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'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc'

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/R/15/2/659
Date(s)	1 Jun 1940-13 Feb 1942 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (18 folios)
Copyright for document	Open Government Licence

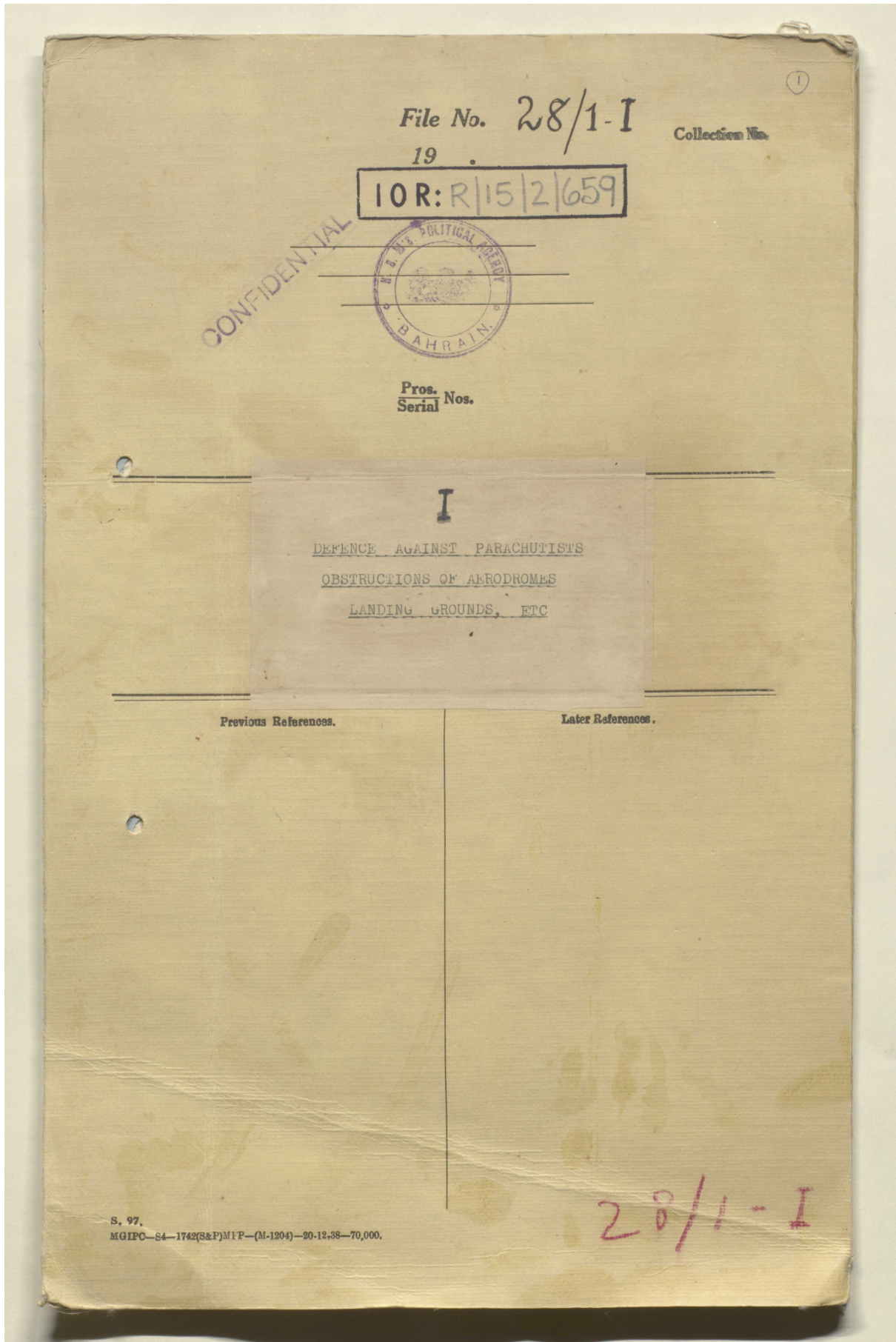


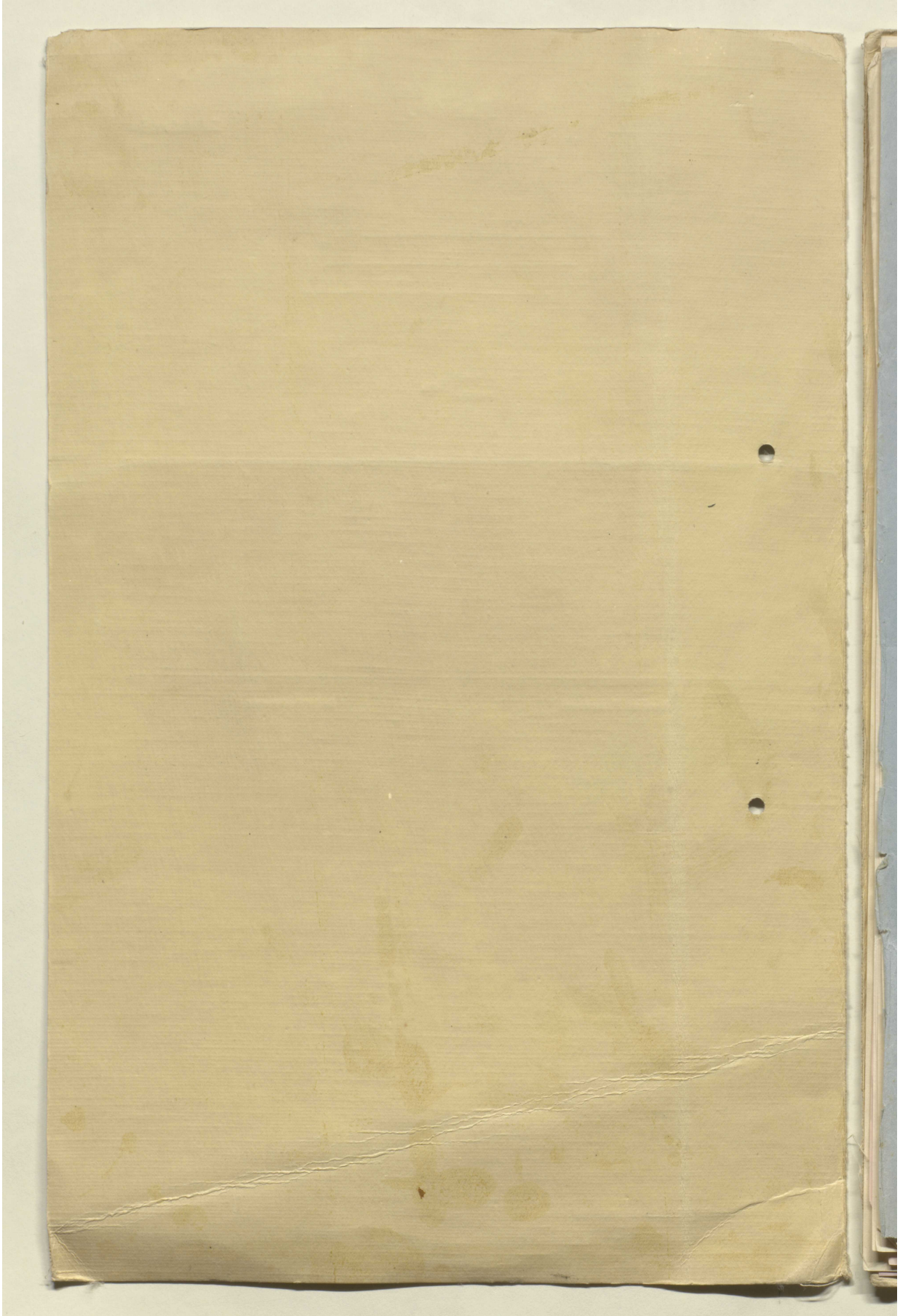
About this record

The file comprises copies of correspondence and memoranda containing guidance relating to the perceived threat of enemy troops parachuting into British-Indian territory. Though the threat is most strongly perceived in the north-western provinces of India and Baluchistan, the guidance was distributed to Britain's political agencies in the Persian Gulf, including Bahrain.

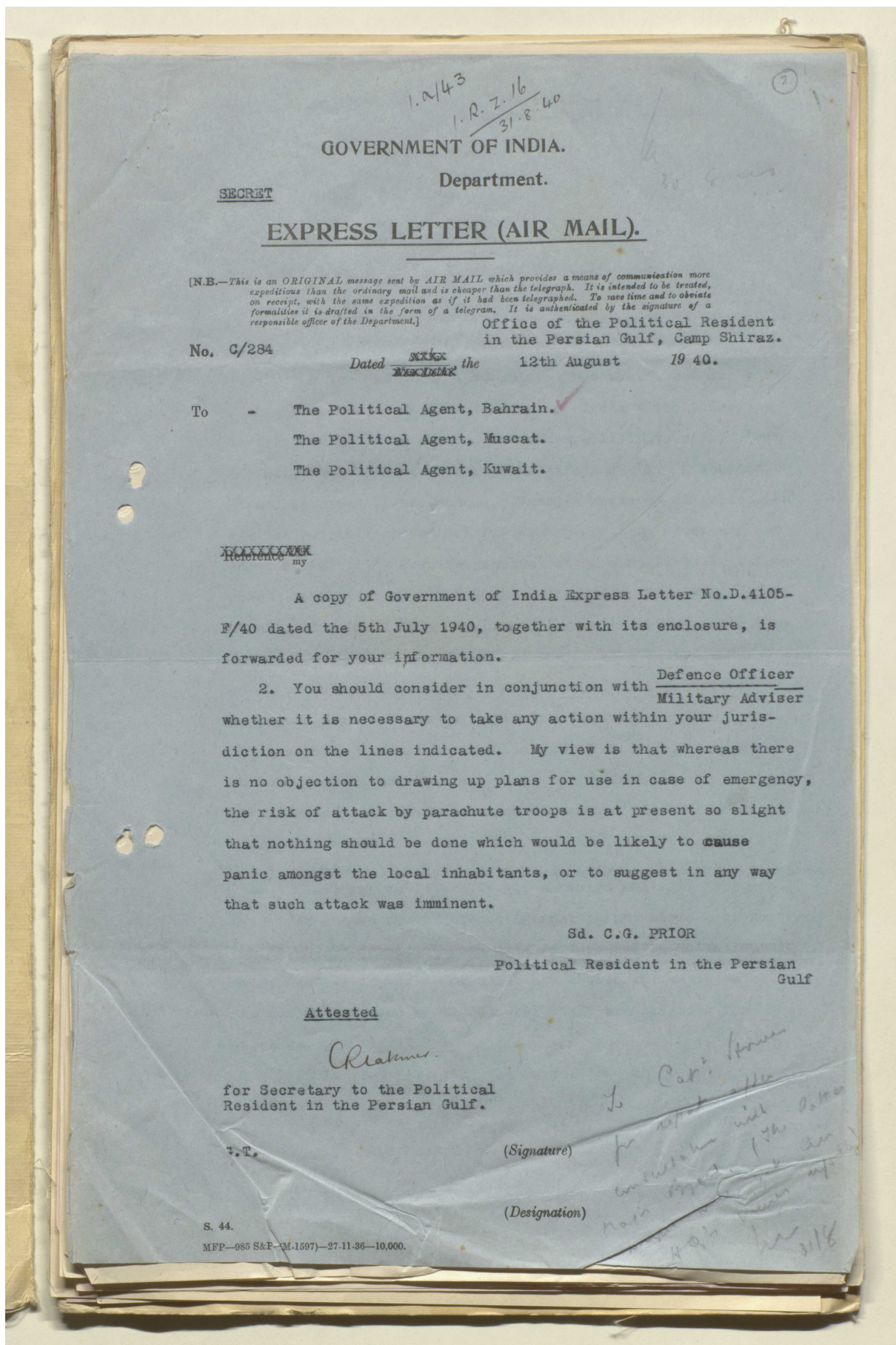
The file includes: a copy of a Government of India letter, dated 5 July 1940, discussing the vulnerability of stations on the northwest frontier of India, with suggestions for passive air defence measures, and precautions to be taken against parachutists (paratroopers) (ff 3-4); a note from the General Staff, dated 1 June 1940, outlining the nature of parachute attacks (f 5); a note outlining active defence measures to be taken against paratroopers, including permanent guards and the placement of obstructions on landing grounds (f 6); a copy of a secret memorandum from the Government of India, dated 30 July 1940, stating that no landing grounds should be obstructed without prior reference to the Government of India External Affairs Department (f 8); copies of telegrams relating to difficulties encountered in ascertaining the identities of air crews at some landing grounds (f10), with proposals for photograph identity cards to be carried by aircrews, a specimen of which is included (f 11); a copy of a letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, dated 18 December 1942, drawing attention to the success of 'fifth column' exercises in Northern Command, and requesting that 'provincial governments' assess their arrangements for weaknesses that may leave them prone to fifth column activities (ff 18-19).

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [front] (1/40)





'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [2r] (3/40)



1.2/43
1.R.Z.16
31.8.40

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Department.

SECRET

EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).

[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL message sent by AIR MAIL which provides a means of communication more expeditious than the ordinary mail and is cheaper than the telegraph. It is intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and to obviate formalities it is drafted in the form of a telegram. It is authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer of the Department.]

Office of the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf, Camp Shiraz.

No. G/284

Dated ~~xxxxxx~~ the 12th August 19 40.

To - The Political Agent, Bahrain. ✓

The Political Agent, Muscat.

The Political Agent, Kuwait.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Reference my

A copy of Government of India Express Letter No.D.4105-F/40 dated the 5th July 1940, together with its enclosure, is forwarded for your information.

2. You should consider in conjunction with Defence Officer
Military Adviser whether it is necessary to take any action within your jurisdiction on the lines indicated. My view is that whereas there is no objection to drawing up plans for use in case of emergency, the risk of attack by parachute troops is at present so slight that nothing should be done which would be likely to cause panic amongst the local inhabitants, or to suggest in any way that such attack was imminent.

Sd. C.G. PRIOR

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf

Attested

Chakrav.

for Secretary to the Political
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

J.T.

(Signature)

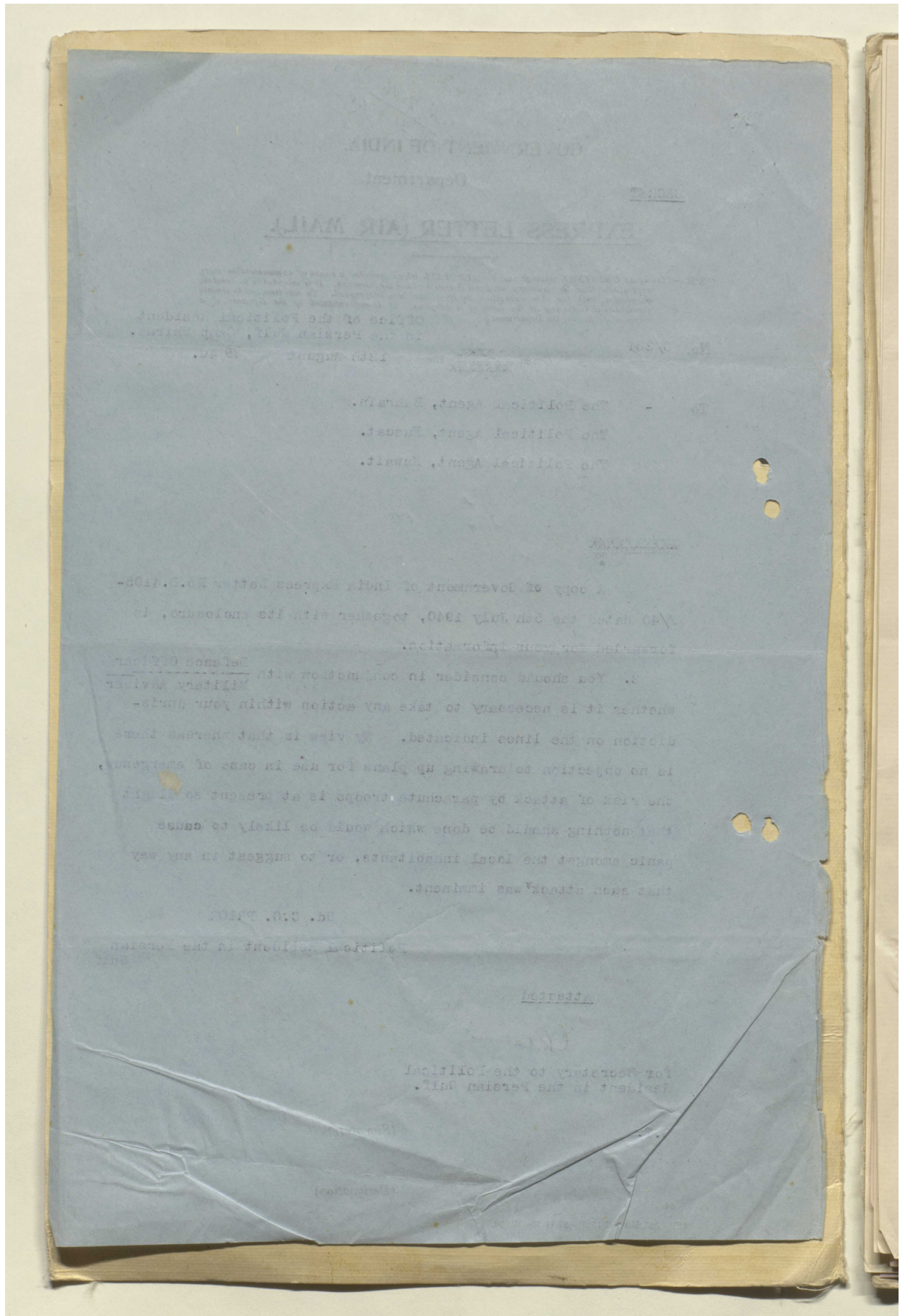
(Designation)

S. 44.

MFP-985 S&P-M-1597-27-11-36-10,000.

To Capt. Brown
for report on the
situation with the British
main object of the air
force
40/11/18

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [2v] (4/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [3r] (5/40)

Secret

Government of India,
External Affairs Department.

EXPRESS LETTER

From - Foreign, Simla.
To - Norwef, Nathiagali.
- Baluchistan, Ziarat.

No.D.4105-F/40

Dated the 5th July 1940.

Passive Air Defence and Defence against
parachutists.

The General Staff have pointed out that there are some stations on the North West Frontier of India which possess a certain degree of importance and vulnerability to attack from the air, but which have no regular garrison e.g. Parachinar, Miranshah, Arawali etc. etc.. Passive measures of protection against possible air attack for such places are necessary and the responsibility for the preparation of a Passive Air Defence Scheme to meet local requirements, lies with the civil authorities. In considering the places for which schemes should be framed, you will no doubt consult the local military authorities so as to ensure that there is no overlapping or conversely that no places are overlooked. Attention is specially invited to the necessity for considering the danger of landings by parachute troops in tribal areas.

2. Passive Air Defence measures consist of -

(a) Black out.

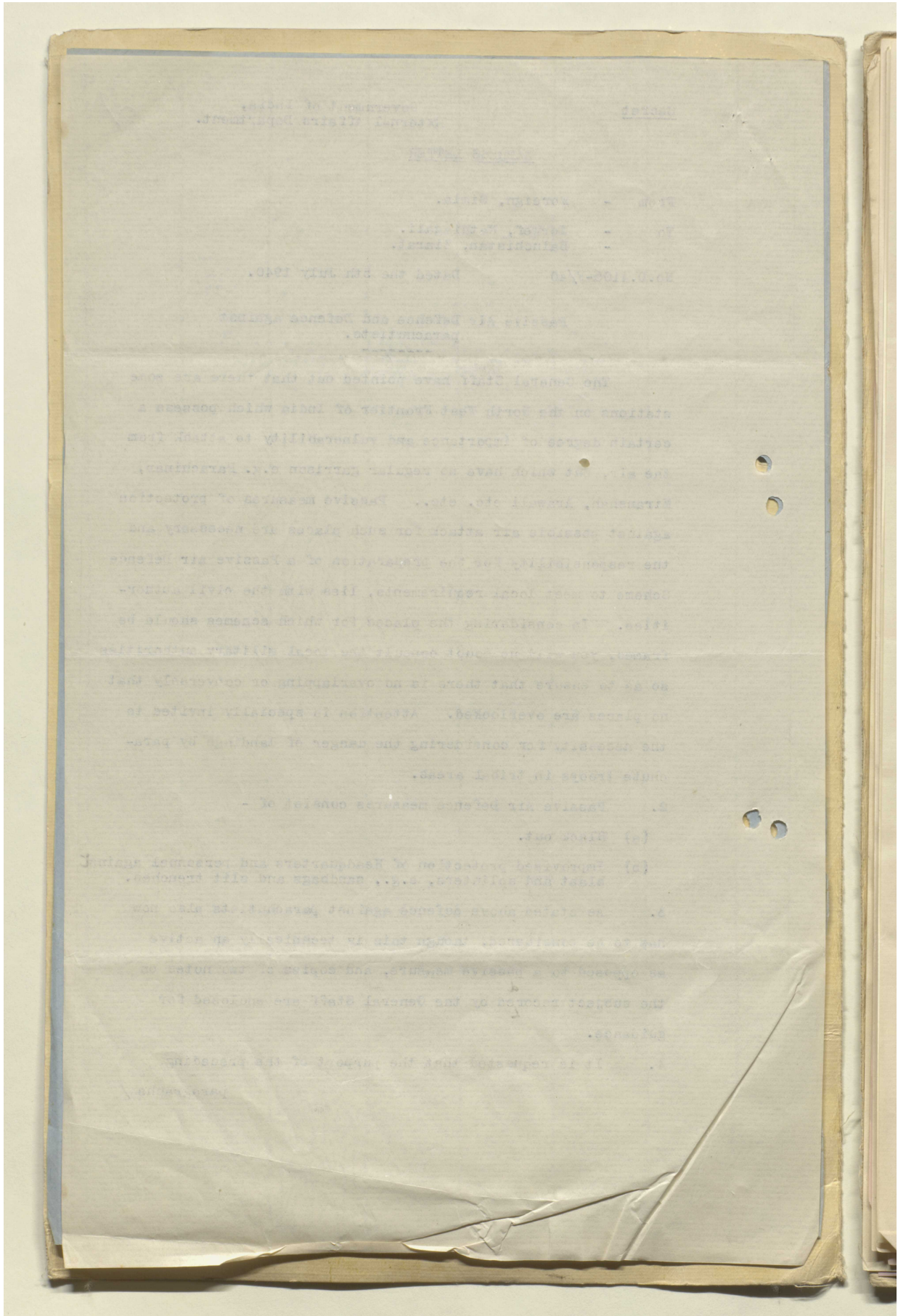
(b) Improvised protection of Headquarters and personnel against blast and splinters, e.g., sandbags and slit trenches.

3. As stated above defence against parachutists also now has to be considered, though this is technically an active as opposed to a passive measure, and copies of two notes on the subject recored by the General Staff are enclosed for guidance.

4. It is requested that the purport of the preceding

paragraphs /

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [3v] (6/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [4r] (7/40)

2.

paragraphs may kindly be brought to the notice of all civil authorities with whom the Local Administration is concerned, including the North West Frontier States, the attention of the Baluchistan States Commandants of Frontier Corps being particularly invited to their responsibilities (e.g. at Parachinar, Miranshah and Arawali).

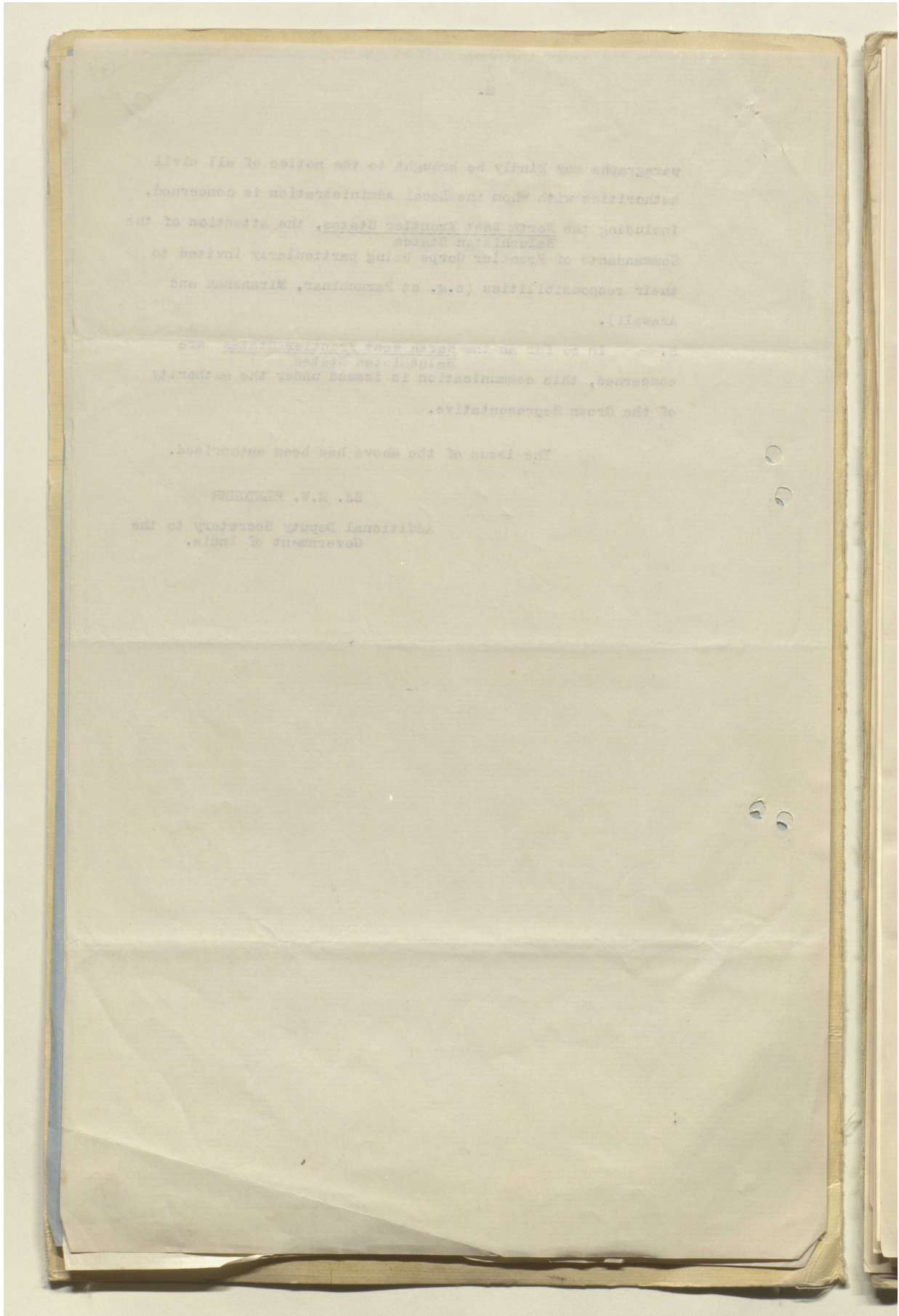
5. In so far as the North West Frontier States are Baluchistan States concerned, this communication is issued under the authority of the Crown Representative.

The issue of the above has been authorised.

Sd. E.W. FLETCHER

Additional Deputy Secretary to the
Government of India.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [4v] (8/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [5r] (9/40)

5
A
MOST SECRET.

Copy of a note dated the 1st June 1940 recorded by the General Staff.

....

x x x x x

1. Attacks by parachutists and air borne troops on aerodromes etc. have usually been made between three hours before and three after sunrise but may be expected at any time. Attacks have sometimes been preceded by bombing and machine gun attacks to neutralise local defences. Parachute troops often attempt to overpower the defenders and to isolate the aerodrome by cutting communications, and by attacking control rooms and headquarters. They may also attempt to destroy aircraft. Troops have also been landed from gliders which carry ten to twenty men. Any obstructions on the aerodrome have then been cleared to enable troops carriers to land. Twelve parachutists can jump from some type of aircraft in six to ten seconds from a height of three hundred feet. This has often been carried out unobserved. Sometimes parachutists appear to surrender, though they have a grenade in each hand. Uniform, when worn, has been a green combination suit with a badge consisting of a wreath encircling a diving eagle. On other occasions parachutists have been disguised as British soldiers, clergymen, nuns or ordinary civilians.

2. Most of the equipment of parachutists is in containers dropped separately also by parachute. It may consist of mortars, automatic weapons, grenades, flame throwers, auto-cycles, bicycles and even motor cycle side-cars fitted with machine guns. Parachutists and troop carrying aircraft have often been protected by fighter aircraft which remained overhead during the whole action. From one type of aircraft parachutists have been deplaned at the rate of one thousand troops per hour. Each of these aircraft carried twelve to twentyfive men according to the arms and equipment carried. Air-transported troops may land on any available space other than an aerodrome having no regard to whether the aircraft crashes or not. The latter are fitted with machine guns for air defence and with others for use on the ground. Usually the plan and orders have been known only to officers. If the officer has been shot the remainder have sometimes surrendered. Alternatively they have easily been rendered ineffective.

3. We are warned to beware of possible use of non-persistent gas before and during an attack. This may be delivered by bomb, spray or grenades. Parachutists require time after landing to unpack their equipment and rally etc., and for several minutes they are relatively defenceless, and are relatively easily dealt with. It is therefore imperative to avoid being surprised by attack by troops from the air and to counter-attack immediately before they have had time to become formidable. If the advanced party of parachutists has been neutralised transport aircraft may land expecting little resistance and the enemy troops can be overwhelmed as they deplane. It is important to impress on all that the sequence of action must be, -

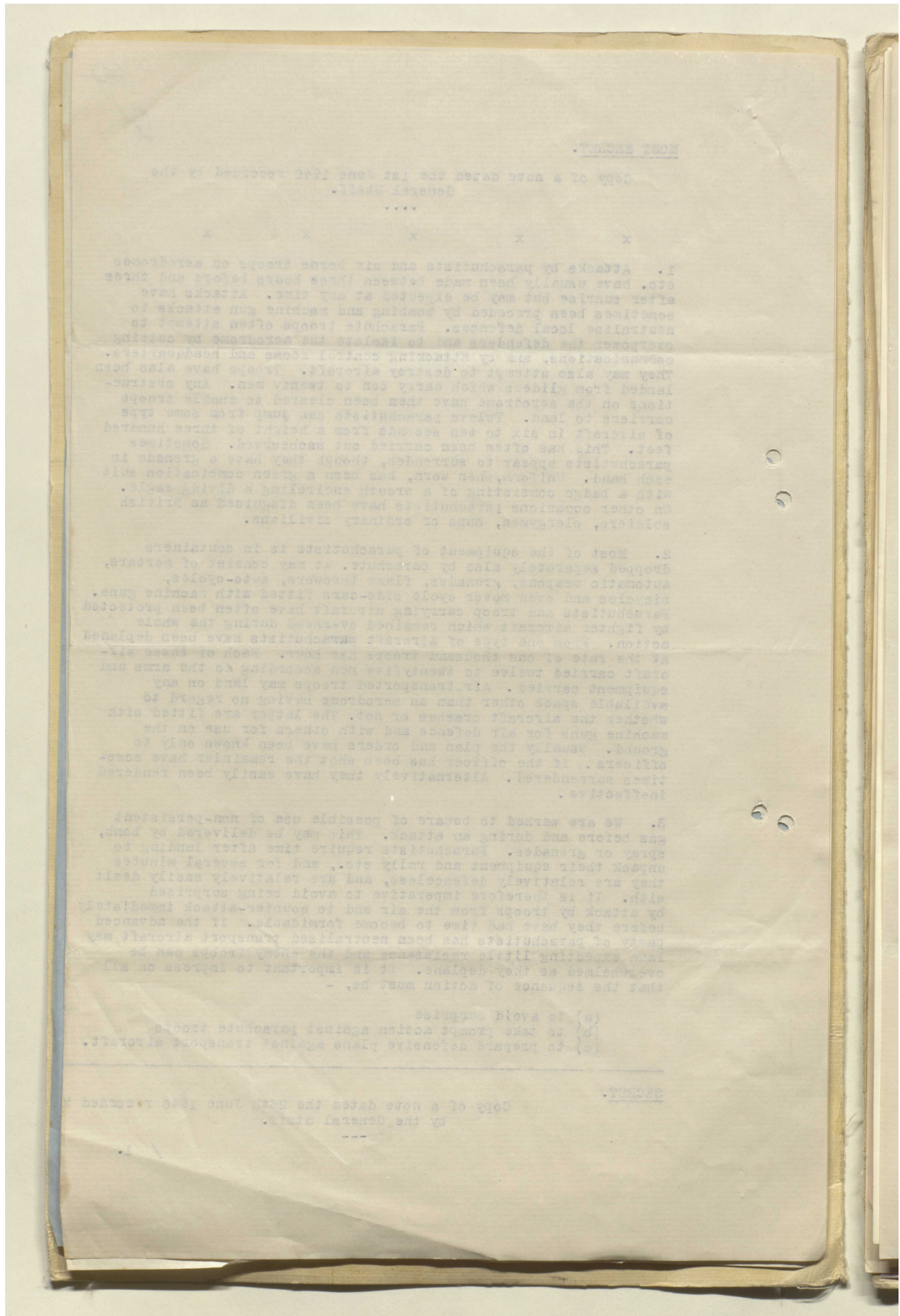
- (a) to avoid surprise
- (b) to take prompt action against parachute troops
- (c) to prepare defensive plans against transport aircraft.

SECRET.

Copy of a note dated the 26th June 1940 recorded by the General Staff.

/ 1.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [5v] (10/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [6r] (11/40)

6 (6)

1. Enemy objective in Frontier States and in non-administered areas under the control of His Excellency the Governor of the North West Frontier Province and the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan might be, -

- (a) Landing grounds.
- (b) Important bridges, with a view either to their destruction or capture for use in a subsequent advance.
- (c) Posts and Telegraph offices.

2. Parachutists require time after landing to unpack their equipment, rally, etc., and for several minutes they are relatively defenceless and relatively easily dealt with. It is therefore imperative to avoid being surprised by this form of attack and to be prepared to take immediate action to attack the enemy before he has time to become formidable. If the advanced party of parachutists has been neutralised, transport aircraft may land expecting little resistance and the enemy troops can be overwhelmed as they deplane. It is important therefore to impress on all that the sequence of action must be, -

- (a) To avoid surprise.
- (b) To take prompt action against parachute troops.
- (c) To prepare defensive plans against transport aircraft.

3. In the areas under consideration it is suggested that any organisation created to counter this threat should be based on the following principles:-

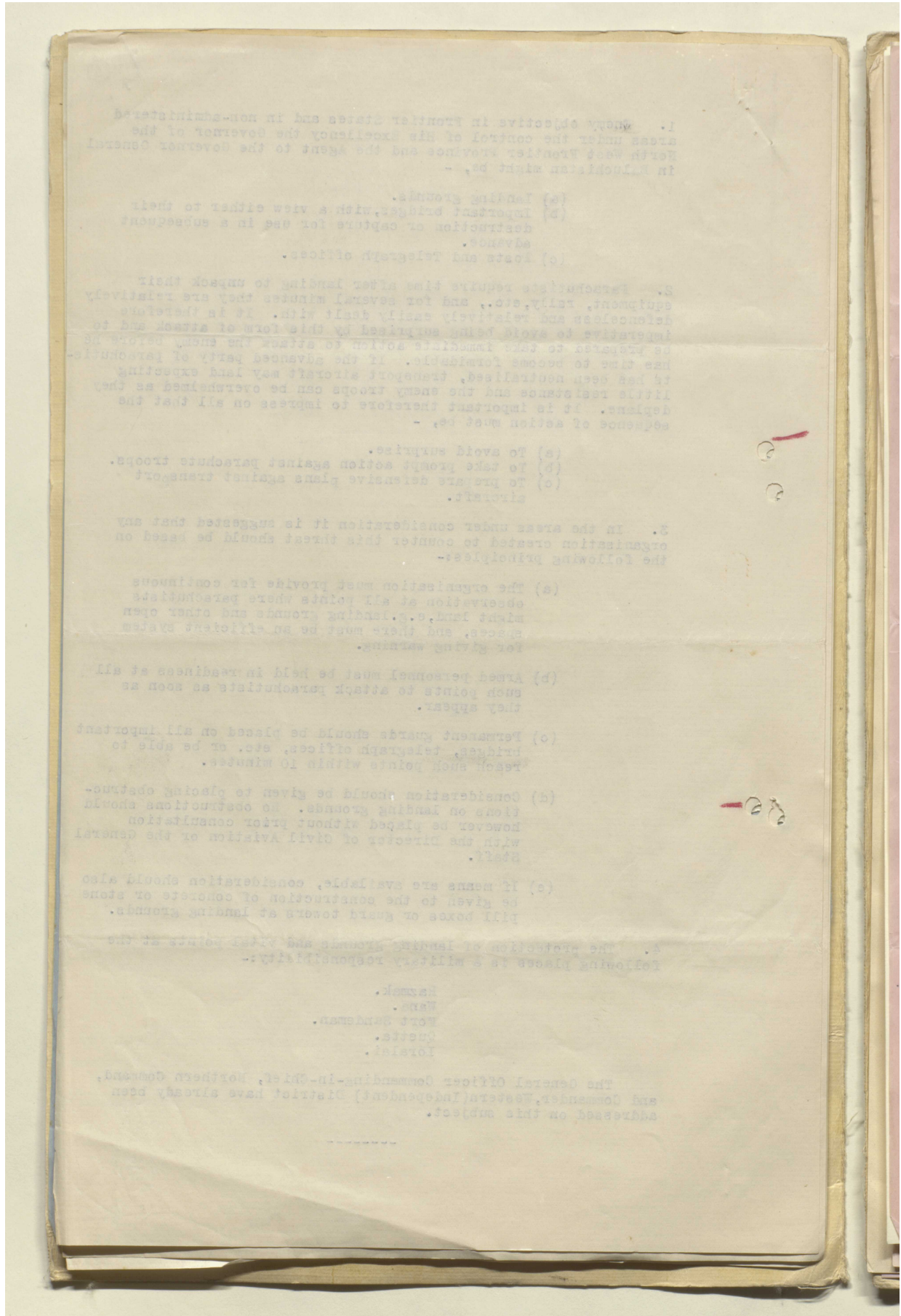
- (a) The organisation must provide for continuous observation at all points where parachutists might land, e.g. landing grounds and other open spaces, and there must be an efficient system for giving warning.
- (b) Armed personnel must be held in readiness at all such points to attack parachutists as soon as they appear.
- (c) Permanent guards should be placed on all important bridges, telegraph offices, etc. or be able to reach such points within 10 minutes.
- (d) Consideration should be given to placing obstructions on landing grounds. No obstructions should however be placed without prior consultation with the Director of Civil Aviation or the General Staff.
- (e) If means are available, consideration should also be given to the construction of concrete or stone pill boxes or guard towers at landing grounds.

4. The protection of landing grounds and vital points at the following places is a military responsibility:-

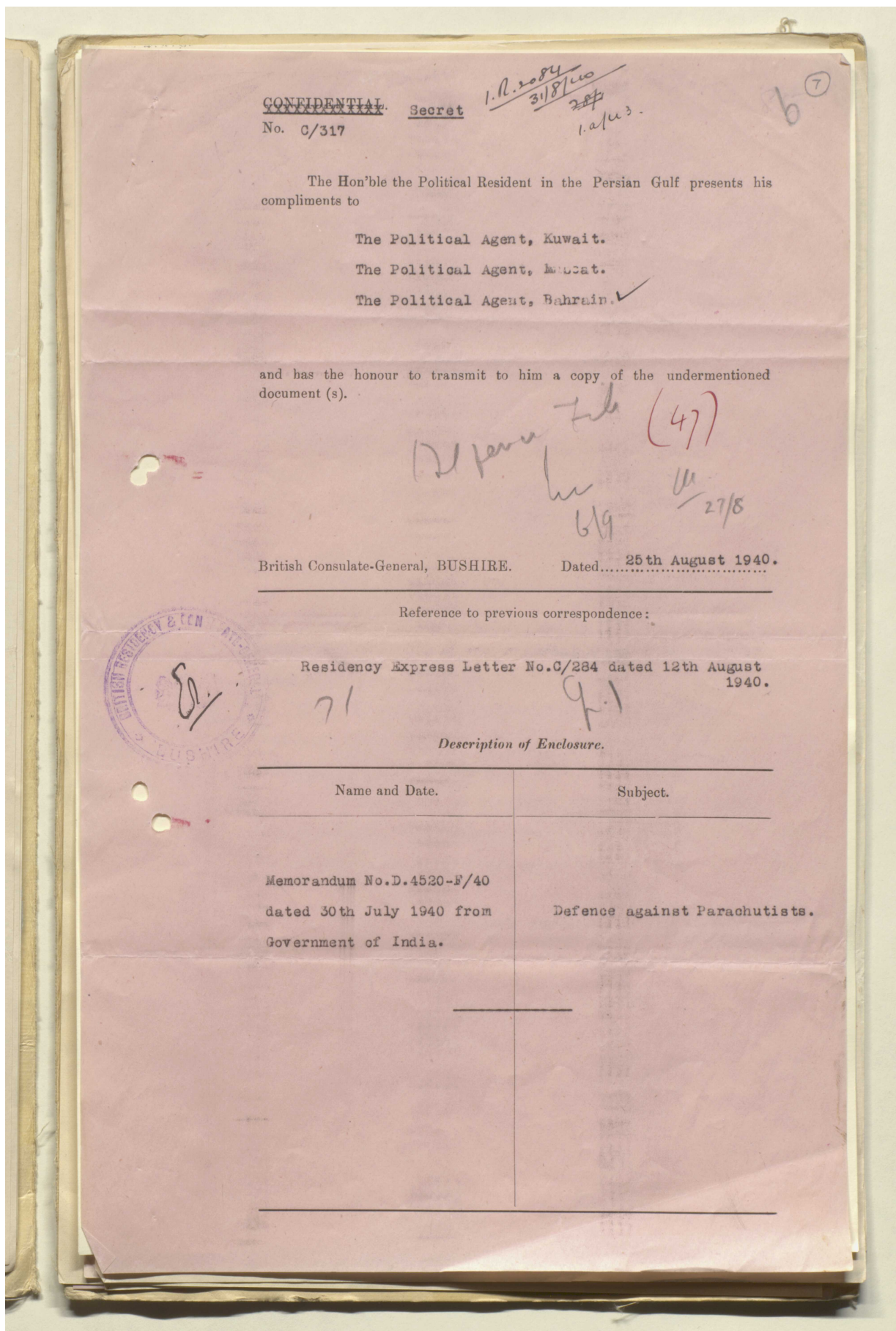
Razmak.
Wana.
Fort Sandeman.
Quetta.
Loralai.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, and Commander, Western (Independent) District have already been addressed on this subject.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [6v] (12/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [7r] (13/40)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Secret
No. C/317

*1.R. 2084
31/8/40
287
i.a/u3.*

b 7

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

- The Political Agent, Kuwait.
- The Political Agent, Muscat.
- The Political Agent, Bahrain. ✓

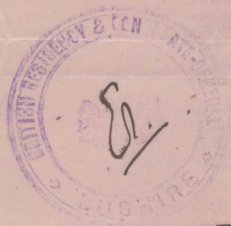
and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s).

*Defence File (47)
6/9
27/8*

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated..... 25th August 1940.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Residency Express Letter No. C/284 dated 12th August 1940.



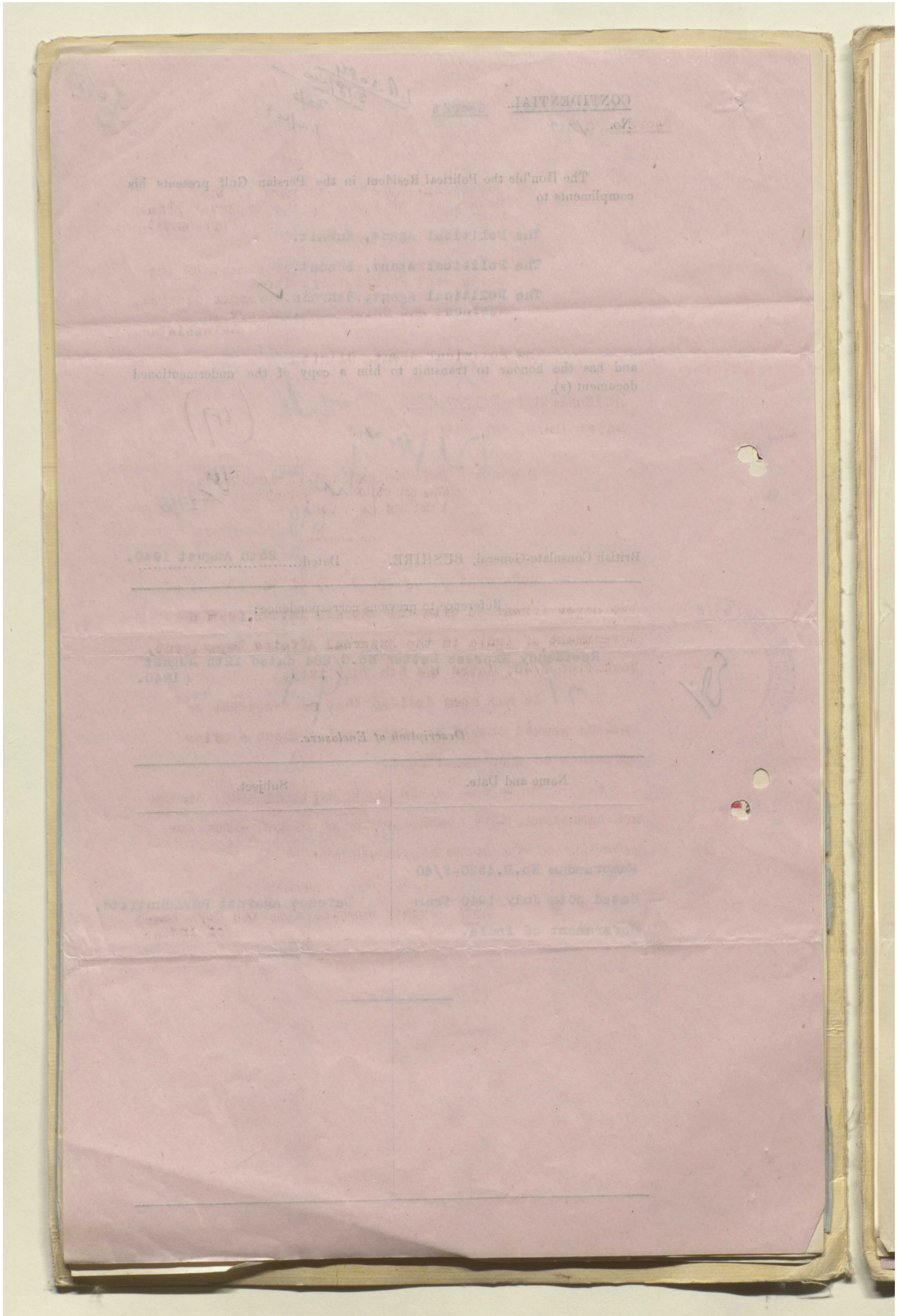
71

9.1

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Memorandum No. D. 4520-F/40 dated 30th July 1940 from Government of India.	Defence against Parachutists.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [7v] (14/40)



'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [8r] (15/40)

Secret

From - The Additional Deputy Secretary to the
Government of India in the External Affairs
Department,

To - The Chief Secretary to the Government of the
North West Frontier Province.
The Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General,
Resident and Chief Commissioner in
Baluchistan.

The Political Agent, Gilgit.

Memorandum No.D.4520-F/40

Dated Simla, the 30th July 1940.

Subject:- Defence against Parachutists.
Obstruction of aerodromes and
landing grounds.

Reference paragraph 3 (d) of the second of the
two notes forwarded with the express letter from the
Government of India in the External Affairs Department,
No.D.4105-F/40, dated the 5th July 1940.

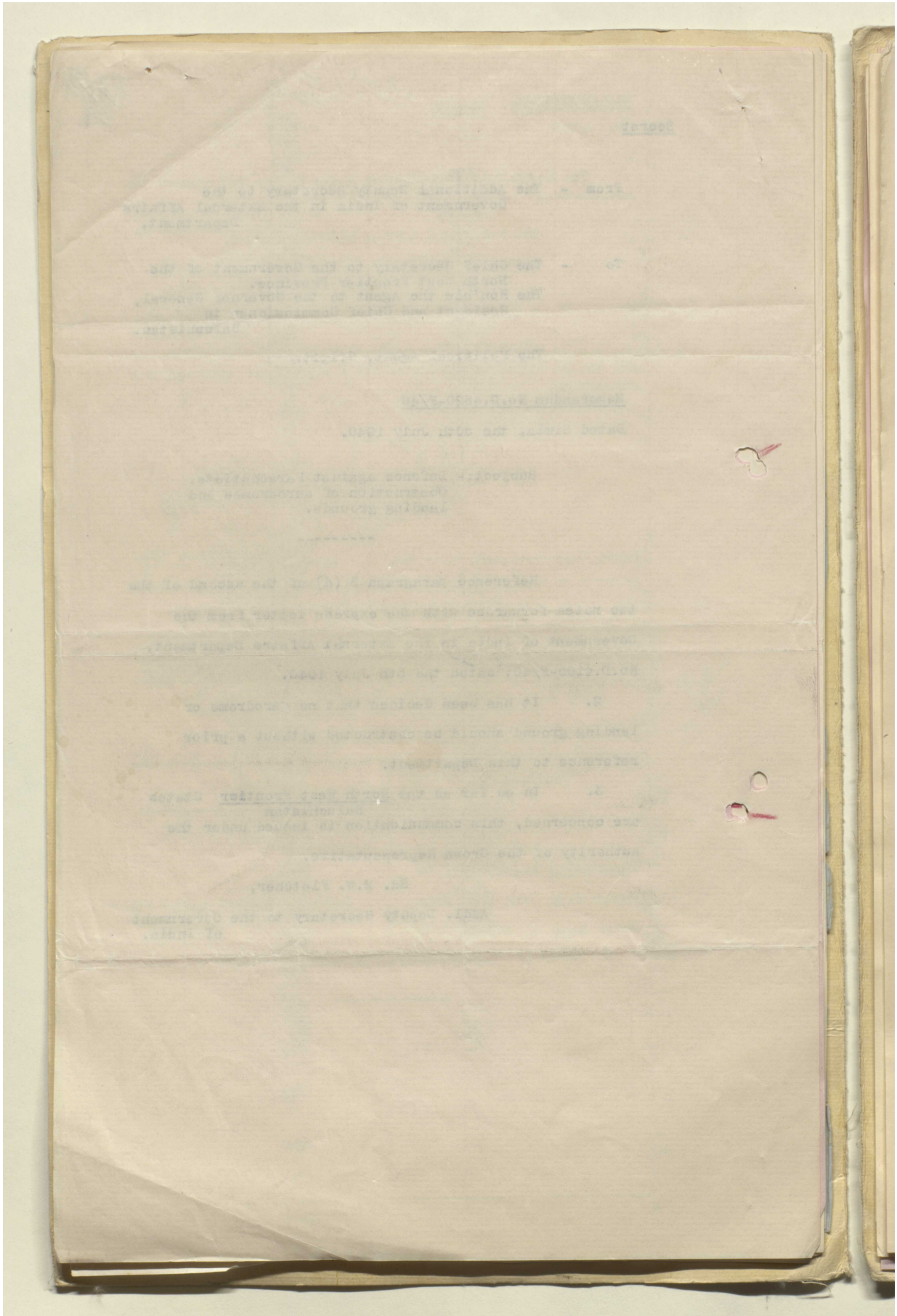
2. It has been decided that no aerodrome or
landing ground should be obstructed without a prior
reference to this Department.

3. In so far as the North West Frontier States
Baluchistan
are concerned, this communication is issued under the
authority of the Crown Representative.

Sd. E.W. Fletcher,

Addl. Deputy Secretary to the Government
of India.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [8v] (16/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [9r] (17/40)

8 9

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT.

EXPRESS LETTER

Confidential

[N. B.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.]

FROM

Political Agent,
Bahrain.

To

Political Resident,
Camp, Bahrain.

No. C/180-28/1-I Date 21st February 1941 x133

p. 1

Reference Express letter No. C/284 dated the 12th August 1940.

2. Matter discussed with Defence Officer who is now drawing up plans against attacks by parachute troops for use in case of emergency. Nothing is being done to suggest that such an attack is imminent.

3. The delay in replying is regretted.

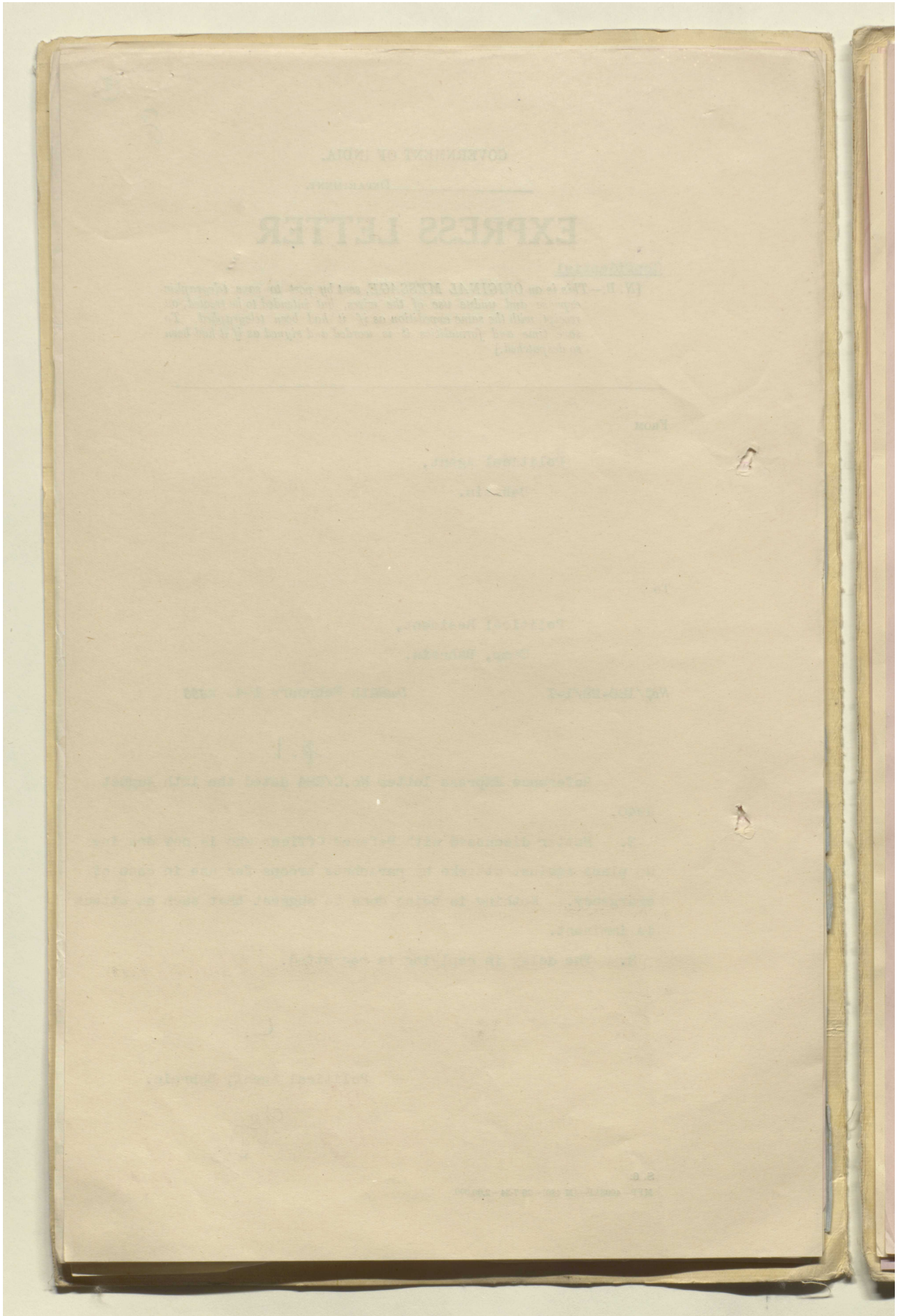
L.

Political Agent, Bahrain.

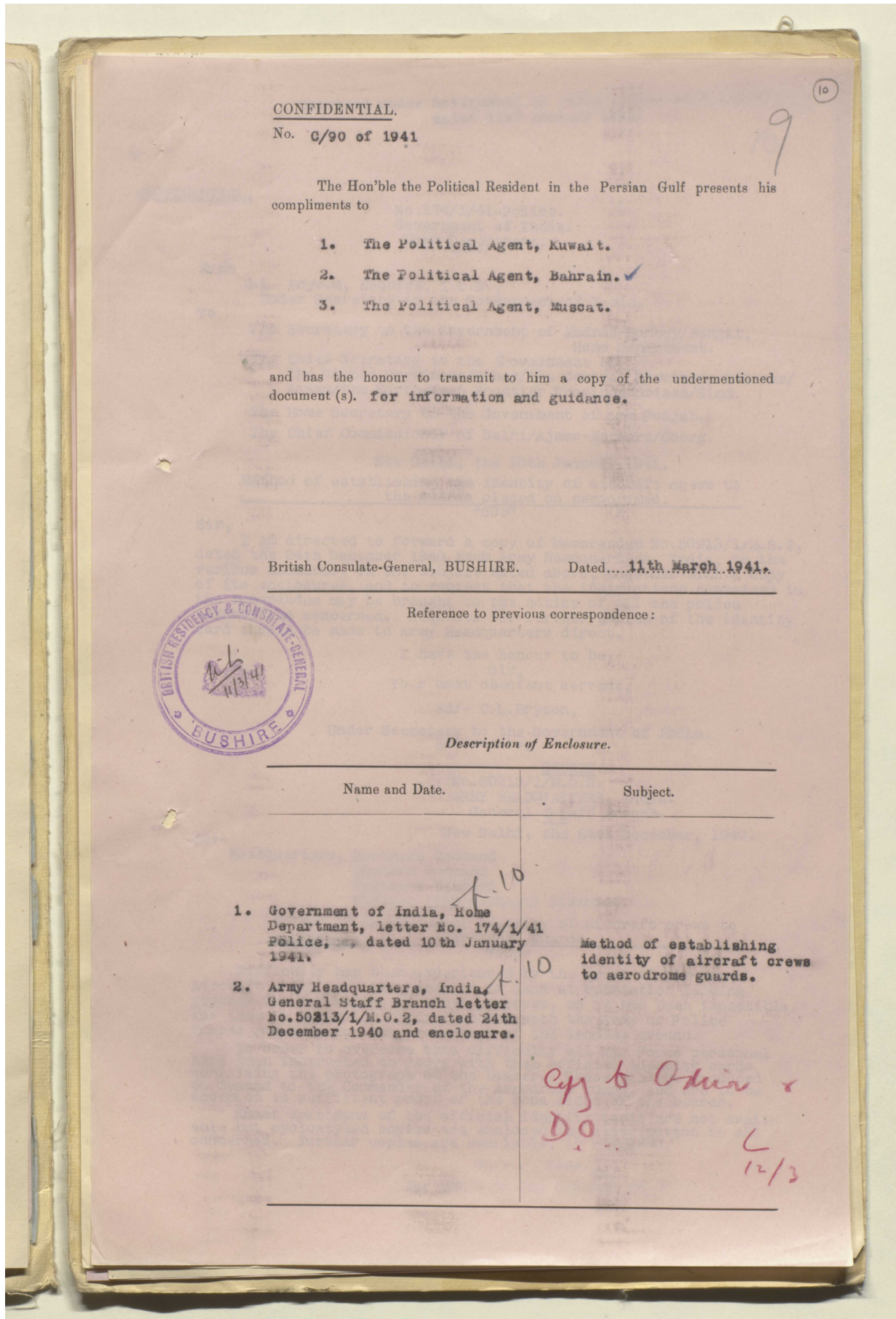
S. G.
MFP-400S&P-(M.480)-26-7-34-2,00,000.

S. G.
MFP

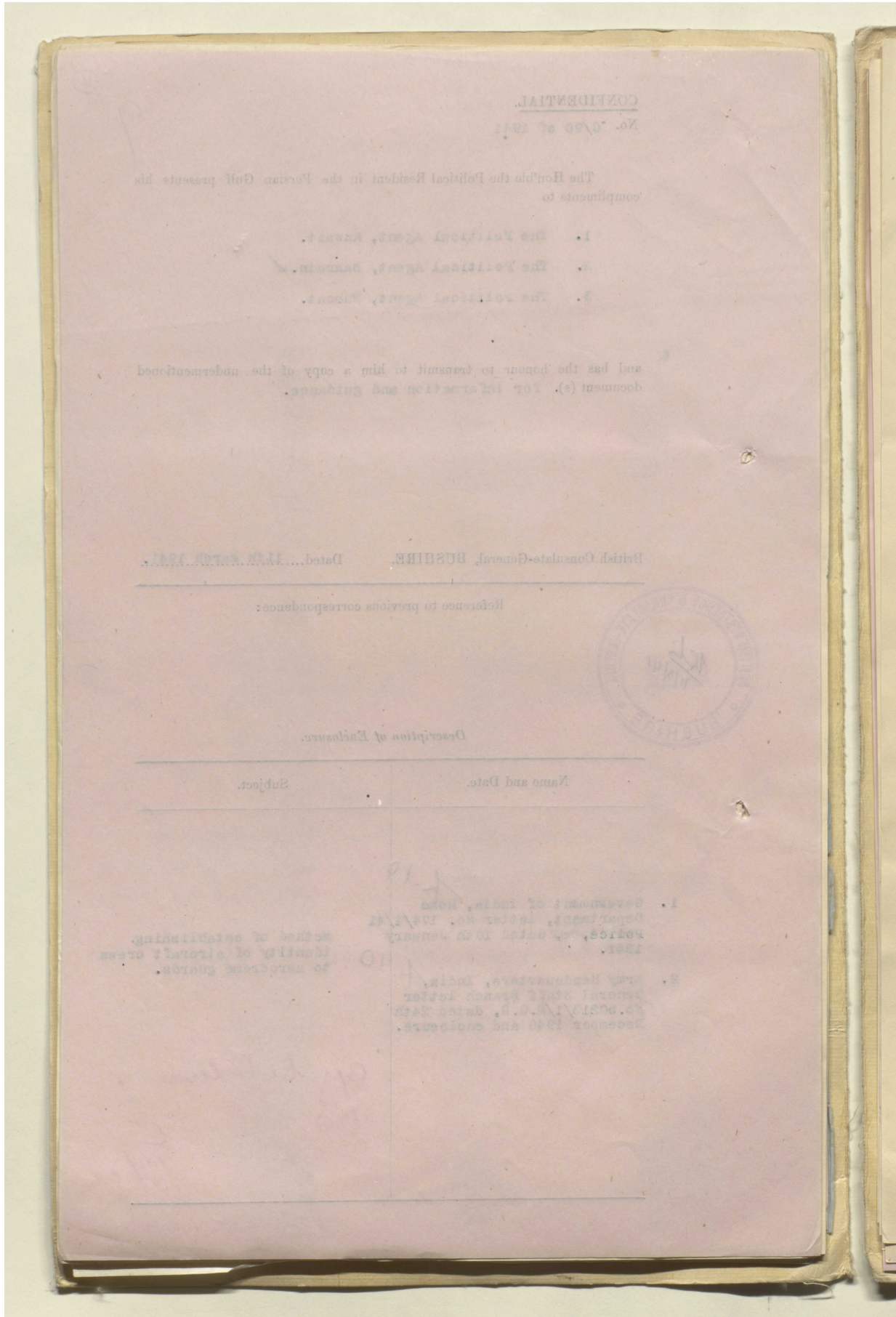
'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [9v] (18/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [10r] (19/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [10v] (20/40)



'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [11r] (21/40)

Received under Government of India letter No.D.239-W/4
dated 31st January 1941. 11

CONFIDENTIAL.

No.174/1/41-Police.
Government of India.
Home Department.

From
C.L. Bryson, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To
The Secretary to the Government of Madras/Bombay/Bengal,
Home Department.
The Chief Secretary to the Government of
the United Provinces/Bihar/the Central Provinces & Berar/
Assam/the North-West Frontier Province/Orissa/Sind.
The Home Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.
The Chief Commissioner of Delhi/Ajmer-Merwara/Coorg.

New Delhi, the 10th January 1941.

Method of establishing the identity of aircraft crews to
the guards placed on aerodromes.

Sir,
I am directed to forward a copy of Memorandum No.50213/1/M.O.2,
dated the 24th December 1940 from Army Headquarters, India, to the
various commands, on the subject noted above, together with a copy
of its enclosures, and to request that the instructions contained in
the Memorandum may be brought to the notice of all the police
authorities concerned. Requests for further copies of the identity
card should be made to Army Headquarters direct.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- C.L. Bryson,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.
*****o

SECRET.
No.50213/1/M.O.2.
ARMY HEADQUARTERS, India.
General Staff Branch.

New Delhi, the 24th December, 1940.

To:-
Headquarters, Northern Command
Eastern Command
Southern Command
Western (Independent) District.

Method of establishing identity of aircraft crews to
aerodrome guards.

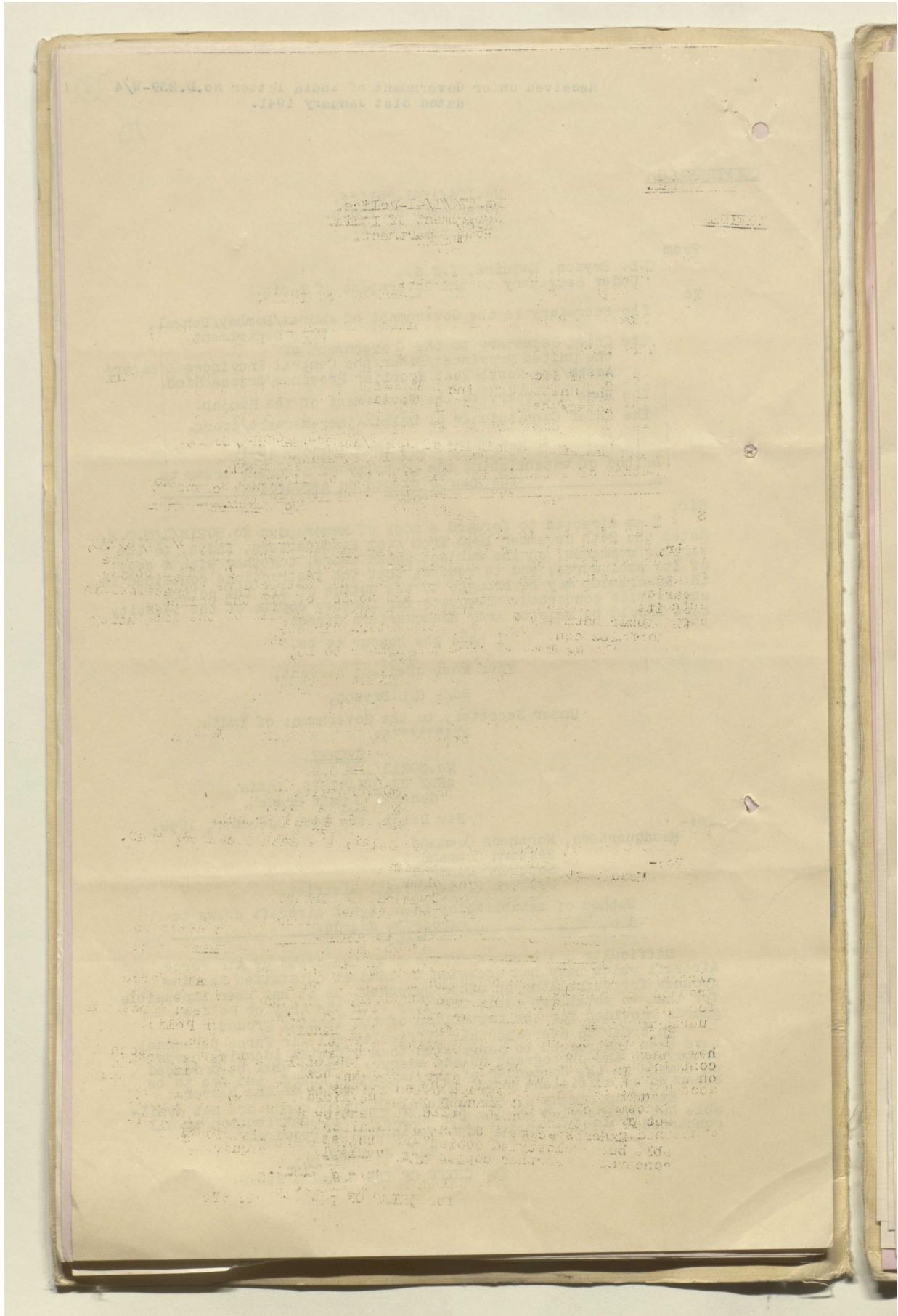
Difficulty has been experienced by the crews of Air Force
Aircraft which have had occasion to land at outstation landing
grounds for refuelling or other purposes, as it has been impossible
for them to establish their identity with the Army or Police
guards provided for the protection of the landing ground.

In order to overcome this difficulty all Air Force personnel
have been instructed to carry with them official identity cards
containing the photograph of the bearer. These will be produced
on demand to the Commander of the Aerodrome guard, and are to be
accepted as sufficient proof of the bona fides of the bearer.

Exact specimens of the official identity cards are not avail-
able but cyclostyled copies are enclosed for distribution to all
concerned. Further copies are available, if required.

Sd/- J. Ross. Col.
for CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [11v] (22/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [12r] (23/40)

(12)

- 2 -

SPECIMEN IDENTITY PASS FOR THE AIR FORCES IN INDIA.

AIR FORCE (I) FORM 557-A.

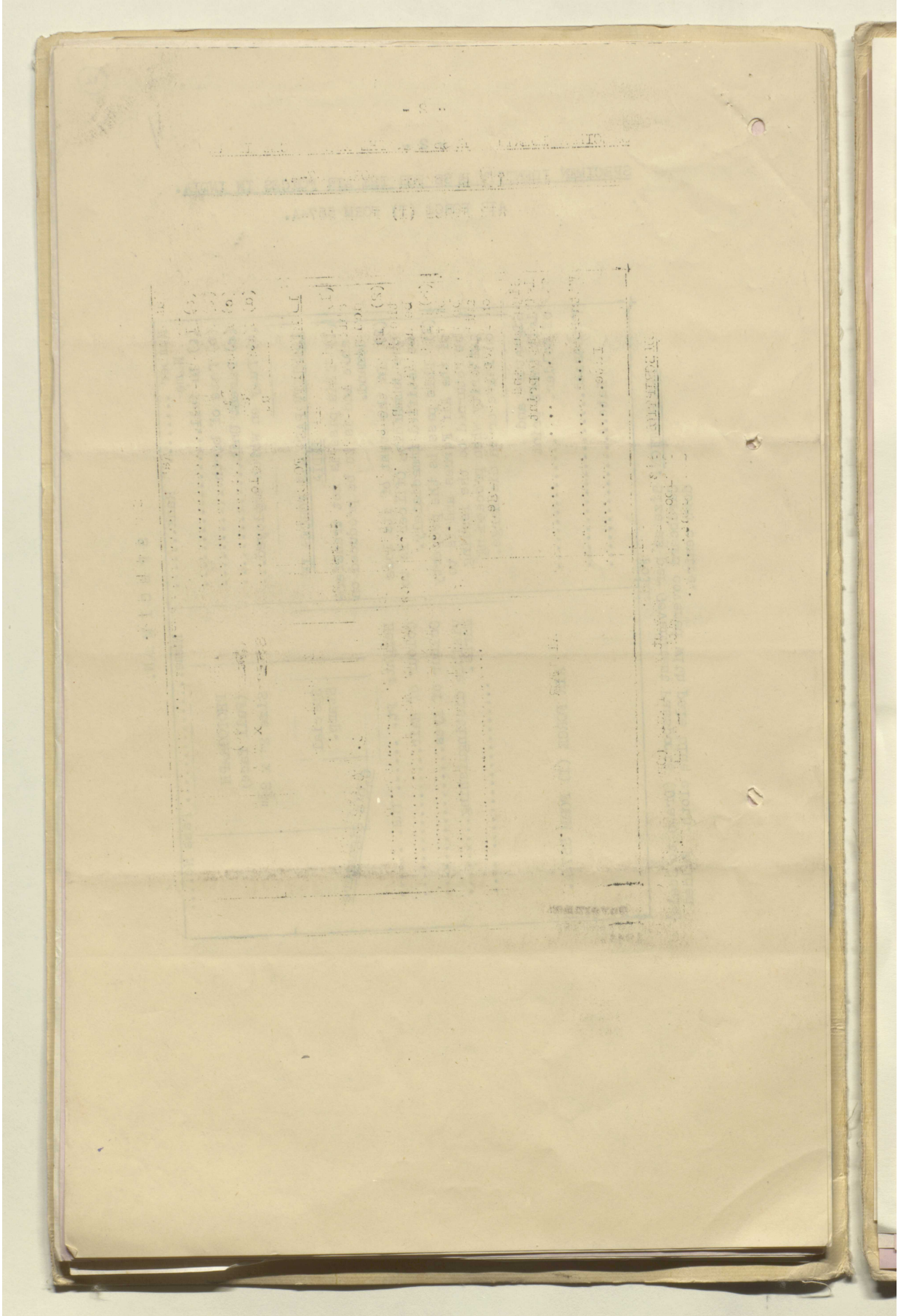
S P E C I M E N .

<p>Nur Ser Rank.....</p> <p>(e) In full.....</p> <p>(d) Date of birth.....</p> <p>(c) Parent Unit.....</p> <p>(a) Duty on which employed....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>IDENTITY PASS AIR FORCES IN INDIA</u></p> <p>(1) This pass is not transferable and is to be produced on demand.</p> <p>(2) In the event of its loss the Commanding Officer is to be notified immediately.</p> <p>(3) This pass is the property of the Air Forces and is to be returned to the issuing authority when proceeding on leave or on discharge.</p> <p>Signature and left thumb print of Holder.....</p> <p>Witnessed.....</p> <p>Late.....</p>	<p>Name..... Pass No.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHOTOGRAPH (Full face) Size 2" x 2 1/2"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Special Stamp.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>G.O.'s signature</i></p> <p>Height: Ft. Ins.</p> <p>Colour of Hair.....</p> <p>Colour of Eyes.....</p> <p>Visible distinguishing marks.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AIR FORCE (I) FORM 557-A.</p>
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Folds.

DESCRIPTION. Size as per Government Passports (Drawn to Scale)
Cardboard covered with pale blue cloth. Folded down centre.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [12v] (24/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [13r] (25/40)

12 (13)

Confidential

No. C/236-28/1-I.

The Political Agent, Bahrain, presents his compliments to:—

1. Adviser to the Bahrain Government,
Bahrain.
2. Defence Officer, Persian Gulf,
Bahrain.

and has the honour to send him a copy of the undermentioned document (s)

THE AGENCY,
BAHRAIN, PERSIAN GULF


Dated the 12th March 1941.

Reference to previous correspondence:

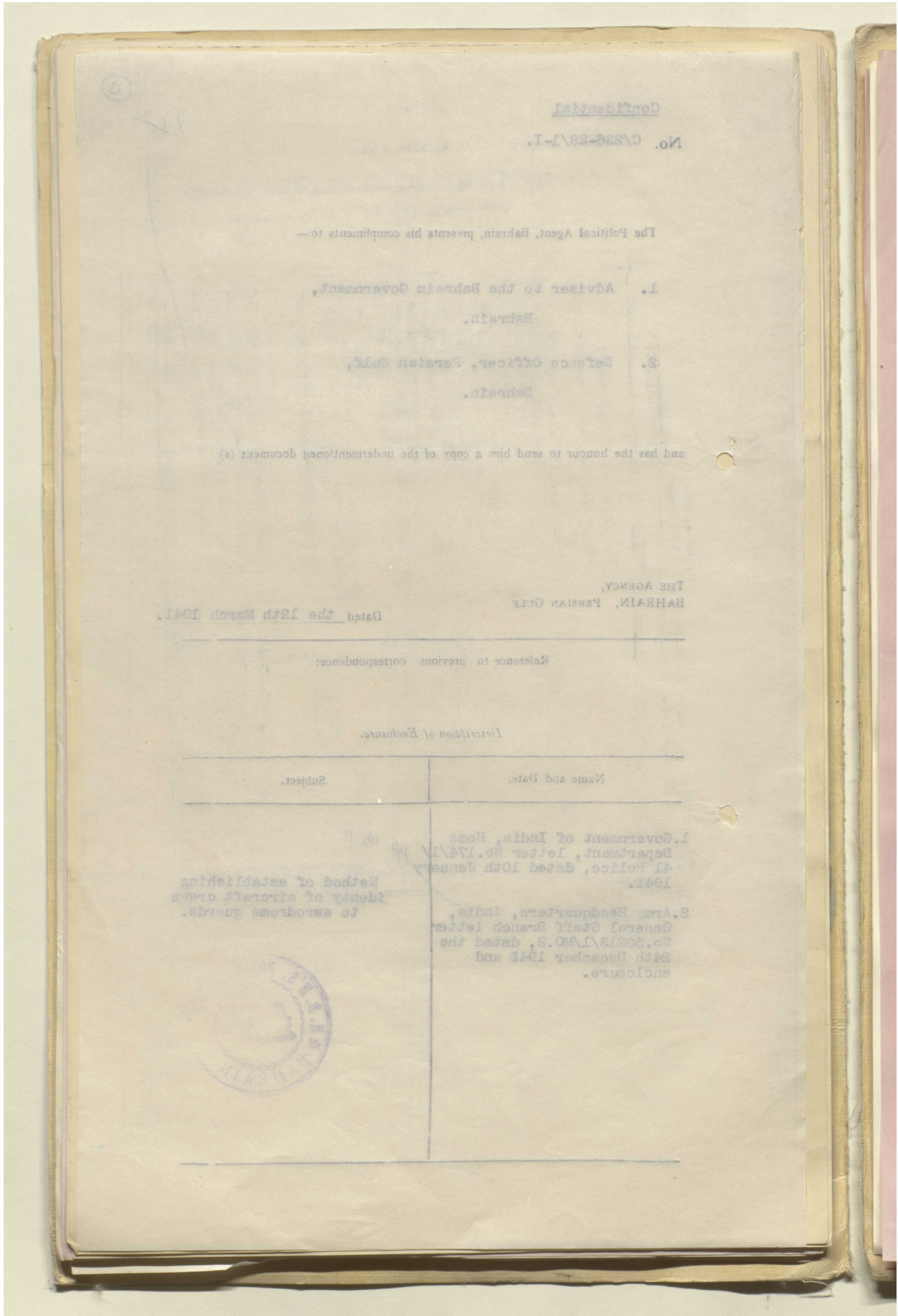
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Government of India, Home Department, letter No.174/1/41 Police, dated 10th January 1941.	Method of establishing identity of aircraft crews to aerodrome guards.
2. Army Headquarters, India, General Staff Branch letter No.50213/1/MO.2, dated the 24th December 1940 and enclosure.	

PP 10, 11



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [13v] (26/40)



'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [14r] (27/40)

I.R. 492
13 (14)

CONFIDENTIAL.
No. C/162

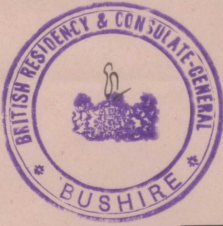
The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. Major R.G.W. Alban, O.B.E.,
Political Agent, Bahrain. ✓
2. Major A.C. Galloway, O.B.E.,
Political Agent, Kuwait.
3. Major T. Hickinbotham, O.B.E.,
Political Agent, Muscat.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s). with special reference to paragraph 2.

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated.....24th March 1941.

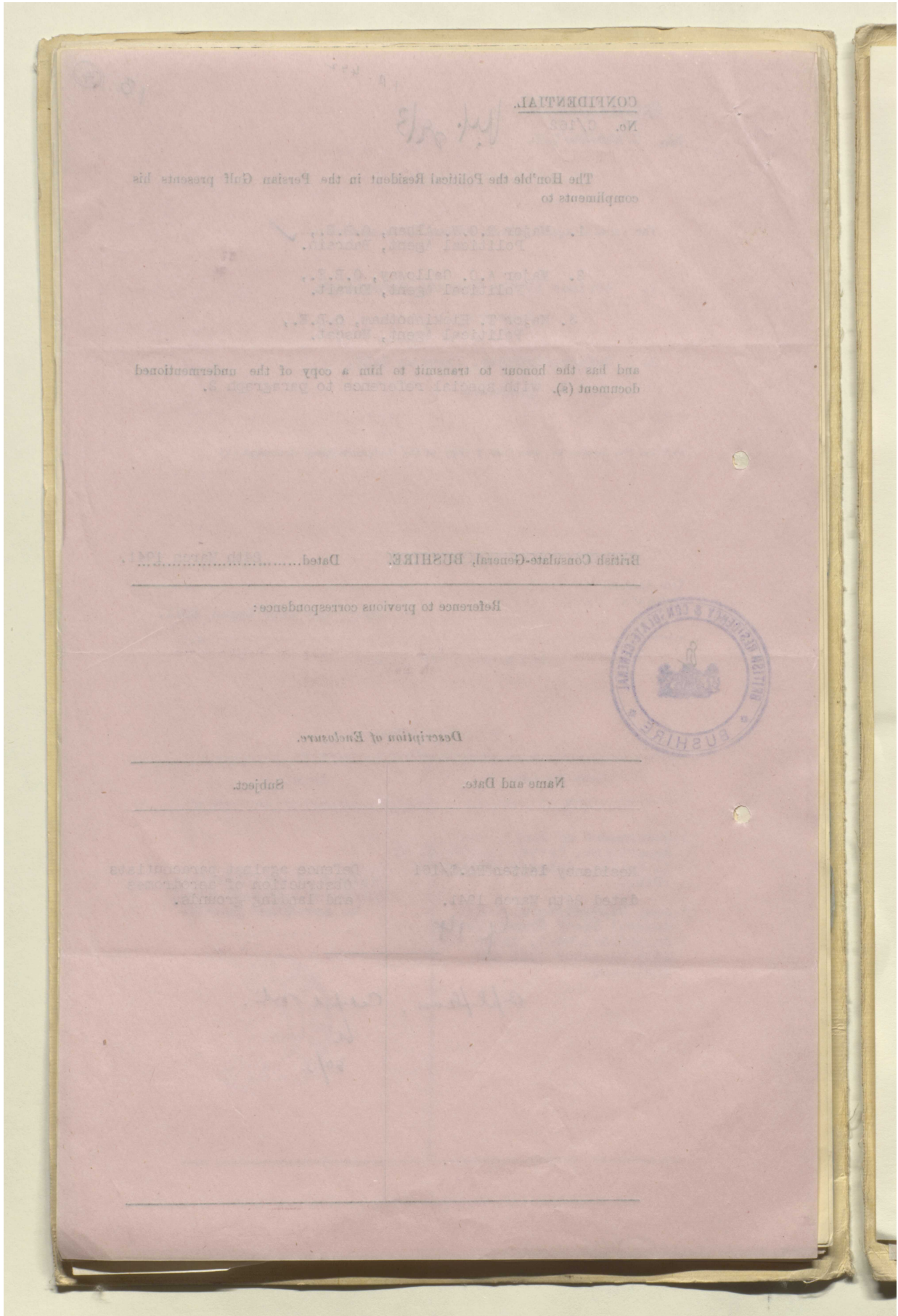
Reference to previous correspondence:



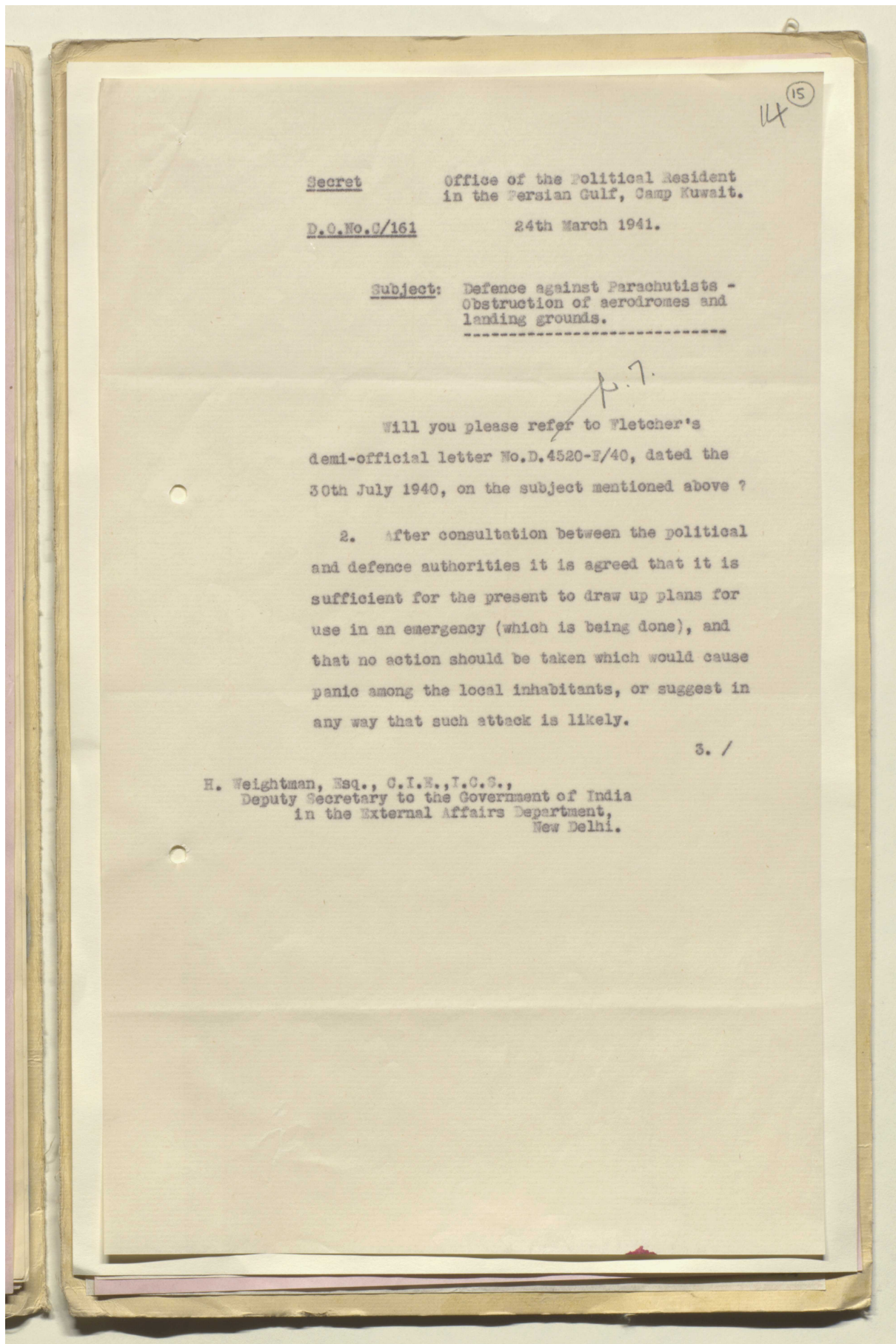
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Residency letter No.C/161 dated 24th March 1941. <i>G. 14</i>	Defence against parachutists Obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds.
<i>ap. please.</i>	<i>Copy mt. h 30/3.</i>

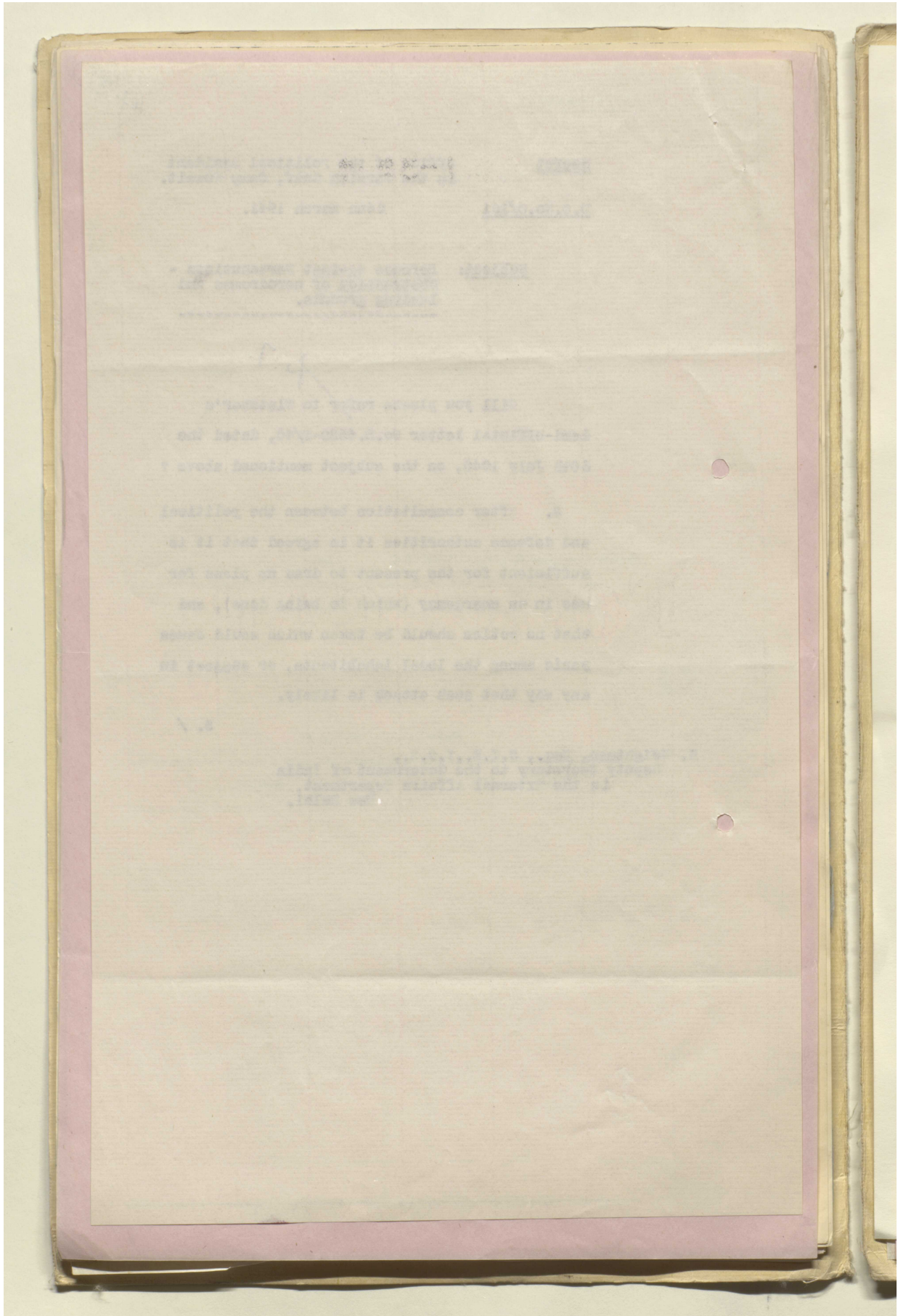
'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [14v] (28/40)



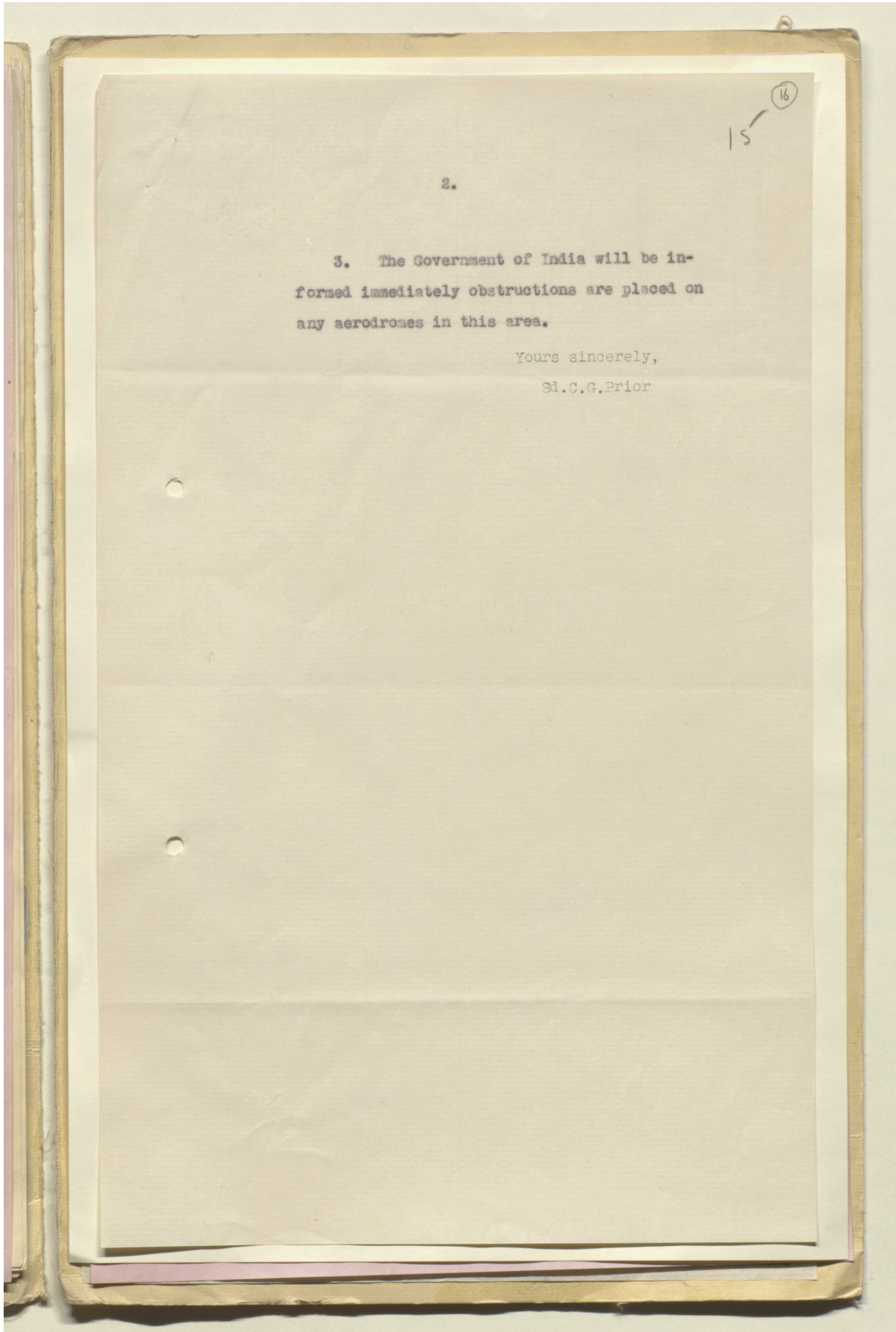
'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [15r] (29/40)



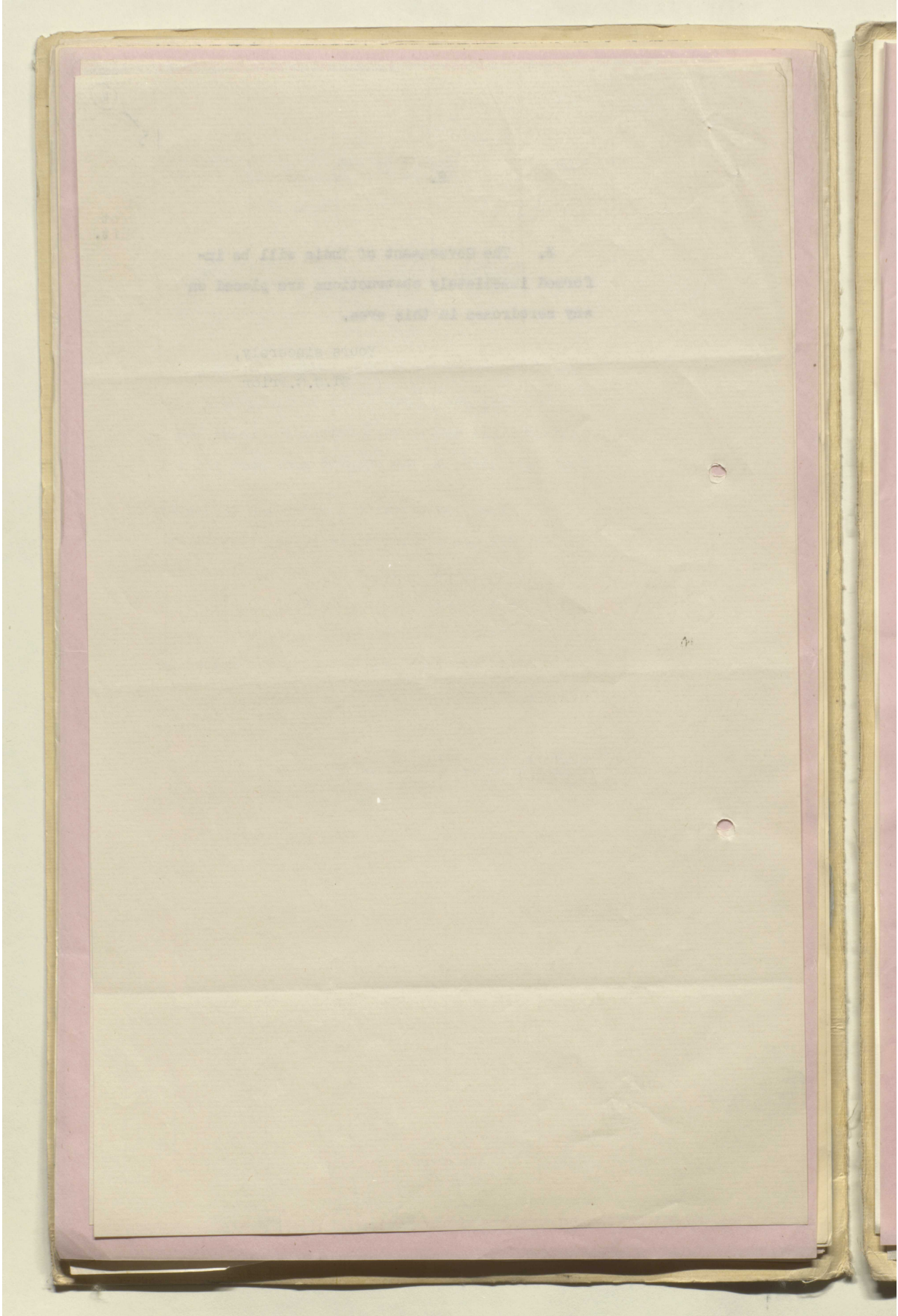
'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [15v] (30/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [16r] (31/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [16v] (32/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [17r] (33/40)

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No. 217-S of 1942. I.R. 355 22/1/42 19/2 166 (17)

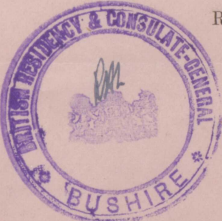
The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

The Political Agent, Kuwait.
The Political Agent, Bahrain. ✓
The Political Agent, Muscat.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document(s).

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated 13th February 1942.

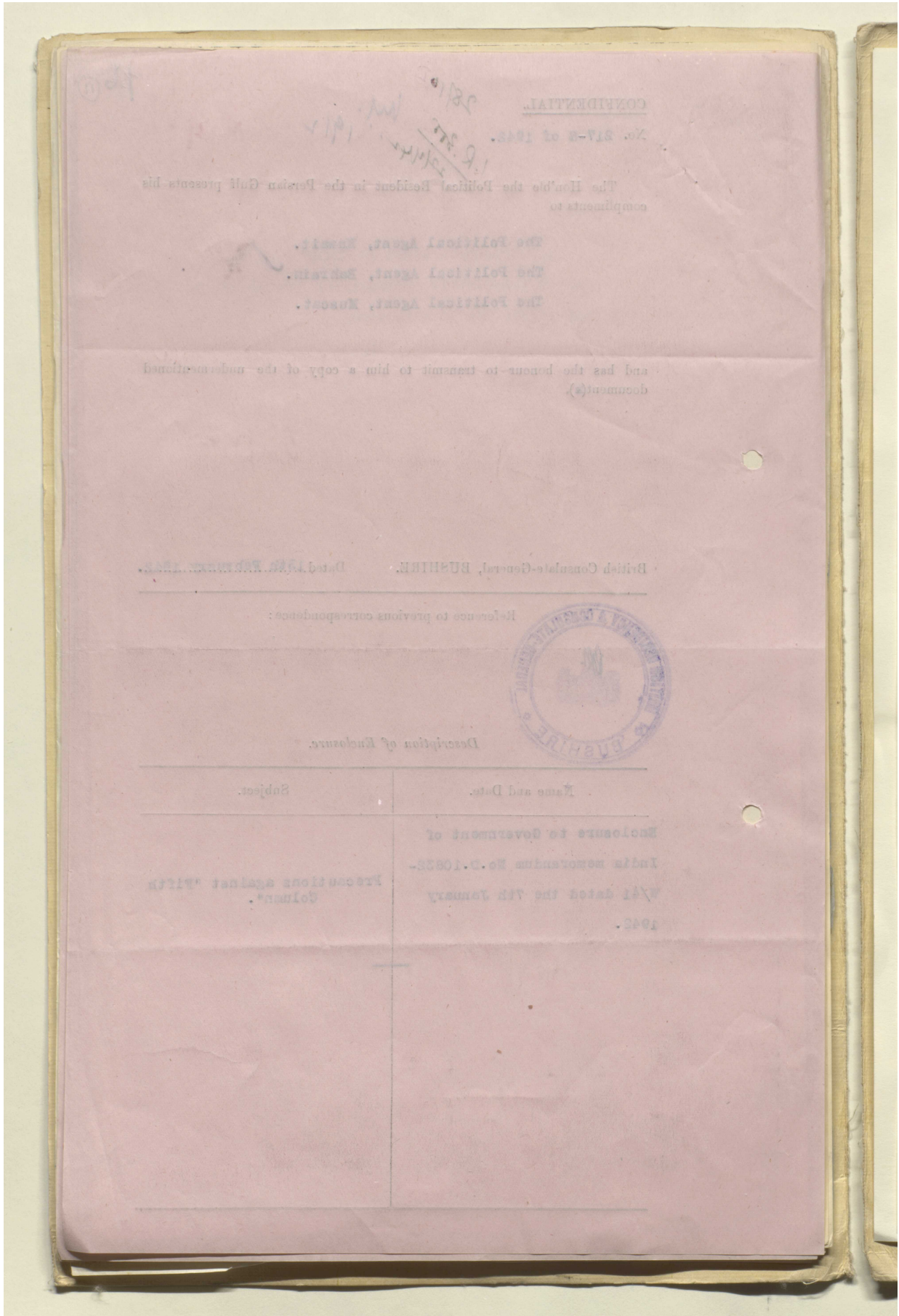
Reference to previous correspondence :



Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Enclosure to Government of India memorandum No.D.10832-W/41 dated the 7th January 1942.	Precautions against "Fifth Column".

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [17v] (34/40)



'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [18r] (35/40)

SECRET.

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Copy of a letter No. 55318/324/34/G.S.I(b).., dated New Delhi, the 18th December 1941, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Defence Department, (Army Branch), to All Provincial Governments.

I am directed to forward a copy of a note prepared in General Staff Branch, General Headquarters, which gives details of certain successes scored by the "Fifth Column" in the recent Air Defence exercises which took place in Northern Command. During the course of these exercises, in cooperation with the Provincial Governments concerned, security precautions were tested from all aspects, and for this purpose a temporary "Fifth Column" was formed from military personnel. Those comprising the "Fifth Column" took no advantage of their real official positions, and in cases where they wore uniform, the uniform was purchased by them as private individuals from local Kabari bazaars.

2. I am to suggest that this note may serve as an indication of possible weaknesses, and as a starting point from which Provincial Governments may care to examine their own security arrangements in order to ensure that such activities are adequately guarded against. In view of the approach of active operations to the frontiers of India and the danger of subversive elements carrying on activities of this kind, it has become increasingly important that all places where papers bearing on the military situation may be found should be adequately secured, as well as all channels of communication through which correspondence passes which may be of value to the enemy.

Some cases in which Civil Departments were affected by the activities of the "Fifth Column" during the recent Northern Command "Fifth Column" Exercise.

On the 18th September 1941, a "Fifth Columnist" posing as a Sub-Inspector of the Additional Police, gained entry to the Office of the Senior Superintendent of Police in a certain District and removed a map of a portion of the District. Such maps are, of course, F.O.U.C.

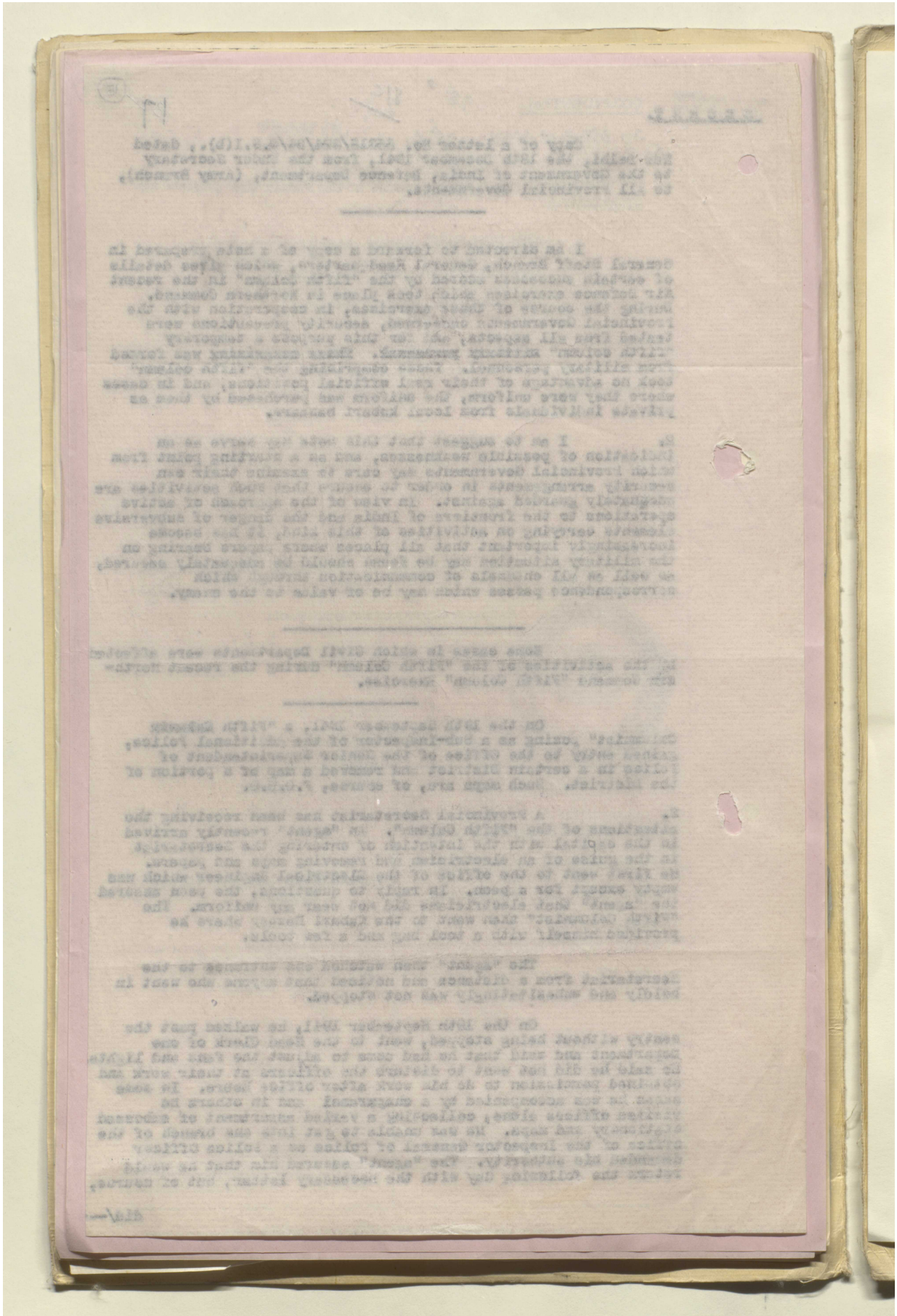
2. A Provincial Secretariat has been receiving the attentions of the "Fifth Column". An "agent" recently arrived in the capital with the intention of entering the Secretariat in the guise of an electrician and removing maps and papers. He first went to the office of the Electrical Engineer which was empty except for a peon. In reply to questions, the peon assured the "agent" that electricians did not wear any uniform. The "Fifth Columnist" then went to the Kabari Bazaar where he provided himself with a tool bag and a few tools.

The "agent" then watched one entrance to the Secretariat from a distance and noticed that anyone who went in boldly and unhesitatingly was not stopped.

On the 18th September 1941, he walked past the sentry without being stopped, went to the Head Clerk of one Department and said that he had come to adjust the fans and lights. He said he did not want to disturb the officers at their work and obtained permission to do his work after office hours. In some cases he was accompanied by a chaprassi and in others he visited offices alone, collecting a varied assortment of embossed stationery and maps. He was unable to get into one branch of the office of the Inspector General of Police as a Police Officer demanded his authority. The "agent" assured him that he would return the following day with the necessary letter, but of course,

did/---

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [18v] (36/40)



'File 28/1 | Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [19r] (37/40)

18
19

did not appear again. From another branch of the Inspector General's office, however, he ~~xx~~ removed a map of N.W.Ry. Police Stations.

3. By the efforts of some new adherents, the "Fifth Column" has come into possession of a mass of secret information.

On the 23rd September 1941, the sealed mail bag, containing registered and ordinary mail for Headquarters Northern Command was brought into a Military Sub-Post Office by a Post Office peon, who had collected it from the City Post Office.

When the bag of mail was opened the Post Master was surprised to find that it only contained old newspapers.

~~Telegram~~
Telephonic conversations between the two Post Masters were then held.

For three weeks the "fifth Column" had watched the mail bags carried between the two Post Offices. On this particular occasion, the peon had stopped for a moment outside a drapery shop where an auction was being held. The bag was heavy and he put it on the ground for a moment. The opportunity was seized. Another bag was put down beside the peon and the real bag removed. After a moment ~~xxx~~ or two the peon picked up his bag and proceeded unsuspecting on his way.

In order to avoid complications the "Fifth Column" did not open the bag. If they had done so they would have obtained possession of the following postal matter, addressed to Headquarters Northern Command :-

- 11 Registered parcels.
- 56 Registered letters.
- 2 Insured letters.

4. On the 30th September, a "Fifth Columnist", travelling under the assumed name of G.N. Morrow, arrived in the capital of a certain Province with the object of gaining access to secret plans in the Secretariat. The "Fifth Column" had unfortunately forgotten the Dusehra holidays so "Mr. Morrow", on his arrival at the Secretariat was unable to meet any officials. However, during his brief stay there, he was left alone in an office from which he could have abstracted the mail lying on the table and any number of files.

5. Fifth Columnists raided the office of the Secretariat in the same Province at 0900 hours on October 9th, 1941. The offices were all open and quite empty. The chowkidar was sent to produce the keys and, in the meantime, microphones were removed from all telephones. On the chowkidar's return, a pretence was made of receiving a phone call to his effect that the offices were to be locked up and that, on no account, were they to be opened till 1000 hours. The microphones were handed to a Police Sergeant for return.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [19v] (38/40)

did not appear again. From another branch of the
Inspector General's office, however, he received a note
of R.W. My. Police Stations.

By the efforts of some new adherents, the "Fifth
Column" has come into possession of a mass of secret
information.

On the 23rd September 1941, the sealed mail bag,
containing various and sundry mail for Headquarters
Northern Command was brought into a Military Sub-Post
Office by a local Officer, who had collected it from
the Army Post Office.

When the bag of mail was opened the Post Master
was surprised to find that it only contained old newspapers.

Telephone conversations between the two Post
Masters were then held.

For three weeks the "Fifth Column" had watched the
mail bags carried between the two Post Offices. On this
particular occasion, the Post Master happened for a moment
outside a doorway while an officer was being held.
The bag was heavy and he put it on the ground for a moment.
The officer, however, did not notice this, but went on
his way and the bag remained. After a moment's work on
two the Post Master picked up his bag and proceeded unobserved on
his way.

In order to avoid complications the "Fifth Column"
did not open the bag. It had done so they would have
obtained possession of the following postal matter,
addressed to Headquarters Northern Command:

11 Registered parcels.
56 Registered letters.
2 Unregistered letters.

On the 30th September, a "Fifth Columnist"
travelling under the assumed name of G.W. Morrow, arrived
in the capital of a certain province with the object of
gaining access to secret plans in the territories. The
"Fifth Columnist" had unfortunately forgotten the Duesen
holiday as "Mr. Morrow", on his arrival at the territories
was unable to meet any officials. However, during his
stay there, he was left alone in an office from
which he could have contacted the mail lying on the table
and any number of files.

"Fifth Columnists" raided the office of the
Secretary in the same province at 0000 hours on October
5th, 1941. The office was all open and quite empty. The
Secretary was sent to produce the keys and, in the meantime,
the "Fifth Columnist" was made of receiving a phone
call to his effect that the office was to be locked up
and that, on no account, were they to be opened till 1000
hours. The telephones were handed to a Police Sergeant
for return.

'File 28/1 I Defence against parachutists, obstruction of aerodromes and landing grounds, etc' [back-i] (39/40)

