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<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/MIL/5/793
<b>Title</b>	'Mesopotamia Royal Flying Corps'
<b>Date(s)</b>	2 Aug 1917-17 Jan 1921 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (78 folios)
<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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#### About this record

The file contains memoranda, correspondence and papers, regarding provision of Royal Flying Corps (later Royal Air Force) aircraft and personnel for military operations in Mesopotamia [Iraq].

Notably covers: repeated requests in 1917 from General Officer Commanding, Mesopotamia, for aircraft and personnel (pilots, observers and other ranks) to constitute an additional, third, squadron; discussion of makes and models of aircraft and engines; discussion of optimum aircraft type and parts for the climate, intended uses and enemy capability; reporting problems with machines and defective parts received; general expansion of the Royal Flying Corps establishment in Mesopotamia; and increase in number of flights to deal with local disturbances in 1919.

File also includes printed weekly returns for the weeks ending 14 March 1918, 28 March 1918 and 11 April 1918, issued by General Officer Commanding, Middle East Brigade, Royal Flying Corps, Egypt, for the Air Ministry, listing squadron personnel (pilots and observers) available and unavailable and machines serviceable, unserviceable and un-erected.

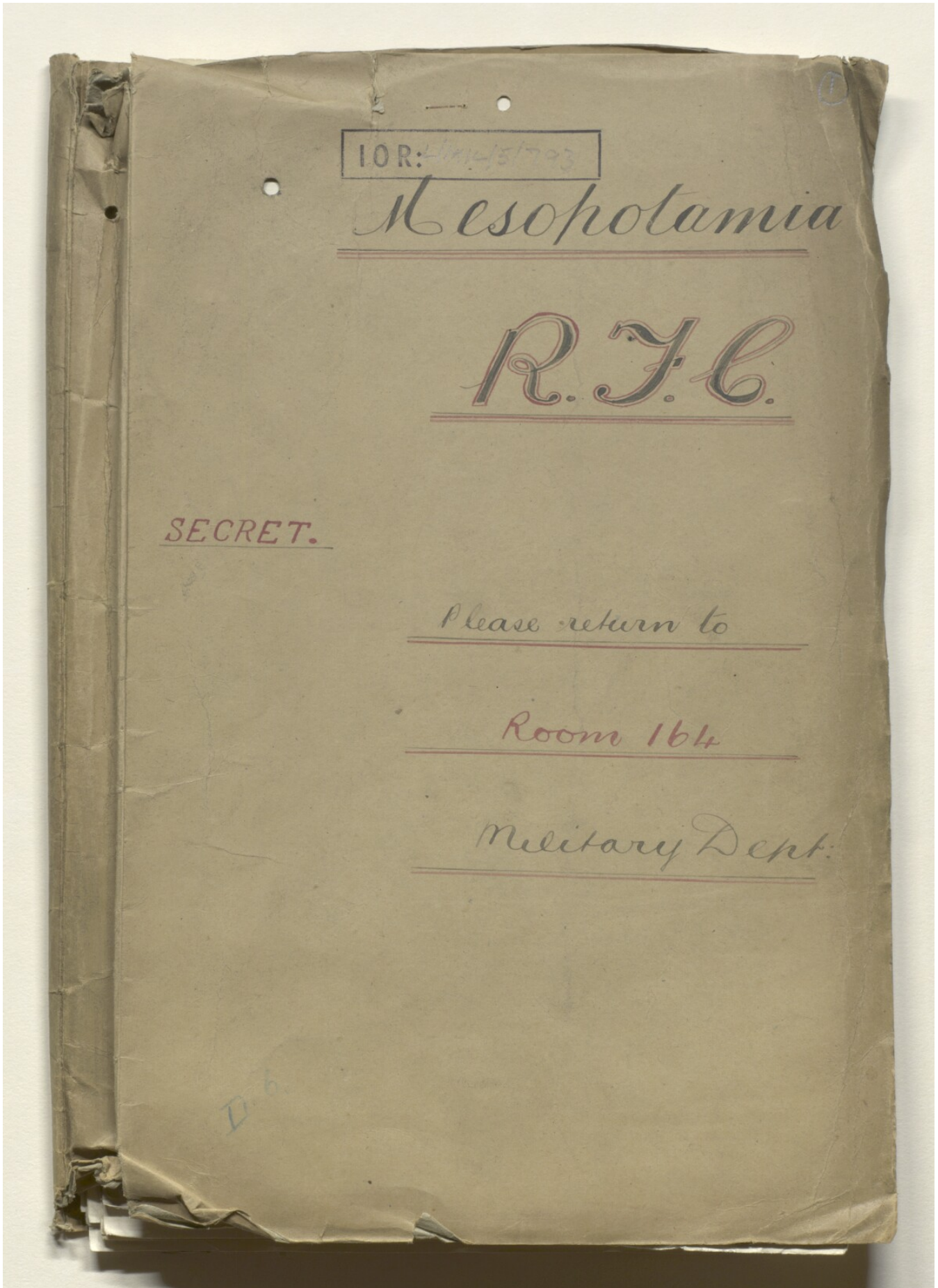
The papers indicate that aircraft were distributed to the Mesopotamia field of operations from Middle East Brigade, Royal Flying Corps base in Cairo, Egypt. Personnel came via various routes, such as direct from England or from the aviation base in Baghdad.

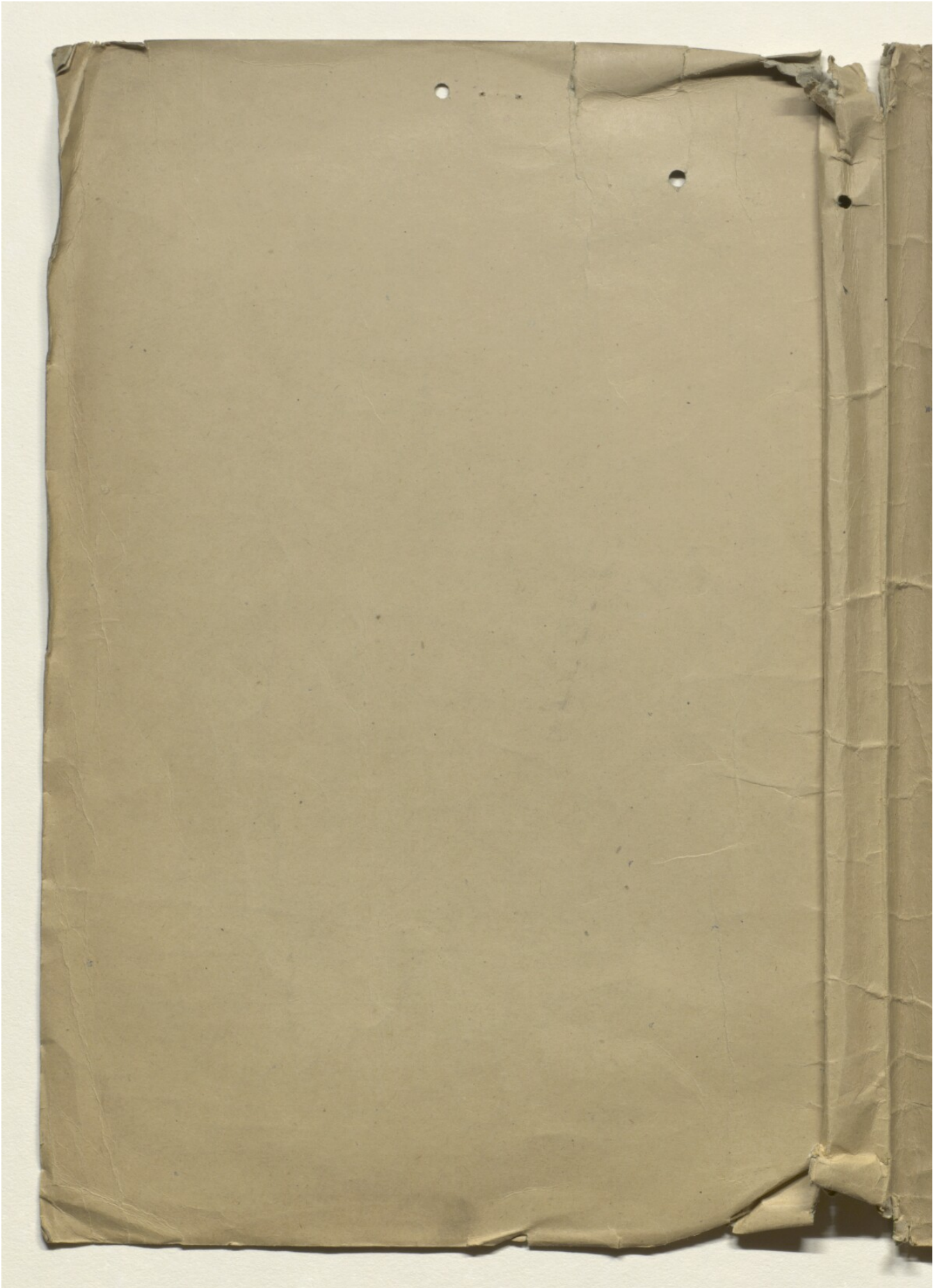
Aircraft in Mesopotamia were used for long-distance reconnaissance, close reconnaissance, low flying, long-distance independent bombing, close bombing in co-operation with troops, artillery observation and communications.

The primary correspondents are: the War Office; General Officer Commanding, Mesopotamia; General Officer Commanding, Middle East Brigade, Royal Flying Corps, Cairo. Correspondents also include Aviation Baghdad;

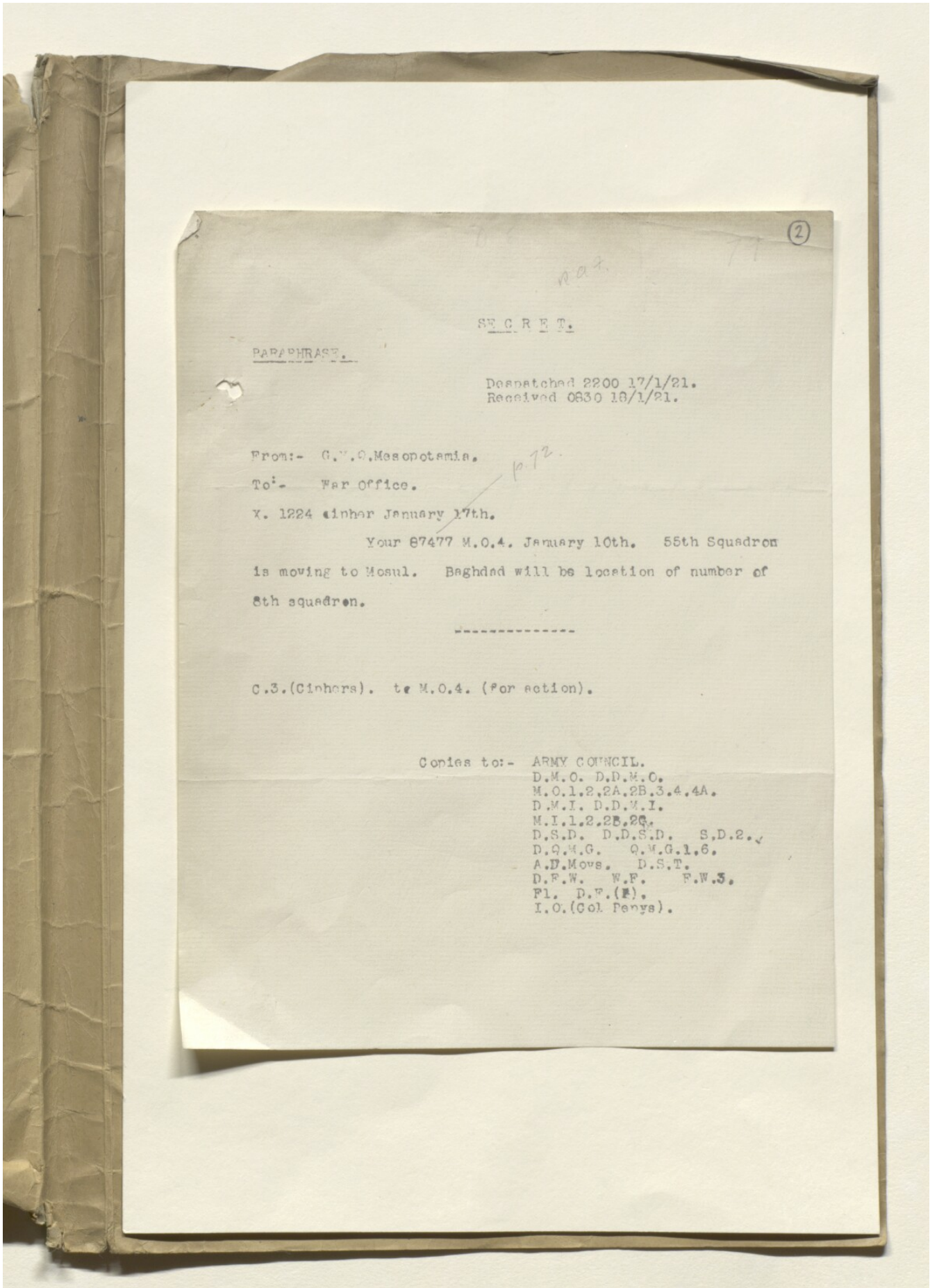
General Officer Commanding, Constantinople; Commander-in-Chief, India; and Director of Air Organisation, War Office.











SECRET.

PARAPHRASE.

Despatched 2200 17/1/21.  
Received 0830 18/1/21.

From:- G.V.C. Mesopotamia.

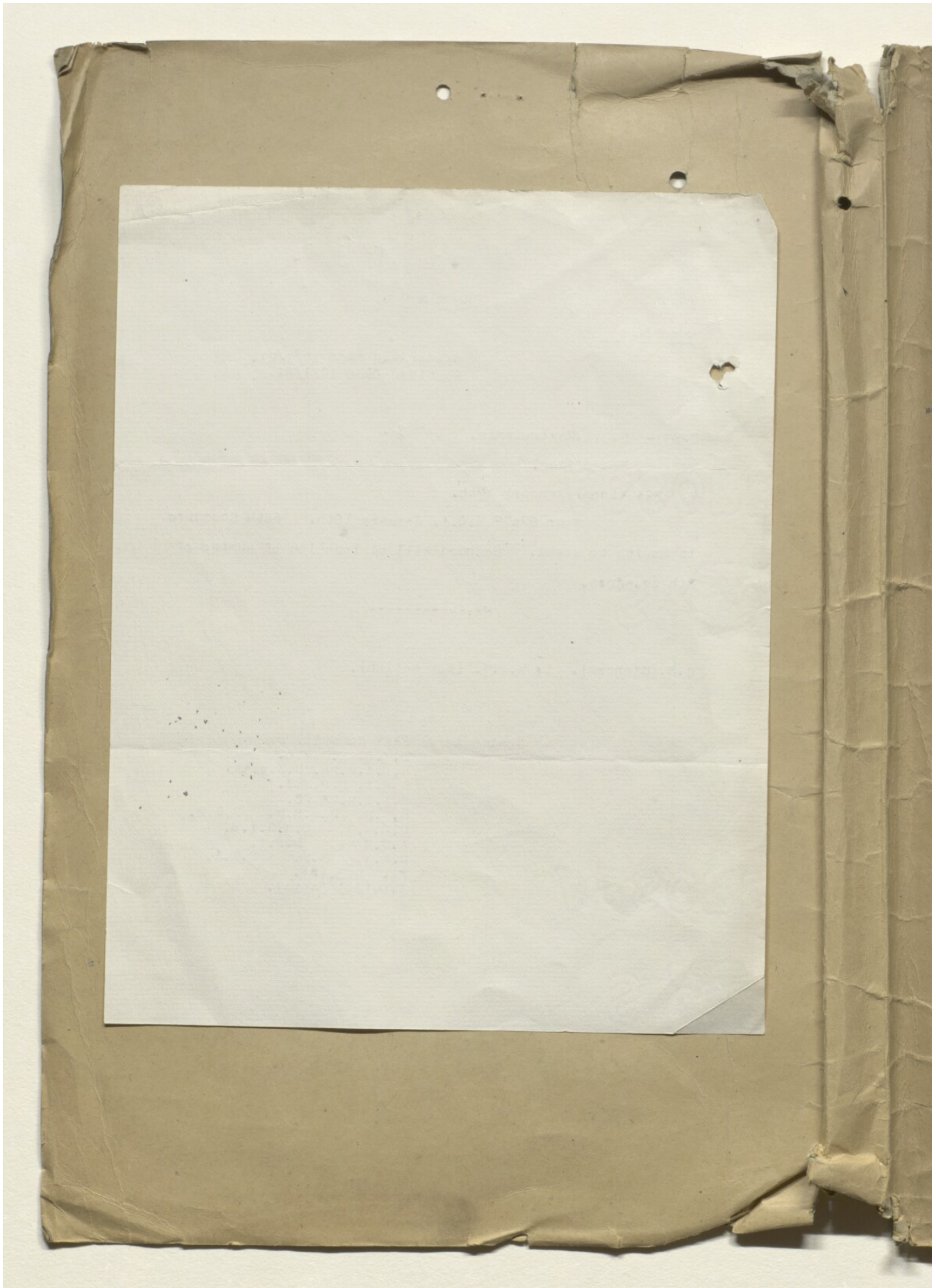
To:- War Office.

X. 1224 cipher January 17th.

Your 87477 M.O.4. January 10th. 55th Squadron  
is moving to Mosul. Baghdad will be location of number of  
8th squadron.

C.3.(Ciphers). to M.O.4. (for action).

Copies to:- ARMY COUNCIL.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.1.2,2A,2B,3,4,4A.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I.1.2,2B,2C.  
D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2.  
D.Q.M.G. Q.M.G.1,6.  
A.D.Movs. D.S.T.  
D.F.W. W.F. F.W.3.  
Fl. D.F.(F).  
I.O.(Col Penns).







D-6.

67 (3)

SECRET.

PARAPHRASE.

From:- G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

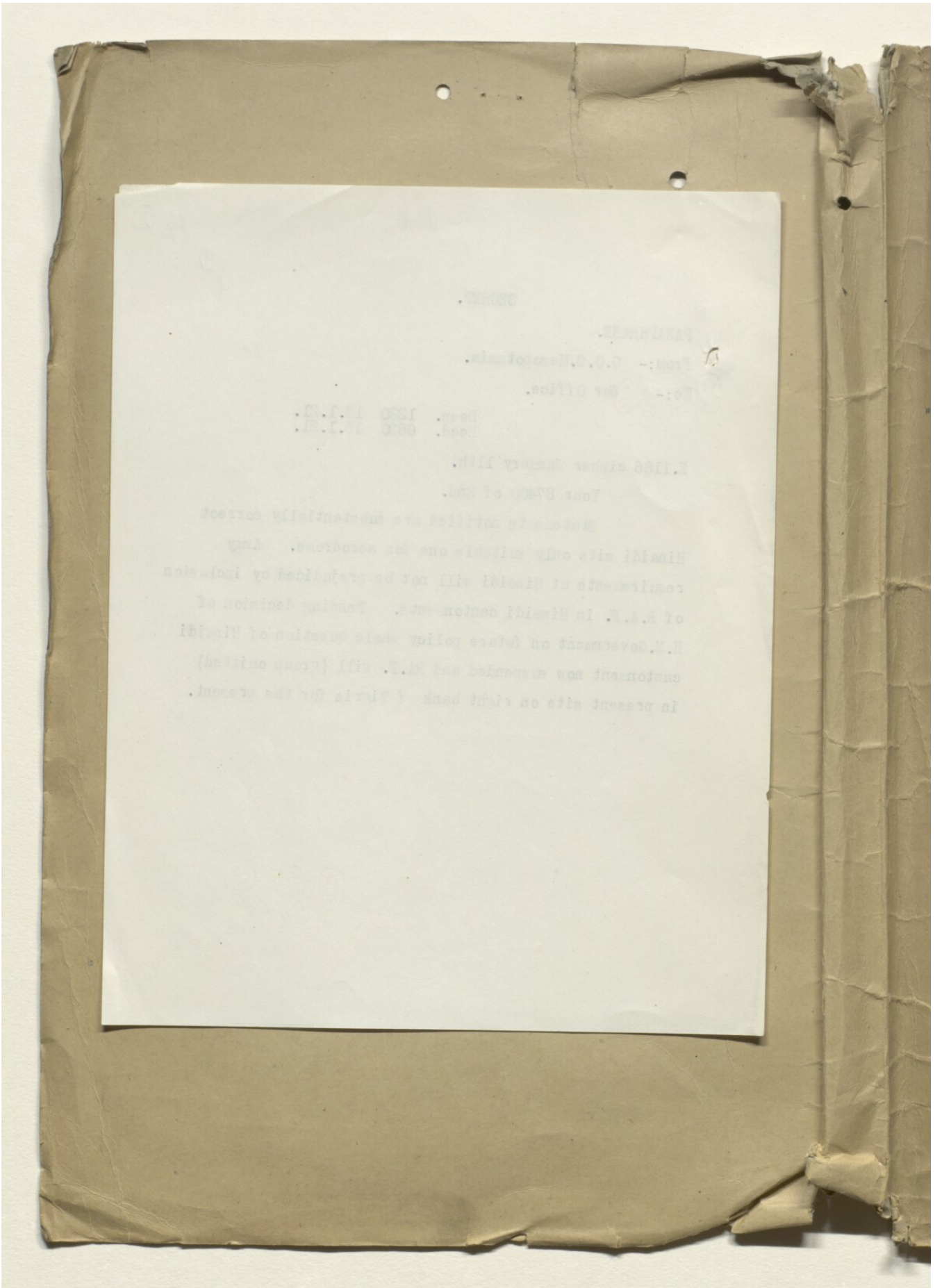
To:- War Office.

Desp. 1220 12.1.21.  
Recd. 0830 15.1.21.

K.1186 cipher January 11th.

Your 87400 of 2nd.

Statements notified are substantially correct  
Hinaidi site only suitable one for aerodrome. Army  
requirements at Hinaidi will not be prejudiced by inclusion  
of R.A.F. in Hinaidi cantonments. Pending decision of  
H.M. Government on future policy whole question of Hinaidi  
cantonment now suspended and R.A.F. will (group omitted)  
in present site on right bank of Tigris for the present.







D-6

48 (4)  
72

SECRET.

Paraphrase.

PRIORITY "A".

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. in C., Mesopotamia.

Repeated:- G.O.C. in C., Egypt.

Despatched:- 20.00 10.1.21.

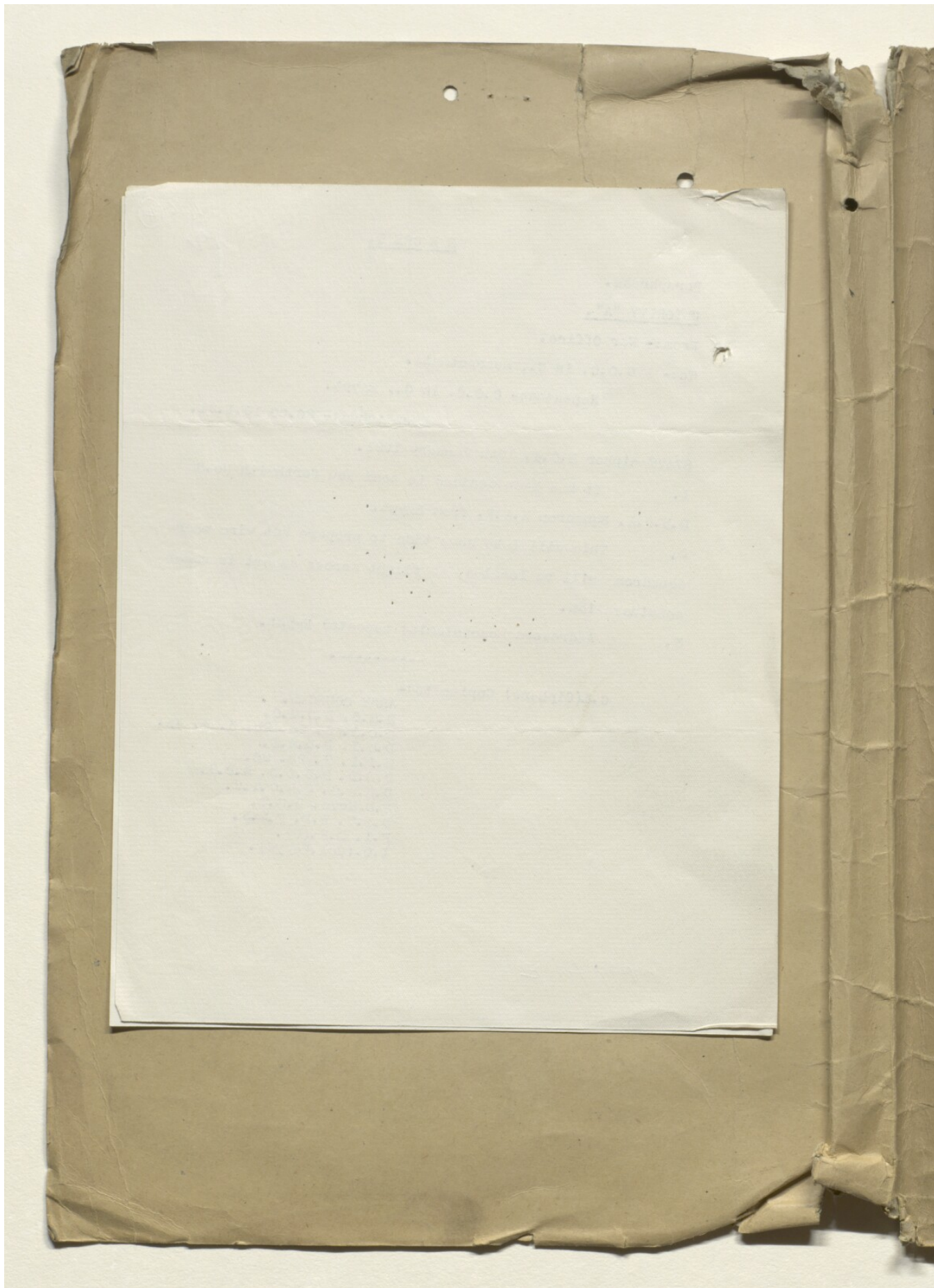
87477 cipher M.O.4. 10th January 1921.

1. It has been decided to send you forthwith No.8 D.H.S.A. Squadron R.A.F. from Egypt.
2. This will take some time to prepare but wire where squadron will be located, as flight across desert is under consideration.
3. Addressed Mesopotamia; repeated Egypt.

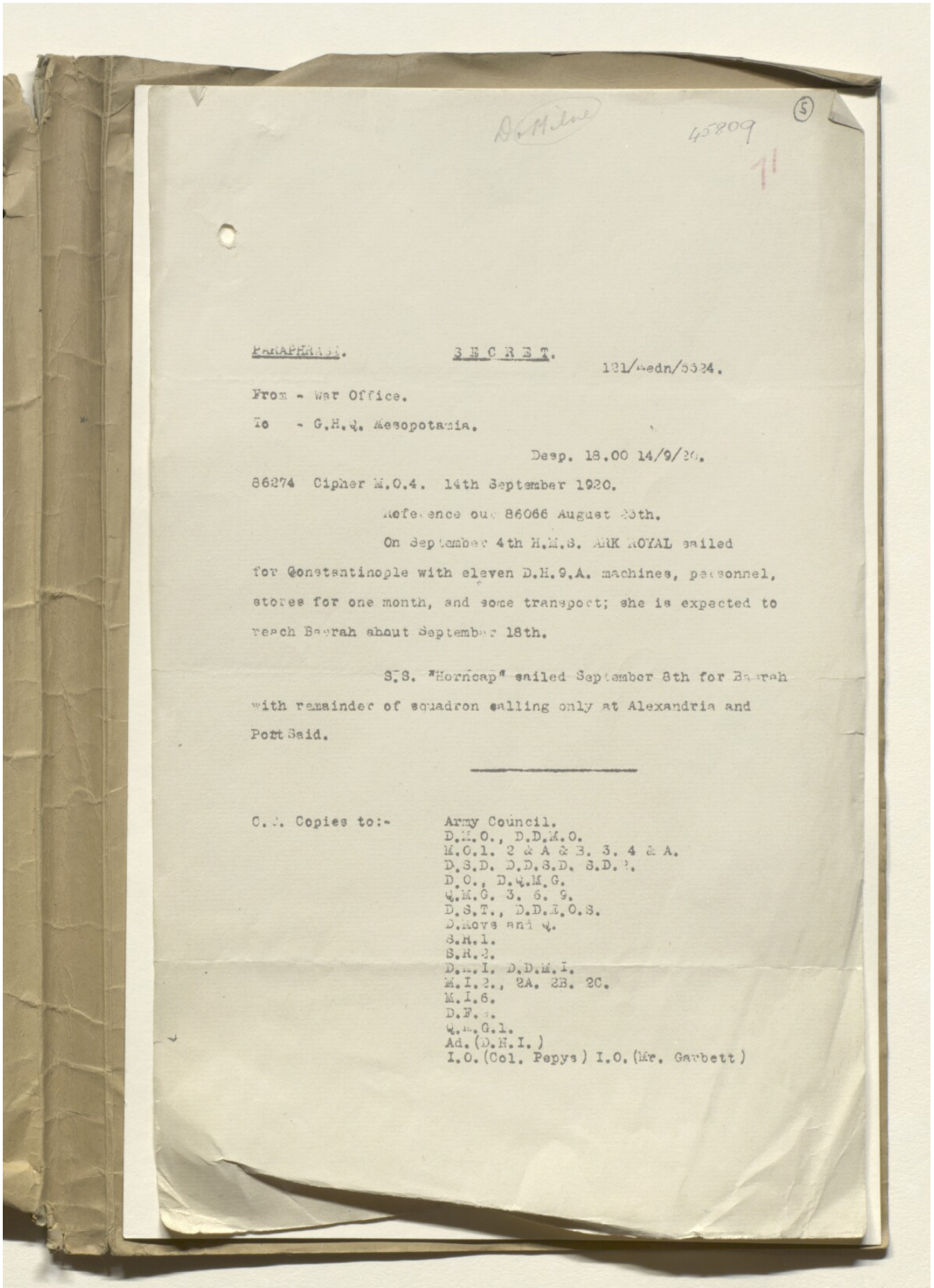
-----  
C.3(Ciphers) Copies to:-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
 D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
 M.O.1. 2. 2a. 2b. 3. 4. 4a.  
 D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
 H.I.1. 2. 2B. 2C.  
 D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2.  
 D.Q.M.G. Q.H.G.1.6.  
 A.D.Movs. D.S.T.  
 D.F.W. W.F. F.W.3.  
 F.I. D.F.(D).  
 I.O.(Col.Porrs).

Copy for E







PARAPHRASE.

SECRET.

121/4edn/5524.

From - War Office.

To - G.H.Q. Mesopotamia.

Desp. 18.00 14/9/20.

86274 Cipher M.O.4. 14th September 1920.

Reference our 86066 August 23th.

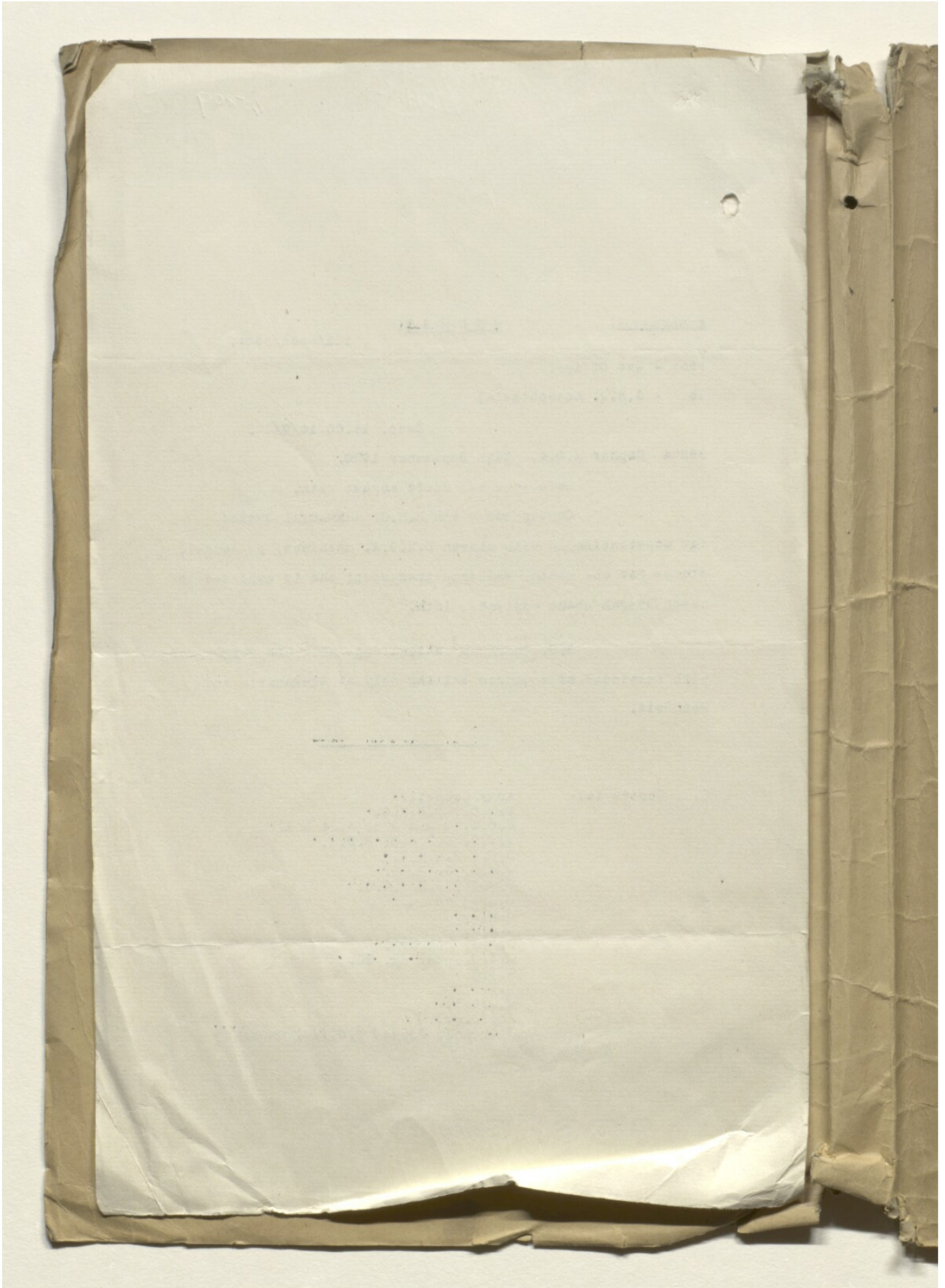
On September 4th H.M.S. ARK ROYAL sailed for Constantinople with eleven D.H.9.A. machines, personnel, stores for one month, and some transport; she is expected to reach Basrah about September 18th.

S.S. "Horncap" sailed September 8th for Basrah with remainder of squadron calling only at Alexandria and Port Said.

C.C. Copies to:-

Army Council.  
D.M.O., D.D.M.O.  
M.O.1. 2 & A & B. 3. 4 & A.  
D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D. 1.  
D.O., D.Q.M.G.  
Q.M.G. 3. 6. 9.  
D.S.T., D.D.L.O.S.  
D.Movs and Q.  
S.H.1.  
S.H.2.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I. 2., 2A. 2B. 2C.  
M.I. 6.  
D.F. 1.  
Q.M.G.1.  
Ad. (D.H.I.)  
I.O. (Col. Pepys) I.O. (Mr. Garbett)









Mesopotamia Reinforcements R.A.F. 45736 70<sup>⑥</sup>

SECRET.

Paraphrase.

From:- G.H.Q., Mesopotamia.

To:- War Office.

Despatched:- 15.00 3.9.20.  
Received:- 08.30 5.9.20.

X.32 cipher 3.9.20. Your 86067 of 25 /8. (64)

1. Present localizations are as follows.

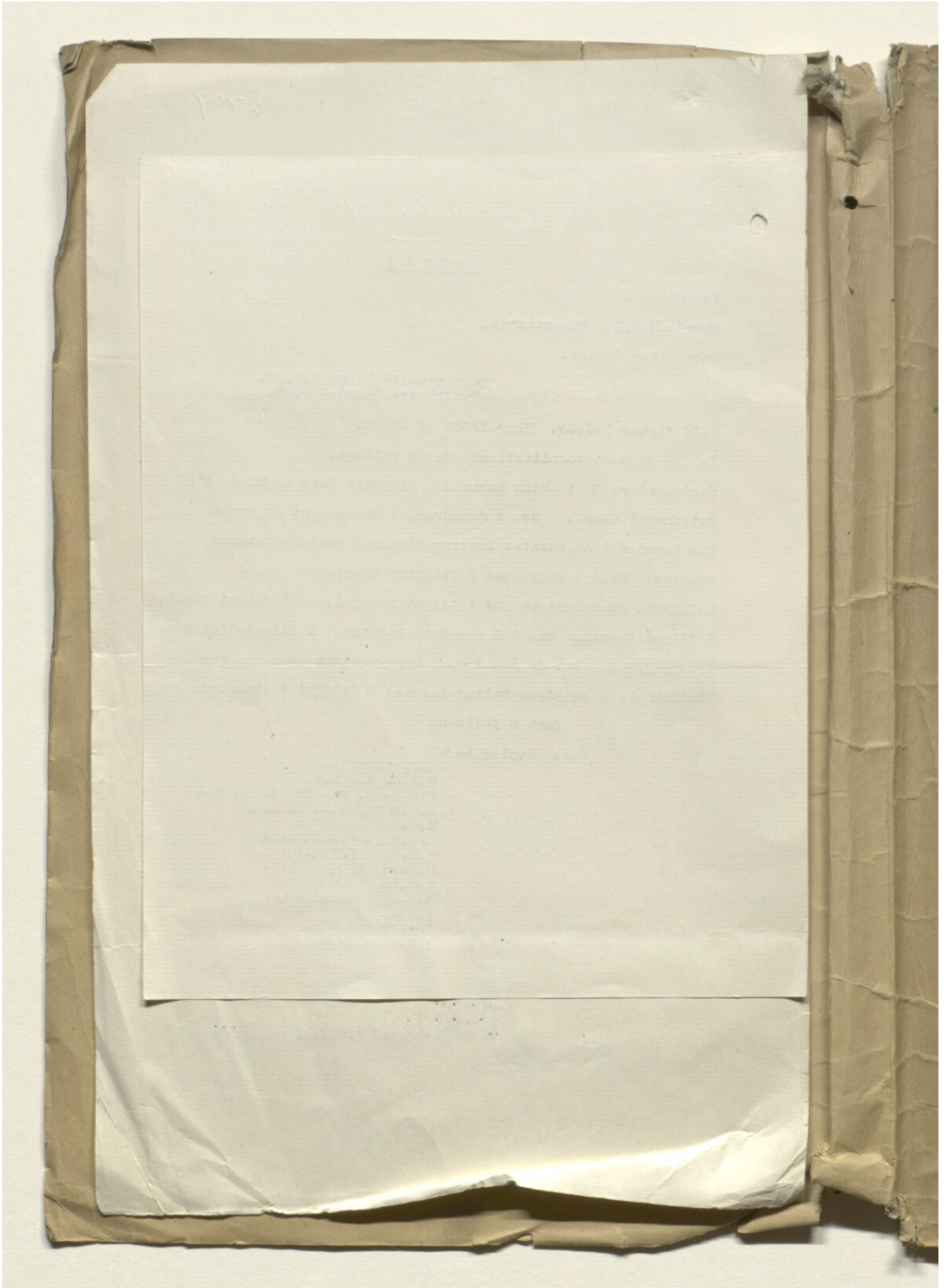
Headquarters 3rd Wing Baghdad. Aircraft Park Baghdad with detachment Basra. No. 6 Squadron. ? One flight on route for Baghdad from Bushire leaving wireless post and stores Bushire. Headquarters and 2 flights? Baghdad. No.30 Squadron. Headquarters and 1 flight Baghdad. ? 1 flight Mosul. 1 flight Kasvin. No. 30 Squadron Baghdad. 1 flight ? follows from Baghdad. No. 84 Squadron. Headquarters en route for Shaibah where squadron being located 2 flights ? attached.

Part 2 follows.

C.2. Copies to:-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
D.H.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.L. 2. 2a. 2b. 3. 4. 4a.  
D.S.D D.D.S.D. S.D.2.  
D.O.  
D.Q.M.G. Q.M.G.3.6.9.  
D.E.O.S. D.D.E.O.S.  
D.Movs. & Q.  
S.R.1.  
S.R.2. (Woolwich).  
S.R.4.  
Ad.(D.N.I.).  
I.O.(Col.Pepys ).

4/2 715







Mesopotamia Reinforcements RAF 69 (7)  
45737

SECRET.

Paraphrase.

From:- G.H.Q., Mesopotamia.

PRIORITY "A".

To:- War Office.

Despatched:- 14.00 3.9.20.  
Received:- 16.00 5.9.20.

X.32 cipher 3/9. Second and last part.

Central Air communication section Shaibah, with stores depots under construction Charbar and Bunder Abbas. X.C.W. 56 B Sets working at Baghdad Mosul Kasvin Shaibah and Bushire. 1 set stored at Bunder Abbas and Charbar.

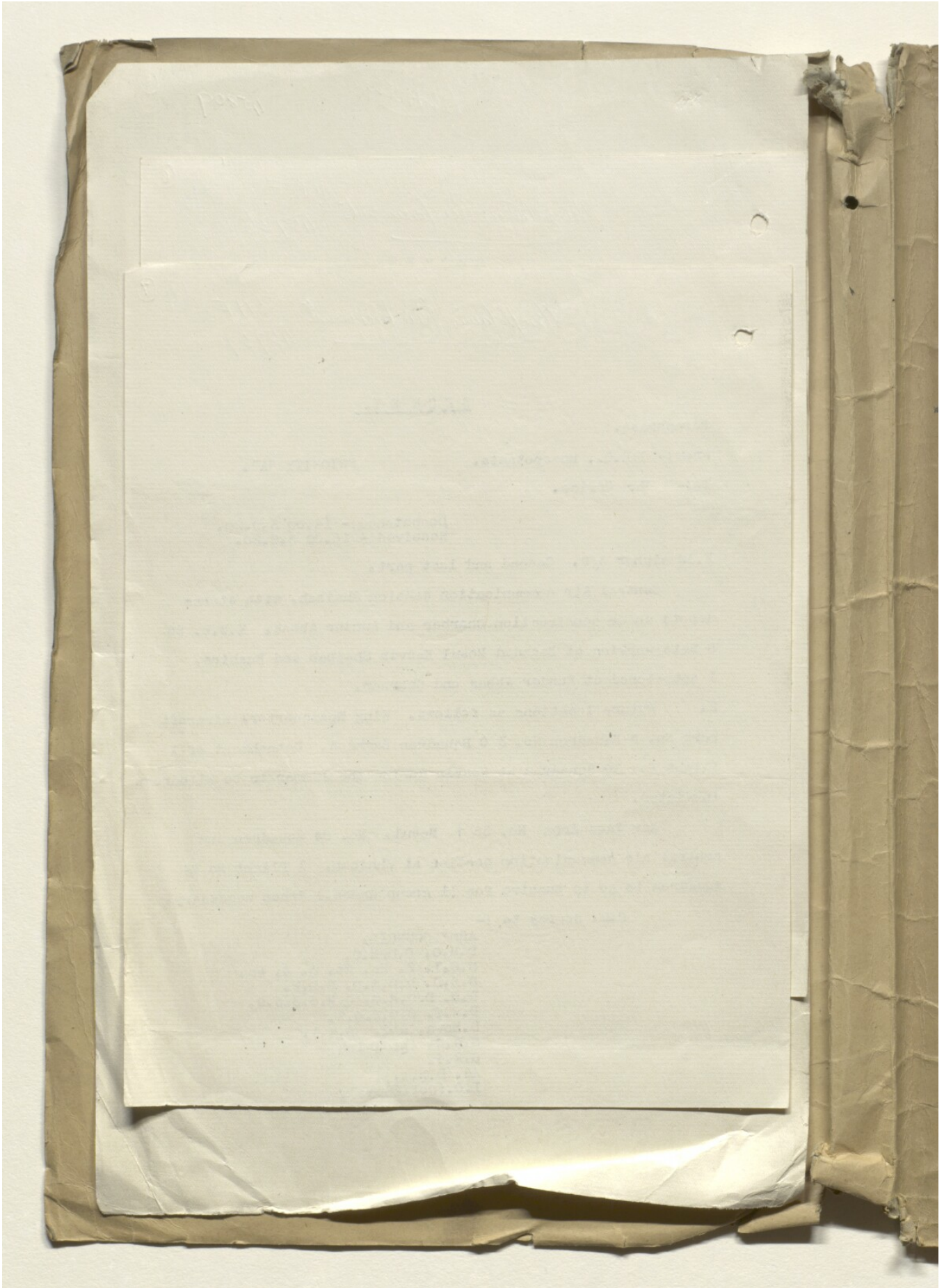
2. Future locations as follows. Wing Headquarters aircraft park No. 6 Squadron No. 30 Squadron Baghdad. Detachment of 1 flight No. 30 Squadron at Kasvin during the summer to be withdrawn in winter.

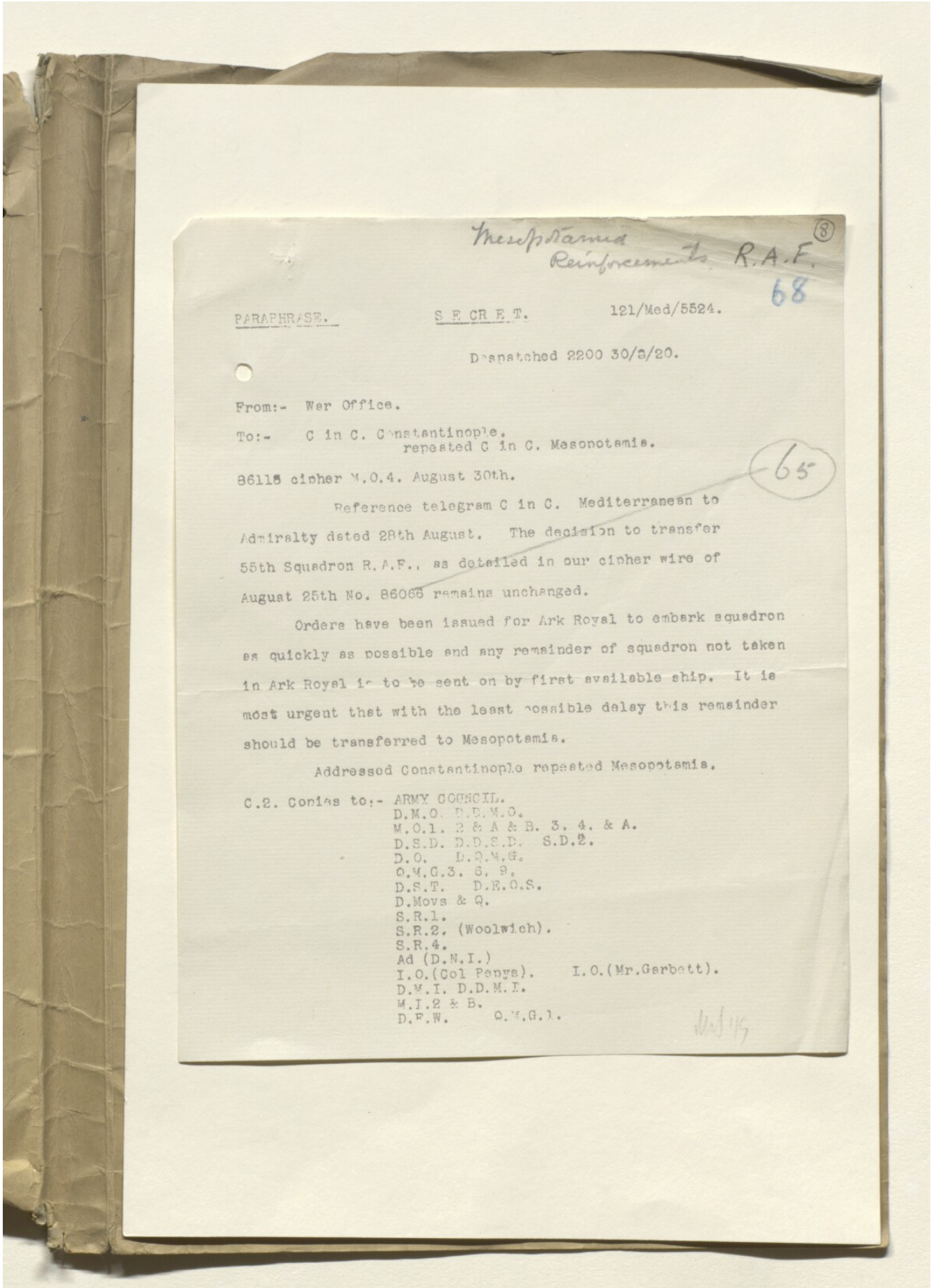
New Squadron No. 55 ? Mosul. No. 84 Squadron and central air communication section at Shaibah. 1 flight No. 84 squadron to go to Bushire for (1 group undec.) when necessary.

C.2. Copies to :-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
D.M.C. D.D.M.O.  
H.O.1. 2. 2a. 2b. 3. 4. 4a.  
D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2.  
D.O. D.Q.M.G. Q.M.G.3.6.9.  
D.S.T. D.D.E.O.S.  
D.Movs. & Q. S.R.1.  
S.R.2. (Woolwich).  
S.R.4.  
Ad.(D.N.I.).  
I.O.(Col.Pepys).







Mesopotamia Reinforcements R.A.F. 68

PARAPHRASE.

S E C R E T.

121/Med/5524.

Despatched 2200 30/8/20.

From:- War Office.

To:- C in C. Constantinople.  
repeated C in C. Mesopotamia.

86118 cipher M.O.4. August 30th.

Reference telegram C in C. Mediterranean to Admiralty dated 28th August. The decision to transfer 55th Squadron R.A.F., as detailed in our cipher wire of August 25th No. 86066 remains unchanged.

Orders have been issued for Ark Royal to embark squadron as quickly as possible and any remainder of squadron not taken in Ark Royal is to be sent on by first available ship. It is most urgent that with the least possible delay this remainder should be transferred to Mesopotamia.

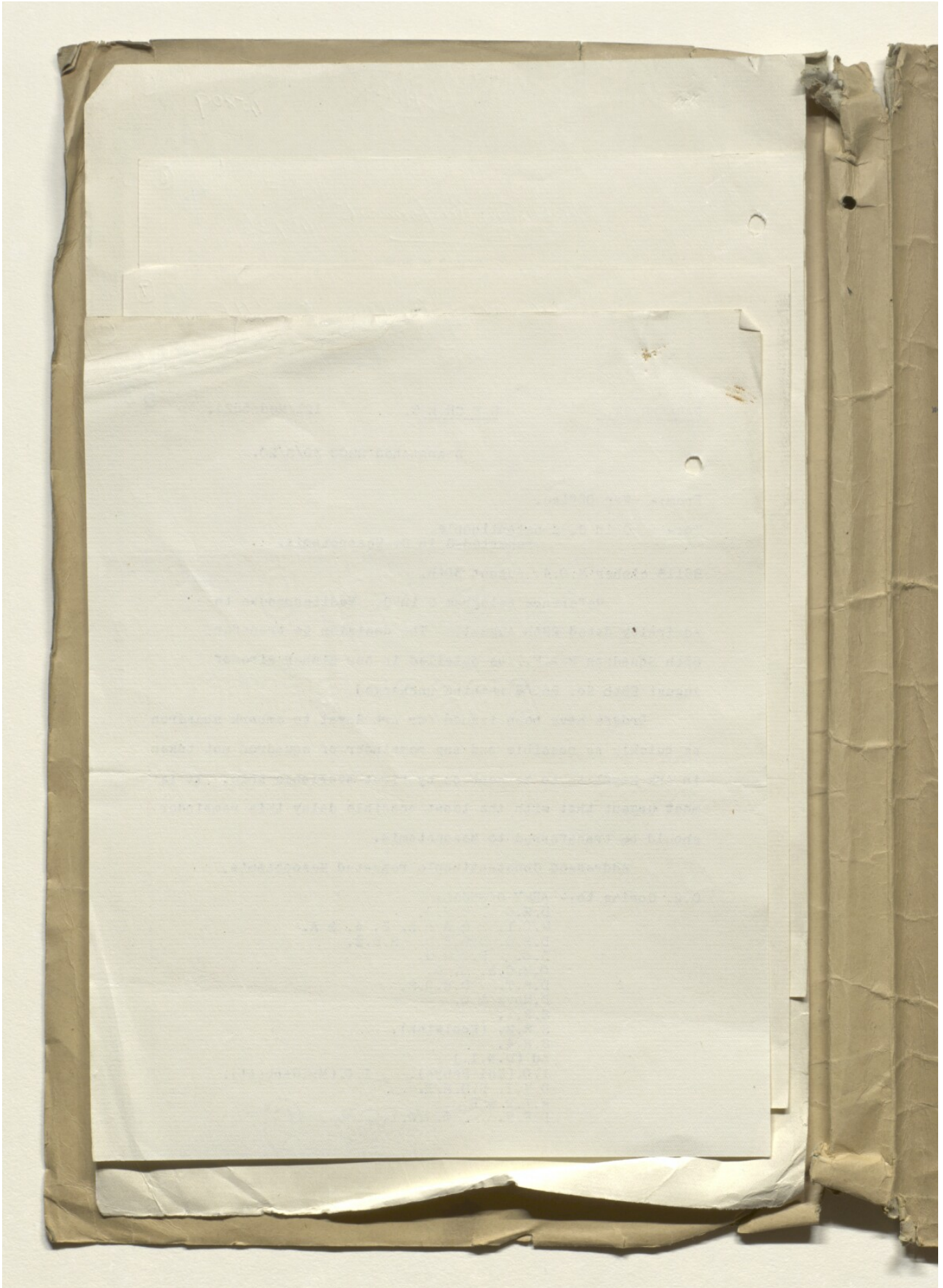
Addressed Constantinople repeated Mesopotamia.

- C.2. Copies to:-
- ARMY COUNCIL.
  - D.M.O. D.D.M.O.
  - M.O.1. 2 & A & B. 3, 4. & A.
  - D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2.
  - D.O. D.Q.M.G.
  - C.M.C.3. 6. 9.
  - D.S.T. D.E.O.S.
  - D.Movs & Q.
  - S.R.1.
  - S.R.2. (Woolwich).
  - S.R.4.
  - Ad (D.N.I.)
  - I.O. (Col Penys). I.O. (Mr. Garbett).
  - D.W.I. D.D.M.E.
  - M.I.2 & B.
  - D.F.W. C.M.G.1.

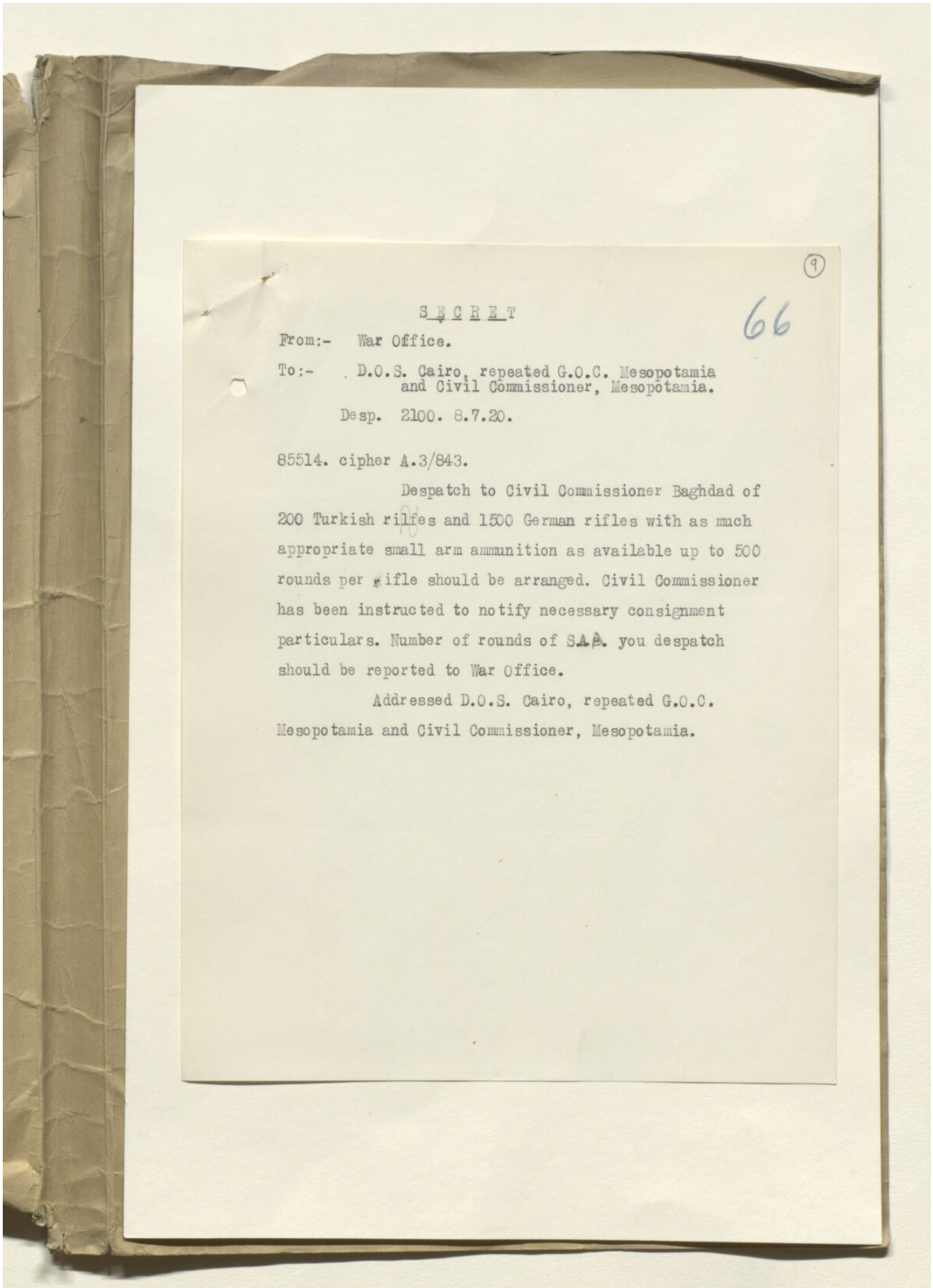
65

WJH









S E C R E T

66

From:- War Office.

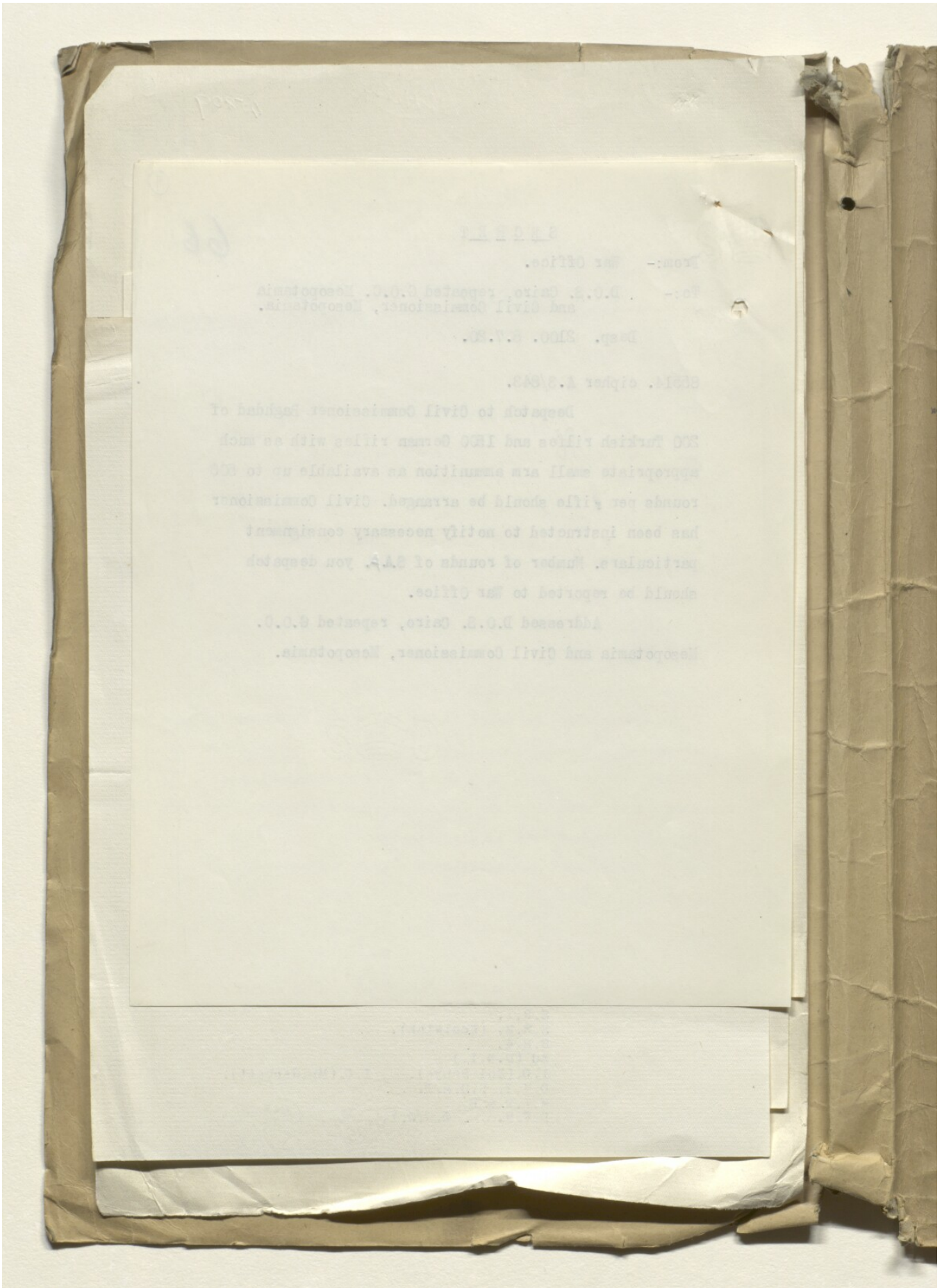
To:- D.O.S. Cairo, repeated G.O.C. Mesopotamia  
and Civil Commissioner, Mesopotamia.

Desp. 2100. 8.7.20.

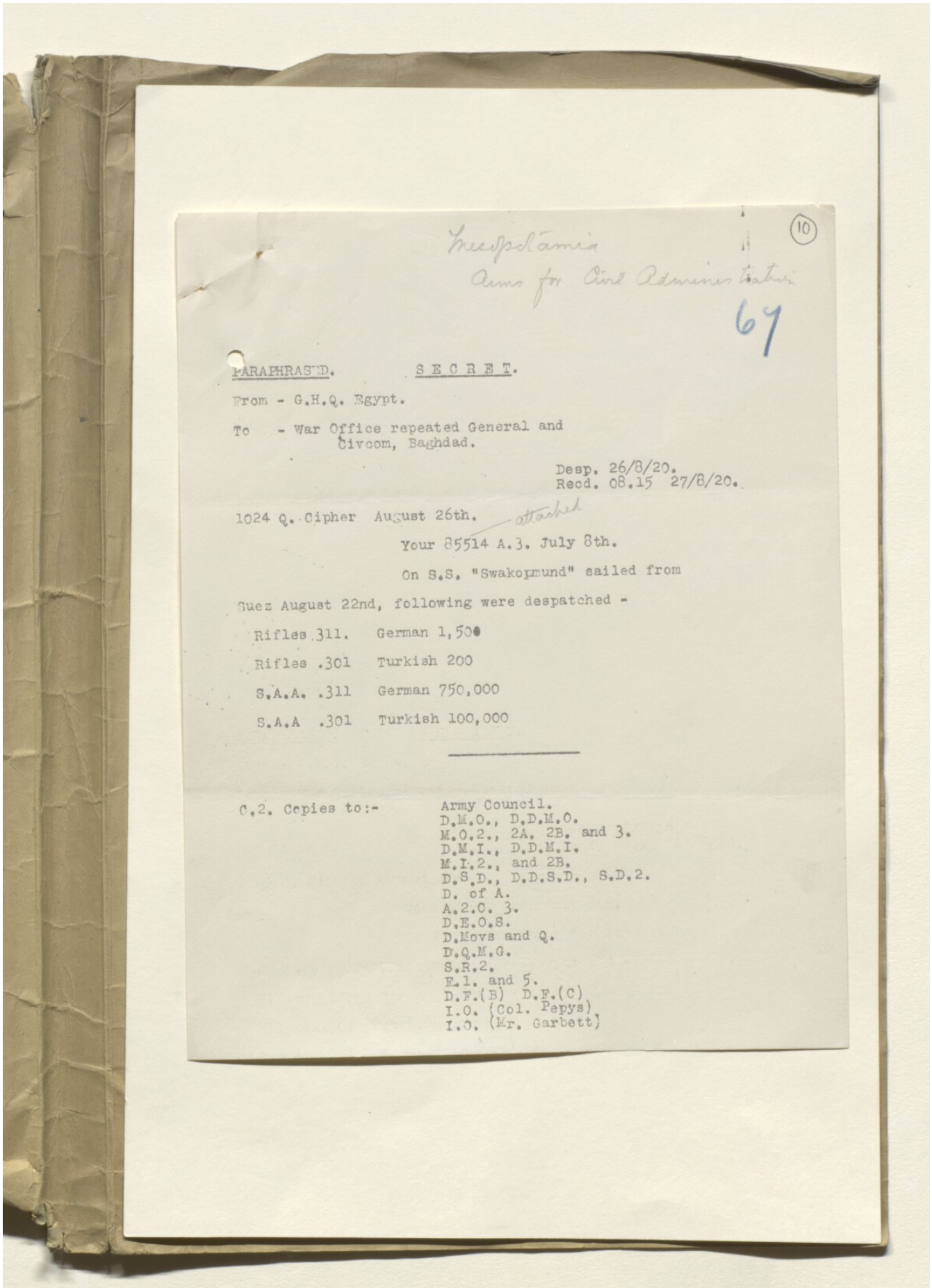
85514. cipher A.3/843.

Despatch to Civil Commissioner Baghdad of 200 Turkish rifles and 1500 German rifles with as much appropriate small arm ammunition as available up to 500 rounds per rifle should be arranged. Civil Commissioner has been instructed to notify necessary consignment particulars. Number of rounds of SAA. you despatch should be reported to War Office.

Addressed D.O.S. Cairo, repeated G.O.C.  
Mesopotamia and Civil Commissioner, Mesopotamia.







Mesopotamia  
Ams for Civil Administration

(10)

67

PARAPHRASED.                      SECRET.

From - G.H.Q. Egypt.

To - War Office repeated General and  
Civcom, Baghdad.

Desp. 26/8/20.  
Recd. 08.15 27/8/20.

1024 Q. Cipher August 26th.

*attached*  
Your 85514 A.3. July 8th.

On S.S. "Swakopmund" sailed from  
Suez August 22nd, following were despatched -

Rifles .311.      German 1,500

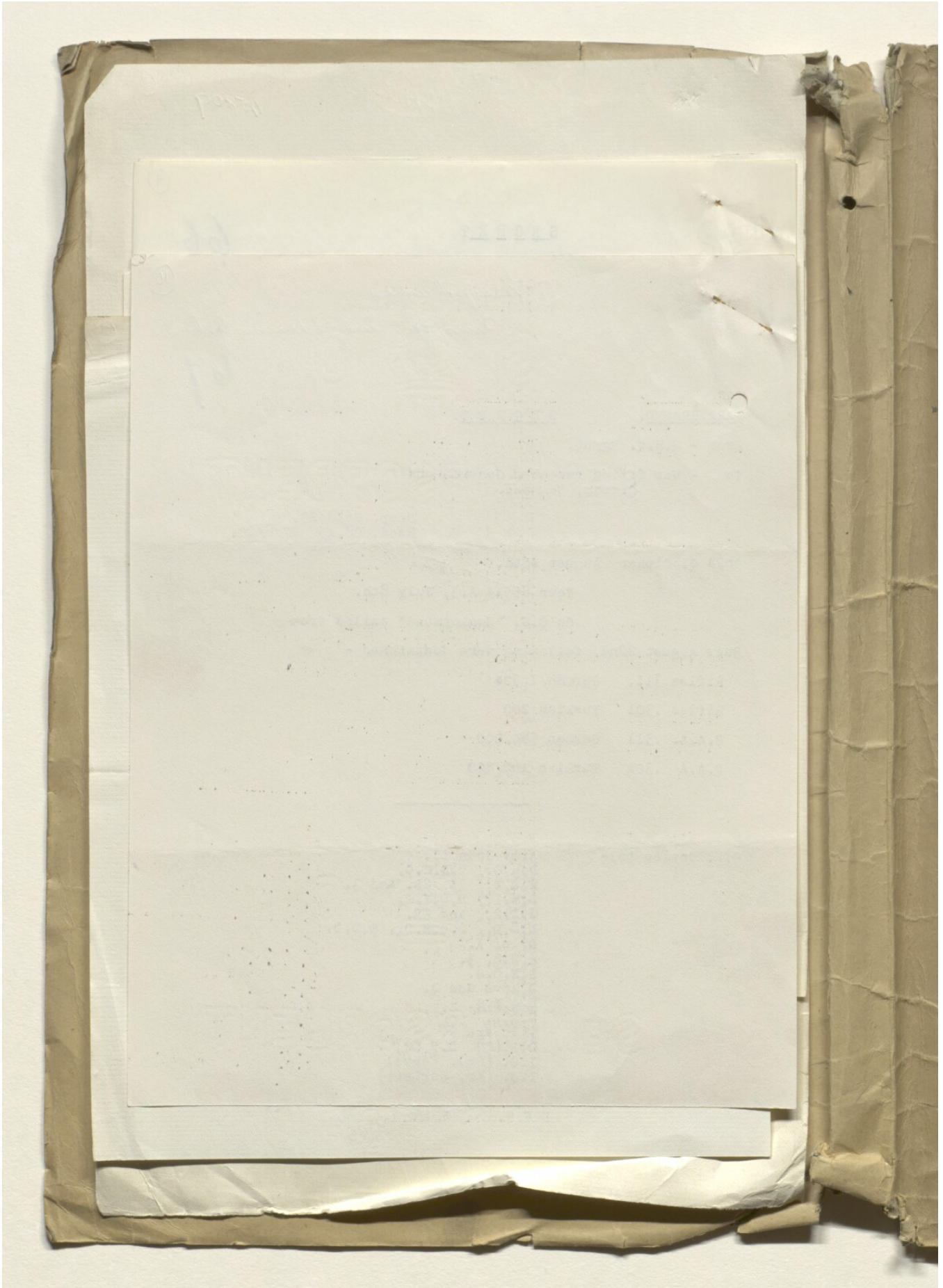
Rifles .301      Turkish 200

S.A.A. .311      German 750,000

S.A.A. .301      Turkish 100,000

C.2. Copies to:-

Army Council.  
D.M.O., D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2., 2A, 2B, and 3.  
D.M.I., D.D.M.I.  
M.I.2., and 2B.  
D.S.D., D.D.S.D., S.D.2.  
D. of A.  
A.2.C. 3.  
D.E.O.S.  
D.Movs and Q.  
D.Q.M.G.  
S.R.2.  
E.1. and 5.  
D.F.(B) D.F.(C)  
I.O. (Col. Pepys)  
I.O. (Mr. Garbett)







Mesopotamia  
R.A.F.

65

(11)

PARAPHRASE.

SECRET.

Despatched 1845 25/8/20.

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. Constantinople.  
repeated C in C. Mesopotamia. Egypt.  
86066 cipher D.M.O.

1. After consultation with Air Ministry following has been decided,

a. As soon as shipping can be provided all personnel and D.H.9A machines and spares of 55 Squadron R.A.F. and repair unit together with stores and transport to be transferred to Mesopotamia.

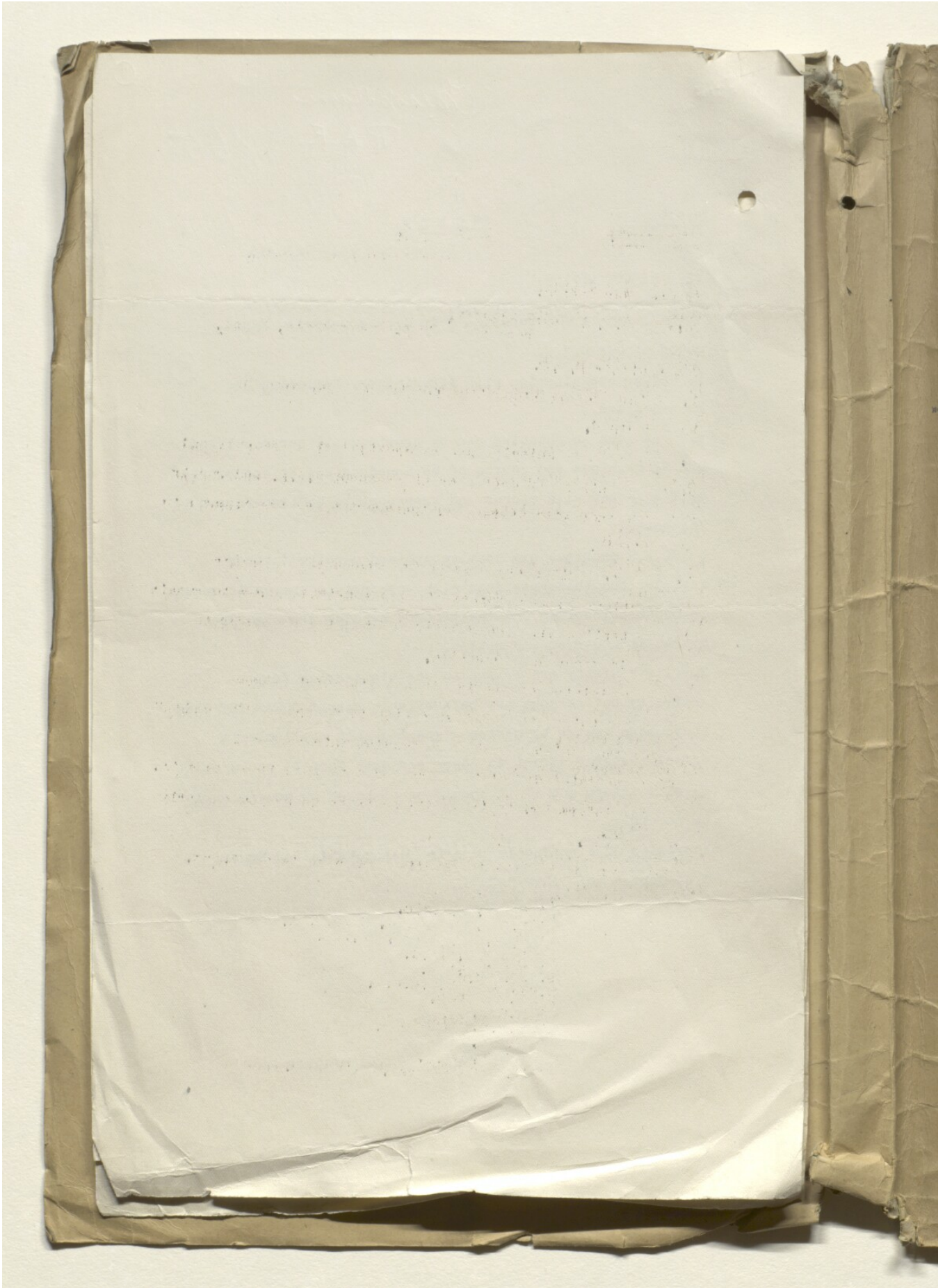
b. D.H.9 machines are obsolescent and pending further instructions these machines with appropriate spares to remain in Constantinople. The question of handing these over to Greeks is under consideration.

2. Air Ministry are trying to obtain carrier from Admiralty but as none may be available report CLEAR THE LINE if you can assist by making a special ship available to effect transfer direct to Basra and date when it could sail. We will inform you if it should be taken up by you as early as possible.

Addressed Constantinople repeated Mesopotamia and Egypt.

C.2. Copies to:- ARMY COUNCIL  
D.V.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.1. 2 & A & B. 3. 4. & A.  
D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2.  
D.O. D.Q.M.G.  
Q.M.G.3.6.9.  
D.S.T. D.D.E.O.S.  
D.Movs & Q.  
S.R.1.  
S.R.2.(Woolwich).  
S.R.4.  
Ad (D.N.I.).  
I.O.(Col Paps). I.O.(Mr.Garbett).







(12)

64

SECRET.

PARAPHRASE.

From:- War Office.

To:- C. in C. Mesopotamia.

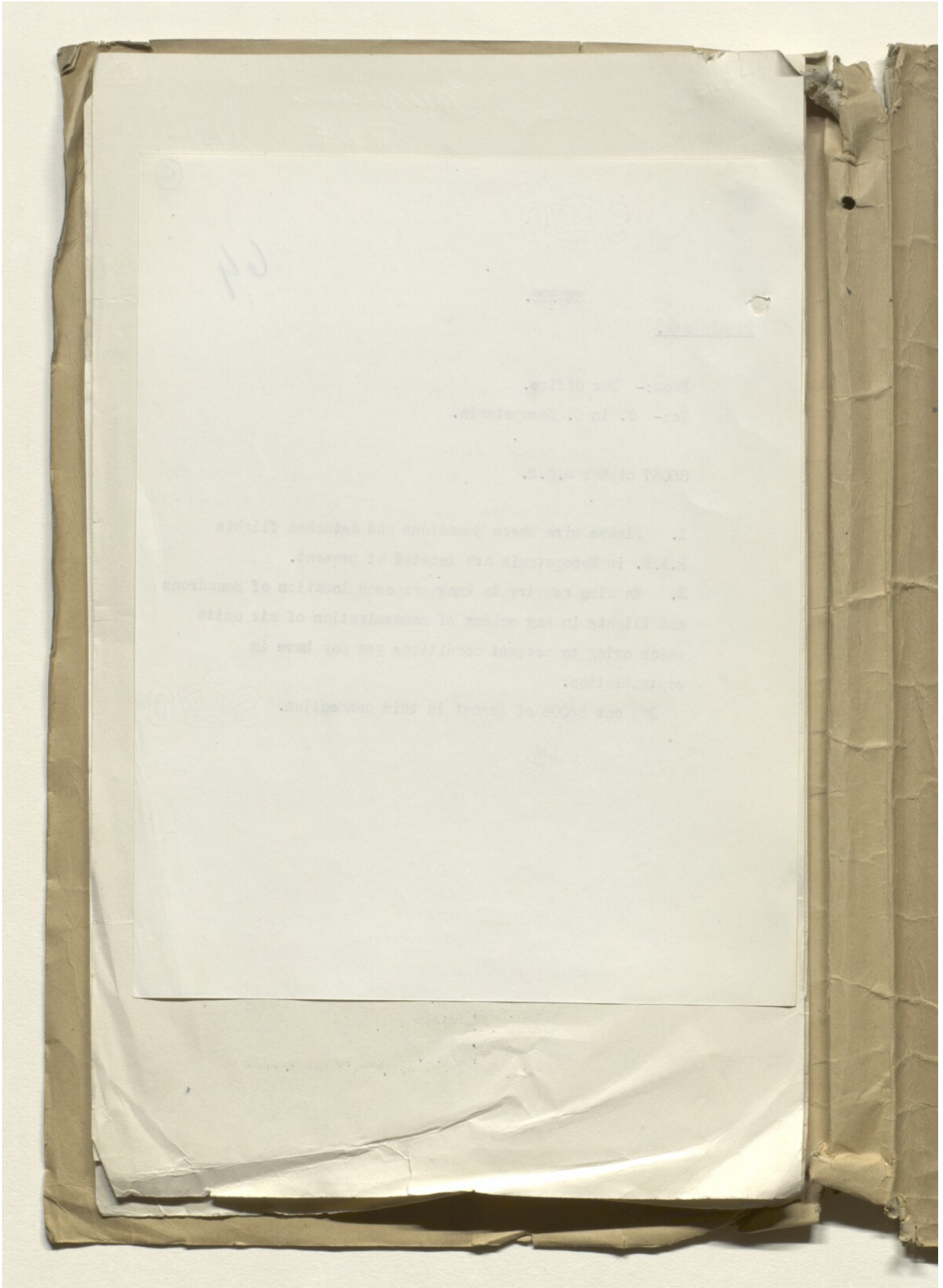
86067 cipher M.O.2.

1. Please wire where Squadrons and detached flights R.A.F. in Mesopotamia are located at present.
2. We also require to know proposed location of Squadrons and flights in any scheme of concentration of air units which owing to present conditions you may have in contemplation.

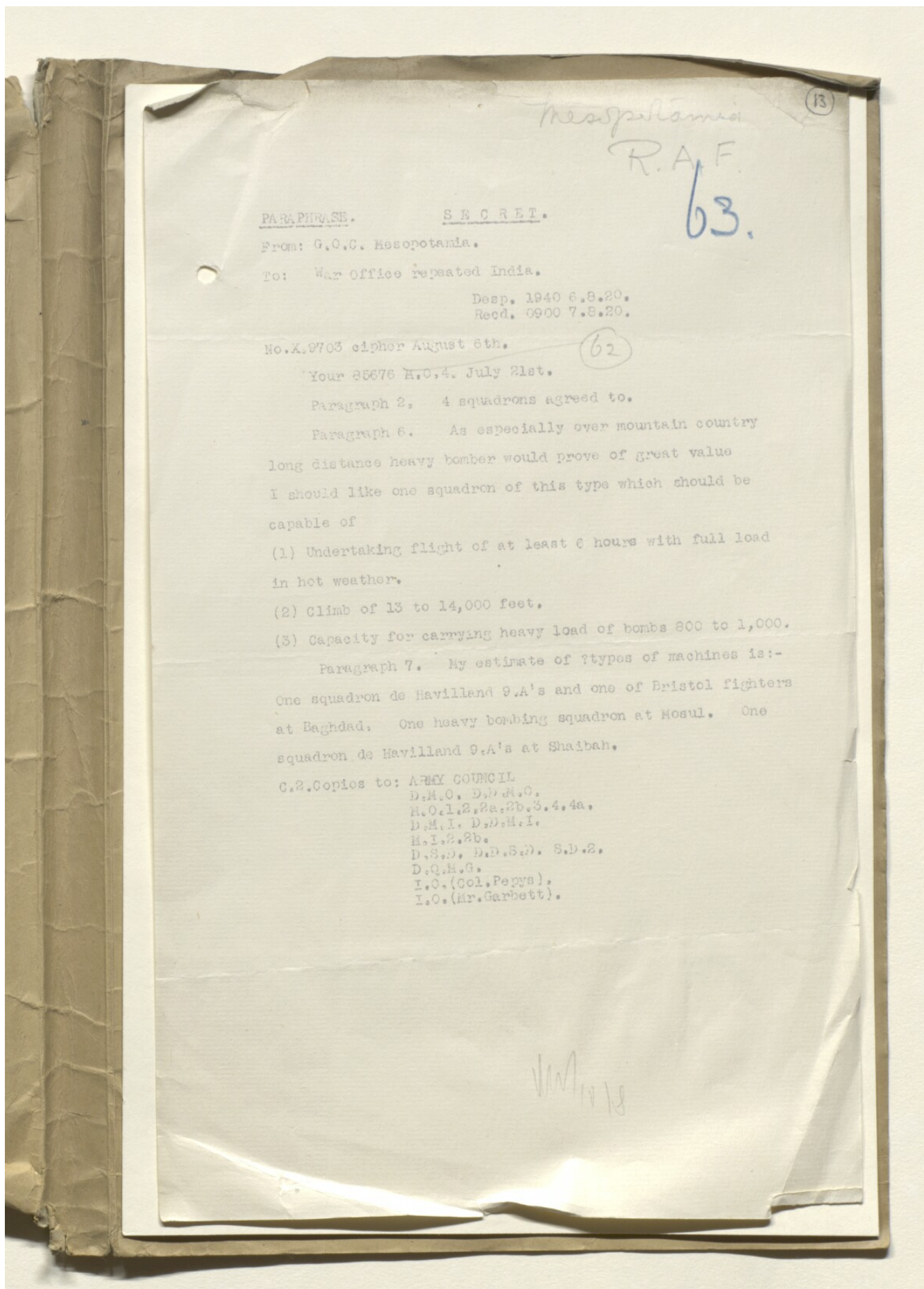
See our 86066 of August in this connection.

*above*









PARAPHRASE. SECRET.

From: G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

To: War Office repeated India.

Desp. 1940 6.8.20.  
Recd. 0900 7.8.20.

No. X. 9703 cipher August 6th.

Your 35676 H.O. 4. July 21st.

Paragraph 2. 4 squadrons agreed to.

Paragraph 6. As especially over mountain country long distance heavy bomber would prove of great value I should like one squadron of this type which should be capable of

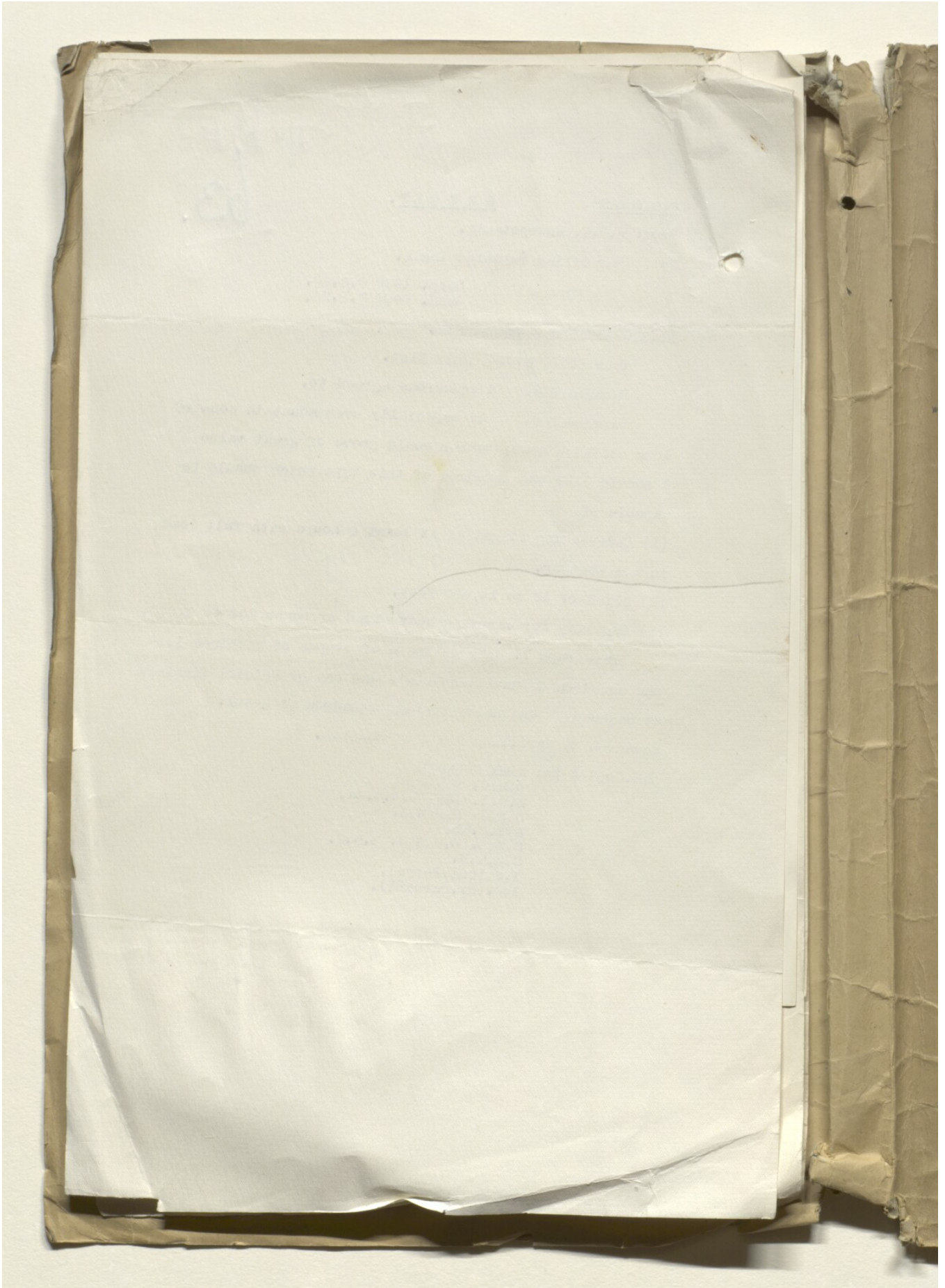
(1) Undertaking flight of at least 6 hours with full load in hot weather.

(2) Climb of 13 to 14,000 feet.

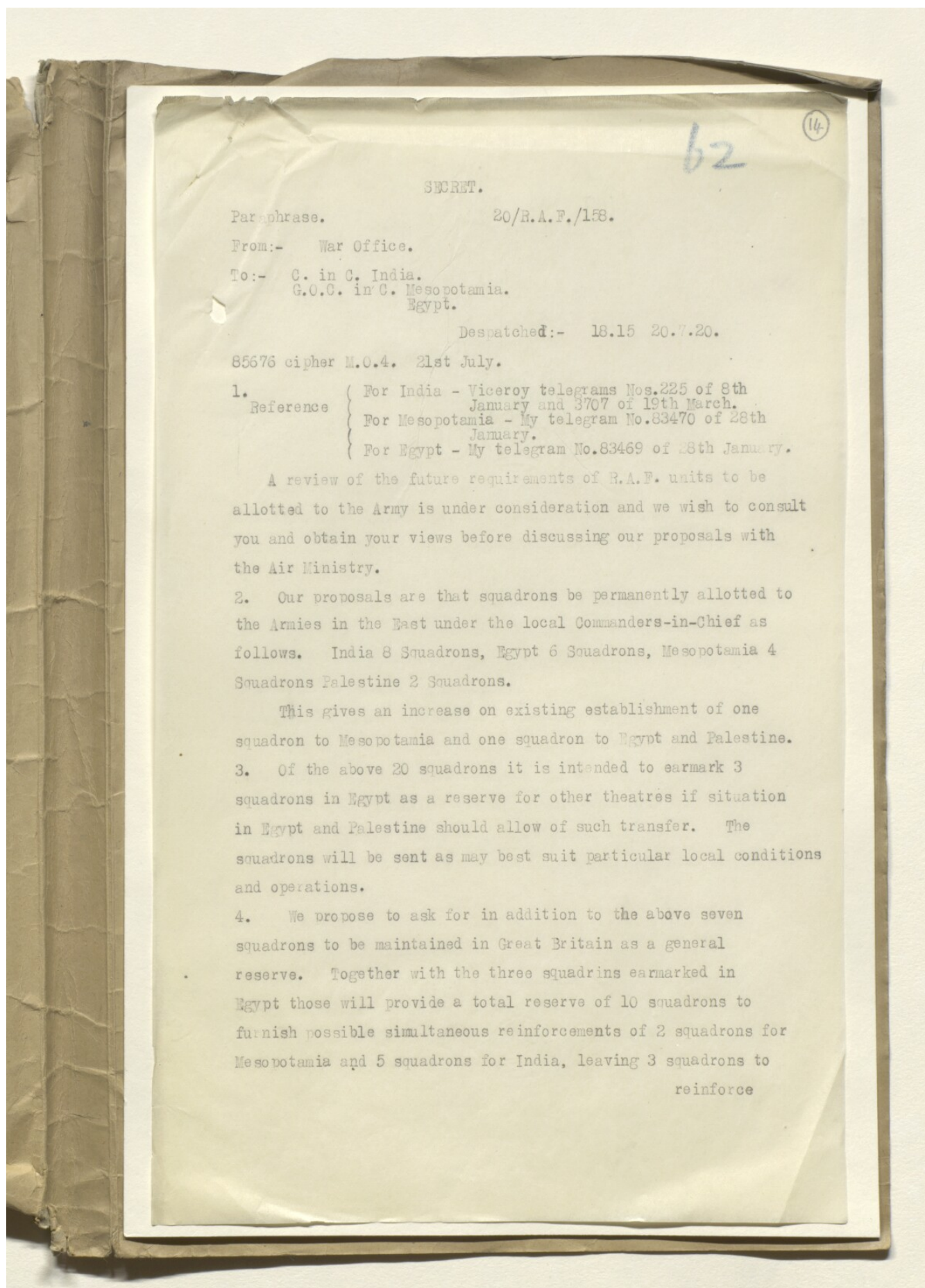
(3) Capacity for carrying heavy load of bombs 800 to 1,000.

Paragraph 7. My estimate of types of machines is:-  
One squadron of Havilland 9A's and one of Bristol fighters at Baghdad. One heavy bombing squadron at Mosul. One squadron of Havilland 9A's at Shaibah.

C.2. Copies to: ARMY COUNCIL  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
H.O. 1, 2, 2a, 2b, 3, 4, 4a.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
H.I. 2, 2b.  
D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D. 2.  
D.Q.M.G.  
I.O. (Col. Pepsy).  
I.O. (Mr. Garbett).







SECRET.

Paraphrase. 20/R.A.F./158.

From:- War Office.

To:- C. in C. India.  
G.O.C. in C. Mesopotamia.  
Egypt.

Despatched:- 18.15 20.7.20.

85676 cipher M.O.4. 21st July.

1. Reference { For India - Viceroy telegrams Nos.225 of 8th  
January and 3707 of 19th March.  
{ For Mesopotamia - My telegram No.83470 of 28th  
January.  
{ For Egypt - My telegram No.83469 of 28th January.

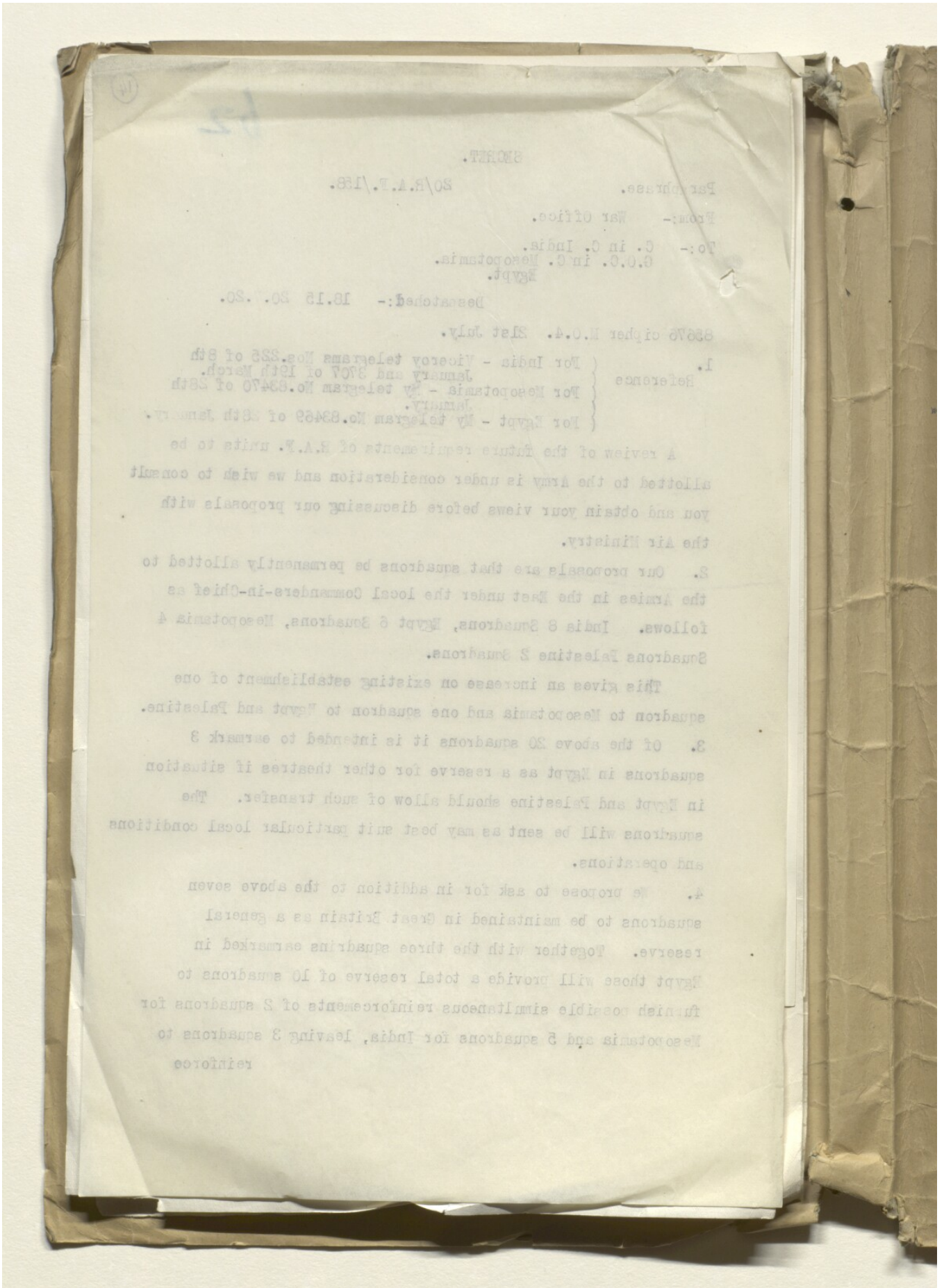
A review of the future requirements of R.A.F. units to be allotted to the Army is under consideration and we wish to consult you and obtain your views before discussing our proposals with the Air Ministry.

2. Our proposals are that squadrons be permanently allotted to the Armies in the East under the local Commanders-in-Chief as follows. India 8 Squadrons, Egypt 6 Squadrons, Mesopotamia 4 Squadrons Palestine 2 Squadrons.

This gives an increase on existing establishment of one squadron to Mesopotamia and one squadron to Egypt and Palestine.

3. Of the above 20 squadrons it is intended to earmark 3 squadrons in Egypt as a reserve for other theatres if situation in Egypt and Palestine should allow of such transfer. The squadrons will be sent as may best suit particular local conditions and operations.

4. We propose to ask for in addition to the above seven squadrons to be maintained in Great Britain as a general reserve. Together with the three squadrons earmarked in Egypt these will provide a total reserve of 10 squadrons to furnish possible simultaneous reinforcements of 2 squadrons for Mesopotamia and 5 squadrons for India, leaving 3 squadrons to reinforce



SECRET

SO/R.A.F./138

Paraphrase.

From: War Office.

To: G. in C. India.  
G.O.C. in C. Mesopotamia.  
Egypt.

Despatched: 18.12.20. SO.

Reference of War Office 11st July.

- 1. Reference
  - For India - Viceroy telegrams Nos. 225 of 8th January and 307 of 12th March.
  - For Mesopotamia - By telegram No. 83470 of 28th January.
  - For Egypt - By telegram No. 83469 of 28th January.

A review of the future requirements of R.A.F. units to be allotted to the Army is under consideration and we wish to consult you and obtain your views before discussing our proposals with the Air Ministry.

2. Our proposals are that squadrons be permanently allotted to the Armies in the West under the local Commanders-in-Chief as follows. India 3 Squadrons, Egypt 3 Squadrons, Mesopotamia 4 Squadrons Palestine 3 Squadrons.

This gives an increase on existing establishment of one squadron to Mesopotamia and one squadron to Egypt and Palestine.

3. Of the above 30 squadrons it is intended to earmark 8 squadrons in Egypt as a reserve for other theatres if situation in Egypt and Palestine should allow of such transfer. The squadrons will be sent as may best suit particular local conditions and operations.

4. We propose to ask for in addition to the above seven squadrons to be maintained in Great Britain as a general reserve. Together with the three squadrons earmarked in Egypt those will provide a total reserve of 10 squadrons to furnish possible simultaneous reinforcements of 3 squadrons for Mesopotamia and 3 squadrons for India, leaving 3 squadrons to reinforce





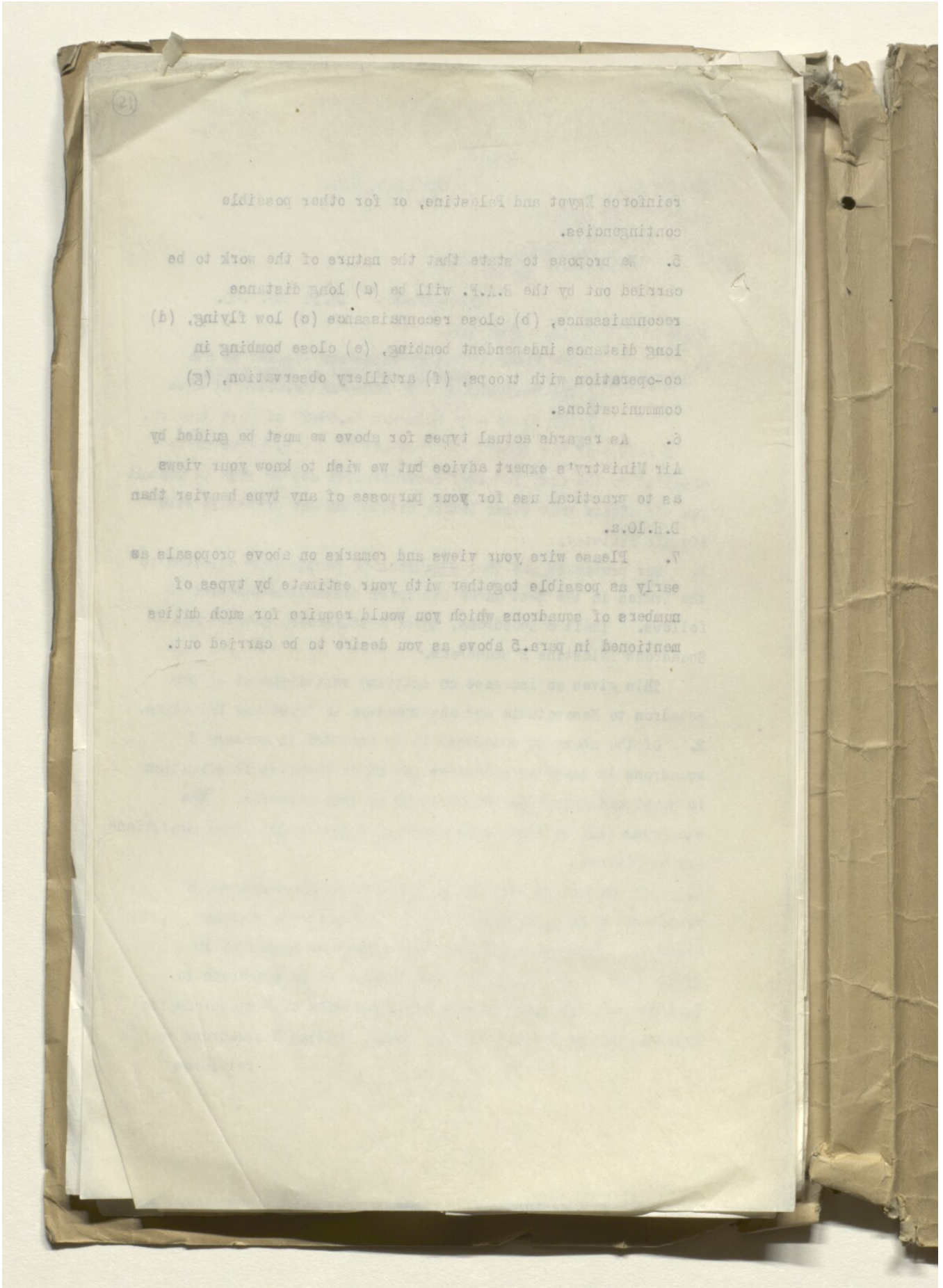
(15)

reinforce Egypt and Palestine, or for other possible contingencies.

5. We propose to state that the nature of the work to be carried out by the R.A.F. will be (a) long distance reconnaissance, (b) close reconnaissance (c) low flying, (d) long distance independent bombing, (e) close bombing in co-operation with troops, (f) artillery observation, (g) communications.

6. As regards actual types for above we must be guided by Air Ministry's expert advice but we wish to know your views as to practical use for your purposes of any type heavier than D.H.10.a.

7. Please wire your views and remarks on above proposals as early as possible together with your estimate by types of numbers of squadrons which you would require for such duties mentioned in para.5 above as you desire to be carried out.







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S E C R E T.

PARAPHRASE.

From :- War Office.

To :- C. in C. India.

Despatched 1235 12th April, 1920.

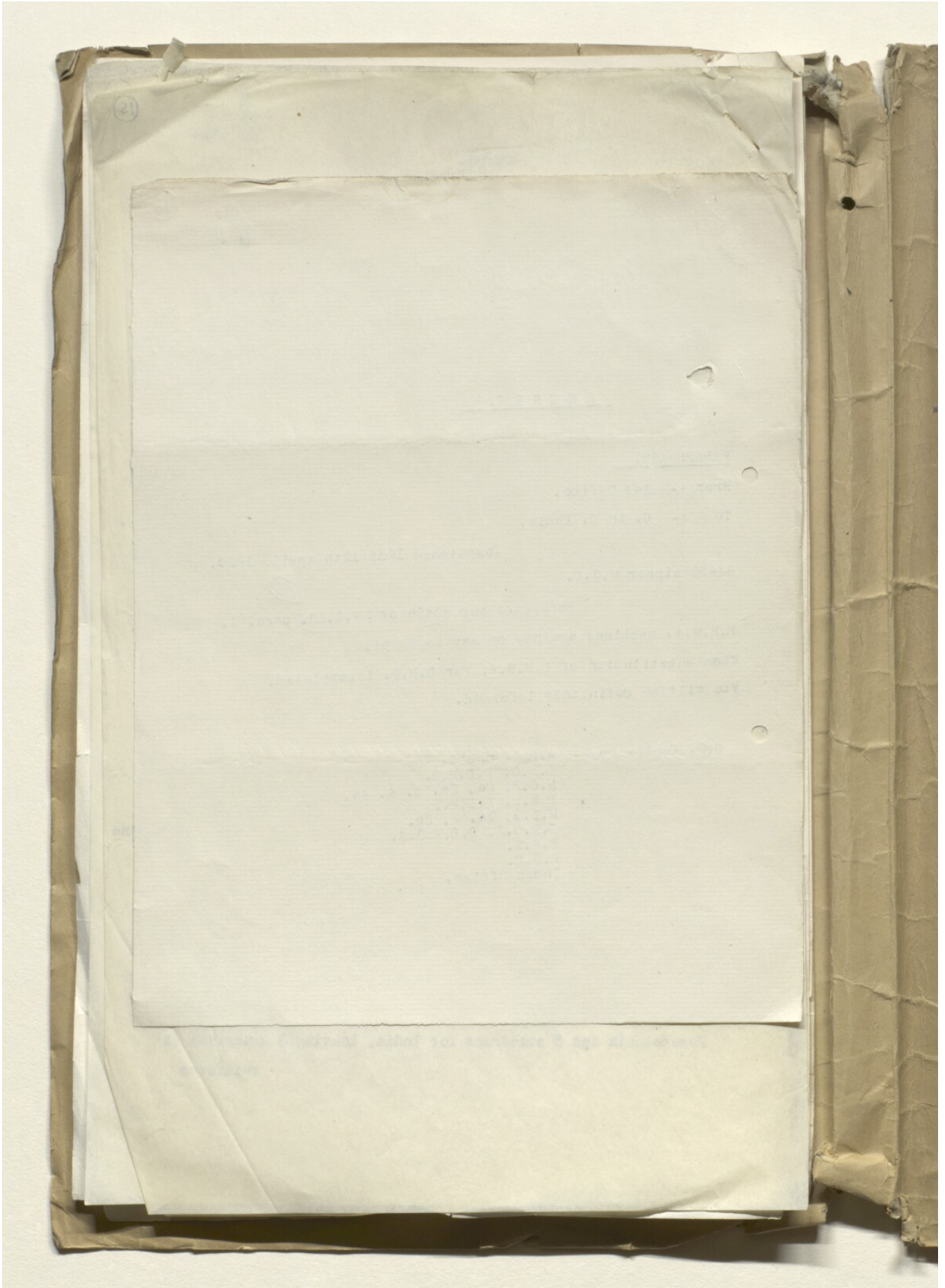
84459 cipher M.O.2.

Reference our 83488 of 29.1.20. <sup>(65)</sup> para. 1.

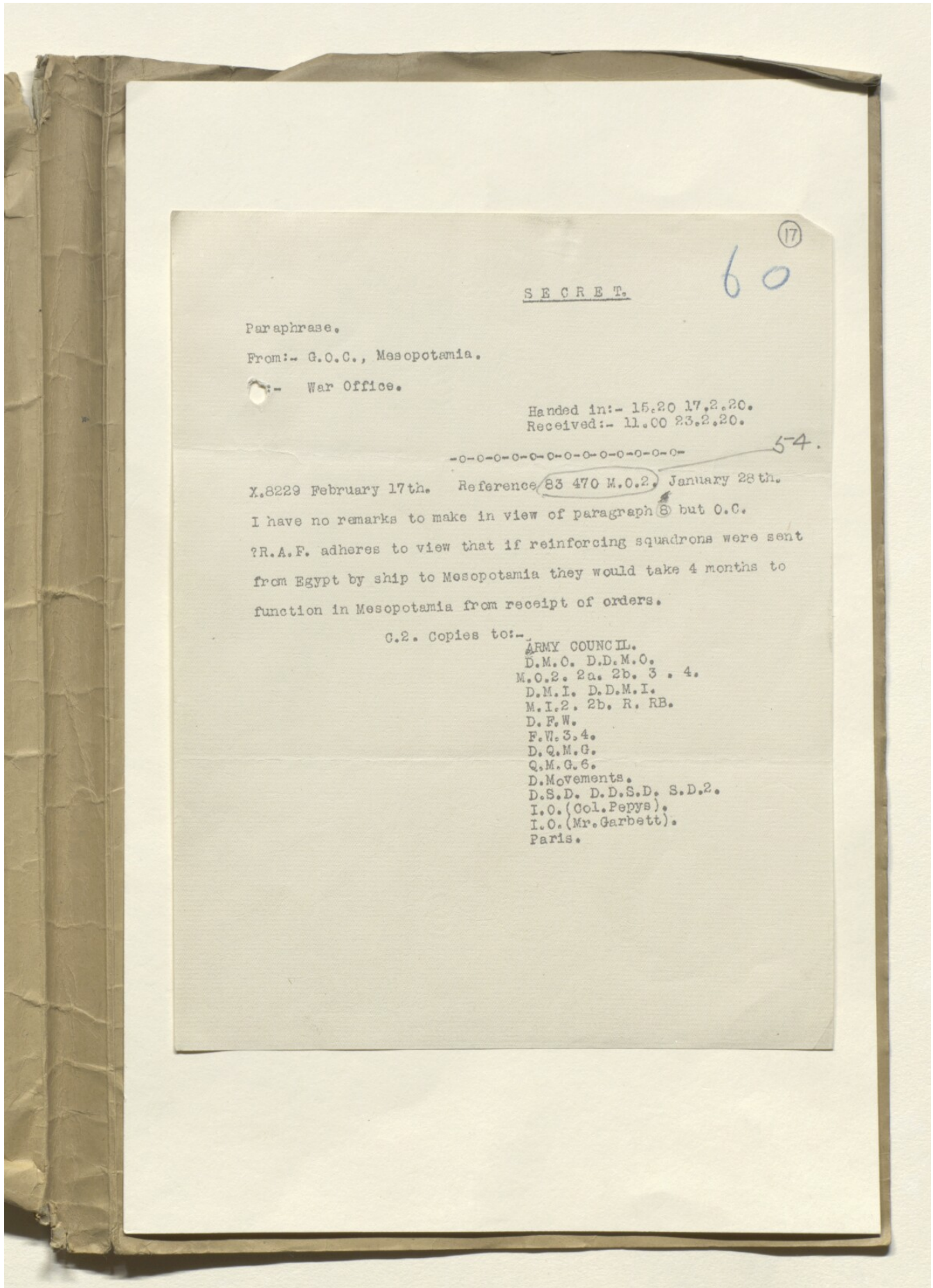
D.H.9.a. machines are now on way to Egypt.

When substitution of D.H.9.a. for D.H.9. is completed,  
you will be definitely informed.

C.2. Copies to :- Army Council.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2. 2a, 2b, 3, 4, 4a.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I.1. 1a, 2, 2b.  
D.E.O.S. D.D.E.O.S.  
S.R.2.  
D.S.D.  
India Office.







S E C R E T.

60 (17)

Paraphrase.

From:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

To:- War Office.

Handed in:- 15.20 17.2.20.  
Received:- 11.00 23.2.20.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

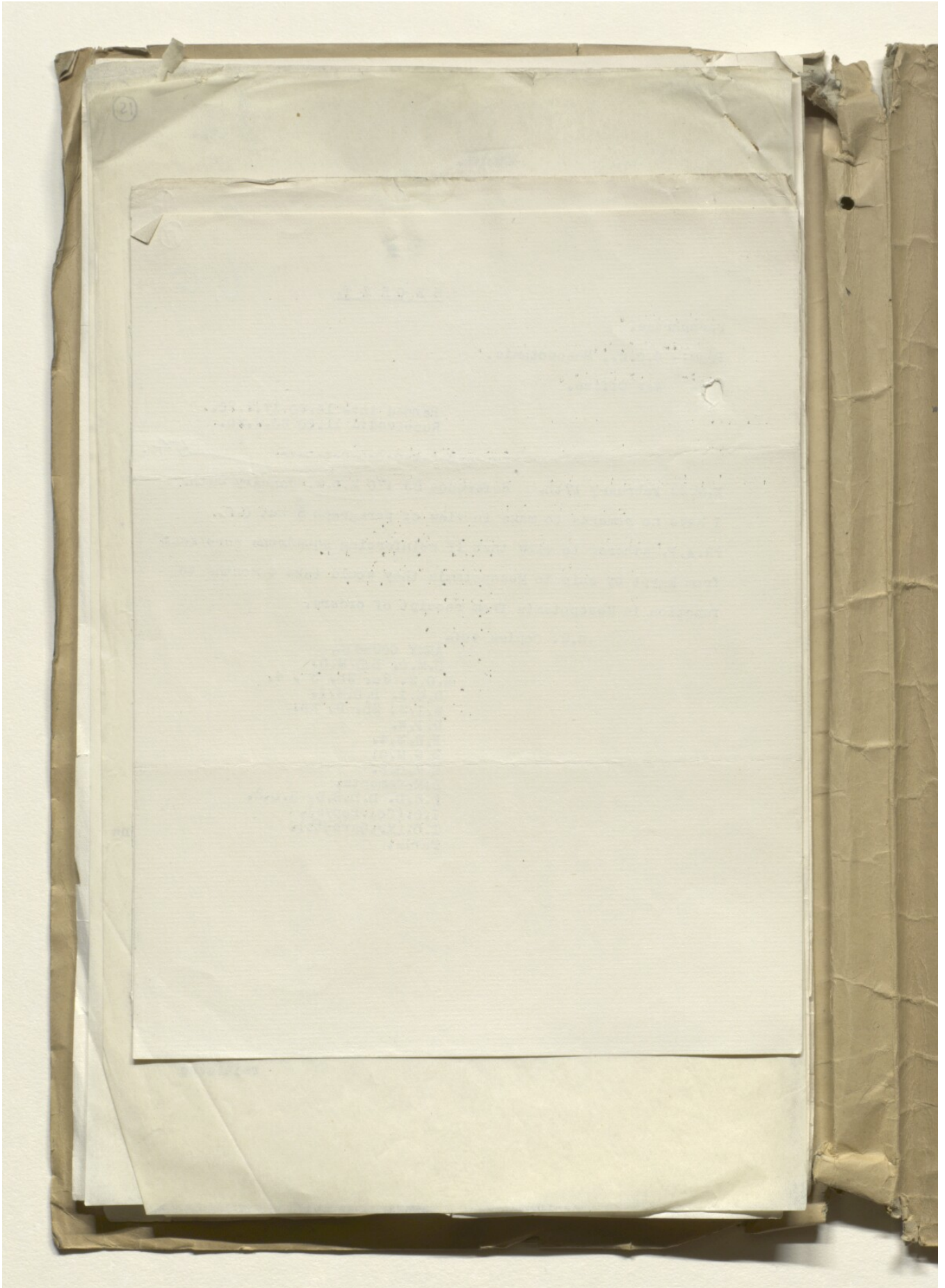
5-4.

X.8229 February 17th. Reference 83 470 M.O.2 January 28th.

I have no remarks to make in view of paragraph 5 but O.C.  
?R.A.F. adheres to view that if reinforcing squadrons were sent  
from Egypt by ship to Mesopotamia they would take 4 months to  
function in Mesopotamia from receipt of orders.

C.2. Copies to:-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2. 2a. 2b. 3 . 4.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I.2. 2b. R. RB.  
D.F.W.  
F.W.3.4.  
D.Q.M.G.  
Q.M.G.6.  
D.Movements.  
D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2.  
I.O. (Col. Pepys).  
I.O. (Mr. Garbett).  
Paris.







D. R.F.C.  
SECRET.

(18)

59

Paraphrase.

From:- War Office.

To:- C. in C., India.

Despatched:- 19.00 17.2.20.

--0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0--

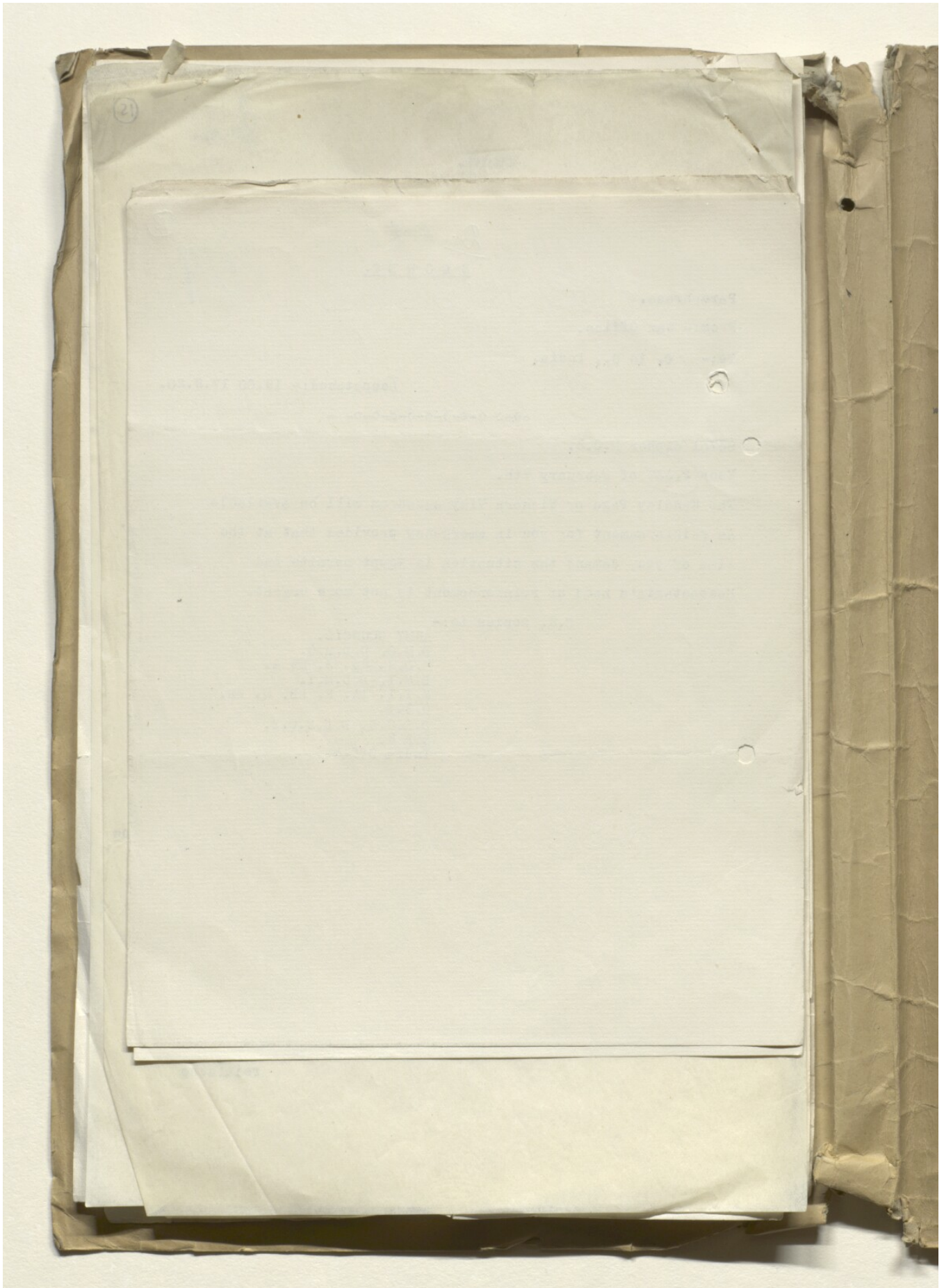
83751 cipher M.O.2. 56

Your P.532 of February 7th.

The Handley Page or Vickers Vimy squadron will be available as reinforcement for you in emergency provided that at the time of your demand the situation in Egypt permits and Mesopotamia's need of reinforcement is not more urgent.

C.2. Copies to:-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2. 2a. 3. 4.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I.1. 1A. R. RB. 2. 2B.  
D.S.D.  
D.E.O.S. D.D.E.O.S.  
S.R.2.  
India Office.







58 (19)

SECRET.

B.M./M.O.4./L/591.

From War Office.

To G.O.C. Mesopotamia. Desp. 14.40.17.2.20.

83733 cipher M.O.2.

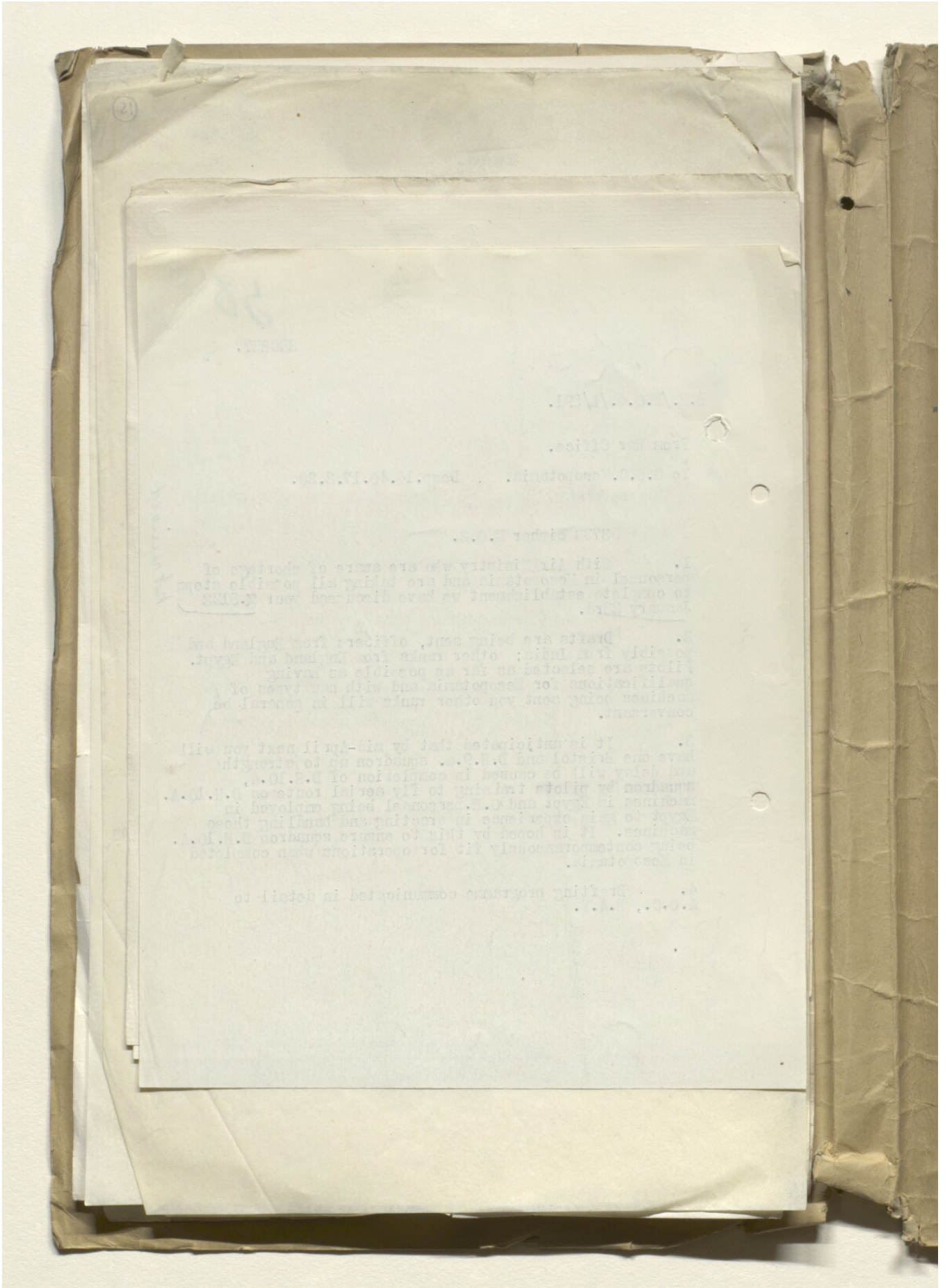
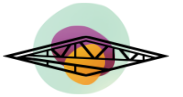
1. With Air Ministry who are aware of shortage of personnel in Mesopotamia and are taking all possible steps to complete establishment we have discussed your X.8122 January 23rd.

*not received*

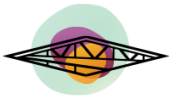
2. Drafts are being sent, officers from England and possibly from India; other ranks from England and Egypt. Pilots are selected as far as possible as having qualifications for Mesopotamia and with new types of machines being sent you other ranks will in general be conversant.

3. It is anticipated that by mid-April next you will have one Bristol and D.H.9.a. squadron up to strength and delay will be caused in completion of D.H.10.A. squadron by pilots training to fly aerial route on D.H.10.A. machines in Egypt and O.B. personnel being employed in Egypt to gain experience in erecting and handling these machines. It is hoped by this to ensure squadron D.H.10.A. being contemporaneously fit for operations when completed in Mesopotamia.

4. Drafting programme communicated in detail to A.O.C., R.A.F.







SECRET.

20

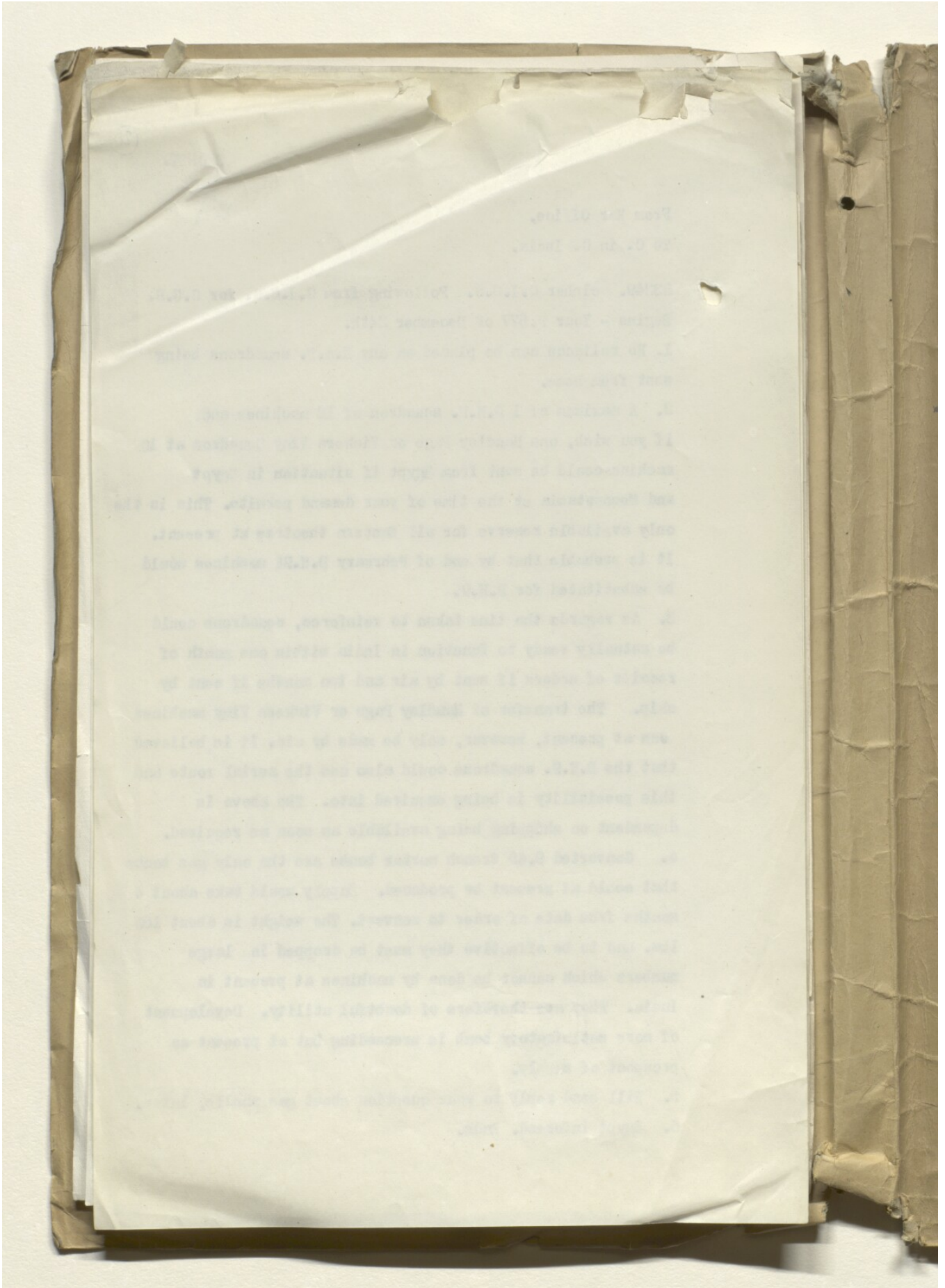
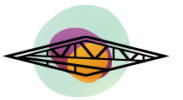
57

From War Office.

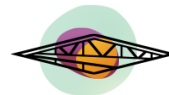
To C. in C. India.

83249. cipher C.I.G.S. Following from C.I.G.S. for C.G.S.  
Begins - Your P.577 of December 24th.

1. No reliance can be placed on any R.A.F. squadrons being sent from home.
2. A maximum of 1 D.H.9. squadron of 12 machines and, if you wish, one Handley Page or Vickers Vimy Squadron at 10 machines could be sent from Egypt if situation in Egypt and Mesopotamia at the time of your demand permits. This is the only available reserve for all Eastern theatres at present. It is probable that by end of February D.H.9A machines would be substituted for D.H.9.
3. As regards the time taken to reinforce, squadrons could be actually ready to function in India within one month of receipt of orders if sent by air and two months if sent by ship. The transfer of Handley Page or Vickers Vimy machines can at present, however, only be made by air. It is believed that the D.H.9. squadrons could also use the aerial route and this possibility is being enquired into. The above is dependent on shipping being available as soon as required.
4. Converted 9.45 trench mortar bombs are the only gas bombs that could at present be produced. Supply would take about 4 months from date of order to convert. The weight is about 180 lbs. and to be effective they must be dropped in large numbers which cannot be done by machines at present in India. They are therefore of doubtful utility. Development of more satisfactory bomb is proceeding but at present no prospect of supply.
5. Will send reply to your question about gas shells, later.
6. Egypt informed. Ends.







(21)

56

PARAPHRASE.

S E C R E T.

From: G. in C. India.

To: War Office.

Desp. 1915 7.2.20.  
Recd. 2040 13.2.20.

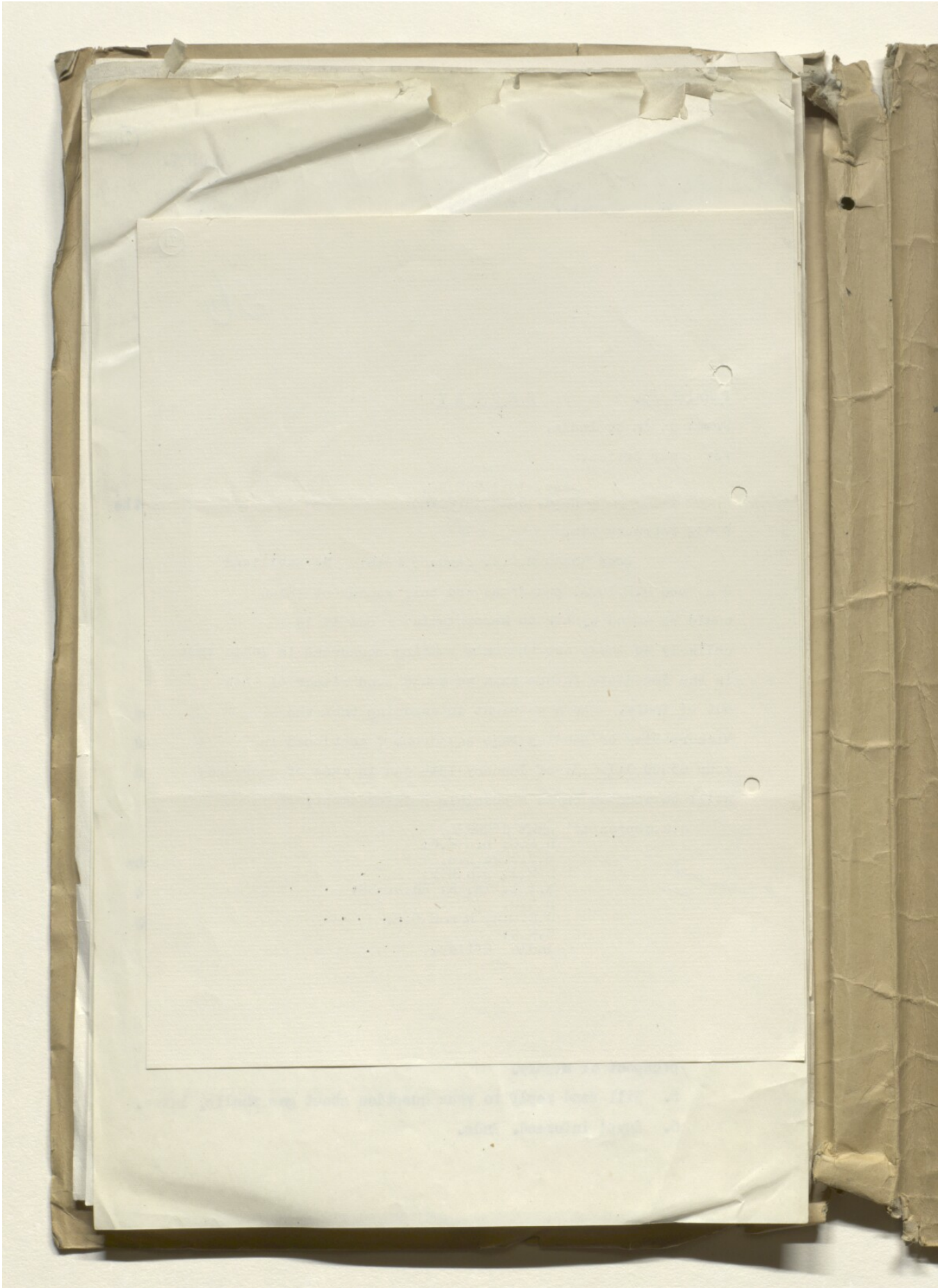
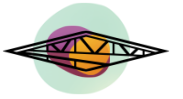
P.632 February 7th.

55

Your 83483 M.O.2. January 29th. De Havilland  
9 A. and D.H.10.A. squadrons are only squadrons which  
could be moved by air to Mesopotamia. But it is  
unlikely as these are the only bombing squadrons in India that  
in the immediate future ~~xxxx~~ we could send either of them  
out of India. Are we right in assuming that the  
Vickers-Vimy or Handley Page squadrons ? mentioned in  
your 83249 C.I.G.S. of January 14th can in case of emergency  
still be counted on as a possible reinforcement.

*not received*

- C.2. Copies to: ARMY COUNCIL  
D.M.C. D.D.M.C.  
M.O.2.2A.3.4.  
D.M.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I.1. 1A. R. RB.2. 2B.  
D.S.D.  
D.H.O.S. J.1. E.O.S.  
S.R.2.  
India Office.







Mesopotamia  
R.A.F. 55  
22

S E C R E T

Paraphrase.

From:- War Office.

To:- C. in C., India.

Despatched:- 16.30 29.1.20.

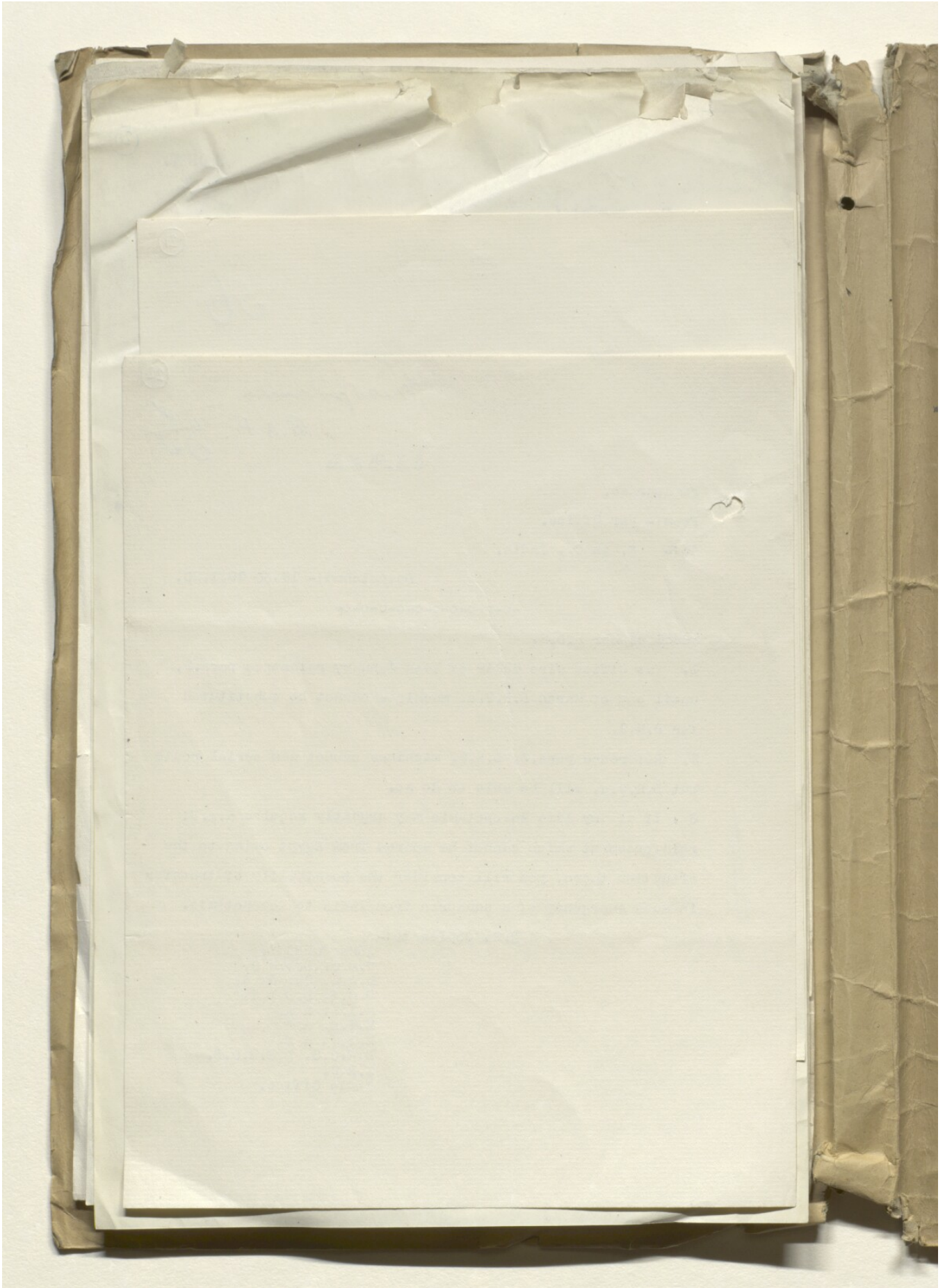
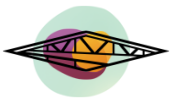
-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

83488 cipher M.O.2.

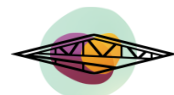
1. War Office wire 83249 of 14th January reference para.2, until end of March D.H.9.a. machines cannot be substituted for D.H.9.
2. Reference para.3, D.H.9. machines cannot use aerial route but D.H.9.a. will be able to do so.
3. If at any time Mesopotamia may urgently require R.A.F. reinforcement which cannot be spared from Egypt owing to the situation there, you will consider the possibility of transfer in such emergency of a squadron from India to Mesopotamia.

C.2. Copies to:-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
D.H.C. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2. 2a. 3. 4.  
D.H.I. D.D.M.I.  
M.I.1. & A.  
M.I.R. & B.  
M.I.2. & B.  
D.E.O.S. D.D.R.O.S.  
S.R.2.  
India Office.







SECRET.

Mesopotamia (23)  
R.A.F.  
54

Paraphrase.

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

Despatched:- 16.00 28.1.20.

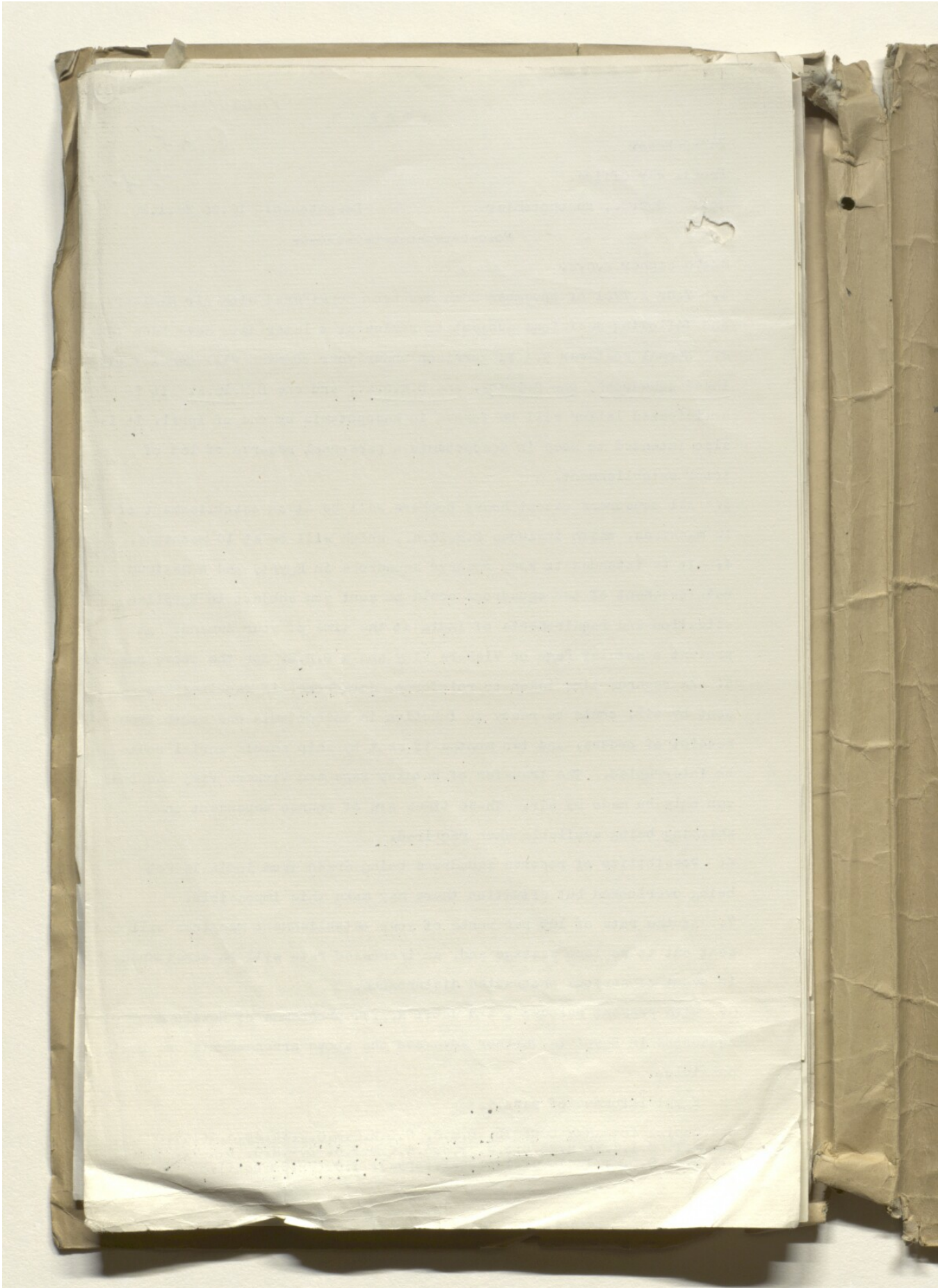
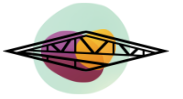
-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

83470 cipher M.O.2. *not use?*

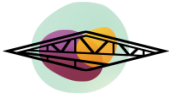
1. Your X.7751 of November 20th has been considered with Air Ministry, and following decisions subject to review at a later date have been taken
2. Normal post-war R.A.F. garrison under your command will consist of three squadrons, one Bristol, one D.H.9.a., and one D.H.10.a. It is anticipated latter will be formed in Mesopotamia by end of April. It is also intended to keep in Mesopotamia a personnel reserve of 15% of total establishment.
3. All squadrons except heavy bombers will be at an establishment of 12 machines, which includes D.H.10.a., which will be at 10 machines.
4. It is intended to keep reserve squadrons in Egypt, and a maximum reinforcement of two squadrons could be sent you subject to Egyptian situation and requirements of India at the time of your demand. At present a Handley Page or Vickers Vimy and a D.H.9. for the above reserve
5. As regards time taken to reinforce, squadrons, if machines are sent by air, could be ready to function in Mesopotamia one month from receipt of orders, and two months if sent by ship should aerial route be interrupted. The transfer of Handley Page and Vickers Vimy machines can only be made by air. These times are of course dependent on shipping being available when required.
6. Possibility of reserve squadrons being drawn from India is not being overlooked but situation there may make this impossible.
7. At the rate of 10% per month of your establishment machines will be sent out to replace wastage and, an increased rate will be considered in event of serious protracted disturbance.
8. With present resources and until R.A.F. programme of development of squadrons in Egypt is further advanced the above arrangements are best possible.
9. Egypt informed of para.4.

C.2. Copies to:- ARMY COUNCIL. D.M.O. D.D.M.O. M.O.2.2a.2b.3.4(15). D.M.I. D.D.M.I. M.I.2.2b. R.R.B. D.F.W. F.W.3.4. Q.M.G.6. D.Q.M.G. D.Movs. D.S.D. D.D.S.D. S.D.2. India Office. (Col. Pepys). I.O. (Mr. Garbett).









79/933

24

53

52

SECRET.

PARAPHRASE.

79/933

From :- War Office.

To :- G.C.C. Mesopotamia.

Despatched 1715 28th October, 1919.

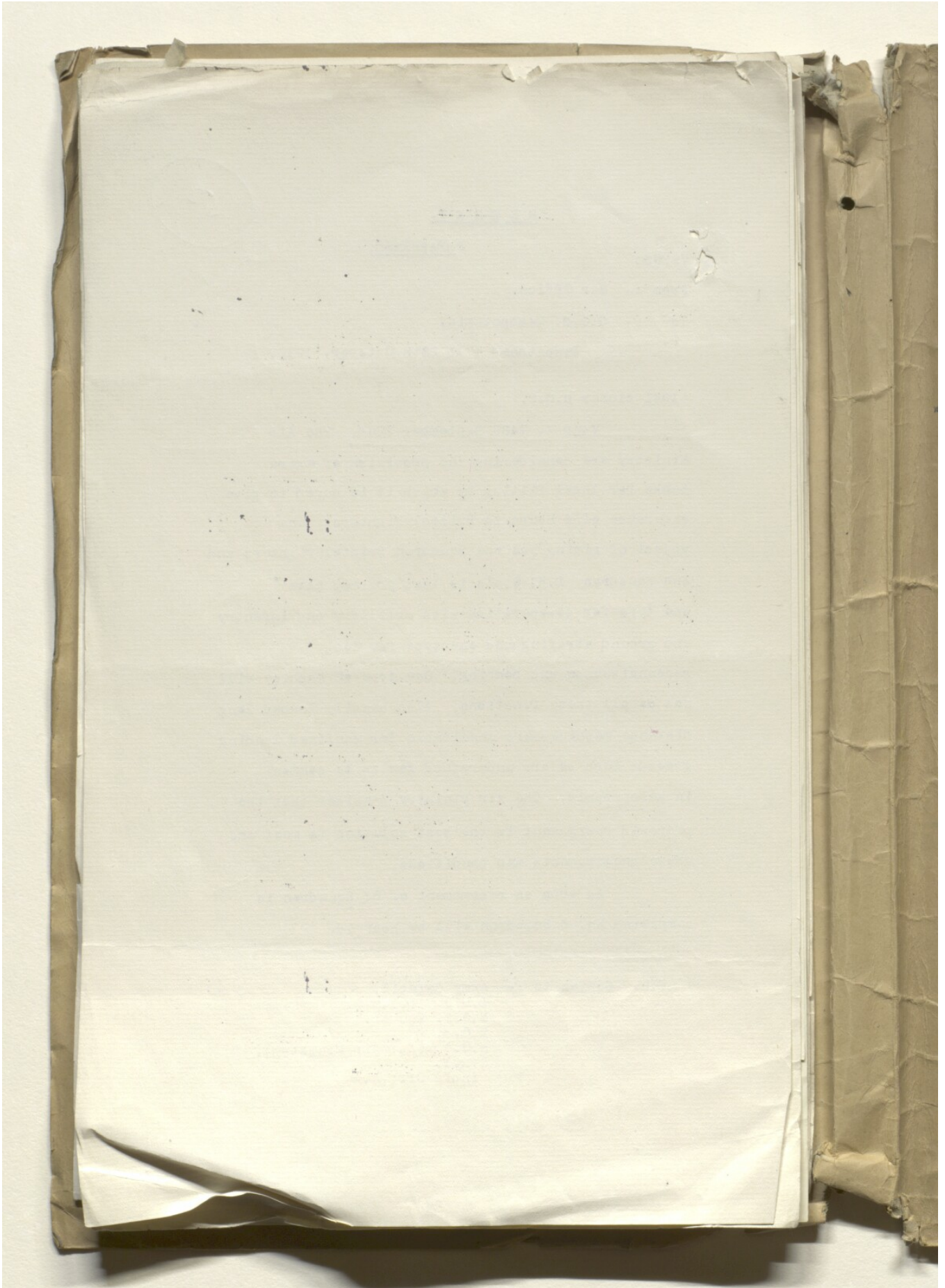
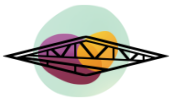
81941 cipher M.O.2.

Your X. 7489 September 22nd. The Air Ministry are considering the provision of extra tanks for local fitting by which it is hoped to give endurance of 4 hours to Bristol Fighters. The object of giving you one Squadron Bristol Fighters and one Squadron D.H. 9a's is that you may have one type for co-operation with artillery and infantry and ground strafing and one type for long reconnaissance and bombing. One type of machine will not do all these functions. Also heavily loaded long distance machines are unsuitable for confined landing grounds such as are understood ~~for~~ to be common in Mesopotamia. The Air Ministry consider that the proposed rearmament is the best solution to meet the above requirements and conditions.

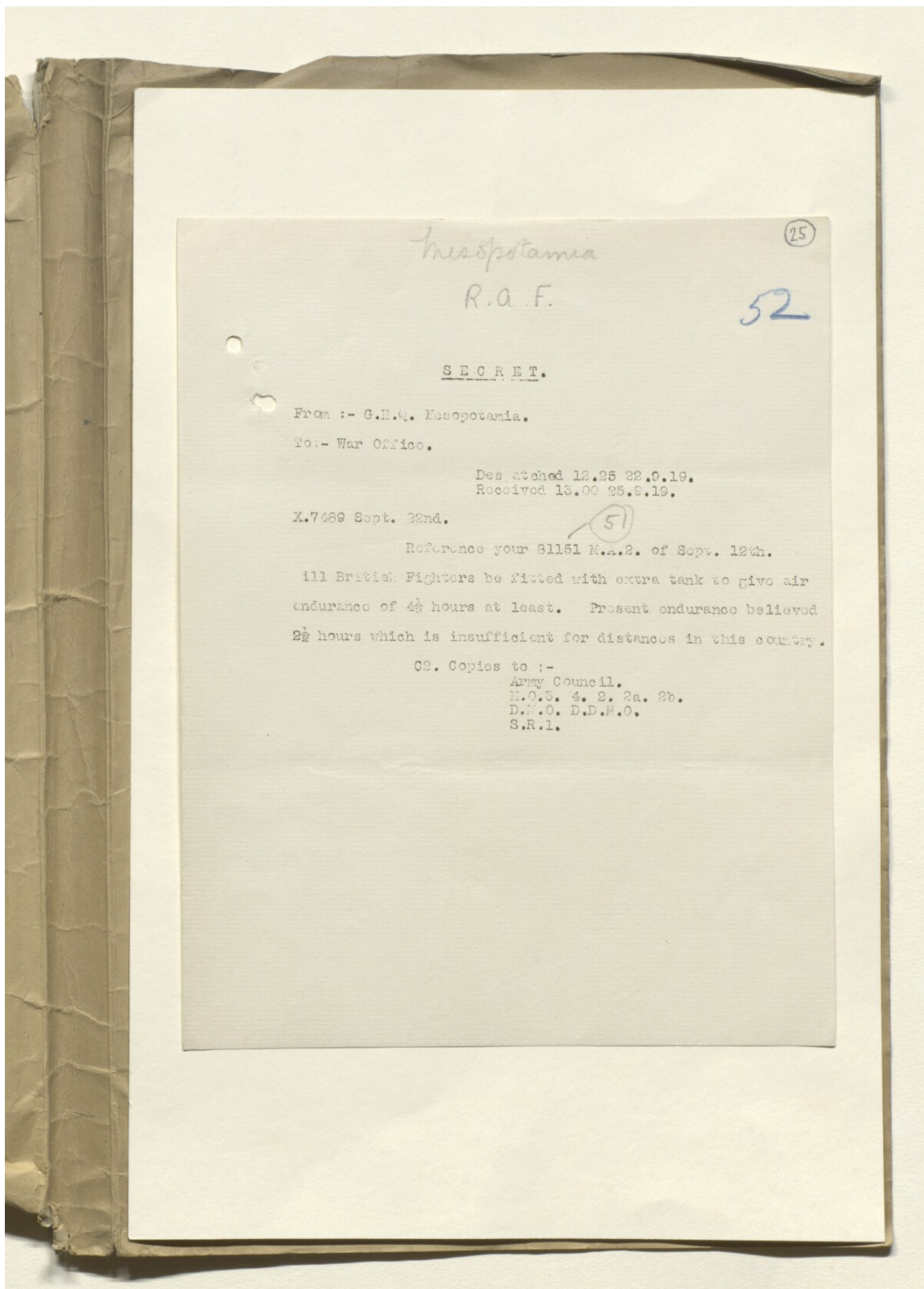
As soon as rearmament of 63 Squadron is completed No. 6 Squadron will be rearmed.

C.2. Copies to :- Army Council.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2. 2a. 2b.  
M.O.3.  
M.O.4. (for Air Ministry).  
S.R.1.  
India Office.









Mesopotamia  
R.A.F.

(25)

52

S E C R E T.

From :- G.H.Q. Mesopotamia.

To:- War Office.

Despatched 12.25 22.9.19.  
Received 13.00 25.9.19.

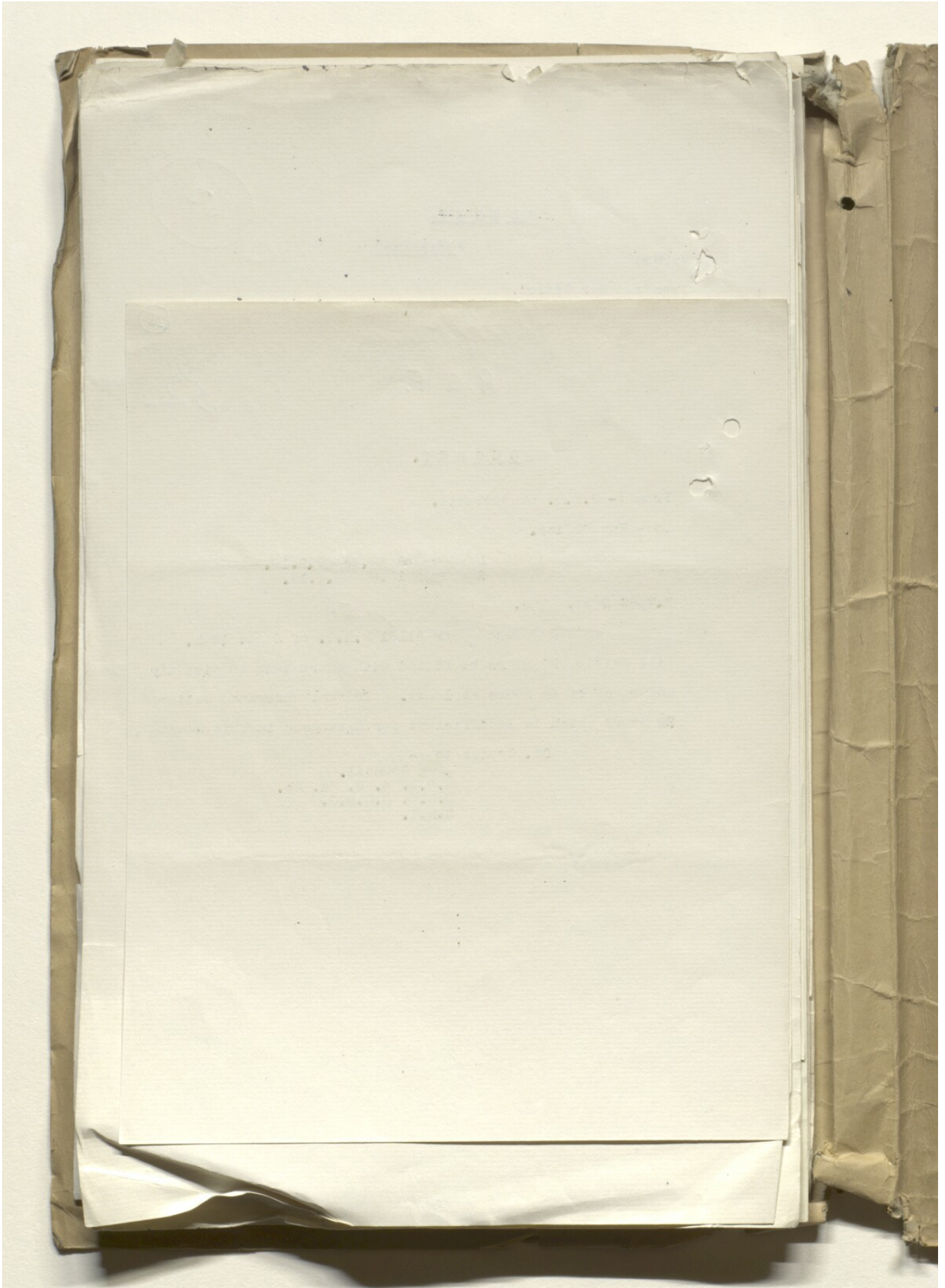
X.7489 Sept. 22nd.

Reference your 81151 M.A.2. of Sept. 12th.

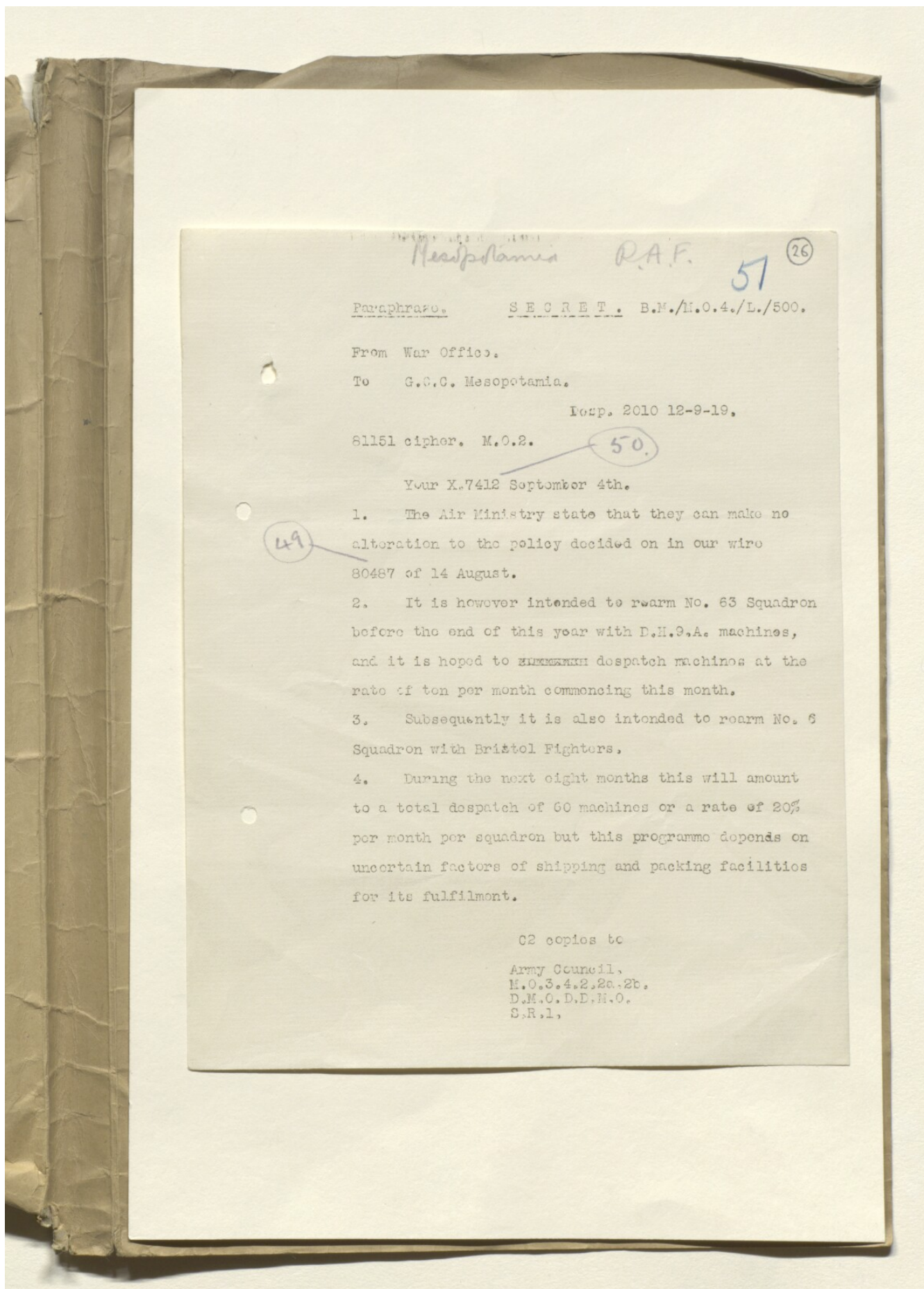
All British Fighters be fitted with extra tank to give air  
endurance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours at least. Present endurance believed  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours which is insufficient for distances in this country.

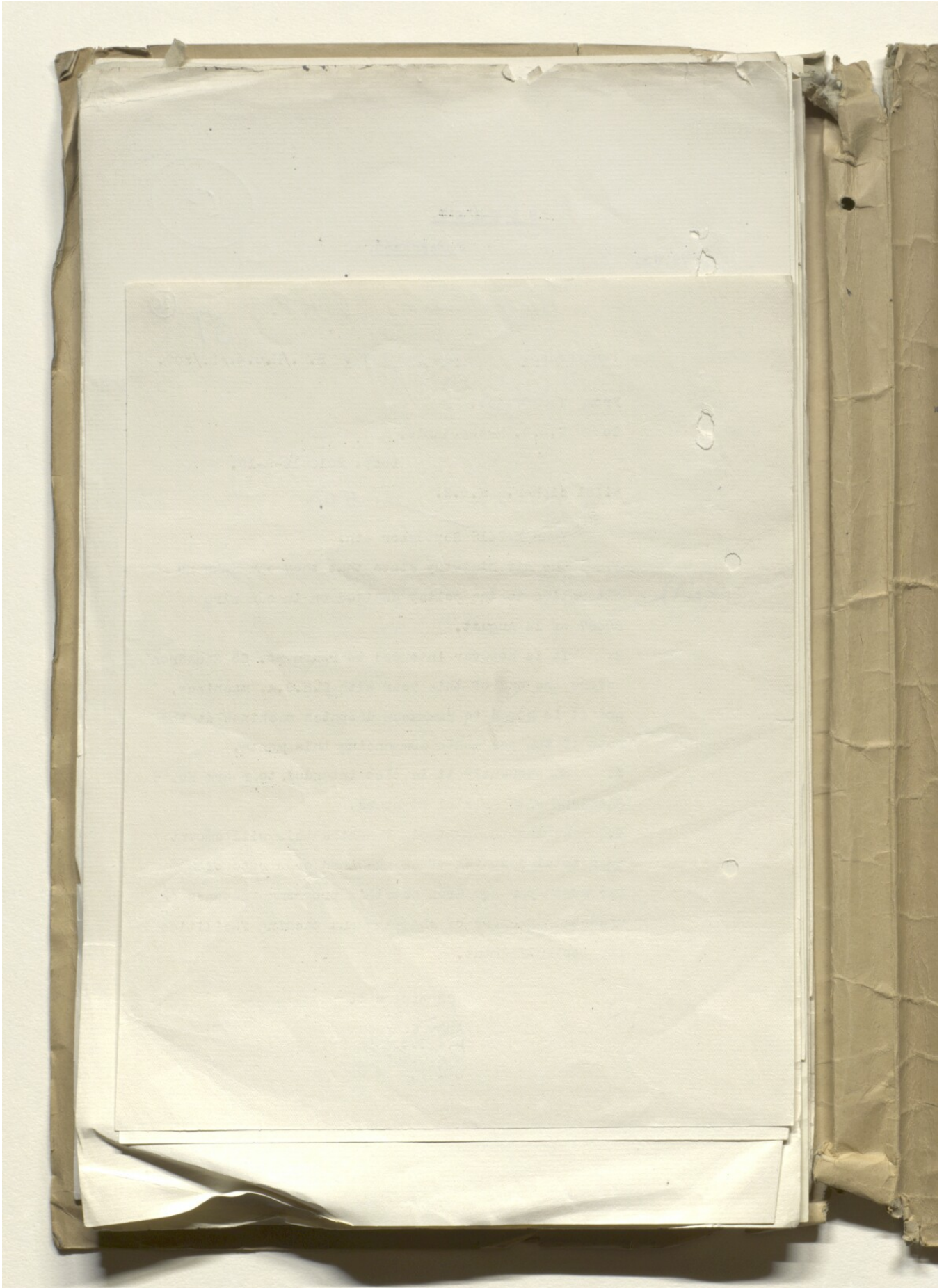
CC. Copies to :-

Army Council.  
M.O.S. 4. 2. 2a. 2b.  
D.F.O. D.D.F.O.  
S.R.1.

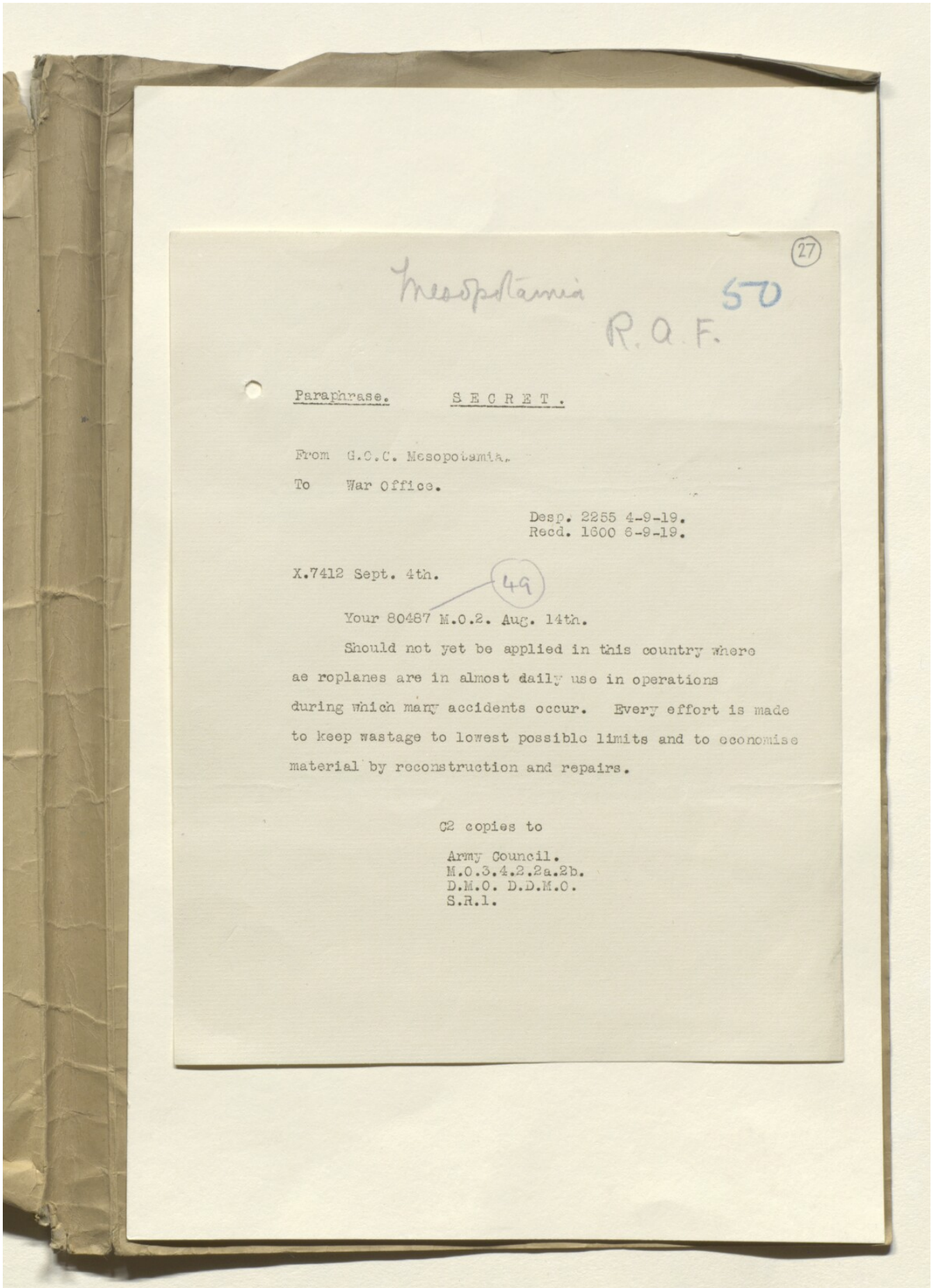












Mesopotamia

570  
R.A.F.

(27)

Paraphrase.      S E C R E T .

From G.O.C. Mesopotamia.  
To War Office.

Desp. 2255 4-9-19.  
Recd. 1600 6-9-19.

X.7412 Sept. 4th.

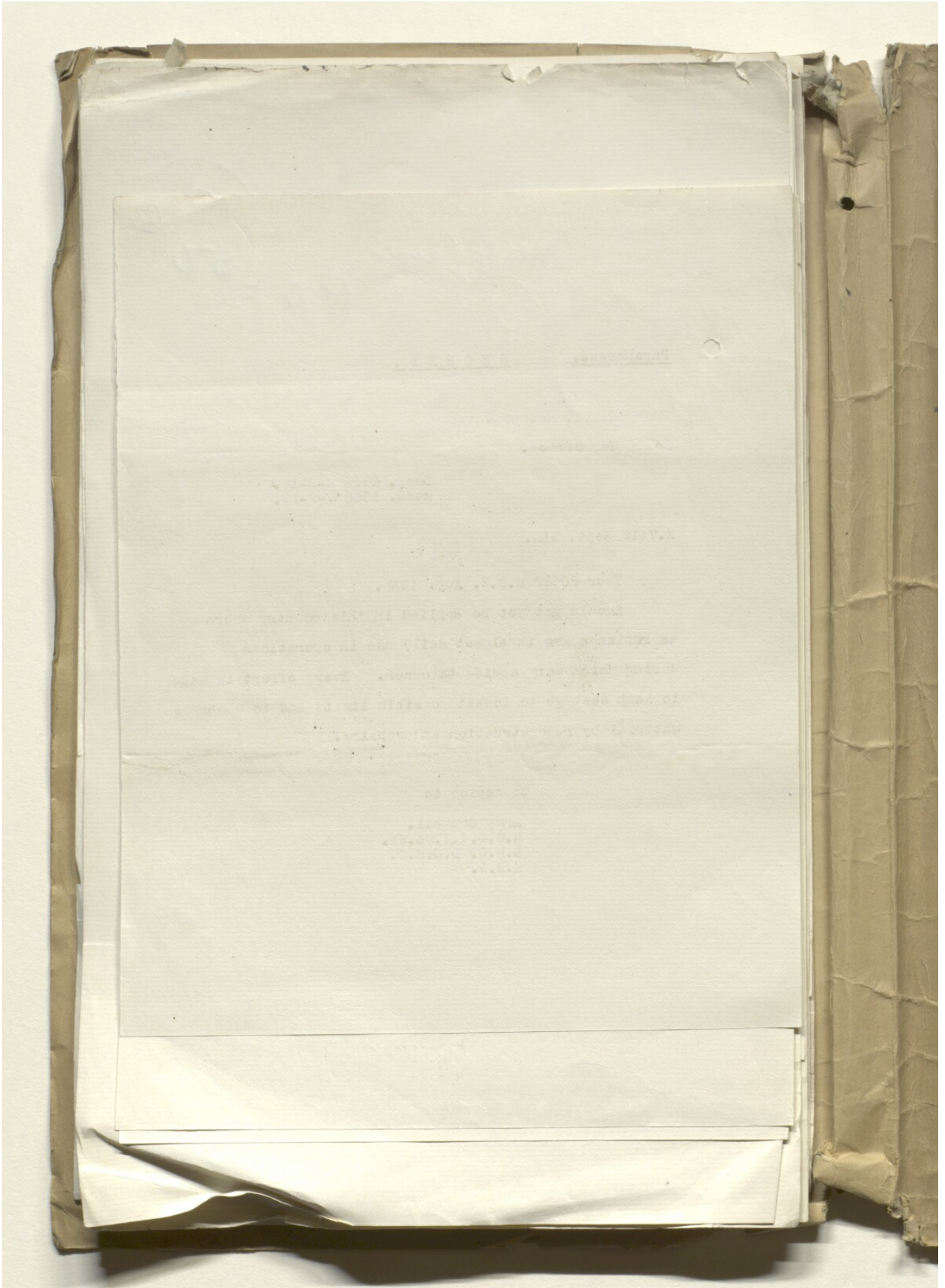
49

Your 80487 M.O.2. Aug. 14th.

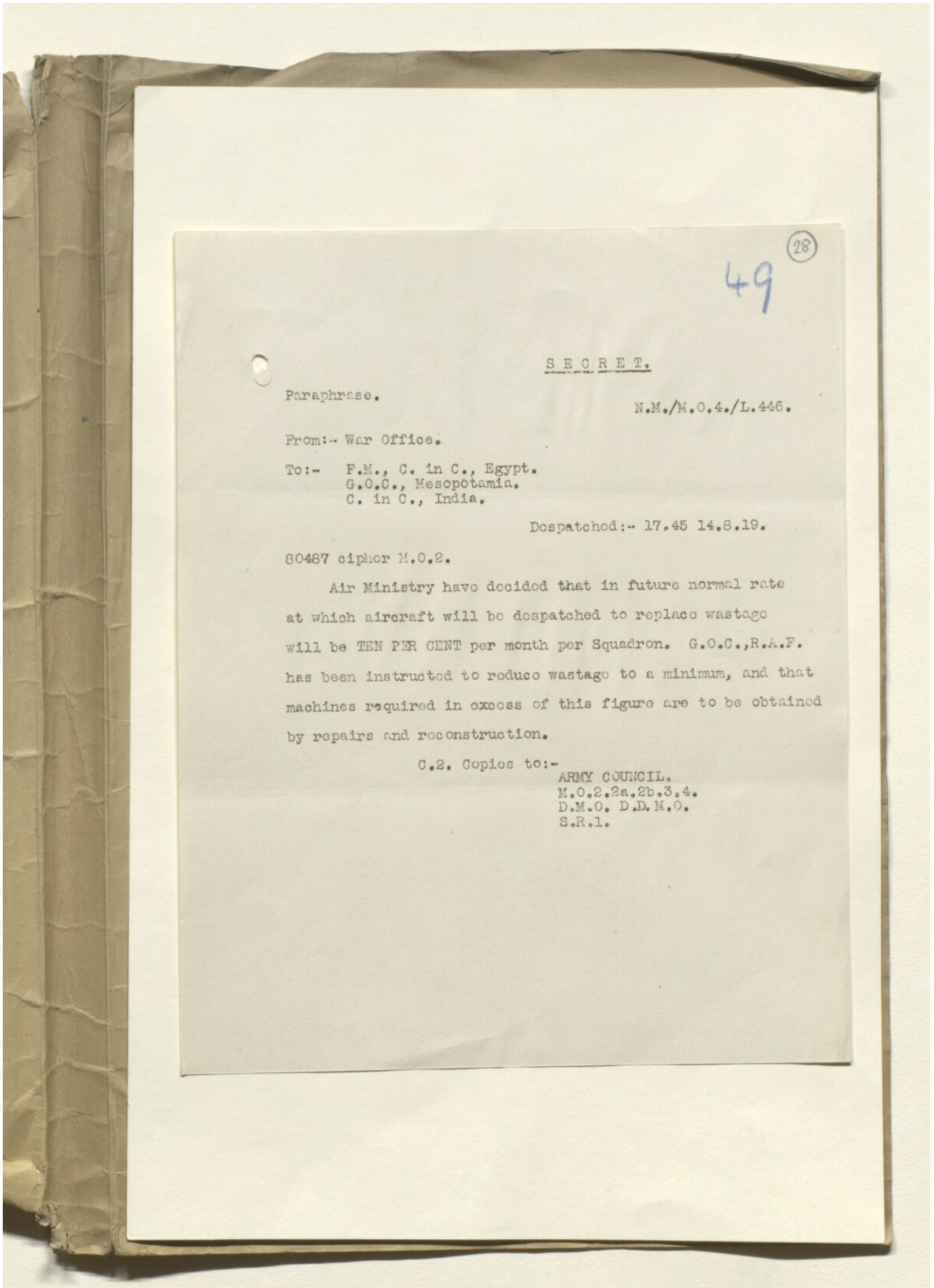
Should not yet be applied in this country where  
ae roplanes are in almost daily use in operations  
during which many accidents occur. Every effort is made  
to keep wastage to lowest possible limits and to economise  
material by reconstruction and repairs.

02 copies to

Army Council.  
M.O.3.4.2.2a.2b.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
S.R.l.







28

49

S E C R E T.

Paraphrase.

N.M./M.O.4./L.446.

From:- War Office.

To:- F.M., C. in C., Egypt.  
G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
C. in C., India.

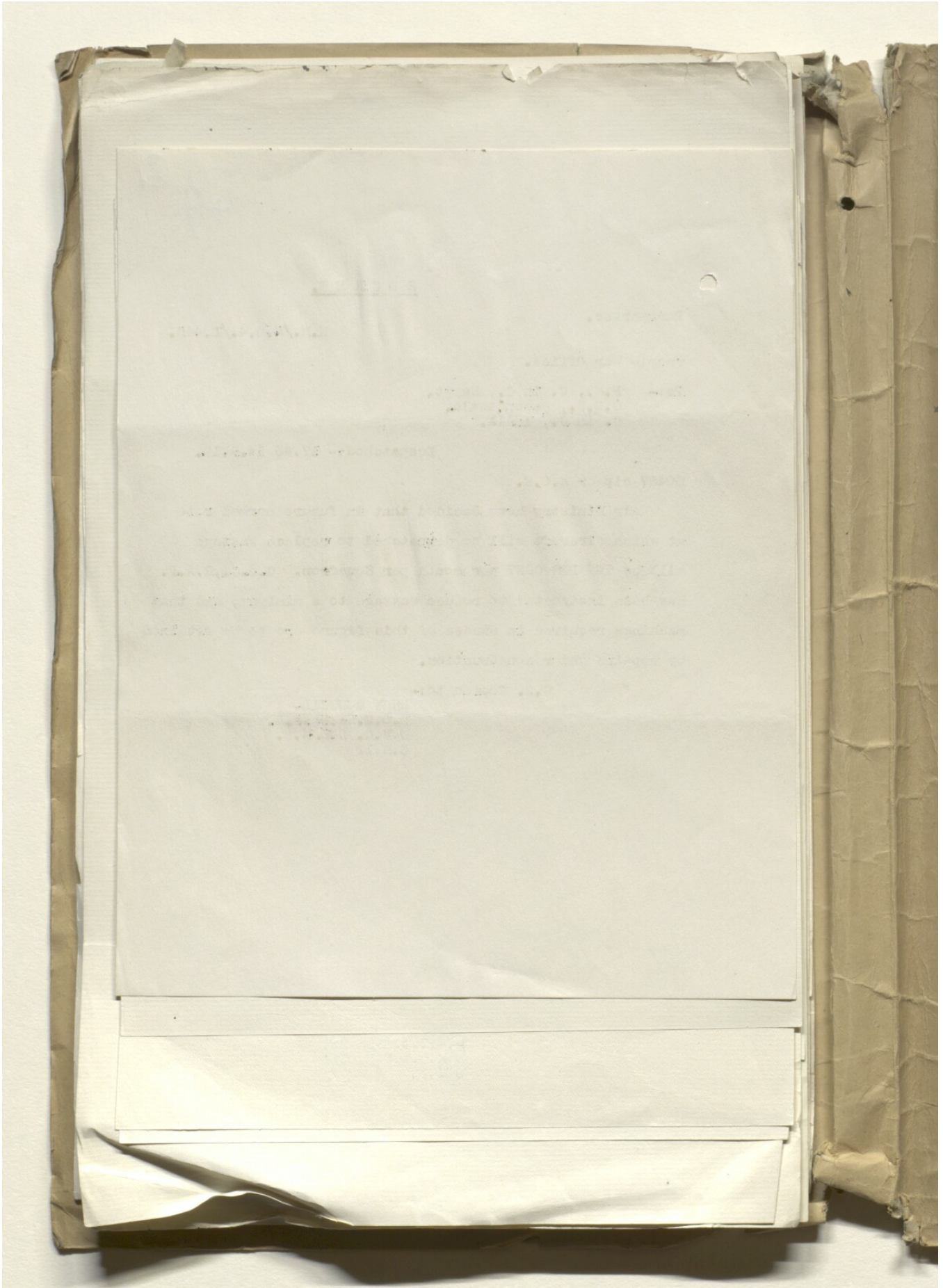
Despatched:- 17.45 14.8.19.

80487 cipher M.O.2.

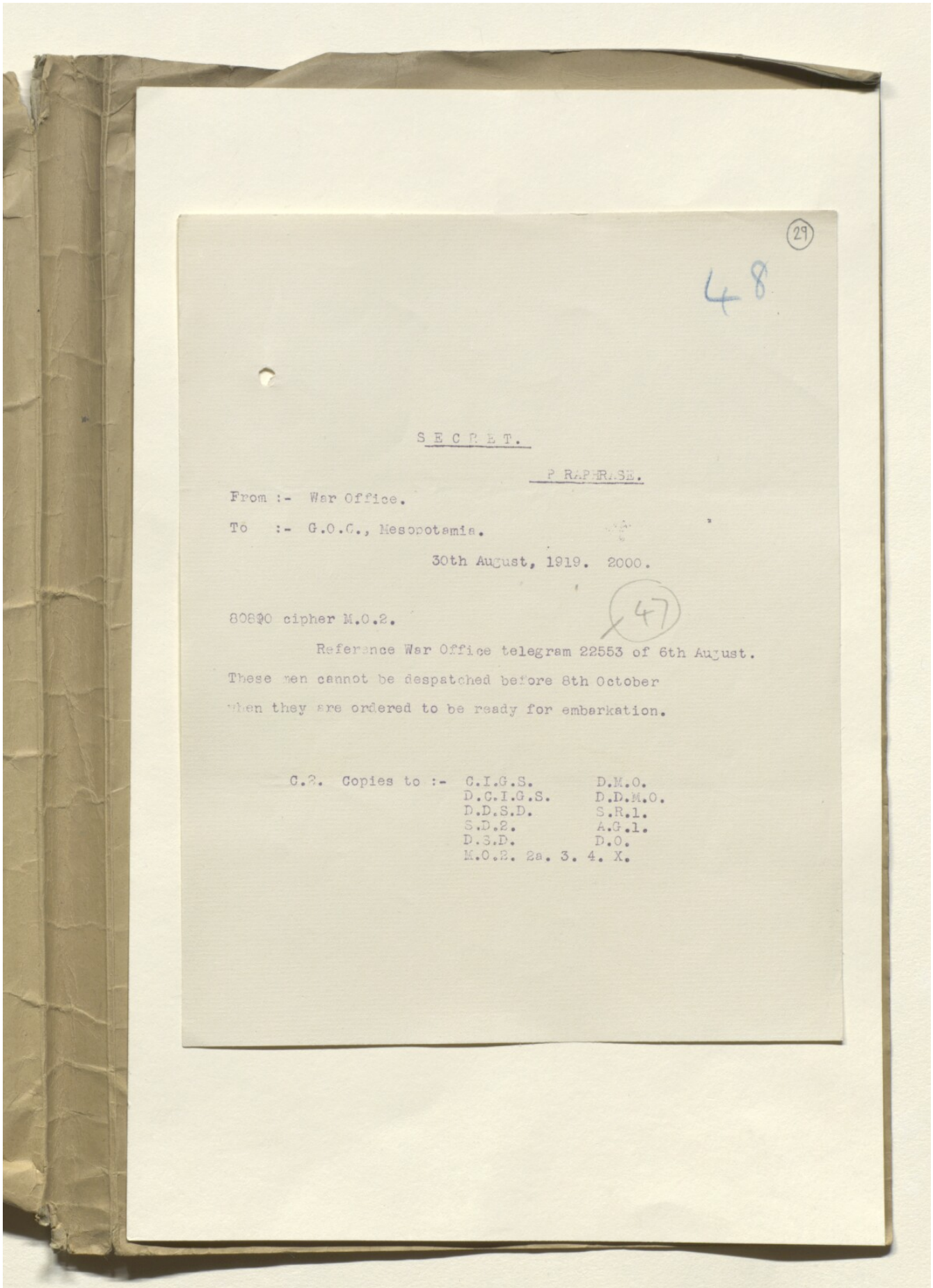
Air Ministry have decided that in future normal rate at which aircraft will be despatched to replace wastage will be TEN PER CENT per month per Squadron. G.O.C., R.A.F. has been instructed to reduce wastage to a minimum, and that machines required in excess of this figure are to be obtained by repairs and reconstruction.

C.2. Copies to:-

ARMY COUNCIL.  
M.O.2.2a, 2b, 3, 4.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
S.R.1.







(29)

48

S E C R E T.

P R A P H R A S E.

From :- War Office.

To :- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

30th August, 1919. 2000.

80820 cipher M.O.2.

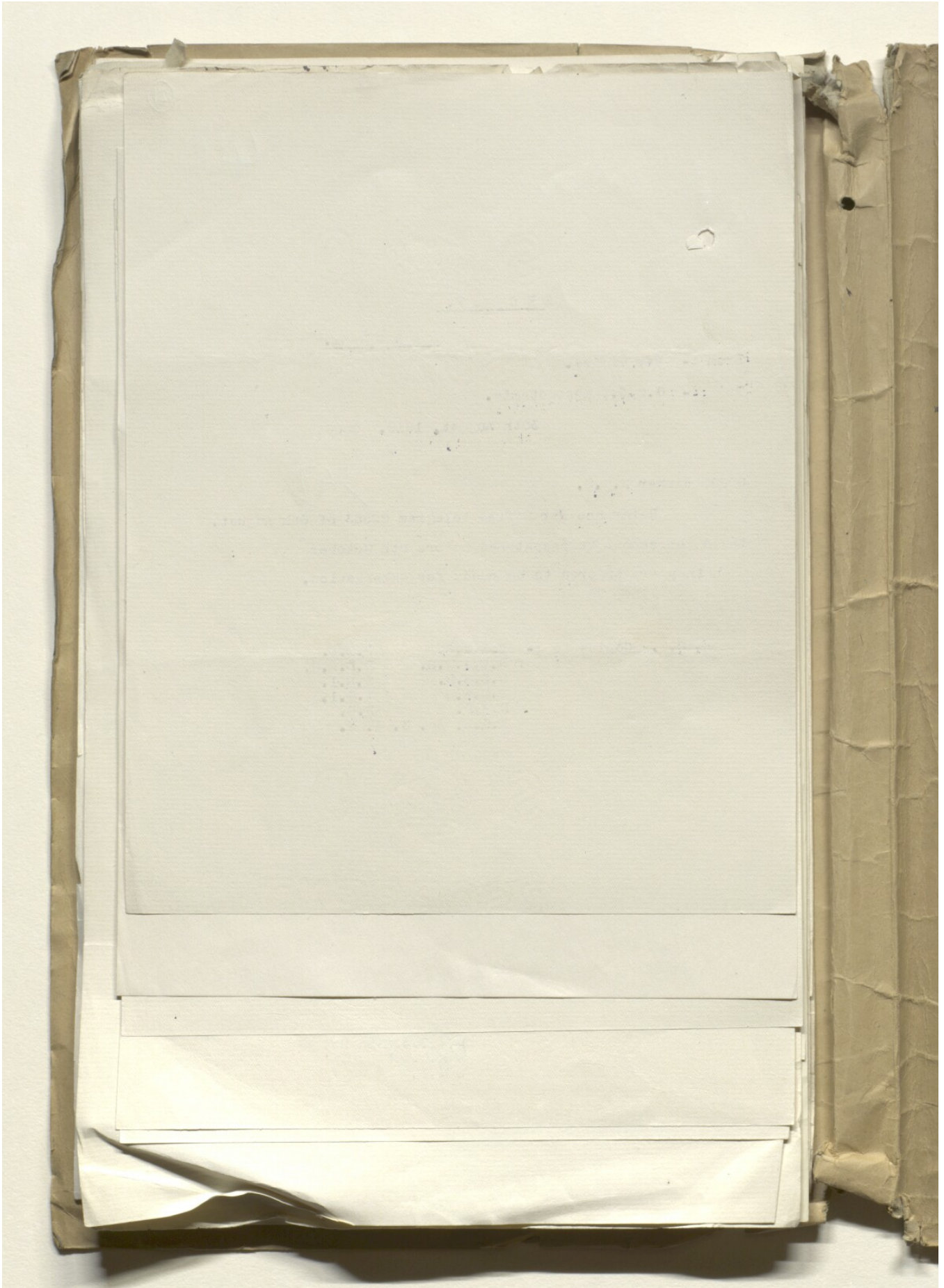
(47)

Reference War Office telegram 22553 of 6th August.

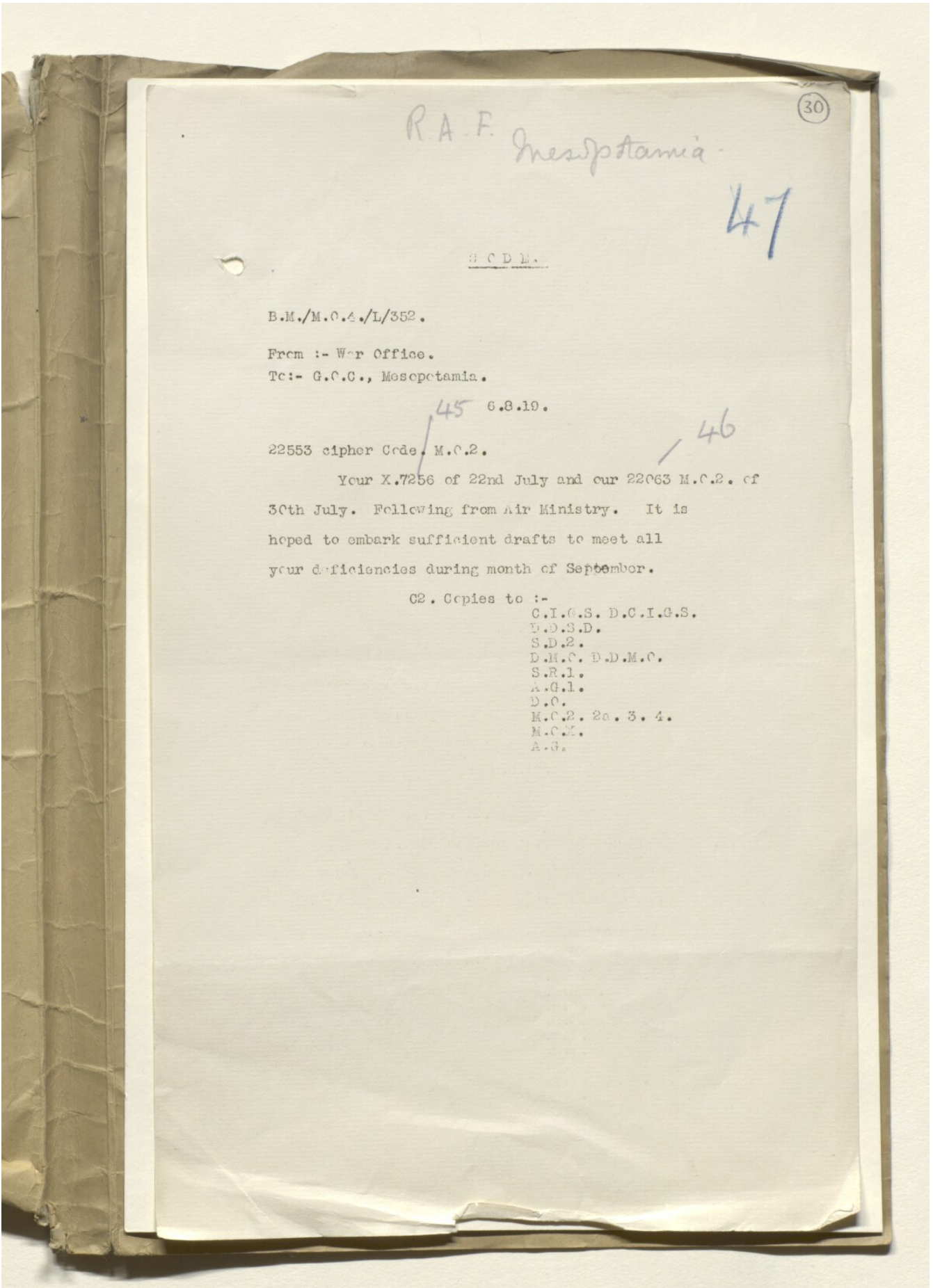
These men cannot be despatched before 8th October  
when they are ordered to be ready for embarkation.

C.2. Copies to :-

C.I.G.S.	D.M.O.
D.C.I.G.S.	D.D.M.O.
D.D.S.D.	S.R.1.
S.D.2.	A.G.1.
D.S.D.	D.O.
M.O.2. 2a. 3. 4. X.	







R.A.F. Mesopotamia

30

47

G.C.C.

B.M./M.C.2./L/352.

From :- War Office.

To:- G.C.C., Mesopotamia.

45 6.8.19.

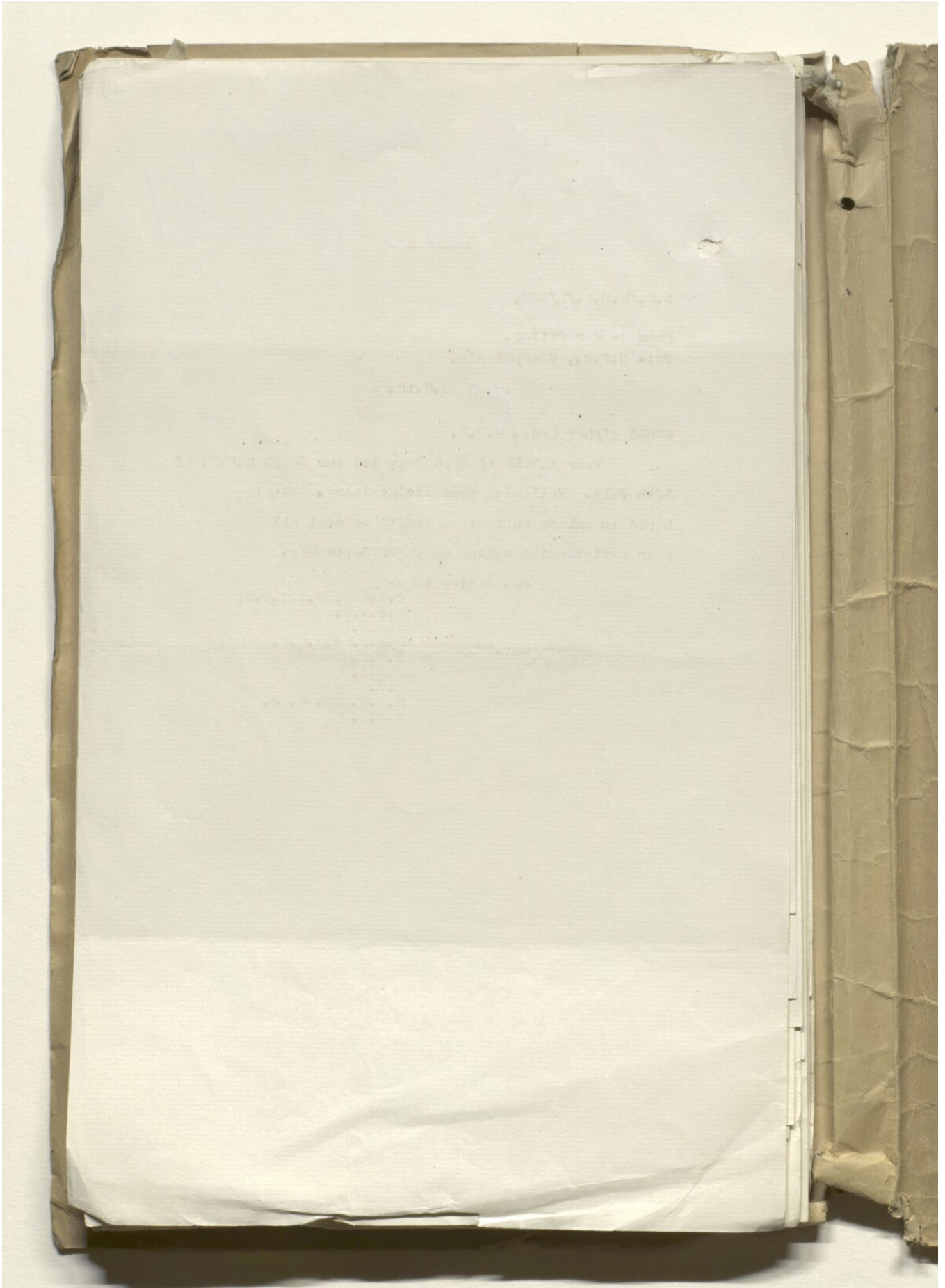
22553 cipher Code M.C.2.

46

Your X.7256 of 22nd July and our 22063 M.C.2. of 30th July. Following from Air Ministry. It is hoped to embark sufficient drafts to meet all your deficiencies during month of September.

C2. Copies to :-

- C.I.G.S. D.C.I.G.S.
- D.D.S.D.
- S.D.2.
- D.M.C. D.D.M.C.
- S.R.1.
- A.G.1.
- D.C.
- M.C.2. 2a. 3. 4.
- M.C.M.
- A.G.







Mesopotamia.  
R.A.F.

31

46

C O D E.

From: War Office.

To: G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

30.7.19.

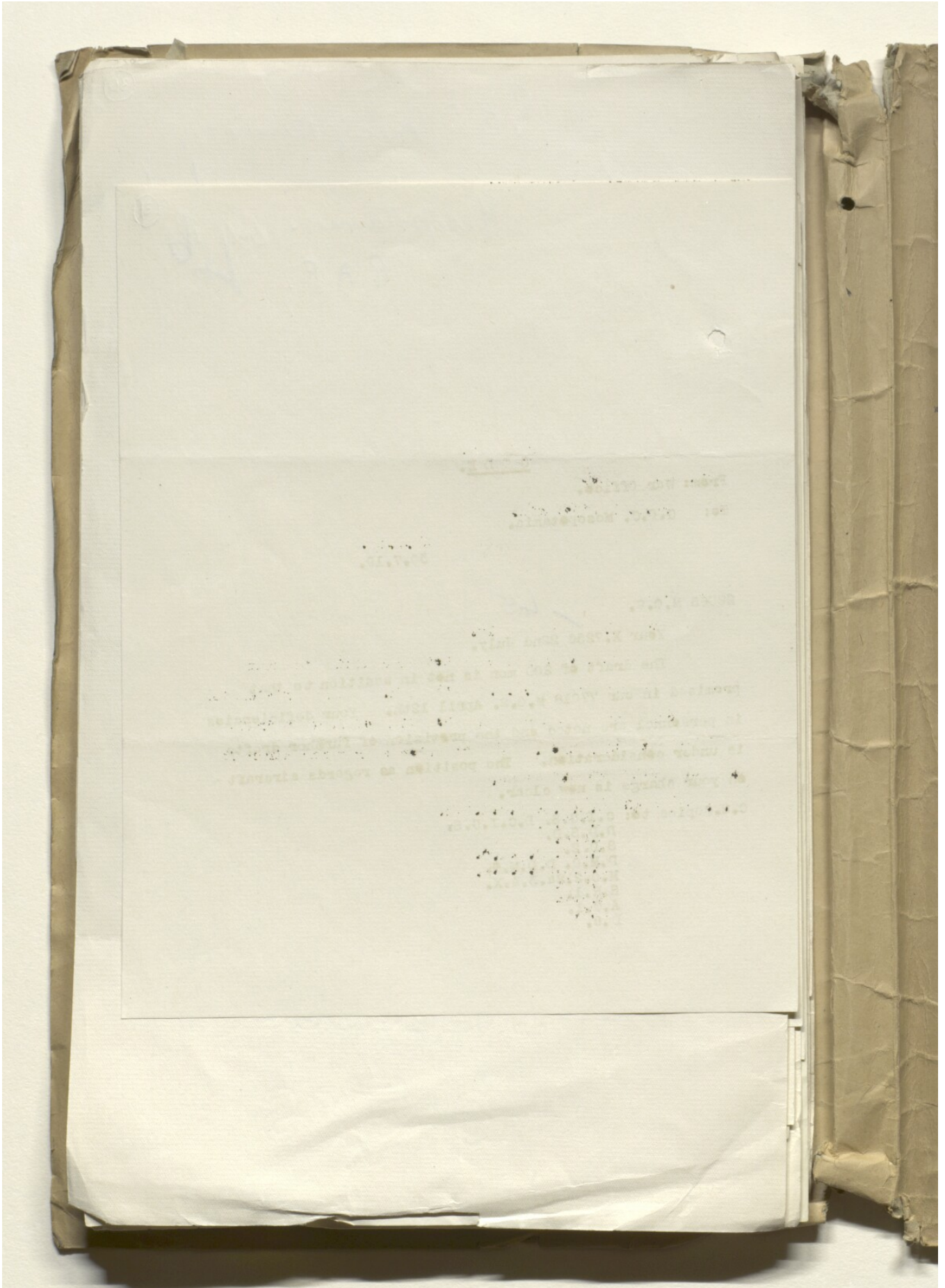
22063 M.O.2.

45

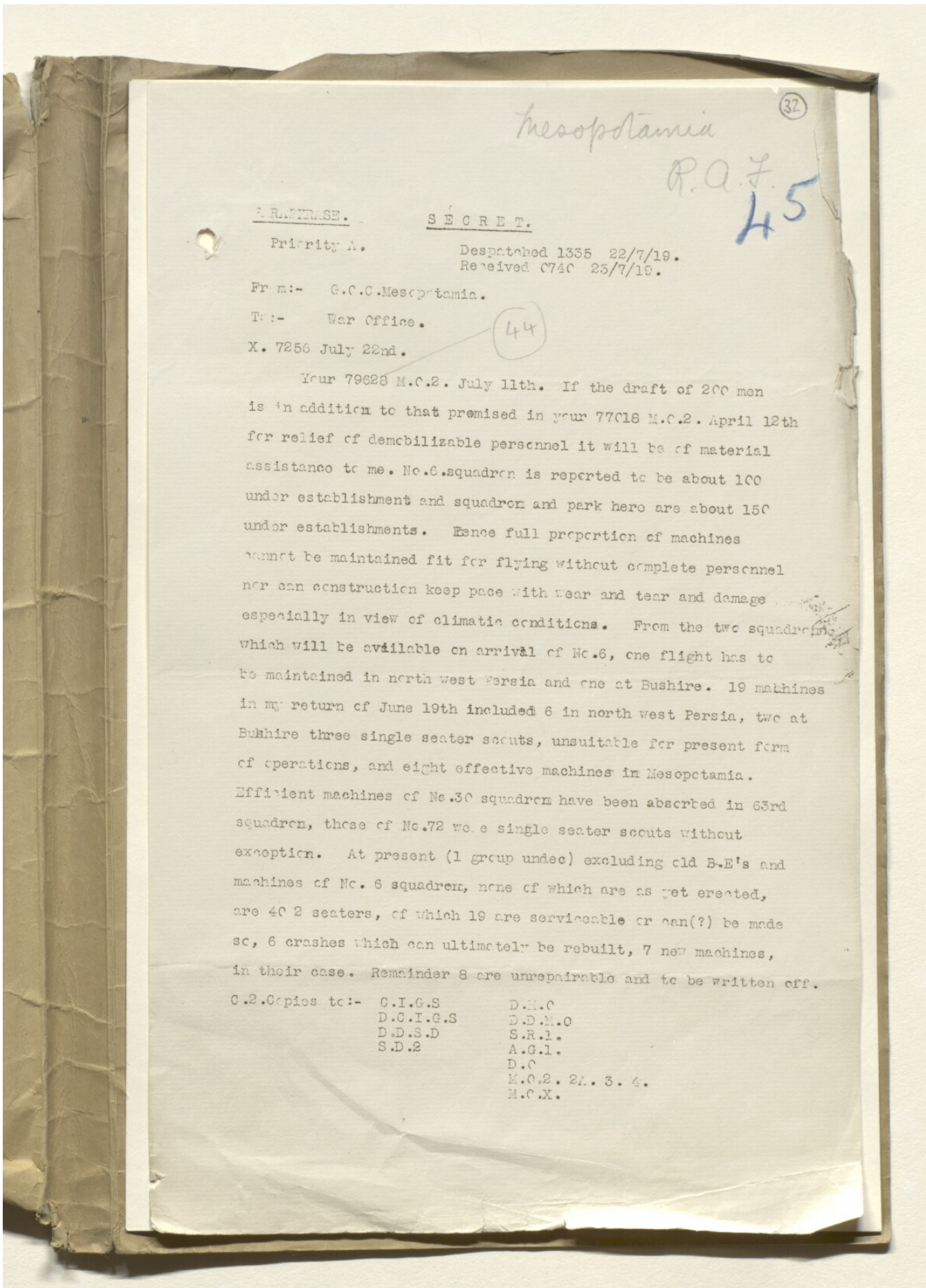
Your X.7256 22nd July.

The draft of 200 men is not in addition to that  
promised in our 77018 M.O.2. April 12th. Your deficiencies  
in personnel are noted and the provision of further drafts  
is under consideration. The position as regards aircraft  
on your charge is now clear.

C.2. Copies to: C.I.G.S. D.C.I.G.S.  
D.D.S.D.  
S.D.2.  
D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
M.O.2.2a.3.4.X.  
S.R.1.  
A.G.1.  
D.O.







Mesopotamia  
R.A.F.  
45

32

PARAPHASE.

SECRET.

Priority A.

Despatched 1335 22/7/19.  
Received 0740 23/7/19.

From:- G.C.C. Mesopotamia.

To:- War Office.

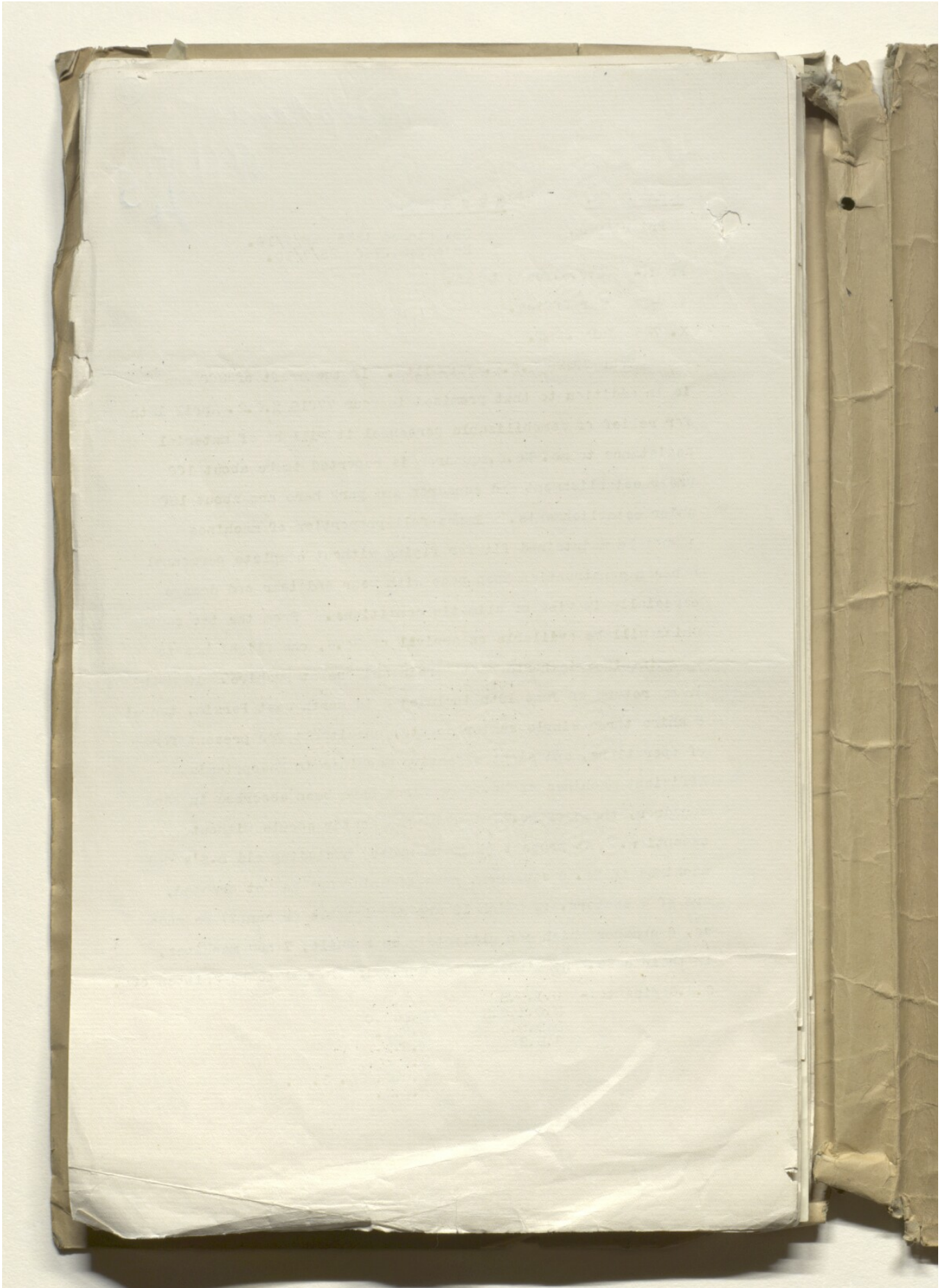
44

X. 7256 July 22nd.

Your 79628 M.C.2. July 11th. If the draft of 200 men is in addition to that promised in your 77018 M.C.2. April 12th for relief of demobilizable personnel it will be of material assistance to me. No.6. squadron is reported to be about 100 under establishment and squadron and park here are about 150 under establishments. Hence full proportion of machines cannot be maintained fit for flying without complete personnel nor can construction keep pace with wear and tear and damage especially in view of climatic conditions. From the two squadrons which will be available on arrival of No.6, one flight has to be maintained in north west Persia and one at Bushire. 19 machines in my return of June 19th included 6 in north west Persia, two at Bushire three single seater scouts, unsuitable for present form of operations, and eight effective machines in Mesopotamia. Efficient machines of No.30 squadron have been absorbed in 65rd squadron, those of No.72 were single seater scouts without exception. At present (1 group undec) excluding old B.E.'s and machines of No. 6 squadron, none of which are as yet erected, are 40 2 seaters, of which 19 are serviceable or can(?) be made so, 6 crashes which can ultimately be rebuilt, 7 new machines, in their case. Remainder 8 are unrepairable and to be written off.

C.2. Copies to:-  
C.I.G.S  
D.C.I.G.S  
D.D.S.D  
S.D.2  
D.H.C  
D.D.M.O  
S.R.1.  
A.G.1.  
D.C  
M.C.2. 2A. 3. 4.  
M.C.X.









33

S E C R E T. PARAPHRASE.

*Mesopotamia*

*R.Q.F.*

*LLC*

From :- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

Despatched 15.40 11.7.19.

79628 cipher M.O.2.

*43*

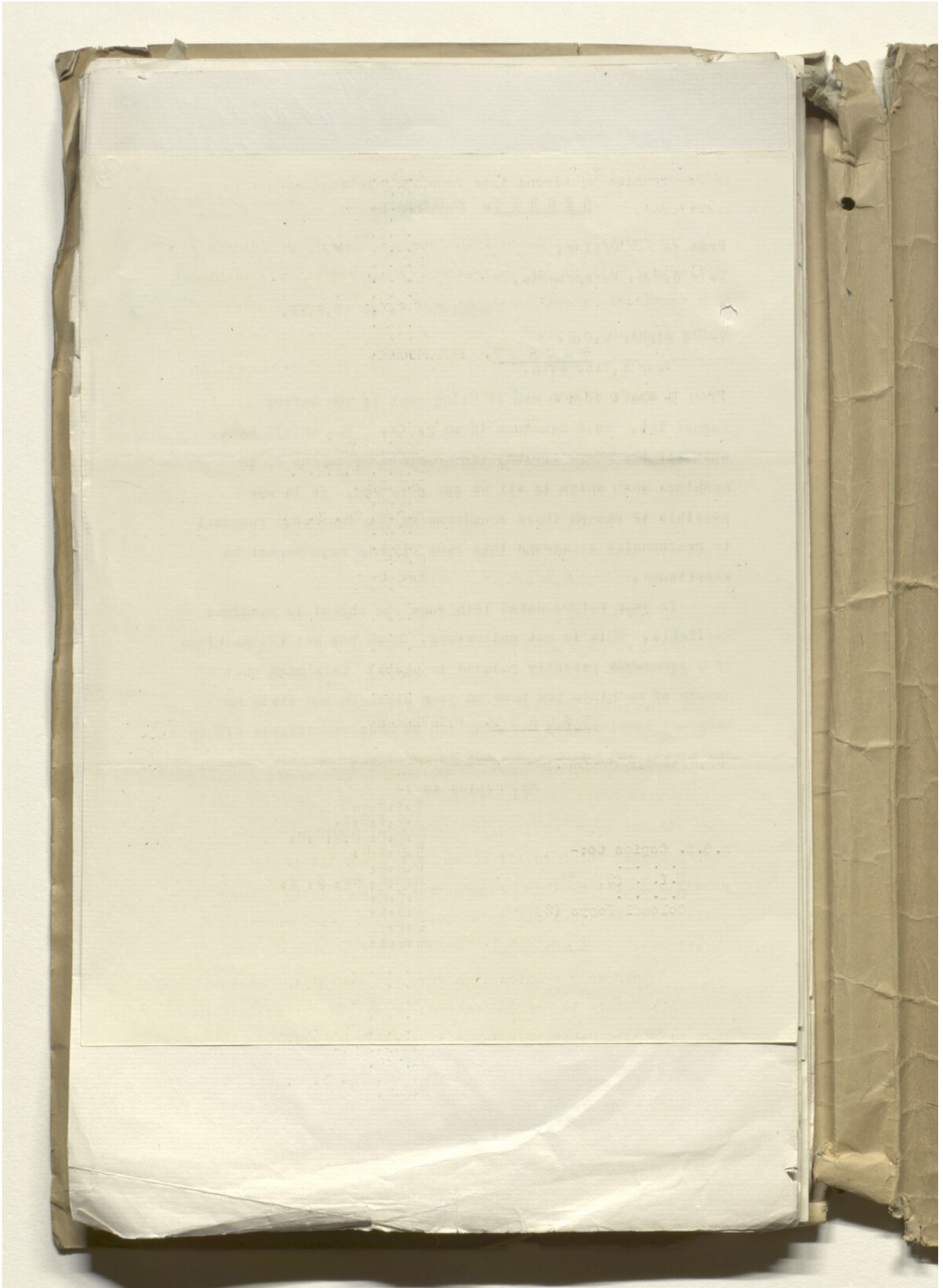
Your X.7150 24th.

A draft of 200 men is being sent to you before August 1st. No.6 Squadron is en route. You should have when all the above arrive, two complete squadrons of 18 machines each which is all we can give you. It is not possible to re-arm these squadrons as you suggest. Proposal to re-organize squadrons into four flights each cannot be sanctioned.

In your return dated 19th June you showed 19 machines available. This is not understood. Have you not the machines of 2 squadrons recently reduced to cadre? Telegraph what number of machines you have on your strength and state how many are serviceable, how many can be made serviceable within one month, and how many cannot be repaired.

C2. Copies to :-

- C.I.G.S.
  - D.C.I.G.S.
  - D.M.O. D.D.M.O.
  - D.D.S.D.
  - S.D.2.
  - M.C.2. 2a. 3. 4.
  - M.O.X.
  - A.G.1.
  - D.C.
  - S.R.1.
- M.O.X. Copies to:-
- D.D.M.I.
  - M.I.R. (2)
  - M.I.R.B.
  - Colonel Pepys (2)







Mesopotamia

R.A.F.

(34)

43

PARAPHRASE.      S E C R E T.

From: G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

Desp. 1625 29.6.19.

To: War Office.

Reed. 1750 3.7.19.

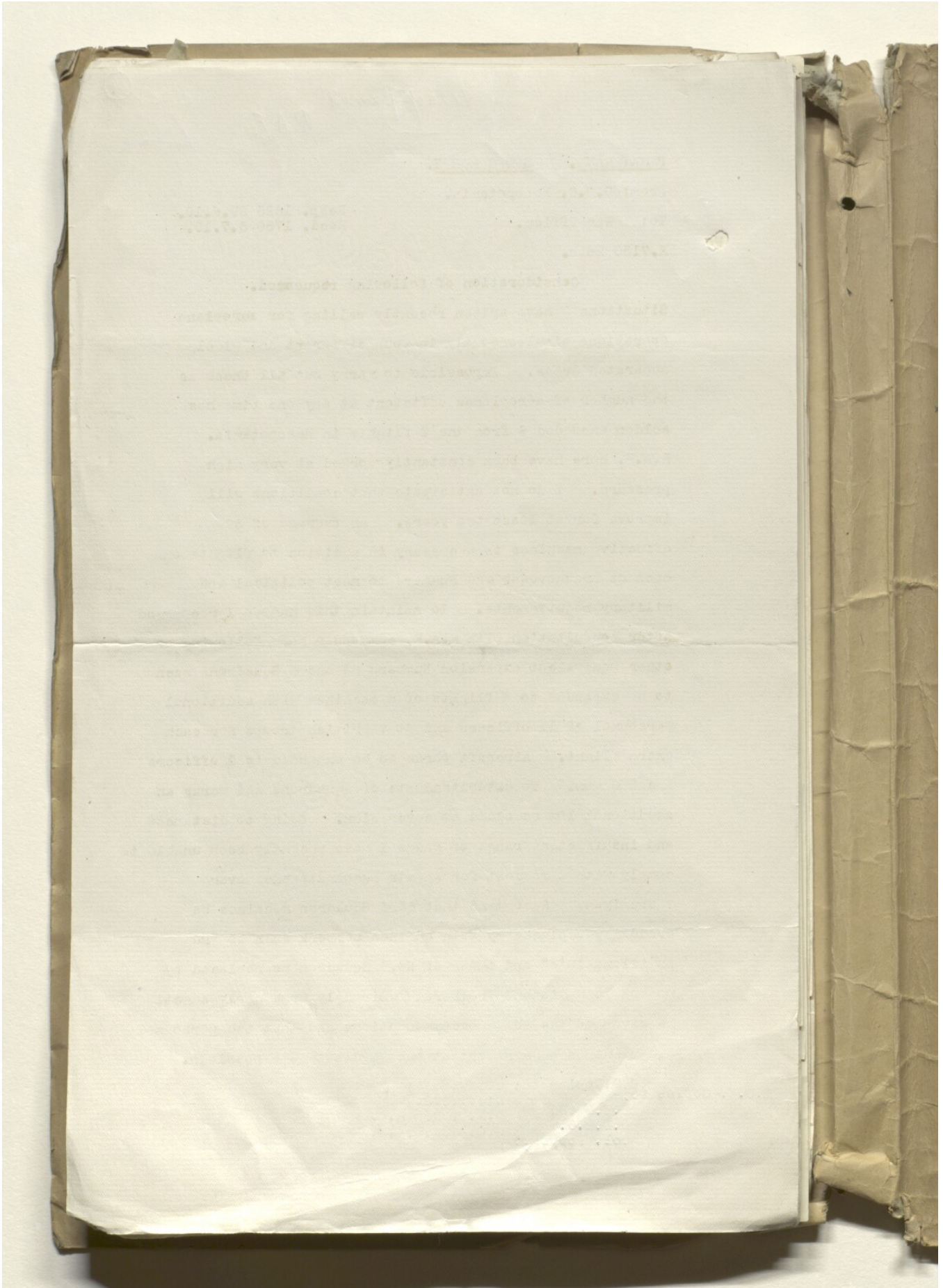
X.7150 24th.

Consideration of following requested.

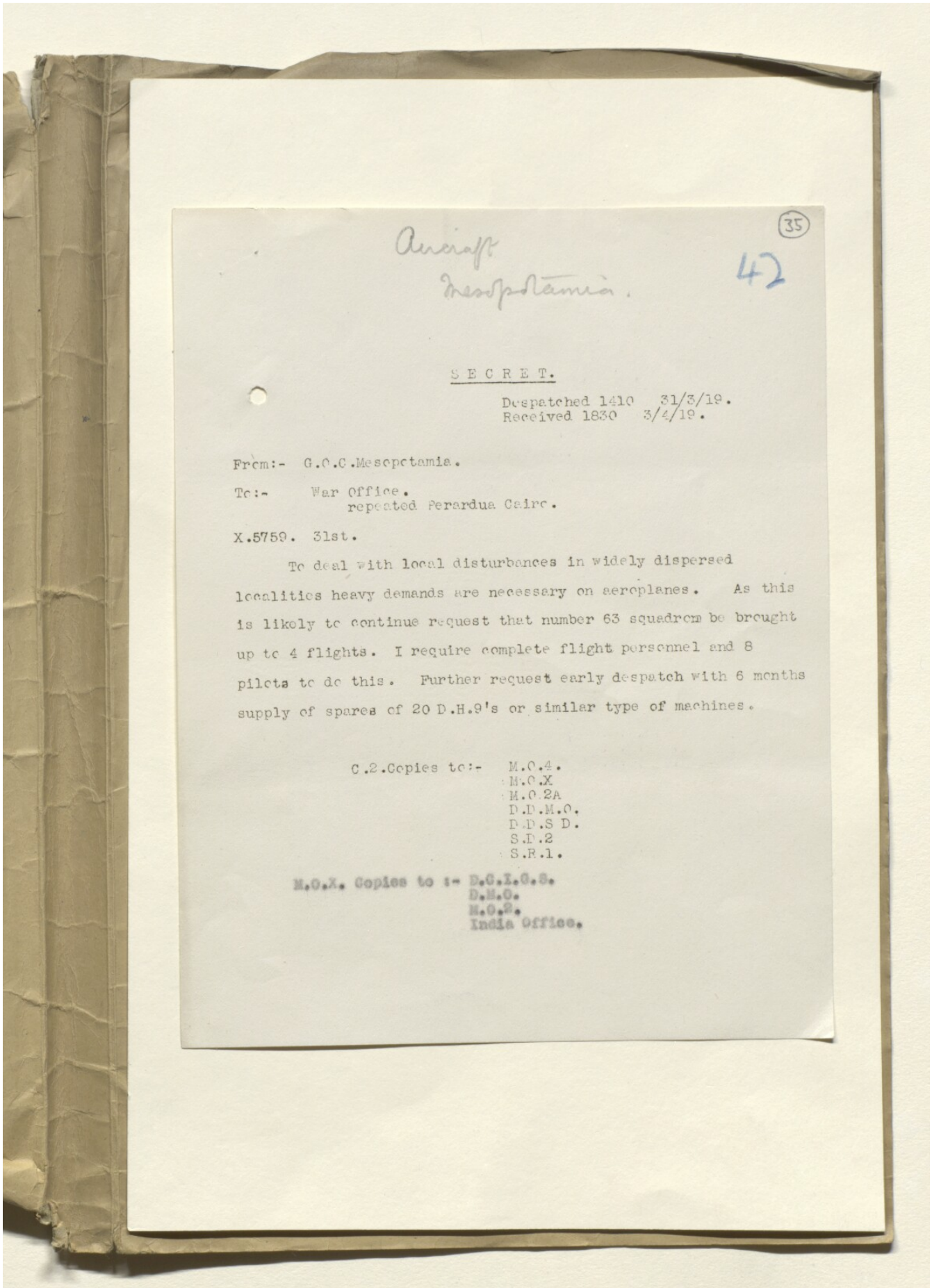
Situations have arisen recently calling for aeroplane operations simultaneously in four different and widely separated areas. Impossible to carry out all these as the number of aeroplanes efficient at any one time has seldom exceeded 8 from the 2 flights in Mesopotamia. R.A.F. here have been constantly worked at very high pressure. I do not anticipate that conditions will improve for at least two years. An average of 30 effective machines is necessary in addition to flights one each at Krasnovodsk and Bushire to meet political and military requirements. To maintain this number I recommend after consultation with R.A.F. commander here following, or other equivalent expansion; Numbers 63 and 6 Squadrons each to be expanded to 4 flights of 6 machines with additional personnel of 11 officers and 60 British troops for each extra flight. Aircraft parks to be expanded to 9 officers and 200 men. To establishments of squadrons and parks an additional 10% be added to cover sick. Owing to distances and insufficient range of gauge I have recently been unable to comply with a request for an air reconnaissance over Urumiyah. Recommend that 63rd Squadron machines be gradually replaced by twin engined bombers such as "De Havilland 10's" and those of No.6 Squadron be replaced by modern long distance bombers. Strongly urge early sanction be given to the above recommendations and that the personnel and machines be sent out at the earliest date possible.

M.O.X. Copies to: C.2. Copies to: C.I.G.S.  
M.I.R (2) D.C.I.G.S.  
M.I.R.6. D.M.O. D.D.M.O.  
Col. Pepps(2) M.O.2.2a.3.4.X.









Aircraft  
Mesopotamia.

(35)

42

S E C R E T.

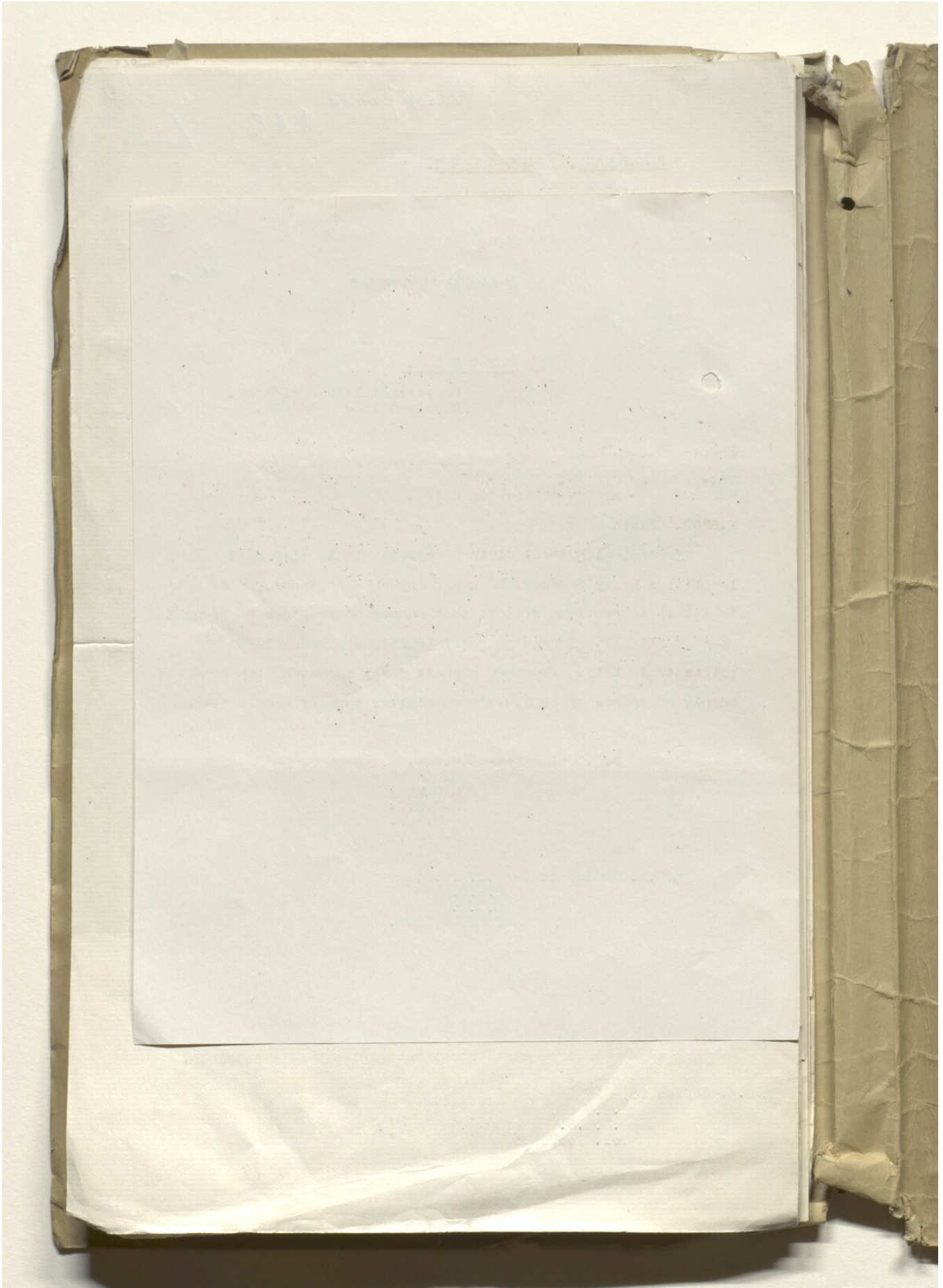
Despatched 1410 31/3/19.  
Received 1830 3/4/19.

From:- G.O.C. Mesopotamia.  
To:- War Office.  
repeated Perardua Cairo.  
X.5759. 31st.

To deal with local disturbances in widely dispersed localities heavy demands are necessary on aeroplanes. As this is likely to continue request that number 63 squadron be brought up to 4 flights. I require complete flight personnel and 8 pilots to do this. Further request early despatch with 6 months supply of spares of 20 D.H.9's or similar type of machines.

C.2. Copies to:- M.C.4.  
M.C.X  
M.C.2A  
D.D.M.C.  
D.D.S.D.  
S.D.2  
S.R.1.

M.C.2. Copies to :- D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.C.  
M.O.S.  
India Office.







41 (36)

SECRET

From: War Office.

Desp. 1650 5.4.19.

To : G.O.C. Constantinople.

76798 Cipher M.I.R.

Reference your No. G.C.435 of March 23rd.

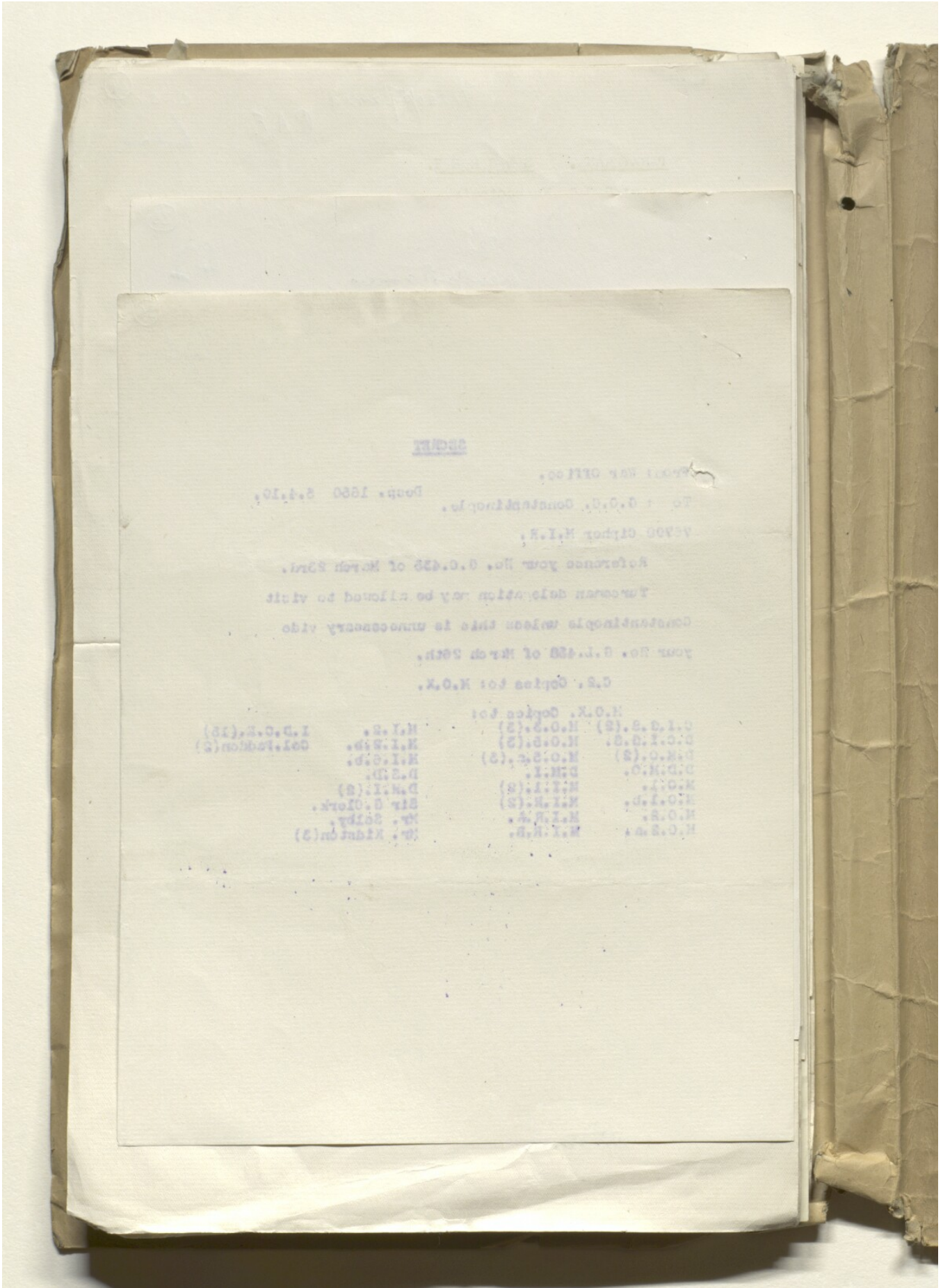
Turcoman delegation may be allowed to visit Constantinople unless this is unnecessary vide your No. G.L.458 of March 26th.

C.2. Copies to: M.O.X.

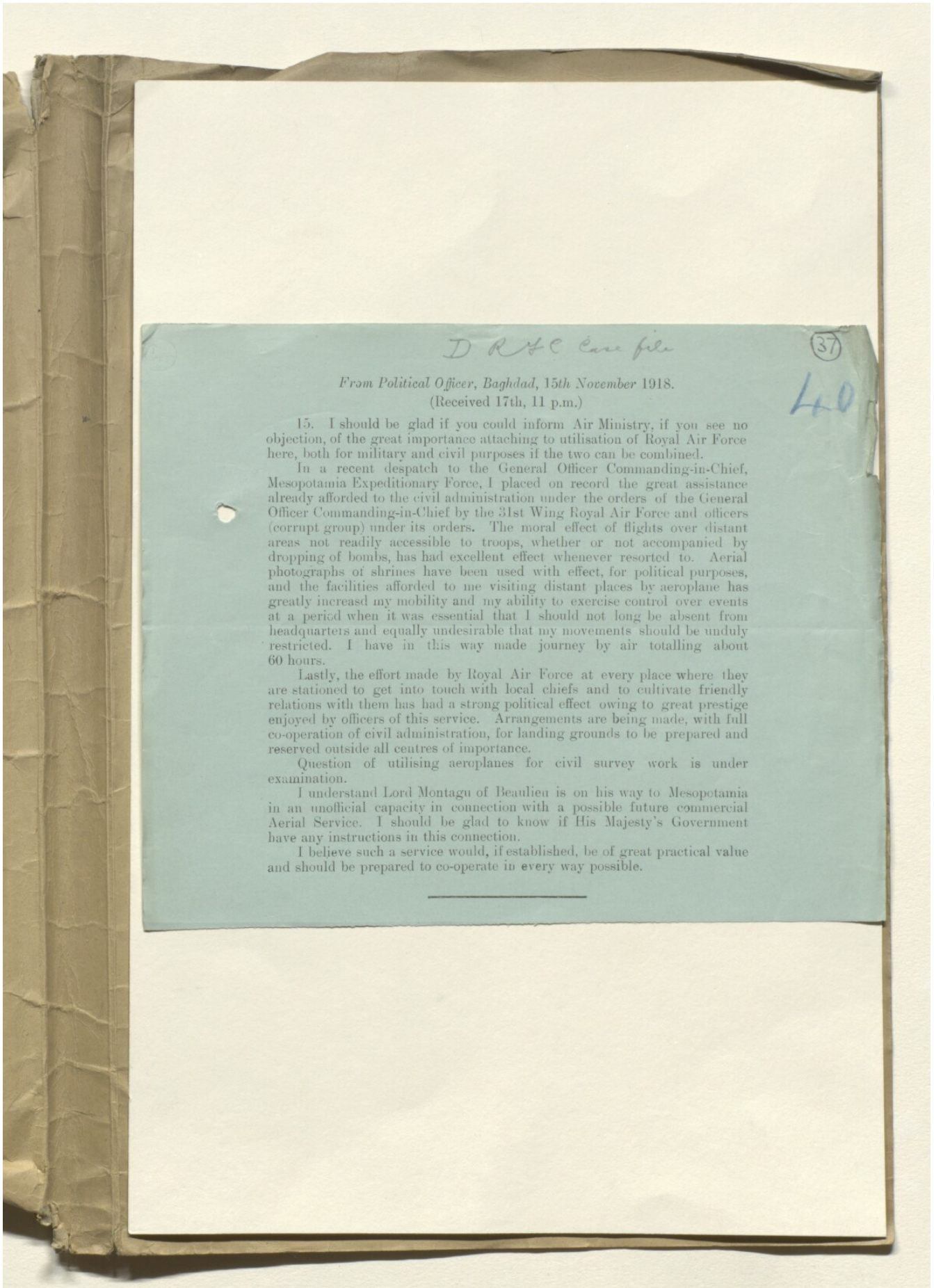
M.O.X. Copies to:

G.I.G.S.(2)	M.O.3.(3)	M.I.2.	I.D.C.E.(15)
D.C.I.G.S.	M.O.5.(3)	M.I.2.b.	Col.Paddon(2)
D.M.O.(2)	M.O.5.c.(3)	M.I.6.b.	
D.D.M.O.	D.H.I.	D.S.D.	
M.O.1.	M.I.1.(2)	D.M.I.(2)	
M.O.1.b.	M.I.R.(2)	Sir G.Clerk.	
M.O.2.	M.I.R.A.	Mr. Selby.	
M.O.2.a.	M.I.R.B.	Mr. Kidston(3)	









*D R F C case file*

(37)

*From Political Officer, Baghdad, 15th November 1918.  
(Received 17th, 11 p.m.)*

L+D

15. I should be glad if you could inform Air Ministry, if you see no objection, of the great importance attaching to utilisation of Royal Air Force here, both for military and civil purposes if the two can be combined.

In a recent despatch to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, I placed on record the great assistance already afforded to the civil administration under the orders of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief by the 31st Wing Royal Air Force and officers (corrupt group) under its orders. The moral effect of flights over distant areas not readily accessible to troops, whether or not accompanied by dropping of bombs, has had excellent effect whenever resorted to. Aerial photographs of shrines have been used with effect, for political purposes, and the facilities afforded to me visiting distant places by aeroplane has greatly increased my mobility and my ability to exercise control over events at a period when it was essential that I should not long be absent from headquarters and equally undesirable that my movements should be unduly restricted. I have in this way made journey by air totalling about 60 hours.

Lastly, the effort made by Royal Air Force at every place where they are stationed to get into touch with local chiefs and to cultivate friendly relations with them has had a strong political effect owing to great prestige enjoyed by officers of this service. Arrangements are being made, with full co-operation of civil administration, for landing grounds to be prepared and reserved outside all centres of importance.

Question of utilising aeroplanes for civil survey work is under examination.

I understand Lord Montagu of Beaulieu is on his way to Mesopotamia in an unofficial capacity in connection with a possible future commercial Aerial Service. I should be glad to know if His Majesty's Government have any instructions in this connection.

I believe such a service would, if established, be of great practical value and should be prepared to co-operate in every way possible.







38

39

SECRET.

OPERATIONS.

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
Repeated India.

Despatched:- 18.30 16/10/18.

68755 cipher D.M.O. My No. 67382 dated 28th September.  
*Not recd I.O. recd 36*

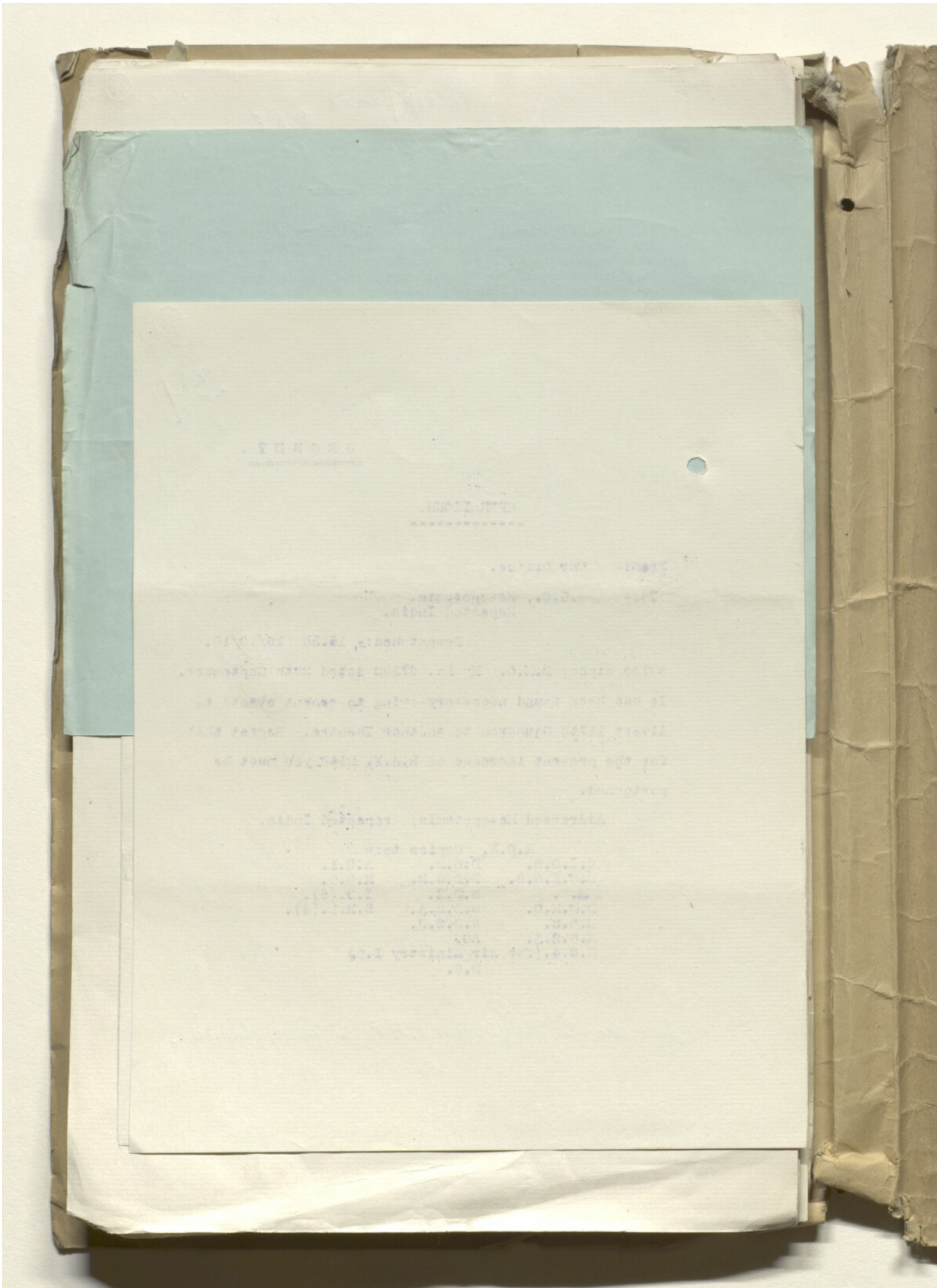
It has been found necessary owing to recent events to divert 117th Squadron to another Theatre. Regret that for the present increase of R.A.F. with you must be postponed.

Addressed Mesopotamia; repeated India.

M.O.X. Copies to:-

C.I.G.S.	D.S.D.	A.G.1.
D.C.I.G.S.	D.D.S.D.	M.G.O.
D.M.O.	S.D.2.	I.O.(6).
D.D.M.O.	S.D.2.A.	S.R.1.(4).
M.O.2.	S.D.2.B.	
M.O.2.A.	AG.	
L.G.4.(for Air Ministry I.O.)	D.O.	

*There are 3 Squadrons RAF in Mesopotamia.*







39

38

S E C R E T.

From :- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. in C., Mesopotamia.  
Repeated G. in C., India.  
" G.O.C. in C., Egypt.

Despatched 6 p.m. 29.9.18.

67424 cipher S.D.2. (37)

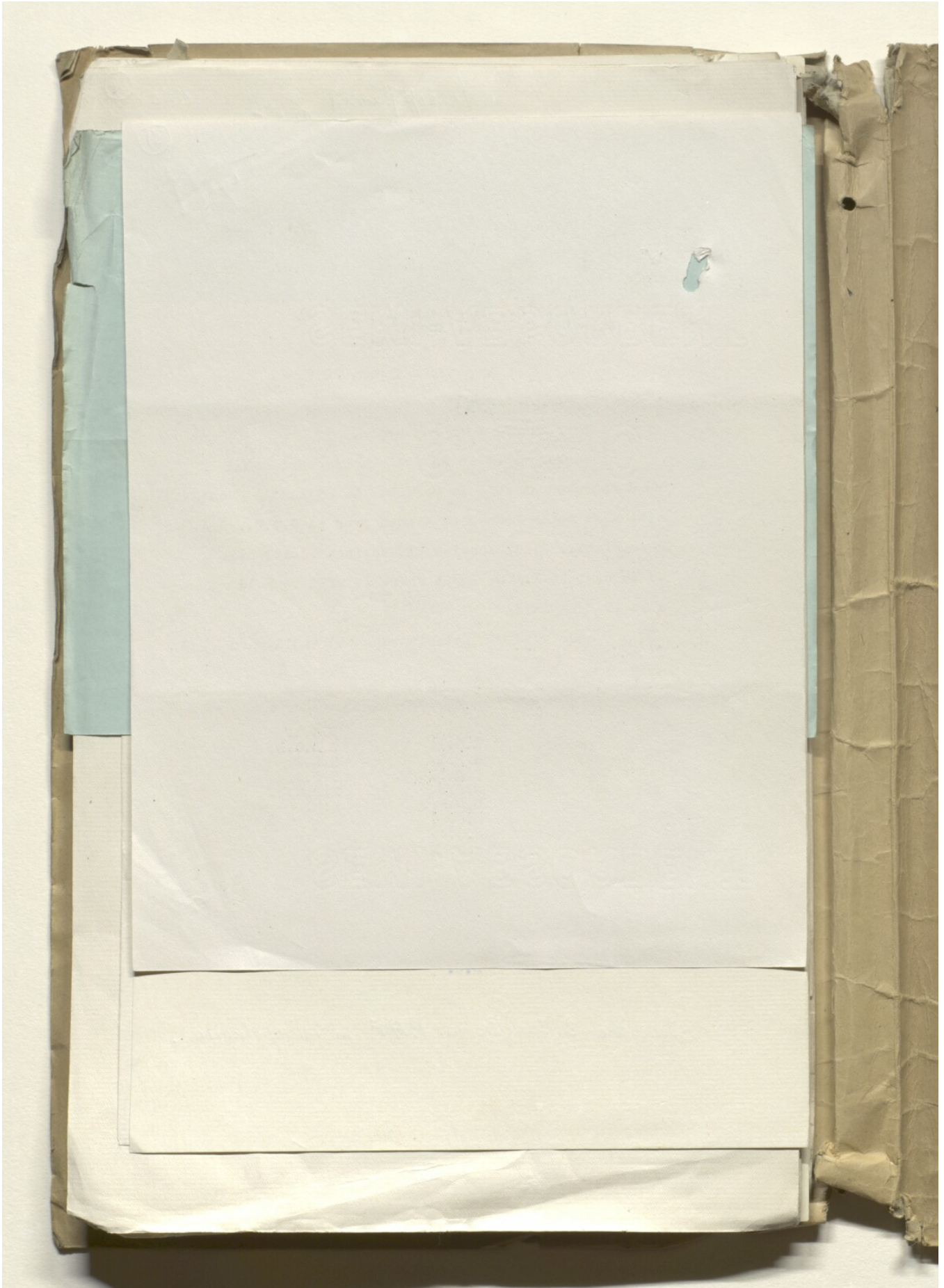
Your X.2364 20th September.

Personnel of No.23 Balloon Company should be despatched as soon as possible to England. You will have Motor Transport handed over to G.O.C., R.A.F., Mesopotamia. All serviceable balloon equipments to be sent to X.A.D. Egypt where it will be held against dues from England.

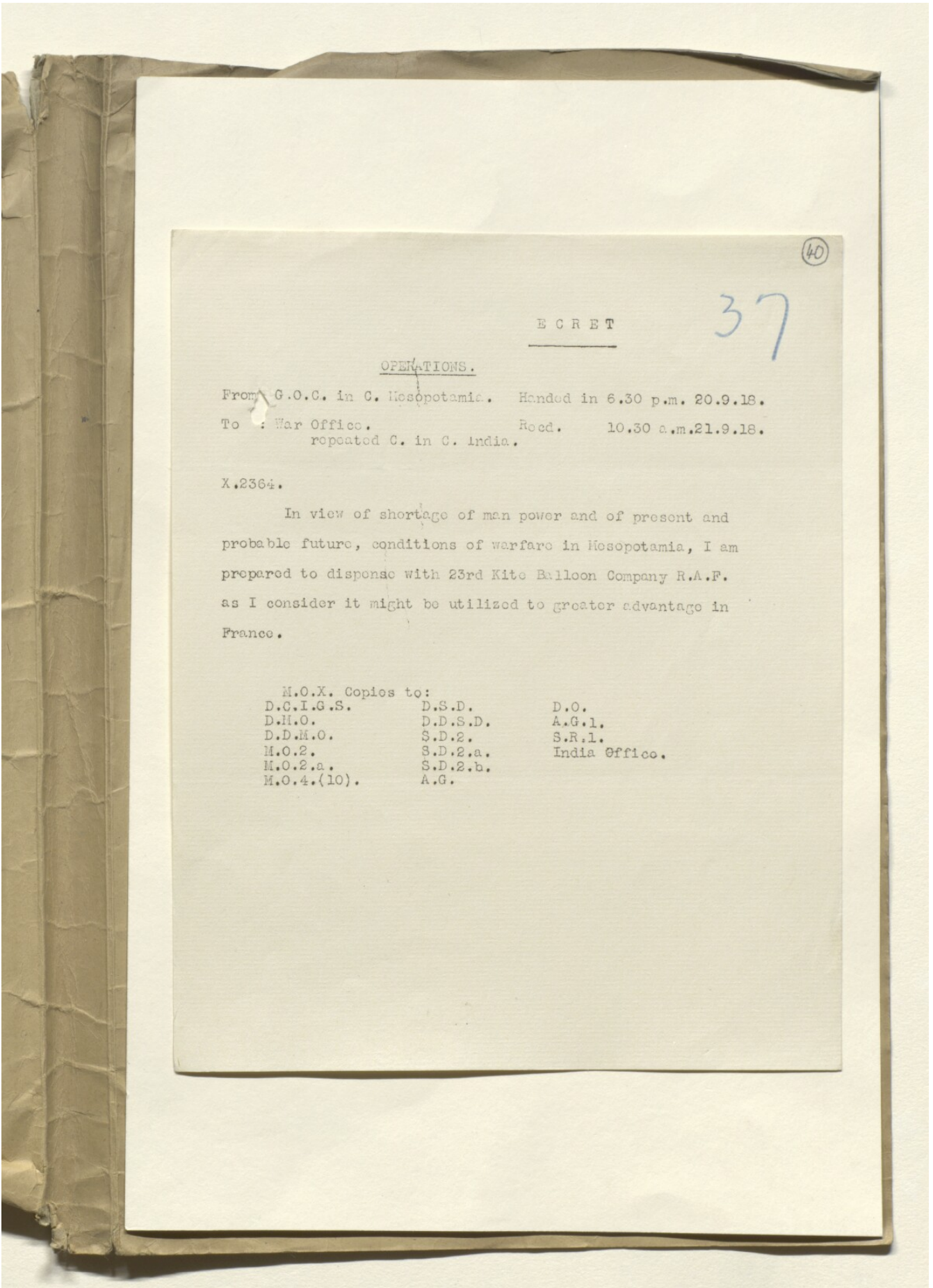
Addressed Mesopotamia repeated India, and Egypt.

32. Copies to :-

D.O.	D.S.D.
A.G.1	D.D.S.D.
S.R.1.	S.D.2.
D.C.I.G.S.	S.D.2.a.
D.H.J.	S.D.2.b.
D.D.M.O.	A.G.
H.O.2.	
H.O.4.	
M.O. X	







40

37

SECRET

OPERATIONS.

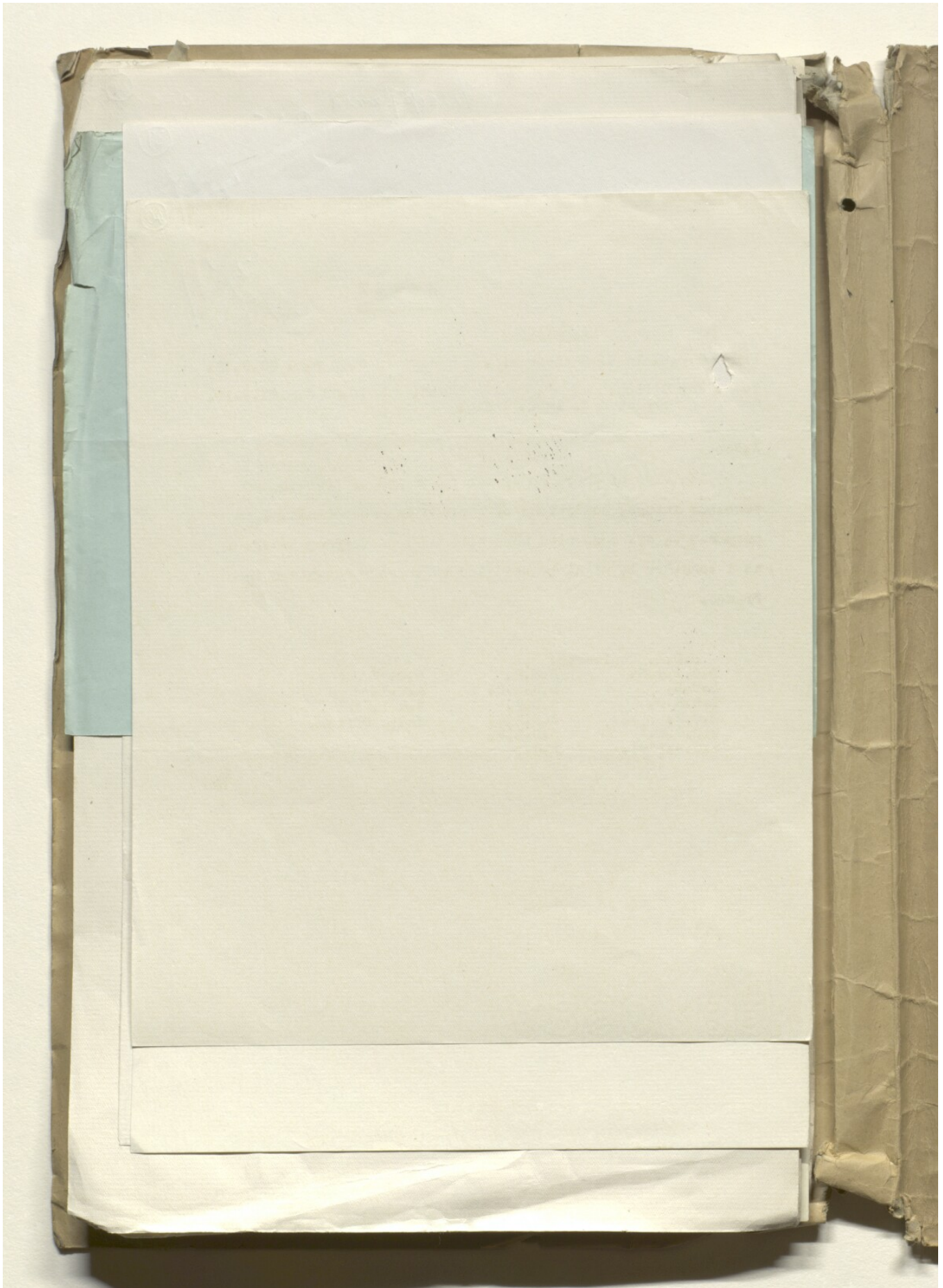
From G.O.C. in C. Mesopotamia. Handed in 6.30 p.m. 20.9.18.  
To War Office. Recd. 10.30 a.m. 21.9.18.  
repeated C. in C. India.

X.2364.

In view of shortage of man power and of present and probable future, conditions of warfare in Mesopotamia, I am prepared to dispense with 23rd Kite Balloon Company R.A.F. as I consider it might be utilized to greater advantage in France.

M.O.X. Copies to:

D.C.I.G.S.	D.S.D.	D.O.
D.H.O.	D.D.S.D.	A.G.1.
D.D.M.O.	S.D.2.	S.R.1.
M.O.2.	S.D.2.a.	India Office.
M.O.2.a.	S.D.2.b.	
M.O.4.(10).	A.G.	







Mesopotamia  
R. A. F.

(41)

36

SECRET.

OPERATIONS.

From :- G.H.Q., Mesopotamia.

To: War Office, Repeated India.

Despatched 1.55 p.m. 25.9.19.  
Received 1.35 p.m. 26.9.19.

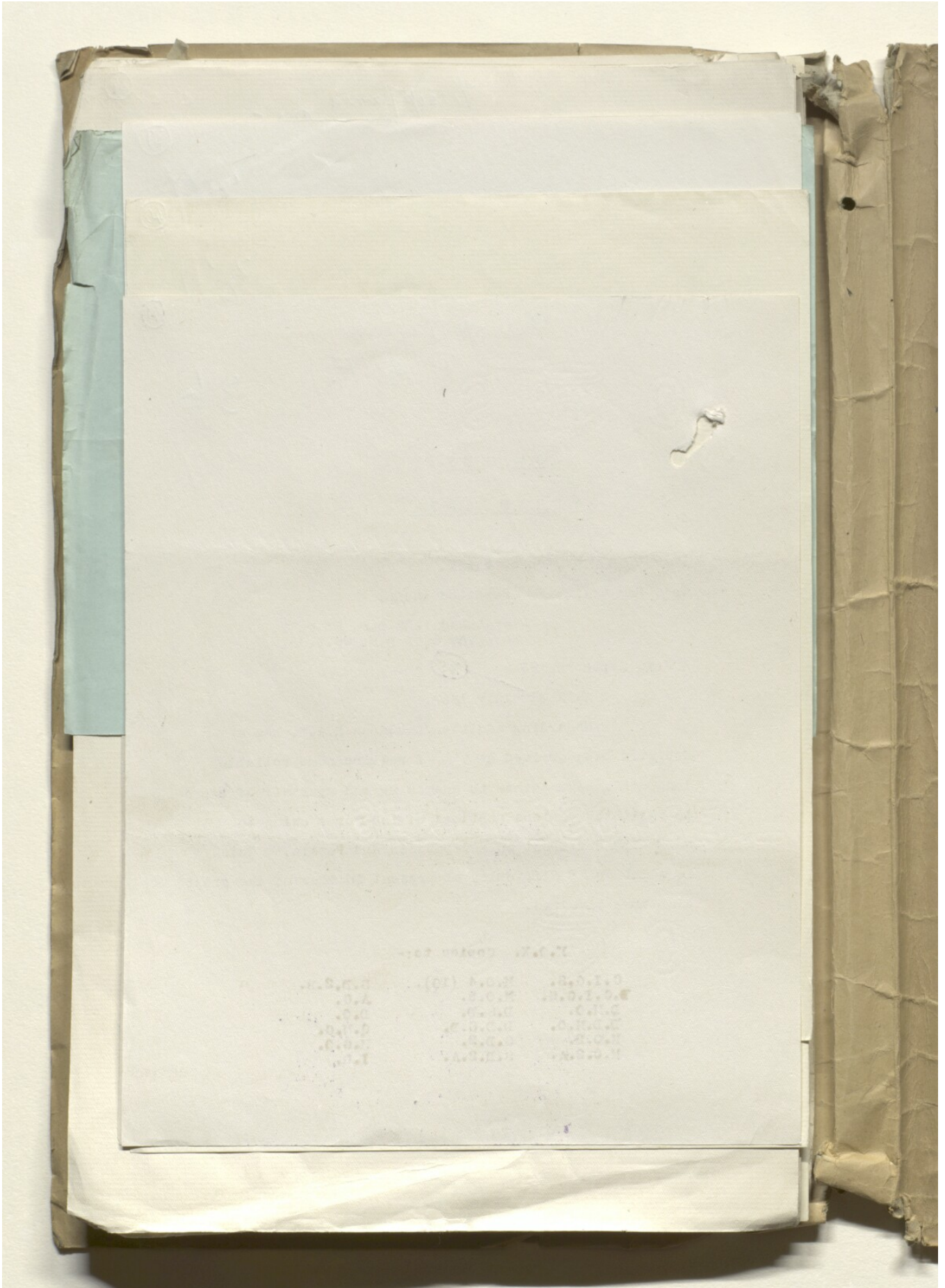
X.2486 September 25th. (35)

My X.327 July 16th.

Regarding addition<sup>of</sup> Squadron R.A.F. has a decision been arrived at? I require some reliable long distance machines to enable me and my Staff Officers to visit the various portions of the force owing to very extended front in Mesopotamia and Persia. This is a matter of difficulty at present in view of the great distances involved.

M.O.X. Copies to:-

C.I.G.S.	M.O.4 (10).	S.D.2.B.
D.C.I.G.S.	M.O.5.	A.G.
D.H.O.	D.S.D.	D.O.
D.D.M.O.	D.D.S.D.	Q.H.G.
M.O.2.	S.D.2.	M.G.O.
M.O.2.A.	S.D.2.A.	I.O.







R.A.F.

Mesopotamia

(42)  
35

SECRET.

From:- G.O.C.-in-C., Mesopotamia.  
To:- War Office; repeated India.

Handed in 7.35 p.m., 16/7/18.  
Received 3.35 a.m., 17/7/18.

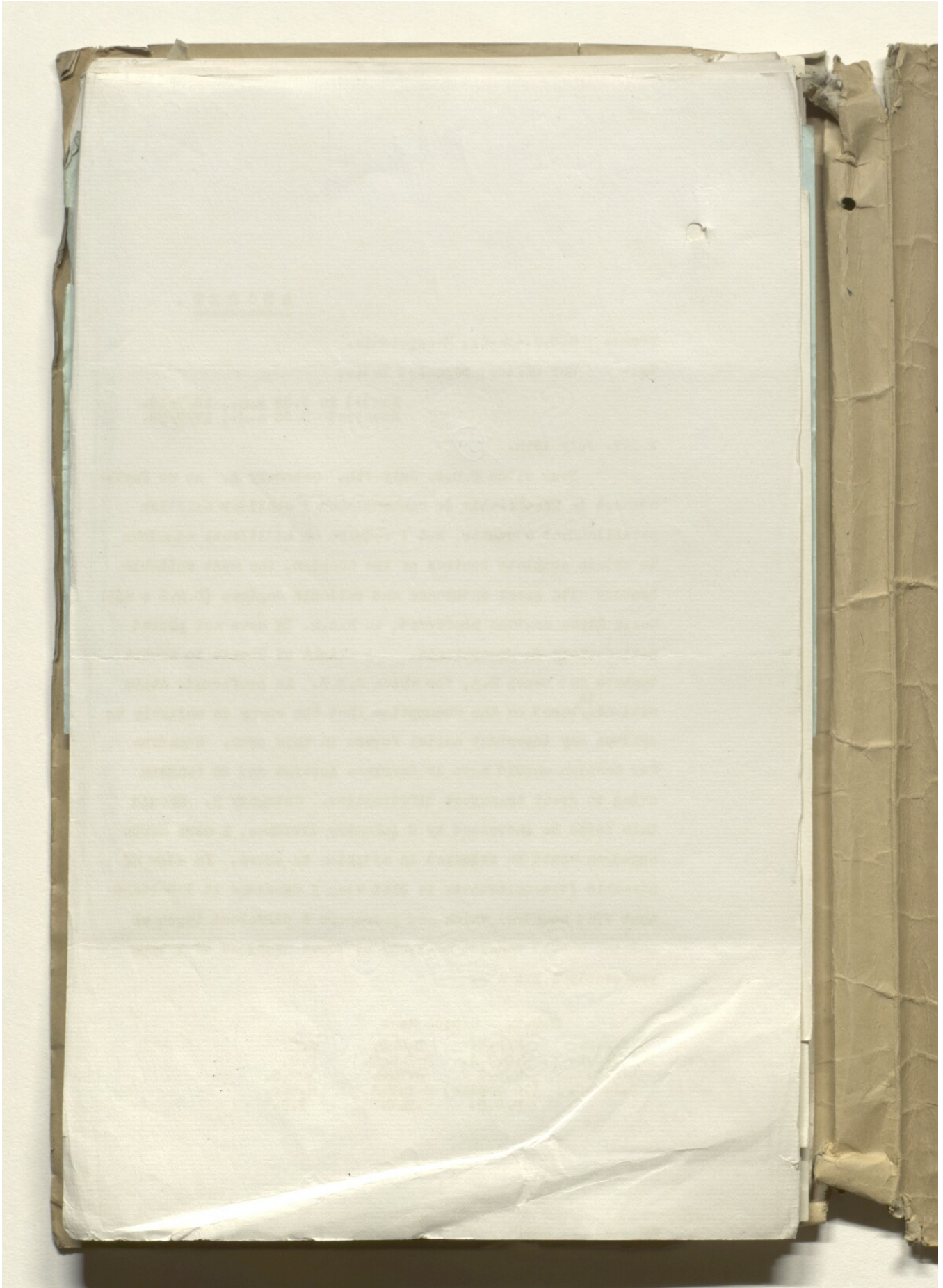
X.327. July 16th.

Your 61736 M.O.2. July 7th. Category A. As no further advance in Mesopotamia is contemplated I consider existing establishment adequate, but I require an additional squadron to attain complete control of the Caspian, the most suitable bombers with great endurance and reliable engines (D.H.9 s with Rolls Royce engines preferred, as R.A.F. 3A have not proved satisfactory in Mesopotamia. 1 flight of Scouts to escort bombers and repel E.A. for which S.E.5. As preferred. Above estimate based on the assumption that the enemy is unlikely to produce any important aerial forces in this area. Squadron for Caspian should have 15 Peerless lorries and 20 tenders owing to great transport difficulties. Category B. Should this force be increased by 2 infantry divisions, 1 more corps squadron would be required in addition to above. In view of possible (?) requirements in 31st wing I consider it important that 72nd squadron which now possesses 6 different types of machine should consist entirely of Scout machines of 1 type preferably S.E.5 A s.

M.O.X. Copies to:-

C.I.G.S.	M.O.2.	D.S.D.	A.G.
D.C.I.G.S.	M.O.2.A.	D.D.S.D.	D.O.
D.M.O.	M.O.4	S.D.2.	J.M.G.
D.D.M.O.	(10 copies)	S.D.2.A.	M.G.O.
	M.O.5.	S.D.2.B.	I.O.









S E C R E T .

Operations.

From :- War Office.

To :- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
Repeated C. in C., India.

Despatched 7th July, 1918.

61736 cipher M.O.2.

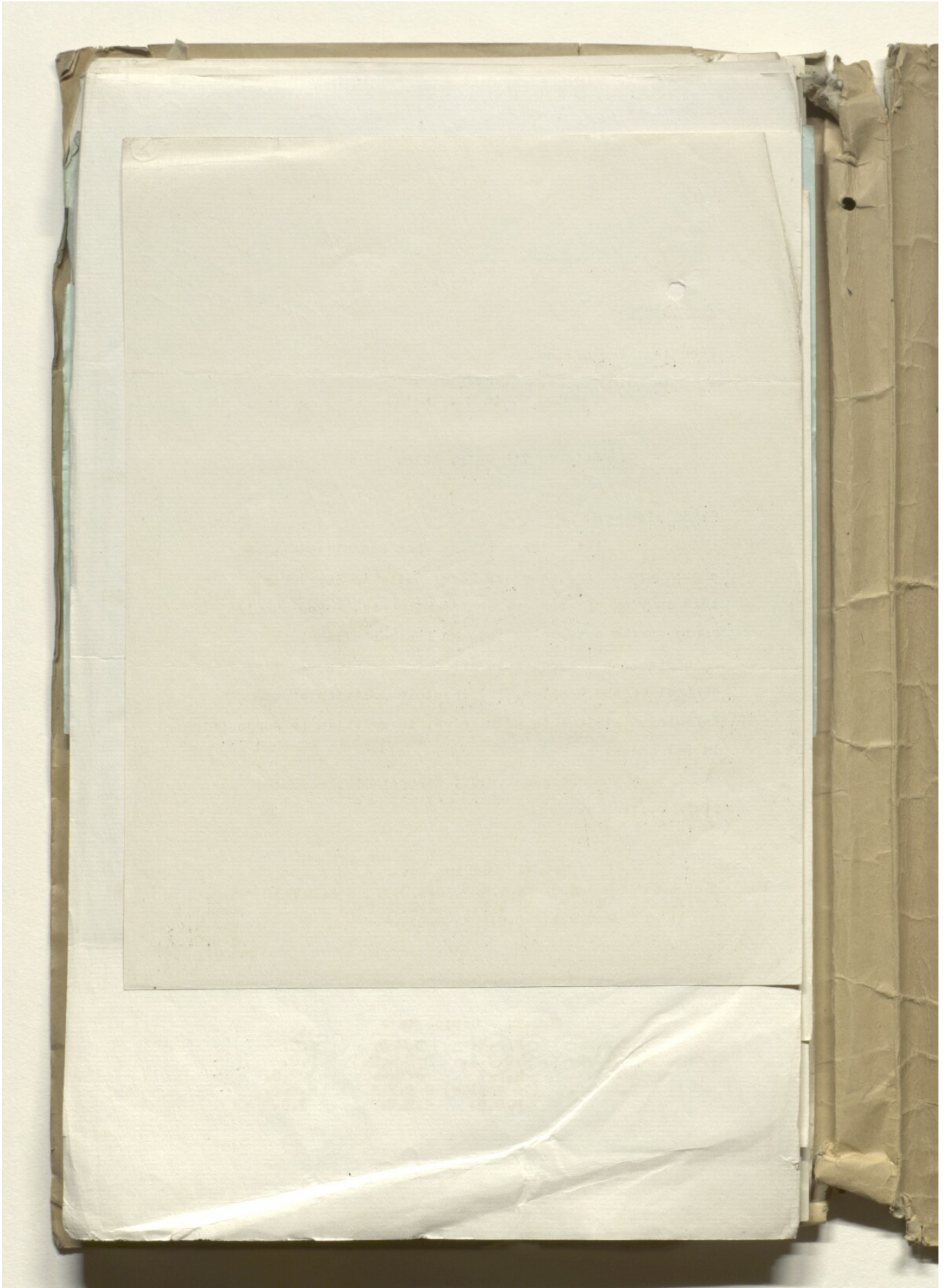
Let me know please what establishment we should aim at for your Air Force units to September 1919 in view of your present commitments. You should reply in two categories (a) No further advance in Mesopotamia but success in attaining complete control of the Caspian, (b) Possible addition of two infantry divisions to your force, in addition to supposition in (a) above.

Addressed C.O.C., Mesopotamia, repeated C. in C., India.

M.O.X. Copies to:-

E.I.G.S.	D.D.M.O.	M.O.4.	D.D.S.D.	S.D.2.B.	A.G.
E.C.I.G.S.	M.O.2.	M.D.5.	S.D.2.		D.O.
D.M.O.	M.O.2-A.	D.S.D.	S.D.2.A.		Q.M.G.
					M.G.O.
					Ind.Off.

*Handwritten notes:*  
✓  
Have we yet applied to  
Air Force for command  
- including the 2nd  
9000  
/ Yes see reply by file  
(43)







SECRET.

100 (44)  
33

From General Officer Commanding, Middle East Brigade, Royal Air Force, Egypt,  
to Air Ministry, London.

(No. E. 5036.)

14th April, 1918.

Reference your No. 21158 and No. 23226, A.O. 1, and No. 38799 of 31st July, 1916.  
Weekly return of Royal Air Force, week ending 11th April:—

	Pilots.		Observers.	
	Available.	Not available.	Available.	Not available.
Training Brigade—				
Artillery Observers' School .. .. .	18	4	1	1
Aerial Fighting School .. .. .	24	1	..	..
School of Aerial Gunnery .. .. .	11	2	..	..
No. 21 Training Squadron .. .. .	10	3	..	..
No. 22 Training Squadron .. .. .	14	3	..	..
No. 23 Training Squadron .. .. .	17	6	..	..
No. 57 Training Squadron .. .. .	15	2	..	..
No. 58 Training Squadron .. .. .	11	1	..	..
No. 193 Training Squadron .. .. .	12	2	..	..
No. 194 Training Squadron .. .. .	11	2	..	..
No. 195 Training Squadron .. .. .	12	2	..	..
"X" Aircraft Depot .. .. .	5	1	..	..
Palestine Brigade—				
5th Wing—				
No. 113 Squadron .. .. .	28	..	18	..
No. 14 Squadron .. .. .	25	2	14	..
40th Wing—				
No. 111 Squadron .. .. .	21	1	..	..
No. 142 Squadron .. .. .	17	..	6	..
"X" Aircraft Park .. .. .	2	..	..	..
No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps .. .. .	29	1	13	..
No. 144 Squadron .. .. .	6	1	..	..
Balloon officers in Palestine .. .. .	..	..	34	6
"X" Flight .. .. .	6	..	..	..
16th Wing—				
No. 17 Squadron .. .. .	24	3	11	1
No. 47 Squadron .. .. .	26	3	13	1
Balloon officers .. .. .	..	..	15	1
Aircraft Park .. .. .	1	..	..	..
31st Wing—				
No. 30 Squadron .. .. .	20	2	13	1
No. 63 Squadron .. .. .	16	6	11	1
No. 72 Squadron .. .. .	23	1	1	..
Balloon officers .. .. .	..	..	10	1
Aircraft Park .. .. .	1	..	..	..
India and Aden Brigade .. .. .	34	1	14	1
Balloon officers .. .. .	..	..	5	..

"C" machines—

	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not erected.
Training Brigade—			
Maurice Farman Longhorn, L.H. .. .. .	6	5	1
De Havilland 6 .. .. .	32	10	1
Sopwith Bomber .. .. .	1	8	..
Avro Monoplane .. .. .	27	11	7
Avro .. .. .	14	13	..
R.E. 8 .. .. .	10	11	1
B.E. 2 C and 2 E .. .. .	25	13	..
Bristol Scout .. .. .	4	7	..
Sopwith Scout .. .. .	3	3	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	2	..	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	2	7	..
S.E. 5 .. .. .	..	2	..
Armstrong-Whitworth .. .. .	..	2	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	2	3	..

(B14/348) 40 4/18 H&S 3718-3wo





	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not erected.
" X " Aircraft Depot—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	12	..
Avro .. .. .	..	1	..
Avro Monoplane .. .. .	..	..	4
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	..	2	..
Armstrong-Whitworth, 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	1	..	5
B.E. 12 A .. .. .	..	4	..
Bristol Fighter .. .. .	..	6	3
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	..	4	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	2	1	25
S.E. 5 .. .. .	1	..	13
Sopwith Bomber .. .. .	..	4	..
R.E. 8 .. .. .	..	6	16
Vickers F.B. 19 .. .. .	..	4	2
De Havilland 6 .. .. .	..	..	24
Sopwith Camel .. .. .	..	..	5
Sopwith Scout .. .. .	..	..	21
Palestine Brigade—			
5th Wing—			
No. 14 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	11	9	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	2	..	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	1	2	..
No. 113 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	16	3	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	3	..	..
40th Wing—			
No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	1	..	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	1	..	..
Bristol Fighter .. .. .	17	..	..
No. 111 Squadron—			
S.E. 5 .. .. .	6	6	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	3	3	..
No. 142 Squadron—			
B.E. 12 .. .. .	1	1	..
R.E. 8 .. .. .	1	..	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	..	1	..
No. 144 Squadron—			
B.E. 2 .. .. .	3	..	..
Balloons, Egypt and Palestine .. .. .	25	9	..
" X " Aircraft Park—			
Bristol Fighter .. .. .	3	2	1
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	1	3	..
R.E. 8 .. .. .	2	5	6
S.E. 5 .. .. .	..	3	2
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	1	..	..
" X " Flight—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	2	..	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	4	2	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	..	2	..
16th Wing—			
No. 17 Squadron—			
B.E. 2 C and 2 E .. .. .	2	..	..
B.E. 12 .. .. .	3	1	..
S.E. 5 A .. .. .	3	1	..
Armstrong-Whitworth, 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	7	1	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	1	1	..
No. 47 Squadron—			
Armstrong-Whitworth .. .. .	4	..	..
B.E. 12 .. .. .	1	..	..
Vickers F.B. 19 .. .. .	..	1	..
Armstrong-Whitworth, 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	7	2	..
S.E. 5 A .. .. .	2	1	..
Aircraft Park—			
B.E. 12 A .. .. .	3	2	5
Armstrong-Whitworth .. .. .	..	4	..
B.E. 2 C and 2 E .. .. .	4	2	9
Armstrong-Whitworth, 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	1	..	17
S.E. 5 A .. .. .	1	..	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	..	1	9
B.E. 12 .. .. .	..	4	11
Balloons .. .. .	2	11	..

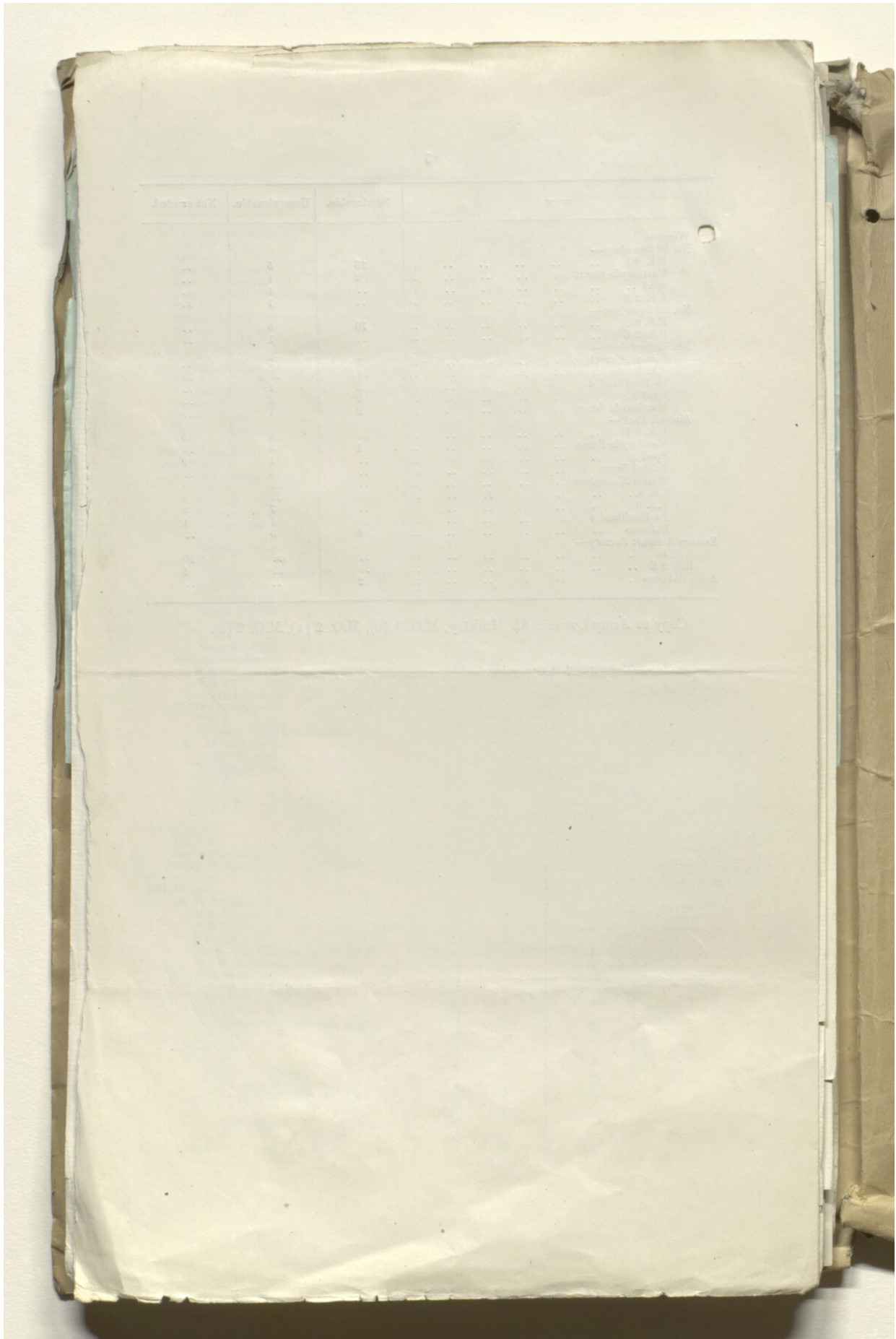




45

	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not erected.
t Wing—			
No. 30 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	13	5	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	2	1	..
Spad .. .. .	..	1	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	1	..
No. 63 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	10	8	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	1	..
No. 72 Squadron—			
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	3	5	..
S.E. 5 .. .. .	1	..	..
De Havilland 4 .. .. .	2	1	..
Spad .. .. .	2	3	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	2	1	..
Aircraft Park—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	5	5
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	1	3	..
Spad .. .. .	..	1	9
Bristol Scout .. .. .	..	5	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	..	..	9
S.E. 5 .. .. .	..	..	5
R.E. 8 .. .. .	..	7	9
De Havilland 4 .. .. .	..	1	1
Balloons .. .. .	4	3	..
Eastern Aircraft Factory—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	..	..	10
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	..	4
Aden Balloons .. .. .	2	..	..

Copy to Army Council, Air Ministry, M.O. 1 (D), M.O. 2 (A), M.O. 2 (B).







SECRET.

33

From General Officer Commanding, Middle East Brigade, Royal Flying Corps, Egypt,  
to Air Ministry.

(No. E. 4786.)

31st March, 1918.

Reference your No. 21158 and No. 2326, A.O. 1, and No. 38799 of 31st July, 1916.  
Royal Flying Corps weekly return, week ending 28th March :—

	Pilots.		Observers.	
	Available.	Not available.	Available.	Not available.
<b>Training Brigade—</b>				
School of Aerial Gunnery .. .. .	14	..	..	..
Artillery Observers' School .. .. .	21	3	1	2
Aerial Fighting School .. .. .	18	..	..	..
No. 21 Training Squadron .. .. .	11	3	..	..
No. 22 Training Squadron .. .. .	14	6	..	..
No. 23 Training Squadron .. .. .	23	5	..	..
No. 57 Training Squadron .. .. .	20	4	..	..
No. 58 Training Squadron .. .. .	14	2	..	..
No. 193 Training Squadron .. .. .	8	5	..	..
No. 194 Training Squadron .. .. .	13	1	..	..
No. 195 Training Squadron .. .. .	11	1	..	..
" X " Aircraft Depot .. .. .	4	2	..	..
<b>5th Wing—</b>				
No. 14 Squadron .. .. .	20	1	14	..
No. 113 Squadron .. .. .	18	..	16	..
<b>40th Wing—</b>				
Australian Flying Corps .. .. .	32	3	13	..
No. 111 Squadron .. .. .	19	1	..	..
No. 142 Squadron .. .. .	5	1	2	..
" X " Aircraft Park .. .. .	3	..	..	..
Balloon officers in Palestine and Egypt	..	..	34	5
Flight of No. 144 Squadron .. .. .	8	..	9	..
" X " Flight .. .. .	5	1	..	..
<b>16th Wing—</b>				
No. 17 Squadron .. .. .	21	2	11	2
No. 47 Squadron .. .. .	26	3	12	1
Aircraft Park .. .. .	1	..	..	..
Also balloon officers .. .. .	..	..	17	..
<b>31st Wing—</b>				
No. 30 Squadron .. .. .	22	1	12	1
No. 63 Squadron .. .. .	21	1	13	..
No. 72 Squadron .. .. .	23	..	..	..
Aircraft Park .. .. .	1	..	10	1
Also balloon officers .. .. .	..	2	13	2
Aden and India .. .. .	32	..	5	..
Also balloon officers .. .. .	..	..	..	..

Machines—

	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not erected.
<b>Training brigade—</b>			
Maurice Farman, Longhorn .. .. .	6	5	..
De Havilland 6 .. .. .	26	15	3
Sopwith Bomber .. .. .	4	8	1
Avro Monoplane .. .. .	24	5	1
Avro .. .. .	14	15	..
Bristol Scout .. .. .	4	8	..
B.E. 2 C and 2 E .. .. .	30	16	..
R.E. 8 .. .. .	14	9	2
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	3	2	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	4	2	..
Sopwith Scout .. .. .	5	..	1
S.E. 5 .. .. .	1	1	..
Armstrong-Whitworth .. .. .	..	2	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	..	..	2

(B14/348) 40 4/18 H&S 5718 3wo



	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not erected.
" X " Aircraft Depot—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	16	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	1	3	..
Avro .. .. .	..	2	..
Avro Monoplane .. .. .	..	..	15
Bristol Fighter .. .. .	..	6	6
R.E. 8 .. .. .	1	6	19
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	1	1	31
S.E. 5 .. .. .	3	..	10
B.E. 12 .. .. .	..	4	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	..	2	7
De Havilland 6 .. .. .	..	..	24
Sopwith Scout .. .. .	..	..	12
Vickers F.B. 19 .. .. .	..	4	2
Armstrong-Whitworth 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	..	..	3
Palestine Brigade—			
5th Wing—			
No. 14 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	9	12	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	1	1	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	(Figures apparently omitted).		
No. 113 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	15	3	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	1	..	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	..	..	3
40th Wing—			
No. 1 Australian Flying Corps—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	1	..	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	1	..	..
Bristol Fighter .. .. .	14	3	..
No. 111 Squadron—			
S.E. 5 .. .. .	7	2	..
Nieuport Scout .. .. .	3	4	..
No. 142 Squadron—			
B.E. 12 .. .. .	2	..	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	1	1	..
Balloons, Egypt and Palestine .. .. .	25	6	..
" X " Flight—			
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	2	..	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	4	2	..
16th Wing—			
No. 17 Squadron—			
B.E. 12 .. .. .	3	..	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	4	1	..
S.E. 5 A .. .. .	3	1	..
Armstrong-Whitworth 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	6	..	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	1	1	..
No. 47 Squadron—			
B.E. 12 .. .. .	1	..	..
Armstrong-Whitworth .. .. .	5	1	..
Vickers F.B. 19 .. .. .	1	..	..
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	1	..	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	1	1	..
Armstrong-Whitworth 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	4	2	..
S.E. 5 A .. .. .	4	..	..
Aircraft Park—			
B.E. 12 .. .. .	1	7	7
B.E. 12 A .. .. .	3	3	4
Armstrong-Whitworth .. .. .	..	2	..
B.E. 2 C and 2 E .. .. .	3	8	2
Armstrong-Whitworth 160 B.A.D. .. .. .	1	..	5
S.E. 5 A .. .. .	..	1	..
Vickers F.B. 19 .. .. .	..	1	..
Balloons .. .. .	2	11	..
31st Wing—			
No. 30 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	11	3	..
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	3	1	..
Spad .. .. .	..	1	..
B.E. 2 C .. .. .	..	1	..
No. 63 Squadron—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	18	..	..
B.E. 2 C .. .. .	1	..	..
No. 72 Squadron—			
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	1	1	6
De Havilland, Fighter 4 .. .. .	2	..	..
Spad .. .. .	6	1	..

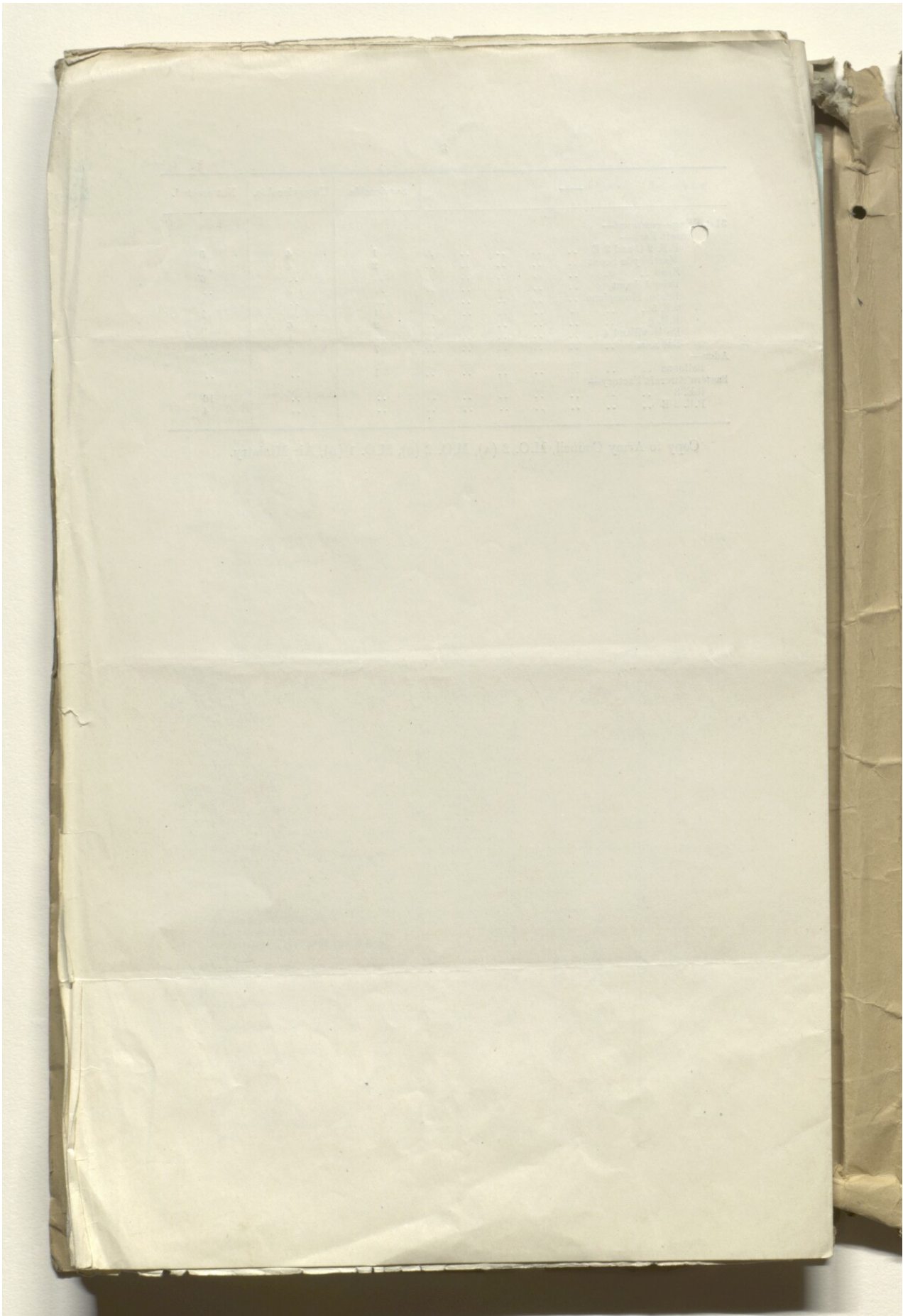




47

	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not erected.
31st Wing— <i>continued</i> —			
Aircraft Park—			
B.E. 2 C and 2 E .. .. .	1	4	5
Martinsyde Scout .. .. .	2	4	..
Spad .. .. .	..	..	6
Bristol Scout .. .. .	..	5	..
Bristol Monoplane .. .. .	..	..	8
S.E. 5.. .. .	1	..	2
R.E. 8 .. .. .	2	6	5
De Havilland 4 .. .. .	..	1	..
Balloons .. .. .	7	1	..
Aden—			
Balloons .. .. .	1	..	..
Eastern Aircraft Factory—			
R.E. 8 .. .. .	..	..	10
B.E. 2 E .. .. .	..	..	4

Copy to Army Council, M.O. 2 (A), M.O. 2 (B), M.O. 1 (D), Air Ministry.







SECRET.

35134  
10  
3.2

From General Officer Commanding, Middle East Brigade, Royal Flying Corps,  
Egypt, to Air Ministry.

(No. E. 4506.) <sup>Not recd. 10.</sup> 15th March, 1918.

Your No. 21158 and No 23226, A.O. 1, and No. 38799, 31st July, 1916. Royal Flying Corps weekly return for week ending 14th March :-

	Pilots.		Observers.	
	Available.	Unavailable.	Available.	Unavailable.
<b>Training Brigade—</b>				
No. 193 Training Squadron ... ..	12	1	...	...
No. 195 Training Squadron ... ..	16	...	...	...
No. 22 Training Squadron ... ..	14	2	...	...
No. 23 Training Squadron ... ..	22	5	...	...
No. 58 Training Squadron ... ..	11	2	...	...
No. 57 Training Squadron ... ..	18	1	...	...
No. 21 Training Squadron ... ..	10	5	...	...
No. 194 Training Squadron ... ..	12	...	...	...
Artillery Observers School ... ..	14	2	...	2
School Aerodrome Gunners ... ..	9	1	...	...
Aerodrome Fighting School ... ..	2	5	...	...
"X" Aircraft Depot ... ..	4	1	...	...
<b>5th Wing—</b>				
No. 14 Squadron ... ..	20	...	19	...
No. 113 Squadron ... ..	19	...	19	...
<b>40th Wing—</b>				
No. 142 Squadron ... ..	6	...	1	...
No. 111 Squadron ... ..	17	1	3	...
One Australian Flying Corps Squadron	20	2	10	...
Balloon officers in Egypt and Palestine	...	...	33	6
"X" Flight ... ..	5	1	...	...
"X" Aircraft Park ... ..	2	1	...	...
<b>16th Wing—</b>				
No. 47 Squadron ... ..	26	4	12	2
Aircraft Park ... ..	1	...	...	...
No. 17 Squadron ... ..	21	5	11	1
Also balloon officers	...	...	16	...
<b>31st Wing—</b>				
Aircraft Park ... ..	1	...	...	...
No. 30 Squadron ... ..	20	...	10	3
No. 72 Squadron ... ..	21	1	...	...
No. 63 Squadron ... ..	21	1	12	...
Also balloon officers	...	...	11	...
India and Aden ... ..	32	2	13	1
Also balloon officers	...	...	5	...

Machines— *Totals* 387 43 175 15

	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Unrected.
<b>Training Brigade—</b>			
Maurice Farman, Shorthorn ... ..	7	7	...
De Havilland (1) Fighter 6 ... ..	28	10	6
Sopwith Bomber ... ..	6	4	3
Armstrong-Whitworth Monoplane ... ..	21	8	2
Armstrong-Whitworth ... ..	15	18	...
Bristol Scout ... ..	4	9	...
B.E. 2 C and 2 E ... ..	35	14	...
R.E. 8 ... ..	10	15	2
Martinsyde Scout ... ..	2	3	...
B.E. 12 ... ..	1	...	...
Nieuport Scout ... ..	5	2	...
Sopwith Scout ... ..	5	1	...
S.E. 5 ... ..	...	2	...
Armstrong-Whitworth ... ..	...	...	...

(B14/348) 40 3/18 H&S 5613-3wo

139 95 13 P.T.O.





2

139      95      13

	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Unerected.
<b>"X" Aircraft Depot—</b>			
B.E. 2 E ... ..	1	16	...
R.E. 8 ... ..	1	7	7
Armstrong-Whitworth ... ..	...	...	3
Armstrong-Whitworth Monoplane ... ..	...	...	14
Bristol Fighter ... ..	...	6	6
Bristol Monoplane ... ..	...	2	9
De Havilland (1) Fighter 6 ... ..	...	...	24
Martinsyde Scout... ..	...	3	1
Nieuport Scout ... ..	...	1	13
S.E. 5 ... ..	...	...	9
Sopwith Scout ... ..	...	...	10
Vickers F.B. 19 ... ..	...	4	2
Armstrong-Whitworth ... ..	...	2	...
B.E. 12 ... ..	...	3	...
<b>Palestine Brigade—</b>			
R.E. 8 ... ..	34	9	1
B.E. 2 C and 2 E ... ..	2	3	...
Martinsyde Scout ... ..	5	2	...
Bristol Fighter ... ..	15	1	...
S.E. 5 ... ..	7	6	1
Nieuport Scout ... ..	4	2	7
B.E. 12 ... ..	2	2	...
Balloons, Egypt and Palestine ... ..	17	1	1
<b>"X" Flight—</b>			
B.E. 2 E ... ..	2	...	...
Martinsyde Scout... ..	4	2	...
De Havilland (1) Fighter 2 ... ..	...	1	...
<b>16th Wing—</b>			
B.E. 12 ... ..	4	8	7
B.E. 2 C and 2 E ... ..	13	5	1
S.E. 5 A ... ..	6	5	...
Armstrong-Whitworth 160 B.A.D. ... ..	4	1	14
Armstrong-Whitworth ... ..	7	2	...
Vickers F.B. 19 ... ..	1	1	...
Bristol Monoplane ... ..	1	1	...
B.E. 12 A ... ..	3	3	4
Balloons ... ..	14	1	...
<b>31st Wing—</b>			
R.E. 8 ... ..	32	9	6
B.E. 2 E ... ..	2	5	5
Martinsyde Scout... ..	3	6	1
Spad ... ..	6	1	7
Bristol Scout ... ..	1	4	...
Bristol Monoplane ... ..	...	...	16
S.E. 5 ... ..	...	1	2
De Havilland (1) Fighter 4 ... ..	3	1	...
Balloons ... ..	7	2	...
Aden balloons ... ..	4	...	...
<b>Eastern Aircraft Factory—</b>			
R.E. 8 ... ..	...	...	10
B.E. 2 E ... ..	...	...	4

Totals      344      224      198

Copy to Army Council, M.O. 1 (D), M.O. 2 (A), M.O. 2 (B), D.G.M.A.





R 7c "D"

(49)

31

SECRET

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. R.F.C. Middle East. Despatched  
15-1-18

50124

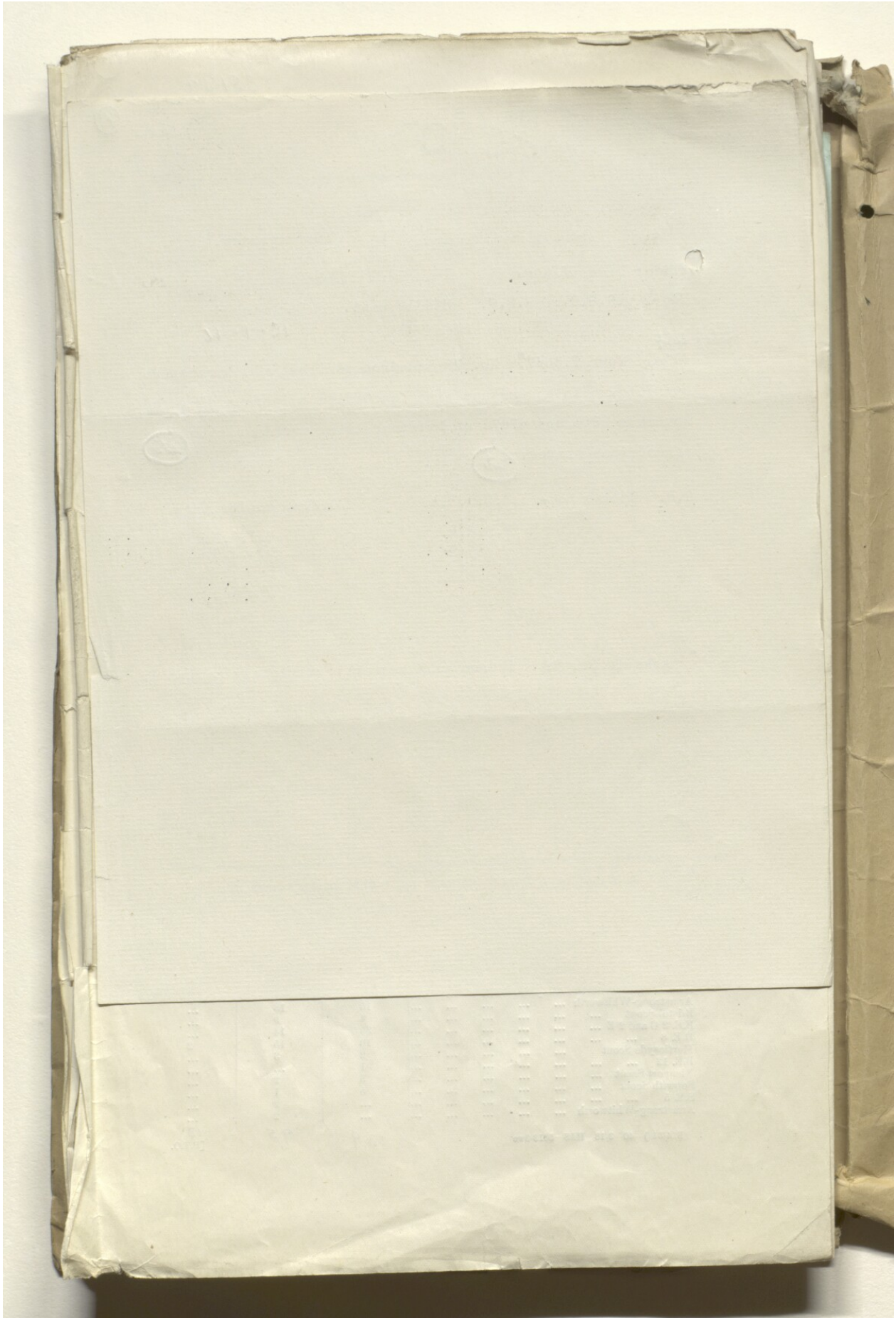
O.la. Your T.3547\* No. 72 Squadron sent out with transport complete. In accordance with War Office telegrams 46722 of November 28th and 47672 of December 11th. machines with appropriate spares.

(28)

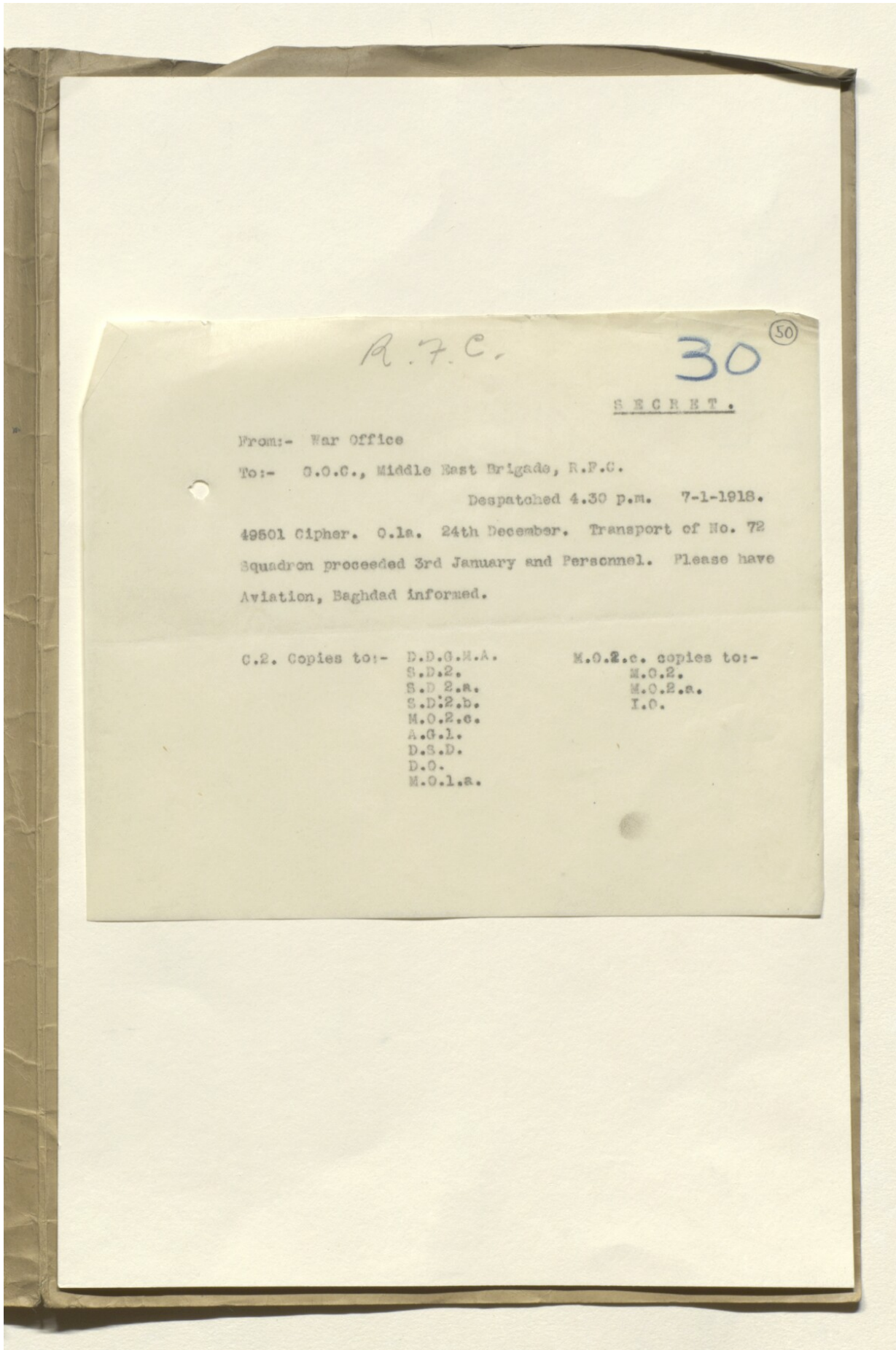
(25)

G.2. Copies to:-	D.D.G.M.A.	M.O.2.c. copies to:-	
	S.D.2.		C.I.G.S. D.S.D.
	S.D.2.a.		D.C.I.G.S. I.O.
	S.D.2.b.		D.M.O.
	A.G.1.		M.O.2.
	M.O.2.c.		M.O.2.a.

\* Asks if No. 72 Squadron will come out completely equipped.







R.F.C.

30

(50)

SECRET.

From:- War Office

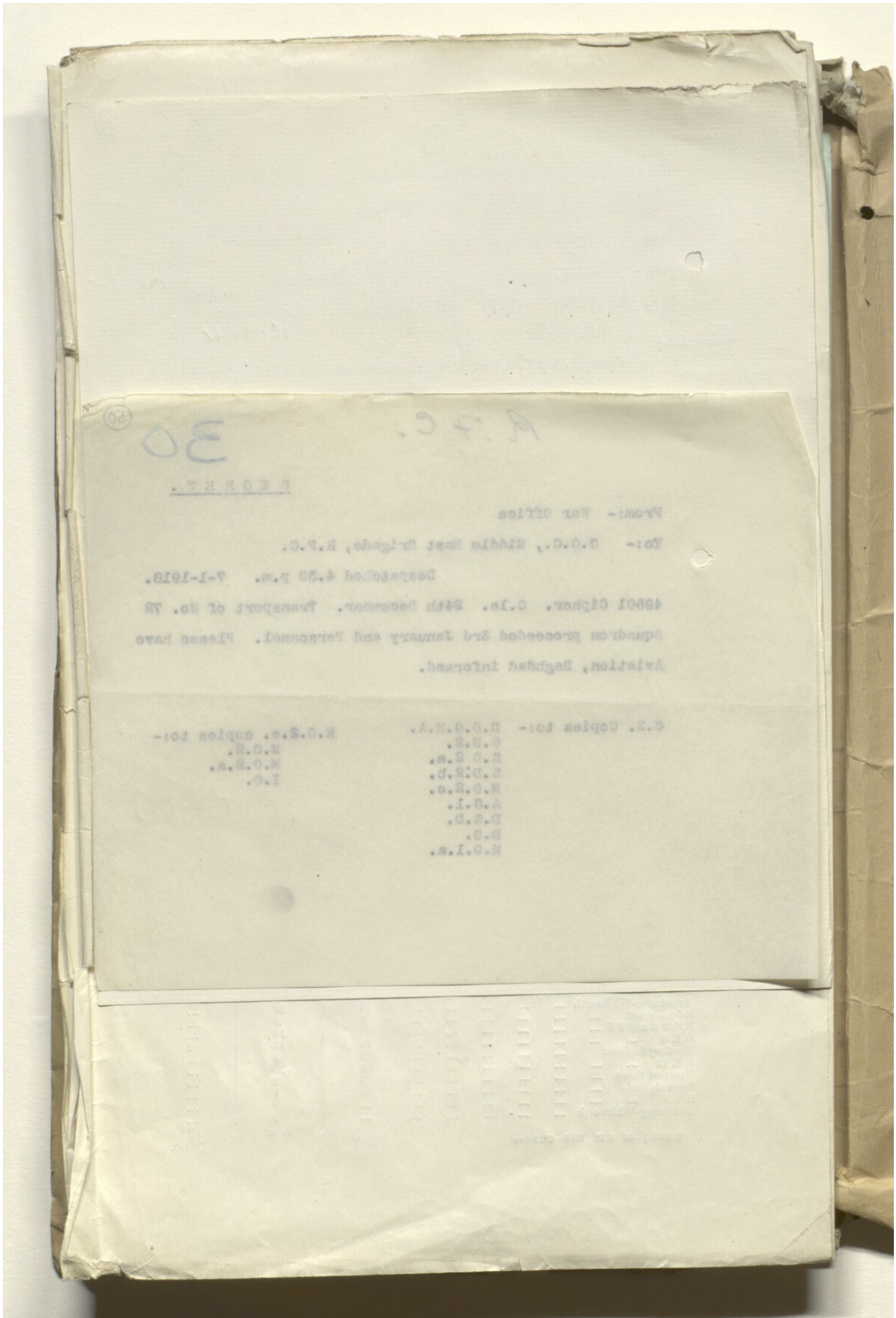
To:- C.O.C., Middle East Brigade, R.F.C.

Despatched 4.30 p.m. 7-1-1918.

49601 Cipher. O.l.a. 24th December. Transport of No. 72 Squadron proceeded 3rd January and Personnel. Please have Aviation, Baghdad informed.

C.2. Copies to:-  
D.D.G.M.A.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
M.O.2.c.  
A.G.1.  
D.S.D.  
D.O.  
M.O.1.a.

M.O.2.c. copies to:-  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
I.O.



A.F.C. 30

REPORT

From: War Office  
 To: G.O.C., Middle East Brigade, R.F.C.  
 Despatched 4.30 p.m. 7-1-1918.  
 48801 Signal Coy. 24th December. Transport of No. 78 Squadron proceeded 3rd January and Personnel. Please have Aviation, Baghdad informed.

C.S. Copies for:- G.O.C.M.A., G.O.C., G.O.C.A., G.O.C.P., G.O.C.E., A.O.I., D.S.D., D.O., G.O.I.A.

M.O.S.o. copies for:- M.O.S., M.O.S.A., I.O.





S E C R E T.

12/12/17.

3.p.m.

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. Middle East Brigade R.F.C.

47728 cipher C.1A.

Reference cable 46722 cipher C.1. addressed Mesopotamia repeated to you. Number allotted to third Mesopotamia Squadron is 72. Will you arrange supply of 12 Flying Officers for this squadron?

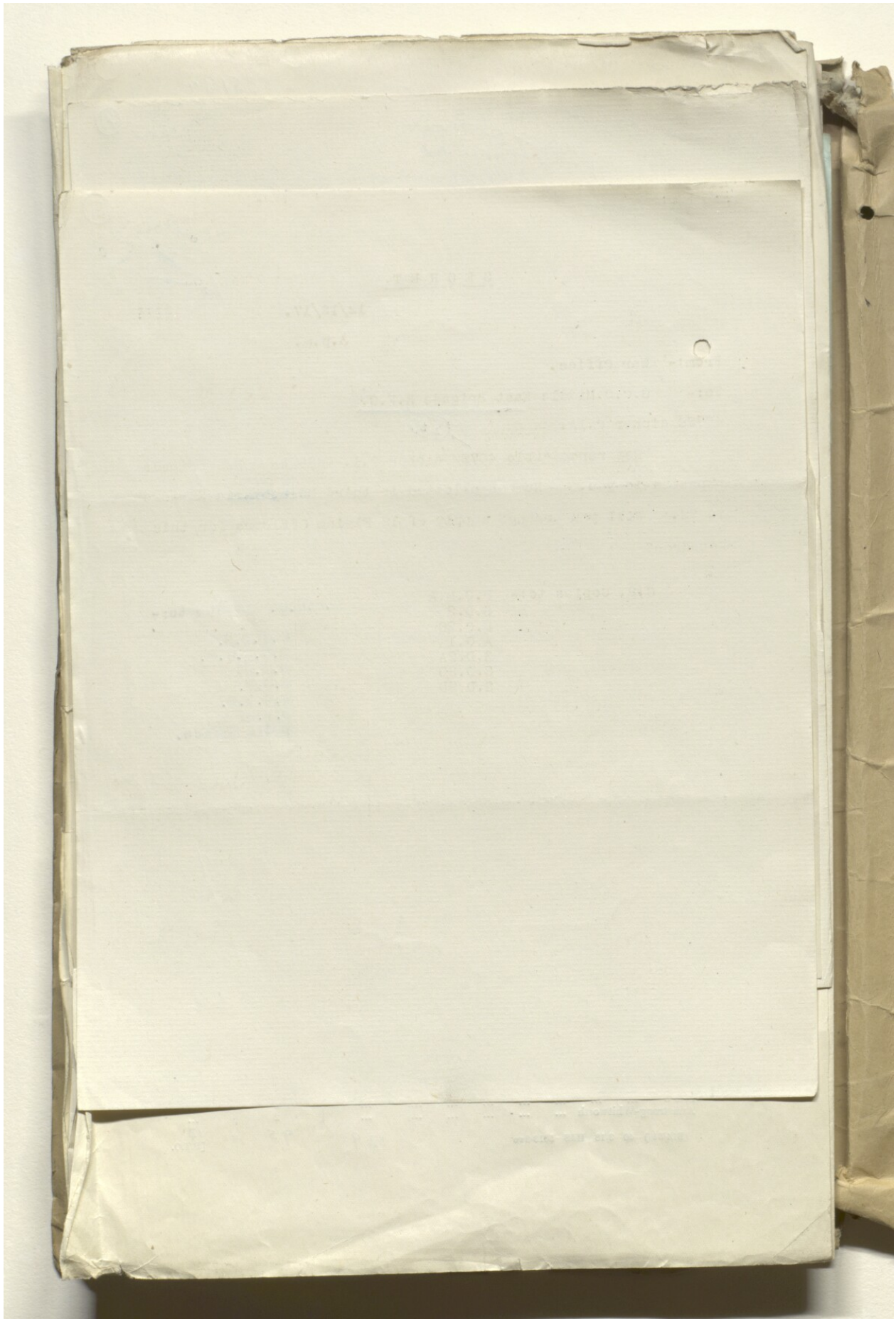
C.2. Copies to:-  
F.G.M.A  
S.D.2  
M.C.2C  
A.G.1  
S.D.2A  
S.D.2B  
S.D.2D

M.O.2.c. Copies to:-  
C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
India Office.

(51)

29

25







52

28.

S E C R E T.

From:- Aadastral War Office.

To:- G.O.C., Middle East Brigade, R.F.C. Cairo.

Despatched 4.0 p.m.

11:12:17.

87/9483.

47672 Cipher. O.l. Your T. 3221. December 7th. (25)

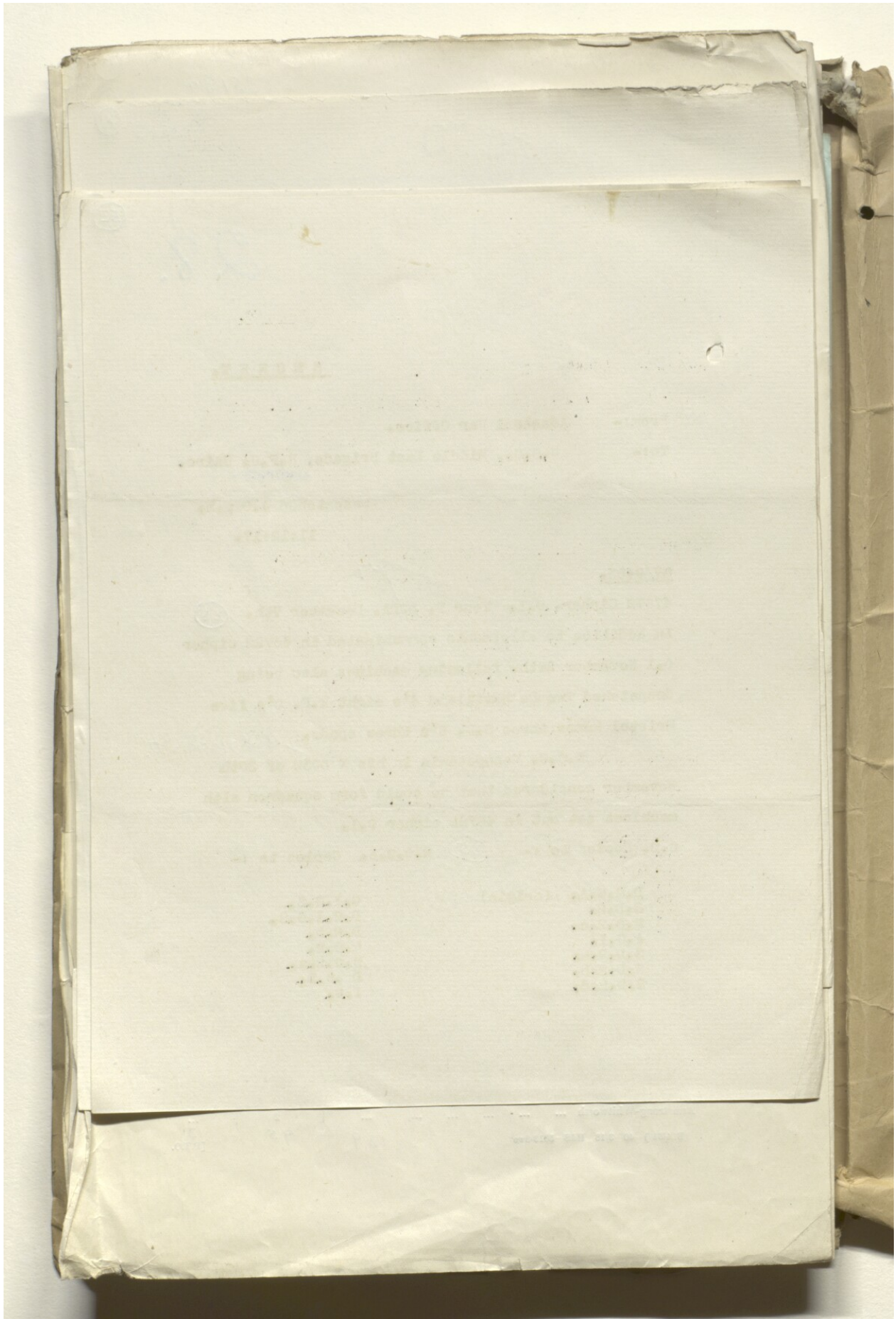
In addition to allotments communicated in 46722 Cipher O.l November 28th. following machines also being despatched Two De Havilland 4's eight R.E. 3's five Bristol Monos three S.E. 5's three spads. *Not recd 90.*

G.O.C. Mesopotamia in his X 5032 of 30th November considered that he could form squadron with machines set out in 46722 cipher O.l.

C.2. Copies to :- (25) M.O.2.c. Copies to :-

D.G.M.A. (origin)  
S.D.2.  
M.O.2.c.  
A.G.l.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.

C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
H.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
I.O.







R.F.C.  
Mesopotamia

J.O. (53)

27

SECRET.

Despatched 5.45 p.m. 7/12/17.  
Received 9 p.m. 7/12/17.

From:- G.C.C., M.S.B., R.F.C.

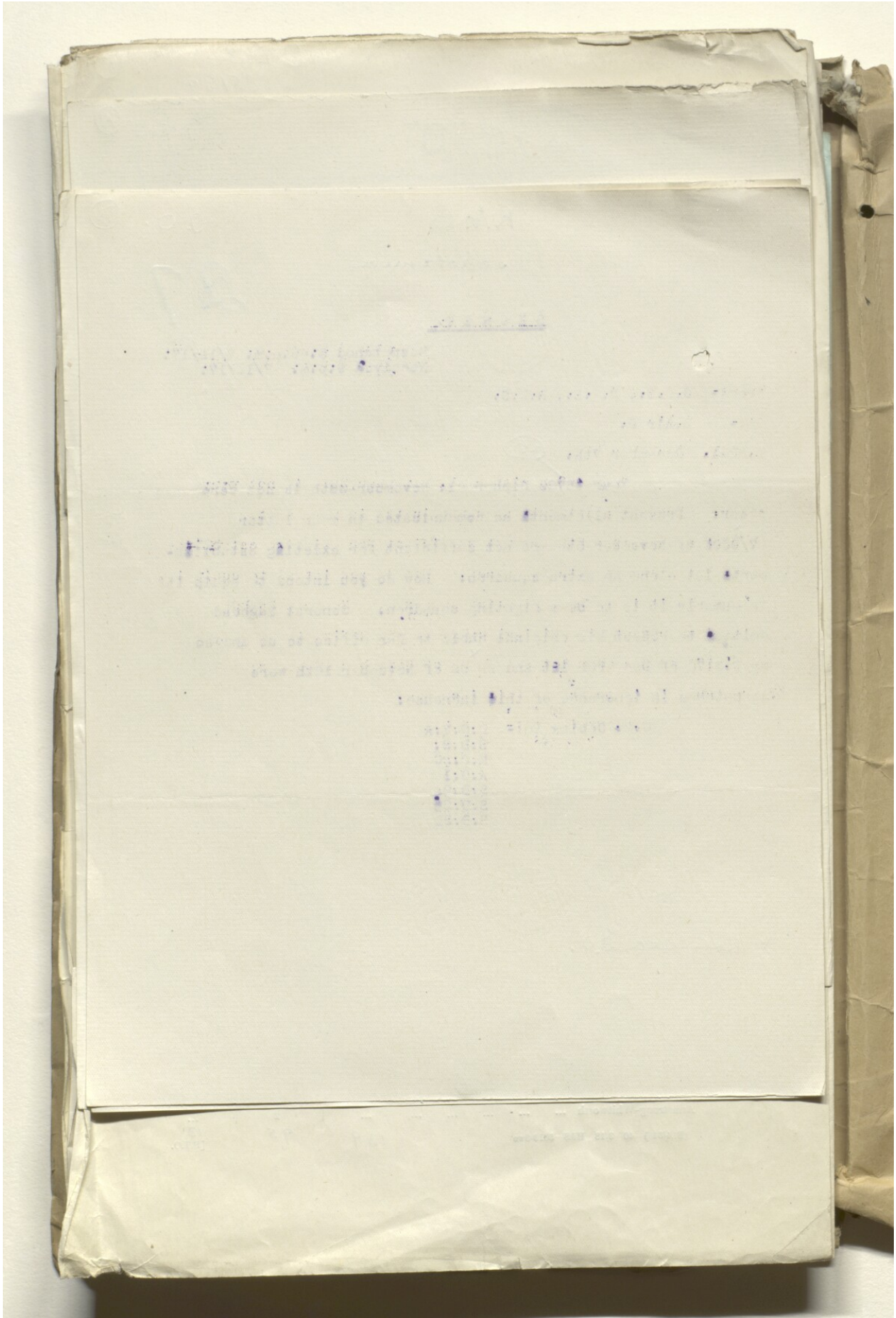
To:- D.Air O.

T.3231. December 7th. (25)

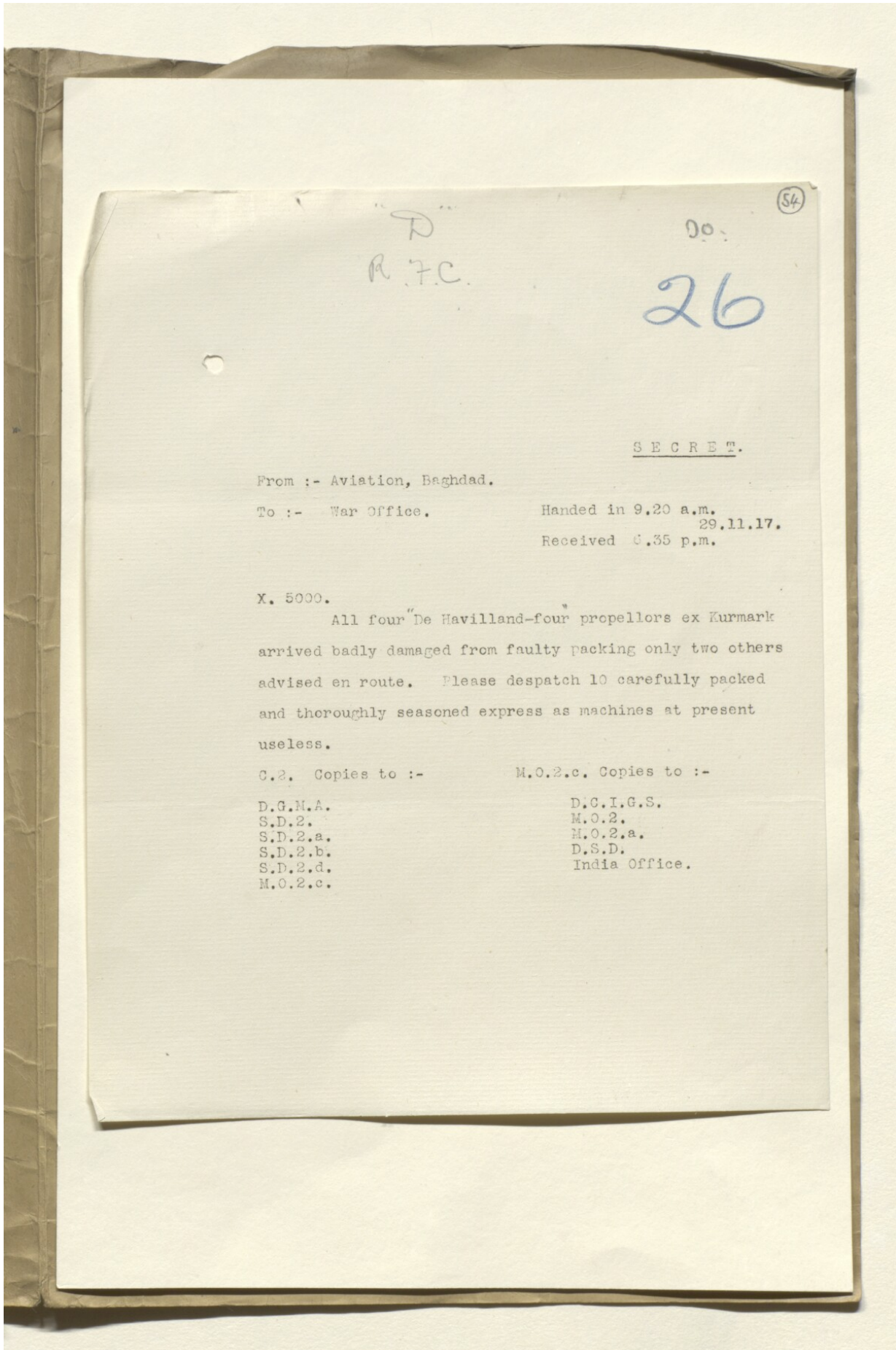
Your 46722 cipher O1. November 28th is not very clear. Present allotments as communicated in your letter 57/9395 of November 5th are not sufficient for existing establishments let alone an extra squadron. How do you intend to equip it? Presumably it is to be a fighting squadron. General Baghdad omitted to repeat his original cable to War Office to us and so my T.3170 of December 1st and PF 92 of November 16th were despatched in ignorance of this increase.

C.S. Copies to:-  
D.G.M.A  
S.D.2.  
M.C.2C  
A.G.1  
S.D.2A  
S.D.2B  
S.D.2D

x Noticed J.O.







"D"  
R.F.C.

Do: (54)  
26

S E C R E T.

From :- Aviation, Baghdad.

To :- War Office.

Handed in 9.20 a.m.

29.11.17.

Received 6.35 p.m.

X. 5000.

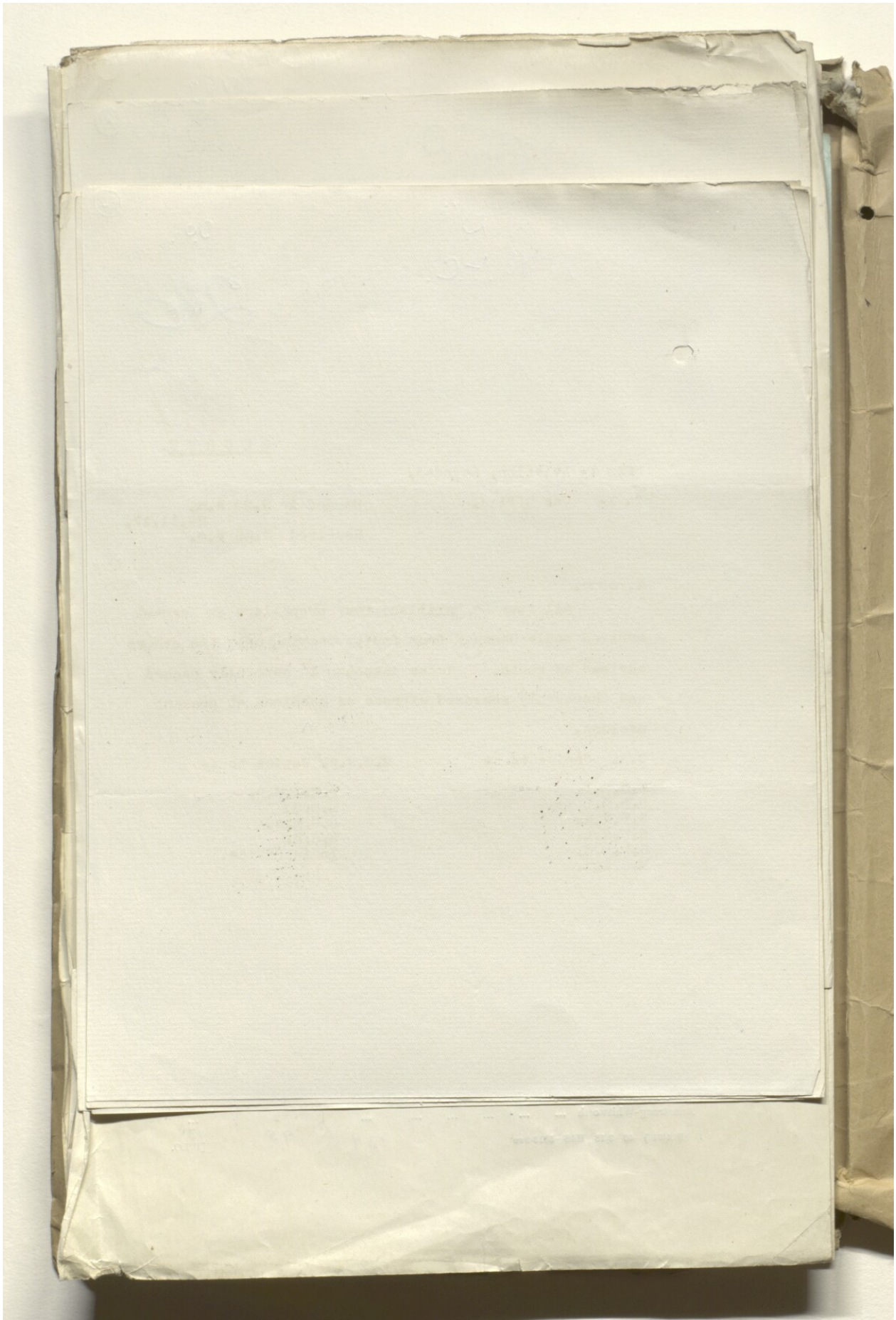
All four "De Havilland-four" propellers ex Kurmark arrived badly damaged from faulty packing only two others advised en route. Please despatch 10 carefully packed and thoroughly seasoned express as machines at present useless.

C.2. Copies to :-

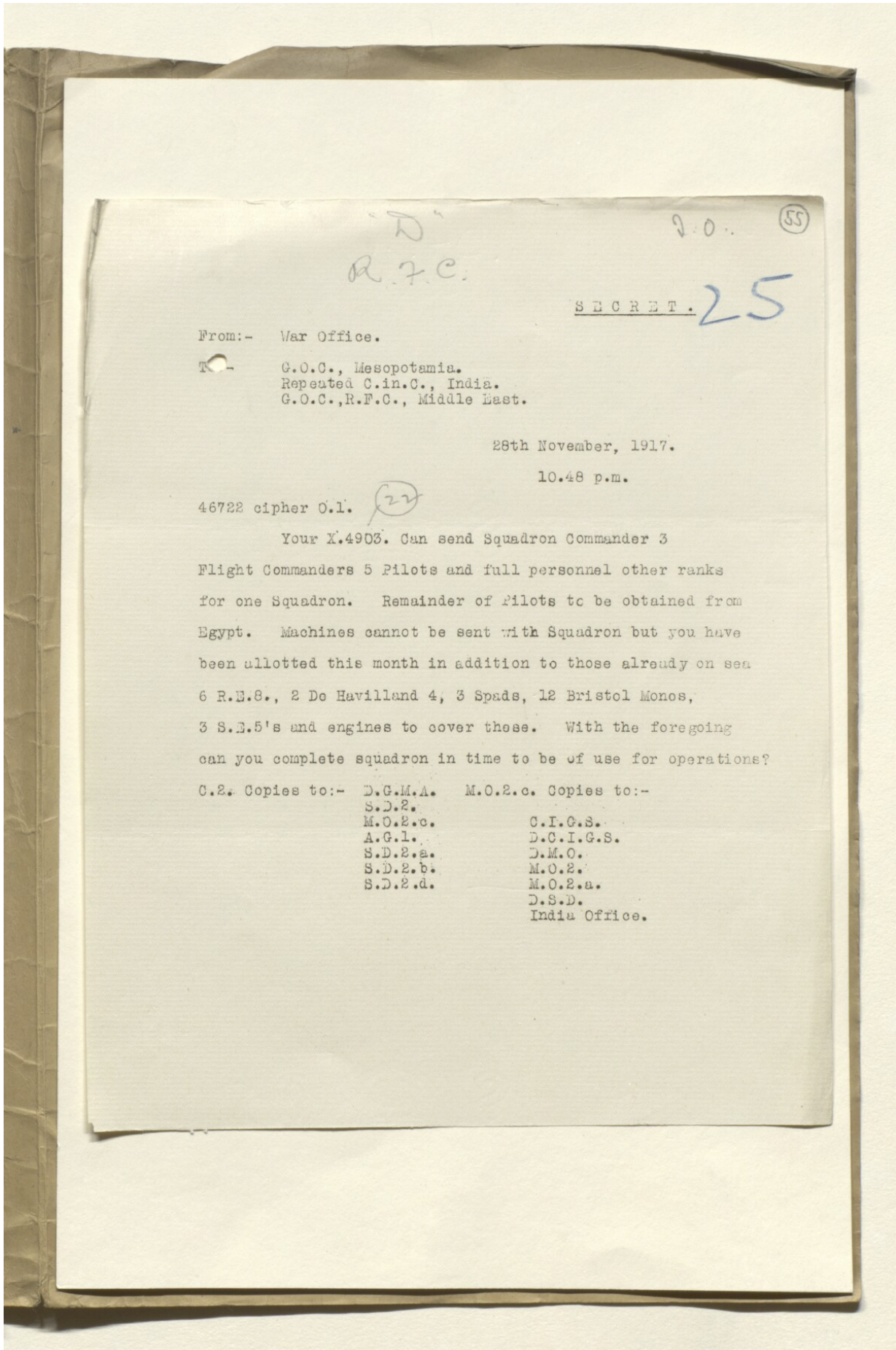
M.O.2.c. Copies to :-

D.G.M.A.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.  
M.O.2.c.

D.C.I.G.S.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
India Office.







"D"  
R.F.C.

P.O. (55)

SECRET 25

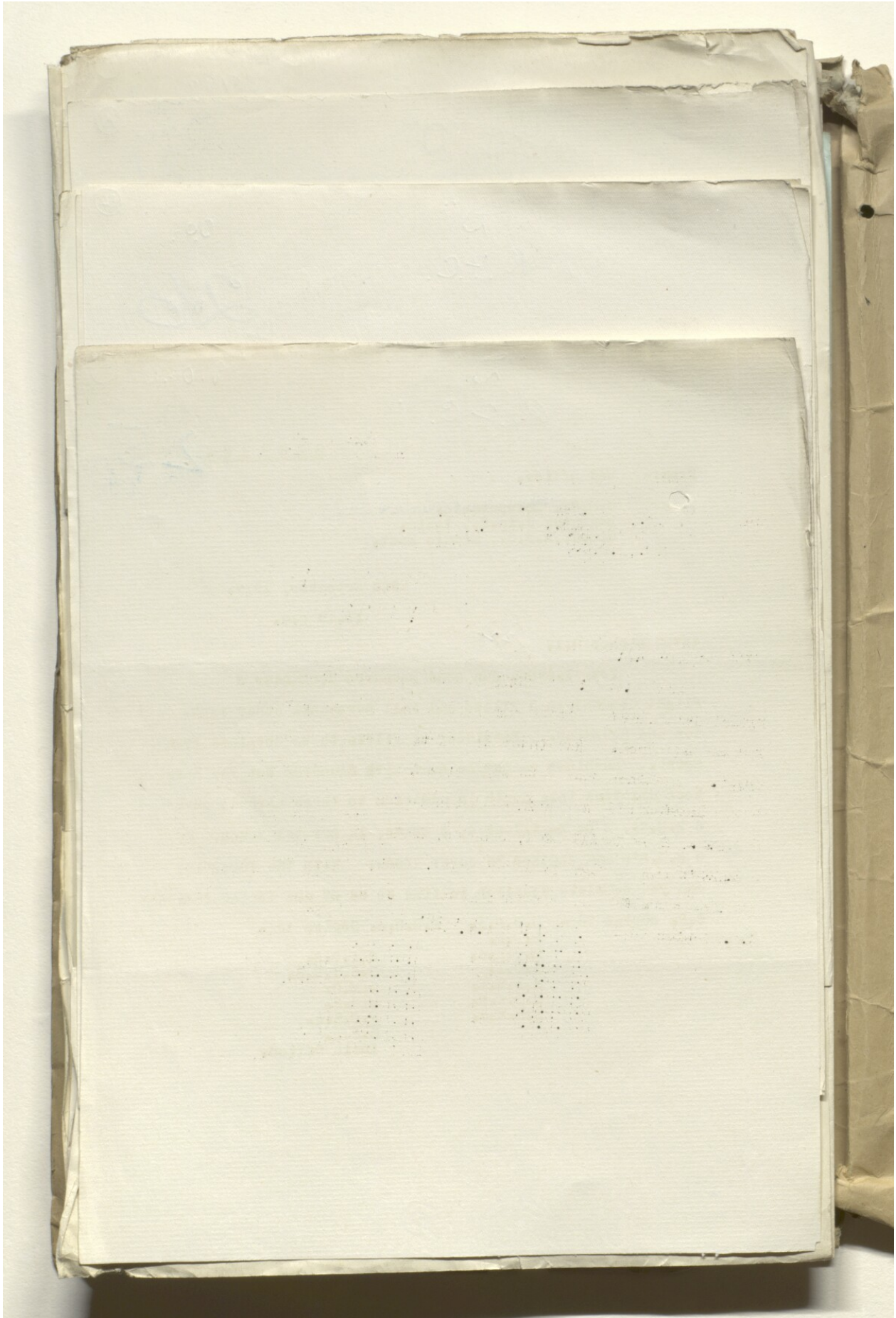
From:- War Office.  
To:- C.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
Repeated C.in.C., India.  
G.O.C., R.F.C., Middle East.

28th November, 1917.  
10.48 p.m.

46722 cipher O.L. (27)

Your X.4903. Can send Squadron Commander 3  
Flight Commanders 5 Pilots and full personnel other ranks  
for one Squadron. Remainder of pilots to be obtained from  
Egypt. Machines cannot be sent with Squadron but you have  
been allotted this month in addition to those already on sea  
6 R.E.8., 2 De Havilland 4, 3 Spads, 12 Bristol Monos,  
3 S.E.5's and engines to cover these. With the foregoing  
can you complete squadron in time to be of use for operations?

C.2. Copies to:- D.G.M.A. M.O.2.c. Copies to:-  
S.D.2.  
M.O.2.c.  
A.G.1.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.  
C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
India Office.







R.F.C.

20.

(56)

SECRET

24

From:- G.O.C., Middle East Brigade, R.F.C.  
To :- Director of Air Organization, War Office.

28.11.17.

Handed in 3.5.p.m.  
Received 7.30 p.m.

T.3141. 28th.

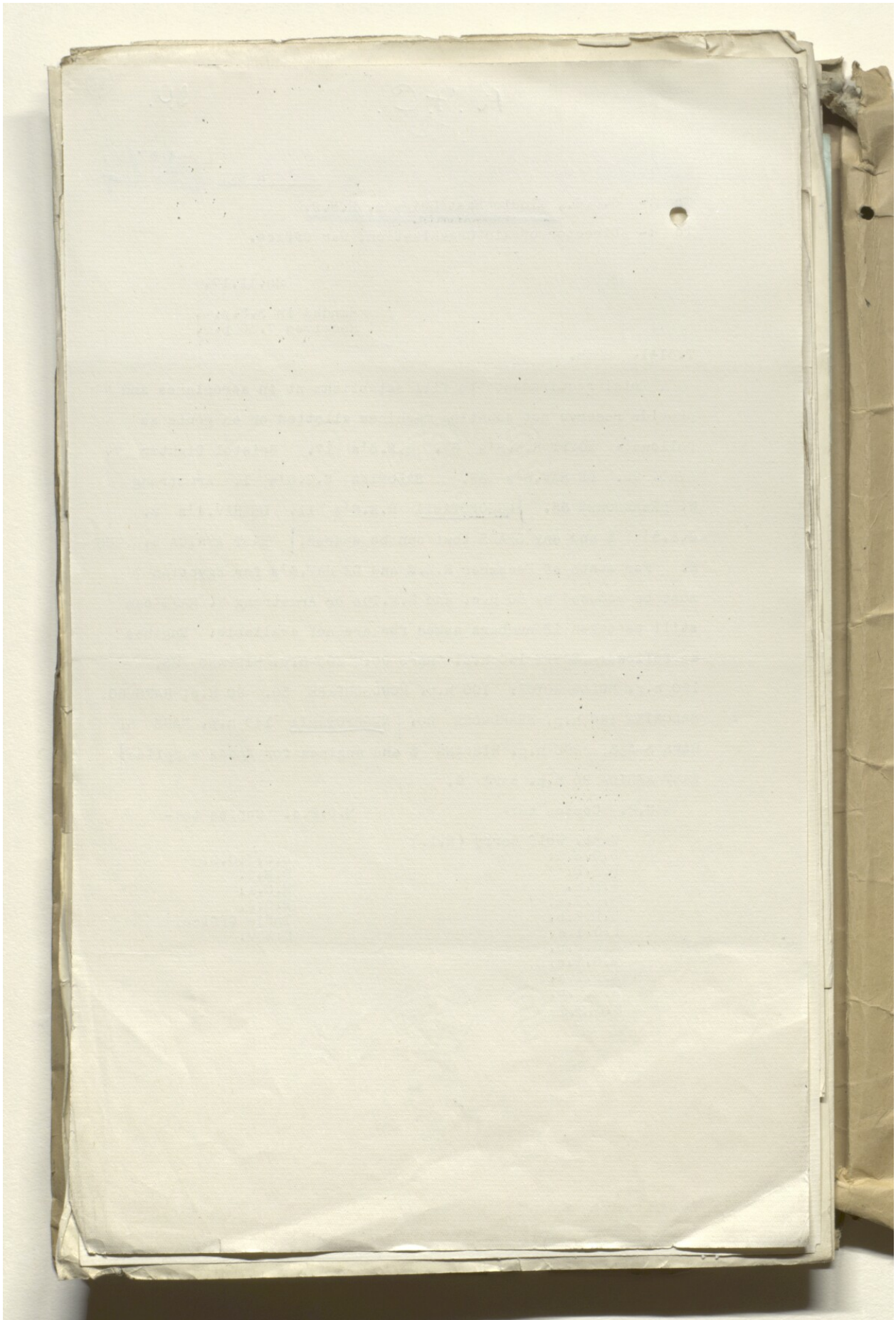
Total requirements to fill establishment in aeroplanes and provide reserve not counting machines allotted or en route as follows:- EGYPT R.E.8's 67. S.E.5's 17. Bristol fighter 7. AVRO 25. DE HAV.6's 39. SALONIKA S.E.5's 1. Armstrong W. BEARDMORES 55. | MESOPOTAMIA R.E.8's 11. DE HAV.4's 2. S.E.5's 3 and any SPADS that can be spared. | EAST AFRICA B.E.TUS 2. For month of December R.E.8 and DE HAV.6's for Egyptian ? must be reduced by 50 p.c. and B.E.Tus or Armstrong W. RAFS can still be taken if numbers asked for are not available. Engines as follows: EGYPT 140 h.p. RAFS 90. 200 h.p. HISPANO 25. 120 h.p. ROLLS ROYCE. 100 h.p. MONOSCOUPE 50. 90 h.p. RAFS 50. SALONIKA 160 h.p. BEARDMORE 80. | MESOPOTAMIA 140 h.p. RAFS 5. RAFS 3-A.3, 200 h.p. HISPANO 5 and engines for Spads supplies. | EAST AFRICA 90 h.p. RAFS 2.

C.2. Copies to:-

M.O.2.c. Copies to:-

Capt. Wolf Barry (E.1.)  
D.G.M.A.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
L.O.1.c.  
M.O.2.b.  
M.O.2.c.  
M.O.1.a.  
M.O.2.a.  
S.D.2.d.

D.C.I.C.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.1.  
M.O.2.  
India Office.  
D.Mov.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

(57)

22

SECRET

OPERATIONS.

From:- C-in-C. India.

Despatched 5.30 p.m. 24-11-17.

To:- C.I.G.S.

Received 11.30 p.m. 24-11-17.

Repeated Mesopotamia.

75558

(22)

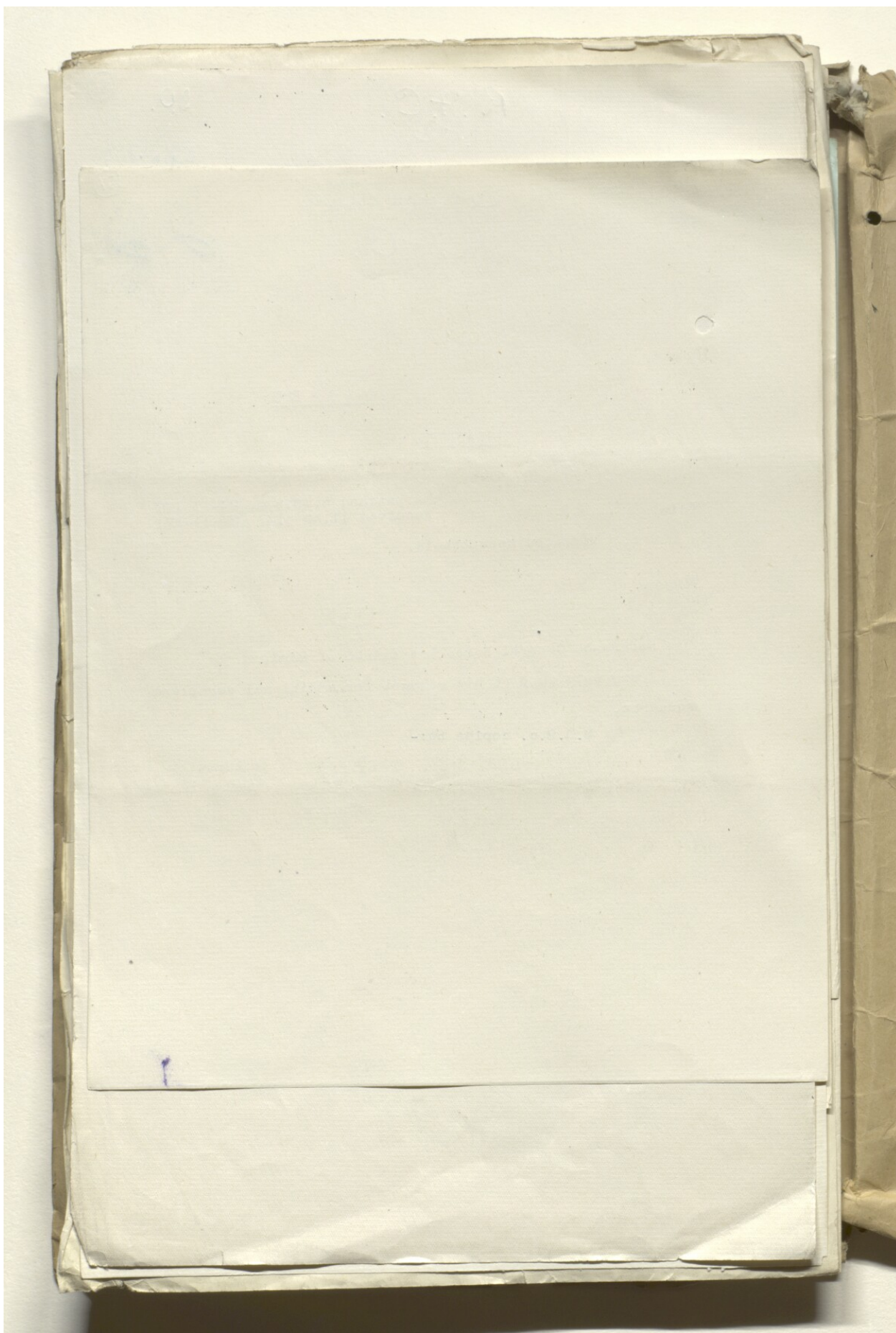
Reference General Force L's X.4968 of 23rd.

I strongly support his request for additional aeroplane  
squadron.

M.O.2.c. copies to:-

C.I.G.S.  
D.S. I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.

D.S.D.      D.G.M.A.  
S.D.2.      I.O.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.a.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

(58)

22

SECRET.

OPERATIONS.

From:- G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

To:- C.I.G.S.  
C.inC. India

Handed in at 1.10 p.m. 23.11.17

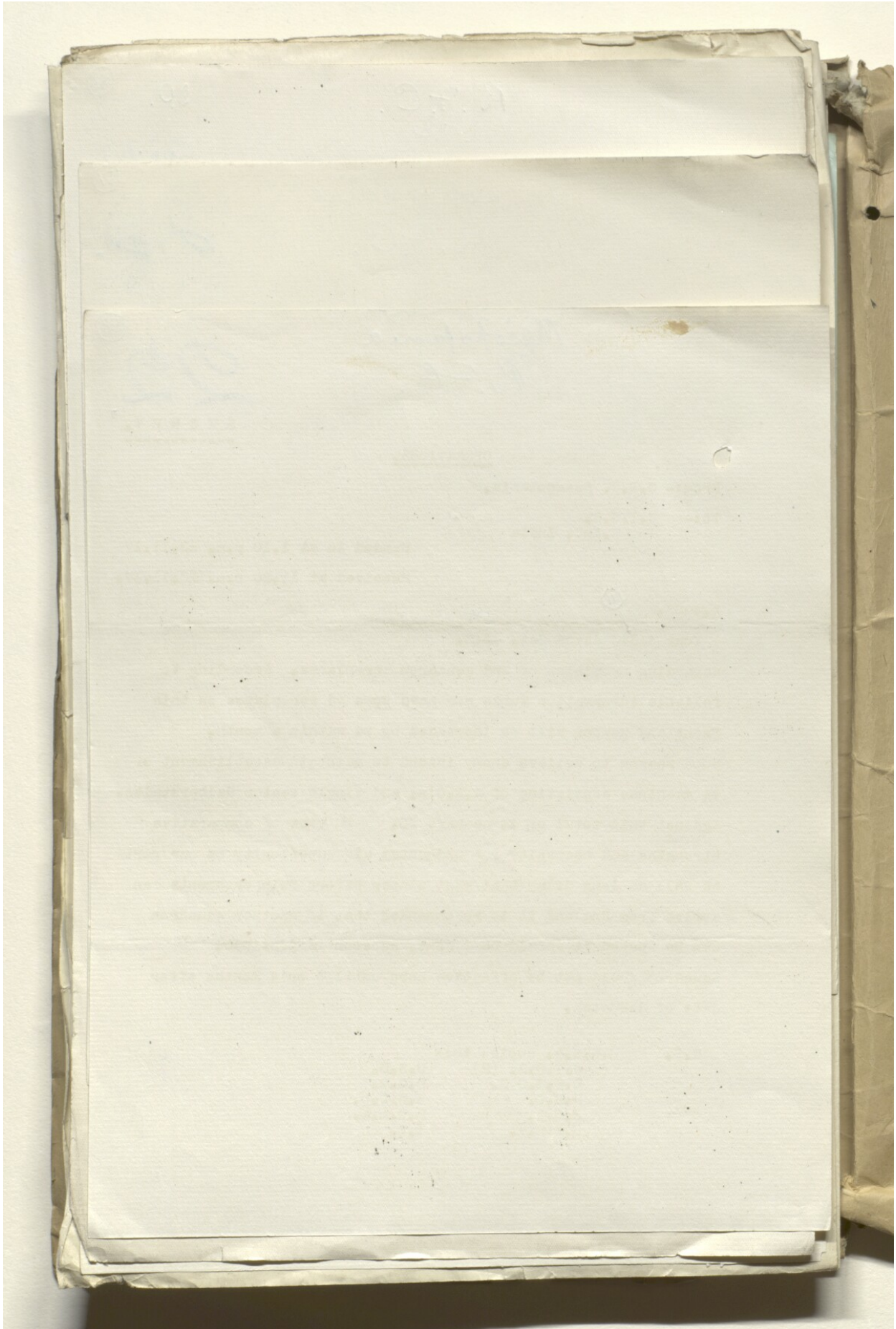
Received at 11.50 p.m. 23.11.17.

X.4903.

Your 43143 dated Oct. 15th.

Regarding provision of 3rd squadron aeroplanes. According to reliable information Turks now have some 26 aeroplanes on this front and number will be increased by 24 within a month. Good reason to believe enemy intend to maintain establishment of 44 machines consisting of A.E.G.'s, and single seater Halberstadts. Against this total of 44 we have 36. In view of comparative strengths and necessity for undoubted air superiority on our part as well as long delay that must elapse before reinforcements can arrive from England it is recommended that if another squadron can be spared it should be sent, as soon as possible. Squadron would not be effective here until 3 or 4 months after date of despatch.

C.2. M.O.2.c. copies to:-  
C.I.G.S. (2) D.S.D.  
D.C.I.G.S. S.D.2.  
D.M.O. S.D.2.b.  
M.O.2. D.G.M.A.  
M.O.2.a. I.O.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

(59)

21

S E C R E T.

From :- War Office. (E.1).

To :- G.O.C. Middle East Brigade, R.F.C., Cairo.

Despatched 10.45 p.m. 13-11-17.

45447 Cipher. A.3726 57/9397. Reference your T.2969 of 9th.

Four engines are en route. Four machines are at Docks for boat which may sail any day. Three more machines and four engines are being packed and will be ready for shipment by end of week. We can supply further machines but only an occasional engine. Machines are shipped as rapidly as space can be obtained.

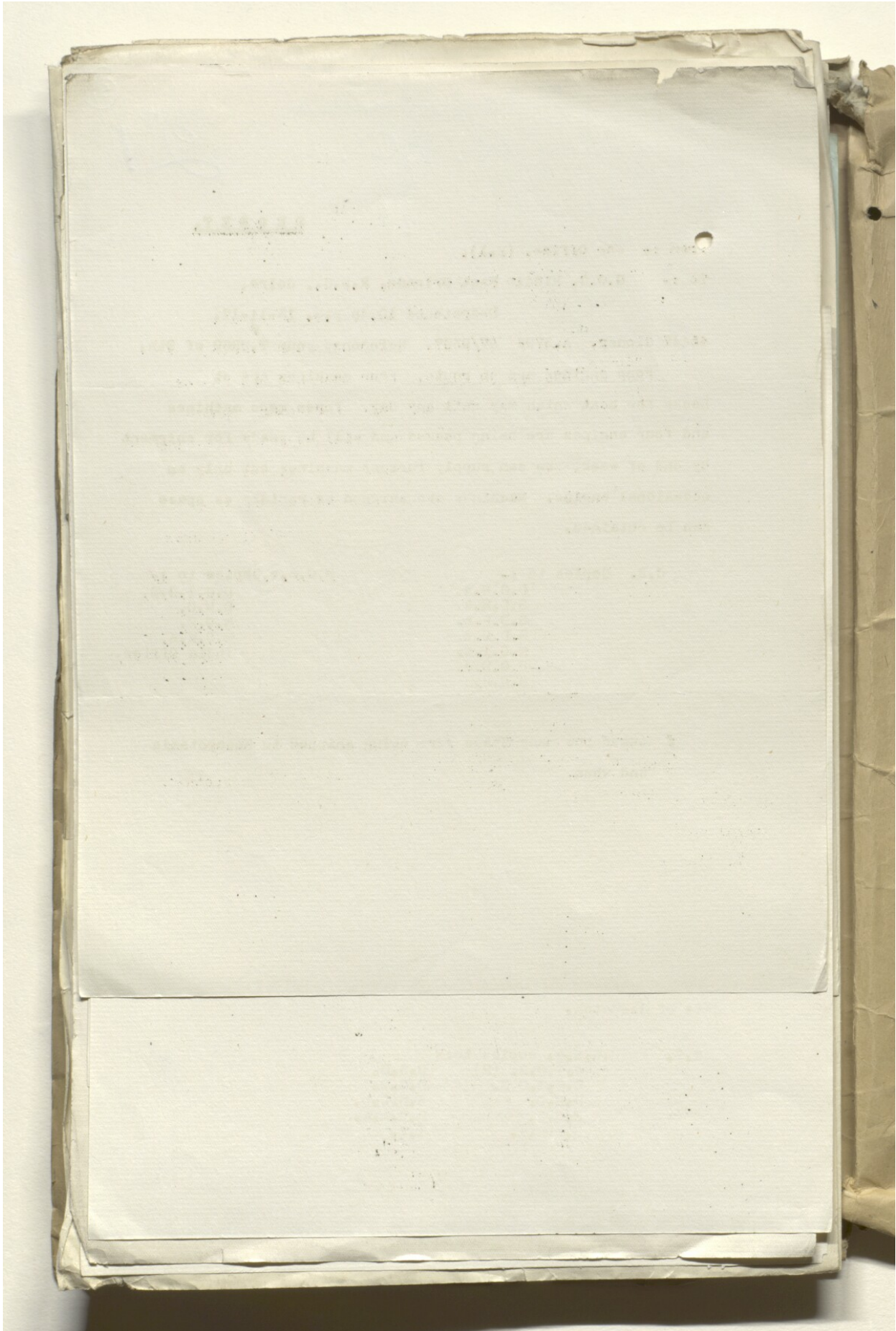
G.2. Copies to :-

D.G.M.A.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.  
M.O.1.a.  
M.O.2.c.  
S.D.2.

M.O.2.c. Copies to :-

D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.C.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
India Office.

∕ Asked how many Spads were being shipped to Mesopotamia and when.







60

20

S E C R E T .

From:- Aviation Baghdad.

To:- D Air O.  
Repeated G.O.C., M.E.B., R.F.C.

21.10.17.

X 4317.

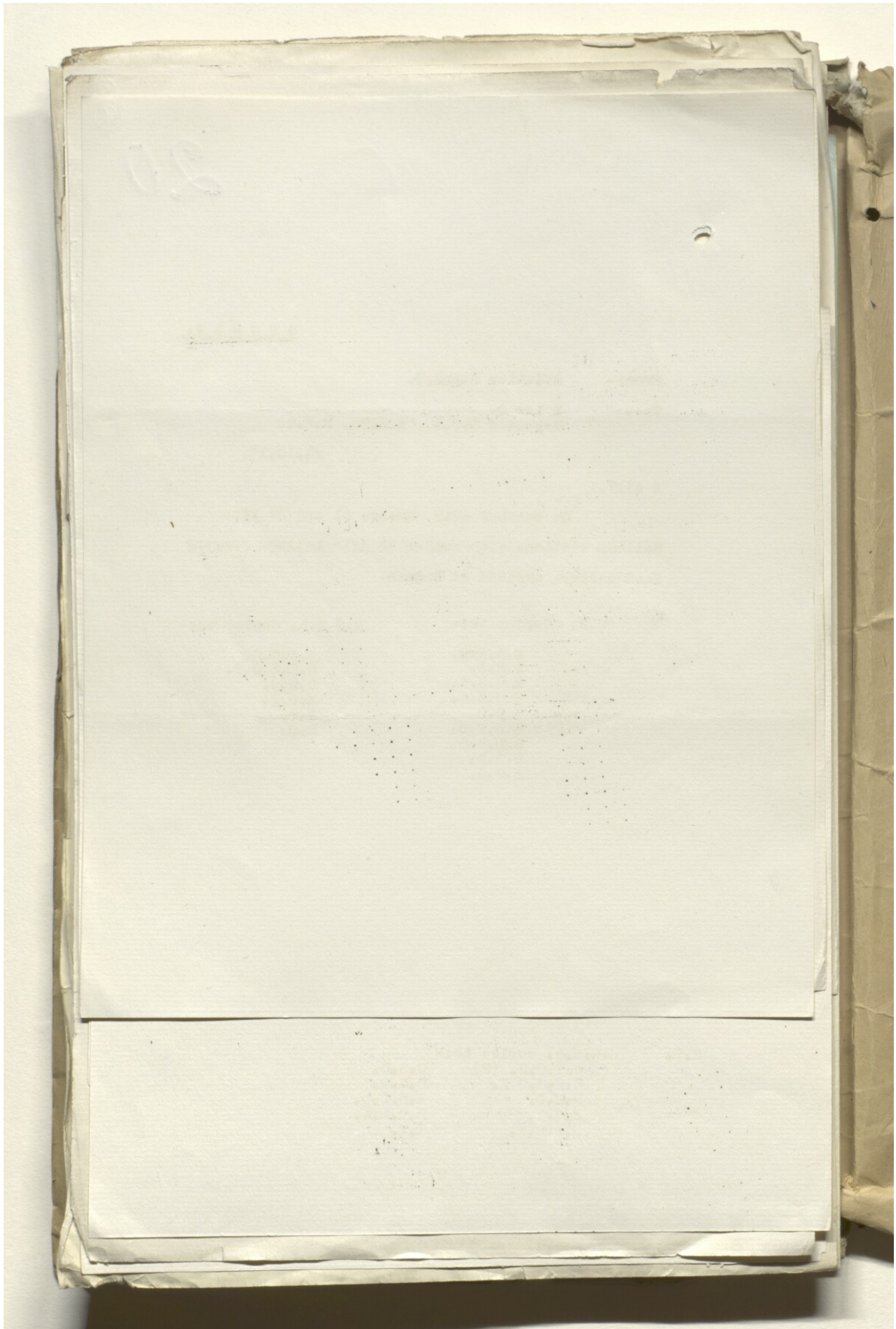
On October 19th numbers 51 and 52 Kite  
Balloon sections with number 23 Kite balloon company  
Headquarters arrived at Basrah.

C.2. Copies to:-

M.O.2.c. Copies to:-

M.A.Reg.  
S.R.1.  
M.O.2.c.  
M.O.2.a.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.  
L.S.D.  
A.G.1.

C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
I.O.  
D.O.







19 (61)

S E C R E T.

From :- War Office.

20.10.17.

To :- G.O.C., M.E.B., R.F.C.

6.30 p.m.

43707 cipher.

A.A. 3523 87/9400 E.l.a. 22.10.17.

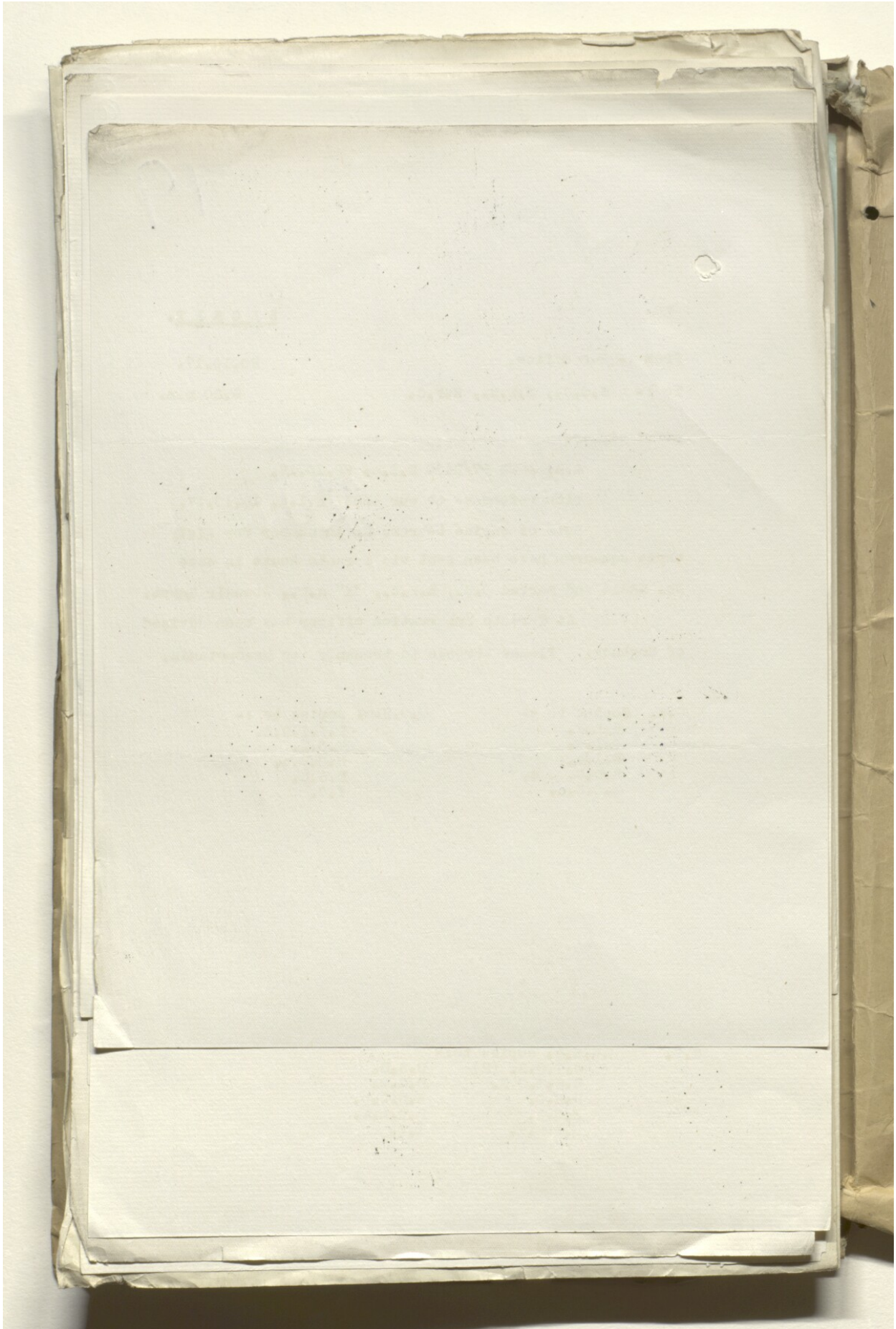
with reference to our 45537 E.l.a. 18.10.17.

Sets of engine bearers 25 in number for sixty three squadron have been sent via Taranto Route in case No. AS314 and marked O.C., R.F.C., "X" A.D., Aboukir Egypt.

At Taranto Embarkation officer has been advised of Urgency. Please arrange to tranship to Mesopotamia.

C.2. Copies to :-  
S.D.2.  
O.l.a.  
E.l.a.  
S.D.2. . d.  
M.O.2.c.

M.O.2.c. Copies to :-  
D.C.I.G.S.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
I.O.







SECRET.

(62)

18.

From :- War Office.

To :- Aviation Baghdad,  
repeated G.O.C. Middle East Brigade. R.F.C.

19/10/17.

43537 cipher E.1/A 3494. <sup>(14)</sup> 37/9397.

Reference your X.4221 of October 15th.

As soon as possible twenty four sets of bearers made of spruce with ash lining, which are latest modified type of bearers for <sup>REG</sup> Reaits, are being sent you for C3 Squadron; details of despatch will be cabled you. Magnetos for R.A.F.4A. Three are en route on S.S. "Hunnie", six are awaiting shipment, and a further thirty six will be sent as soon as possible; details of despatch will be cabled you. All magnetos will be sent in future in air-tight cases packed separate to engines. Spad propellers. 23 are en route on S.S. "Hunnie" which sailed October 8th. 30 more will be sent; details of despatch will be cabled as soon as possible. All Reaits despatched and being despatched for M.E.2. replacement are fitted with ash bearers; but spare bearers made of spruce with ash lining are being despatched either with the machines or sent you separately.

Addressed Aviation Baghdad, repeated G.O.C. Middle East Brigade R.F.C.

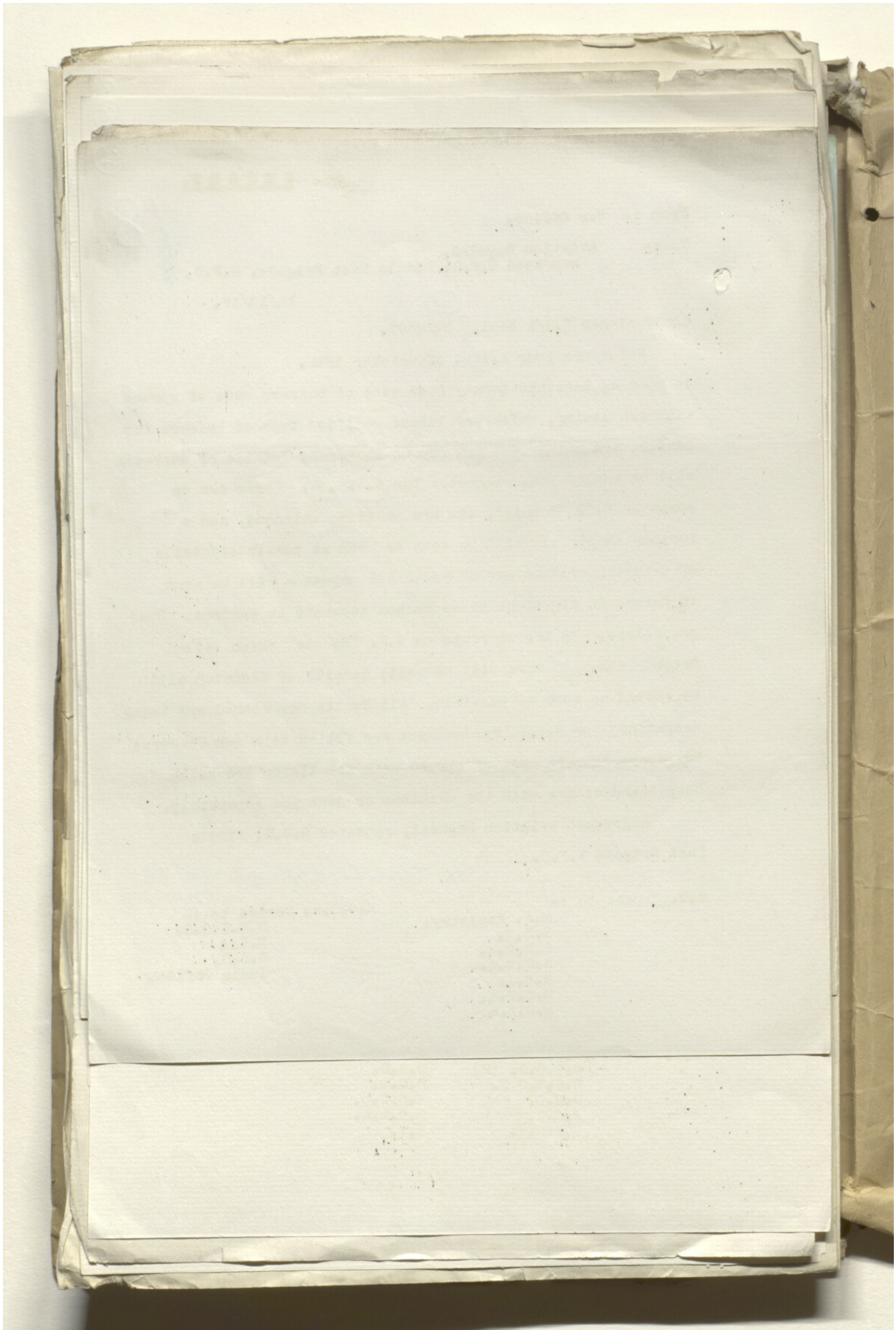
X This is the 12 cyl engine of the REG machines.

C.2. Copies to :-

M.A. Registry.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.  
M.O.1.  
M.O.2.a.  
M.O.2.c.

M.O.2.c. Copies to :-

D.C.I.G.S.  
M.C.2  
D.S.D.  
India Office.







63

17.

S E C R E T

From:- War Office.

To :- G.O.C. Mesopotamia.  
replaced G.O.C. Middle East Brigade  
R.F.C. Cairo.

16.10.17.

3 p.m.

43330 cipher O.I.a. (8)

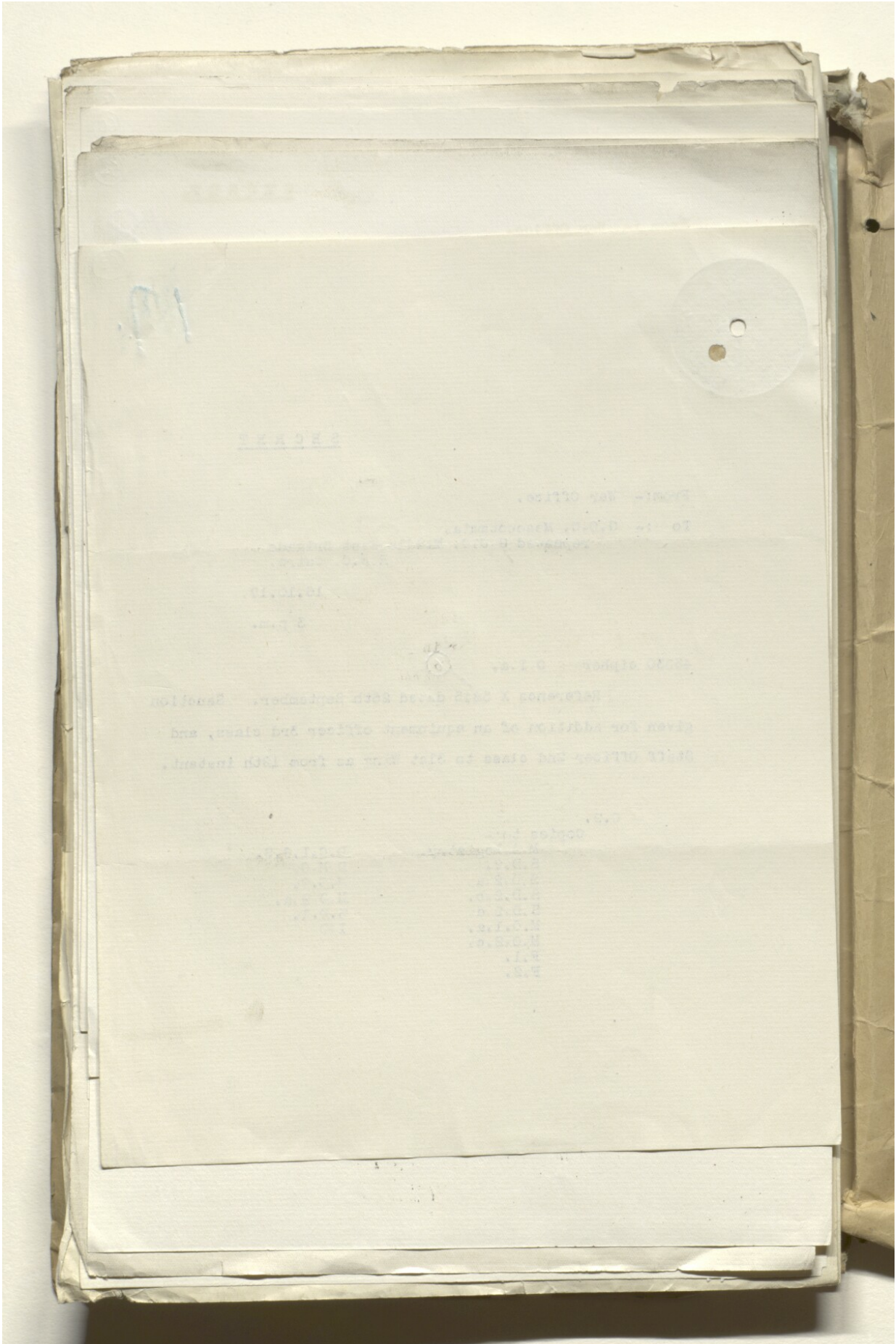
Reference X 3815 dated 26th September. Sanction  
given for addition of an equipment officer 3rd class, and  
Staff Officer 2nd class to 31st Wing as from 12th instant.

C.2.

Copies to:-

M.A. Registry.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.a.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.d.  
M.O.1.a.  
M.O.2.c.  
F.1.  
F.2.

D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
S.D.1.  
I.O.







16 (64)

S E C R E T.

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C. Middle East Brigade, Cairo.

16th October 1917.

6.40 p.m.

43353 cipher A 3472 87/9100

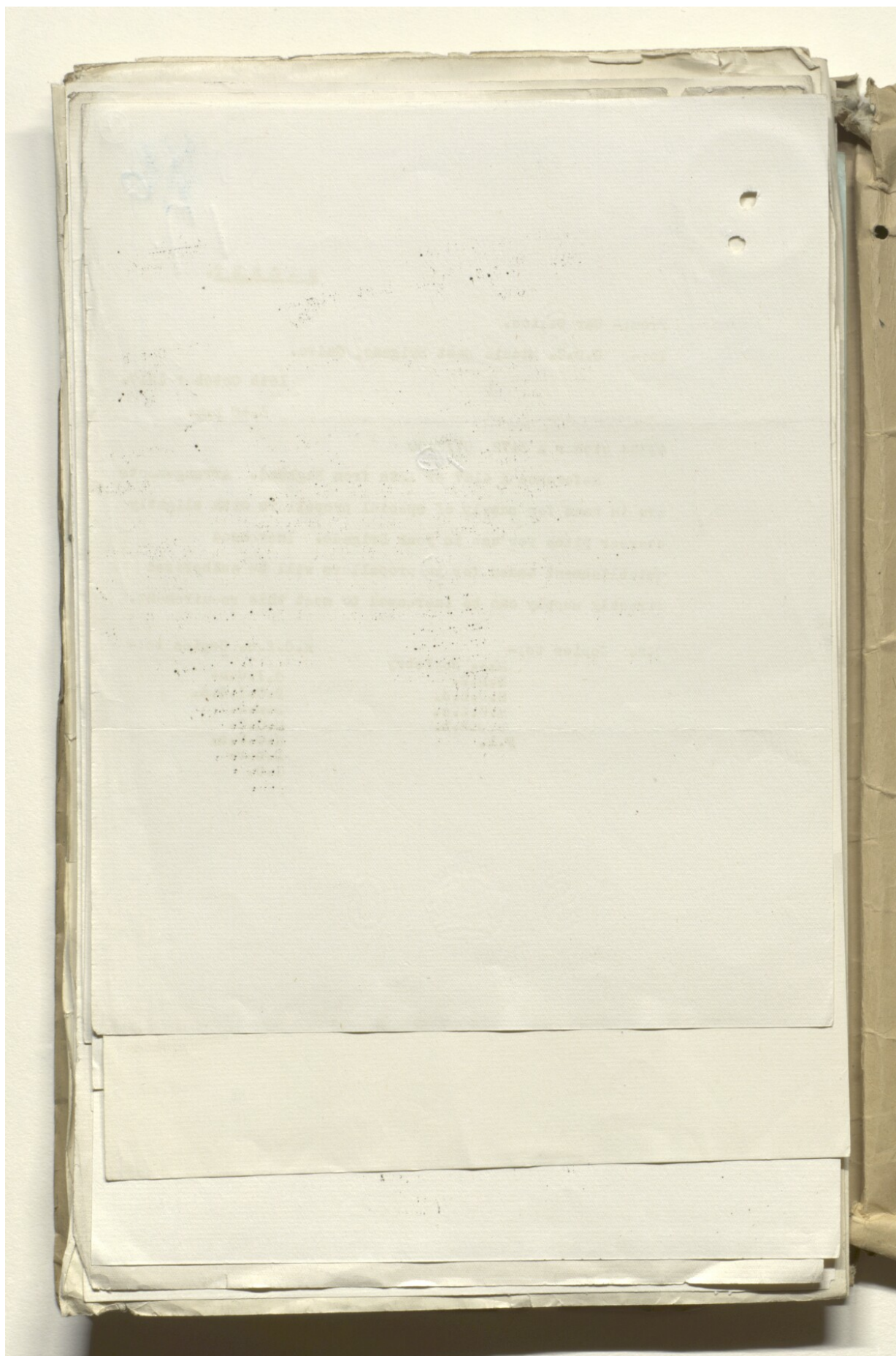
Reference X 4187 of 13th from Baghdad. Arrangements are in hand for supply of special propellers with slightly coarser pitch for use in your Brigade. Increased establishment asked for in propellers will be authorised directly supply can be increased to meet this requirement.

C.2. Copies to:-

M.A. Registry  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.d.  
M.O.2.c.  
S.D.2.b.  
F.l.

M.O.2.c. Copies to:-

C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
I.O.







SECRET.

(65)

15

From:- War Office.

To:- G.O.C., Middle East Brigade, Cairo.

16th October, 1917.

3.50 p.m.

43400 cipher. A.3471 87/869.

Reference X.4203 of 14th from G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

Position in regard to Reait Engine Bearers is as follows: Originally spruce bearers were fitted subsequently ash bearers were substituted not owing to defect in spruce but owing to bolt-heads tending to pull into wood. Subsequently spruce was re-substituted for ash. Our 40397 cipher E.J. 3062 of 29th August informed you definitely that machines of 63 Squadron were all right. The position was also explained fully in our 87/869 of the 30th August. Further supplies of R.A.F. 4A. magnets and of Spad propellers being despatched.

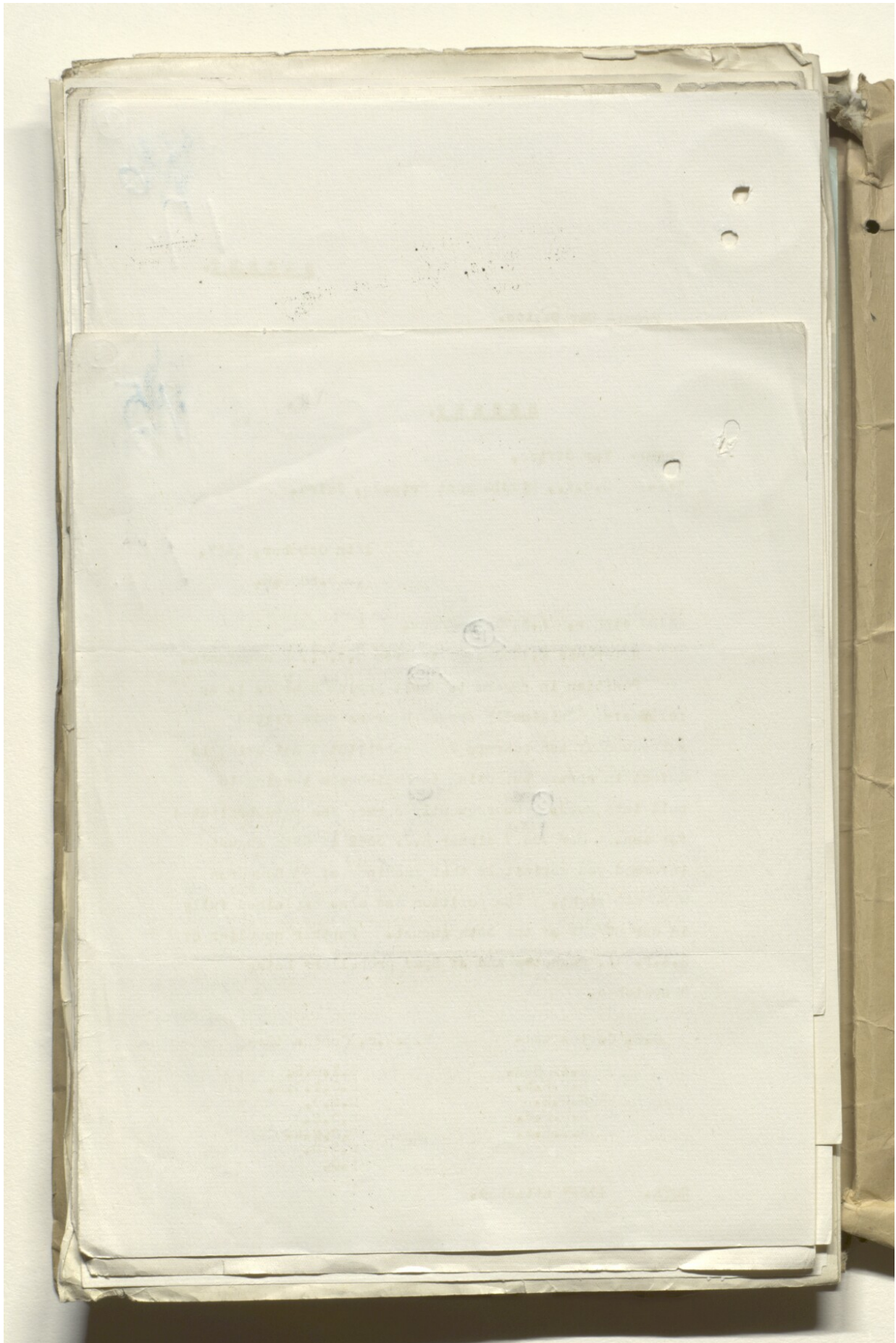
C.2. Copies to:-

M.A. Reg.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.d.  
M.O.2.c.

M.O.2.c. Copies to:-

C.I.G.S.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a.  
D.S.D.  
I.O.

NOTE. 40397 attached.







SECRET.

14 (66)

From:- Aviation, Baghdad.

To :- Ad.stral. Repeated G.O.C., M.E.B., R.F.C. Cairo.

15th October 1917.

(13)  
4203

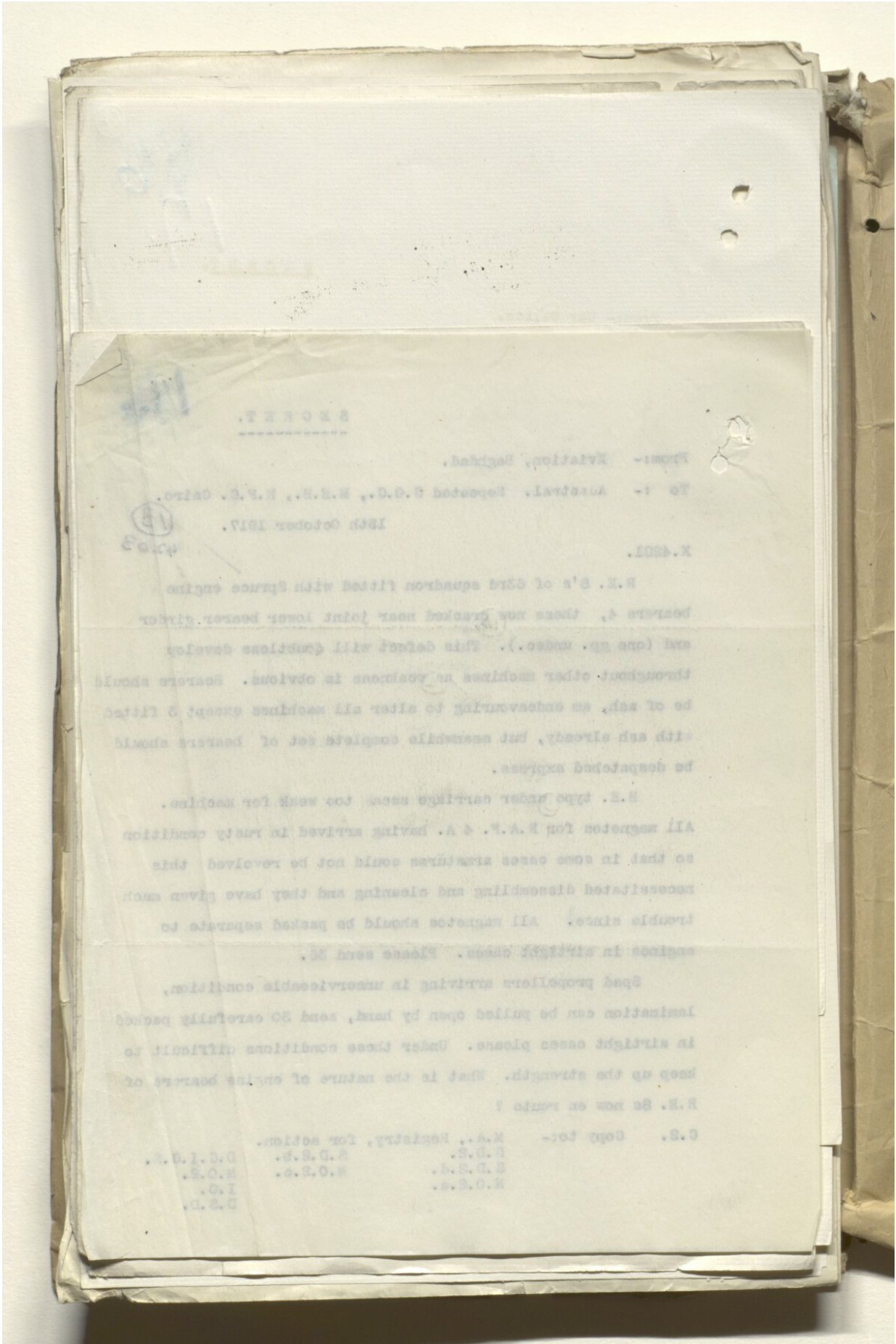
X.4221.

R.E. 8's of 63rd squadron fitted with Spruce engine bearers 4, these now cracked near joint lower bearer girder and (one gp. undec.). This defect will doubtless develop throughout other machines as weakness is obvious. Bearers should be of ash, am endeavouring to alter all machines except 3 fitted with ash already, but meanwhile complete set of bearers should be despatched express.

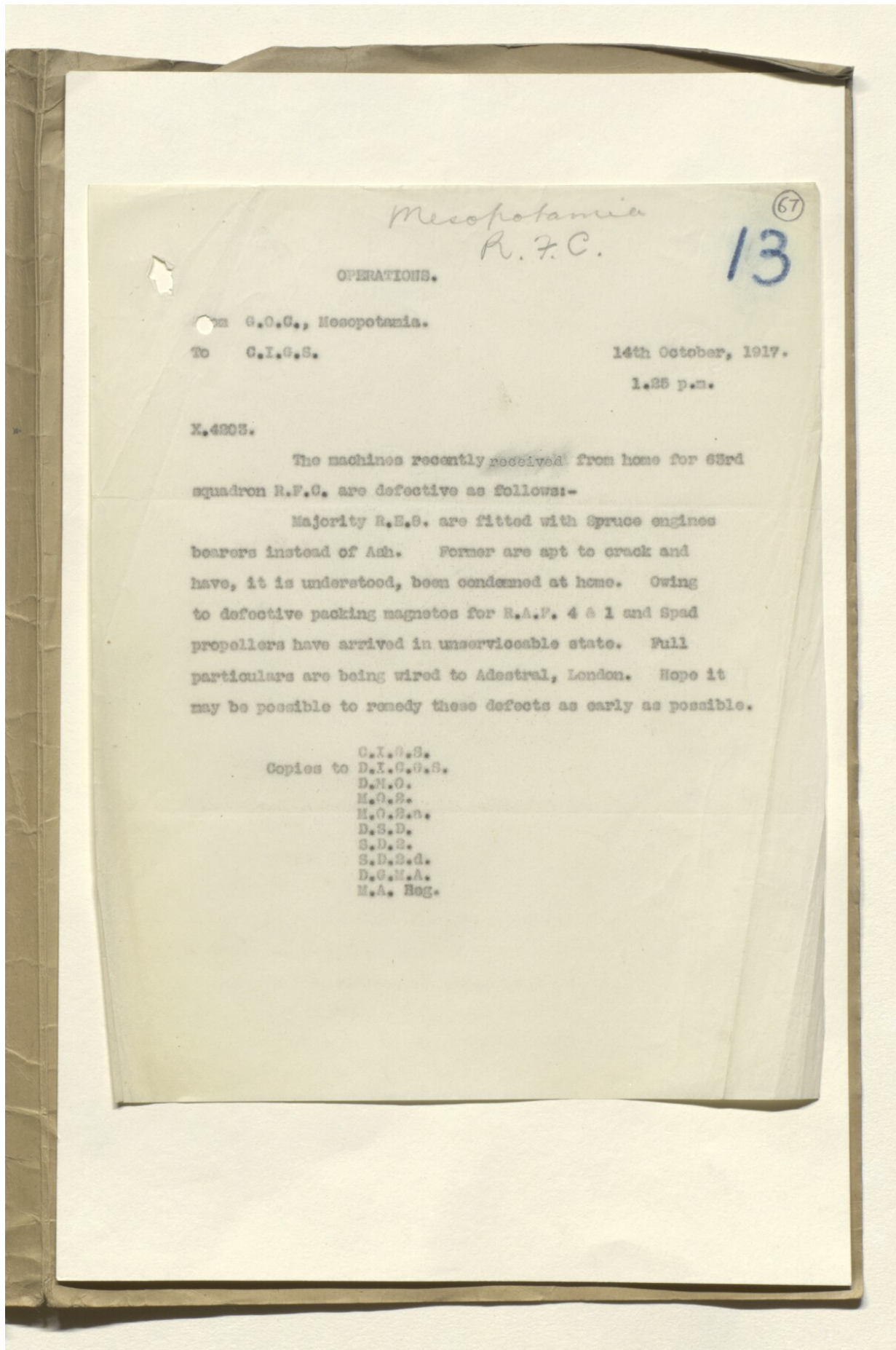
B.E. type under carriage seem too weak for machine. All magnetos for R.A.F. 4 A. having arrived in rusty condition so that in some cases armatures could not be revolved this necessitated dissembling and cleaning and they have given much trouble since. All magnetos should be packed separate to engines in airtight cases. Please send 36.

Spad propellers arriving in unserviceable condition, lamination can be pulled open by hand, send 30 carefully packed in airtight cases please. Under these conditions difficult to keep up the strength. What is the nature of engine bearers of R.E. 8s now en route ?

C.2. Copy to:- M.A., Registry, for action.  
S.D.2. S.D.2.b. D.C.I.G.S.  
S.D.2.d. M.O.2.c. M.O.2.  
M.O.2.a. I.O.  
D.S.D.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

(67)

13

OPERATIONS.

From G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
To C.I.C.S.

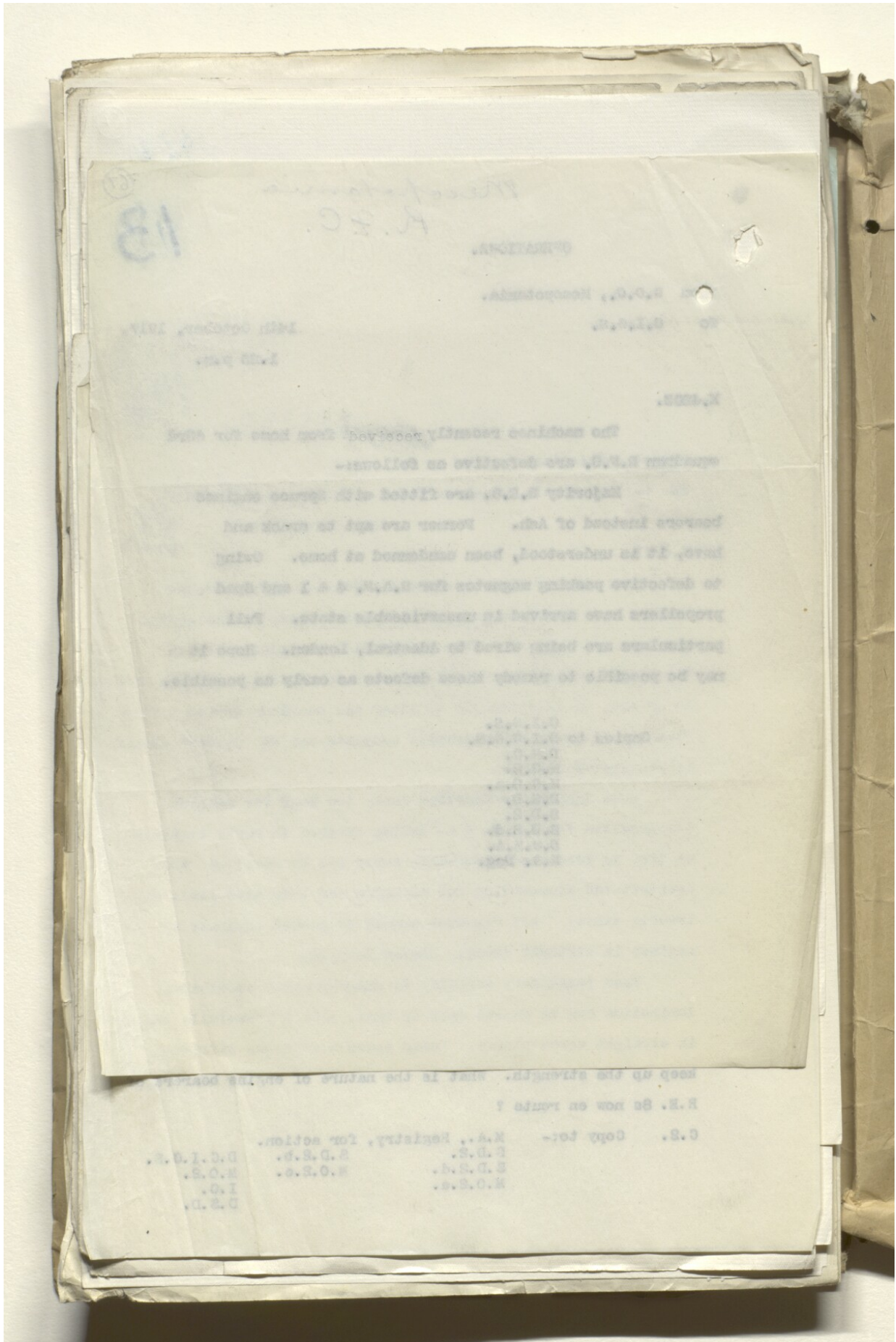
14th October, 1917.  
1.35 p.m.

X.4803.

The machines recently received from home for 68rd  
squadron R.F.C. are defective as follows:-

Majority R.E.S. are fitted with Spruce engines  
bearers instead of Ash. Former are apt to crack and  
have, it is understood, been condemned at home. Owing  
to defective packing magnetos for R.A.F. 4 & 1 and Spad  
propellers have arrived in unserviceable state. Full  
particulars are being wired to Adestral, London. Hope it  
may be possible to remedy these defects as early as possible.

Copies to  
G.I.C.S.  
D.I.C.S.  
D.M.O.  
M.O.S.  
M.O.S.O.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.S.  
S.D.S.d.  
D.C.M.A.  
M.A. Reg.







12<sup>(68)</sup>

S E C R E T.

From :- Aviation Bagdad.

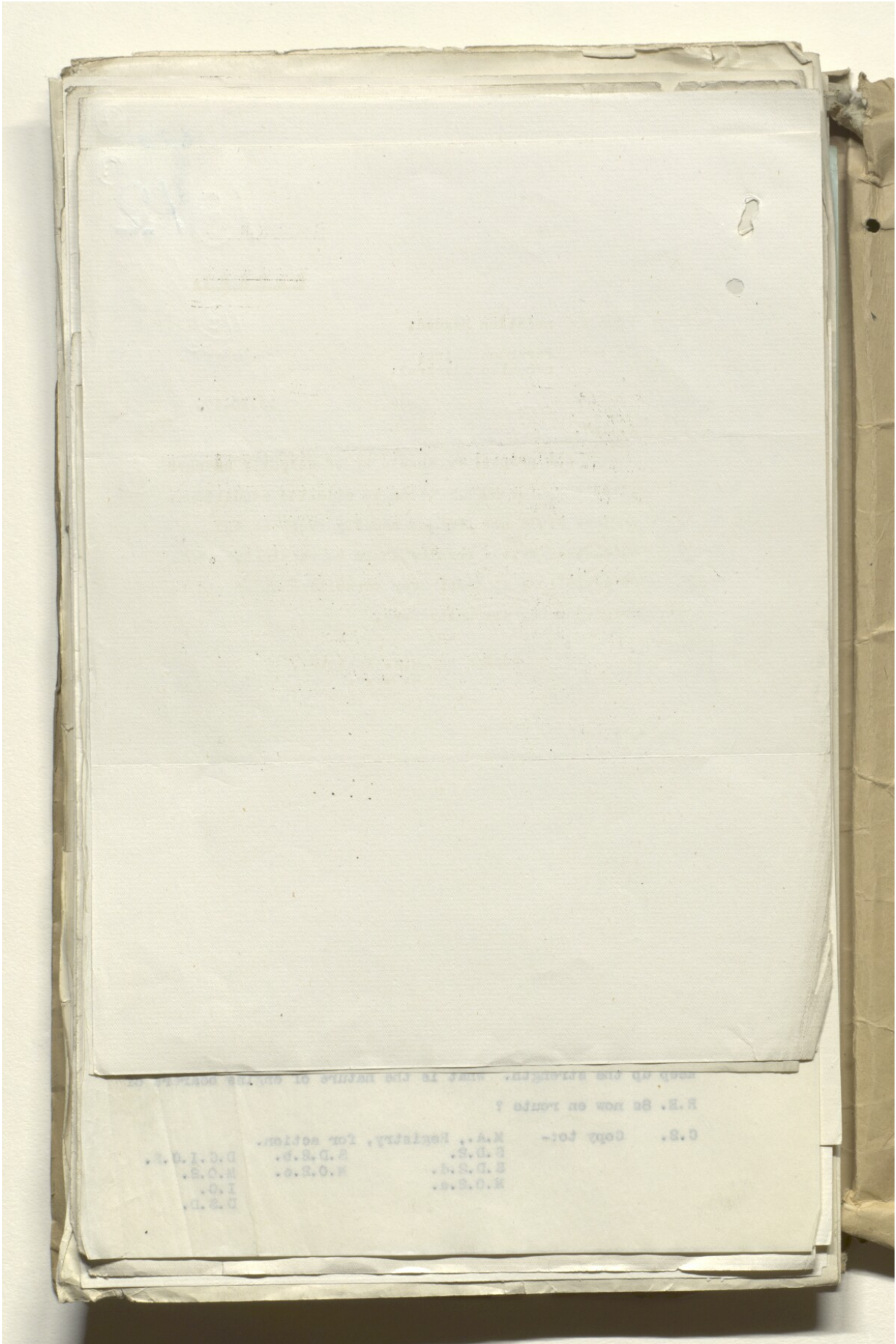
To :- Perardua Cairo,  
repeated Adastral.

13.10.17.

X.4187.

All propellers should be of slightly coarser pitch than for Europe owing to climatic conditions. Engines would not then so readily overheat and altogether better results would be obtained. 50% of propellers at least over establishment should be maintained by all units here.

Copies to M.A. Registry.  
M.O.2.c.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

SECRET.

69  
11

Operations.

From:- C.I.G.S.  
To:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
C.in.C., India.

12th October, 1917.

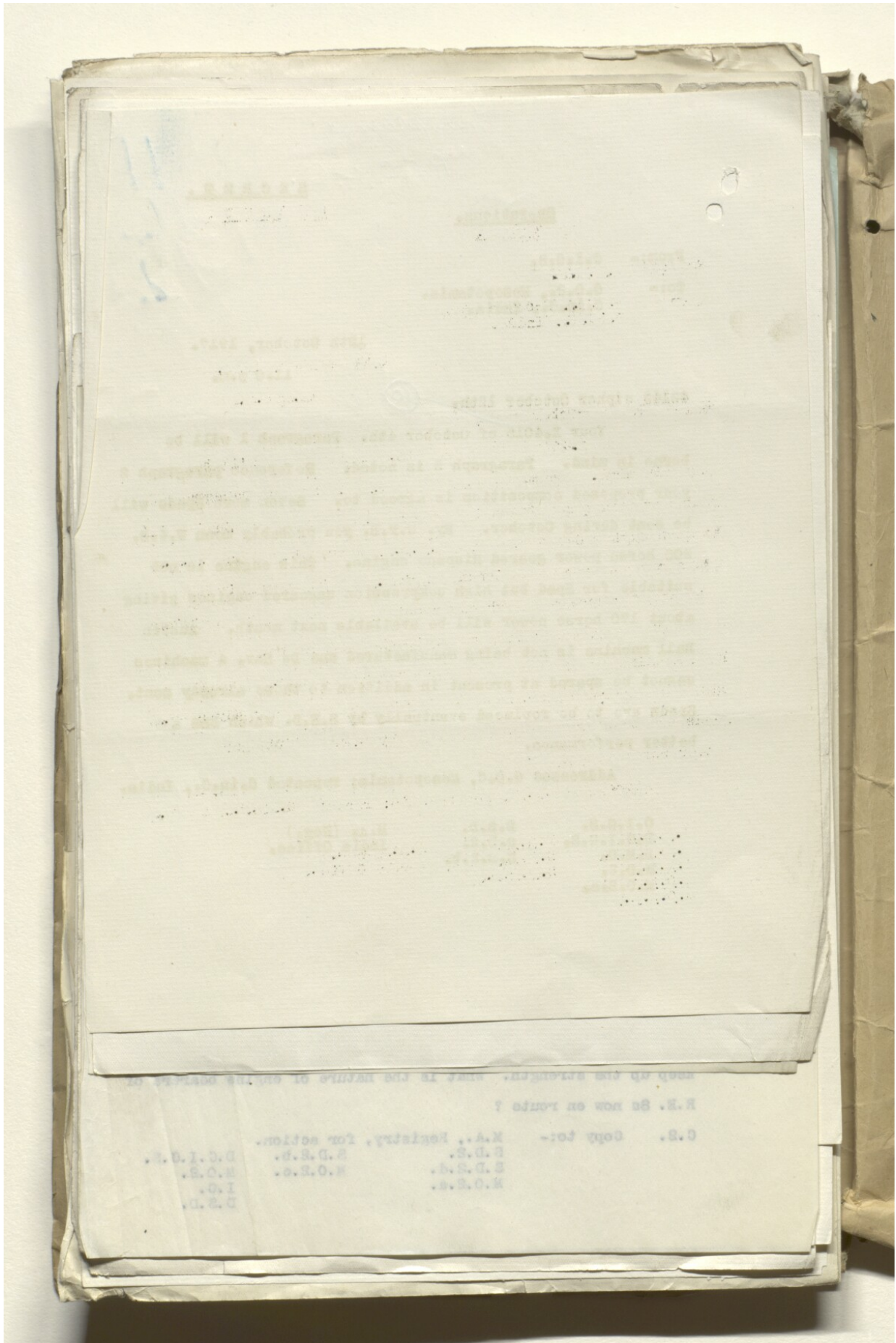
11.0 p.m.

43143 cipher October 12th. (10)

Your X.4015 of October 4th. Paragraph 1 will be borne in mind. Paragraph 3 is noted. Reference paragraph 2 your proposed composition is agreed to. Seven more Spads will be sent during October. By W.F.B. you probably mean W.4.B. 200 horse power geared Hispano engine. This engine is not suitable for Spad but high compression ungeared engines giving about 170 horse power will be available next month. Austin Ball machine is not being manufactured and De Hav. 4 machines cannot be spared at present in addition to those already sent. Spads are to be replaced eventually by S.E.5. which has a better performance.

Addressed G.O.C, Mesopotamia; repeated C.in.C., India.

C.I.G.S.	D.S.D.	M.A. (Reg.)
D.C.I.G.S.	S.D.2.	India Office.
D.M.O.	S.D.2.b.	
M.O.2.		
M.O.2.a.		







Mesopotamia

R.F.C.

SECRET.

10 (70)

Operations.

From: G.O.C. Mesopotamia.

To: C.I.G.S.; repeated C.-in-C., India.

4.10.17.  
10.45 p.m.

X.4015 cipher. <sup>9</sup>

Your 42316 cipher of October 2nd.

I suggest following 3 points for consideration:-

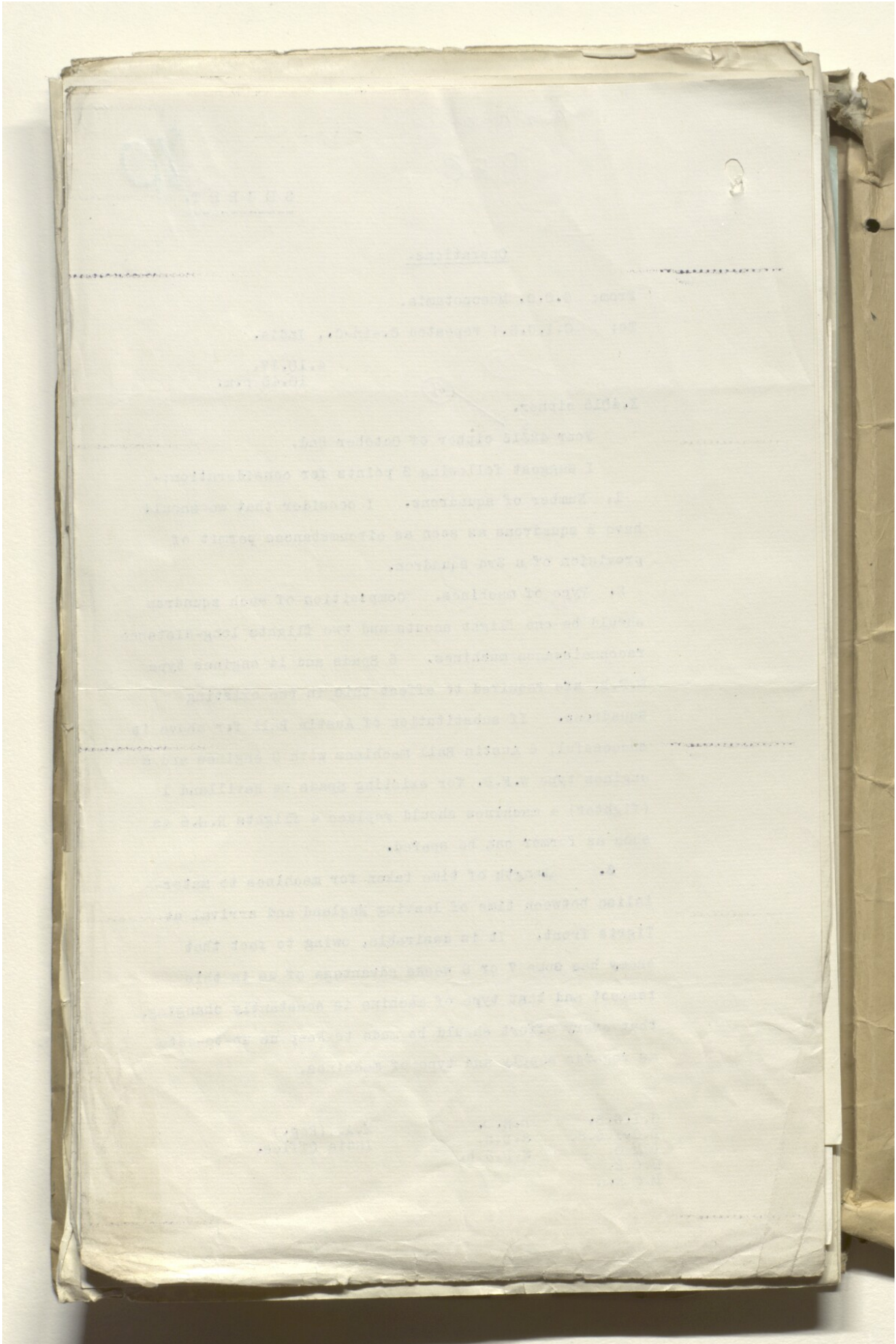
1. Number of squadrons. I consider that we should have 3 squadrons as soon as circumstances permit of provision of a 3rd squadron.

2. Type of machines. Composition of each squadron should be one flight scouts and two flights long-distance reconnaissance machines. 6 Spads and 14 engines type W.F.B. are required to effect this in two existing squadrons. If substitution of Austin Ball for above is successful, 6 Austin Ball machines with 3 engines and 6 engines type W.F.B. for existing Spads De Havilland 1 (fighter) 4 machines should replace 4 flights R.D.8 as soon as former can be spared.

3. Length of time taken for machines to materialise between time of leaving England and arrival at Tigris front. It is desirable, owing to fact that enemy has some 7 or 8 weeks advantage of us in this respect and that type of machine is constantly changing, that every effort should be made to keep us up-to-date as regards supply and type of machines.

G.I.G.S.	D.S.D.	M.A. (Reg.)
D.C.I.G.S.	S.D.2.	India Office.
D.M.O.	S.D.2.b.	
M.O.2.		
M.O.2.a.		









Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

SECRET

9. (71)

P. OPERATIONS.

From:- C.I.G.S.

To:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

Repeated to C.in.C., India.

Oct. 1st 1917.

9.45 p.m.

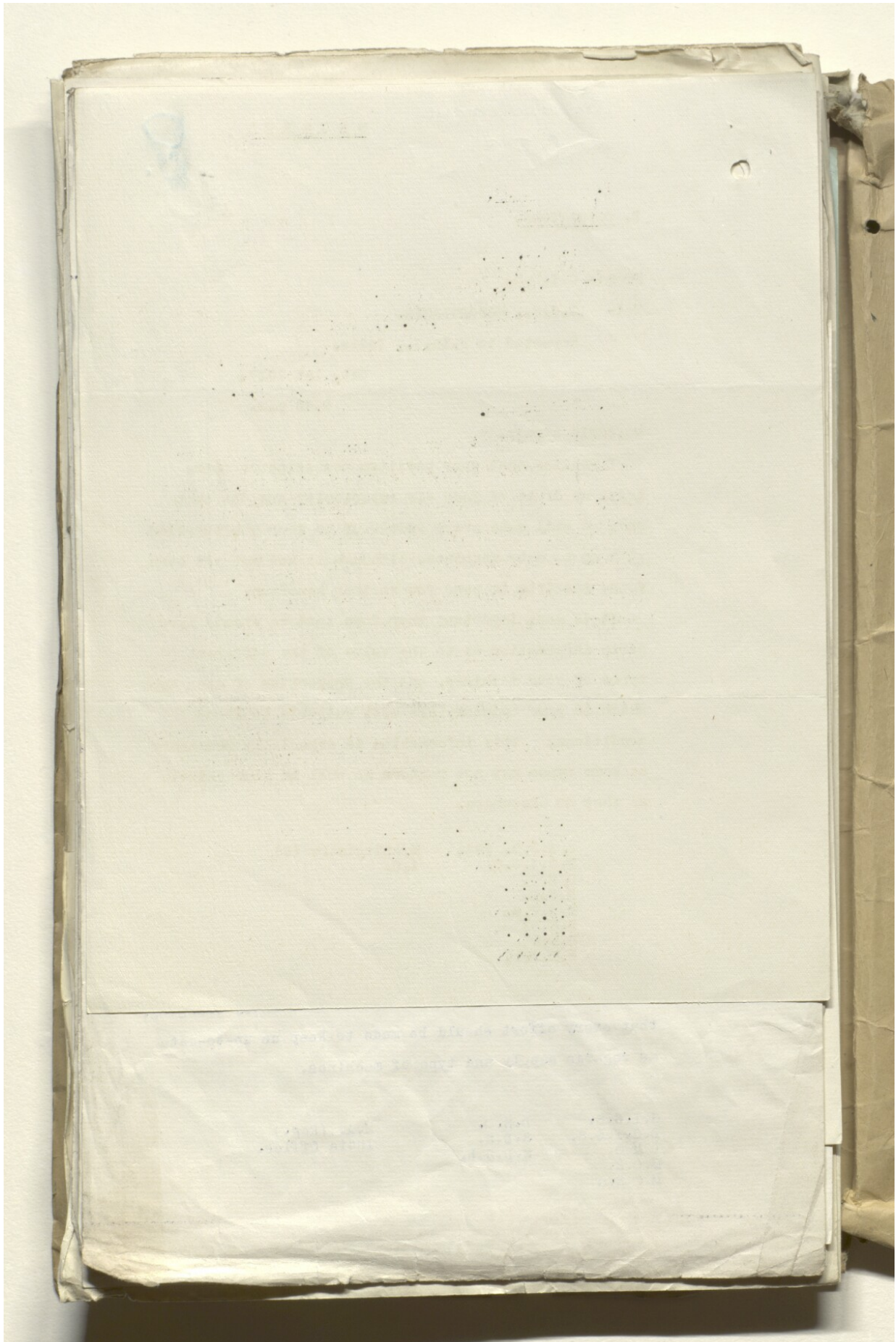
No.42516 cipher.

I realize that your position necessitates there being no doubt of your air superiority and, to that end, we will make every endeavour to keep you supplied with up to date machines, although it has not yet been found possible to send you another squadron.

It is most important therefore that we should have early information as to the value of the different types of your machines, and the proportion of each type which in your opinion, are most suitable to local conditions. This information is especially necessary as some types may not perform so well in your climate as they do elsewhere.

C. I. G. S. (2).	M. A. Registry (6)
D. C. I. G. S.	I. O.
D. M. O.	
M. O. 2.	
M. O. 2. a.	
D. S. D.	
S. D. 2.	
S. D. 2. b.	









(72)

8

S E C R E T .  
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From:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

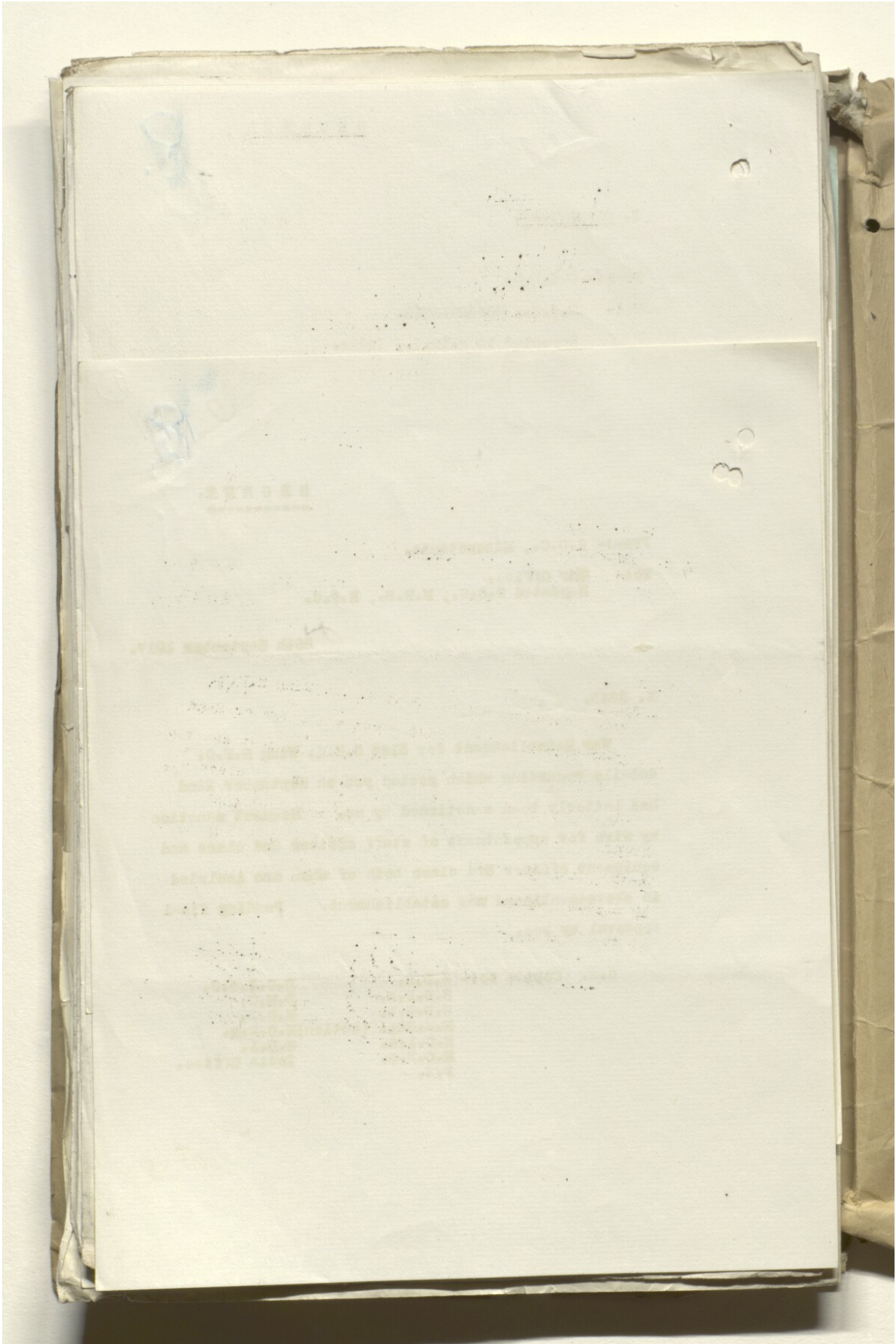
To:- War Office.  
Repeated G.O.C., M.E.B., R.F.C.

26th September 1917.

X. 3845.

War Establishment for 31st G.H.Q. Wing R.F.C. details regarding which posted you on September 22nd has latterly been sanctioned by me. Request sanction by wire for appointment of staff officer 2nd class and equipment officer 3rd class both of whom are included in above-mentioned war establishment. Pending final approval by you.

C.2. Copies to:- S.D.2. D.C.I.G.S.  
S.D.2.a. D.M.O.  
S.D.2.b. M.O.2.  
M.A.Reg. (action) M.O.2.a.  
M.O.1.a. S.D.1.  
M.O.2.c. India Office.  
F.2.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

(73)

7.

S E C R E T.  
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From:- War Office.  
To:- General Maude, Mesopotamia.

10th September 1917.

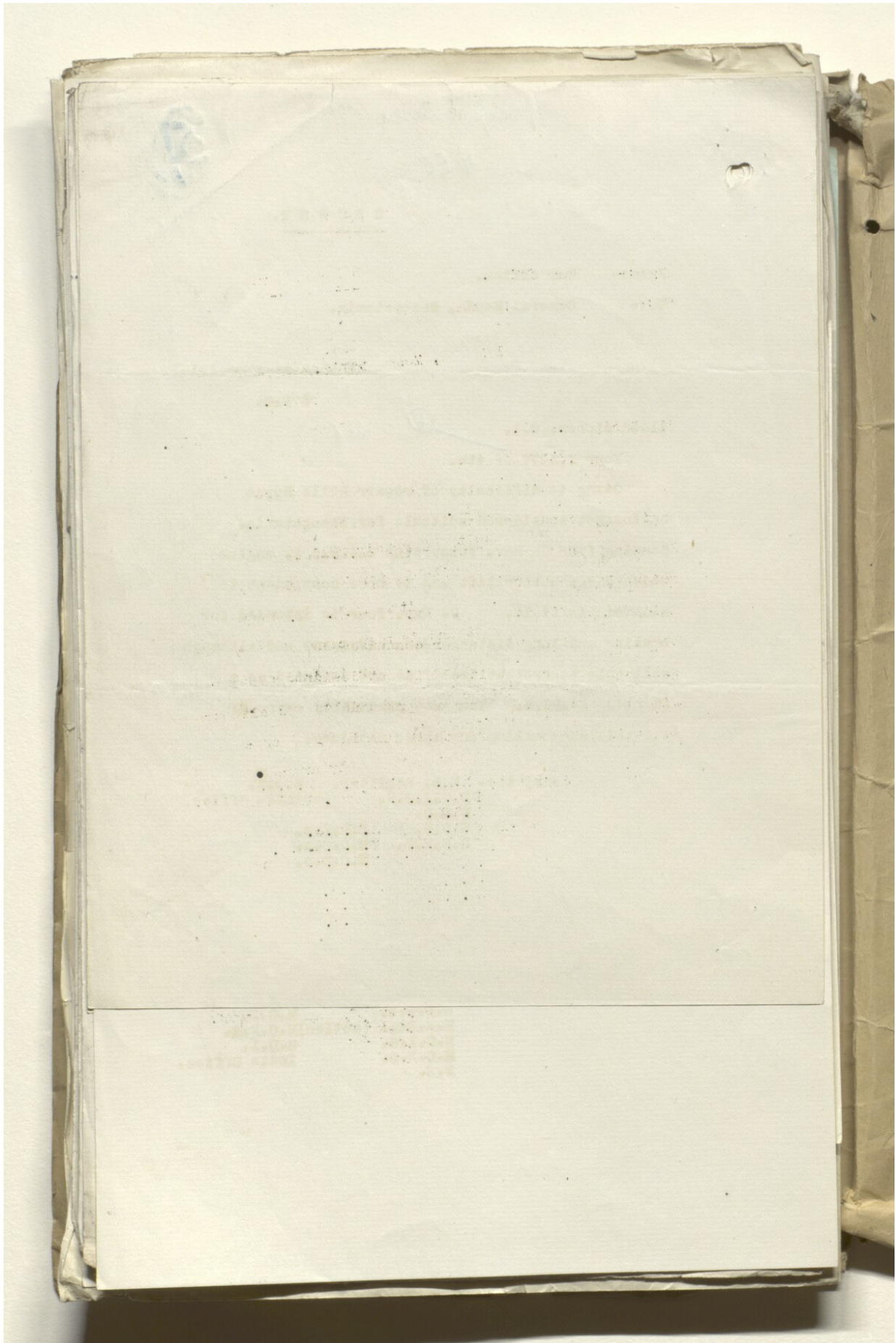
5 p.m.

41043 cipher. O.l.

Your X.3477 of 4th. <sup>(b)</sup>

Owing to difficulty of repair Rolls Royce engine not considered suitable for Mesopotamia. Sending four de Hav. fours with R.A.F.3 A. engine which gives better lift and is more convenient to maintain in field. De Hav. four is intended for bombing and long distance reconnaissance and although well able to protect itself is not designed as a fighting machine. You were presumably aware of all this when asking for these machines.

copy to:- M.A. Registry. M.J.2.  
D.C.I.G.S. India Office.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.2. S.D.2.c.  
S.D.2.b. M.O.2.a.  
M.O.2.c.







Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

6

(74)

SECRET.  
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From:- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
To:- War Office.

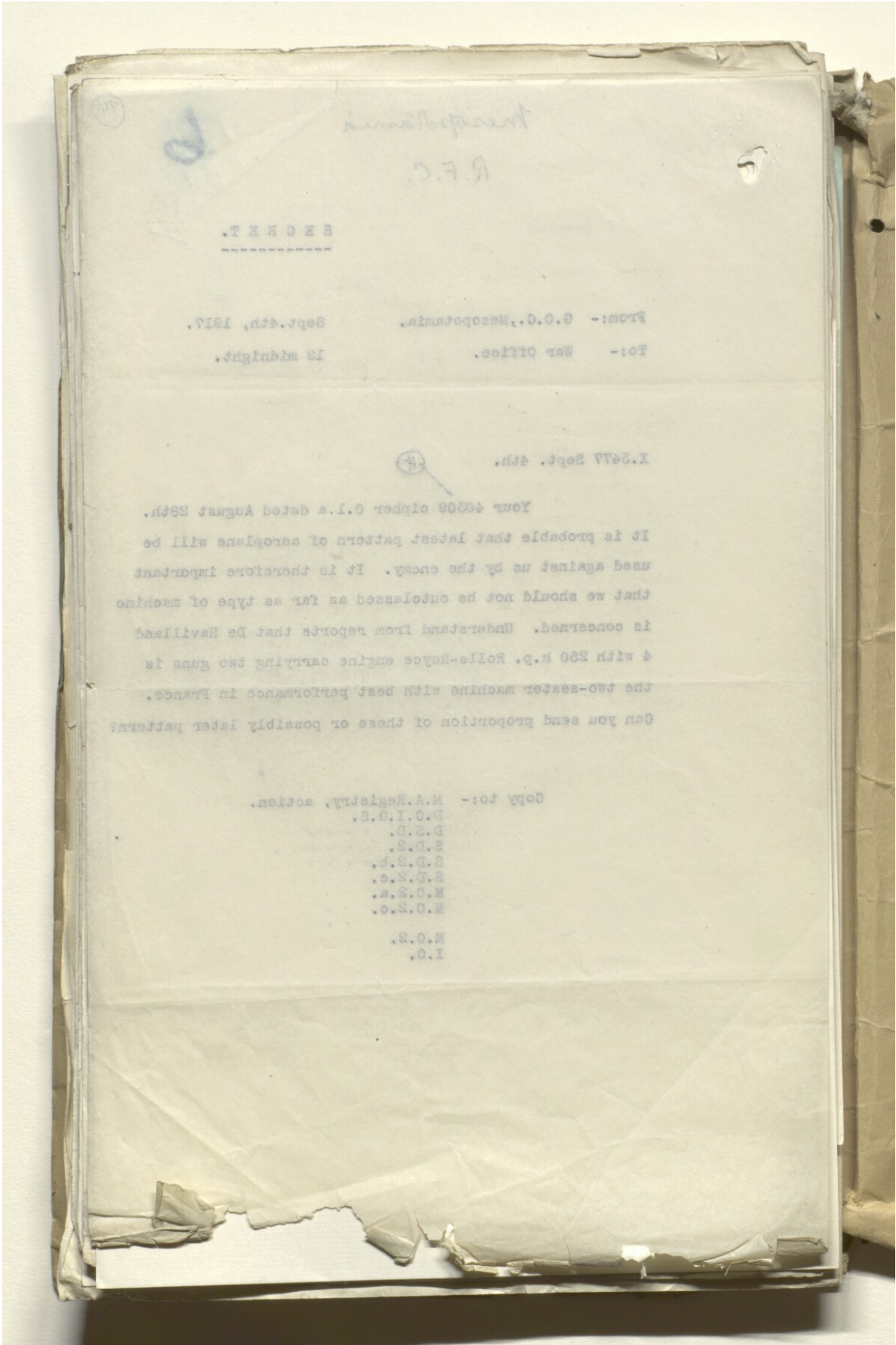
Sept. 4th, 1917.  
12 midnight.

X.3477 Sept. 4th.

(4)

Your 40309 cipher O.l.a dated August 28th.  
It is probable that latest pattern of aeroplane will be used against us by the enemy. It is therefore important that we should not be outclassed as far as type of machine is concerned. Understand from reports that De Havilland 4 with 250 h.p. Rolls-Royce engine carrying two guns is the two-seater machine with best performance in France. Can you send proportion of these or possibly later pattern?

Copy to:- M.A. Registry, action.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.c.  
M.O.2.a.  
M.O.2.c.  
  
M.O.2.  
I.O.



Mesopotamia  
R.F.C.

SECRET

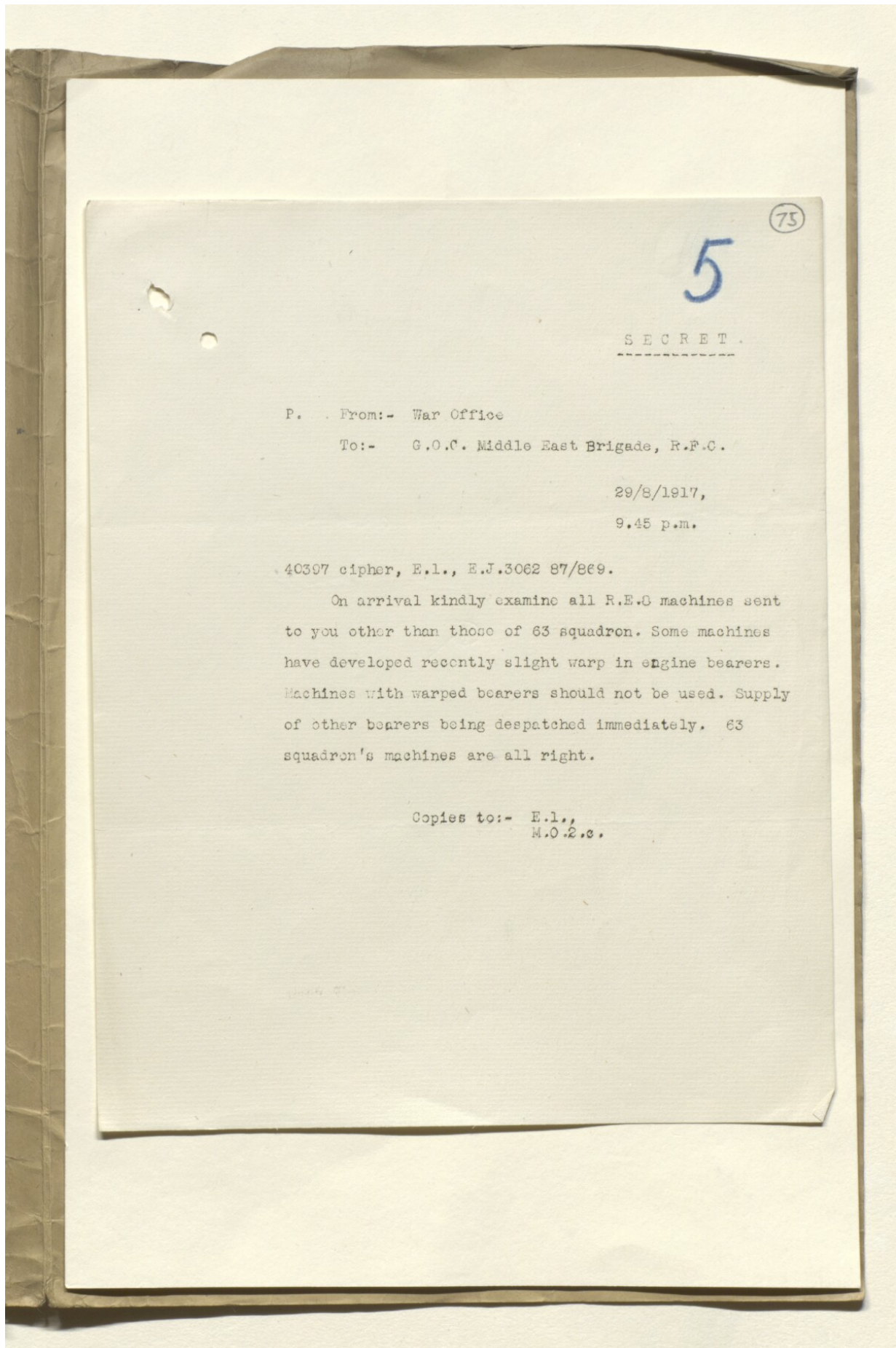
From: - G.O.C., Mesopotamia. Sept. 4th, 1917.  
To: - War Office. 12 midnight.

X.347V Sept. 4th.

Your 40309 cipher G.I. a dated August 28th.  
It is probable that latest pattern of aeroplanes will be  
used against us by the enemy. It is therefore important  
that we should not be outclass as far as type of machine  
is concerned. Understand from reports that De Havilland  
& with 250 h.p. Rolle-Royce engine carrying two guns is  
the two-seater machine with best performance in France.  
Can you send proposition of these or possibly later patterns?

Copy to: - M.A. Registry, action.  
D.O.I.G.S.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.S.  
S.D.S.C.  
S.D.S.C.  
M.S.S.A.  
M.O.S.C.  
M.O.S.  
I.O.





5

75

SECRET

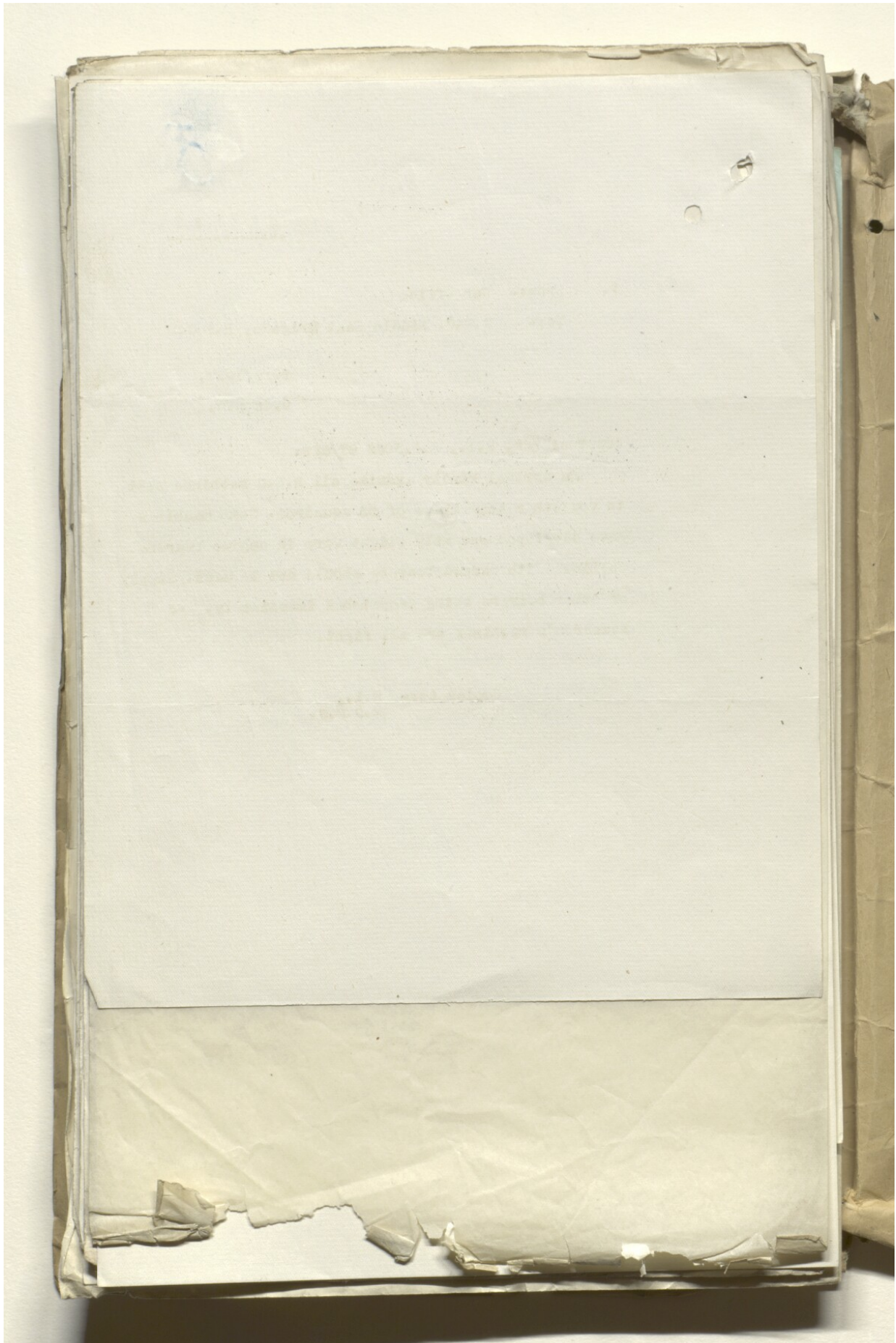
P. . . From:- War Office  
To:- G.O.C. Middle East Brigade, R.F.C.

29/8/1917,  
9.45 p.m.

40397 cipher, E.l., E.J.3062 87/889.

On arrival kindly examine all R.E.8 machines sent to you other than those of 63 squadron. Some machines have developed recently slight warp in engine bearers. Machines with warped bearers should not be used. Supply of other bearers being despatched immediately. 63 squadron's machines are all right.

Copies to:- E.l.,  
M.O.2.c.







Add 6 Sqdn RFC for Mesopot

4 (76)

SECRET.

From :- War Office.

To :- G.H.Q. Mesopotamia.

28th August 1917.

5.50 p.m.

40309 cipher O.L.N. (3)

Your L.3313 dated 22nd instant. Regret sending of an additional squadron at present time is impracticable. but G.O.C. M.M.B., has been instructed to build up and maintain sufficient reserves in pilots, observers, and other ranks, to meet eventualities in Mesopotamia. 1st Reserve will be maintained in Mesopotamia and 2nd Reserve in Egypt. In addition to 24 R.M.8's<sup>x</sup> sent you for No. 63 Squadron, 4 Martinsydes, 9 Spads, and 10 R.M.2's are en route for Basra also an additional 30 R.M.8's and 4 Spads have been allotted and will be despatched earliest opportunity. It is hoped Mesopotamia will be placed in satisfactory position for present, by this provision.

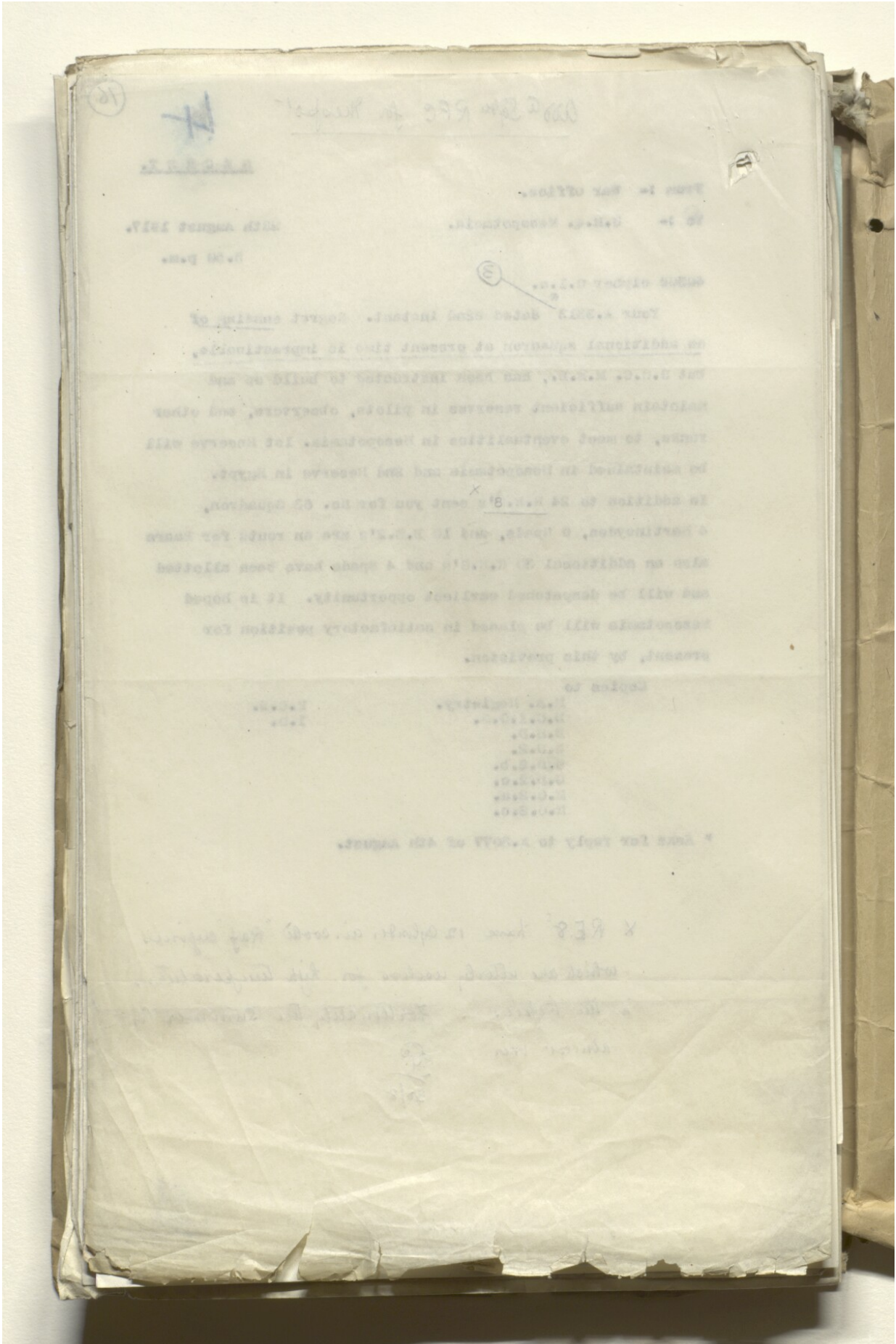
Copies to

- |                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| M.A. Registry. | H.O.2. |
| D.C.I.G.S.     | I.O.   |
| D.O.D.         |        |
| S.D.2.         |        |
| S.D.2.b.       |        |
| S.D.2.c.       |        |
| H.O.2.a.       |        |
| H.O.2.c.       |        |

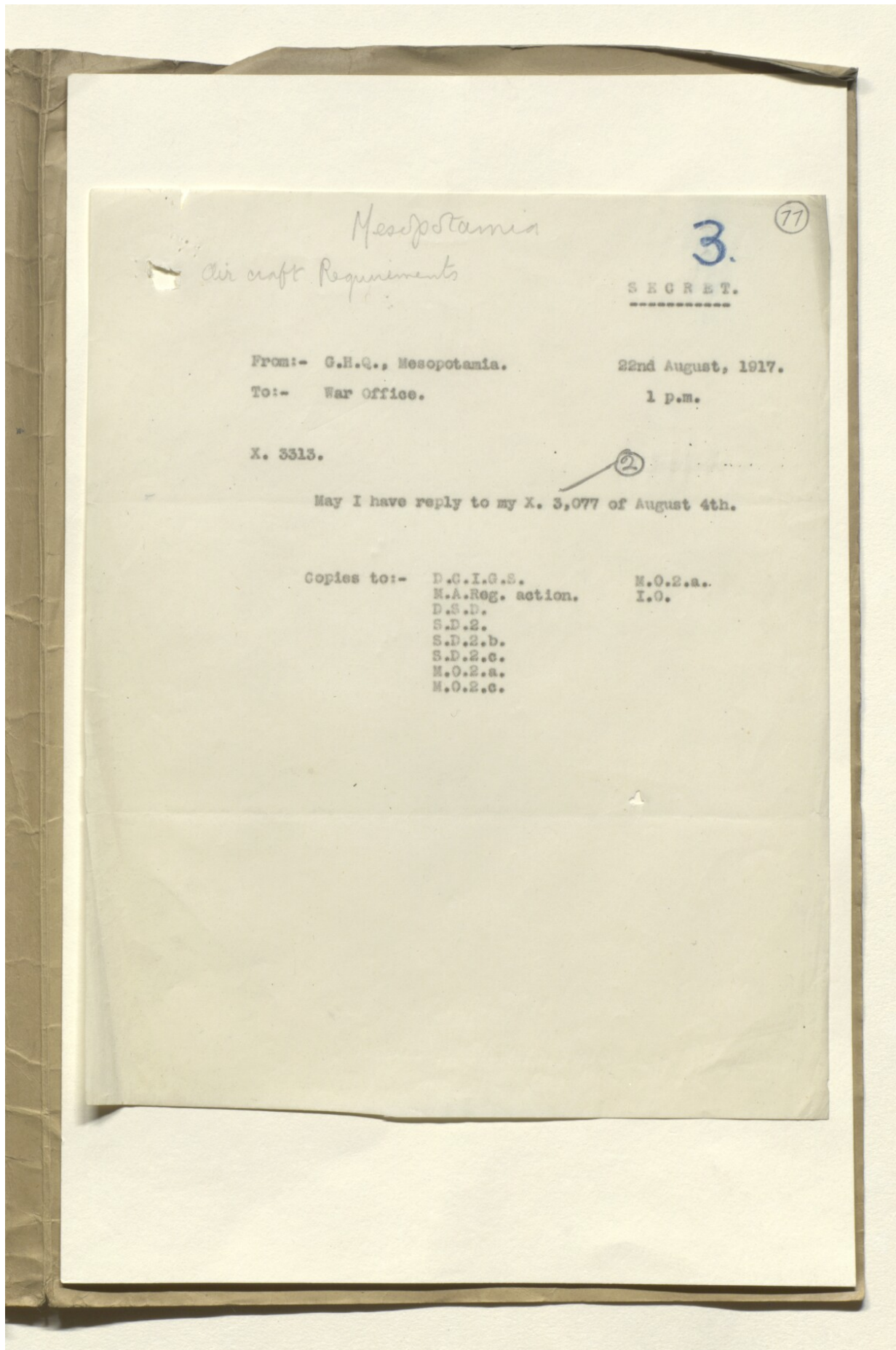
\* Asks for reply to L.3077 of 4th August.

X RE 8's have 12 Cylinder air cooled 'Raf' engines which are utterly useless for high temperatures in the tropics. Fortunately, the summer is almost over

*[Signature]*  
32/8







Mesopotamia  
Air craft Requirements

3.

(77)

SECRET.  
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From:- G.H.Q., Mesopotamia.

22nd August, 1917.

To:- War Office.

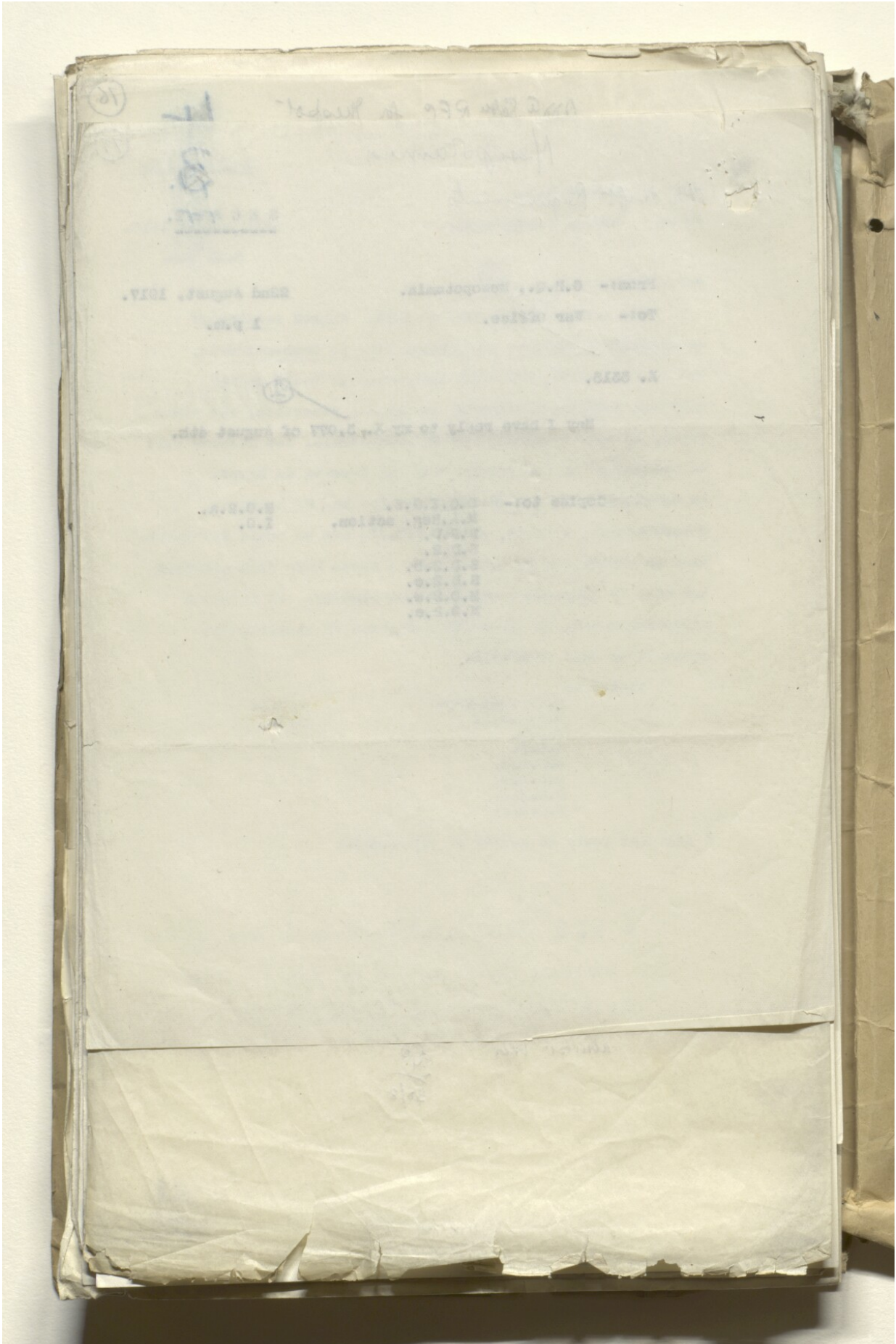
1 p.m.

X. 3313.

②

May I have reply to my X. 3,077 of August 4th.

Copies to:-  
D.C.I.G.S.  
M.A.Reg. action.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.c.  
M.O.2.a.  
M.O.2.c.  
M.O.2.a.  
I.O.







2. (78)

S E C R E T.

From :- G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

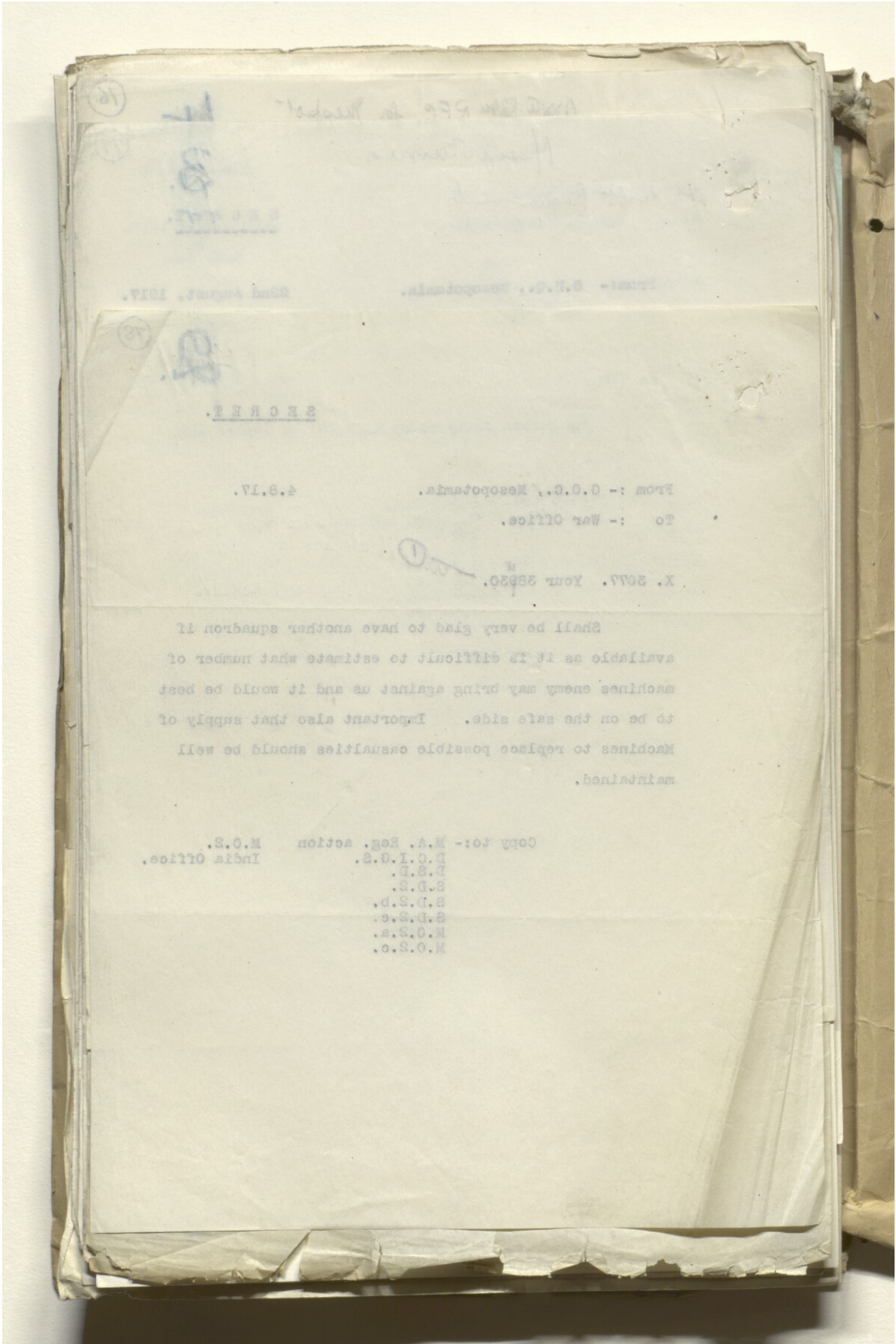
4.8.17.

To :- War Office.

X. 3077. Your 38930. (1)

Shall be very glad to have another squadron if available as it is difficult to estimate what number of machines enemy may bring against us and it would be best to be on the safe side. Important also that supply of Machines to replace possible casualties should be well maintained.

Copy to:- M.A. Reg. action M.O.2.  
D.C.I.G.S. India Office.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.b.  
S.D.2.c.  
M.O.2.a.  
M.O.2.c.



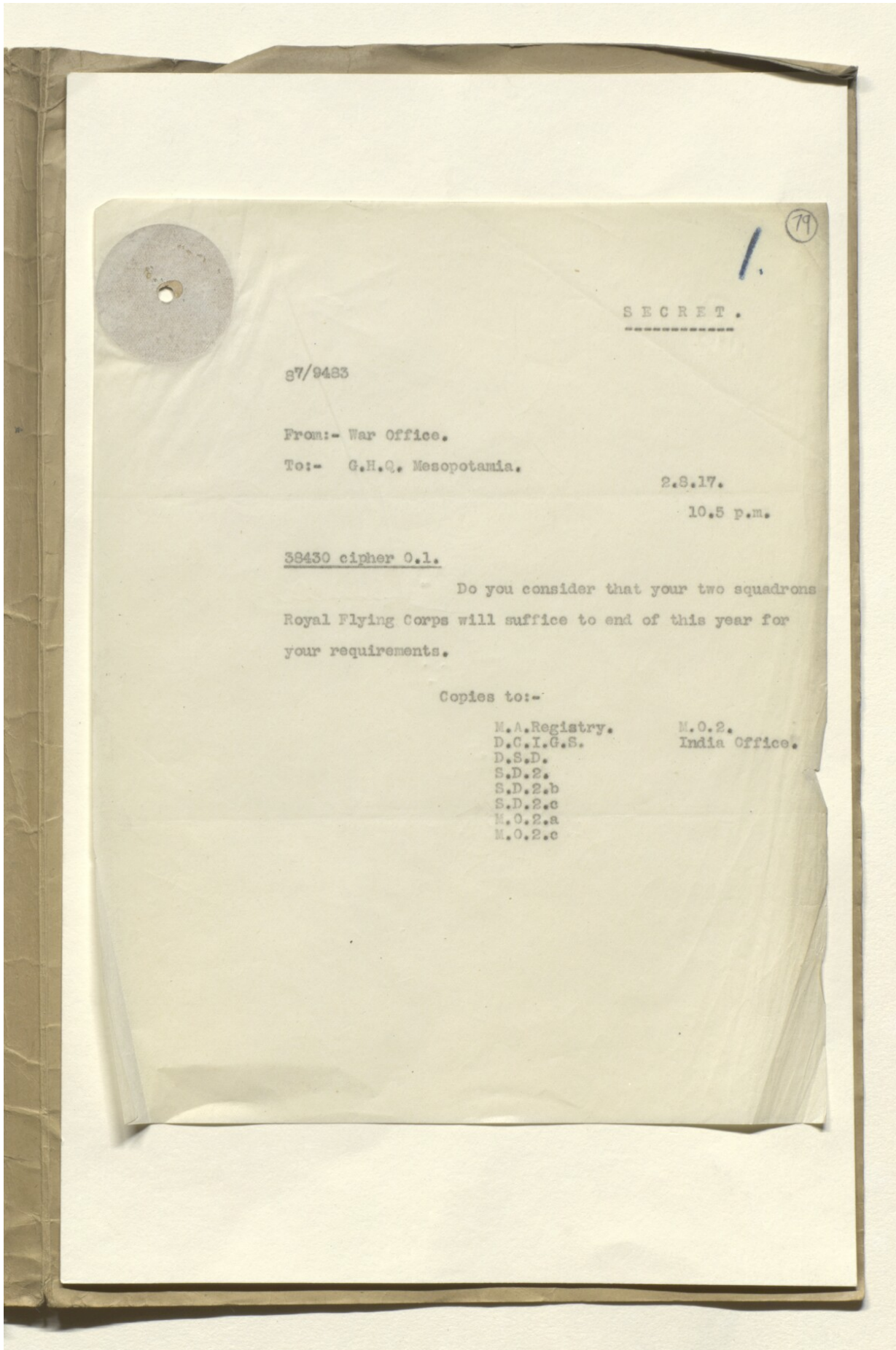
From: - G.O.C., Mesopotamia.  
To: - War Office.  
X. 3077. Your 32350.

SECRET

Machines to replace possible casualties should be well maintained.  
Important also that supply of  
to be on the safe side.  
machines enemy may bring against us and it would be best  
available as it is difficult to estimate what number of  
Shall be very glad to have another squadron if

Copy to: - M.A. Reg. action  
D.C.I.G.S.  
P.S.E.  
S.D.E.  
S.D.S.D.  
S.D.S.C.  
M.O.S.A.  
M.O.S.C.  
M.O.S.  
India Office.





79

SECRET.

87/9483

From:- War Office.

To:- G.H.Q. Mesopotamia.

2.8.17.

10.5 p.m.

38430 cipher O.l.

Do you consider that your two squadrons Royal Flying Corps will suffice to end of this year for your requirements.

Copies to:-

M.A.Registry.  
D.C.I.G.S.  
D.S.D.  
S.D.2.  
S.D.2.b  
S.D.2.c  
M.O.2.a  
M.O.2.c

M.O.2.  
India Office.

