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Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F226/10
Date(s)	Mid 20th century (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (13 folios)
Copyright for document	<u>Unknown</u>



About this record

This file consists of a memoir of the career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow, which records the following: Hadow's motivation; his education and entry into the Indian Civil Service (ICS), and later the Indian Political Service (IPS); his experiences in Russia in 1942, as well as Meshed [Mashhad], Bahrain, Bushire [Būshehr], Bandar Abbas, and Delhi; his response to Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister of India following independence) declining his application to join the new Indian Foreign Service.

There are two copies of the memoir, the first one has corrections in blue pen, and the second has changes made to the first draft.

Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [1r] (1/26)

MSS Eur. F 226/10 ①

[Reginald] Michael Hadow

Motivation Born Shillong Assam in 1915. Father, Malcolm McGregor Hadow of the law firm Steele & Hadow (mostly work for the tea planters) was himself born in Chinsurah, Bengal in 1859. Mother, Constance Lund born in Simla, 1880. Eldest sister, Sylvia, married 1923 to Charles Daunt of the Central India House, later commanded 18-Lancers and on retirement (1936?) became military adviser in Jaipur and then Udaipur. Younger sister, Audrey, married Eric Moore, State Engineer in Jamnagar. Cousins, the "Kashmir Hadows" had the carpet factory and crafts centre in that state. Many other Hadows according to family tree sought their careers in India from E I Company days in 18 century. In my day Austin Hadow was important in ^{In} Indian railways and another was in the Punjab Police (I never met them).

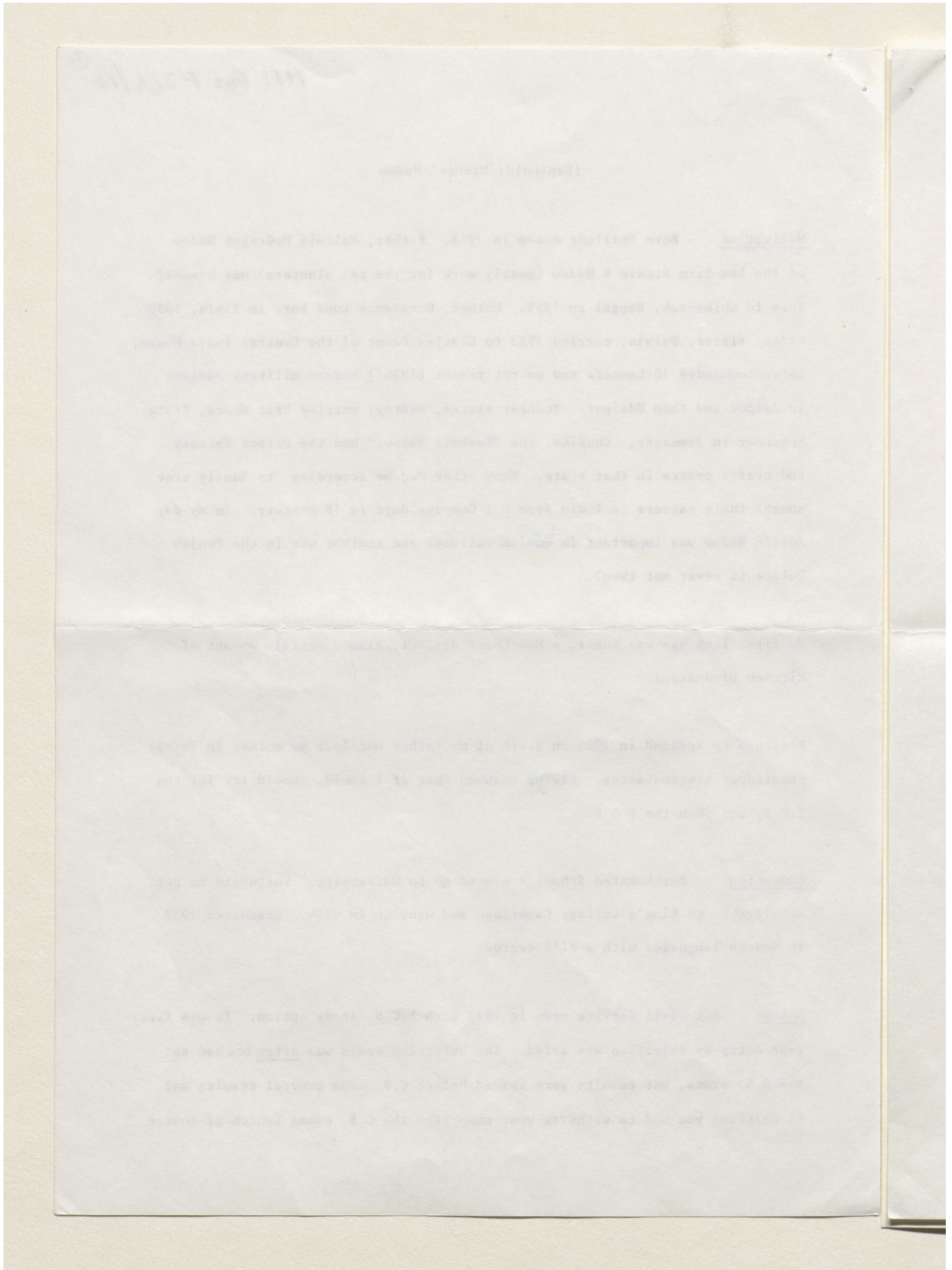
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Returned to England in 1921 on death of my father who left my mother in fairly straitened circumstances. Always assumed that if I could, should try for the I.C.S. and then the F & P.

Education Berkhamsted School - aim to go to University. Fortunate to get scholarship to King's College Cambridge and went up in 1934. Graduated 1937 in Modern languages with a 2(1) degree.

Entry Sat Civil Service exam in 1937 with I.C.S. as my option. It was first year entry by selection was tried. The Selection Board was after one had sat the C.S. exams, but results were issued before C.S. exam general results and if selected you had to withdraw your name from the C.S. exams (which of course

Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [1v] (2/26)



Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [2r] (3/26)

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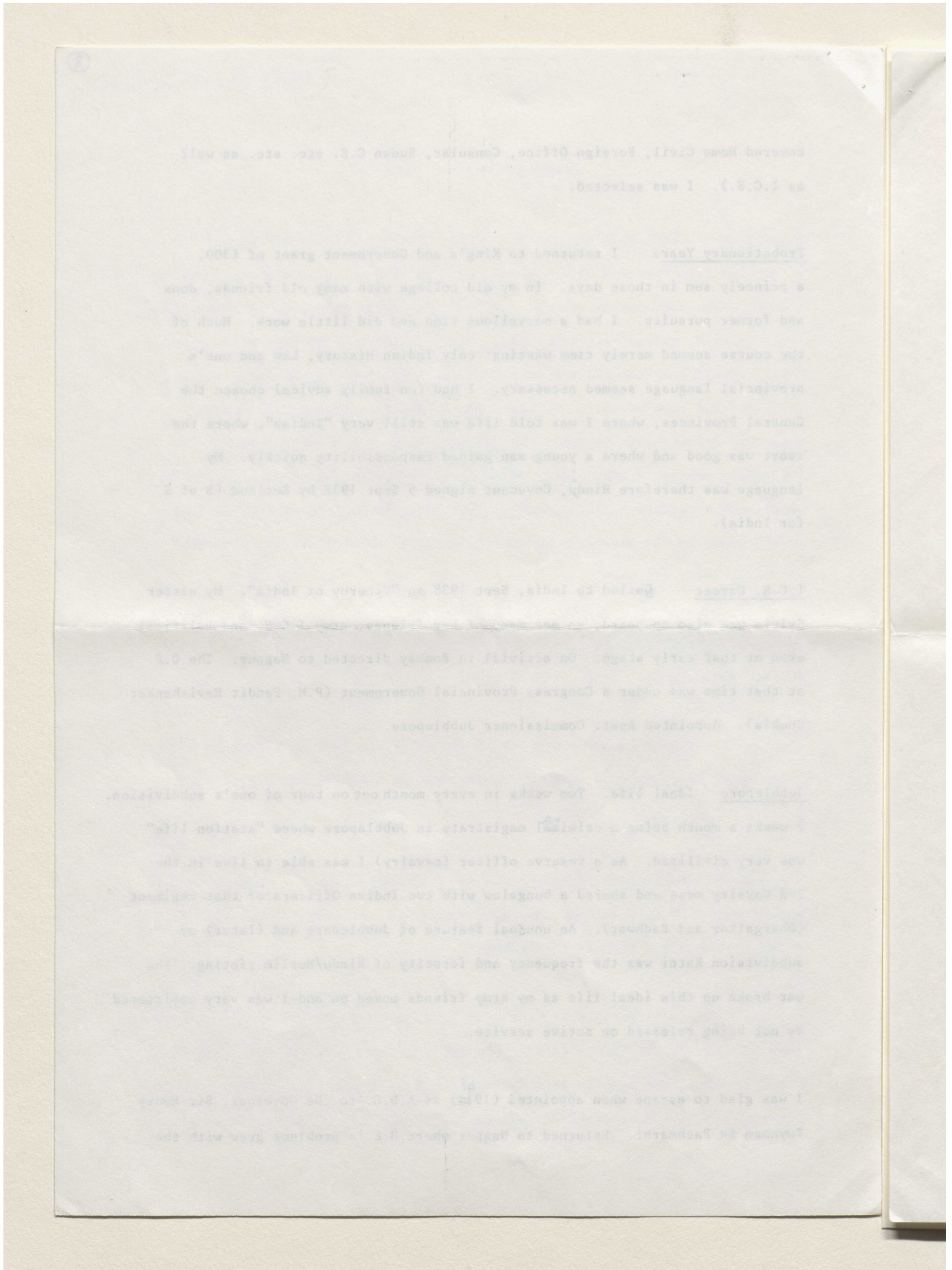
covered Home Civil, Foreign Office, Consular, Sudan C.S. etc. etc. as well as I.C.S.). I was selected.

Probationary Year. I returned to King's and Government grant of £300, a princely sum in those days. In my old college with many old friends, dons and former pursuits. I had a marvellous time and did little work. Much of the course seemed merely time wasting: only Indian History, Law and one's provincial language seemed necessary. I had (on family advice) chosen the Central Provinces, where I was told life was still very "Indian", where the sport was good and where a young man gained responsibility quickly. My language was therefore Hindi, Covenant signed 5 Sept 1938 by Zetland (S of S for India).

I.C.S. Career Sailed to India, Sept 1938 on "Viceroy of India". My sister Sylvia was also on board, so met many of her friends, army I.C.S. and Political even at that early stage. On arrival in Bombay directed to Nagpur. The C.P. at that time was under a Congress Provincial Government (P.M. Pandit Ravishankar Shukla). Appointed Asst. Commissioner Jubblepore.

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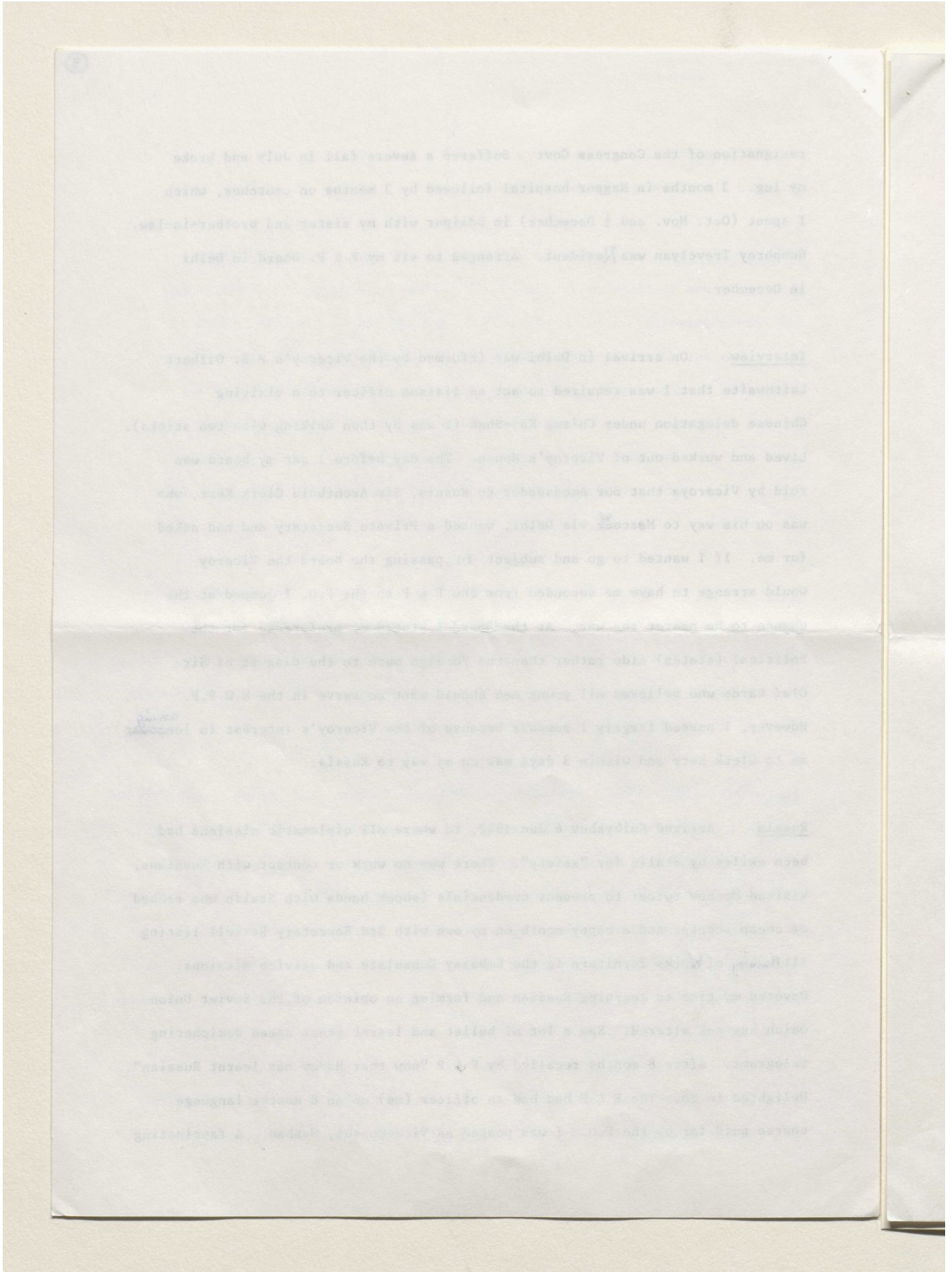
Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [3r] (5/26)

3

resignation of the Congress Govt. Suffered a severe fall in July and broke my leg. 3 months in Nagpur hospital followed by 3 months on crutches, which I spent (Oct. Nov. and $\frac{1}{2}$ December) in Udaipur with my sister and brother-in-law. Humphrey Trevelyan was Resident. Arranged to sit my F & P. board in Delhi in December.

Interview On arrival in Delhi was informed by the Viceroy's P.S. Gilbert Laithwaite that I was required to act as liaison officer to a visiting Chinese delegation under Chiang Kai-Shek (I was by then walking with two sticks). Lived and worked out of Viceroy's House. The day before I sat my board was told by Viceroy that our Ambassador to Russia, Sir Archibald Clerk Kerr, who was on his way to Moscow via Delhi, wanted a Private Secretary and had asked for me. If I wanted to go and subject to passing the board the Viceroy would arrange to have me seconded from the F & P to the F.O. I jumped at the chance to be nearer the war. At the Board I stated my preference for the Political (states) side rather than the Foreign much to the disgust of Sir Olaf Caroe who believed all young men should want to serve in the N.W.F.P. However, I passed largely I suppose because of the Viceroy's interest in locating ^{arriving} me to Clerk Kerr and within 3 days was on my way to Russia.

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Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [4r] (7/26)

4

journey there which took 7 days to Tehran and 2 by car from there. All my heavy luggage had been sunk on its way to Russia so I had 2 suitcases.

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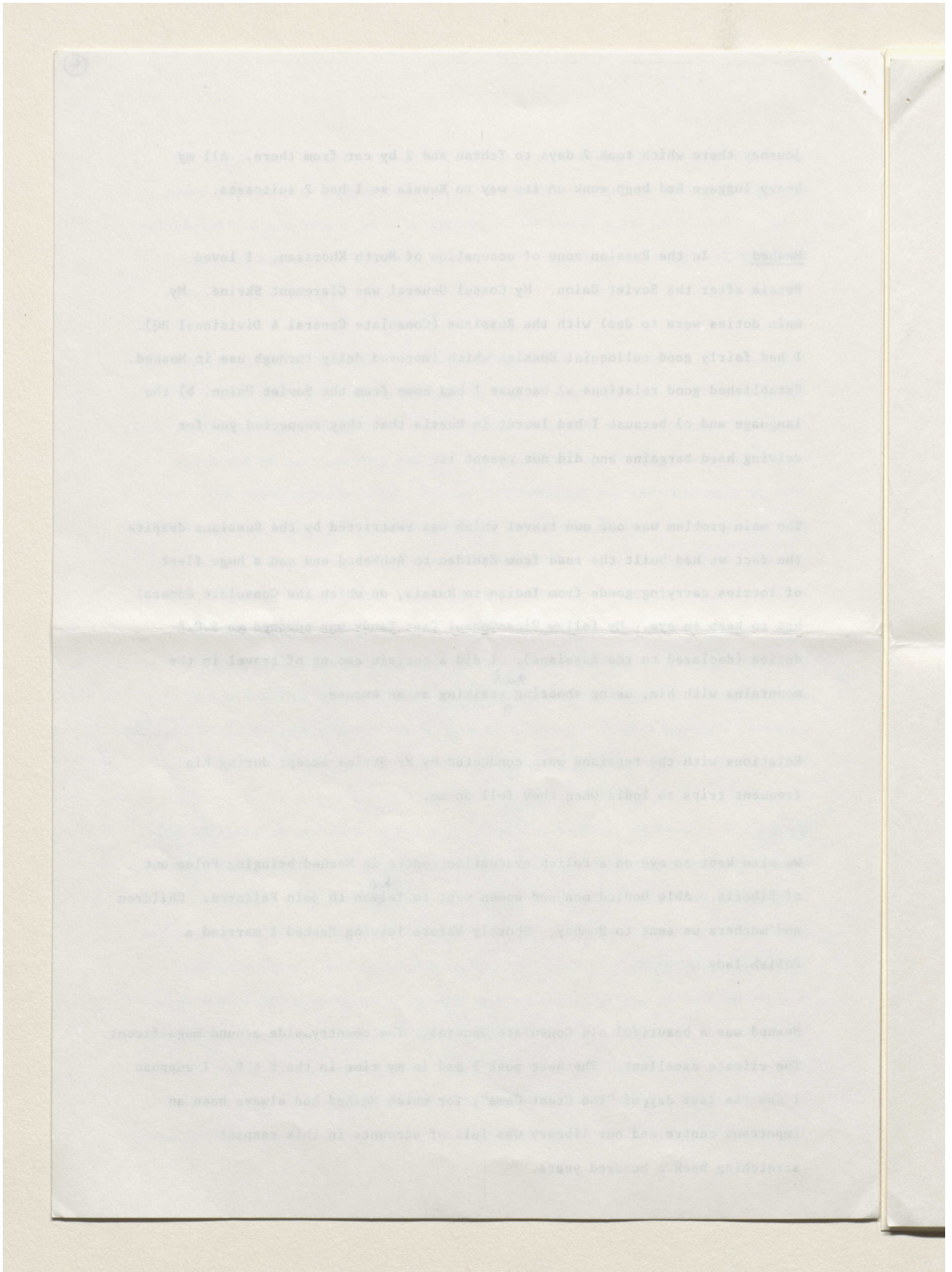
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Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [4v] (8/26)



Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [5r] (9/26)

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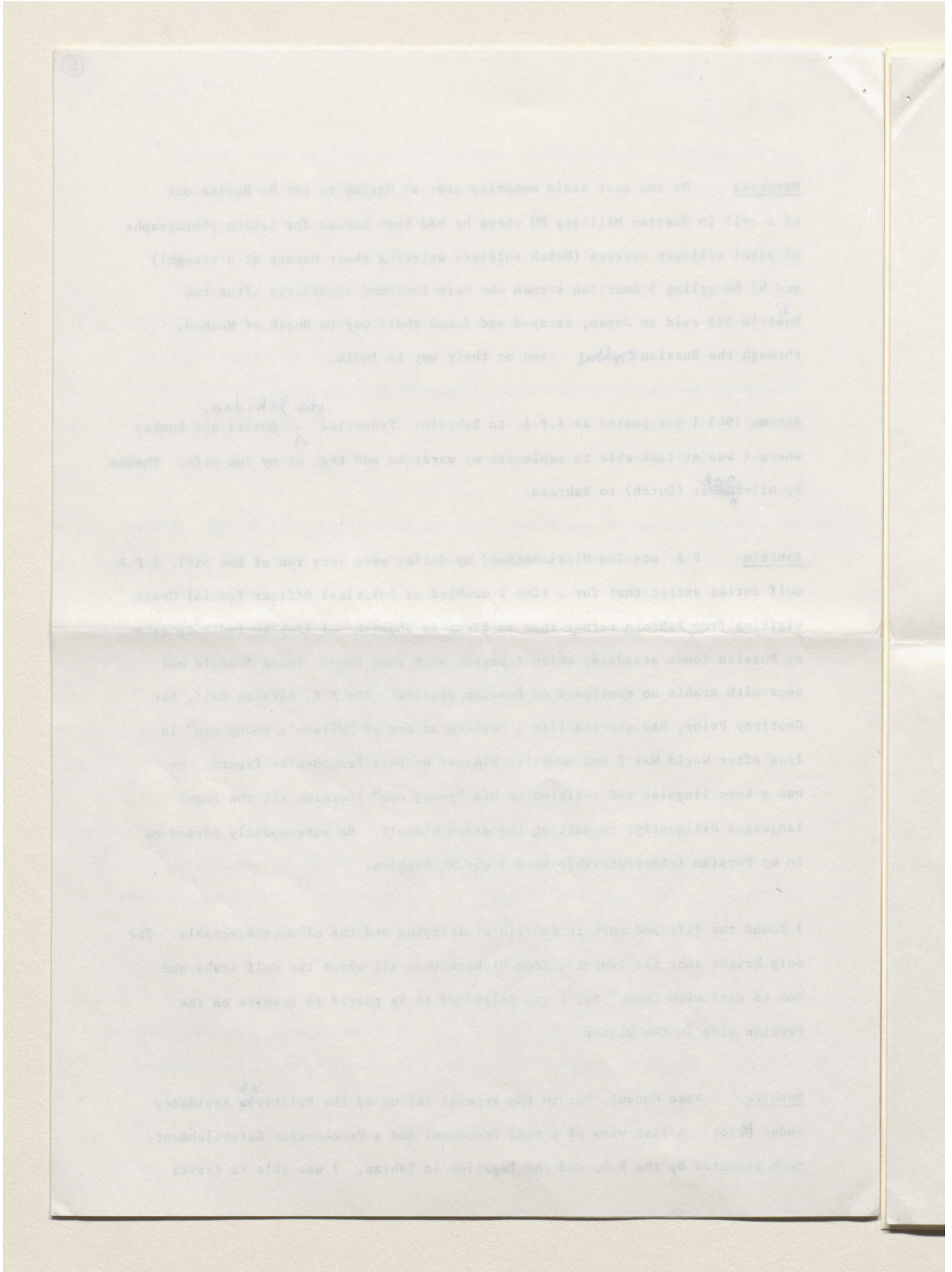
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Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [6r] (11/26)

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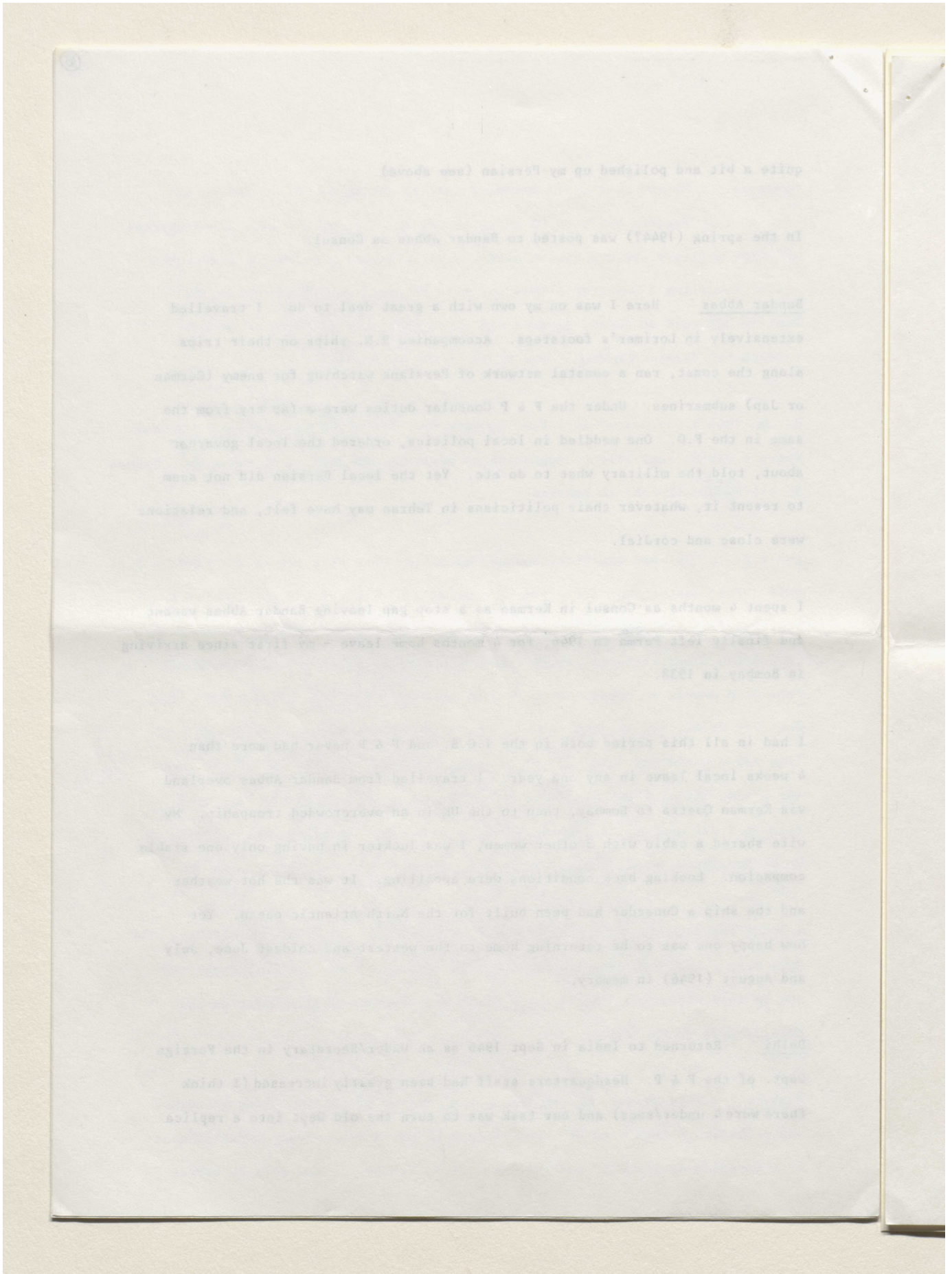
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I had in all this period both in the I.C.S. and F & P never had more than 4 weeks local leave in any one year. I travelled from Bandar Abbas overland via Kerman Quetta to Bombay, then to the UK in an overcrowded troopship. My wife shared a cabin with 3 other women, I was luckier in having only one stable companion. Looking back conditions were appalling. It was the hot weather and the ship a Cunarder had been built for the North Atlantic ocean. Yet how happy one was to be returning home to the wettest and coldest June, July and August (1946) in memory.

Delhi Returned to India in Sept 1946 as an Under/Secretary in the Foreign Dept. of the F & P. Headquarters staff had been greatly increased (I think there were 4 under/secs) and our task was to turn the old Dept into a replica

Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [6v] (12/26)



Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [7r] (13/26)

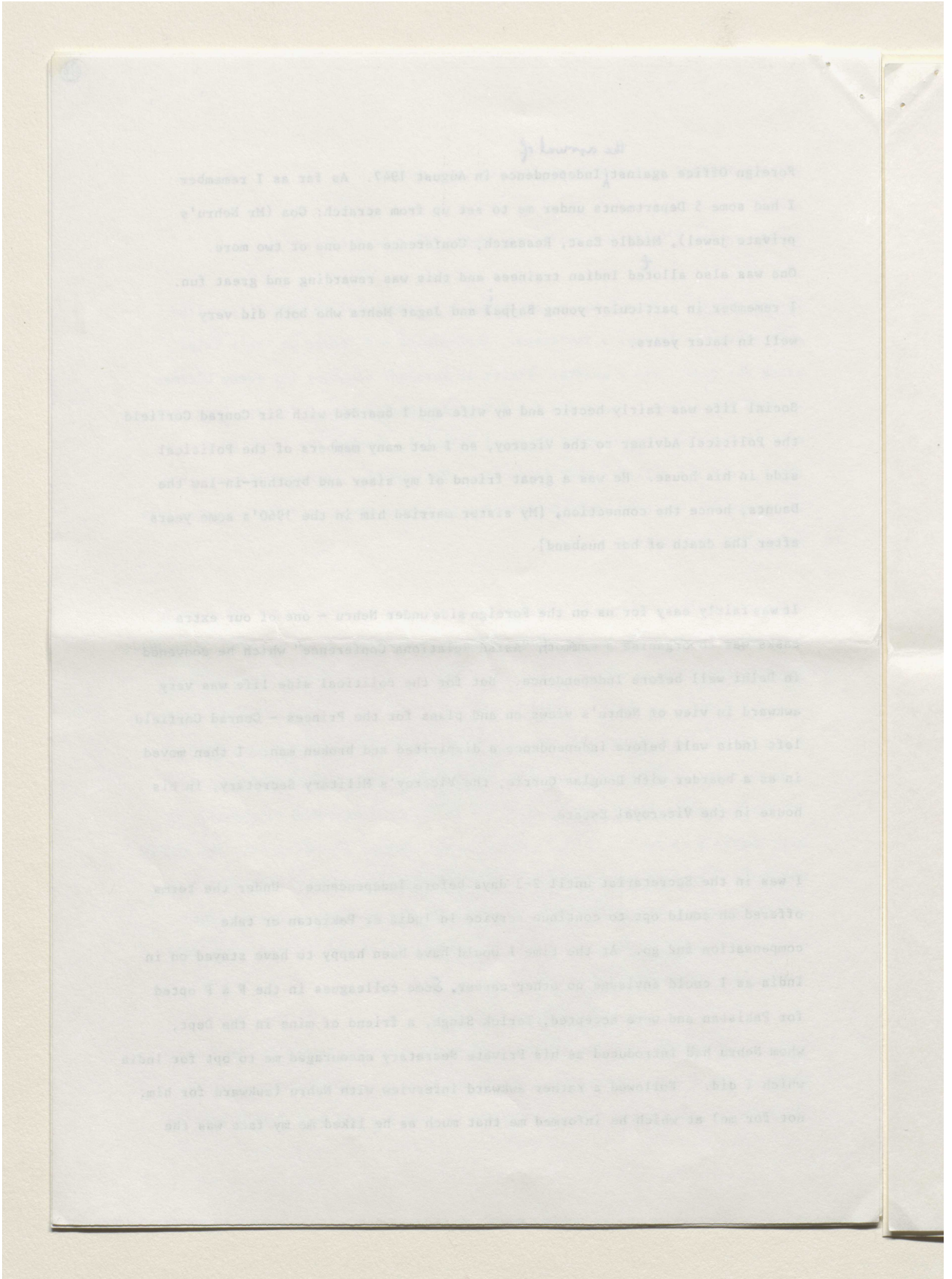
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the approval of
Foreign Office against Independence in August 1947. As far as I remember I had some 5 Departments under me to set up from scratch: Goa (Mr Nehru's private jewel), Middle East, Research, Conference and one or two more. One was also allotted Indian trainees and this was rewarding and great fun. I remember in particular young Bajpai and Jagat Mehta who both did very well in later years.

Social life was fairly hectic and my wife and I boarded with Sir Conrad Corfield the Political Adviser to the Viceroy, so I met many members of the Political side in his house. He was a great friend of my siser and brother-in-law the Daunts, hence the connection, [My sister married him in the 1960's some years after the death of her husband].

It was fairly easy for us on the Foreign side under Nehru - one of our extra tasks was to organise a mammoth "Asian Relations Conference" which he convened in Delhi well before Independence. But for the Political side life was very awkward in view of Nehru's views on and plans for the Princes - Conrad Corfield left India well before independence a dispirited and broken man. I then moved in as a boarder with Douglas Currie, the Viceroy's Military Secretary, in his house in the Viceroyal Estate.

I was in the Secretariat until 2-3 days before Independence. Under the terms offered on could opt to continue service in India or Pakistan or take compensation and go. At the time I would have been happy to have stayed on in India as I could envisage no other career, Some colleagues in the F & P opted for Pakistan and were accepted, Tarlok Singh, a friend of mine in the Dept, whom Nehru had introduced as his Private Secretary encouraged me to opt for India which I did. Followed a rather awkward interview with Nehru (awkward for him, not for me) at which he informed me that much as he liked me my face was the



Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [8r] (15/26)

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wrong colour to be acceptable in the new Indian Foreign Service. He wished me well in the UK Foreign Service which he advised me to join.

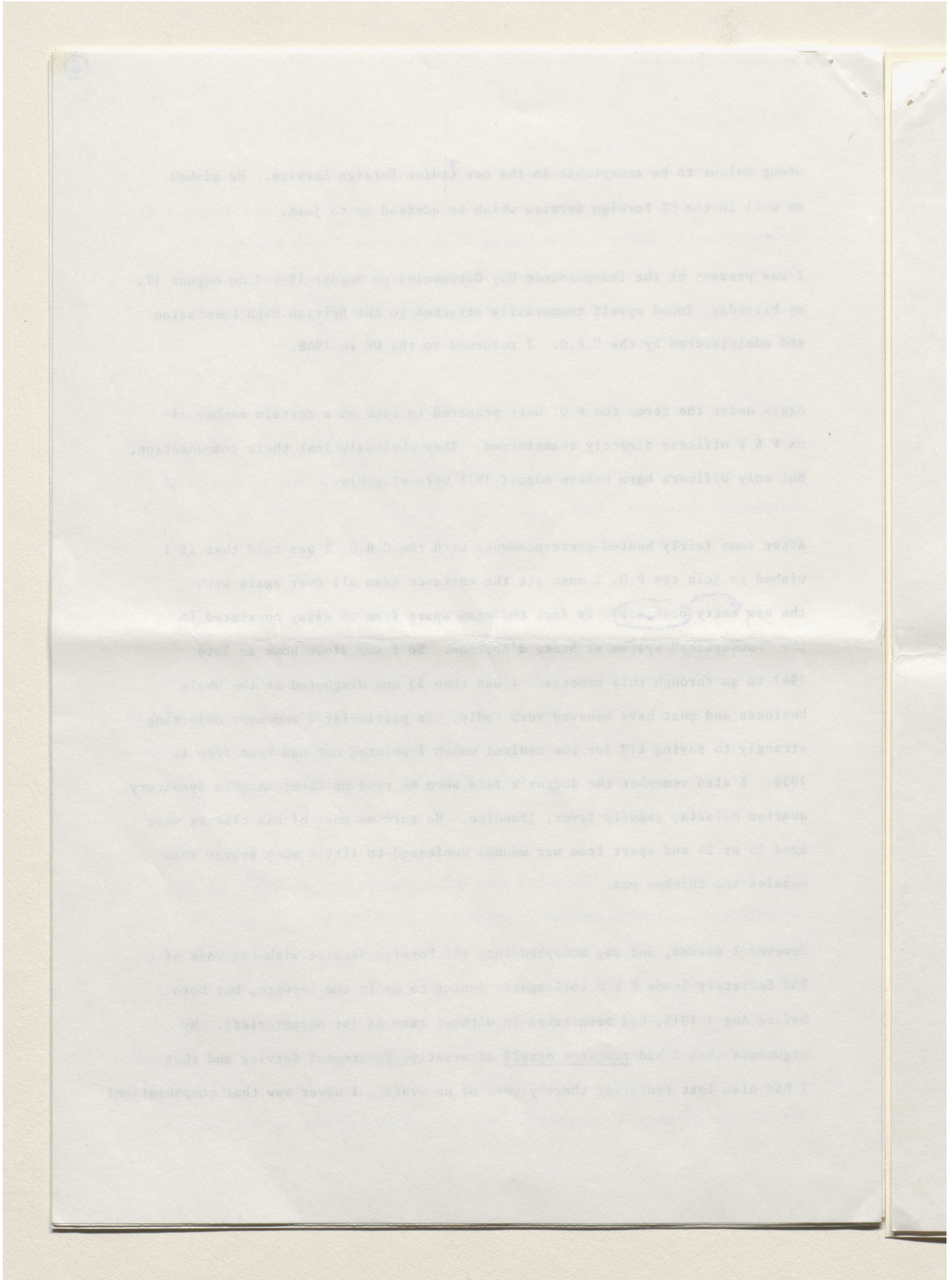
I was present at the Independence Day Ceremonies on August 15 and on August 17, my birthday, found myself temporarily attached to the British High Commission and administered by the C.R.O. I returned to the UK in 1948.

Again under the terms the F.O. were prepared to take on a certain number of ex F & P officers directly transferred. They obviously lost their compensation, But only officers born before August 1915 were eligible.

After some fairly heated correspondence with the C.R.O. I was told that if I wished to join the F.O. I must sit the entrance exam all over again with the new entry post-war. In fact the exam apart from an essay consisted in the "houseparty" system at Stoke d'Abernon. So I was flown home in late 1947 to go through this process. I was then 33 and disgusted at the whole business and must have behaved very badly. In particular I remember objecting strangely to paying £10 for the medical which I pointed out had been free in 1938. I also remember the doctor's face when he read my form: amoebic dysentery, quartan malaria, sandfly fever, jaundice. He told me most of his clients were aged 23 or 24 and apart from war wounds confessed to little much graver than measles and chicken pox.

However I passed, and was accepted into the Foreign Service with the rank of 2nd Secretary (some F & P colleagues, junior to me in the service, but born before Aug 1 1915, had been taken in without exam as 1st Secretaries). My arguments that I had procured myself alternative Government Service and that I had also lost seniority thereby were of no avail. I never saw that compensation!

Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [8v] (16/26)

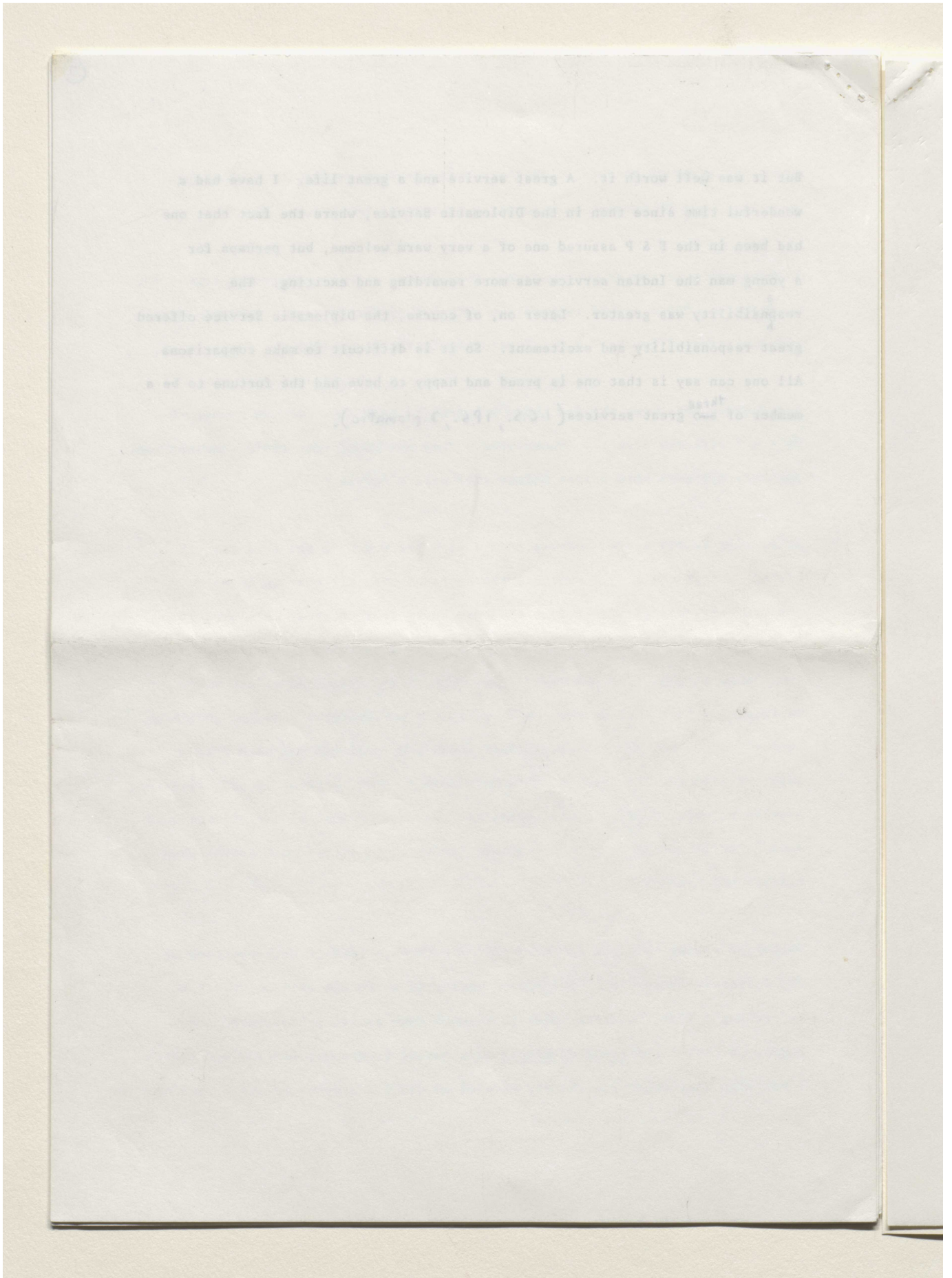


Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [9r] (17/26)

9

But it was well worth it. A great service and a great life. I have had a wonderful time since then in the Diplomatic Service, where the fact that one had been in the F & P assured one of a very warm welcome, but perhaps for a young man the Indian service was more rewarding and exciting. The responsibility was greater. Later on, of course, the Diplomatic Service offered great responsibility and excitement. So it is difficult to make comparisons. All one can say is that one is proud and happy to have had the fortune to be a member of ^{three} ~~two~~ great services (I.C.S., I.P.S., Diplomatic).

Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [9v] (18/26)



Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [10r] (19/26)

10

[Reginald] Michael Hadow

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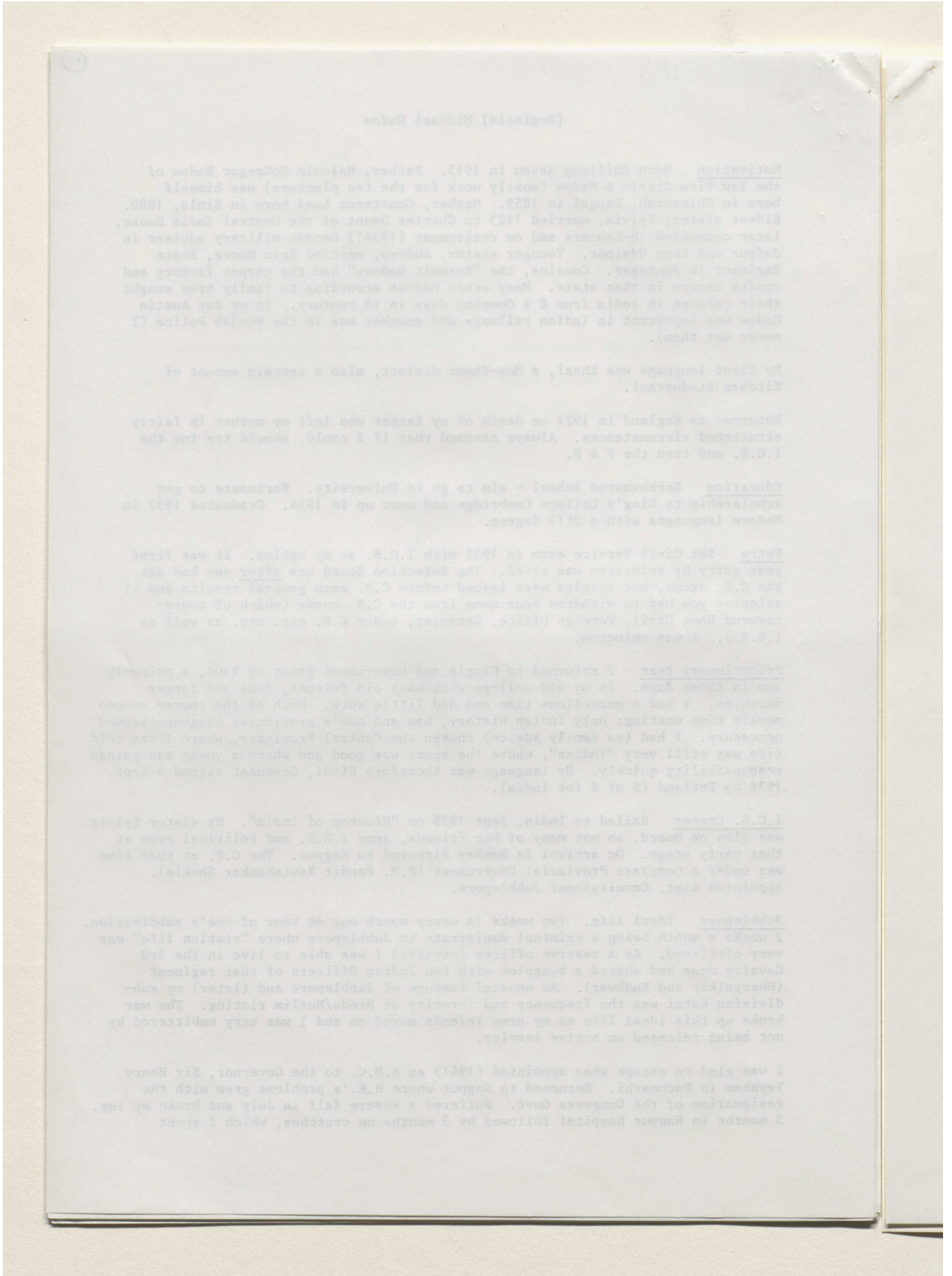
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I was glad to escape when appointed (1941) as A.D.C. to the Governor, Sir Henry Twynham in Pachmarhi. Returned to Nagpur where H.E.'s problems grew with the resignation of the Congress Govt. Suffered a severe fall in July and broke my leg. 3 months in Nagpur hospital followed by 3 months on crutches, which I spent

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Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [11r] (21/26)

11

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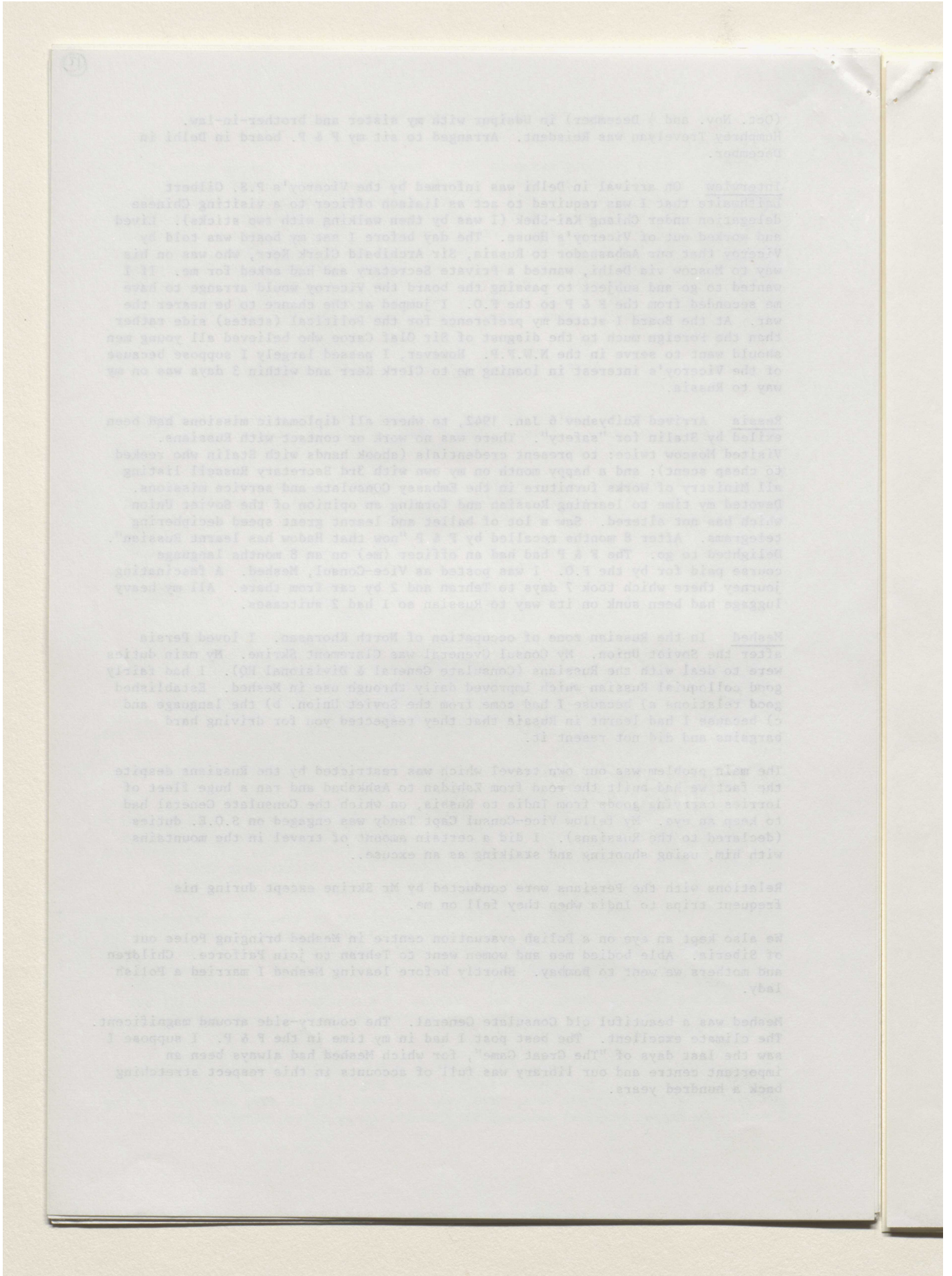
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Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [11v] (22/26)



Memoir of the Career of Sir Reginald Michael Hadow [12r] (23/26)

12

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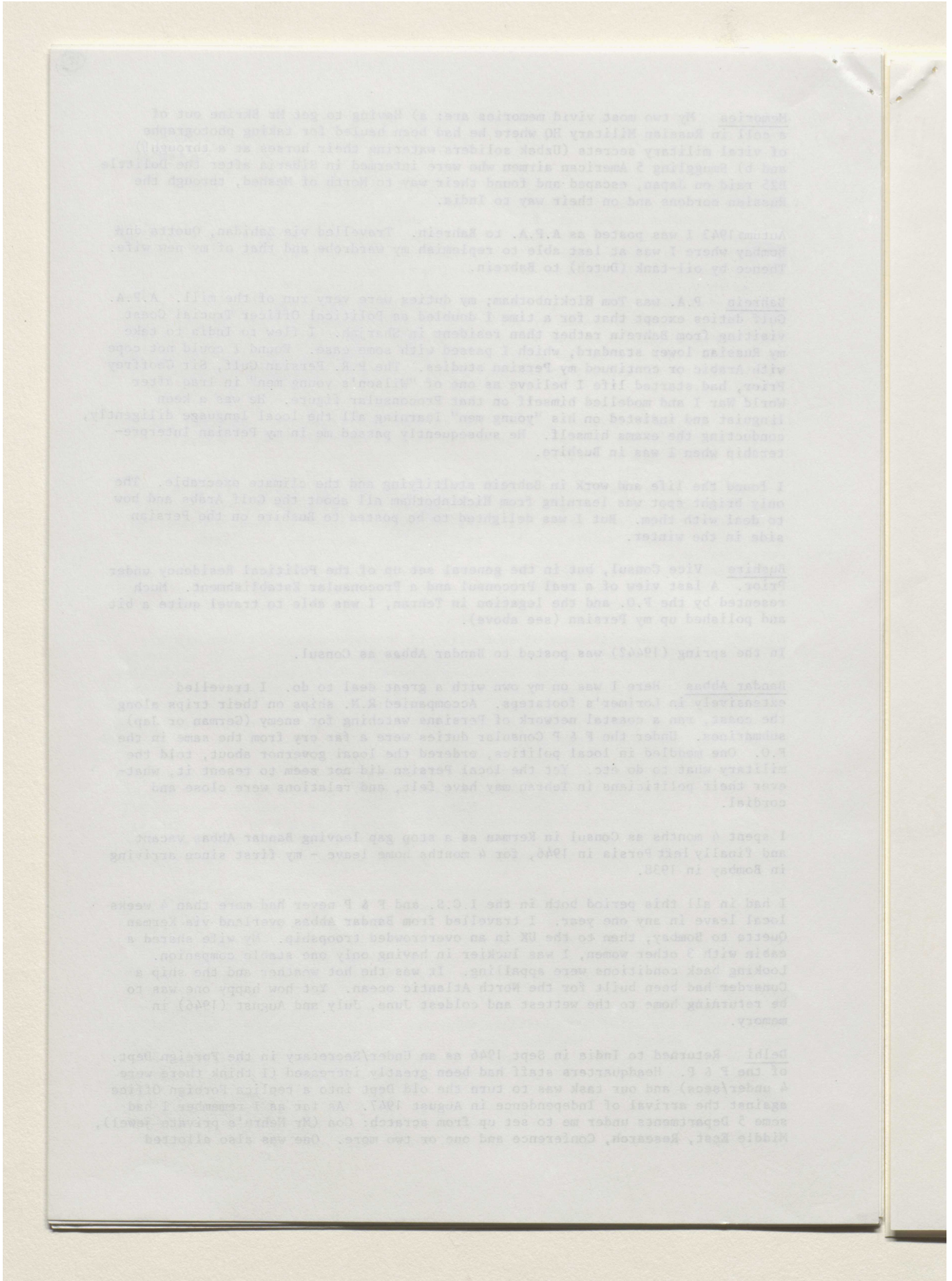
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I spent 4 months as Consul in Kerman as a stop gap leaving Bandar Abbas vacant and finally left Persia in 1946, for 4 months home leave - my first since arriving in Bombay in 1938.

I had in all this period both in the I.C.S. and F & P never had more than 4 weeks local leave in any one year. I travelled from Bandar Abbas overland via Kerman Quetta to Bombay, then to the UK in an overcrowded troopship. My wife shared a cabin with 3 other women, I was luckier in having only one stable companion. Looking back conditions were appalling. It was the hot weather and the ship a Cunarder had been built for the North Atlantic ocean. Yet how happy one was to be returning home to the wettest and coldest June, July and August (1946) in memory.

Delhi Returned to India in Sept 1946 as an Under/Secretary in the Foreign Dept. of the F & P. Headquarters staff had been greatly increased (I think there were 4 under/secs) and our task was to turn the old Dept into a replica Foreign Office against the arrival of Independence in August 1947. As far as I remember I had some 5 Departments under me to set up from scratch: Goa (Mr Nehru's private jewel), Middle East, Research, Conference and one or two more. One was also allotted

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Indian trainees and this was rewarding and great fun. I remember in particular young Bajpai and Jagat Mehta who both did very well in later years.

Social life was fairly hectic and my wife and I boarded with Sir Conrad Corfield the Political Adviser to the Viceroy, so I met many members of the Political side in his house. He was a great friend on my sister and brother-in-law the Daunts, hence the connection. [My sister married him in the 1960's some years after the death of her husband].

It was fairly easy for us on the Foreign side under Nehru - one of our extra tasks was to organise a mammoth "Asian Relations Conference" which he convened in Delhi well before Independence. But for the Political side life was very awkward in view of Nehru's views on and plans for the Princes - Conrad Corfield left India well before independence a dispirited and broken man. I then moved in as a boarder with Douglas Currie, the Viceroy's Military Secretary, in his house in the Viceregal Estate.

I was in the Secretariat until 2-3 days before Independence. Under the terms offered one could opt to continue service in India or Pakistan or take compensation and go. At the time I would have been happy to have stayed on in India as I could envisage no other career. Some colleagues in the F & P opted for Pakistan and were accepted, Tarlok Singh, a friend of mine in the Dept. whom Nehru had introduced as his Private Secretary encouraged me to opt for India which I did. Followed a rather awkward interview with Nehru (awkward for him, not for me) at which he informed me that much as he liked me my face was the wrong colour to be acceptable in the new Indian Foreign Service. He wished me well in the UK Foreign Service which he advised me to join.

I was present at the Independence Day Ceremonies on August 15 and on August 17, my birthday, found myself temporarily attached to the British High Commission and administered by the C.R.O. I returned to the UK in 1948.

Again under the terms the F.O. were prepared to take on a certain number of ex F & P officers directly transferred. they obviously lost their compensation. But only officers born before August 1915 were eligible.

After some fairly heated correspondence with the C.R.O. I was told that if I wished to join the F.O. I must sit the entrance exam all over again with the new post-war entry. In fact the exam apart from an essay consisted in the "houseparty" system at Stoke d'Abernon. So I was flown home in late 1947 to go through this process. I was then 33 and disgusted at the whole business and must have behaved very badly. In particular I remember objecting strangely to paying £10 for the medical which I pointed out had been free in 1938. I also remember the doctor's face when he read my form: amoebic dysentery, quartan malaria, sandfly fever, jaundice. He told me most of his clients were aged 23 or 24 and apart from war wounds confessed to little much graver than measles and chicken pox.

However I passed, and was accepted into the Foreign Service with the rank of 2nd Secretary (some F & P colleagues, junior to me in the service, but born before August 1 1915, had been taken in without exam as 1st Secretaries). My arguments that I had procured myself alternative Government Service and that I had also lost seniority thereby were of no avail. I never saw that compensation! But it was well worth it. A great service and a great life. I have had a wonderful time since then in the Diplomatic Service, where the fact that one had been in the F & P assured one of a very warm welcome, but perhaps for a young man the Indian service was more rewarding and exciting. The responsibility was greater. Later on, of course, the Diplomatic Service offered great responsibility and excitement. So it is difficult to make comparisons. All one can say is that one is proud and happy to have had the fortune to be a member of three great services (I.C.S., I.P.S., Diplomatic).

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