3. In view of these extracts, I would ask whether the allegation contained in your No. 44745 of 22nd March that "river steamers and craft equipped and intended for transport of sick and hospitals have been diverted to other purposes" is still adhered to. If so, I beg leave to point out that the D. R. I. M.'s letter, where it refers to river steamers as distinct from barges, and apart from the absurdly erroneous statement that "there are plenty of big, steamers and barges on the river," nowhere states that steamers have been equipped and intended for transport of sick and hospitals, and sent to Basrah and 'a fortiori' does not state that river steamers so equipped have been diverted to other purposes. So the report which your telegram No. 44745 alleged that the D. M. S. had received to this effect is clearly unfounded in this respect.

4. Turning now to the question of barges, D. R. I. M.'s letter says "the eleven composite barges for which I have prepared hospital equipment have been taken by the S. and T. people with the remark that they are too small." I would point out that the D. R. I. M. does not state that these barges had actually been equipped for transport of sick and hospitals,—they had not—but merely that he had "prepared equipment" for them. It is dated some 6 weeks after the first of the barges had arrived at Basrah and a fortnight before the equipment arrived there. As a matter of fact these eleven wooden barges arrived at Basrah without fittings, and, so far as I can ascertain, with nothing





to show that they were at that time intended for hospital purposes. In fact, I was asked on January 30th, by you (see your No. 36757) to telegraph whether eight of these barges could be made available for hospital purposes, and whether I concurred in a proposal to send hospital fittings for them.

5. In my reply on February 7th, 1135-9 Q. (Dy. No. 37933) I said that wooden barges were thought likely to prove too weak to stand the strain, and that woodlined steel ones were essential. Finally I advised despatch of fittings at once so that they might be used on barges temporarily employed, until specially constructed barges should arrive.

6. The fittings did not arrive until the first week in April, and before anything could be done, on April 9th, there occurred a serious accident to one of these wooden barges, which clearly showed that our objection to the use of wooden barges was well founded. One wounded man had a narrow escape from being decapitated and the barge was badly stove in.

7. It was only then that it was finally decided that these wooden barges should not be fitted up as hospital barges. And my telegram of March 10th. No. 1135-18-Q. (Dy. No. 42989) to which you refer definitely stated that "if in face of my expressed opinion on the point of unsuitability of barges in question it is decided they are to be used as hospital barges, they will be made available and fitted up as such as soon as fittings are received."

8. To state, in face of these facts, as your No. 47568 does, that my telegram of 10th March admits "that barges intended for hospital work were diverted to other purposes" appears to me to be a misuse of words, as in the absence of information as to your intention, no "diversion to other purposes" can deliberately have taken place.

9. The change of the expression used in your No. 44745, viz., "river steamers and craft equipped and intended for transport of sick and hospitals" to that given in No. 47568, viz., "barges intended for hospital work" is significant.

10. Finally, I venture to suggest that to call for a formal report in consequence of statements made in a letter (even though D. O. and written by an

official of standing) which was avowedly based upon hearsay and was obviously in other respects grossly ill-informed—see the statement that "any branch of the service apparently collars steamers or barges to suit their convenience" or "there are plenty of big steamers and barges in the river but the Generals insist (sic) upon using them for transport only"—threw a considerable amount of extra work upon my Headquarters Offices here, which a more careful study of that letter might have shown to be unnecessary. It is difficult to see why a specific statement of what the letter really did allege should not have been transmitted to me in the first instance, instead of a vague general statement naturally very difficult to disprove without widespread inquiry.

Working copy for D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C., Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 304-S., dated 19th June 1916.

APPENDIX 302

(Received in War Section, 20th June 1916)

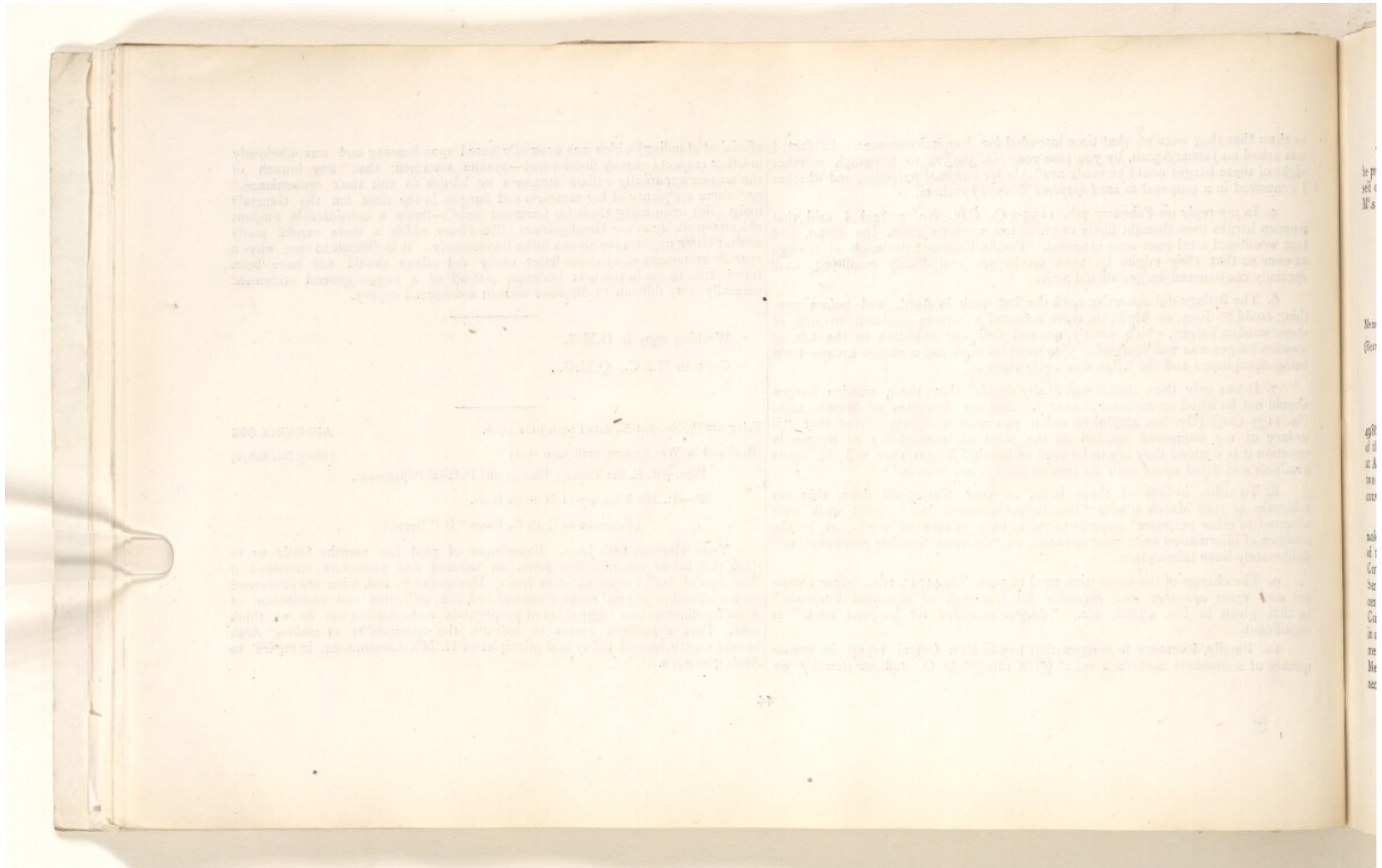
(Diary No. 60698)

From—H. E. the Viceroy, Foreign and Political Department.

To—H. M's Secretary of State for India.

(Repeated to G. O. C., Force "D," Egypt.)

Your telegram 14th June. Experience of past few months leads us to think that better co-ordination would be secured and procedure simplified if functions of Arab bureau so far as India, Mesopotamia, and Aden are concerned were confined to original scope contemplated, viz., collection and distribution of Arab Intelligence and suggestion of propaganda to be used or not as we think best. Past experience seems to indicate the unsuitability of making Arab bureau mouthpiece of policy and principles of H. M's. Government, in regard to Arab questions.





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We never know the authority behind their communications and it would be preferable to us to receive important orders of this kind either from yourself or from High Commissioner, who would indicate previous approval of H. M.'s Government.

Record copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Memorandum No. 1512-12-A., dated 31st May 1916.
(Received in War Section, 20th June 1916)

From—The G. O. C., I. E. Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

In continuation of mv No. 1512-2-A., dated the 5th April 1916 (Dy. No. 49867). It has already been found necessary, as anticipated in paragraph 3 of the above mentioned Memorandum, to divide the British Advanced Depot at Amarah, which up till now was utilised for both fit and convalescents, into two depots, one of them being for fit men only and the other being a purely convalescent depot.

Another slight change in procedure has also been found advisable, *vis.*, to make the Commandant of the British Convalescent Depot a Medical Officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and the Commandant of the Indian Convalescent Depot a Medical Officer of the Indian Medical Service. Field Service Regulations, paragraph 93, are very distinct in saying that convalescent depots are Medical Units. Each Commandant (medical) of the two Convalescent Depots will have a regimental officer as Adjutant to help him in matters of discipline and to arrange for the lighter military exercises for the men who are fittest. It will be observed that while by this procedure no extra Medical Officers are required, one Commandant (Combatant) less will be necessary.

Attached is a revised table showing the strength of the Staffs necessary to carry on the work of these depots. These depots have already been organised on the lines mentioned and I await formal sanction from you for the above mentioned changes.

Working copy to A.G.
Copy to C.G.S., D.M.O., G.S. (M. O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 18066-Cipher, dated 19th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-0 P.M., received 11-30 A.M., 20th June 1916)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

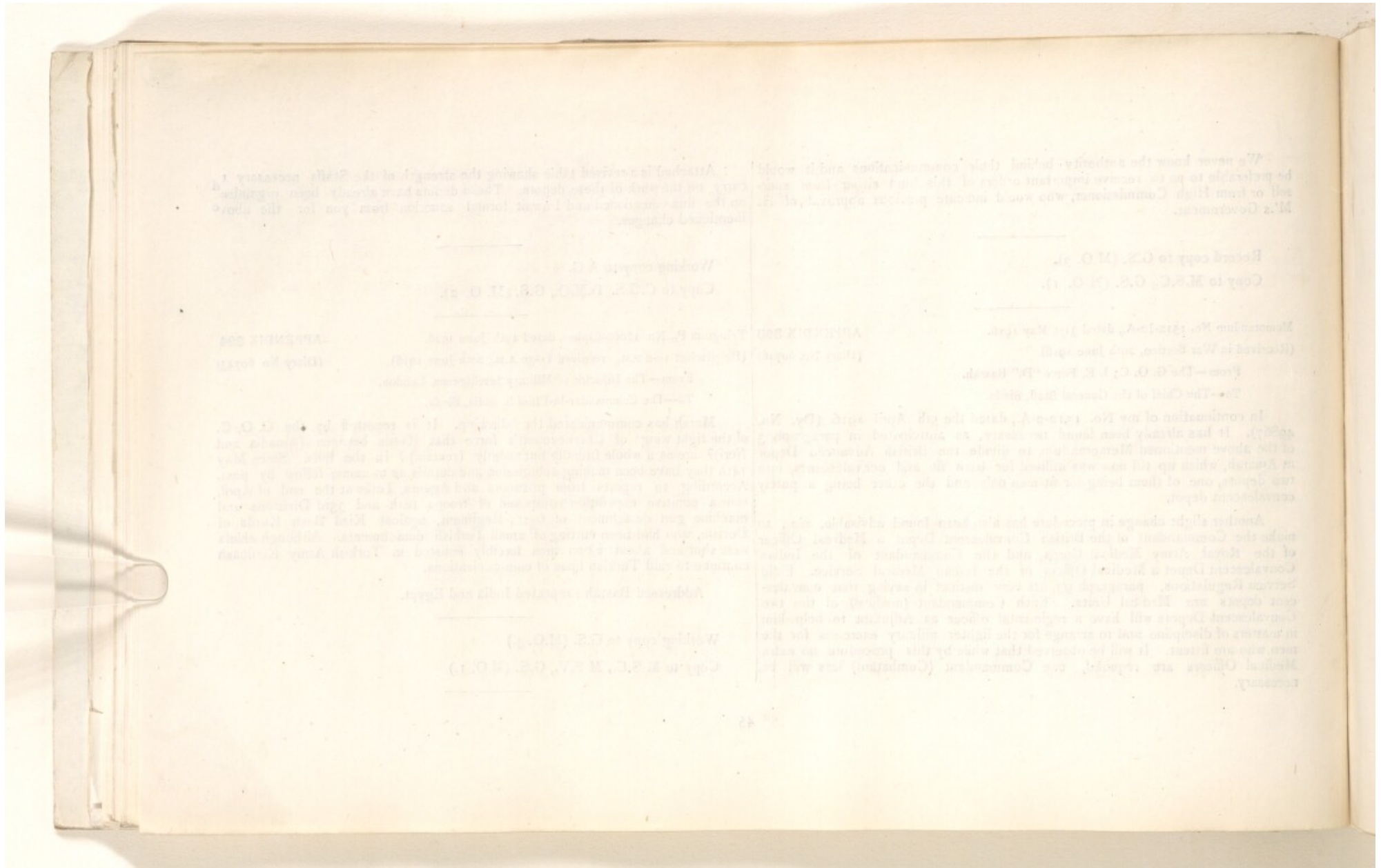
Marsh has communicated the following. It is reported by the G. O. C. of the right wing of Chernozuboff's force that Kurds between (Amadia and Neri)? are as a whole friendly but mostly (remain)? in the hills. Since May 14th they have been making submission and details as to names follow by post. According to reports from prisoners and Agents, Turks at the end of April, sent a punitive expedition composed of troops 18th and 33rd Divisions and machine gun detachment of 61st Regiment, against Kizil Bash Kurds of Dersim, who had been cutting off small Turkish detachments. Although chiefs were shot and about 2,000 men forcibly enlisted in Turkish Army Kizilbash continue to raid Turkish lines of communications.

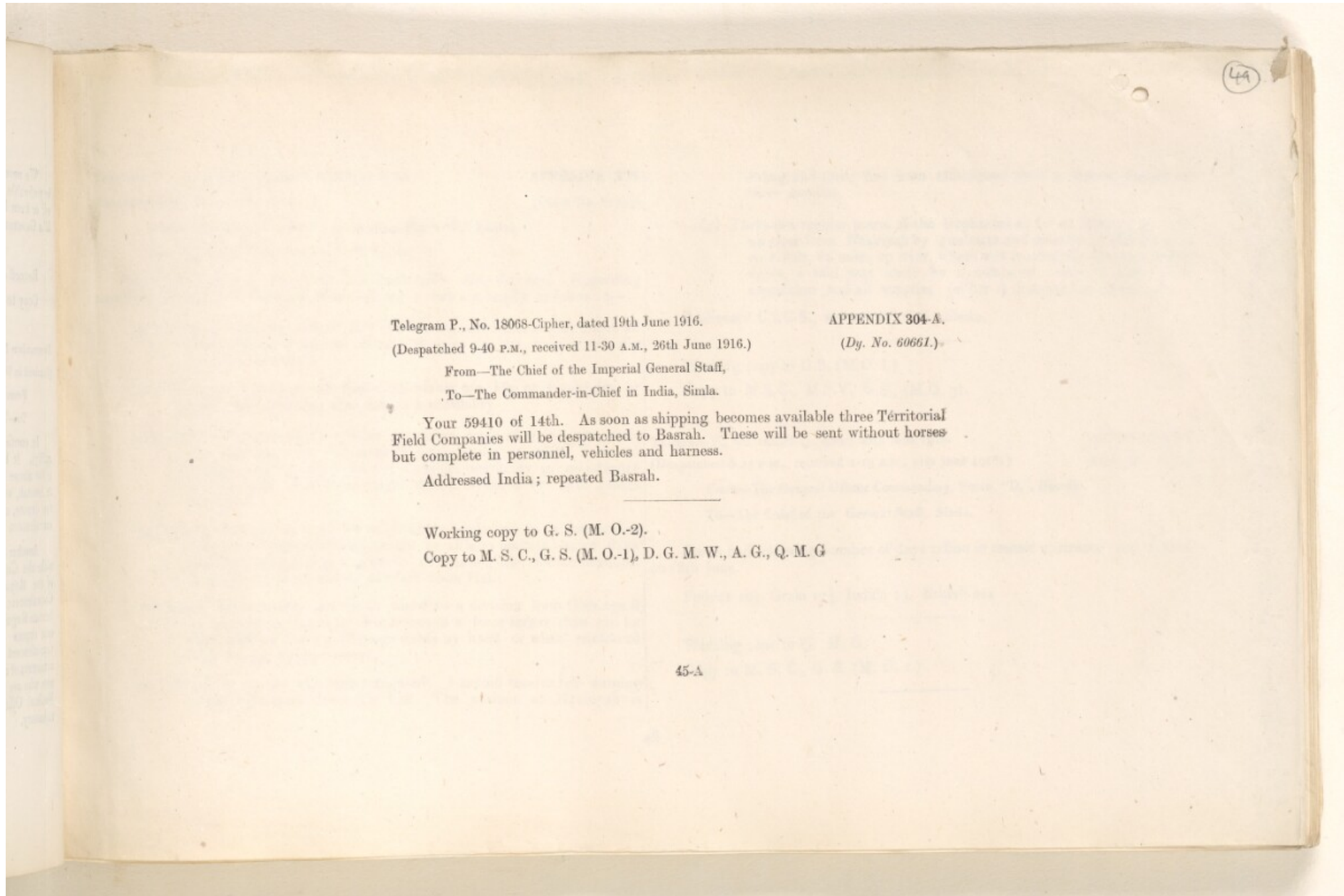
Addressed Basrah ; repeated India and Egypt.

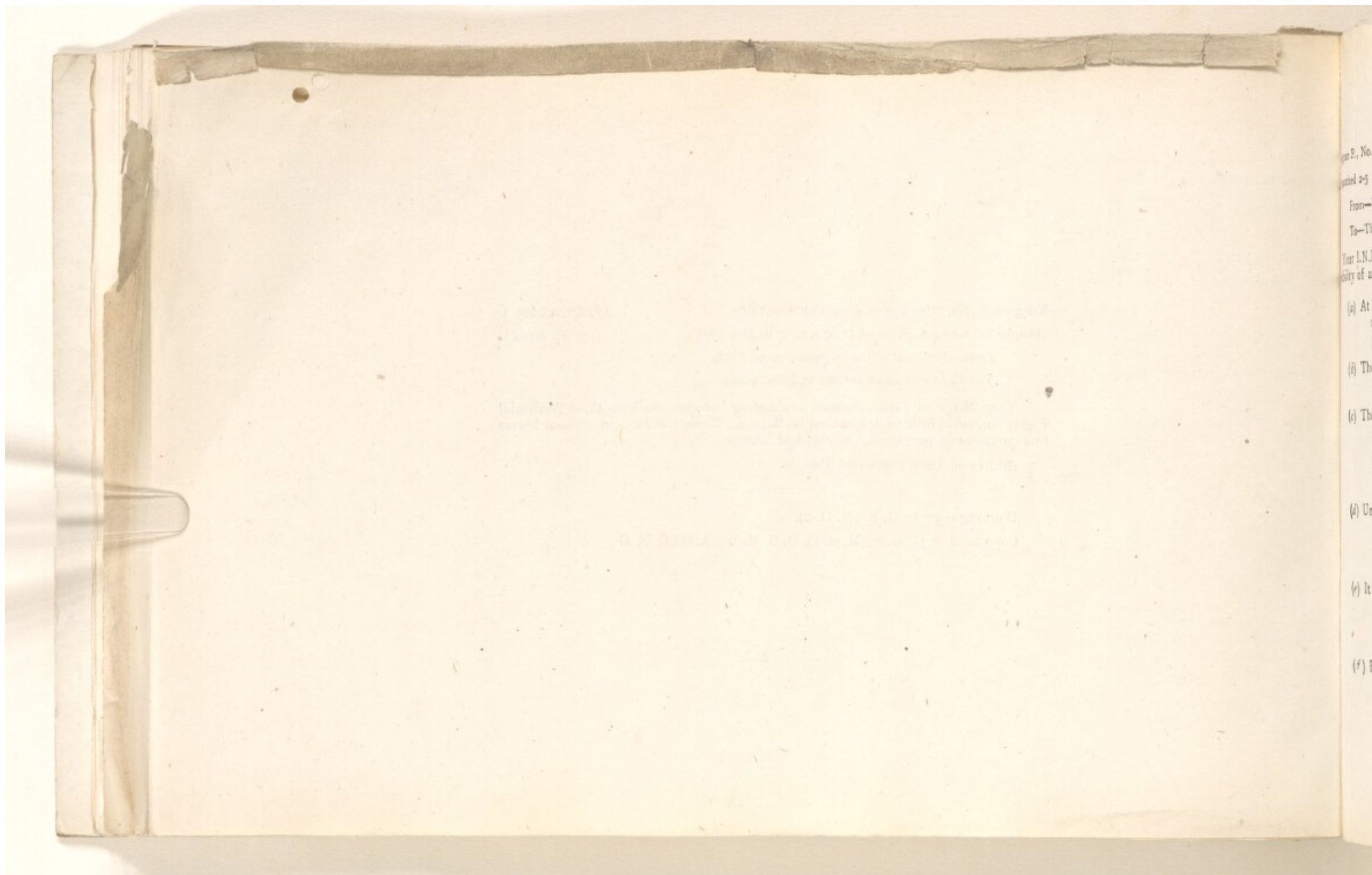
Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3.)
Copy to M.S.C., M S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1.)

APPENDIX 303
(Diary No. 60716)

APPENDIX 304
(Diary No. 60743)







Page No. 30
Number 2-5 P.M.
From—The
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Year I.N.D.—
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Telegram P., No. 309-313 O., dated 20th June 1916.

(Despatched 2-5 P.M., received 11 P.M.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your I.N.D.-014 (? 18014) of 8th June (*Dy. No. 60349*). Regarding possibility of attack in force on Nasiriyah my views are briefly as follows:—

- (a) At least until the end of July the flooded condition of Euphrates all round Nasiriyah and for about 30 miles up the river practically prevents an attack.
- (b) The enemy's advance on Nasiriyah either *via* Hai or Euphrates or both combined after that date is a possibility.
- (c) The restrictions on navigation by either route after July are such, that without very considerable organization of which I should receive information, I do not consider possibility of an advance on Nasiriyah by a force larger than 2 divisions on both routes combined.
- (d) Unless Turks in his front are so strongly reinforced as to immobilize him, I anticipate Gorrings should be able to operate on its flank and rear and take up a position dominating its communications, in the event of an enemy advance down Hai.
- (e) It will be necessary for me to withdraw a division from Gorrings if an advance is made by Euphrates of a force larger than can be dealt with by the 15 Division either by itself or when reinforced from Basrah by my reserve.
- (f) From my agents, who report regularly, I should receive full warning of any movement down this line. The position at Nasiriyah is

APPENDIX 305

(Diary No. 60775)

strong and there has been established there a reserve supply for three months.

- (g) There is a regular patrol of the Euphrates as far as Durraji, 47 miles up river from Nasiriyah by gunboats and recently on one occasion on Khidr, 62 miles up river, where was located the Ajaima's supply depôt, a raid was made by a combined military and naval expedition and all supplies (either ?) destroyed or carried off.

Addressed C.I.G.S., repeated C.G.S., Simla.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1.)

Copy to M.S.C, M.S.V., G.S., (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 1684-2-Q., dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-45 P.M., received 1-15 A.M., 21st June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D.", Basrah.

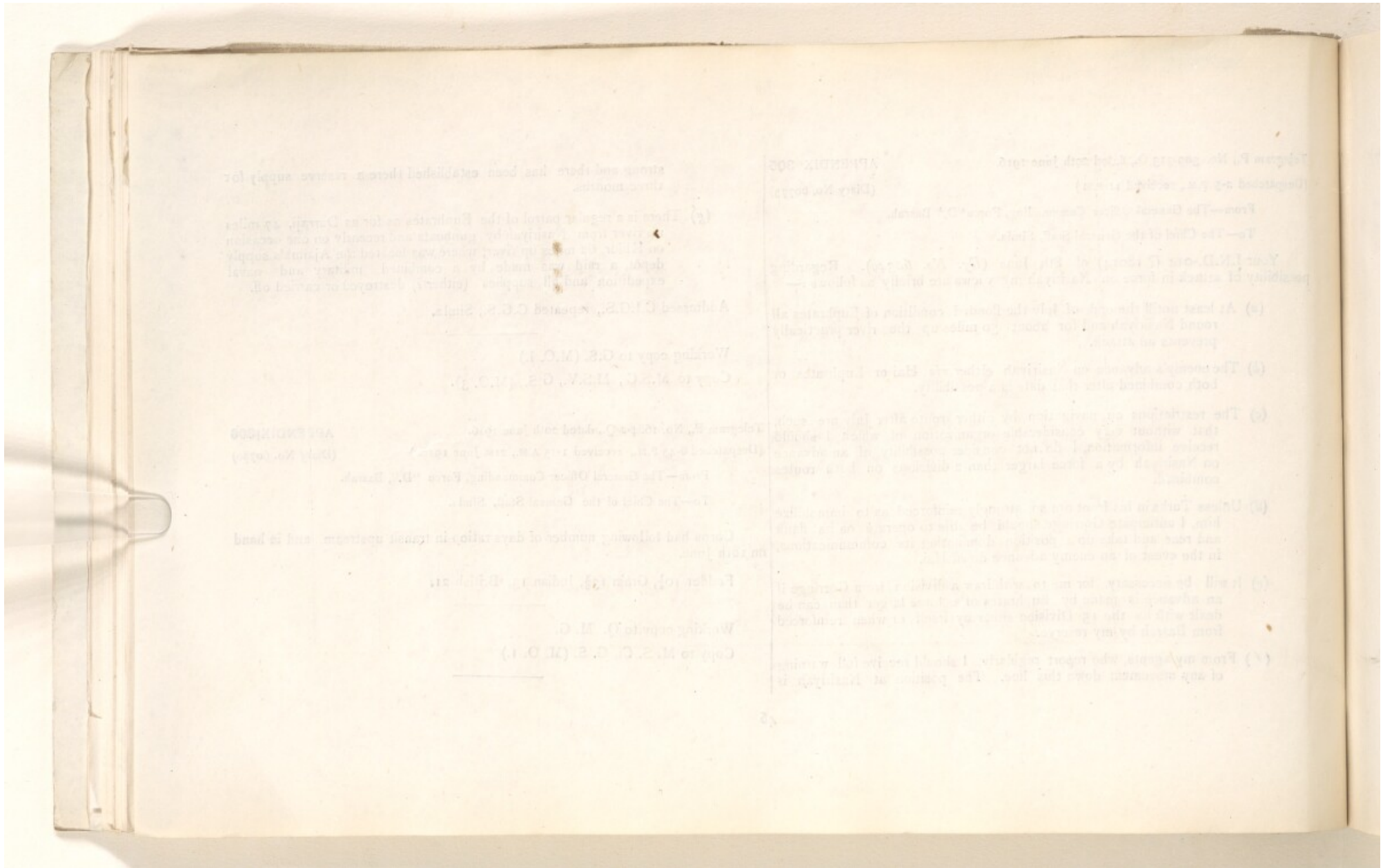
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Corps had following number of days ration in transit upstream and in hand on 18th June.

Fodder 10½, Grain 13½, Indian 13, British 21½

Working copy to Q. M. G.

Copy to M. S. C., G. S. (M. O. 1.)

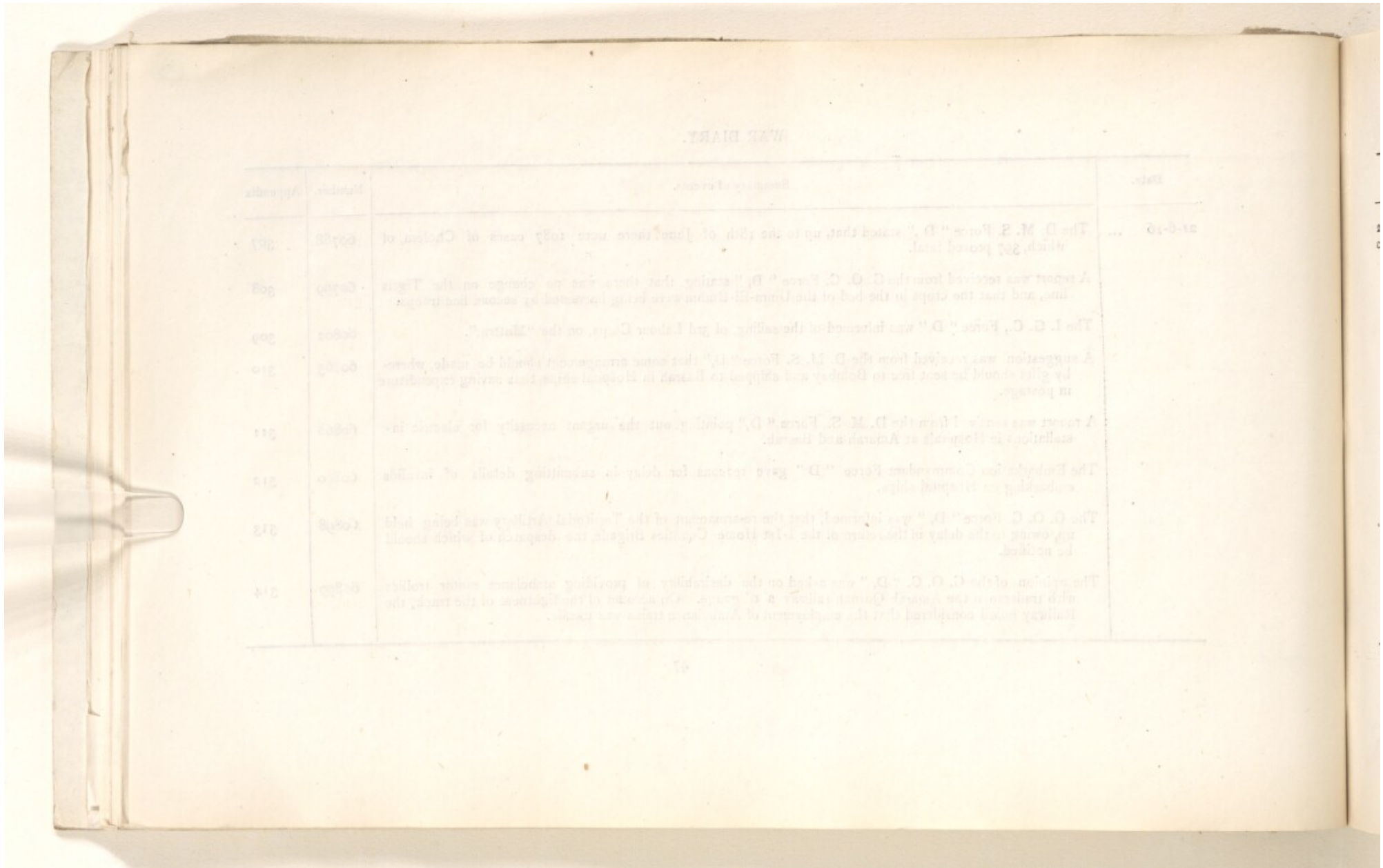




(51)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix
21-6-16 ...	The D. M. S. Force " D ," stated that, up to the 18th of June there were 1087 cases of Cholera, of which, 397 proved fatal.	60788	307
	A report was received from the G. O. C. Force " D ," stating that there was no change on the Tigris line, and that the crops in the bed of the Umm-El-Brahm were being harvested by second line troops.	60799	308
	The I. G. C., Force " D " was informed of the sailing, of 3rd Labour Corps, on the "Muttra."	60802	309
	A suggestion was received from the D. M. S. Force " D ," that some arrangement should be made, whereby gifts should be sent free to Bombay and shipped to Basrah in Hospital ships, thus saving expenditure in postage.	60865	310
	A report was received from the D. M. S. Force " D ," pointing out the urgent necessity for electric installations in Hospitals at Amarah and Basrah.	60868	311
	The Embarkation Commandant Force " D " gave reasons for delay in submitting details of invalids embarking on Hospital ships.	60850	312
	The G. O. C. Force " D ," was informed, that the re-armament of the Territorial Artillery was being held up, owing to the delay in the return of the 1-1st Home Counties Brigade, the despatch of which should be notified.	60898	313
	The opinion of the G. O. C. " D ," was asked on the desirability of providing ambulance motor trollies with trailers on the Amarah Qurnah railway 2' 6" gauge. On account of the lightness of the track, the Railway board considered that the employment of Ambulance trains was unsafe.	60899	314





(52)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
21-6-16— contd.	The Secretary, War Office, London, stated that an additional field troop was being despatched, to provide the requisite numbers for an independent Cavalry Brigade. Also gave names of units being sent dismounted and their requirements in horses.	60903	315
	The D. M. I. London, forwarded a report from Marsh regarding the opening of an ice free port at Semenovo.	60904	316
	The G. O. C., Force " D " reported, that confusion and delay was being caused by present system of despatch of engineering and electrical stores from India. Suggested that note in duplicate be sent to D. D. Works Basrah, on despatch of ship, and advice whether it contains the whole or part of any particular indent.	60913	317
	The G. O. C., Force " D " was asked to forward his requirements on the suppositions :— (a) that it was decided by the War Committee that an advance on Baghdad, with the force, at present at his disposal was to be undertaken (b) if the policy at present guiding his operations remained unchanged.	60930	318
	Proposals were received from the G. O. C., Force " D " for the establishment, in a modified form, of an examination service at Fao., the object being to prevent hostile vessels, using a neutral flag, from entering the port and laying mines. Asked to be provided with an R. G. A. detachment consisting of one Captain, two subalterns and fifty rank and file.	60994	319
	The G. O. C. " D " intimated the total number of river craft fleet in use on 15th June, and stated that Thames paddlers and p. 50 were not included.	60999	320



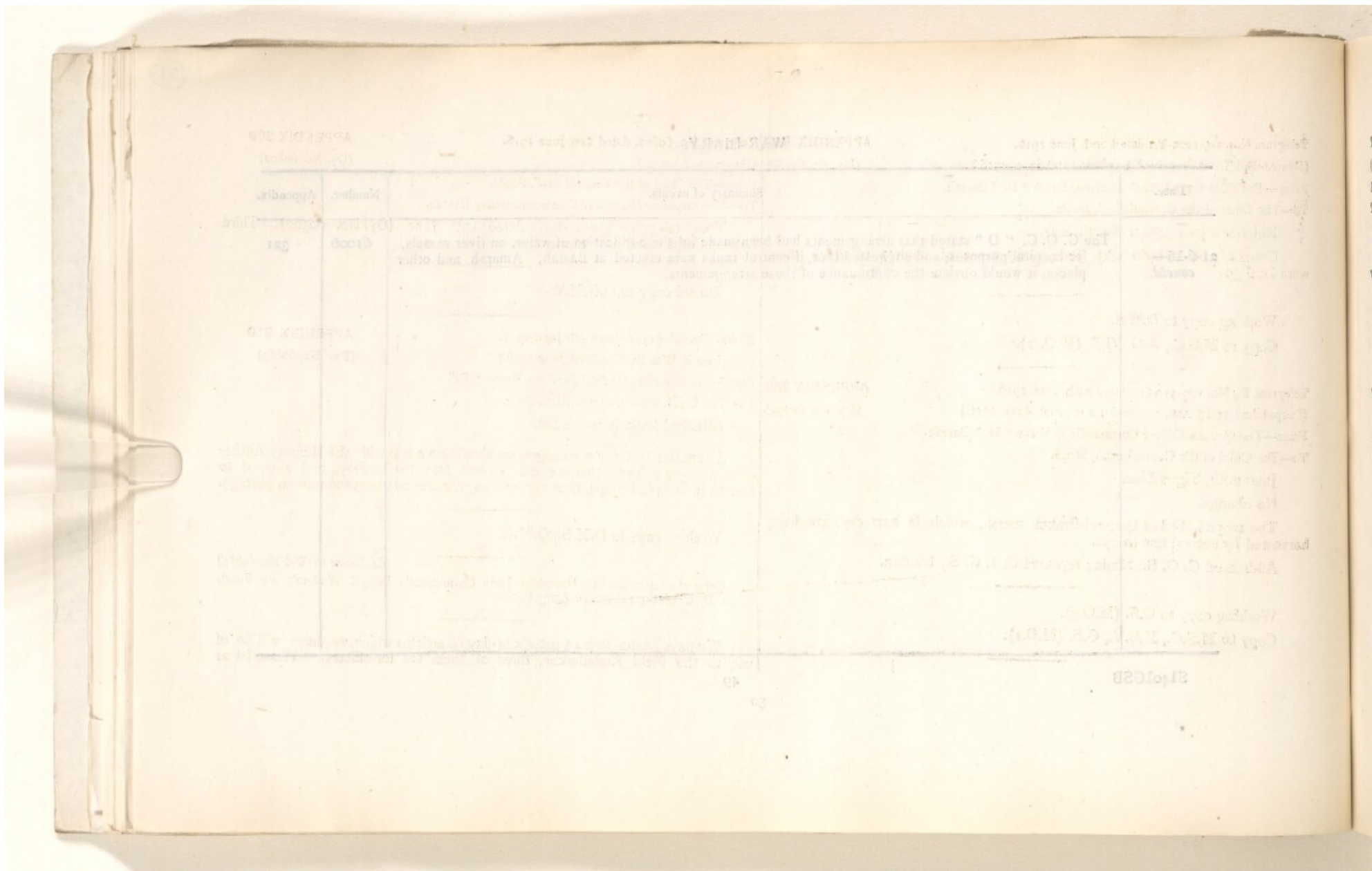
(53)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
21-6-16— <i>concl.</i>	The G. O. C. " D " stated that arrangements had been made for the purification of water, on river vessels, for hospital purposes, and suggested that, if central tanks were erected at Basrah, Amarah and other places, it would obviate the continuance of these arrangements.	61006	321

S1401GSB

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Telegram No. 1-5-1220-Y, dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched 8 P.M., received 3-45 A.M., 21st June 1916.)
From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Reference your 52640 of 12th May.

Cases of cholera upto 18th June, 1,087 cases of cholera of which there were fatal 397.

Working copy to D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C., A.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 129-470-D, dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-15 P.M., received 7 A.M., 21st June 1916.)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 20th, Tigris Line.

No change.

The crops in bed of Umm-el-Brahm marsh, which is now dry, are being harvested by second line troops.

Addressed C. G. S., Simla; repeated C. I. G. S., London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1).

APPENDIX 307
(Dy. No. 60788)

Telgram No. 60802, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 8 A.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The Inspector General of Communications, Basrah.

Your telegram 431-23-L.C., dated 19th June (Dy. No. 60562). Third Labour Corps sailed on "Muttra."

Record copy to D.G.M.W.

Memo. No. R-7-354, dated 5th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 21st June 1916.)

From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D."

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

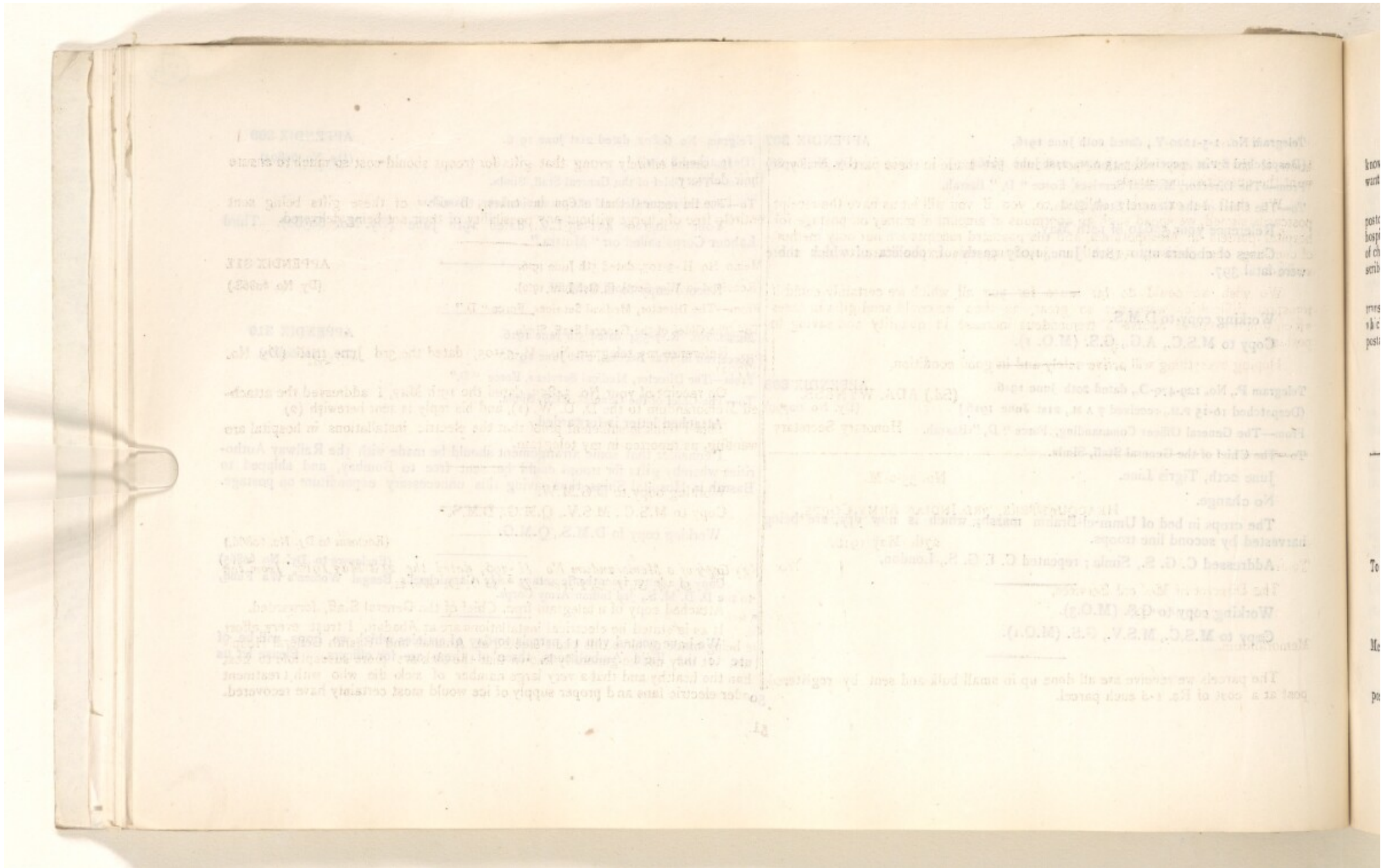
Attached letter is forwarded.

I consider that some arrangement should be made with the Railway Authorities whereby gifts for troops could be sent free to Bombay, and shipped to Basrah in Hospital Ships, thus saving this unnecessary expenditure on postage.

Working copy to D.M.S., Q.M.G.

(Enclosure to Dy. No. 60865)
Copy of a letter from the Secretary Lady Carmichael's Bengal Women's Wa Fund, to the D. D. M. S., 3rd Indian Army Corps.

We have posted you 12 parcels to-day of articles which we hope will be of use to the Field Ambulances, three of them are for officers. Please let us





know if there is any alteration you would like made in these parcels or if you want the quantities increased.

We shall be extremely obliged to you if you will let us have the receipt postcards signed, we spend such an enormous amount of money on postage for hospital parcels in Mesopotamia, and the postcard receipts are our only method of checking their arrival, as well as justifying this expenditure to our subscribers.

We wish we could do far more for you all which we certainly could if transport difficulties were not so great, as then we could send gifts in cases which would mean of course a tremendous increase in quantity and saving in postage.

Hoping everything will arrive safely and in good condition.

(Sd.) ADA. WYNESS.

Honorary Secretary

No. 55-2-M.

HEADQUARTERS, 3RD INDIAN ARMY CORPS,

27th May 1916.

To

The Director of Medical Services,
I. E. F. "D."

Memorandum.

The parcels we receive are all done up in small bulk and sent by registered post at a cost of Rs. 1-5 each parcel.

It seems entirely wrong that gifts for troops should cost so much to ensure their delivery.

I would request that steps be taken to allow of these gifts being sent entirely free of charge without any possibility of their not being delivered.

Memo. No. H.-3-105, dated 5th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 21st June 1916).

From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D."

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Reference my telegram No. H.-3-105, dated the 3rd June 1916 (Dy. No. 5779).

On receipt of your No. 54855, dated the 19th May, I addressed the attached Memorandum to the D. D. W. (1), and his reply is sent herewith (2)

This I think is sufficient proof that the electric installations in hospital are wanting, as reported in my telegram.

Working copy to D.G.M.W.

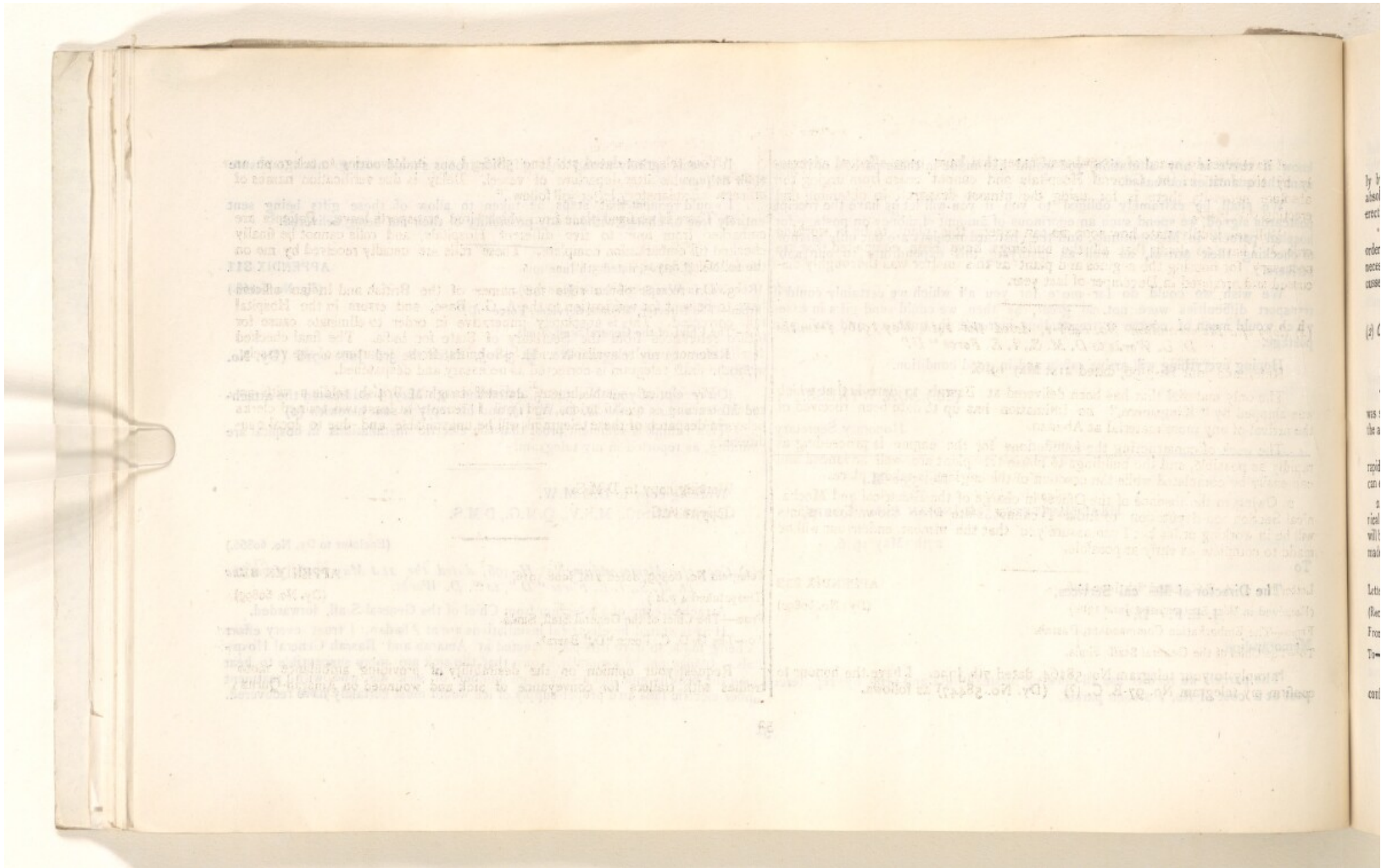
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., Q.M.G., D.M.S.

(Enclosure to Dy. No. 60865.)

(1) Copy of a Memorandum No. H-396, dated the 21st May 1916, from the D. M. S., I. E. Force "D", to D. D. Works.

Attached copy of a telegram from Chief of the General Staff, forwarded.

If as is stated the electrical installations are at Abadan, I trust every effort is being made to have this plant erected at Amarah and Basrah General Hospitals. It may not be generally known that the sick are more susceptible to heat than the healthy and that a very large number of sick die who with treatment under electric fans and proper supply of ice would most certainly have recovered.





I have already heard of a number of cases that have been affected adversely by the heat in the General Hospitals and cannot cease from urging the absolute necessity there is for using the utmost despatch in obtaining and erecting this plant.

Will you kindly state how soon we can expect this plant to be in working order? I have no doubt that all the buildings have been completed that are necessary for housing the engines and plant as this matter was thoroughly discussed and arranged in December of last year.

(2) Copy of a Memorandum No. 1486-1, dated the 24th May 1916, from the D. D. Works to D. M. S., I. E. Force "D."

Reference your H.-3-96, dated 21st May 1916.

The only material that has been delivered at Basrah to date is that which was shipped by "Kingsnere," no intimation has up to date been received of the arrival of any more material at Abadan.

The work of constructing the foundations for the engine is proceeding as rapidly as possible, and the buildings to house the plant are well advanced and can easily be completed while the erection of the engines is taking place.

2. Owing to the absence of the Officer in charge of the Electrical and Mechanical Section on deputation to India I cannot state when the various plants will be in working order but I can assure you that the utmost endeavour will be made to complete as early as possible.

Letter No. 97-A-E.C., dated 8th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 21st June 1916)

From—The Embarkation Commandant, Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

In reply to your telegram No. 58164, dated 7th June. I have the honour to confirm my telegram No. 97-E. C. (?) (Dy. No. 58447) as follows.

"Your telegram dated 7th June 58164, I am endeavouring to telegraph as soon as possible after departure of vessel. Delay is due verification names of officers. Explanatory letter will follow."

2. There is no fixed place from which hired transports leave. Patients are embarked from four to five different Hospitals, and rolls cannot be finally checked till embarkation complete. These rolls are usually received by me on the following day.

3. On receipt of the rolls the names of the British and Indian officers have to be sent for verification to the A. G., Base, and errors in the Hospital rolls corrected. This is absolutely imperative in order to eliminate cause for future references from the Secretary of State for India. The final checked details are not usually available under 48 hours, from departure of the vessels, when the draft telegram is corrected as necessary and despatched.

4. My clerical establishment are self taught. British soldiers with no special training or qualifications, and until I receive at least two trained clerks delays in despatch of these telegrams will be unavoidable and due to local conditions.

Working copy to D.M.S.

Copy to A.G.

APPENDIX 312

(Dy. No. 60890)

Telegram No. 60899, dated 21st June 1916.

(Despatched 4 P.M.)

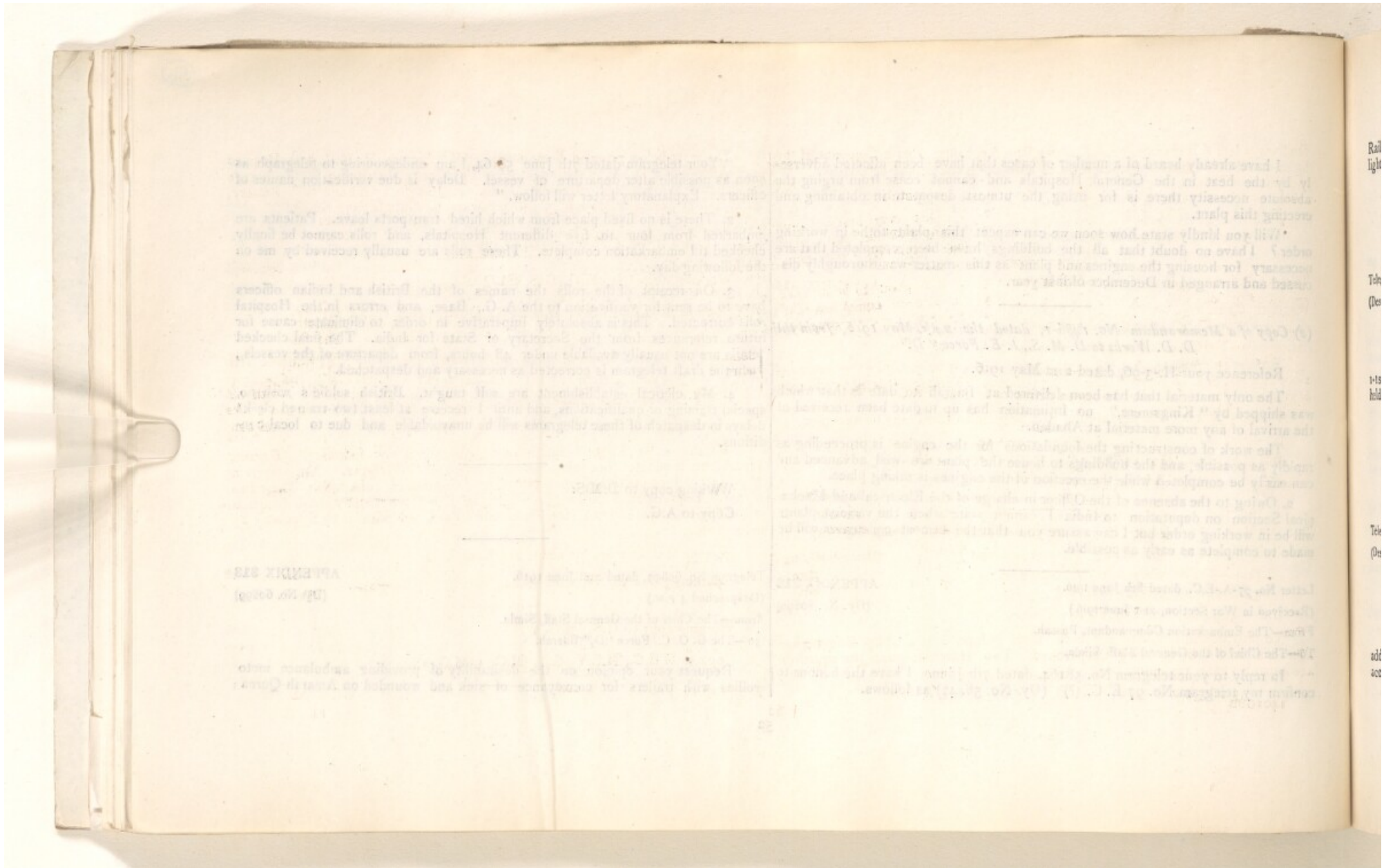
From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

APPENDIX 313

(Dy. No. 60899)

Request your opinion on the desirability of providing ambulance motor trolleys with trailers for conveyance of sick and wounded on Amarah-Qurna.





Railway 2 feet 6 inches gauge. Railway Board consider that on account of the lightness of the track the employment of ambulance trains may be unsafe.

Record copy to D.M.S.
Copy to Q.M.G., Railway Board.

Telegram P., No. 60898, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 4 P.M.)

APPENDIX 314
(Diary No. 60898)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

Reference my 59159, dated 13th June. Owing to delay in the return of 1st Home Counties Brigade, the re-armament of Territorial Artillery is being held up.

Please wire when the despatch of this Brigade to India may be expected.

Record copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).
Copy to M.S.C., D.G.O., D.S.D.

Telegram P., No. 18119-Cypher, D. S. D., dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-10 P.M., received 12-5 P.M., 21st June 1916)

APPENDIX 315
(Diary No. 60903)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in Chief in India, Simla.

Our 17929 (Dy. No. 59962), your 60460.

To provide the requisite numbers for an independent Cavalry Brigade one additional field troop is being despatched. Two Hotchkis guns per squadron accompanies each regiment.

1401GSB

53

57

The units below proceed dismounted. "V" Battery, R. H. A. 13th Hussars and Ammunition Column but will take saddlery and harness. The horses required for above are Ammunition Column 121 draught 15 riding, "V" Battery, R. H. A., 155 draught, 98 riding, 13th Hussars, 74 draught, 472 riding.

You will be acquainted later as regards sailings.

Working copy to Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., D.G.M.W., D.G.O., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 18122-Cypher-M.I., dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-55 P.M., received 12-5 P.M., 21st June 1916.)

APPENDIX 316
(Diary No. 60904)

From—The Director, Military Intelligence, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Marsh under L.-195, dated June 19th sends the following. *Begins.* Please communicate the following to Force "D." *Begins.* My telegram M.A.-26 of June 16th and your telegram I.G.-3024 of June 14th. There has recently been opened an ice free port at Semenov (with a harbour much larger than Alexandrovsk), for Kola and connected with it by a railway 25 miles long.

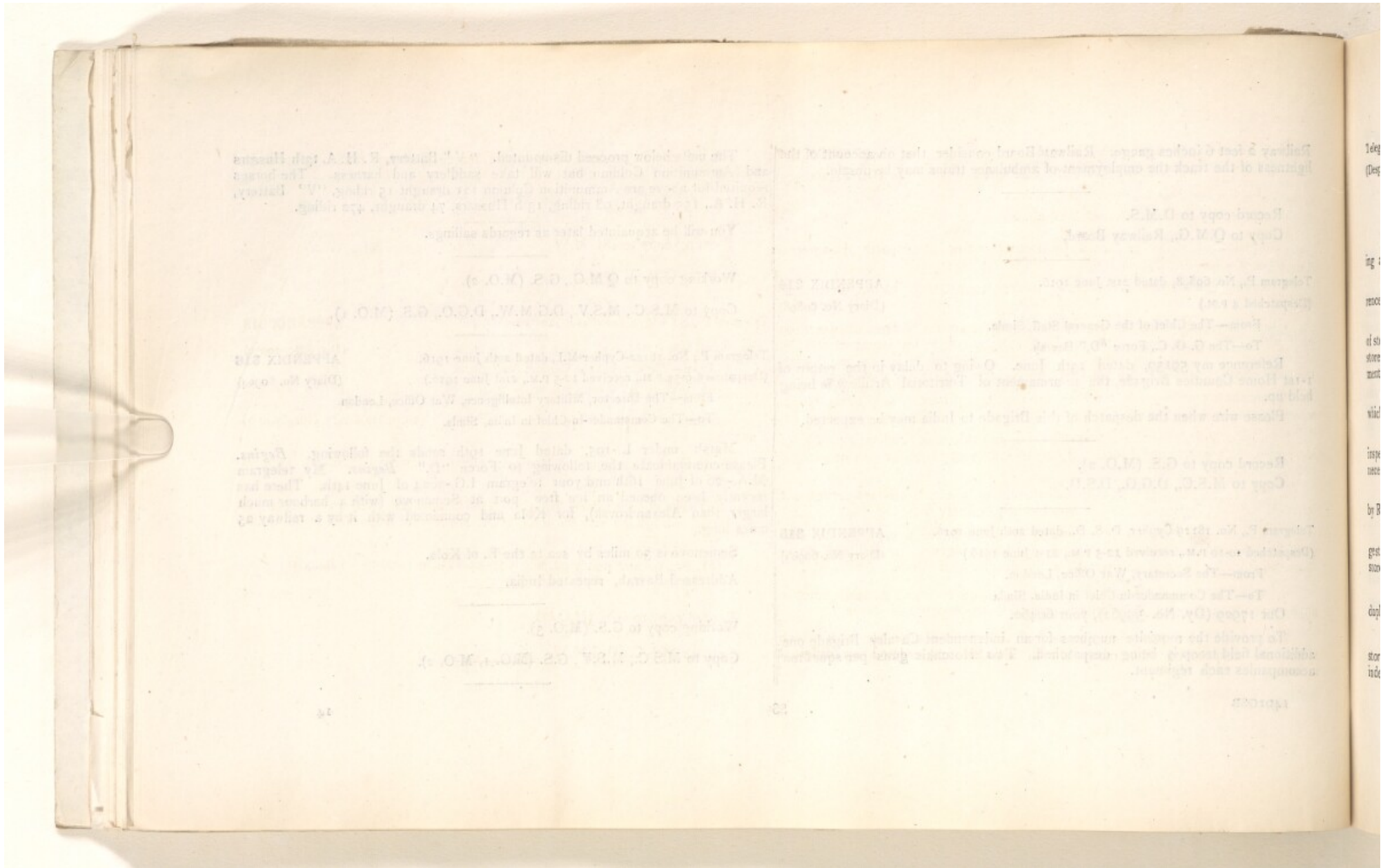
Semenovo is 30 miles by sea to the E. of Kola.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

14





Telegram No. 481-24 Q., dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched 8 P.M., received 11-55 A.M., 21st June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force " D ", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Confusion and delay is caused by present system of despatch of engineering and electrical stores from India.

Following points have been brought to notice as being of frequent occurrence.

Stores are sent without advice of consignment notes. Advice of despatch of stores on a certain ship when received turning out to be incorrect and the stores are found on another ship. Stores are consigned to the wrong departments, e.g., to S. and T. Corps or D. G. P. A. instead of D. D. of Works.

Component parts for one machine are sent in a different ship to the one in which the machine is despatched.

Stores arriving here are found to be unserviceable indicating lack of inspection before leaving India. Specific instances of above can be given if necessary.

2. Understand that purchase and despatch of above stores are carried out by R. E. Officers at Bombay in addition to their ordinary duties.

Considering magnitude of present and probable future demands would suggest desirability of establishing separate purchasing agency for Military Works stores at Bombay to deal with purchase and despatch of stores.

3. Meanwhile instructions may please be issued for consignment notes in duplicate to be sent to D. D. Works immediately on despatch of stores.

Note should give reference number of indent in compliance with which stores are despatched since many similar articles are ordered on different indents.

APPENDIX 317
(Diary No. 60913)

Advice should be sent when a ship leaves Bombay that it contains the whole or part of a certain indent.

This will greatly facilitate preparations here.

Working copy to D.G.M.W.

Copy to Q.M.G., D.G.O.

Telegram P., No. 60930, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 6-30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The G. O. C., Force " D," Basrah.

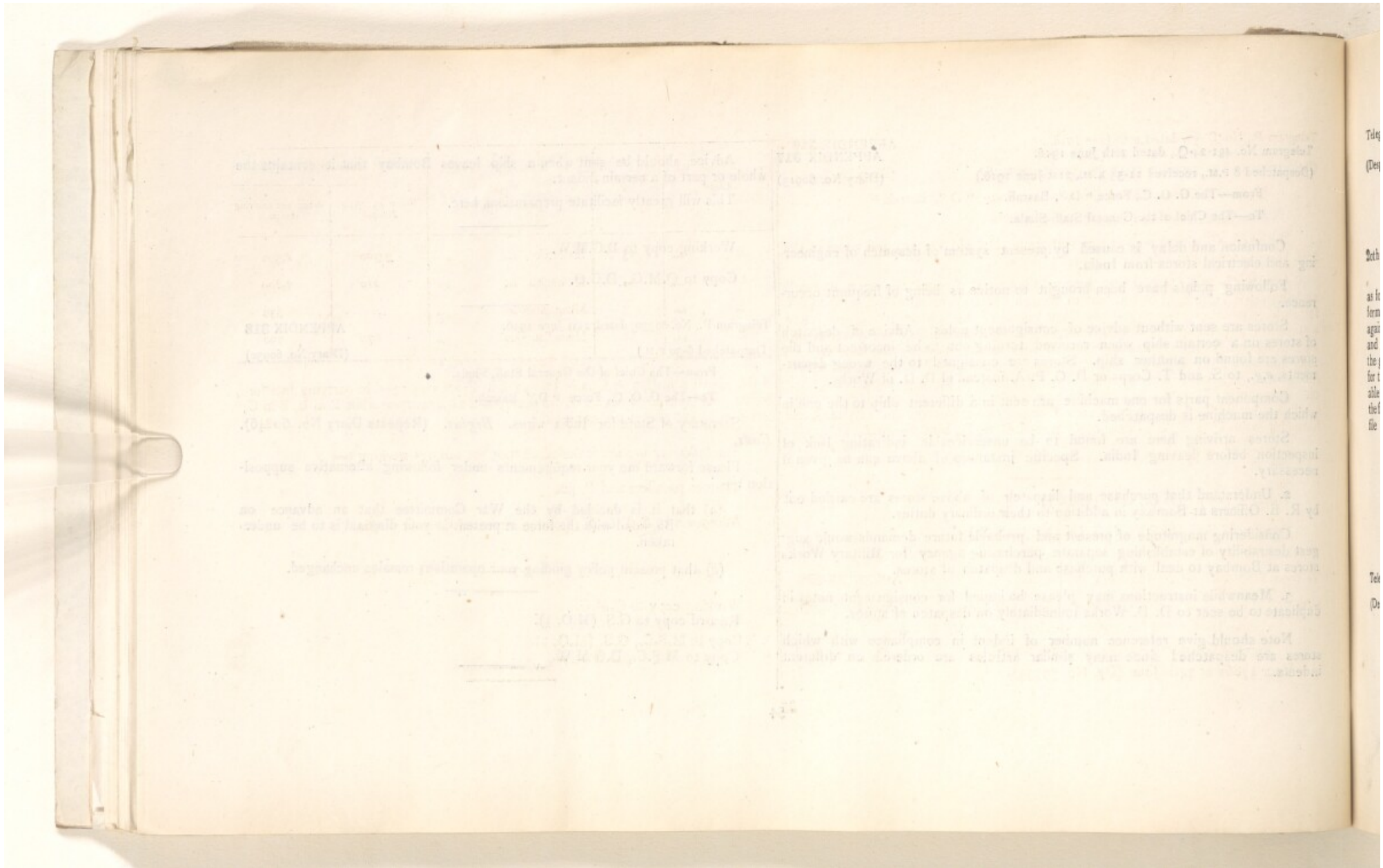
Secretary of State for India wires. *Begins.* (Repeats Diary No. 60246).
Ends.

Please forward me your requirements under following alternative supposition :—

- (a) that it is decided by the War Committee that an advance on Baghdad with the force at present at your disposal is to be undertaken.
- (b) that present policy guiding your operations remains unchanged.

Record copy to G.S (M.O. 1):

Copy to M.S.C., D.G.M.W.





59

Telegram P., No. C.-70, dated 20th June 1916.

APPENDIX 319

(Despatched 11 P.M., received 11-45 A.M., 21st June 1916.)

(Diary No. 60994)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

My 11-12-O. (? 1111-12-O.) of 19th June (Dy. No. 60525) and yours of the 20th June, No. 60675.

Apparently 1111-11-O. of 1st June was not sent. I regret the error. It reads as follows:—*Begins*. For the port of Basrah I intend to establish a modified form of examination service at Fao. The object of this precaution is to guard against the possible action of hostile vessels using a neutral flag to enter the port and laying mines or, at the narrow port of the Channel, blocking the fairway. At the gap above Mohammerah this letter could be done very easily. As armament for the service I can provide 4 partly worn 18 pounders, but here there is no available personnels. For the service I shall be pleased if you will provide me with the following R. G. A. detachment one Captain two subalterns and fifty rank and file Repeated C. I. G. S., London, addressed C. G. S., Simla.—*Ends*.

Addressed as previously.

Working copy to A.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, D.S.D.)

Telegram P., No. 2673-5-Q., dated 21st June 1916.

APPENDIX 320

(Despatched 2-5 P.M., received 8-30 P.M., 21st June 1916.)

(Diary No. 60999)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 17861 of 14th June (Dy. No. 59534).

Class.	Number of vessels.	Type.	TONNAGE.	
			When carrying troops.	When not carrying troops.
B ...	15	Mejidieh ...	3360	4500
C ...	14	Malamieh ...	210	2800
D ...	3	Miscellaneous ...	...	330
E ...	12	Miscellaneous ...	670	790

of the above 1 in B, 1 in C, 1 in D, and 2 in E are employed in carrying fuel for flotilla, and certain others on duties other than maintenance while 2 in B, 2 in C, and 1 in E, are always under repair.

The following are not included as they are not yet working:—

Thames paddlers and P. 50.

Addressed to C. I. G. S., London, repeated C.-in-C., India.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).



(60)

Telegram No. 1631-2-Q, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 1-55 P.M., received 10 P.M., 21st June 1916.)

APPENDIX 321
(Diary No. 61006)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

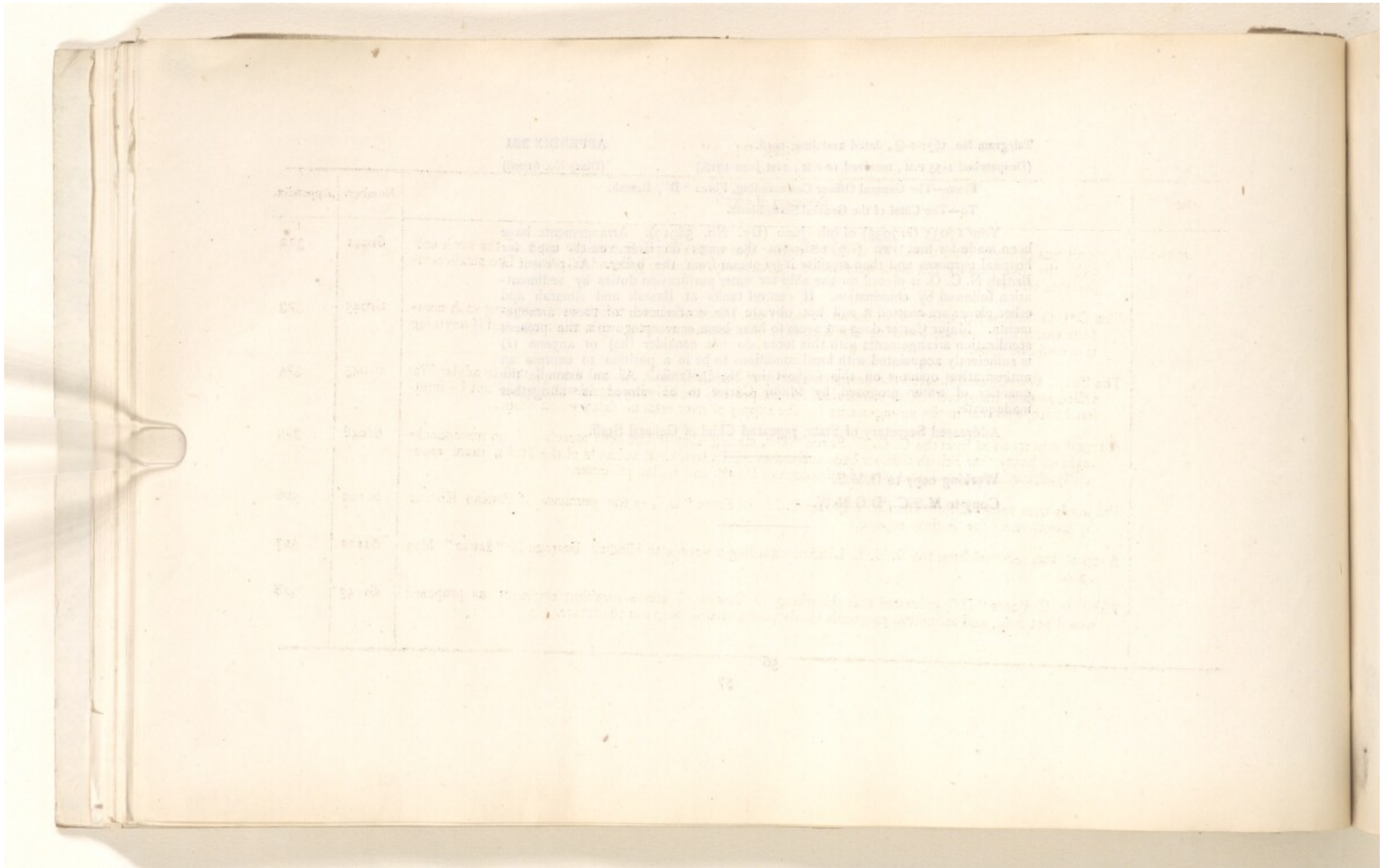
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 17035 (217935) of 9th June (Dy. No. 58917). Arrangements have been made for first two (two) sediment the water on river vessels used for hospital purposes and then sterilise it by steam from the boiler. At present a British N. C. O. is placed on the ship for water purification duties by sedimentation followed by chlorination. If central tanks at Basrah and Amarah and other places are erected it will not obviate the continuance of these arrangements. Major Carter does not seem to have been conversant with the present sterilization arrangements with this force do not consider (he) or anyone (?) is sufficiently acquainted with local conditions to be in a position to express an authoritative opinion on this subject in Mesopotamia. As an example the quantity of water proposed by Major Carter to be stored is altogether inadequate.

Addressed Secretary of State, repeated Chief of General Staff.

Working copy to D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C., D.G.M.W.

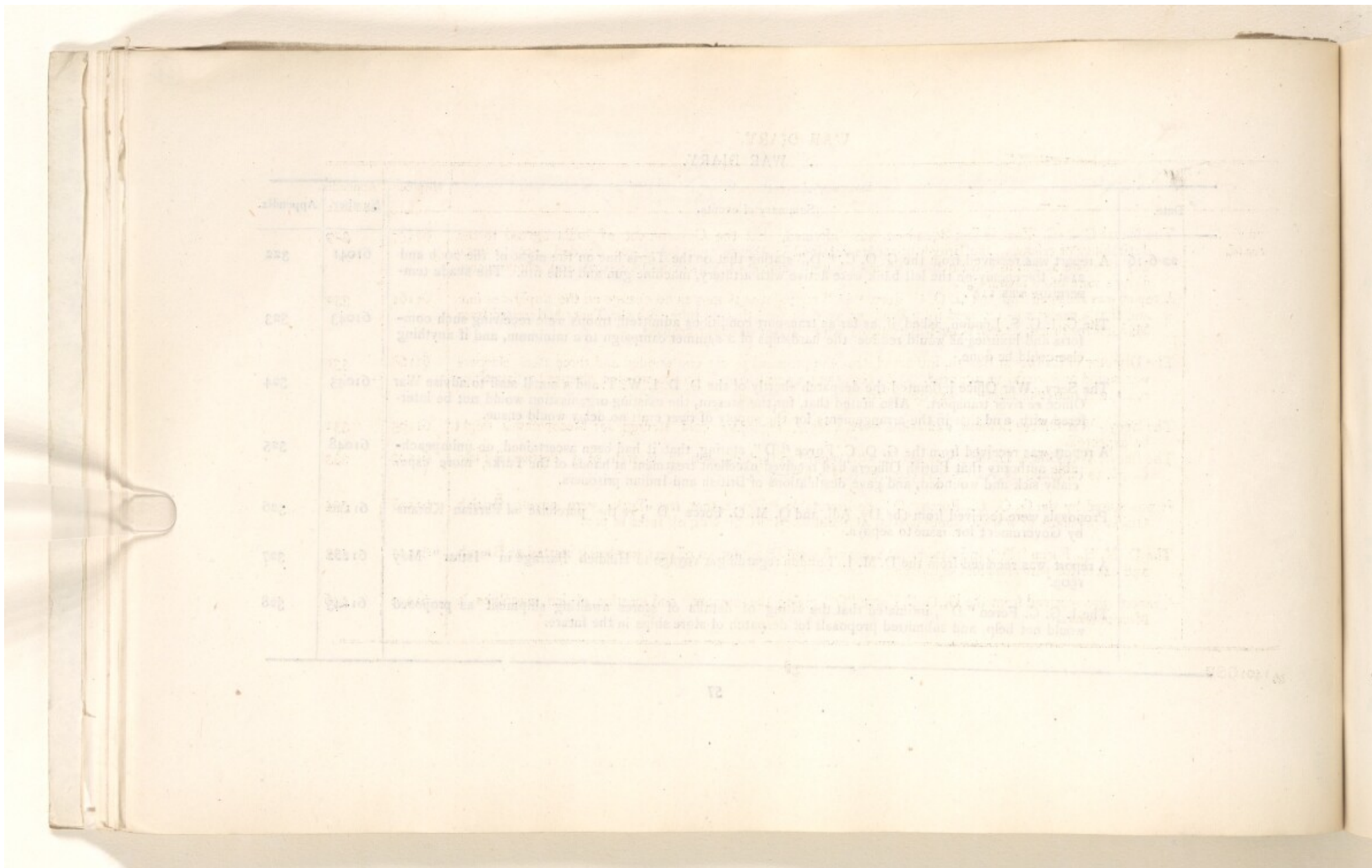




(61)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
22-6-16	A report was received from the G. O. C. " D," stating that on the Tigris line on the night of the 20th and 21st, the enemy on the left bank were active with artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. The shade temperature was 114°.	61041	322
	The C. I. G. S. London, asked, if, as far as transport conditions admitted, troops were receiving such comforts and luxuries as would reduce the hardships of a summer campaign to a minimum, and if anything else could be done.	61043	323
	The Secy., War Office intimated the despatch shortly of the D. D. I. W. T. and a small staff to advise War Office re river transport. Also stated that, for the present, the existing organisation would not be interfered with, and that in the arrangements for the supply of river craft no delay would ensue.	61045	324
	A report was received from the G. O. C. Force " D", stating, that it had been ascertained, on unimpeachable authority that British Officers had received excellent treatment at hands of the Turks, more especially sick and wounded, and gave destinations of British and Indian prisoners.	61048	325
	Proposals were received from the Dy. Adj. and Q. M. G. Force " D", re the purchase of Persian Korans by Government for issue to sepoy's.	61120	326
	A report was received from the D. M. I. London regarding a voyage to Hindich Barrage in " Istrar" May 1909.	61122	327
	The I. G. C. Force " D", intimated that the wiring of details of stores awaiting shipment as proposed would not help, and submitted proposals for despatch of store ships in the future.	61143	328





(62)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
22 6 16— <i>contd.</i>	The Naval C.-in-C., East Indian Squadron, was informed, that the Government of India agreed to the desirability of releasing the British prisoners detained in Abram, and that it was decided, not to take any offensive action in the Bushire Hinterland, until sufficient troops could be spared and climatic conditions were more favourable.	61157	329
	A report was received from the G. O. C. Force "D," stating that there was no change on the Euphrates line, and that a report was received from Williams, to the effect, that on June 18th the Turks had retired from Mandali to Ghilan, and to Kasr-i-Shirin from Sar-i-Pul, for unknown reasons.	61161	330
	The Director of Railways, Basrah, intimated, that the proposal to use two wooden and three steel sleepers was sound and would be adopted. Also that the proposal to send 50,000 wooden sleeper by first shipment, and one lakh later on, was accepted.	61168	331
	The Secy., War Office, London, was asked when a reply, regarding cold storage for Mesopotamia, might be expected.	61195	332
	The Secy., War Office, London, was asked, with regard to the despatch to Basrah of 3 Territorial Field Coys., to intimate, by classes, the requirements in horses.	61205	333
	It was stated by the G. O. C., Force "D", on irrefutable evidence, that the Turks were paying British Officer prisoners of war captured at Kut, at about one-third of English rates of pay.	61226	334
	The D. M. S., Force "D", intimated that a convalescent Depot for 50 officers was being started at Basrah, and asked for personnel and equipment.	61227	335
	A report was received from the G. O. C. Force "D", giving the number, and location, of ice machines in Mesopotamia.	61230	336

S 1401 GSB



WAR DIARY

Number	Summary of events	Date
211	The War Office, London, was informed that the Government of India agreed to the despatch of the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade to the Middle East, and that it was decided that the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade should be sent to the Middle East, and that the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade should be sent to the Middle East, and that the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade should be sent to the Middle East.	16 June 1916
212	A report was received from the G. O. C. Force "D", stating that there was no change in the position of the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade, and that the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade was still in the Middle East, and that the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade was still in the Middle East.	17 June 1916
213	The Director of Railway, Bangalore, indicated that the proposal to use two wooden and three steel sleepers was not approved, and that the proposal to use two wooden and three steel sleepers was not approved, and that the proposal to use two wooden and three steel sleepers was not approved.	18 June 1916
214	The Secy. War Office, London, was asked when a reply regarding cold storage for Messengers might be expected.	19 June 1916
215	The Secy. War Office, London, was asked whether it was intended to be despatched to the Middle East, and whether it was intended to be despatched to the Middle East, and whether it was intended to be despatched to the Middle East.	20 June 1916
216	It was stated by the G. O. C. Force "D", on 16th June, that the Turks were paying British Officers prisoners of war captured at Kaniun in order to obtain English notes of pay.	21 June 1916
217	The D. M. S. Force "D", indicated that a consignment of 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade for gear officers was being started at Harrah, and asked for program and equipment.	22 June 1916
218	A report was received from the G. O. C. Force "D", giving the number, and location of the machines in the 1st Indian Cavalry Brigade.	23 June 1916



63

Telegram P., No. 129-471-O., dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 11-30 P.M., received 6-15 P.M., 22nd June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 21st, Tigris Line.

On night 20th-21st instant enemy on left bank were considerably active with artillery, machine gun and rifle fire.

Very hot weather prevails, the shade temperature being 114. Little breeze.
Addressed Simla, repeated London.

Working copy to A.G. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 18161-Cipher, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 7-25 P.M., received 6-15 A.M., 22nd June 1916.)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

As far as transport conditions admit, are your troops receiving such comforts and luxuries as will reduce the hardships of a summer campaign to a minimum, or can we do anything else?

Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., D.M.S., G.S. (M.O. 1).

s1401esb

APPENDIX 322
(Dy. No. 61041)

Telegram P., No. 18145-Cipher, Q.M.G.-2-D., dated 20th June 1916.
(Despatched *Nil*, received 3-15 A.M., 2nd June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

In order to advise us regarding river transport the D. D. I. W. T. and small staff will shortly proceed from England to Basrah. For the present the existing organisation will not be interfered with and in the arrangements being made for the supply of river craft no delay will ensue. A letter is being sent.

Addressed General, Basrah, repeated Communications, Basrah and Chief, India.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

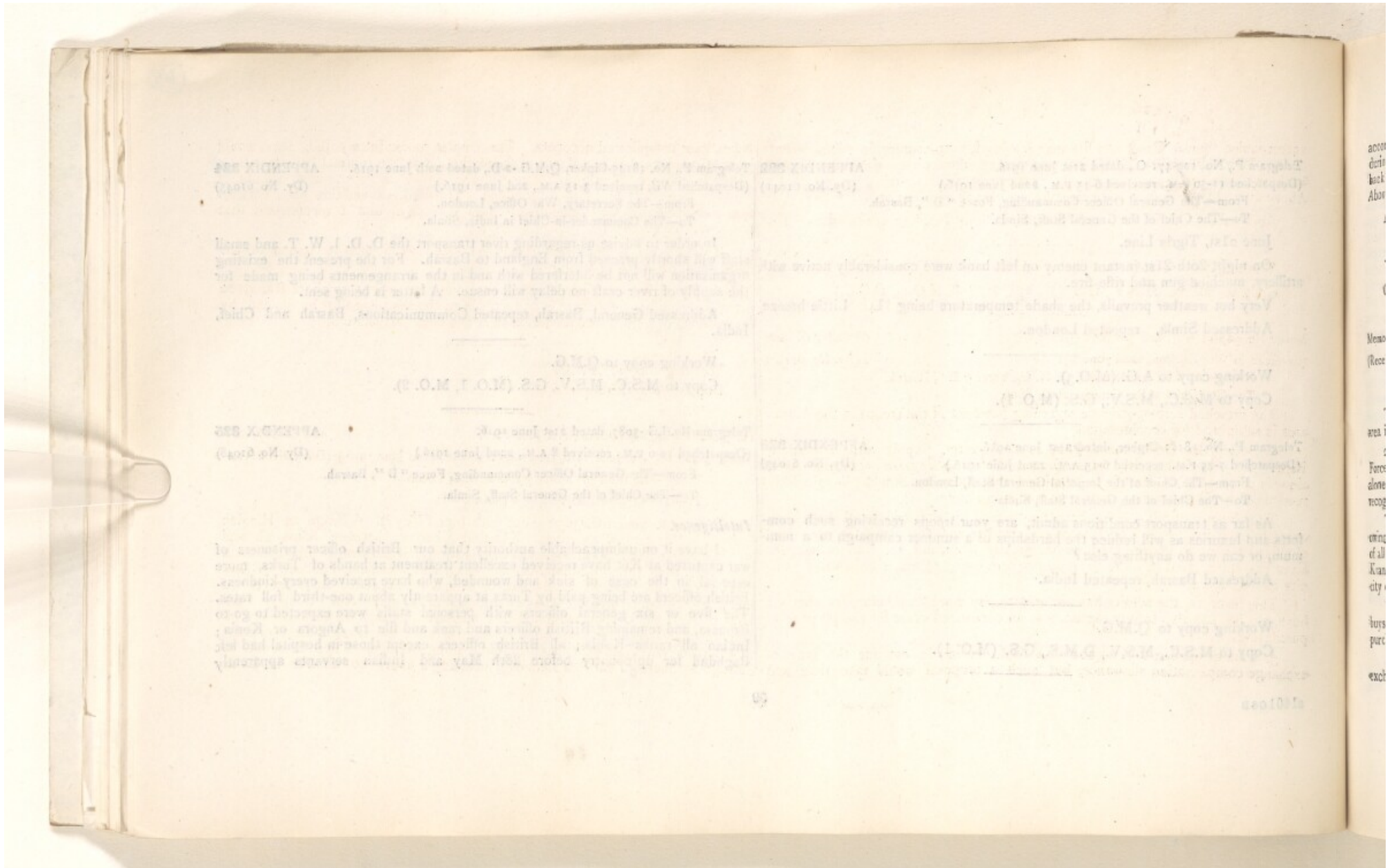
APPENDIX 323
(Dy. No. 61043)

Telegram No. I.G.-3087, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 10-0 P.M., received 8 A.M., 22nd June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence.

I have it on unimpeachable authority that our British officer prisoners of war captured at Kut have received excellent treatment at hands of Turks, more especial in the case of sick and wounded, who have received every kindness. British officers are being paid by Turks at apparently about one-third full rates. The five or six general officers with personal staffs were expected to go to Broussa, and remaining British officers and rank and file to Angora or Konia; Indian all ranks, Konia; all British officers except those in hospital had left Baghdad for up-country before 28th May and Indian servants apparently





accompanied them. Rank and file were leaving for up-country in detachments during May. There is hope that our medical officers may shortly be handed back on Tigris front when Turkish medical personnel is handed back to Turks. Above quoted items might be of interest to relatives and friends.

Addressed C. G. S., repeated Director, Military Intelligence, London.

Working copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2, M.O. 3, D.C.C.)

Memo No. 905-11-A., dated 7th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 22nd June 1916.)

From—The Dy. Adjutant and Q. M. G., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

The attached correspondence regarding payment of the troops in the Ahwaz area is submitted for consideration.

2. Seeing that Government—that is the Director, Supply and Transport, Force "D"—in their supply transactions in Persia, recognise that the Kran alone is current, it is therefore submitted that this fac should be similarly recognised in all pay transactions with troops in Persia.

The above contention is further strengthened by the additional fact that, owing to extensive military operations of ourselves and the Russians, the price of all articles in the Persian markets has greatly risen, and for that reason the Kran has appreciated in value some 20 per cent owing to the comparative scarcity of that coin.

This being so, the soldier has not only to pay more than before for what he buys, but he has also to buy the Kran at an enhanced value for the purpose of purchasing.

3. I am of opinion that a good case could be made out for the grant of exchange compensation allowance, but such a proposal would take time and

necessitate complicated accounts. The simpler course in my judgment would be for Government to buy Krans at the market rate (the normal rate is nearer 375 than 400 per Rs. 100) and issue them to sepoy (subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 in each case) at 4 Krans per rupee. The extra expenditure thus entailed would be debited to Government as loss on exchange, and I recommend that this course be adopted.

The proposal, if sanctioned, should be made applicable to troops in the Ahwaz area and also at Bushire.

4. The extra cost involved will amount, in round figures, to about Rs. 1,100 per mensem, a negligible sum in comparison to the advantage to be gained by the removal of a grievance for which their is a clear justification.

Working copy to M.A.G.

Copy to A.G., M.S.C.

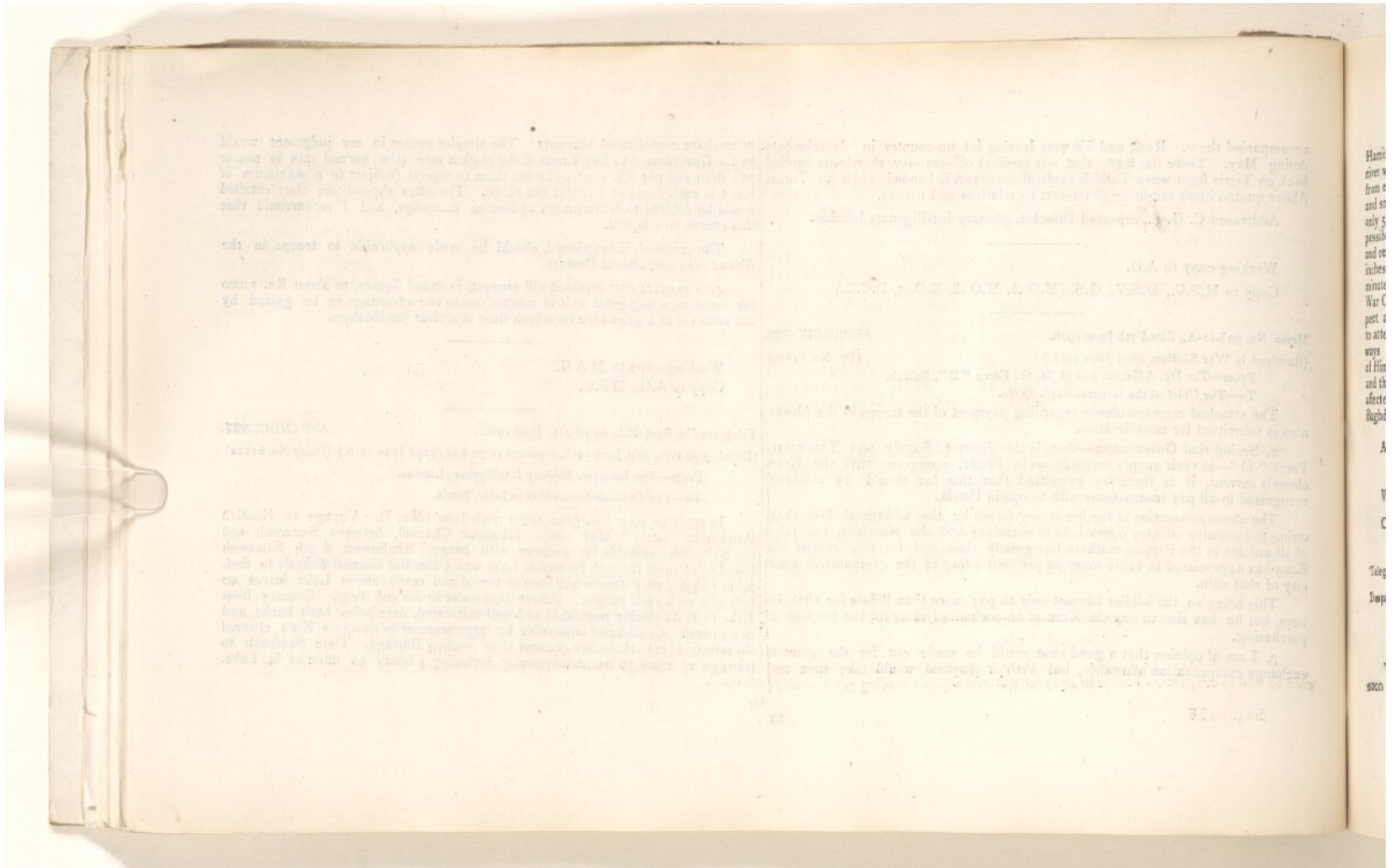
Telegram No. 8496-M.I., dated 21st June 1916.

(Destd. 5-40 P.M., 21st June 1916, received 11-30 A.M., 22nd June 1916.) (Diary No. 61122)

From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

In reply to your I.G.-3052 about 30th June (May?). Voyage to Hindieh Barrage in "Istar" May 1909. Khanisar Channel, between Samawah and old Shinafieh navigable for steamer with barge. Shallowest depth Samawah found in channel through Shinafieh Lake was 5 feet but channel difficult to find. Kufa channel very narrow and dam at top of 2nd reach above Lake leaves 40 foot gap with swift current. Above dam water broad and deep. Country from Lake to Kufa thickly populated and well cultivated, date palms both banks and rice grown. Considered impossible for large steamer to navigate Kufa channel so returned via Hamidieh channel after visiting Barrage. Time Samawah to Barrage 25 hours 50 minutes steaming, including 4 hours 40 minutes in Lake.





Hamidieh channel between taking off point below Keff and Hamidieh fine wide river with from 20 to 40 feet water. Hamidieh, which was reached in 4 hours from entrance to channel, is town of (then) 10 years growth with boat bridge and small garrison; river here 150 yards wide. For 2 or 3 reaches below town only 5 feet water. Entrance to Lake narrow and winding, but current slight and possible for steamer to pass. Below Hamidieh both banks more or less flooded and reeds in place of cultivation. Informed that at low water only 12 to 17 inches water above and below Hamidieh. Barrage to Hamidieh 7 hours 25 minutes' steaming. Hindieh or Tewarij placed 8 miles too far downstream on War Office map (probably lower Mesopotamia). Journey undertaken to prospect alternative mail route to Baghdad. Bush of water over Barrage too great to attempt upstream passage. Noted in March 1909 that Hillah Branch always dry except during high flood; then in December 1913 "after closing sluices of Hindieh Barrage water reached Hillah 38 hours later. Level now $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres and this level maintained to Diwanieh Level of water in Hindieh not materially affected by opening Hillah Branch." Diwanieh can be reached by carriage from Baghdad.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to G.S. (M.O.1).

Telegram No. 818-5-L. C., dated 21st June 1916.

Despatched 8 A.M., received 2-30 P.M., 22nd June 1916.)

From—The Inspector General, Lines of Communications, Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 60718, 20th. I do not think these details will help. I propose as soon as end to congestion here is in sight to ask you to start loading the monthly

S 1401GSB

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cycle of 9 store ships as in my 318-3 of 18th (Dy. No. 60406) in following proportions giving 21 days' notice. Supplies 21,000 clothing 1,200 works 3,000 Ordnance 1,500 Army Signals 200 in any order convenient to you unless we specially ask for certain items to be sent early. But in any case no more bhoosa or fuel till specially asked for. I should like to know at once how many more ships are actually loading referred to in my 818-2-1. C. of 12th (Dy. No. 60205). The 3 spare ships asked for will cover supplies for any new units at present likely to be added to Force. Special small urgent requirements can always come on the transports.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2), A.D. (Marine).

Letter No. H.5276, dated 19th June 1916.

Received in War Section, 22nd June 1916.)

From—The Secy. to the Govt. of India (Marine Dept.).

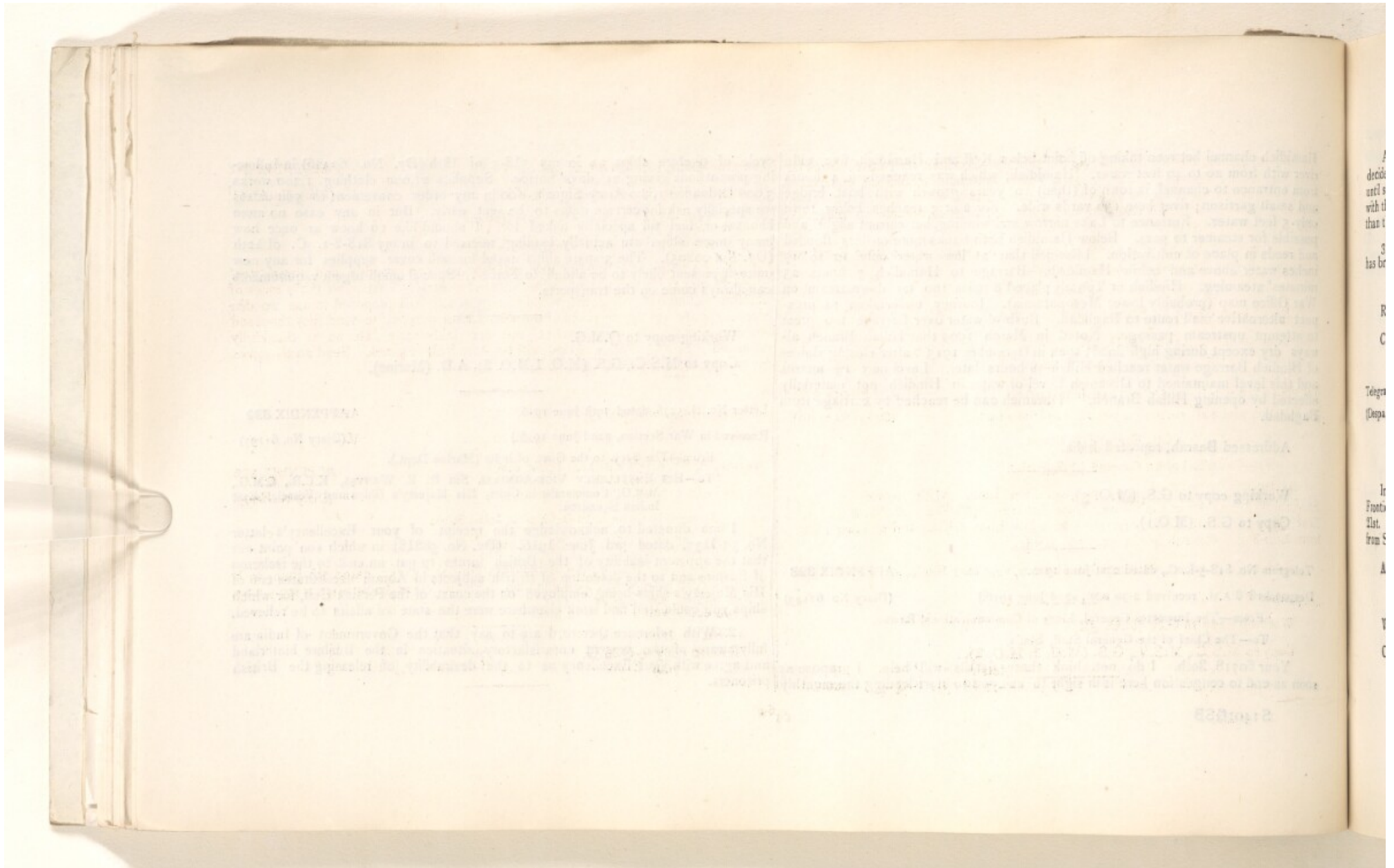
To—HIS EXCELLENCY VICE-ADMIRAL SIR R. E. WENYSS, K.C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O. Commander-in-Chief, His Majesty's Ships and Vessels, East Indian Squadron.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter No. 53-1135, dated 3rd June 1916. (Dy. No. 58218) in which you point out that the apparent inability of the British forces to put an end to the isolation of Bushire and to the detention of British subjects in Abram necessitates two of His Majesty's ships being employed on the coast of the Persian Gulf, for which ships you could well find work elsewhere were the state of affairs to be relieved.

2. With reference thereto, I am to say that the Government of India are fully aware of the present unsatisfactory situation in the Bushire hinterland and agree with your Excellency as to the desirability of releasing the British prisoners.

APPENDIX 328

(Diary No 61143)





After carefully considering the whole military situation they have, however, decided that no offensive action in the Bushire hinterland should be undertaken until sufficient troops can be spared to make certain of dealing satisfactorily with that region, and until climatic conditions are more favourable to operations than they are at present.

3. I am to add that the naval side of this question, which your Excellency has brought to notice, will be borne in mind.

Record copy to A.D. (Marine.)

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. I-G.-3085, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 7-45 A.M., received 2-30 P.M., 22nd June 1916).

APPENDIX 330
(Diary No. 61161)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence. No. change on Euphrates Line. With regard to Persian Frontier Williams wires as follows from Teheran. *Begins.* R. W. R. 47 June 21st. On June 18th Turks retired to Mandali from Ghilan and to Kasr-i-Shirin from Sari-Pul. Reason is not known. *Ends.*

Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, repeated Simla.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram No. 61, dated 21st June 1916.

APPENDIX 331

(Received in War Section, 22nd June 1916.)

(Diary No. 61168)

From—The Director of Railways Basrah.

To—The Secretary, Railway Board, Simla.

Your 552-S.-9 of 19th. Proposal to use two wooden and three steel sleepers per rail is sound and will be adopted generally. At least thirty miles of the line will be bad soil similar to black cotton soil, it is proposed to use wooden sleepers only on these parts of the line. Your proposal to send fifty thousand wooden sleepers by first shipment and one lakh more later on is thankfully accepted. Spare steel sleepers will be stored till required. Send small spikes for wooden sleepers.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 61195, dated 22nd June 1916.

APPENDIX 332

(Despatched 7-30 P.M.)

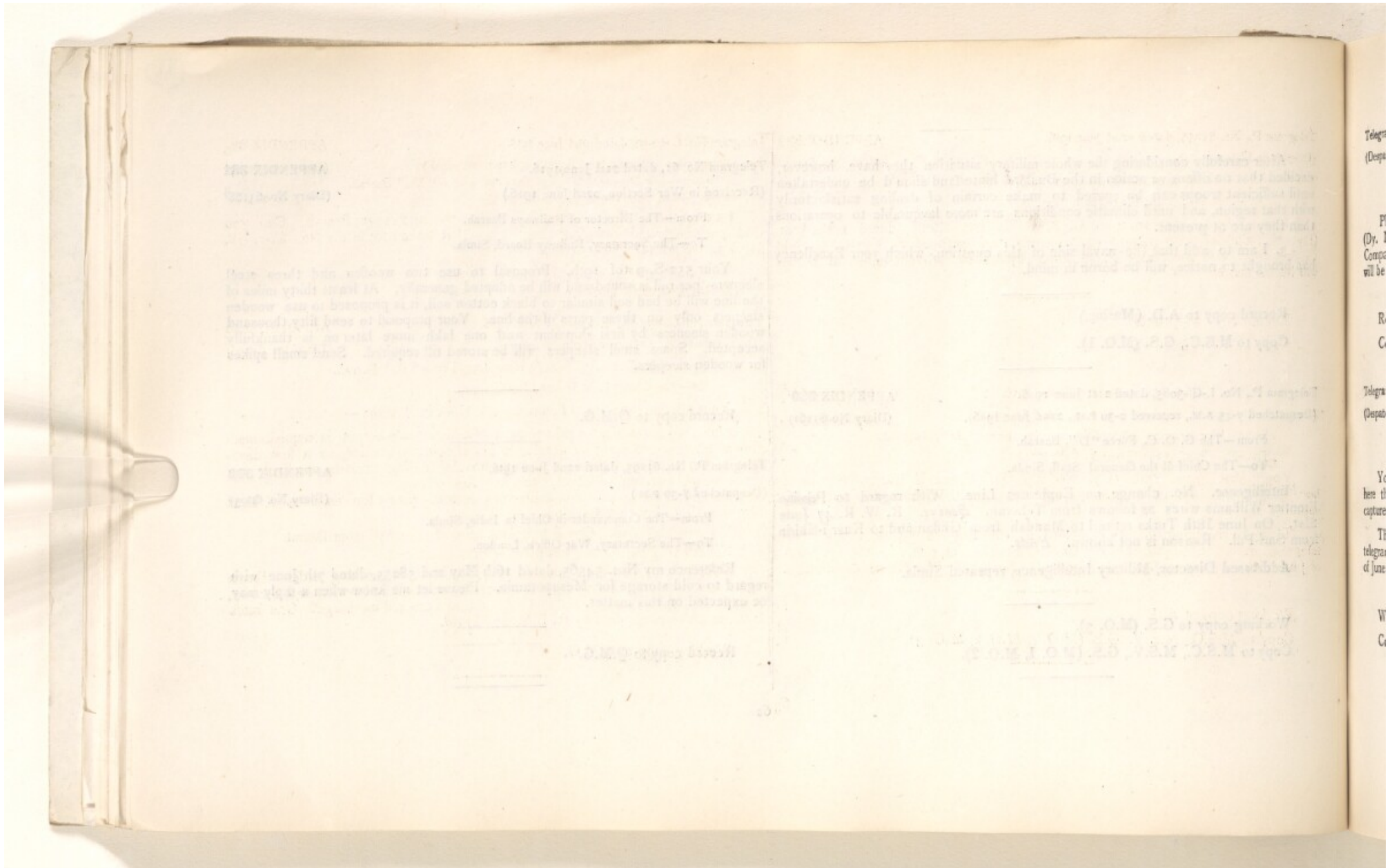
(Diary No. 61195)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

To—The Secretary, War Office, London.

Reference my Nos. 54365, dated 16th May and 58255, dated 7th June with regard to cold storage for Mesopotamia. Please let me know when a reply may be expected on this matter.

Record copy to Q.M.G.



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Telegram P., No. 61255, dated 22nd June 1916.
(Despatched 8 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
To—The Secretary, War Office, London.

Please refer to telegram from C. I. G. S. No. 18068, dated 19th June (Dy. No. 60661) with regard to despatch to Basrah of 3 Territorial Field Companies. Will you please let me know by classes what number of horses will be wanted?

Record copy to Q.M.G.
Copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 1547-7-A.G., dated 22nd June 1916.
(Despatched 12-15 A.M., received 6-30 P.M., 22nd June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 17818 June 13th (Dy. No. 59854). There is irrefutable evidence here that Turks are at present paying the British Officer prisoners of War captured at Kut.

They are receiving about one-third of the English rates of pay. This telegram, repeated to Chief of the General Staff, India, reference my 1547-6-A., of June 16th (Dy. No. 59854), is addressed to Secretary, War Office, London.

Working copy to A.G.
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2, M.O. 3).

APPENDIX 333
(Diary No. 61205)

Telegram No. C.-10-50, dated 21st June 1916.
(Despatched 9-40 A.M., received 2-30 P.M., 22nd June 1916.)

From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

I am starting a Convalescent Depot for 50 officers at Basrah. Can you send personnel and equipment similar to that asked for in my No. C.-10-18, dated 24th April (Dy. No. 50328).

Working copy to D.M.S.

Telegram No. 627-74-Q., dated 22nd June 1916.
(Despatched 9-50 A.M., received 4-30 P.M.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 58180, June 7th. Following machines in Basrah:—

One 2 ton machine of private firm of which whole output is requisitioned. One 2 ton imported last year unreliable but should be working in a few days. One 1½ ton machine taken over from hostile trading concern unreliable but turns out 15 cwt. and will double this in a few days.

Amarah Two ton plants in course of erection. One 1 ton machine of local firm unreliable but now working.

For Sheikh Sa'ad. One 1 ton plant being despatched from Basrah.

For Ali Gharbi. One ½ ton plant being despatched.

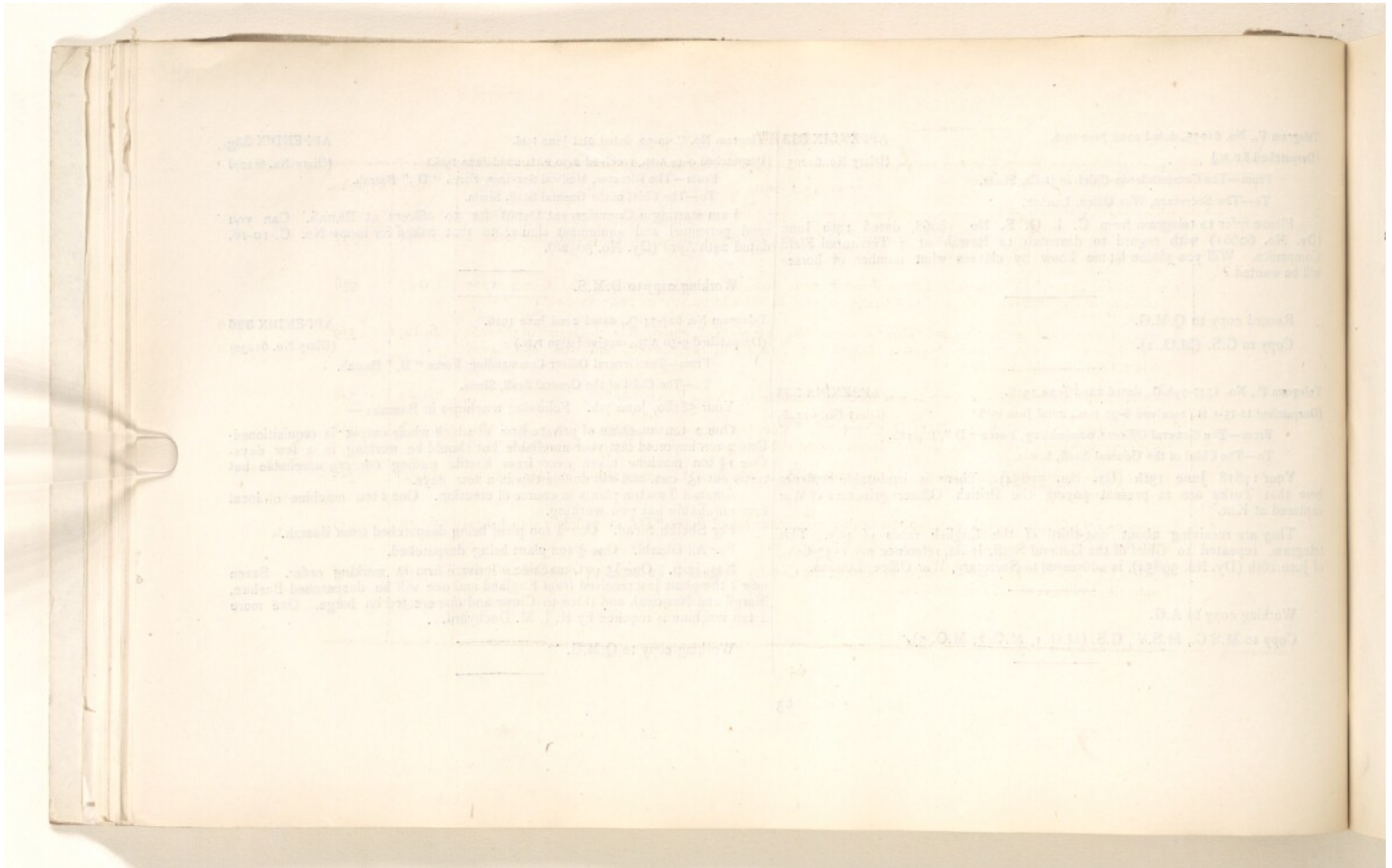
Nasiriyah. One 15 cwt. machine of private firm in working order. Seven new 1 ton plant just received from England and one will be despatched Bushire, Margil and Nasiriyah and three to Corps and one erected on barge. One more 1 ton machine is required by R. I. M. Dockyard.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

APPENDIX 335
(Diary No. 61227)

APPENDIX 334
(Diary No. 61226)

APPENDIX 336
(Diary No. 61230)

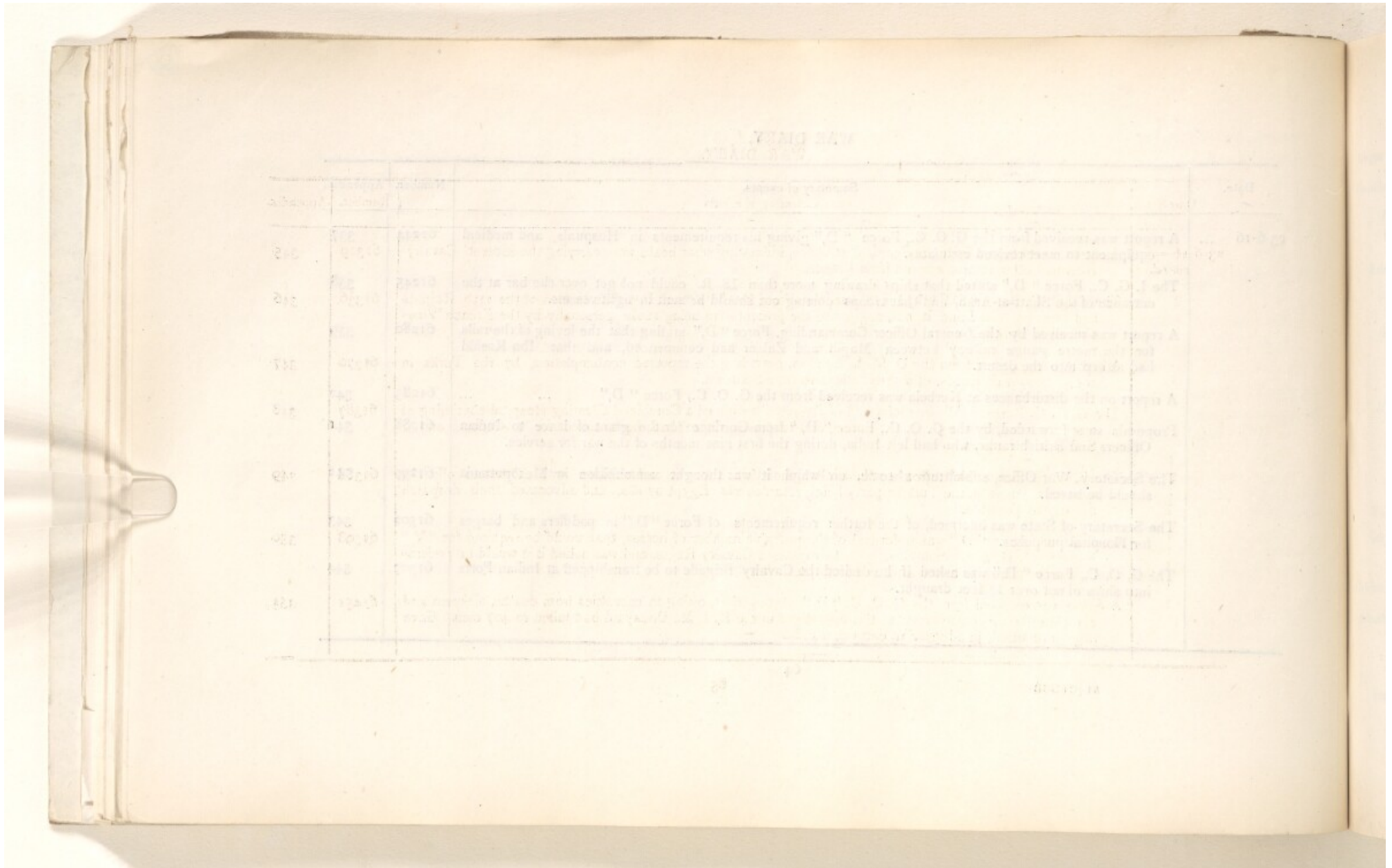




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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
23-6-16 ...	A report was received from the G. O. C., Force "D," giving his requirements in Hospitals, and medical equipment to meet revised estimates.	61244	337
	The I. G. C., Force "D," stated that ships drawing more than 18 ft. could not get over the bar at the entrance of the Shatt-al-Arab, and that troops coming out should be sent in light vessels.	61245	338
	A report was received by the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stating that the laying of the rails for the metre gauge railway between Magill and Zubair had commenced, and that Ibn Rashid had retired into the desert.	61280	339
	A report on the disturbances at Kerbela was received from the G. O. C., Force "D,"	61283	340
	Proposals were forwarded, by the G. O. C., Force "D," from Gorrige for the grant of leave to Indian Officers and British ranks, who had left India, during the first nine months of the war for service.	61288	341
	The Secretary, War Office, submitted a scale, on which it was thought ammunition in Mesopotamia should be based.	61299	342
	The Secretary of State was informed, of the further requirements of Force "D" in paddlers and barges for Hospital purposes.	61302	343
	The G. O. C., Force "D," was asked if he desired the Cavalry Brigade to be transhipped at Indian Ports into ships of not over 18 feet draught.	61307	344



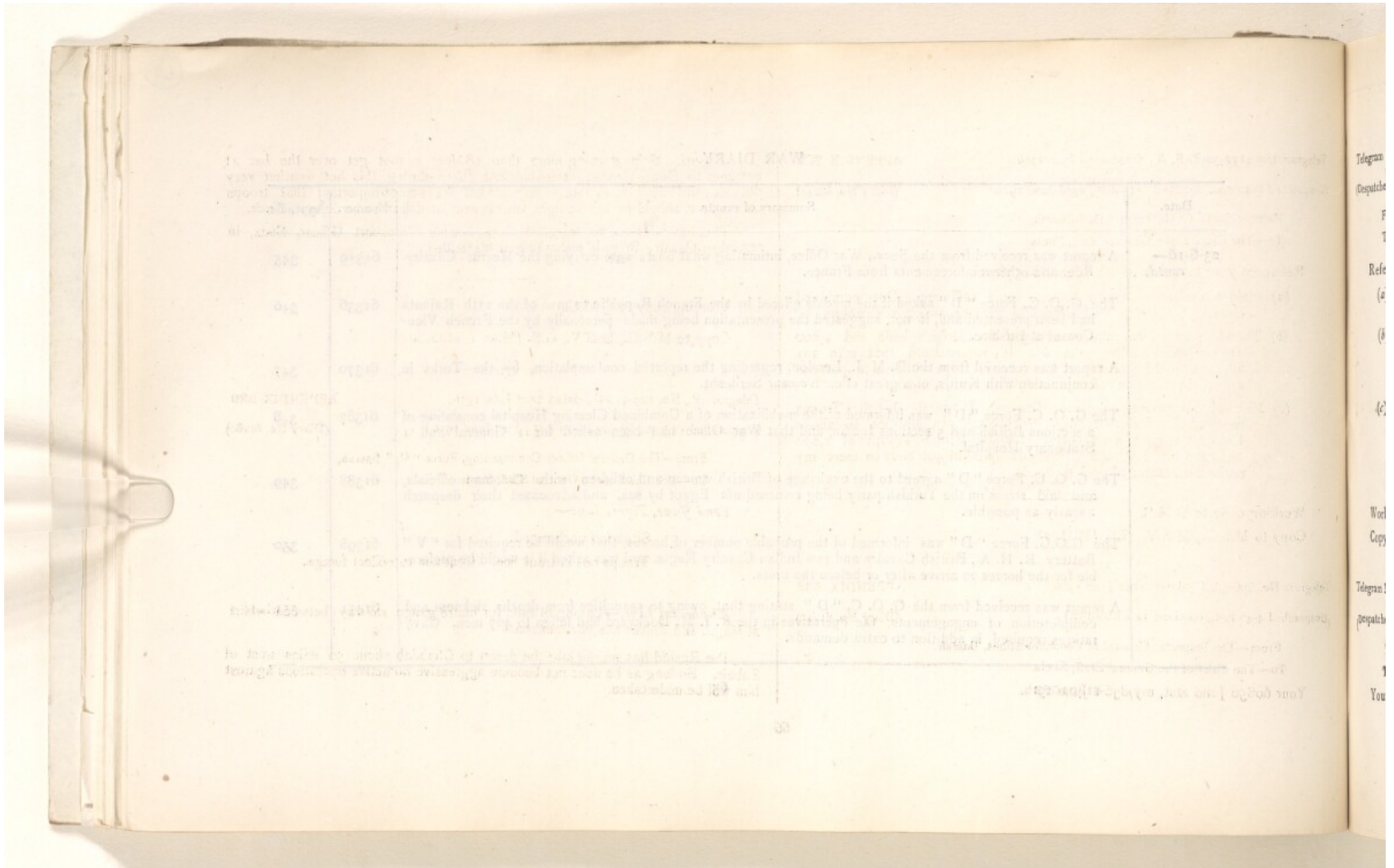


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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
23-6-16— <i>contd.</i>	A report was received from the Secy., War Office, intimating what boats were carrying the Meerut Cavalry Bde. and other reinforcements from France.	61319	345
	The G. O. C. Force "D" asked if the medals offered by the French Republic to men of the 11th Rajputs had been presented and, if not, suggested the presentation being made personally by the French Vice-Consul at Bushire.	61336	346
	A report was received from the D. M. I., London, regarding the reported contemplation, by the Turks in conjunction with Kurds, of a great offensive near Serdesht.	61370	347
	The G. O. C. Force "D" was informed of the mobilization of a Combined Clearing Hospital consisting of 2 sections British and 5 sections Indian, and that War Office had been asked for 1 General and 1 Stationary Hospital.	61387	348
	The G. O. C. Force "D" agreed to the exchange of British women and children with Ottoman officials, and laid stress on the Turkish party being returned <i>via</i> Egypt by sea, and advocated their despatch as early as possible.	61388	349
	The G.O.C. Force "D" was informed of the probable number of horses, that would be required for "V" Battery R. H. A., British Cavalry and two Indian Cavalry Regts. and was asked if it would be preferable for the horses to arrive after or before the units.	61398	350
	A report was received from the G. O. C. "D" stating that, owing to casualties from deaths, sickness and completion of engagements, the operatives in the R. I. M. Dockyard had fallen to 407 men. Gave ratings required, in addition to extra demands.	61451	351

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Telegram No. 1172-32-E, B. A., dated 22nd June 1916.

(Despatched 5-40 P.M., received 0-45 A.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Reference your telegram of 5th June, No. 57872.

- (a) Field Ambulance for the present force sufficient. One combined clearing hospital wanted at once to meet existing requirements.
- (b) The likely additional requirements are 800 British beds and 1,200 Indian beds fully equipped. It is assumed that with any addition to the strength of the (force?) there will be a proportionate increase of lines of communication medical units.
- (c) Medical equipment 1 section General Hospital British Troops required for infectious disease hospital. In addition to above I require at once one General Hospital British Troops of 1,000 beds and one British Stationary Hospital of 400 beds to meet my revised estimates of present needs.

Working copy to D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 2).

Telegram No. 836-3-L.C., dated 22nd June 1916.

(Despatched 4-40 P.M., received 12 MIDNIGHT.)

From—The Inspector-General of Communications, Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 60850 June 21st, my 836-1 June 19th.

APPENDIX 337

(Diary No. 61244)

Begins. Ships drawing more than 18 feet cannot get over the bar at entrance to Shatt-al-Arab; transhipment there during this hot weather very difficult; will entail heavy loss among horses. It is most important that troops coming out should be sent in light vessels even at risk of some delay. *Ends.*

This has reference to telegram from Marine Transport Officer, Suez, in regard to Cavalry Brigade embarking at Marseilles.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 129-472-O., dated 22nd June 1916.

(Despatched 11 P.M., received 6-15 A.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

22nd June, Tigris Line—

Situation unchanged.

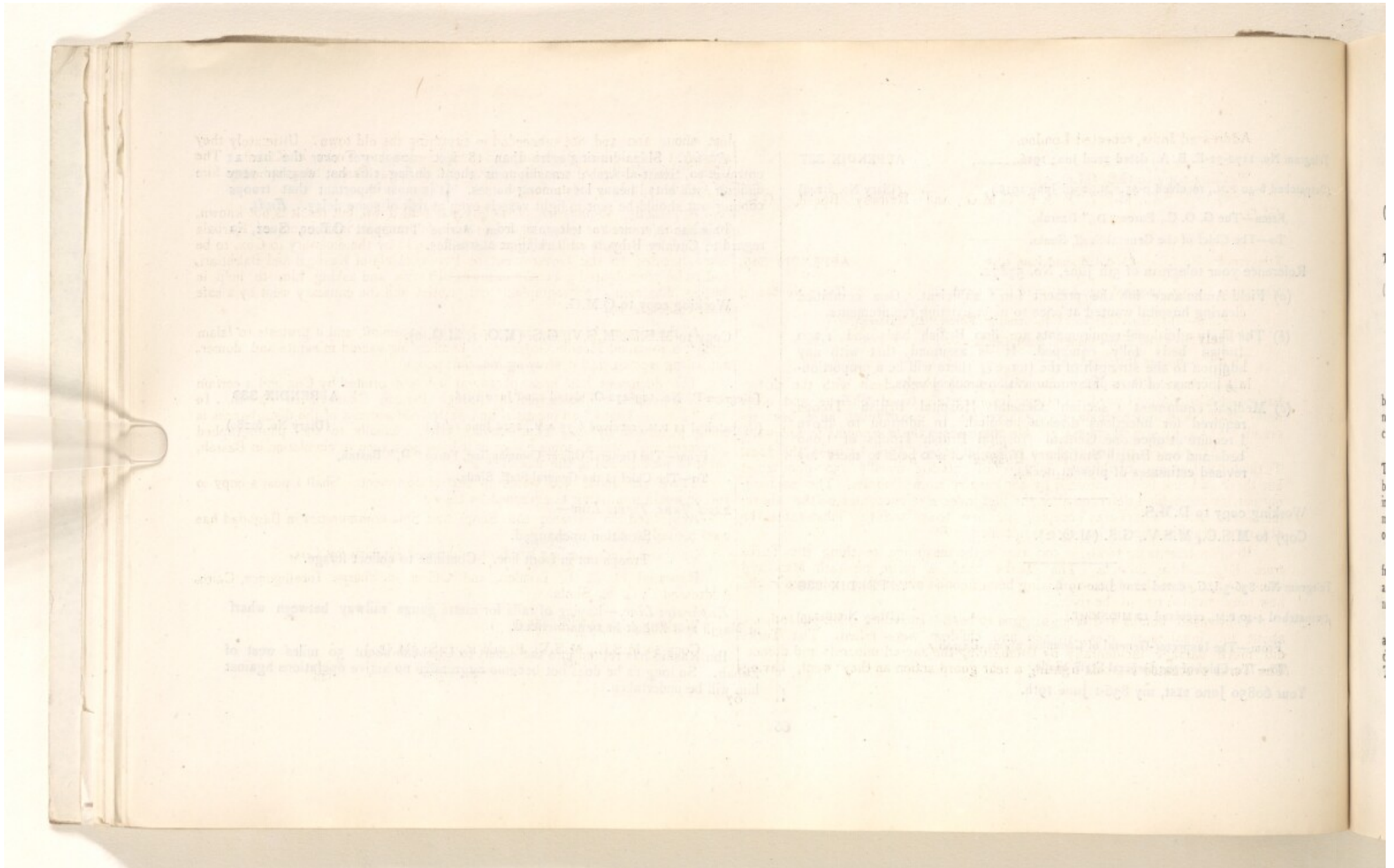
Troops not in front line. Continue to collect forage.

Euphrates Line.—Laying of rails for metre gauge railway between wharf at Magill and Zubair has commenced.

Ibn Rashid has retired into the desert to Chabdah about 50 miles west of Zubair. So long as he does not become aggressive no active operations against him will be undertaken.

APPENDIX 338

(Diary No. 61245)





Addressed India, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. & P., Q.M.G., and Railway Board, G.S., (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. I.G.-3088, dated 22nd June 1916.

APPENDIX 340.

(Despatched 5 P.M., received 2-30 A.M., 23rd June 1916.)

(Diary No 61283)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

The following is Intelligence :—

My I.G.-2902 of 27th May (*Dy. No. 56560*) which dealt with the disturbances at Karbala continued. Letters from certain tribal Sheikhs and other notables of Najaf and Karbala giving accounts of occurrences have been received by Cox, by special emissary. He summarises these accounts as follows.

Begins. A *fracas* occurred on or about 22nd April between the local Turkish garrison and inhabitants; strength of garrison usually 150 gendarmes but these had just been reinforced by 400 cavalry from Badrah. The contending parties sat behind defences after the first indecisive encounter on the above-mentioned date. The Turks occupied the new town and the inhabitants the old town, desultory hostilities were maintained.

Reinforcements up to about 500 were in the meantime reaching the Turks from Baghdad in driblets. The Turks made a sortie on 14th May and attempted to seize the old town, having been flooded out of their defences in the new town, sudden rise of the river.

They used bombs and brought guns to bear. Including 9 British Indians, about 130 inhabitants, men, women and children were killed. The Turks did much damage incidentally by bombarding the sacred minarets and domes. The Turks evacuated Karbala fighting a rear guard action as they went, having

lost about 200 and not succeeded in capturing the old town. Ultimately they arrived at Musaiyib or Baghdad, and there are now no Turks in Karbala. The Ulema, on hearing of arrival at Baghdad of Envar Pasha, telegraphed to him on 15th May, asking for amnesty.

Apparently, commission of enquiry was sent down, but result is not known. In addition, a circular letter, signed by 200 of principal inhabitants of Karbala and endorsed by 2 of the Ulema, was brought by the emissary to Cox, to be communicated to the Government of Persia, chiefs of Kashgai and Bakhtiari, and to be promulgated generally in towns of Persia, and asking him to help in getting documents photographed and printed, and the emissary went by a safe route to Persia.

A description of events is given by the document, and it protests to Islam against a so-called Moslim Government bombarding sacred minarets and domes, mutilating women, and destroying innocent people.

The document has been photographed and printed by Cox and a certain number of copies will be circulated through Persian Channels in Basrah. In the "Basrah Times" an impartial and restrained account of the disturbances is being published by us. This account refers casually to the photographed document and states some copies of it have been seen in circulation in Basrah, but it is not included in the article.

There are about 500 words in text of document. Shall I post a copy to you or would you like it telegraphed *en clair*?

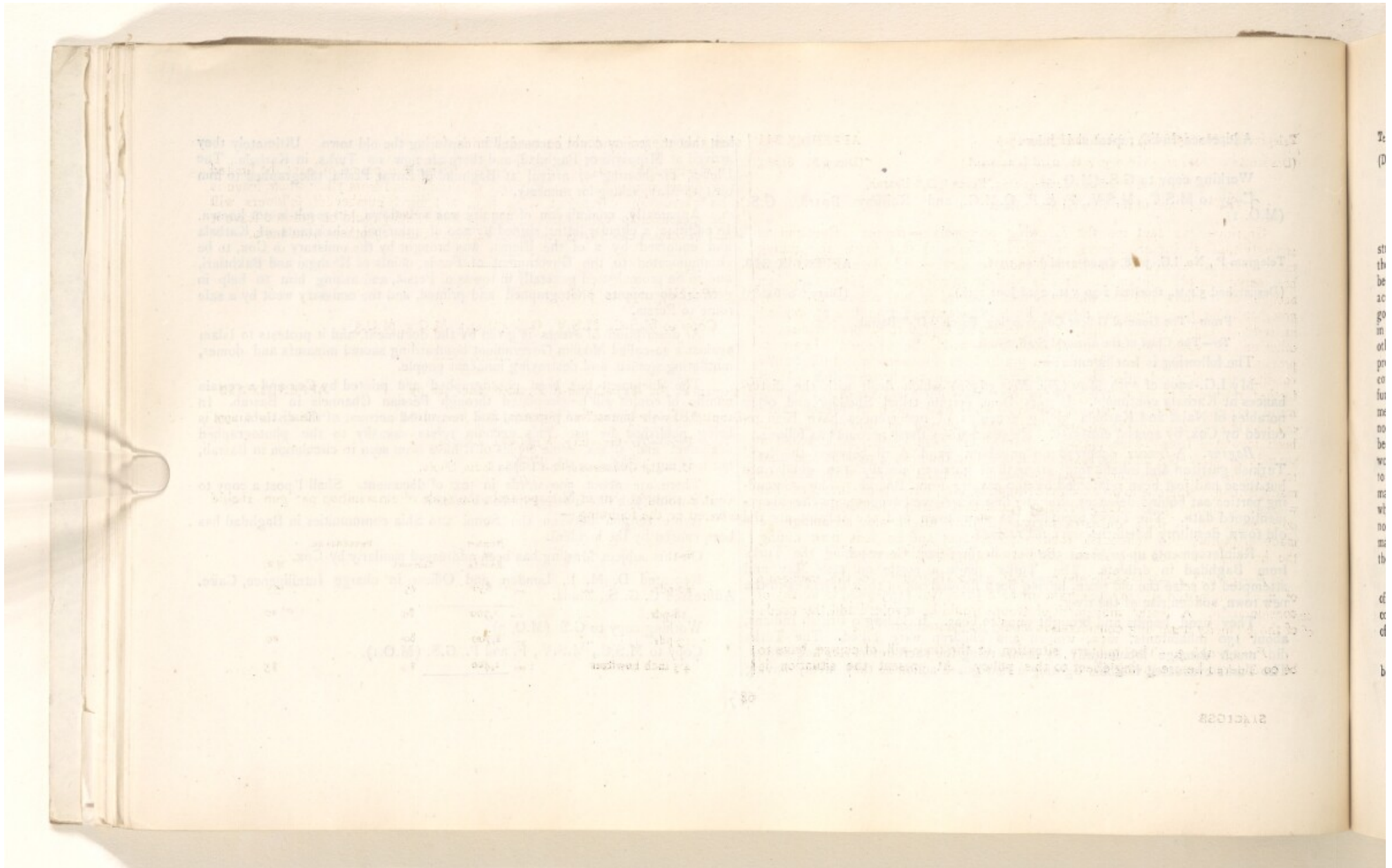
Acute tension between the Sunni and Shia communities in Baghdad has been caused by the incident.

On this subject Marling has been addressed similarly by Cox.

Repeated D. M. I., London, and Officer in charge Intelligence, Cairo. Addressed C. G. S., Simla.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. and P., G.S. (M.O.1).





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Telegram P., No. 1588-1-A, dated 22nd June 1916.
(Despatched 3 P.M., received 0-30 A.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Gorringe has sent me the following proposals:—*Begins.* Recommend strongly that all Indian officers and British ranks of this force who during the first nine months of the war left India for service and who ever since have been serving in Mesopotamia or France without missing day's duty except on account of wounds, and who when wounded returned to duty without previously going to India, be granted two months' leave to commence from date of landing in India. It is estimated that, if numbers were limited to 50 per regiment or other unit in proportion, a total of 2,000 men would be affected. Leave in proportion to troops sent should be granted to followers who fulfil similar conditions. A good effect would in my opinion result from this. With further reference to your telegram of 9th May No. 675-113-A. I recommend strongly that all British officers who have been in Mesopotamia not less than twelve months and who since they started on service have not been invalided from Mesopotamia or granted any leave whether for sickness or wounds be granted 2 months' leave in India during the next 4 months and that to replace them temporarily steps be taken. In India at present there are so many British officers who on account of wounds, etc., have been invalided but who are available for or doing duty in India that surely the British officers now employed in India on extra regimental duty might with advantage be made or (allowed) to relinquish their appointments and be sent here during the hot weather to do their share. End of telegram from Gorringe.

Paragraph 2.—If feasible the proposal, as an alternative to the exchange of units suggested in my telegram of 12th June, No. 1135-9-O., is worthy of consideration. A lesser movement of troops would be involved and the needs of those chiefly deserving consideration would be catered for.

Paragraph 3.—The military situation at the time will, of course, have to be considered before giving effect to this policy. At present the situation is

APPENDIX 341
(Diary No. 61288)

such that the policy could be carried out.

Paragraph 4.—It is recommended by me that period of leave be limited to a clear month in India with free passage to and from place where leave is to be taken. Possibly to not more than a limited number of followers will it be possible to extend this privilege. Before they could be granted leave it would in certain cases be necessary to replace officers by others from India.

Working copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2, M.O.3).

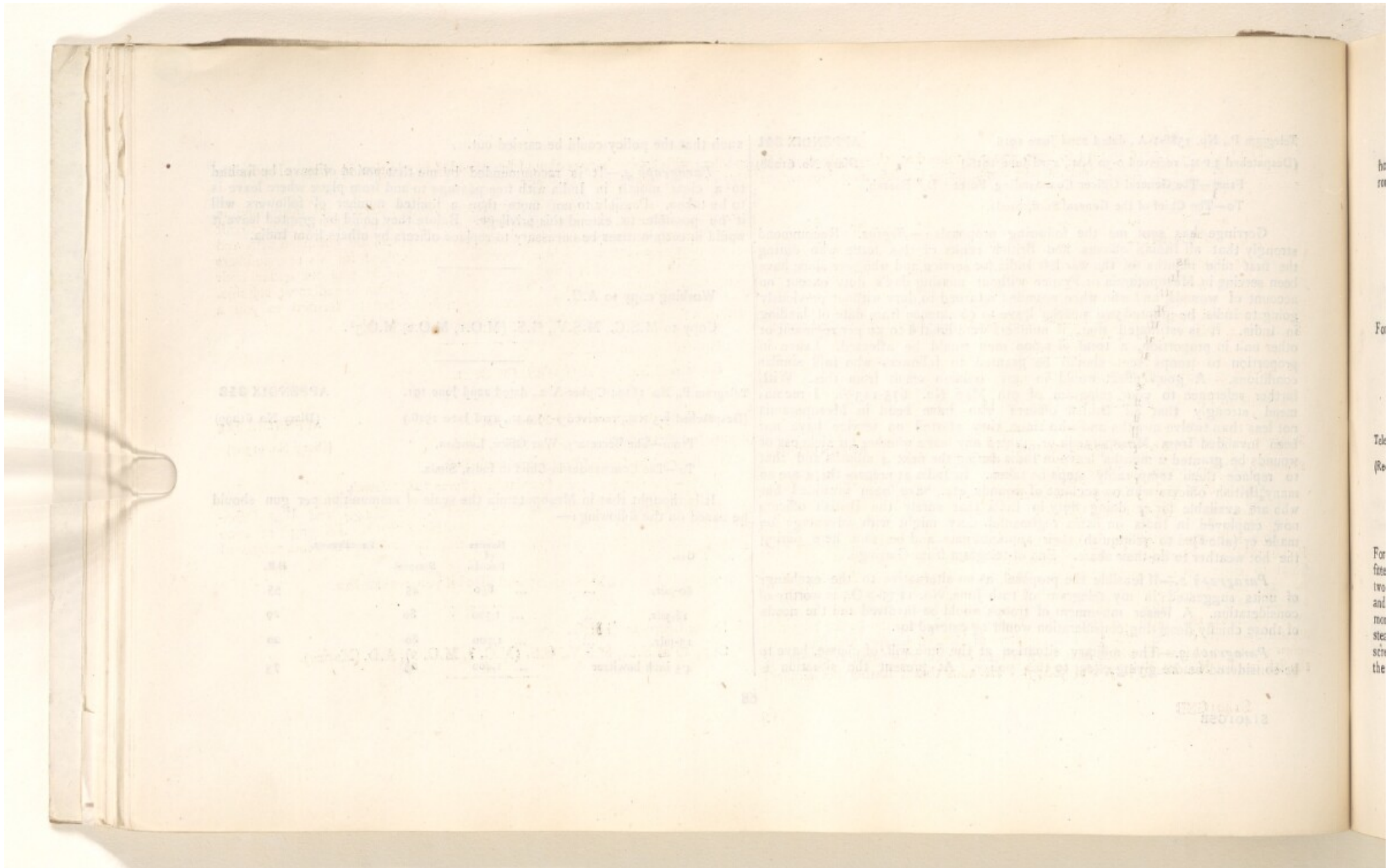
Telegram P., No. 18194-Cipher-A. 2., dated 22nd June 1916.
(Despatched 7-5 P.M., received 7-30 A.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

APPENDIX 342
(Diary No. 61299)

It is thought that in Mesopotamia the scale of ammunition per gun should be based on the following:—

Gun.	Number of Rounds.	PERCENTAGE.	
		Sigsbee.	H.E.
60-pdr. ...	850	45	55
18-pdr. ...	1,700	80	20
13-pdr. ...	1,700	80	20
4.5 inch howitzer ...	1,400	25	75





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The G. O. C. Egypt will try to keep you maintained at this scale but it is hoped that you will be able to restrict your demands to the following number of rounds per gun per day:—

60-pr. guns	...	...	...	...	...	8
4.5-inch howitzer	...	...	...	...	...	10
18-pr. guns	...	...	...	...	...	12
13-pr. guns	...	...	...	...	...	12

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and G. H. Q. Egyptian Expeditionary Force Suez, reference his A.M.-671.

Working copy to D.G.O.

Copy to M.S.C., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2.)

Telegram P., No. H-5392, dated 22nd June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 23rd June 1916.)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department).

To—The Secretary of State for India.

In a telegram dated the 9th instant the General Officer Commanding, Force "D", reports that he requires ten more paddlers each specially fitted to carry two hundred patients and medical personnel, together with two specially fitted barges with accommodation in each for one hundred and fifty patients for each of the river steamers; it is also possible that two more paddlers may still be required. These are in addition to the hospital steamers already ordered, *viz.*, the four paddlers of Medjidieh type and four twin screw steamers orders for which have been placed by you, *vide* your telegram of the 8th instant No. 18263 (Dy. No. 58649). He adds that a further six similar

paddlers with twelve barges should be provided in addition in view of possible fifty per cent increase of the Force.

In view of the impossibility of foreseeing the course of operations in Mesopotamia and of the time entailed in the construction and despatch of craft from England we recommend that this demand should be complied with and accordingly request that orders may be placed in England for sixteen paddlers and thirty two barges. If possible the paddlers should be sent out under their own steam and the barges in such manner as may be considered most suitable. The Director, Royal Indian Marine, has been instructed to forward to you a plan of a specially designed barge received from Force "D".

Record copy to D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 61307, dated 23rd June 1916.

(Despatched 12.45 P.M.)

APPENDIX 314

(Diary No. 61307)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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

Clear line.—Your 836-1 June 19th (See Dy. No. 61245) and War Office reply 18081-Cipher Q. M. G. 2 June 17th (Dy. No. 60776). Telegraph at once please if you desire Cavalry Brigade to tranship at Indian Port into ships of not over 18' draught.

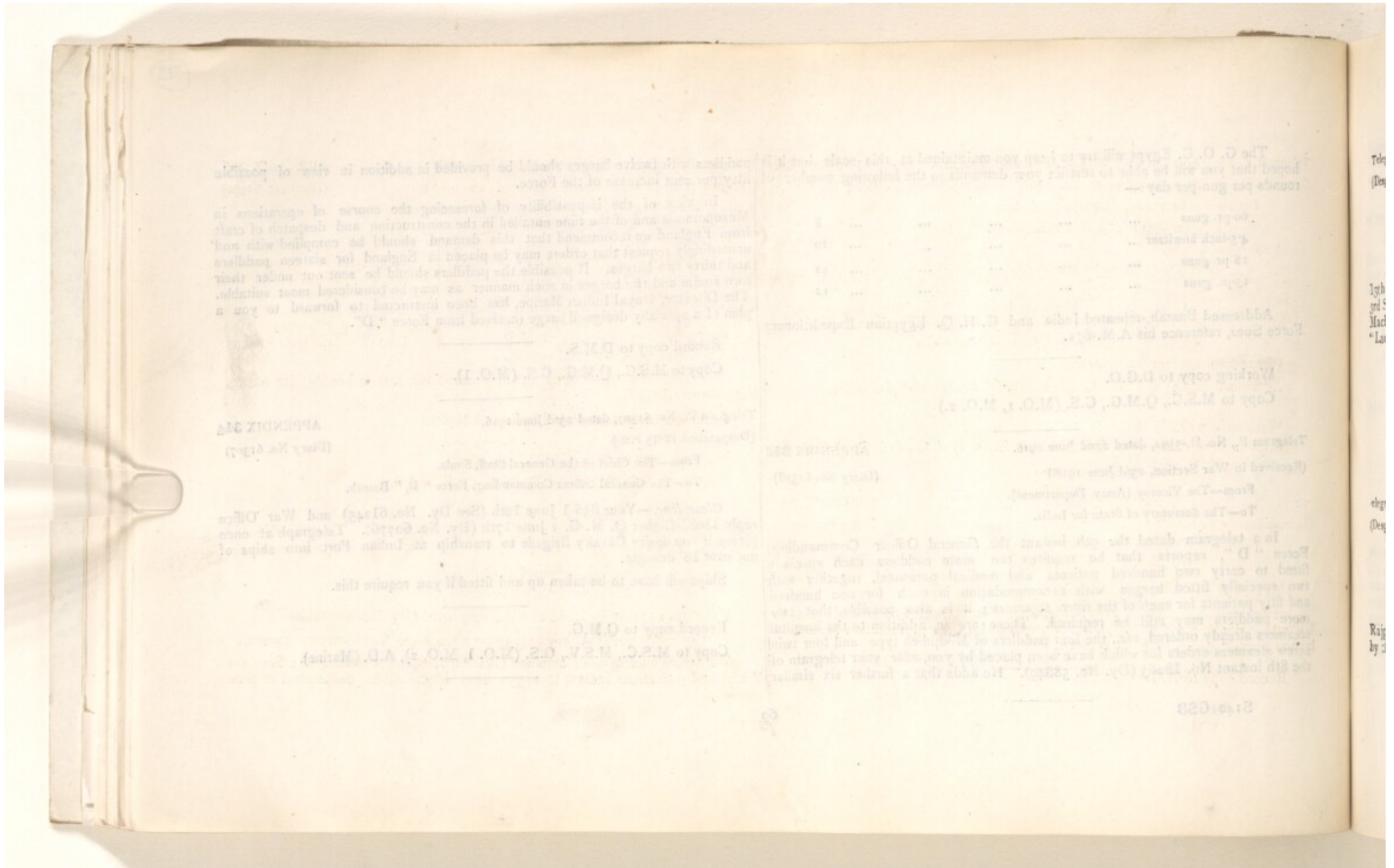
Ships will have to be taken up and fitted if you require this.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2), A.D. (Marine).

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Telegram P., No. 18197-Cipher-Q.M.G.-2, dated 22nd June 1916.

(Despatched 6-50 P.M., received 11-55 A.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 60,60.

Meerut Cavalry Brigade H.Q., "V." Battery R. H. A. Ammunition Column. 13th Hussars and Signal Troop will proceed to Bombay in S. S. "Kalyan." 3rd Skinner's Horse, 30th Lancers, Field Ambulance, Mobile Veterinary Section, Machine Gun Squadron and 2 Field Troops will be conveyed to Basrah in "Laomedon," "Georgian," "Manitou," and "Missouri."

Please intimate General Basrah.

Addressed India ; repeated Communications, France and Marseilles.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2), A.G., D.G.O., D.G.M.W., A.D. Marine, D.M.S.

Telegram P., No. 61356, dated 23rd June 1916.

(Despatched 3-45 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

My 59158 of 13th June.

Have medals offered by French Republic been presented to men of the 11th Rajputs. If not, could not opportunity be made for their presentation personally by the French Vice-Consul at Bushire.

Record copy to A.G.

APPENDIX 345

(Diary No. 61319)

Telegram P., No. 18221-Cipher, dated 22nd June 1916.

(Despatched 10-5 P.M., received 2 P.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Agent, who has had opportunities of obtaining good information, has sent the following:—*Begins.* Rifaat Pasha (ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs) informs me that he has received news from Constantinople that Turks' in conjunction with Kurds, are about to commence great offensive near Sourchet (? Serdesht) in the neighbourhood of which place there are 80,000 Turks. 14,000 rifles have been sent by Turks and Germans to Ibn Rashid at Arak (sic) for attack on Emir of Saoud and Bedouins of Anazl.—*Ends.*

We think that Arak may possibly stand for Irak or possibly for Abraq, North-West of Hail.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and Marsh.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1), F. and P.

APPENDIX 347

(Diary No. 61370)

APPENDIX 346

(Diary No. 61336)

Telegram No. 61387, dated 23rd June 1916.

(Despatched 7-15 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

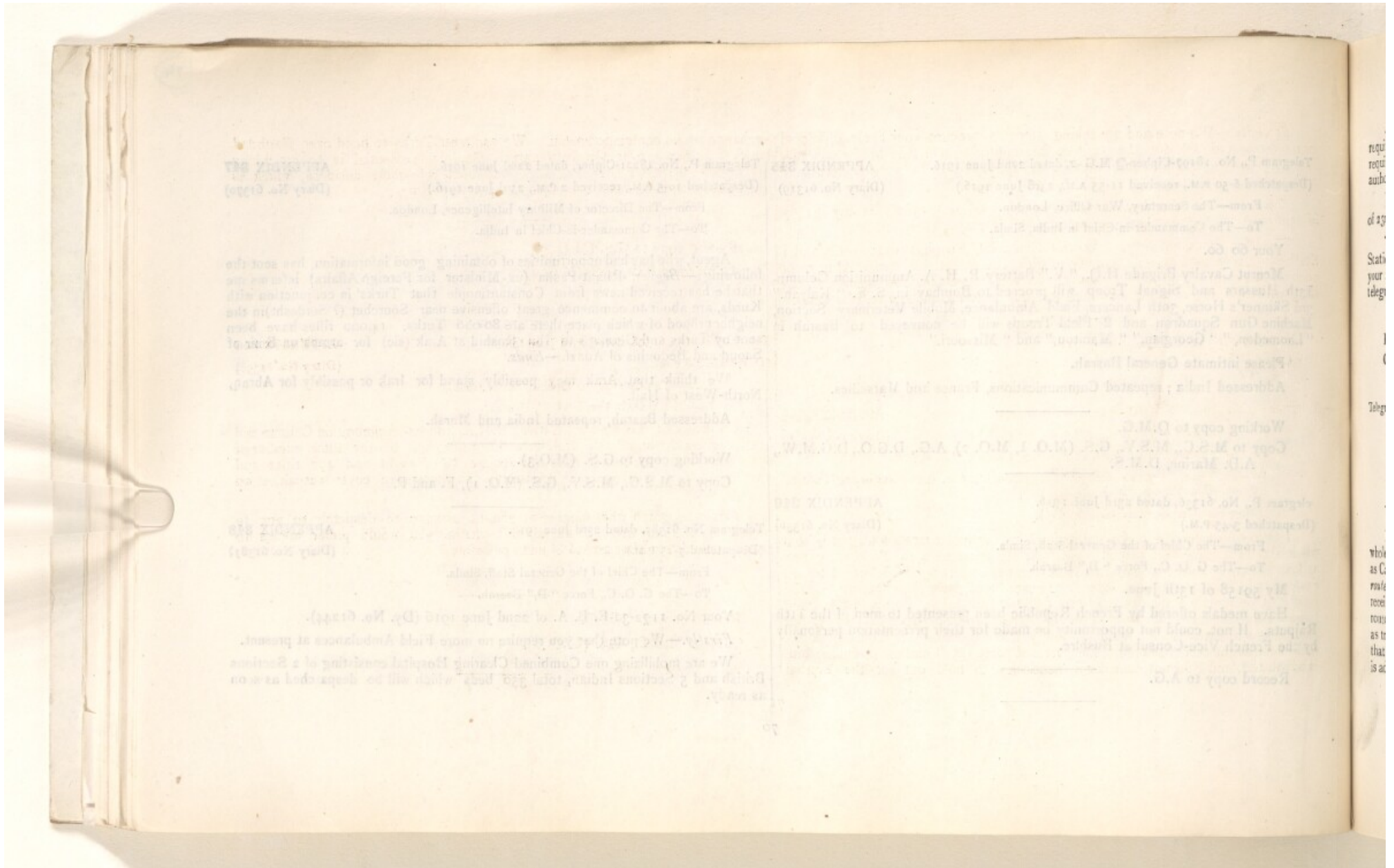
Your No. 1172-32-E. B. A. of 22nd June 1916 (Dy. No. 61244).

Firstly.—We note that you require no more Field Ambulances at present.

We are mobilizing one Combined Clearing Hospital consisting of 2 Sections British and 5 Sections Indian, total 350 beds which will be despatched as soon as ready.

APPENDIX 348

(Diary No. 61387)





75

Secondly.—We note and are taking steps to procure your likely additional requirements and ask for the earliest information when they will be actually required. Any addition to the Force in Mesopotamia will be provided with the authorized medical units.

Thirdly.—Will the Section which we are sending to you *vide* my 61365 of 23rd meet your requirements for an infectious diseases Hospital.

The War Office has been asked for 1 General Hospital 1040 beds and 1 Stationary Hospital 470 beds complete with equipment and personnel to meet your revised estimate of present needs. In this connection the answer to our telegram No. 61189 of 22nd is awaited and will be communicated to War Office.

Record copy to D.M.S.
Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No 347-20-I.G. (A), dated 22nd June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 23rd June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

Your 303 S. of 29th (Dy. No. 60705).

I agree most certainly. On one point I lay particular stress and that is, that whole Ottoman party be returned *via* Egypt, Mediterranean, to Turkey, by sea, as Cairo Secret Service is particularly anxious to interview certain of them *en route*. Is it therefore possible for you to ensure that party goes that way? On receipt of your reply I shall be ready to (send ?) families to Bombay. A good route for the Ottoman party would be *via* Athens and Smyrna into Turkey, but as train was apparently still running lately from Salonika to Constantinople, that route might be considered. Despatch of party (at ?) earliest possible date is advocated, and I do not consider it necessary to hold out for the mutual

exchange to be contemporaneous. We can trust Turks to hand over Baghdad ladies if we hand over Ottoman party. But main essential is to get things moving and there is a chance of early settlement of whole business, which is most desirable, if we hand over Ottoman party speedily.

Record copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 61398, dated 23rd June 1916.

(Despatched 8 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

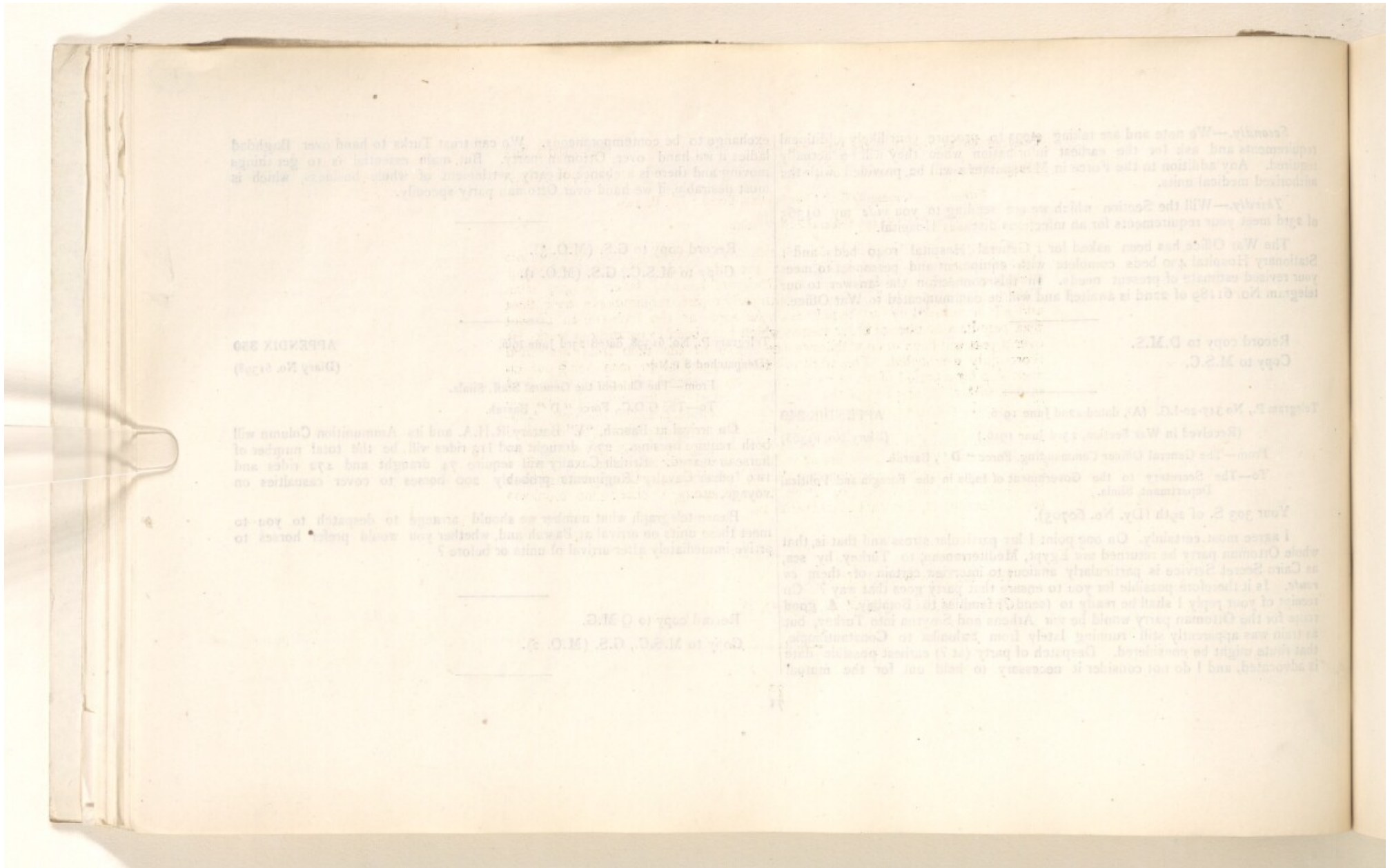
To—The G.O.C., Force "D", Basrah.

On arrival at Basrah, "V" Battery R.H.A. and its Ammunition Column will both require horsing. 275 draught and 113 rides will be the total number of horses required. British Cavalry will require 74 draught and 472 rides and two Indian Cavalry Regiments probably 200 horses to cover casualties on voyage, etc.

Please telegraph what number we should arrange to despatch to you to meet these units on arrival at Basrah and, whether you would prefer horses to arrive immediately after arrival of units or before?

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2).





76

Telegram No. 1347-19-Q, dated 23rd June 1916.

APPENDIX 351

(Despatched 2-20 P.M., received 10-15 P.M.)

(Diary No. 61451)

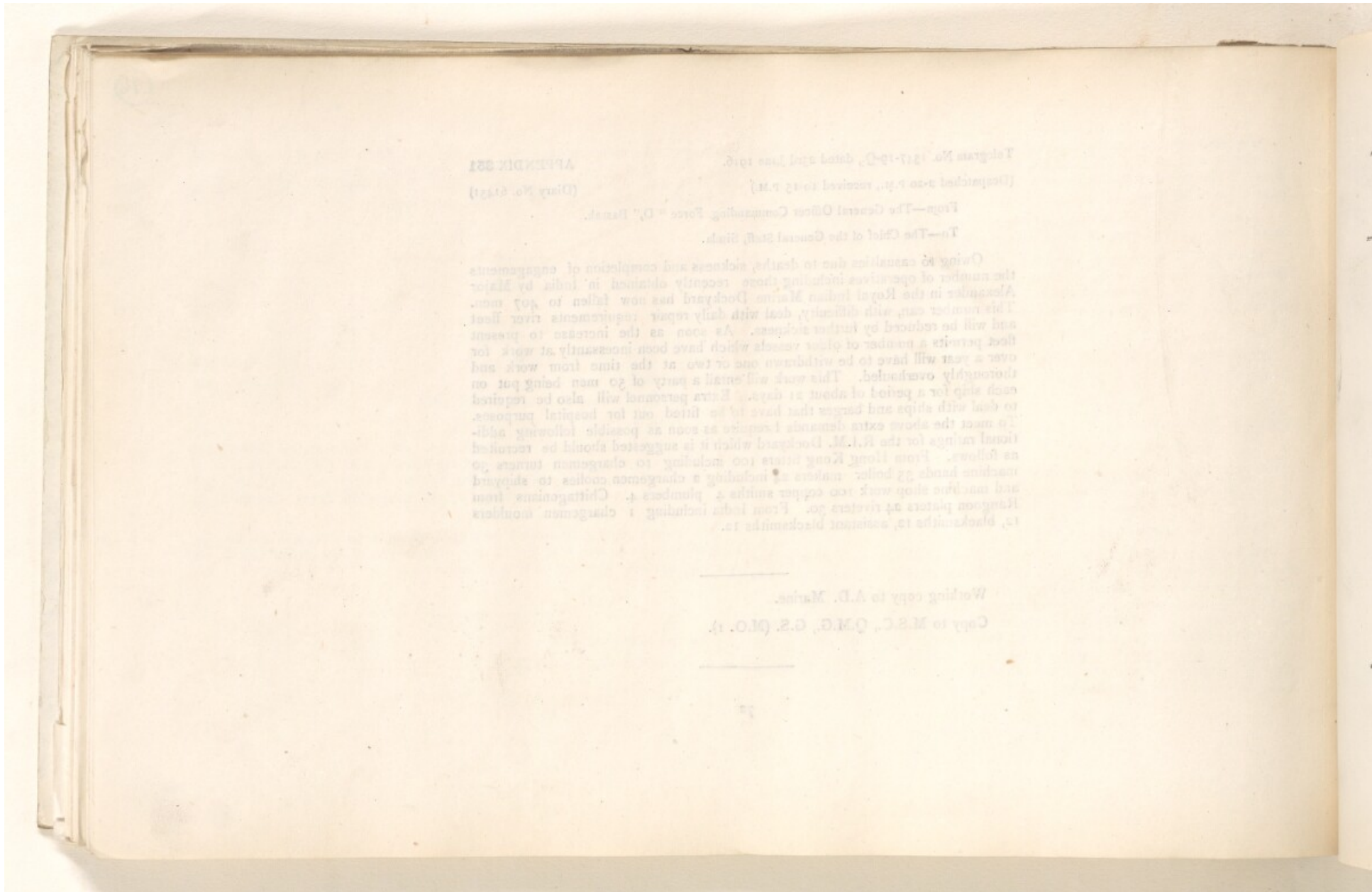
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Owing to casualties due to deaths, sickness and completion of engagements the number of operatives including those recently obtained in India by Major Alexander in the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard has now fallen to 407 men. This number can, with difficulty, deal with daily repair requirements river fleet and will be reduced by further sickness. As soon as the increase to present fleet permits a number of older vessels which have been incessantly at work for over a year will have to be withdrawn one or two at the time from work and thoroughly overhauled. This work will entail a party of 50 men being put on each ship for a period of about 21 days. Extra personnel will also be required to deal with ships and barges that have to be fitted out for hospital purposes. To meet the above extra demands I require as soon as possible following additional ratings for the R.I.M. Dockyard which it is suggested should be recruited as follows. From Hong Kong fitters 100 including 10 chargemen turners 30 machine hands 35 boiler makers 24 including 2 chargemen coolies to shipyard and machine shop work 100 copper smiths 4 plumbers 4. Chittagonians from Rangoon platers 24 riveters 30. From India including 1 chargemen moulders 12, blacksmiths 12, assistant blacksmiths 12.

Working copy to A.D. Marine.

Copy to M.S.C., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).





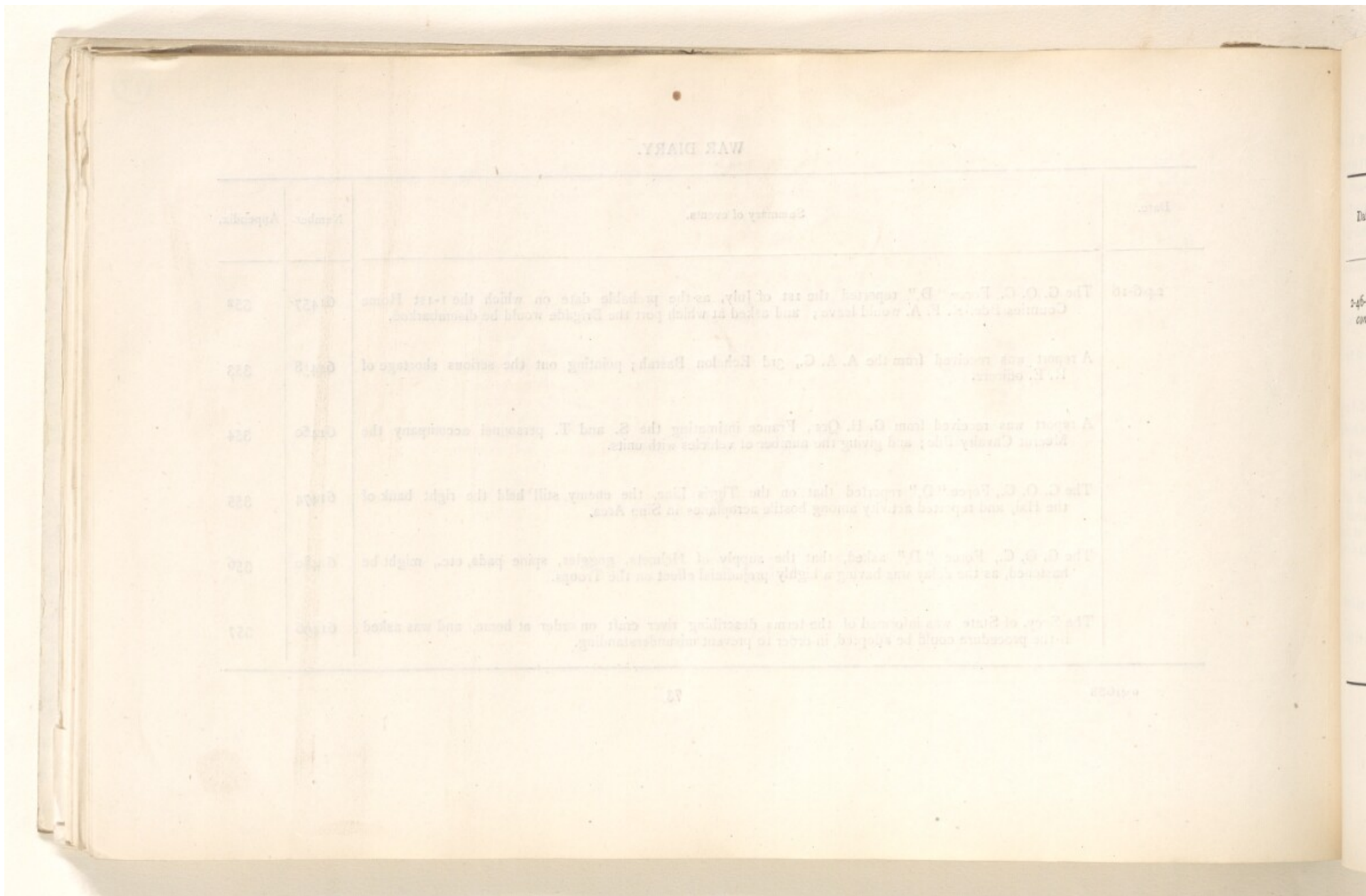
77

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
24-6-16	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported the 1st of July, as the probable date on which the 1-1st Home Counties Bde. R. F. A. would leave; and asked at which port the Brigade would be disembarked.	61457	352
	A report was received from the A. A. G., 3rd Echelon Basrah; pointing out the serious shortage of R. E. officers.	61458	353
	A report was received from G. H. Qrs., France intimating the S. and T. personnel accompany the Meerut Cavalry Bde; and giving the number of vehicles with units.	61460	354
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported that on the Tigris Line, the enemy still held the right bank of the Hai, and reported activity among hostile aeroplanes in Sinn Area.	61474	355
	The G. O. C., Force "D," asked, that the supply of Helmets, goggles, spine pads, etc., might be hastened, as the delay was having a highly prejudicial effect on the Troops.	61480	356
	The Secy. of State was informed of the terms describing river craft on order at home, and was asked if the procedure could be adopted, in order to prevent misunderstanding.	61496	357

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73

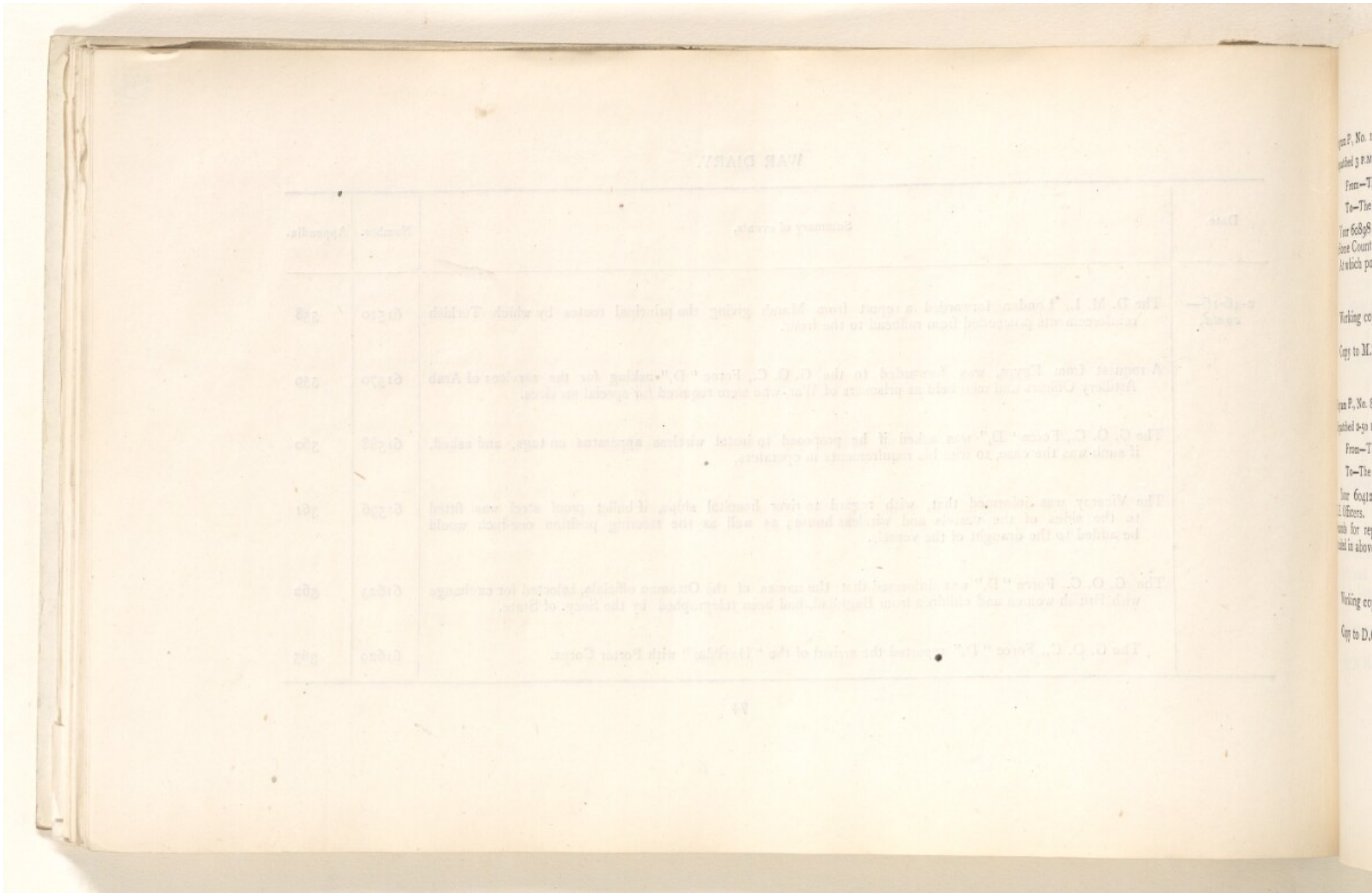




78

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
2-46-16— <i>conid.</i>	The D. M. I., London forwarded a report from Marsh giving the principal routes by which Turkish reinforcements proceeded from railhead to the front.	61510	358
	A request from Egypt, was forwarded to the G. O. C., Force "D," asking for the services of Arab Artillery Officers and men held as prisoners of War, who were required for special services.	61570	359
	The G. O. C., Force "D," was asked if he proposed to instal wireless apparatus on tugs, and asked, if such was the case, to wire his requirements in operators.	61588	360
	The Viceroy was informed that, with regard to river hospital ships, if bullet proof steel was fitted to the sides of the vessels and wireless house; as well as the steering position one-inch would be added to the draught of the vessels.	61556	361
	The G. O. C., Force "D," was informed that the names of the Ottoman officials, selected for exchange with British women and children from Baghdad, had been telegraphed by the Secy. of State.	61623	362
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported the arrival of the "Havildar" with Porter Corps.	61629	363





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Telegram P., No. 1639-17-Q., dated 23rd June 1916.
(Despatched 3 P.M., received 12-30 A.M., 24th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 60898 of 21st July. 1st is probable date on which first battery of 1st Home Counties Brigade R. F. A. will leave.
At which port in India should the brigade disembark? Please cable reply.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., D.G.O., G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2).

Telegram P., No. 880-33-A.G., dated 23rd June 1916.
(Despatched 2-50 P.M., received 12 midnight.)

From—The A.A.G., 3rd Echelon, Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 60412, dated 19th June. There will soon be a serious shortage of R. E. Officers. Twenty are required immediately including 14 due balance of demands for replacement by name R. E. Officers for 13th Division are not included in above demand as separate demands are submitted for these.

Working copy to M.S.C.

Copy to D.G.M.W.

APPENDIX 352
(Diary No. 61457)

Telegram P., No. Q.-774, dated 22nd June 1916.
(Despatched 9-45 P.M., received 3-15 P.M., 23rd June 1916.)

From—The General Headquarters, France.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Accompanying the Meerut Brigade are the following S. and T. personnel Indian Army Reserve Officer 1, Supply and Transport Officers 2, Staff Sergeant 1, warrant officer 1, butcher 1, men 4, Indian agents 2. While cavalry divisions remain in country it is not possible to spare any equipment or personnel from the L. of C. With the withdrawal of Indian Corps everything was sent that could be spared and more cannot be released by the withdrawal of one brigade. The brigade has full first line transport on British Cavalry scale, which allows for baggage carriage but not for supplies. To replace each G. S. wagon withdrawn two limbered G. S. wagons were issued. With units total vehicles are as follows:—

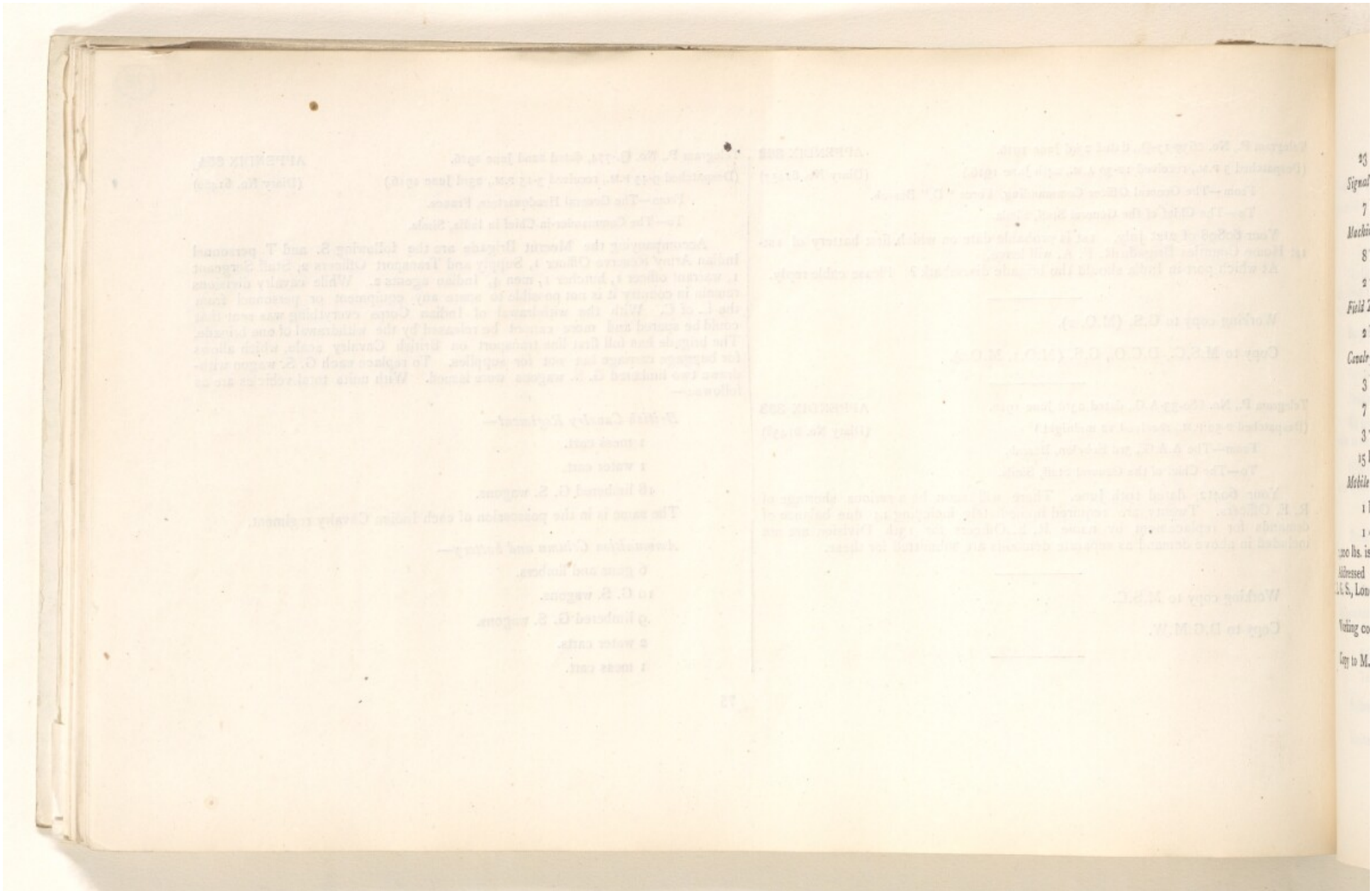
British Cavalry Regiment—

- 1 mess cart.
- 1 water cart.
- 18 limbered G. S. wagons.

The same is in the possession of each Indian Cavalry regiment.

Ammunition Column and battery—

- 6 guns and limbers.
- 10 G. S. wagons.
- 9 limbered G. S. wagons.
- 2 water carts.
- 1 mess cart.



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23 ammunition wagons.
Signal troop and brigade headquarters—

7 limbered G. S. wagons.

Machine Gun squadron—

8 limbered G. S. wagons.

2 water carts.

Field Troop—

2 limbered G. S. wagons.

Cavalry Field Ambulance—

3 horsed ambulances.

7 motor ambulances.

3 water carts.

15 limbered G. S. wagons.

Mobile Veterinary Section—

1 limbered G. S. wagon.

1 cart.

1,200 lbs. is approximately the capacity of a G. S. limbered wagon.

Addressed Chief India, repeated Secretary, War Office, London, and
C. I. G. S., London,

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., D.M.S. G.S. (M.O.1, M.O.2, S.D.2).

Telegram P., No. 129-47-B.O., dated 23rd June 1916.

(Despatched 10-10 P.M., received 5-30 A.M., 24th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah,

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

23rd June, Tigris Line.—No change in situation. Enemy still hold right bank of Hai below Kut strongly. In Sinn Area to-day there was activity among hostile aeroplanes.

Euphrates Line.—No change.

Addressed India, repeated London.

Working copy to G. S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 35 6

(Diary No. 61474)

Telegram No. 57-68-Q., dated 23rd June 1916.

(Despatched 6-35 P.M., received 5-15 A.M., 24th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

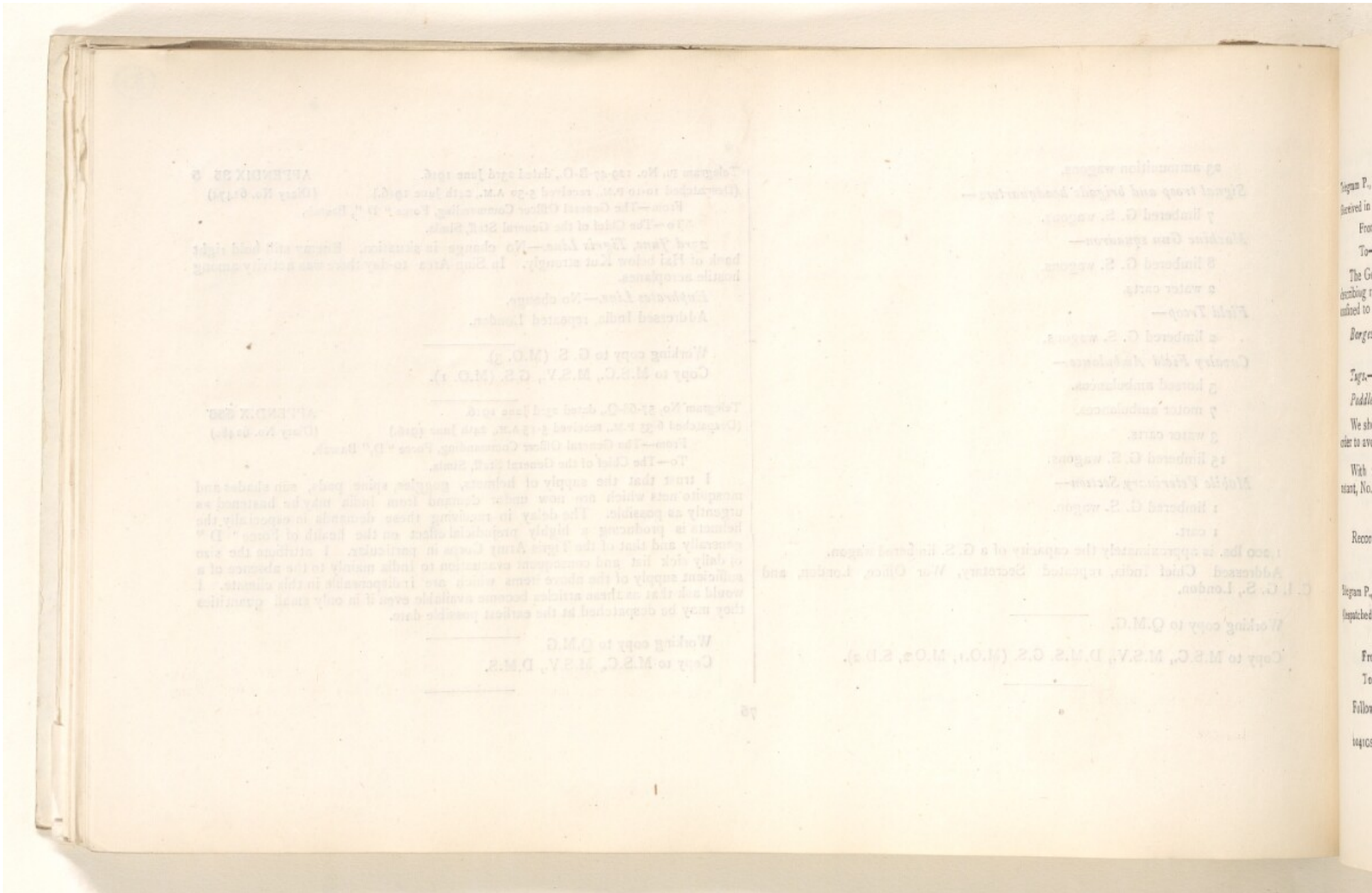
I trust that the supply of helmets, goggles, spine pads, sun shades and mosquito nets which are now under demand from India may be hastened as urgently as possible. The delay in receiving these demands in especially the helmets is producing a highly prejudicial effect on the health of Force "D" generally and that of the Tigris Army Corps in particular. I attribute the size of daily sick list and consequent evacuation to India mainly to the absence of a sufficient supply of the above items which are indispensable in this climate. I would ask that as these articles become available even if in only small quantities they may be despatched at the earliest possible date.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., D.M.S.

APPENDIX 356

(Diary No. 61480)





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Telegram P., No. H.-5466, dated 23rd June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 24th June 1916.)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department):
To—The Secretary of State for India.

The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," has represented that terms describing river craft now on order or under construction at home should be confined to the following:—

Barges.—Distinctive number, letter or name should be quoted hospital barges being given the letter H. in addition.

Tugs.—Sumaná screw and Sumana paddler.

Paddlers.—Improved Mejdieh.

We should be glad if you could adopt this procedure which is suggested in order to avoid possible misunderstanding or mistake.

With reference to correspondence ending with my telegram of the 17th instant, No. H.-5211 (*Dy. No. 60142*).

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 18236-Cypher-H. I., dated 23rd June 1916.
(Despatched 2-15 P.M., 23rd June 1916, received 10-30 A.M., 24th June 1916.)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Following from Marsh June 21st T. L.-204 your 17778-Cipher.

1041GSB

APPENDIX 357
(Diary No. 61496)

The following are the principal routes by which Turkish reinforcements proceed from railroad to the front, partly on unmetalled cart roads and partly on metalled high roads.

- (1) From Angora *via* Yashi Khan, Yozgad, Akdagh, Maden Sivas and Zara to Erzingan.
- (2) From Eregli *via* Nigde, Kabullcaric, and SHERKISHLA to Sivaz.
- (3) From Jerablus *via* Seruj, Urfa and SevereK to Dearbekir.
- (4) From Raselain *via* Mardin and Nisibin (Unmetalled cart road) to osul.

More reliance is placed by the G. S. Caucasus on the information in Murrays Handbook of Asia minor. Trans-Caucasus and Persia 1911 Edition (a copy of which I recently got from London for them), than on that in their own Books of Routes.

I will forward to you all available information supplementary to or correcting that given in the above mentioned handbook.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and Cairo.

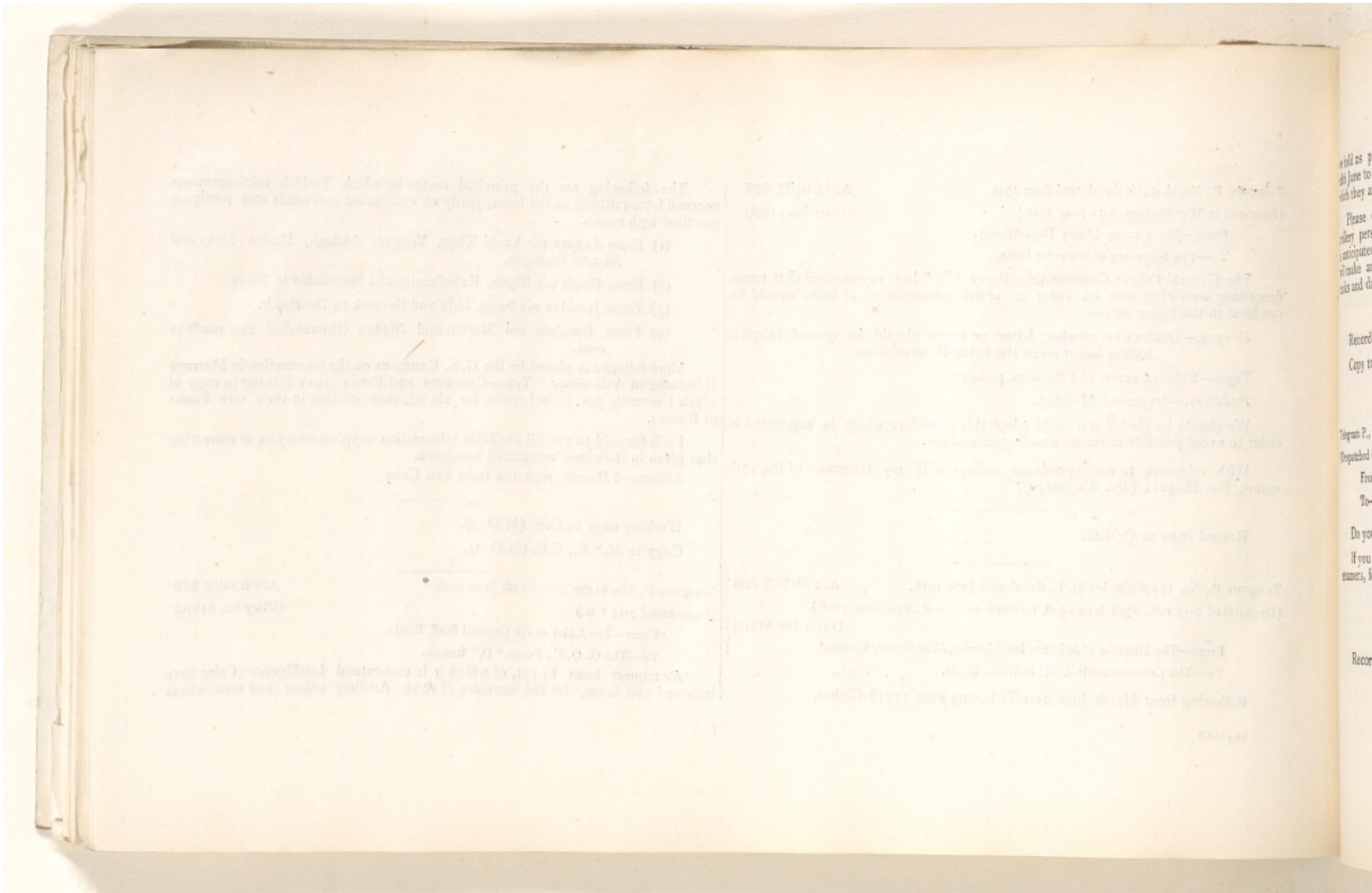
Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 61570, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-15 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

Re request from Egypt, of which it is understood Intelligence Cairo have informed you direct, for the services of Arab Artillery officer and men whom

APPENDIX 359
(Diary No. 61570)



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we hold as prisoners of war. We are sending all such prisoners of war about 28th June to Egypt where individuals will be selected for the special services for which they are required.

Please despatch direct to Egypt by first available opportunity any Arab artillery personnel you may have among your prisoners of war. If any delay is anticipated in getting them away please despatch them to Bombay and we will make arrangements for their onward journey if you let us know numbers, ranks and date of arrival.

Record copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 61588, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 6 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

Do you propose that wireless apparatus should be installed on tugs?

If you do, please wire urgently your requirements in operators, apart from steamers, for tugs.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

APPENDIX 360
(Diary No. 61588)

Telegram P., No. 20202, dated 23rd June 1916.
(Received 24th June 1916.)

(Received in War Section 24th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary of State for India, London.
To—The Viceroy (Army Department), Simla.

The following has been repeated to the General Officer Commanding, Force "D."

River hospital ships. If bullet proof steel is fitted on the sides of vessels and the wireless house as well as on the steering position one inch will be added to the draught of the vessels making the total draught 37 inches.

Will the above be acceptable or should this steel be fitted only on the steering position.

Working copy to D.M.S.
Copy to Q.M.G.

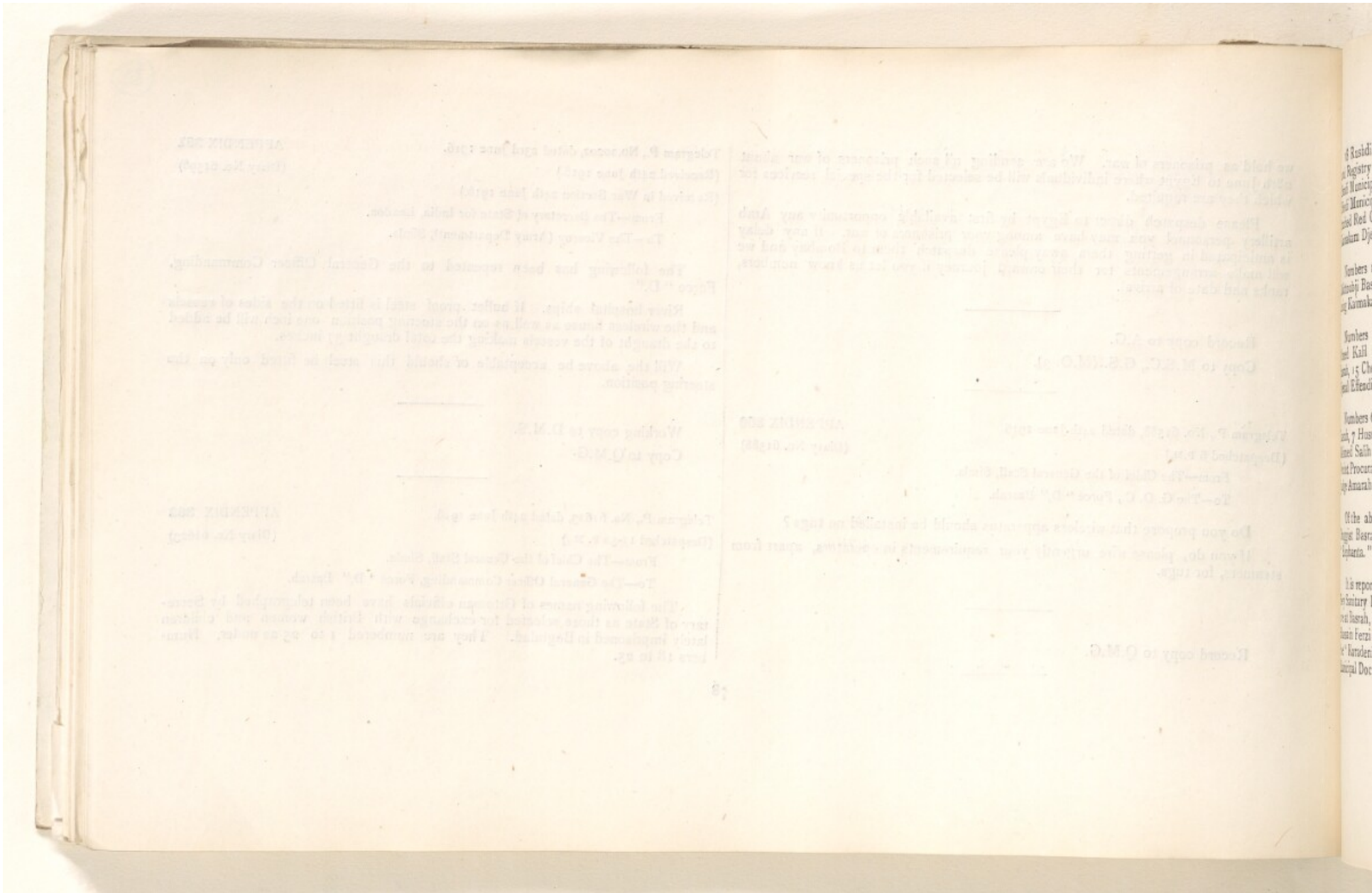
Telegram P., No. 61623, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 11-50 P. M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

The following names of Ottoman officials have been telegraphed by Secretary of State as those selected for exchange with British women and children lately imprisoned in Baghdad. They are numbered 1 to 25 as under. Numbers 18 to 25.

APPENDIX 361
(Diary No. 61596)

APPENDIX 362
(Diary No. 61623)





18 Rushdi Effendi Director Evkaf Basrah, 19 Hadji Mouri Effendi official Land Registry Amarah, 20 Saufet Bey Sanitary Director Basrah, 21 Osman Effendi Municipal Doctor Basrah, 22 Sapim Effendi Druggist Basrah, 23 Hamdi Effendi Municipal Doctor Khorassan, 24 Mohmed Emin Bey Native of Egypt attached Red Crescent Hospital captured at Amarah, 25 Ismail Effendi acting Kaimakam Djemien.

Numbers 1 to 5. 1 Assim Bey Mutessarif Amarah, 2 Ismail Hakki Bey Maktoubji Basrah, Atif Gee Director Correspondence Amarah, 4 Fikri Bey acting Kaimakam Medjikebir, 5 Said Director, Census Basrah.

Numbers 12 to 17. 12 Saphim Effendi Examining Magistrate Amarah, 13 Ahmed Kalil Bey Defterdar Basrah, 14 Salim Effendi Chief Accountant Basrah, 15 Chefik Effendi Kadi Basrah, 16 Fuad Effendi Kadi Basrah, 17 Djemal Effendi Kadi Kurna.

Numbers 6 to 11. 6 Suleiman Sirvet Effendi Member Court of Appeal Basrah, 7 Hussain Fevzi Effendi Chief Secretary, Court of Appeal Basrah, 8 Mehmed Salih Effendi Associate Judge Court of Appeal Basrah, 9 Mohamed Nechet Procurator General Basrah, 20 Abdul Aziz Medje Effendi Associate Judge Amarah, 11 Ahmed Moukhtar Bey Procurator General Amarah.

Of the above Osmam Effendi Municipal Doctor Basrah, Sapim Effendi Druggist Basrah and Chefik Kadi of Basrah were recently repatriated on the "Elephanta."

It is reported by prisoners here that Mehmed Salih Associate Judge, Saufet Bey Sanitary Director and Mehmed Emin Bey of the Red Crescent Hospital are at Basrah, and that Fakri Bey acting Kaimakam Medjikebir is at Amarah. Hussain Ferzi Effendi Chief Secretary Court of Appeal Basrah died on board the "Karadeniz" during the voyage to India. We presume that Hamdi, Effendi Municipal Doctor Khorassan, Mahomed Nechet Procurator General Basrah

and Saphim Effendi Examining Magistrate Amarah, are in Mesopotamia as they cannot be traced in India. The remainder are in India.

Record copy to A.G.

Copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 69-11-E. C., dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-40 P.M., received 11-50 P.M.)

APPENDIX 363

(Diary No. 61629)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

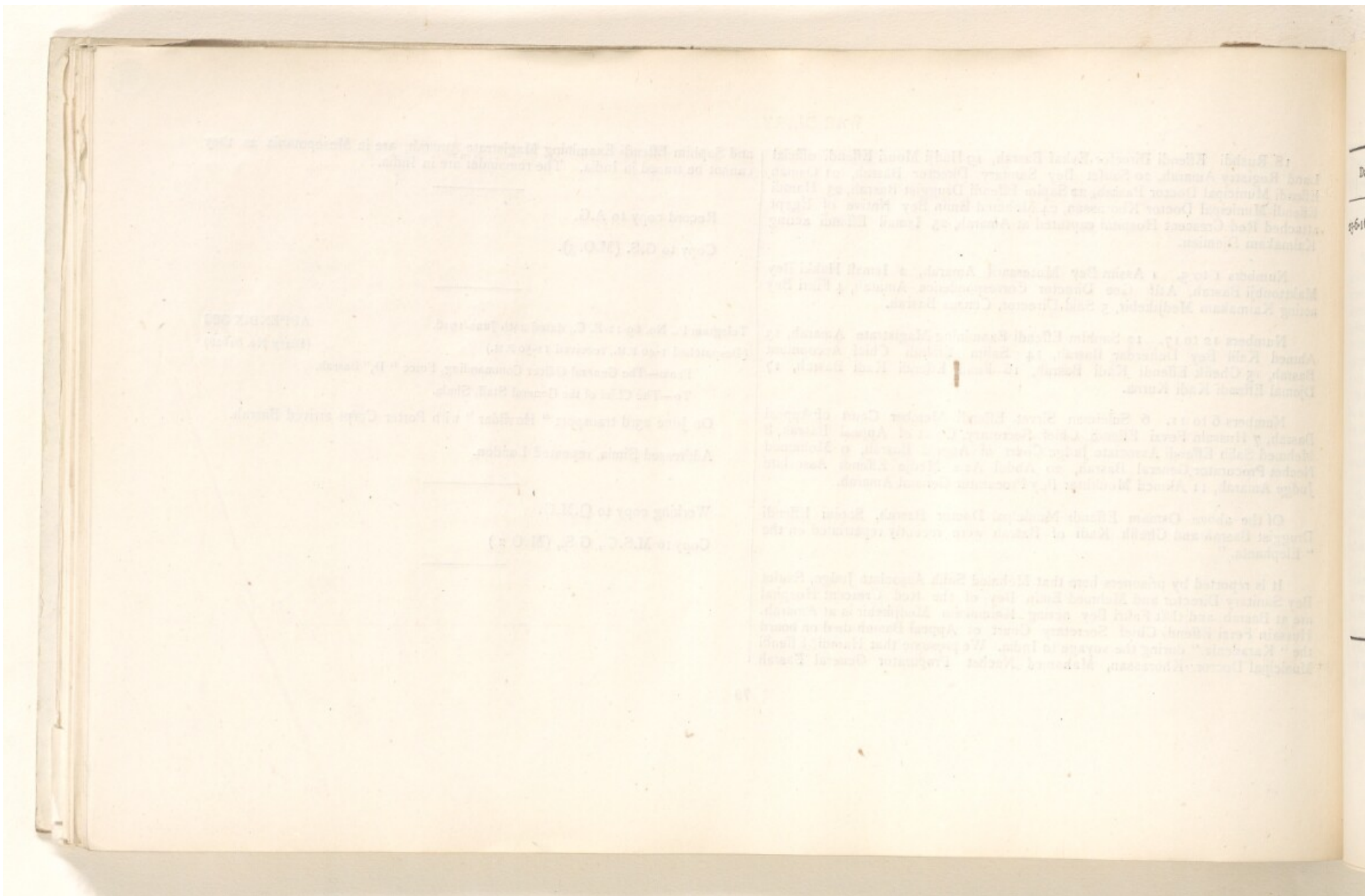
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

On June 23rd transport "Havildar" with Porter Corps arrived Basrah.

Addressed Simla, repeated London.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S., (M.O. 2.)

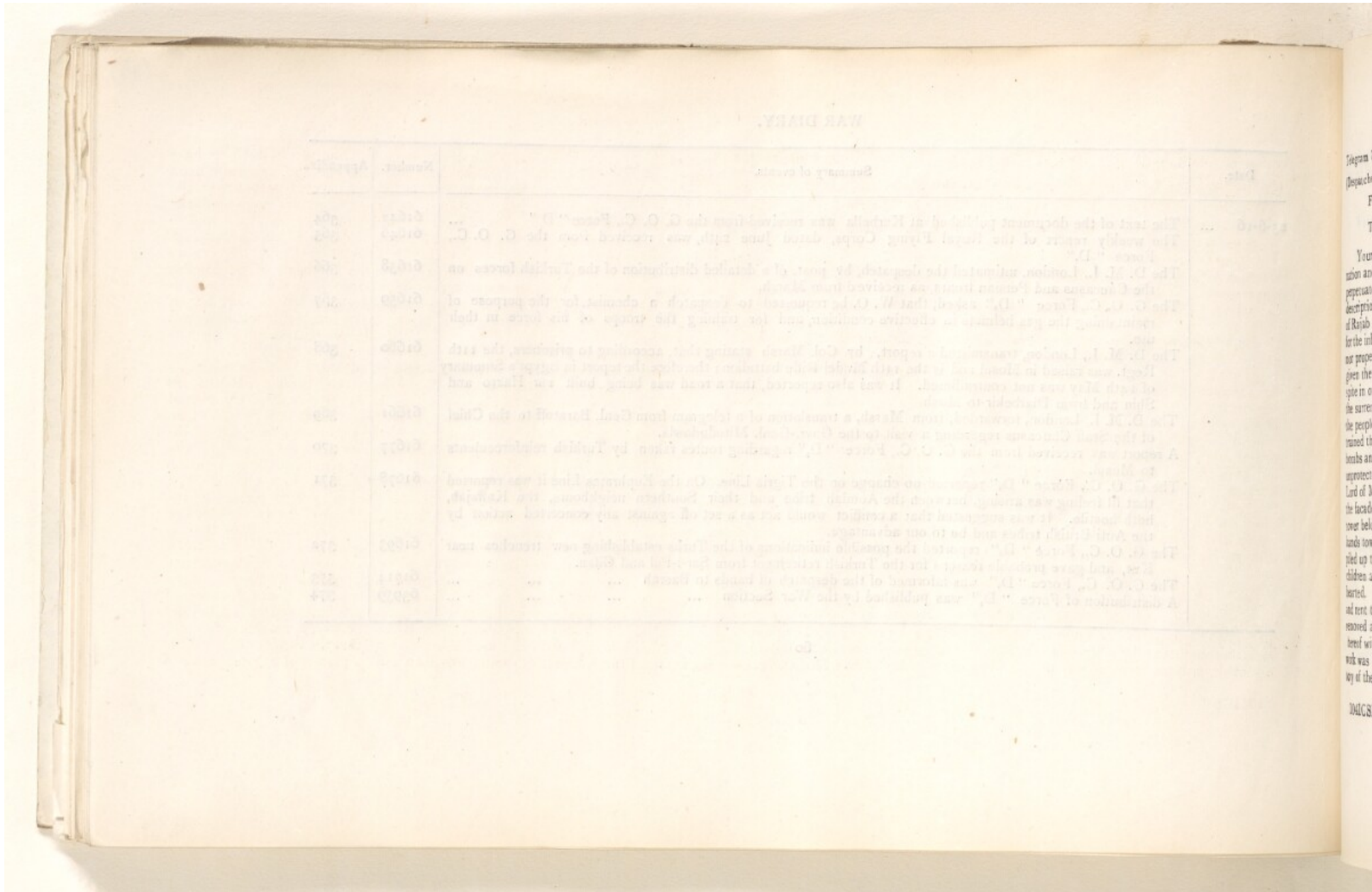




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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
25-6-16 ...	The text of the document published at Kerbella was received from the G. O. C., Force "D" ...	61642	364
	The weekly report of the Royal Flying Corps, dated June 24th, was received from the G. O. C., Force "D."	61646	365
	The D. M. I., London, intimated the despatch, by post, of a detailed distribution of the Turkish forces on the Caucasus and Persian fronts, as received from Marsh.	61658	366
	The G. O. C., Force "D," asked, that W. O. be requested to despatch a chemist, for the purpose of maintaining the gas helmets in effective condition, and for training the troops of his force in their use.	61659	367
	The D. M. I., London, transmitted a report, by Col. Marsh stating that, according to prisoners, the 11th Regt. was raised in Mosul and is the 11th Model Rifle battalion; therefore the report in Egypt's Summary of 24th May was not contradicted. It was also reported, that a road was being built <i>via</i> Hazro and Shin and from Diarbekir to Mush.	61660	368
	The D. M. I., London, forwarded, from Marsh, a translation of a telegram from Genl. Baratoff to the Chief of the Staff Caucasus regarding a visit to the Govr.-Genl. Mitodudowla.	61661	369
	A report was received from the G. O. C., Force "D," regarding routes taken by Turkish reinforcements to Mosul.	61677	370
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported no change on the Tigris Line. On the Euphrates Line it was reported that ill feeling was arising, between the Abudah tribe and their Southern neighbours, the Kafajah, both hostile. It was suggested that a conflict would act as a set off against any concerted action by the Anti-British tribes and be to our advantage.	61678	371
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported the possible indications of the Turks establishing new trenches near Kut, and gave probable reasons for the Turkish retirement from Sar-i-Pul and Gilan.	61693	372
	The G. O. C., Force "D," was informed of the despatch of bands to Basrah	61714	373
	A distribution of Force "D," was published by the War Section	63959	374





Telegram No. I.G.-3099, dated 24th June 1916.

(Despatched 1.50 P.M., received 1.45 A.M., 25th June 1916)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 61326 of 23rd text of document as follows. To the leaders of the nation and the Chiefs of the tribes and Iliatu of the State of Persia. May God perpetuate its Empire. We represent for the information of Your Honour a description of the grievous events of August Kerbela which occurred on the 11th of Rajab 1337 (14th May 1916) trouble you as follows. You must realise that for the inhabitants of Kerbela the afflicted Persians in particular neither life is left nor property *fastly* reputation honour or credit. After the local Government had given the Ulemas and the Divines of Islam a clear undertaking for six days respite in order to satisfy the remainder of their requirements and claims including the surrender of arms apart from other numerous claims and requirements which the people had already complied with, they on Sunday morning the 11th Rajab trained their guns on the town of Kerbela and by the force of gas pumps gunfire bombs and rifles destroyed a number of houses belonging to the helpless and unprotected people and burned them. Then they invaded the holy courts of the Lord of Martyrs (*i.e.*, Imam Husein) and Abe-Fazlel-Abbas and demolished the facades of the galleries thereof and razed the minarets as well as the clock tower belonging to the Imam and burned them all. Then they stretched their hands towards slaughter and pillage. In one quarter named Babel Khan they piled up the mutilated bodies of destitute old men and helpless women, little children and Seyids and students in a way which moved the heart of the hardest hearted. They mutilated the bodies of the killed, cut off the breasts of women and rent their limbs and members asunder. Then they commenced plundering removed all that they could and what they could not take off their sprinkled gas hereof with gas pumps and burned with gun shells and grenades. Their handiwork was such that the history of the world has never seen the like. Even history of the present universal war affords no example in any of the Christian coun-

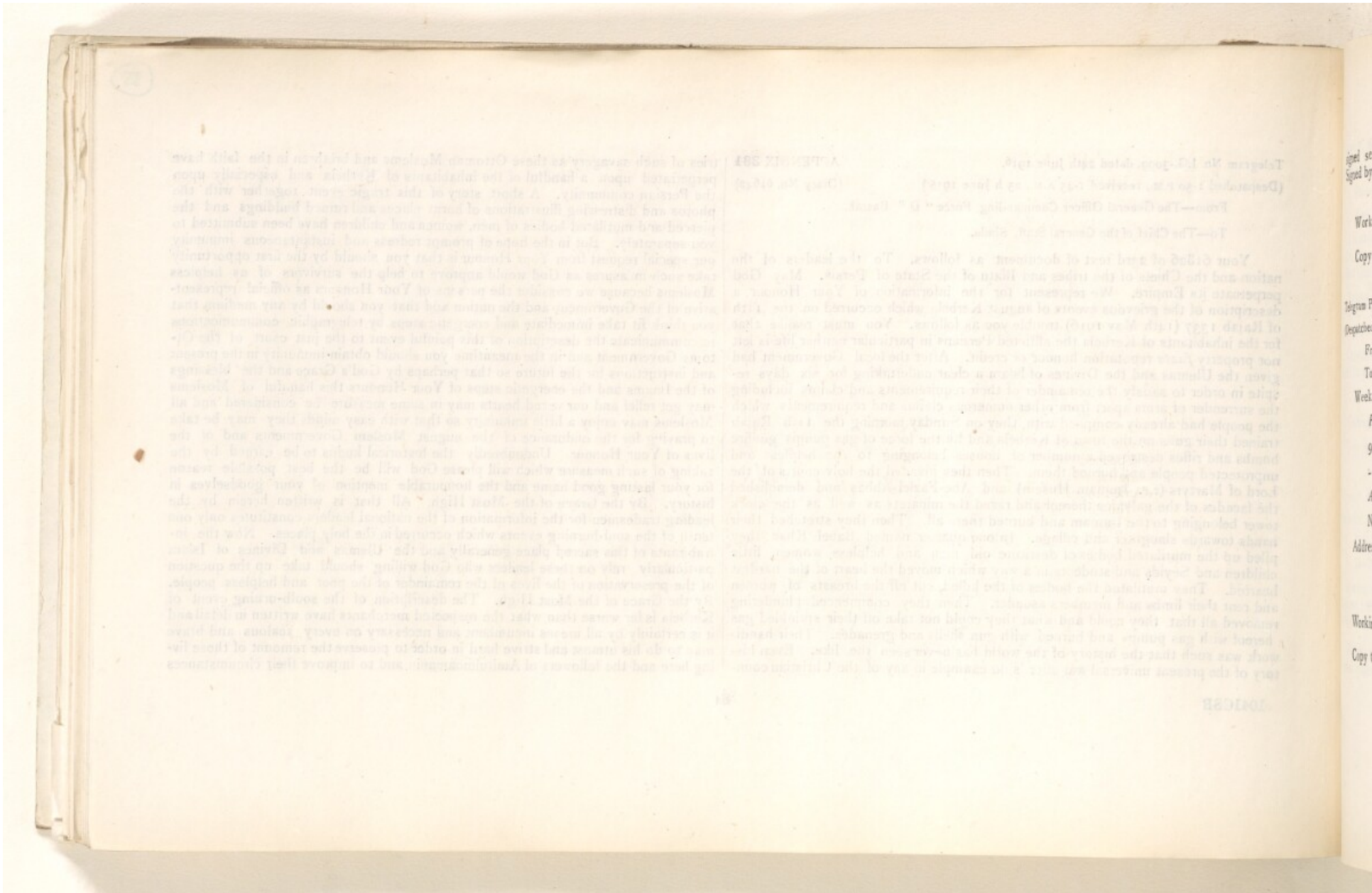
1041CSB

APPENDIX 364

(Diary No. 61642)

tries of such savagery as these Ottoman Moslems and brethren in the faith have perpetrated upon a handful of the inhabitants of Kerbela and especially upon the Persian community. A short story of this tragic event together with the photos and distressing illustrations of burnt places and ruined buildings and the pierced and mutilated bodies of men, women and children have been submitted to you separately. But in the hope of prompt redress and instantaneous immunity our special request from Your Honour is that you should by the first opportunity take such measures as God would approve to help the survivors of us helpless Moslems because we consider the persons of Your Honours as official representative of the Government and the nation and that you should by any medium that you think fit take immediate and energetic steps by telegraphic communications to communicate the description of this painful event to the just court of the Ottomans Government and in the meantime you should obtain immunity in the present and instructions for the future so that perhaps by God's Grace and the blessings of the Imams and the energetic steps of Your Honours this handful of Moslems may get relief and our vexed hearts may in some measure be considered and all Moslems may enjoy a little immunity so that with easy minds they may be taken to praying for the endurance of the august Moslem Governments and of the lives of Your Honour. Undoubtedly the historical kudos to be earned by the taking of such measure which will please God will be the best possible reason for your lasting good name and the honourable mention of your goodselves in history. By the Grace of the Most High. All that is written herein by the leading tradesmen for the information of the national leaders constitutes only one tenth of the soul-burning events which occurred in the holy places. Now the inhabitants of this sacred place generally and the Ulemas and Divines of Islam particularly rely on these leaders who God willing should take up the question of the preservation of the lives of the remainder of the poor and helpless people. By the Grace of the Most High. The description of the soul-burning event of Kerbela is far worse than what the respected merchants have written in detail and it is certainly by all means incumbent and necessary on every zealous and brave man to do his utmost and strive hard in order to preserve the remount of those living here and the followers of Amitulmoamanin and to improve their circumstances

81



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signed sealed servant of the sacred Sharart Mohammed Sadiq-el-Tebatic.
Signed by about 20 people.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 3089-F, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-45 P.M., received 5-45 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Weekly report, dated June 24th. Royal Flying Corps.

Pilots.—

9 available.

- not available.

Aircraft.—

No change.

Addressed Secretary, War Office, London; repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (S.D. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1), A.D. (A).

APPENDIX 305

(Diary No. 61646)

Telegram P., No. 18272-Cipher, dated 14th June 1916.
(Despatched 3-55 P.M., received 3-30 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

We have posted to you the detailed distribution of Turkish forces on
Caucasus and Persian fronts dated June 7th received from Marsh.

The most important differences from the distribution on 18th May are—

1. Total squadrons 43 battalions 205 caused by inclusion of—

(a) 11th or 12th Division, 12 battalions, in reserve between Erzincan
and Baiburt.

(b) 8 Division, 9th battalions.

(c) 36th Division, increased by 3 battalions.

(d) 18th Division, increased by 1 battalion.

(e) 16th Regiment, 3 battalions.

(f) 1 Depôt battalion.

(g) 23rd and 15th Cavalry. 24th Cavalry drops to 2 squadrons.

2. The 3rd, Erzincan group, is increased by the Kighi group which has been
drawn in.

3. 31st Division now in 2nd group and 18th Division in 1st group.

Addressed Basrah; repeated India and Egypt.

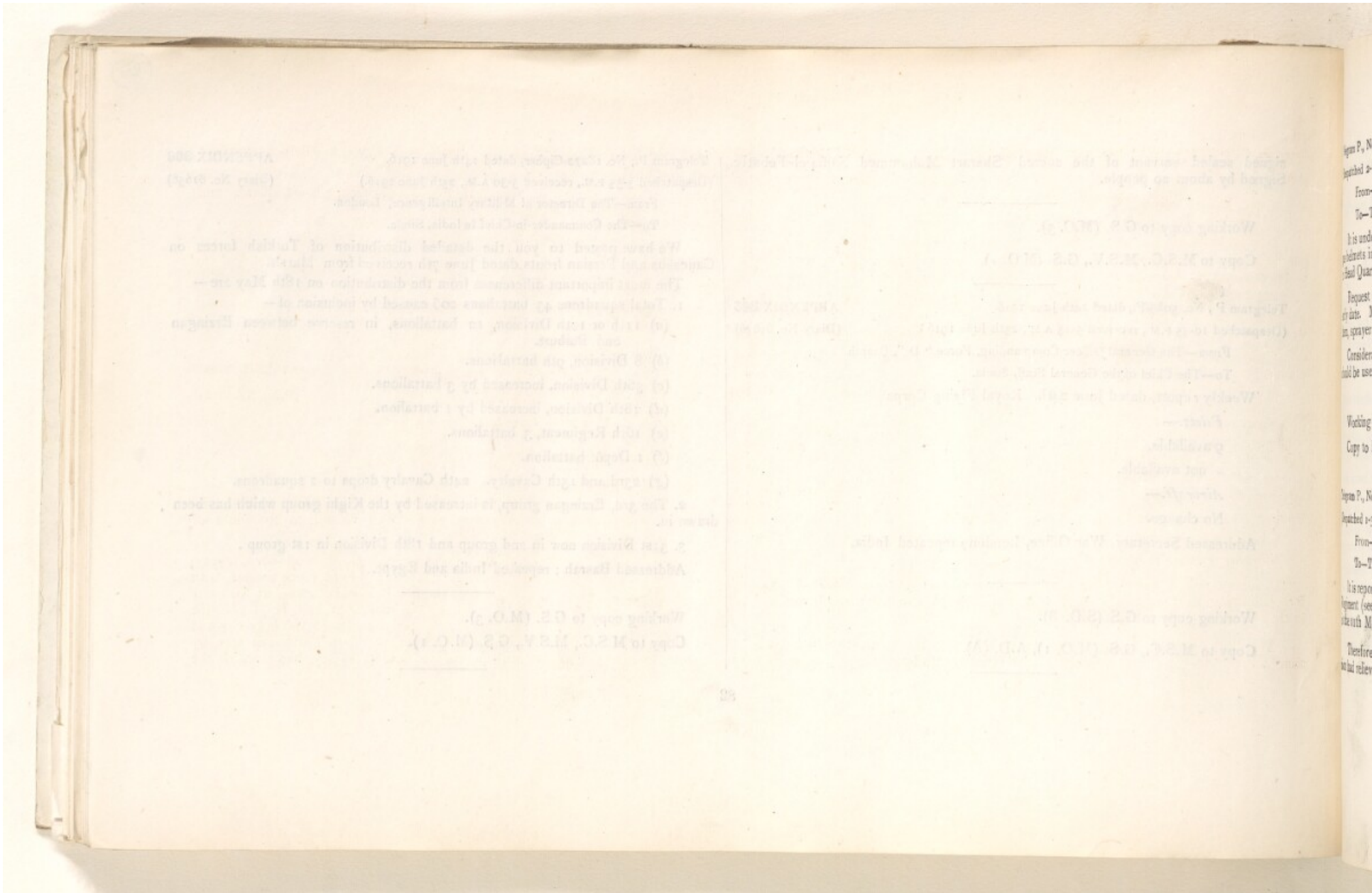
Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 306

(Diary No. 61658)

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Telegram P., No. 1122-30-Q., dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 2-10 P.M., received 0-30 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

It is understood that an expert chemist, who is responsible for maintaining gas helmets in effective condition and for training troops in their use, is attached to Head Quarters in France.

Request War Office be asked to despatch a chemist for this force at an early date. Masks will deteriorate rapidly if not properly treated. To preserve them, sprayers, spraying mixture and chalk are urgently required.

Consideration should be given to the question of devising a helmet, that should be used here in the hot weather.

Working copy to D.M.S.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 15263-Cipher, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-30 P.M., received 1-30 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

It is reported by Marsh that according to prisoners the battalion of 11th Regiment (see my telegram 17450) (*Dy. No. 57253*) was raised in Mosul and is the 11th Model Rifle battalion.

Therefore report in Egypt Summary 24th May to May 30th that 4th Division had relieved 3rd Division on Sinai front is not contradicted.

APPENDIX 367
(Diary No. 61659)

Captured orders of 11th Army Corps indicate that 9th Division on June 7th had arrived at Pirahmed.

Prisoners taken on 15th June state that road is being built *viâ* Hazro and Shin from Diarbekir to Mush.

Addressed Basrah; repeated India and Egypt.

Working copy to G. S. (M.O. 3).
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 18273-Cipher, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 4-15 P.M., received 5 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

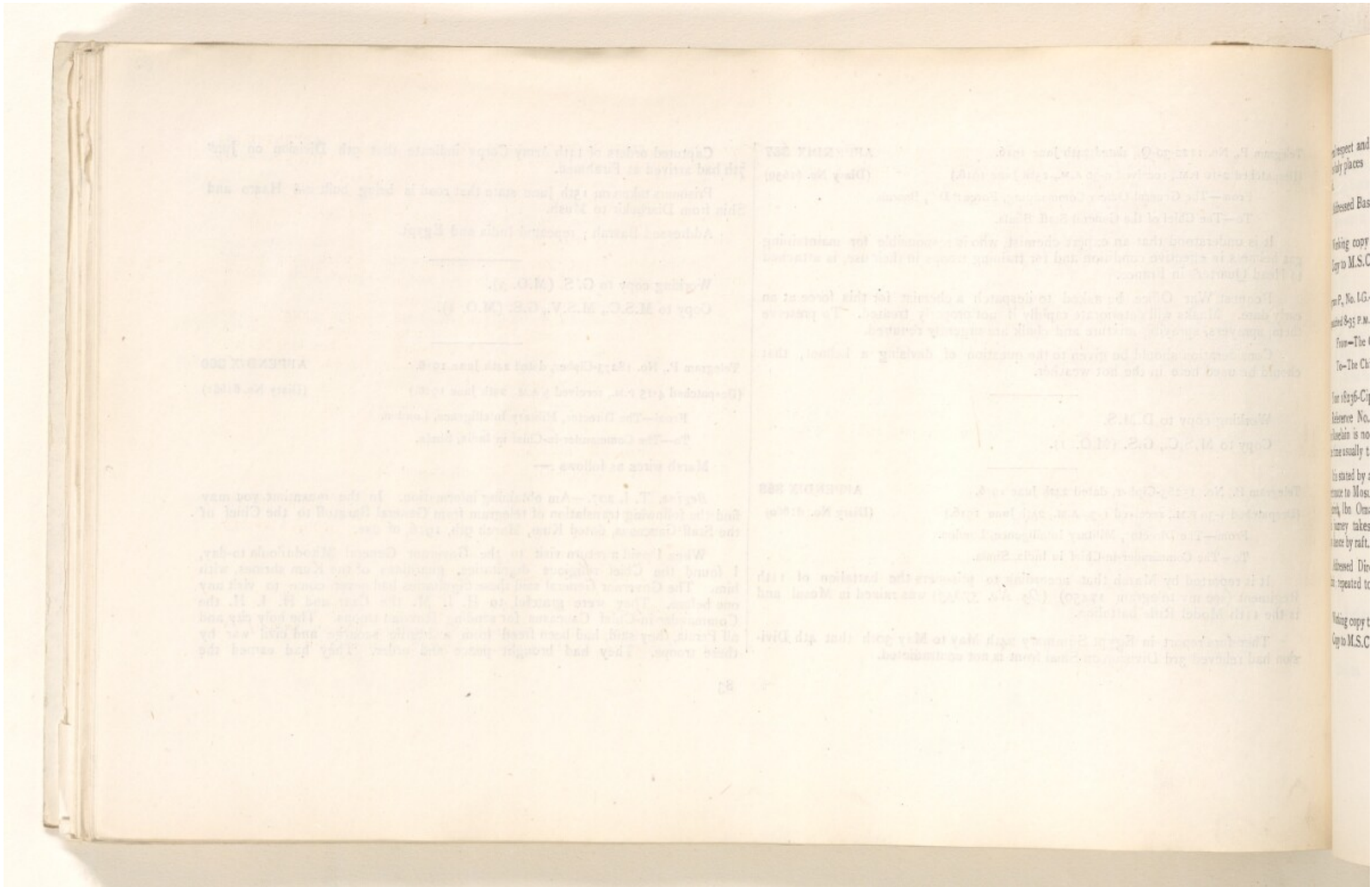
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Marsh wires as follows:—

Begins. T. I. 207.—Am obtaining information. In the meantime you may find the following translation of telegram from General Baratoff to the Chief of the Staff Caucasus, dated Kum, March 9th, 1916, of use.

When I paid a return visit to the Governor General Mitoudoula to-day, I found the Chief religious dignitaries, guardians of the Kum shrines, with him. The Governor General said these dignitaries had never come to visit any one before. They were grateful to H. I. M. the Czar and H. I. H. the Commander-in-Chief Caucasus for sending Russian troops. The holy city and all Persia, they said, had been freed from a hostile scourge and civil war by these troops. They had brought peace and order. They had earned the

APPENDIX 368
(Diary No. 61660)





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general respect and affection of the people by the respect which they observed for its holy places and by their excellent relations with the civil population.—
Ends.

Addressed Basrah ; repeated India and Egypt.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. I.G.-3103, dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 8-35 P.M., received 7 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 370
(Diary No. 61677)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 18236-Cipher, June 23rd, (*Dy. No. 61510*).

Reference No. 4 route. Usual route taken by Turkish troops to Mosul from Raselain is not *via* Mardin but *via* Tel Erman and Nisibin, and 15 days is the time usually taken to do the march.

It is stated by a Turkish paroled officer of Mosul that, as water is scarce on direct route to Mosul, it is probable the Turks will use the route from Raselain to Jezireh Ibn Omar and thence to Mosul from beginning of July onwards. This journey takes 16 days, 7 day's march to Jezireh, 1 day's halt there, and 8 days thence by raft.

Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, London, for information of Marsh ; repeated to G. H. Q., Egyptian Expeditionary Force and India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 129-474-O., dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-45 P.M., received 9-30 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 371
(Diary No. 61678)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 24th. There is no change in the situation on Tigris Line.
Situation on Euphrates Line.

It is reported that ill feeling is arising between the Abudah tribe around Shatrat-al-Muntafik, degree sheet 3-1 and the Khaffajah their southern neighbours.

Both these tribes are strongly hostile to us. The two neighbouring tribes to the east the Benzi Zaid and Albusaad who are also strongly hostile are reported to be joining the Khaffajah. Any such conflict amongst these hostile tribes will act as a set off against any notion of concerted action by the anti-British tribes of the Shatt-al-Hai and is to our advantage.

Addressed C. G. S., Simla ; repeated Chief, London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2, M.O. 3), F. and P.

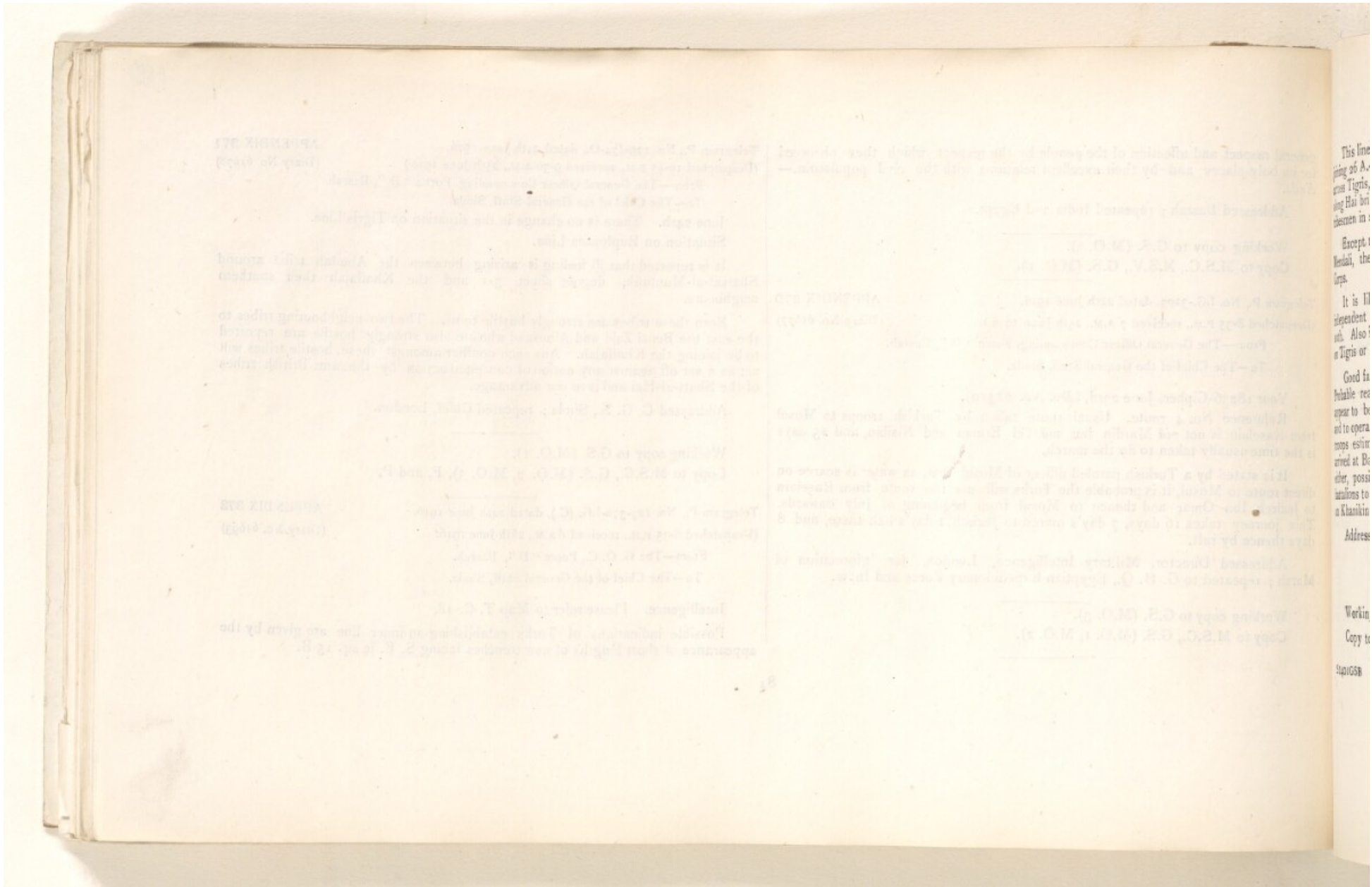
Telegram P., No. 127-370-I.G. (C.), dated 24th June 1916.
(Despatched 8-35 P.M., received 8 A.M., 25th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 372
(Diary No. 61693)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence. Please refer to Map T. C.-18.

Possible indications of Turks establishing an inner line are given by the appearance of short lengths of new trenches facing S. E. in sq. 15-B.



This line
ing of A.
Tigris,
Hajai
men in
Except
Mebai, the
Corps.
It is ill
dependent
Also
Tigris or
Good in
Probable
appear to
and to opera
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arrived at Be
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intations to
a Khaikin
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This line would appear to run from trenches in square 15-B. to trenches joining 26 A.30 and 25 B.88, thence along fortifications N. E. of Kut, thence across Tigris, and along trenches in loop east of Kut and so to Shatt-al Hai along Hai bridgehead. There are now no flocks, bhoosa, stacks, shelters or tribesmen in squares 51, 52, 62, 63, 64.

Except that a report from an agent locates a considerable mixed force at Mendali, there is no change in general distribution of Turkish 6th Army Corps.

It is likely, if reported strength is confirmed, that this force is the independent Cavalry Brigade and Second Division which left Tigris line May 10th. Also it may be the strategical reserve of Khalil's force, to be employed on Tigris or Khanikin lines.

Good facilities for supplies are afforded by Mendali and adjoining districts. Probable reasons for Turkish retirement from Sar-i-Pul and Gilan would appear to be disinclination to extend already lengthy lines of communication and to operate in the heat. It is indicated by report recently received that new troops estimated at (2?) regiments, Turkish (between 1,500?) and 2,000 have arrived at Baghdad. These may be one regiment to complete 6th Division and either, possibly the leading regiment of a new Turkish division or 4 to 5 battalions to replace units of other division now serving in Muratteb division on Khanikin front.

Addressed London, repeated India and Egypt.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

S1401GSB

Telegram P., No. 61711, dated 25th June 1916.
(Despatched 4.30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

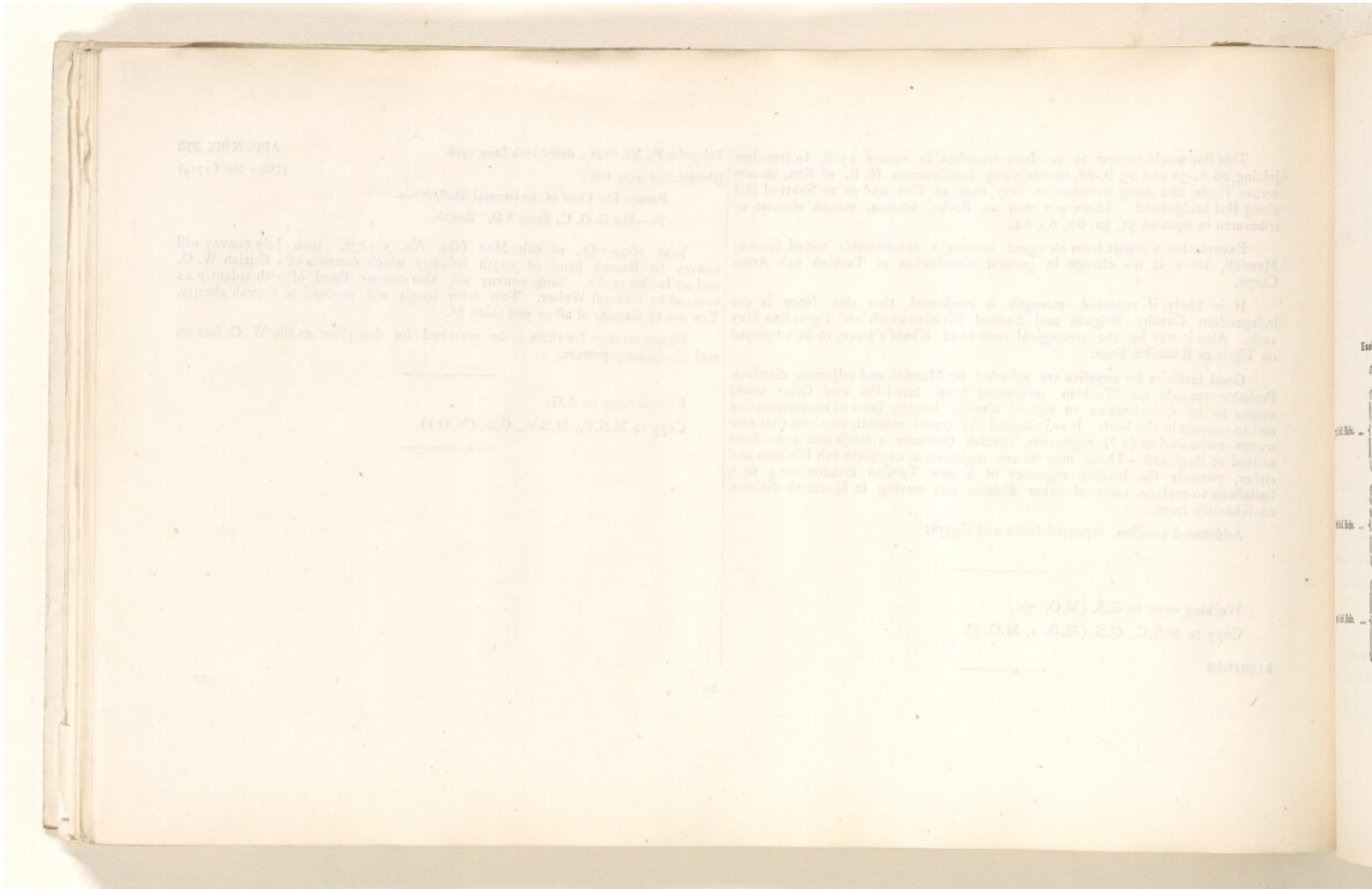
Your 1609-1-Q., of 9th May (*Dy. No. 51103*). 10th July convoy will convey to Basrah band of 105th Infantry which consists of 1 British W. O. and 40 Indian ranks. Same convoy will also convey Band of 97th Infantry as ordered by General Walter. Two other bands will proceed to Basrah shortly. You are to dispose of all as you think fit.

Please arrange for them to be attached for discipline as the W. O. has no real disciplinary powers.

Record copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O.1).

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APPENDIX 373
(Diary No. 61714)





(90)

APPENDIX 374
(Diary No. 63959.)

INDIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE "D."

Distribution of Troops for week commencing 25th June 1916.

Tigris Corps.

<p>Essinn—Sheikh Saad</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>IIIrd Division.</i></p> <p>7th Inf. Bde. ... { 1 Conn. Rang. 27th Punjabis. 89th Punjabis. 96th Inf.</p> <p>8th Inf. Bde. ... { 1 Manch. R. 4th Rajputs. 47th Sikhs. 56th Rifles.</p> <p>9th Inf. Bde. ... { 1 High. L. I. 1-1st G. R. 1-9th G. R. 93rd Inf.</p>	<p>4th Bde. R. F. A.—7-14-66 Batta.</p> <p>B-69th (How.) Bde., R. F. A.</p> <p>3rd Divl. Amtn. Col.</p> <p>20th and 21st Cos. S. & M.</p> <p>34th Pioneers.</p> <p>7th Lrs. (less 2 sqdns.)</p> <p>No. 3 Divl. Sig. Co.</p> <p>Fd. Ambs.—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Nos. 7 and 8 Brit.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" 114, 112, & 113 Ind.</p> <p>No. 3 San. Sec.</p> <p>Mobile Vet. Sec.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>VIIth Division.</i></p> <p>19th Inf. Bde. { Composite Highland Bn.—2 R. Highrs. 1 Sea. Highs. 28th Punjabis. 92nd Punjabis. 125th Rifles.</p> <p>21st Inf. Bde. ... { Composite English Bn.—Details 2nd Norfolk R. 2 Dorset R. 9th Bhopals. 1-8th G. R.</p> <p>29th Inf. Bde. ... { 2nd Leic. R. 51st Sikhs. 53rd Sikhs. 56th Rifles.</p> <p>9th Bde., R. F. A.—19-20-28 Batts.</p>	<p>H. Q. & A. Batt., 56th Bde., R. F. A.—<i>en route.</i></p> <p>1/1 H. C. Bde., R. F. A.—less 1-2nd Sx. Batt. (for Basrah.)</p> <p>D/69th (How.) Bde., R. F. A.</p> <p>7th Divl. Amtn. Col.</p> <p>1st Co., S. & M.—<i>en route.</i></p> <p>3rd " "</p> <p>107th Pioneers.</p> <p>16th Cav.—less 2 sqdns.</p> <p>No. 7 Divl. Sig. Co.</p> <p>Fd. Ambs.—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Nos. 19 & 20 Brit.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" 128, 129 & 130 Ind.</p> <p>No. 4 San. Sec.</p> <p>Mobile Vet. Sec.</p>
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APPENDIX 27A
(Form No. 27A)

INDIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE "D".
Distribution of Troops for week commencing 25th June 1916.

Tiga's Camp.

Regiment	Strength	Remarks
1st Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
2nd Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
3rd Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
4th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
5th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
6th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
7th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
8th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
9th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
10th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
11th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
12th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
13th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
14th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
15th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
16th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
17th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
18th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
19th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
20th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
21st Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
22nd Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
23rd Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
24th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
25th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
26th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
27th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
28th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
29th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.
30th Bn. 1st Div.	1000	At Tiga's Camp.



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XIIIth Division.

38th Inf. Bde. { 6 R. Lan. R.
6 E. Lan. R.
6 S. Lan. R.
6 N. Lan. R.

39th Inf. Bde. { 9 R. War. R.
9 Worc. R.
7 N. Staff R.
7 Glouc. R.

40th Inf. Bde. { 8 R. W. Fus.
8 Ches. R.
4 S. Wales Bord.
5 Wilts R.

53th Bde., R.F.A.
60th " "
A/69th (How.) Bde., R.F.A.
13th Divl. Amtn. Col.
71st Fd. Co. R.E.
72nd " "
88th " "
8th Welsh Pioneers.
No. 13 Divl. Sig. Co.

No. 39 Brit. Fd. Amb.
" 40 " "
" 41 " "
" 28 San Sec.
Mobile Vet. Sec.

XIVth Division.

35th Inf. Bde. { 1-5th E. Kent R.
37th Dogras.
2-4th G. R.

36th Inf. Bde. { 1-6th Devon R.
26th Punjabis.
62nd Punjabis.
82nd Punjabis.

37th Inf. Bde. { 1-4th Devon R.
36th Sikhs.
45th Sikhs.
1-2nd G.R.

13th Bde., R.F.A.—2-8-14 Batts.
C/69th (How.) Bde., R.F.A.
14th Divl. Amtn. Col.
12th Co., S. and M.
13th " "

2 Sqdns. 7th Lrs.
128th Pioneers.
No. 12 Divl. Sig. Co.
Field Ambs.—
No. 1 Combd. —(detached on L. of C.)
Nos. 20, 21, 22, Combd.
No. 135 Ind.
No. 18 San Sec.— *en route.*

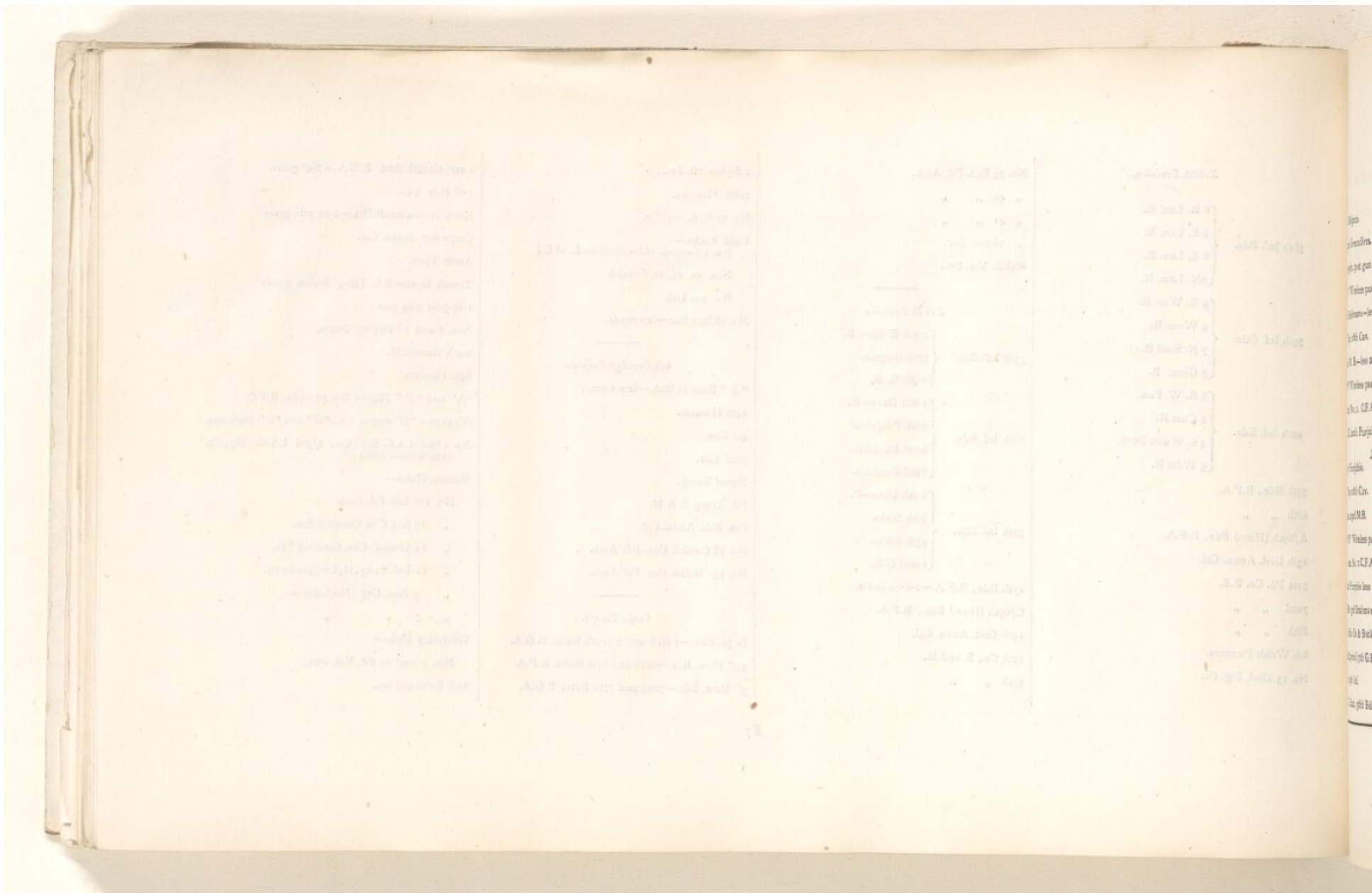
6th Cavalry Brigade.

" S " Batt. R.H.A.—less 1 sec.
14th Hussars.
4th Cav.
33rd Cav.
Signal Troop.
Fd. Troop S. & M.
Cav. Bde. Amtn. Col.
No. 18 Combd. Cav. Fd. Amb.
No. 131 Indian Cav. Fd. Amb.

Corps Troops.

60-pr. Bde.—2-86th and 2-104th Batts. R.G.A.
4-5th How. Bde.—66th and 61st Batts. R.F.A.
5th How. Bde.—72nd and 77th Batts. R.G.A.

1 sec. 1-104th Batt. R.G.A.—2-4th guns.
1-6th How. gun.
Naval Anti-aircraft Det.—2-12 pdr. guns.
Corps Art. Amtn. Col.
Amtn. Park.
Trench Mortar Bde. (48-3rd Stokes guns).
1-15-pdr. post gun.
Nos. 1 and 2 Bridging Trains.
1-4th Hamps. R.
64th Pioneers.
"A" and "B" Flights No. 30 Sqdn. R.F.C.
Wireless—"B" wagon stn, "D" and "G" pack stns.
No. 1/3rd I.A.C. Sig. Co., 2/3rd I.A.C. Sig. Co.
(less 2 cable secs.)
Medical Units—
No. 105 Ind. Fd. Amb.
" 16 Brit Cas. Clearing Stn.
" 19 Combd. Cas. Clearing Stn.
" 61 Ind. Staty. Hpl.—(300 beds).
" 5 Avd. Dep. Med. Stores.
" 7 " "
Veterinary Units—
Nos. 7 and 10 Fd. Vet. secs.
Avd. Remount sec.





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L. of C.

2nd Rajputs.
102nd Grenadiers.
1-15-pdr. post gun.
"H" Wireless pack stn.
3rd Brahmans—less ½-Bn. (for 35th Inf. Bde.)
2 Tps. 16th Cav.
23rd M. B.—less 2 secs.
"N" Wireless pack stn.
1 sec. No. 1. C.F.A.
1 D.C. 20th Panjabis.
67th Panjabis.
2 Tps. 16th Cav.
1 sec. 23rd M.B.
"M" Wireless pack stn.
1 sec. No. 1 C.F.A.
20th Panjabis less ½-Bn.
½ Bn. 3rd Brahmans (en route to Corps).
1st Bn. Ox & Bucks L.I.
2nd (provl.) 7th G.R.
2/119th Inf.
D. Batt. 56th Bde., R.F.A. (for VIIth Divn.)

Ali Gharbi.
Pest.

Filalifiah.

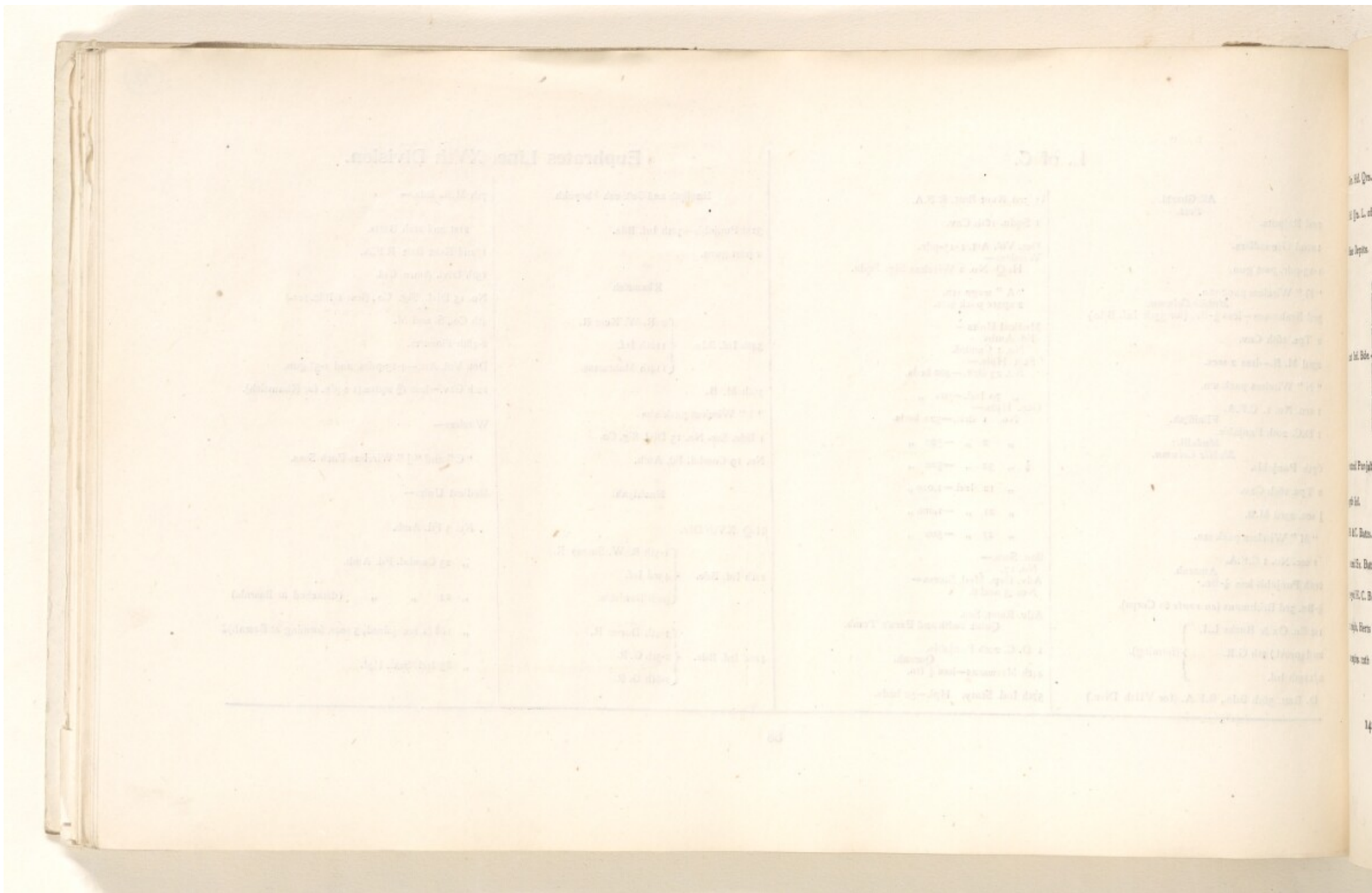
Mudellil.
Mobile Column.

Amarah.

1/3rd Kent Batt. R.F.A.
1 Sqdn. 16th Cav.
Det. Vol. Art. 1-15-pdr.
Wireless—
H. Q. No. 2 Wireless Sig. Sqdn.
"A" wagn stn.
2 spare pack sets.
Medical Units—
Fd. Amb. —
No. 1 Combd.
Stat. Hpls.—
No. 23 Brit.—400 beds.
" 70 Ind.—500 "
Gen. Hpls.—
No. 1 Brit.—520 beds.
" 2 " —520 "
" 32 " —520 "
" 12 Ind.—1,000 "
" 21 " —1,000 "
" 27 " —500 "
San. Secs.—
No. 17.
Adv. Dep. Med. Stores—
Nos. 3 and 6.
Adv. Remt. Sec.
Qalat Salih and Ezra's Tomb.
1 D. C. 20th Panjabis.
44th Merwaras—less ½ Bn.
57th Ind. Staty. Hpl.—50 beds.

Euphrates Line. XVth Division.

Haqiqah and Suk-esh-Fheyakh.
31st Panjabis—34th Inf. Bde.
2 post guns.
Khamseh.
34th Inf. Bde. { 2 R. W. Kent R.
 { 112th Inf.
 { 114th Mahrattas.
30th M. B.
"I" Wireless pack stn.
1 Bde. Sec. No. 15 Divl. Sig. Co.
No. 19 Combd. Fd. Amb.
Nasriyah.
H.Q. XVth Div.
12th Inf. Bde. { 1-5th R. W. Surrey R.
 { 43rd Inf.
 { 90th Panjabis.
42nd Inf. Bde. { 1-4th Dorset R.
 { 2-5th G. R.
 { 2-6th G. R.
7th M.A. Bde.—
21st and 26th Batts.
1/2nd Kent Batt. R.F.A.
15th Divl. Amtn. Col.
No. 15 Divl. Sig. Co., (less 1 Bde. sec.)
4th Co., S. and M.
2-48th Pioneers.
Det. Vol. Art.—4-15-pdrs. and 1-5" gun.
12th Cav.—less 1½ sqdns. (1 sqdn. for Khamseh).
Wireless—
"C" and "J" Wireless Pack Stns.
Medical Units—
No. 3 Fd. Amb.
" 23 Combd. Fd. Amb.
" 24 " " (detached at Basrah).
" 108 (1 sec. joined, 3 secs. forming at Basrah).
" 83 Ind. Stat. Hpl.





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BASRAH.

Gen. Hd. Qrs.
 Hd. Qrs. L. of C.
 Base Depôts.
 { H. Q. & Bde. Sig. Sec. (at Shaiba).
 { 1-4th Som. L. I.
 41st Inf. Bde. { 6th Jats.
 { 2-103rd Inf. (forming).
 { 2-10th G.R. (at Shaiba).
 2-22nd Punjabis (forming) (for Bushire).
 97th Inf.
 B. & C. Batts. 56th Bde., R. F. A. (for VIIth Div.)
 1-2nd Sx. Batt., R. F. A. (for India).
 1-3rd H. C. Bde., R. F. A.—less 2 Batts.
 1 sqdn. Herts Yeomanry—*en route* to XIIIth Div.
 2 sqdns. 12th Cav.—less 1 Tp. under orders for Nasiriyah.

1401GSB

Patiala Lrs.—(at Birjisiyah).
 "C" Flight No. 30 sqdn., R. F. C.
 Aircraft Park, R. F. C.
 •
 Wireless—
 " C " Tp.—less 2 stns.
 " D " Tp.—less 2 stns.
 G. H. Q. Sig. Co.
 2 cable secs., 2-3rd I. A. C. Sig. Co.
 Sig. Service Park & Depôt.
 18th Fd. Co., S. & M.
 Malerkotla S. & M.—under orders for Nasiriyah.
 Tehri—Garhwal S. & M.
 Medical Units—
 Fd. Amb.—
 No. 24 Combd.—at Shaiba.
 " 137 Ind.

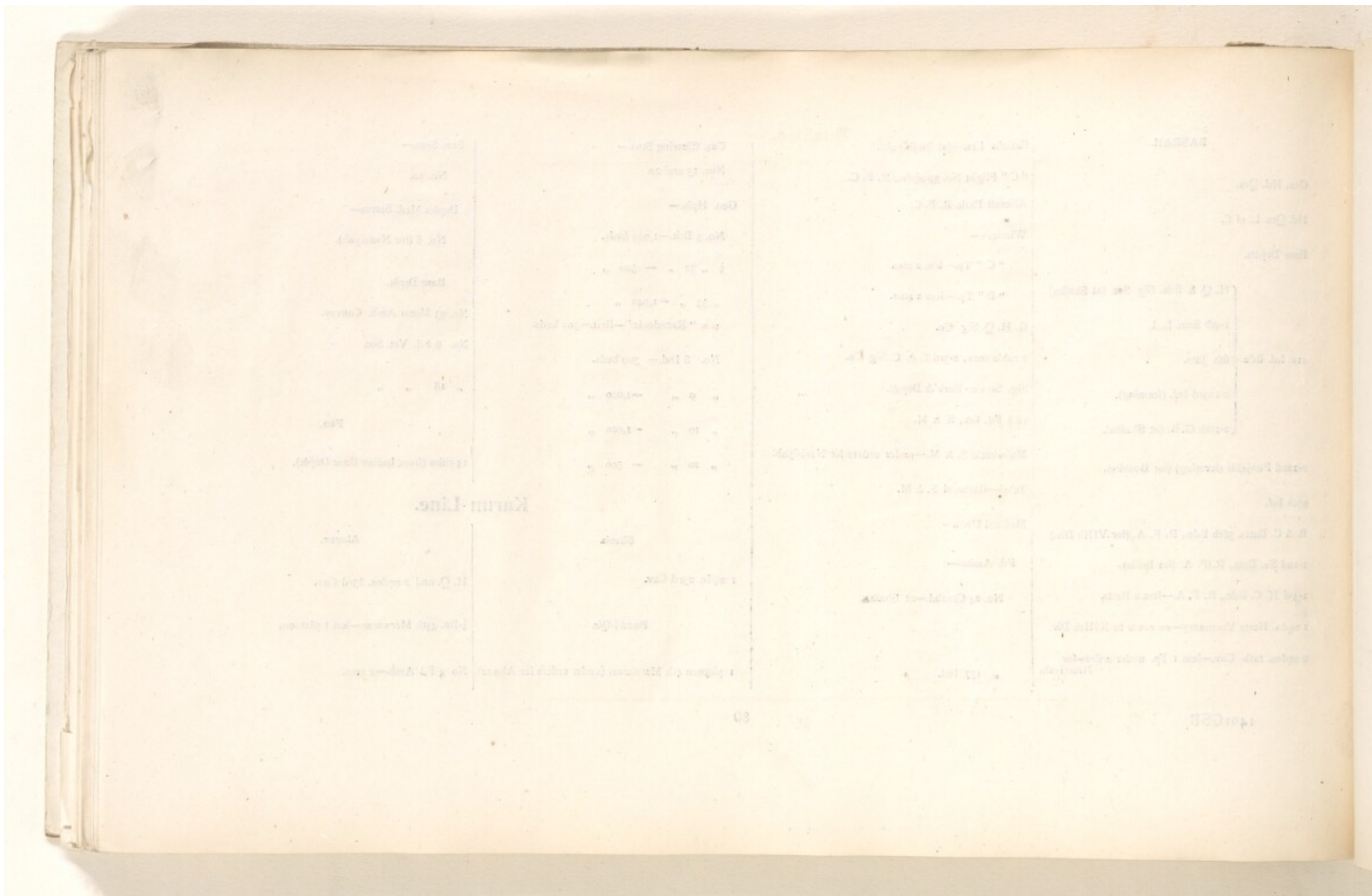
Cas. Clearing Stns.—
 Nos. 15 and 20.
 Gen. Hpls.—
 No. 3 Brit.—1,040 beds.
 ½ " 32 " — 520 "
 " 33 " — 1,040 "
 s. s. " Karadeniz "—Brit.—500 beds.
 No. 8 Ind.— 500 beds.
 " 9 " — 1,000 "
 " 10 " — 1,000 "
 " 20 " — 500 "
 Shush.
 1 sqdn. 23rd Cav.
 Band-i-Qir.
 1 platoon 4th Merwaras. (under orders for Ahwaz).

89

San. Secs.—
 No. 10.
 Depôts Med. Stores—
 No. 8 (for Nasiriyah).
 Base Depôt.
 No. 23 Motor Amb. Convoy.
 No. 6 Fd. Vet. Sec.
 " 18 " "
 Fao.
 14 rifles (from Indian Base Depôt).

Karun Line.

Ahwaz.
 H. Q. and 2 sqdns. 23rd Cav.
 ½-Bn. 44th Merwaras—less 1 platoon.
 No. 4 Fd. Amb.—2 secs.





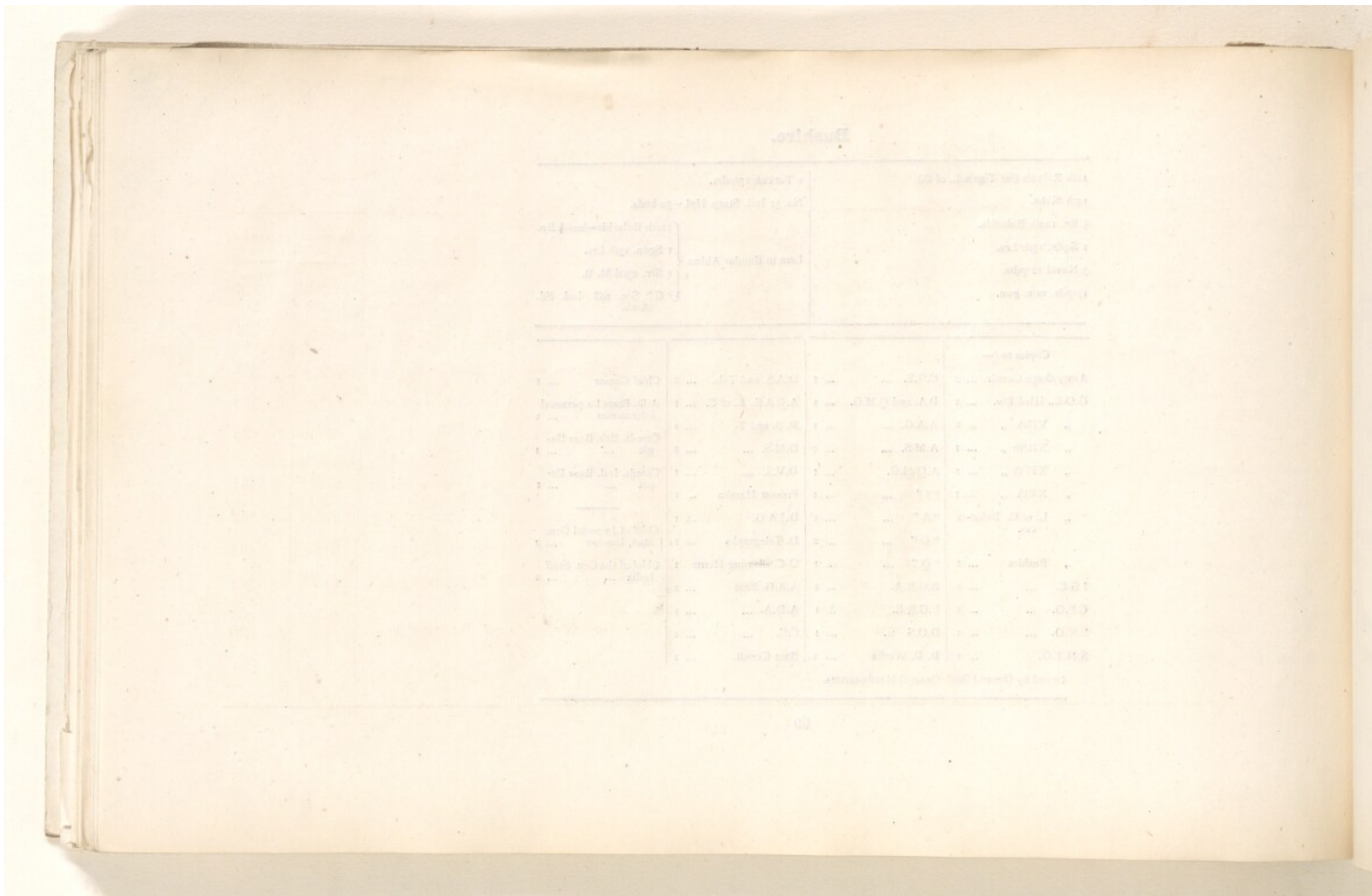
94

Bushire.

11th Rajputs (for Tigris L. of C.)	2 Turkish 15-pdrs.	
14th Sikhs.	No. 51 Ind. Staty. Hpl.—50 beds.	
½ Bn. 124th Baluchis.	Lent to Bundar Abbas {	
1 Sqdn. 15th Lrs.		124th Baluchis—less ½ Bn.
3 Naval 12-pdrs.		1 Sqdn. 15th Lrs.
17-pdr. mtn. gun.		1 Sec. 23rd M. B. "C" Sec. 108 Ind. Fd. Amb.

Copies to :—	
Army Corps Comdr. ... 2	C.G.S. 1 D.A.S. and Tels. ... 2 Chief Censor ... 1
G.O.C., IIrd Div. ... 1	D.A. and Q.M.G. ... 1 A.D.A.S., L. of C. ... 1 A.D. Posts for personal information ... 1
" VIIth " ... 1	A.A.G. 1 D. S. and T. ... 1 Comdt. Brit. Base Dep't ... 1
" XIIIth " ... 1	A.M.S. 2 D.M.S. 1 Comdt. Ind. Base Dep't ... 1
" XIVth " ... 1	A.Q.M.G. 1 D.V.S. 1 Provost Marsha ... 1
" XVth " ... 1	" I " 1 D.J.A.G. 1 D. Telegraphs ... 1
" L. of C. Defences. ... 1	" A " 1 O C. Clearing House ... 1 Chief of Imperial Gen. Staff, London ... 2
" Bushire ... 1	" O " 2 A.A.G. Base ... 2 Chief of the Gen. Staff India ... 2
I.G.C. 1	B.G.R.A. 1 A.D.A. 1 C.C. 1
C.P.O. 1	B.G.R.E. 1 D.O.S. 1 Base Comdt. ... 1
S.N.O. 1	D. D. Works ... 1
S.M.T.O. 1	

Issued by General Staff, General Headquarters.





(95)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
26-6-16 ...	A report giving changes in the distributions of troops, was received from the G. O. C., Force "D" ...	61762	375
	The G. O. C., Force "D", intimated that surveyors were required for Divisions, who had no surveyors left, to facilitate topographical work and relieve other officers.	61764	376
	The G. O. C., Force "D", repeated part of a telegram reporting the recent arrival of Turkish troops at Baghdad.	61765	377
	The G. O. C., Force "D", stated, that the utility of the three 6-inch howitzers was discounted by the fact that range tables, suitable to the 100 lb. shell were unobtainable.	61779	378
	A report was received from the G. O. C., Force "D", stating there were no Prisoner Arab Artillery Officers or men in Mesopotamia.	61795	379
	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported no change on the Tigris Line. During the night of the 24th and 25th, the enemy kept up a continuous machine gun fire from their Sannaiyat trenches. On the right bank, at night Arab marauders, continued active. Nothing to report from Euphrates line.	61796	380
	The G. O. C., Force "D", was informed that periscopes were on the way out from England, and would be reshipped to Basrah at the earliest opportunity.	61862	381
	The G. O. C., Force "D", was informed that no additional R. A. Officers could be spared, and was asked to consider a suggested readjustment of duties.	61868	382
	The G. O. C., Force "D", enquired if the four steel Henri Farman and first three Martinsyde Beardmore Aeroplanes had left, and when the second three would leave.	61885	383
	The G. O. C., Force "D", was informed of the questions that were asked from W. O. regarding cold storage in general.	61888	384
	The names of the staff of the Meerut Cav. Bde. were received from the Secy., War Office ...	61899	385
	M. O. I. submitted an appreciation dealing with the probable general Turkish policy in the Baghdad area	...	386



WAR DIARY

Page	Date	Summary of contents
372	16/6/16	A report on the progress of the distribution of troops was received from the G.O.C. Force "D".
373	17/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", in accordance with orders issued for the purpose, has been divided into two columns, one to be sent to the front and the other to remain in the rear.
374	18/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported that a large number of the front column of T. Coy. troops at Baghdad.
375	19/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", stated that the results of the three days' operations are reported by the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
376	20/6/16	A report was received from the G.O.C. Force "D", stating that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
377	21/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
378	22/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
379	23/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
380	24/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
381	25/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
382	26/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
383	27/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
384	28/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
385	29/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.
386	30/6/16	The G.O.C. Force "D", reported an advance on the Tigris river, and the fact that the front column has advanced to the front of the Tigris river.

Page P, N
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96

Telegram P, No. 131-91-O., dated 25th June 1916.

(Despatched 1-45 P.M., received 3-30 A.M., 16th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force " D ", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Continuation my 131-87-O., June 18th, (*Dy. No. 60362*). Changes in distribution of troops are as follows:—

Tigris Corps, 102nd Grenadiers transferred from 35th Infantry Brigade to Lines of Communication, Troops, 1st Company Sappers and Miners from India *en route* to 7th Division.

Amarah, $\frac{1}{2}$ battalion, 3rd Brahmans *en route* to 35th Infantry Brigade.

Basrah, 18th Company, Sappers and Miners from India.

Ali Gharbi, Herts Yeomanry *en route* to 13th Division from Basrah.

Lines of Communication, Ali Gharbi, 3rd Brahmans less $\frac{1}{2}$ battalion under orders for 35th Infantry Brigade.

Addressed India, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2, M.O. 3).

APPENDIX 375.

(Diary No. 61762)

Telegram P., No. 1172-19-29-A., dated 25th June 1916.

(Despatched 3-5 P.M., received 4 A.M., 26th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force " D ", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 61325 of June 23rd. Herewith repetition of my 126-58-I. G. C., June 21st. *Begins.*—Please despatch 6 C. rate or first rate surveyors with equipment early. *Ends.*—

These are not wanted for work under Officer Commanding, Surveys. They would be entirely apart from him: they would be attached to those Divisions who have no Surveys left (?) with their Sappers and Miners Companies. In this way too, topographical work in the vicinity of the front line would be facilitated and officers would be relieved of this duty for which they have not time often.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No. C-73, dated 25th June 1916.

(Despatched 3-5 P.M., received 3-15 A. M., 26th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force " D ", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 61694, June 25th.

Herewith repetition of part of telegram, (*Dy. No. 61693*) asked for. *Begins.*— " Reports received recently point to arrival of new troops at Baghdad between May 25th and June 3rd. These are estimated at 2 regiments of Turks.—*Ends.*"

Working copy to War Section.

APPENDIX 376.

(Diary No. 61764)

APPENDIX 377.

(Diary No. 61765)



97

Telegram P., No. 1037-51-O., dated 25th June 1916.
(Despatched 11-45 P. M., received 2-45 A.M., 26th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Reference C. I. G. S., London, 17883 of 15th June (*Dy. No. 59739*).

There are three 6 inch howitzers Mark I star here, but apart from their limited range and accuracy their utility is somewhat discounted by the fact that range tables which are suitable to the 100 lb. shell with which they are supplied have as yet been unobtainable.

Please refer to my telegrams No. 3214-Ord., dated March 21st No. B. G.-27, dated April 18th (*Dy. No. 49334*), No. 15 (*? 51*) Ord., dated May 15th (*Dy. No. 54235*) and No. 3278-Ord., dated June 18th (*Dy. No. 60316*). If you will despatch range tables and personnel trained to this nature of howitzer the three will be formed into a battery. Only one has been sent to the Tigris front up to the present.

Addressed C. G. S., India, repeated C. I. G. S., London.

Working copy to D.G.O.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. I. G.-3117, dated 25th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-10 P.M., received 12-30 P.M., 26th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 61570 of 24th June.

With the exception of 2 medical service privates of 38th Artillery Regiment, there are no Arab Artillery officers or men in Mesopotamia.

APPENDIX 378
(Diary No. 61779)

Unless I receive further orders from you as to their disposal, I propose to repatriate these 2 men with other medical personnel during next few days.

Working copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 129-475-O., dated 25th June 1916.

(Despatched 10-45 P.M., 25th June received 3-30 P.M., 26th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 380

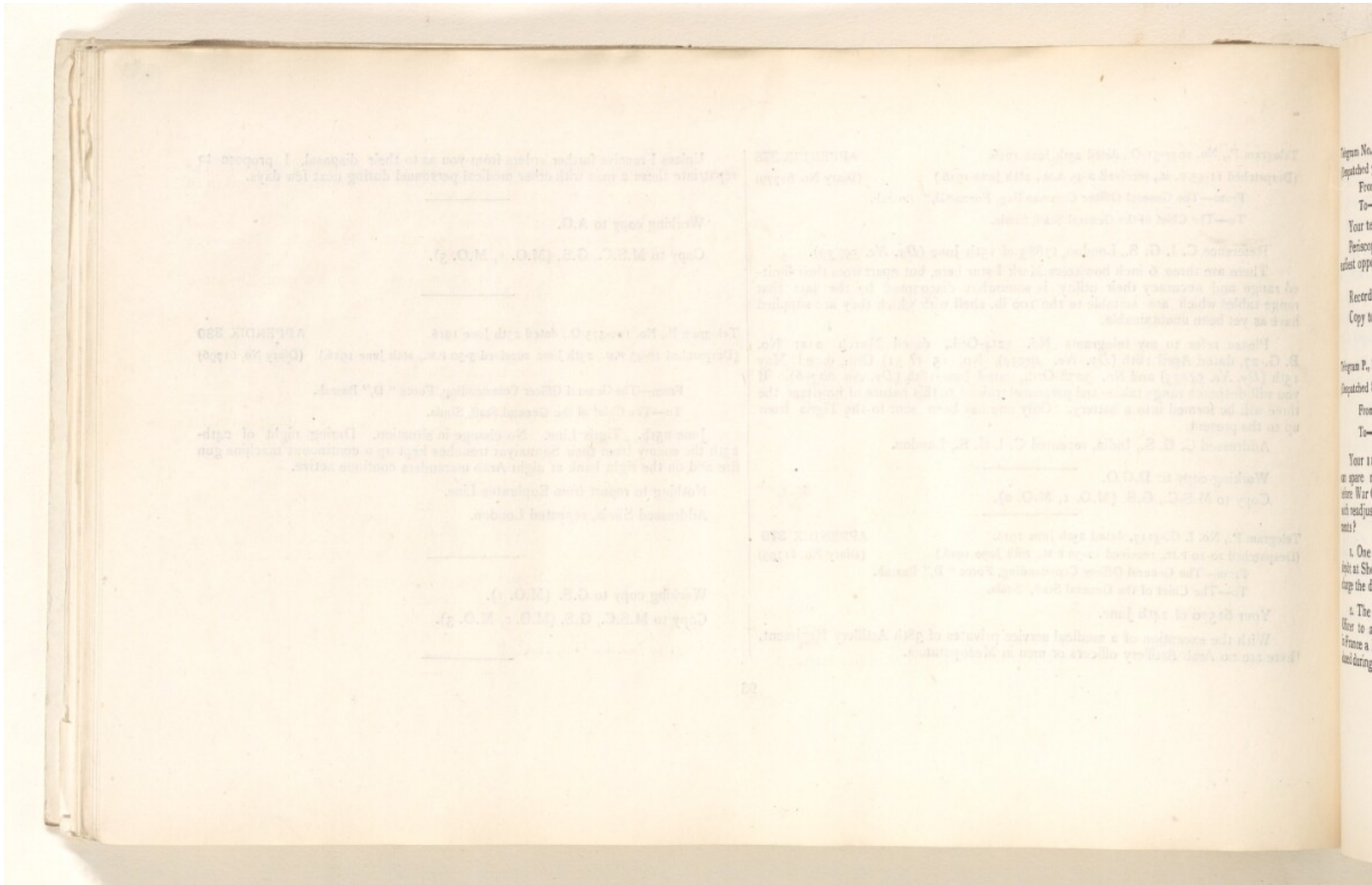
(Diary No. 61796)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 25th. Tigris Line. No change in situation. During night of 24th-25th the enemy from their Sannaiyat trenches kept up a continuous machine gun fire and on the right bank at night Arab marauders continue active.

Nothing to report from Euphrates Line.
Addressed Simla, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2, M.O. 3).



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Telegram No. 61862, dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-15 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
Your telegram 1899-Ord. of 18th June (*Dy. No. 60343*).

Periscopes now on their way out from England : will be re-shipped to Basrah earliest opportunity.

Record copy D.G.O.
Copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 381
(Diary No. 61862)

An Ordnance subordinate, selected to perform R. A. officers duties or one of the apparently liberal number of 4 R. A. Ordnance Officers understood to be serving at the Base depôt, could replace Major Saunders.

It is very necessary that all demands for European Technical personnel should be most carefully scrutinised by you, and that you are satisfied that such demands cannot be avoided by a readjustment of duties.

It will be a matter of great difficulty to replace any European Ordnance personnel now in Mesopotamia who may be invalidated.

Record copy to D.G.O.
Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No. 61868, dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 8 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

Your 1172-19-27-A., dated 23rd June (*Dy. No. 61447*). It is regretted we can spare no additional R. A. Ordnance Officers. Will you please consider before War Office is addressed on the subject by the C.-in-C. whether some such readjustment of duties, as suggested below, will meet your essential requirements?

1. One of your Divisional Ordnance Officers to take charge of the advanced depôt at Sheikh Saad, being a warrant or departmental officer selected to discharge the duties of a D. A. D. O. S. replacing him.

2. The appointment of Major Saunders A. O. D. as Inspecting Ordnance Officer to advise on the matter under reference. He has probably acquired in France a knowledge of all types of ammunition that War Office has introduced during the War. There is no one in India experienced in this matter.

APPENDIX 382
(Diary No. 61868)

Telegram P., No. 5099-F., dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 12 NOON.)

(Received 7-30 P.M., 26th June 1916.)

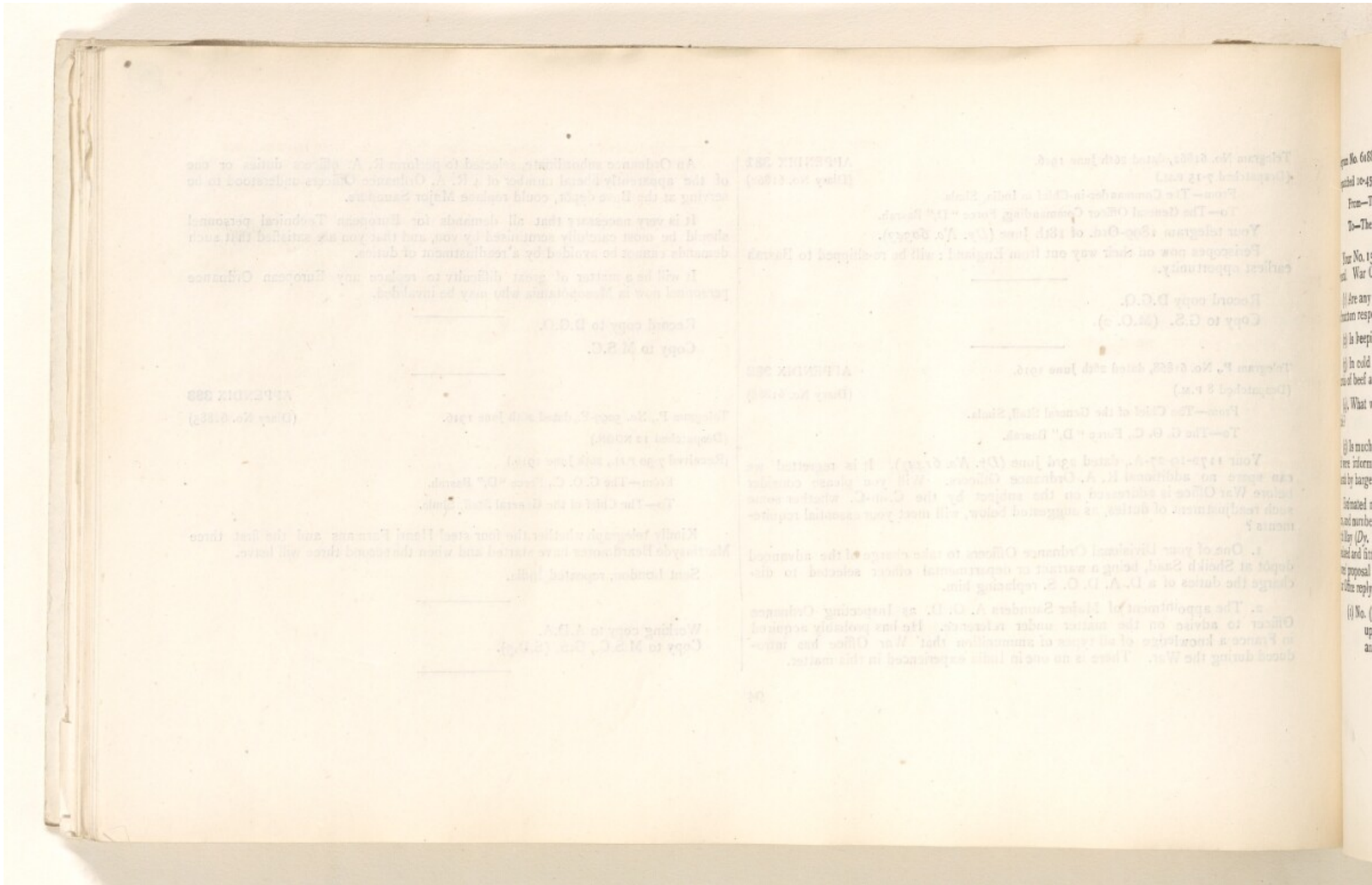
From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Kindly telegraph whether the four steel Henri Farmans and the first three Martinsyde Beardmores have started and when the second three will leave.

Sent London, repeated India.

Working copy to A.D.A.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (S.D.3).

APPENDIX 383
(Diary No. 61885)





99

Telegram No. 61888, dated 26th June 1916.

(Despatched 10-45 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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

Your No. 1540-15-Q., dated 16th May (*Dy. No. 54448*) and cold storage in general. War Office were asked.

- (1) Are any special processes necessary in hot climates for defrosting beef and mutton respectively?
- (2) Is keeping quality of defrosted meat reduced by previous freezing?
- (3) In cold storage chambers what cubic capacity is required per thousand pounds of beef and mutton respectively?
- (4). What weight of frozen meat is carried by smaller vessels engaged in the trade?
- (5) Is much personnel with technical knowledge required to run the business? and were informed that if practicable it was proposed to distribute meat from Basrah by barges fitted with cold storage chambers.

Estimated monthly demand placed at between three hundred and six hundred tons, and numbers of barges required was as given in your No. 1540 14-Q., dated 15th May (*Dy. No. 54249*). Also suggested that barges be sent from England insulated and fitted with refrigerating plant in accordance with Director General Stores' proposal *vide* your No. 1540-14-Q., dated 16th May (*Dy. No. 54448*). War Office reply as follows:—

- (1) No. (2) Yes (3) 50 and 60 cubic feet respectively. (4) 500 tons and upwards. (5) One man with technical knowledge essential to organise and run business.

APPENDIX 384
(Diary No. 61888)

Refrigerator barges cannot be supplied from England for some months since they would have to be built specially.

In view of above please wire if you wish order placed at home for construction of refrigerator barges since it is considered that construction in India will probably be slower and less satisfactory. Since railways will probably be completed by time barges could be built, fitted, and reach you, suggest use of refrigerator cars on the railway or perhaps combination of both refrigerator cars with fewer barges will be best. Please let me have your views and definite requirements as early as possible if you still consider supply of frozen meat necessary and desirable.

Record copy to Q M.G.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O.1).

Telegram P., No. 18312-Cypher-M. S., dated 10th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-40 P.M., received 11-45 P.M.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

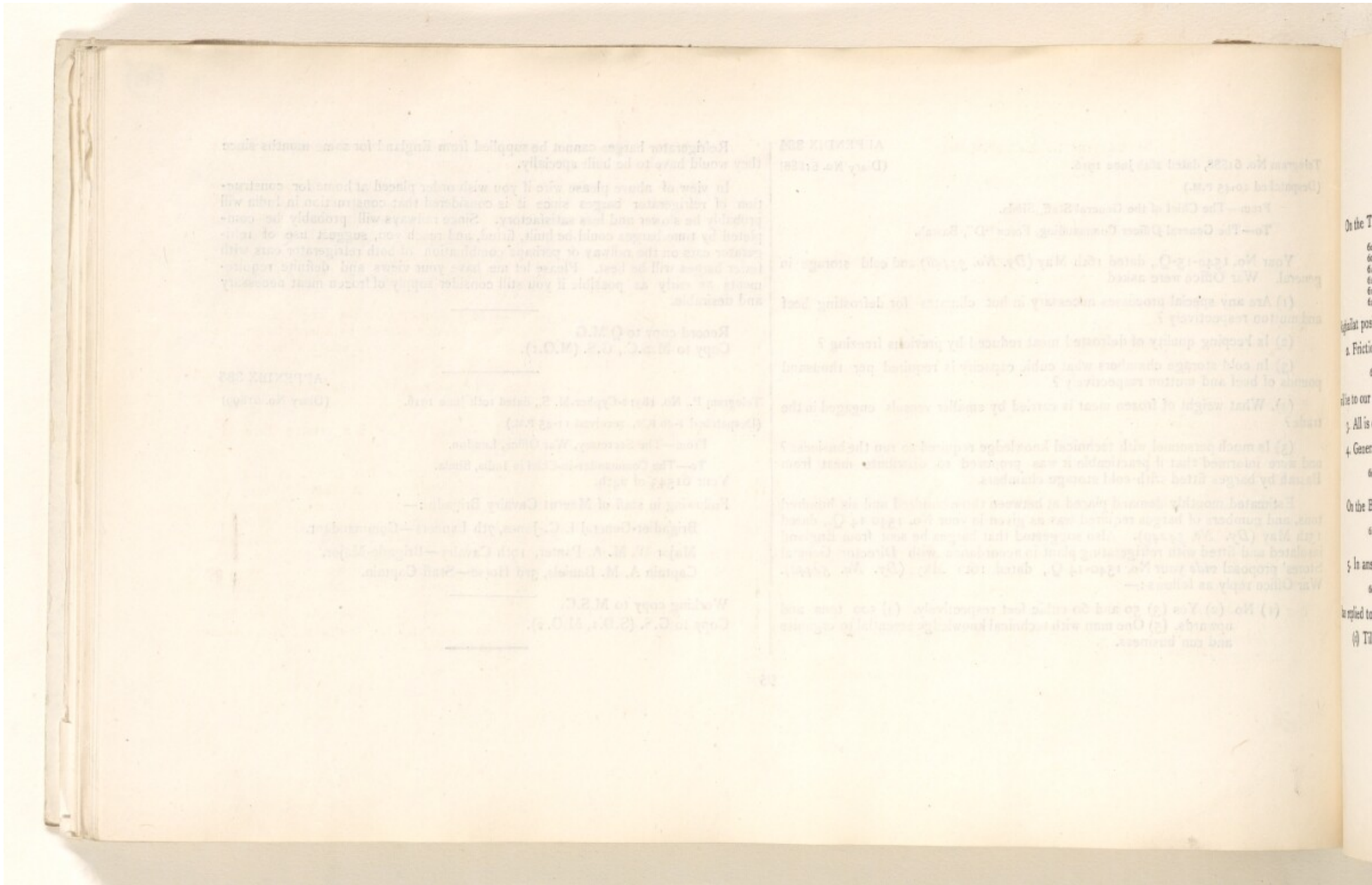
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
Your 61543 of 24th.

Following in staff of Meerut Cavalry Brigade:—

Brigadier-General I. C. Jones, 7th Lancers—Commandant.
Major W. M. A. Panter, 10th Cavalry—Brigade-Major.
Captain A. M. Baniels, 3rd Horse—Staff Captain.

Working copy to M.S.C.
Copy to G.S. (S.D.1, M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 385
(Diary No. 61899)





SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

26th June 1916.

On the Tigris front the general situation is unchanged. General Lake reports indications of the construction by the Turks of a line of trenches running roughly northwards from Kut. This new line may be intended for occupation by the Turkish troops now in the Sannaiyat and Naghailat positions, if compelled by us to fall back.

60575-
60799.
61041.
61180.
61474.
61093.

2. Friction is said to be arising between certain tribes on the Shatt-al-Hai north of Nasiriyah. All these tribes are hostile to us and any friction between them will be to our advantage.

61678.

3. All is quiet in Arabistan and at Bushire.

4. General Lake reports that the light railway between Shaikh Saad and Es Sinn will probably be completed by the 7th July.

60576.

On the Basrah-Nasiriyah railway the laying of rails has been started between Magill (Basrah) and Zubair.

61280.

5. In answer to the query by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff as to whether he thinks a Turkish attack in force upon Nasiriyah is possible, General Lake has replied to the following effect:—

60775.

(i) Till the end of July, at least, the floods all round Nasiriyah practically prevent an attack.

(ii) After that date an advance on Nasiriyah is possible, either *viâ* the Hai or the Euphrates or both combined.

(iii) Navigation restrictions by either route after July are such that, without great organization of which he would receive information, General Lake does not consider it possible for a force larger than 2 divisions on both routes combined to advance on Nasiriyah.

(iv) Unless the Turks at Kut are strongly reinforced, General Goringe should be able to dominate the communications of a hostile advance down the Hai.

(v) It will be necessary to withdraw a division from the Tigris Corps if a Turkish advance *viâ* the Euphrates is made by a force larger than can be dealt with by the 1st Division, when reinforced by the reserve troops from Basrah.

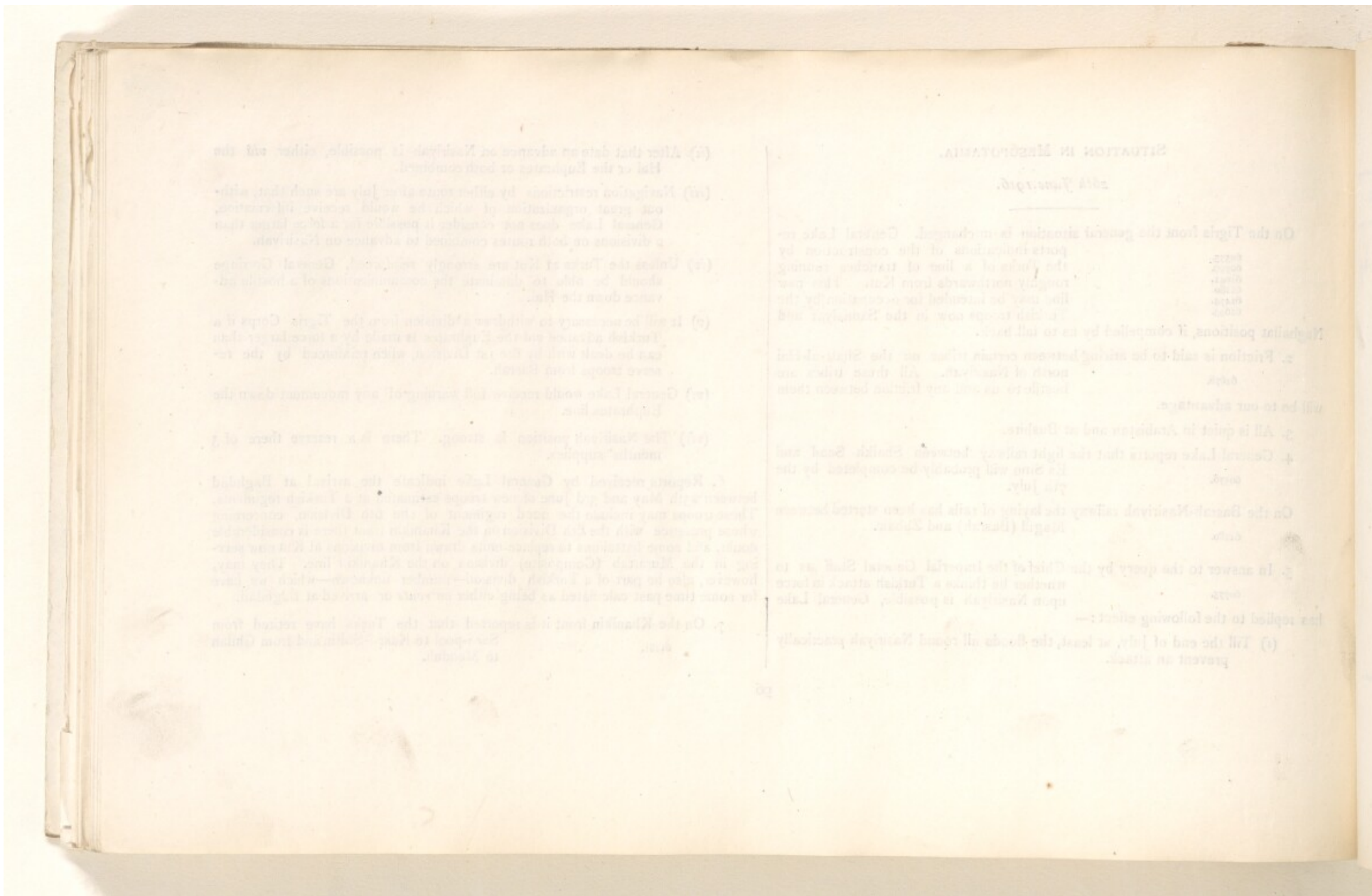
(vi) General Lake would receive full warning of any movement down the Euphrates line.

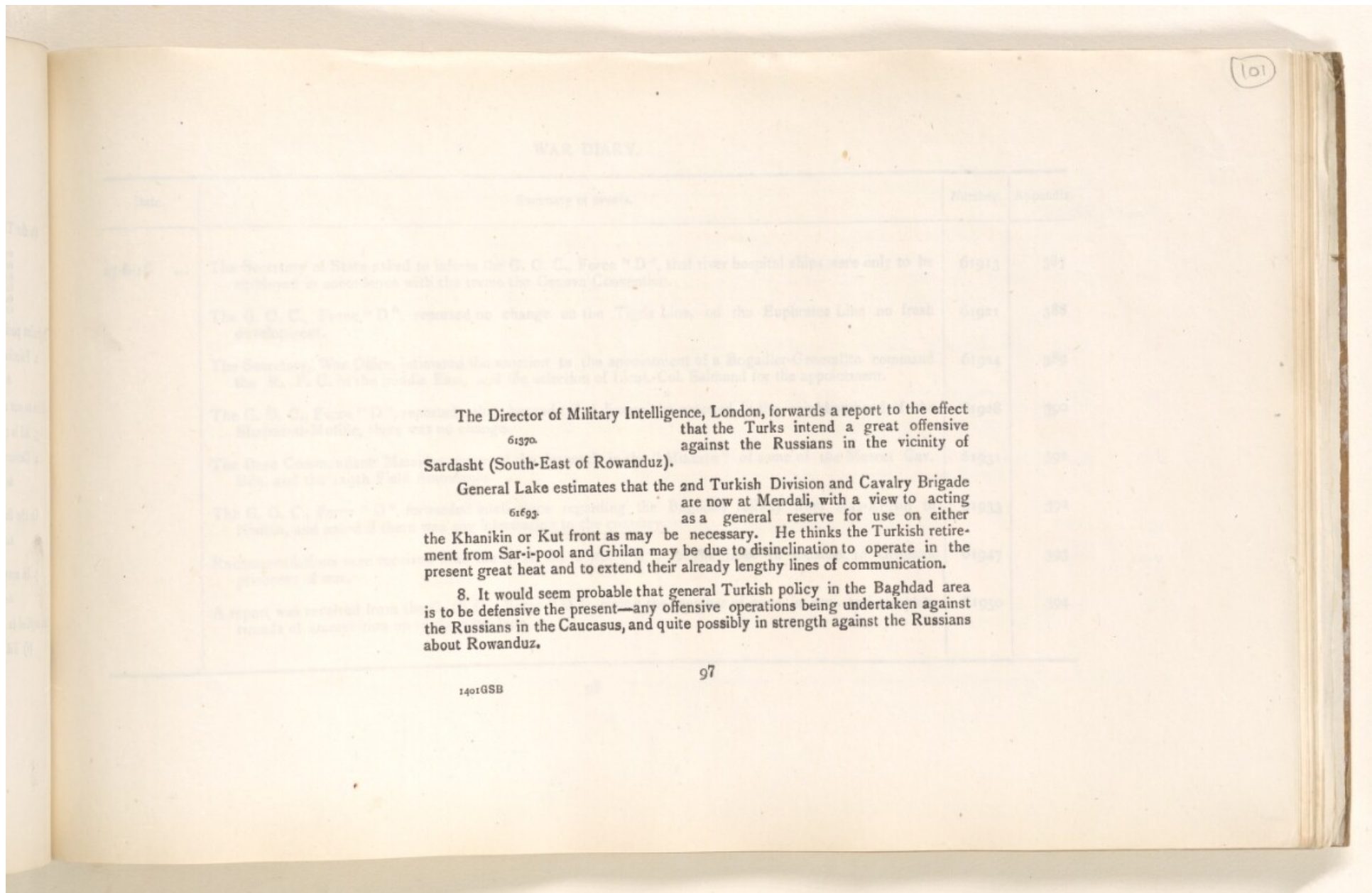
(vii) The Nasiriyah position is strong. There is a reserve there of 3 months' supplies.

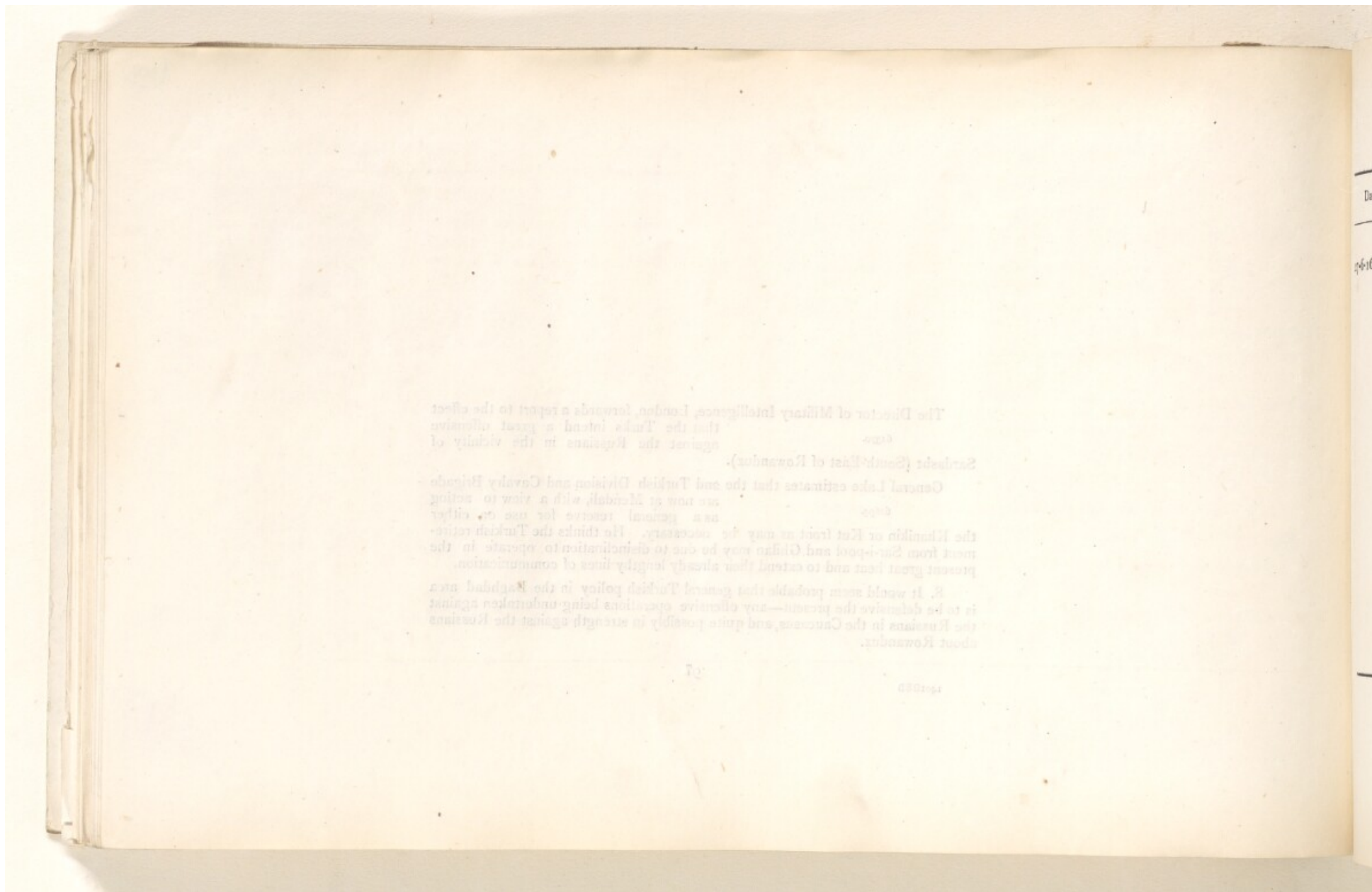
6. Reports received by General Lake indicate the arrival at Baghdad between 25th May and 3rd June of new troops estimated at 2 Turkish regiments. These troops may include the 22nd regiment of the 6th Division, concerning whose presence with the 6th Division on the Khanikin front there is considerable doubt, and some battalions to replace units drawn from divisions at Kut now serving in the Murattab (Composite) division on the Khanikin line. They may, however, also be part of a Turkish division—number unknown—which we have for some time past calculated as being either *en route* or arrived at Baghdad.

7. On the Khanikin front it is reported that the Turks have retired from Sar-i-pool to Kasr-i-Shirin and from Ghilan to Mendali.

61161.









(102)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
27-6-16 ...	The Secretary of State asked to inform the G. O. C., Force "D", that river hospital ships were only to be employed in accordance with the terms the Geneva Convention.	61913	387
	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported no change on the Tigris Line, on the Euphrates Line no fresh development.	61921	388
	The Secretary, War Office, intimated the sanction to the appointment of a Brigadier-General to command the R. F. C. in the middle East, and the selection of Lieut.-Col. Salmond for the appointment.	61924	389
	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported, that beyond tribal dissensions reported in the neighbourhood of the Shatrat-al-Mutific, there was no change.	61928	390
	The Base Commandant Mareilles, reported the despatch in the "Missate" of some of the Meerut Cav. Bde. and the 119th Field Ambulance.	61931	391
	The G. O. C., Force "D", forwarded intelligence regarding the Baghdad railway from Ras-El-Ain to Nisibin, and asked if there was any information to the contrary.	61933	392
	Recommendations were received from the G. O. C., Force "D", for the issue of tobacco to Ottoman prisoners of war.	61947	393
	A report was received from the G. O. C., Force "D", giving the number of guns in use, and complete rounds of ammunition up to the 25th June.	61950	394



WAR DIARY

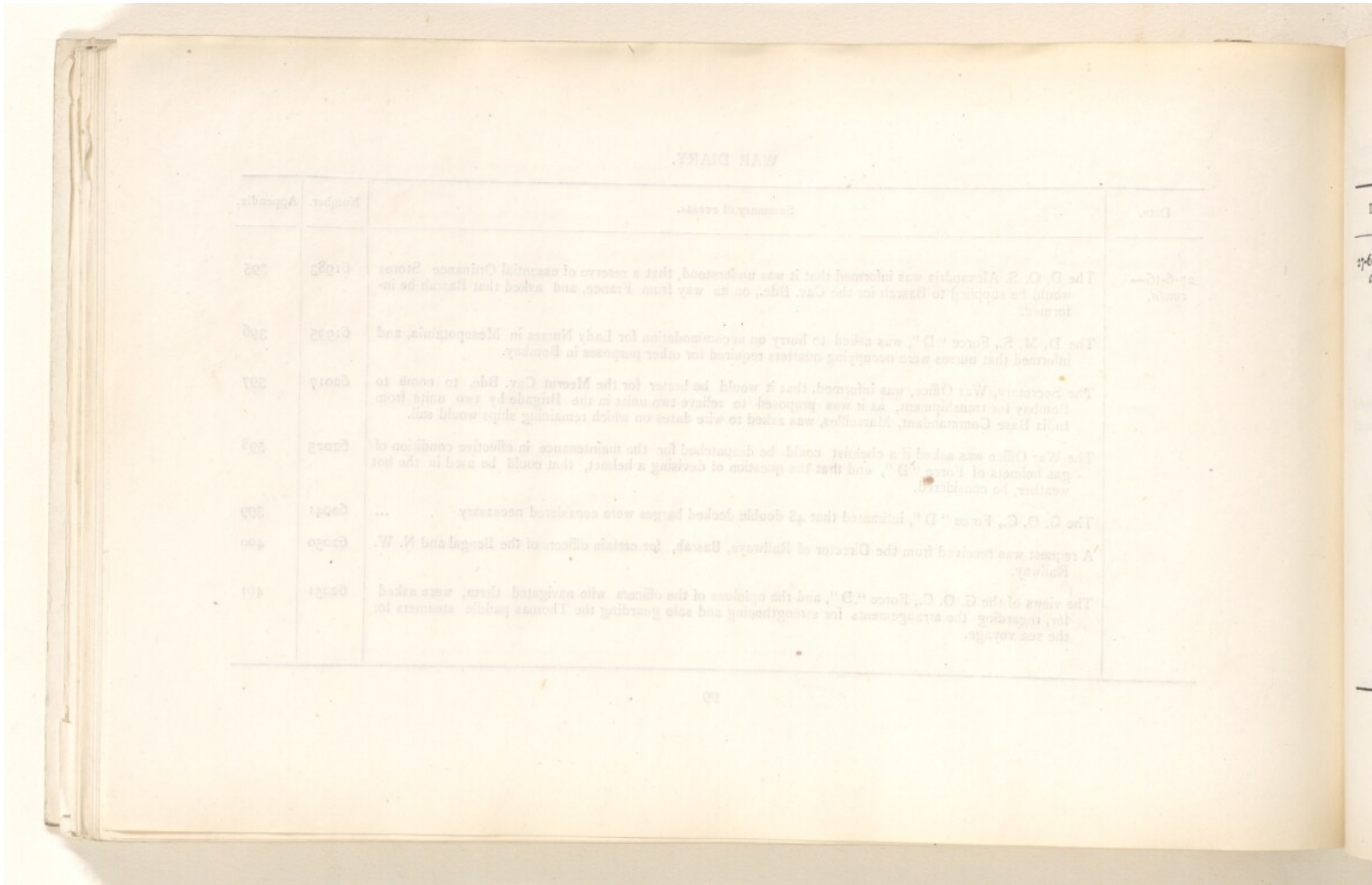
Appendix	Number	Summary of events	Date
387	61913	The Secretary of State asked to inform the G. O. C., Force "D", that five hospital ships were only to be employed in accordance with the terms the Geneva Convention.	27-6-16
388	61914	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported no change on the Tigris line, on the Euphrates line no less development.	
389	61915	The Secretary, War Office, indicated the sanction to the appointment of a Brigadier-General to command the R. F. C. in the Middle East, and the selection of Lieut.-Col. Salmon for the appointment.	
390	61916	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported that beyond tribal dissensions reported in the neighbourhood of the Shahr-al-Madiah there was no change.	
391	61917	The Base Commandant, Madinet, reported the dispatch in the "Mistake" of some of the Masour Cav. Bde, and the 14th Field Ambulance.	
392	61918	The G. O. C., Force "D", forwarded intelligence regarding the Baghdad railway from Ras-el-Ain to Mosul, and asked if there was any information to the contrary.	
393	61919	Recommendations were received from the G. O. C., Force "D", for the issue of tobacco to Ottoman prisoners of war.	
394	61920	A report was received from the G. O. C., Force "D", giving the number of guns in use, and complete rounds of ammunition up to the 15th June.	



103

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events,	Number.	Appendix.
27-6-16— <i>contd.</i>	The D. O. S. Alexandria was informed that it was understood, that a reserve of essential Ordnance Stores would be supplied to Basrah for the Cav. Bde., on its way from France, and asked that Basrah be informed.	61983	395
	The D. M. S., Force "D", was asked to hurry on accommodation for Lady Nurses in Mesopotamia, and informed that nurses were occupying quarters required for other purposes in Bombay.	61995	396
	The Secretary, War Office, was informed, that it would be better for the Meerut Cav. Bde. to come to Bombay for transhipment, as it was proposed to relieve two units in the Brigade by two units from India Base Commandant, Marseilles, was asked to wire dates on which remaining ships would sail.	62017	397
	The War Office was asked if a chemist could be despatched for the maintenance in effective condition of gas helmets of Force "D", and that the question of devising a helmet, that could be used in the hot weather, be considered.	62025	398
	The G. O. C., Force "D", intimated that 48 double decked barges were considered necessary ...	62041	399
	A request was received from the Director of Railways, Basrah, for certain officers of the Bengal and N. W. Railway.	62050	400
	The views of the G. O. C., Force "D", and the opinions of the officers who navigated them, were asked for, regarding the arrangements for strengthening and safe guarding the Thomas paddle steamers for the sea voyage.	62051	401





104

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
27-6-16— <i>concl'd.</i>	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported that a telegram, from a British officer prisoner of war taken at Kut, had been received "through Red Cross Centra Amsterdam", and suggested that publicity be given to this channel of communication.	62065	402
	The Officer i/c Intelligence Cairo forwarded a report on the Nisibin-Jezireh road	62070	403
	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported the deficiency in skilled mechanics of the R. F. C., and asked for the immediate despatch of experienced personnel.	62073	404
	The G. O. C., Force "D", asked for the urgent despatch of two Sapper and Miners printing presses. He proposed allotting one for the I. G. C. and retaining the other for General, Military Works Busrah.	62084	405



WAR DIARY

Number	Summary of contents	Date
402	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported that a telegram, from a British officer prisoner of war taken at Kail, had been received "through Red Cross Central Administration", and suggested that publicity be given to this channel of communication.	27-6-16
403	The Officer in Charge Intelligence Cairo forwarded a report on the Heliopolis-Jarrah road.	
404	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported the delay in skilled mechanics of the R. F. C., and asked for the immediate dispatch of experienced personnel.	
405	The G. O. C., Force "D", asked for the urgent despatch of two Sapper and Miner working parties. He proposed attaching one to the I. G. C. and retaining the other for General Military Works Depot.	



105

Telegram No. 8719-Q.M.G.-2, dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 6 P.M., received 8-30 A.M., 27th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Inform General Officer Commanding, Basrah, he must distinctly understand that river hospital ships to be employed only for conveyance in accordance with terms of Geneva Convention.

Working copy to D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No. 129-476-O., dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 6-30 A.M., 27th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

26th June Tigris Line. Situation unchanged.

Euphrates Line. No fresh developments.

Addressed India, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. and P., G.S. (M.O. 3, M.O. 2).

1401GSE

APPENDIX 387
(Diary No. 61913)

Telegram P., No. 18315-Cipher-D.S.D., dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 3-40 P.M., received 2-15 A.M., 27th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Appointment of a Brigadier-General to Command Royal Flying Corps in Middle East at present, including Mesopotamia, Salonica, East Africa, and Egypt, has been sanctioned.

The selection for this appointment is Lieutenant-Colonel Salmond, and Lieutenant-Colonel Newall is being sent to replace him. The details of the Staff will be communicated shortly.

Colonel Salmond should inspect and report upon No. 30 Squadron in Mesopotamia, as soon as he can be spared from Egypt.

Addressed Egypt; repeated Basrah, India and Nairobi.

Working copy to M.S.C.

Copy to A.D.A., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2, S.D. 3).

APPENDIX 388
(Diary No. 61921)

Telegram P., No. I.G.-3125, dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 11-30 P.M., received 6-30 A.M., 27th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Euphrates Line, Intelligence. Beyond some inter-tribal dissensions reported in neighbourhood of Shatrat-al-Muntafik there is no change. Ibn Rasid is at Chabda still.

Addressed India; repeated London.

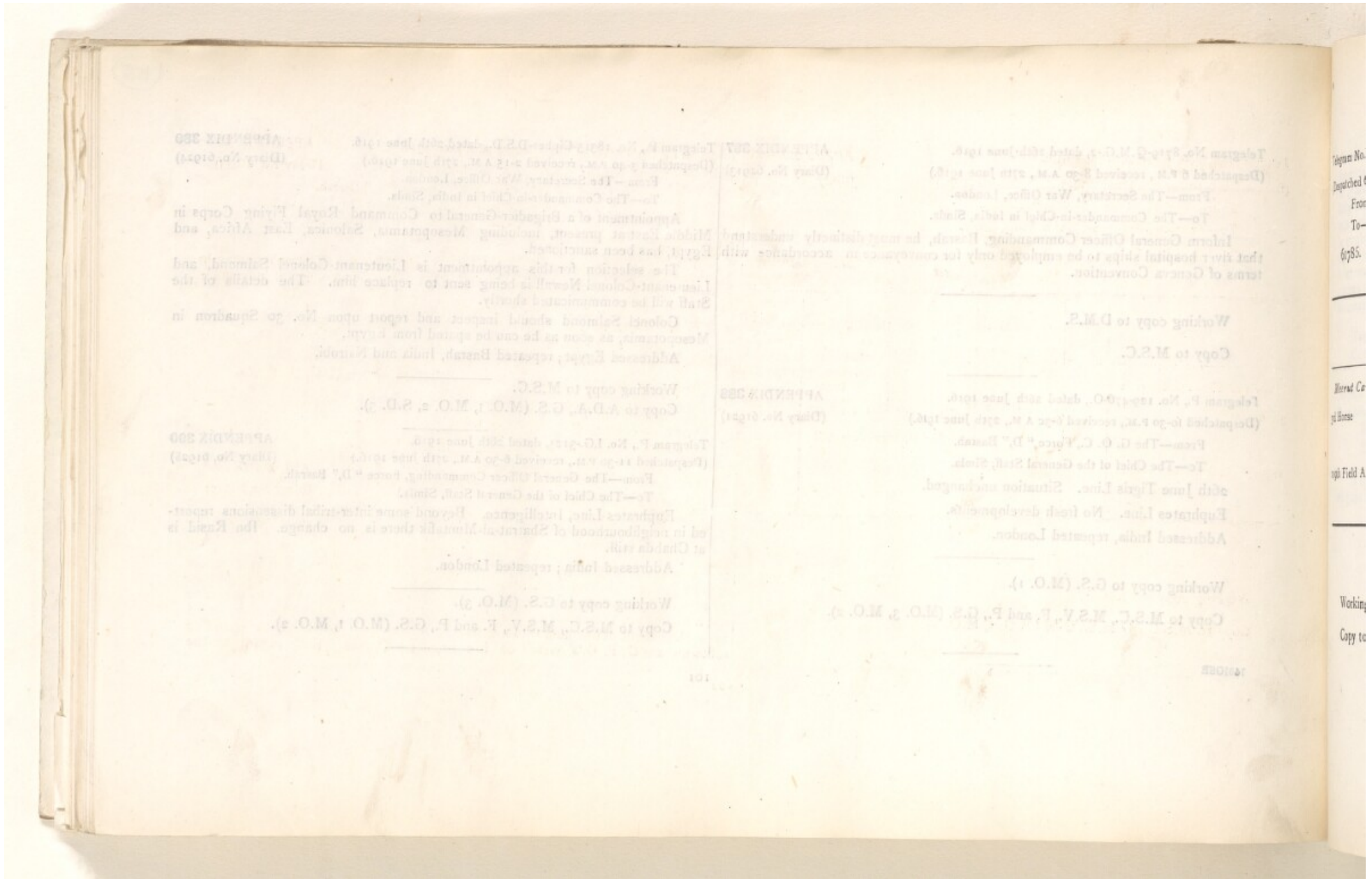
Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

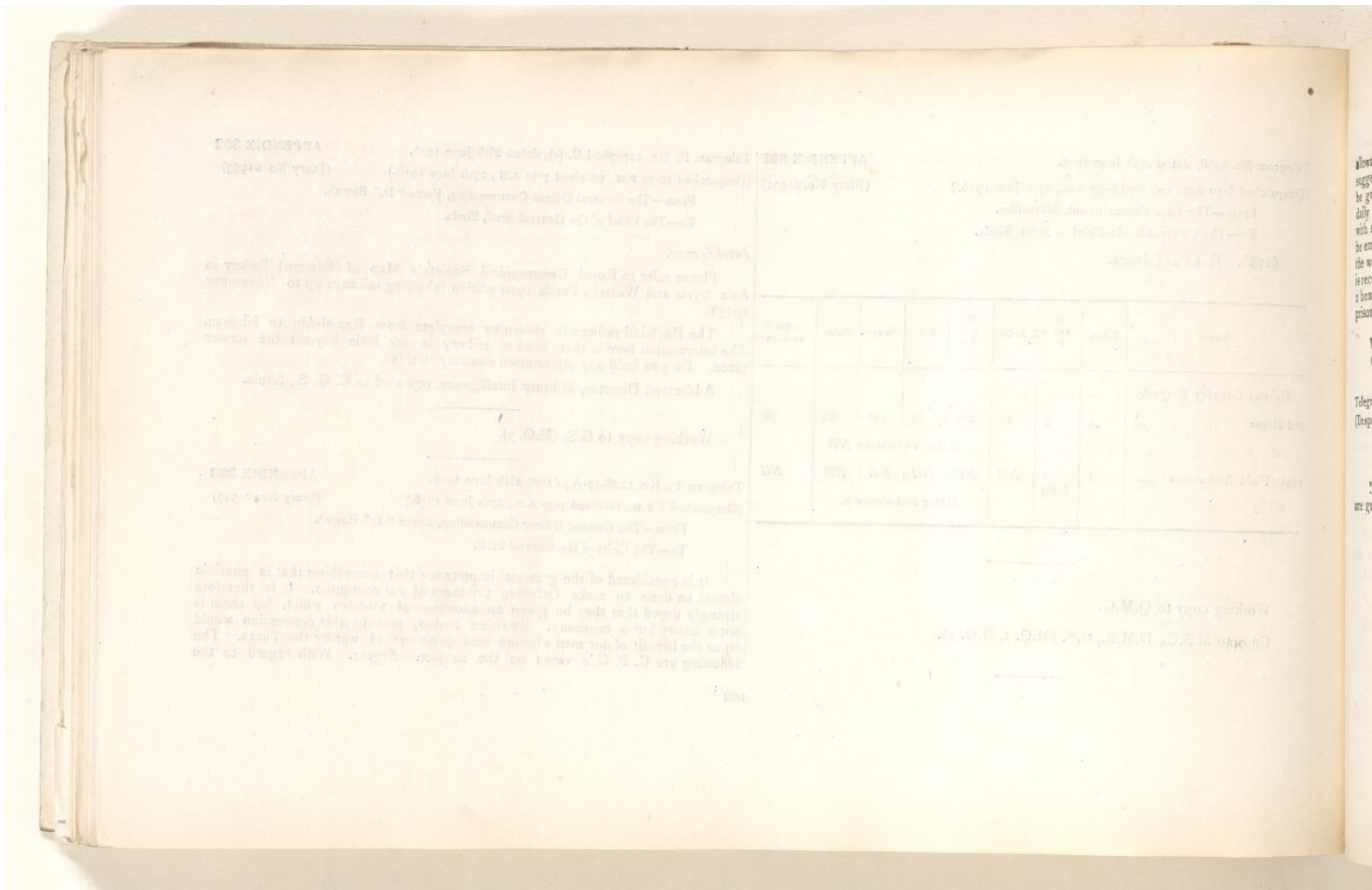
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. and P., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 389
(Diary No. 61924)

APPENDIX 390
(Diary No. 61928)

101







allowance of tobacco it is part of our sepoy's rations on field service. It is suggested that we should telegraph to India and ask that both Arabs and Turks be granted this allowance and add that we are already giving them a small daily tobacco ration. The desirability of treating of all Turkish prisoners of war with such reasonable (?) liberality as is likely to earn their goodwill should also be emphasised, as many of them may desire to settle down here at the end of the war where they would be a valuable addition to the population.—*Ends*. It is recommended that the weekly allowance of 2 ozs. of tobacco or 40 cigarettes 2 boxes of matches now issued to Indian Troops be sanctioned for all Turkish prisoners of war in this country.

Working copy to Q.M.G.
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., D.M.S., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 3287-Ord., dated 26th June 1916.
(Despatched 7 P.M., received 8 A.M., 27th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

In continuation of 3280-Ord. of 19th June (*Dy No. 6065*). Following are guns in use in Mesopotamia:—

24	...	...	10-pr. guns,
4	...	...	13 " "
10	...	...	15 " B. L. gun.
(12)?	...	...	15 " B. L. C. gun.
14	...	...	18 " gun.
8	...	...	60 " gun.
2	...	...	4" gun.

103

(12)	...	...	4.5" Howitzers.
(24)?	...	..	5" "
1	...	...	6" "
(2)?	...	...	12-pr. anti-aircraft gun.

Following are complete rounds of ammunition up to 25th June:—

31277	...	...	10-pr. Shrapnel.
2888	...	...	" Common.
9561	...	...	13-pr. Shrapnel.
1894	...	...	" H. E.
4067	...	...	15-pr. B. L. Shrapnel.
21576	...	...	15-pr. B. L. C. Shrapnel.
1129 (51)?	...	..	18-pr. Shrapnel.
312 (99)?	...	...	" H. E.
1168	...	...	60-pr. Shrapnel.
2899	...	...	" H. E.
? (2) 859	...	...	4" gun Shrapnel.
1302	...	...	" Lyddite.
3238	...	...	4.5" Howitzer Shrapnel.
11568	...	...	" " H. E.
5194	...	...	5" " Shrapnel.
21623	...	...	5" " H. E.
2622	...	...	6" " H. E.
1396	...	...	12-pr. anti aircraft Shrapnel.
Nil	...	...	" " H. E.

107



108

Last ship from Egypt unloaded, "Prearial". (1500) ? Pom-pom shrapnel returned to Navy.

Addressed Secretary, War Office, repeated Egypt and India.

Working copy to D.G.O.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 61983, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 5 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
To—The Director of Ordnance Services, Base, Alexandria.
From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

I have been informed by Secretary, War Office, in his telegram 18151-Q. M.G.-9, dated 21st instant (Dy. No. 61038) that you will supply a reserve of essential Ordnance stores to Basrah for the Cavalry Brigade now journeying to Mesopotamia from France.

Strength of Brigade as follows: One battery R. H. A. and Ammunition Column, 2 Indian Cavalry 1 British Cavalry regts. Cavalry Field Ambulance, Mobile Veterinary sections, machine gun squadron 2 field troops and Signal troop. Each regiment has 2 Hotchkiss guns per squadron.

Kindly inform me and Force "D" what stores are being sent by you. India is supplying all tentage.

Addressed Director of Ordnance Services Base Alexandria repeated Basrah.

Record copy to D.G.O.

APPENDIX 395.
(Diary No. 61583)

Telegram No. 61995, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 5 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The D. M. S., Force "D", Basrah.

Your Mo. N.-1-245 of 5th June (Dy. No. 57936), please expedite provision of accommodation for Lady Nurses in Mesopotamia. Ninety-six nurses now occupying quarters required urgently for other purposes. Moreover it is inadvisable to keep these ladies in Bombay without work to occupy them.

Record copy to D.M.S.

Copy to D.G.M.W.

Telegram P., No. 62017, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-30 P.M.)

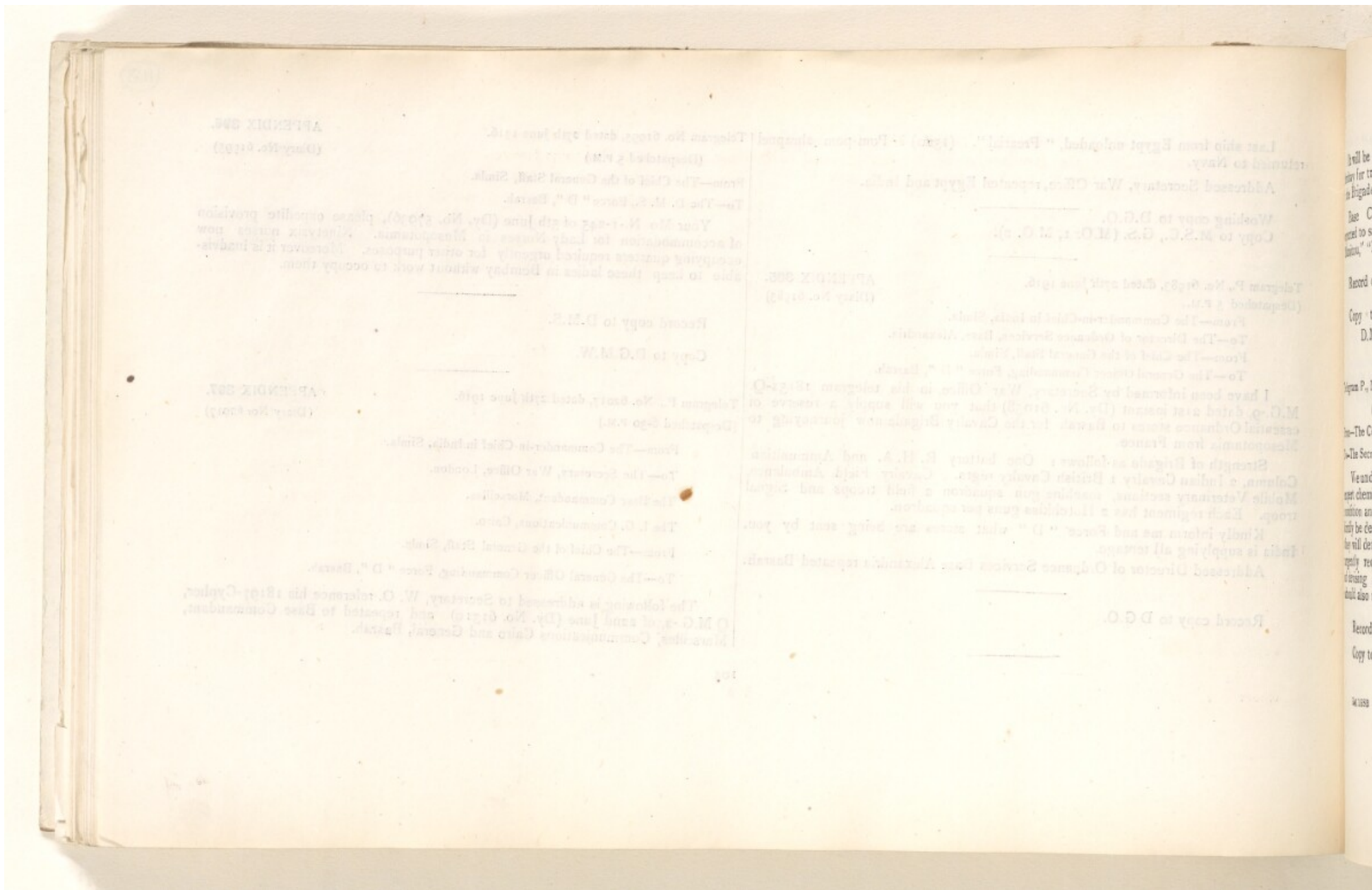
From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
To—The Secretary, War Office, London.
The Base Commandant, Marseilles.
The I. G. Communications, Cairo.
From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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

The following is addressed to Secretary, W. O. reference his 18197-Cypher, Q M.G.-2, of 22nd June (Dy. No. 61319) and repeated to Base Commandant, Marseilles, Communications Cairo and General, Basrah.

APPENDIX 396.
(Diary No. 61595)

APPENDIX 397.
(Diary No. 62017)





109

It will be best for the whole of the Meerut Cavalry Brigade to come to Bombay for transhipment because it is proposed to relieve 3rd and 30th Horse in the Brigade by two units from India.

Base Commandant Marseilles will please wire dates remaining ships expected to sail and Communications Cairo will please wire dates "Laomedan," "Manitou," "Missouri," "Kalyan" and "Georgain" leave Suez for Bombay.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.G., D.G.O., D.G.M.W., A.D. (Marine).
D.M.S., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 62025, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 8 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.
To—The Secretary, War Office, London.

We understand that attached to the Headquarters in France there is an expert chemist, who is responsible that gas hemlets are maintained in effective condition and for training troops in their use. Could a chemist for Force "D" kindly be despatched at an early date by you. If masks are not properly treated they will deteriorate rapidly; and for their preservation the following items urgently required; sprayers, spraying mixture and chalk. The question of devising a hemlet that could be used in the hot weather in Mesopotamia should also receive consideration.

Record copy to D.M.S.

Copy to M.S.C.

14:1G5B

Telegram No. 1501-16-Q, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 11-25 A.M., received 6-45 P.M.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 16942 of 19th June ('y. No. 60691). Forty-five double decked barges are considered necessary.

Working copy to Q M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 398.
(Diary No. 62025)

Telegram No. 67-A.M., dated 26th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 27th June 1916.)

From—The Director, Railways, Basrah.
To—The Secretary, Railway Board, Simla.

No. 67-A.M. arranging to work from Nasiriyah and at Gubashiyah as well as from Basrah. Have been recommended W. E. Napper and N. F. Addis from Bengal and North-Western Railway. Understand these officers are available at once; could you arrange for them to be posted to me as early as possible? If the above can be arranged will you kindly ask these officers to bring reliable surveying and Engineering subordinates with them.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

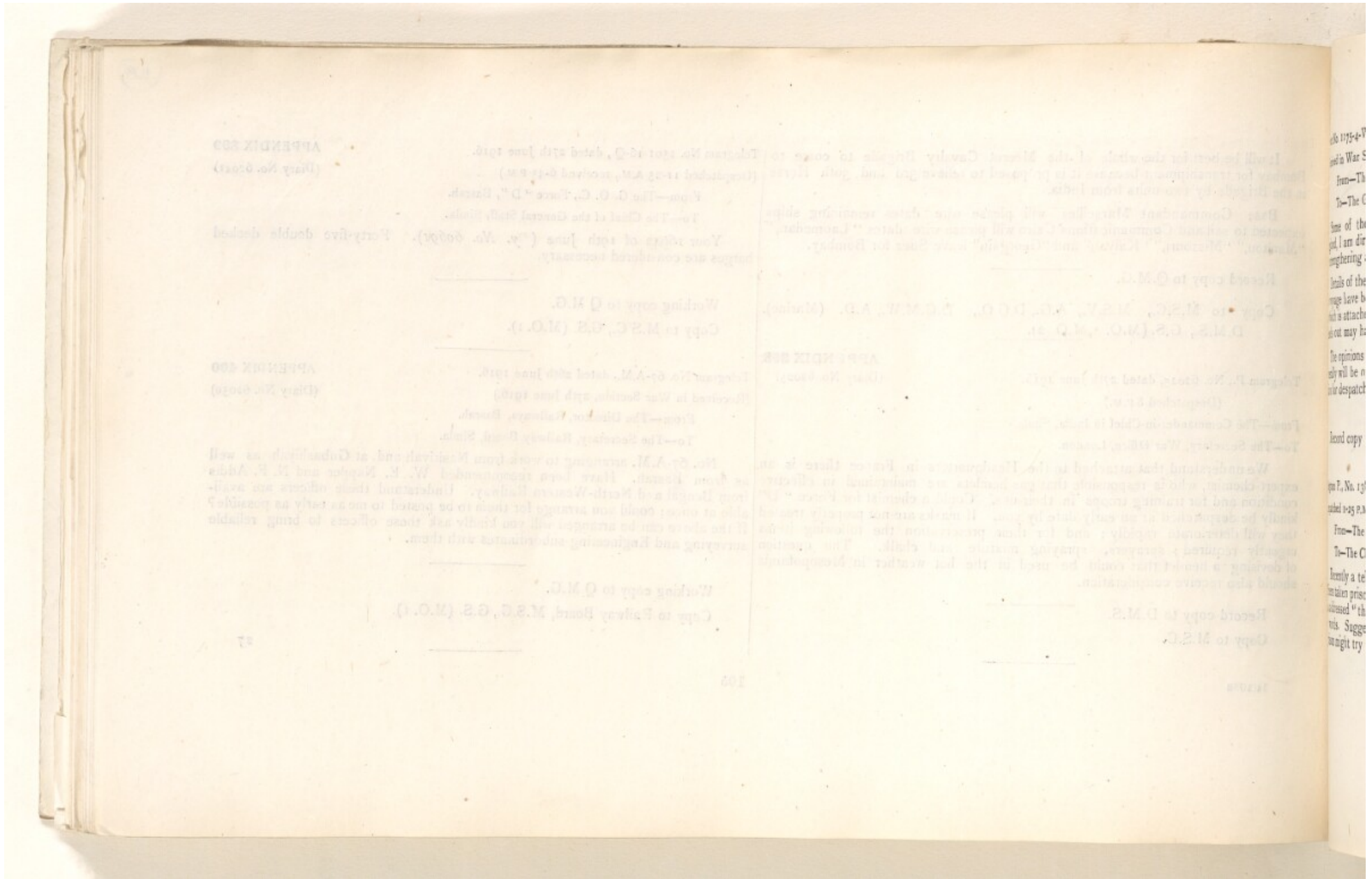
Copy to Railway Board, M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 399
(Diary No. 62041)

APPENDIX 400
(Diary No. 62050)

27

105





Letter No. 1175-4-W.S., dated 27th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 27th June 1916.)

From—The Quartermaster-General in India.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

Some of the Thames Paddle Steamers and P.50 having arrived from England, I am directed to request that you will kindly report on the arrangements for strengthening and otherwise safeguarding these vessels for the sea voyage.

Details of the steps taken by the Admiralty to strengthen the vessels for the sea voyage have been received from the Secretary of State, a copy (*Dy. No. 52056*) of which is attached, however it is possible that the officers who navigated these vessels out may have some suggestions and modifications to offer.

The opinions of the above mentioned officers and your views on the subject generally will be of assistance to us in arranging for the strengthening and preparation for despatch of vessels from this country.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Telegram P., No. 1384-9-A., dated 27th June 1916.

(Despatched 1-25 P.M., received 8-30 P.M.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Recently a telegram has been received in England from one of our British Officers taken prisoner at Kut. Apparently it got through without any trouble and was addressed "through Red Cross Centra Amsterdam". It cost about £ 1 for 30 words. Suggest that any person wishing to wire to anybody of late Kut garrison might try that channel as it appears to be a practicable one. It is

APPENDIX 401.

(Diary No. 62051)

suggested that publicity be given to this channel of communication if not already done.

Addressed C. G. S., Simla; repeated Officer i-c. Intelligence, Cairo and Director, Military Intelligence, London.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., A.G., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 1 G.-765, dated 27th June 1916.

(Despatched 11-15 A.M., received 8 P.M., 27th June 1916.)

From—The Officer i/c. Intelligence, Cairo,

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

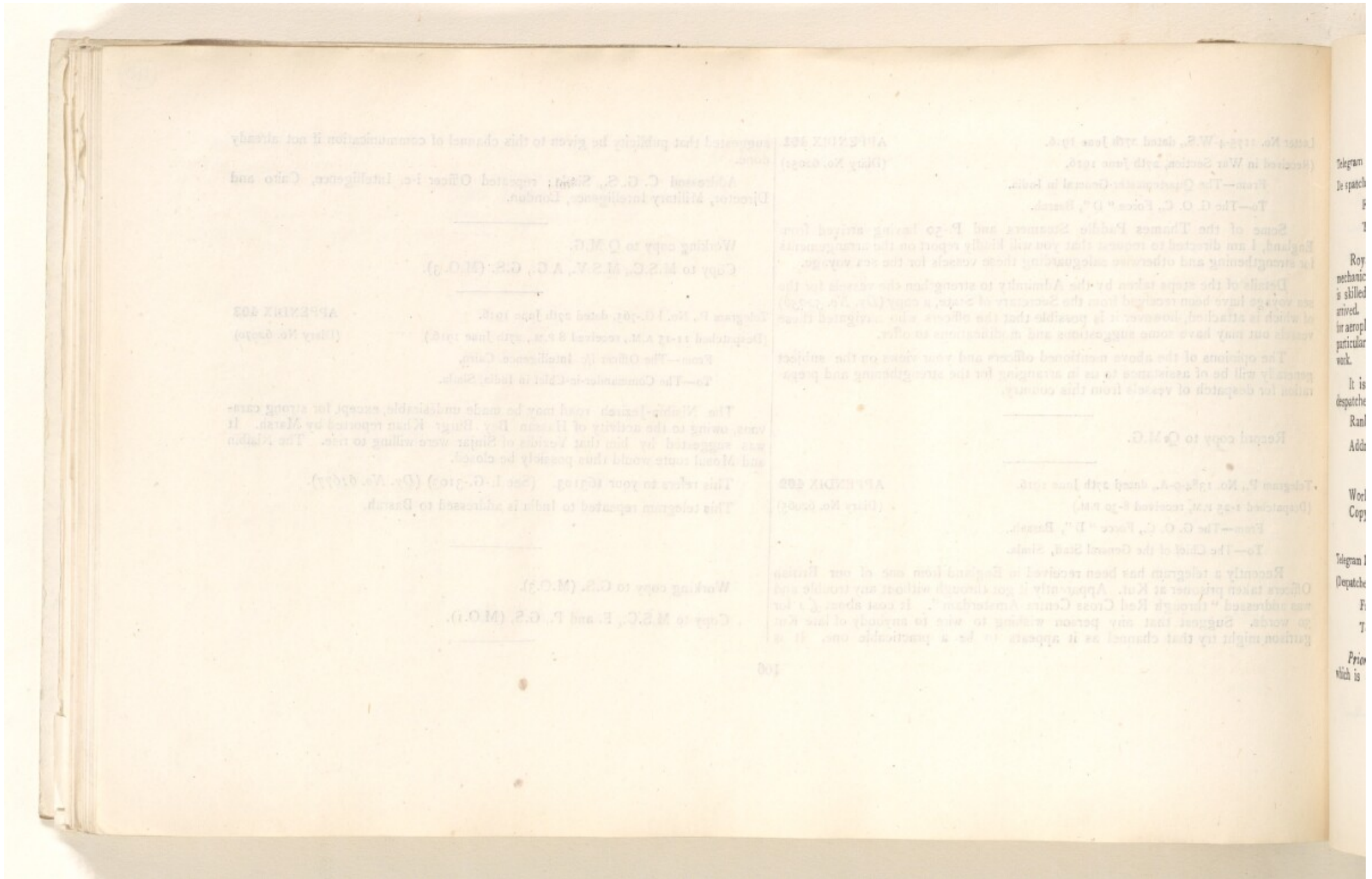
The Nisibin-Jezireh road may be made undesirable, except for strong caravans, owing to the activity of Hassan Bey Burgr Khan reported by Marsh. It was suggested by him that Yezidis of Sinjar were willing to rise. The Nisibin and Mosul route would thus possibly be closed.

This refers to your 163103. (See I.-G.-3103) (*Dy. No. 61677*).

This telegram repeated to India is addressed to Basrah.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., F. and P., G.S. (M.O.1).



Telegram
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It is
despatches
Ran
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Word
Copy
Telegram
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which is



Telegram P., No. 5101-F., dated 26th June 1916.
Despatched 6 P.M., received 8 A.M., 27th June 1916.)
From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Royal Flying Corps here are at present extremely deficient in skilled engine mechanics and repair work is practically at a standstill owing to heavy casualties in skilled personnel and the absence of experienced men in your drafts recently arrived. Urgently request that following be immediately despatched. 9 fitters for aeroplane engine overhaul all with not less than one year's experience of this particular work. Two experienced turners. Five experienced fitters for bench work.

It is hoped that (motor car?) mechanics for Beardmore engines are being despatched with "Martinsydes."

Rank is immaterial; thoroughly skilled men only are required.

Addressed Secretary, War Office; repeated India.

Working copy to D.G.O.
Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram No. 684-17-A., dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 5-5 P.M., received 12-15 A.M., 28th June 1916.)
From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

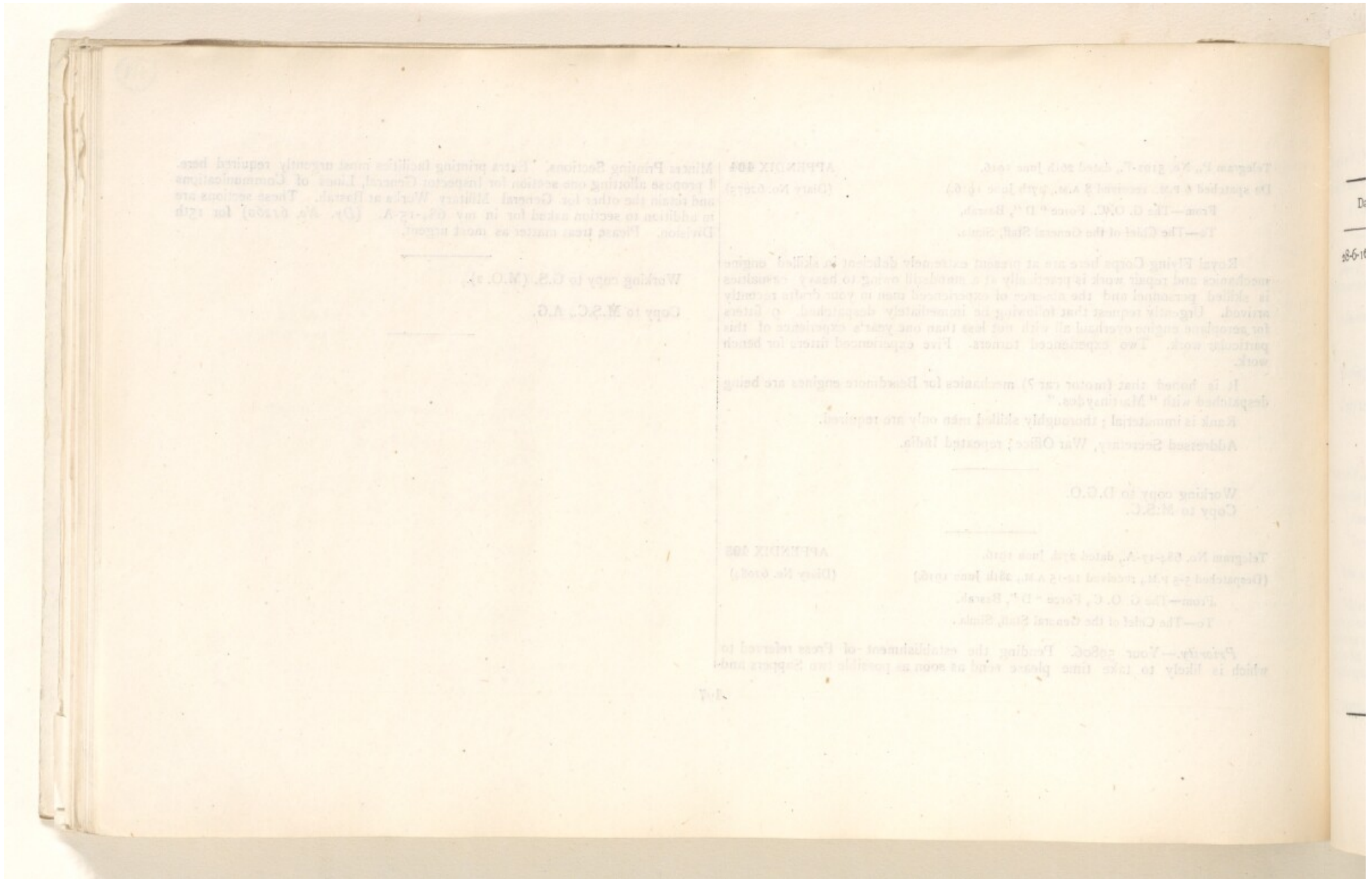
Priority.—Your 59806. Pending the establishment of Press referred to which is likely to take time please send as soon as possible two Sappers and

APPENDIX 404
(Diary No. 62073)

Miners Printing Sections. Extra printing facilities most urgently required here. I propose allotting one section for Inspector General, Lines of Communications and retain the other for General Military Works at Basrah. These sections are in addition to section asked for in my 684-15-A. (Dy. No. 61260) for 15th Division. Please treat matter as most urgent.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., A.G.



111v

Working copy to D.O.
Copy to M.S.C. A.G.

APPENDIX 102

Telegram No. 52-12-A, dated 12th June 1916.
(Reproduced in the Appendix to the War Diary.)
From—The G.O.C. Force "D", Bombay.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, India.

Reference—Your report regarding the establishment of a section which is likely to take time place and as soon as possible the report and

It is noted that (under Art 2) mechanics for Blackburn engines are being despatched with "Machinists". Rank is immaterial; thoroughly skilled men only are required. Addressed Secretary, War Office; request India.

Working copy to D.O.
Copy to M.S.C.

APPENDIX 103

Telegram No. 52-13-A, dated 13th June 1916.
(Reproduced in the Appendix to the War Diary.)
From—The G.O.C. Force "D", Bombay.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, India.

Reference—Your report regarding the establishment of a section which is likely to take time place and as soon as possible the report and



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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
28-6-16 ...	On the Tigris Line the G.O.C., "D," reported no change, and on the Euphrates Line no fresh developments. A report was received from the G.O.C., Force "D," stating, that on trial of Napier Lorries it was revealed, that solid tyres were not suitable for a sandy surface, and cars were too lightly sprung for use across country.	62103 62104	.06 407
	The D. M. I., London, forwarded a report from an agent, from Constantinople, giving certain Turkish commands and dispositions.	62107	408
	A request was received from the I. G. C., Force "D," for 3 horse ships to lessen, as much as possible, the heavy losses, caused by transhipment at the bar of the Meerut Cavalry Brigade coming from France.	62110	409
	A report was transmitted by the G. O.C., Force "D," giving the number of days rations with and in transit to the Tigris Corps on 25th June.	62114	410
	The Secretary of State asked for all details of particulars of all river hospital ships and barges, as they were required by the Turkish Government for identification purposes.	62118	411
	The Naval C.-in-C. was informed of the proposal, by the G.O.C., Force "D," to institute a modified form of examination service at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab. His opinion was asked, if such action was necessary.	62124	412
	The G.O.C., Force "D," reported a change in the original plans of Sir George Buchanan, as the result of his investigations and survey work up the Tigris, and approved of the proposals put forward by him.	62127	413
	The D.M.I., London, transmitted a report from Marsh giving Turkish dispositions on Oghnat Guernik front.	62136	414
	The D.M.I., London, forwarded a report from Marsh regarding report of a rear guard action fought on Mianta Ggilan front, as received from General Baratoff, and giving part composition of the enemy's infantry.	62138	415
	The G.O.C., Force "D," was informed of the names of the staff officers of the Meerut Cavalry Brigade	62240	416
	The G.O.C., Force "D," was informed of the dates of sailing of the "Kalyan", "Georgian" and "Kingstonian."	62264	417
	The G.O.C., Force "D," transmitted a report, from an agent from Damacus giving Turkish dispositions, arrival of British prisoners of War, and Turkish Commands at that place.	62267	418
	The C.-in-C. was informed of the approval to the conversion of the 14th and the 15th Signal companies in Mesopotamia from Indian to establishment of Lahore Divisional Signal Company.	62271	419



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Telegram P., No. 129-477-O., dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-15 P.M., received 5-45 A.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 27th Tigris Line. Situation unchanged. Euphrates Lines. No fresh developments.

Addressed Simla, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. and P., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 545-150-Q., dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-55 P.M., received 5-45 A.M., 28th June 1916)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 17313-Cipher Q.M.G. 3.

Following defects are revealed on trial of the Napiers. Solid tyres not nearly so suitable over sandy surface as pneumatics and too lightly sprung for use across country. It is not known whether Napiers are replacing all Peerless Lorries but would request that provided no serious delay is involved as far as possible springs to be strengthened and pneumatics replace solid tyres.

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APPENDIX 406
(Diary No. 62103)

Addressed Secretary War Office, London, repeated India.

Working copy to D.G.M.W.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 18857-Cipher, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 1-25 P.M., received 2-15 A.M., 28th June 1916)

From—The Director, Military Intelligence, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

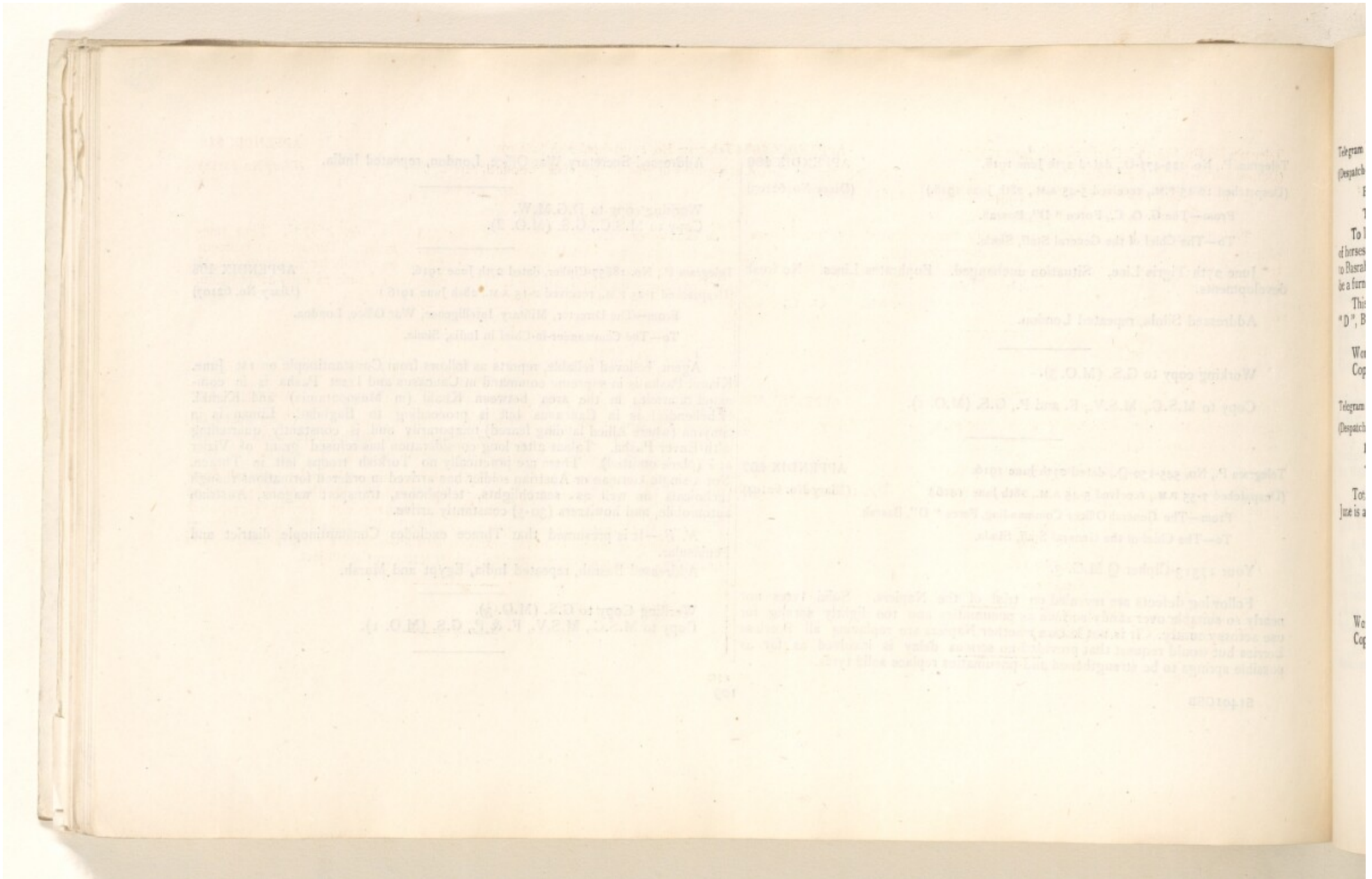
Agent, believed reliable, reports as follows from Constantinople on 1st June. Kiamil Pasha is in supreme command in Caucasus and Izzet Pasha is in command of armies in the area between Khalil (in Mesopotamia) and Kiamil. Schellendorf is in Caucasus but is proceeding to Baghdad. Liman is in Smyrna (where Allied landing feared) temporarily and is constantly quarrelling with Enver Pasha. Talaat after long consideration has refused grant of Vizier at ? (place omitted). There are practically no Turkish troops left in Thrace. Not a single German or Austrian soldier has arrived in ordered formations though technicals as well as searchlights, telephones, transport wagons, Austrian automobile, and howitzers (30-5) constantly arrive.

N. B.—It is presumed that Thrace excludes Constantinople district and Peninsular.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India, Egypt and Marsh.

Working Copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. & P., G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 407
(Diary No. 62104)





Telegram P., No. 818-13-L.C., dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-45 P.M., received 5 A.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The Inspector General, Communications, Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To lessen as much as possible the heavy losses caused by transshipment of horses at the bar at this time of the year three horse ships than can come up to Basrah will be required to be at the bar by July 13th. The horse decks will be a furnace and horses should be transhipped as expeditiously as possible.

This refers to telegram No. 1704-1-Q., of 24th June from G. O. C. Force "D", Basrah (Dy. No. 61605).

Working copy to Q.M.G.
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O.2).

Telegram P., No. 1684-3-Q., dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 0-25 A.M., received 7-30 A.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Total number of days rations with and in transit to Tigris Corps on 25th June is as follows :—

British 10.
Indian 20.
Fodder 11.
Grain 10.

Working copy to (M.O. 1).
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 409
(Diary No. 62110)

Telegram No. 1313, dated 26th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 28th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary of State for India.
To—The Viceroy (Army Department).

Your telegram dated 28th March, H.-2343 (Dy. No. 46070). Your telegram, dated 10th April, H.-7205 (Dy. No. 47994). Turkish Government require particulars of dimensions, tonnage and other details for identification of all river hospital ships and barges. Please telegraph details as early as possible.

Working copy to D.M.S.
Copy to Q.M.G.

APPENDIX 410
(Diary No. 62114)

Telegram P., No. H.-5579, dated 27th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 28th June 1916.)

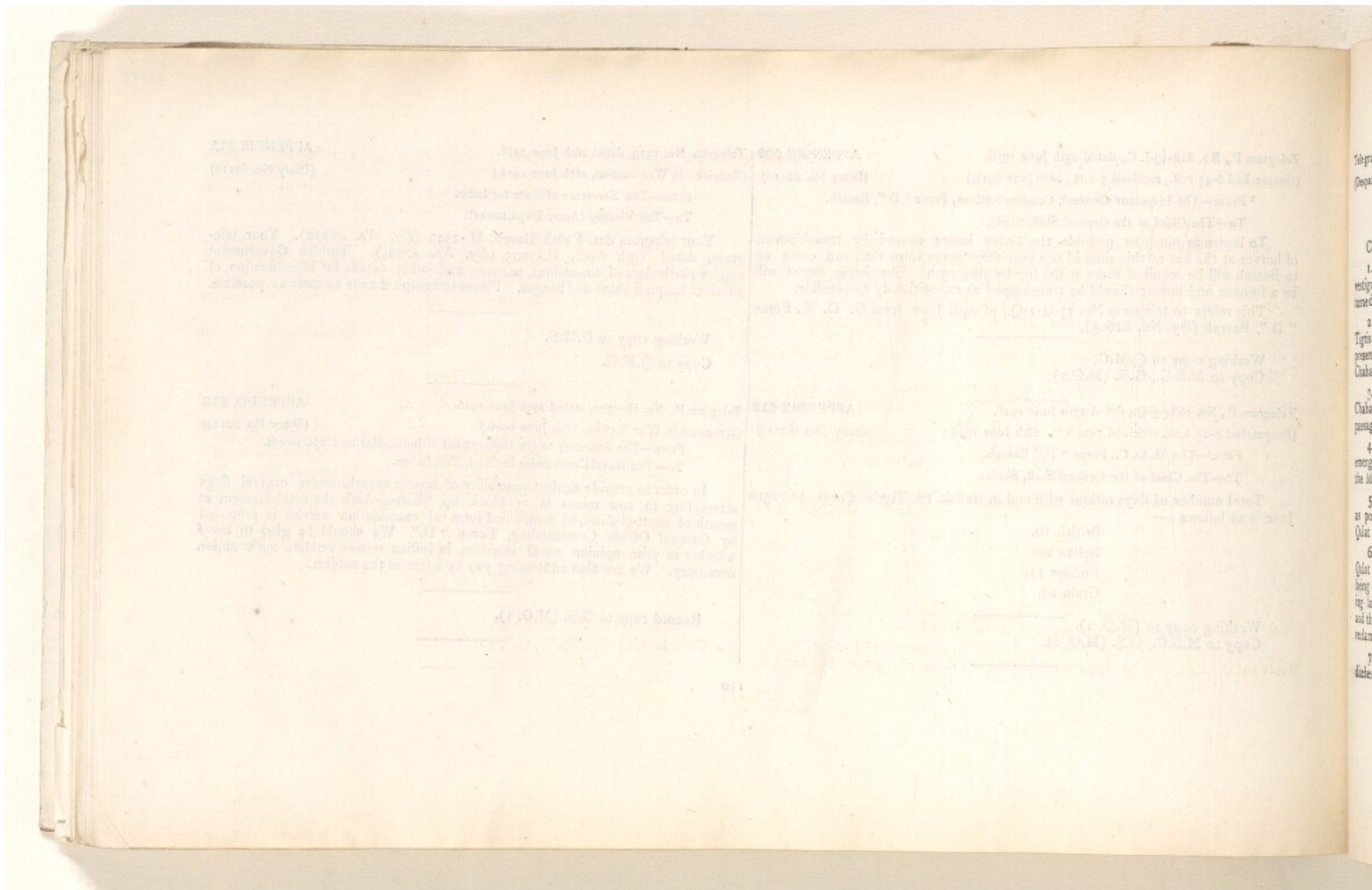
From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Marine Department.
To—The Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.

In order to provide against possibility of hostile vessels under neutral flags attempting to sow mines in or block up Shatt-el-Arab the establishment at mouth of Shatt-el-Arab, of a modified form of examination service is proposed by General Officer Commanding, Force "D." We should be glad to know whether in your opinion naval situation in Indian waters renders such action necessary. We are also addressing you by letter on the subject.

Record copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

APPENDIX 411
(Diary No. 62118)

APPENDIX 412
(Diary No. 62124)



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Telegram P., No 316 15-O., dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 8-15 A.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Continuation my 356-12-O. of 16th June last paragraph (*Dy. No. 60079*).

1. A decided change of his original plans is the result of Buchanan's investigations and his survey work up the Tigris from which he has now returned.

2. It is found that a large bar has been formed at the junction of the Tigris and Chahala at Amarah since the date of Willcock's surveys, and at present this is an effectual safeguard against the Tigris diverting down the Chahala.

3. Buchanan considers therefore that the construction of a weir across the Chahala is unnecessary, but that some day a permanent barrage with lock for passage of boats and regulators will have to be built.

4. Although of not sufficient importance to necessitate building of an emergency weir this year, a modified form of barrage will be necessary across the Majar Kabir canal.

5. Buchanan proposes to build a weir across the Machiriyah canal as soon as possible, as it is found that nearly half of the entire flow of the Tigris above Qalat Saleh passes down the canal.

6. Buchanan discovered, during his investigations of the narrows between Qalat Saleh and Ezra's tombs, that considerable damage to navigation was being caused by Arab cultivators throwing out brushwood groynes and reclaiming land on a falling flood. Doubtless this practice has been going on for years, and the constant deterioration of the river is probably largely due to it. All reclamation work and groynes of this sort are being destroyed.

7. Further damage has been done by the Arab custom of cutting irrigation ditches at concave river bends; this not only impedes navigation by dragging

APPENDIX 413
(Diary No. 62127)

craft into these channels, but also results in time in accentuating the sharpness of these bends. All these irrigation channels will be closed.

8. Lastly Buchanan intends dredging out the awkward parts of the Narrows and, with the measures described above the navigation of this reach, should materially be assisted.

9. Between Sheikh Saad and Ali Gharbi where the river widens considerably special staff surveys have been arranged by Buchanan to be constantly at work buoying and marking the best channels.

10. Above proposals of Buchanan's are approved by me, and work will go ahead as speedily as possible.

11. The river dredger for work in the Tigris Narrows has reached Basrah and dredging work on Hammar Lake is in progress.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., A.D., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 18885-Cypher, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-15 P.M., received 11 A.M., 28th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 414
(Diary No. 62136)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

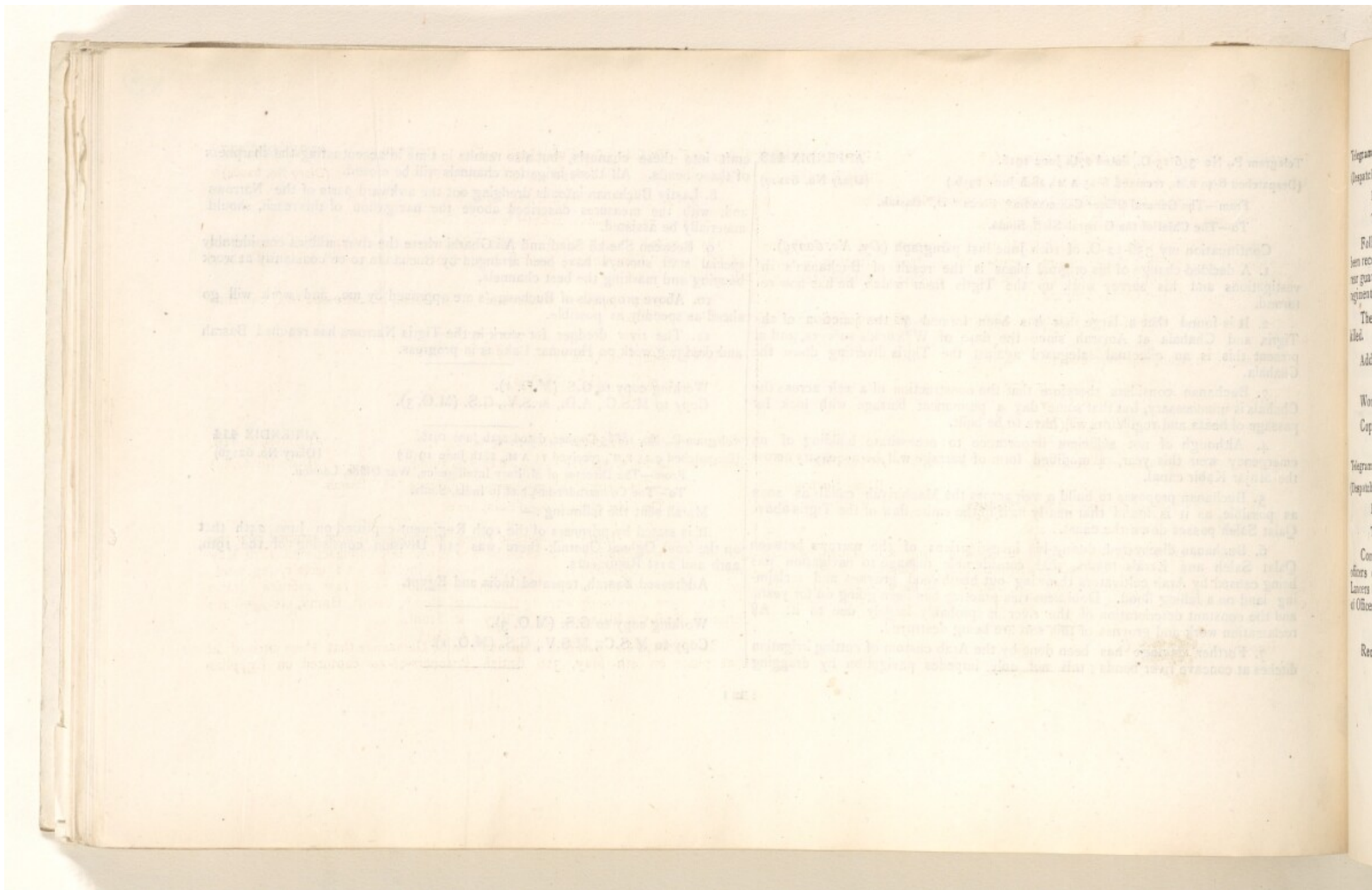
Marsh sent the following:—

It is stated by prisoners of the 19th Regiment captured on June 24th that on the front Oghnat Guernik there was 7th Division consisting of the 19th, 20th and 21st Regiments.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and Egypt.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).



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Telegram P., No. 18886-Cypher, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 5-25 P.M., received 11 A.M., 28th June 1916)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Following from Marsh. *Begins*. T. L. 212. A report from Baratoff has been received to the effect that on June 23rd-24th on front Miantag Gilan a rear guard action was fought. The 16th, 18th and another (probably the 5th) regiments comprised the enemy's infantry.

The casualties among the Russians amounted to 78 wounded and 24 killed.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 62240, dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-30 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.
To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

Continuation my 61699, dated 25th June. Following are names of staff officers of Meerut Cavalry Brigade—Brigade Major Captain Foster 10th Lancers Staff Captain, Captain Daniels 3rd Horse. We have asked for names of Officers Commanding units.

Record copy to M.S.C.

APPENDIX 415
(Diary No. 62138)

APPENDIX 416
(Diary No. 62240)

Telegram P., No. 628-1, dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-P.M., received 11 P.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The Base Commandant, Marseilles.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

On 27th "Kalyan" sailed. Details follow later. "Georgian" will leave about 3rd July and "Kingstonan" which has replaced "Manitou" will call about 4th July.

This telegram, repeated to Secretary, War Office, is addressed to Commander-in-Chief in India.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2).

APPENDIX 417
(Diary No. 62264)

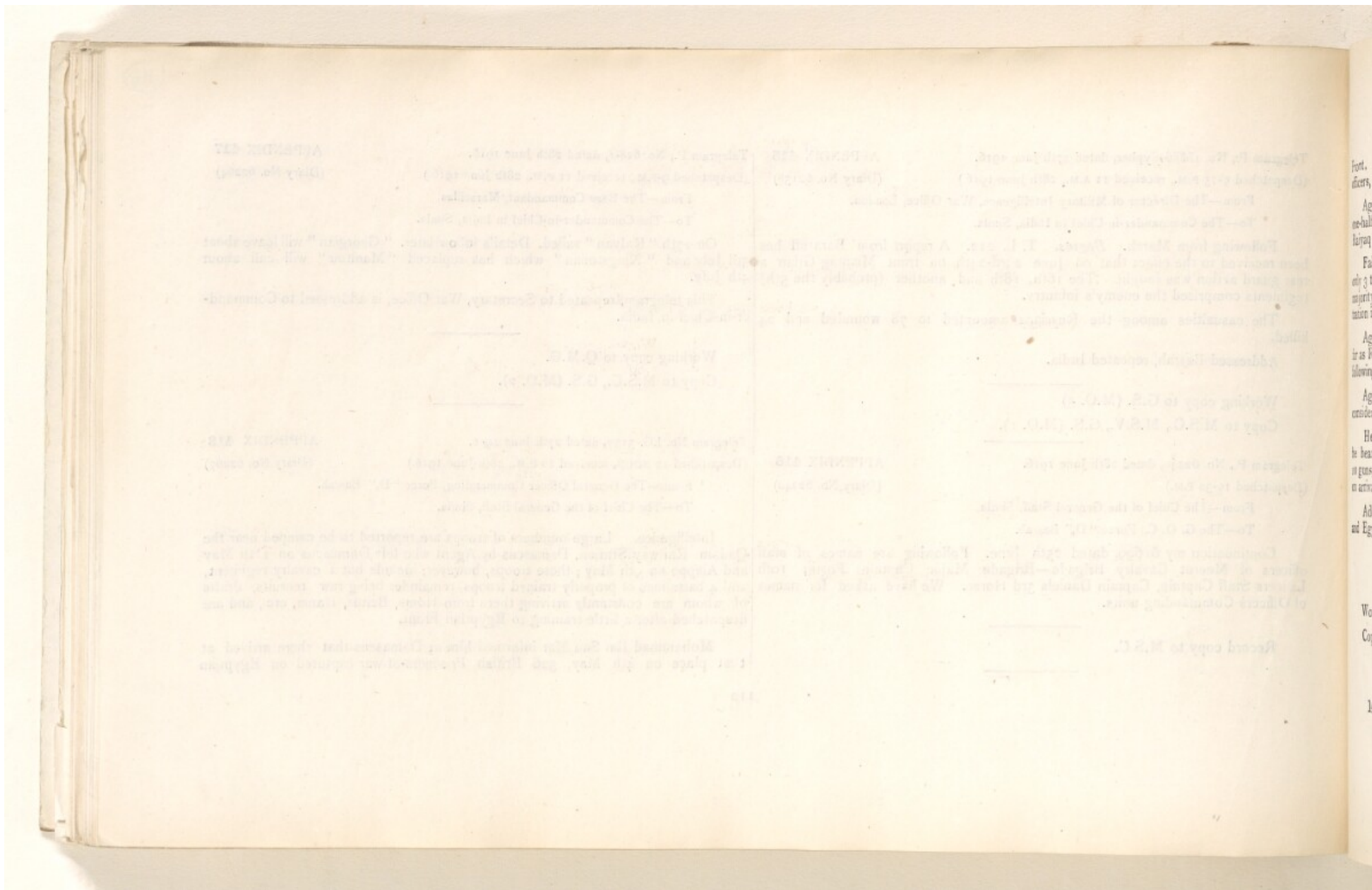
Telegram No. I.G.-3137, dated 27th June 1916.
(Despatched 12 NOON, received 10 P.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Intelligence. Large numbers of troops are reported to be camped near the Qadam Railway Station, Damascus by Agent who left Damascus on 11th May and Aleppo on 9th May; these troops, however, include but 1 cavalry regiment, and 4 battalions of properly trained troops, remainder being raw recruits, drafts of whom are constantly arriving there from Homs, Beirut, Hama, etc., and are despatched after a little training to Egyptian Front.

Muhammad Ibn Sau Mar informed him at Damascus that there arrived at that place on 4th May, 326 British Prisoners-of-war captured on Egyptian

APPENDIX 418
(Diary No. 62267)



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Front. He himself saw walking in Damascus streets with small escort, 4 British officers, *viz.*, a Major a Lieutenant and two 2nd Lieutenants.

Agent travelled by rail from Damascus to Aleppo. Trains run at roughly one-half their previous normal speed; he took 6½ hours from Damascus to Raiyaq by rail; wood fuel only is used.

Fakhri Pasha commands at Aleppo. There are some Mosul troops there; but only 3 trained battalions. Some drafts are sent to Damascus from Aleppo; but majority from latter place are sent to Ras-ul-Ain at which place a large concentration is reported to be taking place.

Agent heard that Eeover when journeying to Baghdad was accompanied as far as Ras-ul-Ain by an Army Corps; this may refer to 9th Division and the one following it.

Agent has documentary evidence to show that he was at Damascus; and is considered fairly reliable.

He asserts that at Hail, and from thence all along the route to Damascus, he heard that latter place was bristling with guns, troops, and aeroplanes; but no guns, nor aeroplanes, nor troops in excess of those quoted above were found on arrival there.

Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, London; repeated C. G. S., Simla and Egypt.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1).

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APPENDIX 419.

(Diary No. 62271)

Telegram P., No. 18502-Cipher-D.S.D., dated 28th June 1916.

(Despatched 1-20 P. M., received 11-55 P.M., 28th June 1916.)

From—The Secy., War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 60655, June 20th.

Approval is given to conversion of 4th and 5th Signal companies in Mesopotamia from Indian to establishment of Lahore Divisional Signal Company. Equipment will be forwarded as soon as demands reach War Office.

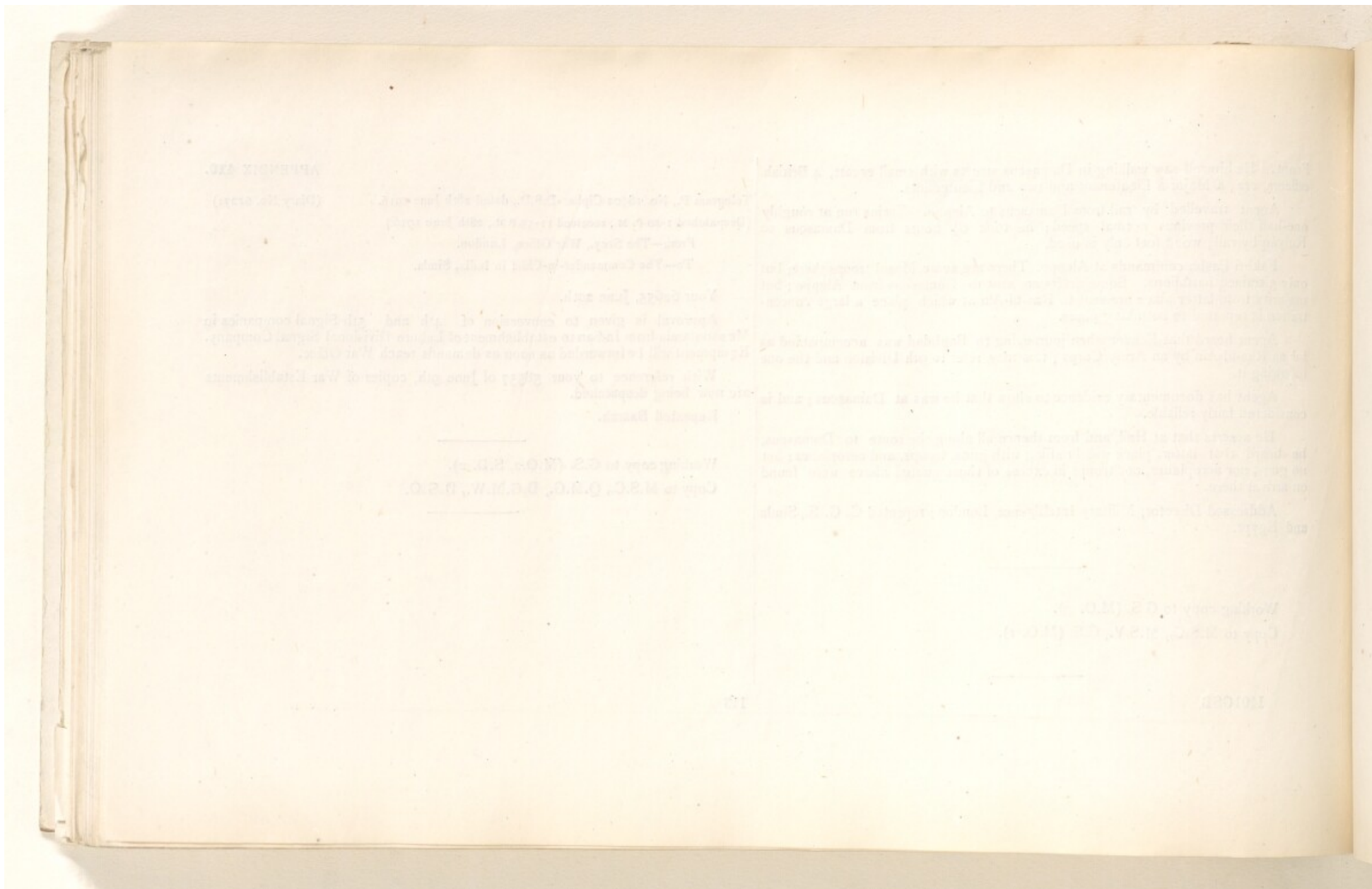
With reference to your 58557 of June 9th, copies of War Establishments are now being despatched.

Repeated Basrah.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O.2, S.D. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., Q.M.G., D.G.M.W., D.G.O.

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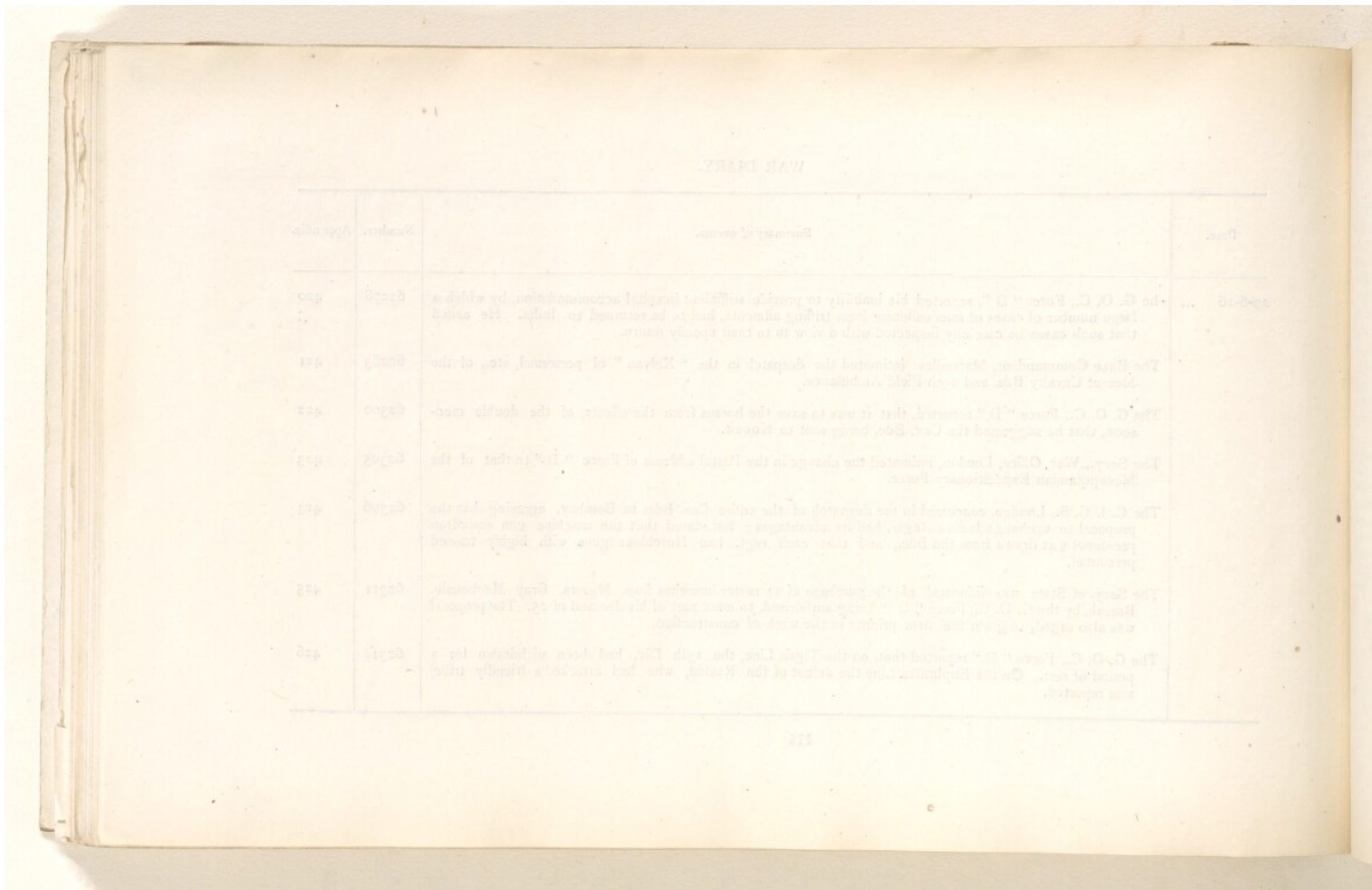




(118)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
29-6-16 ...	The G. O. C., Force "D", reported his inability to provide sufficient hospital accommodation, by which a large number of cases of men suffering from trifling ailments, had to be returned to India. He asked that such cases be carefully inspected with a view to their speedy return.	62278	420
	The Base Commandant, Marseilles intimated the despatch in the "Kalyan" of personnel, etc., of the Meerut Cavalry Bde. and 19th Field Ambulance.	62285	421
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported, that it was to save the horses from the effects of the double monsoon, that he suggested the Cav. Bde. being sent to Koweit.	62300	422
	The Secy., War Office, London, intimated the change in the Postal address of Force "D." to that of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force.	62305	423
	The C. I. G. S., London, concurred in the despatch of the entire Cav. Bde. to Bombay, agreeing that the proposal to exchange Indian Regts. had its advantages; but stated that the machine gun squadron personnel was drawn from the Bde., and that each regt. had Hotchkiss guns with highly trained personnel.	62306	424
	The Secy. of State was informed of the purchase of 11 motor launches from Messrs. Gray Mackenzie. Basrah, by the G. O. C., Force "D" being authorised, to meet part of his demand of 25. The proposal was also urged, to grant the firm priority in the work of construction.	62311	425
	The G. O. C., Force "D," reported that, on the Tigris Line, the 13th Div. had been withdrawn for a period of rest. On the Euphrates Line the defeat of Ibn Rashid, who had attacked a friendly tribe, was reported.	62314	426





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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
29-6-16— <i>contd.</i>	A report was forwarded, by the D. M. I., London, regarding the number of Germans in European Turkey, and that, owing to the number and good qualities of Turkish troops, there were no German infantry in Mesopotamia.	62336	427
	The G. O. C., Force "D," transmitted information, given by Sir George Buchanan, regarding the Survey party required for work between Fao and Basrah and Basrah and Amarah.	62370	428
	The Secy. of State was informed that India supported the recommendation that certain Engineer officers should be provided for vessels sent out from England.	62374	429
	The G. O. C., Force "D," was informed, that the procedure of ordering river craft from local firms, in Basrah, was likely to cause delay and confusion, instead of accelerating its delivery, and was asked in future, to submit all demands through the C. G. S., Simla.	62380	430
	A report was received from H. B. Majesty's Minister, Tehran, of the escape from Baghdad and surrender of Havildar Khan Gul and six Sepoys, of the 129th Baluchis to the Russians near Mandali.	62406	431
	The I. G. C., Force "D," reported the necessity for 9 more hospital ships, and asked for the return of the "Adkana," ("Edavana?") and "Loyalty."	62415	432

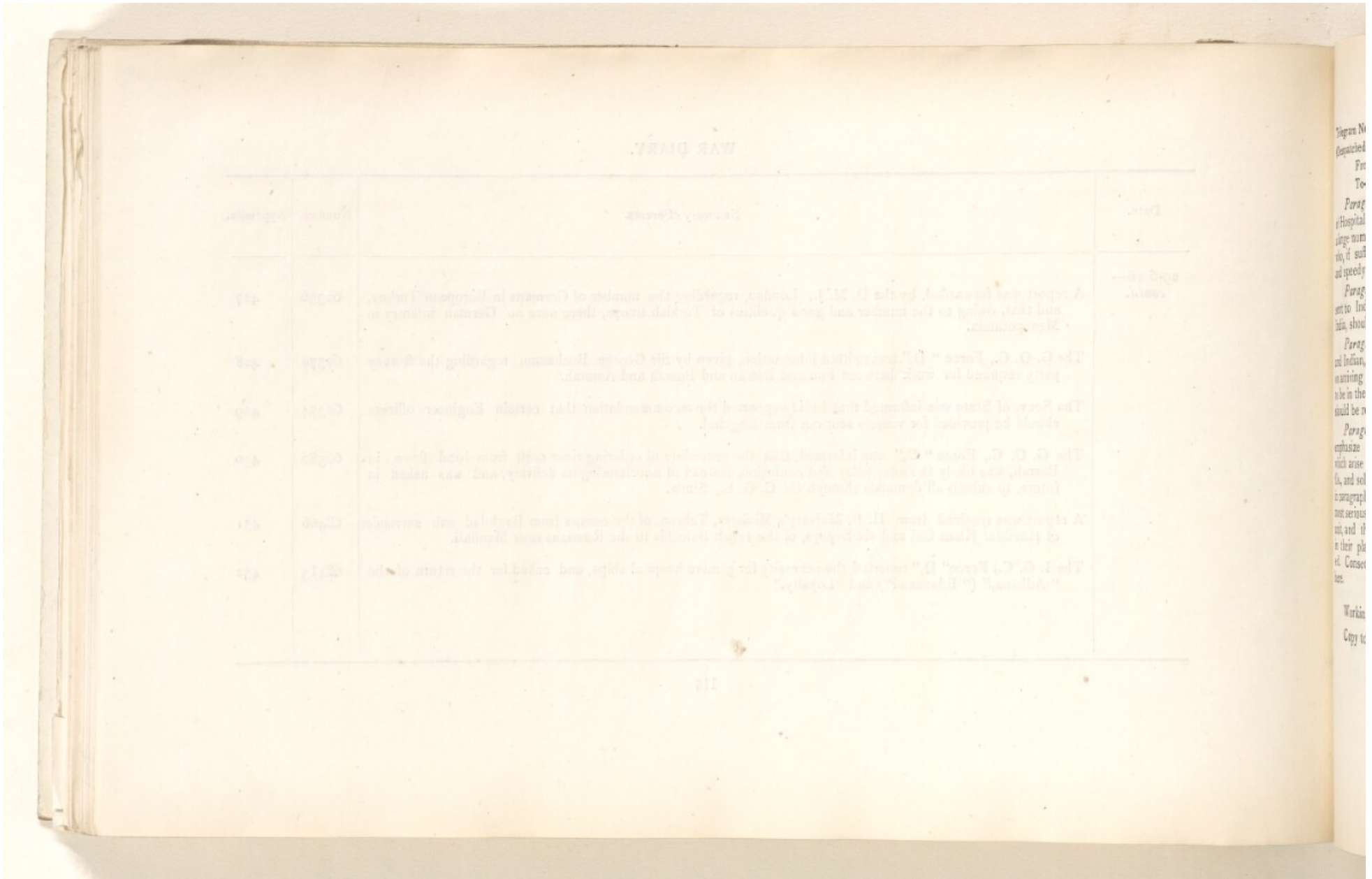


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Telegram No. 800-19-A., dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 1 P.M., received 12.5 A.M., 29th June 1916.)
From—The G. O. C., Force 'D', Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

APPENDIX 420
(Diary No. 62278)

Paragraph 1.—Owing to my inability up to date to provide for a sufficiency of Hospital accommodation, my Director of Medical Services is obliged to send a large number of cases daily to India, which include men with trifling ailments, who, if sufficiency of accommodation existed, would be kept here for recovery and speedy return to firing line.

Paragraph 2.—A considerable number of men therefore are now being sent to India who, after the seavoyage there and back plus 2 to 3 weeks in India, should then be thoroughly recovered and fit for the firing line here.

Paragraph 3.—In view of the above, I would ask that all invalids, British and Indian, now being despatched almost daily from here be carefully inspected on arriving in India with a view to their classification. Such men as are found to be in the category mentioned in paragraph 2 I would most strongly urge should be returned here within a reasonable time.

Paragraph 4.—In making the above recommendation, I desire to emphasize the really serious difficulties in the maintenance of war efficiency, which arise if specialists such as signallers machine gun men, reliable N. C. Os., and soldiers, who may have been sent back owing to the causes enumerated in paragraph 1, are allowed to permanently remain in India. The units suffer most seriously, the men in the ranks are necessarily to a large extent new to the unit, and the substitutes, who under present arrangements are eventually sent in their place from India, are rarely if ever equal to the men originally invalided. Consequently an increasing deterioration in battle efficiency is taking place here.

Working copy to D.M.S., A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram No. 628-7, dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 12.15 P.M., received 1 A.M., 29th June 1916.)
From—The Base Commandant, Marseilles.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

APPENDIX 421
(Diary No. 62285)

Reference my 628-2 (*Dy. No. 62284*) read as follows:—

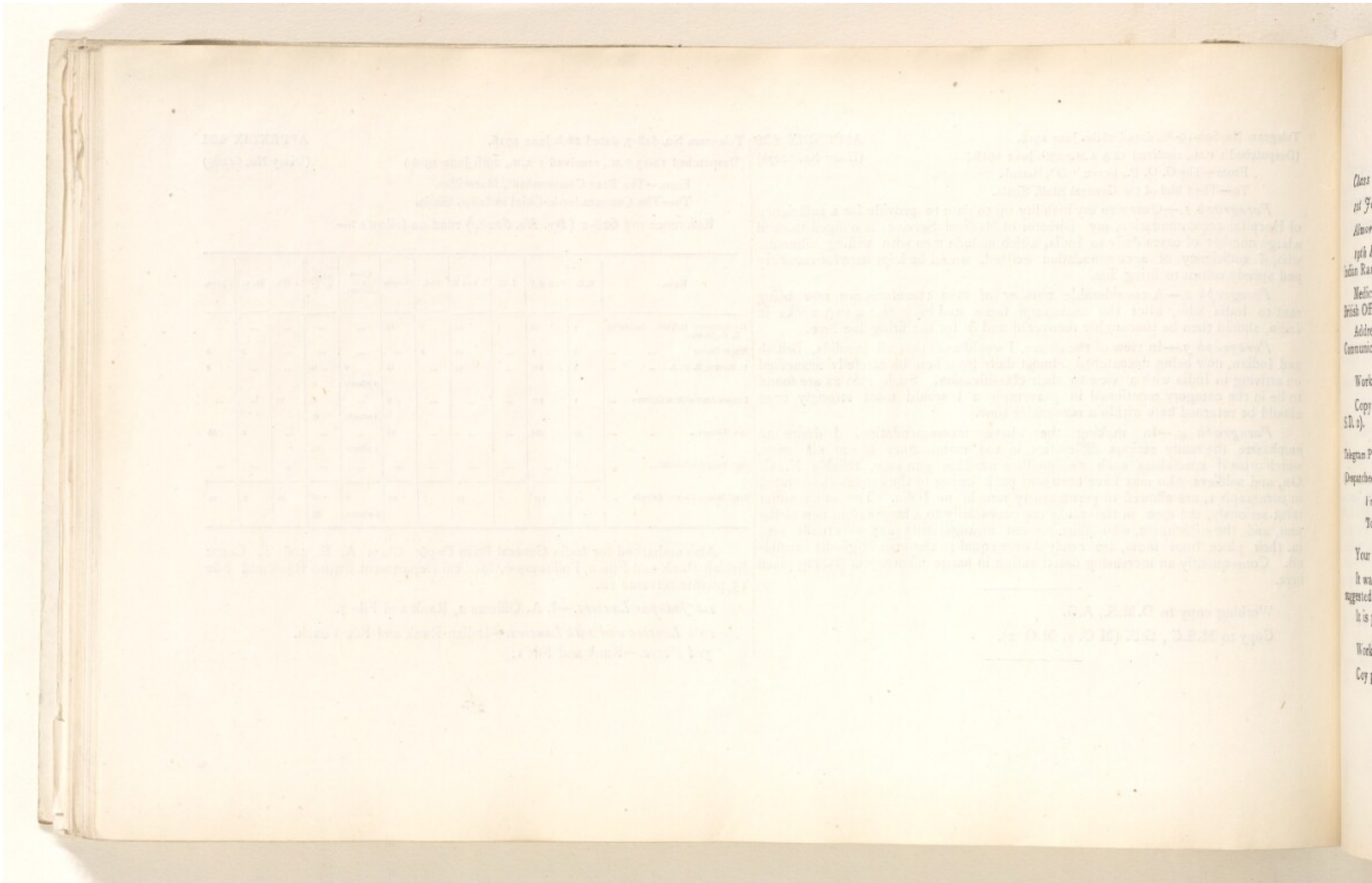
Units.	B. O.	R. and F.	I. O.	R. and F.	Foal.	Horses.	Guns and Limbers.	Arms. W. L.	4 Wh.	M. C.	Cycles.
Headquarters Brigade, including B. G. Troops	7	18	1	23	4	15	...	...	...	...	...
Signal Troops	...	1	7	...	18	1	...	...	...	5	3
V. Battery, R. H. A.	...	5	2.5	...	14	...	6 2 wheels	12	...	...	5
Brigade Ammunition Column	...	1	105	...	...	2	...	6 2 wheels	10	...	...
12th Hussars	...	30	58	...	...	63	...	...	...	2	16
119th Field Ambulance	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	30 2 wheels	...	...	...
Total Mesopotamian Cavalry Brigade	45	92	1	55	5	62	6 2 wheels	15	10	5	24

Also embarked for India General Base Depot Class A. S. and T. Corps British Rank and File 2, Followers 6, Medical Department British Rank and File 15, private servants 10.

1st Jodhpur Lancers.—I. A. Officers 2, Rank and File 7.

10th Lancers and 29th Lancers.—Indian Rank and File 1 each.

3rd Horse.—Rank and File 1.



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Class B. 2nd Lancers.—Indian A. Officer 1, Rank and File 4.
1st Jodhpur Lancers.—Indian A. Officers 3, Rank and File 24.
Atwar Lancers.—Rank and File 3.
19th Lancers, 29th Lancers, 34th Horse and Umballa Depot R. F. A.—
Indian Rank and File 1 each.
Medical Department—Indian Army Officer 1. Total Depot 86. Indulgence
British Officers 4.
Addressed Seairail, repeated Q.M.G., G.H.Q., Communications France,
Communications Cairo, and Chief India.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., A.G., D.G.O., D.M.S., I.G., I.S.T., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2,
S.D. 2).

Telegram P., No. 170-2-Q., dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 7-25 P.M., received 4 A.M., 29th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 422
(Diary No. 62300)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 62017 of June 27th.

It was to save the horses from the effects of double monsoon, that I
suggested that the Cavalry Brigade should be sent direct to Koweit.
It is presumed you realise this.

Working copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram No. 8837-C.-2, dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-20 P.M., received 6-45 A.M., 29th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 423
(Diary No. 62305)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Postal address of your force both British Troops, Indian Troops change to
Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force from July 1st call attention of all ranks to
alteration. Addressed Basrah, repeated C.-in-C. India.

Working copy to W.S.

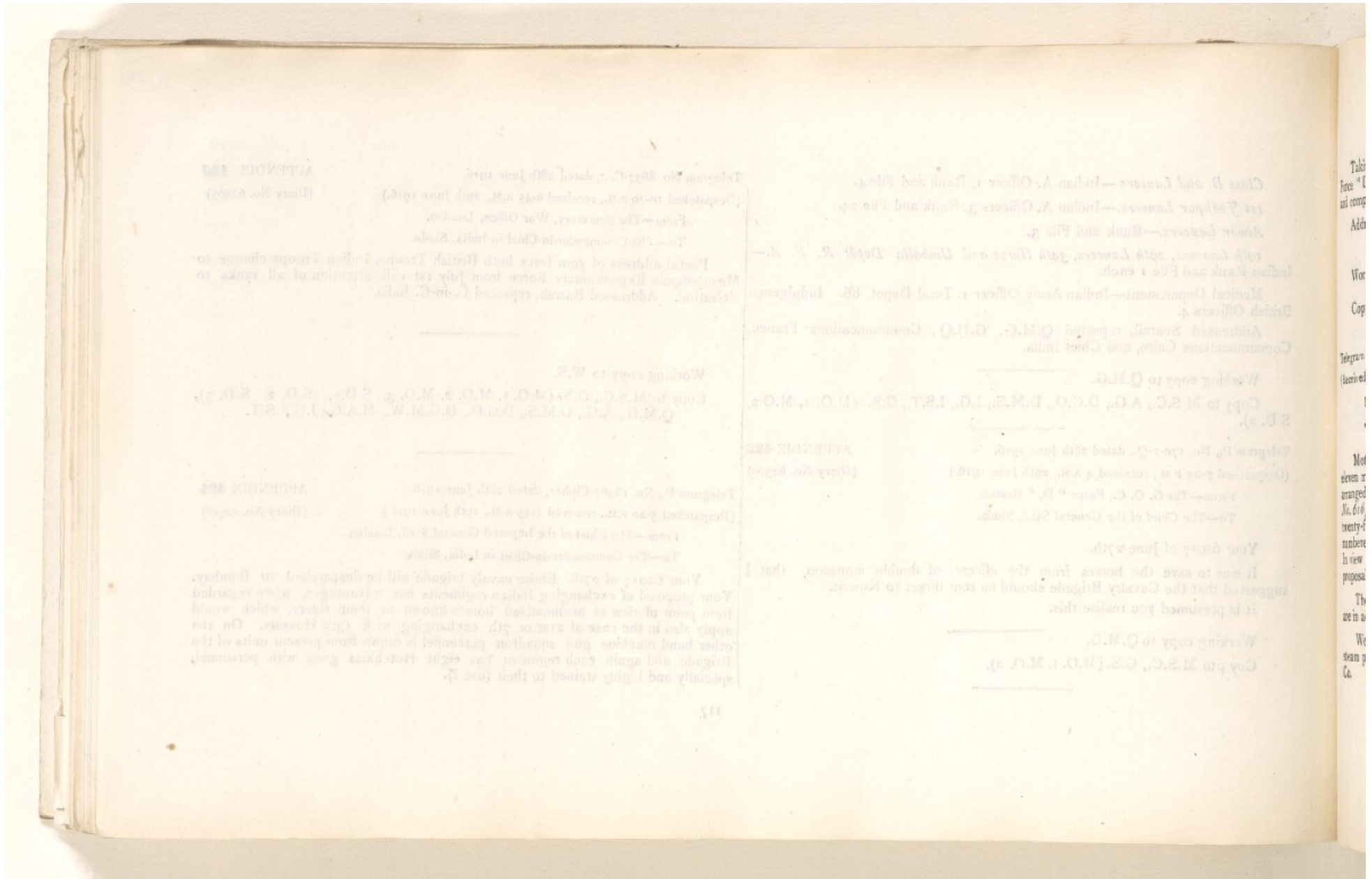
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2, M.O. 3, S.D. 1, S.D. 2, S.D. 3),
Q.M.G., A.G., D.M.S., D.G.O., D.G.M.W., M.A.G., I.G., I.S.T.

Telegram P., No. 18907-Cipher, dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 5-20 P.M., received 4-45 A.M., 29th June 1916)

APPENDIX 424
(Diary No. 62306)

From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

Your 62017 of 27th. Entire cavalry brigade will be despatched to Bombay.
Your proposal of exchanging Indian regiments has advantages, when regarded
from point of view of acclimatised horses known to their riders, which would
apply also in the case of 21st or 7th exchanging with 13th Hussars. On the
other hand machine gun squadron personnel is drawn from present units of the
Brigade, and again each regiment has eight Hotchkiss guns with personnel,
specially and highly trained to their (use ?).



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Taking into consideration above, and after consultation with G. O. C., Force "D," let me know your decision regarding time of move to Mesopotamia, and composition of Brigade.

Addressed India; repeated Basrah.

Working copy to Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., A.G., G.S. (M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. H-5620, dated 27th June 1916.
(Received in War Section, 29th June 1916.)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department),

To—The Secretary of State for India.

Motor launches. The purchase from Messrs. Gray Mackenzie, Basrah, of eleven motor launches which the General Officer Commanding, I. E. F. "D," arranged for *vide* his telegram, dated 24th June 1916, No. 276-199 Q. (*Dy. No. 61630*), to your address, was authorised by us to meet part demand for twenty-five made by him *via* our telegram of the 19th and 20th June 1916, numbered H-5275 (*Dy. No. 60592*) and 5331 (*Dy. No. 60819*), respectively. In view of the launches being urgently required by Force "D," we urge the proposal to grant to the firm priority in the work of construction.

The fourteen launches which we requested should be supplied from Home are in addition to the eleven purchased from the above named firm.

We will address you separately, as regards the twelfth motor launch, eight steam pinnaces and other craft enquired after by Messrs. Gray Mackenzie and Co.

APPENDIX 425
(Diary No. 62311)

This is with reference to your telegram of the 23rd June 1916, No. 26246 (*Dy. No. 61600*).

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 129-478-O., dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 11-20 P.M., received 9-30 A.M., 29th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 426

(Diary No. 62314)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 28th, Tigris Line.

The 13th Division has been withdrawn by Goringe for a short period of rest to Sheikh Saad.

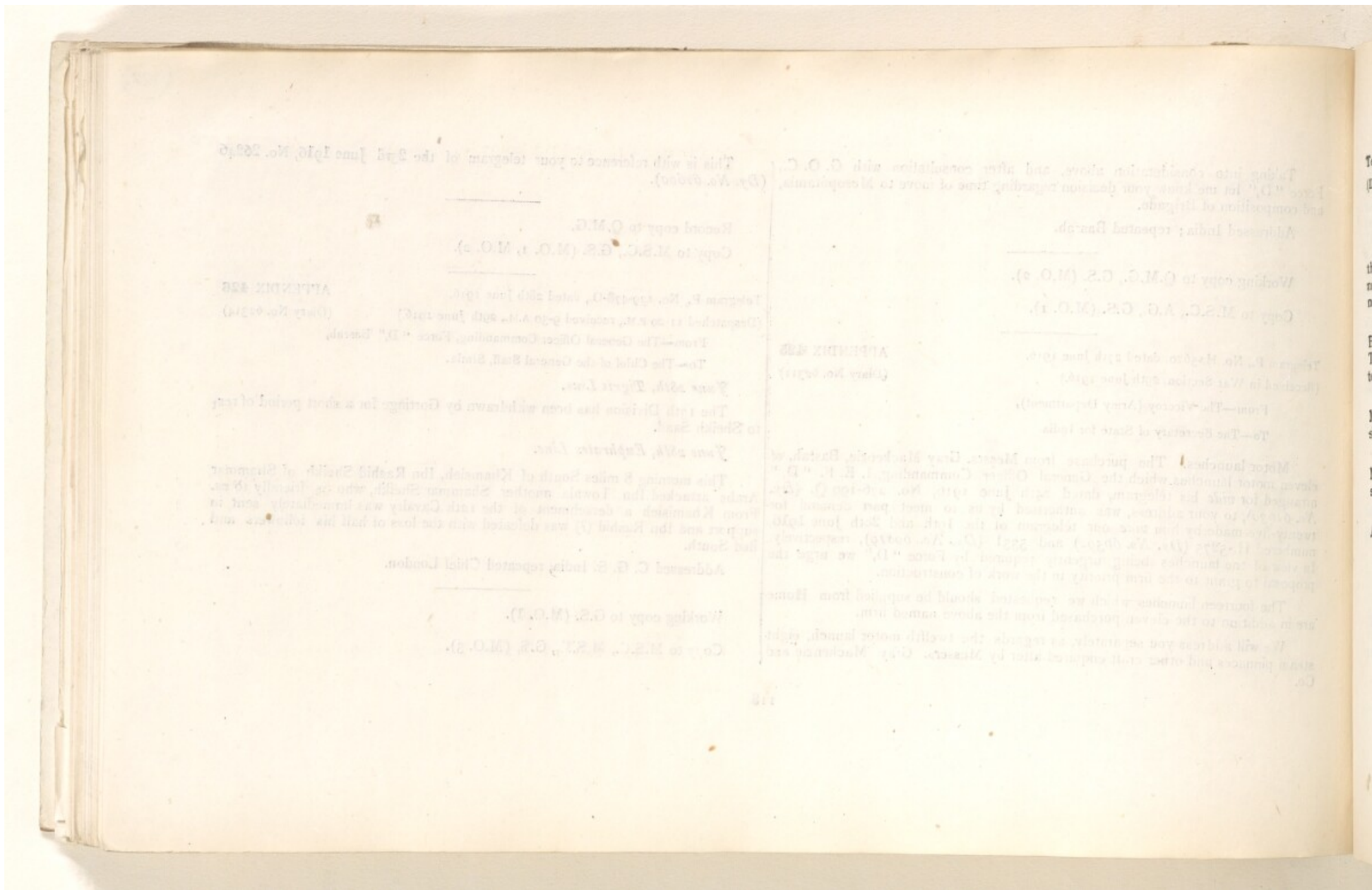
June 28th, Euphrates Line.

This morning 8 miles South of Khamsieh, Ibn Rashid Sheikh of Shammar Arabs attacked Ibn Towala another Shammar Sheikh, who is friendly to us. From Khamisieh a detachment of the 12th Cavalry was immediately sent in support and Ibn Rashid (?) was defeated with the loss of half his followers and fled South.

Addressed C. G. S. India, repeated Chief London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 3).





Telegram P., No. 18930-Cipher-M. L., dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 9-15 P.M., received 11-40 A.M., 29th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 427
(Diary No. 62336)

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

A Turkish Lawyer who left Constantinople on May 9th has communicated the following "common knowledge" to Englishman in Switzerland. The number of Germans in European Turkey is estimated at 20,000 though there are no formed bodies of German Troops in Mesopotamia, Asia Minor or Turkey.

It is reported that German Infantry are not required in Mesopotamia, where Bronzard Pasha (Ellendorf) is, owing to the numbers and good qualities of the Turkish Infantry (this to some extent confirms the information contained in my telegram No. 18857) (*Dy. No. 62107*).

It is understood that the Turkish Division which was in Constantinople on May 10th and commanded by Jaffir Tahir was about to proceed to Asia Minor shortly.

A good number of heavy guns with Austrian personnel have gone to Asia Minor and it is thought that the majority of these are for the Caucasus though some may proceed *via* Konia to Mesopotamia.

Reports are exaggerated concerning the scarcity of food in Constantinople. Addressed Marsh, repeated India, Egypt and Basrah.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1), F. and P.

Telegram P., No. 166. dated 28th June 1916.
(Despatched 7 A.M., received 2-45 P.M., 29th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 428
(Diary No. 62370)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

59463. In matter of levelling Buchanan given the following information and thinks P. W. D. will best be able to judge the period levelling party will be required as it depends largely on ability of personnel. The levelling will be divided between two squads. No. 1 party will work from F.A.O. to Basrah, a distance of 60 miles, and No. 2 party will work from Basrah towards Amarah, a distance of 132 miles, being assisted by No. 1 party who when they have finished their section will work from Amarah downwards until they join No. 1 party. The country is flat and easy for levelling work but precise levelling is required and establishment of permanent bench mark. Hours of work would be 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Working copy to D.G.M.W.

Copy to M.S.C.

Telegram P., No. H.-5647, dated 29th June 1916.

APPENDIX 429
(Diary No. 62374)

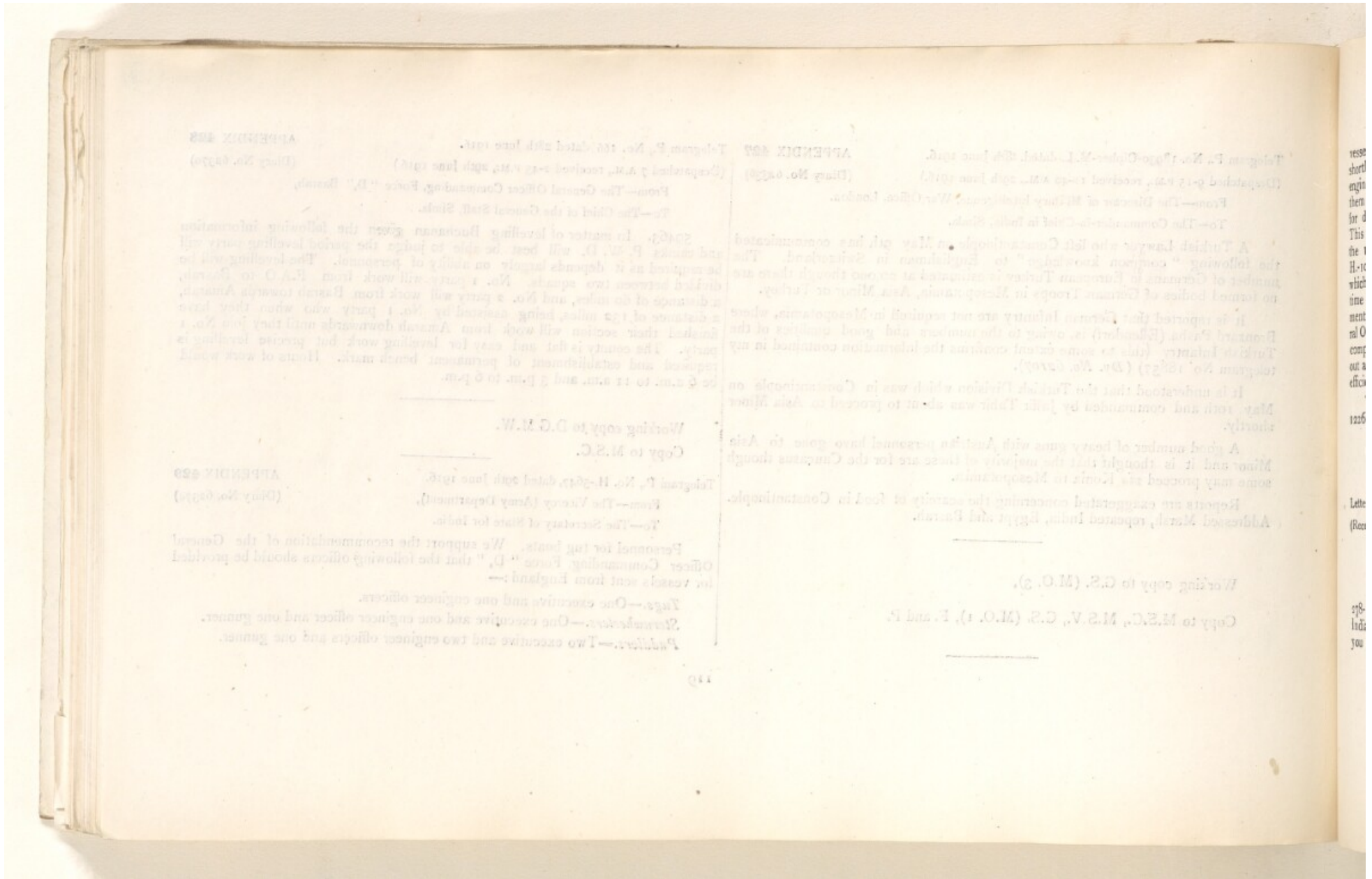
From—The Viceroy (Army Department),
To—The Secretary of State for India.

Personnel for tug boats. We support the recommendation of the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," that the following officers should be provided for vessels sent from England:—

Tugs.—One executive and one engineer officers.

Sternwheelers.—One executive and one engineer officer and one gunner.

Paddlers.—Two executive and two engineer officers and one gunner.



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We should be glad if personnel on these scale were engaged for each vessel leaving England after this date and sent out either with their vessels or shortly in advance of them. We propose to utilise a number of executive and engineer officers and gunners, whom we have on hand at present by allotting them to the additional craft from Singapore and India which are now preparing for despatch to Mesopotamia and as a temporary reserve to meet casualties. This number represents the balance of the demands made in our telegrams of the 19th October and 29th December last Nos. H.-8599 (*Dy. No. S-24815*) and H.-10146 (*Dy. No. S-32559*) and men recruited locally. A further demand which will include our actual requirements so far as they can be foreseen at the time and also a leave reserve calculated at a percentage on the total establishment employed, will be submitted before this number is exhausted. The General Officer Commanding has asked that a short record of services should accompany all officers and that no more Lieutenants for command should be sent out as commands will be given to those who prove themselves most suitable and efficient. We should be glad if his wishes could be complied with.

This is with reference to your telegrams dated 15th and 26th June, Nos. 1226 and 1310 (*Dy. Nos. 59885 and 62046*).

Record copy to A.D. (Marine).

Copy to M.S.C., G. S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Letter No. 1339-6-W.S., dated 28th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 29th June 1916.)

From—The Quartermaster-General in India, Simla,

To—The G.O.C., Force "D," Basrah.

With reference to correspondence ending with your telegram No. 278-199-Q., dated 14th June 1916 (*Dy. No. 61630*), to the Secretary of State for India, I am directed to point out that the procedure at present being followed by you in ordering river craft from local firms at Basrah, which the latter have to

obtain from England, is only likely to result in delay and confusion in the supply of the craft instead of accelerating its delivery.

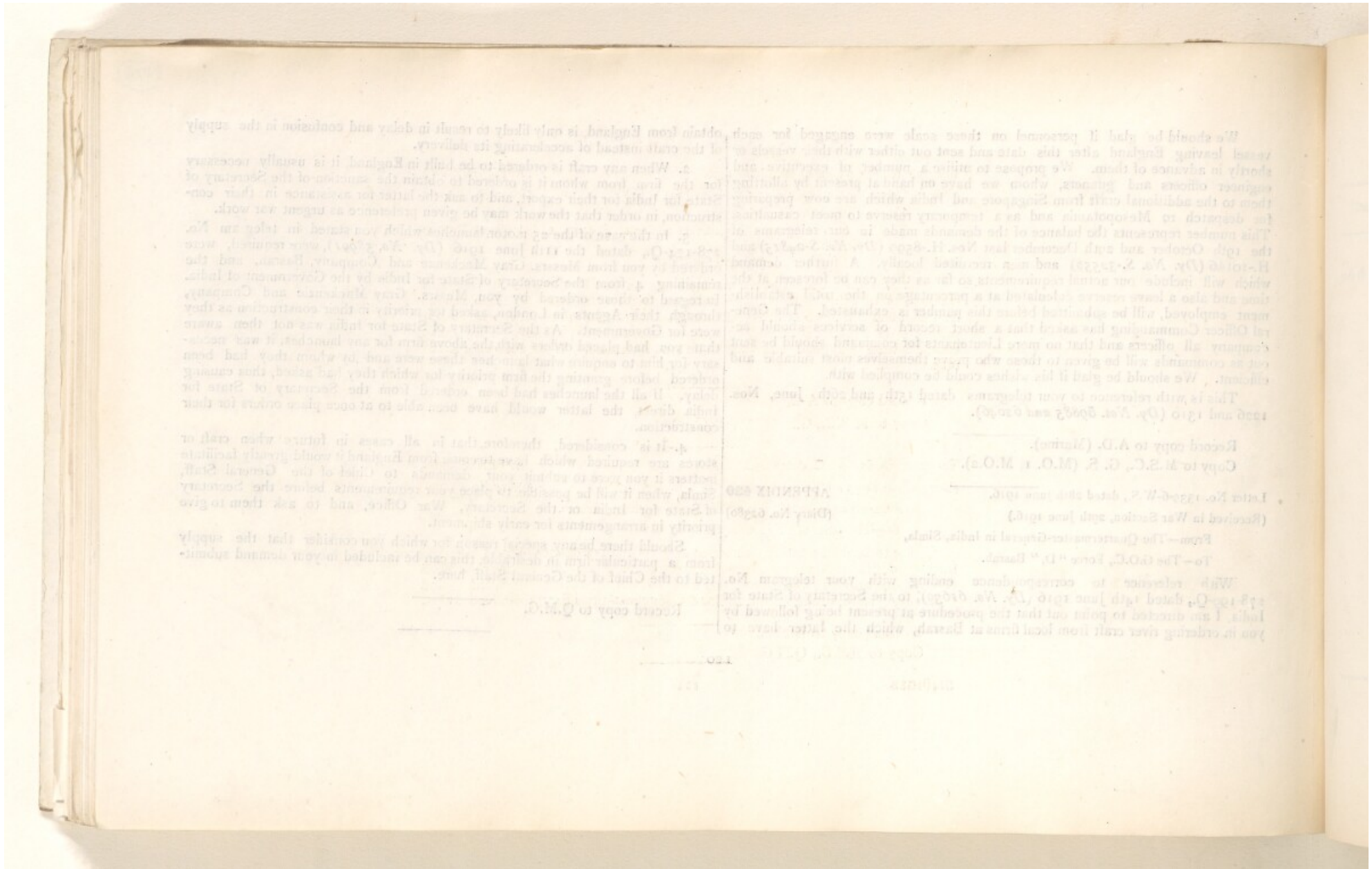
2. When any craft is ordered to be built in England, it is usually necessary for the firm from whom it is ordered to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State for India for their export, and to ask the latter for assistance in their construction, in order that the work may be given preference as urgent war work.

3. In the case of the 25 motor launches which you stated in telegram No. 278-174-Q., dated the 11th June 1916 (*Dy. No. 58991*), were required, were ordered by you from Messrs. Gray Mackenzie and Company, Basrah, and the remaining 4 from the Secretary of State for India by the Government of India. In regard to those ordered by you, Messrs. Gray Mackenzie and Company, through their Agents in London, asked for priority in their construction as they were for Government. As the Secretary of State for India was not then aware that you had placed orders with the above firm for any launches, it was necessary for him to enquire what launches these were and by whom they had been ordered before granting the firm priority for which they had asked, thus causing delay. If all the launches had been ordered from the Secretary of State for India direct, the latter would have been able to at once place orders for their construction.

4. It is considered, therefore, that in all cases in future when craft or stores are required which have to come from England it would greatly facilitate matters if you were to submit your demands to Chief of the General Staff, Simla, when it will be possible to place your requirements before the Secretary of State for India or the Secretary, War Office, and to ask them to give priority in arrangements for early shipment.

Should there be any special reason for which you consider that the supply from a particular firm is desirable, this can be included in your demand submitted to the Chief of the General Staff, here.

Record copy to Q.M.G.





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Telegram R., No. 92, dated 28th June 1916. APPENDIX 431
(Despatched 9 P.M., received 4-15 A.M., 29th June 1916.) (Diary No. 62406)
From—H. B. M.'s Minister, Tehran.
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Repeated to Cox.)

His Majesty's Consul at Kermanshah reports that Havildar Khan Gul with six sepoy of 8th Company, 9th Baluchis gave themselves up to the Russians near Mandali and are now at Kermanshah. They state that they were taken prisoners in France December 20th, 1914, and sent to Turkey. They have escaped from Baghdad and want to be sent to Amara. What action should be taken?

Record copy to A G,
Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O., M.O. 3).

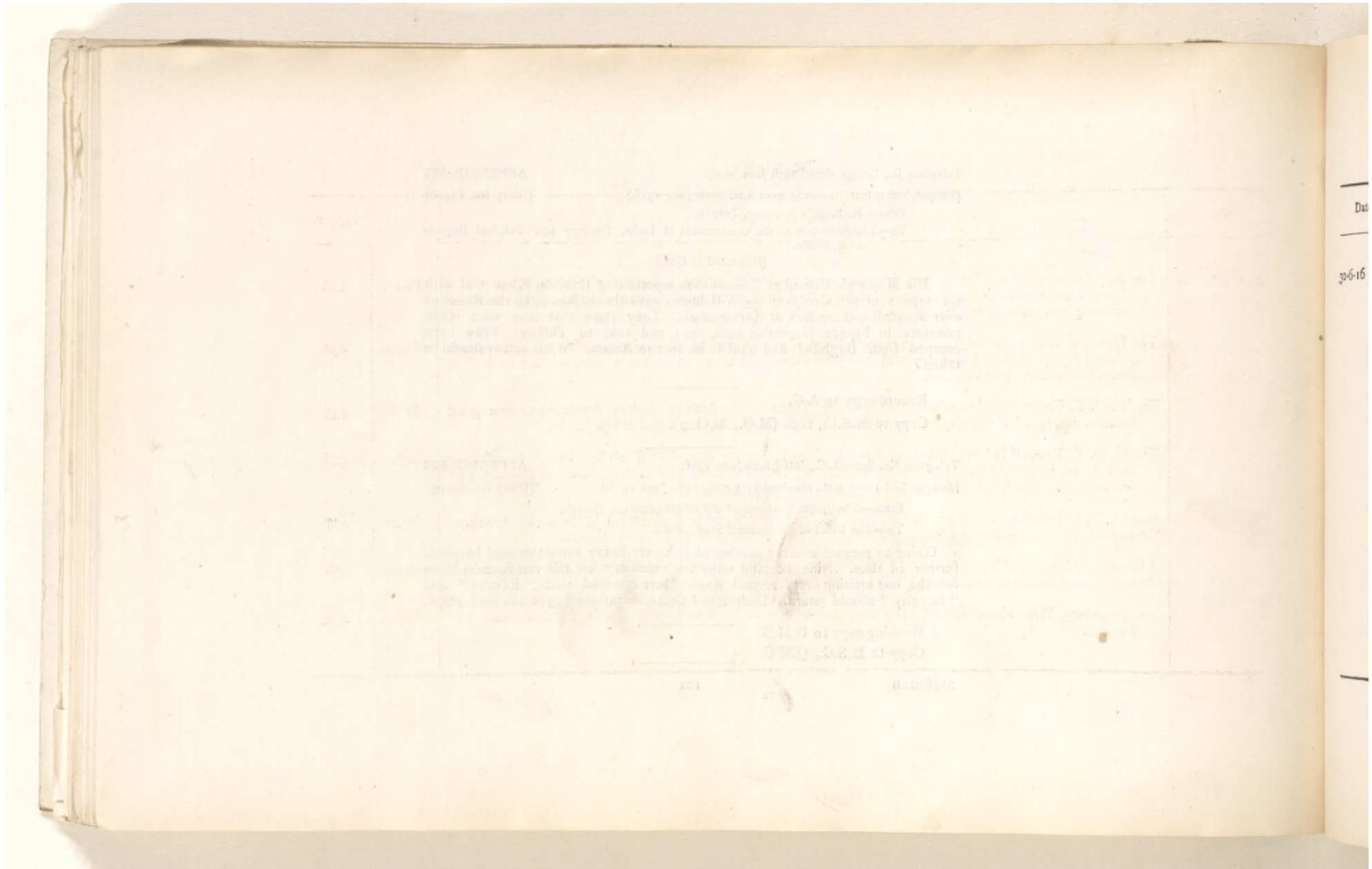
Telegram No. 872-1-L.C., dated 29th June 1916. APPENDIX 432
(Despatched 11-55 A.M., received 6-15 P.M., 29th June 1916.) (Diary No. 62415)
From—The Inspector-General of Communications, Basrah.
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Owing to present weather number of sick very heavy cannot expand hospitals further in time. Nine hospital ships are necessary on this run for next three months, one arriving every second day. Most essential that "Edvana" and "Loyalty" should return. Understand Communications Egypt can lend ships.

Working copy to D.M S.
Copy to M.S.C., Q.M G.

S1401G5B

121

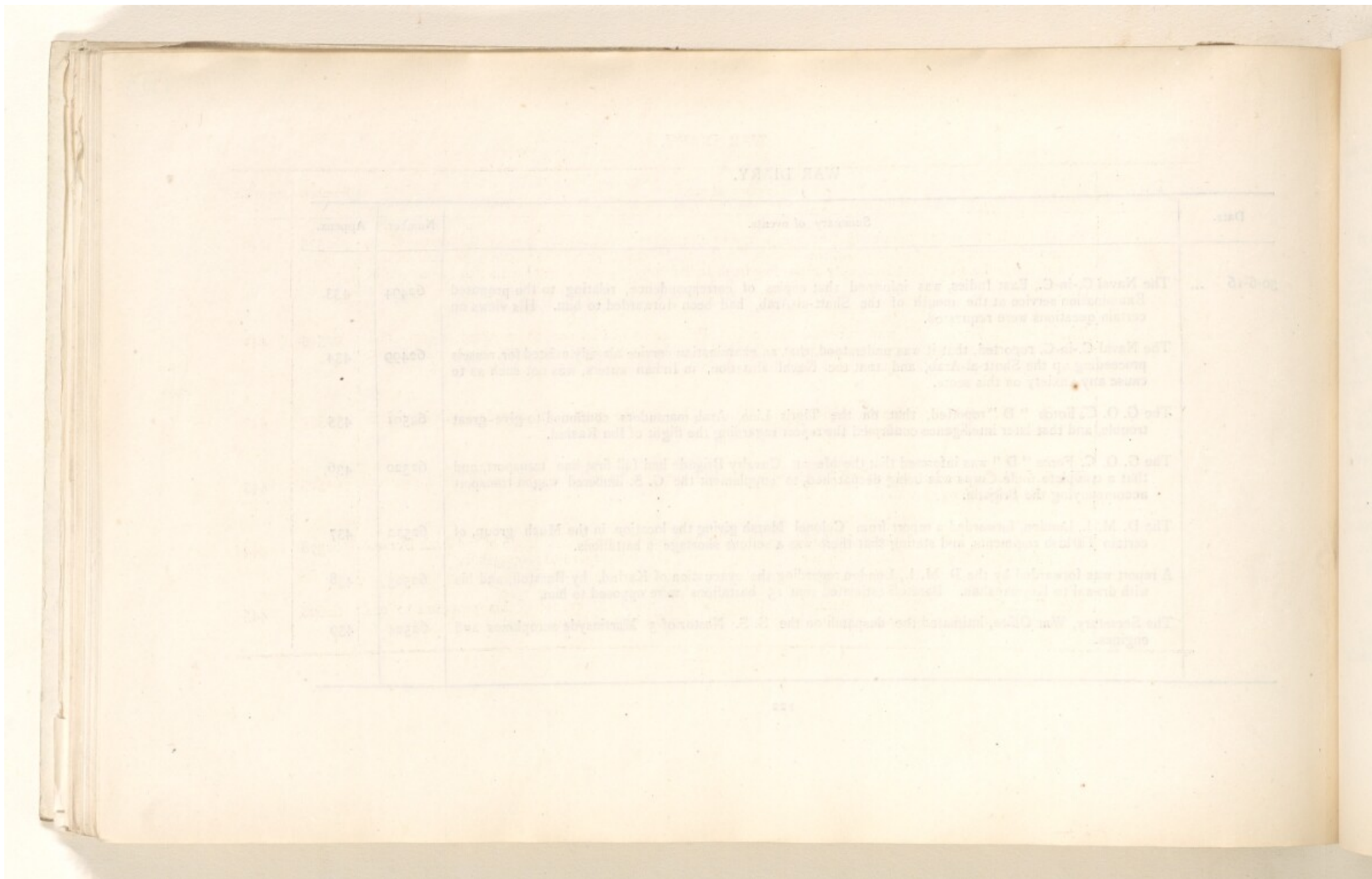




(126)

WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appenx.
30-6-16 ...	The Naval C.-in-C., East Indies, was informed that copies of correspondence, relating to the proposed Examination service at the mouth of the Shatt-al-Arab, had been forwarded to him. His views on certain questions were requested.	62494	433
	The Naval C.-in-C. reported, that it was understood, that an examination service already existed for vessels proceeding up the Shatt-al-Arab, and that the Naval situation, in Indian waters, was not such as to cause any anxiety on this score.	62499	434
	The G. O. C. Force "D" reported, that on the Tigris Line, Arab marauders continued to give great trouble, and that later intelligence confirmed the report regarding the flight of Ibn Rashid.	62501	435
	The G. O. C. Force "D" was informed that the Meerut Cavalry Brigade had full first line transport, and that a complete mule Corps was being despatched, to supplement the G. S. limbered wagon transport accompanying the Brigade.	62520	436
	The D. M. I., London, forwarded a report from Colonel Marsh giving the location in the Mush group, of certain Turkish regiments, and stating that there was a serious shortage in battalions.	62522	437
	A report was forwarded by the D. M. I., London regarding the evacuation of Karind, by Baratoff, and his withdrawal to Kermanshab. Baratoff estimated that 15 battalions were opposed to him.	62523	438
	The Secretary, War Office, intimated the despatch on the S. S. Nestor of 3 Martinsyde aeroplanes and engines.	62524	439

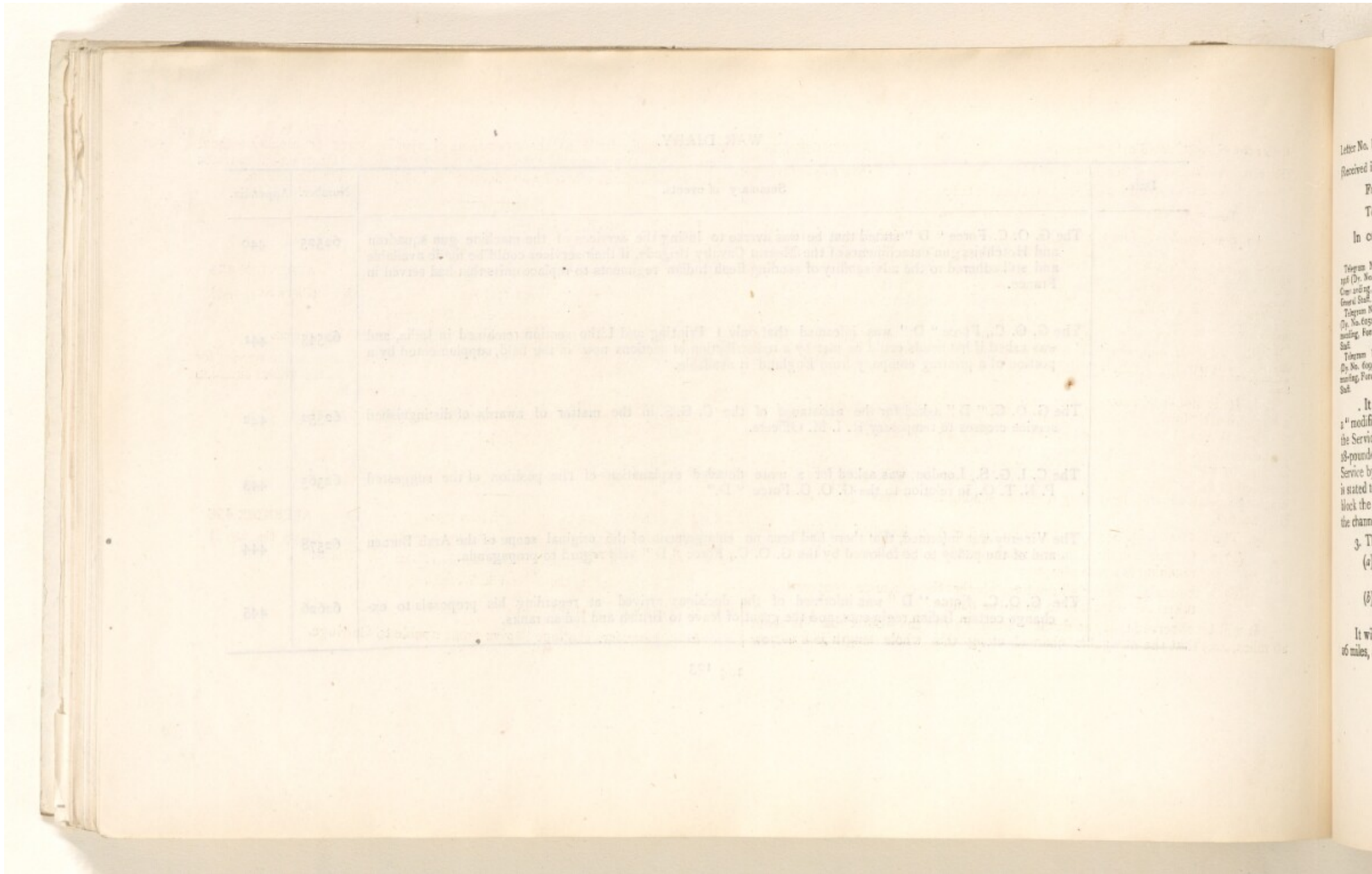




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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
	The G. O. C. Force " D " stated that he was averse to losing the services of the machine gun squadron and Hotchkiss gun detachments of the Meerut Cavalry Brigade, if their services could be made available and still adhered to the advisability of sending fresh Indian regiments to replace units that had served in France.	62525	440
	The G. O. C., Force " D " was informed that only 1 Printing and Litho section remained in India, and was asked if his needs could be met by a redistribution of sections now in the field, supplemented by a portion of a printing company from England if available.	62545	441
	The G. O. C. " D " asked for the assistance of the C. G. S. in the matter of awards of distinguished service crosses to temporary R. I. M. Officers.	62552	442
	The C. I. G. S., London, was asked for a more detailed explanation of the position of the suggested P. N. T. O., in relation to the G. O. C. Force " D."	62565	443
	The Viceroy was informed, that there had been no enlargement of the original scope of the Arab Bureau and of the policy to be followed by the G. O. C., Force " D " with regard to propaganda.	62578	444
	The G. O. C. Force " D " was informed of the decisions arrived at regarding his proposals to exchange certain Indian regiments, and the grant of leave to British and Indian ranks.	62626	445





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Letter No. H.-5586, dated 27th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 30th June 1916)

From—The Secretary to the Government of India.

To—The Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.

In continuation of my telegram No. H.-5579 of 27th June 1916 (Dy. No. 62124). I am directed to forward

Telegram No. 1111-5-O., dated the 13th May 1916 (Dy. No. 5410) from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," to the Chief of the General Staff.

Telegram No. 1111-12-O., dated 10th June 1916 (Dy. No. 60525) from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," to the Chief of the General Staff.

Telegram No. C-70, dated 20th June 1916 (Dy. No. 60994) from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," to the Chief of the General Staff.

It is not understood what the General Officer Commanding means by a "modified" form of Examination Service. It would appear, however, that the Service would be established at Fao, supported by a battery of partly worn 18-pounders, and that ships entering the Shatt-al-Arab would be warned of the Service by the pilot being outside the outer bar. The object of these precautions is stated to be to prevent hostile vessels under neutral colours attempting to block the Shatt-al-Arab by sowing mines or sinking themselves in the fairway of the channel.

3. The Government of India would be glad of Your Excellency's views:—

(a) as to whether the danger contemplated by the General Officer Commanding is a real one, and

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, whether the measures proposed to be taken are adequate to meet the danger.

It will be observed that the distance from Fao to the "outer bar" is about 16 miles, and that the navigable channel along this whole length is a narrow

APPENDIX 433

(Diary No. 62494)

one which lends itself to the operations of a mine layer or blocker without interference by the proposed examination battery at Fao. Obstruction to traffic on the Shatt-al-Arab would be as effective here as in the river above Fao.

Record copy to A.D. Marine.

Telegram P., No. 51, dated 29th June 1916.

(Received in War Section, 30th June 1916.)

From—The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Colombo.

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Marine Department.

It is understood that at Fao there already exists an examination service for vessels proceeding up the Shatt-al-Arab. In Indian waters the Naval situation is not such as to cause any anxiety on this score at present.

This is in reply to your telegram H.-5579 (Dy. No. 62124).

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C.

APPENDIX 434

(Diary No. 62499)

Telegram P., No. 129-474-O., dated 29th June 1916.

(Despatched 11-20 P.M., received 10-30 A.M., 30th June 1916.)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

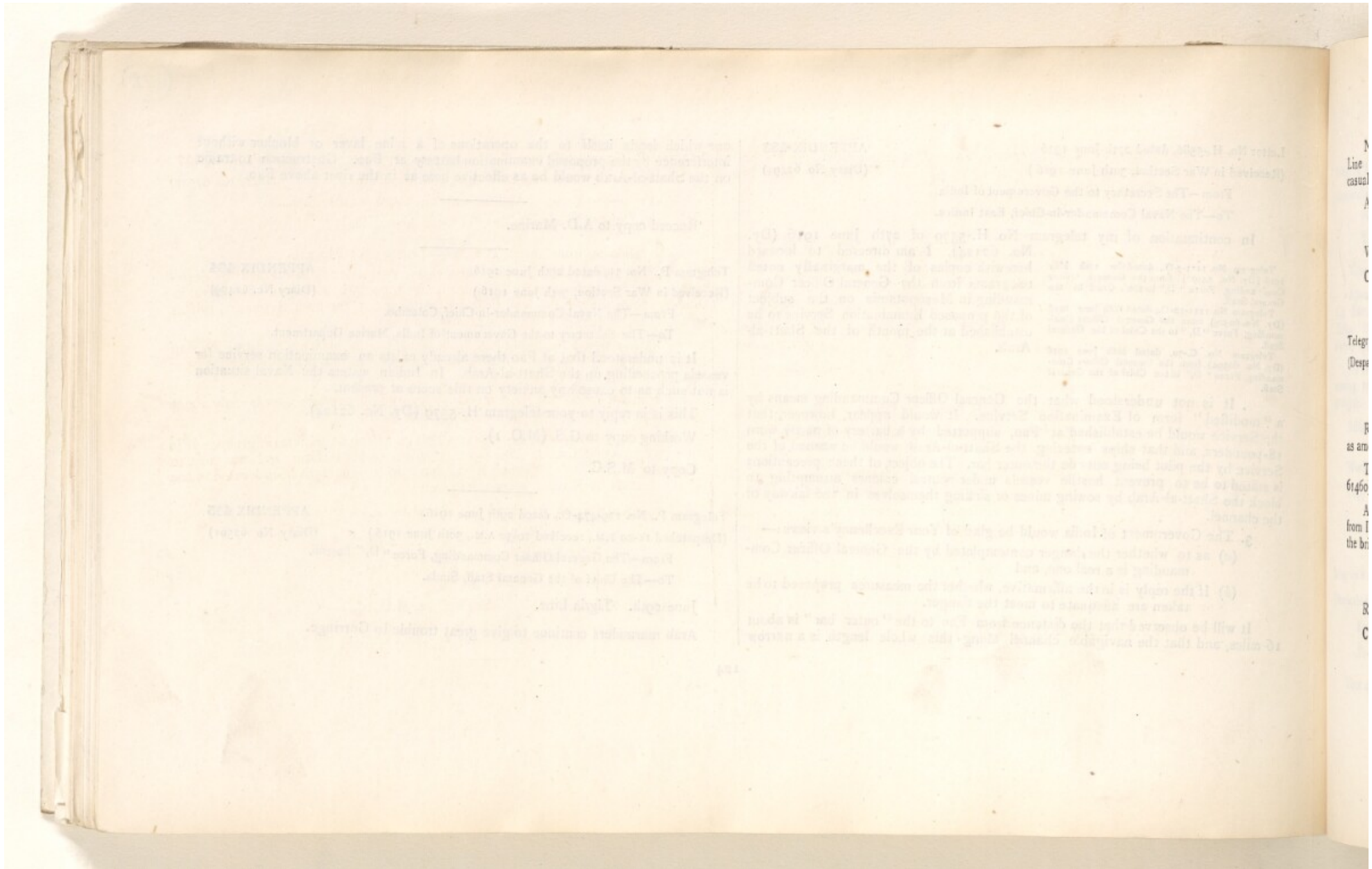
To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

June 29th. Tigris Line.

Arab marauders continue to give great trouble to Gorringe.

APPENDIX 435

(Diary No. 62501)





129

Nothing further otherwise to report. Later intelligence from the Euphrates Line confirms previous report regarding flight of Ibn-Rashid with heavy casualties as regards both camels and men.

Addressed Simla, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 1).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., F. and P., G.S. (M.O. 3).

Telegram P., No. 62520, dated 30th June 1916.
(Despatched 3-15 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

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

Repeats Diary No. 61460 from "The Brigade has full first line transport" as amended by Diary No. 61477.

The above is an extract from telegram Q.774 of 22nd instant (Dy. No. 61460) to the Commander-in-Chief in India from G. H. Q. France.

A complete Mule Corps of 768 mules with 200 carts is being despatched from India to supplement G. S. limbered wagon transport which is accompanying the brigade.

Record copy to Q.M.G.

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 2, M.O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 18957 Cypher-M. I., dated 29th June 1916.
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 10-30 A.M., 30th June 1916).

From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

The following from Marsh T. L.-215, June 27th. My 210.

Oghnat Section Mush group. Previous information is confirmed by deserters from the 19th and 20th regiments on June 25th, as regards the arrival in this section of the 7th Division (less one battalion of the 20th Regiment) which was left at Osmanie in Syria on a punitive mission.

They say that 2 mountain guns and 8 light guns accompanied the division from Kharput with some difficulty and that at Cholik 8 other light guns were left.

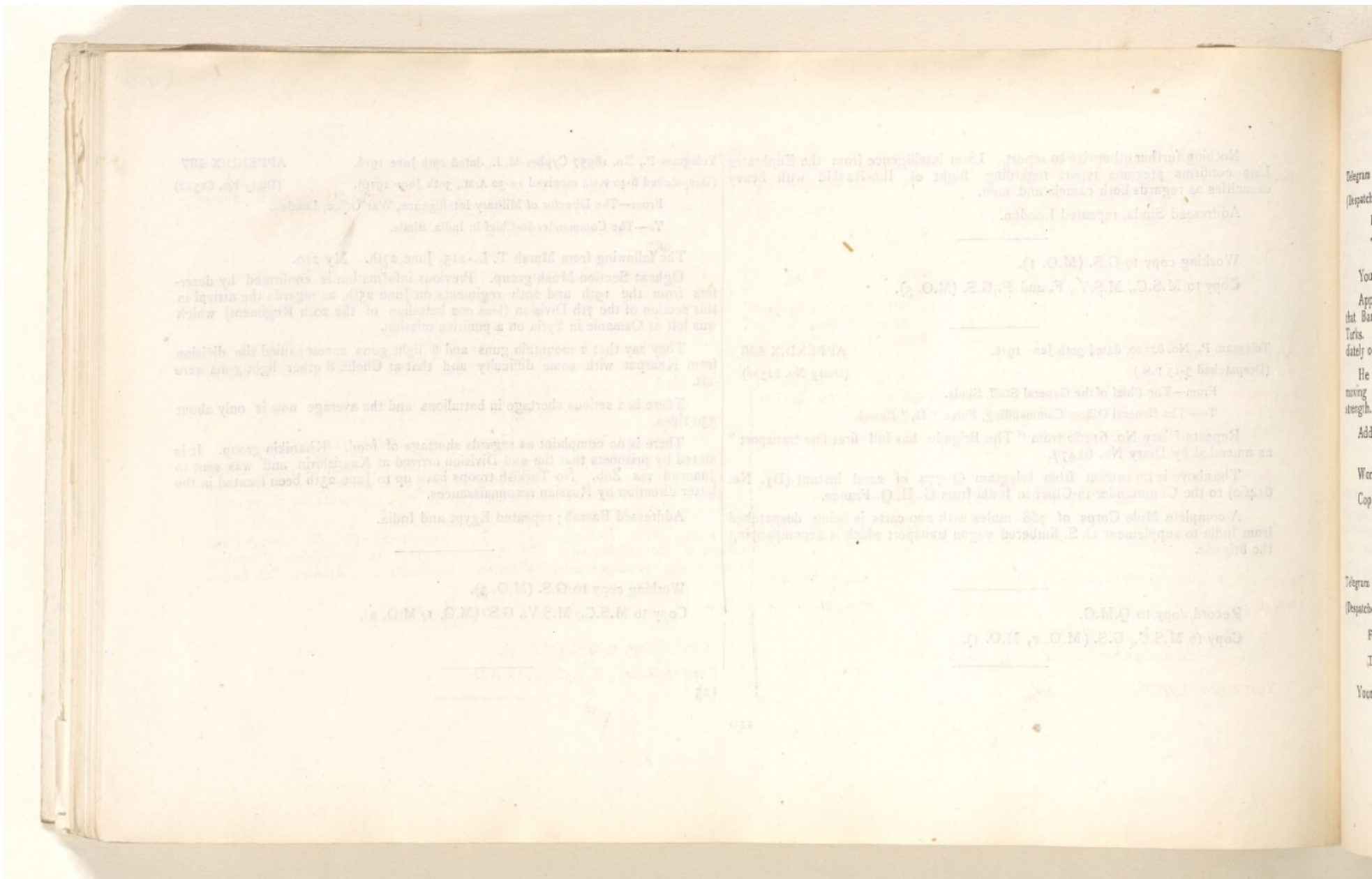
There is a serious shortage in battalions and the average now is only about 550 rifles.

There is no complaint as regards shortage of food. Khanikin group. It is stated by prisoners that the 2nd Division arrived at Kasrishirin and was sent to Juanrud *via* Zob. No Turkish troops have up to June 25th been located in the latter direction by Russian reconnaissances.

Addressed Basrah; repeated Egypt and India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).



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Telegram P., No. 18974-Cypher, dated 29th June 1916.
(Despatched 10-20 P.M., received 10-45 A.M., 30th June 1916.)
From—The Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, London.
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

APPENDIX 438
(Diary No. 62513)

Your I. G.-3138.

Apparently your information is correct. On June 28th Marsh telegraphs that Barratoff has evacuated Karind which on June 26th, was occupied by the Turks. It is estimated by Barratoff that there are 15 battalions of Turks immediately opposed to him.

He is withdrawing to Kermanshah. The reports that the 2nd Division is moving to Juanrud is not borne out by the above estimate of the Turkish strength.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 18971-Cipher-A. E.2-B., dated 29th June 1916.
(Despatched 20-30 P.M., received 0-40 A.M., 30th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 439
(Diary No. 62524)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 4990. (59076.)

The S. S. "Nestor" due to leave July 1st takes three Martinsyde Beadmore aeroplanes Nos. 7459, 7460 and 7461 and engines.
Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

Working copy to G.S. (S.D. 3).

Copy to M.S.C., D.G.O., A.D. (Aviation).

Telegram P., No. 1135-120, dated 29th June 1916.
(Despatched 11 P.M., received 10-50 A.M., 30th June 1916.)

APPENDIX 440
(Diary No. 62525)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Reference to Chief London's 18907 of June 28th (*Dy. No. 62306*).

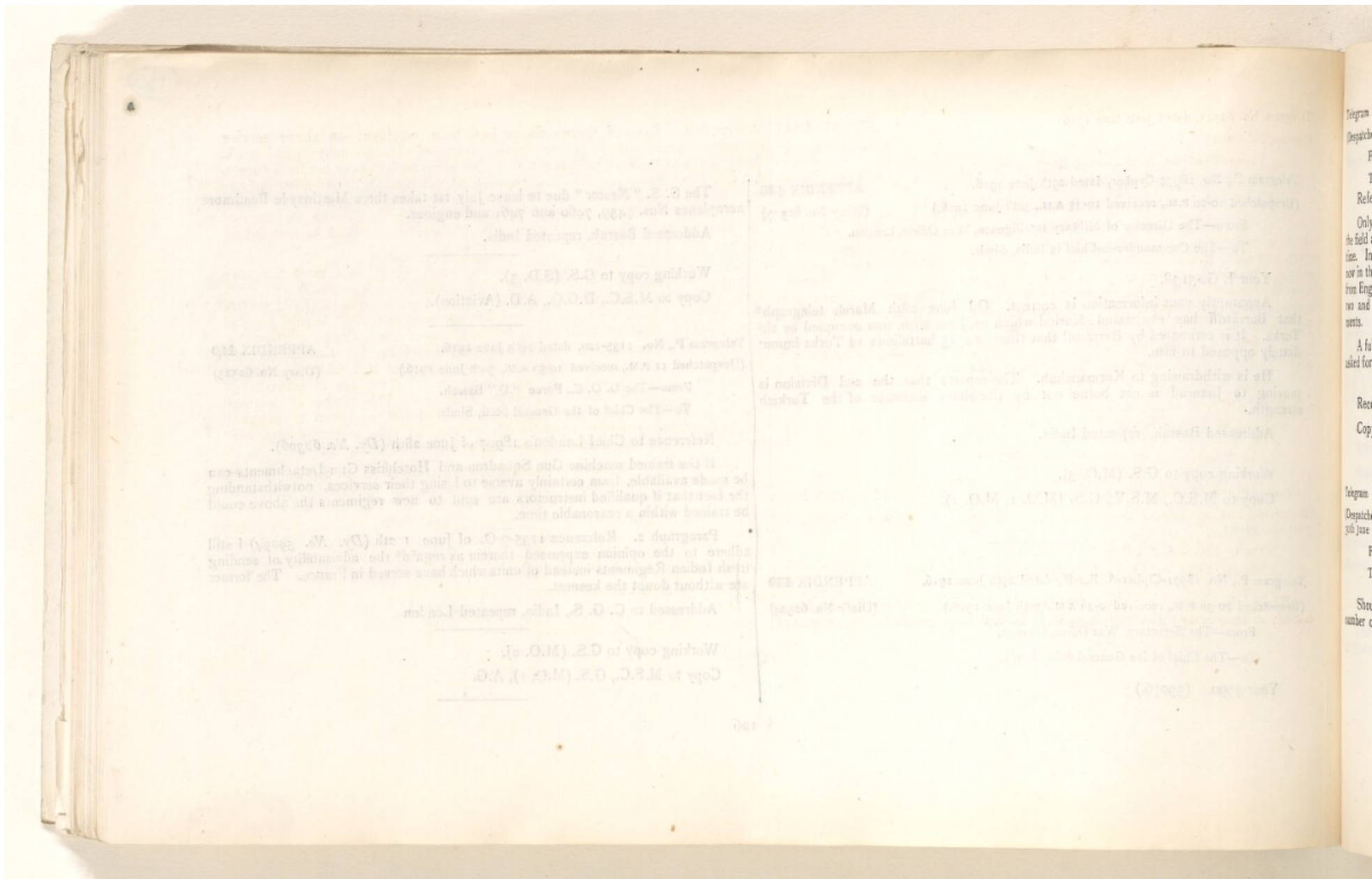
If the trained machine Gun Squadron and Hotchkiss Gun Detachments can be made available, I am certainly averse to losing their services, notwithstanding the fact that if qualified instructors are sent to new regiments the above could be trained within a reasonable time.

Paragraph 2. Reference 1135-9-O. of June 1st (*Dy. No. 59094*) I still adhere to the opinion expressed therein as regards the advisability of sending fresh Indian Regiments instead of units which have served in France. The former are without doubt the keenest.

Addressed to C. G. S., India, repeated London.

Working copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O. 1), A.G.



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Telegram No. 62545, dated 30th June 1916.
(Despatched 5 P.M.)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

Reference 684-15-A., dated June 22nd (*Dy. No. 61260*).

Only 1 printing and 1 litho section remain in India and are required for the field army on mobilization. To form new sections will require considerable time. In view of this can your needs be met by a redistribution of sections now in the field supplemented if available by a portion of a printing company from England. See War Establishments Part seven new armies page one nine two and say what section of a printing company would meet your requirements.

A further communication will be sent later regarding the two printing sections asked for in your 684-17-A., June 27th (*Dy. No. 62084*).

Record copy to G.S. (M.O. 2).

Copy to M.S.C., A.G.

Telegram No. 1629-2-A., dated 30th June 1916.
(Despatched 11-20 P.M., 29th June 1916, received 10-30 A.M., 30th June 1916.)

From—The G. O. C., Force "D", Basrah.

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Should be grateful of your assistance in following matter. Have a large number of temporary sub-Lieutenants R. I. M. and Lieutenants here in command

APPENDIX 441
(Diary No. 62545)

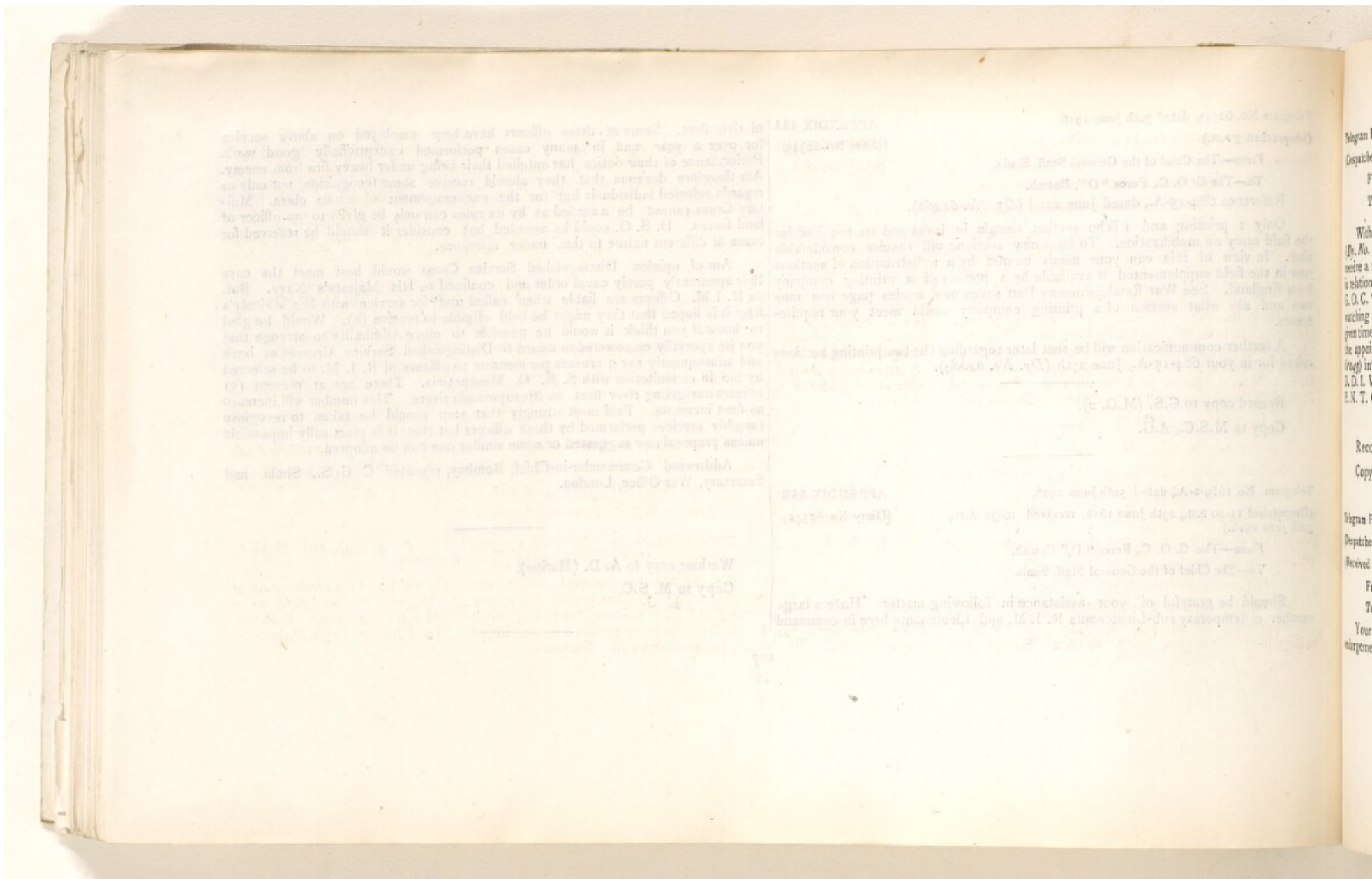
of river fleet. Some of these officers have been employed on above service for over a year and in many cases performed exceptionally good work. Performance of their duties has entailed their being under heavy fire from enemy. Am therefore desirous that they should receive some recognition not only as regards selected individuals but for the encouragement of whole class. Military Cross cannot be awarded as by its rules can only be given to an officer of land forces. D. S. O. could be awarded but consider it should be reserved for cases of different nature to that under reference.

Am of opinion Distinguished Service Cross would best meet the case. It is apparently purely naval order and confined to His Majesty's Navy. But as R. I. M. Officers are liable when called upon for service with His Majesty's fleet it is hoped that they might be held eligible to receive (it). Would be glad to know if you think it would be possible to move Admiralty to arrange that you be specially empowered to award 6 Distinguished Service Crosses at once and subsequently say 2 crosses per mensem to officers of R. I. M. to be selected by me in consultation with S. N. O. Mesopotamia. There are at present 151 officers navigating river fleet on Mesopotamia rivers. This number will increase as fleet increases. Feel most strongly that step should be taken to recognise tangibly services performed by these officers but that it is practically impossible unless proposal now suggested or some similar one can be adopted.

Addressed Commander-in-Chief, Bombay, repeated C. G. S., Simla and Secretary, War Office, London.

Working copy to A. D. (Marine).

Copy to M. S.C.



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Telegram P., No. 62565, dated the 30th June 1916.

(Despatched 6-45 P.M.)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla.

To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

With reference to correspondence ending with your No. 8230 of June 16th (*Dy. No. 59925*). We should be glad, before we come to a final decision, to receive a more detailed explanation of the position of the suggested P. N. T. O. in relation to the G. O. C. Force "D". Unless the officer is under his orders G. O. C. "D" is averse to the appointment. Mr. Browne is presumably watching Admiralty interests. The existing arrangements in Force "D" if given time to take effect are according to our present opinion, adequate without the appointment of a P. N. T. O. We have noted your 18145-Cipher (*Dy. No. 61045*) informing us of the prospective despatch to Basrah from home of the D. D. I. W. T. together with small staff. With regard to the appointment of a P. N. T. O. it is presumed that for the present no action will be taken.

Record copy to A.D., Marine.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O. 1, M.O. 2).

Telegram P., dated 28th June 1916.

(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 11-45 A.M., 29th June 1916.)

(Received in War Section, 30th June 1916.)

From—The Secretary of State for India.

To—The Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Simla.

Your telegram of June 20th (*Dy. No. 60698 ?*). There has been no enlargement of original scope of Arab Bureau such as you describe. The

APPENDIX 443
(Diary No. 62565)

meaning of my telegram of the 27th ultimo was that views which H. M.'s Government desire to have propagated on Arab question will be communicated to General Officer Commanding, Force "D," by Bureau for that purpose, but he must as explained in my telegrams of May 27th (*Dy. No. 56693*) and June 14th (*Dy. No. 59901*), have authority, subject to your directions and mine, to use his own discretion as to their suitability in local conditions. If he decides not to act on Bureau's suggestion however he should report to you and repeat to me and Bureau.

All decisions or orders of H. M.'s Government outside sphere of propaganda will be communicated by me to you.

Record copy to G.S. (M.O.3).

Copy to M.S.C., G.S. (M.O.1).

Telegram No. 62626, dated 30th June 1916.

(Despatched 10-30 P.M.)

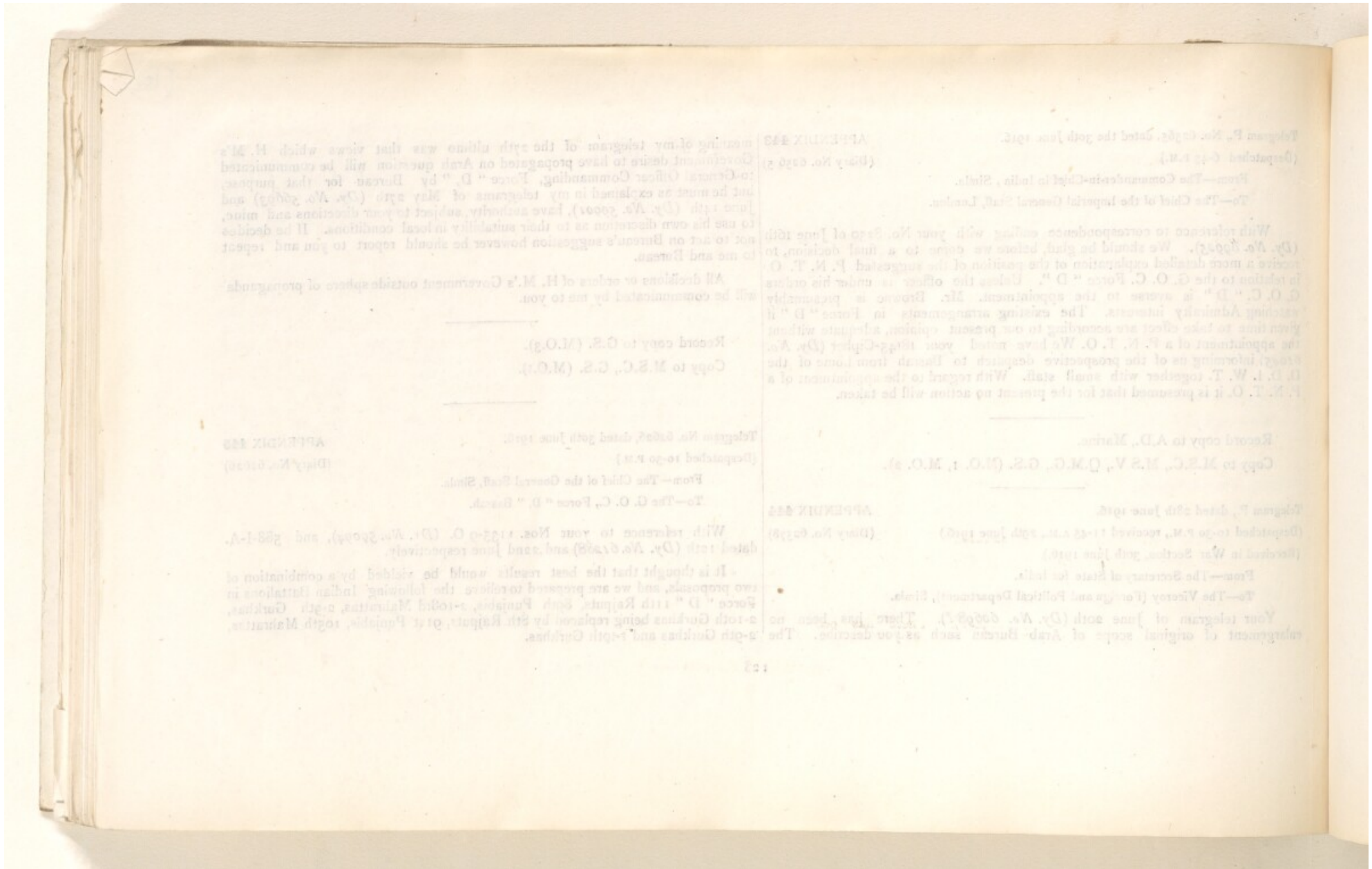
From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

To—The G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah.

With reference to your Nos. 1135-9 O. (*Dy. No. 59094*), and 588-I-A. dated 12th (*Dy. No. 61268*) and 22nd June respectively.

It is thought that the best results would be yielded by a combination of two proposals, and we are prepared to relieve the following Indian Battalions in Force "D" 11th Rajputs, 89th Punjabis, 2-103rd Mahrattas, 2-9th Gurkhas, 2-10th Gurkhas being replaced by 8th Rajputs, 91st Punjabis, 105th Mahrattas, 2-9th Gurkhas and 1-10th Gurkhas.

APPENDIX 445
(Diary No. 62626)





(133)

The above is as far as we can go in the direction of your first proposal now. The above exchanges can only be carried out, in existing circumstances, on condition that the relief movements begin from Mesopotamia to India, *i.e.*, no unit could leave this country until the relieving unit arrives from Mesopotamia. Please let me know by cable whether you accept the above exchanges and the order in which you will send units.

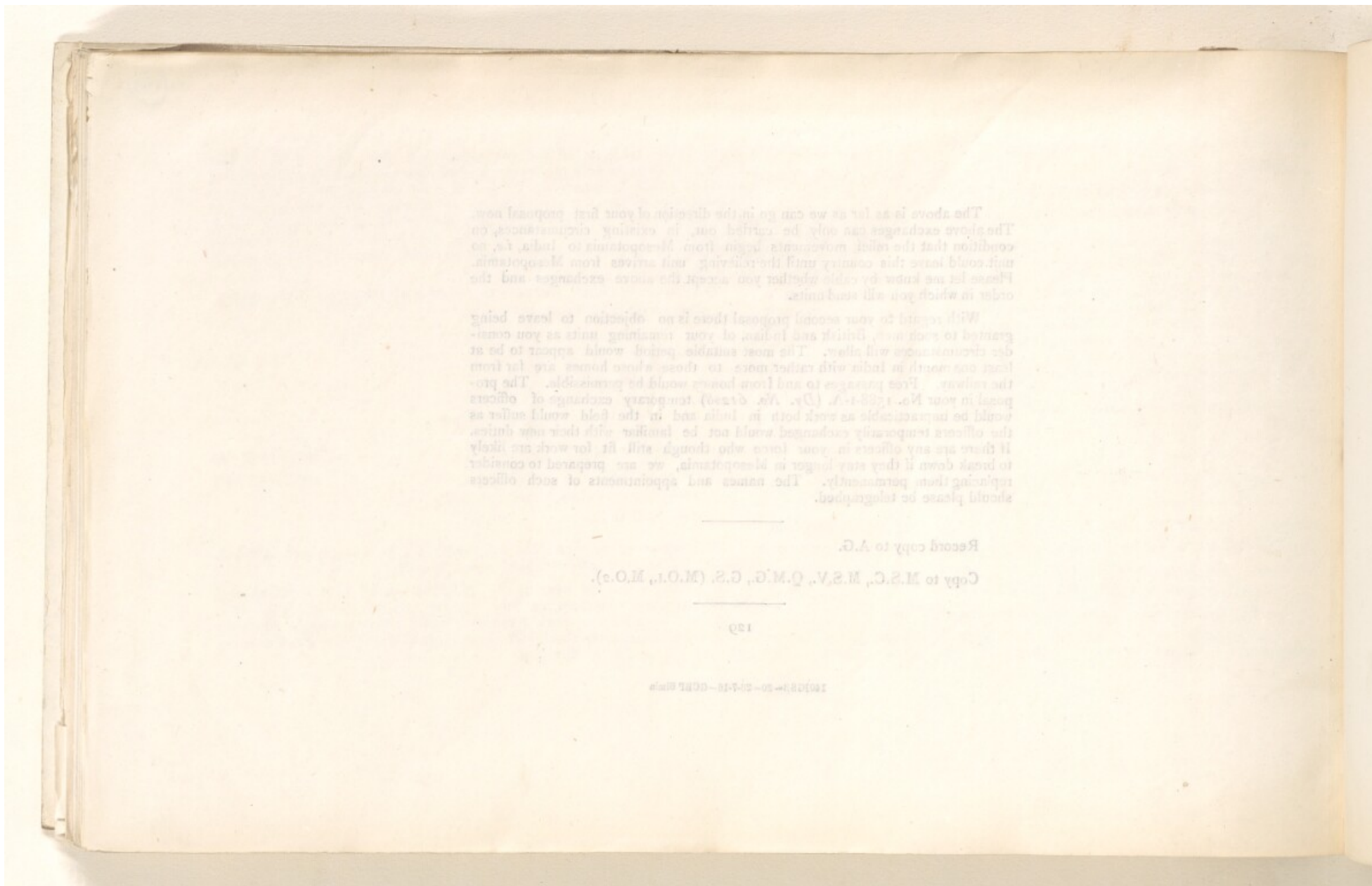
With regard to your second proposal there is no objection to leave being granted to such men, British and Indian, of your remaining units as you consider circumstances will allow. The most suitable period would appear to be at least one month in India with rather more to those whose homes are far from the railway. Free passages to and from homes would be permissible. The proposal in your No. 1588-1-A. (*Dy. No. 61288*) temporary exchange of officers would be impracticable as work both in India and in the field would suffer as the officers temporarily exchanged would not be familiar with their new duties. If there are any officers in your force who though still fit for work are likely to break down if they stay longer in Mesopotamia, we are prepared to consider replacing them permanently. The names and appointments of such officers should please be telegraphed.

Record copy to A.G.

Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O.1., M.O.2).

129

140168B-20-26-7-16-GCBF Sims



The above is as far as we can go in the direction of your first proposal now. The above exchanges can only be carried out in existing circumstances, on condition that the relief movements begin from Mesopotamia to India, and that the country will be cleared and the relief movements will be carried out. Please let me know by cable whether you accept the above exchanges and the order in which you will maintain.

With regard to your second proposal there is no objection to leave being granted to you, British and Indian of your remaining units as you consider the circumstances will allow. The most suitable period would appear to be at least one month in India with rather more to those whose homes are far from the relief. Your proposals to and from home would be possible. The proposal in your No. 1288-A (Jr. A's draft) temporary exchange of officers would be practicable as work both in India and in the field would suffer as the officers temporarily exchanged would not be familiar with their new duties. If there are any officers in your force who though still fit for work are likely to break down if they are longer in Mesopotamia, we are prepared to consider replacing them permanently. The names and appointments of such officers should please be telegraphed.

Record copy to A.G.
Copy to M.S.C., M.S.V., Q.M.G., G.S. (M.O.), M.O.s.

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