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‘WAR DIARY. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, INDIA. […] I.E.F. “D”. Volume 22. PART II. (From 16th to 31st May 1916).’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/MIL/17/5/3253
Date(s)	16 May 1916-30 May 1916 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
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About this record

The volume contains a chronological list of brief summaries of papers relating to the activities of the Indian Expeditionary Force D (also known as the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force) between 16 and 31 May 1916. This is accompanied by appendices containing copies and extracts of these papers, which include: letters, telegrams, notes, tables, and memoranda.

A summary of the contents of this volume can be found at the start of IOR/L/MIL/17/5/3252. The volume concerns:

- Appreciations [reports] and intelligence summaries from the Directorate of Military Operations
- Considerations of supplies needed, including food and clothing for winter 1916
- Reports of future arrivals of German and Austrian troops
- The movement of Turkish [Ottoman] troops
- Requests for aeroplanes, pilots, and anti-aircraft guns

- Movements of Russian troops under General Baratoff [Nikolai Nikolaevich Baratov], including the occupation of Kasr-i-Shirin [Qasr-e Shirin] and action at Hamrala
- The construction of railways, including the Qurneh-Amarah [al-Qurnah to al-Kut] Railway
- The provision of river craft
- Awards and medals given to British and Russian soldiers
- Outbreaks of cholera and distribution of a cholera vaccine
- Complaints of shortcomings in accounting leading to delays in soldiers being paid.

The following tables appear:

- The distribution of Turkish forces in Mesopotamia on folio 54
- The strength of Force D on 23 April 1916 on folios 29-30 and on 15 May 1916 on folios 57-59
- Changes in the distribution of the troops in Force D from the list of 14 May 1916 on folios 93-94.

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Serial No. 7

L/MIL/17/5/3253

WAR DIARY

ARMY HEADQUARTERS, INDIA

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

I. E. F. "D"

Volume 22.

PART II.

(From 16th to 31st May 1916.)

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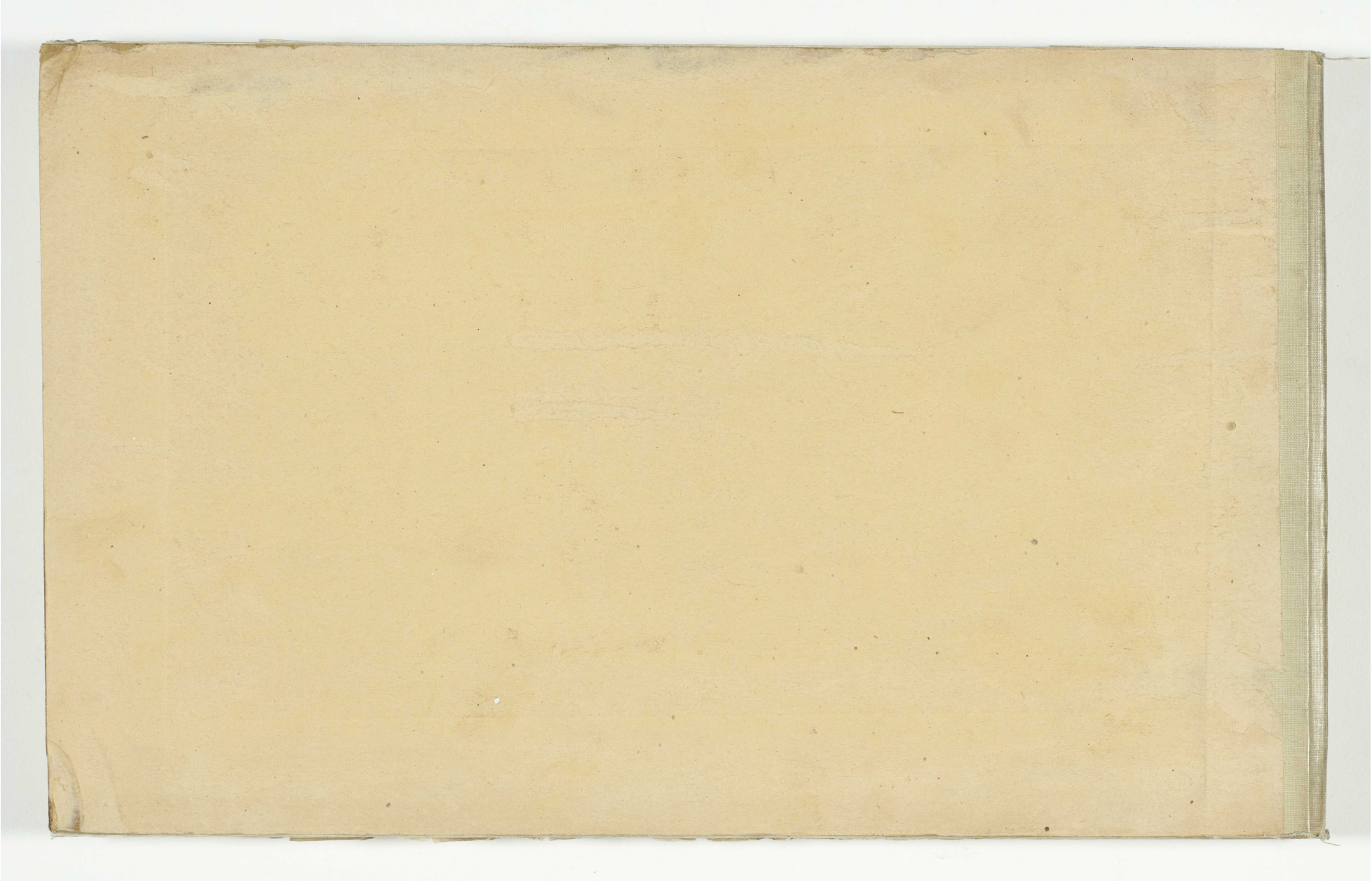

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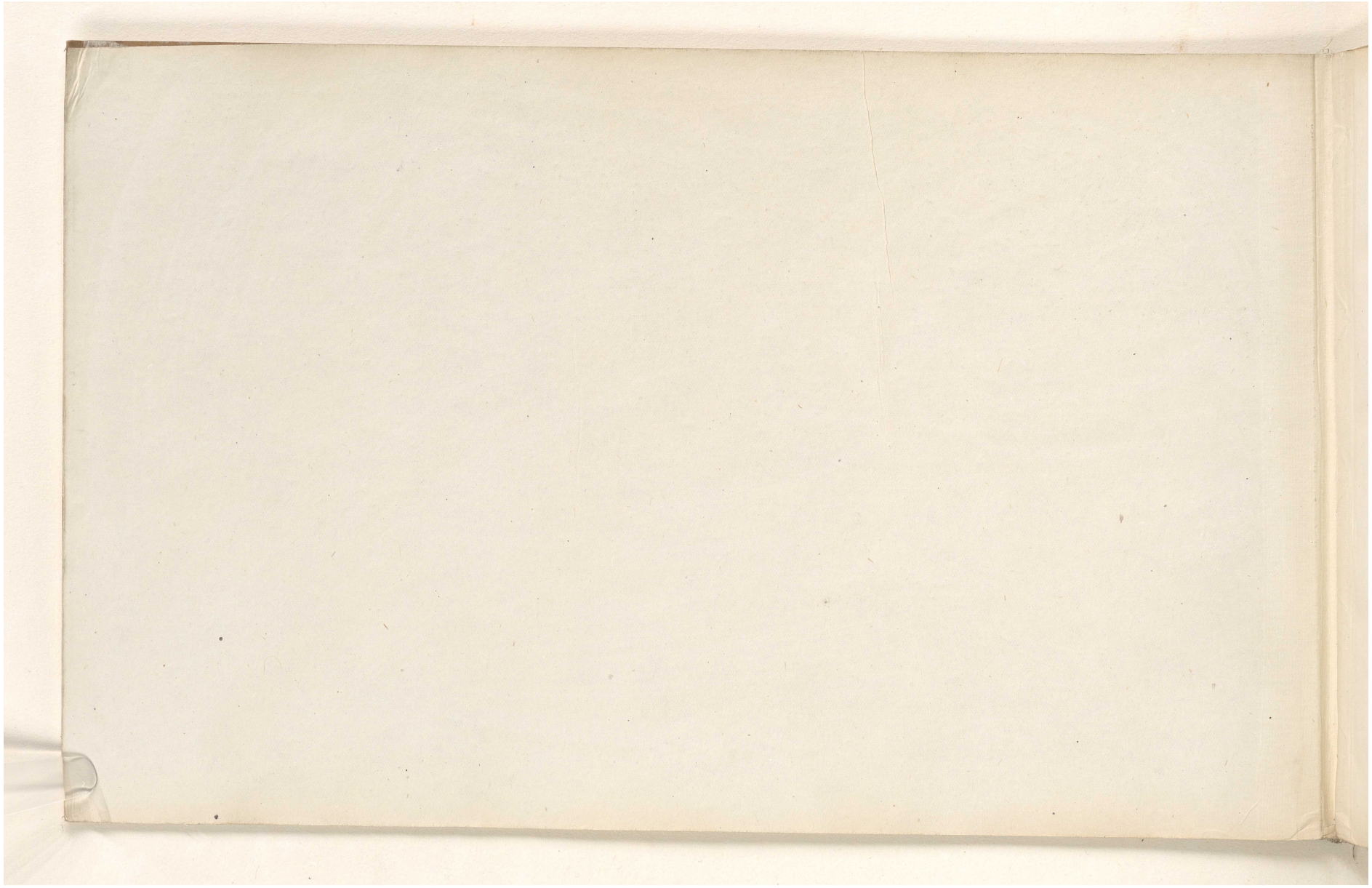

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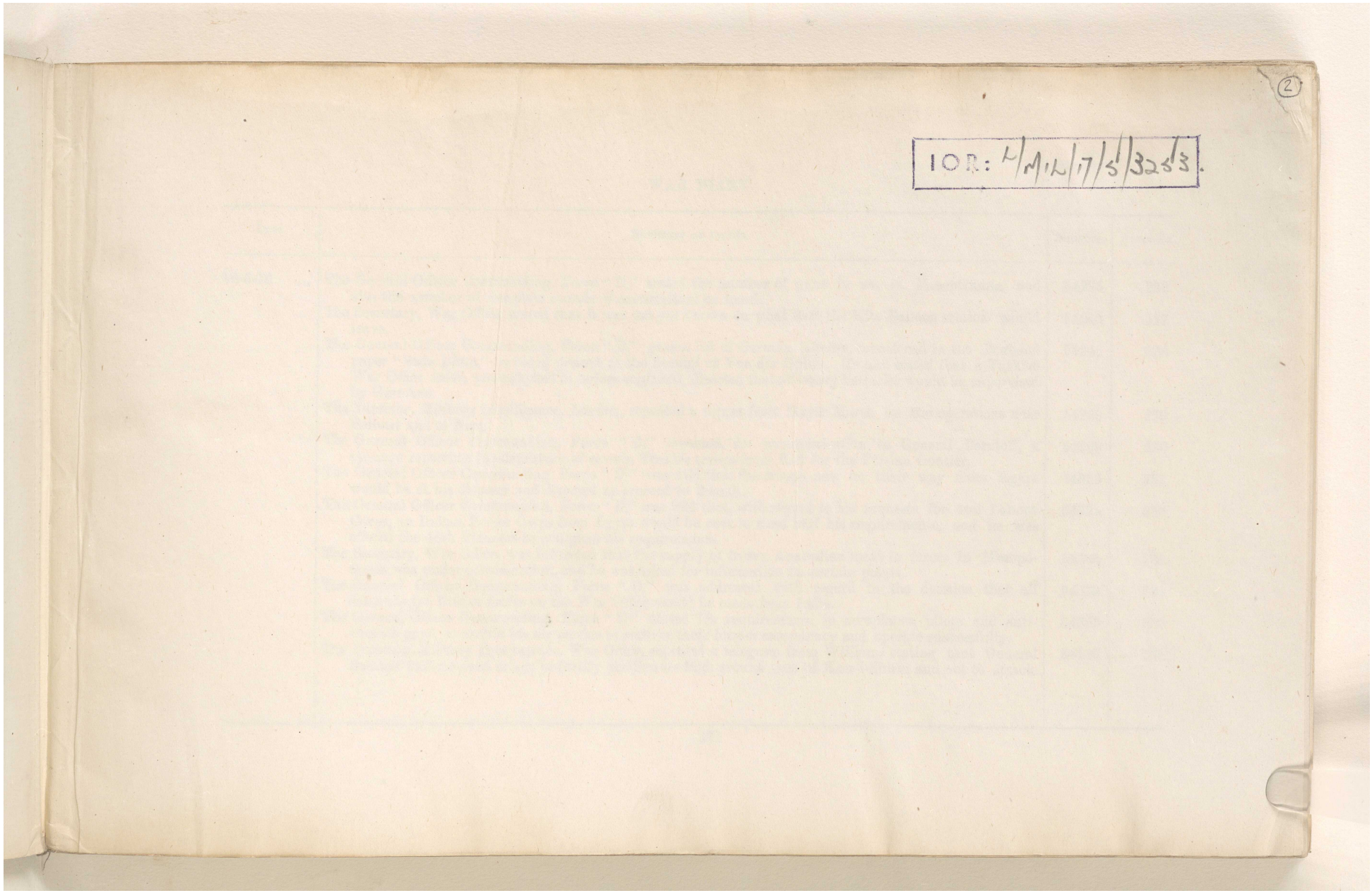

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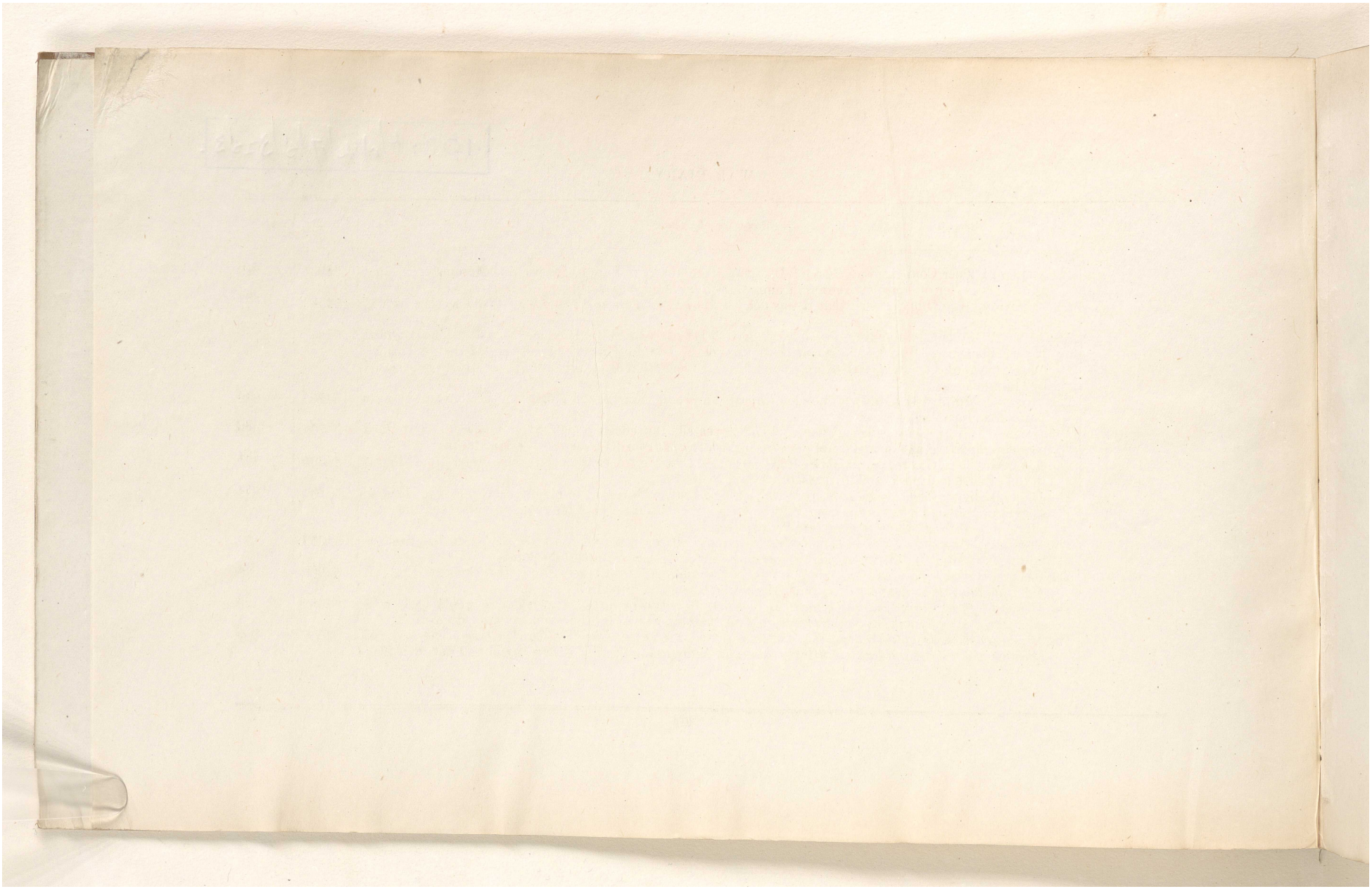

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
16-5-16 ...	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated the number of guns in use in Mesopotamia, and also the number of complete rounds of ammunition on hand.	54235	226
	The Secretary, War Office, stated that it was not yet known on what date the Kite Balloon section would leave.	54243	227
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," gave a list of German officers, mentioned in the Baghdad paper "Sada Islam" as being present at the funeral of Von der Goltz. He also stated that a Turkish War Office order, promulgated in orders captured, directed that all heavy batteries would be supervised by Germans.	54248	228
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated a report from Major Marsh on the operations near Baiburt and at Neri.	54268	229
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," repeated, for communication to General Baratoff, a message reporting the departure of certain Turkish troops from Kut for the Persian frontier.	54269	230
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was told that the troops now on their way from Egypt would be at his disposal and directed to proceed to Basrah.	54333	231
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was told that, with regard to his requests for two Labour Corps, an Indian Porter Corps from Egypt would be sent to meet half his requirements, and he was offered the 48th Pioneers to complete his requirements.	54334	232
	The Secretary, War Office, was informed that the supply of frozen Australian meat to forces in Mesopotamia was under consideration, and he was asked for information on certain points.	54365	233
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was addressed with regard to the decision that all demands for British drafts on the War Office would be made from India.	54369	234
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated his requirements in aeroplanes, pilots and anti-aircraft guns to enable his air service to recover their former ascendency and operate successfully.	54382	235
	The Director, Military Intelligence, War Office, repeated a telegram from Williams stating that General Baratoff had received orders to fortify position on high ground west of Kasr-i-Shirin and not to attack.	54389	236

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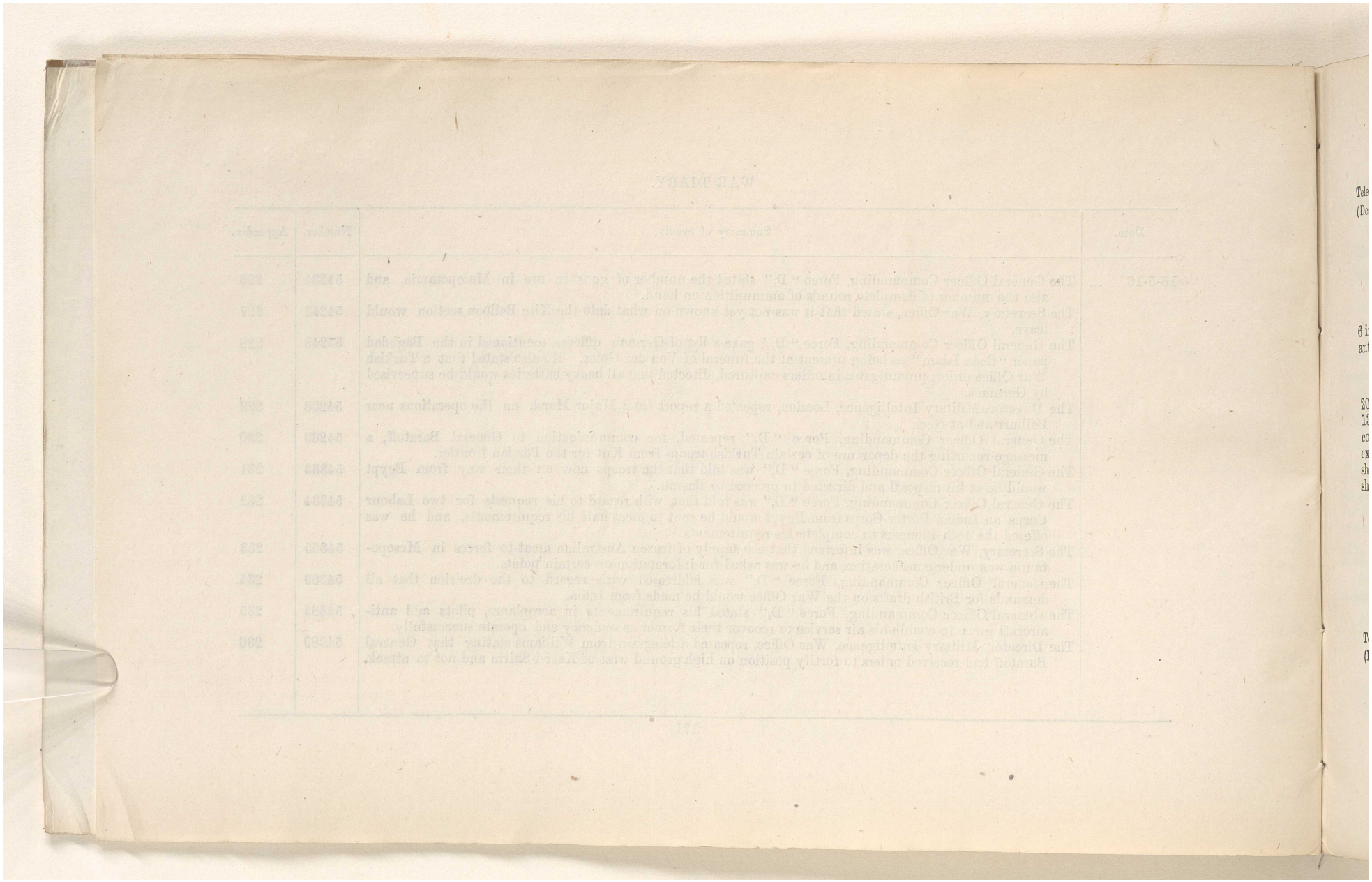

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Telegram P., No. 51-Ord., dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **226**
(Despatched 5-15 P.M., received 4-15 A.M., 16th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54235*)

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

Continuation 45-Ord., dated 8th May (*Dy. No. 52984*).

Following shows number of guns at present in use in Mesopotamia:—

60-pr. 8, 18-pr. 102, 15-pr. B. L. 8, 15-pr. B. L. C. 12, 13-pr. 4, 10-pr. 24, 6 inch howitzer 1, 5 inch howitzer 24, 4·5 inch howitzer 12, 4 inch 2, 12-pr. anti-aircraft guns 2, pom pom 1.

Complete rounds of ammunition up to May 13th is as follows:—

60-pr. gun high explosive 1,200, shrapnel 726; 18-pr. gun high explosive 20,414; shrapnel 78,017; 15-pr. gun shrapnel 3,948; 15-pr. B. L. C. 9,185; 13-pr. gun high explosive 2,000; shrapnel 11,233; 10-pr. shrapnel 31,459, common 2,899; 6 inch howitzer high explosive 603; 5-inch howitzer high explosive 11,027; shrapnel 3,087; 4·5 inch howitzer high explosive 13,416; shrapnel 3,408; 4-inch shrapnel 2,863, lyddite 13,066; 12-pr. anti-aircraft gun shrapnel 300, lyddite 400, pom pom 2,600.

Addressed Secretary, War Office, repeated India.

Working copy to D. G. O.

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

Telegram P., No. 16635-Cipher, dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **227**
(Despatched 10-20 P.M., received 2-15 A.M., 16th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54243*)

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

It is not yet known on what date the Kite Balloon Section will depart.

We have been promised information as to this as early as possible by the Admiralty.

Above message, repeated Commander-in-Chief in India, is addressed General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

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

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2823, dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **228**
(Despatched 1-30 P.M., received 3-15 A.M., 16th May 1916) (*Dy. No. 54248*)

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

Intelligence.—The following German officers, *viz.*, the Duke of Mecklenburg, Colonel Von P. F. Lanz, Major Von Kiesling and Captain Von Busse; and also political adviser Von Dieckhut and the Austrian officer 2nd Lieutenant Weil are mentioned as being present at the funeral of Von der Goltz in Baghdad in an account in the April 22nd issue of the Baghdad paper "Sada Islam." Major Von Kiesling is described as being the "Chief of the Persian Expedition Section" which is apparently a section of German Staff Officers controlling the movement of Turkish troops and German parties in Persia.

A Turkish War Office order is promulgated in orders, dated 19th, which has been captured, which directs that all heavy batteries (of the Iraq group) shall be directed by German officers, non-commissioned officers and men attached to the 6th Army under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilhelm Bey. In this connection (group undecipherable) the names of Captain Hotzmosel, Lieutenant Schmidt and other German officers are also mentioned. Orders are also given regarding Turkish soldiers, saluting German officers and *vice versâ*.

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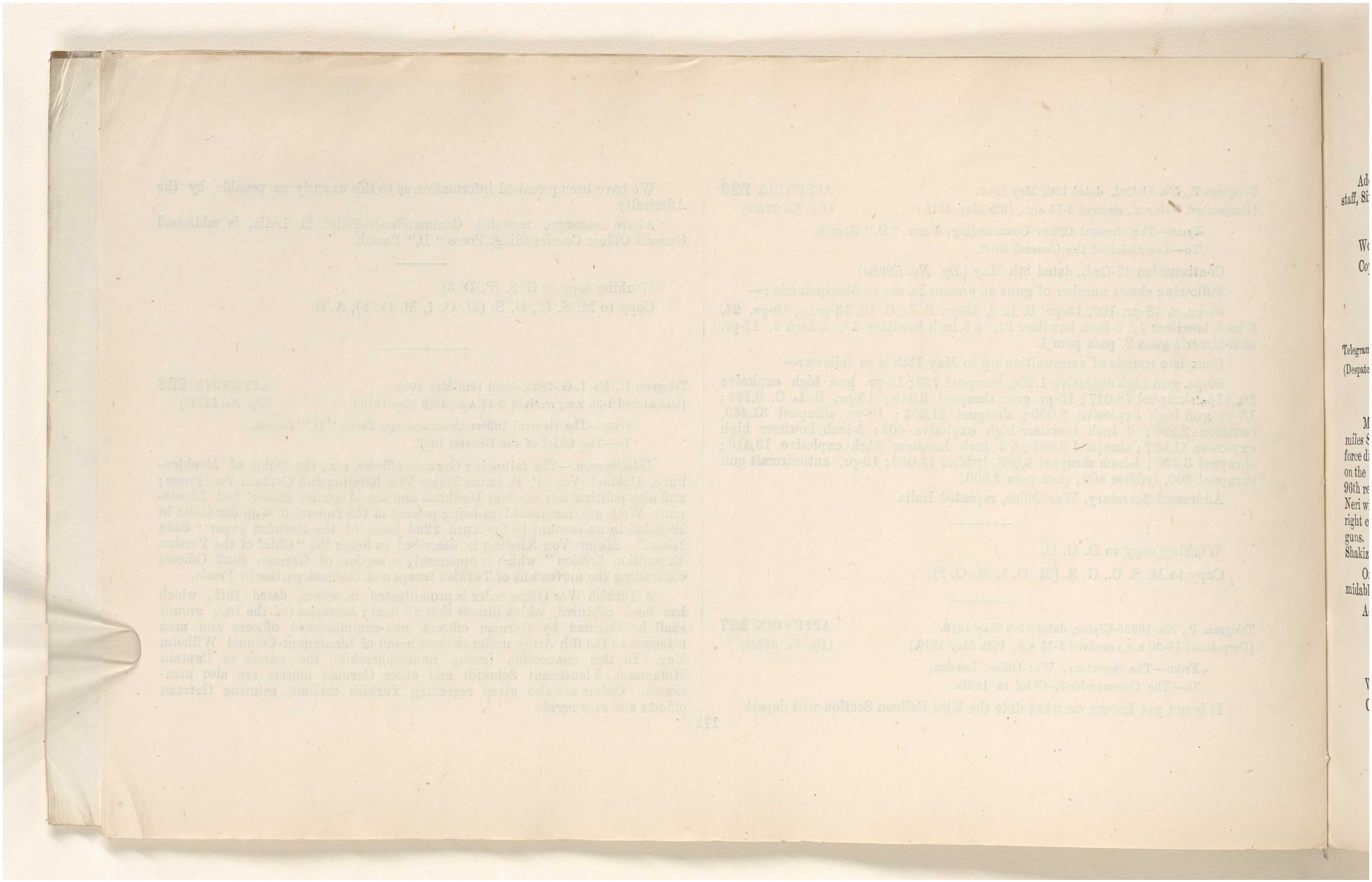

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Addressed Director of Military Intelligence, London; repeated Chief Genstaff, Simla; and General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Cairo.

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

Telegram P., No. 16657-Cipher, dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **229**
(Despatched 9-30 P.M., received 11-45 A.M., 16th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54268*)
From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Marsh telegraphed the following information. On 11th, the heights 16 miles S. E. of Baiburt were retaken by Russians, but on 12th a strong Turkish force dislodged them again. In addition to other heavy casualties, the Turks on the 11th lost, in prisoners alone, 30 officers and 365 other ranks of 90th and 96th regiments. On 12th Russian casualties were at least 1,000. On 12th Neri with 3 guns and Turkish Commander's office were captured by Russian right column, which consists of 4 guns, 1,800 sabres, 2,500 rifles and 2 machine guns. On 14th left column was advancing towards Serdesht and Bane from Shakiz and central column reached the L of Dergala.

On 13th Baratoff reported that the triple position of the Turks is very formidable and is at Khaniqin.

Addressed Basrah, repeated Cairo and India.

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

Telegram P., No. I.G.-2827, dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **230**
(Despatched 11-10 P.M., received 11-30 A.M., 16th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54269*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

The following, addressed Director of Military Intelligence, has been repeated to C. G. S., India.

The following is for Baratoff. Fairly reliable information which I have received indicates that about May 9th the Turkish 2nd Infantry Division consisting of 10 battalions and 12 guns with Turkish Cavalry Brigade of 1,700 sabres and 4 guns left Kut for the Persian Frontier.

It is reported that they moved *viâ* Jessan, which is S. E. of Zarbatiyah and about 16 miles from the latter.

Have received no news of their movement after this.

They may have moved either towards Kirmanshah *viâ* Dehbala or towards Khaniqin *viâ* Mendali.

The latter appears to be the most probable route as supplies would be obtained and wheeled transport could accompany them, neither of which conditions would hold on the former route.

Regarding this movement I am making every endeavour to obtain further information.

Telegram P., No. 54333, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **231**
(Despatched 7-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54333*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
From—The Commander-in-Chief in India,
To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

Reference your 317-242-O. of 14th May (*Dy No. 54116*).

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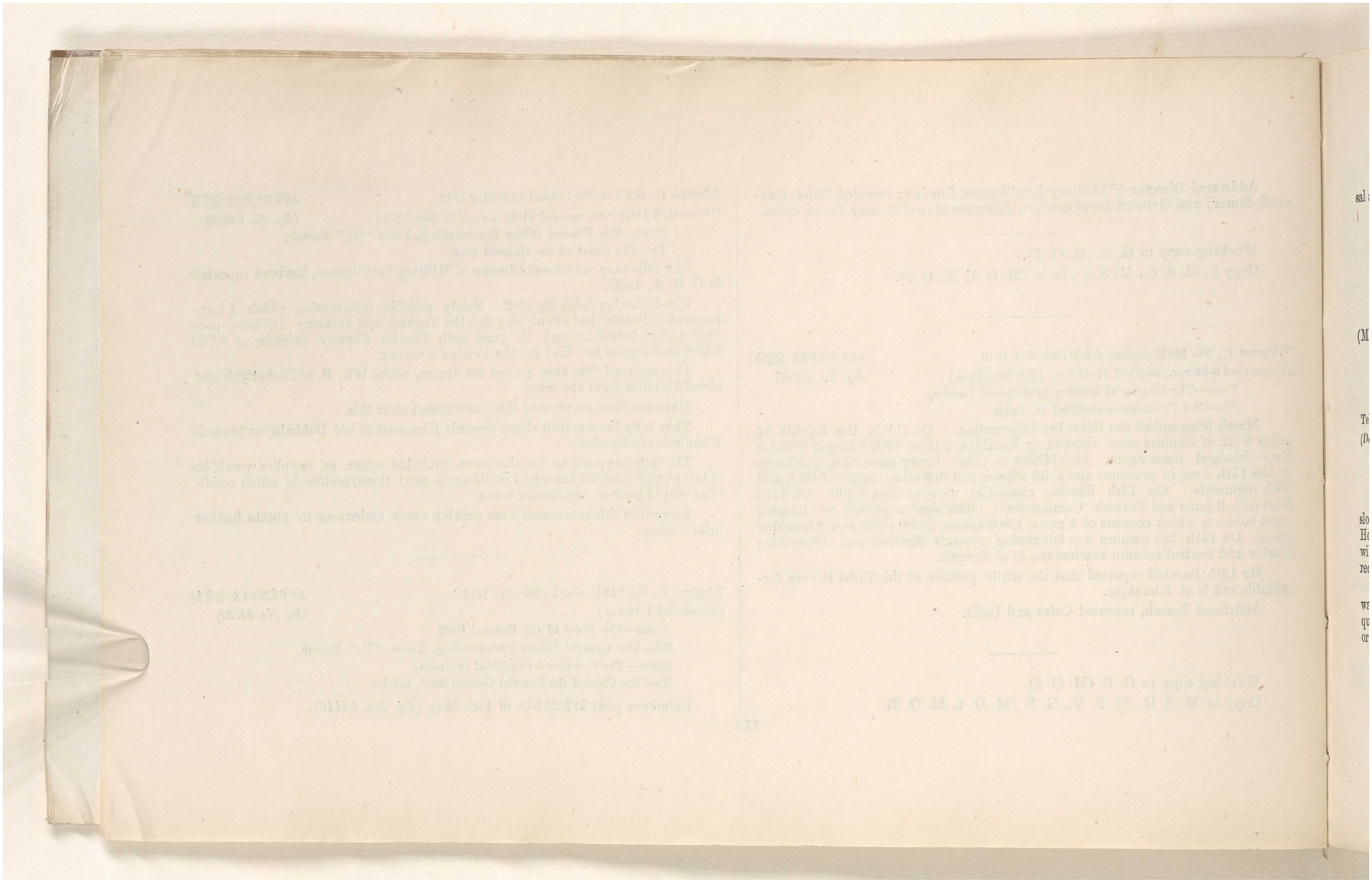

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(6)

Those troops which are now on the way from Egypt will be at your disposal at Basrah, to which place they will be directed.

Addressed Basrah, repeated C. I. G. S., London.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 54334, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **232**
(Despatched 7-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54334*)

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

Reference your 1135—3-O. of 12th May (*Dy. No. 54014*). It will be a slow matter to provide two labour corps in addition to those already demanded. However an Indian Porter Corps from Egypt, the release of which is possible, will, if available, and brought up to 1,000 strong, be sent you to meet half your requirements.

My 53586 of 12th May in which the reconstitution of the 48th Pioneers was ordered was not presumably received by you before despatch of your above quoted number. Can you accept this battalion to complete your requirements or will you still find necessary the provision of another Pioneer Battalion.

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

Telegram No. 54365, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **233**
(Despatched 12-30 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54365*)

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

We are considering the supply of frozen Australian meat to forces in Mesopotamia. We have no experience of subject and shall be glad of information on following points.

Are any special processes necessary in hot climates for defrosting beef and mutton respectively.

Is keeping quality of defrosted meat reduced by previous freezing.

In cold storage chambers what cubic capacity is required per thousand pounds of beef and per thousand pounds of mutton.

What weight of frozen meat is carried by smaller vessels engaged in the trade.

Is much personnel with technical knowledge required to run the business.

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. C.

Telegram P., No. 54369, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **234**
(Despatched 12-30 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54369*)

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

Please refer to my telegram No. 51860 and Adjutant General's No. 34556-1 (*Dy. No. 52249*), both dated 3rd May, also War Office telegram No. 16625-Cipher-A.G.-2-A., dated 15th May (*Dy. No. 54206*).

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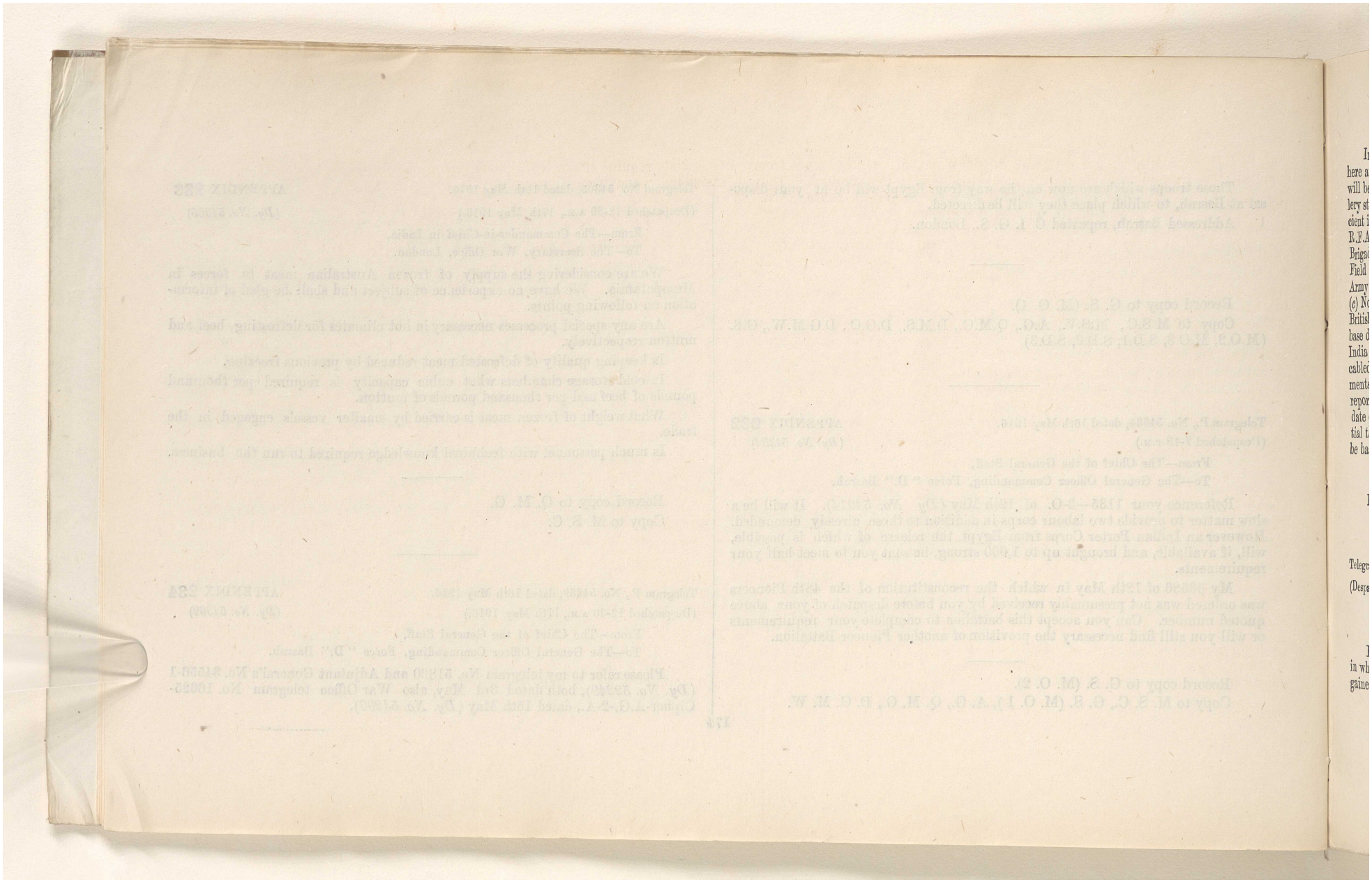

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In future all demands for British drafts on War Office will be made from here after taking into account reinforcements available in this country. They will be based on effective strengths as cabled by you four times a month. Artillery strengths should give gunners and drivers separately and it will be sufficient if they are cabled under following heads: (*a*) R. H. A; (*b*) Regular R.F.A.; (*c*) R.G.A.; (*d*) R.F A. 13th Division; (*e*) Territorial Artillery by Brigades. Engineer strengths should be wired under following headings: (*a*) Field Companies 13th Division; (*b*) following Signal units G.H.Q. Coy., 1-3rd Army Corps Coy., 2-3rd Army Corps Coy., 3rd, 7th, 13th Divisional Coys. (*c*) No. 1 Wireless squadron. (*d*) No. 2 Wireless Squadron. In all cases all British ranks in the country should be included in effective strength including base details. As at present names of transports conveying last drafts from India and England should be given. We will assume that your figures as cabled to us are based on unit returns a fortnight old in arriving at reinforcements required by you at any time. Credit will also be given for all casualties reported to us and allowance will be made for a normal wastage calculated to date of anticipated arrival at Basrah of reinforcements asked for. It is essential that periodical effective figures should be complete and that they should be based on latest returns received by you.

Record copy to A. G.

Telegram P., No. 184-185-O., dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **235**

(Despatched 1-40 P.M., received 10-20 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54382*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Reference my telegram of May 14th, No. 129-430-O. (*Dy. No. 54089*), in which it was reported by me that the mastery of the air has now been gained by the enemy on the Tigris front.

2. I require the following to enable my air service to recover their former ascendency and operate successfully:—

A. Fast and efficient fighting machines to be supplied.

B. Additional pilots to be provided.

C. Efficient anti-aircraft guns to be provided.

3. With regard to A, please see my telegram of the 4th April, No. 4168-F. (*Dy. No. 47137*), in which the danger that the enemy on account of his faster machines might gain the superiority was pointed out by me. I was informed by you in your 15643-M. A. 1, dated 20th April 1916 (*Dy. No. 49898*), that during May 4th fast Martynsides would be provided but up to date I have received no intimation of the despatch of these machines nor has my wire No. 4673-F., of 8th May 1916 (*Dy. No. 52957*) been answered in which the monthly supply of 2 additional fighting machines to replace wastage was asked for. I shall be glad to learn of the despatch of the Flight promised and that the replacement of wastage has been arranged for as requested.

3. With regard to B, other telegrams have dealt with the shortage of personnel. Matters will be improved by the arrival in this country of the pilots promised but until an establishment of 22 pilots for one squadron is maintained situation will not be satisfactory. My telegram 4716-F. of 13th May 1916 (*Dy. No. 54039*), addressed to you dealt with the general question of inadequacy of personnel.

4. With regard to C. Three? times have I applied for anti-aircraft guns firstly my telegram 1008-248-O., dated 5th January 1916 (*Dy. No. 33420*), to the Chief of the General Staff, India, but without success; your cable of March 13th, No. 14316-Cypher-S. D. 2 (*Dy. No. 43195*) informing me that none could be supplied. We have improvised for anti-aircraft work two 12-prs. which the Royal Navy have lent but these are not successful.

I again urge the supply at a very early date of 3 sections anti-aircraft guns complete with suitable ammunition.

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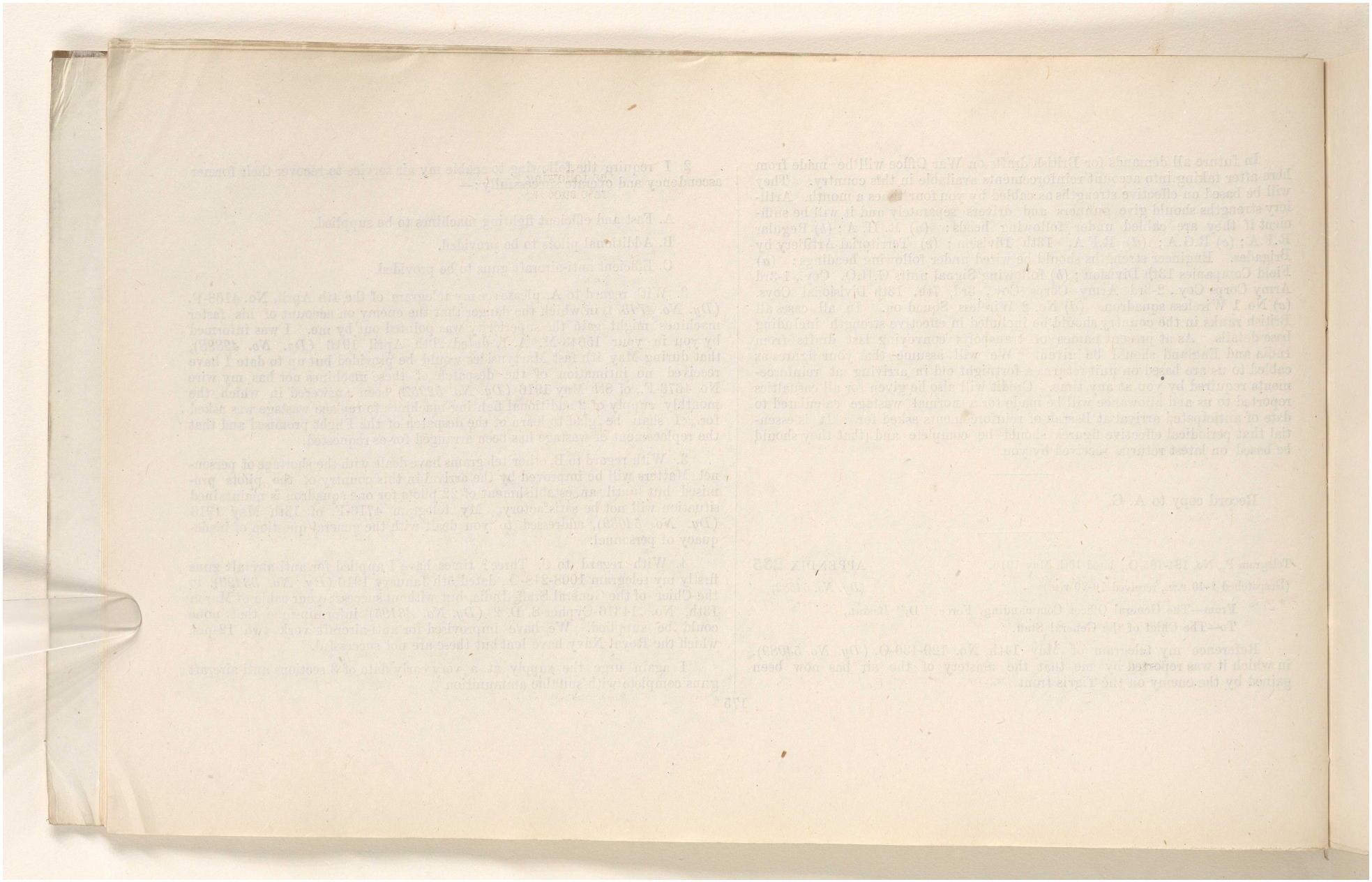

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Repeated Chief General Staff, Simla; this wire is addressed to Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

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

Telegram P., No. 16688-Cipher, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **236**
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 2 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54389*)

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

Clear Line. Urgent.

Wire from Williams dated May 16th 11 A.M., R. W.-34. *Begins.*

Baratoff to-day received orders from Viceroy to fortify position on high ground 8 miles W. of Kasr-i-Shirin and not to attack. *Message ends.*

This telegram is repeated to Cairo, and India, being addressed to Basrah.

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

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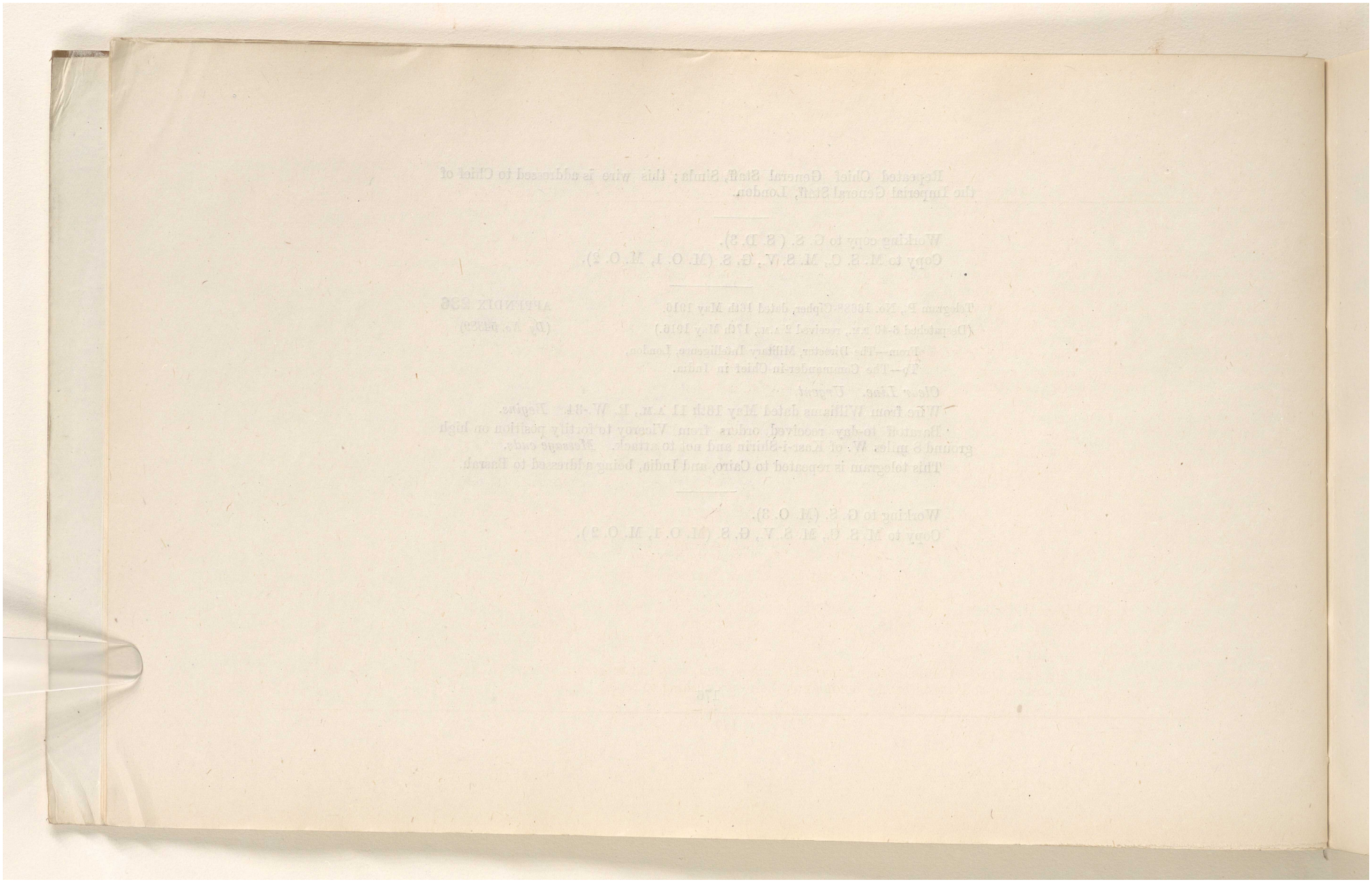

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
17-5-16 ...	A list of sick and wounded from Kut was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D." ...	54393	237
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, reported the occupation of Rowanduz by the force under General Chernozubof.	54396	238
	The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," repeated telegrams from and to the Secretary, War Office, regarding arrangements for the preservation of the health of troops	54418	239
	The Secretary, War Office, stated that the observation ladders required had been obtained from France.	54436	240
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that his report for the 16th may be delayed, as he was on his way to Nasiriyah.	54445	241
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," repeated, for necessary action, a telegram from the Director-General of Stores, India Office, enquiring if any of the barges under provision from England should be insulated for cold storage.	54448	242
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated the total number of days' rations with the Tigris Corps on 14th April.	54451	243
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that he had telegraphed to the Minister at Tehran, detailing the action he wished the Wali to take, and also that he had approached an influential agent of the Wali's.	54461	244
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, reported the occupation of Qasr-i-Shirin by the Russians under General Baratoff.	54466	245
	The Secretary, War Office, reported the despatch of two Maurice Farman aeroplanes and seven R. A. F. 2 Renault engines.	54477	246
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was addressed with regard to British battalions requiring rest and reorganization being replaced by three Territorial battalions from India.	54478	247
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was informed that Lance-Naick Lala, 41st Dogras, had been awarded the Victoria Cross.	54522	248
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that, with the exception of small action of cavalry outposts and activity of enemy aeroplanes, there was nothing to report.	54540	249

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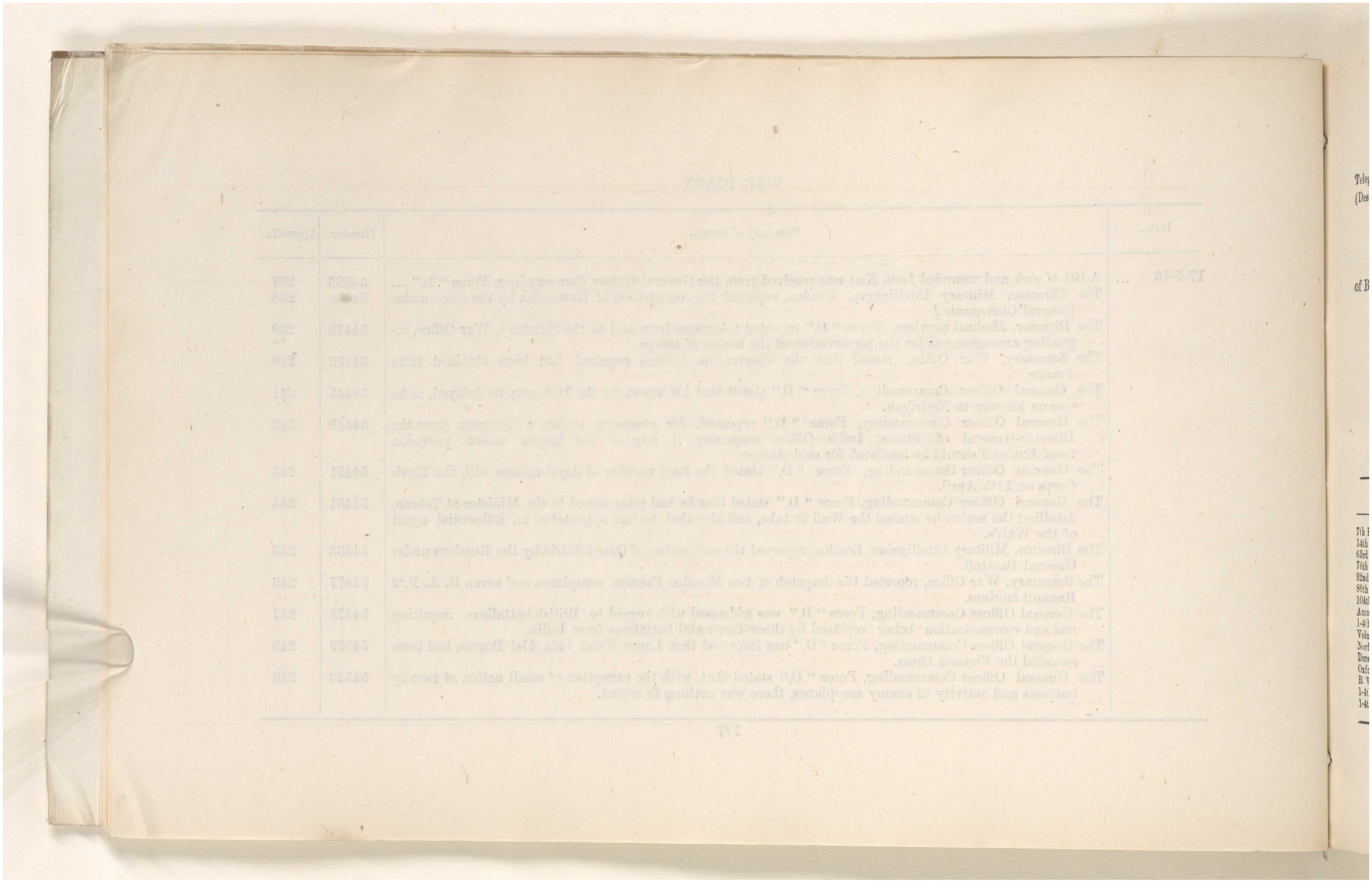

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Telegram No. 1537-16-A., dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **237**
(Despatched 3-20 P.M., received 4-30 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54593*)

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

Your 25969 (52823 ?) of 7th May.

Following list of sick and wounded released from Kut by units, and names of British officers released.

British Officers.

103rd Mahrattas.—Lieut. W. A. G. Hinds, wounded chest.

2nd Norfolk.—Lieut. F. V. Portsmouth, sick.

Lieut. J. H. Bullock, fracture thigh.

67th Punjabis.—Lieut. F. G. I. Maclean, wounded knee and chest.

Other ranks—British.

Unit.	Sergts.	Corporals.	Gunners.	Privates.	
7th Hussars	...	...	...	1	
14th Hussars	...	...	...	1	
63rd Battery	1	...	7	...	
76th Battery	...	1	5	...	
82nd Battery	...	...	2	...	
86th Battery	..	...	2	...	1 Indian Driver.
104th Battery	...	...	3	...	2 Indian Drivers.
Ammunition Column	...	...	...	...	8 Do.
1-4th Hants Battery	...	1	6	...	2 Do.
Volunteer Artillery Battery	1	...	4	...	
Norfolks	...	...	...	7	
Dorsets	1	1	...	12	
Oxfords	1	1	...	15	
R. W. Kents	...	...	...	12	
1-4th Hants	1	...	...	6	
1-4th Devons	...	...	...	1	

Units.	Sergts.	Corporals	Gunners.	Privates.
1-4th Queens	...	...	...	2
S. & T. Corps	1 Conductor 1 Sergeant.			
Royal Navy	1 Chief Petty Officer, 1 Petty Officer.			

Other ranks.—Indian.

Unit.	I. Officers.	Col. Havildars.	Havildars.	Naicks.	File.
7th Lancers	...	...		...	2
16th Cavalry	...	...	...	...	2
23rd Cavalry	...	...	...	...	2
33rd Cavalry	...	...	...	...	5
8th Battery	...	...	...	...	1
34th Signal Company	...	...	...	...	4
1st Sappers and Miners	...	...	...	...	3
3rd " "	...	...	...	...	14
Sirmur Sappers	...	...	1	...	13
7th Rajputs	...	1	2	1	58
16th Rajputs	...	...	...	...	1
20th Punjabis	...	...	...	...	1
22nd Punjabis	...	...	2	5	34
24th Punjabis	...	...	...	2	14
37th Sikhs	...	...	...	...	1
48th Pioneers	...	...	...	...	18
64th Pioneers	...	...	...	...	1
66th Punjabis	...	...	3	4	41
67th "	...	1	1	...	20
76th "	1	...	3	1	36
84th "	...	...	...	...	1
95th Infantry	...	...	...	...	2
103rd Mahrattas	1	...	6	4	54
104th Rifles	1	...	...	1	50
110th Mahrattas	2	1	5	5	64
115th Infantry	...	...	...	1	5
117th "	...	...	5	2	58

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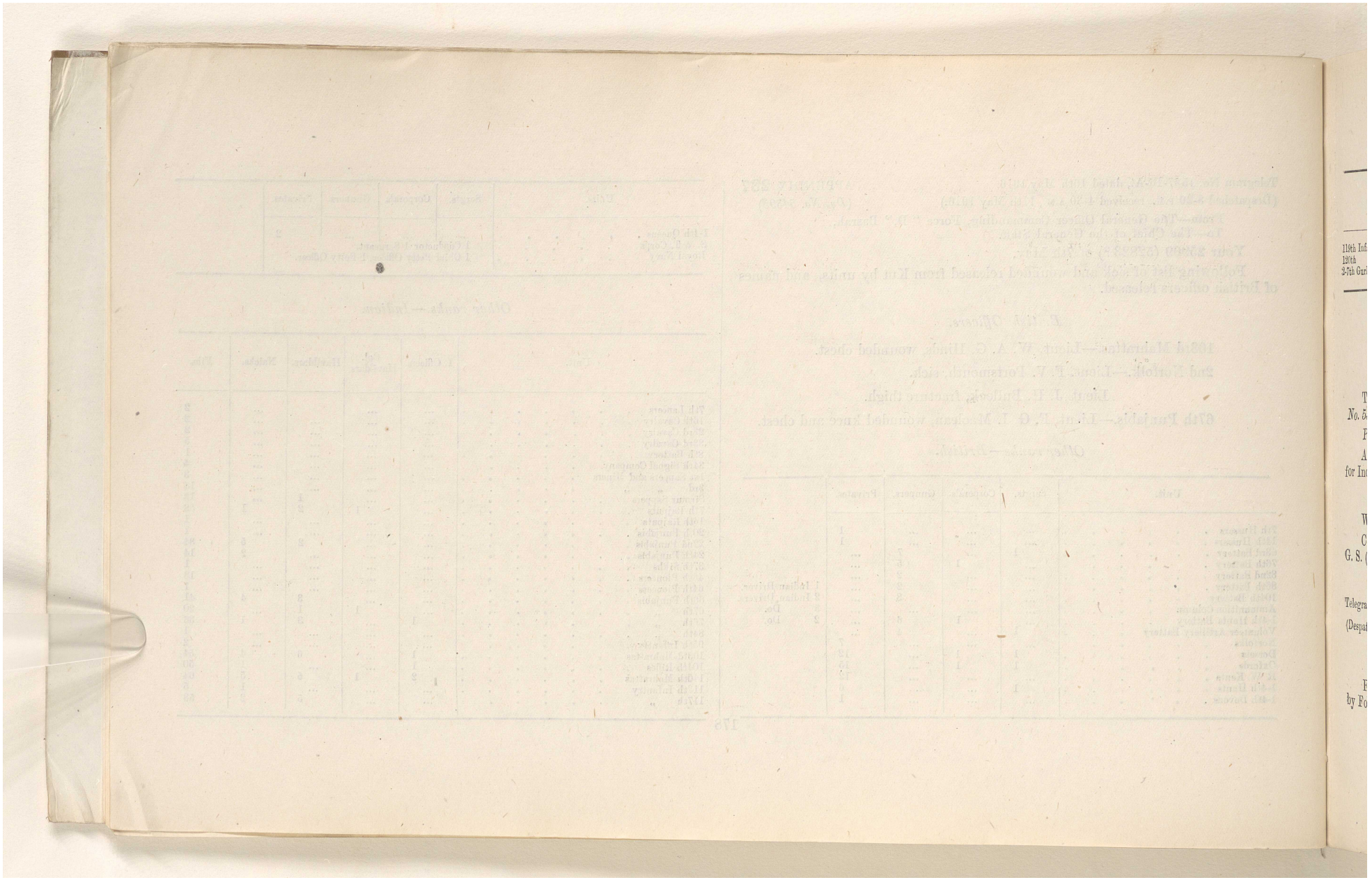

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Units.	I. Officers.	Col.-Havildars.	Havildars.	Naicks.	File.
119th Infantry	1	...	2	2	47
120th "	...	...	3	1	60
2-7th Gurkhas	...	...	5	2	57

I. S. M. D. . . . . 1 Sub-Asst. Surgeon.

S. and T. Personnel, A. B. C. and Miscellaneous . . 220 followers.

Postal Service . . . . . 1 British Rank.

These figures are in substitution of my 1537-7-A., dated 10th May (*Dy. No. 53556*).

Present total all ranks 1,085.

Addressed Chief of the General Staff, Simla, repeated to Secretary of State for India, London.

Working copy to D. M. S.

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

Telegram P., No. 16671-Cipher, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **238**

(Despatched 1-25 P.M., received 4-45 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54396*)

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

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Following received from Marsh. On May 13th Rowanduz was occupied by Force under Chernozubof.

Addressed Basrah, repeated Cairo and India.

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

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

Telegram No. H.-3-90, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **239**

(Despatched 6-20 P.M., received 9-30 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54418*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Secretary, War Office, wire.

Begins. 6444 A. M. D.-2-290. Telegraph whether arrangements for preservation of health of troops are all that you wish. If there are any defects state what they are, mention requirements in personnel and material. *Ends.* I have replied as follows :—*Begins.* H.-389, 16th May. Reference your 6444, May 12th. Arrived Basrah May 13th. Arrangements at the Base for health of troops and hospitals fairly satisfactory under local conditions except serious shortage of electric lighting installation and punkhas. Shortage of technical and other labour seriously delayed erection of hospital hutments and completion of water supplies. Difficulties centre round river transport. Two hospital steamers only available now. Sick and wounded are transported by supply steamers and barges improvised for return journey. This arrangement highly unsatisfactory. Require ten hospital river ships at once and ten launches for use of medical services only. Proceed up river? May 18th and will report by telegraph on return. *Ends.*

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

Copy to M. S. C.

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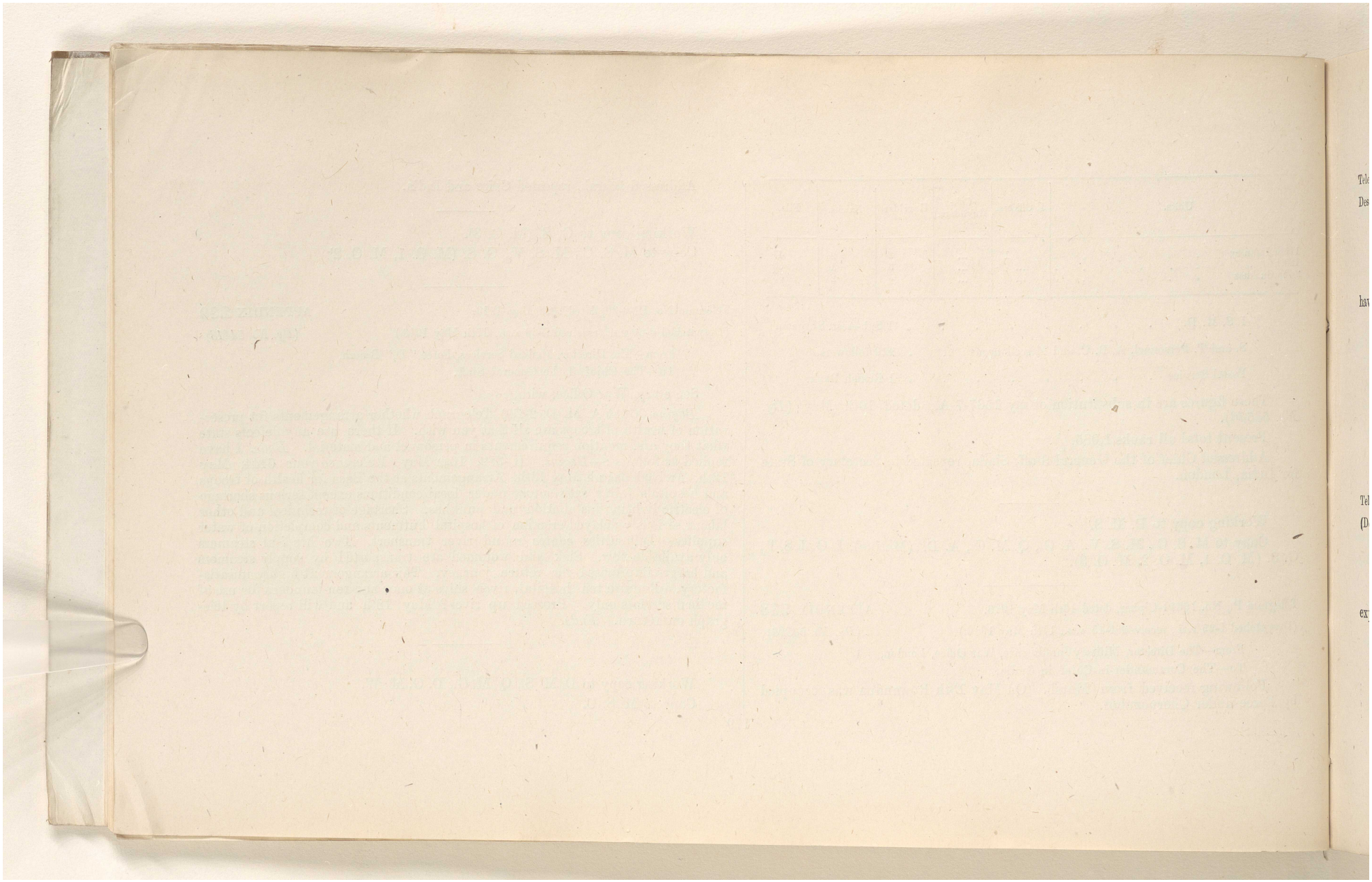

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Telegram No. 6622-F. W.-5, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **240**

Despatched 7-5 P.M., received 12-15 P.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54436*)

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

Your telegram of 11th May (43 ?)-45, Ord., (*Dy. No. 53691*).

Ladders you require, except that they are for 75 feet instead of 60 feet have been obtained from France.

Will notify you when despatched to you.

Addressed Basrah; repeated C.-in-C., India.

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

Telegram P., No. 129-432-O., dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **241**

(Despatched 4-30 A.M., 17th May 1916, received 1 P.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54445*)

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

Report for 16th May belated as I am on my way to Nasiriyah. On 21st, expect return to Basrah.

Addressed C. G. S., India. Repeated C. I. G. S., London.

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

Telegram No. 1540-15-Q., dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **242**

(Despatched 6-10 P.M., 16th May 1916, received 11-30 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54448*)

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

Following cipher telegram from D. G. Stores, India Office, without number and date :—*Begins.* I have been informed that enquiries are being made in India regarding cold storage at Basrah and a refrigerating plant for insulated barges for carrying frozen meat. Do you require us to insulate any of the barges under provision from England. If so please telegraph number of barges and relative amounts not remitted of different all kinds refrigerated cargo. *Ends.* As you are dealing with the matter will you please reply direct and repeat to me.

Working copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. C.

Telegram No. S.-370, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **243**

(Despatched 7-20 P.M., 16th May 1916, received 9-30 A.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54451*)

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

Total number days' rations with Corps on 14th May including in transit British troops 13, Indian troops 14, grain 18, and fodder 12.

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

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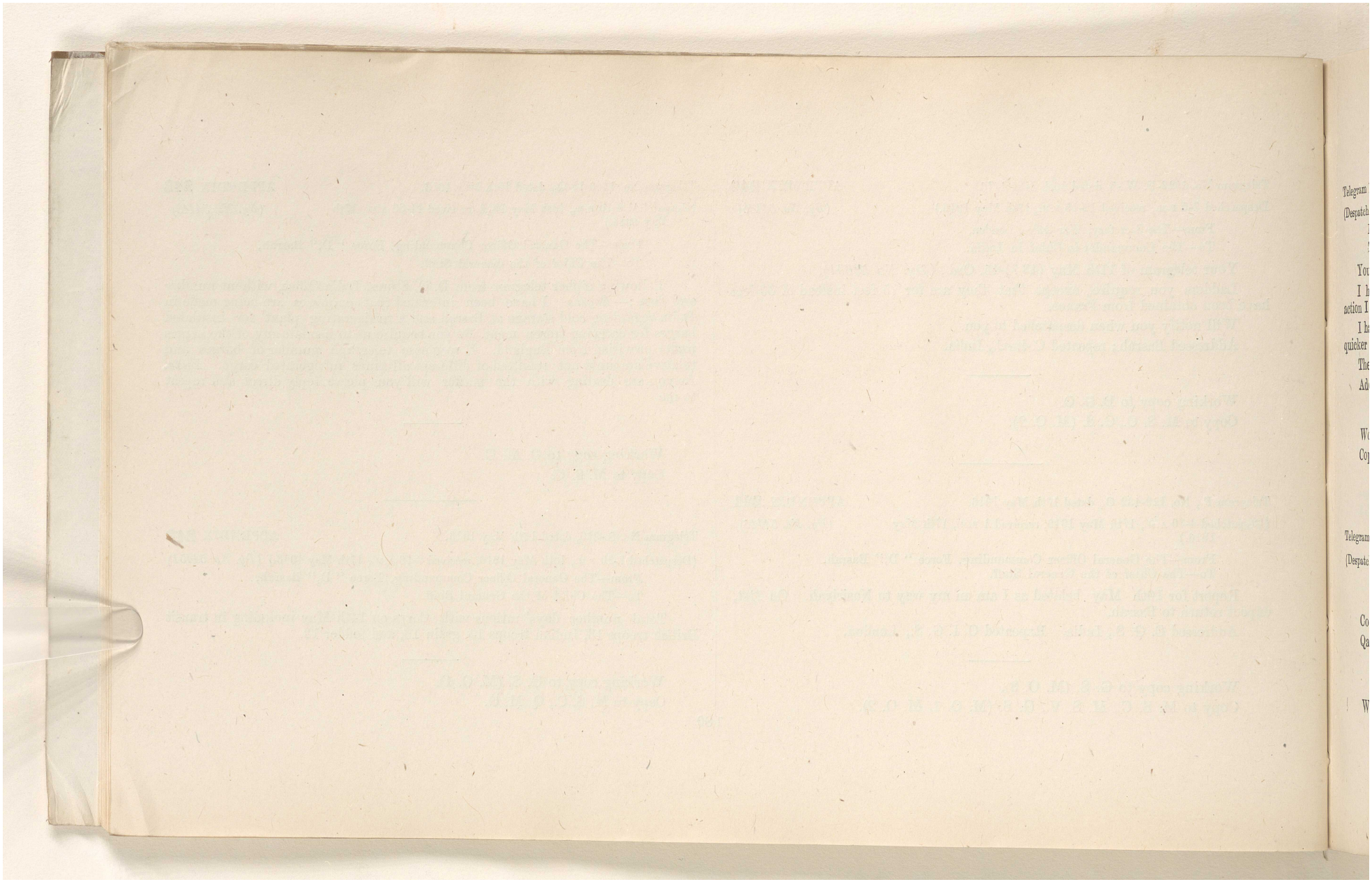

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Telegram P., No. I. G.-2836, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **244**

(Despatched 4-30 A.M., received 2-15 P.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54461*)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Qurnah,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Your 16334 of 11th (*Dy. No. 53527*).

I have despatched telegram on the subject to Minister at Tehran detailing action I would like him to persuade the Wali to take.

I have also approached direct an influential agent of the Wali's, as a quicker method.

The situation is of course being watched by local intelligence officers.

Addressed London, repeated India.

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

Telegram P., No. 16630-Cipher, dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **245**

(Despatched 1-30 P.M., received 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54466*)

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

Continuation of my 16629 (*not received*).

Qasr-i-Shirin has been (seized ?) by Russian forces under Baratoff.

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

Telegram No. 6643-M.A.-26-4209, dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **246**

(Despatched 9-30 P.M., 16th May 1916, received 3-30 P.M., 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54477*)

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

Your 4715-F. of 13th May (*Dy. No. 54004*), seven B.E. 2 C., two Maurice Farman aeroplanes, seven R.A.F. 2 Renault engines, shipped in S.S. "Crown of Aragon."

Addressed Basrah; repeated C.-in-C., India.

Working copy to G. S. (S. D. 3).
Copy to M. S. C.

Telegram P., No. 54478, dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **247**

(Despatched 6-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54478*)

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

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

Your telegram 1028-24-O., dated 1st May (*Dy. No 51626*).

Reference paragraph 1. Unless British battalions are replaced, none can be made available from India.

Reference paragraph 2. In exchange for three British regular battalions requiring rest and reorganisation, we can send you three territorial battalions from India. We can send now from here two battalions, and the third relieving battalion would be despatched as soon as the two battalions thus relieved arrive in India.

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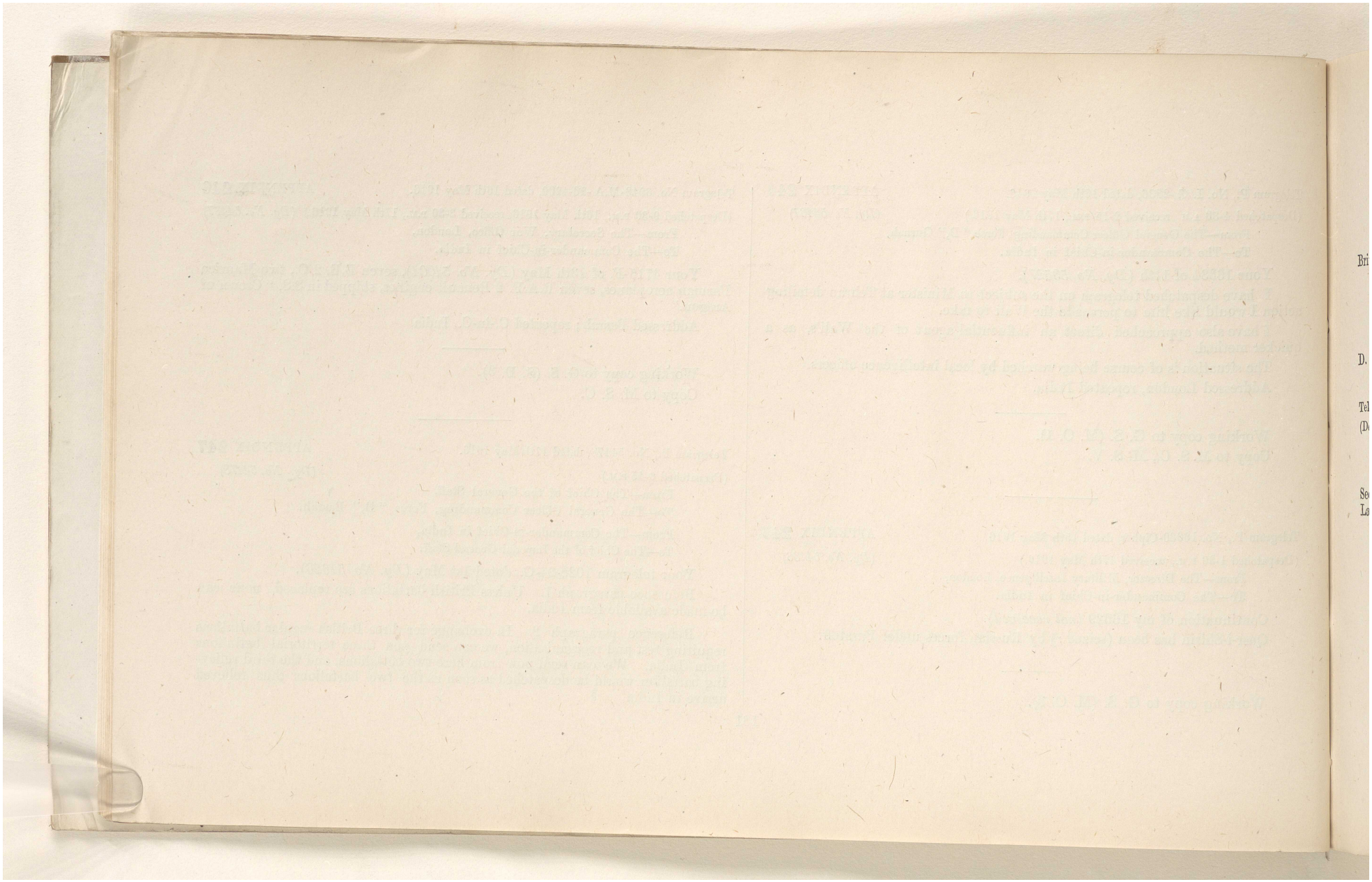

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Following are the battalions selected for this exchange :—
1-5th Hampshires.
1-4th Wiltshire Regiment.
1-5th Somerset L. I.
Are you in agreement with the above, and if so please inform me which 3 British battalions you select in exchange for the relieving battalions.
Addressed Basrah, repeated Chief, London.

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

Telegram No. 54522, dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **248**
(Despatched 10-50 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54522*)

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

Your No. 81-3-M. S., dated 25th February 1916 (*Dy. No. 42409*-A.), Secretary of State intimates that Victoria Cross has been awarded to No. 501 Lance Naick Lala, 41st Dogras.

Record copy to A. G.

Telegram P., No. 129-433-O., dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **249**
(Despatched 10-30 A.M., received 6-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54540*)

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

May 16th. Tigris line.

With the exception of small action of cavalry outposts and the activity of enemy aeroplanes Gorringe has nothing to report.

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

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

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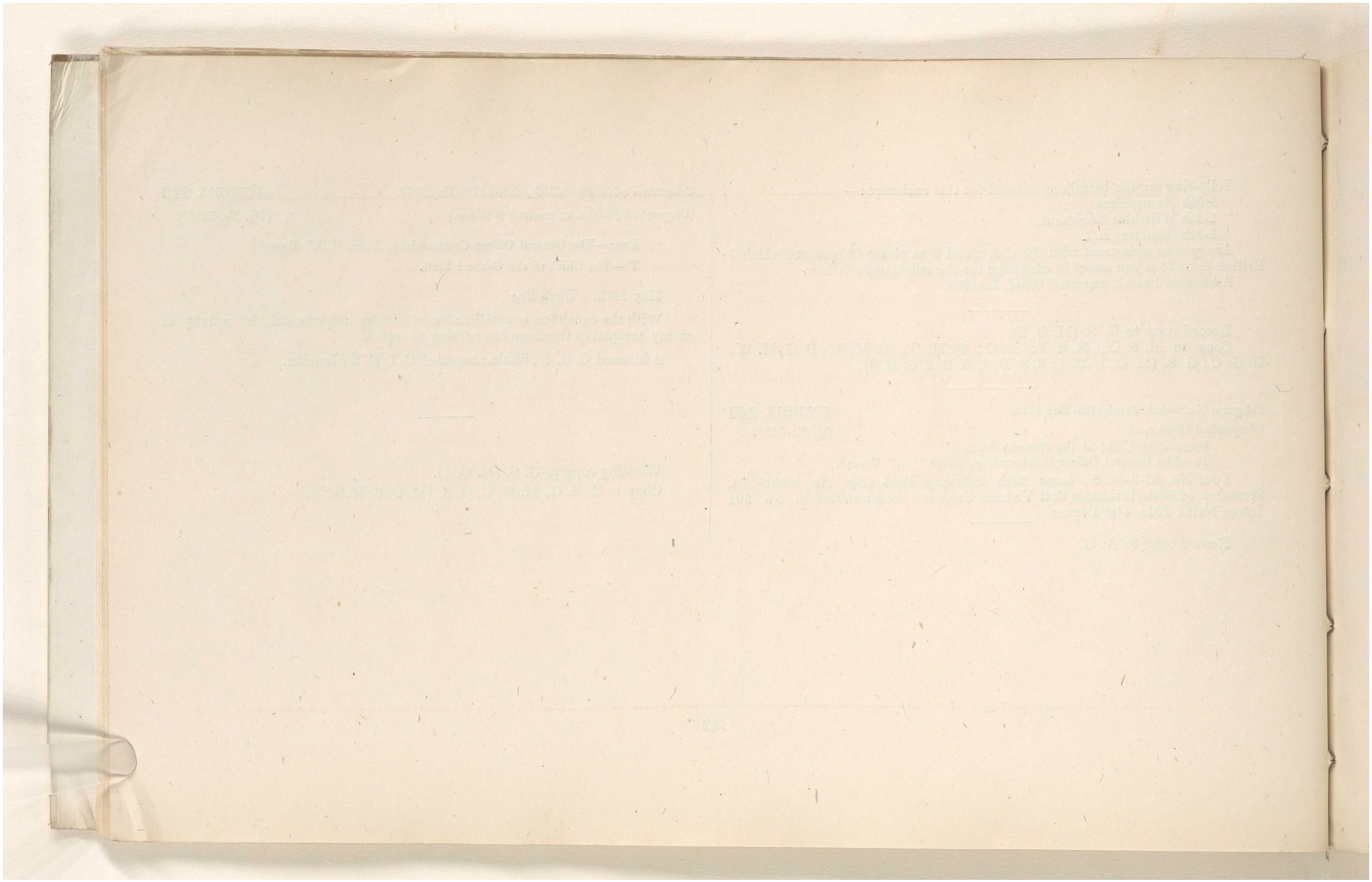

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Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
18-5-16 ...	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff concurred in proposal regarding the attachment of officers of the staff of General Baratoff to that of the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," and stated that every effort should be made to bring Generals Baratoff and Lake into touch.	54566	250
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," asked if the orders still stood for the 14th Sikhs to be disembarked at Bushire and the 96th Infantry to go to Force "D" in their place.	54581	251
	The Secretary, War Office, enquired how many tons of frozen meat it was contemplated to provide for Mesopotamia monthly.	54608	252
	The Secretary, War Office, stated that the Royal Flying Corps would, in future, meet all requirements of Force "D." He stated that only one squadron, of which he gave particulars, could be spared.	54610	253
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that, owing to protective bunds in neighbourhood of Nasiriyah having been breached, considerable inundations had occurred in vicinity of Brooking's camps. No special report to make on the Tigris Line.	54628	254
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated a report on the movements of Turkish troops ...	54635	255
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated the scale of furniture recommended by Surgeon-General Trehearne for lady nurses.	54655	256
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was asked to consider his winter requirements in foodstuffs and clothing, and to notify the new kinds of articles likely to be required during the approaching cold weather.	54656	257
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was informed that General Baratoff's proposal was agreed to, but it was suggested to him to arrange for one of his officers to be attached to the Staff of General Baratoff.	54669	258
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was informed of the sinking of the floating dock. ...	54711	259
	A report was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," regarding the delay in supplying sweepers asked for.	54722	260

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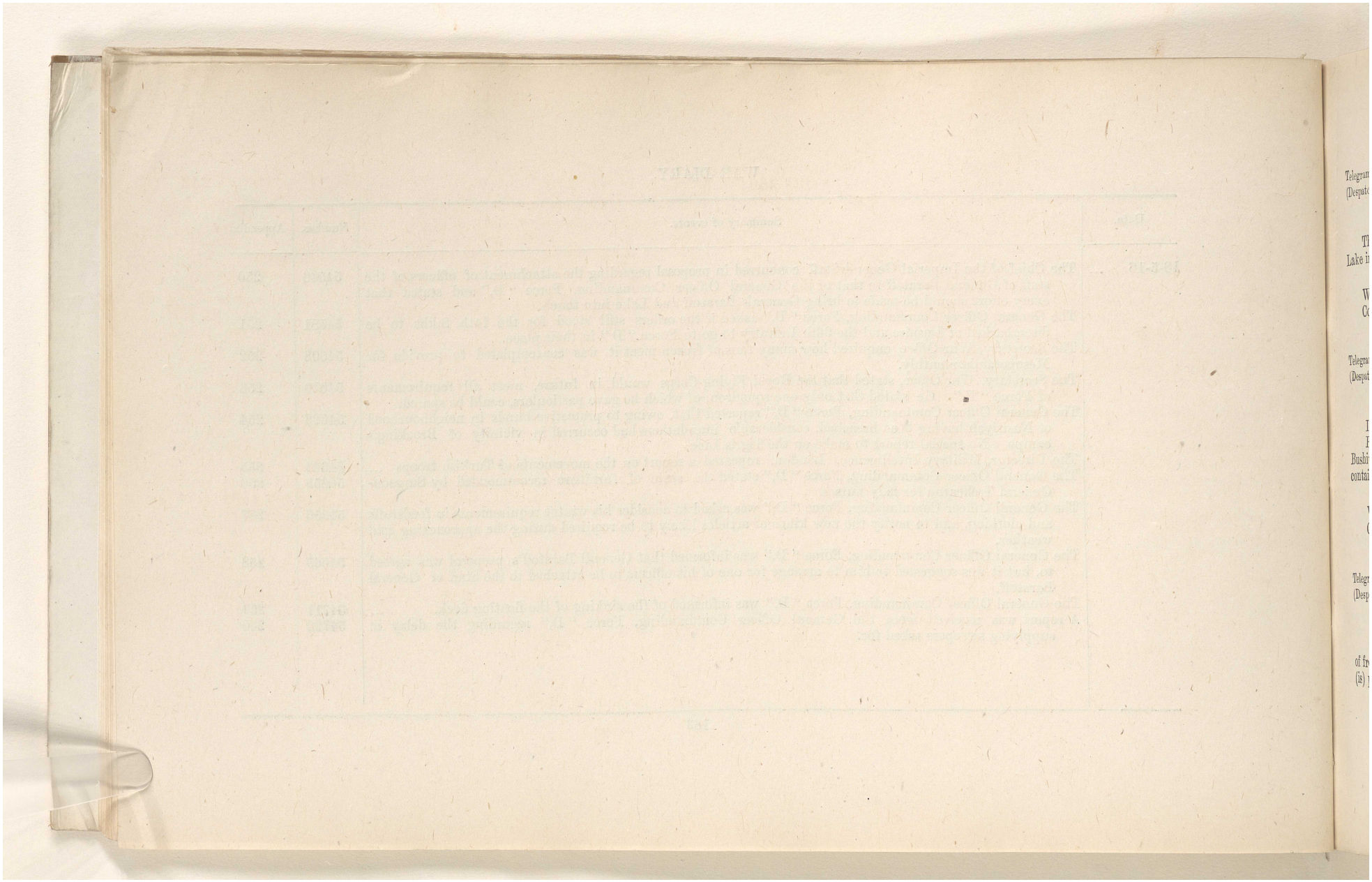

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Telegram P., No 16730-Cipher, dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **250**
(Despatched 6-51 P.M., received 6-45 A.M., 18th May 1916) (*Dy. No. 54566*)

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

The proposal is concurred in and I consider that to bring Baratoff and Lake into touch every effort should be made. (*See Dy. No. 54007*).

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

Telegram P., No. 317-243-O., dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **251**
(Despatched 5-20 P.M., received 10-10 A.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54581*)

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

I have received your 5433, dated May 16th.

Reference your 52804 of May 8th (*re* 14th Sikhs being disembarked at Bushire and 96th Infantry brought here in their place) do the orders therein contained still stand and if so am I to issue the necessary orders or will you ?

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

Telegram No. 6695-Q. M. G.-6, dated 17th May 1916 APPENDIX **252**
(Despatched 9-40 P.M., received 12-30 P.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Do. No. 54678*)

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

Before replying to your 54365 of 16th May, can you say how many tons of frozen meat it is contemplated to provide for Mesopotamia monthly if supply (is) practicable ?

Working copy to Q. M. G.

Telegram P., No. 16743-Cipher, dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **253**
(Despatched 10-25 P.M., received 12-5 P.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54610*)

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

Your 4716-F. (*Dy. No. 54039*) and 184-185-O. (*Dy. No. 54382*).

All requirements in future will be found by Royal Flying Corps. The R. N. A. S. detachment is being withdrawn. We can only spare 1 squadron of following strength :—20 pilots including flight commanders, 3 steel Henri Farmans. 3 Martinsydes and 12 Betucis. These are on the way to you now 2 Maurice Farmans and 7 Betucis. We are sending at the end of May 3 Martinsydes and 4 steel Henri Farmans.

Three pilots are waiting now in England to embark, 4 are on the way from England and also two from Egypt. We are selecting 3 pilots for Martinsydes. An establishment of 20 pilots including flight commanders will be maintained, *i e.*, 3 Martinsydes, 3 Henri Farmans and 12 Betucis, for No. 30 Squadron. No more can at present be spared. As soon as possible we will provide a reserve of aeroplanes.

Owing to defects in structure the despatch of Martinsydes has been unavoidably delayed. As regards armament, all requirements of Lewis guns can be met by Egypt. As regards anti-aircraft gun and mounting referred to in your 184-185-O (*Dy. No. 54382*), paragraph 5, we have no pattern suitable for use from barges.

A 13-pr. gun on a motor lorry is the only mobile type we have suitable only for good roads and weighing on wheels 6½ tons. We have few of these and those at our disposal are required elsewhere. In the near future some of this type will be available. Do you wish to be provided with them ?

Addressed Basrah, repeated India.

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

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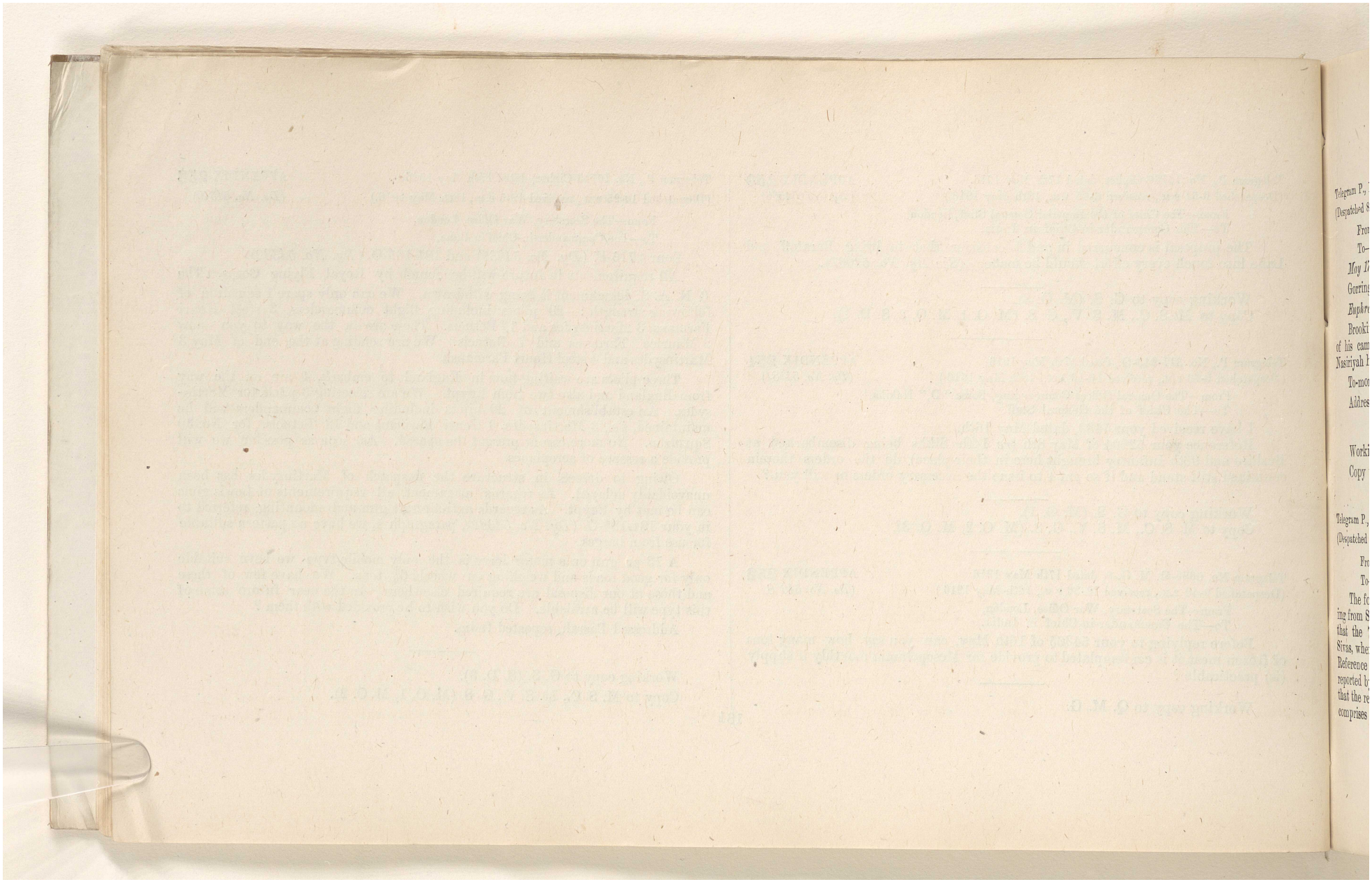

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Telegram P., No. 129-424-O., dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **254**
(Despatched 8-30 P.M., received 2 P.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54628*)

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

May 17th, Tigris Line —

Gorringe has no special report to make.

Euphrates Line.—

Brooking reports that considerable inundations have occurred in vicinity of his camps and of town owing to protective bunds in neighbourhood of Nasiriyah having been breached.

To-morrow I expect to arrive at Nasiriyah.

Addressed C. G. S., India. Repeated C. I. G. S., London.

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

Telegram P., No. 16751-Cipher-M.I., dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **255**
(Despatched 0-5 A.M., received 2 P.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No 54635*)

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

The following is from Marsh:—The 22nd regiment were observed proceeding from Scutari towards Sivas about May 4th. From other reports it appears that the 7th, 8th, 9th and 19th Divisions have been or will be despatched to Sivas, where a reserve army is said to be concentrating under Izzet Pasha. Reference our 16573 (*Dy. No. 53772*). The prisoners of the 18th Regiment reported by Marsh as having been captured on May 15th near Khaniqin stated that the regiment is composed of 3 battalions and with the 16th Regiment comprises the 6th Division of the 1st Corps. On May 3rd, it arrived at Baghdad and marched to Khaniqin immediately. Suleiman Fakhri Pasha is the commander of the 1st corps. The 17th Regiment has been allotted to the 4th Corps and was taken out of the 6th Division. *Re* the 6th Division Marsh has been asked to reconcile contradictory reports.

Addressed Basrah; repeated Cairo and India.

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

Telegram No. 1586-13-Q., dated 11th May 1916. APPENDIX **256**
(Despatched 10-20 P.M., 17th May 1916, received 2 P.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54655*)

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

Your 52857, May 8th. Following scale of furniture is recommended by Surgeon-General Trehearne, *vide* Army Tables, Medical Table 29, for each nurse. Items Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 21 and 23. Item No. 6 should consist of small hanging (mirrors?). For every 10 nurses items Nos. 11, 14 and 15 for mess purposes.

Working copy to D. G. M. W.
Copy to M. S. V., D. M. S.

Letter No. 21399-69 (Q. M. G.-6), dated 16th May 1916. APPENDIX **257**
(Received in War Section on 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54656*)

From—The Quartermaster General in India, Simla,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

I am directed to request that the matter of your winter requirements in foodstuffs and clothing may be considered at a very early date, and that I may

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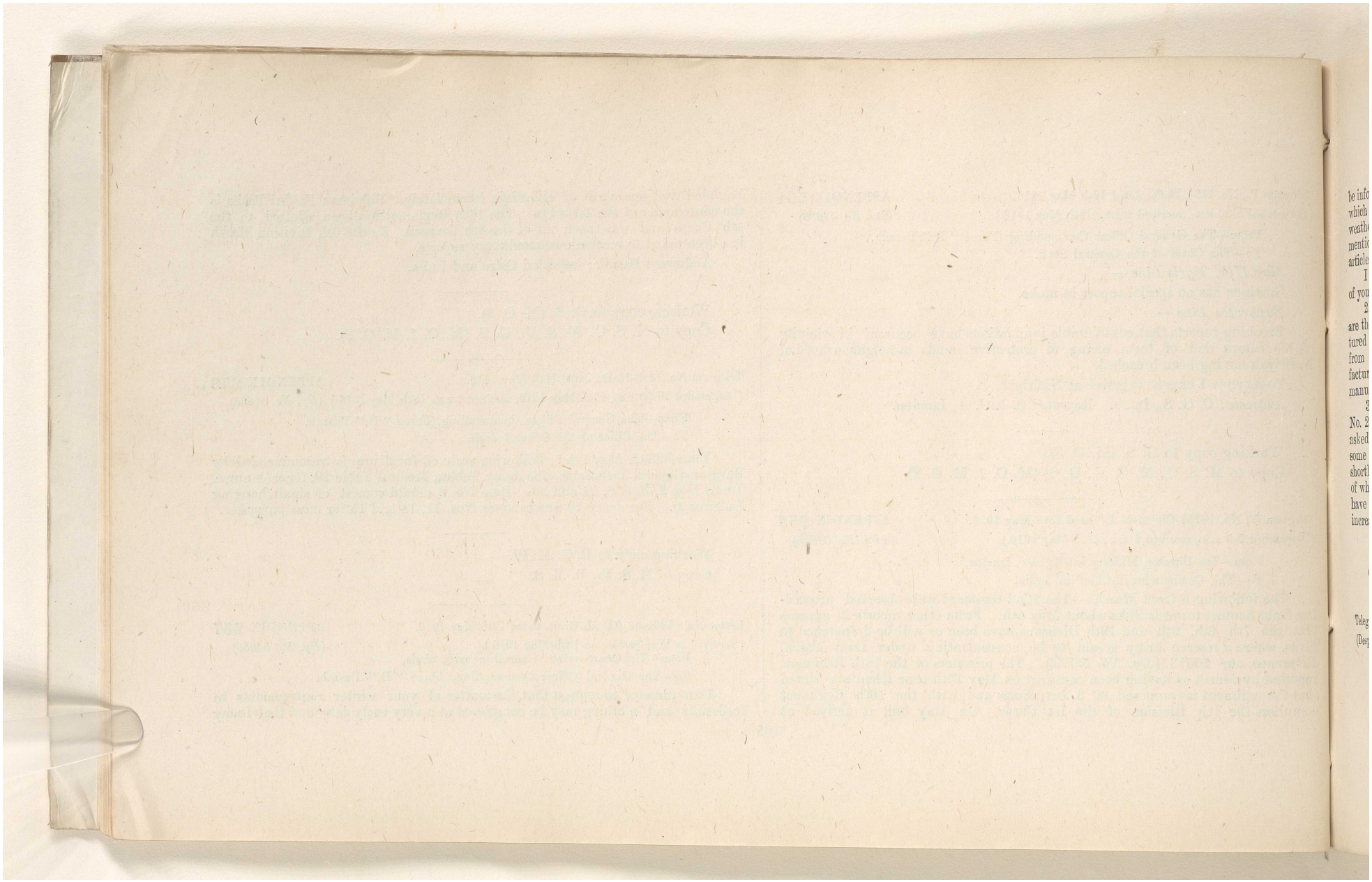

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be informed, not later than the 1st July 1916, of the new *kinds* of articles which are likely to be required by your force during the approaching cold weather; the probable scales of issues of these *new* articles may kindly be mentioned, as also any intended important variations in the scales of issue of articles of the kind hitherto supplied.

I am particularly to request that this subject may be brought to the notice of your Director of Medical Services.

2. The articles of which the probable need requires special consideration are those which have to be imported from oversea, or else have to be manufactured in India. At the present time long delays often occur in procuring from England stocks of preserved food supplies, medical comforts and manufactured articles also the fact should be remembered that of many articles the manufacturing resources of India itself are limited.

3. In regard to this matter, I would invite your attention to my letter No. 21399-161 (Q. M. G.-6) (*Dy. No. 33504*) of 4th January 1916, in which I asked that your summer requirements in food supplies might be considered; if some of the alterations in scale recently suggested by you had been decided on shortly after the receipt of that letter, the stocks on hand of those ration articles of which you desire to increase the scales of issue would, at the present time, have been larger, and consequently have admitted, with safety, of issues on the increased scales.

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. V., M. S. C.

Telegram P., No. 54669, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **258**
(Despatched 7-30 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54669*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
From—The Commander-in-Chief in India,
To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

Reference your telegram No. 640-57-M. S. of May 10th (*Dy. No. 53441*).

We agree (*Dy. No. 54566*) after consulting C. I. G. S. (*Dy. No. 54007*) with proposal made by General Baratoff. Suggest arrangements should be reciprocal, and one of your officers should be attached to staff of General Baratoff unless your requirements are met by Williams' presence with Baratoff.

Please make arrangements in accordance with above.

Addressed G. O. C., Force "D," Basrah, repeated C. I. G. S., London.

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

Telegram No. 54711, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **259**
(Despatched 10-30 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54711*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Correspondence ending with your 1429-6-Q., March 31st (*Dy. No. 46396*). Floating dock. Intimation received from Director, Marine, that while being towed *en route* Basrah dock broke in half amidships and sank.

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

Telegram No. 1172-21-1-A., dated 17th May 1916. APPENDIX **260**
(Despatched 8-45 P.M., received 7-20 P.M., 18th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54722*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Priority.

Your 51745 of 2nd May. I asked that I might be supplied with 450 sweepers in my 1172-181-A. of 21st March (*Dy No. 44794*). In my 1359-3-A.

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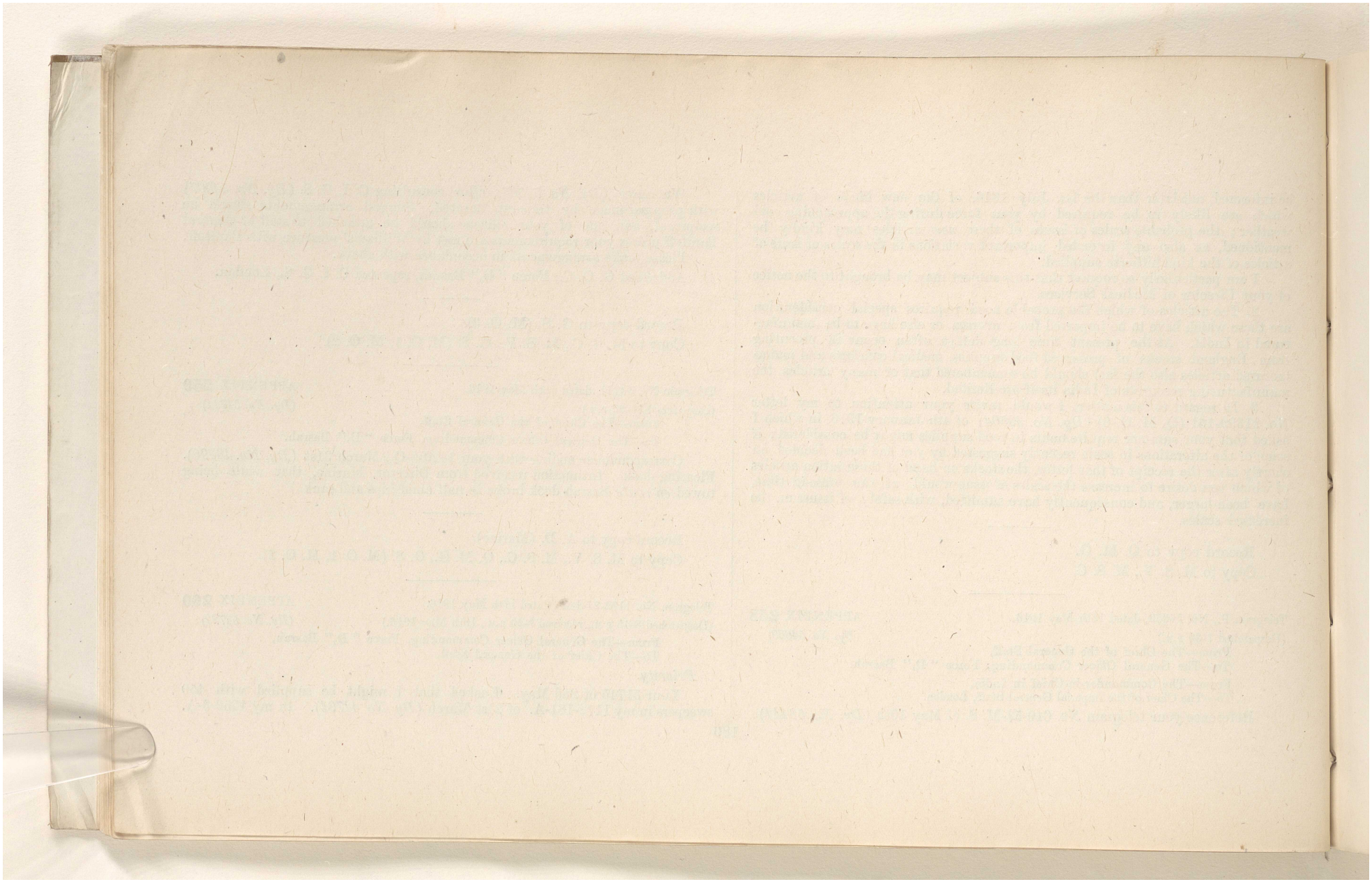

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(19)

of 11th April (*Dy. No. 48283*) and my 1359-3(4?)-A. of 29th April (*Dy. No. 51303*) I asked if supply can be expedited. Two months have now nearly elapsed since my original request and up to date I have been advised of despatch of only 55 (menials ?) of this class. I fully appreciate there are difficulties in obtaining these men but at the same time I would submit that it is vitally important that I may be supplied with the balance due without further delay. I have now to cope with a severe outbreak of cholera which at present exists in the entire Tigris line from Basrah to the front. Prior to departure of Medical Commission on 16th May I was requested to arrange for extensive and immediate increase of sweepers with Force "D." I have already explained in detail Arab sweepers are neither obtainable here nor suitable for work required. Therefore till receipt of the necessary number of sweepers which I have asked for I cannot effectively cope with the cholera nor can I give effect to recommendations of Medical Commission. Lately it has been ascertained that there is possibility that Egypt can suppy sweepers. Would suggest that you institute enquiries and if available arrange for (some ?) to be supplied from that source. But in any case I must earnestly beg that the supply of sweepers be expedited.

Working copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., Q. M. G., D. M. S.

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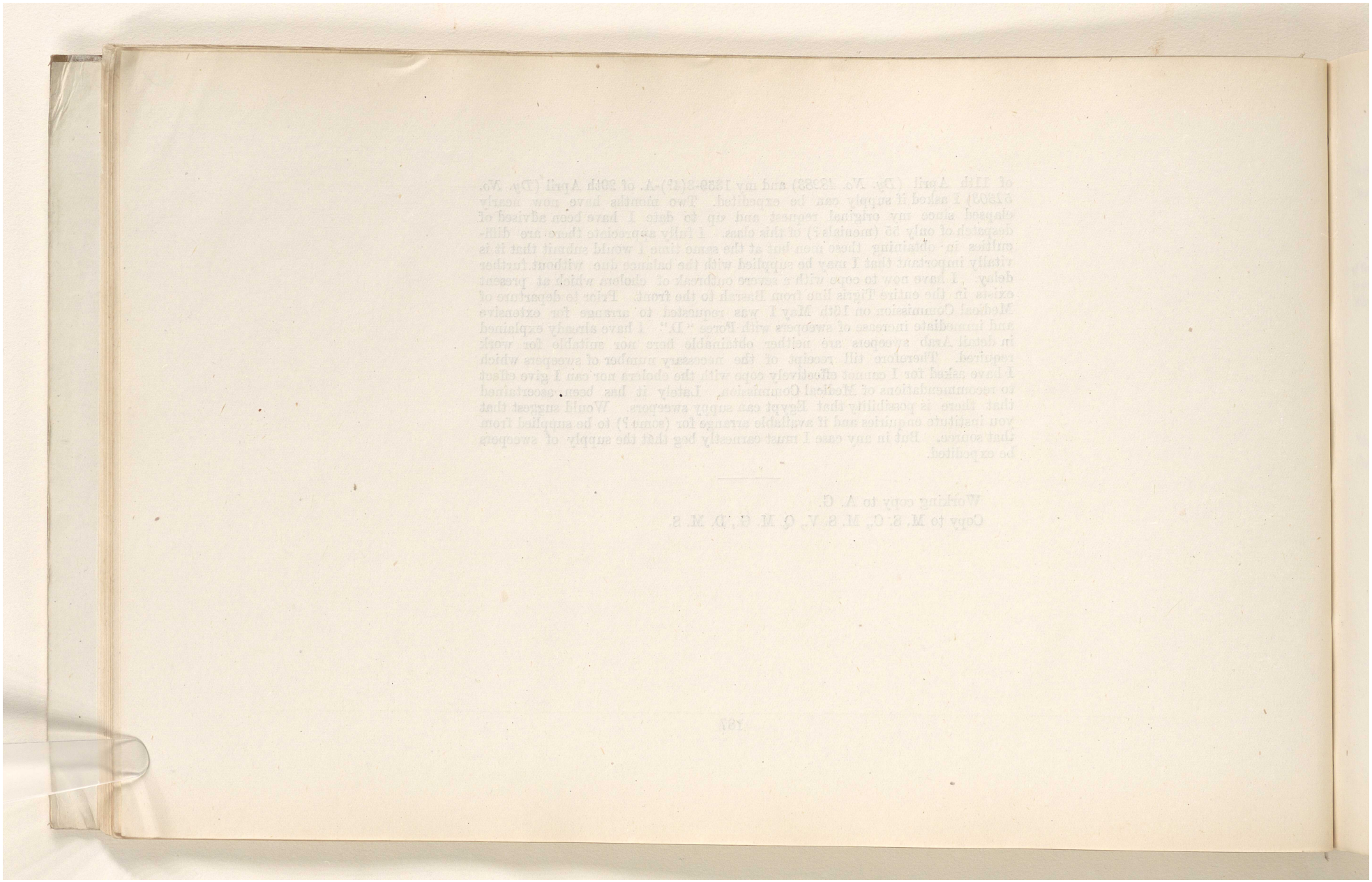

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
19-5-16 ...	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office, gave the names of officers whom General Baratoff was sending to General Lake as *liason* officers.	54743	261
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the gauge readings at Wadi and Amarah. ...	54817	262
	The General Officer Commanding, Egypt, was asked if he could provide 350 latrine sweepers urgently required by Force "D."	54829	263
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff was informed of the situation of the question of constructing the Qurnah-Amarah Railway.	54841	264
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that the situation on the Tigris and Euphrates Lines was quiet.	54843	265
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff was addressed with regard to the replacement of worn guns of Force "D."	54868	266
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was told that 15 of the 20 guns demanded in Diary No. 54446 would be shipped at once, and that the War Office had been asked to expedite further supplies.	54869	267
	The General Officer Commanding, Ferce "D," was asked if he was now able to extend vegetable garden operations, and, if so, to intimate his requirements.	54895	268
	The Political Resident, Persian Gulf, repeated a report from Noel, giving his observations on Bakhtiari affairs.	54902	269
	The Secretary, War Office, enquired as to how the question of the improvement of the communications between Amarah and Qurnah now stood. He asked for the railway proposals under consideration for that section.	54912	270
	The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," stated the number of cholera cases up to 18th May. ...	54914	271
	The Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport, Force "D," stated his requirements in cigarettes to meet free issues.	54917	272
	The Secretary, War Office, asked the Commander-in-Chief for his opinion as to the sufficiency of foods and of questions connected with the comforts and sustenance of troops in Mesopotamia.	54918	273
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," repeated a message for General Baratoff reporting the safe arrival at the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh's camp of his party of 150 Cossacks.	54919	274

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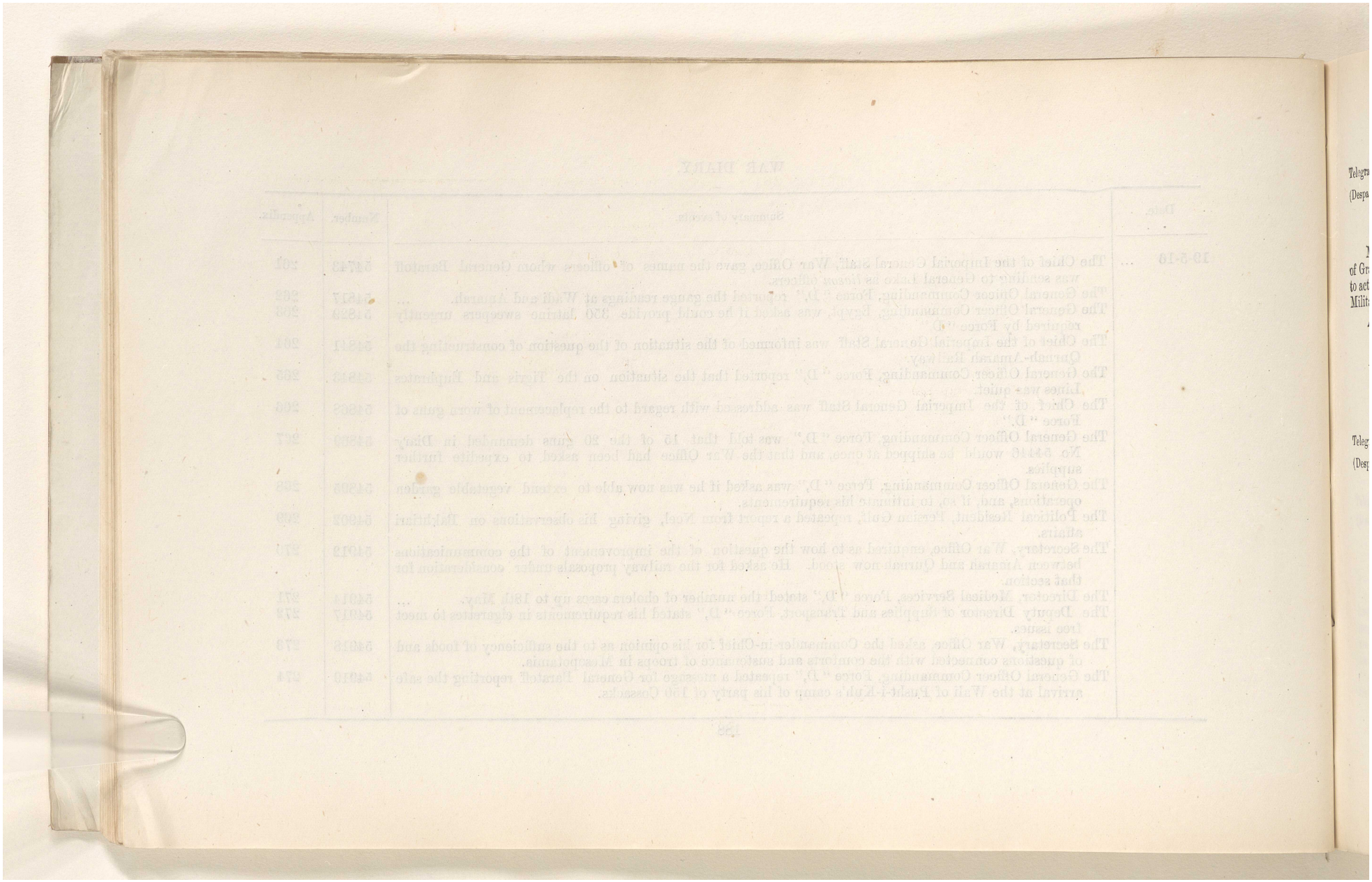

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(21)

Telegram P., No. 16774-Cipher-M.O., dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **261**
(Despatched 5-25 P.M., received 2-50 A.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54743*)

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

Military Attaché at Petrograd has sent following. *Begins.* With approval of Grand Duke Nicholas following are being sent by General Baratoff to Basrah to act as *liason* officers to General Lake :—Kersanof, who was formerly Russian Military Agent at Musal, and Captain Sheremetief.

Addressed Basrah ; repeated India.

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

Telegram P., No. I.G.-2842, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **262**
(Despatched 9-45 P.M., 18th May 1916, received 2 P.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54817*)

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

No change in situation on Euphrates line.

Gauge readings for May 17th, Tigris line, are as follows :—

Wadi	110·9
Amarah	95·79

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

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

Telegram No. 54829, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **263**
(Despatched 5-20 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54829*)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India.
To—The General Officer Commanding, Egyptian Force, Suez.

About 350 latrine sweepers are most urgently required for service in Force "D." Can you provide?

Record copy to Q. M. G.

Telegram P., No. 54841, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **264**
(Despatched 6-30 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54841*)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India,
To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Reference correspondence ending with my 50240 of 24th April.

With Force "D," a discussion has since taken place relative to the gauge of the Qurnah-Amarah railway. To ensure maintenance of line of supply on the Tigris as early as possible after floods have subsided is the object of the railway. The General Officer Commanding, Force "D's" opinion is that rapidity of construction is the essenial factor in deciding on the gauge and, in consequence, a 2′ 6″ gauge has been accepted in accordance with his original proposal. The demands of the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," for rolling stock and material which amount to only 120 miles of line with 300 trucks, 15 brake vans and 12 engines of light rolling stock can be met by the Railway Board. They are prepared to proceed with railway and have been requested to arrange urgently for its construction, although they still adhere to the objections which made them favour a metre gauge line.

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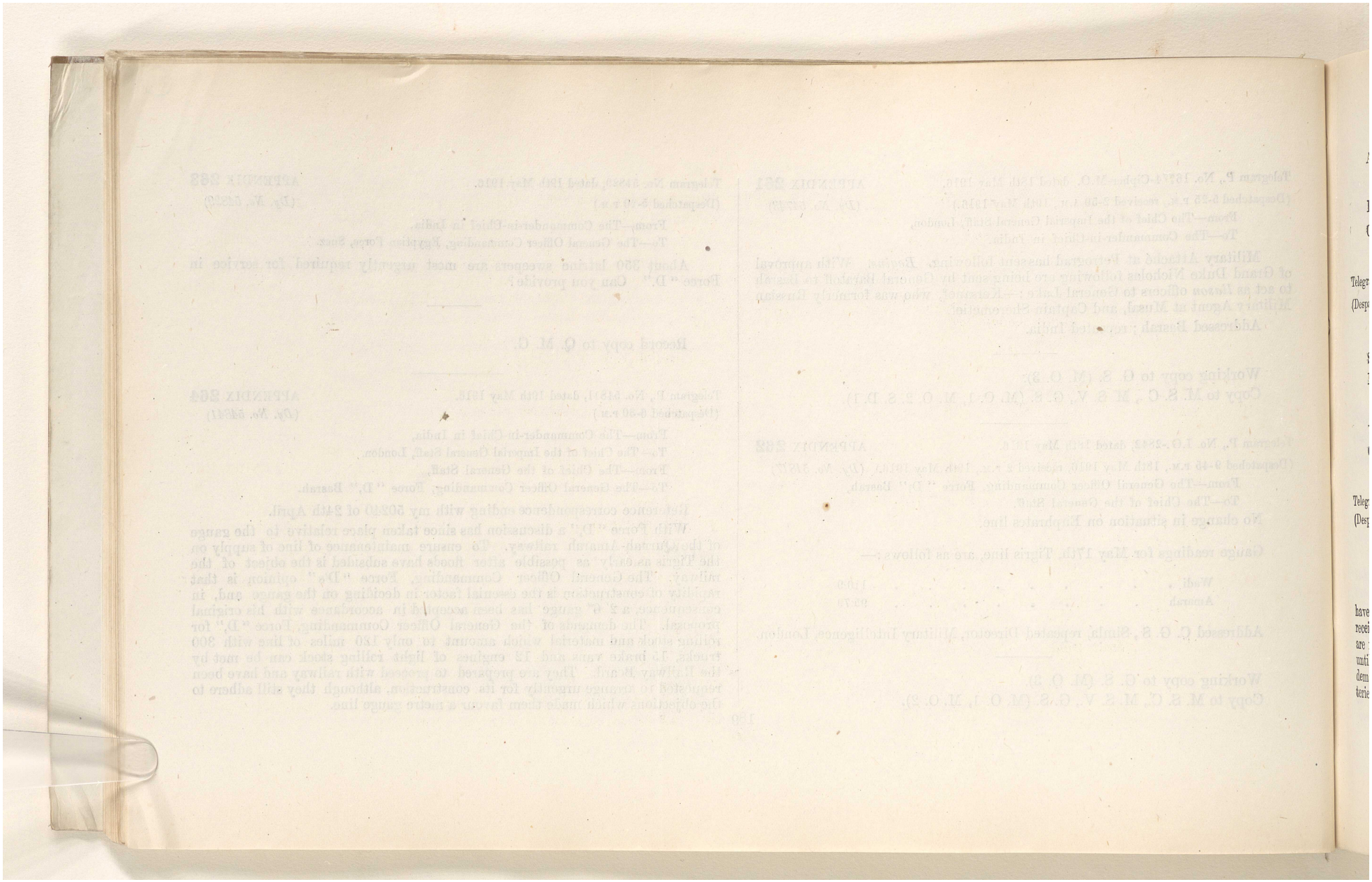

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Addressed Chief, London, repeated General, Basrah.

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

Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., Q. M. G., Railway Board.

Telegram P., No. 129-435-O., dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **265**

(Despatched 11 P.M., received 3 P.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54843*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Situation Tigris and Euphrates Line on May 18th is quiet.

I leave here for Basrah to-morrow 19th.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 54868, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **266**

(Despatched 7-15 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54868*)

From—The Commander-in-Chief in India,

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

Reference my telegram 38316 of 11th February.

The urgent demands of Force "D" for the replacement of 32 worn guns have had to be partly met by diverting to Force "D" 18 of the 48 guns so far received towards the rearmament of the Territorial batteries. The other 30 guns are required for immediate issue, or have been issued, to Territorial batteries; until you supply me with more complete guns I cannot meet fully the demands of Force "D," or proceed with the rearmament of Territorial batteries.

Reference telegram 13337-Cipher-A.-2, February 15th (*Dy. No. 39025*) from Secretary, War Office. Can you expedite supply of balance of equipment referred to therein to Bombay please, especially as regards guns complete, and can you arrange to supply to Bombay, in replacement of those which have been or will be issued to Force "D," 32 additional complete guns. I propose to send to Deputy Director of Ordnance Supply, Woolwich, for repair those guns which cannot be dealt with within a reasonable time in India, as India has very limited facilities for repairing worn guns.

Are you in agreement with this please?

Record copy to D. G. O.

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

Telegram P., No. 54869, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **267**

(Despatched 7-15 P. M.) (*Dy. No. 54869*)

From—The Chief of the General Staff,

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

Your 3262-Ord. of 15th May (*Dy. No. 54446*). We will ship at once 15 of the 20 guns demanded. War Office has been asked to expedite further supplies and immediately on receipt of these the balance of 5 will be despatched. Demands previously made by you have been shipped or are in course of shipment. All replaced guns are to be returned immediately.

Record copy to D. G. O.

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

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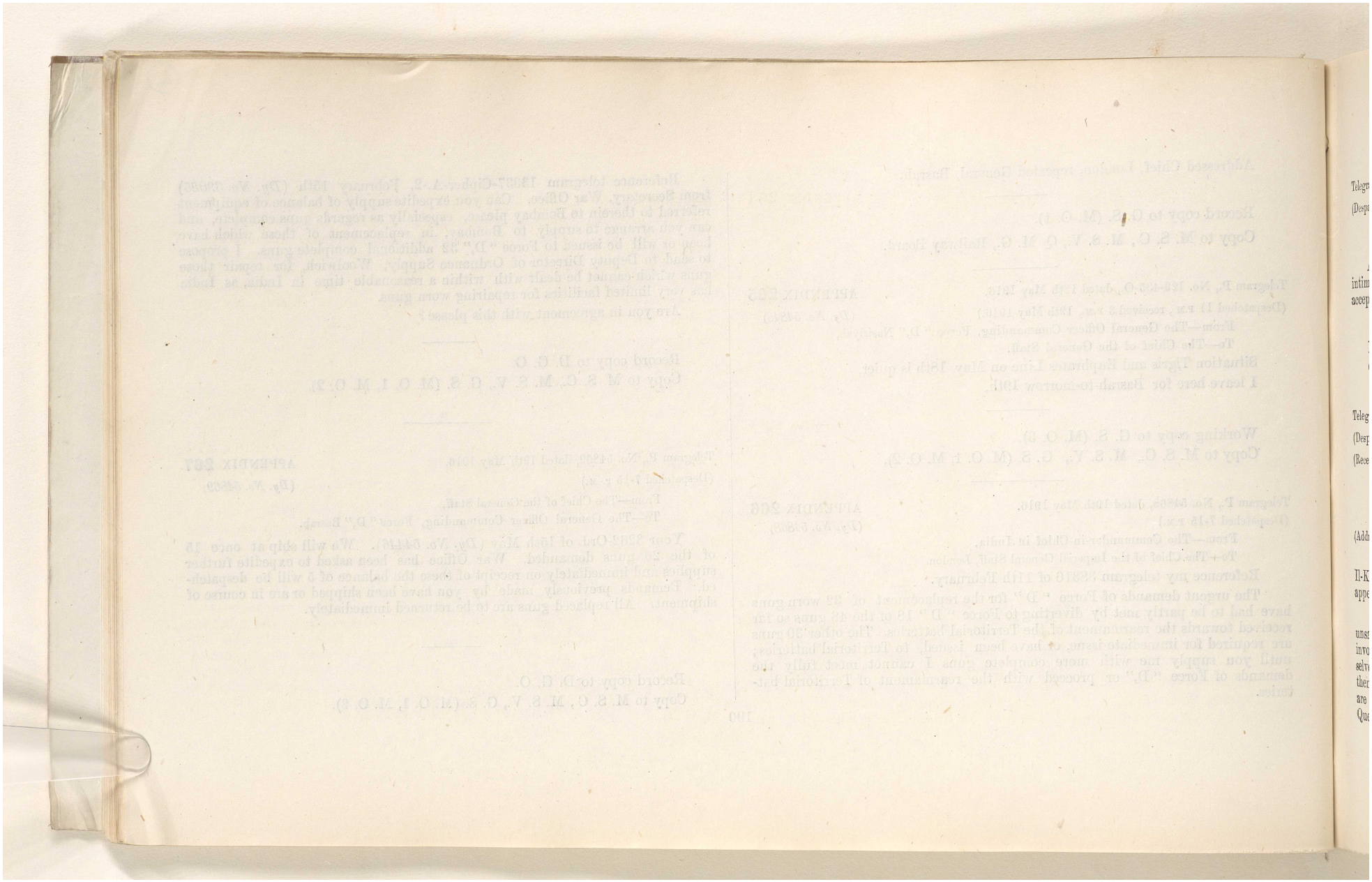

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Telegram No. 54895, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **268**
(Despatched 10-15 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54895*)

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

Are you now able to extend vegetable garden operations? If so please intimate your requirements in seeds and say if Chinese gardeners would be acceptable if procurable.

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. V.

Telegram R., No. 2337, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **269**
(Despatched 12-30 P.M., received 10 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54902*)
(Received in War Section on 19th May 1916.)

From—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Basrah,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.

(Addressed to Minister, Tehran; repeated to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Isfahan.)

Following from Noel at Oil Fields:—"As result of conversations with Il-Khani and Ill-Begi I make following observations on Bakhtiari affairs as they appear to me.

Tribal situation in Chahar Mahal is uncertain and from our point of view unsatisfactory. Khans are genuinely afraid that subserviency to our interests involves rendering of such services as arrest of Said Esa as associating themselves with us in breaking up of Salar Masuds party, etc., will be sure to involve them in unpleasant and probably serious difficulties with other Khans. They are therefore most anxious to obtain from us some guarantee of support. Questioned as to nature of support they hope for from us, both Khans ask that British officer with usual Consular escort should accompany them to Ailaqu and afford them same measure of assistance as that accorded to Jang by Gray. They point out that Germans and Persian agitators have taken refuge in Bakhtiari country and that it is not within their powers to eject them without some overt sign of assistance from us. That this is genuine opinion of Khans is confirmed by conversation planned by telephone between Mujahid and Muntazim-ed-Dowleh which we made arrangements to overhear." My proposals will follow.

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

Telegram P., No. 16797-Cipher, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **270**
(Despatched 11-35 A.M., received 9-50 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 54912*)

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

Your 54362, May 16th, paragraph 5, and your 49892, April 21st.

Regarding the improvement of the communications between Amarah and Qurnah, how does the matter now stand?

Forward me the railway proposals under consideration for the above section.

With regard to the suggestions by you on the matter, have you arranged for the improvement of river channel?

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

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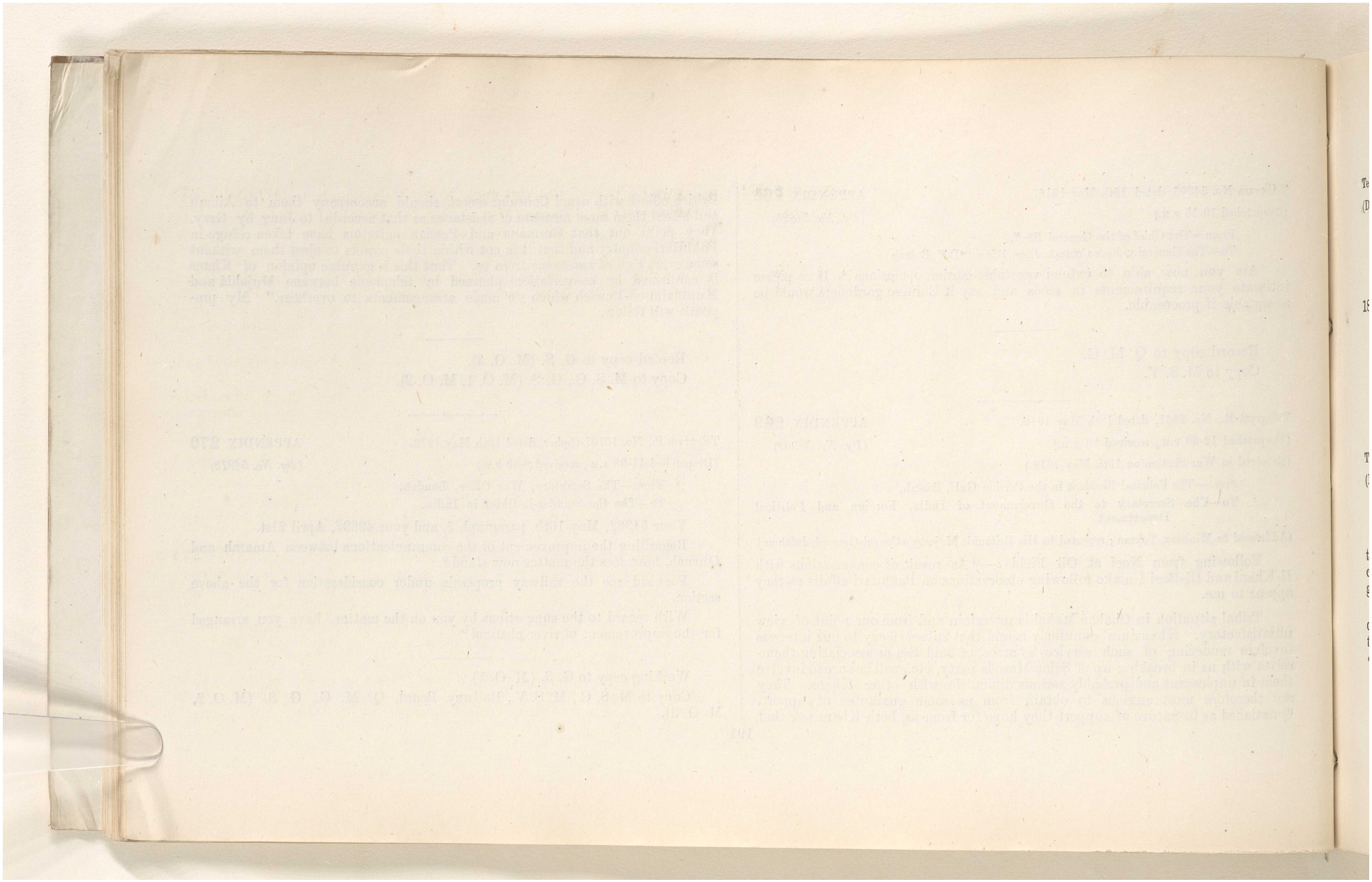

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Telegram No. 1-5-790, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **271**
(Despatched 12-5 P.M., received 9-50 P.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54914*)

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

Your telegram No. 53640, dated 12th May.

606 cases of cholera of which there were fatal 231 up to and including 18th May.

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

Telegram No. S.-371, dated 19th March 1916. APPENDIX **272**
(Despatched 1-45 P.M., received 11-55 P.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54917*)

From—The Deputy Director, Supplies and Transport, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

To meet demand free issue of two ounces tobacco or forty cigarettes and two boxes matches per man please despatch by first opportunity six hundred cases of cigarettes each case containing fifty thousand and twelve thousand gross matches equal to two months' supply.

Embarkation Supply, Bombay, wired that he is obtaining one crore Indian cigarettes. Kindly instruct him to expedite despatch. Have sufficient stock tobacco in hand to meet demand. Please regulate future monthly supply cigarates and matches accordingly.

Working copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. V.

Telegram P., No. 16765 (?)-Cipher, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **273**
(Despatched 12-45 P.M., received 11-40 P.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54918*)

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

Following sent to Basrah :—16765-Cipher-D. G. M. S. Following for D.M.S. Please wire your opinion direct to me as to sufficiency of foods and of questions connected with the (comforts ?) and sustenance of troops. Articles required should be stated, and also how the question of transport for wounded and sick stands.

Your answer should be full and explicit and you should bear in mind your responsibilities for advising on these questions.

This is with reference to secret cable to Viceroy from General Officer Commanding, Force "D," regarding Captain Aubrey Herbert's proposed telegram.

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

Telegram P., No. L. G.-2845, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **274**
(Despatched 7-5 P.M., received 12-20 A.M., 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54919*)

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

Clear Line.—Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, repeated Chief of the General Staff, and Egypt, also straight to General Baratoff at Kazvin.

Following for Baratoff:—

On 17th May, your party of 150 Cossacks arrived safely at the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh's camp near Dehluran. From there they are moving *via* Ali Gharbi to meet British Army Corps Commander on the Tigris.

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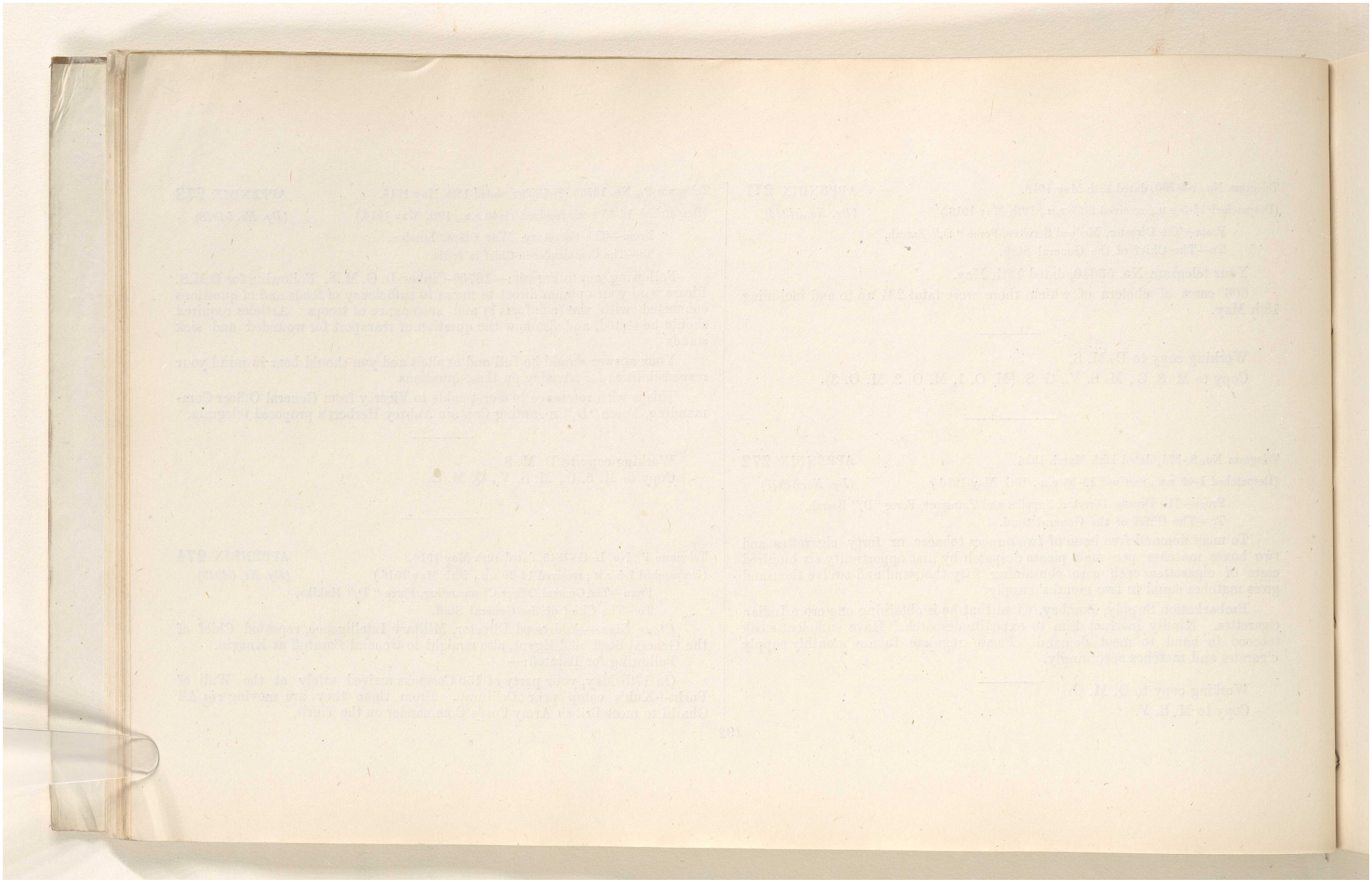

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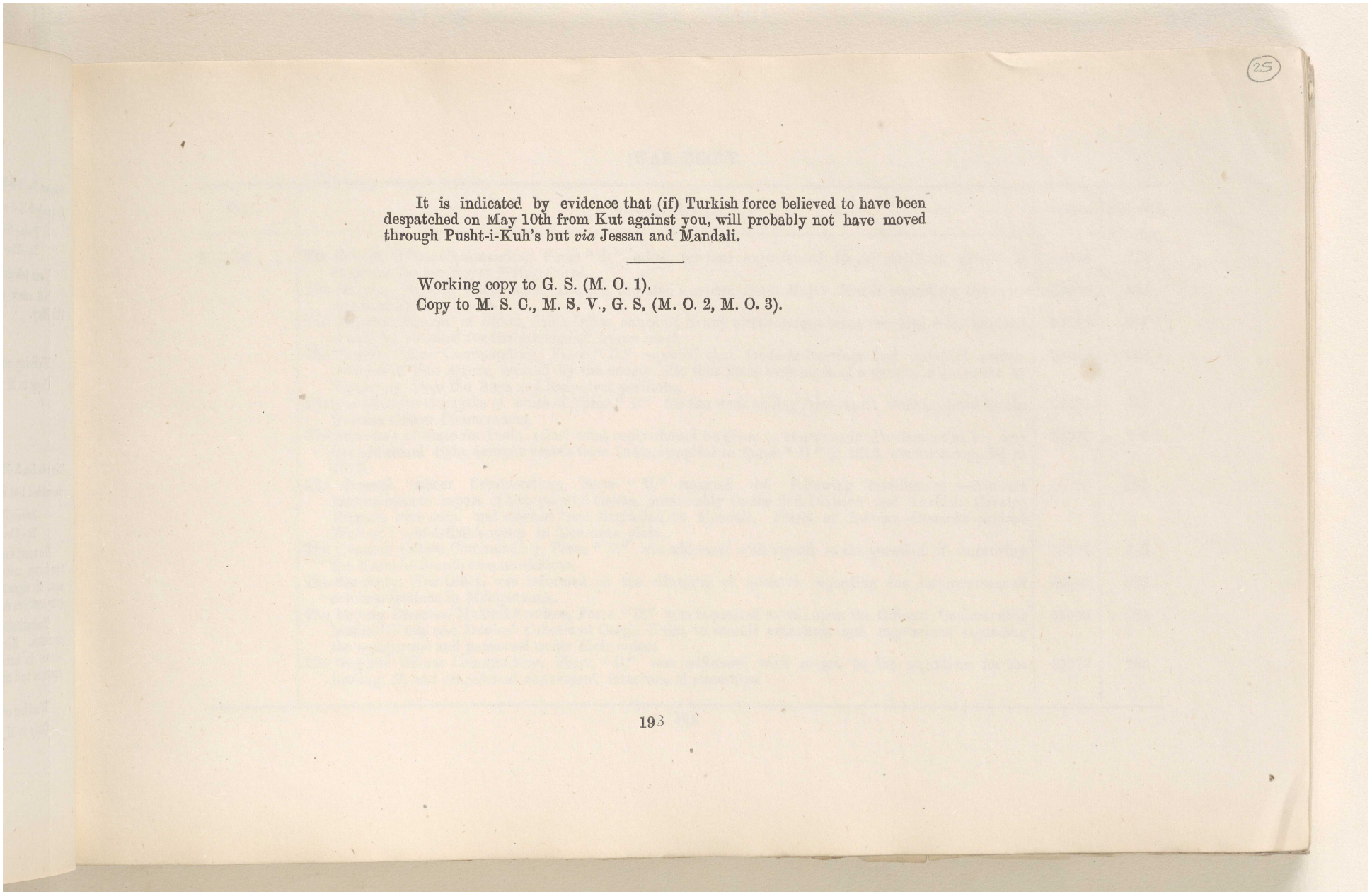

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It is indicated by evidence that (if) Turkish force believed to have been despatched on May 10th from Kut against you, will probably not have moved through Pusht-i-Kuh's but *via* Jessan and Mandali.

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

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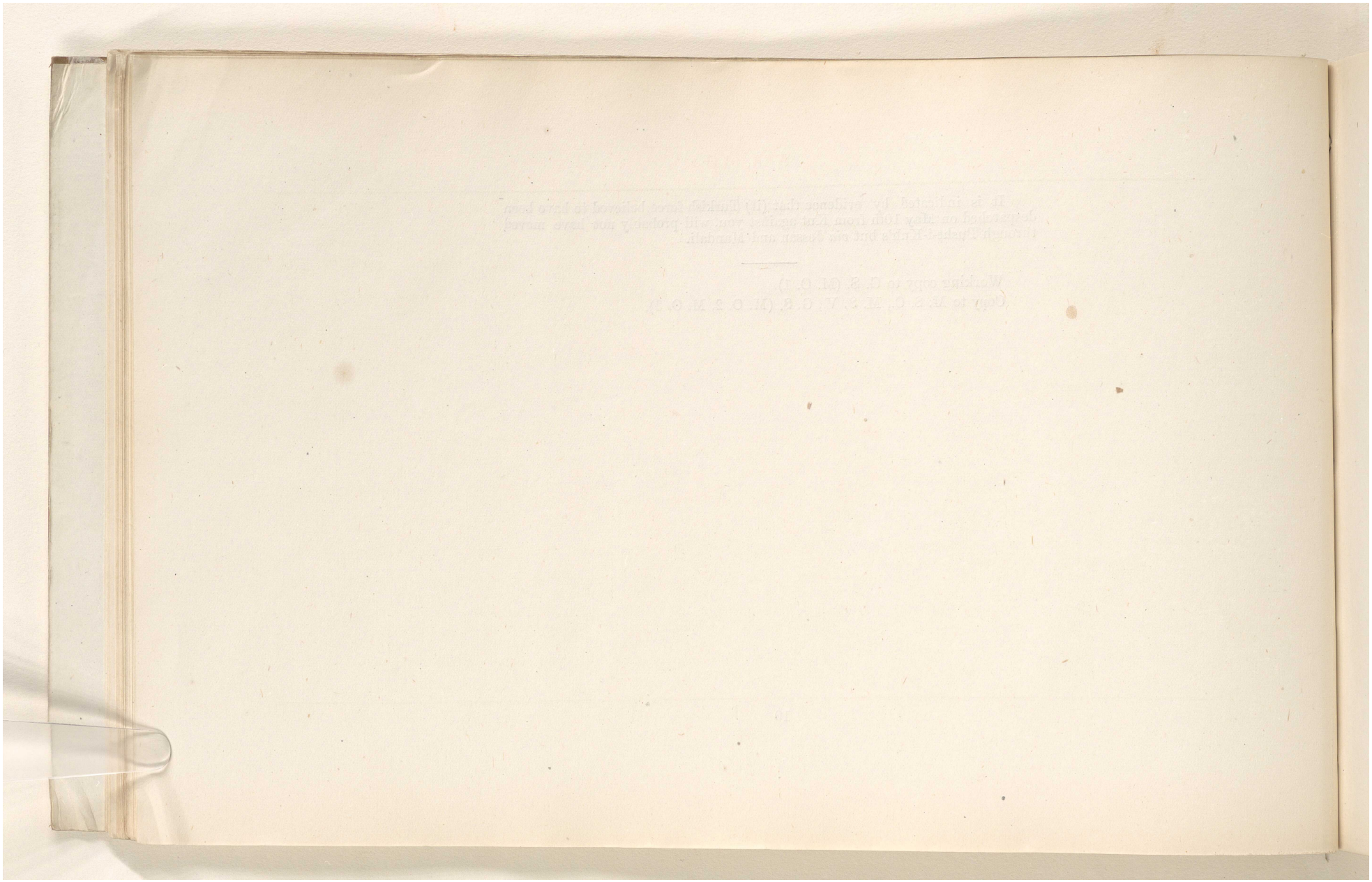

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Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
20-5-16 ...	The General Officer Commanding, Force " D," asked for four experienced Royal Artillery officers as observers for the Royal Flying Corps.	54943	275
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated a report from Major Marsh regarding the movements of Turkish troops.	54945	276
	The Director-General of Stores, India Office, enquired if any of the barges being provided from England should be insulated for the carriage of frozen meat.	54946	277
	The General Officer Commanding, Force " D," reported that General Gorringe had occupied certain trenches at Beit Aieesa, vacated by the enemy, also that there were signs of a general withdrawal by the enemy from the Sinn and Sannaiyat positions.	54949	278
	Further effective strengths of units of Force " D " for the week ending 23rd April were reported by the General Officer Commanding.	54971	279
	The Secretary of State for India asked what reply should be given to enquiries in Parliament as to why the additional light draught vessels from India, supplied to Force " D " in 1916, were not supplied in 1915.	54976	280
	The General Officer Commanding, Force " D," reported the following intelligence :—Aircraft reconnaissance report of two parallel tracks, presumably on the 2nd Division and Turkish Cavalry Brigade, were seen, and reached from Baghailah to Mendali. Patrol of Russian Cossacks arrived Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh's camp in Dehluran plain.	54995	281
	The General Officer Commanding, Force " D," was addressed with regard to the question of improving the Karachi-Basrah communication.	55001	282
	The Secretary, War Office, was informed of the situation of question regarding the improvement of communications in Mesopotamia.	55052	283
	The Deputy Director, Medical Services, Force " D," was requested to call upon the Officers Commanding Medical Units and Medical Officers of Corps Units, to submit criticisms and suggestions regarding the equipment and personnel under their orders.	55058	284
	The General Officer Commanding, Force " D," was addressed with regard to his sugestions for the loading of, and despatch at convenient intervals, of storeships.	55073	285

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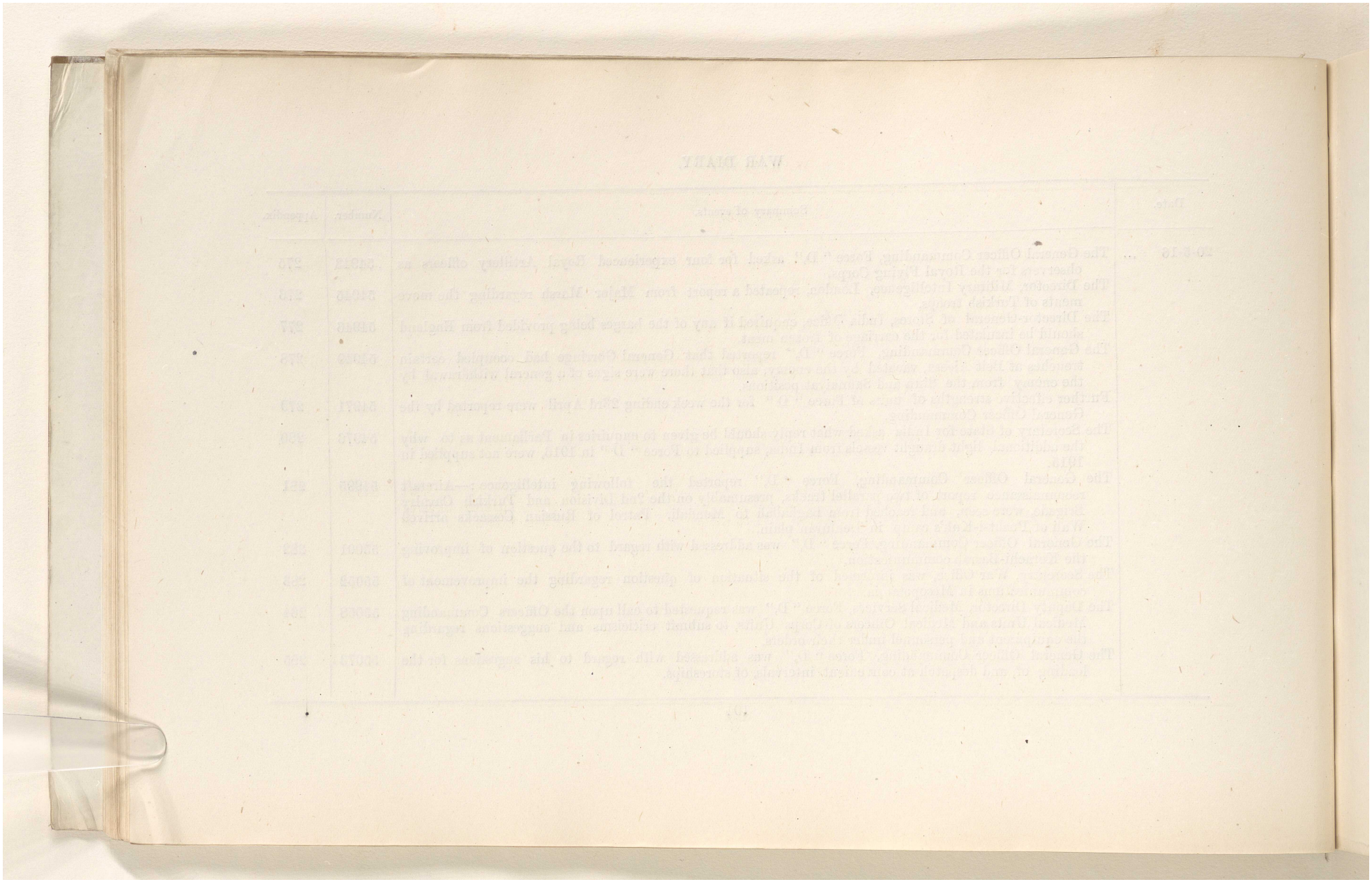

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Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
20-5-16 —*contd.*	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was asked if he could make available for the Qurnah-Amarah Railway, on conversion of the Basrah Tramway to metre gauge, 45 miles of permanent way and all his 2 feet 6-inch gauge stock.	55075	286
	The Secretary, War Office, was told that the interchange of Royal Army Medical Corps personnel of Hospital ships flying in Eastern and Western waters was agreed to. Also that it was decided that the existing practice of sending invalids from Force "D" to Bombay should be continued.	55078	287
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," addressed the Foreign and Political Department with regard to the publication in Press of an article on the administration of land and revenue and assessment during the first year of our occupation.	55090	288

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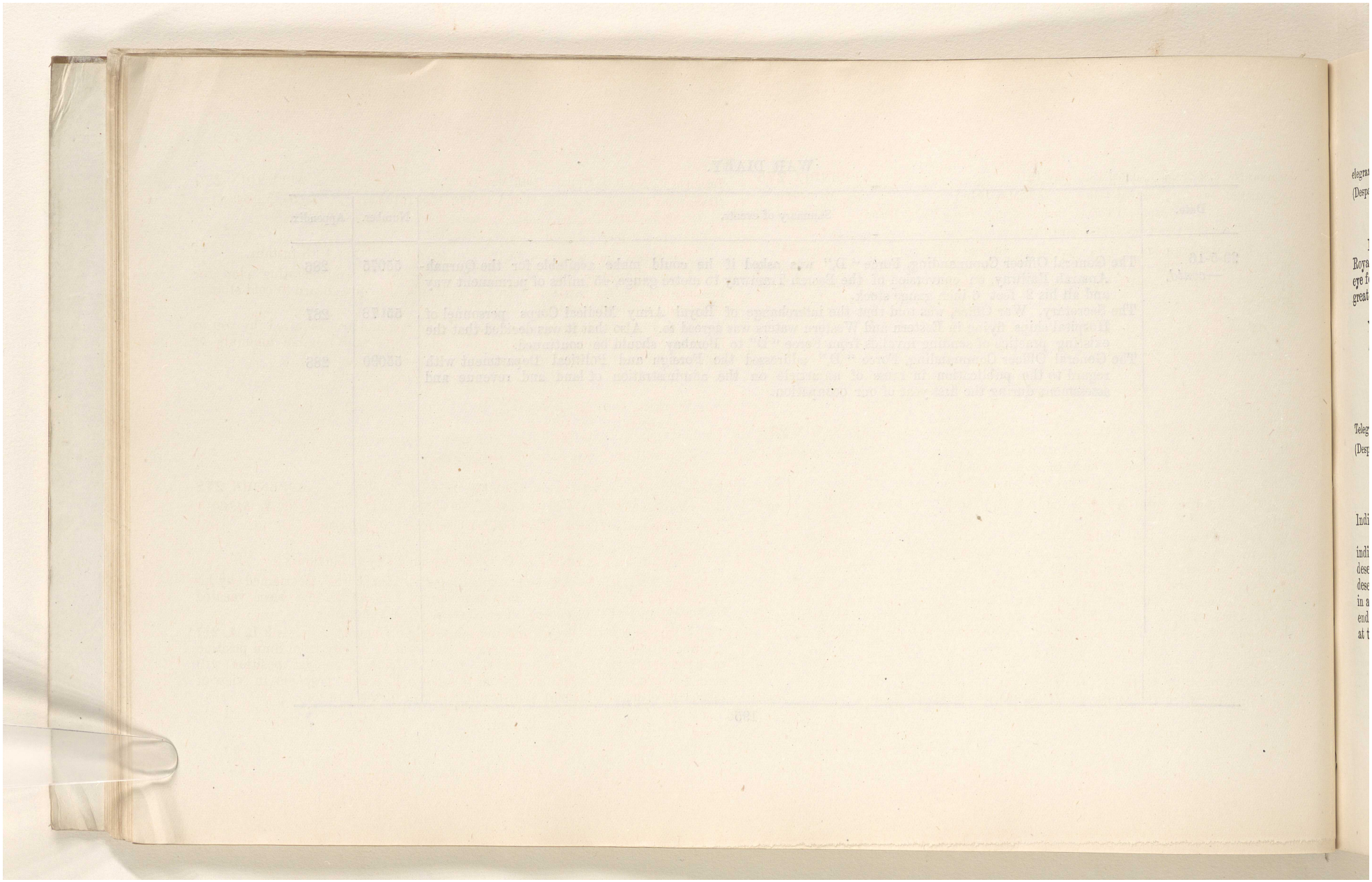

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Telegram No. 632-63-M.S., dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **275**
(Despatched 8-45 P.M., received 4-40 A.M., 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54943*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Four experienced Royal Artillery officers are required as observers for Royal Flying Corps. Qualifications : Signallers, light weight, good sight and eye for country. If available I should be glad if they can be despatched with greatest celerity.

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

Telegram P., No. 16813-Cipher-M. I., dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **276**
(Despatched 7 P.M., received 2-15 A.M., 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54945*)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

The following from Marsh is addressed Basrah and repeated Egypt and India.

The presence in the Baiburt area of the 29th and 60th Regiments is indicated by the recent fighting. The 33rd Regiment also was stated by deserters from the 60th Regiment to have been in action. This tends to confirm deserters' and agents' statements that on April 26th, 11th Division left Erzingan in a north-easterly direction. It is reported by agent at Odessa that about end of April an independent Arab Division was sent to Aleppo from Maan and at the same time two regiments left Aleppo for Diarbekr *via* Birijik.

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

Telegram P., No. S.-1437, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **277**
(Despatched 12-55 P.M., received 11-40 P.M., 19th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54946*)
From—The Director-General of Stores, India Office, London,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Reference your telegram 54 (6 ?) 70 (requisition ?) of 18th instant.

I am informed that enquiries with regard to refrigerating plan for insulated barges for carriage of frozen meat and also with regard to cold storage at Basrah, are being made in (India ?).

If any of the barges being provided from England are required by you to be thus insulated, please wire number of barges and relative amounts of different kinds of refrigerated cargo.

Working copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to D. G. M. W.

Telegram P., No. 129-436-O., dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **278**
(Despatched 12 midnight, received 7-15 A.M., 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54949*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Hakika,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

The following is addressed C. G. S., repeated Chief, London.

May 19th, Tigris Line.— Gorringe reported that it was ascertained by his patrols that trenches at Beit Aiessa degree sheet 2 L. A. 227 had been vacated by enemy and (that he) occupied some (same ?) this morning.

It is also reported by air reconnaissance that Chahela mounds 2 L. A. 217 are unoccupied and signs that general withdrawal by enemy from Sinn position on right bank may be in progress. On left bank Sannaiyat position still strongly held, but a withdrawal from this side also seems probable in view of large collection of transport and steamers in rear of the position.

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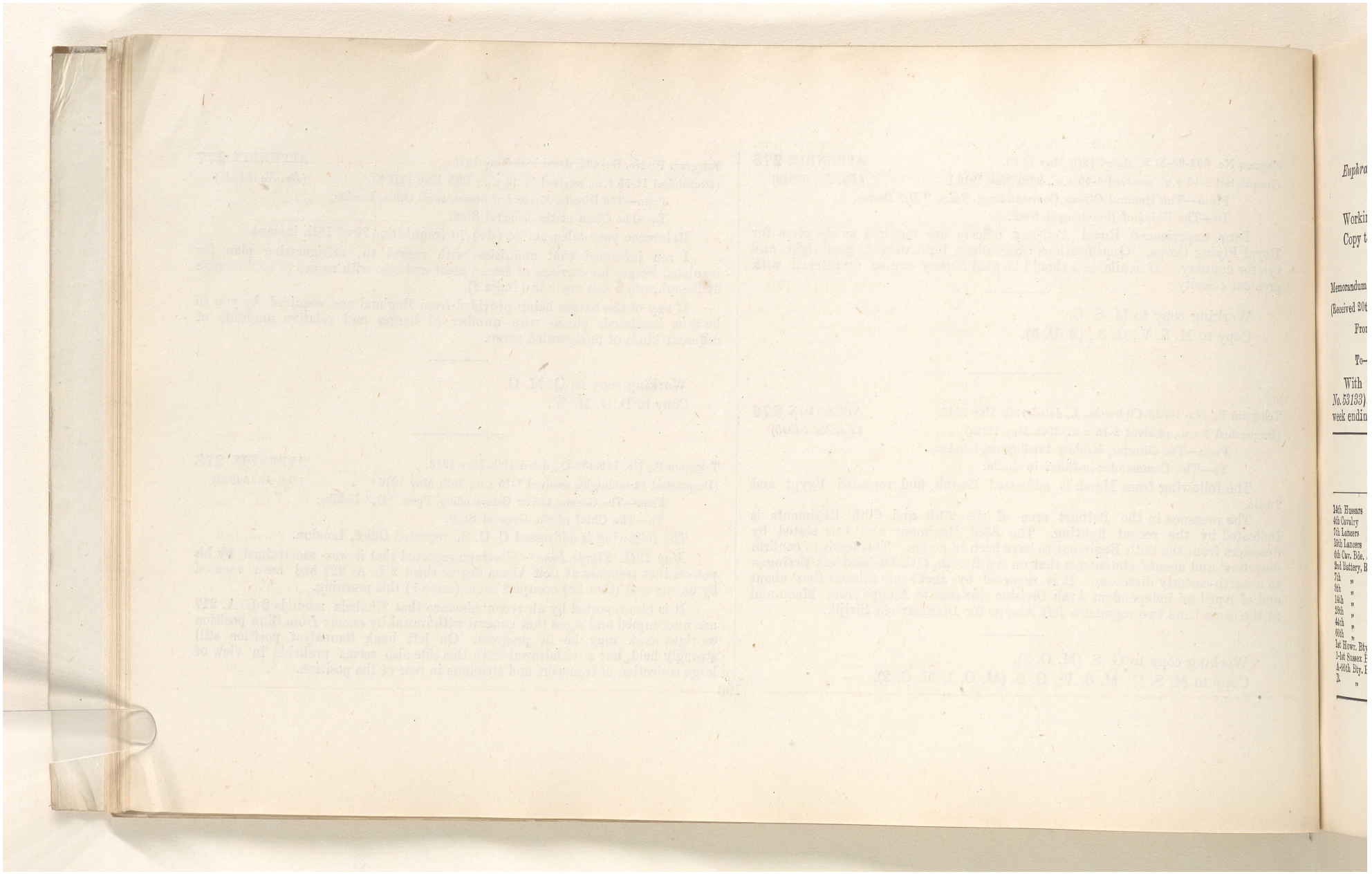

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Euphrates Line.—All quiet. Am on my way back to Basrah.

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

Memorandum No. 3-4-15-A. G., dated 6th May 1916. APPENDIX **279**
(Received 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54971*)

From—The Assistant Adjutant-General, Adjutant General's Office at the Base, Force "D,"

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

With reference to my No. 3-4-5-A.G., dated 29th April 1916 (*Dy. No. 53133*). The following are further effective strengths of this Force for the week ending the 23rd April 1916 :—

Units.	British ranks.	Ind. Officers.	Ind. ranks.	Name of transport from which last draft included disembarked and date.
14th Hussars	514	...	...	"Chakdara," 16th April 1916.
4th Cavalry	...	17	499	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
7th Lancers	...	19	507	"Erinpura," 17th March 1916.
15th Lancers	...	13	202	"Ellenga," 2nd April 1916.
6th Cav. Bde. Am. Col.	36	...	57	.....
2nd Battery, R. F. A.	169	...	...	.....
7th " "	183	...	9	.....
8th " "	162	...	...	.....
14th " "	161	...	9	.....
28th " "	164	...	12	.....
44th " "	175	...	...	.....
66th " "	163	...	11	.....
1st Howr. Bty. R. F. A.	210	...	...	.....
1-1st Sussex Bty.	120	...	9	.....
A-66th Bty. R. F. A.	132	...	4	.....
B. " "	130	...	3	.....
C.-66th Bty. R. F. A.	140	...	4	.....
D. " "	128	...	3	.....
A-69th Bty. R. F. A.	131	...	...	.....
C. " "	133	...	...	.....
D. " "	134	...	...	.....
No. 7 Ammn. Column	58	...	19	.....
4th Bde. Ammn. Column	75	1	116	.....
9th " " "	70	1	101	.....
13th " " "	86	1	99	.....
66th " " "	99	...	...	.....
72nd Heavy Bty.	121	...	135	.....
77th " "	126	...	109	.....
2-86th " "	88	...	91	.....
23rd Mtn. Battery	...	3	299	.....
No. 3 Coy. S. & M.	3	3	152	.....
No 13 " "	1	3	150	.....
No. 20 " "	4	4	151	.....
No 21 " "	2	3	137	.....
72nd Coy. R. E.	193	...	...	"Edavanha" ex "Nile," 22nd April 1916.
88th " "	221	...	...	"Ansonia," 16th March 1916.
No 1 A. C. Sig Coy.	156	1	101	"Chilka," 12th March 1916.
3rd Divl. Sig. Coy.	105	2	87	"Elephanta," 1st April 1916.
7th " " "	111	3	134	"Chilka," 12th March 1916.
13th " " "	221	...	16	"Edavanha" ex "Nile," 22nd April 1916.
37th Bde. Sig. Sec.	12	...	18	.....
41st " " "	13	...	23	"Bamora," 28th February 1916.
No. 1 Bridging Train	...	1	39	.....
2-4th G. Rifles	...	19	728	"Coconada," 8th March 1916.
1-1st " "	...	13	888	"Madras," 21st April 1916.
1-9th " "	...	8	685	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
128th Pioneers	...	7	503	"Ellenga," 2nd April 1916.
125th Rifles	...	1	268	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
124th Baluchis	...	20	953	"Rajput," 13th March 1916.
26th Punjabis	...	12	675	"Edavanha," 17th April 1916.
107th Pioneers	...	17	912	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
102nd Grenadiers	...	7	461	"Bankura," 31st March 1916.
97th Infantry	...	6	463	"Arankola," ditto.
96th "	...	17	916	"Erinpura," 16th March 1916.

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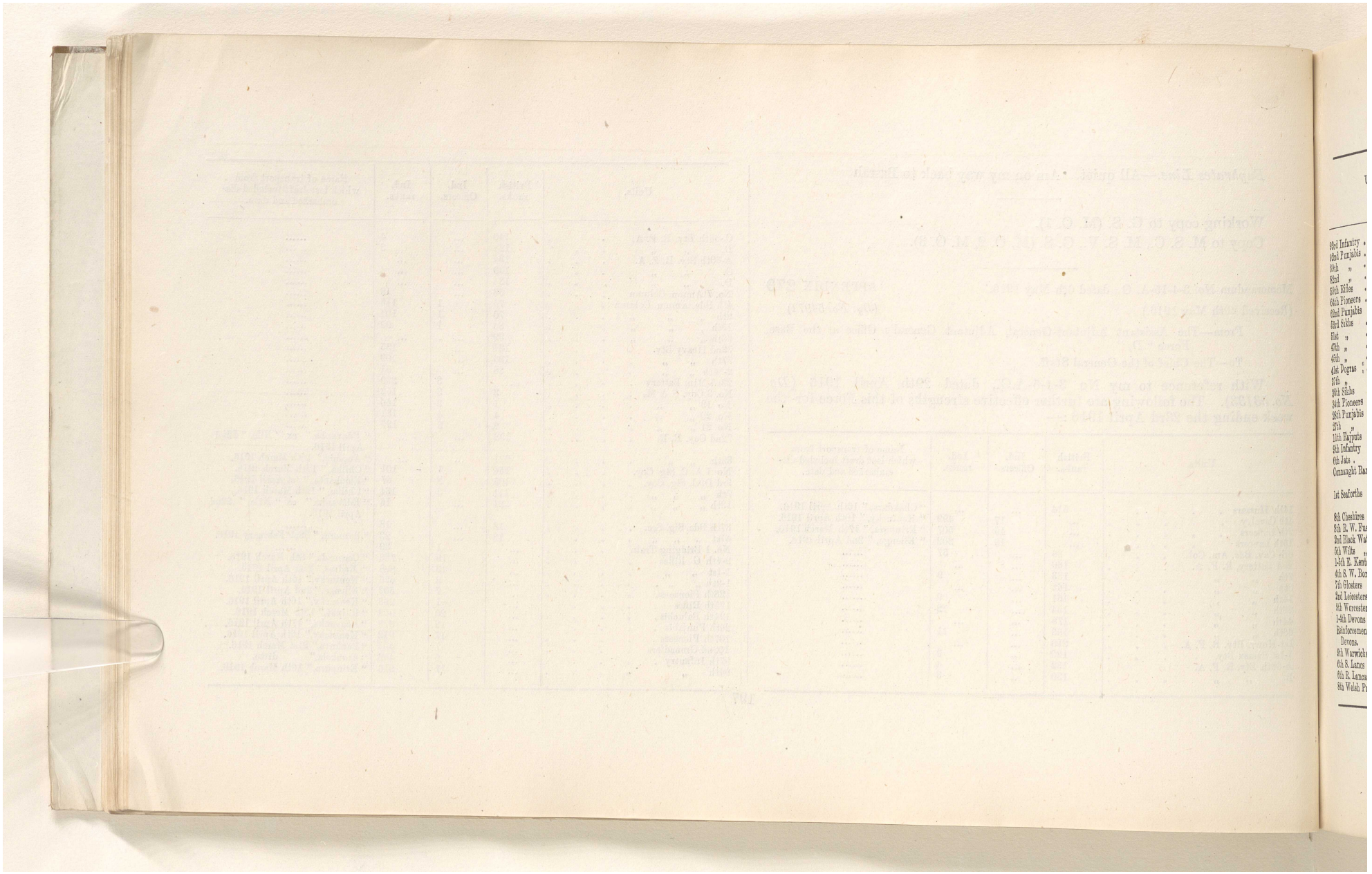

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Units.	British ranks.	Ind. Officers.	Ind. ranks.	Name of transport from which last draft included disembarked and date.
93rd Infantry	...	15	443	"Arankola," 31st March 1916.
92nd Punjabis	...	4	355	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
89th "	...	9	416	Ditto.
82nd "	...	17	672	Ditto.
59th Rifles	...	9	855	Ditto.
64th Pioneers	...	17	759	"Edvanha," 17th April 1916.
62nd Punjabis	...	7	573	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
53rd Sikhs	...	9	633	"Edavanha," 17th April 1916.
51st "	...	5	379	"Coconada," 8th March 1916.
47th "	...	23	750	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
45th "	...	18	845	Ditto.
41st Dogras	...	7	470	"Arankola," 31st March 1916.
37th "	...	12	573	"Edavanha," 17th March 1916.
36th Sikhs	...	14	639	Ditto.
34th Pioneers	...	14	803	"Kentucky," 16th April 1916.
28th Punjabis	...	4	466	Ditto.
27th "	...	10	697	Ditto.
11th Rajputs	...	16	879	"Arankola," 31st March 1916.
9th Infantry	...	10	746	"Kentucky," 17th April 1916.
6th Jats	...	13	583	Ditto.
Connaught Rangers	872	...	...	"Baroda" ex "Persic," 24th Mar. 1916.
1st Seaforths	490	...	...	"Edavanha" ex "Nile," 22nd Apl. 1916.
8th Cheshires	507	...	...	Ditto.
8th R. W. Fusrs.	552	...	...	Ditto.
2nd Black Watch	380	...	...	Ditto.
5th Wilts "	552	...	...	Ditto.
1-5th E. Kents	679	...	...	Ditto.
4th S. W. Borderers	600	...	...	Ditto.
7th Glosters	688	...	...	Ditto.
2nd Leicesters	521	...	...	Ditto.
9th Worcesters	515	...	...	Ditto.
1-4th Devons	769	...	...	Ditto.
Reinforcements for 1-4th and 1-6th Devons.	49	...	...	Ditto.
9th Warwicks	578	...	...	Ditto.
6th S. Lancs	592	...	...	Ditto.
6th R. Lancasters	717	...	...	Ditto.
8th Welsh Prs.	877	...	...	Ditto.

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Units.	British ranks.	Ind. Officers.	Ind ranks.	Name of transport from which last draft included disembarked and date.
Reinforcements at Base.				
R. H., R. F. and R. G. A.	81	...	43	.....
1st S. and Miners	...	1	31	.....
2nd " "	...	...	41	.....
3rd " "	...	...	5	.....
Reinforcements en route.				
R. H., R. F. and R. G. A.	157	...	79	.....
1st S. and Miners	2	...	103	.....
2nd " "	...	...	50	.....
3rd " "	...	1	55	.....

Medical.

Units.	British Officers.	Asst. Srgns.	Sub-Asst. Srgns.	Nurs. Ordls.	Sepoy Ward Ordls.	Nursing sisters.
7th Br. Fd. Amb.	4	8	...	8	...	...
41st Fd. Amb.	8	...	5	165*	...	...
113th Ind. Fd. Amb.	4	...	8	...	8	...
135th " " "	5	2	6	2	6	...
19th Com. Fd. Amb	4	3	3	8	6	...
19th Com. Clg. Hospl.	5	4	...	8	7	5
No. 2-A. Br. Genl. Hospl.	8	3	...	...	...	...
"Z" Ind. Genl. Hospl.	11	...	4	...	51	...

* R. A. M. C.

Working copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., D. M. S.

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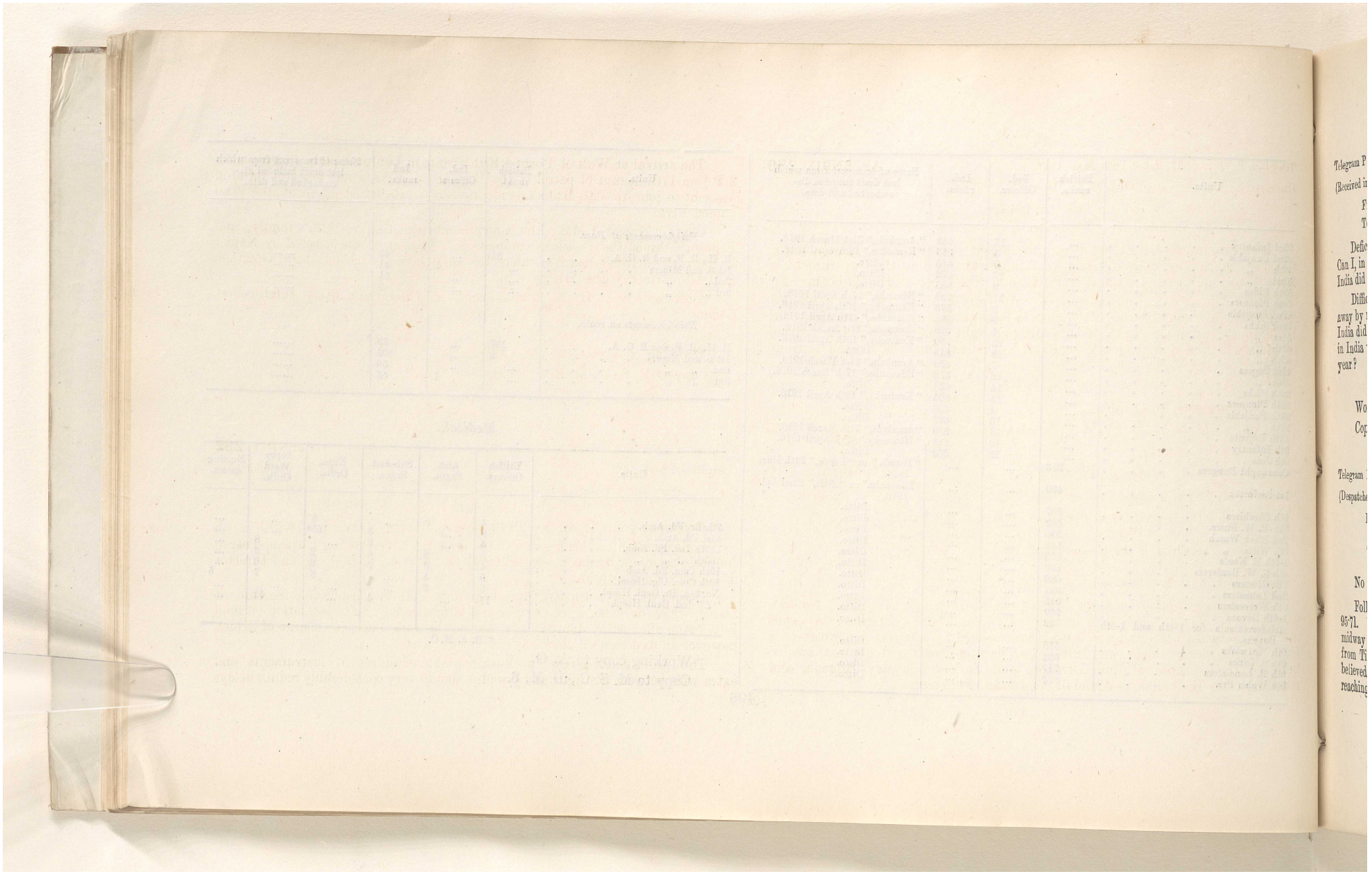

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Telegram P , No. 3357, dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **280**

(Received in War Section on 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54976*)

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

Deficiencies of river craft during the recent operations in Mesopotamia. Can I, in reply to possible criticism in Parliament, say that the Government of India did not refuse any request from General Nixon for additional boats?

Difficulties and delay in supply of craft from England can be explained away by me. That however is the answer to enquiry why the Government of India did not supply in 1915 these additional light draught vessels from rivers in India which they managed to send out in the early months of the current year?

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2846, dated 19th May 1916. APPENDIX **281**

(Despatched 11-30 P.M., received 2-30 P.M., 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 54995*)

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

No change on Euphrates Line.

Following are gauge readings, Tigris Line, for 18th. Wadi 11·06. Amarah 95·71. My I. G. 2845? of 15th instant (*Dy. No. 54919*) continues. A point midway between Mendali and Jessan was reached by aircraft reconnaissance from Tigris Army Corps on 18th. Two parallel, fresh and distinct tracks, believed to be those of 2nd Division and Turkish Cavalry Brigade, and reaching from Baghailah to Mendali *viâ* Jessan, were seen.

The arrival at Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh's camp in Dehluran plain (degree sheet 2 P.) on 17th instant of patrol of 150 Russian Cossacks, whom General Baratoff has sent to join up with British, is reported by a pro-British agent of the Wali named Ezra.

Captain Napier, I.M.S., who is at present attending on Wali's family, and Ezra entertained the Cossack Commander. The patrol was directed by Napier to go to Ali Gharbi, whence Commander will proceed to meet General Gorringe at Headquarters, Tigris Army Corps.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 55001, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **282**

(Despatched 5-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55001*)

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

Reference your No. G. K.-36140, dated 13th May (*Dy. No. 54067*).

Consideration has been given to the question of improving Karachi-Basrah communication as has been referred by D. G., P. & T., to D. P. G. and Director in Chief, Indo-European.

Recent delays, it appears, have been due more to considerable increase of traffic, which has been since October last 50 per cent., and to insulation on land lines being affected by damp rather than to the Jask office, in charge of which however an experienced clerk has now been placed.

The provision of a new Fao-Bushire cable of additional instruments and extra wire between Panjgur and Gwadur should very considerably reduce delays

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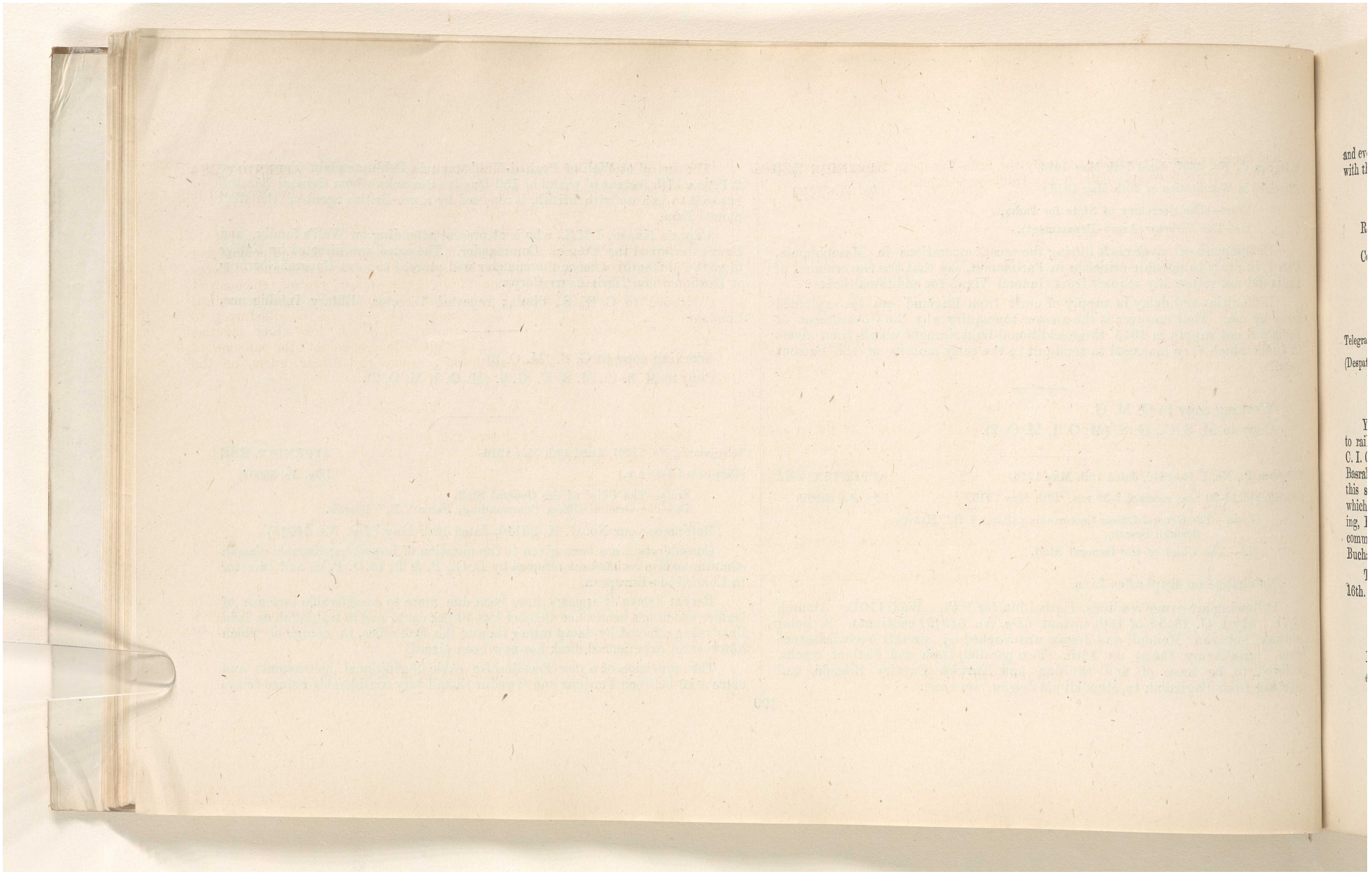

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and every endeavour is being made by the Indo-European Department to deal with the present exceptionally heavy traffic expeditiously.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 55052, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **283**

(Despatched 8 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55052*)

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

Your 16797-Cipher, dated 19th May (*Dy. No. 54912*). With reference to railway proposals please refer to my No. 54841 of 19th May, addressed to C. I. G. S., which crossed yours. Work can commence with the material at Basrah, as soon as the staff reach there. Steps are being taken to collect this staff. With reference to the improvement of the Channel of the Tigris which was referred to in my 49892 of 21st April, General Officer Commanding, Force "D," to whom Sir G. Buchann's proposals for improving river communications were referred, asks that action might be deferred until Buchanan arrived.

These recommendations are awaited. Buchanan reached Basrah on May 16th.

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

Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., Railway Board, Q. M. G.

Letter No. 10332-3 (D.M.S.-3), dated 18th May 1916. APPENDIX **284**

(Received in War Section on 20th May 1916) (*Dy. No. 55058*)

From—The Director, Medical Services, in India.
To—The Deputy Director, Medical Services, Force "D."

I have the honour to state that with a view to making the equipments and personnel of Medical units and the Medical equipment and personnel of Corps units of the Indian Organization attain to the utmost possible efficiency I would request that Officers Commanding all Medical Units, and medical Officers of Corps Units, be called upon to submit, within the next three months, criticisms and suggestions the outcome of experience, regarding the equipment and personnel under their orders, on the following lines :—

Field Service Manual Medical (India), 1915, should be taken as a guide for order of headings dealt with.

(*A*) *War establishment.*

Sufficiency or superfluity of personnel provided.

(*a*) Medical personnel.
(*b*) Attached ,,
(*c*) Transport ,,

(*B*). *Transport.*

(*a*) For mobility (Ordinary).
(*b*) Ambulance.

(*C*) *Equipment.*
- (*i*) Drugs, instruments, dressings, comforts, furniture and tentage required or superfluous.
- (*ii*) Packing of these stores.

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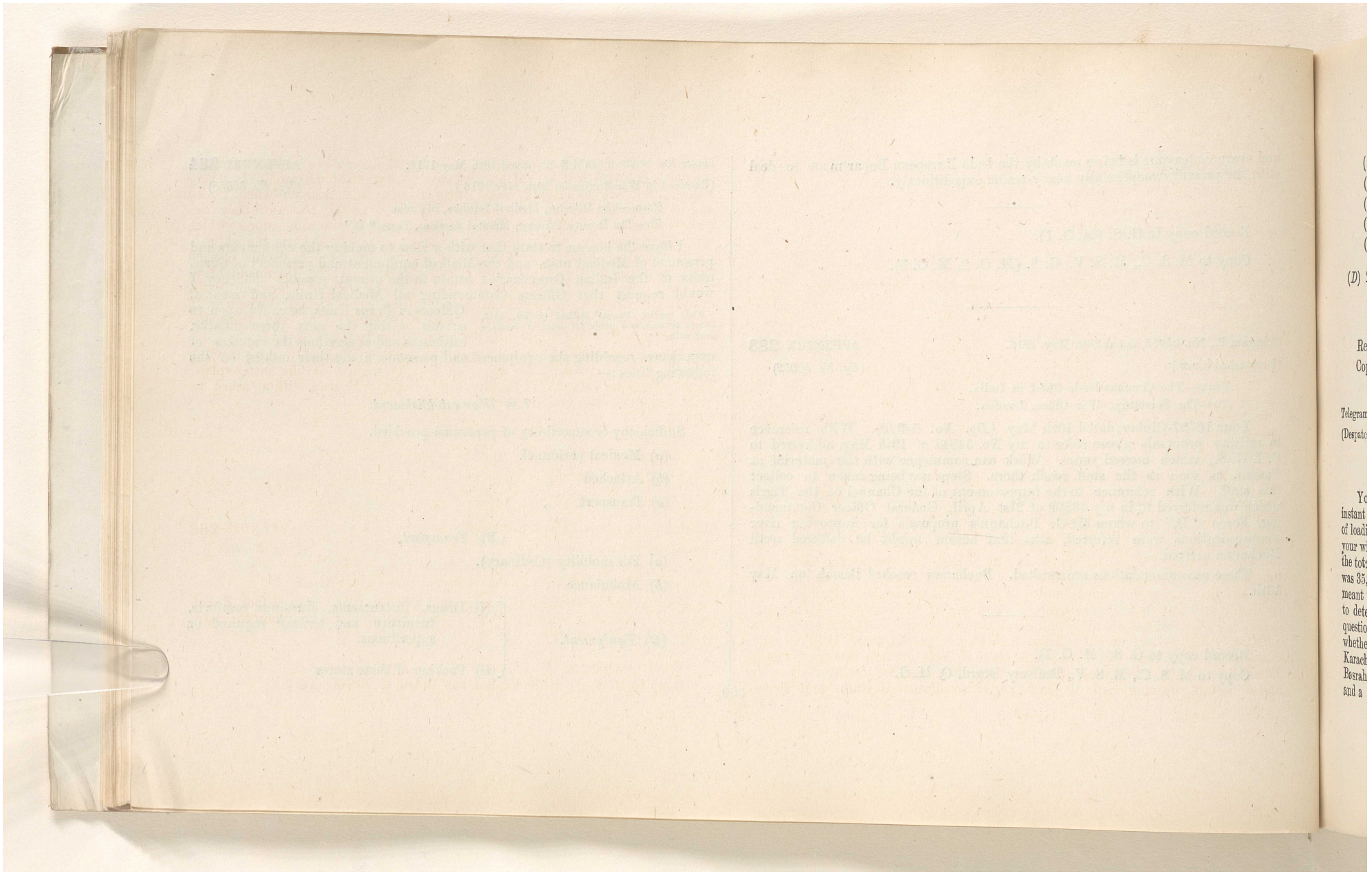

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(*a*) Medical.
(*b*) Supply and Transport.
(*c*) Military Works.
(*d*) Ordnance.
(*e*) Local purchase.

(*D*) *The equipment and staffing of Bearer and Tent Sub-Divisions of Field Ambulances.*

Record copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. V.

Telegram No. 55073, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **285**
(Despatched 11 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55073*)

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

Your 1152-28-Q. of 24th April (*Dy. No. 50429*), and 1152-32 Q. of 15th instant (*Dy. No. 54290*), regarding shipment of stores. As regards the method of loading stores and supplies every endeavour will be made to comply with your wishes as far as practicable. Reference paragraph 1 of your 1152-28-Q. the total tonnage of stores for the S. and T. Department during the last month was 35,000 tons or an increase of 14,000 on amount given by you and this meant three extra stores ships, and you will thus understand it is difficult to determine any definite programme for sailing of supply ships. The question of congestion of supply ships in Basrah resolves itself into one as to whether it is more convenient to have ships waiting at Basrah or Bombay and Karachi. The difficulty in despatching them so as to prevent their arriving at Basrah in a bunch is that these ships are very often used for towing river craft and a certain number call at Gulf Ports to discharge stores and consequence is dates of their arrival at destination cannot be foreseen. It is considered preferable to despatch ships from Bombay and Karachi when loaded and let them wait in the stream below Basrah or at the Bar until they can conveniently be unloaded as nearly every store ship carries some stores which are urgently required and by this arrangement you would have the ships in the river and you could unload those most urgently required as details of such stores on board are always cabled to you by the Embarkation Commandants at the ports from which the ships sail. Another suggestion put forward is the retention of a floating warehouse at Basrah of the Queda "class" which with 16 to 18 derricks along her decks could stow 12,000 tons, and transports could go alongside her and rapidly discharge themselves.

It is thought that this would reduce the number of supply ships running between India and Basrah, by reducing their detention at the latter place. Please wire your views. If concurred in Director, Marine, will be asked to make a suitable ship available for this purpose.

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

Telegram P., No. 55075, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **286**
(Despatched 11 P M.) (*Dy. No. 55075*)

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

Can you make 45 miles of permanent-way and all your 2-foot 6-inch gauge stock available for the Qurnah-Amarah Railway on conversion to metre gauge of Basrah Tramway.

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M S. C., M. S V., Railway Board, G. S. (M. O. 1).

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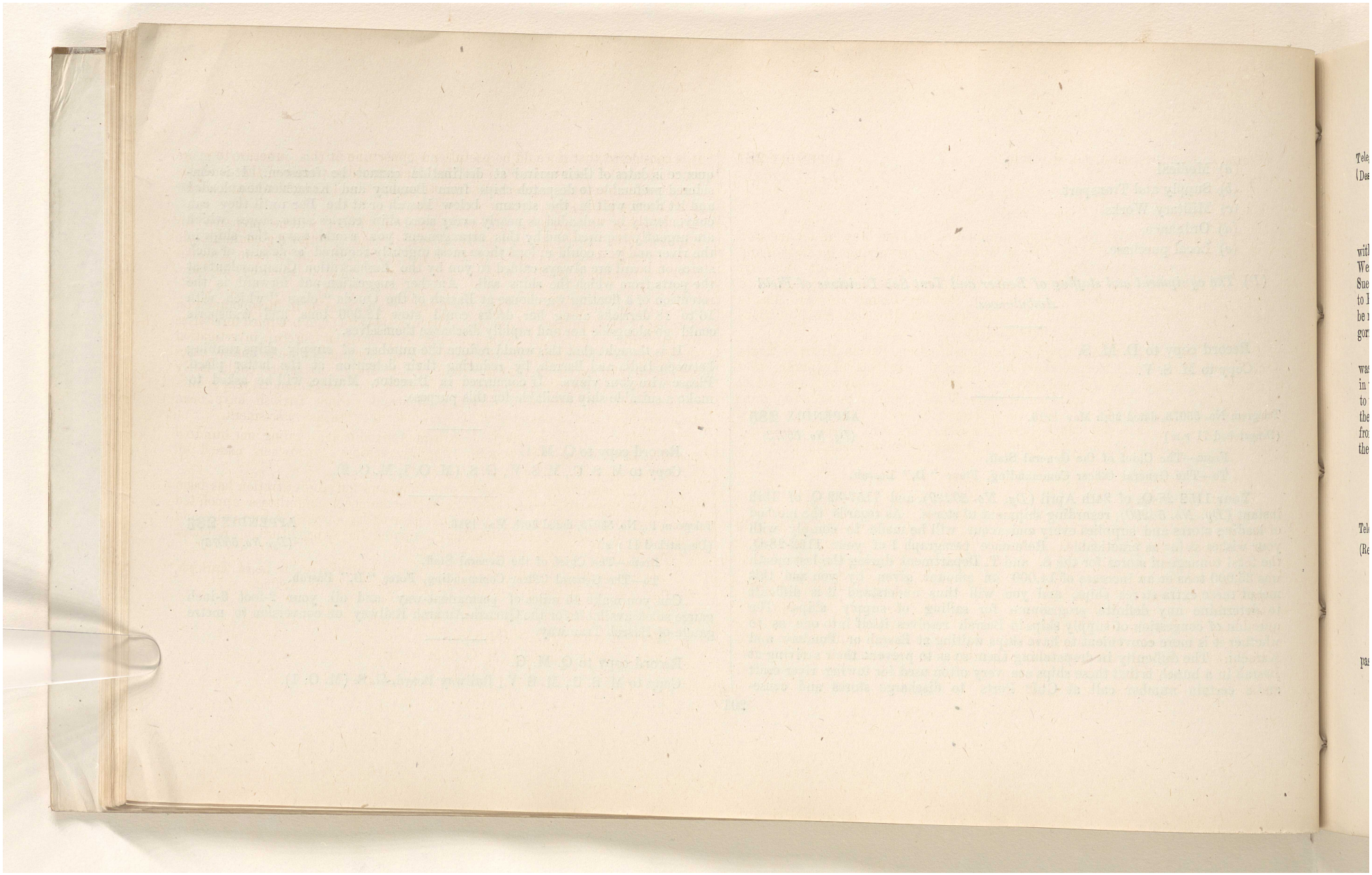

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Telegram P., No. 55078, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **287**
(Despatched 11 P M.) (*Dy. No. 55078*)

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

Your telegram (*Dy. No. 54614*) unnumbered of 17th May in connection with changing R. A. M. C. personnel of Hospital Ships plying in Eastern and Western waters. I agree with this interchange, and, for ships on Bombay-Suez run, it should be carried out at Suez. Necessary staff must be despatched to Bombay, if personnel of Hospital Ships on Bombay-Basrah run are also to be relieved. At present, reliefs for I. M. S. officers on Hospital Ships "Glengorm Castle" and "Letitia" cannot be sent.

The question of evacuation of British invalids from Basrah direct to Egypt was gone into here with Surgeon General Treherne. He was of opinion that in view of fact that it would prevent the sorting out at Bombay of cases not fit to undergo voyage to Suez, and that Hospital Ships going to Suez cannot cross the Shatt-el-Arab bar and the consequent transference of sick and wounded from vessel to vessel outside the bar or at Koweit causes unnecessary suffering, the existing practice of sending invalids to Bombay should be continued.

Record copy to D. M. S.

Telegram R., No. 2856, dated 11th May 1916. APPENDIX **288**
(Received in War Section on 20th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55090*)

From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.
(Repeated to Secretary of State.)

Administration reports of various civil branches of administration for past year are in gradual course of submission to Government. Meanwhile it is considered that it would be useful and opportune at this juncture to make as much capital as we can *vis-a-vis* the Mahommedan public of the generous line on which we have conducted administration of land and revenue and assessment during the first year of our occupation.

If desired the draft of an article on the subject will be prepared for publication in Press. Meanwhile it is considered that if following communiqué were given to Reuter, London, by His Majesty's Government for issue it would have wide and speedy effect and carry more weight than if issued by us here. Draft *begins*:—

A report lately received from the British administration in Mesopotamia on working of Department of Land Revenue and Assessment in occupied territories for past year shows that it has been found in process of careful investigation that figures of the former Turkish land revenue demanded were in many cases considerably in excess of what the land or the Arab cultivators could fairly stand and in course of collection of land revenue for past financial year reductions aggregating upwards of fifty-five thousand pounds Turkish have been granted out of total demand of £202,000 under the Turkish assessment.

In addition to these reductions arrears of revenue aggregating one hundred and fifty-three thousand pounds standing against landowners named on Turkish registers have been finally remitted.

In the Department of Waqf or pious founders the administration has been purged and improved in association with Mahommedan committees appointed for the purpose; many mosques long in disrepair have been put into order and a considerable reserve fund has been accumulated for expenditure on religious objects approved by Mahommedan sentiment.

All official communications, receipts, etc., which used to be in Turkish, which is not understood by most people, are now written in Arabic.

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

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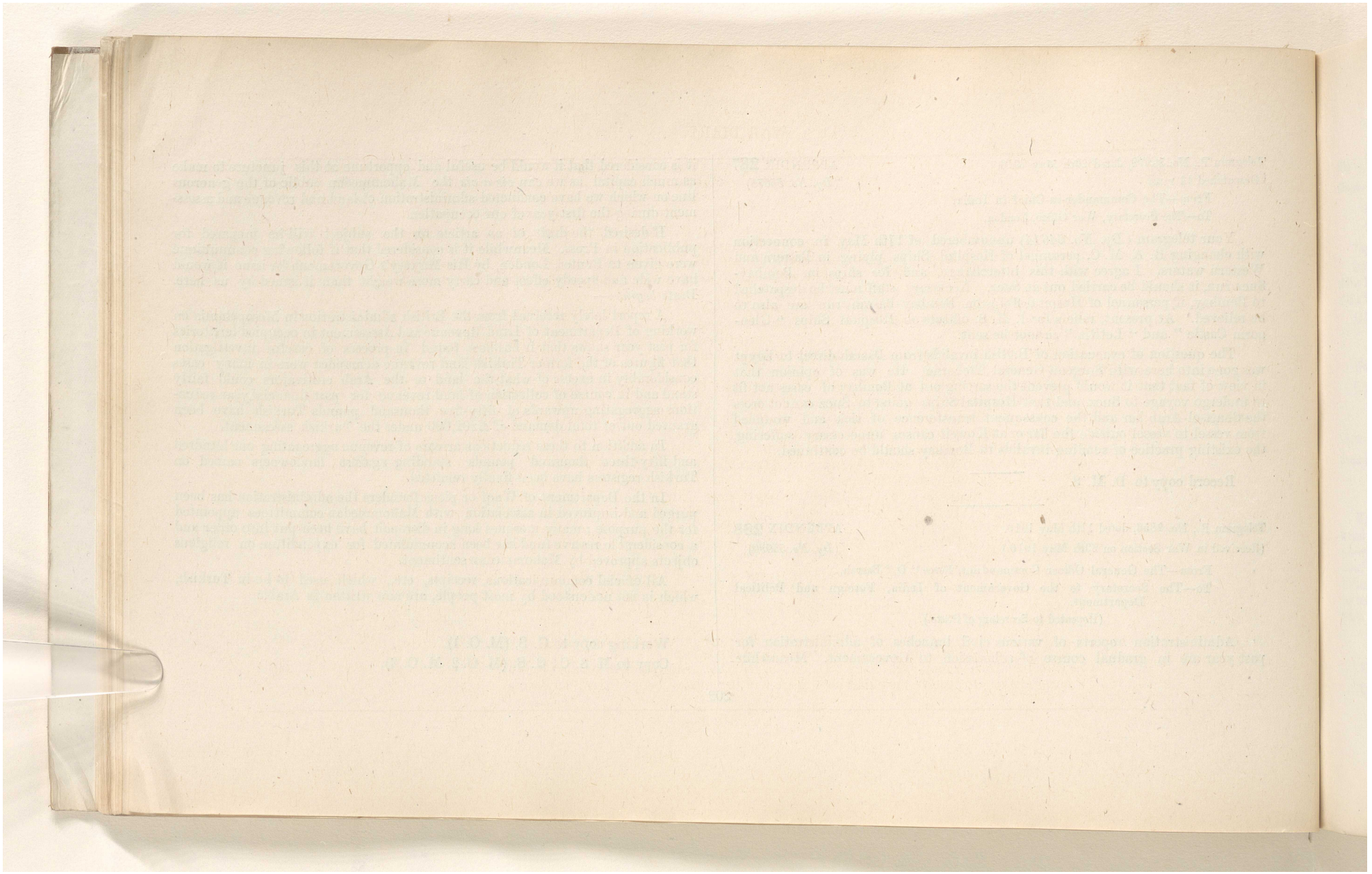

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
21-5-16 ...	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that Generals Egerton and Brooking had taken over the commands of the 14th and 15th Divisions, respectively.	55096	289
	Surgeon-General O'Donnel requested instructions on War Office telegram, which he repeated, with regard to his satisfying himself that arrangements in Mesopotamia for preserving the health of troops was complete.	55103	290
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," asked if the free issue of tobacco, on the same scale as in France, was to be included as an extra in the revised scale of rations now under consideration.	55105	291
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the arrival at Ali Gharbi of the Russian Cavalry patrol also the occupation of Dujailah redoubt and turning of the enemy's position at Es Sinn right bank.	55113	292
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that he had conferred the Military Cross on the Officer Commanding the Russian Cavalry patrol.	55114	293
	The Secretary, War Office, stated that an officer, who was also an M. P., was not entitled to send such telegrams, as referred to in Dy. No. 54362, but that no action could be taken against Captain Herbert as his telegram was sent with the permission of the authorities in India.	55130	294
	The Secretary, War Office, stated what guns, etc., were being supplied to replace those supplied to Force "D" in replacement of worn ones.	53136	295
	The Secretary of State for India, was given full particulars of the supply of river craft to Force "D" to enable him to answer possible enquiries in Parliament as to why the river craft supplied in 1916 was not supplied in 1915.	55146	296
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was addressed with regard to the proposal of cases of self-inflicted wounds being tried under section 4 of the Army Act.	55170	297
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported (1) right bank of the Tigris as far as the Hai was clear of the enemy; (2) 3rd Division and Cavalry Brigade were establishing themselves on the line Magasis to Dujailah and (3) pressure was being continued by the 7th Division on the enemy at Sannaiyat.	55187	298
	The Adjutant-General, Base, stated the requirements in personnel for four watching posts, which were considered necessary on account of the long front to be observed.	55198	299
	The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," requested that arrangements should be made for all troops and followers to receive their first dose of cholera inoculation before arrival at Basrah.	55208	300

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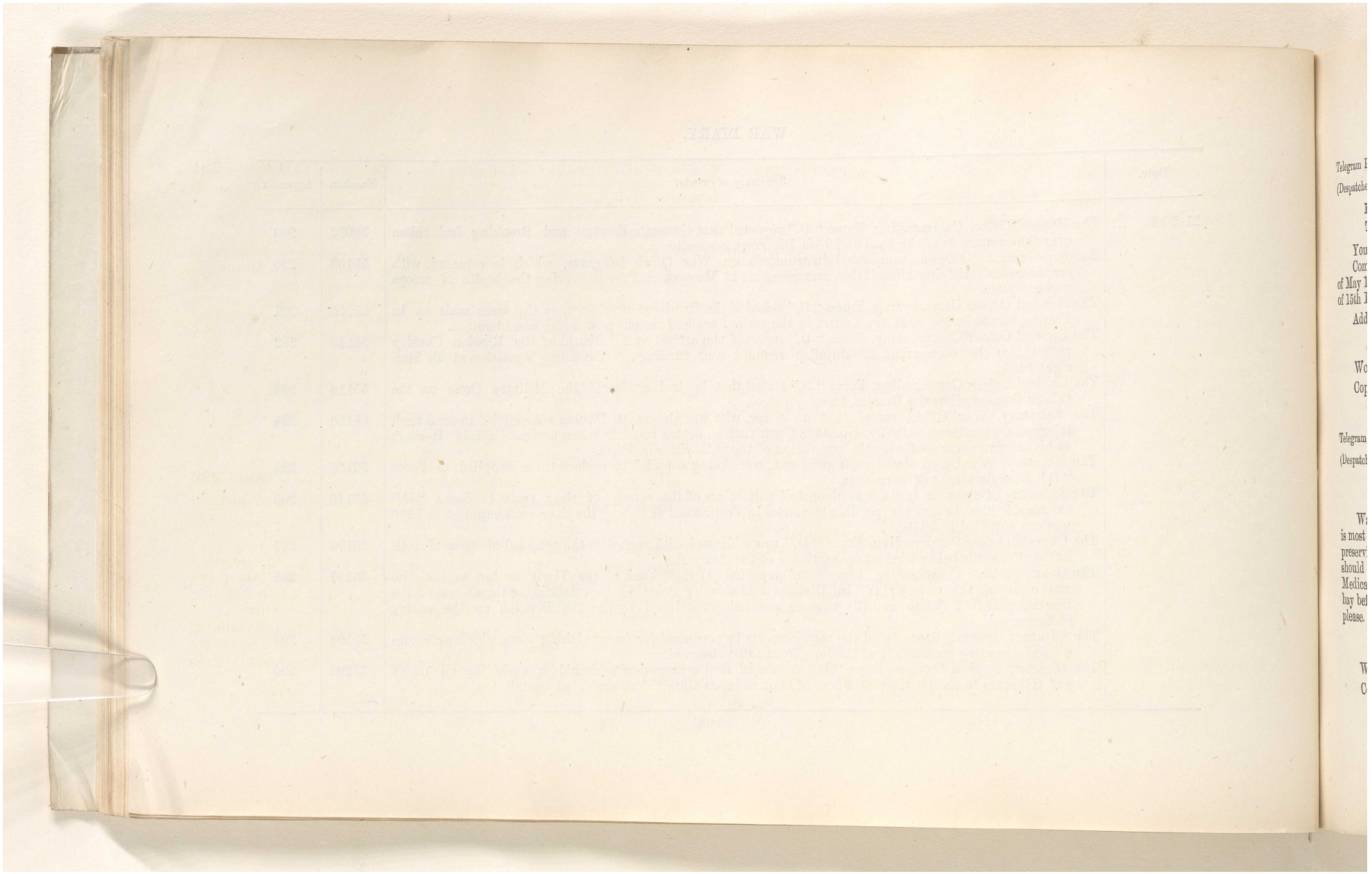

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Telegram P., No. 148-19-M. S., dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **289**
(Despatched 2-20 P.M., received 2-45 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55096*)

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

Your 52712 of May 7th.

Command of 14th Division was assumed by General Egerton on forenoon of May 12th. General Brooking took over command on forenoon of May 7th of 15th Division.

Addressed India, repeated London.

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

Telegram P., No. 20, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **290**
(Despatched 7-30 P.M., received 3-20 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55103*)

From—Surgeon-General O'DONNEL, S. S. "Caledonia," Suez,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

War Office have sent following dated May 12th. *Begins.* D. M. 7299. It is most important that you should satisfy yourself early that engagements for preserving health of troops in Mesopotamia are complete and that any defects should be wired to War Office and also to Civil India, Director General, Army Medical Service. *Ends.* It is proposed to go direct to Mesopotamia from Bombay before reporting at Simla. Instructions should be telegraphed to Bombay please.

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

Telegram No. 1551-20-Q., dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **291**
(Despatched 5-25 P.M., received 6-10 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55105*)

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

My free issue of tobacco on the same scale as in France (is to) be included as an extra in revised scale of rations now under consideration. Meanwhile since Corps Commander reports that troops are feeling deprivation of tobacco a free weekly issue of 2 ozs. tobacco or 40 cigarettes and two boxes matches to every fighting man has been sanctioned under paragraph 81, Accounts Manual, War. Issue will commence as soon as stocks are available and preference will be given to requirements of 3rd Army Corps.

Working copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. V.

Telegram P., No. 129-437-O., dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **292**
(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 7-15 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55113*)

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

Clear Line.—May 20th, Tigris Line. Russian Cavalry patrol, strength 3 officers, 110 other ranks, arrived at Ali Gharbi. It is presumed this patrol started from Karind (distance of which by way of Pusht-i-Kuh is fully 200 miles from Ali Gharbi), though no details as to this have so far been received.

Gorringe reports that he occupied Dujailah redoubt at 9-55 this morning, and turned the enemy's position at Es Sinn right bank. At 10-15 A.M., enemy still held Sannaiyat left bank. No further details have been received up to the present.

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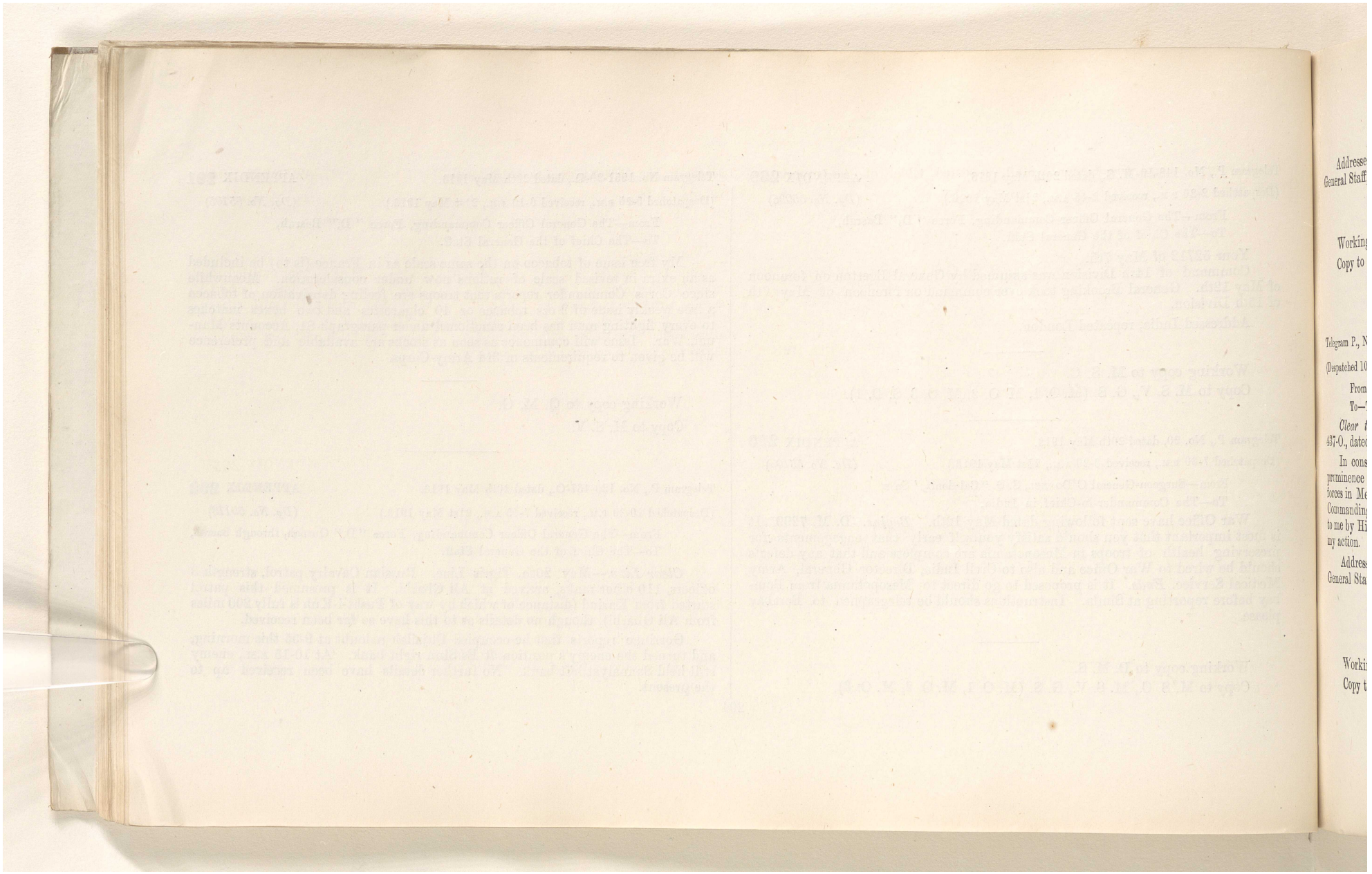

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Addressed Chief of the General Staff, repeated Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

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

Telegram P., No. 6-S.C., dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **293**

(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 7-40 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55114*)

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

Clear the Line.—Please refer to paragraph one of my telegram No. 129-437-O., dated 20th May (*Dy. No. 55113*).

In consideration of the daring nature of this performance and to lend prominence to this the first personal link between Russian and British forces in Mesopotamia I have conferred the Military Cross on the Officer Commanding the Russian Cavalry patrol in virtue of the authority delegated to me by His Majesty the King. It is trusted that approval will be given to my action.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 16890-Cipher-A.G.-3, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **294**

(Despatched 9-15 P.M., received 10-30 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55130*)

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

Your 54363.

Reference last sentence. An officer who is also an M. P. is not entitled to send such telegrams, but as cable to Mr. Chamberlain from Captain Herbert was sent with the permission of and after being submitted to the authorities in India no steps can be taken against him. The question of the general status of M. Ps. with troops in the field is under consideration and you will be informed as to the decision arrived at.

Working copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V.

Telegram No. 16874-Cipher-A. 2, dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **295**

(Despatched 6-55 P.M., received 8 A.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55136*)

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

Your 54868.

En route to you now are 24 equipments, and, possibly during next months, 16 more will be shipped. You will have despatched to you the balance as soon as available, as well as 32 to replace the ones sent to Force "D."

We approve of your proposal to despatch guns to Woolwich for repair.

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

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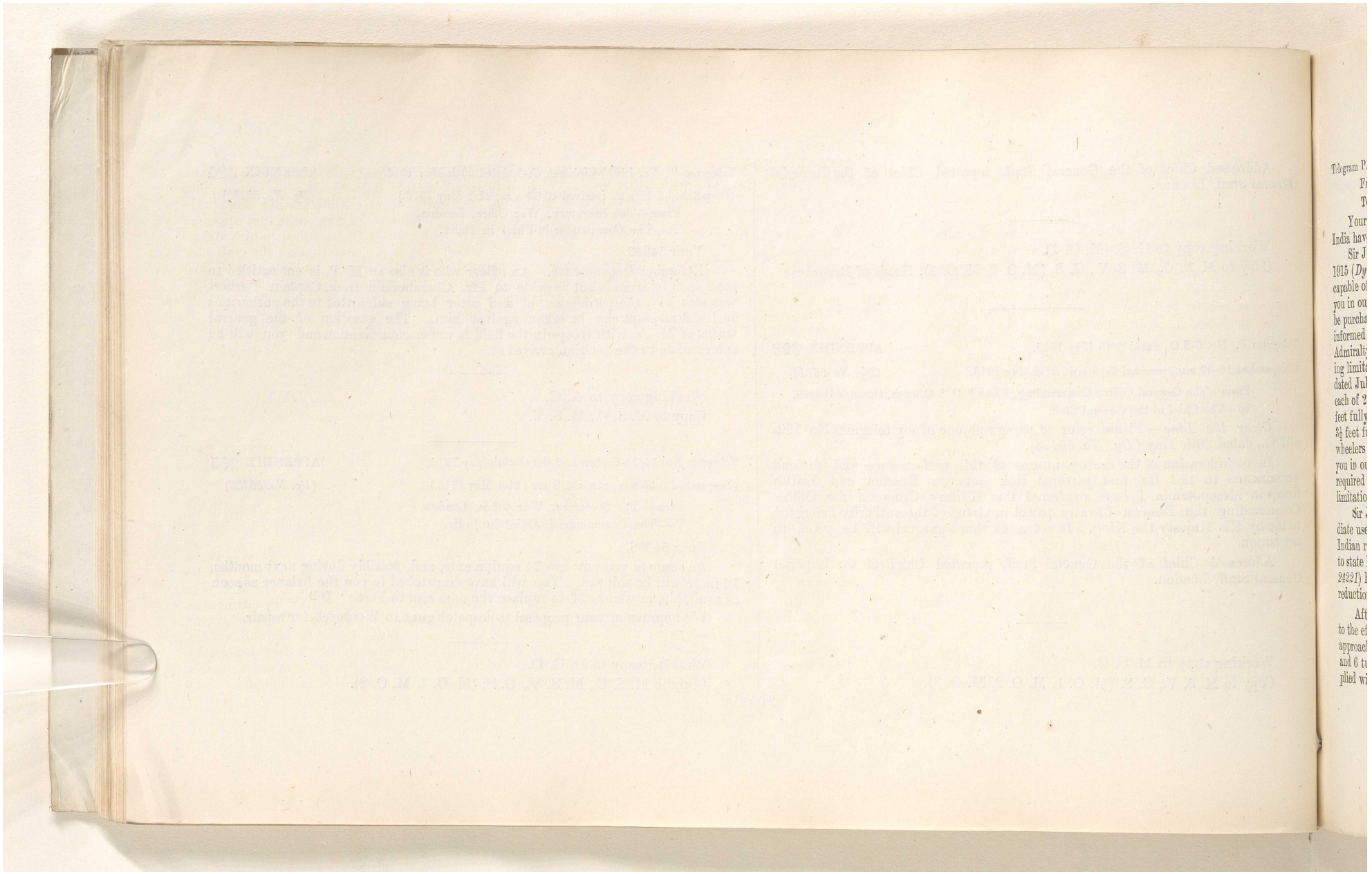

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APPENDIX **296**

Telegram P., No. H.-4185, dated 21st May 1916. (*Dy. No. 55146*)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department),

To—The Secretary of State for India.

Your cable of the 18th May 1916 (*Dy. No. 54976*). The Government of India have never refused demands for river craft made by G. O. C., Force "D"

Sir John Nixon in his first demand for additional river craft on 27th May 1915 (*Dy. No. 11076*), gave limitations that the tugs asked for must each be capable of towing two large flats and must not draw over three feet. We asked you in our telegram No. H.-50-85, dated 6th July (*Dy. No. 14238*), if these could be purchased in England as they were not procurable in this country; and you informed us in your cable No. K.-24817 of July 21st (*Dy. No. 15849*), that the Admiralty reported that such vessels could not be obtained. Again, the following limitations were laid down by General Nixon in his letter No 341-1-O., dated July 10th (*Dy. No. 15722*): Paddlers to be capable of towing two barges each of 250 tons at 6 knots against a 4 knot current and not to draw over 3½ feet fully loaded. Tugs to be Sumana class, *i.e.*, with draught not more than 3½ feet fully loaded and sufficiently powerful to tow two large barges. Stern-wheelers not to draw more than two and-a-half feet fully loaded. We requested you in our telegram of 3rd August, No. H-6772 (*Dy. No. 17055*), to get the required barges and vessels constructed in England as craft according to the limitations given were not obtainable in India.

Sir John Nixon on the 9th October (*Dy. No. 23830*) pressed for, for immediate use, powerful light draught tugs or sternwheelers from India, and as Indian rivers had been tried without success to meet his demands he was asked to state his definite requirements. In reply to this on October 12th (*Dy. No. 24221*) he again repeated his previous limitations with the exception that a reduction to 3 feet 5 inches was made in the draught for tugs.

After receiving a wire from Mesopotamia on 24th October (*Dy. No. 25206*) to the effect that the river was rising we offered to Sir John Nixon vessels that approached his limitations, and he had accepted 18 sternwheelers, 15 paddlers, and 6 tugs by the end of 1915 (*Dy. No. 32629*). However none of these complied with the limitations he originally made.

It was not until January 5th 1916 (*Dy. No. 33532*) that General Nixon intimated that he was prepared to accept craft that diverged very considerably from the limitations he had given and that the specifications laid down were only for the boats to be constructed. Full details of all river craft that appeared even approximately suitable have since that date been furnished to him and he has accepted a very considerable number. It is probable that all the craft now under supply could have been despatched during the non-monsoon period had definite limitations not been given us, and the number reaching their destination would have been considerably increased.

Record copy to Q. M. G.

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

Telegram P., No 55170, dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **297**

(Despatched 5-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55170*)

From—The Chief of the General Staff,

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

In continuation of my telegram 15th May (*Dy. No. 54166*) in reply to your No. 695-34-A. of 14th May (*Dy. No. 54058*).

As to the practice obtaining in France we have enquired from War Office (*Dy. No. 53270*), and if, in appropriate cases, this offence can be tried under section 4 (7) of Army Act of which section 25 (*b*), Indian Army Act is a counterpart. We are awaiting their reply. The Legislative Department of the Government of India have advised us that any alteration of the existing law as suggested by you in your telegram of 20th April, No. 695-33 A. (*Dy. No. 49772*) cannot be effected by ordinance but must be effected by legislation. It has been found efficacious in France, so we understand, to arrange in or close behind the trenches for medical treatment of men wounded in the hand. Such

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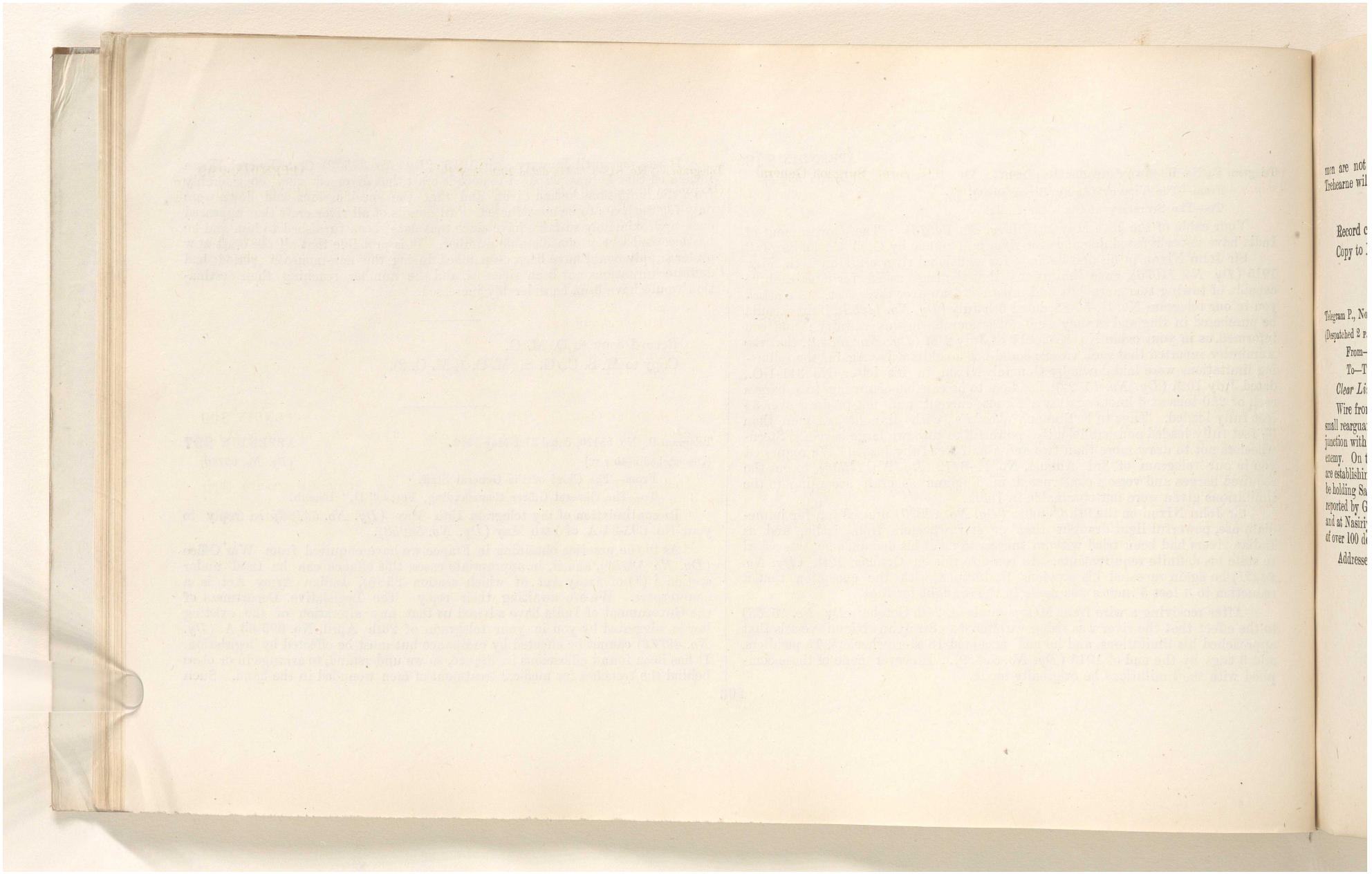

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men are not sent away from the front. On this point Surgeon-General Trehearne will be able to give you full information.

Record copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V.

Telegram P., No. 129-438-O., dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **298**
(Despatched 2 P.M., received 6 P.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55187*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Clear Line.

Wire from Gorringe timed 9-50 P.M., 20th May, states that, except for small rearguard apparently covering bridge over Hai, 500 yards below its junction with the Tigris, right bank of Tigris as far as the Hai is clear of the enemy. On the line Magasis to Dujailah the 3rd Division and Cavalry Brigade are establishing themselves. Pressure on the enemy, who are still reported to be holding Sannaiyat, is being continued by 7th Division on left bank. It is reported by Gorringe that the weather is trying and intensely hot. Both here and at Nasiriyah during the last few days there has been a shade temperature of over 100 degrees. This morning I arrive at Basrah.

Addressed Simla, repeated London.

Telegram P., No. 818-3-A. G., dated 20th May 1916. APPENDIX **299**
(Despatched 10 A.M., 2nd May 1916, received 8 P.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55198*)
From—The Adjutant-General, Base, Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

It is stated by General Headquarters that it is necessary to have four watching posts on account of the long front which has to be observed. Personnel :—

2 R. A. officers
20 N. C. Os. } observers.
10 Telephonists

Working copy to M. S. C., A. G.
Copy to M. S. V.

Telegram No. 1-5-811, dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **300**
(Despatched 12-30 P.M., received 10-30 P.M., 21st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55208*)
From—The Director of Medical Services, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Kindly arrange that all troops and followers for this Force receive their first dose of cholera inoculation before arriving at Basrah.

Addressed Assistant Director of Medical Services, Bombay, repeated C.G.S.

Working copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. V.

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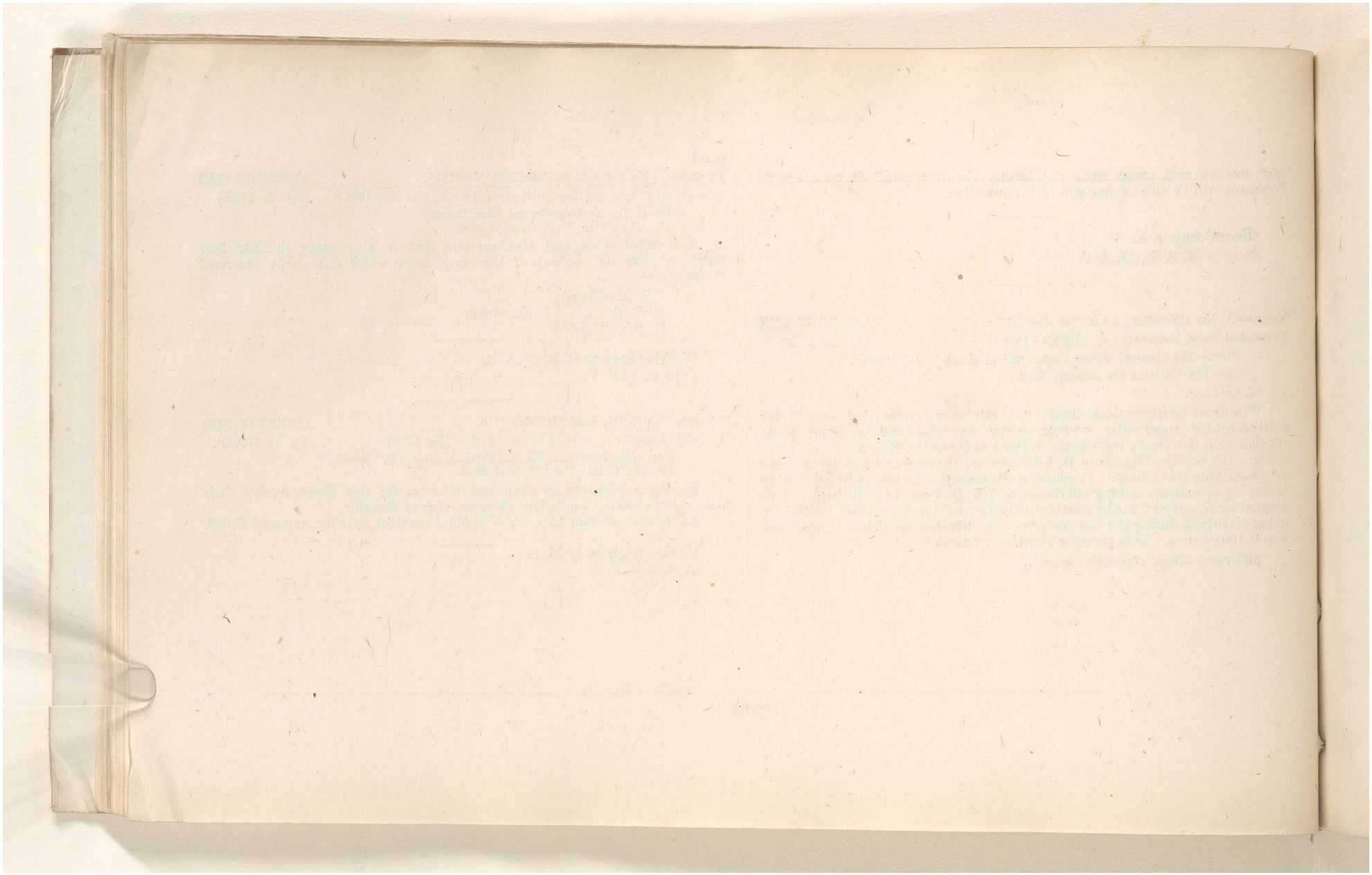

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
22-5-16 ...	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," gave his views on the operations proposed by General Douglas to effect the release of the Shiraz prisoners.	55223	301
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff repeated a communiqué issued to press notifying the occupation of the Dujailah redoubt by General Gorringe's Force, and the arrival of the Russian Cavalry patrol.	55225	302
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," repeated, for communication to General Baratoff, a message stating that there were indications of the Kut area being vacated by the enemy.	55233	303
	A report, giving the changes in distribution of the troops, was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D."	55288	304
	Surgeon General O'Donnell was instructed to visit Mesopotamia, and thoroughly inspect all medical arrangements in Force "D" before taking over appointment of Director, Medical Services.	55301	305
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D", was told to commence free issues of tobacco to the extent to which stocks were available. He was asked when Surgeon General Treherne's recommendations on ration scales could be expected.	55352	306
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," asked for three of the anti-aircraft guns mounted on lorries, specified in Dy. No. 54610.	55356	307
	The Secretary, War Office, was told that the question of the shortage of supply of electrical plant had been referred to the General Officer Commanding, Force "D." He was also informed of the position regarding river ambulance transport.	55358	308
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested that the Grand Duke Nicholas should be informed that the party of British ladies and children from Baghdad were believed to be at Musal, sothat in the event of that place being occupied, his troops could give protection to these children and ladies.	55388	309
	On the appreciation by M. O. 1 it was noted that the Turks appeared anxious to hold Force "D" until Baratoff had been dealt with by them. The Chief of the General Staff pointed out that we should seize the opportunity to crush the small force now before Force "D".	...	310

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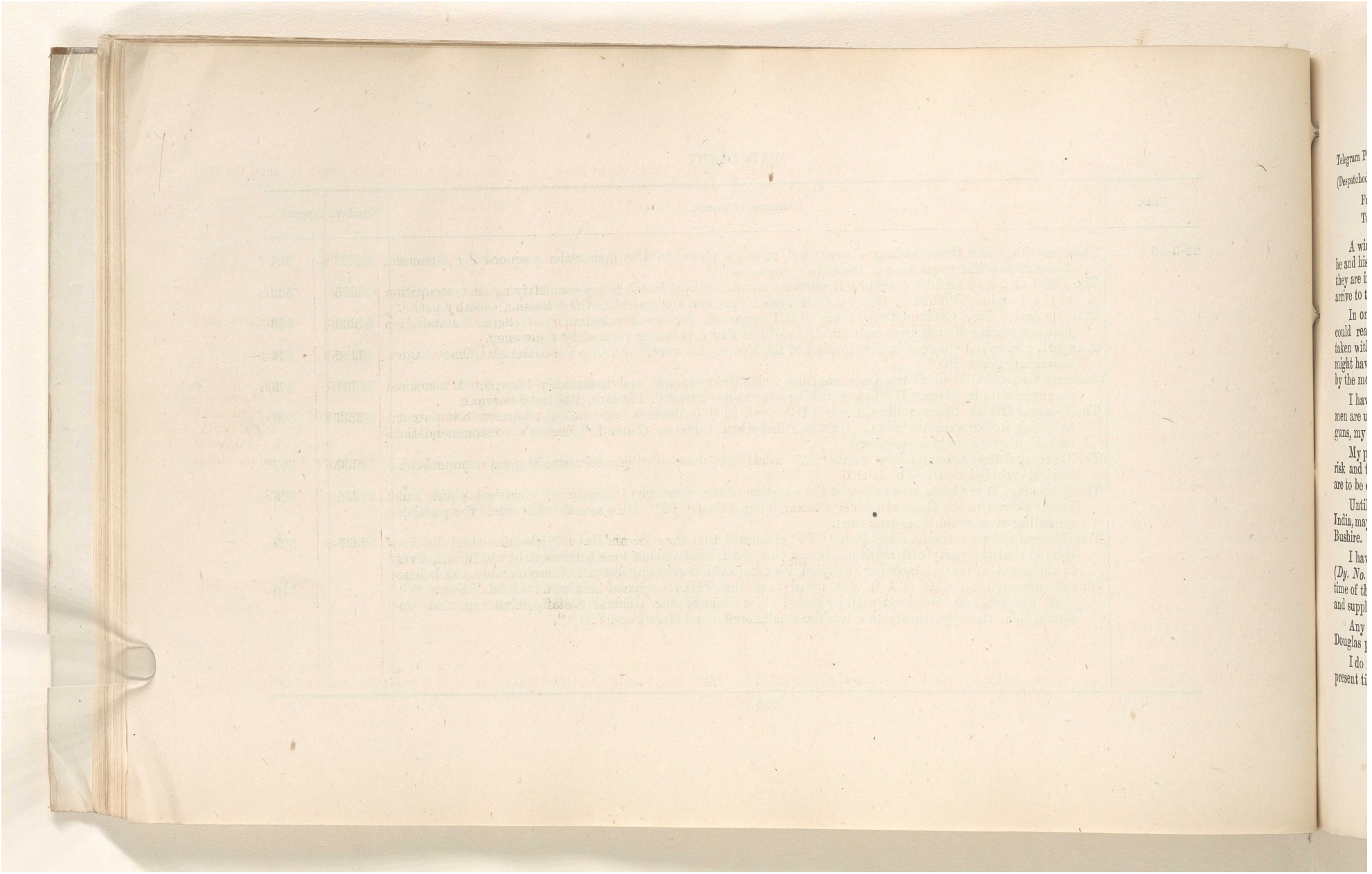

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Telegram P., No. 317-246-O., dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **301**
(Despatched 1-15 P.M., received 0-45 A.M., 22nd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55223*)

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

A wire from G. O. C., Bushire. *Begins* O'Connor has now written that he and his fellow prisoners could practically at any time seize the fort where they are imprisoned and asks in the event of this being done how soon I could arrive to their assistance.

In one day my cavalry could push through to Ahram and the infantry could reach there on the second day. I have however no guns which could be taken with me. I should march from here with two battalions, but a company might have to be left on far side of Mashila at the point which could be reached by the motor transport.

I have found out that during the frequent absences of Zair Edar very few men are usually left at Ahram and as I should be well supplied with machine guns, my part of the operation should be quite feasible even without guns.

My personal opinion is that the attempt could be made without undue risk and that little resistance would be met with if no more effective operations are to be carried out.

Until the question is decided, if you approve and refer the matter to India, may the 96th Infantry be retained here. *Ends* telegram from G. O. C., Bushire.

I have already given my views in my 317-242-O. of 14th March (May ?) (*Dy. No. 54116*) that as a preliminary to operations based on Bushire at this time of the year it is necessary to make adequate arrangements for the carriage and supply of water.

Any force, I consider, which is to carry out an operation such as General Douglas proposes should have mountain guns with it.

I do not propose therefore to allow him to undertake this operation at the present time, though I am naturally unwilling to allow our prisoners to remain in the hands of the enemy. I am giving orders for him to send the 96th Infantry to Basrah as originally directed.

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

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

Telegram No. 6882, dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **302**
(Despatched 5 P.M., received 2-15 A.M., 22nd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55225*)

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

Following has been communicated to Press. *Begins*. Sir P. Lake reports that May 19th enemy vacated Beit Aiessa advanced position on right bank of Tigris. Sir G. Gorringe following enemy up attacked and carried Dujailah redoubt; enemy still holding Sannaiyat position on left bank. Force of Russian Cavalry has joined General Gorringe after bold and adventurous ride. *Ends*.

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

Telegram P., No. I-G.-2854, dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **303**
(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 6-30 A.M., 22nd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55233*)

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

Please communicate following to Baratoff. *Begins*. There are indications that the vacation of the Kut area is the probable intention of the Turkish

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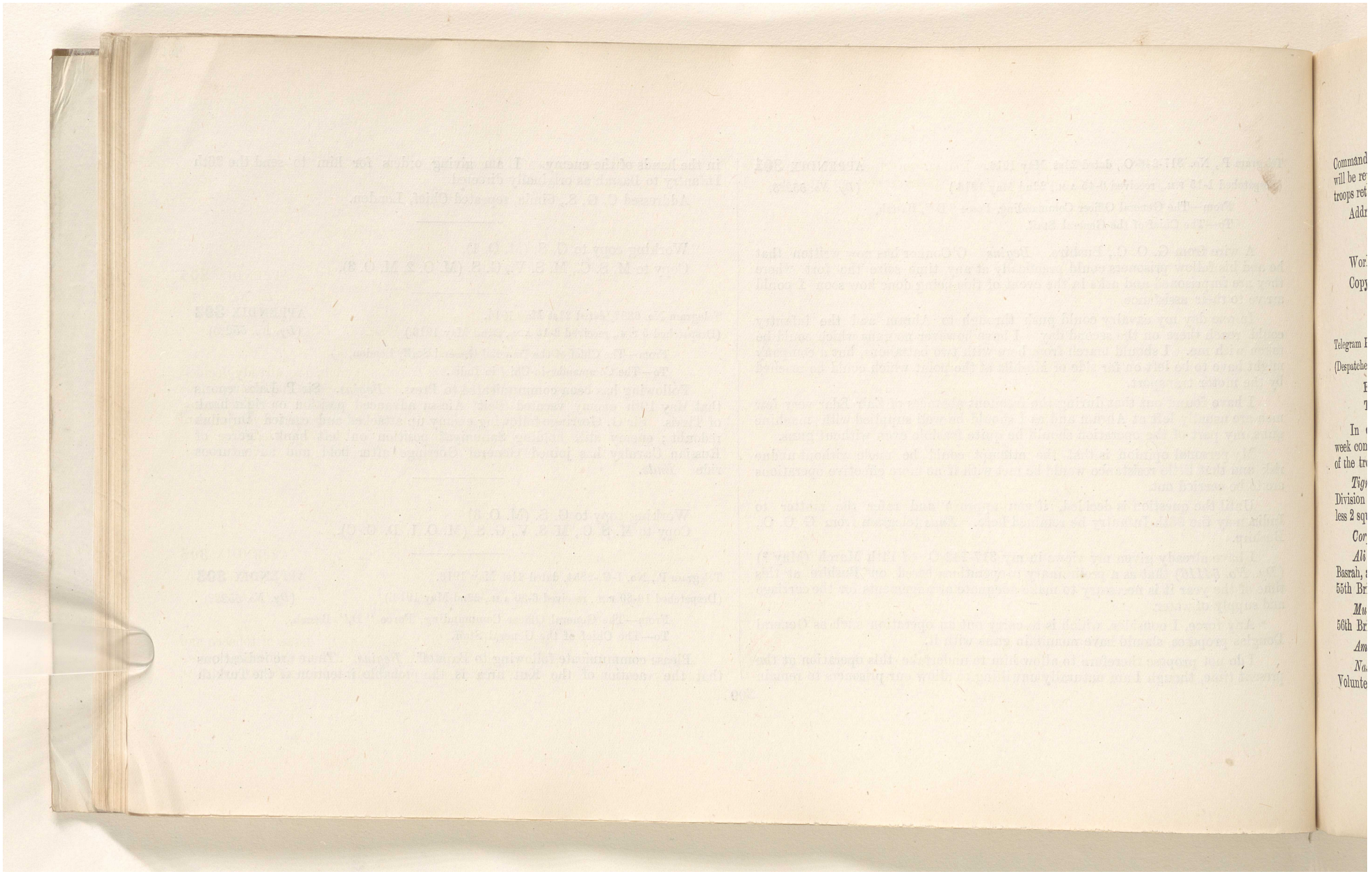

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Commander on the Tigris. As they become known any further developments will be reported, special attention being given in these reports to proportion of troops retiring *viâ* Mendali or by the Tigris Line. *Ends.*

Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, repeated C. G. S. and Egypt.

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

Telegram P., No. 131-81-O., dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **304**
(Despatched 12 midnight, received 12-35 P.M., 22nd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55288*)

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

In continuation of my 131-78-O. of May 14th (*Dy. No. 54234*). For week commencing March 21st, the following are the changes in the distribution of the troops :—

Tigris Corps.—7th Division add 16th Cavalry less 2 squadrons. 13th Division add 1 battery 55th Brigade. 6th Cavalry Brigade delete 16th Cavlary less 2 squadrons and add *en route* from Nasiriyah 33rd Cavalry less 1 squadron.

Corps Troops.—Delete 2nd Rajputs and 23rd Mountain Battery.

Ali Gharbi.—Substitute 2nd Rajputs for 97th Infantry now *en route* to Basrah, and substitute 23rd Mountain Battery less 2 sections deleting battery 55th Brigade.

Mudelil.—Substitute section 23rd Mountain Battery deleting battery 56th Brigade.

Amarah.—Add 1 battery 56th Brigade.

Nasiriyah.—Delete 1 squadron 33rd Cavalry and amend detachment Volunteer Battery to six 15-pounder guns and one 5" post gun.

Addressed India, repeated London.

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

Telegram No. 55301, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **305**
(Despatched 5 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55301*)

From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—SURGEON GENERAL O'DONNELL, Steamship "Caledonia," C/o General Officer Commanding, Aden.

Your telegram of 21st May (*Dy. No. 55103*). Chief has already decided that you should visit Mesopotamia and thoroughly inspect all medical arrangements in Force "D" before taking over appointment as D. M. S. In circumstances Embarkation, Bombay, has been directed to arrange for your onward journey to Basrah as soon as possible after your arrival. Acknowledge.

Record copy to M. S. C.
Copy to M. S. V.

Telegram No. 55352, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **306**
(Despatched 8 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55352*)

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

Your 1551-20-Q. of 20th May (*Dy. No. 55105*). Issue of tobacco and cigarettes was proposed in my 492-22 of 18th April and War Office have subsequently approved of expenditure. Issues may now commence to extent to

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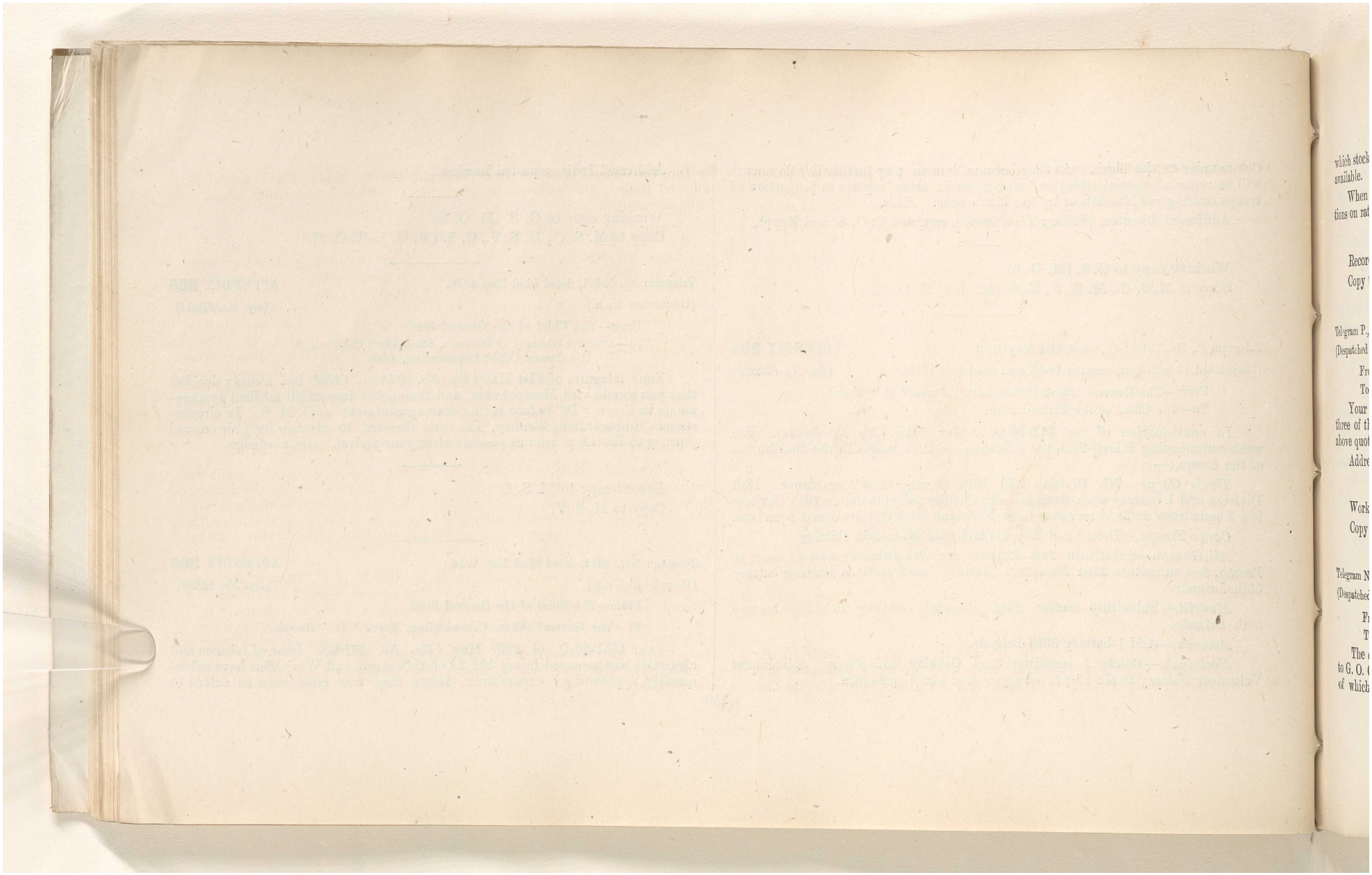

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which stocks are available ; further stocks will be sent by me as they become available.

When may I expect to receive Surgeon-General Treherne's recommendations on ration scales asked for in my 53018 of 9th May (*Dy. No. 53018*) ?

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V.

Telegram P., No. 1037-21-O., dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **307**
(Despatched 12-30 P.M., received 6-30 P.M., 22nd May 1816.) (*Dy. No. 55356*)

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

Your 16743-Cipher, 17th May (*Dy. No. 54610*). I shall be glad to have three of the anti-aircraft guns mounted on lorries as specified in your telegram above quoted, last paragraph.

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

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

Telegram No. 55358, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **308**
(Despatched 10-15 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55358*)

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

The question of shortage of supply of electrical plant has been referred to G. O. C., Force "D," as supply of all asked for has been arranged, most of which has already arrived in Basrah and remainder is being despatched by Director-General of Stores from England end of May. Plant unobtainable in India. The question of shortage of technical and other labour is being attended to.

Position regarding river ambulance transport is as follows :

Three sternwheelers fitted out for hospital purposes in Bombay have arrived at Basrah ; of these one has unofficially been reported as useless. Two others, sternwheelers, fitted out in Bombay sank on voyage to Basrah. One sternwheeler is still in Bombay ; her boilers have been taken out and she is to be towed up to Basrah if possible but she is an old boat and has already once returned to Bombay leaking and it is very doubtful if she will arrive. Fourteen barges have been fitted out for hospital purposes in Bombay or fittings sent up to Basrah and two more are now *en route* but these barges have been reported on unfavourably by G. O. C., Force "D." Specifications of barges considered by G. O. C., Force "D," as suitable for ambulance work are now being sent from Basrah and until their receipt it cannot be stated how long they will take to construct but it is intended, if possible, to have them constructed in sections and afterwards put together at Abadan.

Orders for construction of four twin screw steamers with internal combustion engines have been placed as follows : two in England and two by Messrs. Burn and Co. in Calcutta. It is understood that those ordered in England will be ready in July but Messrs. Burn and Co. are prevented from proceeding with the work, owing to non-receipt in India of the working plans drawn out by Professor Sir John Biles.

Six more river steamers are to be built and G. O. C., Force "D," has requested that these should have independent paddlers instead of twin screws. This will necessitate a new design being drawn up, and G. O. C., Force "D," has been asked if he accepts the further delay that will consequently ensue. It is possible however that Messrs. Lynch and Co. may have suitable designs ready for use, thus avoiding delay. It is believed that "Bloss Lynch" is a suitable type and that such a vessel will accommodate from 150 to 200 sick and wounded.

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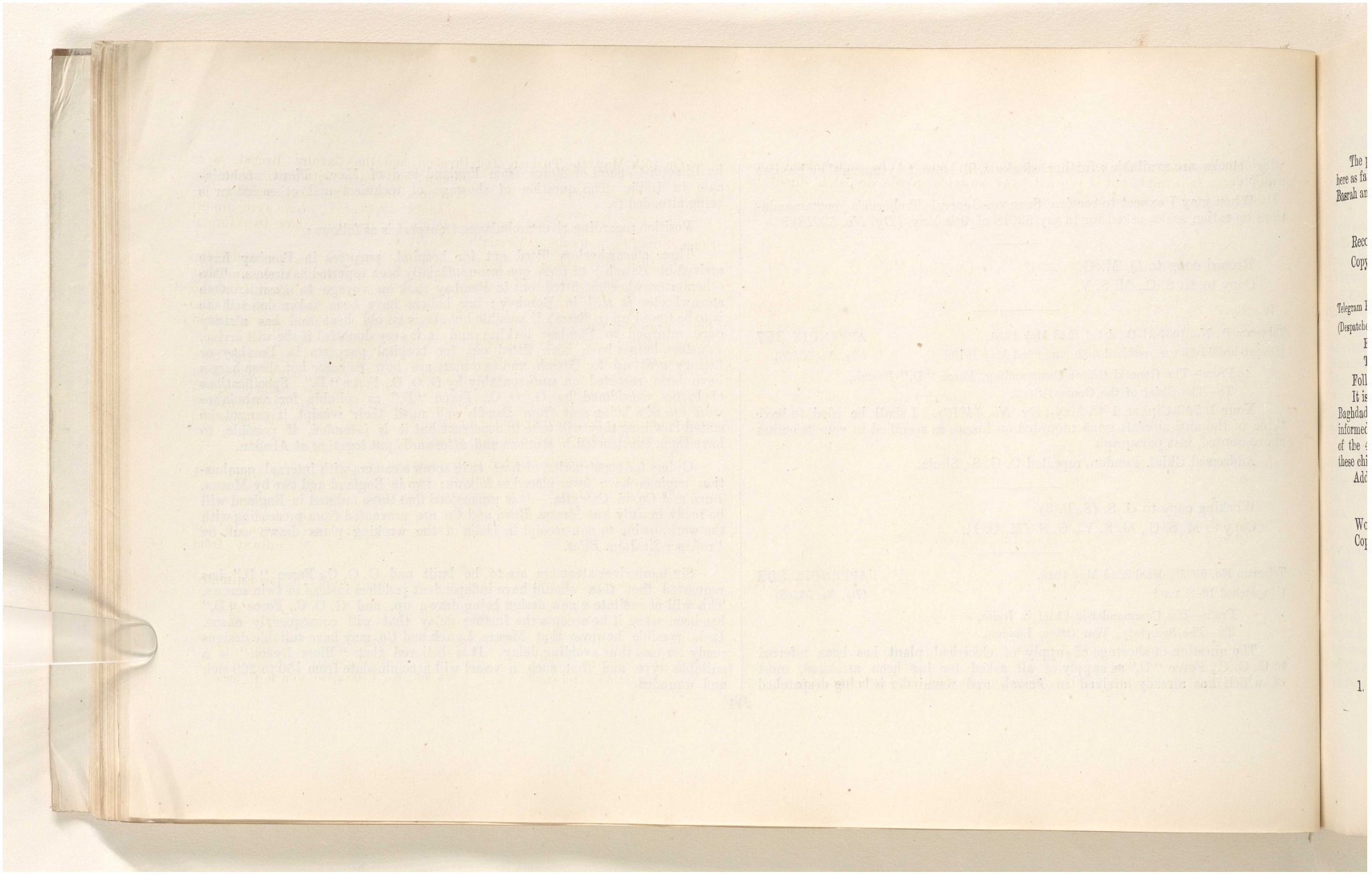

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The provision of the ten launches asked for now will be undertaken from here as far as possible but if you have any suitable please despatch direct to Basrah and inform me of number sent.

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

Telegram P., No. 374-15-I.G., dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **309**
(Despatched 4-20 P.M., received 11-55 P.M., 22nd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55388*)

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

Following is intelligence.

It is believed that at present the party of British ladies and children from Baghdad are in Musal. I request that the Grand Duke Nicholas may be informed of the above so that in the event of Musal being occupied, his troops of the 4th Russian Army Corps may be prepared to give his protection to these children and ladies.

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

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

APPRECEATION BY M. O. 1. APPENDIX **310**

SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

22nd May 1916.

1. Important developments have taken place on the Tigris line.

On 15th May the Turkish 2nd Division and the Cavalry Brigade were reported to have withdrawn from the Kut area, and on 18th May aerial reconnaissance discovered what were almost certainly the tracks of these two formations leading from Jessan to Mendali.

Dy. No. 54269.
Dy. No. 54995.

On 19th May General Gorringe reported that he had occupied the enemy's trenches at Beit Aiessa and that signs of a general withdrawal from the Sinn position on the right bank of the Tigris were noticeable On the left bank the Sannaiyat position was still held but collection of transport indicated a probable withdrawal.

Dy. No. 54999.

On 20th May General Lake reported that the right flank of the Sinn position on the right bank had been turned and the Dujailah redoubt occupied, whilst on 21st it was reported that except for a small rearguard covering the bridge over the Hai 500 yards below its junction with the Euphrates the right bank was clear.

Dy. No. 55113.

The Sannaiyat position was still held.

2. Cholera is still prevalent, and there have been 606 cases, of which 231 were fatal up to 18th May.

The heat is now intensely trying.

3. Sanction has been given to the construction of a 2′ 6″ railway from Qurnah to Amarah.

Dy. No. 54396.

4. The distribution of the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia is now estimated to be (some):—

Below Baghdad.

Tigris line	17,000 rifles with 66 guns.
Euphrates line	700 sabres with 4 guns.
On the Khanikin front	20,000 rifles, 1,700 sabres with 46 (?) guns.

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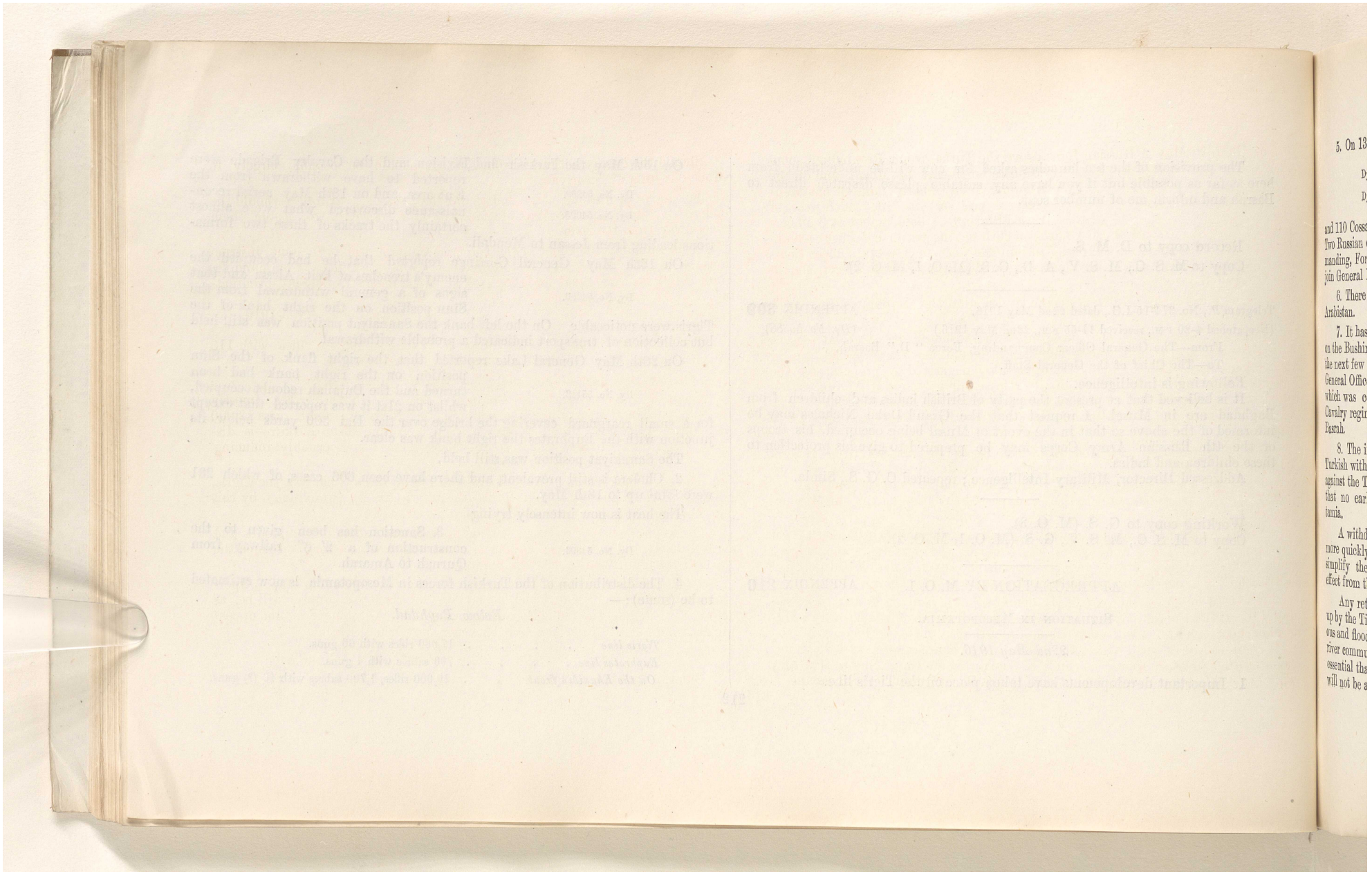

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5. On 13th May a Russian force drove the Turks from Rowanduz, some 85 miles north-east of Mosul, and on the Khanikin road General Baratoff has occupied a position to the south-west of Kasr-i-Shirin. A detachment of 3 officers and 110 Cossacks arrived at Ali Gharbi on 20th having traversed Pusht-i-Kuh. Two Russian officers are on their way to join the staff of General Officer Commanding, Force "D," and it has been suggested that a British officer should join General Baratoff's force.

Dy. No. 54389.

Dy. No. 55113.

6. There has been no change in the situation on the Euphrates line or in Arabistan.

7. It has been decided that no military action should be taken at present on the Bushire Hinterland, where the climatic conditions are very bad during the next few months. Sir Percy Lake has also negatived a proposal by the General Officer Commanding, Bushire, to release our prisoners at Ahram, action which was concurred in by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The Cavalry regiment and two battalions *en route* from Egypt have been directed to Basrah.

8. The information received from the Tigris line points to a general Turkish withdrawal up the river, probably as a result of the Russian menace against the Turkish communications. It also tends to confirm our opinion that no early reinforcement is being expected by the enemy in Mesopotamia.

A withdrawal to a position nearer Baghdad will enable the Turks to act more quickly on interior lines against the Russians and ourselves, and it will simplify their supply arrangements. It will, however, have a bad political effect from the enemy's point of view on the Arabs and in Persia.

Any retirement on the part of the enemy should be vigorously followed up by the Tigris Corps. Operations at this time of the year will be very arduous and flood conditions will make them difficult, also the lengthening of the river communications will add to the difficulties of maintenance. It is, however, essential that pressure should continue to be exerted on the enemy so that they will not be able to spare many additional troops for use against the Russians.

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Should the enemy withdraw from Kut, it should be possible largely to reduce our force at Nasiriyah.

For active operations at the end of the flood season, our forces should be rendered mobile by the provision of adequate land transport, to enable them to act away from the river.

9. Presumably the Chief of the Imperial General Staff will issue instructions as to the course to be followed by General Officer Commanding, Force "D," in the event of the Turkish withdrawal from Kut eventuating.

S. G. Loch,—23-5-1916.

The situation is that a Turkish force of probably 40,000 rifles with 116 guns has to deal, from a central position, with forces :—

(*a*) *British*—possibly 30,000 rifles with 150 guns.

(*b*) *Russian*—(Baratoff's Column) possibly 13,000 rifles (mostly mounted) and 32 guns, while another force at a rough guess 12,000 rifles and 26 guns—moving into the line Erbil-Kirkur—is distracting attention, complicating plans and possibly inducing dispersion.

The prolonged stand, apparently in strength on the left bank of the Tigris, points to Turkish anxiety to gain time for dealing with (*b*), which may by this date have to meet a concentration of double its strength.

On account of its position its complete defeat should be difficult and success costly, but strenuous action is none the less necessary to reduce the Turks' time limit for dealing with Baratoff.

2. The effect of inundation is shown on the accompanying map. Operations up stream from Kut, which depend on the river for supply, will be, as before, up a defile—the difficulty of forcing which will depend on the opposing force and on the front available for manœuvre when it is met.

A. Skeen,—23-5-16.

Chief of the General Staff.

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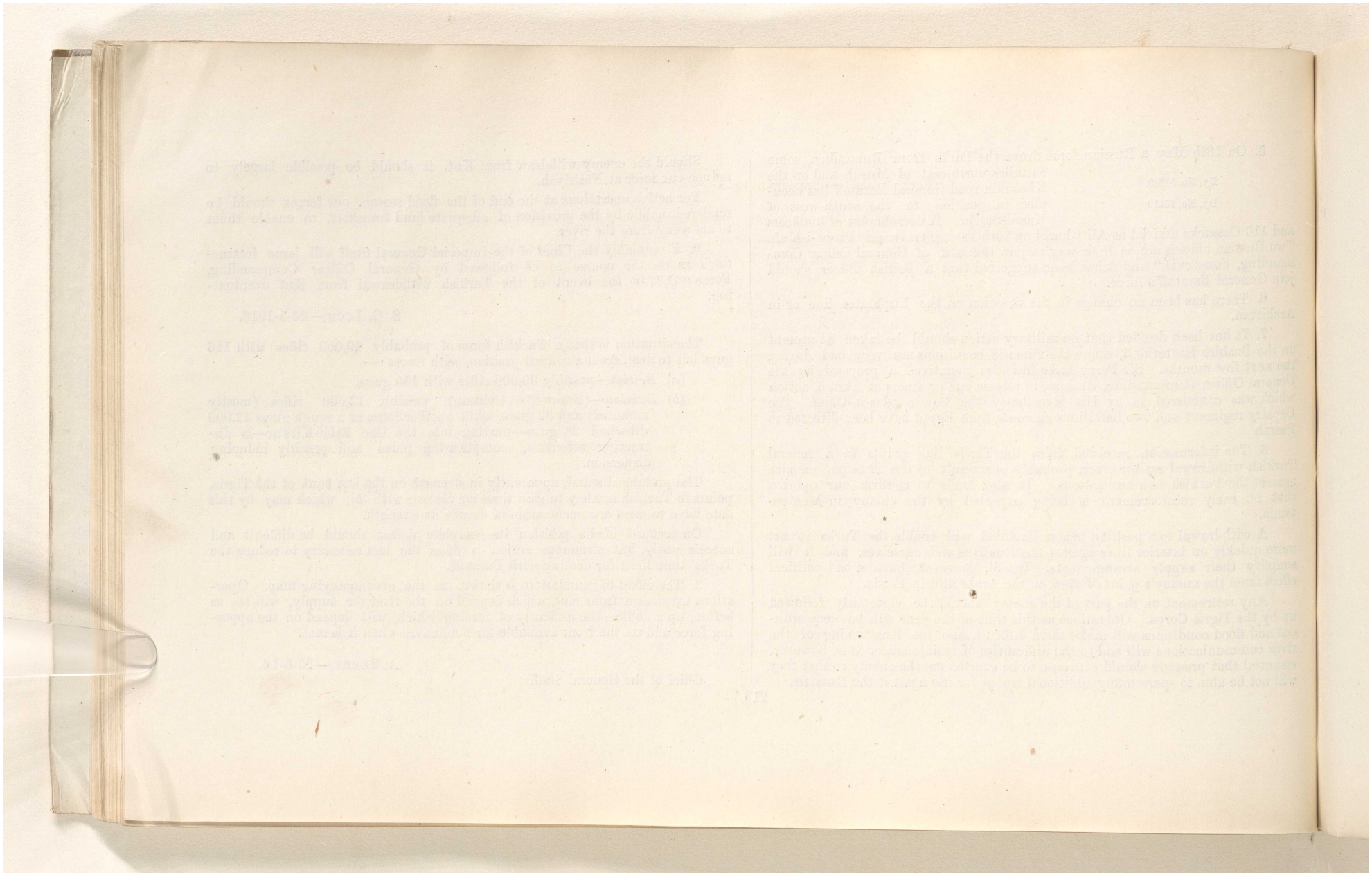

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1. Turkish strategy appears to be—

(I) Concentration of superior forces against Baratoff at Kasr-i-Shirin.

(II) Utilisation of physical obstacles to hold us at arm's length, until (I) results in defeat, if not destruction, of Baratoff.

2. Our objective seems clear—the destruction of the retaining force left in front of us. For this purpose we require every man and gun we can get, under a resourceful and determined leader, whom we have got. Our immediate gain, besides co-operation with the Russians, is the closing of the Hai to the Turks, the increased security of Nasiriyah with release of troops for employment elsewhere, and the prospect of regaining the initiative.

3. The junction of the Russians and ourselves on the Tigris places us on the flank of the Central powers and the only flank so far reached by anybody. Looking ahead the importance of this is great and we should be ready to take an offensive in strength from the favourable position we now hold.

Watch carefully the developments in the Near East, for if Servia cannot help us there, the next cold weather may find the Upper Tigris not a minor but a decisive theatre.

Calculate our requirements in transport of all kinds, and record it in terms of a division so that we can instantly state what reinforcements require.

Review our resources in men, not finding the Indian Cavalry Divisions in France, and let me know what reinforcements we have in sight.

G. M. K.,—23-5-16.

D. M. O.

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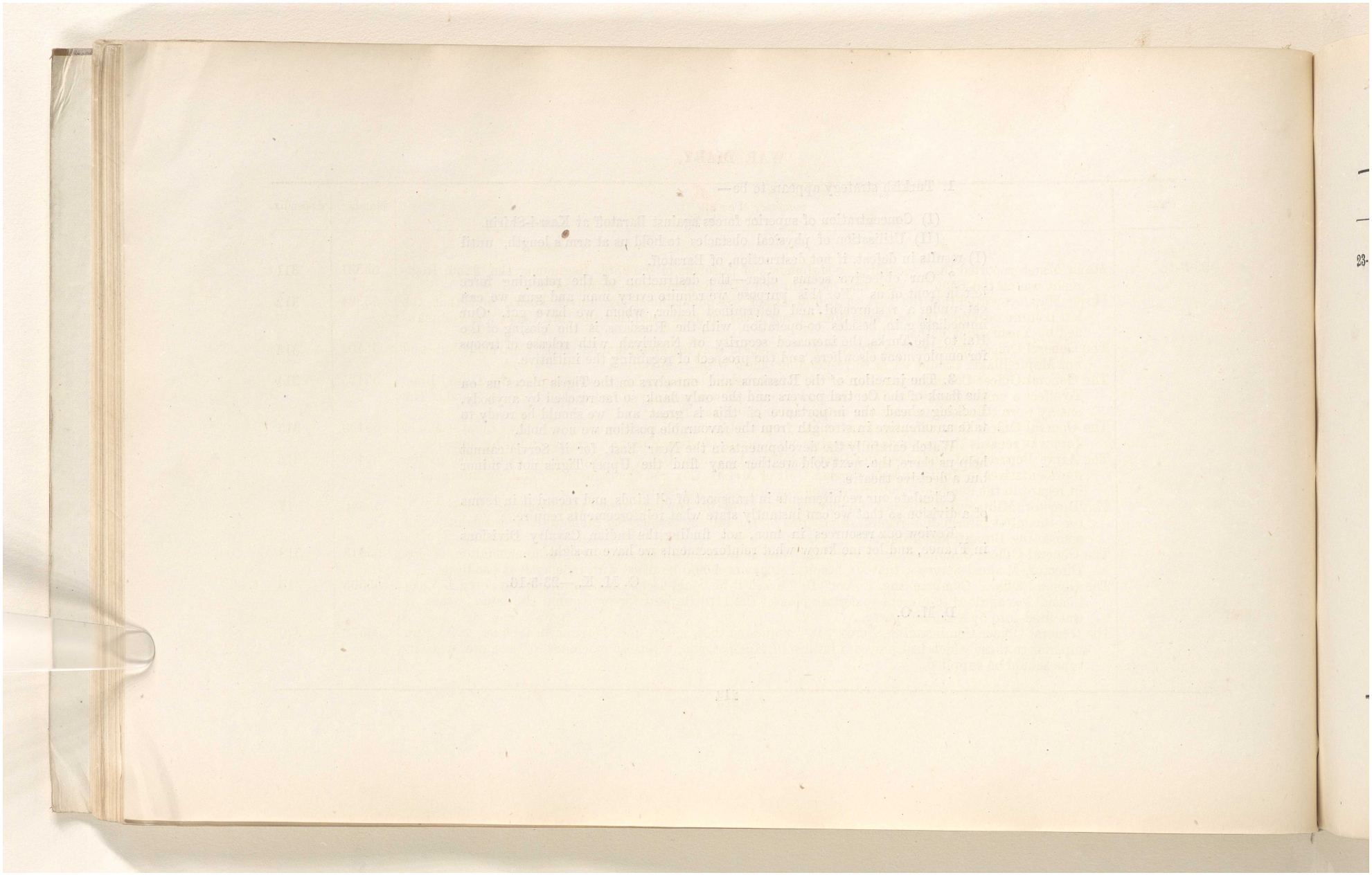

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
23-5-16 ...	Major Marsh reported that, according to statements of prisoners of the 23rd Regiment, the 22nd Regiment was in the Baghdad area, and the 23rd and 24th Regiments in Mush area.	55391	311
	Major Marsh reported that the Turkish counterattack was commanded by Enver Pasha, and that the left column occupied the pass near Simach, north-east of Bane, also that the 10th Corps was commanded by Yusuf Izzet Pasha.	55394	312
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," proposed that for Mesopotamia Miss Gertrude Bell and not Major Blaker should act as corresponding officer with Arab Bureau.	55401	313
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported little change in the situation on the Tigris Line. To effect a crossing over the Hai General Gorringe was getting forward pontoons by land. The enemy were still holding positions on the left bank of the Tigris.	55425	314
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported on the proposals put forward by Lieut.-Colonel James as regards the methods of carrying out certain sanitary measures recommended by him.	55433	315
	The Army Department addressed the Director, Medical Services, India, regarding facilities granted to the representatives in India and the Persian Gulf of Messrs. Cox and Company for obtaining information in regard to the condition and progress of sick and wounded officers.	55453	316
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, was asked by the General Officer Commanding, Force "D", for the latest information regarding progress on the railway connecting Mamourie and Islahieh and connecting Bozanti and Tarsus.	55542	317
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was addressed with regard to the recommendation of his Director, Medical Services, that six hospital steamers should be fitted with independent paddles.	55543	318
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," asked if he could accept medals, which the French Vice-Consul was anxious to present to certain men of the 11th Rajputs for protecting his house, when it was fired into by a raiding party.	55565	319
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested that, unless the Martinsydes being sent were superior to those which had proved a failure in Mesopotamia, fighting machines of a more efficient type should be supplied.	55578	320

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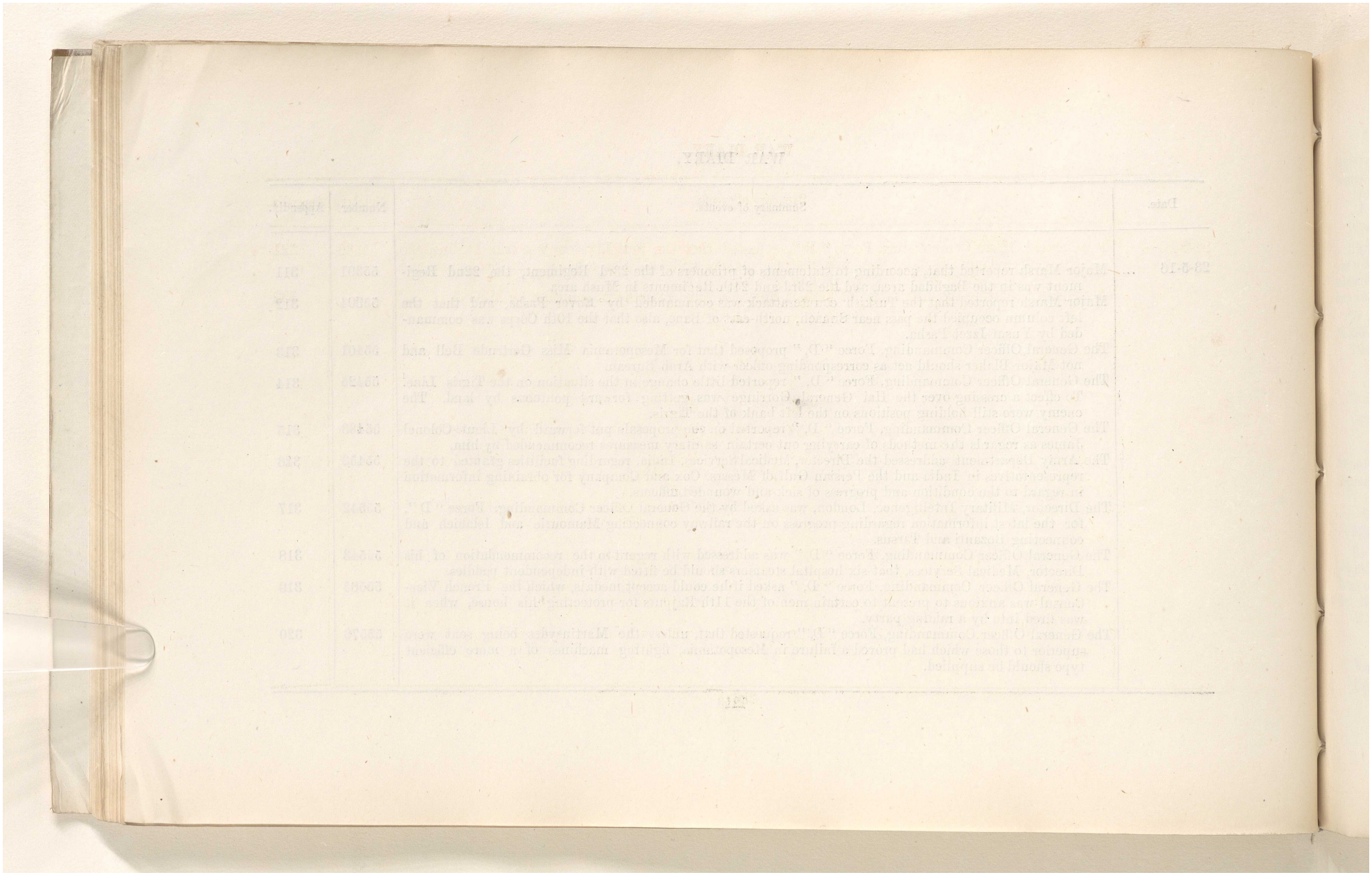

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
23-5-16— *contd.*	The General Officer Commanding, Force " D ", reported that the 3rd Division was still holding the Dujailah redoubt-Magasis line, and that the enemy still held the left bank at Sannaiyat and Nakhailat, also over the Hai below the Kut crossing.	55536	321
	A statement showing the distribution of Turkish Forces in Mesopotamia was published by M. O. 3 ...	...	322

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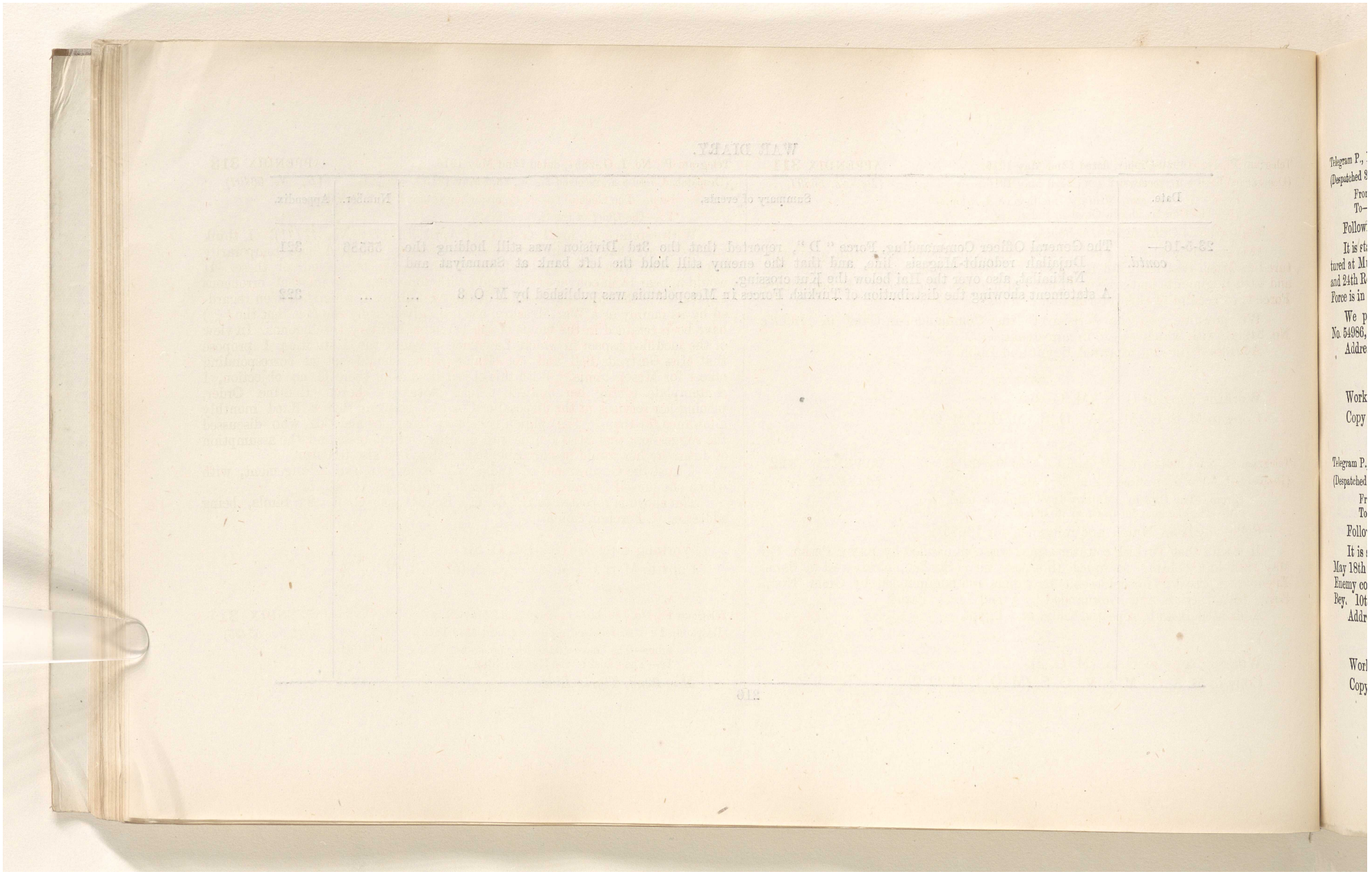

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Telegram P., No 16920-Cipher, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **311**
(Despatched 3-40 P.M., received 2 A.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55391*)

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

Following is from Marsh. *Begins.*

It is stated by prisoners of the 23rd Regiment who on May 10th were captured at Mush that the 22nd Regiment is in the Baghdad area, and the 23rd and 24th Regiments had arrived in the Mush area. The Persian Expeditionary Force is in receipt of this information. *Ends.*

We presume you have received the Commander-in-Chief in India's No. 54986, with which we are in agreement.

Addressed Basrah, repeated Egypt and India.

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

Telegram P., No. 16907-Cipher M. I., dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **312**
(Despatched 5-35 P.M., received 4 A.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55394*)

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

Following from Marsh and reference our 16675.

It is said that Turkish counter-attack was commanded by Enver Pasha. On May 18th left column occupied the pass near Simach, north-west of Bane. Enemy comprised of miscellaneous irregulars and commanded by Omar Nedji Bey. 10th Corps is now commanded by Yusuf Izzet Pasha.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and Egypt.

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2857, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **313**
(Despatched 5-40 P.M., received 2 A.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55401*)

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

With reference to my I G.-2412 of April 5th (*Dy. No. 47111*). I think you are aware that Captain Lawrence was recently deputed here temporarily in connection with certain projects, the Arab Bureau being one of these. It would appear from conversations held with him that a somewhat erroneous impression of the objects and status of the Arab Bureau, which had been regarded by us mainly as a War Measure, has been given us by the fact that the (?) have been retained in the hands of the Director, Military Intelligence. In view of the modified aspect in which Lawrence presents the institution I propose that Miss Gertrude Bell and not Major Blake should act as corresponding officer for Mesopotamia. With this object in view, if there is no objection, I contemplate giving her definite official status by Force Routine Order, placing her services at the disposal of Cox and granting her a fixed monthly allowance for them. The opinion is held by Lawrence and Cox, who discussed the suggestion, that Miss Bell is well qualified for the task, and the assumption of duties by her would be agreeable to ourselves and also to Cairo.

I trust the Government of India will concur in the arrangement, with which she herself is completely prepared, *primâ facie*, to fall in.

The above is repeated to G. O. C., Egypt, and C. G. S., Simla, being addressed to Foreign, Simla.

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

Telegram P., No. 129-440-O., dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **314**
(Despatched 1 A.M., received 8-30 A.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55425*)

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

May 22nd, Tigris Line.

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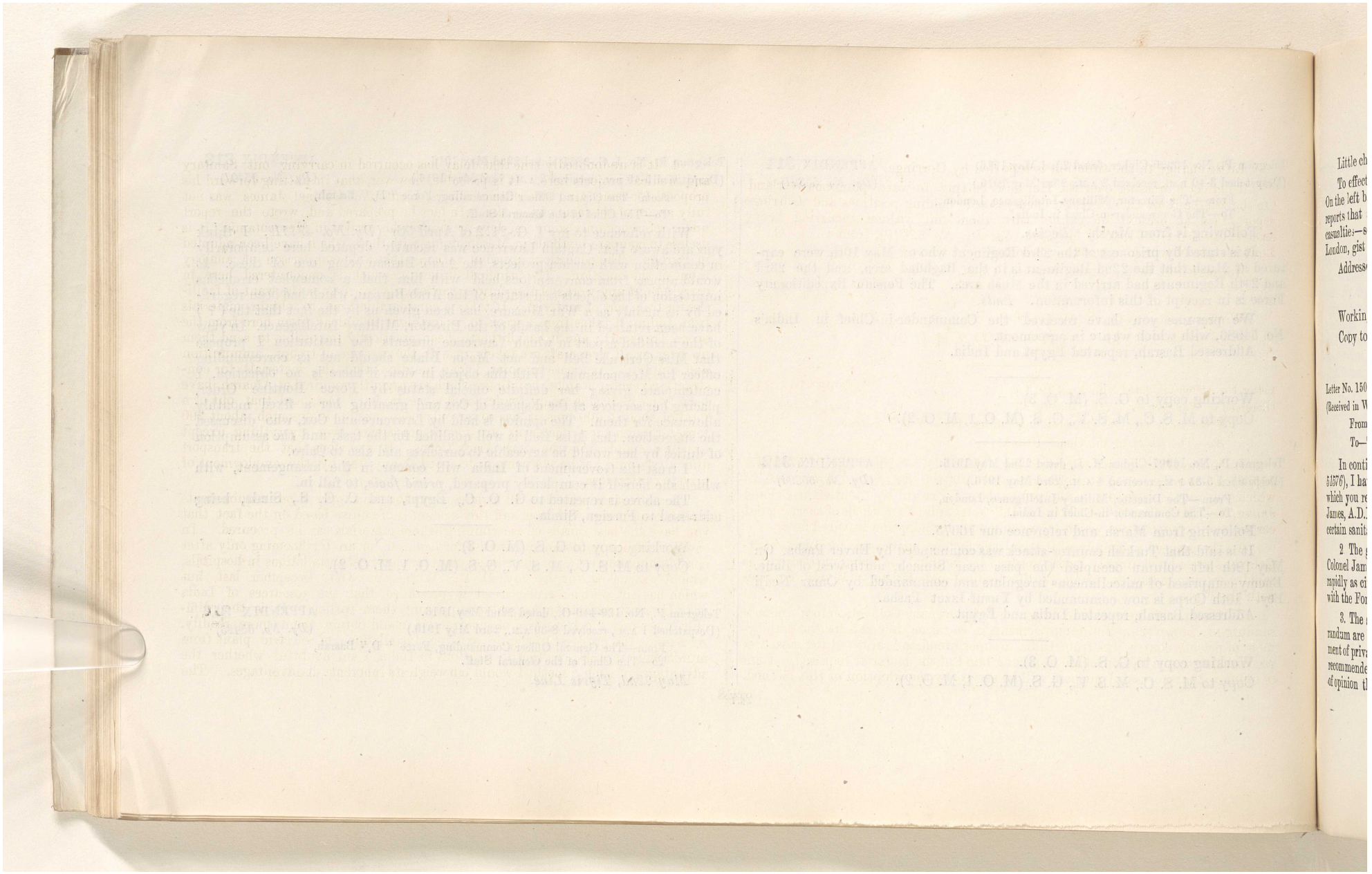

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Little change in the situation is reported by Gorringe.

To effect a crossing over the Hai he is getting forward pontoons overland. On the left bank of the Tigris the enemy is still holding positions and Gorringe reports that at present he cannot turn them out without incurring heavy casualties—see No. 51945 of May 3rd (*See Dy. No. 52019*), from C. I. G. S., London, gist of which Gorringe was sent.

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

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

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

Letter No. 15056-Q., dated 30th April 1916. APPENDIX **315**
(Received in War Section on 22nd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55433*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

In continuation of my telegram No. 1505-5-Q. of 30th April (*Dy. No. 51576*), I have the honour to refer to your No. 50400, dated 25th April 1916, in which you request a report on the proposals put forward by Lieutenant-Colonel James, A.D.M.S. (San.), I.E. Force "D," as regards the methods of carrying out certain sanitary measures which he recommends for adoption in this Force.

2. The general principles of the sanitary policy advocated by Lieutenant-Colonel James have already been approved by me, and are being carried out, as rapidly as circumstances permit, by the Medical and Military Works Services with the Force.

3. The specific proposals in note 3 of Lieutenant-Colonel James' memorandum are however on a different footing, in so far as they call for the employment of private contractors from India to superintend and carry out the measures recommended, and the purchase at second hand of the material required. I am of opinion that no useful purpose will be served by the adoption of this method.

4. It is undoubtedly true that delay has occurred in carrying out Sanitary and Medical projects here. It is probable, however, that in putting forward his proposal for remedying this state of affairs, Lieutenant-Colonel James was not fully aware of the facts of the case. In fact he prepared and wrote the report under reference only some ten days or so after his arrival in Mesopotamia. It is useless to compare methods in Mesopotamia with those which have been adopted in Europe. The conditions are so at variance that any comparison or analogy is out of the question. The principal difficulty which is encountered here in carrying out any works of this nature, particularly up river, is the want of facilities for transport of material. It takes a considerable time to obtain materials from India; it takes from a week to a fortnight to unload them here from the ocean Transport; and it has hitherto been practically impossible to send them up river, as all river craft are taken up with the carriage of troops, ammunition and supplies. As a case in point, I may mention that the materials for constructing certain hospital buildings, which are urgently required at Amarah, have been lying in Basrah ready for despatch since January last, and that out of a total of about 5,000 tons, it has so far only been possible to despatch about 200 tons, although these materials are given precedence over everything except urgent demands from the Tigris Army Corps. It is obvious that the transport difficulty would not be overcome or lessened in any way by the employment of private contractors.

5. As regards materials, all arrangements for the supply of our requirements in this respect rest with you, and this system is of course based on the fact that you have the best means of ascertaining where materials can be procured. In cases where our requirements are not forthcoming, or are forthcoming only after considerable delay—as in the case of plant for electrical installations in hospitals, which was asked for by my D. D., Works, on 31st December last, but which has not yet been received—it is presumed that the resources of India or of Great Britain are not equal to supplying them earlier. It is then difficult to see how a private firm of contractors could obtain them more readily. As regards the proposal to acquire existing installations of electric plant from municipalties, clubs, or other institutions in India, I am doubtful whether the advantages of such a method would outweigh its inherent disadvantages. The

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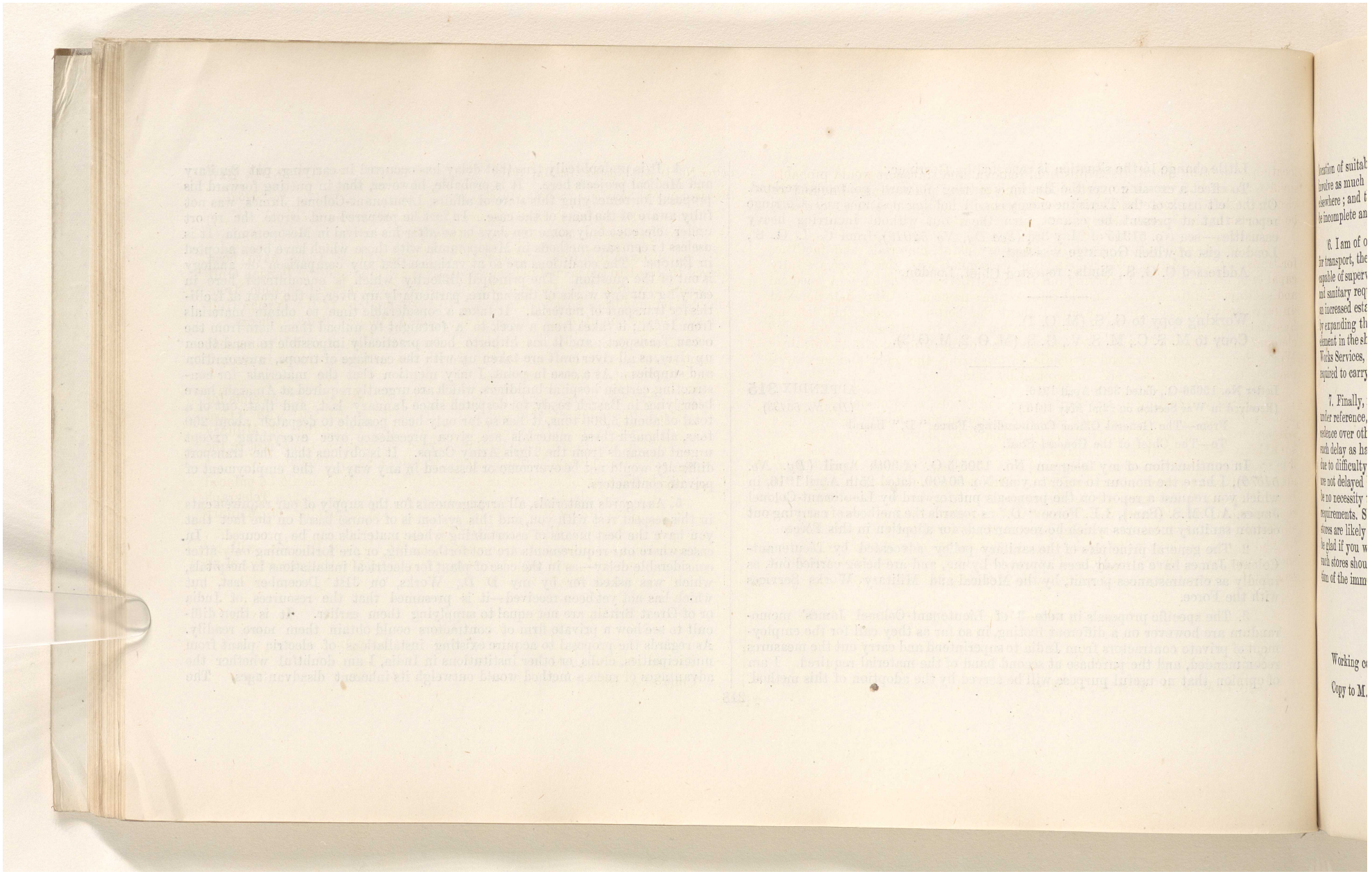

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location of suitable plant, its acquisition, removal and transport would probably involve as much delay as would the obtaining of new plant from England or elsewhere ; and the plant thus acquired at second hand would almost certainly be incomplete and unsatisfactory.

6. I am of opinion that, given the necessary plant, materials and facilities for transport, the Military Works staff and personnel with this Force are fully capable of supervising and carrying out the construction of our present medical and sanitary requirements. Should these requirements at a future date demand an increased establishment, it would I think be better to meet this demand by expanding the Military Works staff, rather than by introducing a foreign element in the shape of civilian contractors, who might compete with the Military Works Services, both here and in India, in procuring the men and materials required to carry out the work undertaken by them.

7. Finally, referring to the third proposal in Lieutenant-Colonel James' note under reference, that materials for sanitary requirements should be given precedence over other stores in transit from India to Basrah, I understand that such delay as has occurred in despatching the stores I have asked for has been due to difficulty in procuring them, and that when once they are available they are not delayed by want of sea transport. This being the case, there appears to be no necessity to lay down a rule giving precedence to these stores over other requirements. Should, however, circumstances arise in which medical or sanitary stores are likely to be seriously delayed owing to want of sea transport, I should be glad if you would refer to me by telegraph as to the order of urgency in which such stores should be despatched. This can only be determined on a consideration of the immediate military or medical exigencies of the moment.

Working copy to D. G. M. W.

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

Letter No. H.-4171, dated 21st May 1916. APPENDIX **316**

(Received in War Section on 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55453*)

From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Army Department,
To—The Director, Medical Services in India.

I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have been pleased to grant to the accredited representatives in India and the Persian Gulf of Messrs. Cox and Co., London, facilities for obtaining information from officers commanding hospitals in India, Mesopotamia and in the Persian Gulf in regard to the condition and progress of sick and wounded British officers.

2. Messrs. Cox and Co. have agreed to defray the cost of all telegrams sent to them in this connection, and I am to convey the following orders in regard to the adjustment of these charges :—

(1) Officers commanding hospitals in India should stamp all receipts for telegrams sent by them to Messrs. Cox and Co. with "Cost debitable to Cox and Co.," and the Controller of Military Accounts of the Division concerned will pass on their cost to the Controller of Military Accounts, 6th (Poona) Division.

(2) In the case of hospitals in the field, the telegrams should be enfaced "Cost debitable to Cox and Co.," and the Indian Telegraph Department will debit their cost to the Controller of Military Accounts, 6th (Poona) Division.

(3) The Controller of Military Accounts, 6th (Poona) Division, will recover the cost monthly from Messrs. Cox and Co., Bombay, of all telegrams sent to them.

Record copy to D. M. S.

Copy to A. G.

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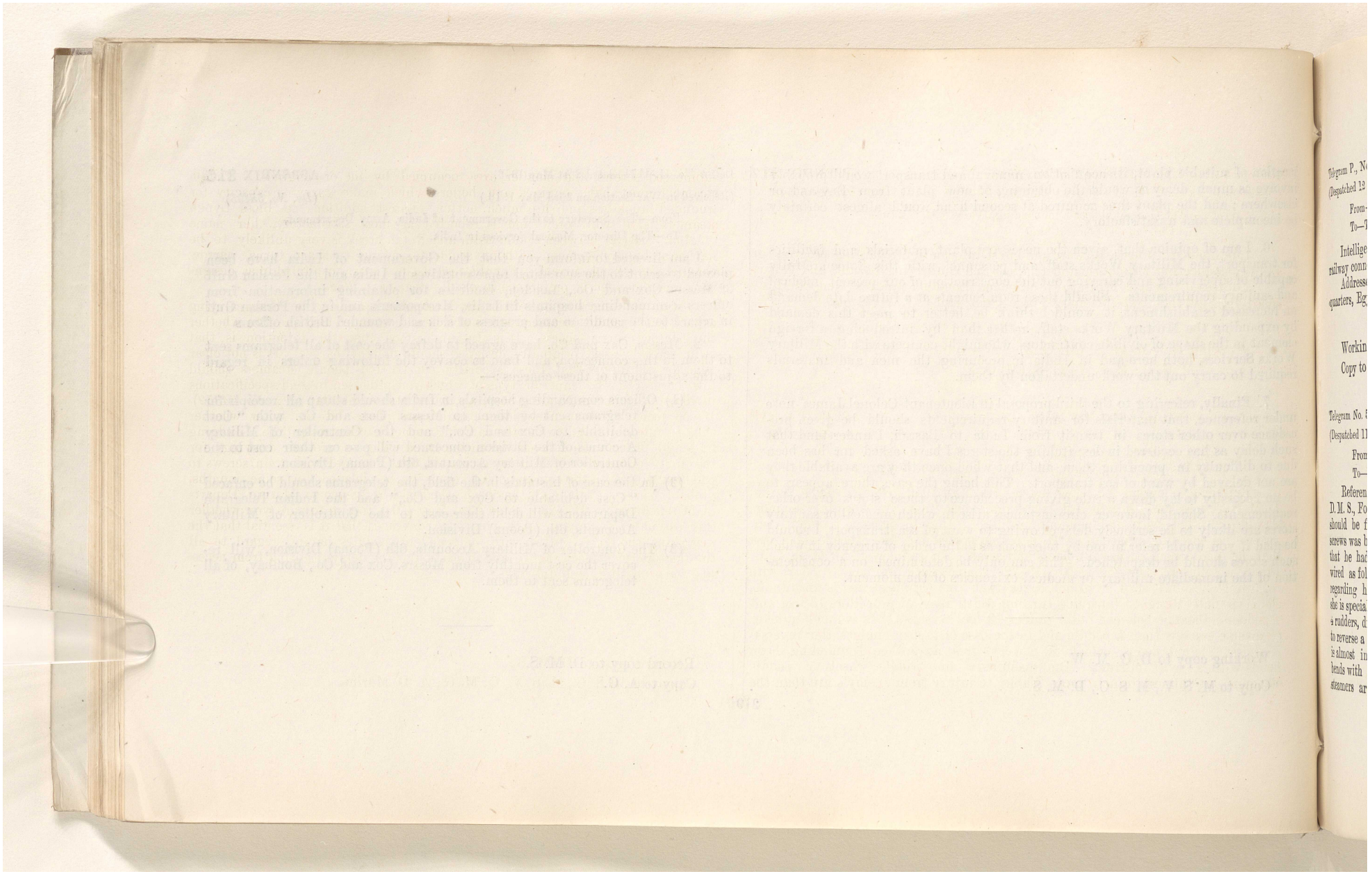

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Telegram P., No. I. G.-2865, dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX 317
(Despatched 12 NOON, received 4-30 P.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No 55542*)

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

Intelligence. Please forward me latest information regarding progress on railway connecting Mamourie and Islahieh and connecting Bozanti and Tarsus.
Addressed Director, Military Intelligence, London; repeated General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Suez, and C. G. S., Simla.

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

Telegram No. 55543, dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX 318
(Despatched 11 P.M.) (*Dy No. 55543*)

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

Reference telegram No. H.-7, dated 18th May 1916 (*Dy. No. 54046*), from D. M. S., Force "D," in which it is recommended that six hospital steamers should be fitted with independent paddles. Original decision to adopt twin screws was based on advice of D. R. I. M. supported by Macneece, who stated that he had consulted naval officers at Basrah. In January 1916, D. R. I. M. wired as follows: *Begins.* No. M.-225, dated 24th January. Your wire regarding hospital ship. Cannot agree that the ship designed is unsuitable, she is specially designed for quick turning width apart of propellers 13 feet and 4 rudders, distance between outer rudder 19 feet 6 inches. It is much quicker to reverse a screw than a paddle and in the case of motor engines the reversal is almost instantaneous, which is a very great advantage in rounding sharp bends with a swift current. The machinery and paddle wheels of paddle steamers are almost much more liable to injury from enemy's fire than the submerged screws and smaller area occupied by motor engines. Paddle steamers must have engines and boilers which make carrying capacity for wounded much less and ship much hotter. Latest additions to Bloss Lynch steamers is a twin screw and is reported as most satisfactory, her name "Jalna." River between Quala Salih and Rotah creek is very unlikely to be navigated by any steamer without accidents, owing to sharp turns, narrow channel and strong current. For the rest of the Tigris, hospital ship as designed is recommended in preference to paddle steamer. *Ends.*

Main points arising out of the above telegram appear to be that carrying capacity of paddle steamers is less and heat is greater, also question whether the "Jalna" was a success It is also understood that the intention is that twin screw vessels originally designed should not tow barges. It is not clear whether you intend that these specially constructed paddle steamers should tow barges of the superior type of which you promised to send specifications in your telegram No. N. G. 1135-60-Q., dated 24th April 1916 (*Dy. No. 54352*). If you decide to adopt independent paddle type please let me know whether this is intention and what the carrying capacity of barges will be. Judging by length of time which it has taken the India Office to prepare drawings for the first four river craft, it is estimated that change from twin screws to paddlers will cause the completion of vessels to be delayed for some months, probably three D. R. I. M. has been asked with reference to Marine Department telegram No. H.-4285, dated 23rd May 1916, to him to wire you whether this estimate is correct. Are you still convinced that it is essential that the new ships should be fitted with independent paddles having regard to all the factors mentioned above and in particular the delay resulting from necessity for preparing fresh drawings.

Record copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., Q. M. G., A. D. Marine.

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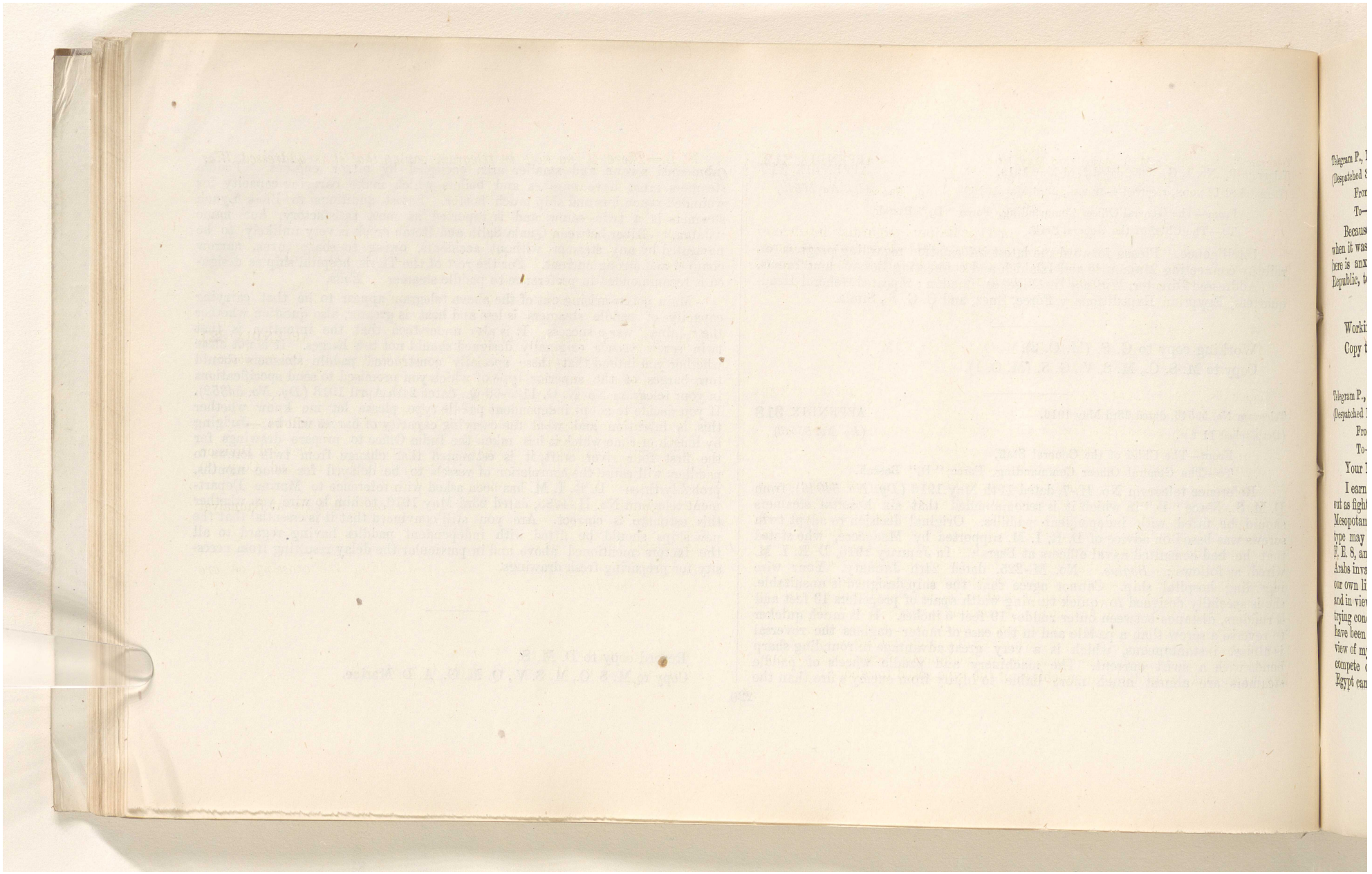

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Telegram P., No. 101-13-M. S., dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **319**
(Despatched 3 P.M., received 9 P.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55565*)

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

Because a havildar and four sepoys of 11th Rajputs protected his house when it was fired into by a raiding party in August 1915 French Vice-Consul here is anxious to present medals, granted by the President of the French Republic, to them. May I accept these medals ?

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

Telegram P., No. 4796-F., dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **320**
(Despatched 12 NOON, received 8 P.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55578*)

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

Your 16743-Cipher of 17th May (*Dy. No. 54610*).

I earnestly request that, unless the Martinsydes you propose sending me out as fighting machines are of a model greatly superior to those which in Mesopotamia have proved such a failure, fighting machines of some more efficient type may be supplied to me. My suggestion is either De Haviland or F. E. 8, and 120 h. p. Beardmore water-cooled engine to be fitted Marauding Arabs invariably murder aviators who may be forced to land at a distance from our own lines except in positions actually occupied by Turkish regular troops ; and in view of this fact, a safe machine with an engine which will not fail in trying conditions of the hot weather in Mesopotamia is essential. The Turks have been able to bring some first class modern machines down to Kut, and in view of my urgent need for machines which will enable my aircraft service to compete on equal terms with these enemy machines I suggest that perhaps Egypt can make available four machines of the type asked for above.

N. B.—*There is no note in telegram saying that it is addressed War Office.*

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

Telegram P., No. C.-45, dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **321**
(Despatched 4-40 P.M., received 11-55 P.M., 23rd May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55586*)

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

Your 55427 my 129-449 (439 ?)-O. of 21st repeated is as follows :—

May 21st, Tigris line. It is reported by Gorringe 9 P.M. that 3rd Division is still holding line Dujailah Redoubt, Magasis. Other troops and Corps (?) Artillery are being moved up in support.

It is reported that enemy still hold the left bank strongly at Sannaiyat and Nakhailat also below Kut crossing over the Hai.

Addressed India, repeated London.

(*In the original it may mean the enemy are holding the crossing or are crossing over the Hai.*)

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

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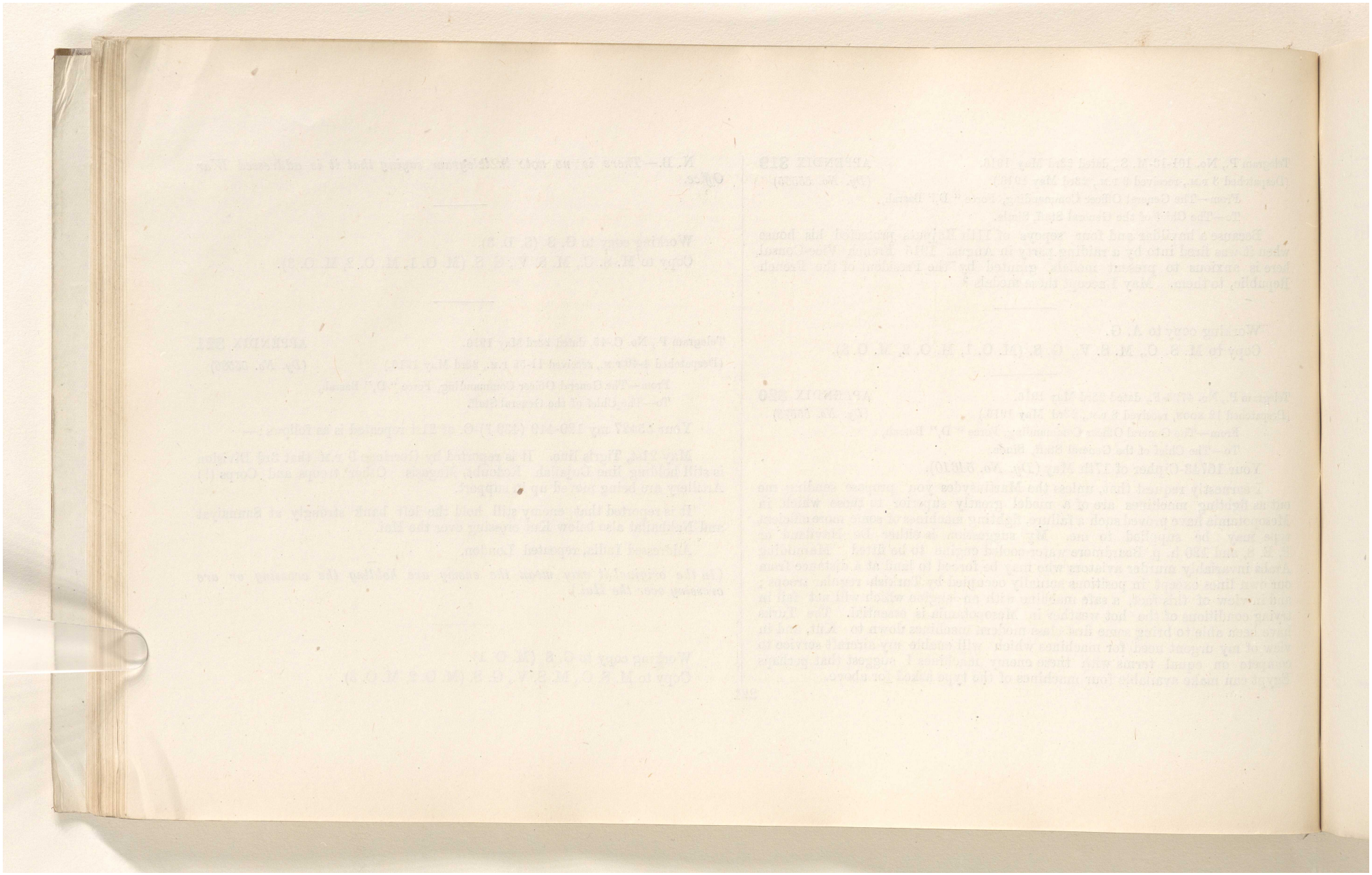

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MESOPOTAMIA.

TIGRIS LINE.

			Authority.
13th Corps, Commander Ali Ahsan.	35th Division	Formed from former 35th and 38th Divisions.	Basrah, 46009 of March 28th, 1916.
		3 Battalions, 103rd Regiment.	
		3 " 104th "	
		3 " 105th "	
18th Corps, Commander Ali Rashid.	45th Divisions	3 Battalions, 3rd Regiment.	
		3 " 141st "	
		3 " 142nd "	
	51st Division, late 3rd Composite Division.	3 Battalions, 7th Regiment.	Basrah, 36906 of January 31st, 1916, and 464009 of March 28th, 1916.
		3 " 9th "	
		2 " 44th "	
	52nd Division, formerly 5th Composite Division.	2 Battalions, 37th Regiment.	Basrah, 32128 of December 25th, 1915, and 4009 of March 28th, 1916.
		3 " 40th "	
		3 " 43rd "	
	TOTAL	34 Battalions.	Basrah, 37973 of February 7th, 1916, 46009 of March 28th, 1916, 49870 of 20th April 1916, and 51882 of 18th April 1916.
		64 Guns.	
		72 to 96 Machine Guns.	
		1,000 Tribal Cavalry.	

EUPHRATES LINE.

700 mounted men (formerly Cavalry). 4 guns.	Basrah, 49347 of 17th April 1916.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR MESOPOTAMIA.

On April 14th, 1916, Egypt reported that according to information from Constantinople dated March 28th, 3,000 troops had been sent from Adrianople to Mesopotamia and 12 guns and 3 aeroplanes had left Constantinople on March 23rd for Mesopotamia.	Egypt, 48711 of 14th April 1916.
On April 17th it was reported that an Armenian Cavalry officer, a deserter, stated that he had heard that about March 21st 2 German batteries and 2 Turkish divisions left Constantinople for Mesopotamia.	Basrah, 49347 of 17th April 1916.
On April 26th it was reported that 7 or 8 German or Austrian battalions arrived at Baghdad early in April and went out to Kut-al-Amarah.	Marsh, 50717 of 26th April 1916.
On May 4th Basrah stated that according to an unconfirmed report by an agent about April 15th a German Battalion was at Kifri.	Basrah, 52449 of 4th May 1916.

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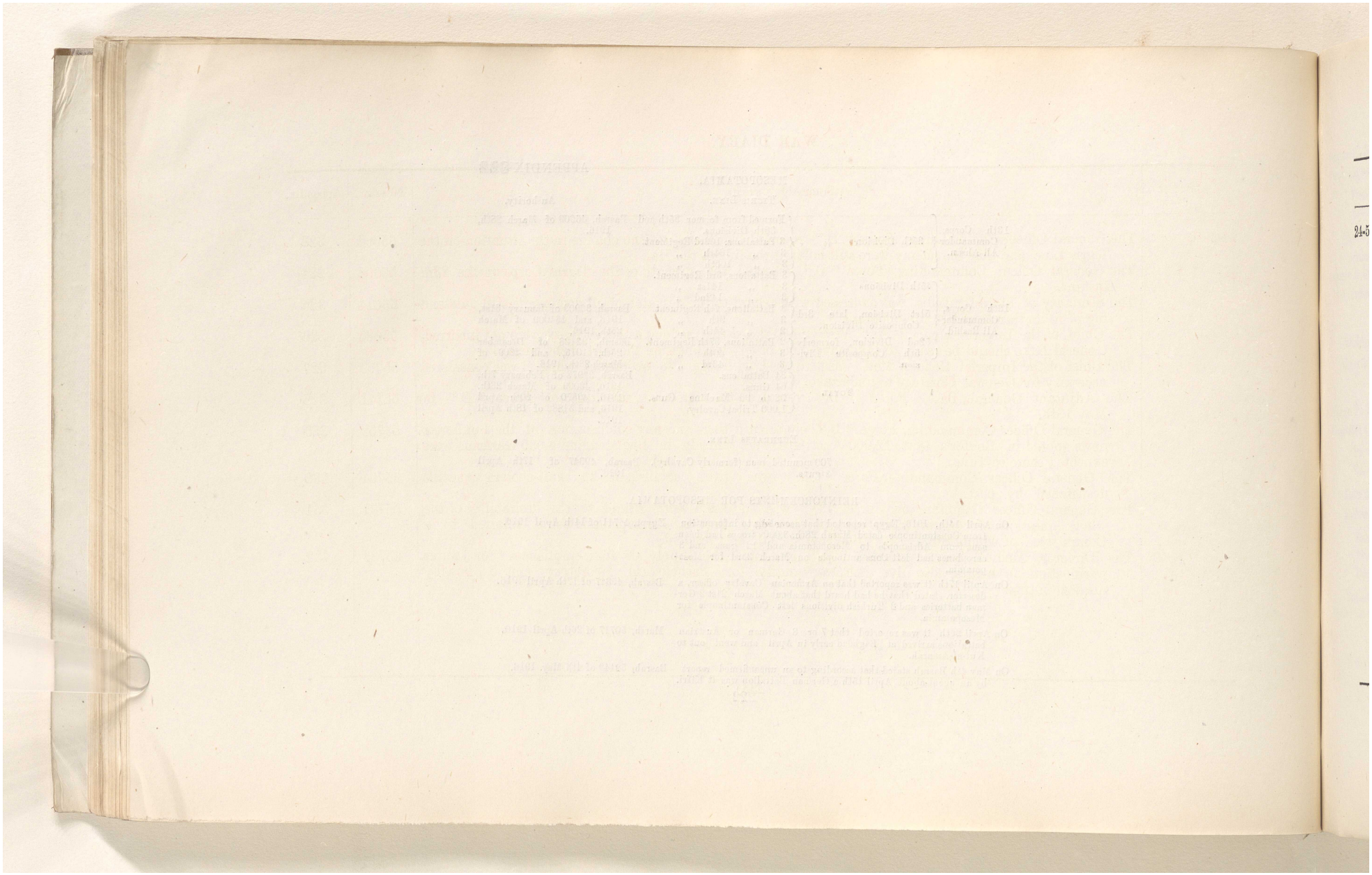

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
24-5-16	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that there was no change in the situation on the Tigris Line, and that the enemy were still holding the line of the Hai.	55603	323
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the strength of the Tigris Corps on the 23rd instant.	55606	324
	The Secretary of State for India was addressed with regard to the despatch of all documents still outstanding of units transferred to Mesopotamia.	55614	325
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office, stated that, as long as heavy losses were not incurred, General Lake should be ready to take advantage of any weakness on the part of the enemy.	55626	326
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff was addressed with regard to operations which it was considered necessary for General Gorringe to undertake.	55709	327
	The Adjutant General, Base, Force "D," reported the effective strengths of Force "D" for May 15th.	55741	328
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," enquired if there was any confirmation of the Bukharest news quoted in Reuter's that 12,000 Austrians were already in Baghdad and 4,000 Germans were expected there in June.	55752	329
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was given details of the anti-cholera vaccine despatched by post.	55764	330
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was addressed with regard to the desirability of the whole question of organization, etc, of the river fleet in Mesopotamia being referred to a Committee, of which Sir George Buchanan should be President.	55771	331
	The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," requested the supply of four appliances for water purification on barges, also five complete outfits for Pathological laboratory and 5 Bowlby surgical outfits.	55782	332

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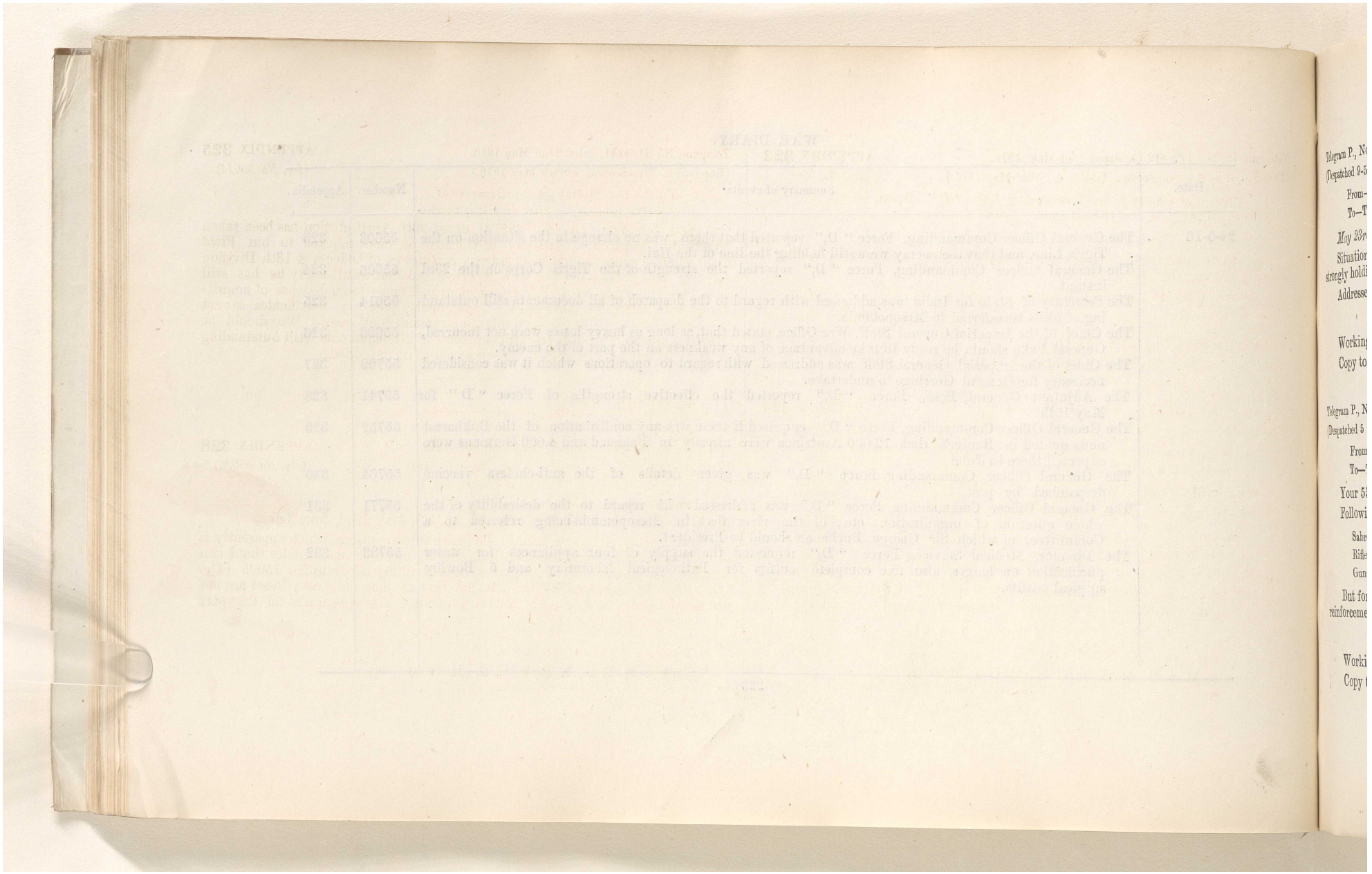

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Telegram P., No. 129-442 O., dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **323**
(Despatched 9-50 P. M., received 7-45 A. M., 24th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55603*)

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

May 23rd. Tigris Line.

Situation unchanged. It is reported by Gorringe that enemy are still strongly holding the line of the Hai.

Addressed Simla; repeated London.

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

Telegram P., No 1119-17-O., dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **324**
(Despatched 5 P. M., received 7-45 A.M., 24th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55606*)

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

Your 55274 of 22nd May.

Following is strength of Corps on 23rd instant :—

Sabres	1,430
Rifles, including Sappers	27,540
Guns, excluding anti-aircraft and post guns	145

But for cholera, which has caused delay in sending up certain groups of reinforcements, strength of rifles would be greater than above.

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

Telegram No. H.-4241, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **325**
(Received in War Section on 24th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55614*)

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

Your telegram (*Dy. No. 49974*), dated 20th April. Action has been taken to expedite despatch of last-pay certificates of men referred to but Field Controller, Poona, reports that last-pay certificates of Officers of 13th Division have in many cases not yet been received and that until lately he has still been receiving from Army Pay Department in France large batches of acquittance rolls relating to year 1914. Consequently last-pay certificates cannot be issued by our Military Accounts Department in all cases. We should be glad if you would kindly cause transmission of all documents still outstanding relating to units transferred to Mesopotamia to be expedited.

Record copy to A. G.

Telegram P., No. 16975-Cipher, dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **326**
(Despatched 7-25 P.M., received 9-45 A.M., 24th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55626*)

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

Reference No. 129-440-O (*Dy. No. 55425*), May 22nd, from Lake.

As the situation regarding the Turkish dispositions, which apparently is somewhat peculiar, is not sufficiently known by me, I do not consider that I can supplement anything of use to that contained in my telegram No. 15995 (*Dy. No. 51399*), datedApril 30th, namely, that as long as heavy losses are not incurred Lake should be ready to take advantage of any weakness on the part of the enemy on his front.

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

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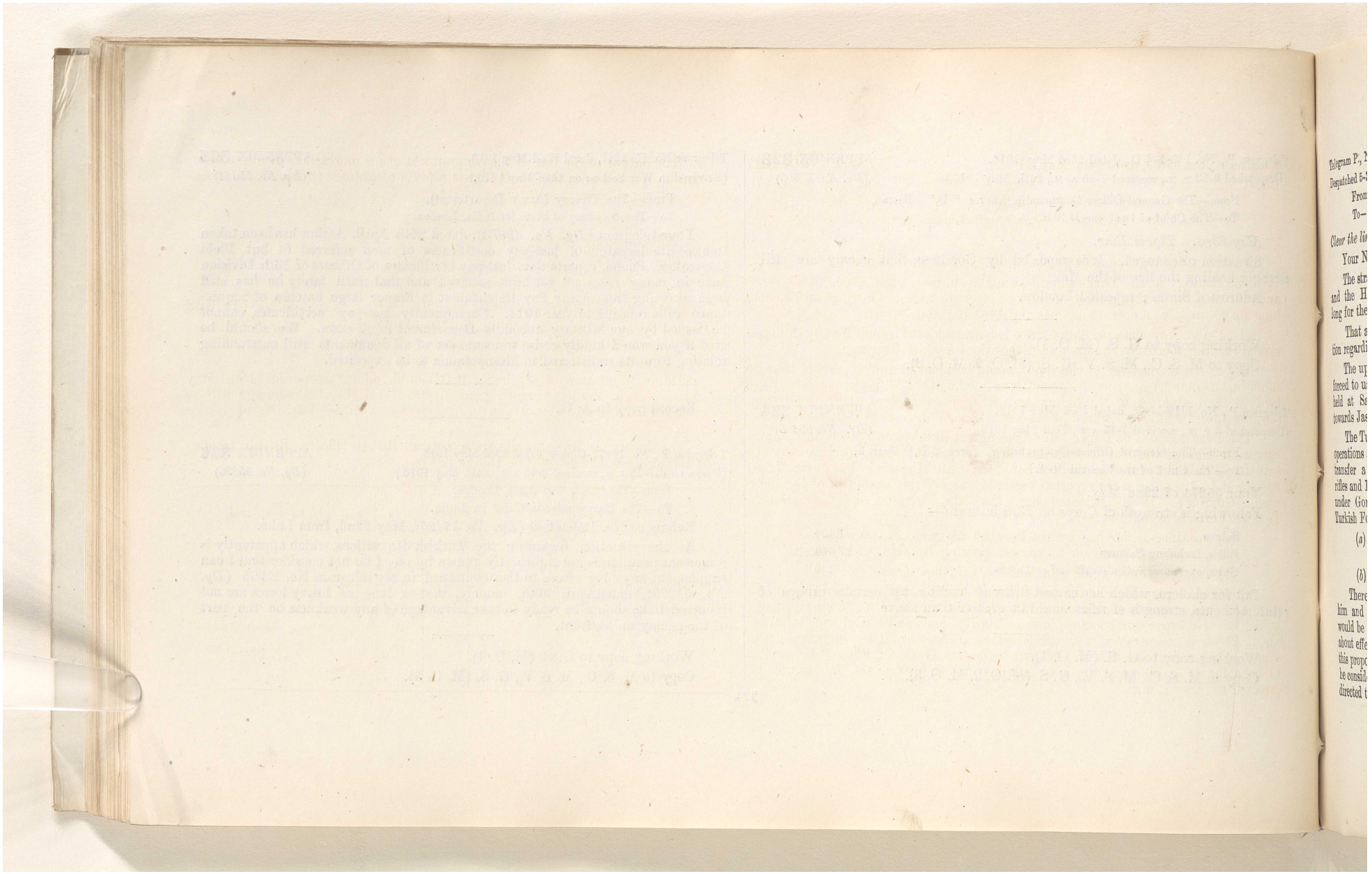

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Telegram P., No. 55709, dated 24th May 1916.
Despatched 5-30 P.M.)

APPENDIX **327**
(*Dy. No. 55709*)

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

Clear the line.

Your No. 16975-Cipher (*Dy. No. 55626*), dated 23rd May.

The strategy of the Turks should be make to use of the floods, the Tigris and the Hai to enable a force of inferior strength to hold Gorringe sufficiently long for them to concentrate against and beat Baratoff.

That a general plan on above lines is being adopted is indicated by information regarding their movements and dispositions against Gorringe.

The upstream passage of the river would be blocked and we should thus be forced to use land transport, for operations on the Hai if a flank position were held at Sannaiyat and Nakhailat and it is possible that their own retreat towards Jason would be secured at the same time.

The Turks should be forced out of Sannaiyat under danger of isolation, and operations against the Hai afterwards should be facilitated if Gorringe were to transfer a sufficient force to the left bank, say near Magasis. 145 guns, 27,540 rifles and 1,470 sabres were reported yesterday to be the strength of the force under Gorringe. It is estimated here that the strength and disposition of Turkish Force is as follows:—

(*a*) Against or moving against Baratoff 50 guns, 20,000 rifles and 1,700 sabres in addition to troops opposing Russians at Rowanduz.

(*b*) Against Gorringe 66 guns and 17,000 rifles at most.

Therefore a plan such as the one outlined above could be carried out by him and heavy losses should not result while the results of its accomplishment would be to improve our position, both militarily and politically, and to bring about effective co-operation with the Russians. Therefore it is suggested that this proposal and its desirability be put before the G. O. C., Force "D," and if he considers it feasible and the best adapted to the situation, he should be directed to carry it out.

The output of the line of the communications is increasing owing to better organisation and arrival of craft; latest reports regarding Gorringe's ammunition and supplies are satisfactory.

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

Telegram P., No. 3-4-36-A. G., dated 23rd May 1916.
(Despatched 6-50 P.M., received 11-30 A.M., 24th May 1916.)

APPENDIX **328**
(*Dy. No. 55741*)

From—The Adjutant General, Base, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Herewith effective strengths for British and Indian troops for 15th May received up to date, reference your 51860 of 3rd May. Remainder will be forwarded on receipt. Action is being taken to expedite despatch of return by units.

The figures for British units are to be read British officers, British troops; for Indian units Indian officers, Indian troops

Regiment.	B. Os.	I. Os.	B. R.	I. R.	Ship.
14th Hussars	27	...	442	...	Chakdara 16-4-16.
15th Lancers	...	13	...	206	Bandra 1-5-16.
12th Cavalry	...	18	...	516	Teesta 19-3-16.
23rd Cavalry	...	13	...	481	Barpeta 17-2-16.
7th Lancers	...	20	...	543	Erinpura 17-3-16.
6th Cav. Bde. Ammn. Col.	1	...	35	51	

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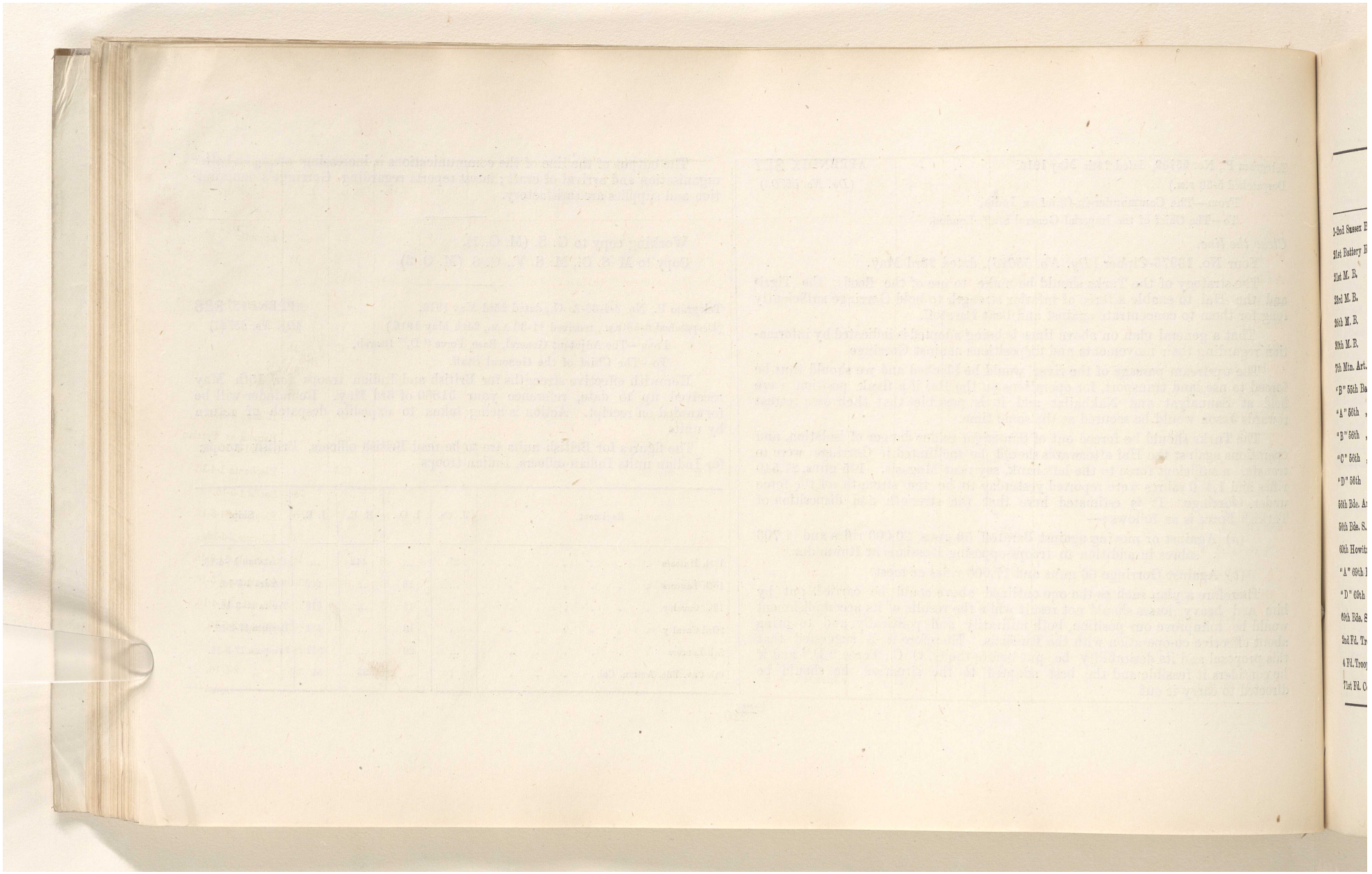

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Regiment.	B. Os.	I. Os.	B. R.	I. R.	Ship.
1-2nd Sussex Batt. R. D. A.	4	...	116	10	
21st Battery R. F. A.	...	...	162	...	
21st M. B.	...	3	...	328	
23rd M. B.	...	3	...	322	
26th M. B.	...	3	...	344	
30th M. B.	...	3	...	316	
7th Mtn. Art. Bde. Ammn. Col.	...	...	...	48	
"B" 55th Batt. R. F. A.	2	...	110	...	
"A" 56th " "	4	...	118	...	
"B" 56th " "	3	...	118	...	
"C" 56th " "	3	...	110	...	
"D" 56th " "	4	...	119	...	
56th Bde. Ammn. Column	...	2	...	82	
56th Bde. S.A.A. Sec.	...	2	...	140	
60th Howitzer Batt. Ammn. Col.	...	...	45	...	
"A" 69th Batt. R.F.A.	4	...	110	...	
"D" 69th " "	5	...	121	...	
69th Bde. S.A.A. Section	...	4	...	135	
2nd Fd. Troop S. & M.	...	2	4	75	
4 Fd. Troop S. & M.	...	3	25	210	
71st Fd. Coy. R. E.	7	...	211	...	Ansonia 16-3-16.
88th Fd. Coy. R. E.	7	...	212	...	Ansonia.
Printing Section	...	...	5	11	
2nd Wireless Signal Squadron L. of C.	4	1	64	25	
Malerkotla S. & M.	...	6	...	155	Parpeta 17-2-16.
37th Bde. Signal Coy.	1	...	12	18	
42nd " "	1	...	13	24	
12th " "	1	...	13	21	
41st " "	1	1	21	2	
1-4th Somerset L. I.	14	...	645	...	Ellenga 2-5-16.
1-5th R. W. Surrey Regt.	28	...	955	...	Barpeta ex Persian Gulf 21-3-16.
1-4th Dorset R.	30	...	315	...	Elephanta 1-4-16.
Rajputs	...	19	...	946	Banda 1-5-16.
3rd Brahmans	...	16	...	1,009	Elephanta 1-5-16.
20th Punjabis	...	12	...	529	Ellenga 2-5-16.
11th Rajputs	...	15	...	841	Arangola 31-3-16.
27th Punjabis	...	14	...	690	Elephanta 1-5-16.
36th Sikhs	...	15	...	620	Edvanha 17-4-16.
31st Punjabis	...	18	...	891	Ellenga 2-5-16.
45th Sikhs (Merwaras ?)	...	18	...	822	"
44th Punjabis (?)	...	16	...	823	" 2-5-16.

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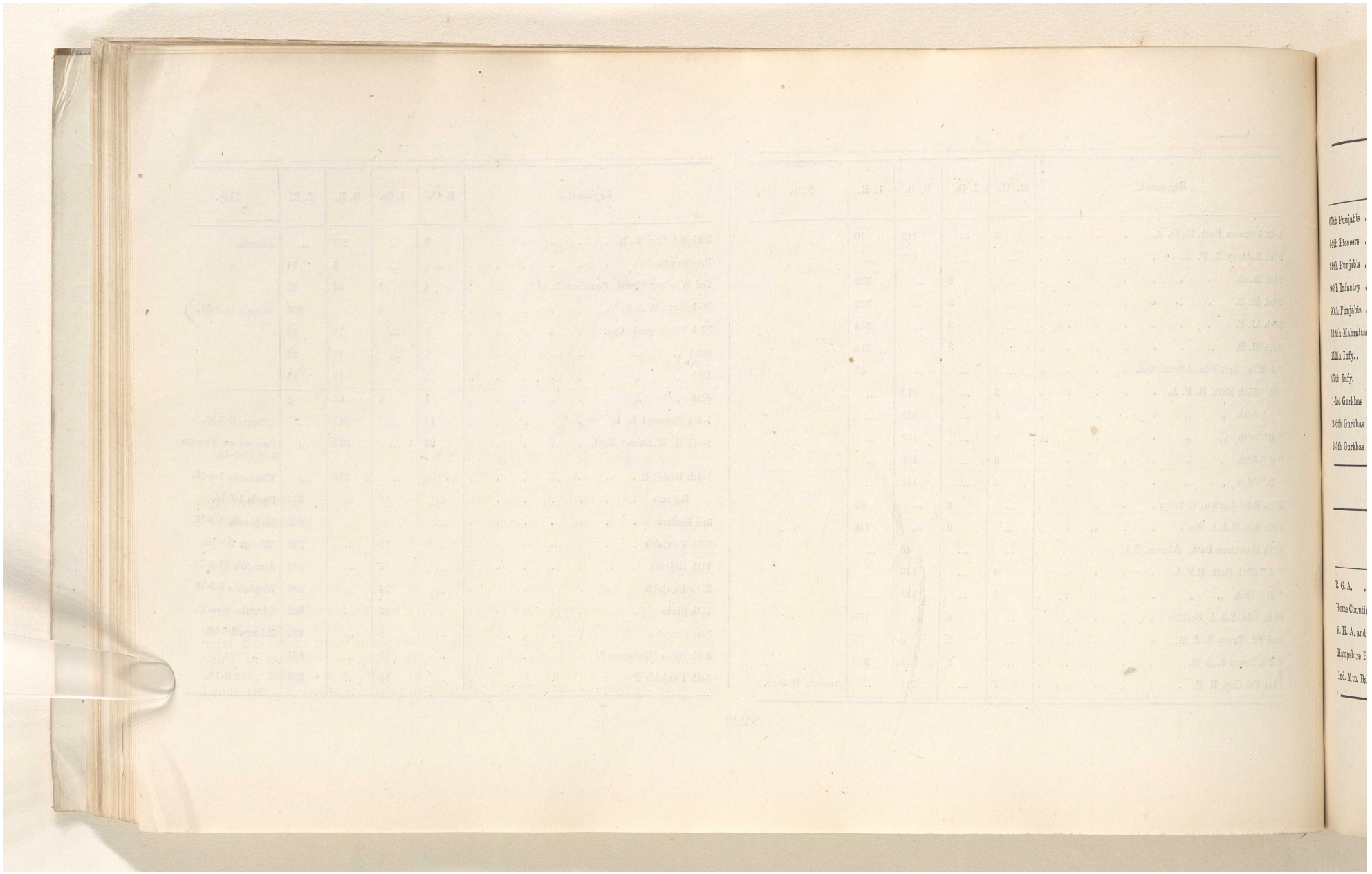

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Regiment.	B. Os.	I. Os.	B. R.	I. R.	Ship.
67th Punjabis	...	10	...	526	Ellenga 2-4-16.
64th Pioneers	...	17	...	745	Edavanha 17-4-16.
89th Punjabis	...	9	...	413	Bandra.
96th Infantry	...	17	...	952	Ellenga 2-5-16.
90th Punjabis	...	15	...	906	„ 2-4-16.
114th Mahrattas	...	14	...	729	Edavanha 17-4-16.
112th Infy.	...	20	...	922	Ellenga 2-5-16.
97th Infy.	...	16	...	498	Bandra 1-5-16.
1-1st Gurkhas	...	11	...	786	Madras 21-4-16.
2-6th Gurkhas	...	22	...	914	Elephanta 1-5-16.
2-5th Gurkhas	...	19	...	838	Kentucky 16-4-16.

Reinforcements at Base.

Regiment.	B.Os.	I. Os.	B. R.	I. R.	Ship.
R. G. A.	...	...	4	...	
Home Counties Bde.	...	...	3	...	
R. H. A. and R. F. A.	9	...	91	107	
Hampshire Batt.	...	...	12	...	
Ind. Mtn. Batt. *en route*	...	...	...	24	

Regiment.	B.Os.	I.Os.	B. Rs	I. Rs	Ship.
R. G. A.	1	...	96	...	
Home Counties Bde.		...	53	...	
R. H. A. and R. F. A.	...	...	9	36	
Ind. Mtn. Batt.	...	...	...	43	
1st S. and M.	1	...	19	39	
2nd S. and M.	...	...	...	19	
3rd S. and M.	...	2	...	204	

Working copy to A. G.

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

APPENDIX **329**
(*Dy. No. 55752*)

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2877, dated 24th May 1916.
(Despatched 1-15 P.M., received 7-15 P.M.)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Clear line.

Bukharest news quoted in Reuter's received here on May 24th states that 12,000 Austrians are already in Baghdad and 4,000 Germans are expected there in June. At the expense of the Constantinople defences there is a large Turkish concentration at Marash. If you have any confirmation of these points please wire. The only information of the kind received here is in a letter from Baghdad written about 15th May in which a report is mentioned

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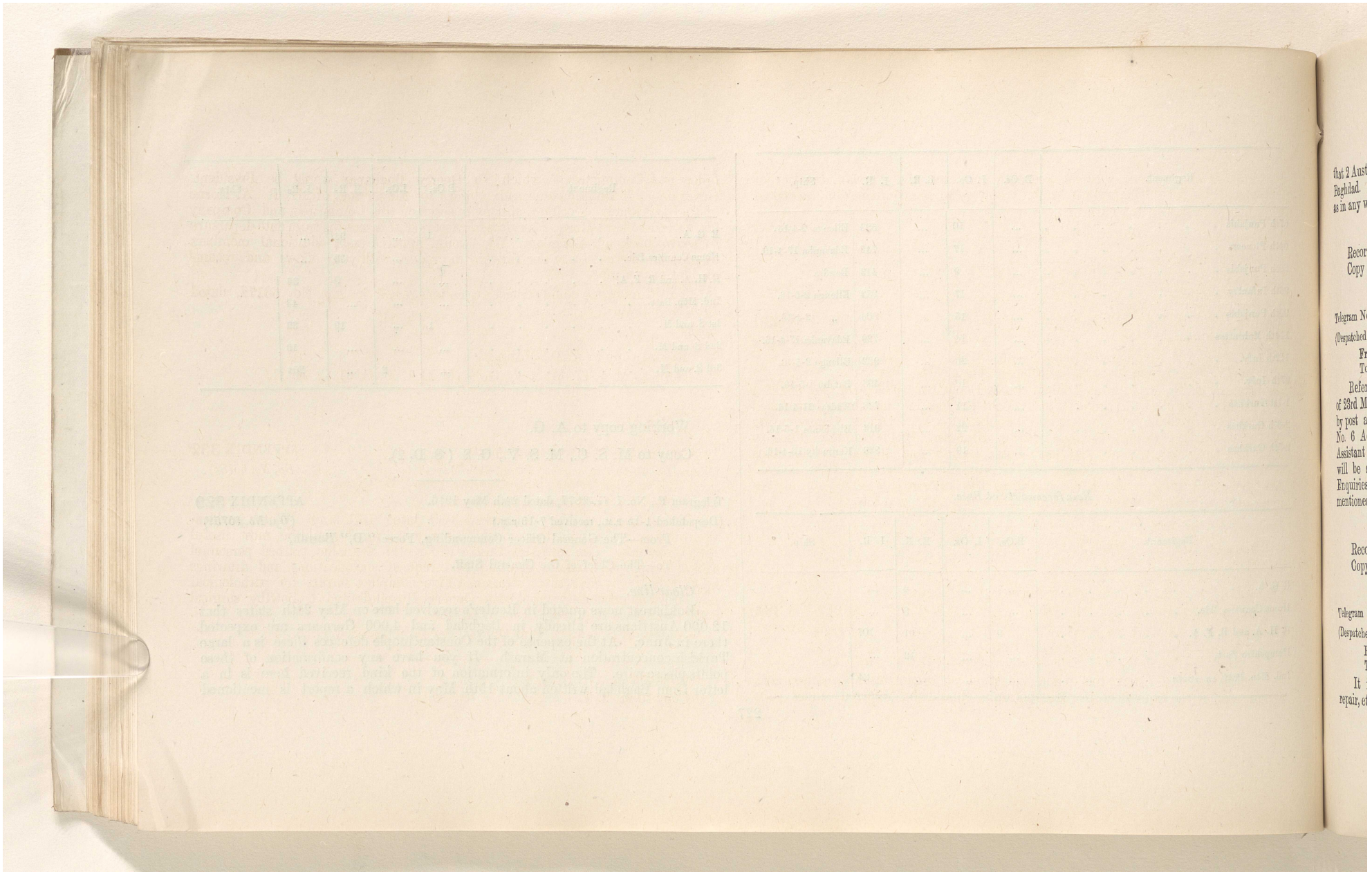

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that 2 Austrian divisions were *en route* to reinforce the Persian frontier or Baghdad. This, being merely hearsay, is not, pending confirmation, accepted as in any way authoritative.

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

Telegram No. 55764, dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **330**
(Despatched 11-55 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55764*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Reference No. 1 General Medical Stores Depôt No. 1032 (*Dy. No. 55715*) of 23rd May. Following amount of anti-cholera vaccine has been despatched by post addressed as follows :—25,000 double doses to Officer Commanding No. 6 Advanced Depôt, Medical Stores, Amarah. 80,000 double doses to Assistant Director, Medical Services, Base, Basrah and 50,000 double doses will be sent this week to Assistant Director, Medical Services, Base, Basrah. Enquiries are being made here regarding the information given in above-mentioned wire and further communication will be sent you later.

Record copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V.

Telegram No. 55771, dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **331**
(Despatched 2-15 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55771*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

It is desirable that the whole question of organization, maintenance, repair, etc., of the river fleet in Mesopotamia should be referred under your orders to a Committee of which Sir George Buchanan would be President. Government of India have already applied for the services of Mr. R. A. Horne of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company to serve on this Committee, and Company has agreed to lend Horne's services for a period of 4 months from date departure to arrival back in Rangoon. You would appoint such additional members as you consider necessary and forward the report with your views and recommendations to me.

This Committee could consider questions raised in my No. 53172, dated 10th May 1916.

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

Telegram No.-L. 3-99, dated 23rd May 1916. APPENDIX **332**
(Despatched 10-40 A.M., received 7 P.M., 24th May 1916. (*Dy. No. 55782*)
From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

In continuation of my telegram 5-3-89, dated 16th May. Water purification on barges as supplied previously to Army in France would be most useful for Tigris force. Can make good use of four. If available trained personnel should accompany them. Failing this request specifications and drawings be sent India by first mail steamer. Five complete outfits for pathological laboratory as previously supplied to General Hospitals and 5 Bowlby surgical outfits complete required as soon as possible.

Addressed Secretary, War Office, London, repeated C. G. S.

Working copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. V.

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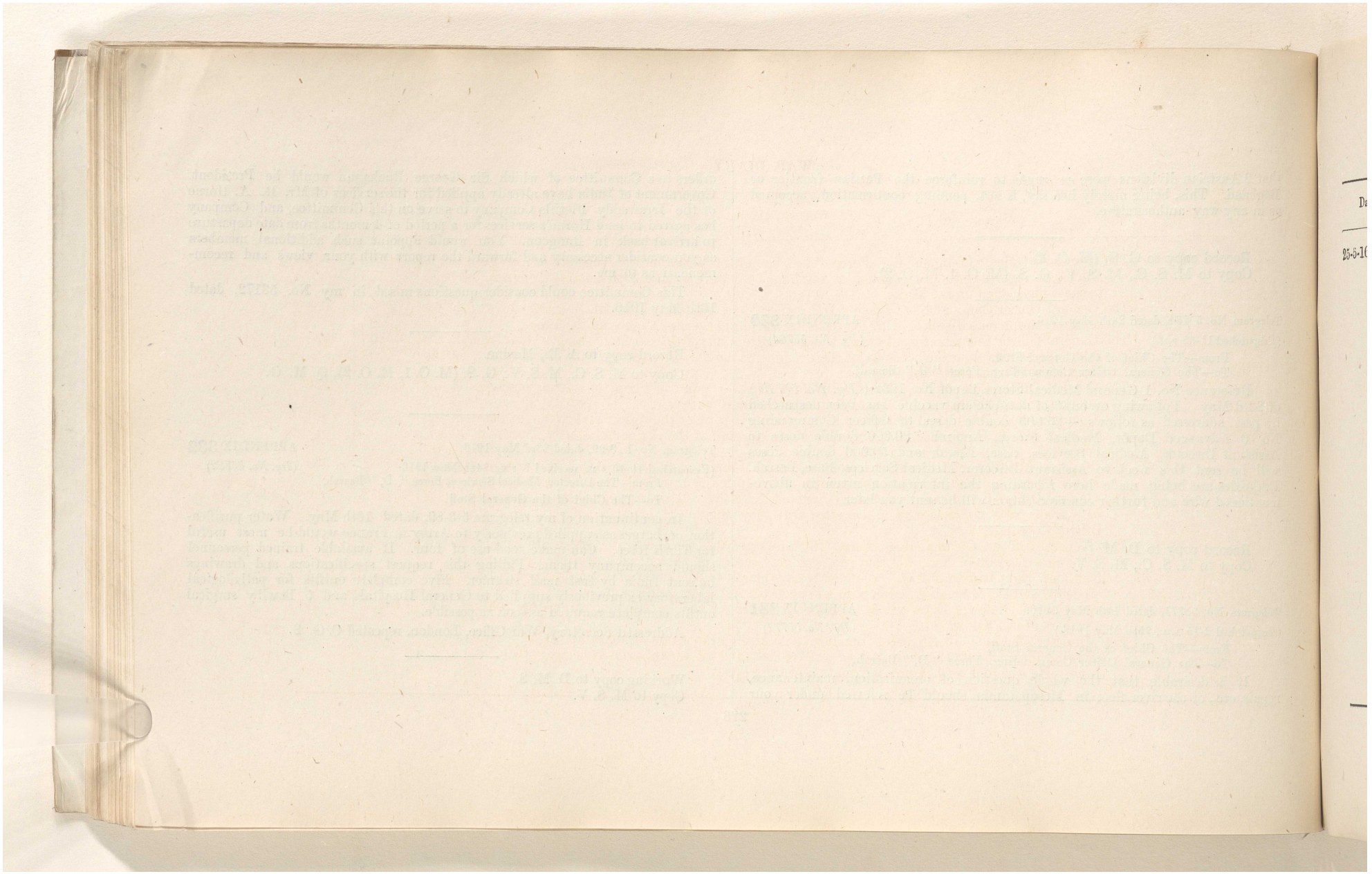

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
25-5-16 .	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," submitted for approval suggestions by Sir George Buchanan regarding the introduction of a system of marking by means of floating bamboos, in order to assist navigation on the Tigris.	55787	333
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested reconsideration of the decision to abolish the present reinforcement section with the Assistant Adjutant General's office at the Base.	55803	334
	The General Officer Commanding Force "D," drew attention to the constant and serious complaints from officers ragarding the accounts of their regiments, notably those of the 13th Division and of the Brigades sent from India last December.	55808	335
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," forwarded for approval a copy of instructions issued to his force regarding the disposal of kits of British and Indian units.	55824	336
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," forwarded a copy of the Admiralty's letter explaining the duties of Mr. P. H. Browne, Shipping Adviser on the staff of the Principal Marine Transport Officer, Force "D."	55839	337
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated a report from Major Marsh on the movements of Enver Pasha, and also as to the whereabouts of the 16th and 18th Regiments.	55842	338
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that Lieut. Withers reported the presence of Indians in various parts of Persia, and he suggested that they should be arrested and sent to the nearest British Consulate.	55853	339
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that the enemy was still holding on to the left bank down stream of Kut, and that their communications on the left bank had been subjected to fire from our right bank artillery. The road from Amarah to Shaikh Sa'ad was temporarily passable for all arms, and the Qurnah-Amarah road was open for A.T. Carts and troops.	55854	340
	The Secretary of State for India was addressed with regard to the question of supplying comforts for members of the Kut garrison.	55857	341
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, was given a repetition of Diary no. 55752 regarding the reported presence of 12,000 Austrians in Baghdad and of 4,000 Germans being expected there in June. He was told we had no confirmation of this report.	55869	342

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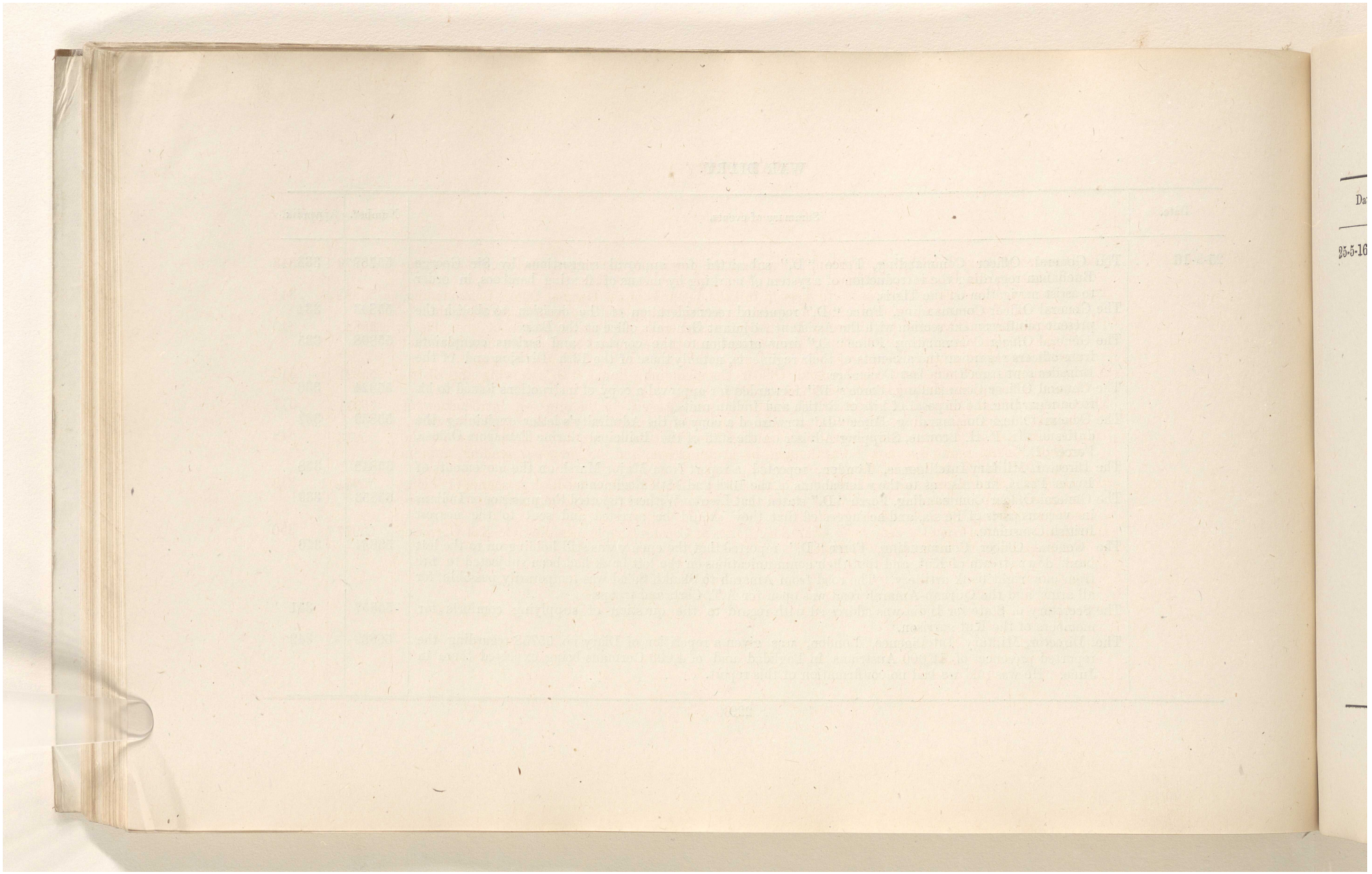

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
25-5-16	The Director Military Intelligence, London, reported on the progress of the railway between Marmurier and Islahieh, and Bozanti and Tarsus.	55879	343
	The Secretary, War Office, was asked to meet in full the demands of the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," for two full squadrons, each to include a fighting flight and two reconnaissance flights.	55884	344
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," recommended that all instead of one of the officers of the Rusian Cavalry Patrol should be decorated, and that a proportion of distinguished conduct medals should be given to the men.	55885	345
	A statement was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," showing the distribution of troops for the week commencing 14th May.	55891	346
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was given the reasons for the proposed introduction of the system of military passes, in addition to that of civil passports, and he was asked for his views.	55911	347
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that the attachment of one of his officers to the staff of General Baratoff would, it was thought, be advantageous, and he proposed sending Captain Ford, 105th Mahratta Light Infantry.	55913	348
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was given a list of Turkish medical personnel (1) being returned, (2) being retained for medical treatment of prisoners, and (3) being retained as they were not desirous of being repatriated.	55944	349
	Information received from the American Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople regarding the Kut Garrison, was received from the Secretary of State.	55967	350

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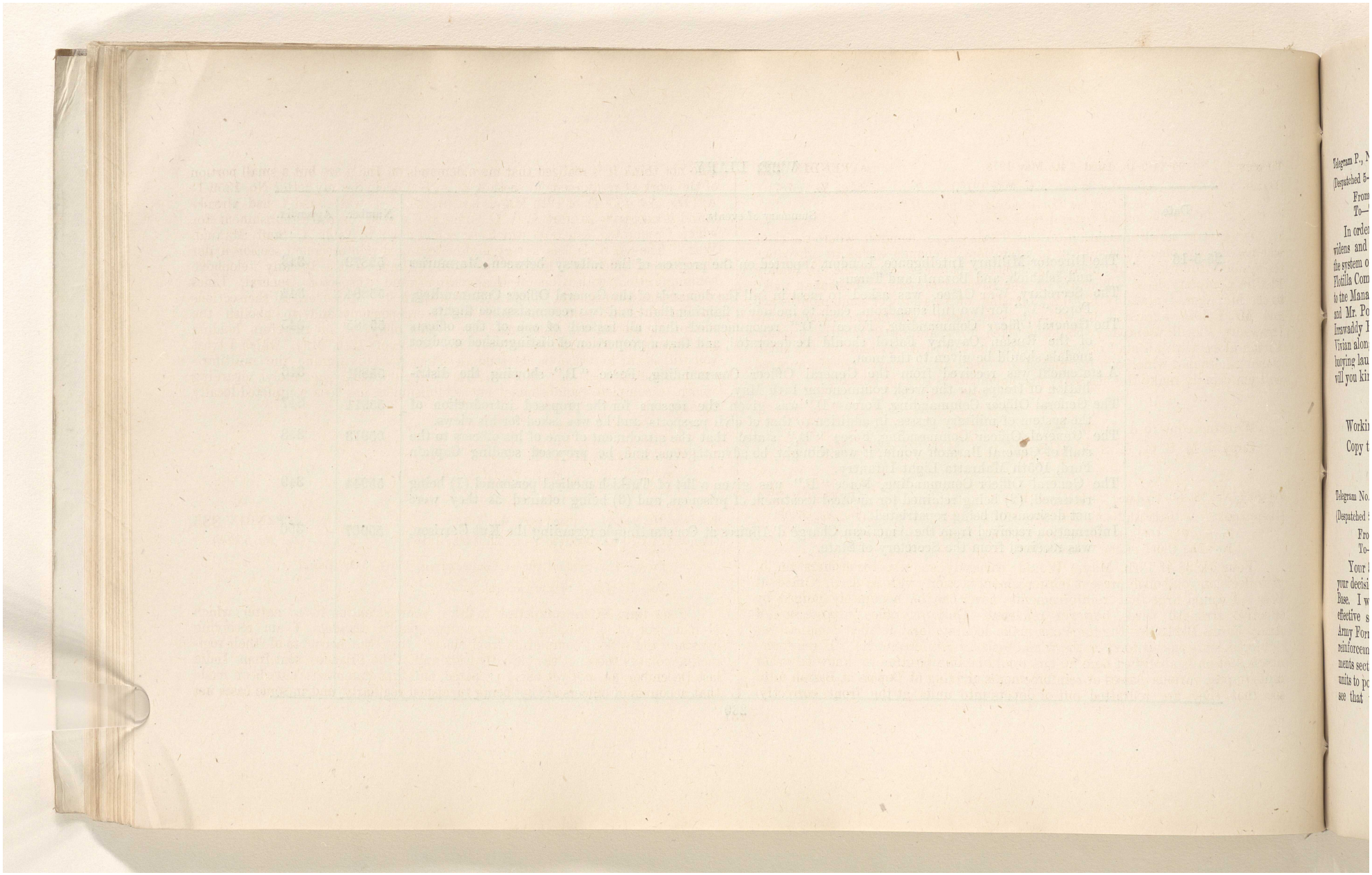

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Telegram P., No. 96-24-5-16, dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **333**
(Despatched 5-10 P.M., received 0-30 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55787*)

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

In order to assist navigation on the Tigris above Amarah, where the river widens and the channel is subject to alteration, Buchanan wishes to introduce the system of marking by means of floating bamboos which the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company do so efficiently in the River Irrawaddy. Buchanan spoke to the Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, on this subject some months ago and Mr. Polson indicated his willingness to assist. Buchanan suggests the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company should be asked to spare for 6 months Captain Vivian along with his staff of native assistants and three or four of the small buoying launches which can be placed on deck of a transport. If approved will you kindly make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

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

Telegram No. 1359-6-A., dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **334**
(Despatched 2 P.M., received 2 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55803*)

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

Your 54838 of 19th May. Would earnestly request reconsideration of your decision to abolish present reinforcement section with A. A. G. Office at Base. I would urge that reinforcements never can be accurately gauged by effective strength wires however rendered. Only an office in possession of Army Forms B-213 for the force can make accurate and detailed demands for reinforcements as this form is the whole basis for reinforcements If reinforcements section is abolished here no one would be in a position to know to what units to post various classes of reinforcements arriving at Depôts at Basrah or to see that they are redrafted out of depôts into units at the front correctly. I do not think it is realized that mere demands on India are but a small portion of the work of reinforcement section, A. A. G. Office. See my letter No. 1359-1-A. (*Dy. No. 45304*), of 12th March last, in which it was stated I had already found it necessary to start A. A. G. Office at the Base on the establishment for which I requested sanction which is as laid down in Table A, Staff Manual, War. The A. A. G. has a very highly organised reinforcement section under charge of an officer who learned this work in France and is in daily telephone communication with General Headquarters and Inspector General, Lines of Communications, who could not do without it. Moreover, all the sections in the A. A. G. Office at Base are interdependent and to abolish the reinforcing section will disorganize the whole office. I am therefore holding in abeyance orders contained in your No. 55838 of 19th May, which I trust you will see fit to cancel or else send an officer over to examine the multifarious duties of this section. Note you are communicating separately regarding officers to complete establishment but establishment has been completed locally already.

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

Telegram No. 947-44-A., dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **335**
(Despatched 7-10 P.M., received 5 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55808*)

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

Clear line.—I am compelled to draw your attention to a matter which is in danger of developing into a serious public scandal. I am receiving constant and serious complaints from officers that the accounts of their regiments, notably those of the 13th Division and of the Brigades sent from India last December, are not yet being prepared, also that statements have been made that accounts of officers are not being furnished regularly and in some cases not

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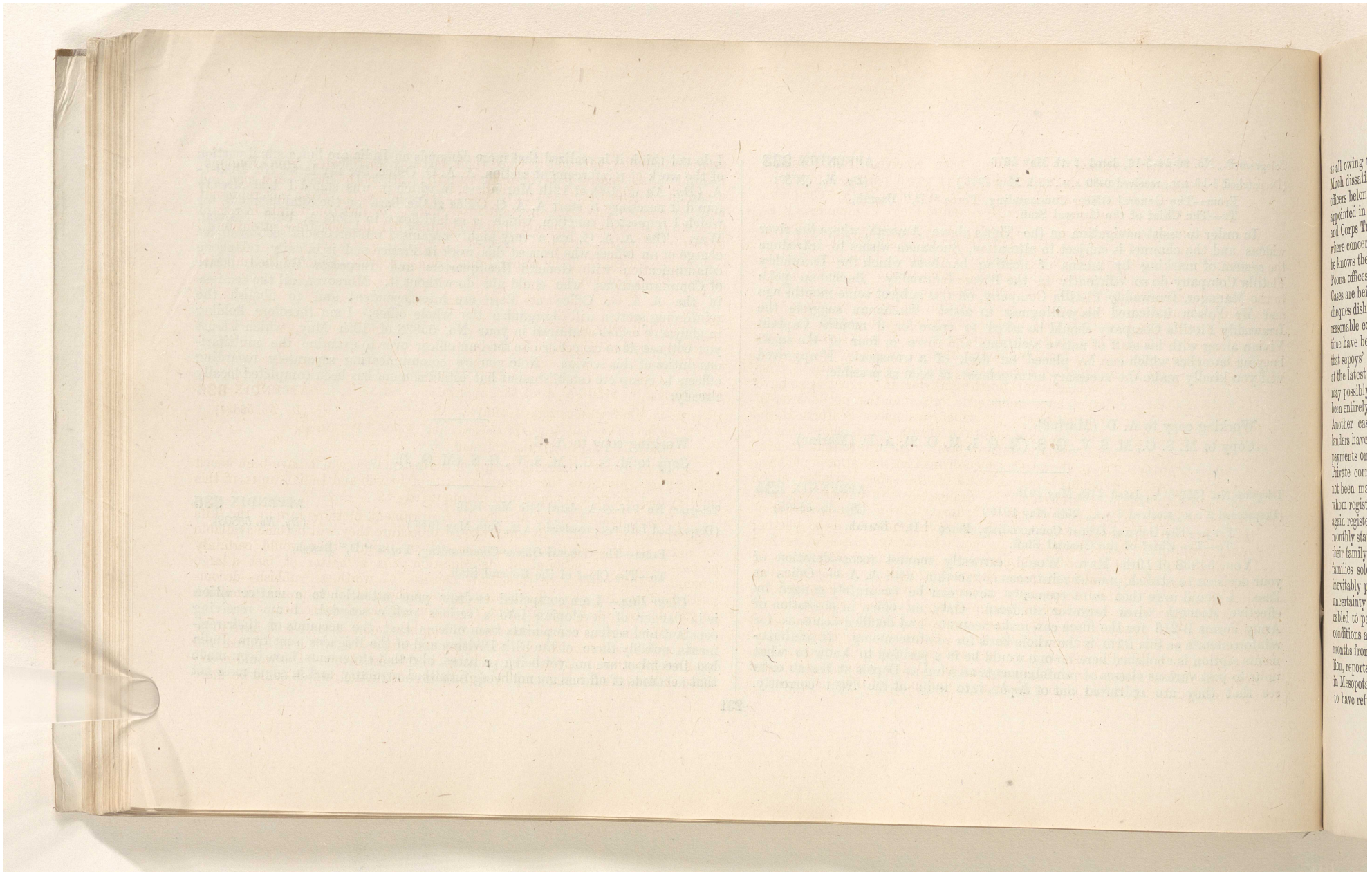

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at all owing to last-pay certificates not having been received from England. Much dissatisfaction also exists owing to inability of pay department to inform officers belonging to certain units such as A. S. C., A. O. C., Army Chaplains appointed in England, Yeomanry, Pioneer Regiments, Field Companies, R.E, and Corps Troops as to rates of pay admissible to themselves and their men where concerned. Recurring (referring ?) D. F. A. G he states that as far as he knows the main difficulty lies in the absence of proper establishment in the Poona offices but that this question is under consideration of Government. Cases are being reported to me in which officers have had returned to them cheques dishonoured which they have drawn on the 7th of a month in the reasonable expectation that their pay for the previous month would by that time have been paid in to their bankers. In other cases it is reported to me that sepoys' allotments to their families, having been in effect previously since at the latest January 1915, have not been paid "for several months." This may possibly have been unavoidable but fourth reminders in urgent cases have been entirely ignored and letters have remained for 6 months not answered. Another case has been reported to me in which two officers Seaforth Highlanders have received pay statements for month of March which show that no payments on account of family allotments have been made up to that month. Private correspondence of two above officers confirms fact that allotments have not been made. Above two officers belong to 24 of the same battalion all of whom registered their family allotments in France last November and who again registered them in Mesopotamia last February. Owing to non-receipt of monthly statement of accounts above 22 officers are in ignorance as to whether their family allotments have been made or not. In many casses wives and families solely dependent on husband's allotment, which unless paid must be inevitably productive of greatest distress. I would strongly urge that where an uncertainty exists in regard to payment in these allotments orders may be cabled to pay them since beginning of current year. It is believed that above conditions apply to many officers who have been transferred within past 7 months from France to Mesopotamia. The O. C., Composite Highland Battalion, reports that none of his officers have received any pay bills since arriving in Mesopotamia last December and January and the D. D. O., Poona, is reported to have refused to let these officers have any statement of their accounts on grounds that they have not received their last-pay certificates from England. Feeling on this matter is becoming very bitter with both officers and men and it cannot be denied that they have reasons for complaints. Need not represent how dangerous it has been always to give grounds for just complaints in regard to matters of pay and I should fail in my duty if I did not draw attention to the serious situation thus being created.

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

Working copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., M. A. G.

Memorandum No. 547-16-A., dated 23rd April 1916. APPENDIX **336**
(Received in War Section on 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55824*)

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

I beg to forward herewith a copy of the instructions which have been issued to this Force, regarding the disposal of kits of British and Indian units in this country and which it is hoped will be approved.

2. Large quantities of articles of Government clothing are in the kits lying unused at Basrah. By the proposed procedure they will become available for issue. If these articles remain stored in Basrah they would certainly become useless on account of deterioration. As a matter of fact a large amount of the contents of these kits consists of worthless rubbish—decomposed food and the like. To continue to keep them in their present condition only means (*a*) loss to Government, (*b*) to the individual concerned

3. Moreover, as the kits increase in numbers, more sheds would have to be built for their accommodation, occupying ground space which is limited, and required for other purposes. In addition to the cost involved this would necessitate skilled labour being employed in their construction, which could be more

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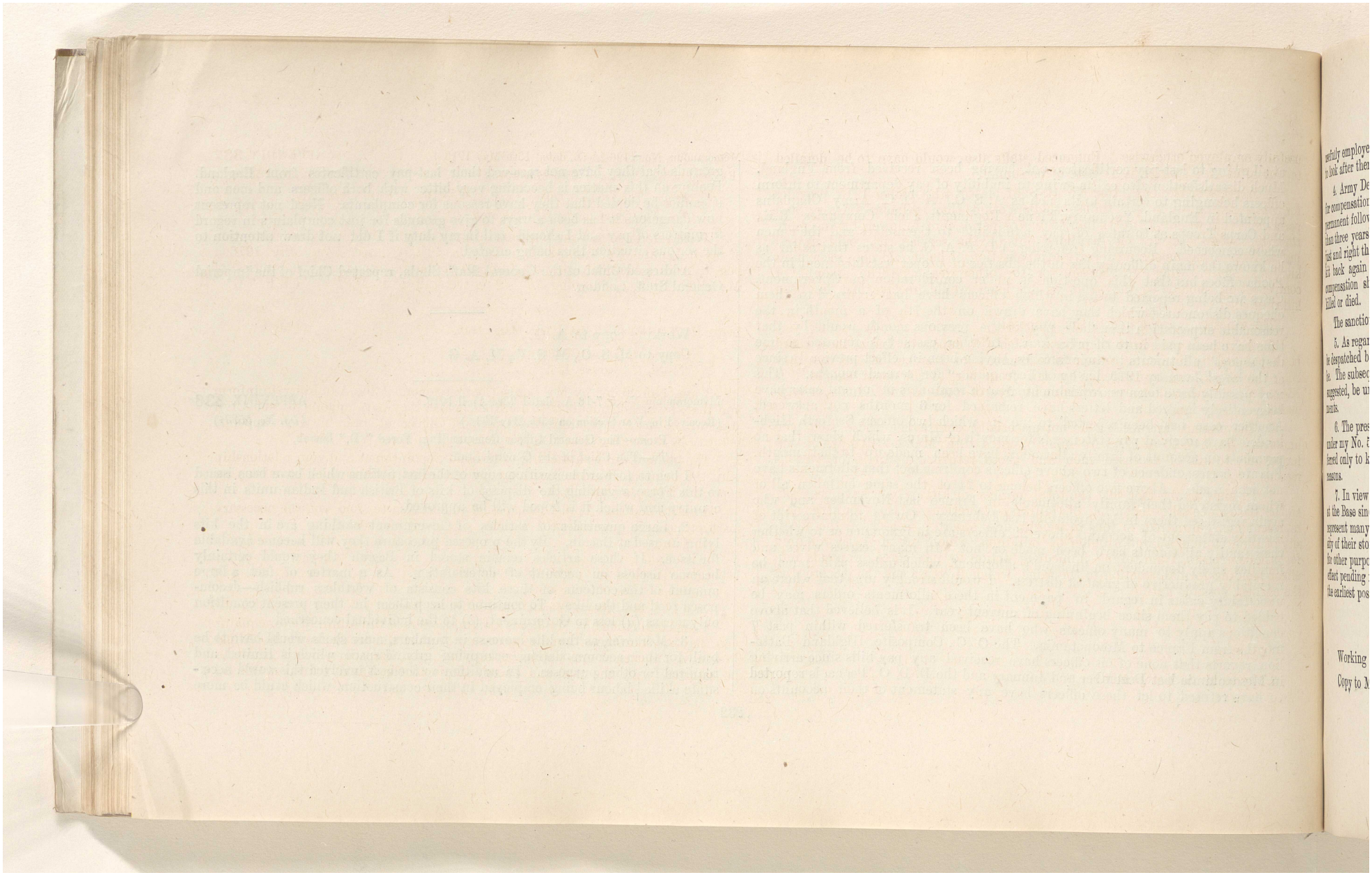

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usefully employed otherwise. Enhanced staffs also would have to be detailed to look after them, which is a waste of personnel.

4. Army Department letter No. H.-8251, dated 4th October 1915, provides for compensation for kits of Indian soldiers other than Silladar Cavalry and permanent followers. If an Indian soldier or permanent follower, having more than three years' service, is invalided out of the service, it would appear just and right that he should receive compensation, if he should not receive his kit back again owing to reissue or for other reasons. The amount of compensation should be the same as his heirs would receive had he been killed or died.

The sanction is requested to this proposal.

5. As regards the return of private affects to depôts in India, these could be despatched by returning tranports to Bombay or Karachi as the case may be. The subsequent transference by rail from port to the depôt should, it is suggested, be undertaken by Government free of cost to individuals or regiments.

6. The present instructions do not materially contravene those sent you under my No. 547-10-A. (*Dy. No. 45360*), dated 10th March 1916, which referred only to kits of deceased men and those returned to India for various reasons.

7. In view of the fact that the total number of kits which have been left at the Base since the inception of military operations in this country now represent many hundreds of tons in weight, and absorb by reason of the necessity of their storage a large number of buildings which are urgently required for other purposes, I am taking immediate action to put these proposals into effect pending formal sanction to the same, which I trust will be accorded at the earliest possible date.

Working copy to A. G.

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

Memorandum No. 1496-26-Q., dated 13th May 1916. APPENDIX **337**

(Received in War Section on 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55839*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

With reference to your telegram of 24th April 1916, and in continuation of my telegram No. 1496-25-Q. (*Dy. No. 53800*), dated 12th May 1916, I beg to forward herewith copy of Admiralty's letter explaining the duties of Mr. P. H. Browne, Shipping Adviser on the staff of P. M. T. O., I.E.F. "D."

Letter No T.A.-44829-16, dated 30th March 1916.

From—W. GRAHAM GREENE,

To—P. H. BROWNE, Esq.

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that, by arrangements with Lord Inchcape, they have appointed you Civil Assistant to the Principal Marine Transport Officer at Basrah, such appointment to be during their Lordships' pleasure.

The general duties attaching to the said appointment and your relationship with the Principal Marine Transport Officer are set forth in the accompanying copy of a letter to that officer.

I am to add that Lord Inchcape has undertaken to send you the necessary instructions as to proceeding to Basrah.

Letter No. T.A.-44841-1916, dated 26th March 1916.

From

The Principal Marine Transport Officer, Basrah.

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that the shortage of tonnage necessary to meet the demands of the Allied Powers is a matter of grave concern to them. My Lords have every reason to be satisfied with the zeal and energy shown by the Naval Transport Officers

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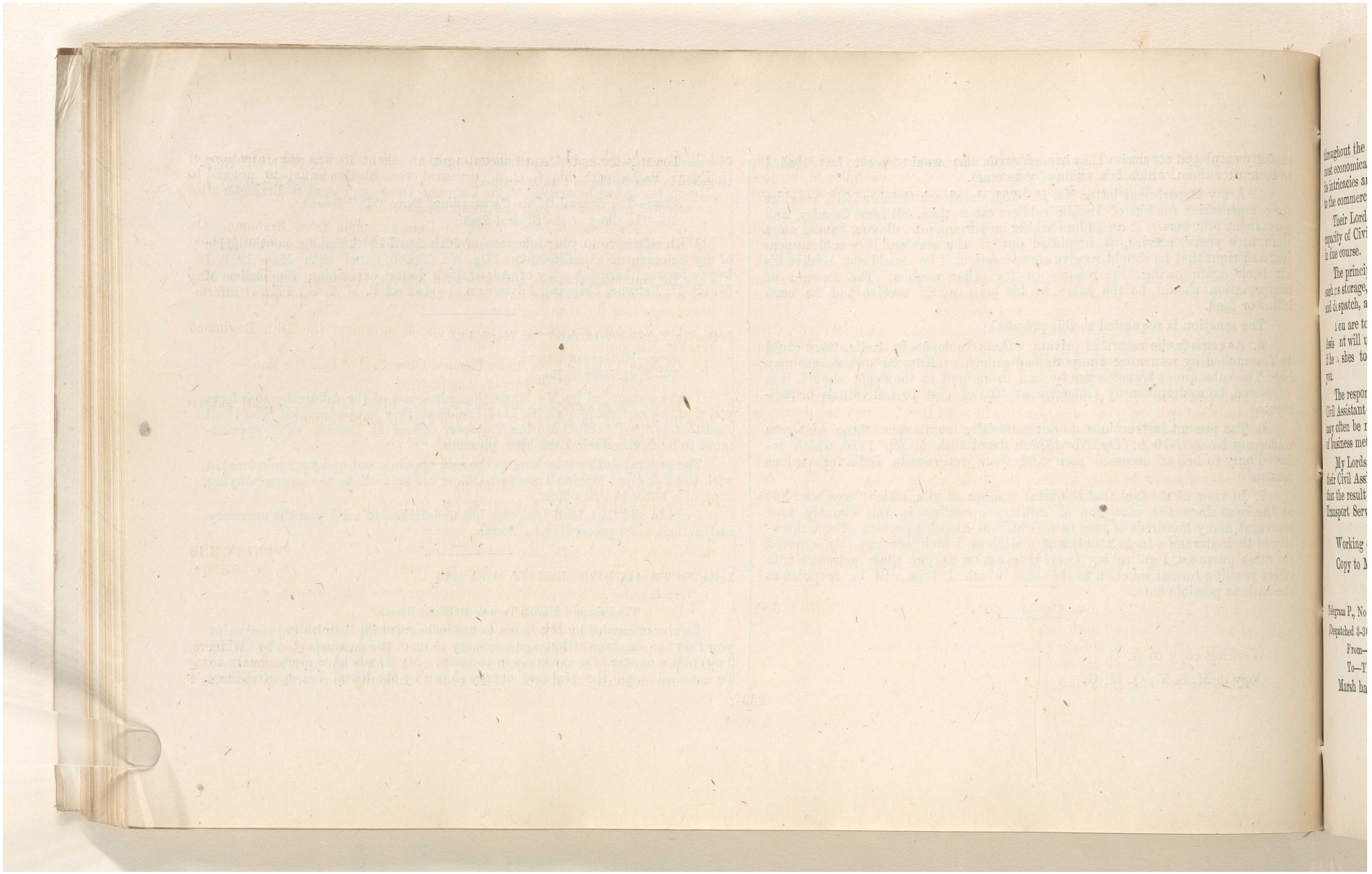

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throughout the Service. They are, however, impressed with the fact that the most economical method in the use of tonnage is not always followed, because its intricacies are not fully understood except by those who have been trained to the commercial use of shipping.

Their Lordships have, therefore, decided to appoint to your Staff, in the capacity of Civil Assistant, a gentleman whose name will be communicated in due course.

The principal duty of the Civil Assistant will be to advise you on questions such as storage, bunkers, ballast, repairs, methods of loading and unloading and despatch, and general management of steamers.

You are to afford the Civil Assistant all reasonable facilities; the Civil Assistant will understand that Military requirements are paramount, and that if he wishes to make representations to the Admiralty, he must do so through you.

The responsibility for accepting or rejecting any advice tendered by the Civil Assistant will be your own, bearing in mind that Military requirements may often be met in the most prompt and effective manner by the application of business methods to Naval Transport operations.

My Lords are confident that Naval Transport Officers will co-operate with their Civil Assistants in order to effect the object my Lords have in view and that the result will raise still higher the standard of efficiency of the Naval Transport Service.

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

Telegram P., No. 17115-Cipher, dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **338**
(Despatched 3-30 P.M., received 10-30 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55842*)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Marsh has sent the following.

Towards the end of April according to an agent it was the intention of Enver Pasha with his C. G. S. Bronsard von Shellendorfiel to proceed to Mesopotamia but he arrived at the Caucasus front, and went to Erzingan after an attempt to break through and recapture Erzerum.

He is now stated to be returning to Constantionple from Erzingan. On the Khaniqin front there is no movement. There are some cases of typhoid fever among the Russian troops.

The statement that the 16th and 18th Regiments reached Baghdad on May 3rd is believed by the Russian G. S. but there has been no subsequent information regarding the 16th Regiment.

On May 11th according to statements of prisoners the 18th Regiment reached Khaniqin.

On May 19th the force under General Chernozubof held the line:—

Bane-Serdesht-Rowanduz-Julamerk-Neri.

In the 1st paragraph of my telegram No. 16751 (*Dy. No. 54635*) substitute for May 4th date of action, May 7th date of agent's report.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and Egypt.

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

Telegram P., No. I.-G-2879, dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **339**
(Despatched 7 P.M., received 11-45 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55853*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

The following addressed Simla has been repeated to Bushire.

The presence of Indians in various parts of Persia is reported by Withers, Intelligence Officer. Military deserters from this force and professional agitators are included in above. If there is no difficulty as regards extradition, I

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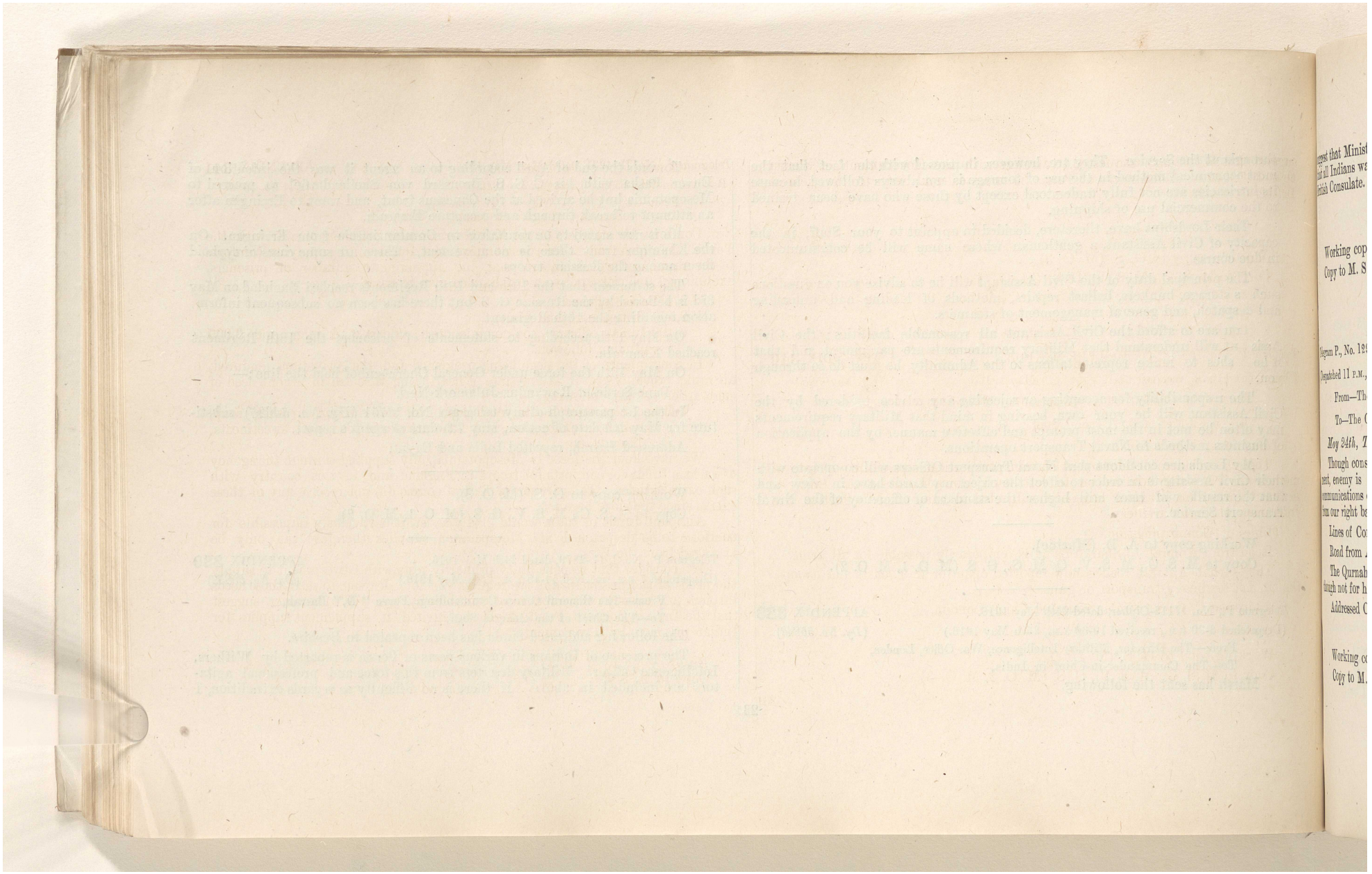

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suggest that Minister be requested to arrange with the Government of Persia that all Indians wandering about Persia be arrested and sent to the nearest British Consulate.

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

Telegram P., No. 129-442-O., dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **340**

(Despatched 11 P.M., received 12-15 P.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55854*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

May 24th, Tigris Line.

Though considerable movement of transport indicates possibility of retirement, enemy is still holding on to left bank down stream Kut. Enemy's communications on left bank have been subjected to maintained effective fire from our right bank artillery.

Lines of Communication.

Road from Amarah to Shaikh Sa'ad is temporarily passable for all arms.

The Qurnah-Amarah road is now reported open for A. T. carts and troops, though not for heavy transport or guns.

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

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

Telegram P., No. H.-4231, dated 22nd May 1916. APPENDIX **341**

(Received in War Section on 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55857*)

From—The Viceroy (Army Department),

To—The Secretary of State for India.

Comforts for members of the Kut Garrison now prisoners of war with the Turks. We have had under consideration the question of supplying comforts to the above, and would observe that the approximate number of prisoners, excluding 1,085 sick and wounded handed over to us, is—

271 British officers.
2,500 British rank and file.
6,400 Indian officers, non-commissioned officers and men, and 3,000 Indian followers.

In consequence of the siege being prolonged and the privations endured, all ranks probably are in a low state of health and also are in urgent need of such articles as the following:—

Tobacco, cigarettes, boots, clothing of all descriptions, brushes, soap, combs, tooth brushes, and extra articles of food, *e.g.*, sweetmeats, biscuits, etc.

We have kept the force in Mesopotamia fully supplied through the agency of various funds for comforts for troops in England and in this country with such extra articles. The garrison of Kut of course did not receive any of these extras since the siege began.

Although funds in India would gladly assist, it is obviously impossible for comforts to be despatched *viâ* Mesopotamia, supplies therefore can only be arranged from the West.

We consider that responsibility primarily rests with Government to supply the needs of the prisoners, and we request you to endeavour to meet those needs through any agency considered most suitable by you We however suggest that the Indian Soldiers Fund might be invited to supplement supplies for Indian prisoners by Government.

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. C.

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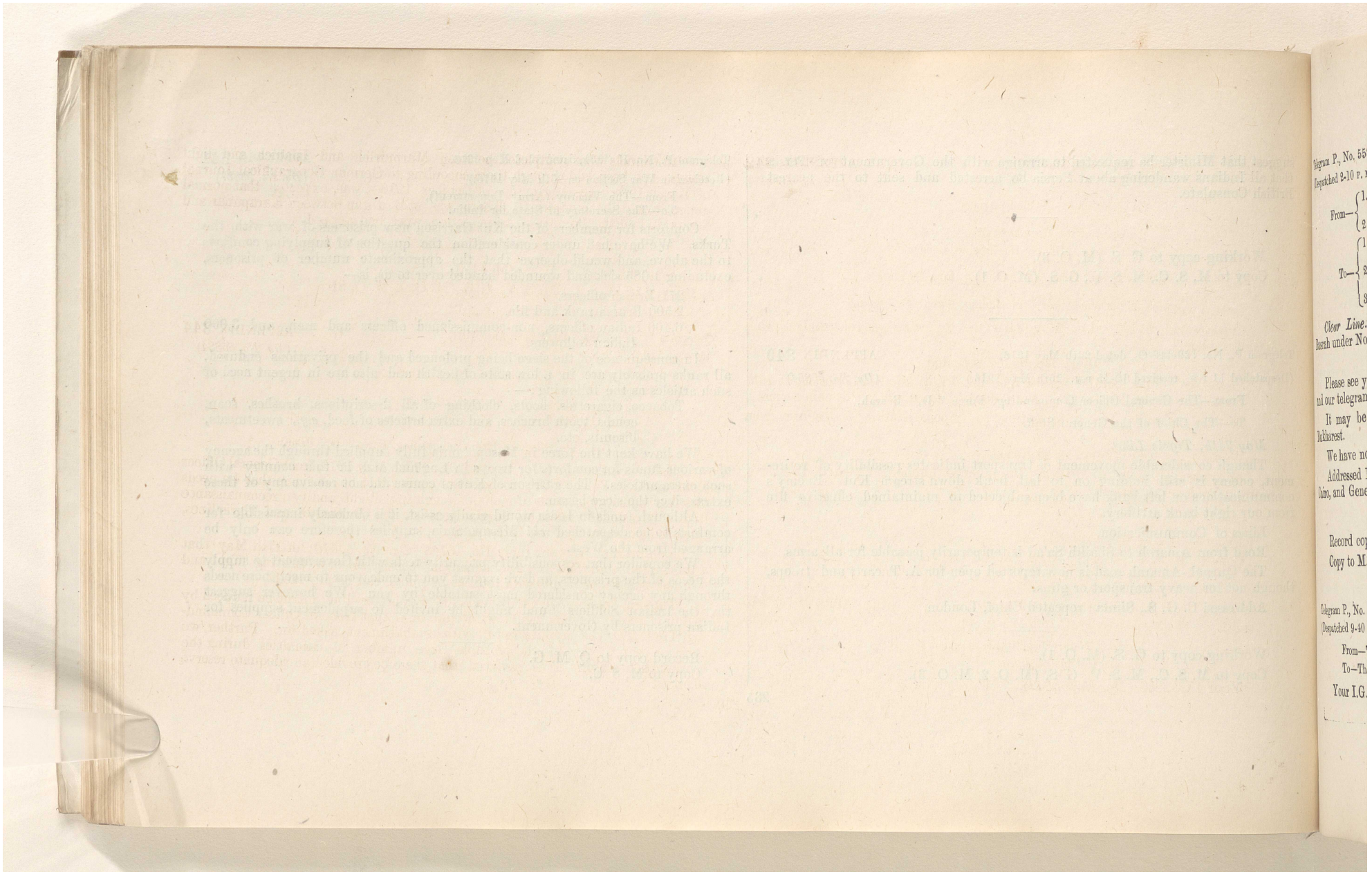

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Telegram P., No. 55869, dated 25th May 1916.
(Despatched 2-10 P. M.)

APPENDIX **342**
(*Dy. No. 55869*)

From— 1. The Commander-in-Chief in India,
2. The Chief of the General Staff,

To— 1. The Director, Military Intelligence, London.
2. The General Officer Commanding, Egypt, Cairo.
3. The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Clear Line. I.-141. On May 24th the following was telegraphed from Basrah under No. I.G.-2877 :—

"Diary No. 55752 repeated."

Please see your telegram 15800-Cipher M. 1 (*Dy. No. 50717*) of April 26th and our telegram No. I.-138 (*Dy. No. 47406*) of April 7th in this connection.

It may be only false information to impose caution on us, sent from Bukharest.

We have no confirmation in any case.

Addressed Director to Military Intelligence, London, repeated Intrusive, Cairo, and General, Basrah.

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

Telegram P., No. 17126-Cipher, dated 24th May 1916.
(Despatched 9-40 P.M., received 1 P.M., 25th May 1916.)

APPENDIX **343**
(*Dy. No. 55879*)

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

Your I.G.-2865 (*Dy. No. 55542*).

16 tunnels were completed between Marmurieh and Islahieh and light railway has been laid through them according to German Geographical Journal of March 19th. By beginning of October 1916 it was expected that normal gauge would be completed. There was still a gap between Karapunar and Dorak and on the Bozanti—Tarsus section, work had stopped.

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

Telegram P., No. 55884, dated 25th May 1916.
(Despatched 5-30 P.M.)

APPENDIX **344**
(*Dy. No. 55884*)

From— (1) The Commander-in-Chief in India,
(2) The Chief of the General Staff,

To— (1) The Secretary, War Office, London.
(2) The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Reference 4716-F. (*Dy. No. 54039*), of 13th May 1916, from General Officer Commanding Force "D," to you we gather that he considers that he needs two full squadrons, each to include a fighting flight and two reconnaissance flights, in order to meet his requirements on the Euphrates and Tigris lines, after the withdrawal of the R. N. A. S.

You intimate in your reply No. 16743 (*Dy. No. 54610*) of 17th May that a total establishment of but one squadron, consisting of a fighting flight and two reconnaissance flights with total of 20 pilots, can be provided.

Though, possibly, demands made for Euphrates line might be reduced by reason of recent developments, we would urge that General Officer Commanding, Force "D," be supplied in full with establishment asked for. Further, we consider that, in view of the probable large number of casualties during the coming hot season, it is essential that there be provided an adequate reserve of pilots.

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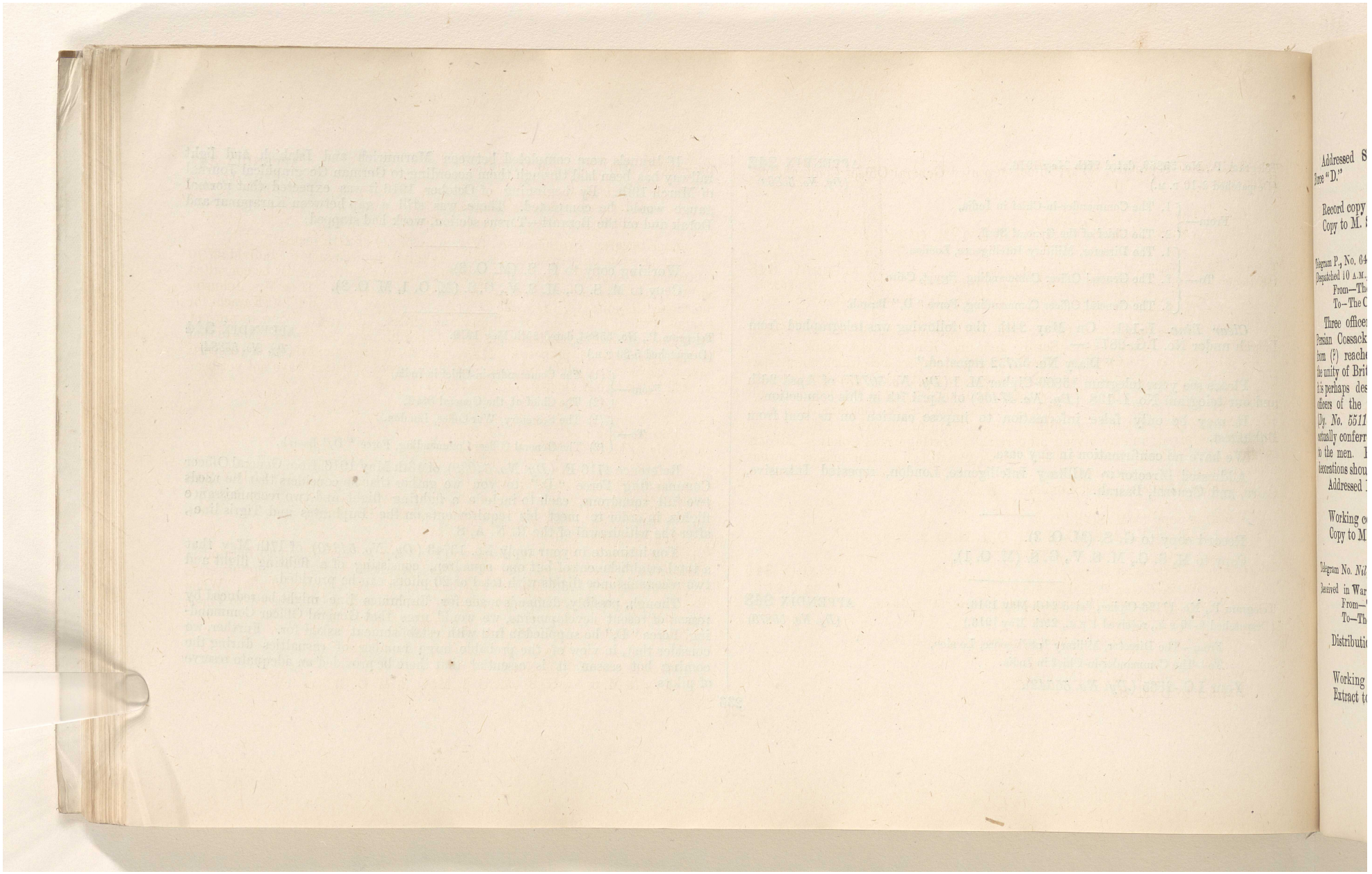

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Addressed Secretary, War Office, repeated General Officer Commanding, Force "D."

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

Telegram P., No. 640-67-M.S., dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **345**
(Despatched 10 A.M., received 2-55 P.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55885*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Three officers belonging to the Russian Cavalry patrol, *viz.*, one Sotnik Persian Cossack Brigade, one Sotnik and one Khorunji of Cossack Brigade from (?) reached Basrah. In view of political importance which emphasises the unity of British and Russian forces as well as identifying Persian interests it is perhaps desirable that the occasion should be marked by decorating all officers of the patrol instead of only one as reported in telegram No. 6 S.C., (*Dy. No. 55114*), dated May 20th, but which up to the present has not been actually conferred, and by giving proportion of Distinguished Conduct Medals to the men. Please reply "Clear line" giving full instructions as to what decorations should be conferred.

Addressed India repeated London.

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

Telegram No. *Nil*, dated 14th May 1916. APPENDIX **346**
Received in War Section on 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55891*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Distribution of troops for week commencing 14th May 1916.

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

Telegram No. 55911, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **347**
(Despatched 7 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 55911*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Your telegram No. 905-80-A. (*Dy. No. 55791*) of 24th instant.
At present only passport issued by civil is necessary for individual to proceed to Mesopotamia and no rule exists whereby military must be consulted as to issue of passport to area in military occupation. Thus Mrs. Johnson mentioned in your No. I.G.-2395 (*Dy. No. 46686*) of 2nd April left Karachi for Basrah without knowledge of military authorities. It is with view to prevent recurrence of similar incident that system of military passes in addition to that of civil passports is proposed. Many reports of losses and thefts of passports have been received, which indicate a traffic in them. Details have not yet been considered and your views are requested.

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

Telegram P., No. 640-68-M.S., dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **348**
(Despatched 10-30 A.M., received 4-50 P.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55913*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Your 54669 of 18th.
It is thought that the attachment of one of my officers to Baratoff in addition to Willams as you suggest would be advantageous. It is proposed to send Captain Ford, 105th Mahratta Light Infantry, who is now in India. When fit it is requested that he be sent to Basrah and then proceed to Persia from there.

Addressed India, repeated London.

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

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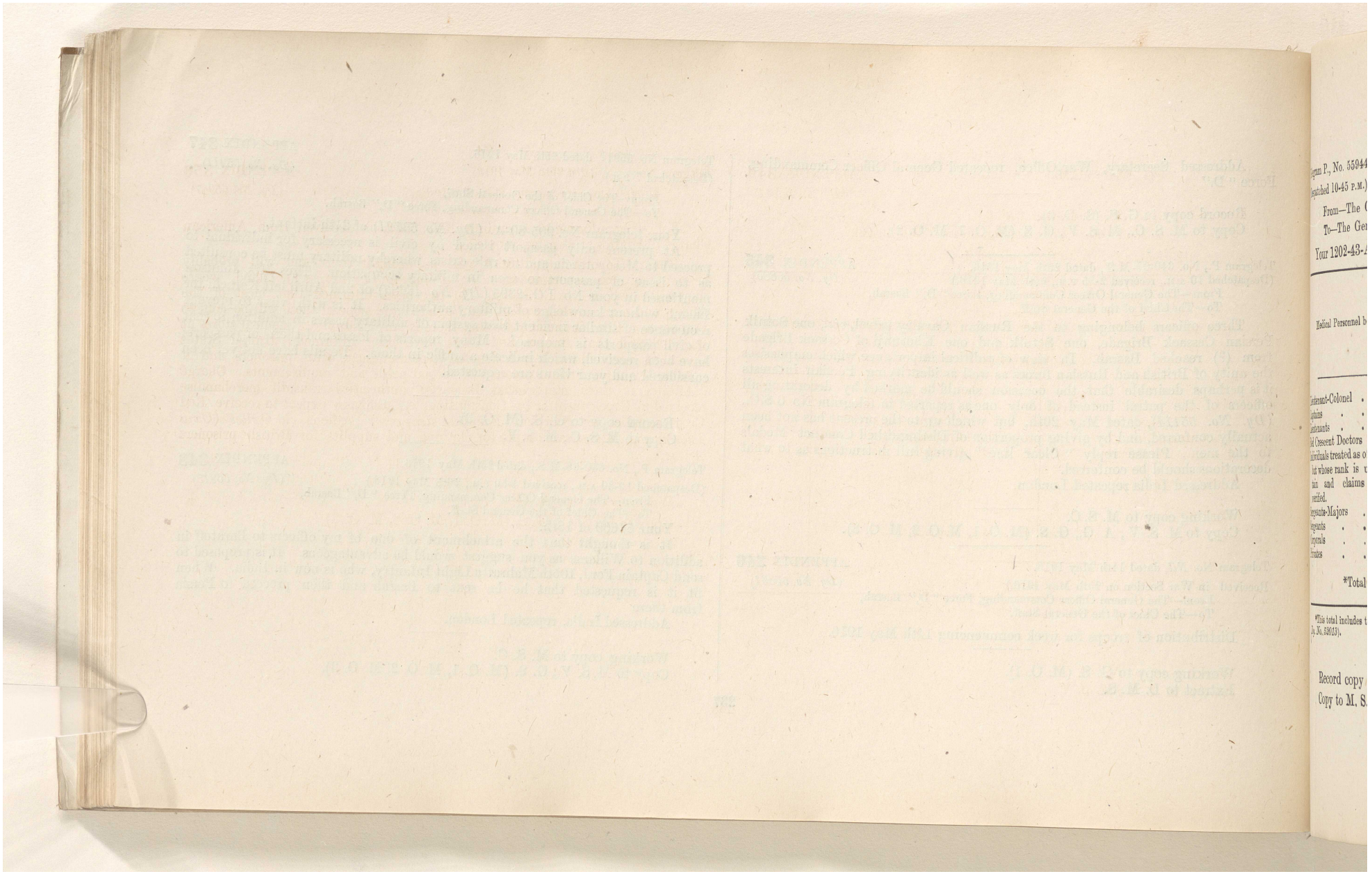

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Telegram P., No. 55944, dated 25th May 1916,
(Despatched 10-45 P.M.)

APPENDIX **349**
(*Dy. No. 55944*)

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

Your 1202-43-A. (*Dy. No. 53528*) dated 10th May.

Medical Personnel being returned.		Medical Personnel being retained for Medical treatment of Turkish prisoners.	Not desiring repatriation and being retained.	
			OFFICERS.	
Lieutenant-Colonel	1	...		
Captains	18	2		
Lieutenants	4	...	Arab Christian	1
Red Crescent Doctors	4	...	Armenians	7
Individuals treated as officers but whose rank is uncertain and claims not verified.	2	...	Greeks	2
			RANK AND FILE.	
Sergeants-Majors	2	1	Arab Christian	1
Sergeants	8	1	Jew	1
Corporals	29	4	Armenians	4
Privates	122	22		
*Total	190	30	Total	16

*This total includes those despatched to India recently, *vide* your telegram of 2nd instant, No. 1202-35-A, (*Dy. No. 52013*).

Record copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V.

Telegram No. , dated 25th May 1916.

APPENDIX **350**
(*Dy. No. 55967*)

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

Following information regarding Kut Garrison received from American Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople :—

General Townshend and Staff will be brought there and will probably be given suitable accommodation on *Prinkepo* (*Prinkipos* ?) Island, where they will be allowed full liberty. He has been informed that most of the officers and men are still at Kut and Baghdad and some of these will be sent to Damascus. Read Crescent state that there is ample supply of medical stores at Baghdad and that British Red Cross have been informed. United States Consul at Baghdad has been instructed to communicate with prisoners and if possible to supply full information of special needs and requirements. Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia states that Bulgarian authorities transmit merchandise received at Greek frontier for Constantinople. Embassy expect to receive Red Cross supplies on Scorpion (*Egyptian steamer* ?) Athens *viâ Oxiles* (*Oxia Isles* ?) and suggest same route for clothing and supplies for British prisoners of war.

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

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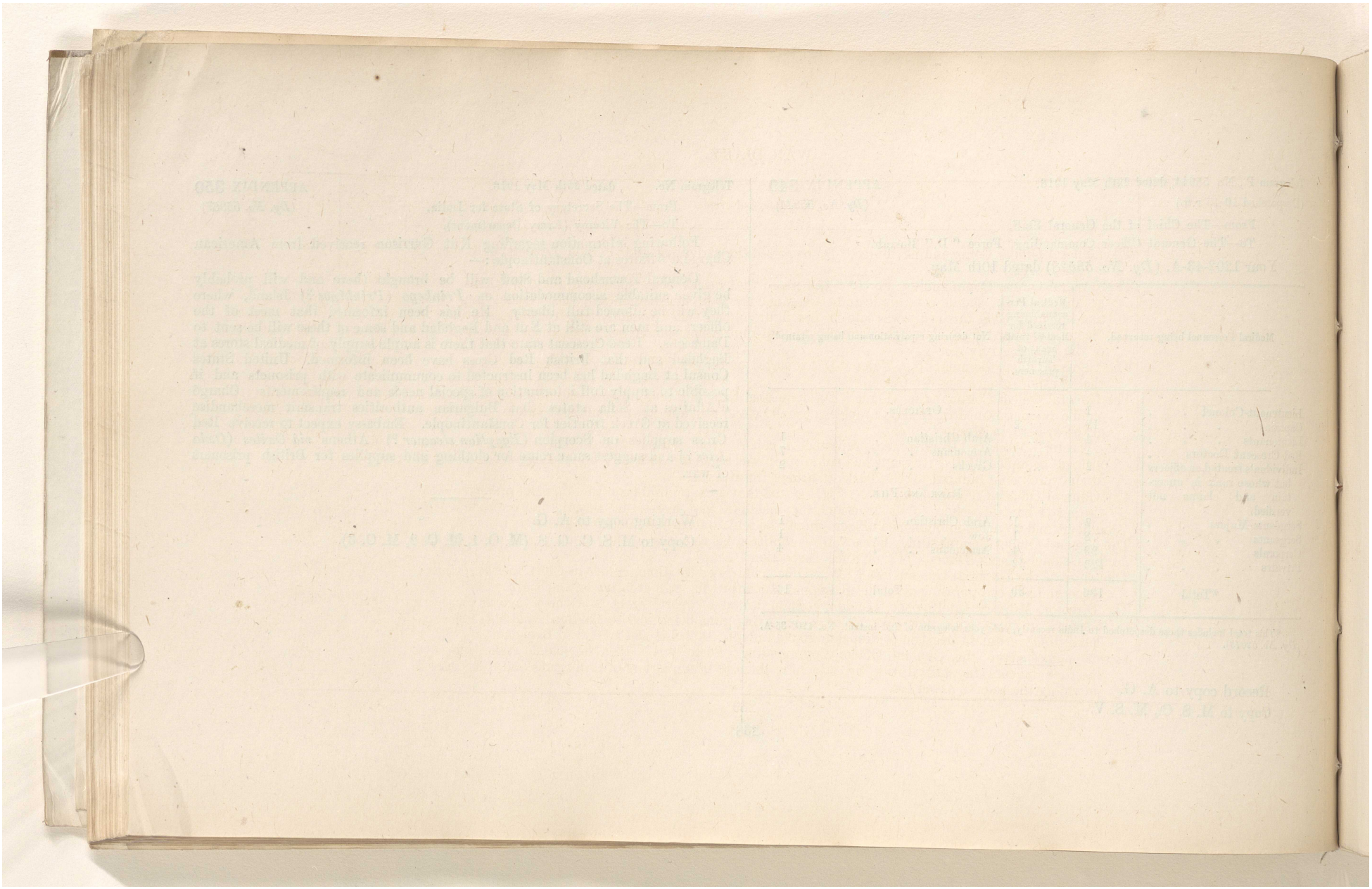

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Telegram P., No. 55945, dated 25th May 1916.

APPENDIX 350-A.

(Despatched 10-45 P.M.)

(*Dy. No. 55945.*)

From—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla,

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

Reply to my 55075 of May 20th enquiring if you can make available for Qurnah-Amarah railway, on Basrah tramway being converted to metre gauge, all your available 2 feet 6 inch gauge stock and 45 miles permanent way, urgently required.

Record copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., G. S. (M. O.-1), Railway Board.

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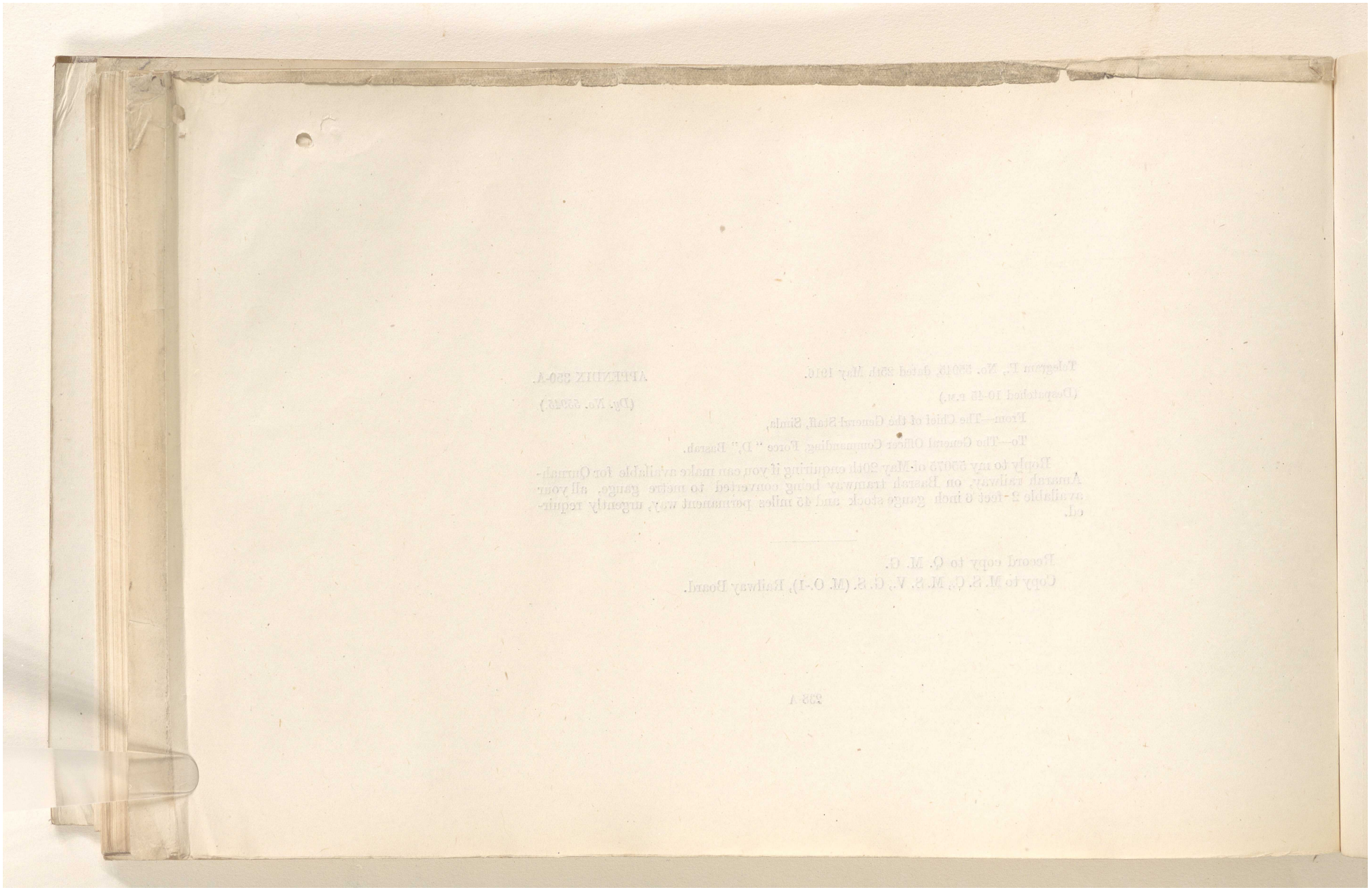

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
26-5-16	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the arrival of the Patiala Lancers and part of 2-10th Gurkhas.	55982	351
	The General Officer Commanding, Force, "D," stated that it had been suggested that Williams, Marsh and Force "D," should communicate between one another *viâ* Karachi and the Persian land lines, and he enquired if this route was safe for our figure cipher and reasonably free from interruption.	55984	352
	The Secretary, War Office, stated that offences of self-mutilation should be tried under section 31 (*h*) of the Indian Army Act.	55985	353
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported on Sir Victor Horsley's statement in regard to the transport of sick and wounded.	55990	354
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested that a larger reserve of military telegraphists should be maintained in India, to replace casualties and provide for possible extensions of the telegraph system in Mesopotamia.	56028	355
	The Director, Military Intelligence, repeated a report from Major Marsh that the Kurds in the villages occupied by the Russians had submitted, and that the Jaff tribe on the right bank of the Diala were being induced by the Turks to attack the Russians.	56041	356
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that as a preliminary measure he preferred establishing a central school of instruction for machine gun classes at Basrah, and requested that 2 officers and 6 non-commissioned officers should be sent to form the nucleus of the school.	56046	357
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," submitted his remarks on the confidential report rendered by Colonel Young, Director of Ordnance Inspection.	56052	358
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, War Office, addressed the Commander-in-Chief, with regard to General Lake co-operating with the Russians, and improving our situation on the Tigris.	56063	359
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, communicated a report from a Geneva agent regarding German gunners with new system of quick-firing guns being sent to Baghdad, and also regarding Turkish Government decision to despatch 20,000 men to Diabekir and 10,000 to Baghdad.	56075	360
	It was suggested to the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," that he should take action to instruct officers in staff duties by attaching them to headquarters of formations and thus assist in providing the reserve asked for.	56079	361

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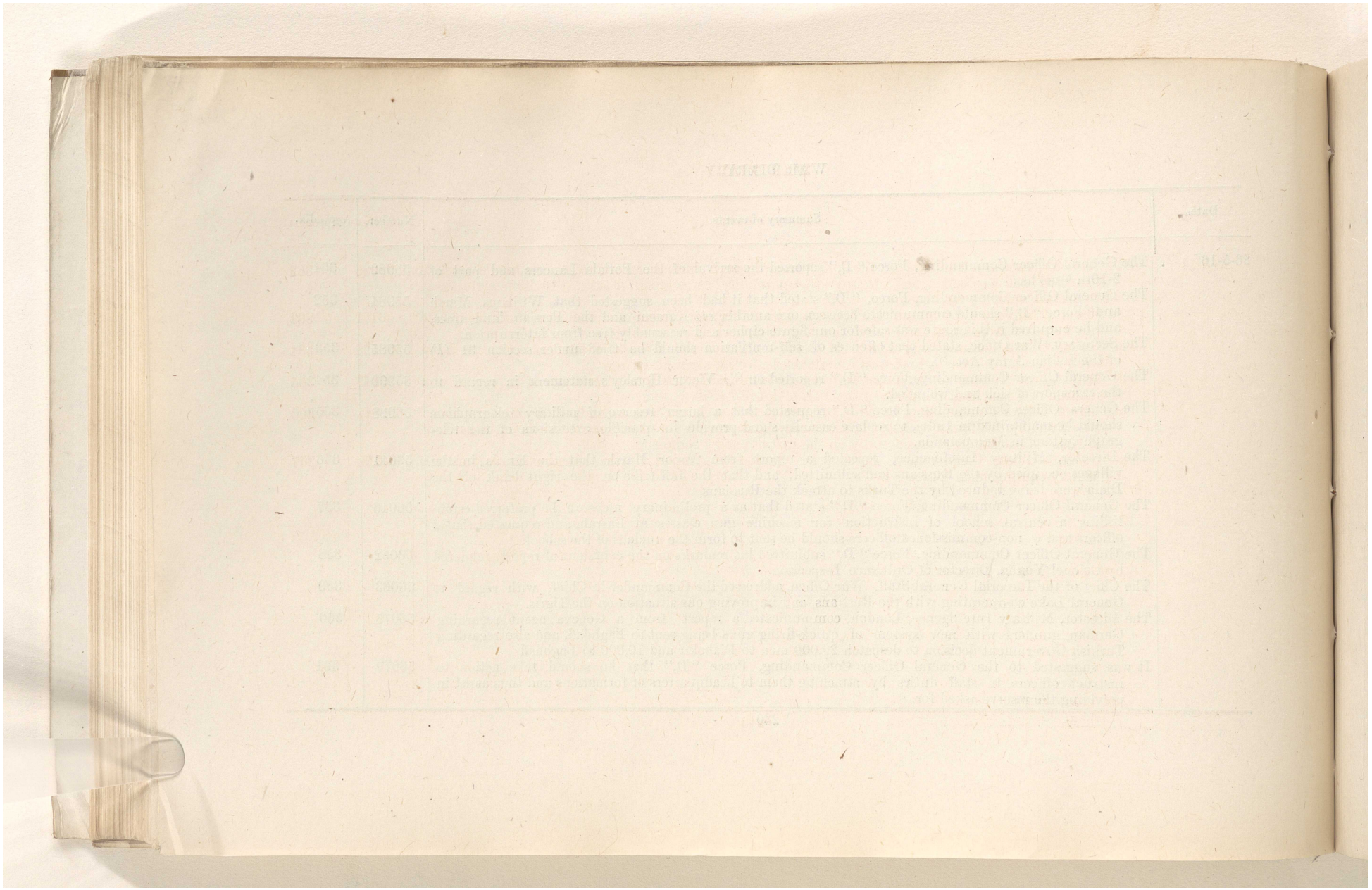

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
26-5-16	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, communicated various reports regarding the despatch of Austrians to Mesopotamia, and admitted the possibility of a weak Austrian Division arriving in Mesopotamia during next month.	56096	362
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, was told that, under present circumstances, the Persian land lines were free from sustained interruption and reasonably safe.	56101	363
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was informed that General Walter and Captain Rind were proceeding to Basrah to discuss questions of effective strength returns.	56128	364
	The Minister at Tehran reported that he had been informed by the Russian Minister of the arrival of a squadron of Cossacks at the camp of the Vali of Pusht-i-Kuh.	56142	365
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that there was an indication of a continued withdrawal by the Turks, and that hostile Arab encampments were being moved to the right bank of the Hai. Also that there was activity on the part of enemy aeroplanes.	56143	366
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," furnished a report of the situation as regards the Artillery equipment of Force "D."	56199	367

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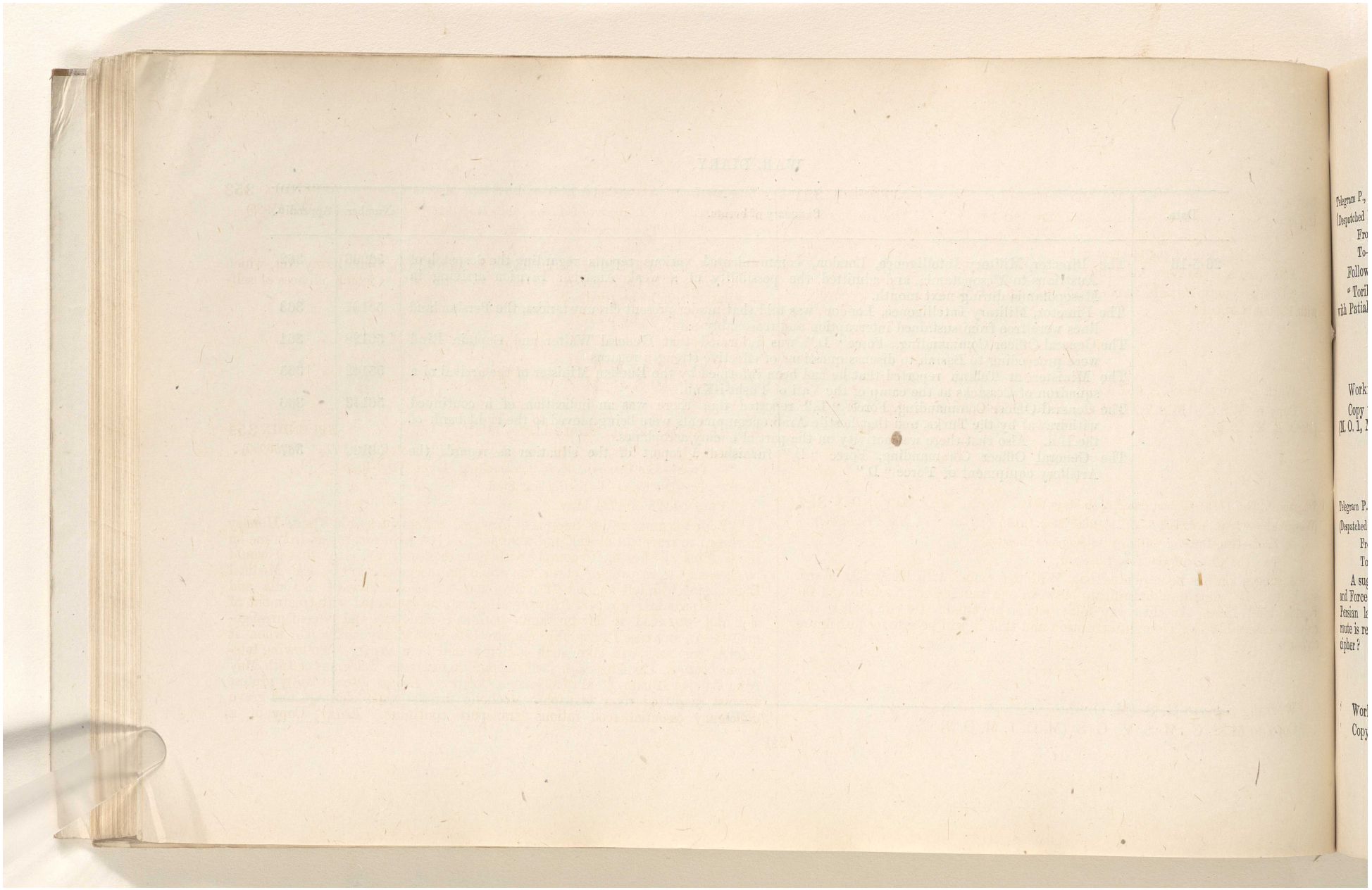

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Telegram P., No. 69-92-E. C., dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **351**
(Despatched 1-15 P.M., received 4-20 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55982*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Following arrived here 24th instant :—

"Torilla" with Patiala Lancers and part of 2-10th Gurkhas "Umbala" with Patiala Lancers.

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

Telegram P., No. 17161-Cipher, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **352**
(Despatched 6-30 P.M., received 3-30 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55984*)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

A suggestion has been made that Williams (now with Baratoff), Marsh and Force "D" should communicate between one another *viâ* Karachi and the Persian land lines. In this way delay will be obviated. Do you think this route is reasonably free from interruption and that it will be safe for our figure cipher ?

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

Telegram P., No. 17144-Cipher A. G.-2, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **353**
(Despatched 1-50 P.M., received 0-45 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55985*)
From—The Secretary, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Your 52 (3 ?) 270 of 10th May. Section 31 (*h*), India Army Act, which corresponds to 18 (2) Army Act is the only section under which offences of self-mutilation should be tried.

More follows by post.

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

Telegram No. 1438-28 (Q.), dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **354**
(Despatched 11 A.M., 25th May 1916, received 0-45 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 55990*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Your 54428 of 17th May.

Your telegram under reference forwards statement by Sir Victor Horsley in regard to transport of sick and wounded and you require a report from me on the (matter ?). For me to comply with your request would mean that it would be necessary to reopen and cover the whole ground gone over by the Medical Commission who left here on 15th May and who should now be in India and who will presumably report fully on all questions connected with treatment of sick and wounded in Mesopotamia both as regards past and present arrangements. In any case I naturally enquire into facts of any such report when it reaches me and will take such action as may be necessary. Following telegrams between Horsley and myself explain themselves. Telegram of 15th May from Colonel Horsley to Major General Cowper. *Begins.* Respectfully protest against remitting river transport alcoholic drinks when shortage and grave deficiency essential food rations transport continues. *Ends.* Copy of a

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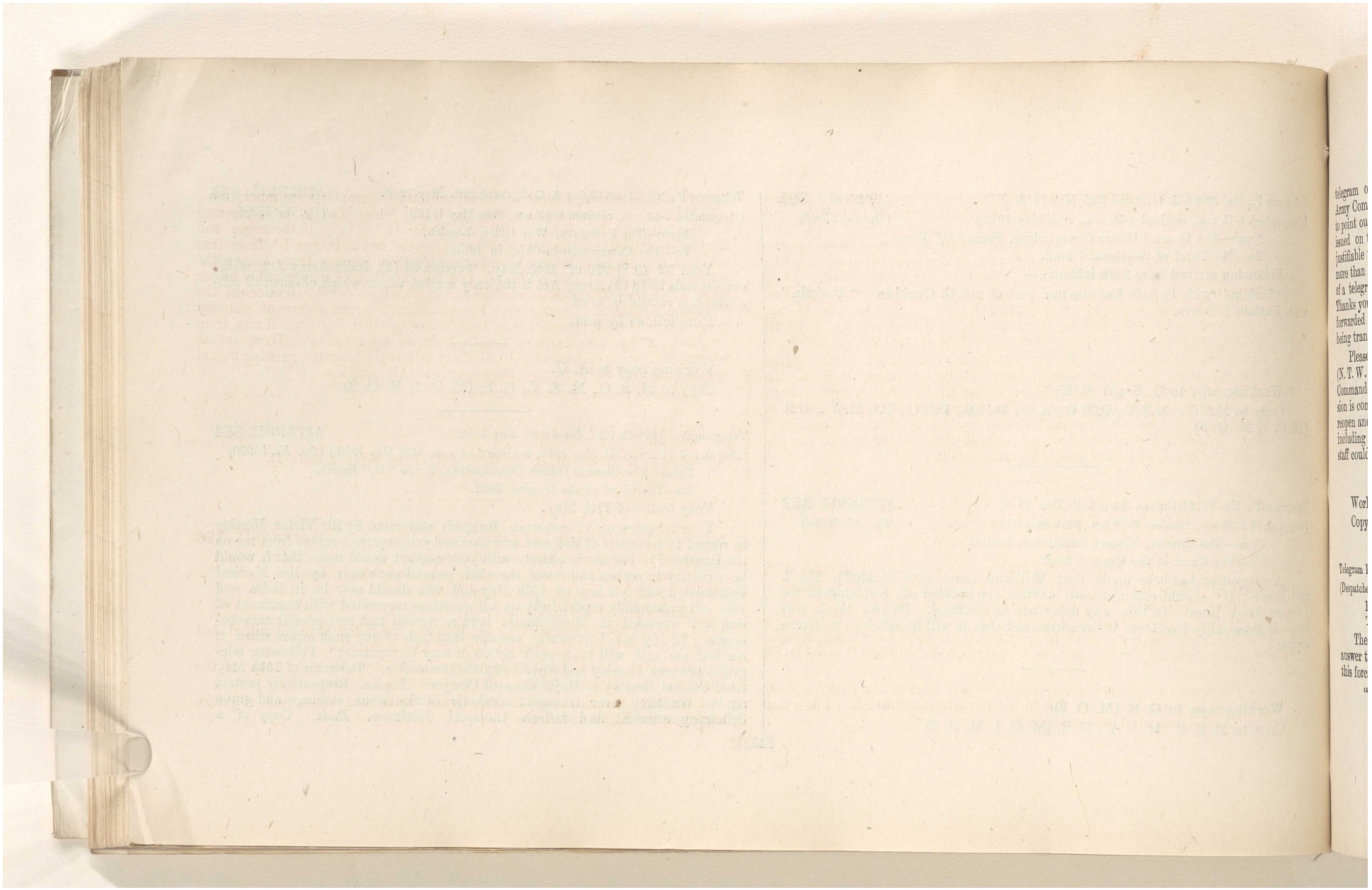

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telegram of 16th May from General Cowper to Colonel Horsley. *Begins.* Army Commander asks me to thank you for your telegram of 15th May, and to point out that rum is an authorised ration for troops in the field. It is only issued on the advice of medical authorities. This being so it would not be justifiable to withhold necessary amount of rum rations from being sent up any more than any other form of ration such as flour, tinned meat *Ends.* Copy of a telegram from Colonel Horsley to General Cowper 17th May. *Begins.* Thanks your 83. Referring to my telegram of 15th. Ample supplies of rum forwarded must point out that my telegram included beer, whisky, wines all being transported. Rum not same character as flour or meat ration. *Ends.*

Please see instructions *vide* No. 121-Med.-71-A. M. D., 15th March (N. T. W. S.) from Director-General, Army Medical Services, to H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, from which it appears that Sir Victor Horsley's supervision is confined to surgical work alone. If as seems evident Horsley desires to reopen and go over again whole ground already covered by Medical Commission including Temperance Crusade I would submit that neither myself nor my staff could find the time to undertake a second enquiry.

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

Telegram P., No. G. K. 65-51, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **355**
(Despatched 4-10 P.M., received 9-55 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56028*)

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

The following has been received from the D. G. Posts and Telegraphs, in answer to my demand for 20 additional telegraphists, military if possible, for this force :—

"For several reasons it is not advisable to spare more military telegraphists as there are very few in the Department now left. I am thus sending civil telegraphists."

To a large extent, I must point out, military telegraphists are much more suitable than civil telegraphists for the work, which has to be performed by the Telegraph Department with this Force It is only in the larger and stationary offices that the latter can be employed and moreover I believe that selection is confined to those who volunteer for Field Service from among the civil telegraphists. If this is the case, this source of supply may possibly be cut off at any time. To replace casualties and provide for possible extensions of the Telegraph System in this country, I request that a larger reserve of military telegraphists may be maintained in India either by obtaining trained men from England, or by training more men in India as telegraphists. There are at present 82 Civil operators and 101 Military telegraphists on the existing Signal Establishment of the Telegraph Department in this country.

Addressed Simla; repeated London.

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

Telegram P., No. 17179-Cipher, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **356**
(Despatched 9-5 P.M., received 11-10 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56041*)

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

Marsh has sent the following :—

In those villages occupied by the Russians the Kurds have submitted but others continue to raid the Russian Lines of Communication.

According to an agent's report the Jaff tribe on the right bank of the Diala are being induced by the Turks to attack the Russians.

We have communicated to the Grand Duke our views and enquiries regarding the Kurds and Arabs.

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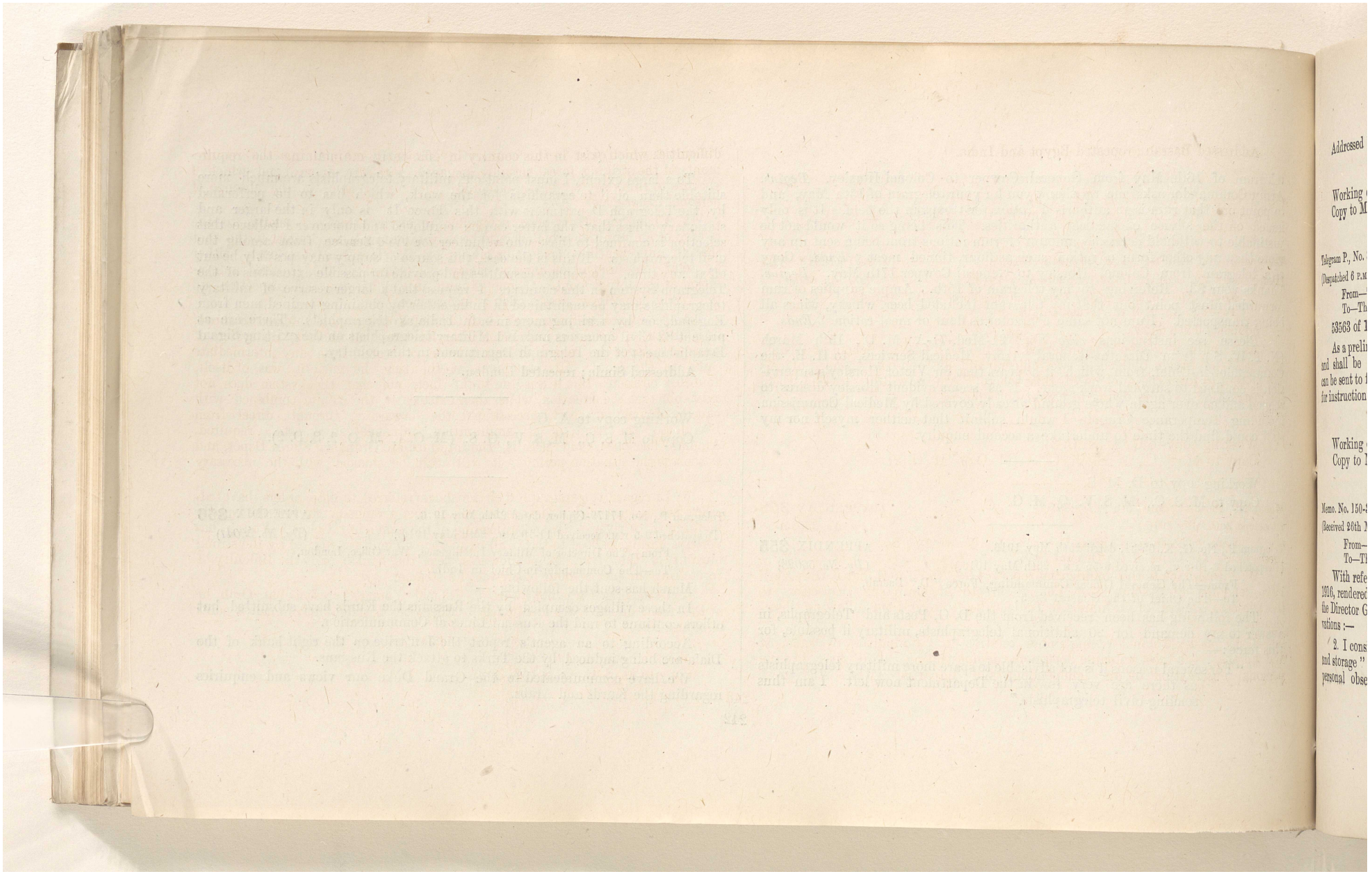

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Addressed Basrah ; repeated Egypt and India.

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

Telegram P., No. 345-51-O., dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **357**
(Despatched 6 P.M., received 10-30 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56046*)

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

53563 of 12th May.

As a preliminary step it is preferred to establish a Central School at Basrah, and shall be much obliged if two officers and six non-commissoned officers can be sent to form the nucleus of this school. Am unwilling to send them for instruction to India owing to paucity of officers.

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

Memo. No. 150-3-Q., dated 5th May 1916. APPENDIX **358**.
(Received 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56052*)

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

With reference to the confidential report (*Dy. No. 57304*), dated 26th April 1916, rendered by Colonel H. A. Young, Director of Ordnance Inspection, to the Director General of Ordnance in India, I beg to record the following observations :—

2. I consider Colonel Young's note relative to "difficulties of transport and storage" is a most valuable document, demonstrating, as it does, by the personal observation of an independent and impartial witness, the great difficulties which exist in this country in efficientiy maintaining the requirements of the striking force actually engaged with the enemy and which I venture to think are not always accorded their full value, in the absence of personal experience.

3. I have repeatedly been compelled to invite attention, relative to the reserve of ammunition which should be maintained in Mesopotamia, to the fact that an unpreventible accident or mishap on the Tigris may seriously, either by total loss or partial damage, delay the arrival of the required ammunition at the actual front. Colonel Young, during his tour of inspection up the Tigris, actually witnessed such an occurrence.

4. In regard to paragraph 10 of Colonel Young's note referred to above, he is under an erroneous impression when he states that there is no system of transport stages in regard to transmission of stores from any intermediate camp to the front. His statement, at the time he made it, was, of itself, doubtless correct. But it was due to the fact, not that the system does not exist, but that the situation, which then existed at the front, combined with paucity of river transport, necessitated the forwarding through, direct from Basrah to the front, of all ammunition, ordnance stores, etc., required. Amarah has been, and still is, the intermediate Ordnance Stores Depôt, and as soon as the situation permits, it will again be stocked with the necessary reserves.

5. In regard to paragraph 6 of the above referred to note, orders have already been issued with a view to improving the arrangements for the speedy banking in of river craft, and unloading of the same, but Colonel Young has perhaps hardly realised to their full extent the difficulties entailed by the strong current of the river, its shallowness near the banks, and the difficulty of foretelling the precise hour of arrival of a steamer.

6. I am sorry I was not aware of Colonel Young's presence at Orah or at the front on the dates mentioned. Otherwise, I should have made a point of seeing him.

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

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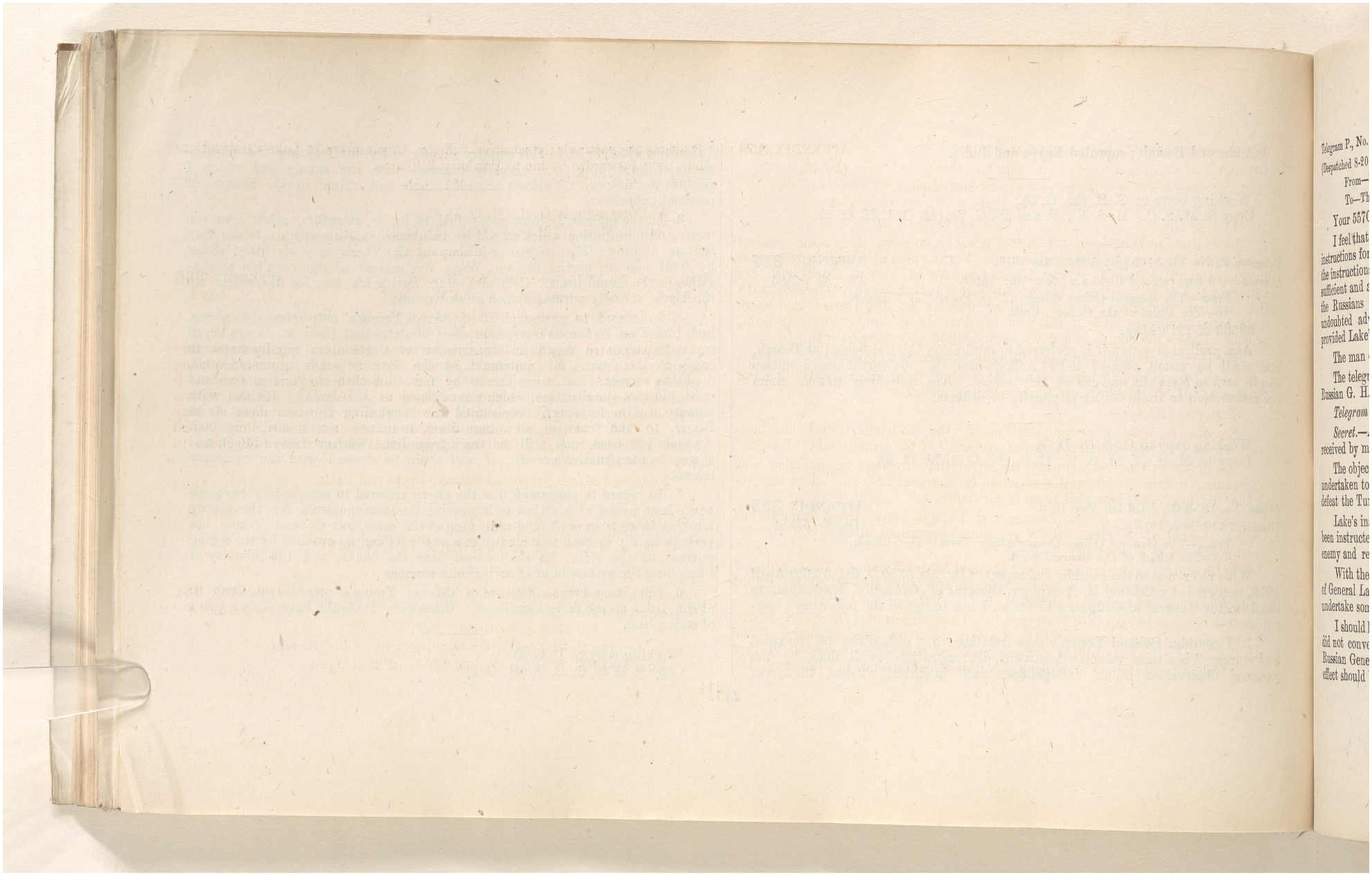

Telegram P., No.
(Despatched 8-20
From—
To—Th
Your 557C
I feel that
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Telegram P., No. 17170-Cipher, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **359**
(Despatched 8-20 P.M., received 11-15 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56063*)
From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Your 55709.

I feel that, at this distance, I cannot possibly do more than issue general instructions for your and Lake's guidance. For the present situation I consider the instructions contained in my 15955 (*Dy. No. 51399*) of April 30th are sufficient and as full as I can appropriately make them. To co-operate with the Russians and improve our military position on the Tigris would be an undoubted advantage and if this can be done Lake should certainly do it, provided Lake's mission as laid down in my 15955 is conformed with.

The man on the spot can alone form an opinion as to this.

The telegram quoted below, dated May 22nd, from Hanbury Williams at Russian G. H. Q. is relative to the question in point:—

Telegram Begins.—

Secret.—A written communication to the following effect has been received by me from General Alexeieff on behalf of the Grand Duke Nicolas.

The object of General Baratoff's action in the direction of Baghdad was undertaken to create a favourable situation for General Lake and allow him to defeat the Turkish forces with Russian assistance.

Lake's inability to co-operate is regretted and in consequence Baratoff has been instructed by the Grand Duke to suspend operations in face of a superior enemy and retire if necessary.

With the above mentioned object General Alexeieff requests to be informed of General Lake's instructions and intentions and trusts that the latter might undertake some strong line of action.

I should like to respectfully suggest that Lake's telegram (*Dy. No. S.-53310*) did not convey the impression to the Russians that the unselfish desire of the Russian General to help him was appreciated and that some expression to that effect should be contained in the reply to this telegram since in this respect the Russians are particularly sensitive. *Ends.* A summary of Lake's instructions has been forwarded by me to Hanbury Williams.

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

Telegram P., No. 17176-Cipher, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **360**
(Despatched 9 P.M., received 11-50 A.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56075*)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Report dated May 11th from Geneva agent of doubtful quality states that according to Turkish Diplomatic Service (?) from Berlin, gunners are being sent by Germany to Irak with new system of quick-firing guns and ammunition, also motors to stop advance of Russians on Baghdad. He also reports that according to Turkish Diplomatic Service (?) from Constantinople on May 16th Turkish Government has decided to despatch immediately 20,000 men to Diarbekir, and 10,000 men from Jemal Pasha's Army to Baghdad to stop Russian offensive.

Addressed Marsh; repeated Basrah, Egypt and India.

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

Telegram P., No. 56079, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **361**
(Despatched 4-30 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56079*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Your 76-17-M. S. (*Dy. No. 53352*) dated 28th April,

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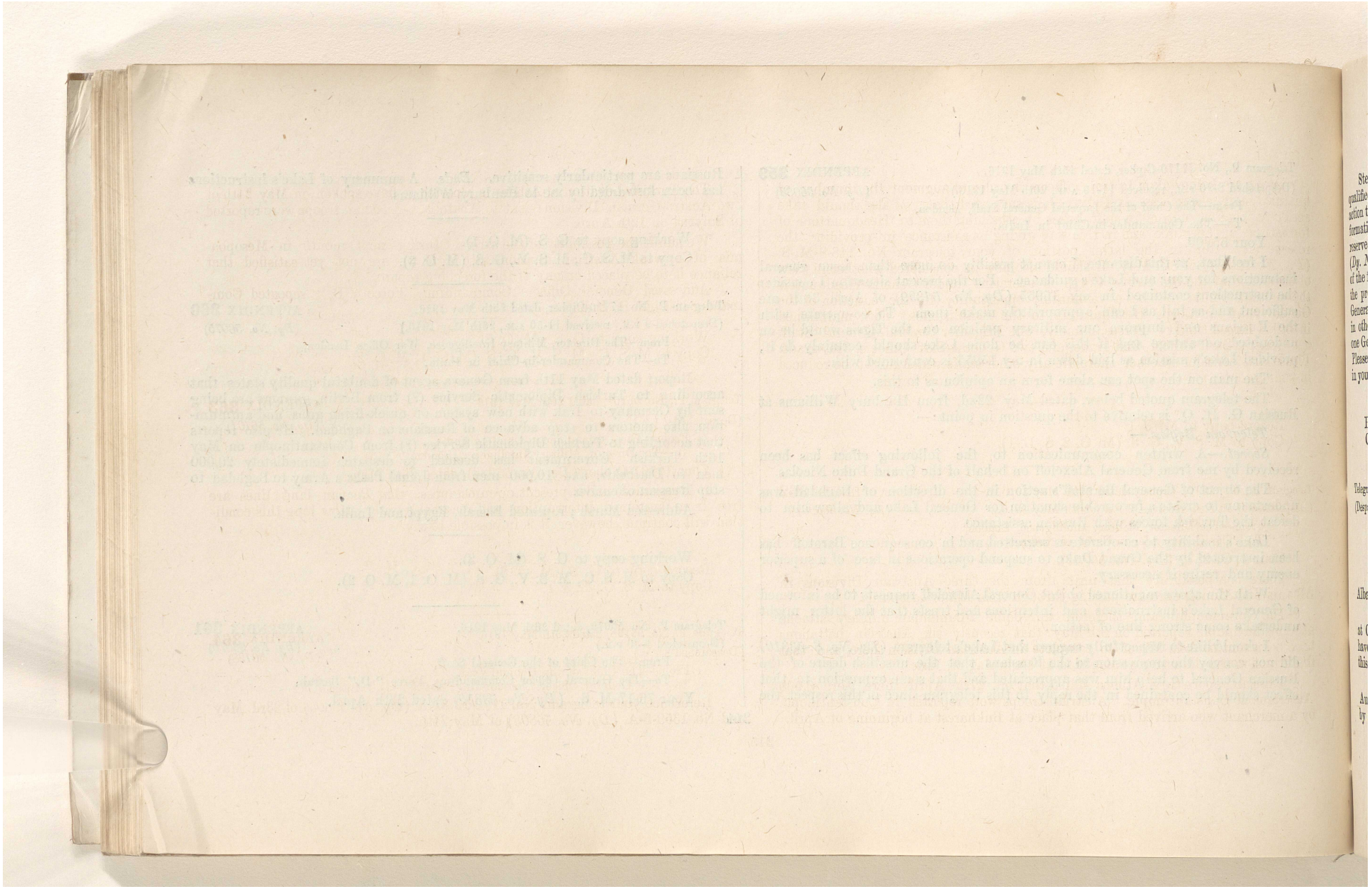

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Steps are being taken to train officers in order to augment the number of qualified staff officers now in India. It is suggested that you also should take action to instruct officers in staff duties by attaching them to Headquarters of formations in the Force and in this way giving us assistance in providing the reserve asked for in the latter portion of your telegram No. 148-8-M.-S. (*Dy. No. 53204*) of 8th May. It should also now be considered whether in view of the fact that the 3rd Army Corps is operating under General Headquaters the present would not be a favourable opportunity for the reduction of the General Staff at Corps Headquarters to the establishment now maintained in other Expeditionary Forces, namely, one Brigadier General, General Staff, one General Staff Officer, 2nd grade, and two General Staff Officers, 3rd grade. Please also consider whether there are any other staffs which might be reduced in your force.

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

Telegram P., No. 17178-Cipher, dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **362**
(Despatched 8-55 P.M., received 2 P.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56096*)

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

Your I. G.-2817 (*Dy. No. 55752*).

There is a possibility that units from the three Austrian Divisions in Albania and Montenegro are passing through Asia Minor eastwards.

The Germanophile and therefore unreliable Roumanian military attaché at Constantinople reported on 8th May that recently six Austrian battalions have been sent to Asia Minor to complete an Austrian Division there, and that this Division should arrive at Baghdad at beginning of June.

Russian report from Athens stated that on 27th April there were 6,000 Austrians at Constantinople. Austrian troops were reported in Constantinople by a merchant who arrived from that place at Bukharest at beginning of April.

The Turkish Legation at Athens is reported to have spoken on May 24th of two Austro-German Divisions sent to Anatolia. Austrian troops were reported at Smyrna on 12th April.

We admit the possibility of the arrival during next month in Mesopotamia of a weak Austrian division, although we are not yet satisfied that reliance is to be placed on any of the foregoing reports.

Addressed General Officer Commanding, Force "D," repeated Commander-in-Chief in India.

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

Telegram P., No. 56101, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **363**
(Despatched 7 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56101*)

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

Your 17161-Cipher (*Dy. No. 55984*), dated 25th May.

It is regarded, under present circumstances, that Persian land lines are free from sustained interruption and reasonably safe. How long this condition will continue, however, it is impossible to say.

Record copy to G. S. (M. O. 3).
Copy to M. S. C., F. & P.

Telegram P., No. 56128, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **364**
(Despatched 8 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56128*)

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

Reference your telegrams No. 1172-12-31-A. (*Dy. No. 55605*) of 23rd May and No. 1359-6-A. (*Dy. No. 55803*) of May 24th.

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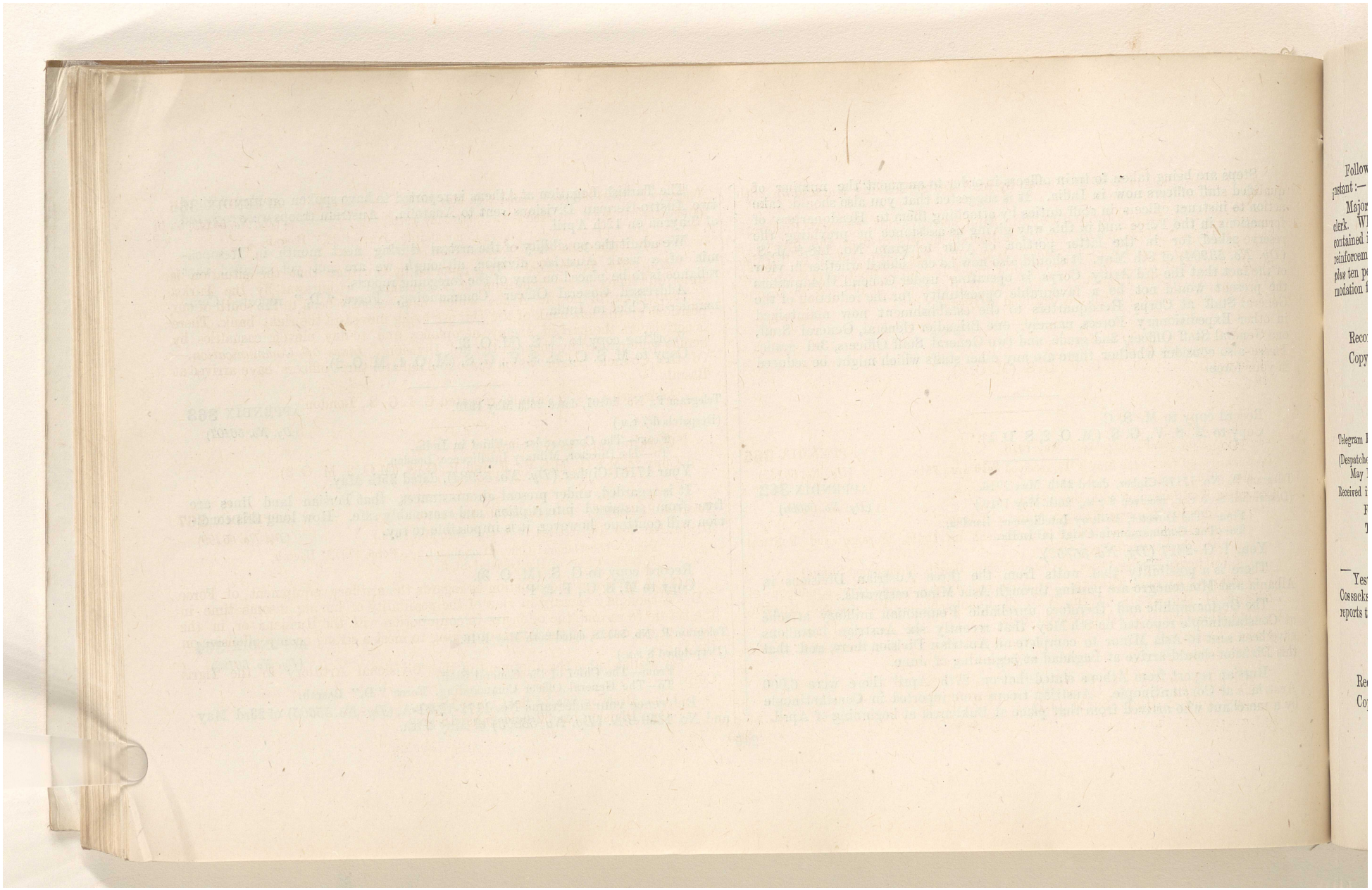

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Following will proceed to Basrah by mail steamer leaving Karachi on 28th instant :—

Major-General Walter and Captain Rind accompanied by one European clerk. When General Walter arrives at Basrah, he will discuss the questions contained in above quoted telegrams. War Office has been asked to furnish reinforcements to bring British units in Force "D" up to field service strength *plus* ten per cent. on June 30th. General Walter would be obliged if accommodation for his party could be arranged at Basrah.

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

Telegram P., No. 356-F., dated 24th May 1916. APPENDIX **365**
(Despatched 5-40 P.M., 24th May 1916, received 3-10 A.M., 25th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56142*)
Received in War Section on 26th May 1916.)
From—His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Tehran,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.
(Addressed Foreign Office ; repeated Bushire, Basrah, Meshed and Sistan.)

Yesterday Russian Minister informed me of the arrival of a squadron of Cossacks at the Camp of the Vali of Pusht-i-Kuh. Vice-Consul, Kazvin, reports to-day that they have joined forces.

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

Telegram P., No. 129-444-O., dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **366**
(Despatched 10-5 P.M., received 7 P.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56143*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

May 25th, Tigris Line.—It is reported by Gorringe that the situation is quiet but there is an indication of a continued withdrawal by the Turks. Encampments of hostile Arabs which have recently been to the south of our positions on the left bank of the Hai are being moved to the right bank. There is activity on the part of enemy aeroplanes and to-day eleven casualties by bombs were caused by them in the 3rd Division. *Lines of Communication.*—Of the Cossack patrol which came to Aligharbi three officers have arrived at Basrah.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 1037-25-O., dated 25th May 1916. APPENDIX **367**
(Despatched 10-5 A.M., received 10-30 P.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56199*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

(1) A review of the situation as regards the artillery equipment of Force "D" is thought necessary in view of the possibility of having at some time in the future to resume the offensive in conjunction with the Russians or in the event of the defeat of the latter, of having to meet a strong enemy offensive on the Tigris.

(2) Following is the allotment of the Divisional Artillery in the Tigris Corps :—

One Division has 34 field guns, 18-prs.
One Division has 32 field guns, 18-prs.

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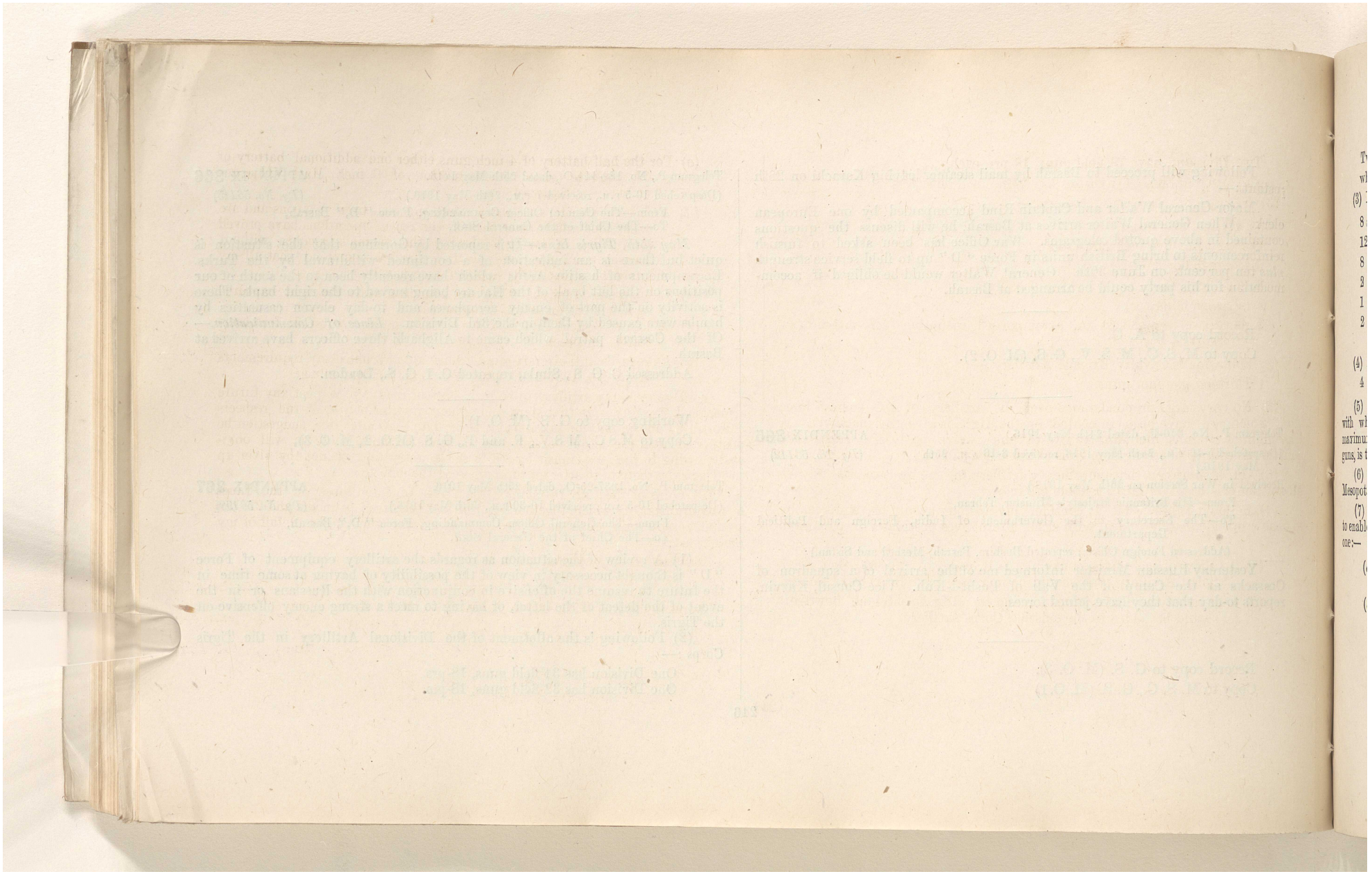

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Two Divisions have 18 field guns, 18 prs. each,
while each of these 4 divisions has 4 fine inch howitzers.

(3) Following is the Corps Artillery :—

8 sixty-pounder guns,
12 four point five inch howitzers,
8 five inch howitzers,
2 four inch guns.
1 (six inch howitzer) ?
2 naval twelve pounders on extemporised mountings for anti-aircraft work.

(4) Following is Cavalry Brigade Artillery :—

4 Thirteen pounder guns.

(5) No very large preponderance over the artillery of the enemy force with which we have been in contact on the Tigris is given by the above. A maximum of 80 guns, including 15 twelve and twelve point five centimetre guns, is the estimated strength in guns of this enemy force.

(6) Our assumption that more heavy artillery for enemy is on its way to Mesopotamia is based on fairly reliable grounds.

(7) Following are what I consider my artillery should be reinforced by to enable me adequately to deal with either alternatives postulated in paragraph one :—

(*a*) To allow of each division having 2 Brigades of 18-prs. each, Divisional Artillery total should be increased by 2 Brigades of same.

(*b*) One battery of 8 inch howitzers and one Brigade of 6 inch howitzers should be added to the existing Corps Artillery.

(*c*) For the half battery of 4 inch guns either one additional battery of 60 pounder guns or one section of 6 inch Mark VII guns should be substituted.

(*d*) As 5 inch howitzers are short range and inaccurate weapons and are unshielded and further because the recent operations have proved the futility of trying to destroy the enemy's trenches without accurate and adequate howitzer fire I recommend that all my 5 inch be replaced by 4 point 5 inch howitzers.

(*e*) To compensate for the 2 thirteen pounders destroyed and captured in Kut 2 others should be supplied.

(*f*) 36 jointed 30 feet ladders, 1 per battery, are also required for observation purposes.

(*g*) As regards anti-aircraft guns, I have already stated my requirements in my No. 1037-21-O. (*Dy. No. 55356*) of May 22nd.

(8) To enable my artillery to be in a state of readiness to meet any future situation I strongly urge that steps to augment my gun power, in the respects enumerated above, may be taken at an early date. Should this suggestion be postponed until the actual necessity for the same becomes acute it will obviously, owing to the long transit by sea to this country and thence by river up the Tigris, be too late to attempt to make good the defect.

(9) Guns of the 15th Division on the Tigris Line and those on the Lines of Communication, which together amount to 12 eighteen pounders and 22 ten pounder mountain guns, have been omitted from the above detail of my mobile artillery.

Addressed India, repeated London.

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

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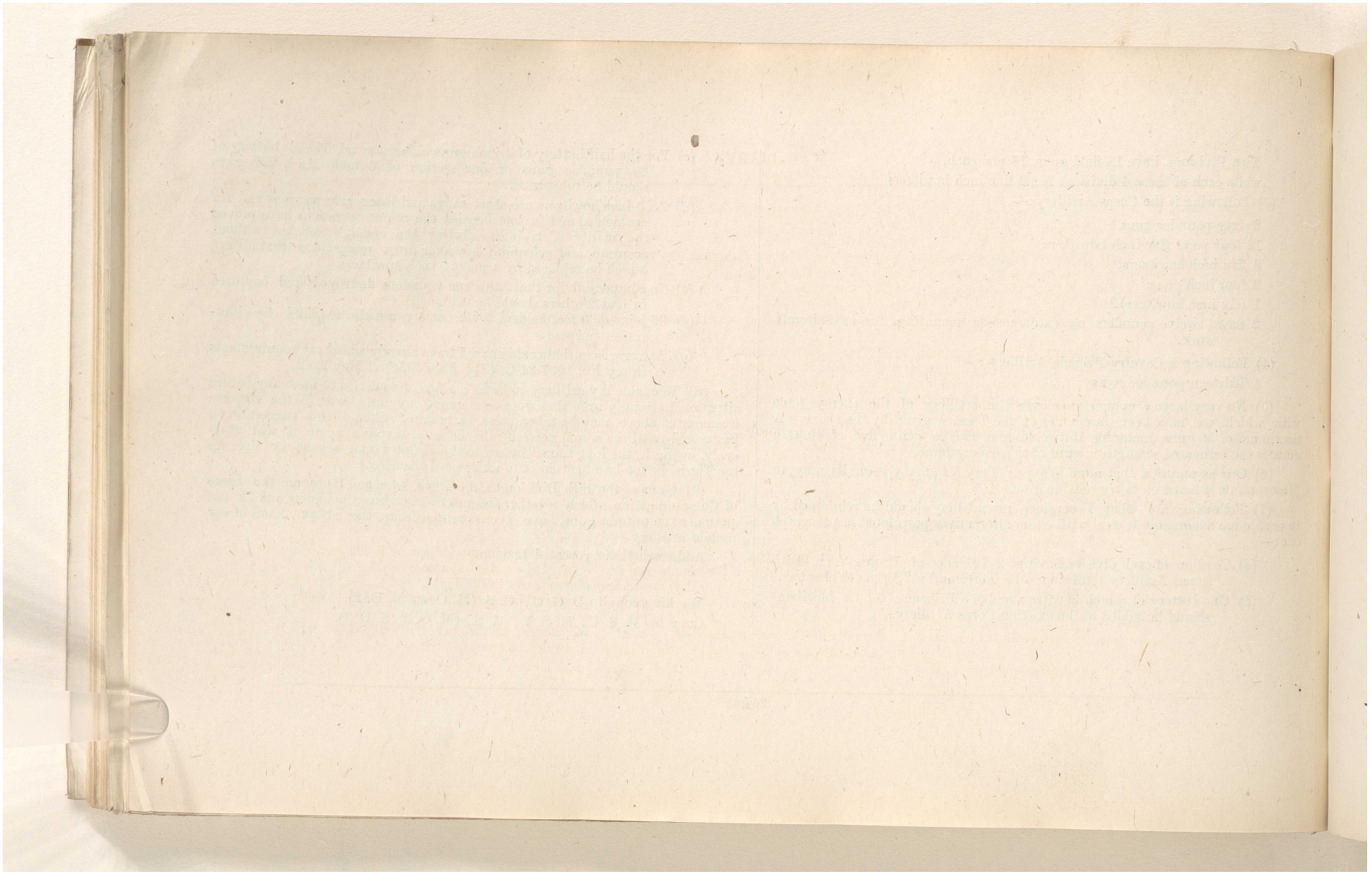

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
27-5-16	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," gave details of the last batch of Trans-frontier Pathans despatched to Bombay under command of Captain Simpson.	56213	368
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated a report from Major Marsh on the movements of Turkish troops.	56214	369
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the arrival of 2-10th Gurkhas and 105th Field Ambulance.	56215	370
	The General Officer Commanding, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, stated that he had no confirmation of the news from Bukharest regarding Austrian troops sent to Baghdad. He also stated what was known of other reported movements of enemy troops.	56218	371
	Revised proposals for the organization of the Remount Service were received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D."	56246	372
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," enquired whether any valuable intelligence had, so far, been obtained from letters received by prisoners of war in India from their homes.	56249	373
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was addressed with regard to the rearmament of two batteries, each with four Q. F. 4·5″ howitzers.	56268	374
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, repeated a report from Major Marsh relative to the punitive measures resorted to by the Russians to protect small post garrisons from treachery of the Kurds.	56273	375
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," forwarded, with his remarks, a report by the Officer Commanding, No. 2 Bridging Train, on the pontoons recently received from India.	56288	376
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff was told that a request was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," for two additional Pioneer Battalions, and he was asked if the 23rd Pioneers could be spared from Egypt, the other corps being provided by the Indian Porter Corps from Egypt.	56293	377
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was requested to despatch 6 Peerless lorries, which were urgently required for use in India.	56312	378
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported that they continued to harass the enemy by machine gun and artillery fire, and that an enemy æroplane, which attacked two of our reconnoitring machines, was beaten off.	56327	379

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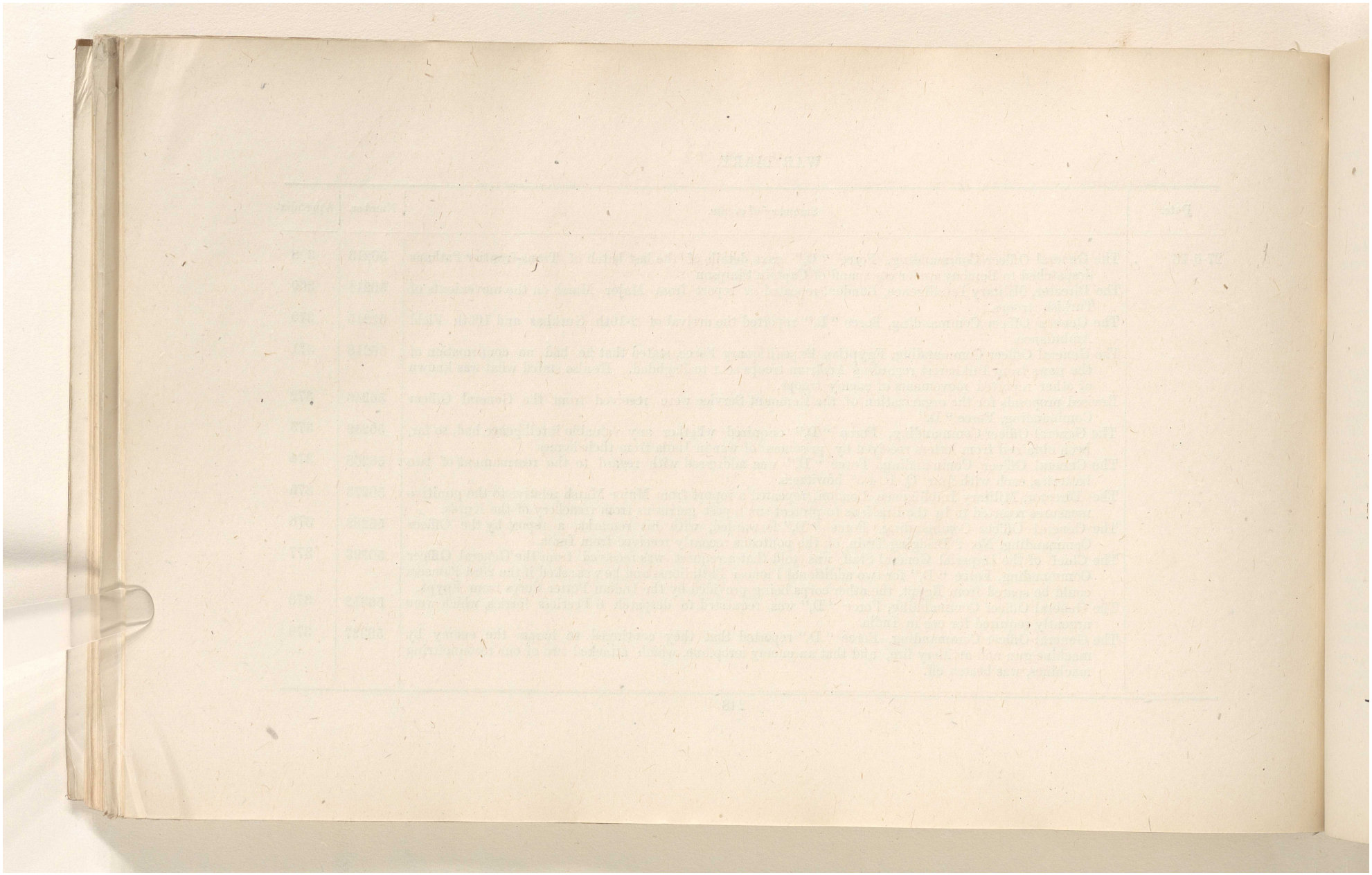

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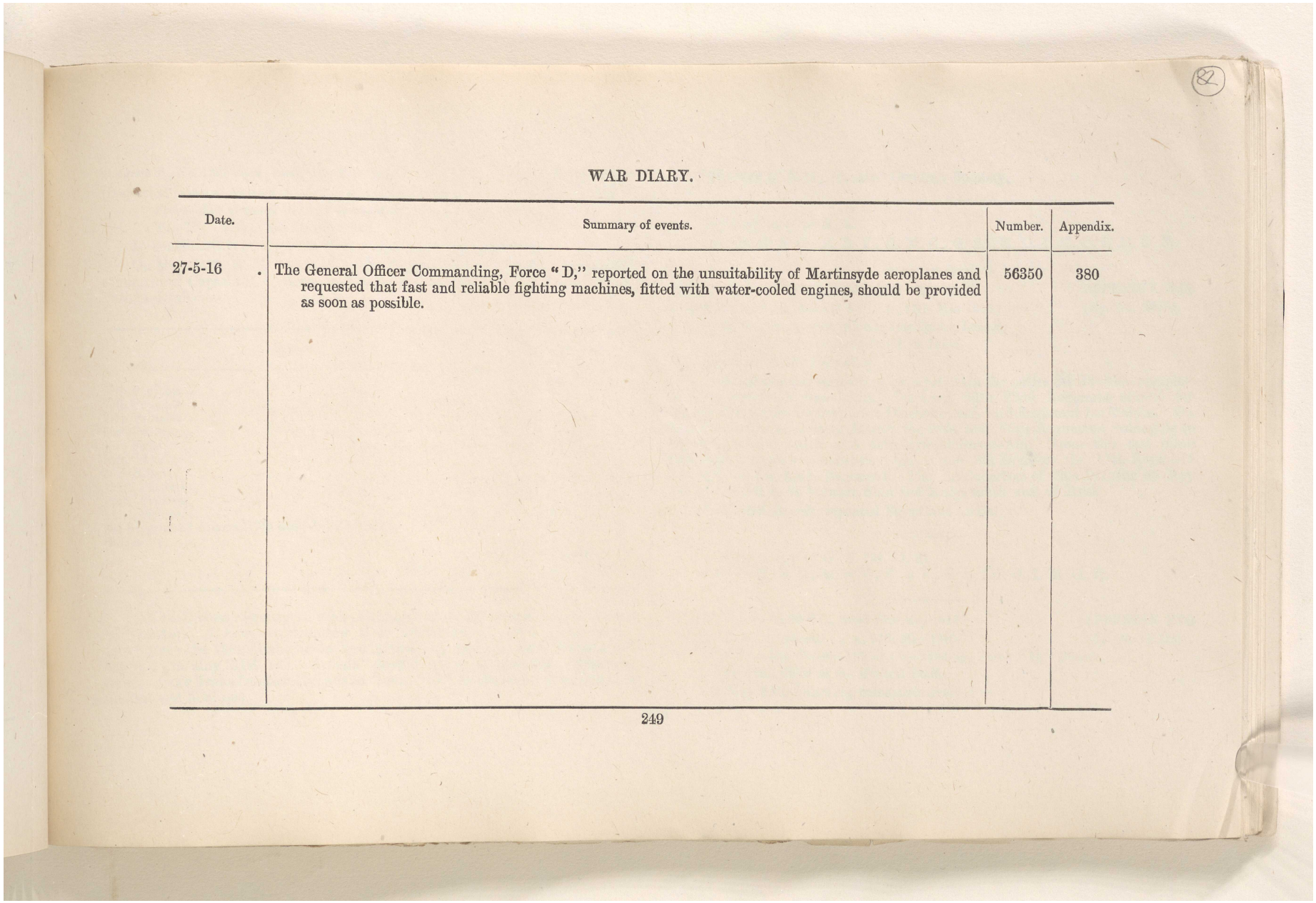

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
27-5-16 .	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported on the unsuitability of Martinsyde aeroplanes and requested that fast and reliable fighting machines, fitted with water-cooled engines, should be provided as soon as possible.	56350	380

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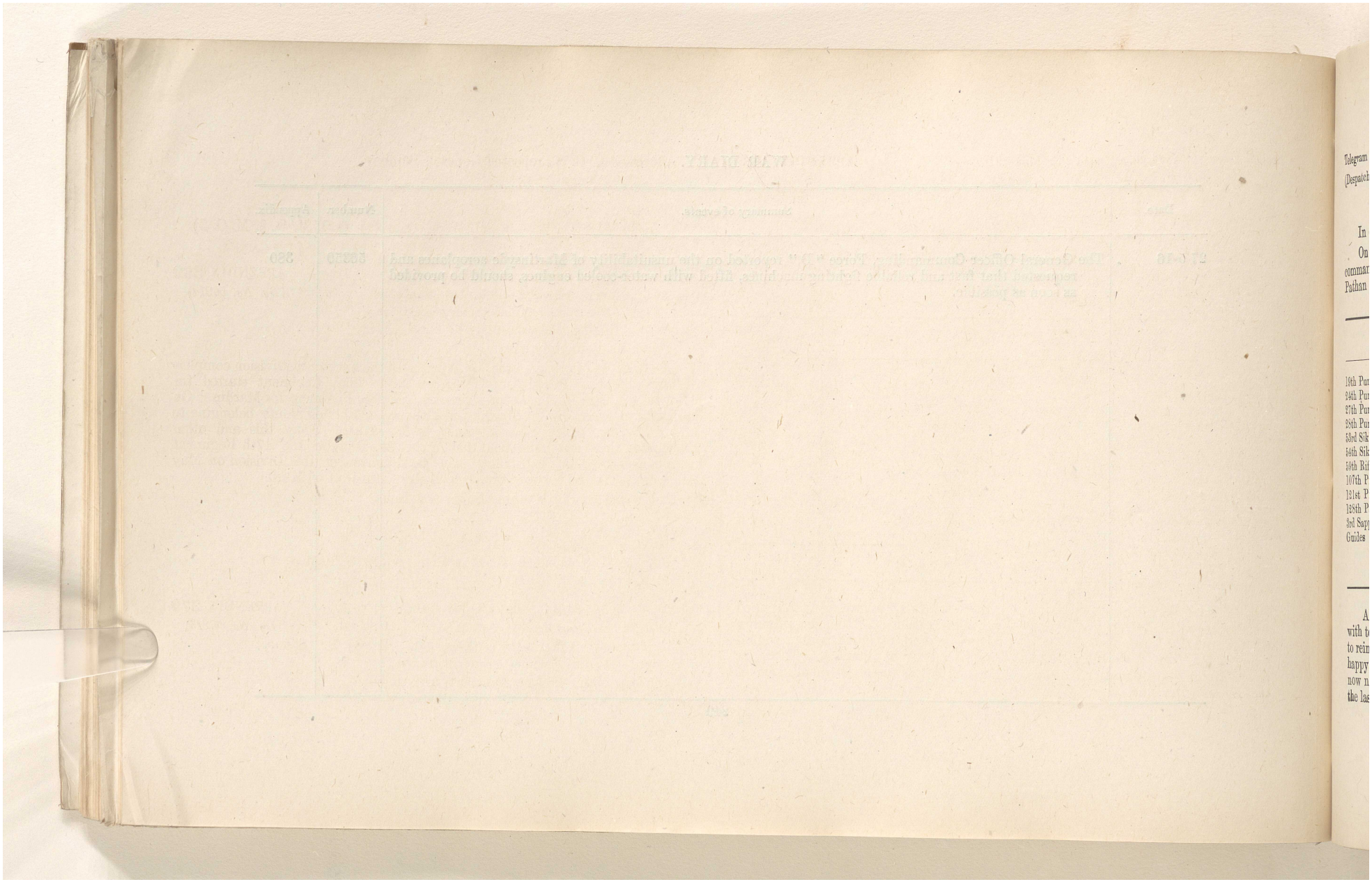

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Telegram P., No. 1327-30-A., dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **368**
(Despatched 12-5 P.M., received 11-45 P.M., 26th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56213*)

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

In continuation of my 1327-27-A. (*Dy. No. 53240*), May 9th.

On May 25th H. T. "Aronda" left Basrah having on board, under the command of Captain R. C. Simpson, 130th Baluchis, the following Trans-frontier Pathan details:—

Unit.	Indian officer.	Other ranks.
19th Punjabis	...	15
24th Punjabis	...	1
27th Punjabis	...	2
28th Punjabis	1	38
53rd Sikhs	...	2
54th Sikhs	...	1
59th Rifles	...	5
107th Pioneers	...	18
121st Pioneers	...	10
128th Pioneers	...	8
3rd Sappers and Miners (17th and 22nd Companies)	...	1
Guides	...	1
Total	1	104 (?)

All have been re-equipped with clothing, etc., fully armed, and supplied with tentage. I, however, withdrew their ammunition. At the idea of going to reinforce the 130th Baluchis in East Africa they all appeared contented and happy. On May 31st the "Aronda" should arrive at Bombay. There are now no more Trans-frontier Pathans in Force "D" as the above detachment is the last and final one.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 17198-Cipher, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **369**
(Despatched 5-10 P.M., received 2-40 A.M., 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56214*)

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

Marsh sends the following.

A Greek deserter states that on April 24th the entire 8th Division completed detrainment at Ras-el-Ain. On April 26th 22nd Regiment started for Mesopotamia, 24th Regiment for Diarbekir, and 23rd Regiment for Mardin. On April 29th deserter saw at Mardin the 25th and 26th Regiments belonging to the 9th Division which also detrained at Ras-el-Ain. From this and other information there are indications that in the 8th Division the 17th Regiment has replaced the 22nd Regiment. The headquarters of this Division on May 24th were said to be between Shin and Kulp, south-west of Mush.

Addressed Basrah, repeated Egypt and India.

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

Telegram P., No. 69-93-E.C., dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **370**
(Despatched 4 P.M., received 7 A.M., 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56215*)

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

On May 25th following transports arrived:—

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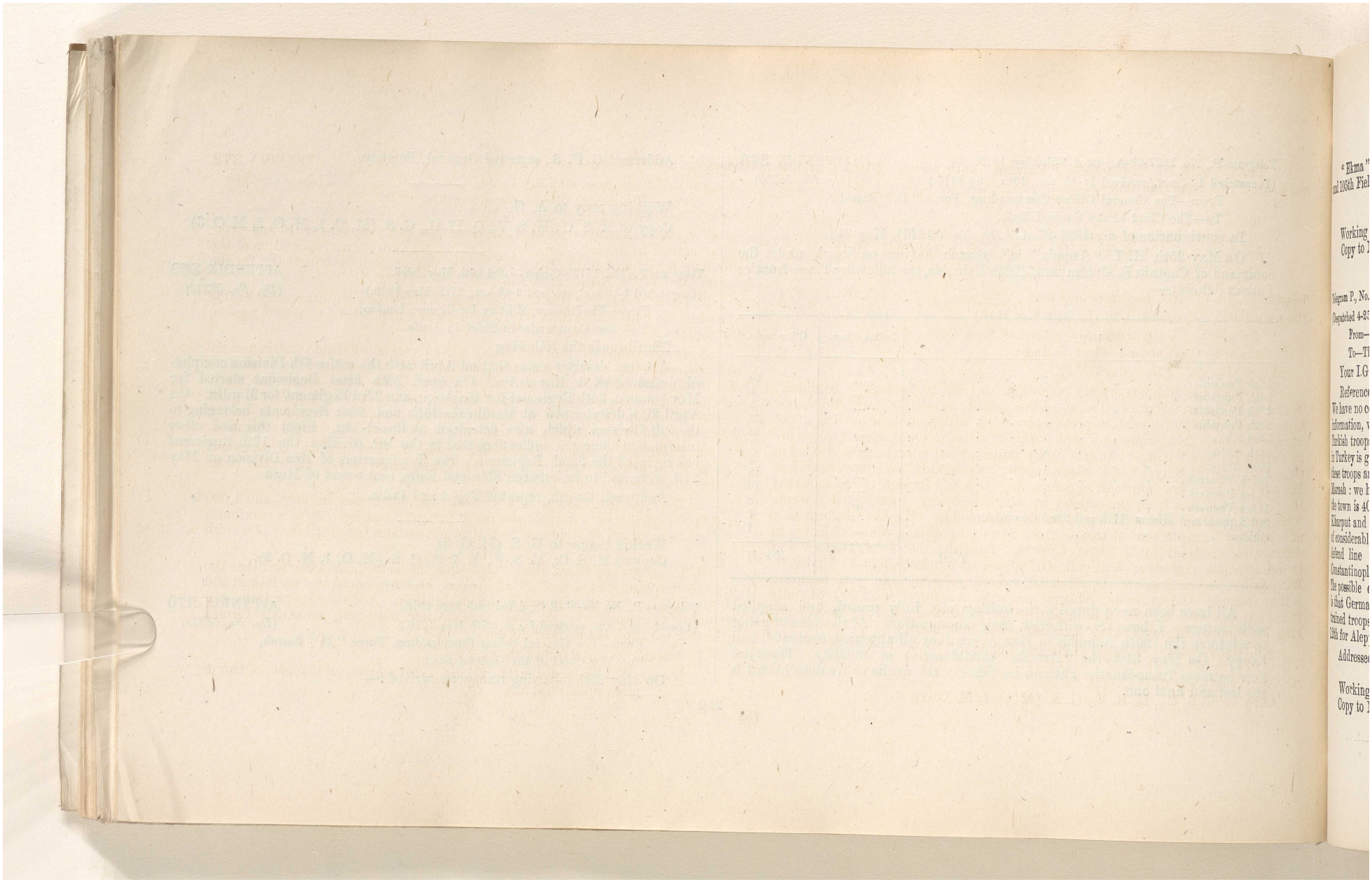

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"Ekma" with 2-10th Gurkhas, "Bamora" with part of 2-10th Gurkhas and 105th Field Ambulance.

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

Telegram P., No. I.G.-598, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **371**
(Despatched 4-25 P.M., received 4-30 A.M., 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56218*)
From—The General Headquarters, Egyptian Force, Cairo,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Your I.G.-2877 (*Dy. No. 55752*).

Reference the Bukharest news regarding Austrian troops sent to Baghdad: We have no confirmation of this and have found unreliable most Bukharest information, whether official or press, concerning distribution or movements of Turkish troops. The impression that not more than 12 000 Austrian troops are in Turkey is given by agent (next group undecipherable) reports and most of these troops are at Smyrna or Constantinople. As regards the concentration at Marash: we have no information concerning this and in view of the fact that the town is 40 miles from the railway by which troops are transported towards Kharput and Diarbekir or Musal, it seems improbable. We have information of considerable movement of troops from Syria into Cilicia whose object is to defend line against raids from Cyprus. Turkish forces in Thrace and Constantinople, excluding Gallipoli, still appear to number about 11 Divisions. The possible explanation of the Baghdad rumour referred to in your telegram is that German and Austrian officers are with the force of 25,000 partially trained troops who according to agent began to leave Central Syria on April 12th for Aleppo, Baghdad being their ostensible destination.

Addressed Basrah, repeated India and London.

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

Letter No. 1201-31-Q., dated 14th May 1916. APPENDIX **372**
(Received in War Section on 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56246*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, I.E.F. "D,"
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

The additions made to this force since the 14th January 1916 and experience gained in the meantime have rendered necessary a reconsideration of the proposals formulated in my No. 1201-1 (*Dy. No. 36129*), 14th January, for the organisation of the Remount Service.

2. I am of opinion that the Base Remount Depôt requires considerable expansion to cope successfully with the increased numbers of remounts passing through it.

3. It was proposed that the Depôt should consist of Headquarters and six sections, and a list of the necessary establishment for a scheme on these lines was drawn up and forwarded by me to you with the letter under reference. As this scheme has not yet received formal sanction, I enclose herewith a list of the establishment required for an alternative scheme, which is based on the lines, accepted in France as being most suitable, and admits of rapid expansion.

4. The Base Remount Depôt will consist of Headquarters, a Remount Depôt of two or more Squadrons, and the Remount Squadron takes the place of the Advanced Remount Section.

5. The Squadron is organised to deal with 500 horses on lines, and 1,000 to 1,500 in paddocks. A depôt consists of several squadrons up to a maximum of five, as required, any increase over five necessitates the institution of a fresh depôt.

6. It is now proposed that this system be introduced here and that the organisation should consist of Headquarters and two Squadrons at Basrah and of one squadron as an advanced depôt at Amarah. Additional squadrons can be added, as required, to the Base organisation and fresh squadrons formed wherever required as advanced depôts.

7. Statements are attached showing:—

A—(*i*) War Establishment of the Headquarters of a depôt of two or more squadrons, and

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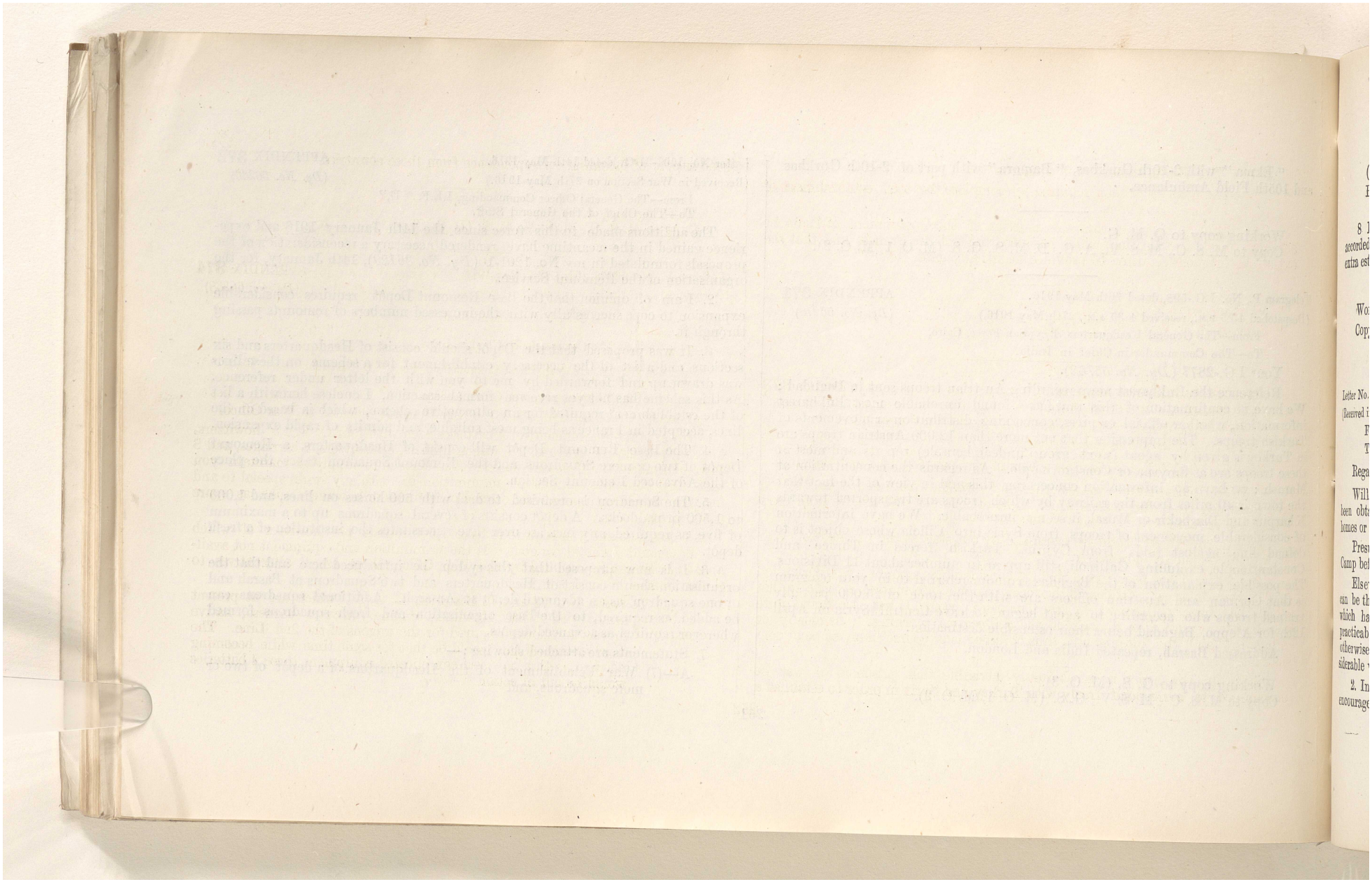

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(*ii*) War Establishment of a squadron.

B—The number of men required to complete the total establishment of three squadrons.

8 I would now request that the sanction of the Government of India be accorded to this organisation, which has stood the test in France, and that the extra establishment required be provided at an early date.

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

Letter No. Ig.-2773, dated 10th May 1916. APPENDIX **373**
(Received in War Section on 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56249*)

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

Regarding Turkish and Arab prisoners of war now in India and Burma.

Will you please inform me whether any valuable intelligence has so far been obtained from the letters which these prisoners of war receive from their homes or elsewhere?

Presumably these letters are examined by our staff at the prisoners of War Camp before issue to addressees?

Elsewhere it has been found that a considerable amount of information can be thus obtained. Of course the most valuable information is usually that which has been obliterated by the Turkish Censor. It has been found quite practicable in most cases to clean off the obliterating markings (chemically or otherwise) and the intelligence thus obtained is of course likely to be of considerable value.

2. In this connection it is obviously advisable that prisoners of war be encouraged to correspond freely with Turkey and Syria in order to establish a good supply of incoming correspondence from those countries.

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

Telegram P., No. 56268, dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **374**
(Despatched 2-15 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56268*)

From— 1. The Chief of the General Staff,
2. The Commander-in-Chief in India,

To— 1. The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
2. The Secretary, War Office, London.

Your 62 Ord. (*Dy. No. 55428*), of 22nd instant repeated to War Office.

Towards the rearmament of 2 batteries each with four Q. F. 4·5″ howitzers, we can provide 16 wagons, 16 wagon limbers, 8 howitzers, 8 carriages, and 8 carriage limbers. At present we cannot undertake to supply or maintain you with any complete rounds of ammunition or with any stores special to and forming battery equipment and carried on vehicles or howitzers such as spare parts, sights, etc.

We undertsand you require to have 1,500 rounds per howitzer of which H. E. should form 99 per cent. If the ammunition and equipment not available in India can be supplied by the War Office, there are 2 alternatives to choose from—

(1) To rearm Nos. 77 and 72 Batteries, R. G. A., which are at present armed with 5″ B.L. Howitzers sending you extra harness, native drivers and horses required for the wagons of the 2nd Line. The disadvantage of this would be that for some time while becoming efficient with a new and complicated equipment these 2 batteries would be out of action.

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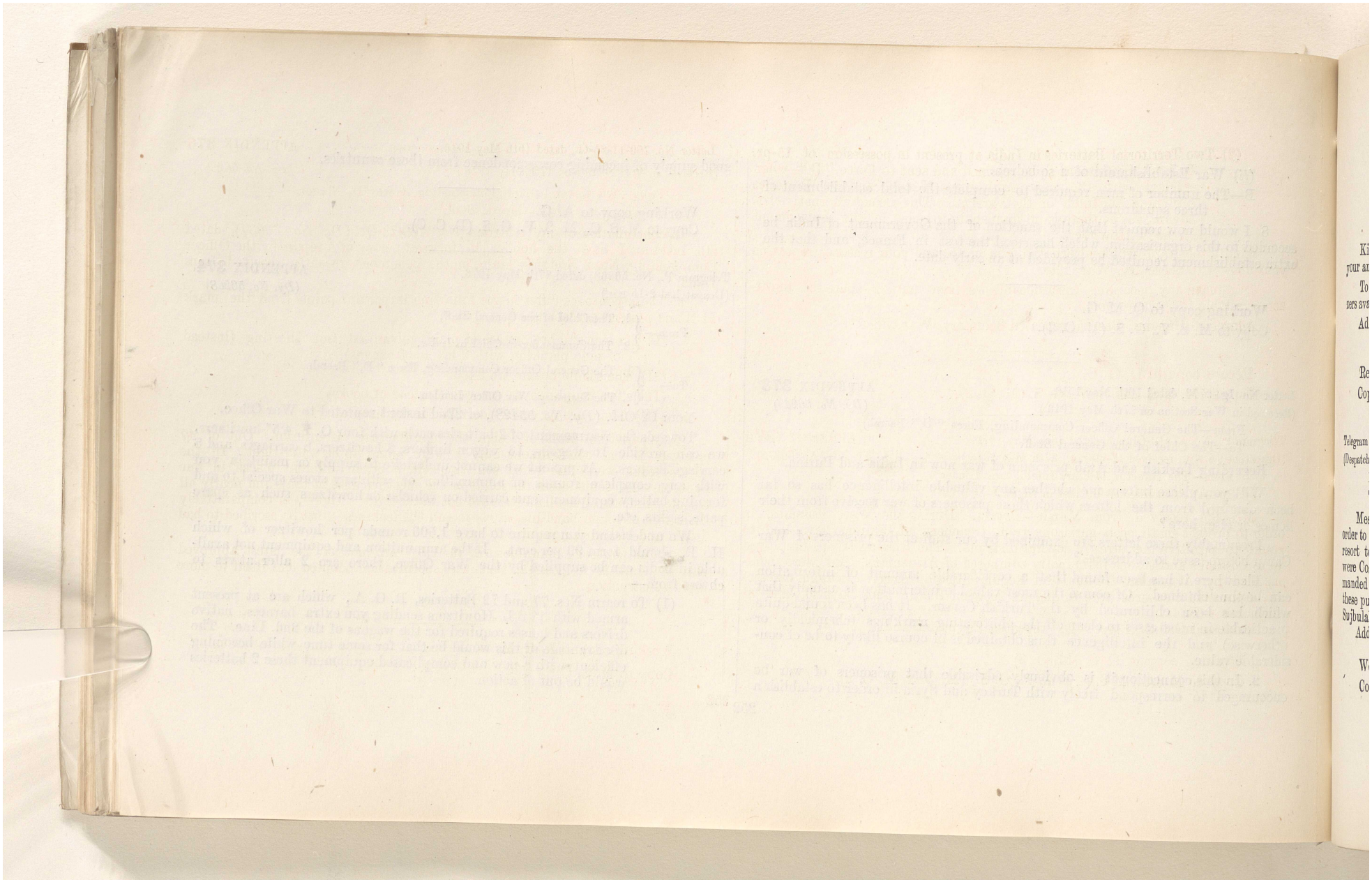

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(2) Two Territorial Batteries in India at present in possession of 15-pr. B. L. C. Equipment to be rearmed and sent to Force "D" when efficient with the new equipment, Nos. 77 and 72 Batteries returning to India on their arrival. This second alternative has advantages as there is no immediate urgency in the replacement of the 5" Howitzers.

Kindly telegraph which alternative you prefer and your reasons, repeating your answer to Secretary, War Office.

To replace any becoming unserviceable we have only 2 spare 5" howitzers available for issue to you.

Addressed General, Basrah, repeated Secretary, War Office.

Record copy to D. G. O.

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

Telegram P., No. 17213-Cipher, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **375**
(Despatched 8 P.M., received 12-20 P.M., 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56273*)

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

Message received from Marsh—*Begins*. During the War, Russians, in order to protect small posts garrisons from treachery of Kurds, have had to resort to punitive measures in several districts. The Russian troops employed were Cossacks and troops principally composed of Armenians, and were commanded by Armenian Generals of Regular Russian Army. Notable cases of these punitive measures were in district between Diadin and Bayazid, and at Sujbulak.—*Ends*.

Addessed G.O.C., Force "D," repeated Egypt and India.

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

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

Letter No. 760-11-25-Q., dated 15th May 1916. APPENDIX **376**
(Received in War Section on 17th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56288*)

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

In continuation of my telegram No. 760-23-Q. (*Dy. No. 53031*), dated 8th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a report by the Officer Commanding, No. 2 Bridging Train, on the poontoons recently received from India.

2. These pontoons differ in the following important points from the mark II Home pattern pontoon:—

(I) The side and bottom are of plain galvanised iron sheeting (instead of pine planking with 2 layers of canvas).

(II) The saddle beams are fixed.

(III) The couplings are screwed (instead of hooks).

(IV) There are no outer side rails for the handles.

3. Apart from faults of design, the manufacture is inferior. Out of 47 received in one consignment only 2 were found to be water-tight. In the others leaks were discovered sometimes in a dozen different places in one pontoon. In some cases the joints in the sheeting were at fault and nearly all the attachments of the handles were not water-tight. There was comparatively little sign of rough handling *en route* and the leakiness must be ascribed to bad design and bad workmanship.

4. The pontoons manufactured in 1916 are not of the latest approved pattern; but it is possible that the specification adopted lent itself to more rapid construction.

Working copy to D. G. M. W.

Copy to M. S. C.

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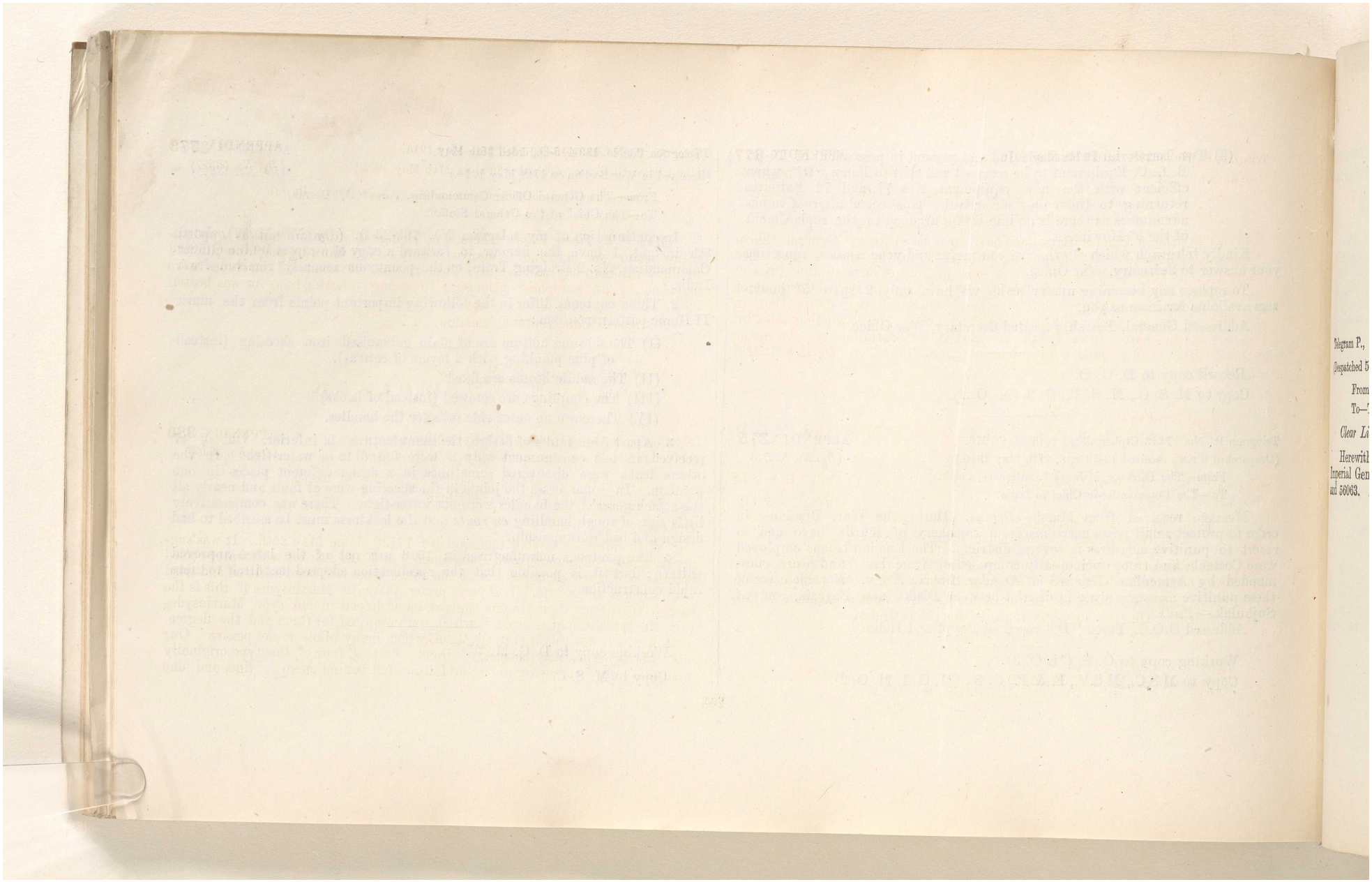

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Telegram P., No. 56311, dated 27th May 1916.

(Despatched 5-30 P.M.)

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

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

Clear Line.

Herewith repetition of telegrams which have passed between Chief of the Imperial General Staff and myself. *Begins.* Repeats Diary Nos. 55626, 55709 and 56063. *Ends.*

APPENDIX 376-A.

(*Dy. No. 56311.*)

Should like your views, taking into consideration telegrams 17176-Cipher (*Diary No. 65075*) and 17178-Cipher (*Diary No. 56096*) of 25th instant from Director, Military Intelligence, London.

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

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

253-A

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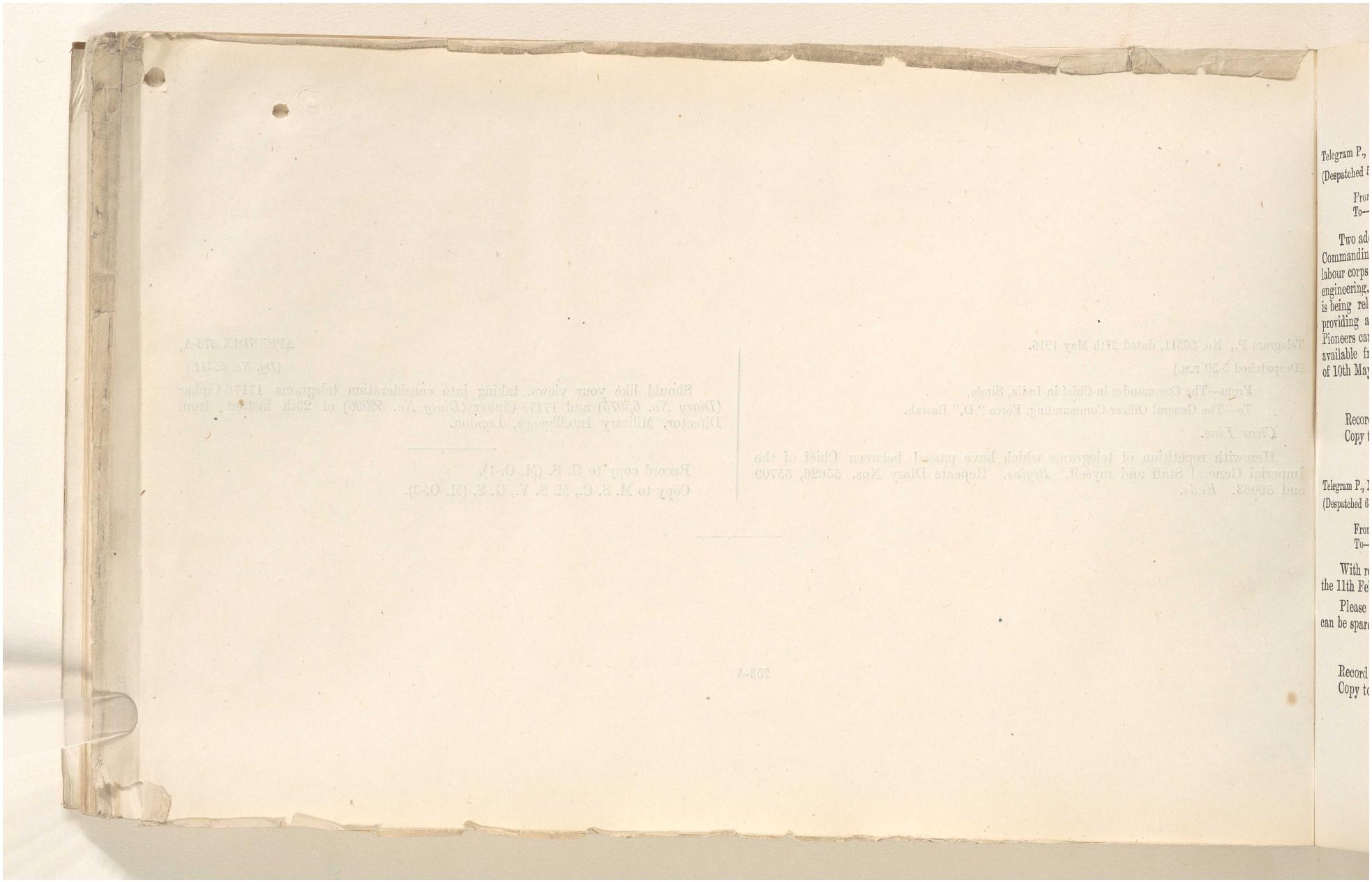

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Telegram P., No. 56293, dated 27th May 1916 — APPENDIX **377**
(Despatched 5 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56293*)

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

Two additional Pioneer Battalions have been asked for by General Officer Commanding, Force "D" (*Dy. No. 54014*), or failing these for two extra labour corps to cope with the pressure of work in connection with difficulties of engineering. One corps will be provided by the Indian Porter Corps which is being released from Egypt but previous experience has shown that in providing a second there will be considerable delay. I ask whether the 23rd Pioneers can be spared from Egypt as no Pioneer Battalion can be made available from India, *vide* your cipher telegram No. 16308 (*Dy. No. 53319*) of 10th May.

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

Telegram P., No. 56312, dated 27th May 1916. — APPENDIX **378**
(Despatched 6-15 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56312*)

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

With reference to your telegrams No. 245-66-Q. (*Dy. No. 38610*), dated the 11th February, and No. 245-120-Q. (*Dy. No. 53277*), dated the 9th May.

Please send six "Peerless" motor lorries by first available steamer if they can be spared. They are urgently required for use in India.

Record copy to D. G. M. W.
Copy to G. S. (M. O. 1, M. O. 2).

Telegram P., No. 129-445-O., dated 26th May 1916. — APPENDIX **379**
(Despatched 10-15 P.M., received 5-30 P. M., 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56327*)

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

May 26th, Tigris Line. There is no change in situation but as opportunities occur we continue to harass enemy on left bank by machine gun and artillery fire both day and night. Two of our reconnoitring machines were attacked by an aeroplane belonging to enemy. Latter however was beaten off.

Addressed India, repeated London.

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

Telegram P., No. 4834-F., dated 27th May 1916. — APPENDIX **380**
(Despatched 11-40 A M., received 4-50 P.M., 27th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56350*)

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

Priority.

With reference to your telegram No. 17130, dated May 25th. It was suggested that you should send Dehaviland 2 or F. E. 8 Scout with water-cooled engines as it was understood one of the above types had been so fitted and tried with success in Egypt. I should prefer them to Martinsydes if this is the case. Apart from their Gnome engines, chief defects of old type Martinsydes were the special landing grounds which were required for them and the degree of skill which was required to fly them, which many pilots do not possess Our best pilots expressed distrust of them. Out of four of this type originally with this force two, owing to engine failure, fell behind enemy's line, and one

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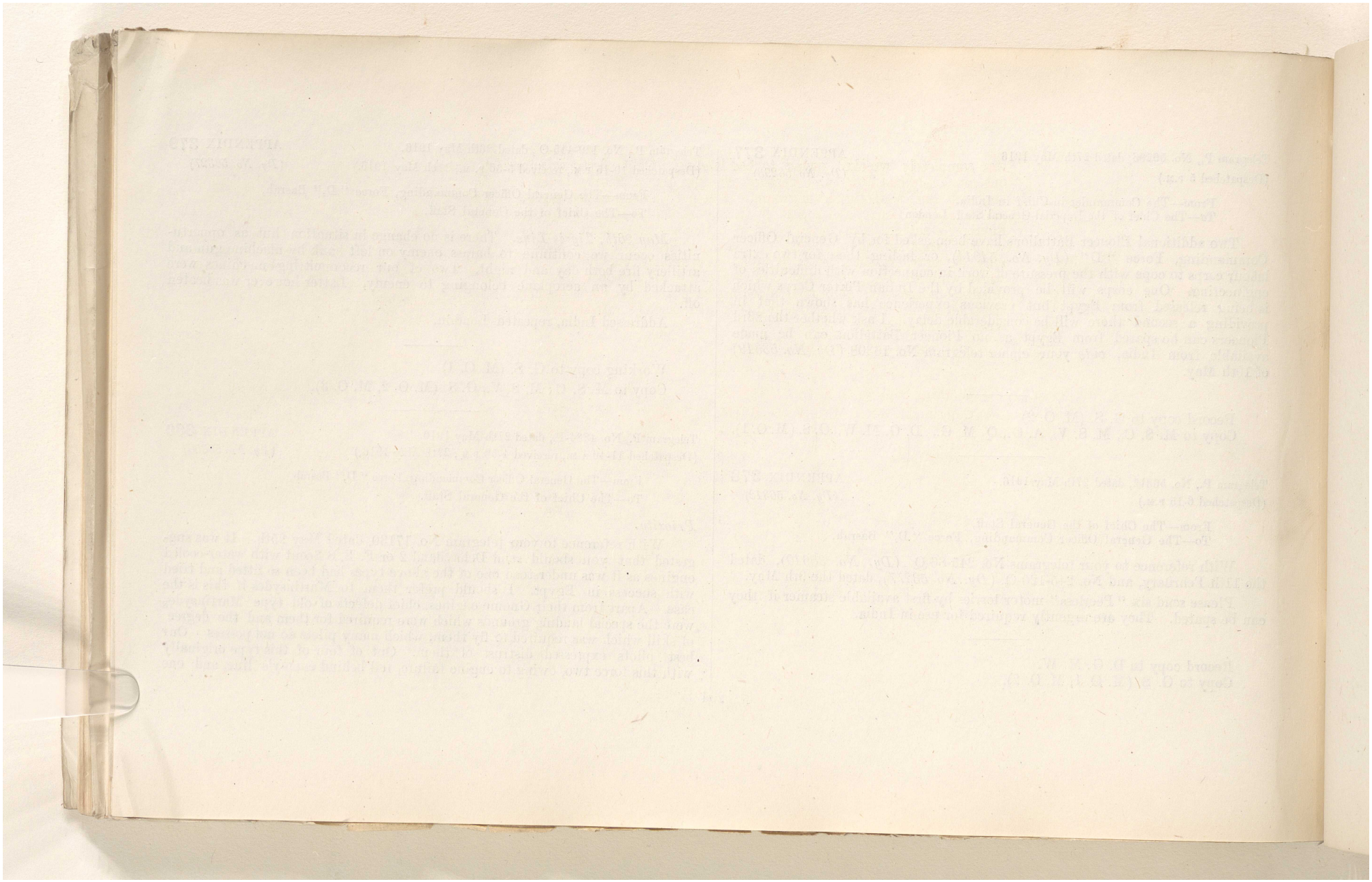

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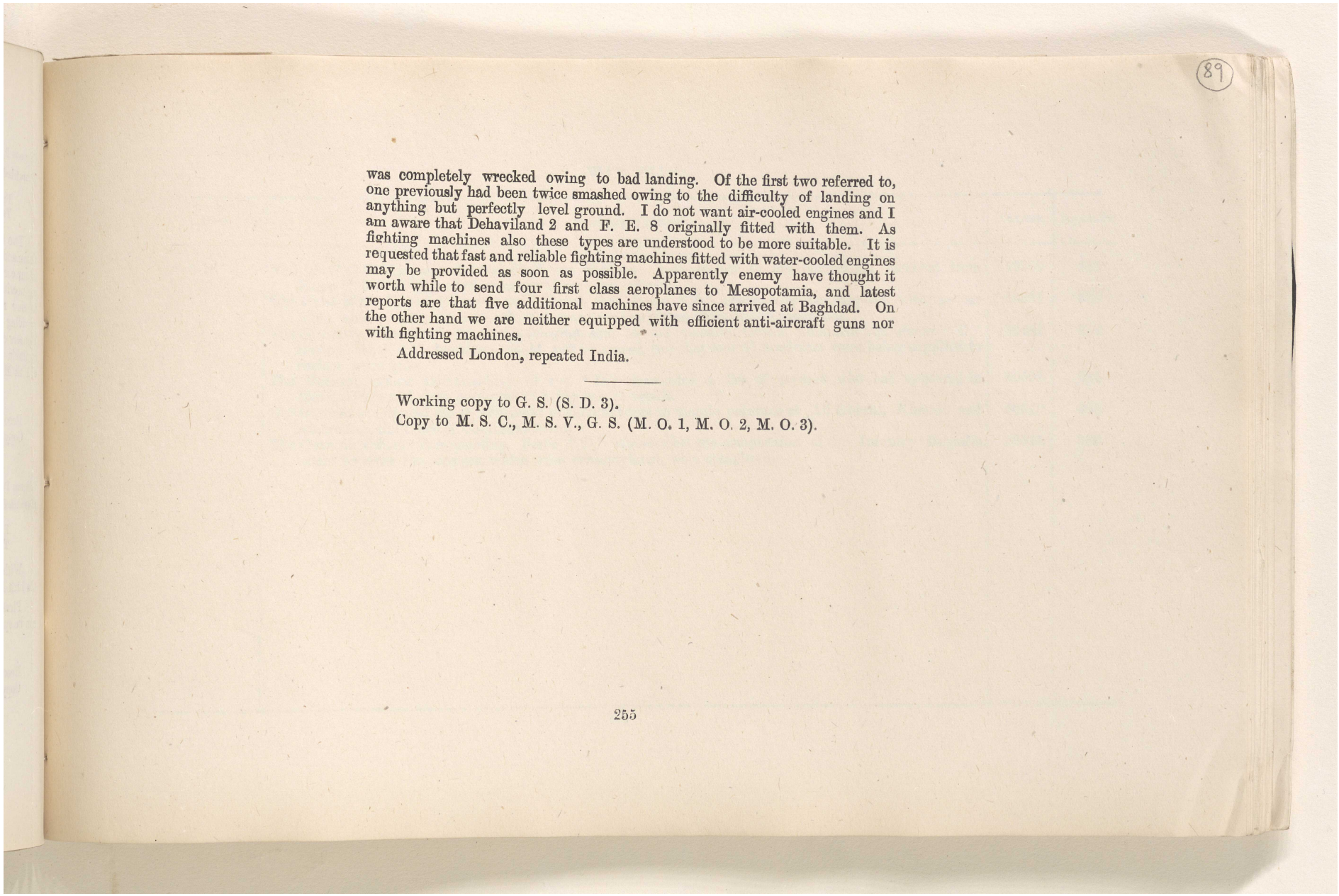

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was completely wrecked owing to bad landing. Of the first two referred to, one previously had been twice smashed owing to the difficulty of landing on anything but perfectly level ground. I do not want air-cooled engines and I am aware that Dehaviland 2 and F. E. 8 originally fitted with them. As fighting machines also these types are understood to be more suitable. It is requested that fast and reliable fighting machines fitted with water-cooled engines may be provided as soon as possible. Apparently enemy have thought it worth while to send four first class aeroplanes to Mesopotamia, and latest reports are that five additional machines have since arrived at Baghdad. On the other hand we are neither equipped with efficient anti-aircraft guns nor with fighting machines.

Addressed London, repeated India.

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

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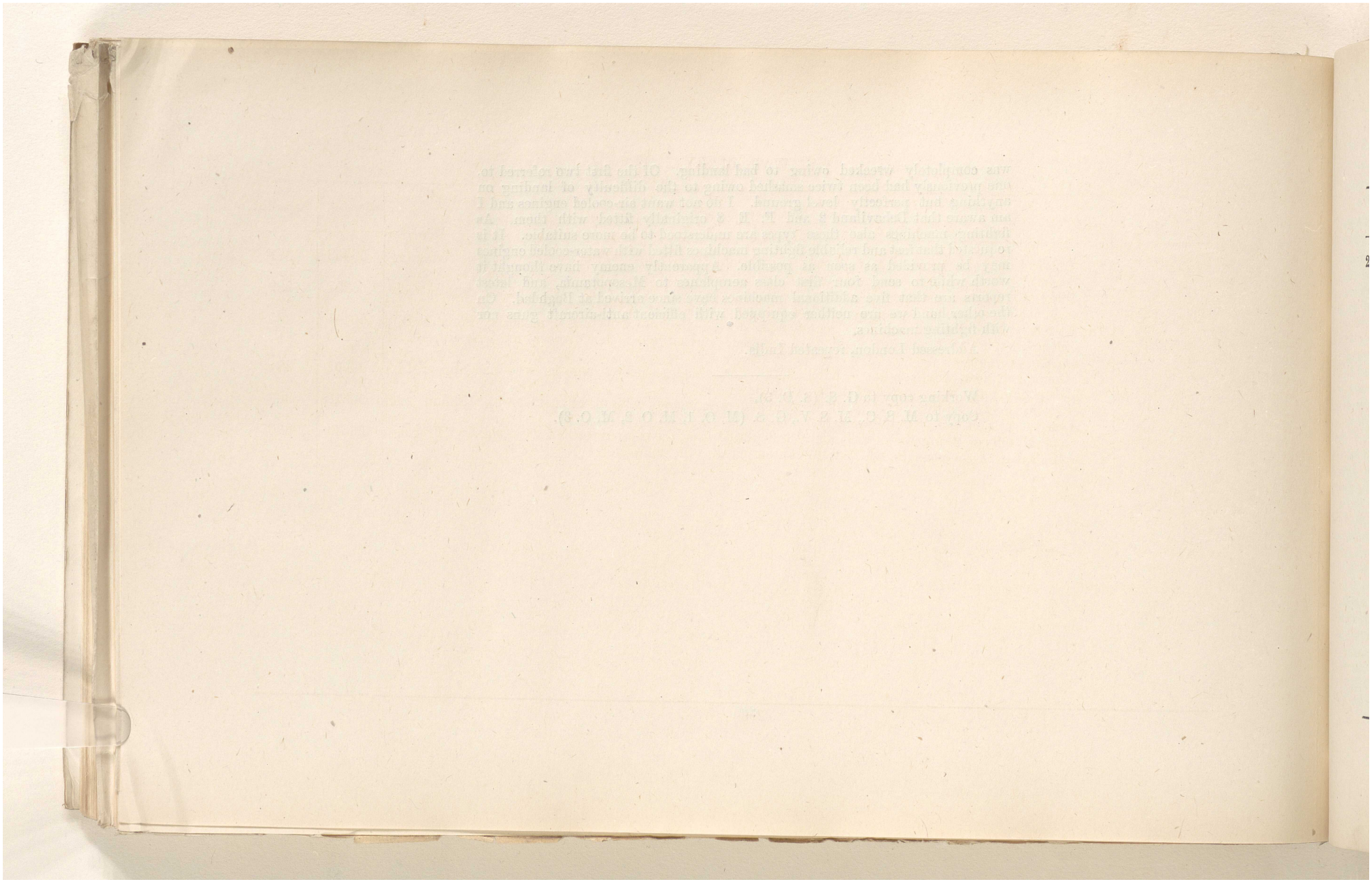

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
28-5-16	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff was addressed with regard to the complaints received from Force "D" in respect of accounts of unit and officers.	56369	381
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff stated that Force "D" could only be supplied with an air force, which, on the old establishment, was four aeroplanes short of two squadrons.	56391	382
	The Secretary, War Office, repeated a telegram sent to the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stating that 4·5″ howitzers could not be spared, but that four 5″ howitzers were being supplied to replace worn guns.	56441	383
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," forwarded a list of persons who had appeared in Mesopotamia and were suspected of being hostile agents.	56502	384
	Government sanctioned the appointment of Commanders to mobile columns at Ali Gharbi, Kumait and Amarah on the Lines of Communication.	56510	385
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated what the composition of the Infantry Brigades would be after the changes, which were contemplated, were completed.	56544	386

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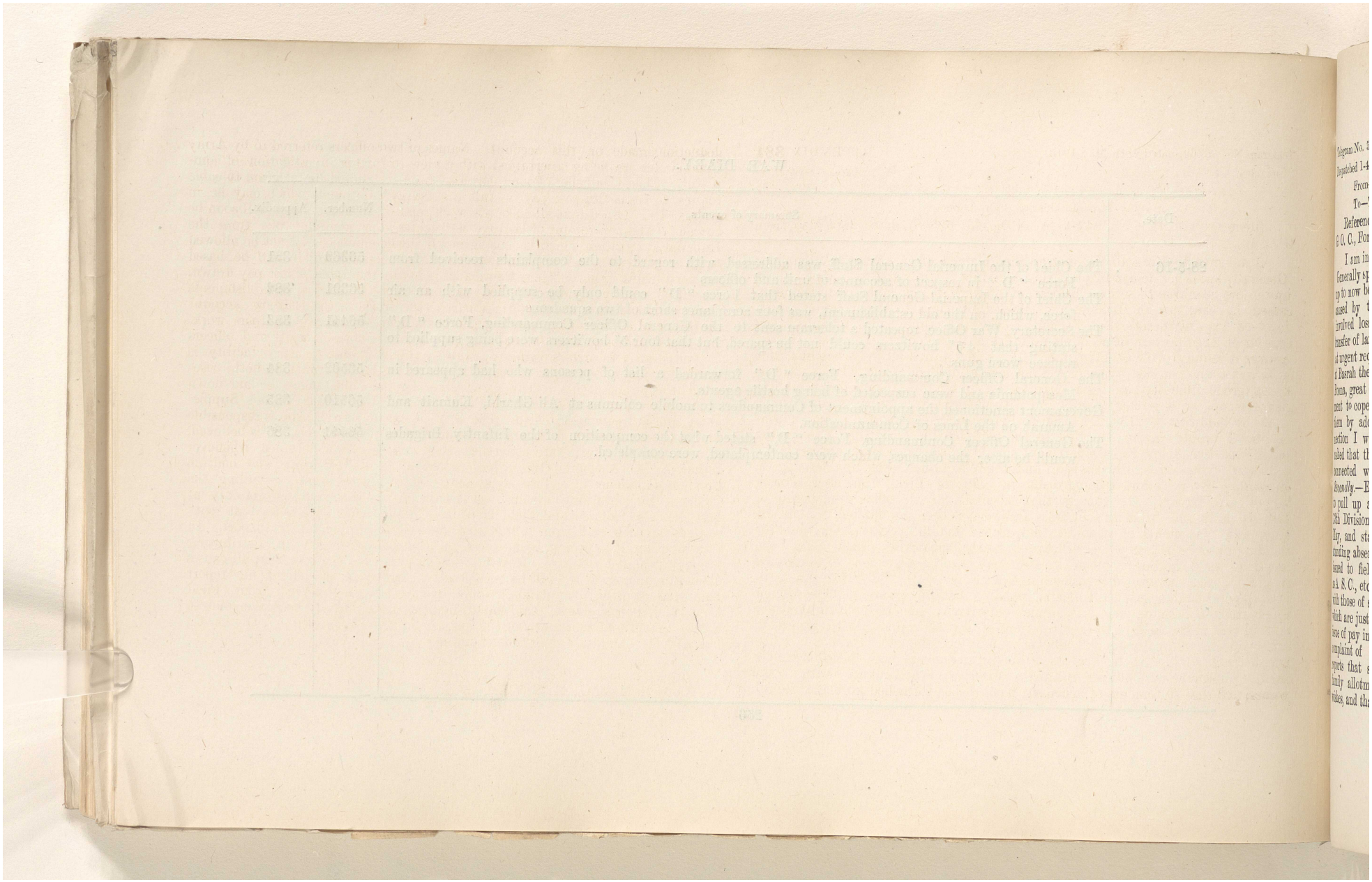

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Telegram No. 56369, dated 28th May 1916.
Despatched 1-45 A.M.)

APPENDIX **381**
(*Dy. No. 56369*)

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

Reference telegram No. 947-44-A. (*Dy. No. 55808*), dated 24th May, from G. O. C., Force "D."

I am investigating all the matters complained of by Army Commander. Generally speaking delays in preparing accounts of units and of officers have up to now been due to serious dislocation of work of accounts establishments, caused by transfer of Lahore and Meerut Divisions to Mesopotamia, which involved loss of practically 3 months' working time, and to subsequent transfer of large portion of accounts establishment to Poona. This was effected at urgent request of G. O C., Force "D," who required all the accommodation at Basrah then occupied by them. Since arrival of Field Controller's office at Poona, great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient establishment to cope with arrears of work and with heavy extra work thrown upon them by addition of 13th Division to Force under Indian pay. In this connection I would invite attention to the fact that the Government of India asked that the Army Pay Department should take over the pay and accounts connected with the 13th Division and the War Office were unable to agree. *Secondly.*—Every effort is being made in office of Field Controller, Poona, to pull up arrears. He reports that accounts of all officers belonging to 13th Division and brigades sent from India have been completed to end of May, and statements of accounts despatched to officers concerned, notwithstanding absence of last-pay certificates. In the meantime orders have been issued to field accounts offices to issue pay to officers and men of units such as A. S. C., etc., mentioned in telegram from Force "D" at rates analogous with those of similar services in India, pending definite orders of Government which are just about to issue. Arrangements have been in force all along for issue of pay in the field to these formations at British rates. With regard to complaint of non-payment of officers' family allotments. Field Controller reports that so far as he can ascertain arrangements have been made for family allotments of officers Seaforths strictly in accordance with their wishes, and that statements of accounts have been furnished to them for all deductions made on this account. Names of two officers referred to by Army Commander are being ascertained with a view to further investigation of complaint. Field Controller, Poona, has also been instructed by telegram to cable request to India Office to pay in full all family allotments which may be in arrears. It is hoped that all accounts work relating to Force "D" will soon be current. The non-receipt of last-pay certificates and nominal rolls from the Imperial authorities, which is causing much inconvenience, will not be allowed to stand in the way of practical settlement of claims, which will be based on certificates from Officers Commanding as to the rates of last pay drawn. It will be readily understood that the collection of clerical establishments from various distant sources to take part in the work of the Military account centres of which they have no previous experience naturally hampers work. *Thirdly.*—Although work of preparing the accounts both of units and officers is temporarily in arrears owing to causes explained above, every facility is given to obtain advances of pay in the field and in India, in both cases without any rigid limits. This is well-known principle which is laid down in Accounts Manual War and in Field Service Regulations, Indian Supplement, and is freely resorted to. The D. F. A. G. at Basrah, who is responsible for local arrangements in regard to disbursement of cash, has, it is believed, taken pains to inform all concerned that money can be obtained whenever required. An Accounts Officer has visited all units at front who had no previous experience of Indian pay system and instructed them regarding the facilities for obtaining money. Advances of pay can be drawn not only at base, but also from several Field Treasure Chests, which are placed at convenient centres and from purchasing agents of Supply and Transport. In fact the rules, if anything, seem to err on the side of laxity in distributing money without formality. *Fourthly.*—Summarising, I believe that all causes of legitimate complaint will be very shortly removed. A telegraphic report regarding specific complaints, which has just been received from Field Controller, Poona, shows that the difficulties have already been overcome to a large extent and that many of the points brought to notice by G. O. C., Force "D," are due to misunderstanding.

Record copy to A. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., M. A. G.

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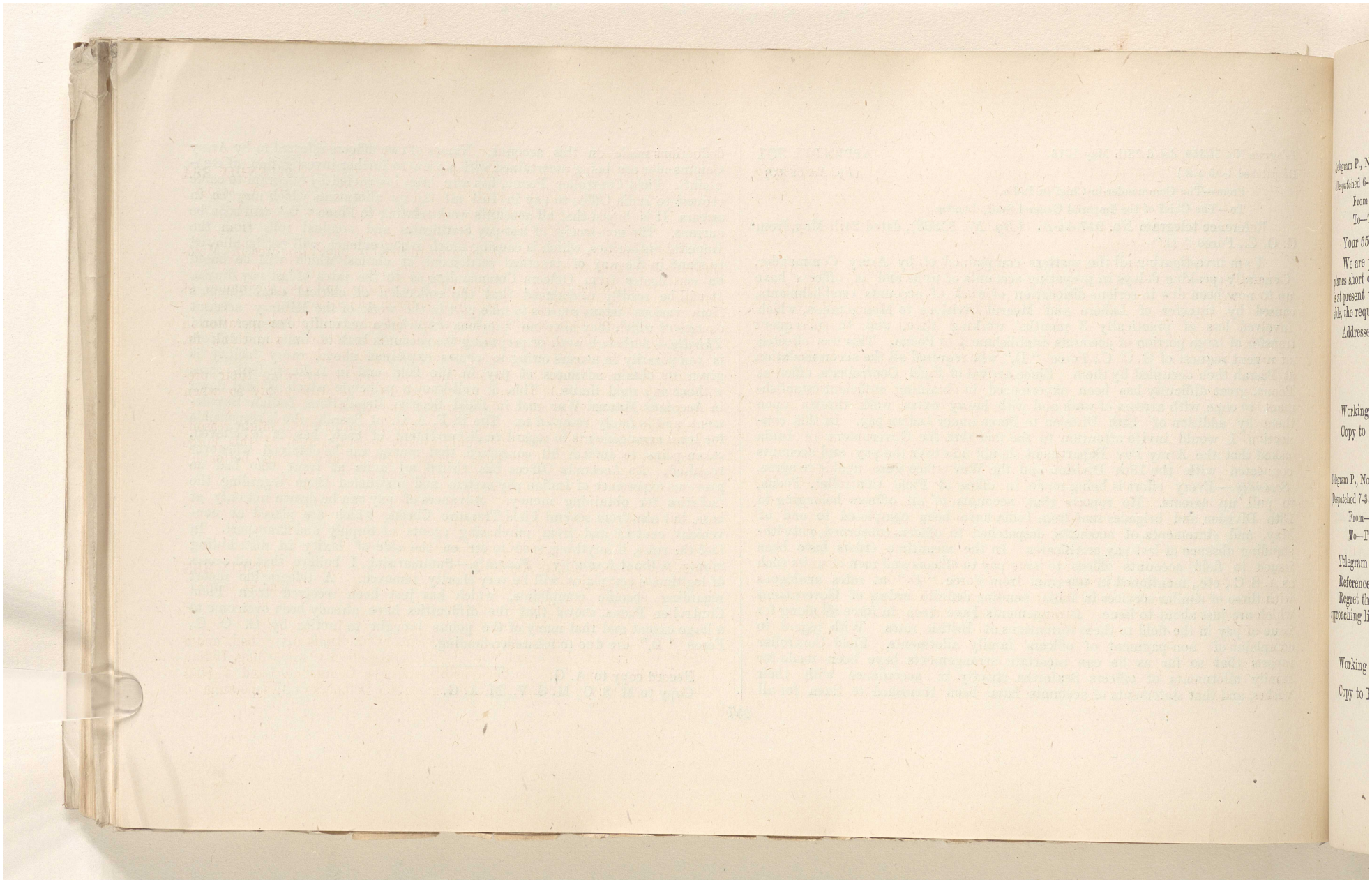

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Telegram P., No. 17238-Cipher, dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **382**
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 6-30 A.M., 28th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56391*)
From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Your 55884 of 25th May.

We are providing air force which on the old establishment is only 4 aeroplanes short of 2 squadrons. On account of requirements in other theatres this is at present the utmost that can be spared. As further supplies become available, the requirements of Force "D" will be remembered.

Addressed India, repeated Basrah.

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

Telegram P., No. 17251-Cipher, dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **383**
(Despatched 7-35 P. M., received 12-5 P.M., 28th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56441*)
From—The Secretary, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Telegram as follows sent on 22nd May to Force "D." *Begins.*
Reference your 62-Ordnance (*Dy. No. 55428*), dated 22nd May.
Regret that 4·5 inch howitzer cannot be sent. To replace any of yours approaching limits of wear we are sending four 5 inch howitzers. *Ends.*

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

Memo. No. 1141-1-I.G. (a), dated 9th May 1916. APPENDIX **384**
(Received in War Section on 28th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56502*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Various persons, suspected of being hostile agents have appeared in Mesopotamia from time to time.

The enclosed list shows the names of these persons, and also the names of others with whom they are known to have entertained relations.

It is thought that a distribution of the list may facilitate co-operation in contre-espionage, and copies are sent herewith for such action as you think fit. Any similar lists in your possession will be gladly received here.

2. It has been found that the statements of suspects regarding their previous movements are often difficult to verify, and this is particularly so when they refer to places of which we have no local knowledge.

A short list of prominent persons in such as a genuine visitor might reasonably be expected to have heard of, would greatly assist the Staff of this Force in checking statements—or the same purpose might be served even better by small local guide book or directory you could send us.

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

Letter No. H.-4446, dated 26th May 1916. APPENDIX **385**
(Received in War Section on 28th May 1916.) (*Dy No. 56510*)
From—The Secretary to the Government of India,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

I am directed to say that the Government of India have had under consideration a proposal made by the General Officer Commandidg, Indian Expeditionary Force "D," for the appointment of a Commander and a Staff Officer for sections of the Lines of Communication Defences in Mesopotamia.

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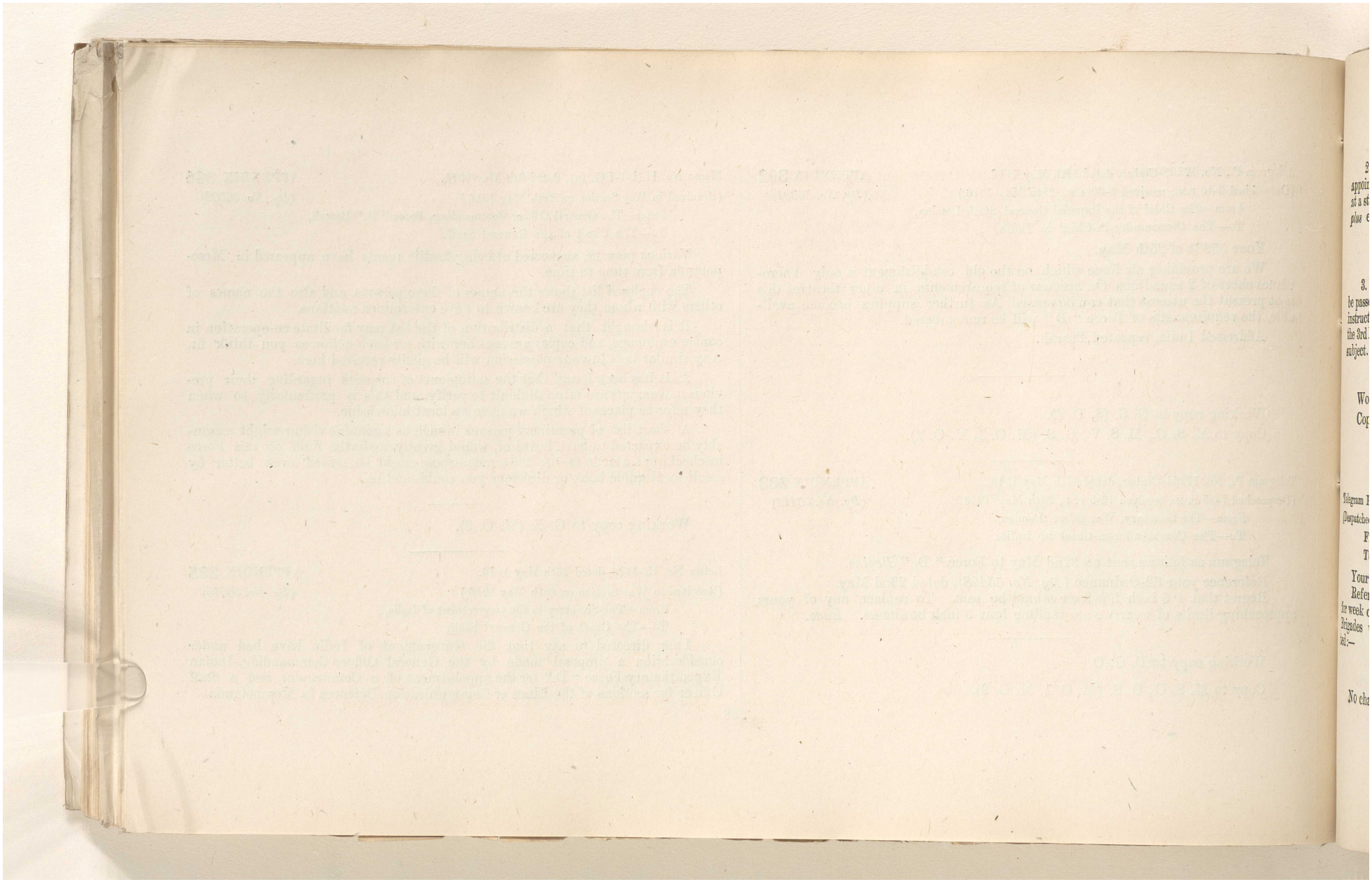

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2. I am now to convey the approval of the Government of India to the appointment of a Commander, who should be of the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, at a staff salary, in addition to Indian Army pay of rank, of Rs. 600 per month *plus* exchange compensation; and a Staff Officer graded as a Staff Captain for each of the three marginally named* sections of the Lines of Communication Defences.

*Ali Gharbi, Kumait, Amarah.

3. The expenditure is debitable to His Majesty's Government and should be passed to the Central War Controller for adjustment with reference to the instructions contained in Finance Department (Military) No. 430-Accts., dated the 3rd May 1915, and any subsidiary instructions that may be issued on the subject.

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

Telegram P., No. 131-81-O., dated 27th May 1916.
(Despatched 6-50 P.M., received 6-30 P.M., 28th May 1916.)

APPENDIX **386**
(*Dy. No. 56544*)

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

Your 55273 of 22nd May.

Reference should please be made to printed List of Distribution of Troops for week commencing 14th May sent to you on May 14th 1916. Infantry Brigades will stand as follows, when changes now contemplated are completed:—

13TH DIVISION.

No change.

3RD DIVISION.

7th Infantry Brigade.

1st Connaught Rangers.
96th Infantry.
89th Punjabis.
27th Punjabis.

(*N. B.*—128th Pioneers to become divisional troops, 14th Division.)

8th Infantry Brigade.

1st Manchester Regiment.
59th Rifles.
47th Sikhs.
4th Rajputs.

9th Infantry Brigade.

1st Highland Light Infantry.
93rd Infantry.
1-1st Gurkhas.
1-9th Gurkhas.

7TH DIVISION.

19th Infantry Brigade.

1st Seaforths.
2nd Black Watch.
125th Rifles.
28th Punjabis.
92nd Punjabis.

(*N. B.*—1 British Battalion will be transferred to Corps troops.)

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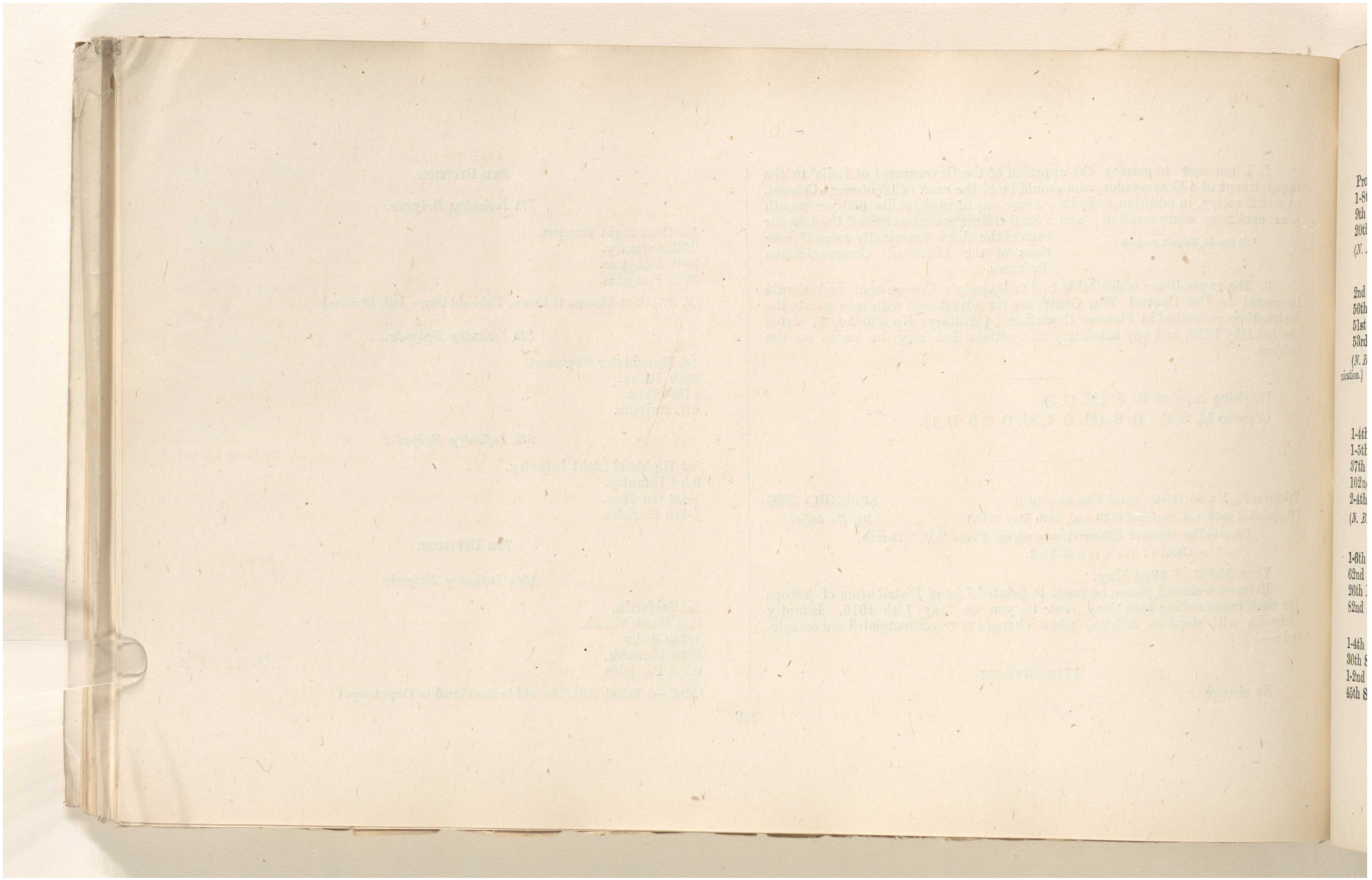

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21st Infantry Brigade.

Provisional 2nd Dorset Regiment.
1-8th Gurkhas.
9th Bhopals.
20th Punjabis.

(*N. B.*—Provisional 2nd Norfolk Regiment transferred to Base.)

28th Infantry Brigade.

2nd Leicestershire Regiment.
56th Rifles.
51st Sikhs.
53rd Sikhs.

(*N. B.*—Provisional Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry transferred to Line of Communication.)

14TH DIVISION.

35th Infantry Brigade.

1-4th Hants.
1-5th East Kents.
37th Dogras.
102nd Grenadiers.
2-4th Gurkhas.

(*N. B.*—1 Territorial Battalion to join corps troops.)

36th Infantry Brigade.

1-6th Devons.
62nd Punjabis.
26th Punjabis.
82nd Punjabis.

37th Infantry Brigade.

1-4th Devons.
36th Sikhs.
1-2nd Gurkhas.
45th Sikhs.

15TH DIVISION.

12th Infantry Brigade.

1-5th West Surrey Regiment.
31st Punjabis.
43rd Infantry.
90th Punjabis.

34th Infantry Brigade.

2nd West Kents.
114th Mahrattas.
112th Infantry.

42nd Infantry Brigade.

1-4th Dorsets.
2-6th Gurkhas.
2-5th Gurkhas.

(*N. B.*—4th Battalion required to complete 34th and 42nd Infantry Brigades not yet decided on.)

RESERVE BRIGADE AT BASRAH.

41st Infantry Brigade.

1-4th Somersets.
2-10th Gurkhas.
2-103rd Infantry.
6th Jats.

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

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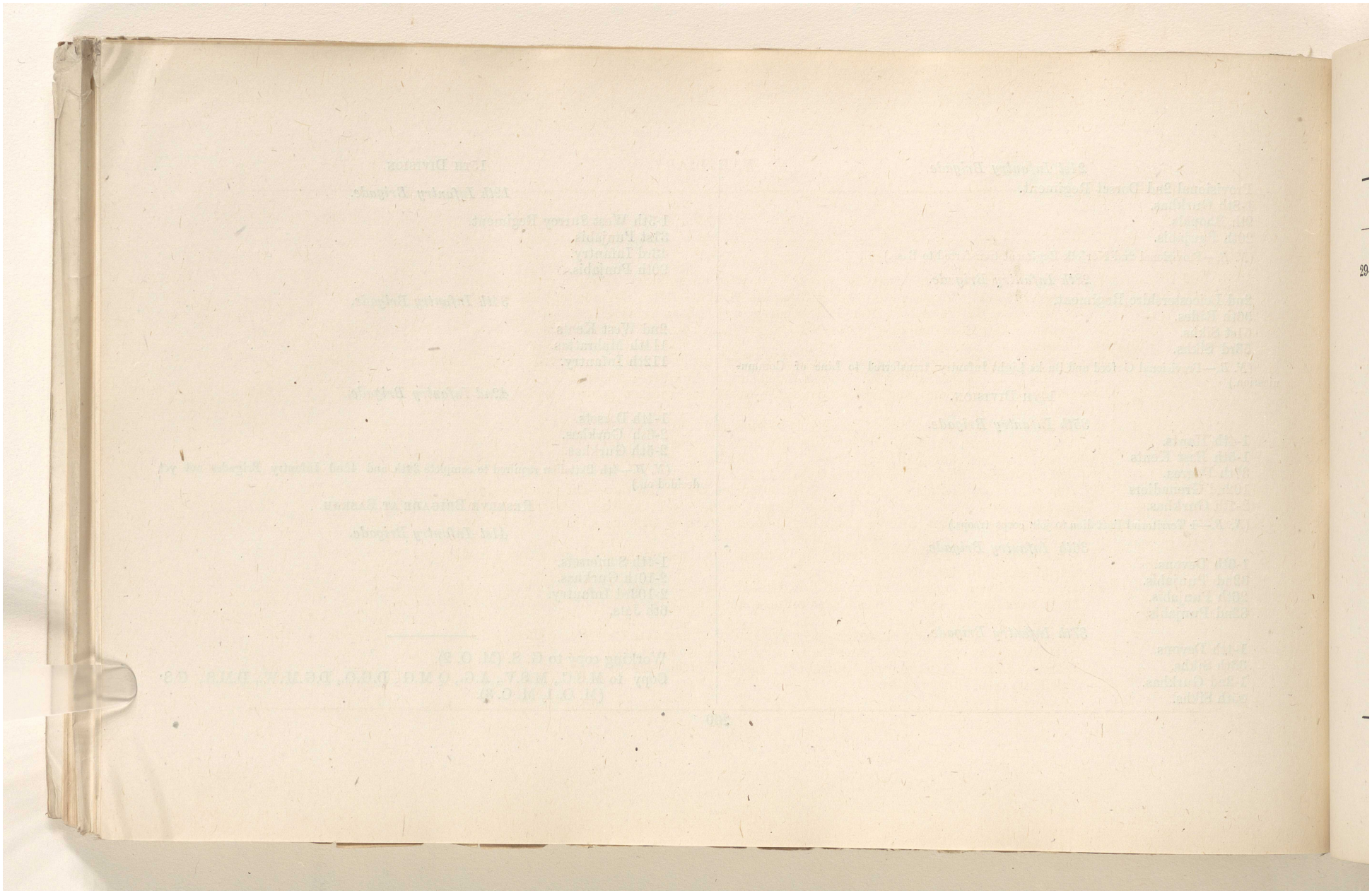

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
29-5-16	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported no military activity on the Euphrates Line, except further confirmation of the fighting at Kerbela. He also communicated the contents of a letter from Shaikh Attiya Abu Galal relating to the above fighting.	56560	387
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," gave the names of Russian officers awarded Military Crosses.	56566	388
	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff stated that the Admiralty concurred in the appointment of Mr. P. H. Browne as Traffic Superintendent under Sir George Buchanan.	56567	389
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," asked for another pontoon bridge, with the necessary personnel.	56568	390
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," gave the estimated composition of the Turkish force opposing General Baratoff, to whom this information should be communicated.	56569	391
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," submitted the views of Sir George Buchanan after his examination of the Tigris between Qurnah and Amarah.	56571	392
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the following:—The Turks were still holding Sannaiyat, but there were indications of further withdrawal; artillery and aircraft very active on both sides; and that a man, declaring himself to be a French soldier of Morocco, had been captured.	56582	393
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated what material could be made available for the Qurnah-Amarah Railway.	56620	394
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that the attachment of officers to headquarters for instruction was scarcely feasible, as units were already so depleted of efficient and fully trained officers.	56622	395
	A copy of all the official communications sent by General Gillman to the War Office, since his arrival in Mesopotamia, was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D."	56632	396
	The General Officer Commanding, Singapore, was instructed not to undertake any more towing of river craft until further orders.	56660	397

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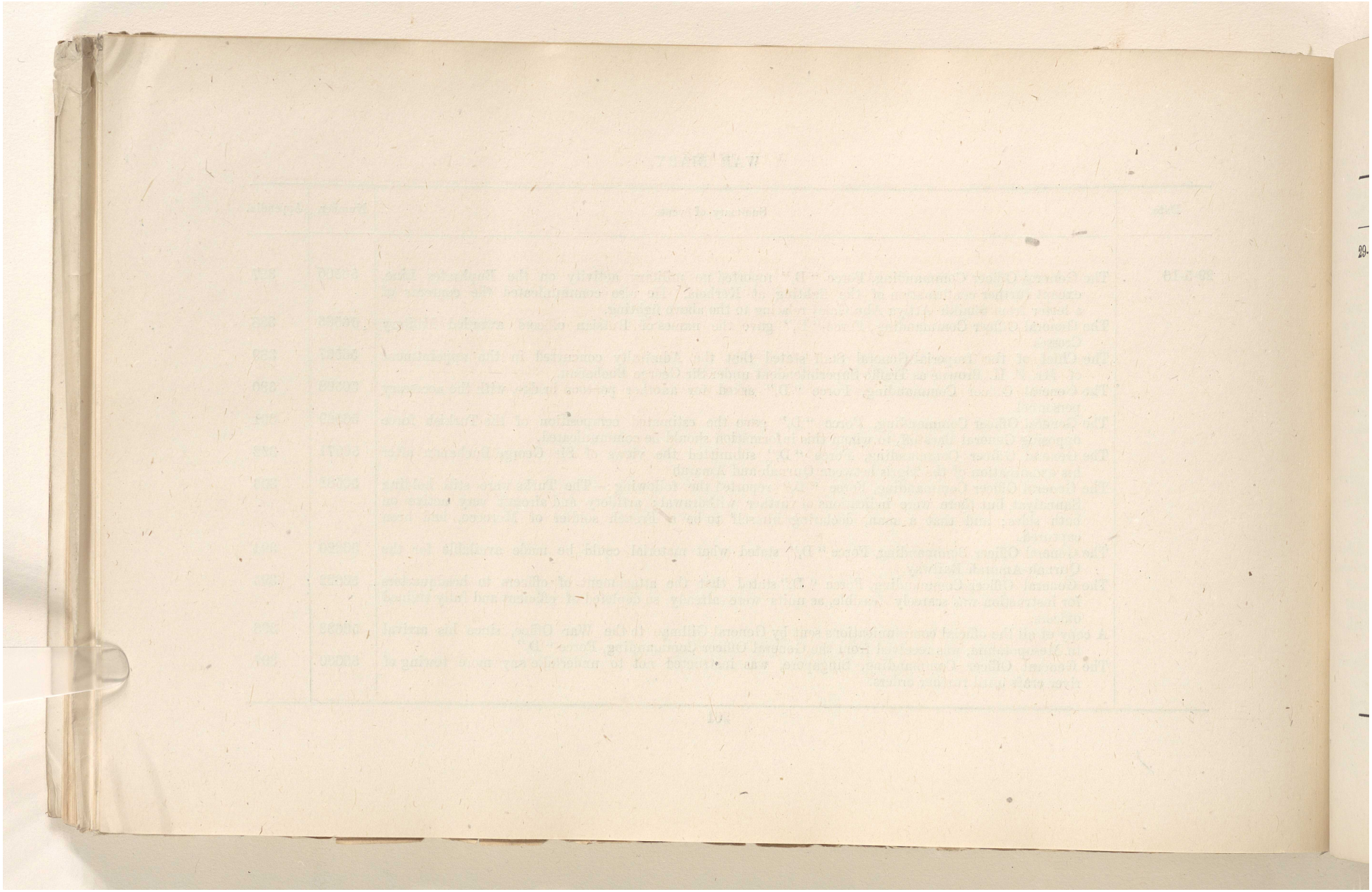

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
29-5-16	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was informed of Surgeon-General O'Donnell's forthcoming visit to Mesopotamia, and he was requested to give him every assistance.	56665	398
	The Secretary of State addressed the Viceroy with regard to the status of the Mesopotamian branch of the Arab Bureau.	56693	399
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested a further supply of 100 bipartite pontoons.	56700	400
	The views were received of the General Officer Commanding, Force "D" with regard to operations, it had been suggested that General Gorringe should carry out.	56708	401
	The Chief of the General Staff pointed out in a note on appreciation submitted by M. O. 1 that delay to take action now may in the end cost us more than an immediate offensive.	...	402

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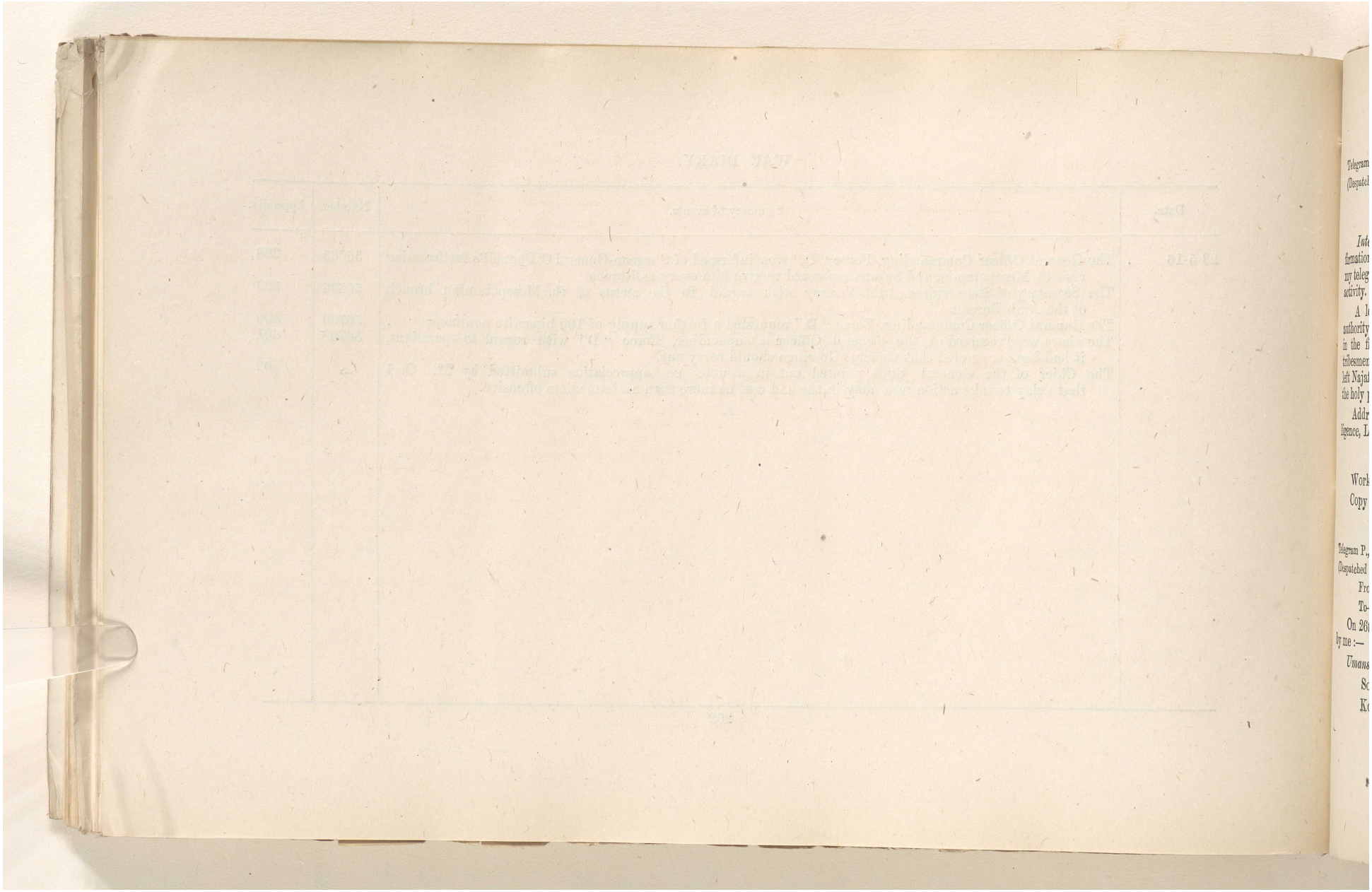

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Telegram P., No. I. G.-2902, dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **387**
(Despatched 9-30 P.M., received 3-45 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56560*)

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

Intelligence. Euphrates Line.—With the exception that further confirmation has been received regarding the fighting at Karbala mentioned in my telegram of 6th May, No. I. G.-2746 (*Dy. No. 52651*), there is no military activity.

A letter from Sheikh Attiya Abu Galal, the most powerful secular authority in Najaf, has now been received at Nasiriyah, in which he states that in the fighting referred to above, the inhabitants of Karbala, reinforced by tribesmen, killed 300 Turkish soldiers. It is also stated in the letter, which left Najaf about 20th May, that the Turks directed bombs and shells against the holy places at Karbala.

Addressed Chief of the General Staff; repeated Director of Military Intelligence, London and Egypt.

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

Telegram P., No. 47-56-M. S., dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **388**
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 5 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56566*)

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

On 26th the following Russian Officers were awarded Military Crosses by me:—

Umansky Regiment, Kuban Cossacks—
Sotnik Vassili Daelovitch Gamali.
Korunji Georgevitch Perekoti.

Persian Cossack Brigade—
Sotnik Akhmet Khan.

Particulars will be sent by post.

As it has not been decided who is to receive them, the 5 Distinguished Conduct Medals have not yet been awarded.

Addressed India; repeated London with reference to 17168-Cipher, May 25th.

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

Telegram P., No. 17272-Cipher, dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **389**
(Despatched 7-25 P.M., received 5 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56567*)

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

Your 54363, May 17th.

The appointment of Mr. P. H. Brown as Traffic Superintendent at Basrah under Sir George Buchanan, is concurred in by Admiralty, it being understood that among his duties will be included advice on questions such as repairs, methods of loading and unloading, despatch and general management of steamers, storage, bunkers and ballast.

As regards the Government of India not having been consulted, before the appointment was made, the Admiralty obtained the approval of the India Office.

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

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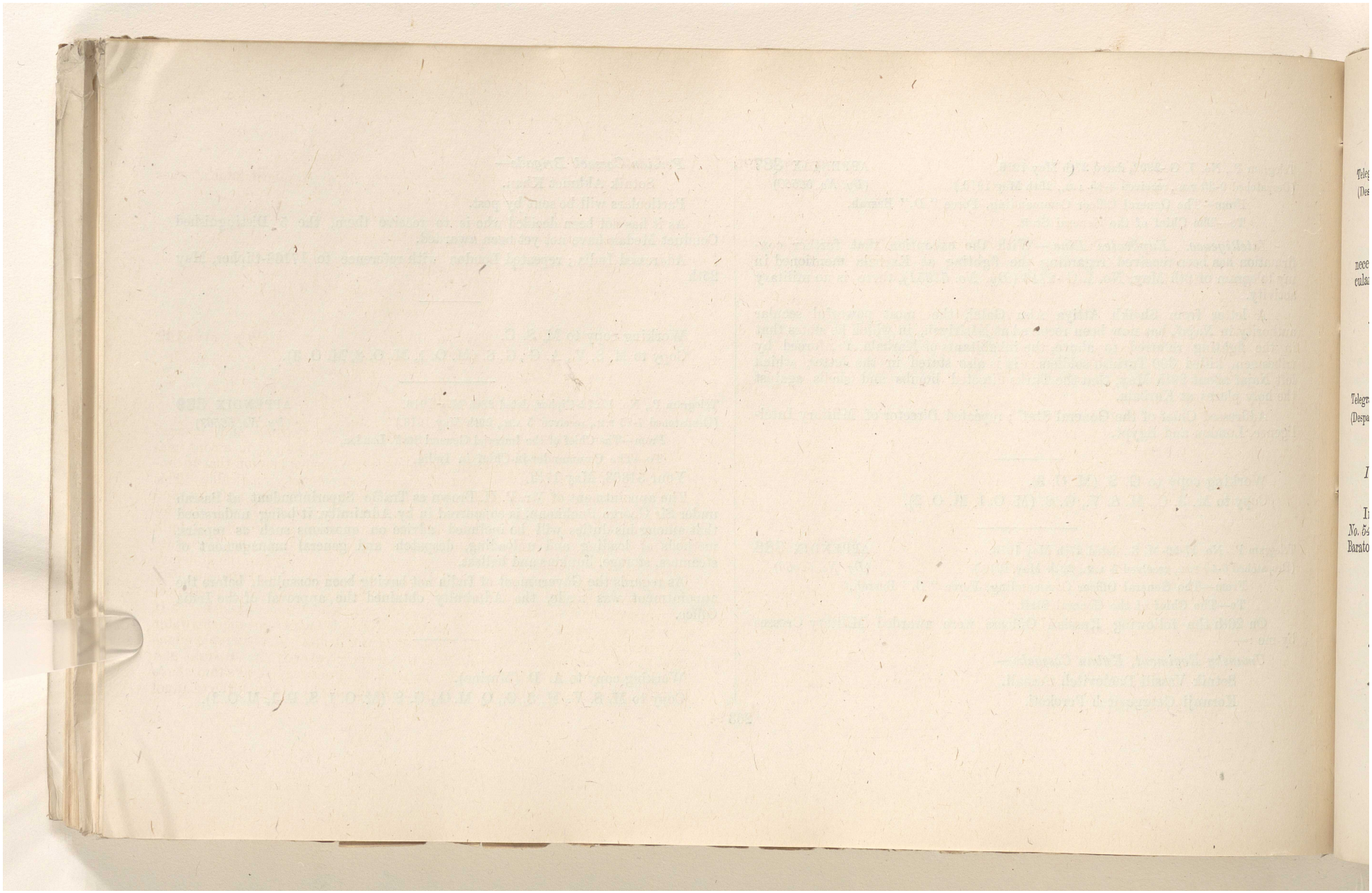

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Telegram P., No. 1159-2-O., dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **390**
(Despatched 6-40 P.M., received 6-30 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56568*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Can you let me have another pontoon bridge, 450 yards in length, with necessary personnel? In a subsequent telegram, I will inform you of particulars of establishment, etc.

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2903, dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **391**
(Despatched 8 A.M., 28th May 1916, received 5 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56569*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Intelligence:—

The following is for Baratoff:—

In continuation of my telegram of 15th May, No. I. G.-2827 (*Dy. No. 54269*). It is estimated by me that the Turkish Force now opposing Baratoff or moving to do so is composed of the following:—

Cavalry Brigade.—Comprising 4 guns, and 1st, 13th and 6th Regiments.

6th Division from Mush.—(5,500 rifles) consisting of 4 battalions each of 16th and 18th Regiments.

2nd Division from Kut.—(6,500 rifles), consisting of 2 battalions of 5th Regiment, and 4 battalions each of 1st and 6th Regiments.

Muratteb Division.—(4,500 rifles), consisting of 2 battalions of 5th Regiment, and 1 Battalion each of (37th or 45th?), 44th and 141st Regiment.

Locals:—

Grand total 27 guns, 1,700 sabres, 16,500 rifles. In above total no guns have been reckoned with 6th Division.

Addressed London; repeated India.

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

Telegram P., No. 1543-11-Q., dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **392**
(Despatched 9-30 P.M., received 3-45 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56571*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Reference your telegram of May 20th, No. 55021.

In February an examination of the Tigris between Qurnah and Amarah was made by Sir George Buchanan. He reported that, subject to a confirmation of his views, when surveys had been made it was his opinion that to improve greatly the channel in the low water season was practicable. This could be effected by easement of bends, and by judicious dredging of bars and by the construction across various canals of temporary emergency weirs taking off from the Tigris with the object of keeping in the river proper the bulk of the low water flow. One suitable dredger recently used on the Indus has been ordered from India and the surveys are in hand. Owing to the difficulty of carrying out the works without depriving the local tribes of a large quantity of water to which, for the irrigation of their crops, they have been accustomed, the proposed construction of emergency weirs has caused some discussion. It is believed, however, that arrangements can be made enabling sufficient water for irrigation purposes to be at the disposal of the tribes. Considerable quantities of plant and material for building the weirs have arrived at Basrah and as soon as possible the works will be commenced. Buchanan thinks that above Amarah navigation can be improved by surveying and by marking the channel

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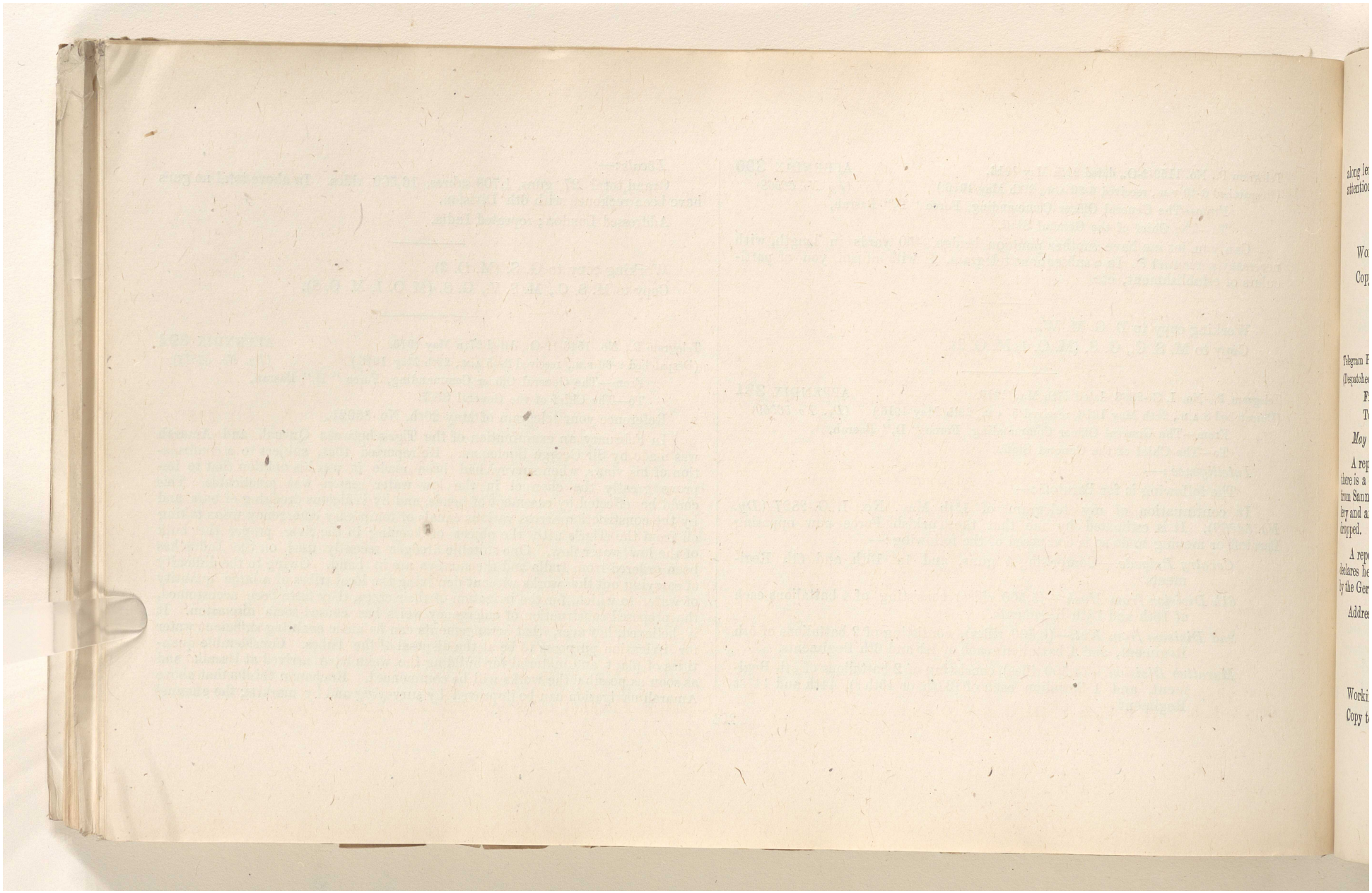

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along length of the river where any difficulties occur, and this will receive attention.

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

Telegram P., No. 129-446-O., dated 27th May 1916. APPENDIX **393**
(Despatched 0-5 A.M., 28th May 1916, received 9-50 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56582*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

May 27th, Tigris Line.

A report has been received from Gorringe to say that on the left bank there is a considerable movement of the enemy indicating further withdrawals from Sannaiyat to positions in rear but the Turks still hold Sannaiyat. Artillery and aircraft have been very active on both sides and bombs have been dropped.

A report from the 3rd Division states that a man has been captured, who declares he is a French soldier of Morocco nationality, was captured at Arras by the Germans, sent to Constantinople and forced to join the Turkish Army.

Addressed India ; repeated London.

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

Telegram P., No. 1636-7-Q., dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **394**
(Despatched 4-15 P.M., received 10-45 A.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56620*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Your 55945 of 25th May. Following can be made available for Qurnah-Amarah railway. About 15 miles of 2 ft. 6 ins. permanent way with proportionate amount of stock.

Working copy to Q. M. G.
Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., Railway Board, G. S. (M. O. 1).

Telegram P., No. 1162-1-O., dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **395**
(Despatched 5-55 P.M., received 10-45 A.M., dated 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56622*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

56079, May 26th.

1. With reference to 2nd paragraph. Glad as I should be to put your suggestion into effect, the attachment of officers to headquarters for instruction is scarcely feasible as units are already so depleted of efficient and fully trained officers. Already where officers can be spared from units they are attached as staff captains to Brigades for instruction.

2. With reference to 3rd paragraph. A larger staff than the headquarters of the corps required under normal conditions in other theatres is made necessary by the conditions under which the 3rd Army Corps is operating as a practically independent force of 4 divisions, a cavalry brigade, and considerable number of corps troops because in the former case a corps consists generally of 3 divisions at the most, and is connected by rapid means of transport with headquarters of its army and is in close touch with other corps.

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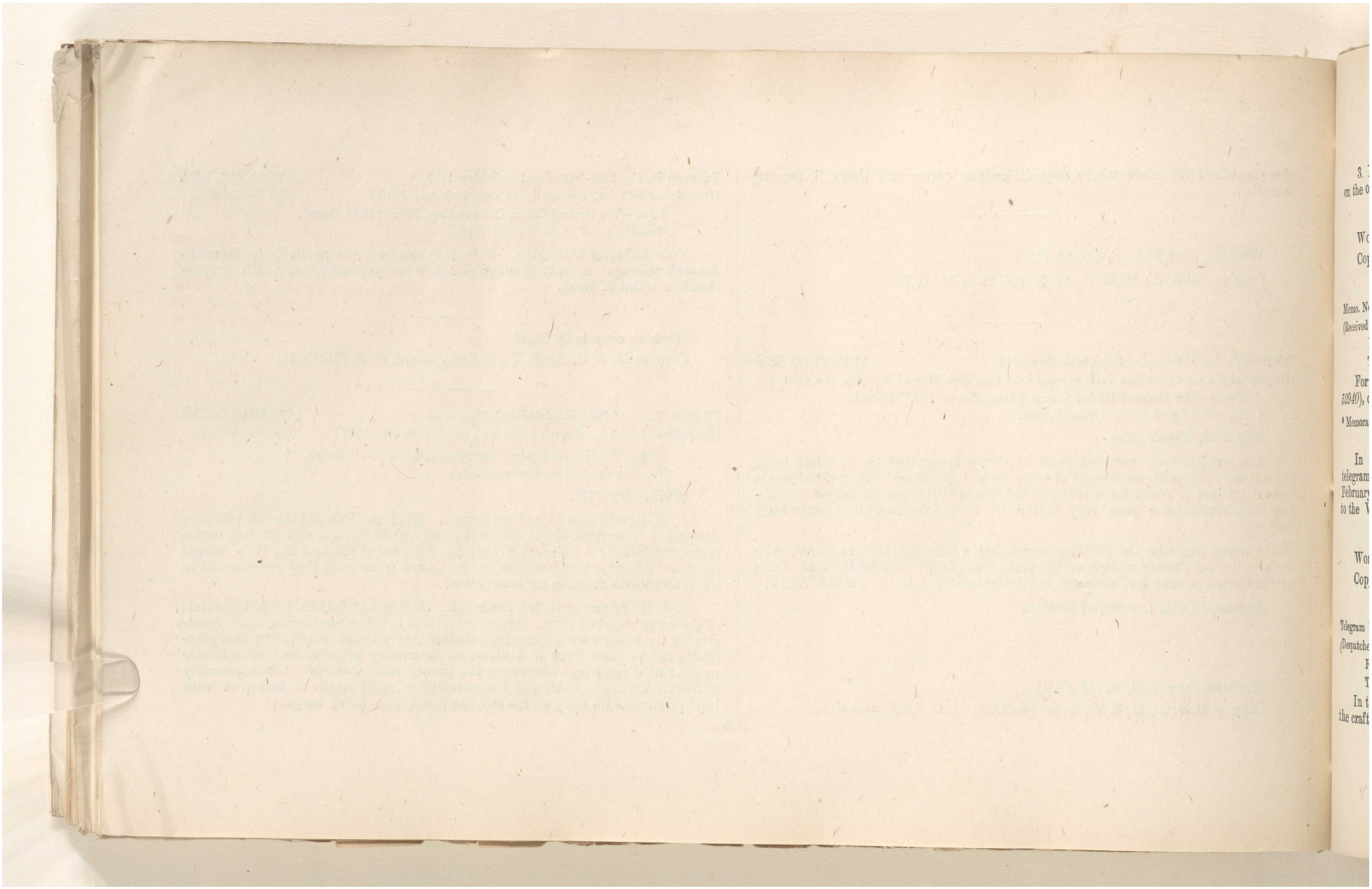

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3. Reductions are not possible in any other staffs in the force. Some may, on the other hand, require enlarging.

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

Memo. No. 1088-3-O., dated 9th May 1916. APPENDIX **396**
(Received in War Section, 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56632*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Forwarded* in continuation of my telegram No. 1088-2-O. (*Dy. No. 52940*), dated 8th May 1916.

* Memorandum dated the 8th May 1916 from Brigadier General GILLMAN, Liaison Officer, Force "D," The Chief of the General Staff, Force "D."

In accordance with the instructions contained in War Office cipher telegram No. 13627. to the Commander-in-Chief in India, dated the 27th February last, I enclose a copy of all the official communications, I have sent to the War Office since my arrival in Mesopotamia.

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

Telegram No. 14550-Cipher M. O., dated 19th March 1916. (Enclosure to Dy.
(Despatched 19th March 1916, received 21st March 1916.) No. 56632)
From—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London,
To—General GILLMAN.

In the organization of river transport service such as to get best use out of the craft available, *e.g.*, pooling of resources under one strong management, co-ordination of demands for transport by a recognized authority with a view to their being met in order of urgency, rapid loading and discharge of craft and avoidance of detention under one load, control and improvement of landing places, absence of interference with service by units or departments?

Do you think they have best available man in charge of river transport and has he suitable rank and sufficient staff and personnel? Is there any difficulty as regards naval and military dual control?

Is it necessary for certain tugs to be specially ear-marked for Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps? Are not such tugs under control of Marine Transport Department? Separate indents have been received by War Office for these tugs.

Reply.

Telegram No. W. G. 2, dated 21st March 1916.
(Despatched 9-38 P.M., 21st March 1916).

Your 14550-M.O. received. Arrived to-day. Will enquire and report on transport arrangements as soon as possible.

Telegram No. W. G.-3., dated 25th March 1916.
From—General GILLMAN,
To—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London.

Reference your 14550-Cipher M. O.

Organization of river transport is on sound basis.

Resources not all pooled as some crafts are allotted to Director of Works, Royal Flying Corps, etc.

Demands for all river transport are met in order of urgency as directed by Chief of the General Staff and Quarter Master General in consultation. Order then complied with by Inspector General of Communications.

Rapid loading and unloading of craft latterly improved by employment of civilian contractor who is at present remunerated by results.

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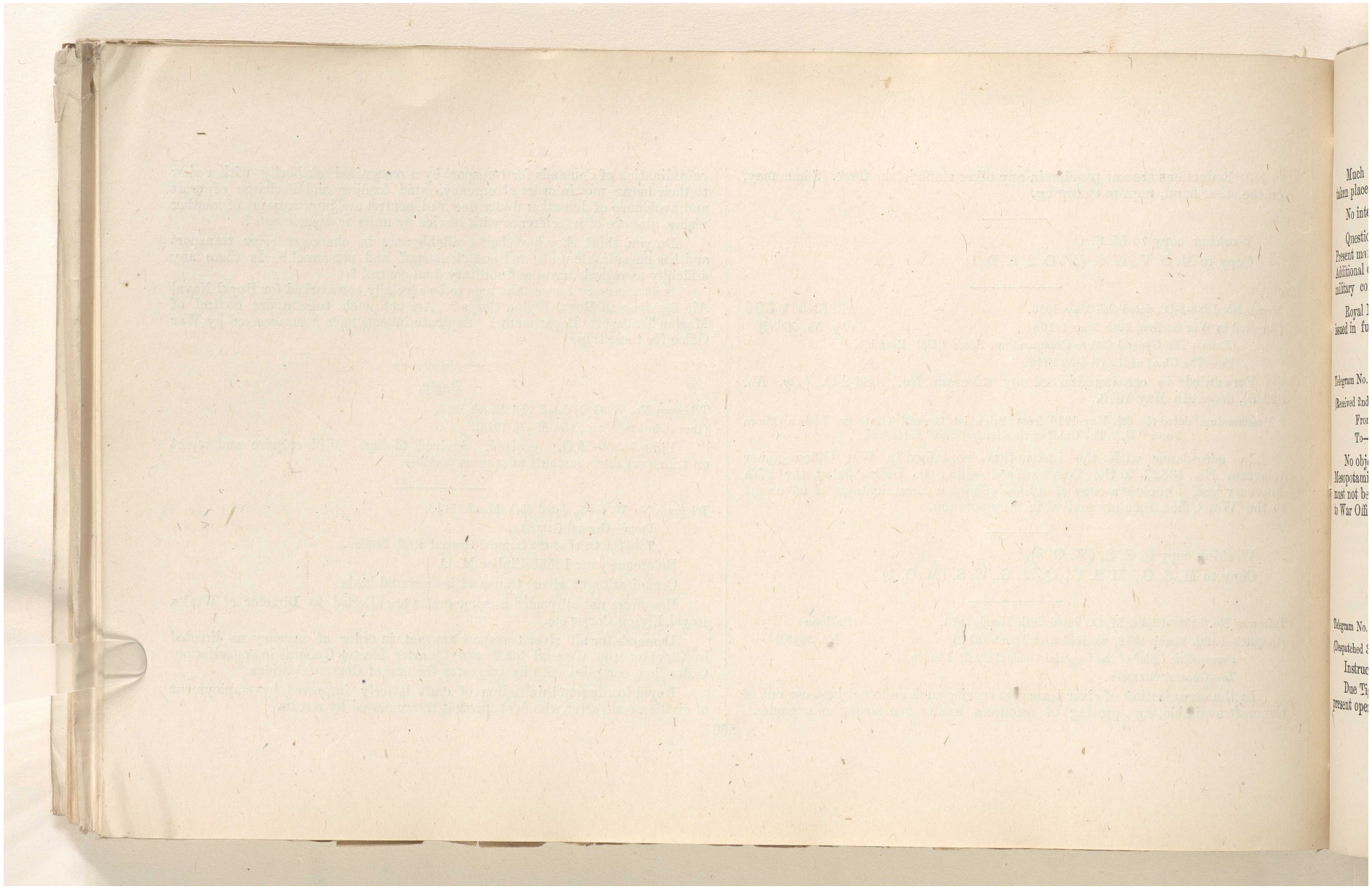

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Much improvement in landing places and extemporising of wharfage has taken place, and work is still in progress.

No interference by units or Departments is permitted.

Question of man in charge of river transport is under consideration. Present man is understaffed and requires assistants with administrative ability. Additional officers due and will ease matters if suitable. No joint naval and military control. Indian Marine responsible for river transport.

Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps now combined. Tugs issued in future to the air services.

Telegram No. 14988-Cipher.

(Received 2nd April 1916.)

From—The Secretary, War Office, London,

To—General GILLMAN.

No objection to alternative interpretations for names of places, etc., in Mesopotamia in Cipher book. This is only a temporary measure and your book must not be marked up. These alternative interpretations are only to be used to War Office.

Reply.

Telegram No. W. G.-4.

(Despatched 3rd April 1916.)

Instructions noted.

Due Tigris Corps headquarters this evening and will stay there until after present operations.

Telegram No. W. G.-5, dated 24th April 1916.

From—General GILLMAN,

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

Personal and Secret. The Tigris Corps has lost heavily in the recent fighting and is now in my opinion lacking in numbers and dash necessary for success should another attack be made by us as proposed in Army Commander's telegram of 22nd April.

The enemy is fighting with great determination and counter-attacked with vigour after the recent attacks by our 3rd and 7th Divisions.

I consider that any further attempt to relieve Kut-al-Amarah with our present forces is unlikely to be successful and may cause a more serious situation to develop.

Telegram No. W. G.-6, dated 27th April 1916.

From—General GILLMAN,

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

Reference your 15736-M. O.-964 of 25th April.

I have the following remarks to make.

The Tigris Corps is strong enough to hold its present line, and to threaten the communications of any Turkish force moving down the Hai against Nasiriyah but if the Turkish Army receives appreciable reinforcements these with the troops now investing Kut could move either against Nasiriyah or round our left flank south of the Um-el-Brahm while this Corps is contained by the force now opposite to it.

Besides affecting Russia and prestige any retirement would also affect the Beni Lam Arabs who would partly or altogether combine against us according to extent of our retirement and their action might disturb Persia.

If the Turkish force is reinforced we should be in a better position at Shaikh Sa'ad as regards our left flank. South of Shaikh Sa'ad the only advantage is that of supply.

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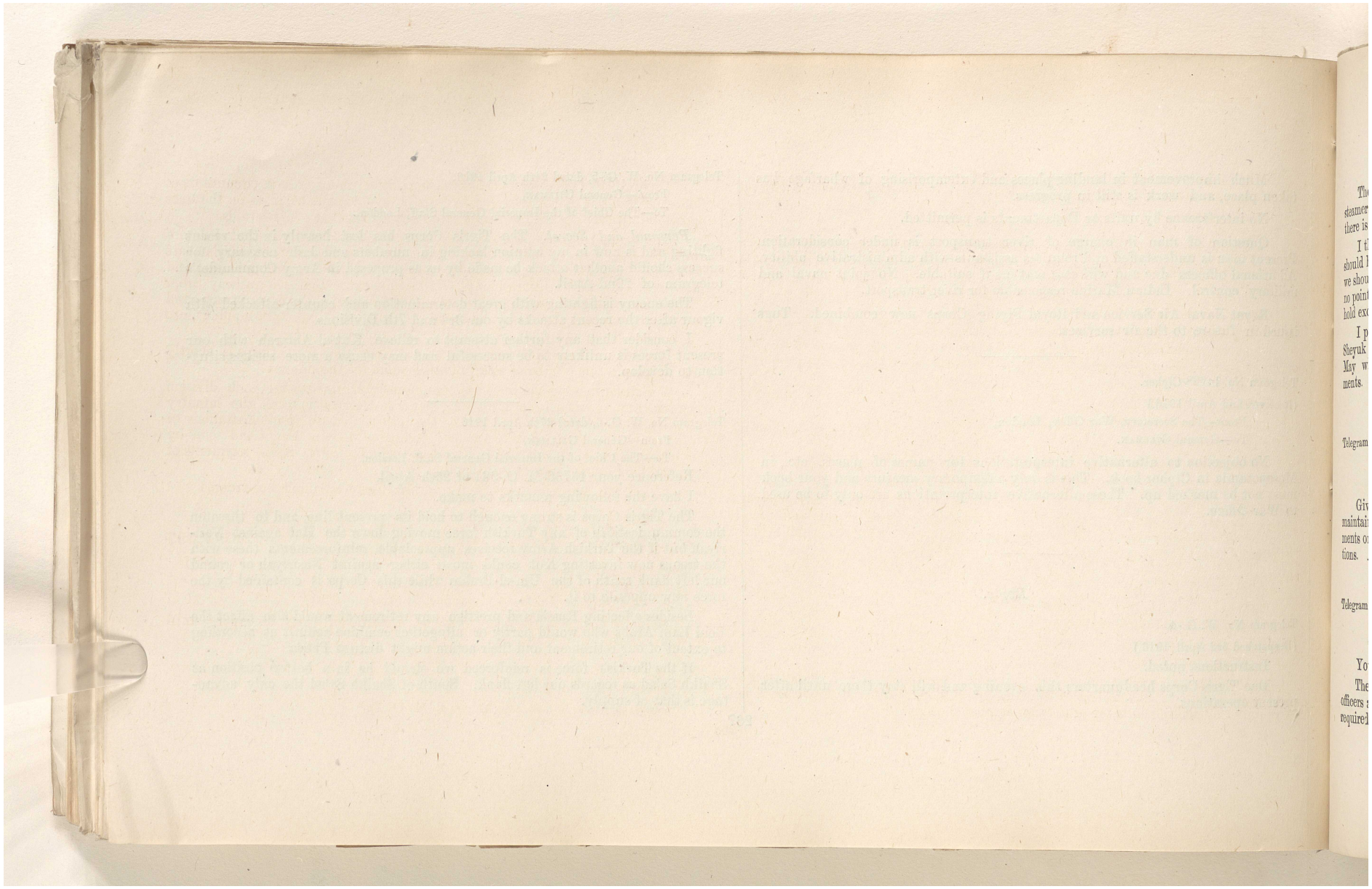

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The question of river craft influences the situation. At present with all steamers working troops are being fed practically from hand to mouth and there is no reserve of supplies at the front.

I think that if our supply arrangements can be made satisfactory we should hold present position but if the Turkish troops receive reinforcements we should fall back to Shaikh Sa'ad. If supplies cannot be maintained there is no point between Shaikh Sa'ad and Amarah that seems to be worth while to hold except on account of prestige.

I proceed on 30th April with the Naval C.-in-C. to Nasiriyah and Suk-esh Sheyuk to study the situation there and expect to arrive at Basrah about 4th May when I should be glad to receive instructions as to my future movements.

Telegram No. 16092-Cipher, dated 4th May 1916.

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

To—General GILLMAN, Basrah.

Give me your views as to the possibility of present force in Mesopotamia maintaining approximately the position it now holds without further reinforcements on understanding that it is adequately supplied with drafts and munitions. *Ends.*

Telegram No. W. G.-7, dated 5th May 1916.

From—General GILLMAN.

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

Your 16092-Cipher.

The Tigris Corps has suffered considerable losses especially in experienced officers and all ranks need rest. Weather is now very hot and much work is required in making huts for protection against the sun.

I think the Corps can maintain its position under present circumstances but each Division should be rested in turn. Small mobile columns on the lines of communications may also become necessary on account of Arab raids.

The 42nd Infantry Brigade will shortly reach Nasiriyah and I do not anticipate any serious trouble there during flooded season. When floods abate the Arabs in that direction are sure to harass the lines of communication and may receive Turkish reinforcements. It is important that the railway from Basrah be pushed on with speed in order to facilitate movement of troops and supplies by rail and to avoid delays due to navigation and transhipping into boats when floods subside.

A general reserve of 4 weak Battalions from the Tigris Corps is shortly due at Basrah but will be of small fighting value for the present.

For strengthening the lines of communication, for resting each division in turn, and, in order to form a strong general reserve, I think the infantry of 1 division is required in addition to the present troops, some battalions of which might be obtained from Indian Regiments now in Egypt and some by reforming from drafts the battalions that were in Kut. Some regiments of colonial horse would also be invaluable.

I leave 8th May for Egypt and tranship there for Salonika as ordered.

Telegram No. 56660, dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **397**

(Despatched 7 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56660*)

From—The Chief of the General Staff,

To—The General Officer Commanding, Singapore.

No more towing of river craft to be undertaken from Singapore until further orders.

Record copy to Q. M. G.

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

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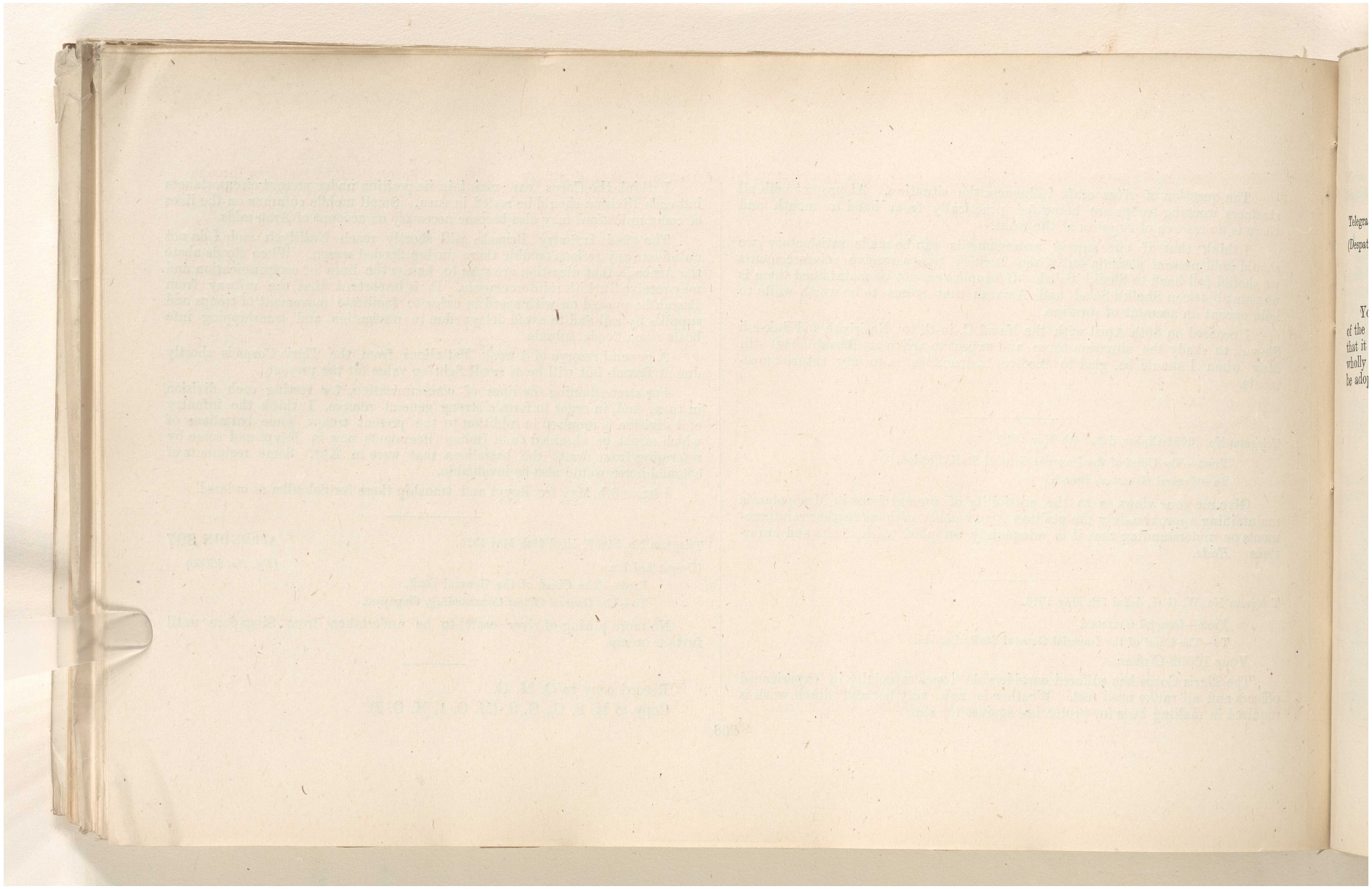

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Telegram No. 1614-S-Q., dated 28th May 1916.

(Despatched 10-15 A.M., received 8 A.M., 29th May 1916.)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff, Simla.

Your 55771 of 24th May. I am not quite clear as to the scope of the reference of the Committee of which Sir George Buchanan is to be president. I presume that it will report on the question whether it is desirable to construct river craft wholly or partially in Mesopotamia or altogether overseas and on the system to be adopted for the maintenance in personnel and material and for the repair of river craft in Mesopotamia. Is the above correct or do you wish a wider reference? If so, please specify in what respect. Meanwhile reply to your 53172 of 10th May is nearly ready and will be despatched in a few days.

APPENDIX 397-A.

(*Dy. No. 56574.*)

Working copy to A. D. (Marine).

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

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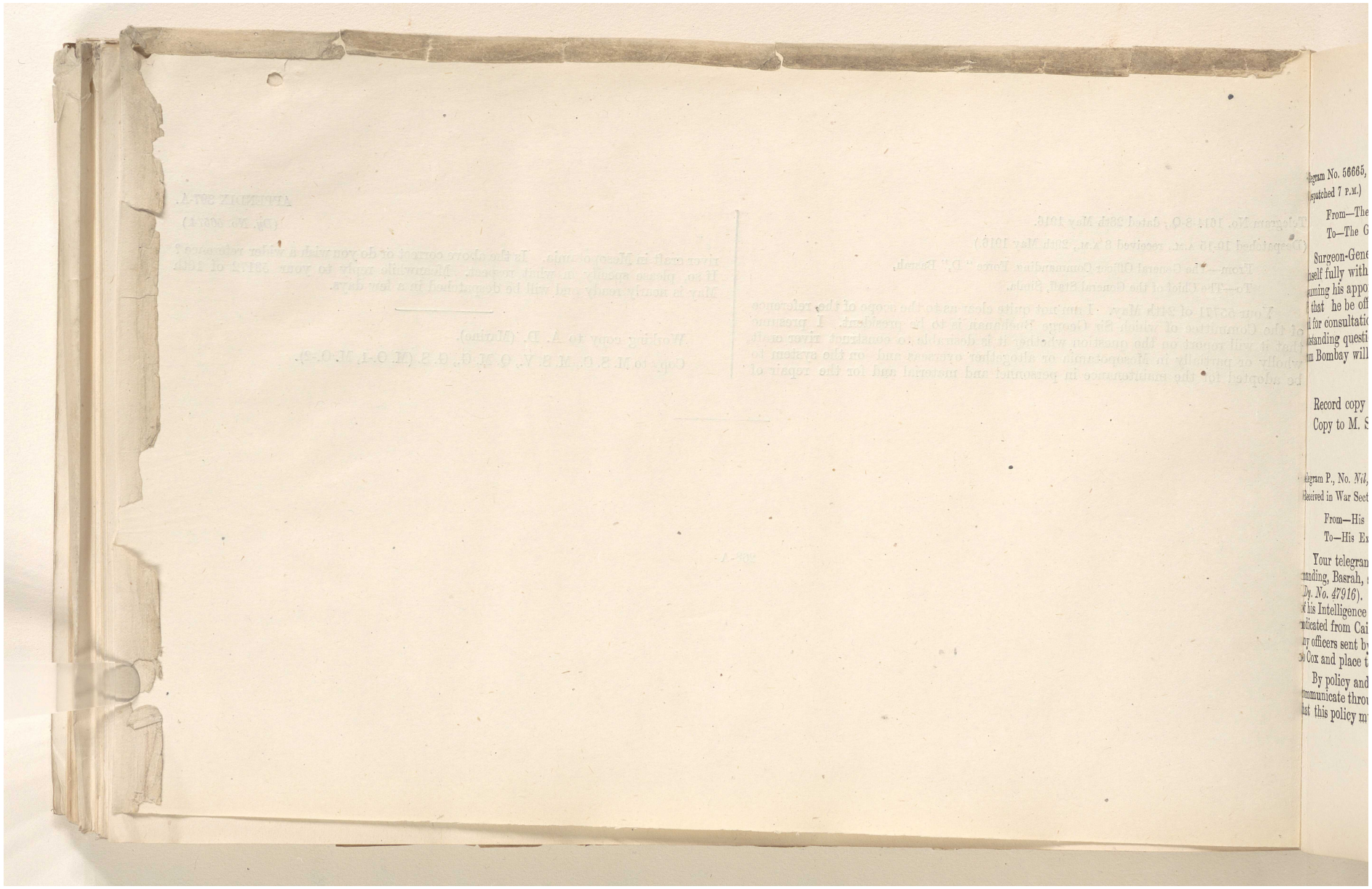

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legram No. 56665, dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **398**
)spatched 7 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56665*)

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

Surgeon-General O'Donnell is going to Mesopotamia in order to acquaint mself fully with the local necessities in all spheres of operations prior to suming his appointment as Director, Medical Services in India. It is request- l that he be offered every facility for full examination of local conditions nd for consultation with Director, Medical Services Force "D," as regards all utstanding questions affecting comfort and health of troops. Date of sailing om Bombay will be notified you later.

Record copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. C.

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elegram P., No. *Nil*, dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **399**
Received in War Section, 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56693*)

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—His Excellency the Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department), Simla.

Your telegram of 15th instant (*Dy. No. 54129*). General Officer Com- nanding, Basrah, suggested Iraq Branch, see your telegram of the 9th April (*Dy. No. 47916*). It has no independent status is I understand simply section f his Intelligence Branch created for the purpose of carrying on propaganda ndicated from Cairo. I am asking that instructions may be sent to Cairo that ny officers sent by them to Mesopotamia should communicate their instructions o Cox and place themselves under his orders.

By policy and principle I meant that His Majesty's Government will ommunicate through Cairo the general policy to be adopted towards Arabs and hat this policy must be consistently followed in Mesopotamia with necessary adaptation to local conditions. Words "his department" meant Iraq through- out the whole. Words "outside Persia" which were perhaps unnecessary were meant to ensure that no propaganda is carried on there without your authority.

Cox will continue to conduct relations with Central Arabia and Trucial Coast under your authority and Cairo and Cox will address you repeating to Cox and Cairo for propaganda purposes there.

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

Telegram No. 760-11-32-Q., dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **400**
(Despatched 11-10 P.M., received 2-15 P.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56700*)

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

To meet recent demands from Tigris and Euphrates columns I require a further supply of 100 bipartite pontoons complete with superstructures and a corresponding proportion of cordage oars, anchors, etc. No Weldon trestles required. Provision of more wagons under consideration and suggestions for construction of same will be submitted shortly. Suggest that War Office be asked to meet all or part of this demand. If local manufacture in India is unavoidable I invite special attention to my telegram No. 760-11-23-Q., dated 8th May (*Dy. No. 53031*), and my telegram No. 760-11-25-Q., dated 10th May.

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

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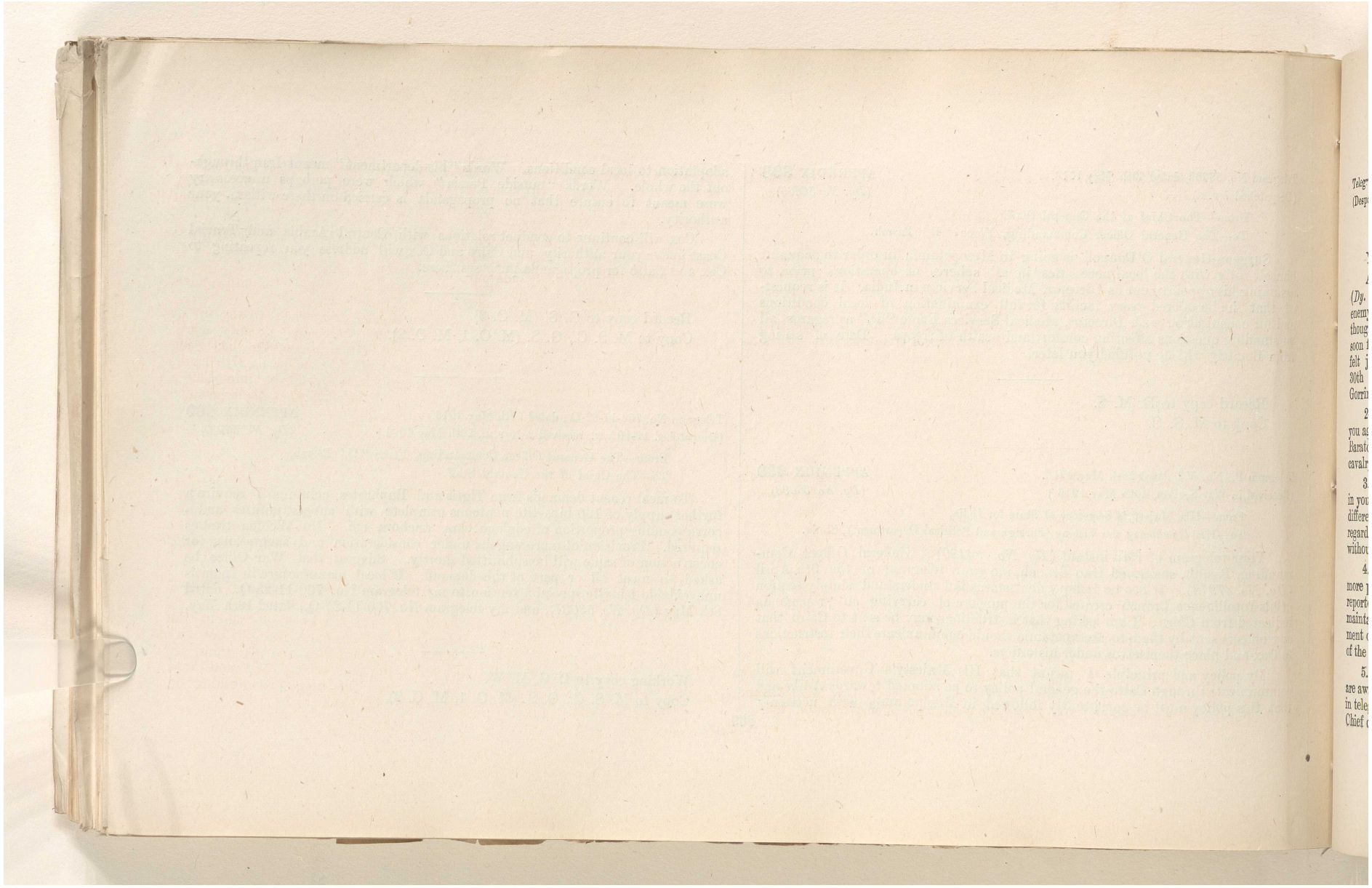

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Telegram P., No. 1119-23-O., dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **401**
(Despatched 7-35 P.M., received 10 P.M., 29th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56708*)

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

Your 56311 of 27th May.

As you were informed in my telegram of 22nd May, No. 129-440-O. (*Dy. No. 55425*), Gorringe on that date did not consider that he could drive enemy out of his positions on left bank without suffering heavy losses, and though the fact that the comparatively weak Russian Khaniqin Column would soon find itself confronted by superior forces was realised by me, I have not felt justified in accordance with telegram No. 15955 (*Dy. No 51399*), dated 30th April, from Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London, in urging Gorringe to assume a more active offensive.

2. The strength of the Turkish Forces opposing Gorringe as estimated by you agrees with my estimate approximately, though the Turks confronting Baratoff are estimated by me to be under 19,000 strong, including guns and cavalry and excluding Rowanduz Area.

3. Gorringe is being asked by me what he can do on the lines suggested in your telegram under reply, though I do not think that there is any material difference between the situation to-day and that reported on 22nd, and, as regards material, Gorringe is not in a position to bridge the Tigris at Magasis without dismantling his bridge at Shaikh Sa'ad or Falahiyah.

4. A stroke across the Hai against the enemy's bridge at Shumran is a more possible line of action. On 22nd May, I suggested this to him, but he reported that at that time his land transport was insufficient to enable him to maintain across the Hai a force of any size, and furthermore that the movement of cavalry would be considerably restricted by floods on the right bank of the Tigris upstream of Hai.

5. My direct communication with Baratoff was specifically limited, as you are aware, to intelligence regarding the enemy by the instructions contained in telegram No. 14640-Cipher M. O. (*Dy. No. 44889*), of 22nd March from Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Any co-ordinating offensive action by me in direct communication with Baratoff was precluded by these instructions combined with those contained in telegram No. 15955 (*Dy. No. 51399*), of 30th April from Chief of the Imperial General Staff, London. The Grand Duke is aware of this I presume.

6. Unless my telegram of 10th May, No. 1032-14-O. (*Dy. No. 53310*), was repeated to the Grand Duke by the C. I G. S. to whom it was addressed, I do not know what telegram of mine is referred to by Hanbury Williams.

7. I was not aware either that the Russian Kirmanshah Column undertook its advance solely from an unselfish desire to assist me.

8. I learnt from C. I. G. S., London, on 24th April, when I was up at Tigris front, that Baratoff's advance was fixed to commence on 28th April. Not knowing whether information regarding the situation at Kut had been communicated to the Russians, I wired to C. I. G. S., London, on 27th April, suggesting that the imminence of the surrender of Kut should be immediately notified to the Russian Government. However the policy of their advance was not apparently modified by the information.

Addressed India ; repeated London.

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

SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA. APPENDIX **402**
29th May 1916.

On the Tigris line the relative British and Turkish positions remaining practically what they were a week ago, *viz.*—

55425
55586
55603
55854
56143
56327

(*a*) The Turks according to the information received, strength not exceeding 17,000 rifles and 64 guns, are holding the line of the Hai southward of Kut and the Sannaiyat position on the Tigris left bank ;

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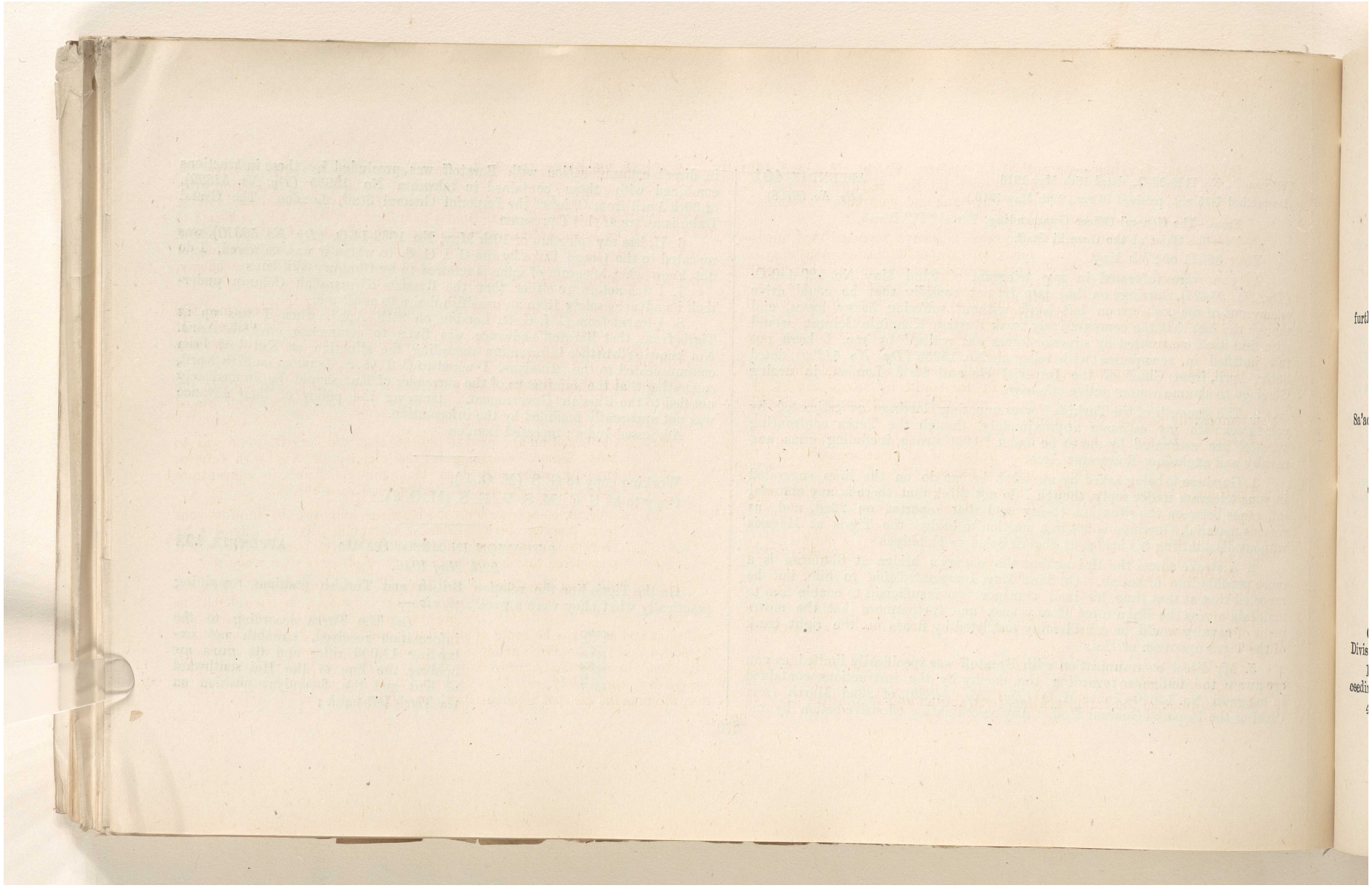

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(106)

(*b*) General Gorringe—strength 1,430 sabres, 27,540 rifles and 155 guns—holds the line Dajaileh-Magasis on the right bank and confronts the Sannaiyat position on the left bank. 55606

On 24th, 25th and again on 27th, General Gorringe reported that movement of transport indicated possibility of Turkish withdrawal on the left bank and on the last mentioned date it was reported that there were indications of further withdrawals from Sannaiyat although that position was still held. On 28th it was reported that the bridge over the Hai was still held. 55854 56143 56582 56609

2. General Lake reports that the road between Qurnah and Amarah is now fit for traffic by troops and A. T. carts, and the road Amarah to Shaikh Sa'ad temporarily passable by all arms. 55854

3. Goneral Baratoff at Kasr-i-Shirin has been instructed to suspend operations in face of a superior enemy and to retire if necessary. 56063

The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," estimates the force opposing General Baratoff to consist of— 56569

6th Division	5,500
2nd Division	6,500
Murattah Division	4,500
Total	16,500 rifles

Cavalry Brigade of 1,700 sabres and 27 guns, exclusive of guns with 6th Division.

In addition to the above, the 22nd Regiment is understood to be proceeding to the Khanikin front.

4. All is quiet on the Euphrates line, in Arabistan and at Bushire.

5. On the 22nd May, General Gorringe reported his in ability to drive the Turks out of the Sannaiyat position without incurring heavy casualties, and in forwarding this report the General Officer Commanding, Force "D," referred to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff's instructions* to the effect that General Lake should be ready to take advantage of any weakness on the part of the enemy, provided heavy losses were not risked. 55425 * 51399

On the 23rd May, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff informed His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that he did not consider that he could usefully supplement the above instructions. 55626

On the 24th May, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in reply to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, stated that:— 55709

(*a*) The information appeared to indicate that the Turkish plan was to hold General Gorringe in the vicinity of Kut with inferior strength sufficiently long to enable the Turks to concentrate superior strength against Baratoff at Kasr-i-Shirin.

(*b*) In order to co-operate with the Russians and also to improve our own position, both militarily and politically, an offensive by General Gorringe was indicated as the correct course. Nor was it considered that heavy losses would result from such a course.

On the 25th May, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff stated that, for the present situation, he considered his previous instructions to General Lake to be sufficient and as full as he could appropriately make them. At the same time, he added that "it would be undoubtedly of advantage to co-operate effectively with the Russians and improve our military position on the Tigris, and if this can be done compatibly with Lake's mission, Lake can certainly do it. As to this, the man on the spot alone can form an opinion. 56063

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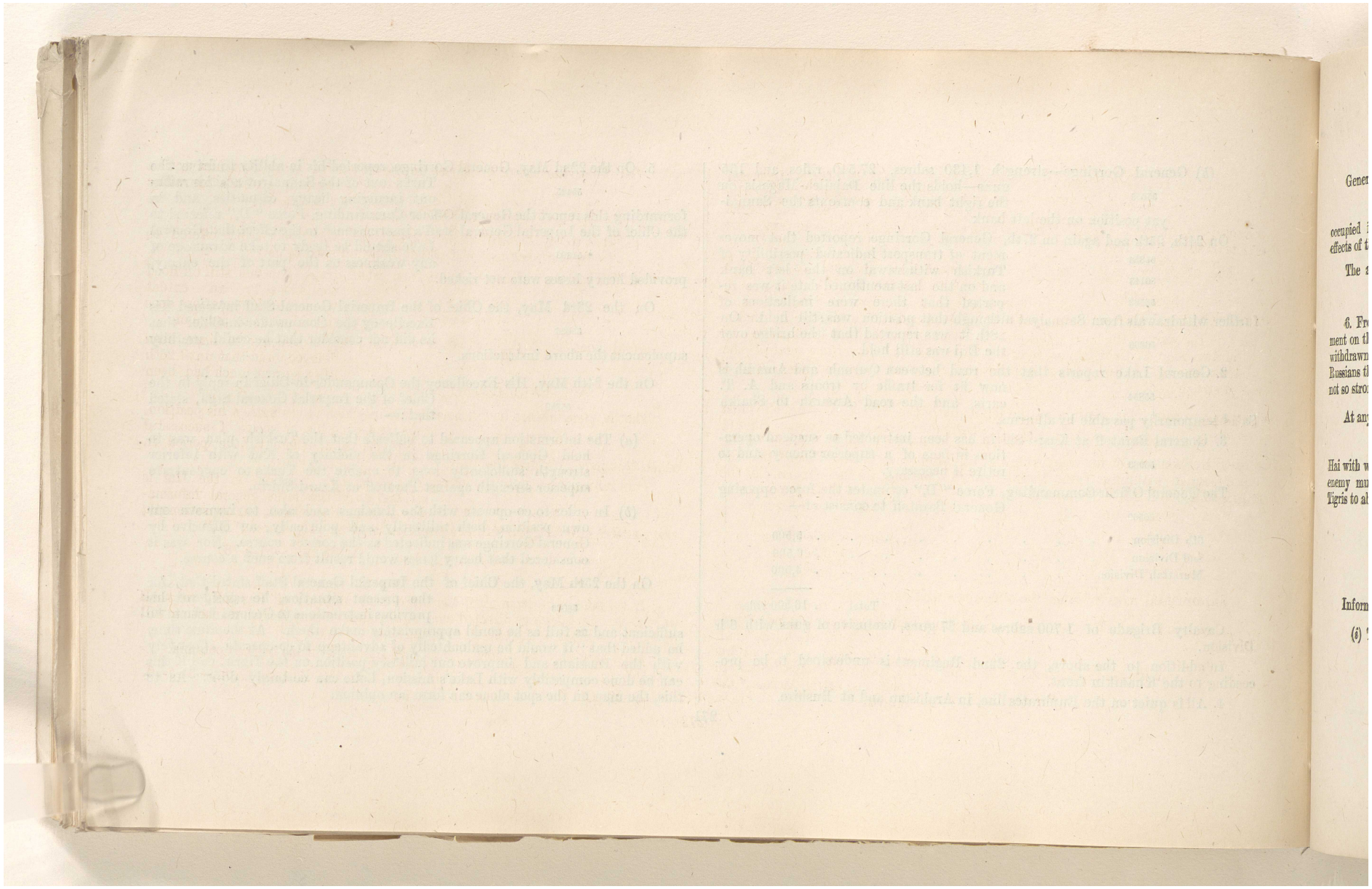

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General Lake's "mission" referred to by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff was: whilst ensuring the security of his force, to keep the Turks occupied in order to assist the Russians and to minimise and counteract the effects of the fall of Kut.
51399

The above correspondence has been repeated to General Lake with a request for his views.
56311

6. From the continuous information received regarding retrograde movement on the part of the Turks, it seems just possible that they may have already withdrawn more of their troops from the Kut area for operations against the Russians then is known, and that the force in contact with the Tigris Corps is not so strong as it is thought to be.

At any rate their position on the left bank of the river is one which must give them much cause for anxiety. Should General Gorringe force the passage of the Hai with which object he was bringing up pontoons, it would seem that the enemy must withdraw from their forward positions on the left bank of the Tigris to above Kut.
55425

S. G. Loch,—30-5-16.

Information received since the above was written shows:—

(*i*) That an offensive as suggested from here "say near Magasis" presents difficulties to the man on the spot which combine with his instructions from Chief of the Imperial General Staff to rule out action across * the Tigris.
55709
* 56859

(*ii*) That shortage of transport imposes a passive attitude on him until a tramway extends his radius of action.
56859
Paragraphs 2 and 3.

(That is to say, we are not prepared to take the opportunity offered us by the weakness of Turkish forces opposed to us.)

(*iii*) That an offensive, apart from other drags, depends still on flood conditions to an extent which our information does not allow us to judge of.
56859
Paragraph 2.

(*iv*) That the Turkish advance on Kasr-i-Shirin appears to have been delayed, and that until 26th May no real touch had been gained with Baratoff.
56734

That is, Baratoff has had at least 4 days in which to strengthen his position, thus increasing his prospects of successful resistance, and, thereby, the period in which Gorringe's chances lie.
56063

Our information as to the extent of the enemy's position on the Hai is *nil*, and only the most general information as to his dispositions, our own strength, and matters affecting the military situation, is given us by Force "D."
Yes.

A. Skeen,—31-5-16.

C. G. S.

If we remain inactive until the Turks have disposed of Baratoff, we shall have a strong offensive directed against us; and we may find that inaction will have cost us more in the end than action now.

Note carefully the report of 2 more Turkish Divisions in Mesopotamia.

G. M. Kirkpatrick,—31-5-16.

D. M. O.

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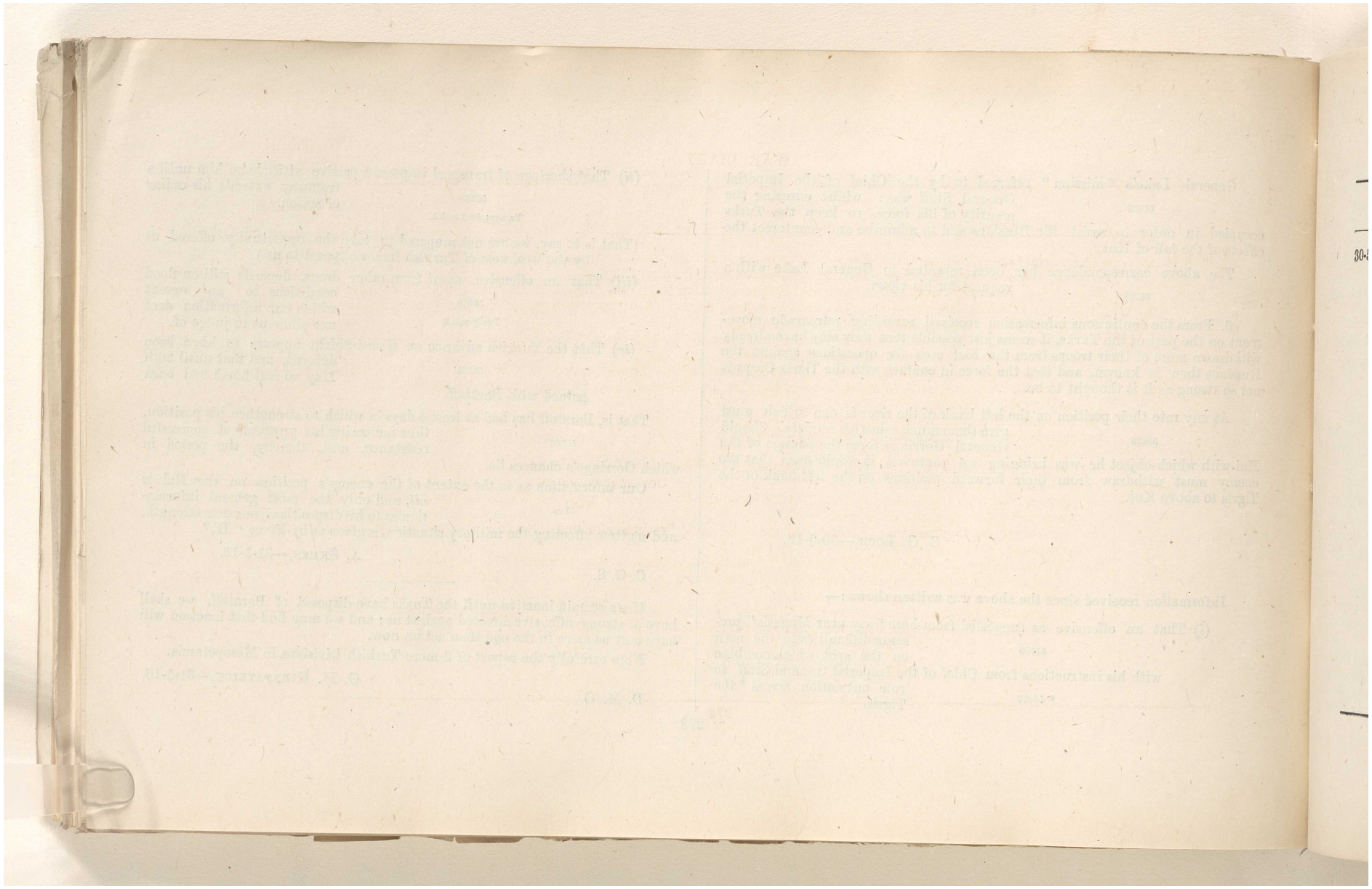

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
30-5-16	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," recommended that the Army Bearer Corps should be placed on the same footing as driver personnel of Supply and Transport Corps.	56721	403
	Major Marsh reported that the Russians issued no proclamation when entering Arab Territory, and that Russian Commanders were given a free hand as regards Kurds. Also that two Kurdish agents in Russian pay had proved untrustworthy.	56734	404
	The Russian right Rowanduz column arrived on line Zibar-Rizan and General Baratoff's advanced cavalry detachment drove back enemy's cavalry at Hamrala.		
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," stated that the 6th Turkish Army may be reinforced by 2 Turkish Divisions, with some batteries of German or Austrian heavy artillery and large drafts for the week 35th Division.	56735	405
	The Director, Military Intelligence, London, reported on the distribution of the Turkish forces. . .	56738	406
	A statement of guns and ammunition in use in Mesopotamia was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D."	56794	407
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," reported the changes in the distribution of troops for the week commencing 28th May.	56795	408
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was informed of the despatch of five armoured motor cycles with side cars, and 13 drivers.	56841	409
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," gave General Gorringe's appreciation on the proposed operations.	56859	410
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was told that under Military Service Act, Section 2, no soldiers would be allowed, during the war, to be discharged on the completion of his engagement, unless he had attained the age of 41 years.	56868	411
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," pointed out that, by sanction of the promised establishment, only one full aviation squadron of 12 aeroplanes would really be provided.	56884	412

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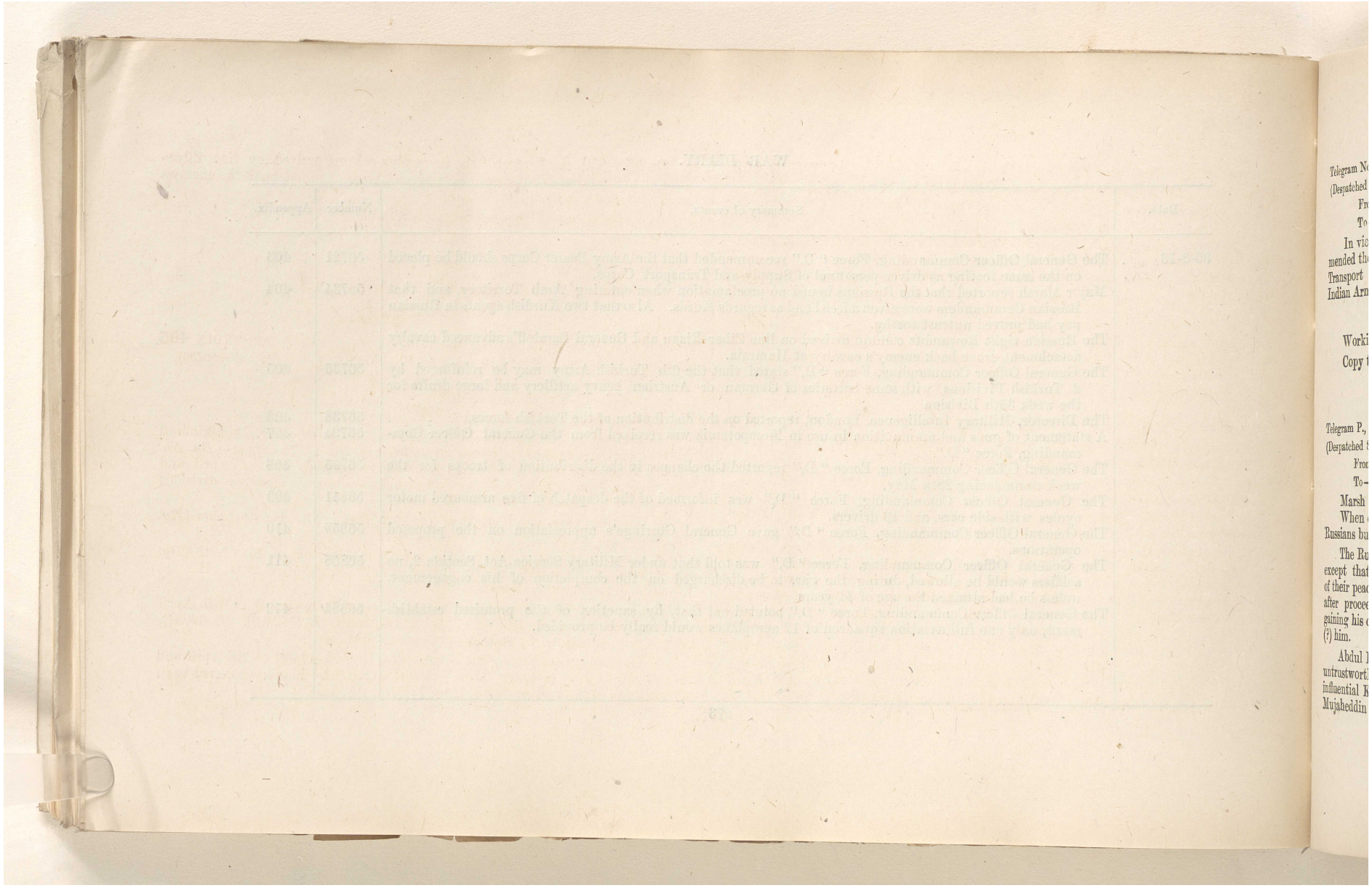

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Telegram No. 1130-7-A., dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **403**
(Despatched 12-45 P.M., received 1-15 A.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56721*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

In view of pluck shown by Army Bearer Corps under fire strongly recommended they be placed on the same footing as driver personnel Supply and Transport Corps and draw special field allowance as for corresponding ranks Indian Army.

Working copy to D. M. S.
Copy to M. S. C.

Telegram P., No. 17301-Cipher-M. I., dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **404**
(Despatched 8-20 P.M., 29th May 1916, received 8-0 A.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56734*)
From—The Director of Military Intelligence, London,
To—The Commander in-Chief in India.

Marsh has sent the following :—

When entering Arab Territory no proclamations have been issued by the Russians but the matter is being considered by them.

The Russian Commanders have been given a free hand as regards Kurds except that they have been told not to molest unarmed inhabitants in pursuit of their peaceful occupations. Simko Bey, an influential Kurd in Russian pay, after proceeding to Bitlis with Prince Shakhovskoi on a political mission and gaining his confidence, deserted to the Turks and Cossacks are now hunting (?) him.

Abdul Razaq, Bedr Khan, another Turkish agent in Russian pay, has proved untrustworthy though Kiamil Bey his uncle professes loyalty. At Serdesht an influential Kurd by name Baiz Agha has surrendered. Meanwhile the Kurd Mujaheddin is attacking the Russian on the Rowanduz Serdesht front.

On May 26th the Russian right Rowanduz column arrived on line Zibar-Rizan and Baratoff's advanced cavalry detachment drove back the enemy's cavalry at Hamrala on the same date.

Addressed Basrah ; repeated Egypt and India.

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-4909, dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **405**
(Despatched 12-30 P.M., received 4-15 A.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56735*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Intelligence.

Regarding reinforcements for Turkish 6th Army including Khanikin and Tigris forces, *vide* your telegram of 25th May, No. 17178-Cipher (*Dy. No. 56096*). The arrival of 2 divisions at Baghdad between end of April and beginning of June is indicated by reports from all sources. These two divisions are reported to come from 4 different sources—

1. Angora, *vide* your telegram of 20th April, No. 15587-Cipher (*Dy. No. 49565*).

2. Arab troops from Syria, *vide* your 16813-Cipher of May 19th (*Dy. No. 54945*) and I.A.-2051 of 15th May (*N. T. W. S.*) from G. H. Q., Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

3. Turkish troops from Constantinople, *vide* my telegrams of 16th April and May 7th, Nos. I. G.-2502 (*Dy. No. 49034?*) and I. G.-2752 (*Dy No. 52894*), respectively, supported by statements of many prisoners.

4. German or Austrian divisions, *vide* C. G. S.-47406 of 7th April and your 15800-Cipher (*Dy. No. 56717*) of 28th April also Reuters referred to in my telegram of 24th May, No. I. G.-2877 (*Dy. No. 55752*).

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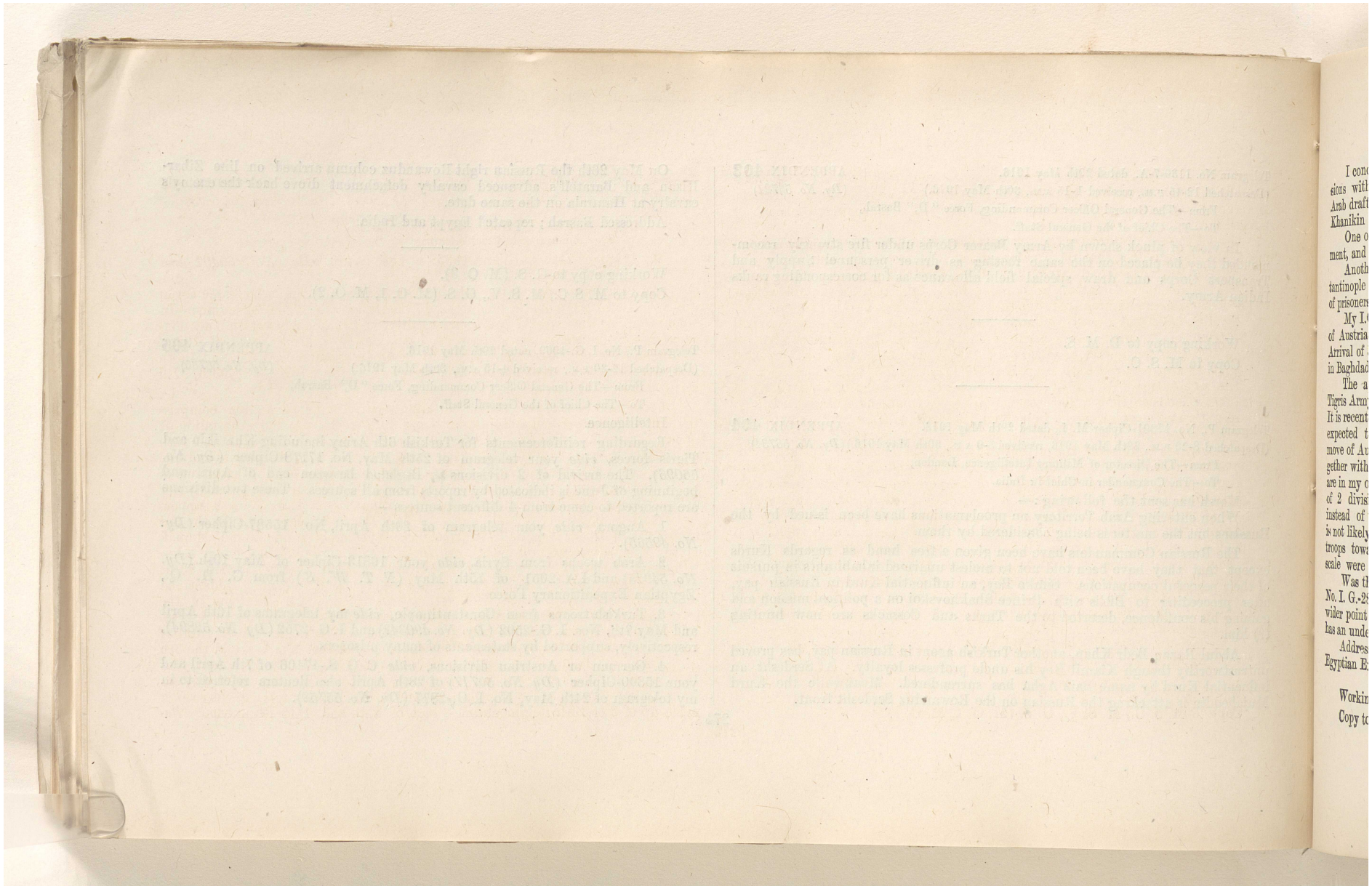

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I conclude that 6th Turkish Army may be reinforced by 2 Turkish divisions with some batteries of German or Austrian heavy artillery and large Arab drafts for weak 35th Division, and possibly for Murattab Division or Khanikin line.

One of these 2 divisions is the 6th Division, completed by the 22nd Regiment, and it is thought that the greater part of it is now in the area.

Another Baghdad letter dated 20th May refers to 2 divisions from Constantinople and Caucasus, latter presumably being 6th Division, and consensus of prisoners' statements indicates that these 2 divisions are Turkish troops.

My I.G.-2502 and I.G.-2752 quoted above reported the expected arrival of Austrian or German heavy artillery and prisoners' statements confirm it. Arrival of 5 12·5 centimetre howitzers and 415 centimetre guns was reported in Baghdad letter referred to in my I.G.-2877 (*Dy. No. 55739*).

The appointment of a German Colonel to command heavy artillery of Tigris Army lends further support to the idea *re* German and Austrian artillery. It is recently stated by an agent from Baghdad that troops from Aleppo are expected there, and these would be the Arab drafts above referred to. The move of Austrian troops and the advent of German or Austrian batteries, together with internal relief movements in Asia Minor and drafts of Arab troops are in my opinion the cause of the report of 4 several sources of reinforcements of 2 divisions, which would make a total of 8 divisions, if taken literally, instead of the 2 to which I believe the reinforcement is at present limited. It is not likely that Khalil would have given up Sinn position and transferred troops towards Khanikin from Tigris line if reinforcements on a very large scale were shortly expected. Please comment above conclusion and remarks.

Was the publication of Reuters referred to in my telegram of 24th May, No. I. G.-2877 (*Dy. No. 55739*), permitted with some special object from a wider point of view, as other things being equal the publication of such views has an undesirable effect here, and I suppressed it?

Addressed Director, Military Intelligence; repeated India, and G. H. Q., Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

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

Telegram P., No. 17281-Cipher, dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **406**
(Despatched 1-55 P.M., 29th May 1916, received 4-15 A.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56738*)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

My 15722 of 24th April and 15858 of 28th April (*Dy. Nos. 50401 and 51076*).

The distribution as given by Marsh for May 18th is in the same seven groups. In all there are 36 squadrons, 178 battalions and 7,000 irregulars. In the first group there are 34 battalions, namely, in Khorosdagh section 5 all non-regulars. Gumushkhanah section 29 battalions (?) 3 irregulars, 1 of 102nd Regiment, 3 of 28th Regiment, 1 of 8th Regiment, 3 each of 101st and 100th and 54th Regiments, 6 of 33rd or 18th Divisions and in reserve 6 of 99th, 97th and 52nd Regiments.

In the 2nd group there are 60 battalions, *viz.*, 18 in Ispir section comprising 9 frontier battalions, 4 each of 30th and 29th Regiments and a battalion of gendarmerie. In the Kop section 30 made up of 4 each of 60th and 46th Regiments, 3 each of 96th, 95th, 94th, 90th, 88th and 87th Regiments and one battalion of gendarmerie (*Note*—there is an apparent omission of 3 battalions of the 89th Regiment). Twelve in the neighbourhood of Baiburt (destined) for 1st and 2nd groups comprising 5 of 102nd, 98th and 53rd Regiments, 2 sappers battalions, 2 gendarmerie battalions and 4 of the 4th Regiment. In the 3rd group are 30 squadrons, and 37th battalions, *viz.*, south-west and west of Mamak Hatun 5 squadrons each of 25th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 24th Cavalry Regiments and 23 battalions made up of 3 of each of 93rd, 92nd, 91st, 84th, 83rd, 51st, 50th and 49th Regiments, 1st and 3rd sapper battalions and 2 unidentified recently arrived (*Note*—there is apparently an omission of 3 battalions of the 82nd Regiment). There are 3 each of the 85th and 86th Regiments in reserve. The 4th group consists of two each of 106th and 107th Regiments, 1 frontier and 2 gendarmerie battalions. 19 battalions and 2,000 Kurds are in the 5th group, *viz.*, in Mush section 8 battalions comprising one of 13th Regiment, 3 of 17th Regiment, 1 gendarmerie and 3 probably militia with Osman Nuri Pey as commander. There are 11 battalions and 2,000 Kurds in the Bitlis section made up of 3 of 13th Regiment and 4 each of 15th and 14th Regiments. The

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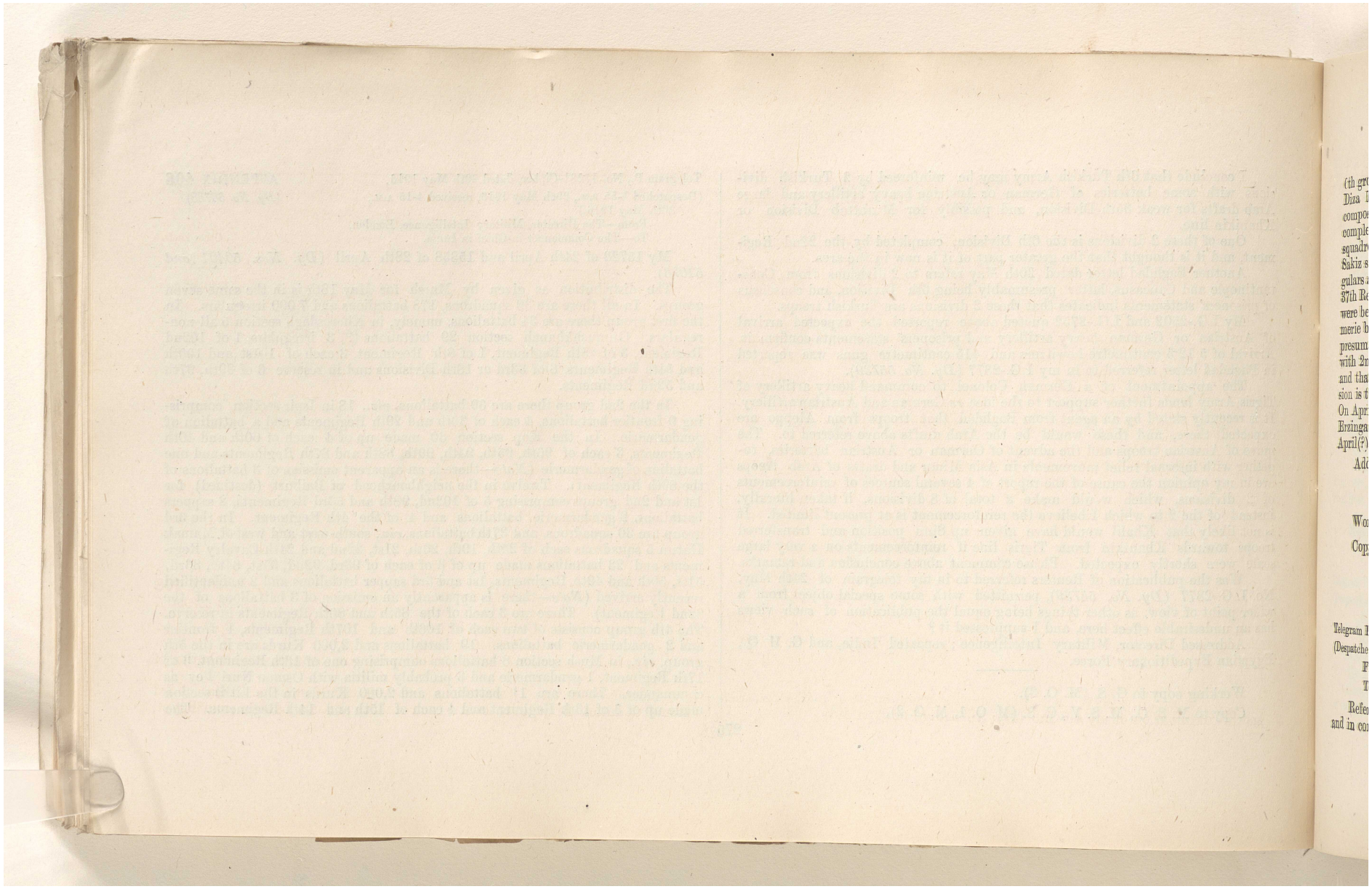

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(th group is composed of 5 battalions, 4,000 Kurds and 2 squadrons, *viz.*, in the Diza Rowanduz section 3 battalions and 1,000 Kurds making up Rowanduz composite regiment formed from reserves of the 36th and 35th Divisions and completed from the gendarmerie of Mosul and Kirkuk. Two unidentified squadrons 3,000 Kurds and 2 frontier and volunteer battalions are in the Sakiz section. The 7th group consists of 4 unidentified squadrons 1,000 irregulars and 8 battalions, *viz.*, 2 of the 5th Regiment, one each of 141st, 44th and 37th Regiments and 3 of 18th Regiment. Besides the above seven groups there were between Kharput and Erzingan about 8 miscellaneous and reserve gendermerie battalions. *Note by War Office to the above.* The 37th Division has presumably ceased to exist. It is believed that the whole of the 6th Division with 2nd Division and Cavalry Brigade are now in the Khanikin Baghdad area and that they have absorbed the 22nd Regiment of the 8th Division, which division is thought to be in the 5th group and to have absorbed the 17th Regiment. On April 29th the 9th Division was at Mardin. The 15th Division arrived at Erzingan on the 15th April(?) and the 11th Division left Erzingan on 26th April(?).

Addressed Basrah; repeated India and Cairo.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 66-Ord., dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **407**
(Despatched 6-25 P.M., received 2-30 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56794*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Reference number of guns and rounds of gun ammunition in Mesopotamia and in continuation of my 60-Ord. (*Dy. No. 55398*) of 22nd May.

Gun.	No.	Complete rounds of ammunition up to May 27th.		
		Shrapnel.	H. E.	Other kinds.
10-pounder	24	31,435	...	2,891 common.
13 "	4	11,212	2,000	...
15 "	10	3,948	...	...
15 " B. L. C.	12	23,230	...	...
18 "	114	119,986	36,958	...
60 "	8	646	1,007	...
4 inch	2	2,859	1,354 lyddite.	...
4·5 "	12	3,233	12,848	...
5 " howitzer	24	2,668	18,050	...
6 " "	1	...	603	...
Pom-pom	1	...	...	2,600 rounds.
12-pr. anti-aircraft	2	630	393 lyddite	...

"Clan MacBride" was last ship unloaded from Egypt.
Addressed London; repeated India.

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

Telegram P., No. 131-82-O., dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **408**
(Despatched 3-50 P.M., received 2-30 P.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56795*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

For week commencing May 28th following are changes in distribution of Troops.

Basrah.—Arrivals. Tehri Garhwal Sappers and Miners from India. 1-3rd Home Counties Brigade R. F. A. from India. Patiala Lancers from Egypt.

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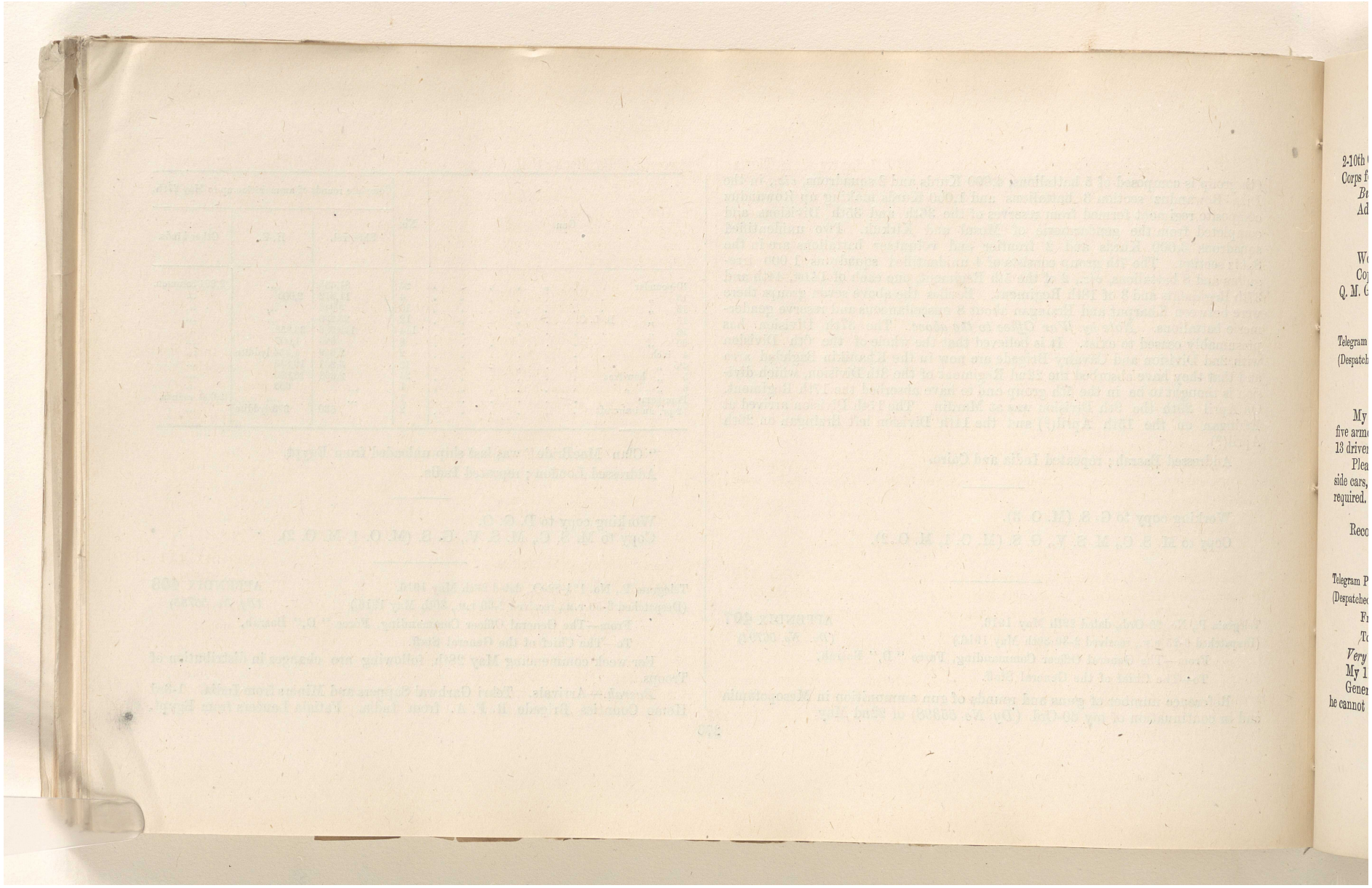

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112

2-10th Gurkhas from Egypt posted to 41st Brigade. 97th Infantry from Tigris Corps for garrison duty.

Bushire.—Arrivals. From Egypt 14th Sikhs.

Addressed India ; repeated London.

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

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

Telegram P., No 56841, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **409**
(Despatched 10-30 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56841*)

From—The Chief of the General Staff,

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

My 45414 of 25th March. On 19th instant despatched on "Braunfels," five armoured motor cycles with side cars. On 24th instant, left per "Ellenga" 13 drivers for above. Another car will follow shortly.

Please acknowledge receipt of the side cars. Pending arrival of remaining side cars, surplus men may be employed as motor drivers, in any capacity most required.

Record copy to D. G. M. W.

Telegram P., No. 1119-24-O., dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **410**
(Despatched 1-30 P.M., received 4-30 P.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56859*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Very Secret.

My 1119-23-O. (*Dy. No. 56708*) of 28th instant continues.

General Gorringe reports that, unless he risks suffering very heavy losses, he cannot get a force across at Magasis and force his way through the defile between Saddle Back Hill (degree sheet D 2 9 8) and Madug (degree sheet 2 H D 2 8 8).

Paragraph 2.—It will be possible for him to take a limited offensive across the Hai, as soon as the floods between right or west bank of Hai and right bank of Tigris subside ; and as soon as supplies and transport permit, he proposes to do so. At present an extended offensive is not possible owing to insufficiency of river transport.

Paragraph 3.—To maintain a line of supply across the Hai will be difficult for Gorringe, so long as enemy hold the left bank of Sannaiyat, thus preventing supply ships getting up. But his transport will be freed for onward movement when a light railway is constructed from his advanced depôt at Sheikh Sa'ad to Sinn right bank ; some miles of this railway are now *en route* to him.

Paragraph 4.—If the young and unseasoned soldiers, who now form the bulk of the British units, are to be kept in good health, it is essential on account of the intense heat which now prevails, that tents be provided everywhere except in the front lines. Of course transport requirements are increased thereby, and also by the various appliances for ensuring a supply of pure drinking water, which the outbreak of cholera has rendered absolutely essential.

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

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

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

Telegram No. 56868, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **411**
(Despatched 10-30 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56868*)

From—{ (1) The Commander-in-Chief in India,
(2) & (3) The Chief of the General Staff,

To—{ (1) The General Officer Commanding, Forces in East Africa, Nairobi.
(2) The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.
(3) The General Officer Commanding, Aden.

Military Service Act, Section 2, having now become law no soldier of Regular Army of Territorial Force will be allowed during continuance of

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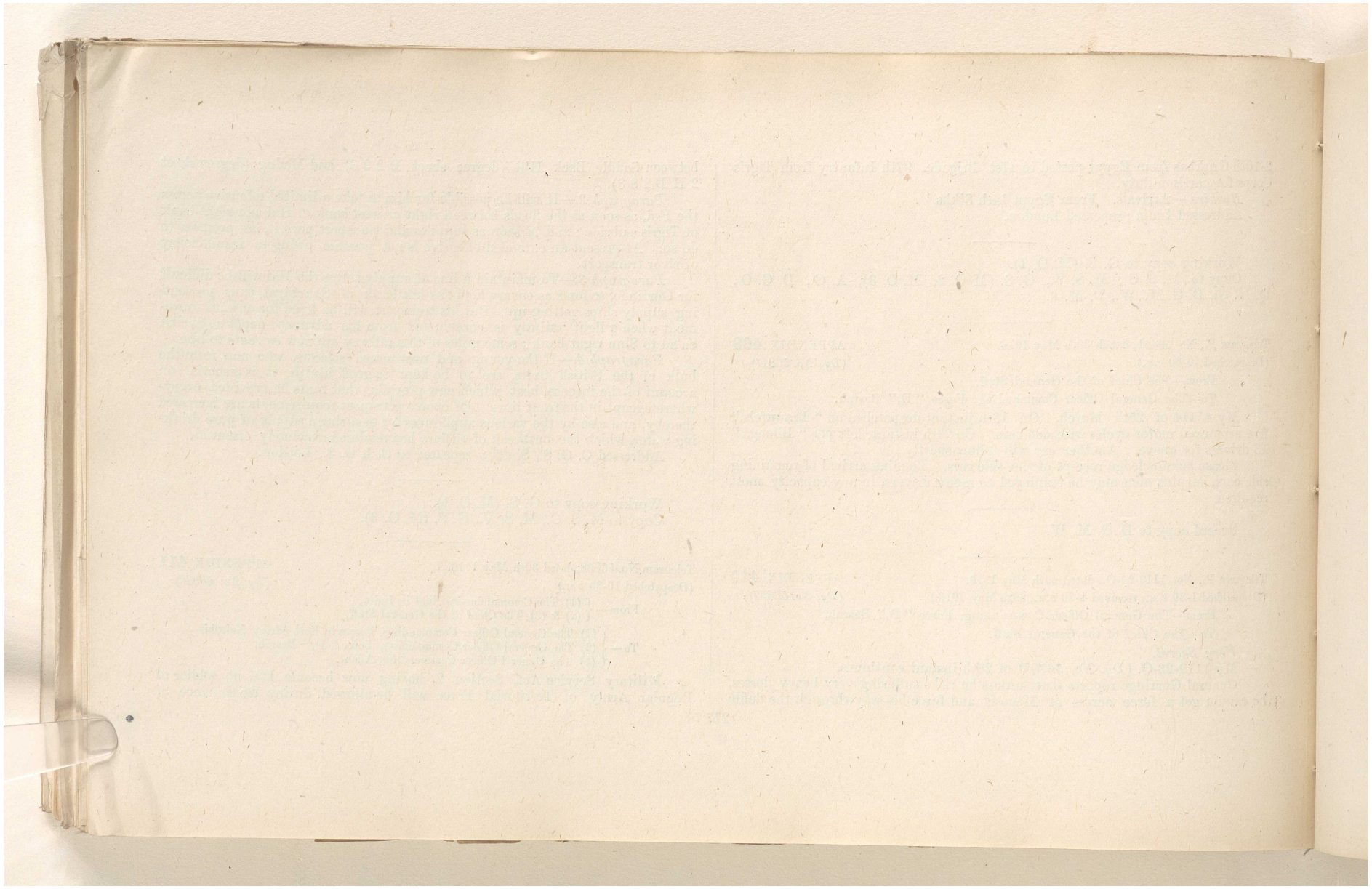

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present war to be discharged on completion of his engagement unless when the time for discharge occurs he has served for period of twelve years or more together with extra year for which he is liable and has also attained the age of forty-one years. Army Orders, 49, 79 and 86 of 1916 and India Army Orders 158, 204 and 261 of 1916 are cancelled. Kindly inform all concerned without delay. Reports of time-expired men called for in my 48232 (*Dy. No. 48232*), dated 12th April, are no longer required.

Record copy to A. G.

Telegram P., No. 4956-F., dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **412**
(Despatched 12-30 P.M., received 11-45 P.M., 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56884*)

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

To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Your 17238 (*Dy. No. 56391*), May 27th. Noted but it should be remembered that only one full squadron of 12 aerpolanes will, in effect, be provided in sanction of promised establishment after taking into account wastage in personnel and materiel due to climate conditions.

Addressed London ; repeated India.

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

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

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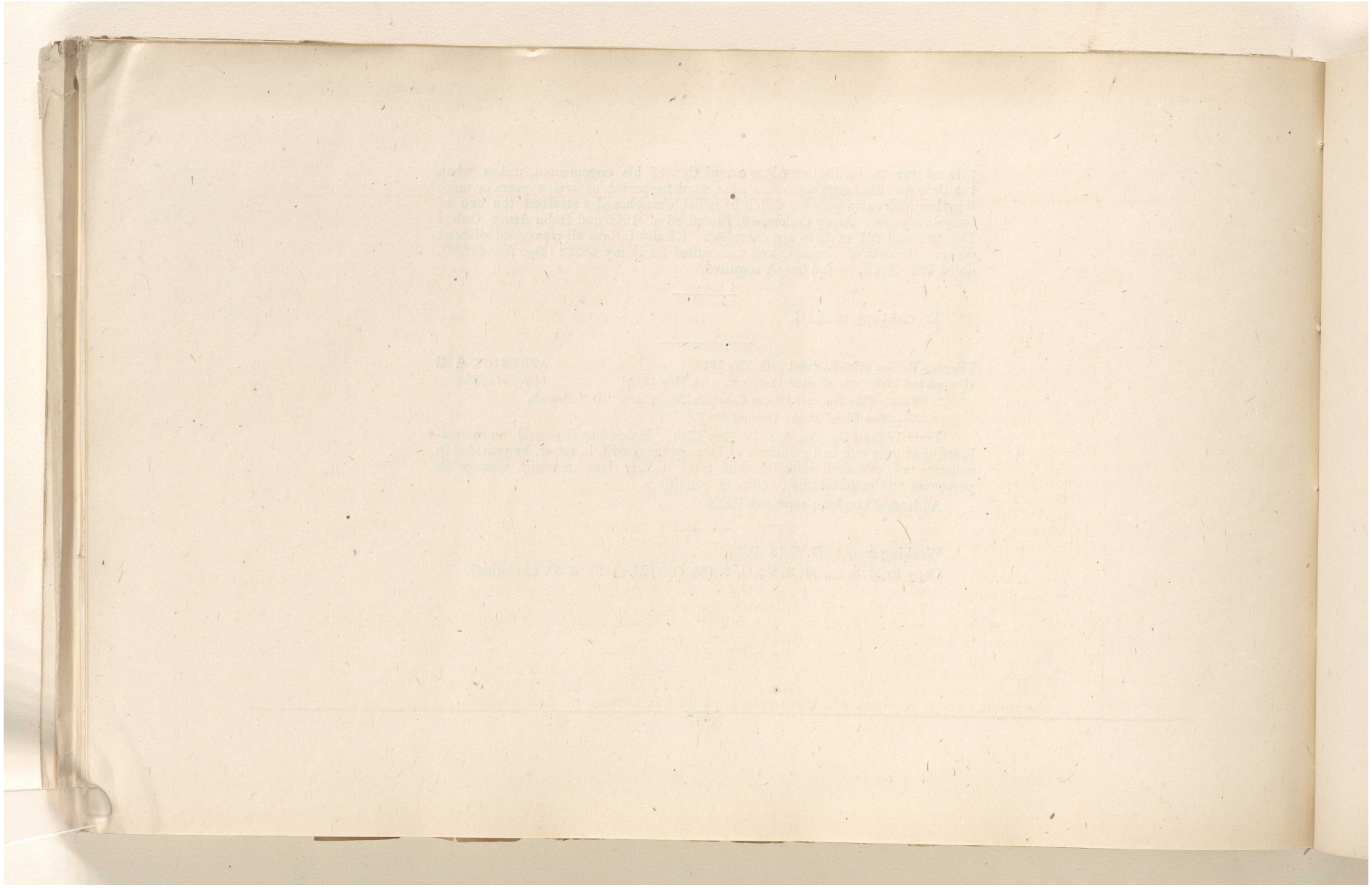

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
31-5-16 .	The Secretary, War Office, stated that Egypt had been instructed not to load ships until they could be dealt with promptly in the Persian Gulf. Ships at Bombay and Karachi should not load until such time as would enable them to reach Basrah on a date when they could be discharged.	56914	413
	The Director of Military Intelligence, London, stated that the Turkish Foreign Minister is reported to have said relief measures in certain areas would be rendered difficult, owing to Turkish forces massing behind the line Samsun-Sivas-Diabekir-Aleppo.	56923	414
	The Secretary of State for India intimated that the War Office agreed to the issue of sugar and sweets to non-smokers amongst troops in Mesopotamia.	56952	415
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," was told that the object of the Committee, under Sir George Buchanan, was to advise as to the best system of providing, etc., an efficient and adequate river fleet in Mesopotamia.	56973	416
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," repeated for communication to General Baratoff a message that the 22nd Turkish Infantry Regiment was from reports, believed to have arrived Baghdad and left immediately for Khanikin.	56985	417
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested to be furnished with certain information regarding Turkish guns in Southern Syria.	56987	418
	The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," reported 772 cases of cholera up to 27th May . . .	56994	419
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," requested that General Baratoff should be informed of report that shortly after the departure from Amlah of the Gamali's Cossack patrol for Ali Gharbi, 200 Turkish Cavalry, commanded by German officers reached Amlah.	57002	420
	Mr. White, Director of Railways, Magil, addressed the Railway Board, with regard to railway material required for the Shaikh Sa'ad and Qurnah-Amarah lines.	57014	421
	The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," asked if two additional companies of Regular Sappers and Miners could be sent to make good deficiencies in two divisions.	57025	422
	The following report was received from the General Officer Commanding, Force "D":—Tigris Line. The enemy were still holding the Sannaiyat position, and certain movements foreshadowed further retirement Karun Line:—A squadron of 23rd Cavalry came into contact with, and dispersed, a force of Bakhtiaris, who were reported to have opposed the Russian advance on Kasr-i-Shirin.	57027	423

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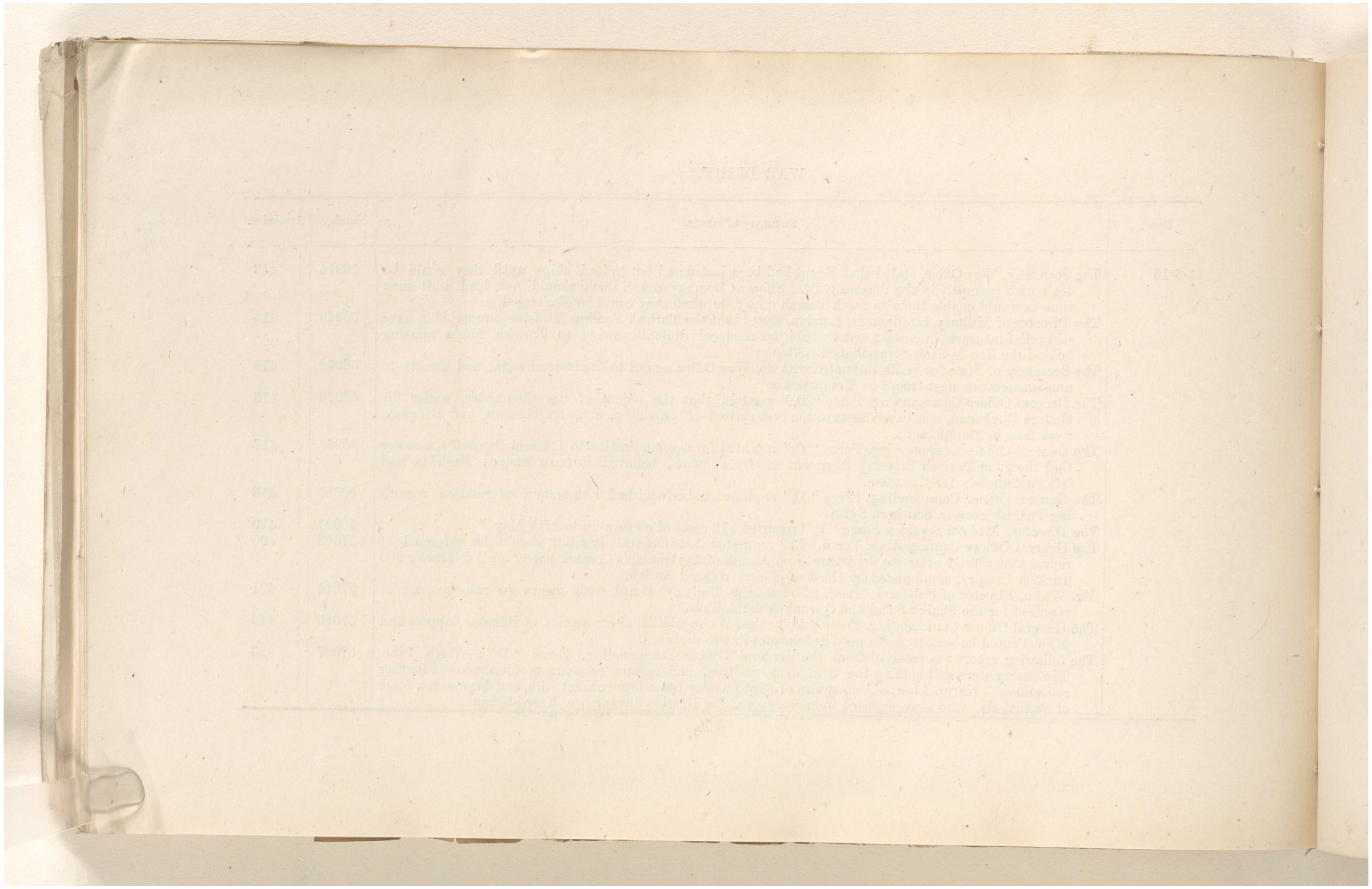

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WAR DIARY.

Date.	Summary of events.	Number.	Appendix.
31-5-16 .	The Chief of the Imperial General Staff enquired how the Turks maintained themselves in the flood season in the Sannaiyat position, while the right bank up to the Megasis was commanded by us.	57051	424
	The Commander-in-Chief was asked by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, if his opinion was still the same regarding the inadvisability of naval supervision on the Tigris.	57063	425

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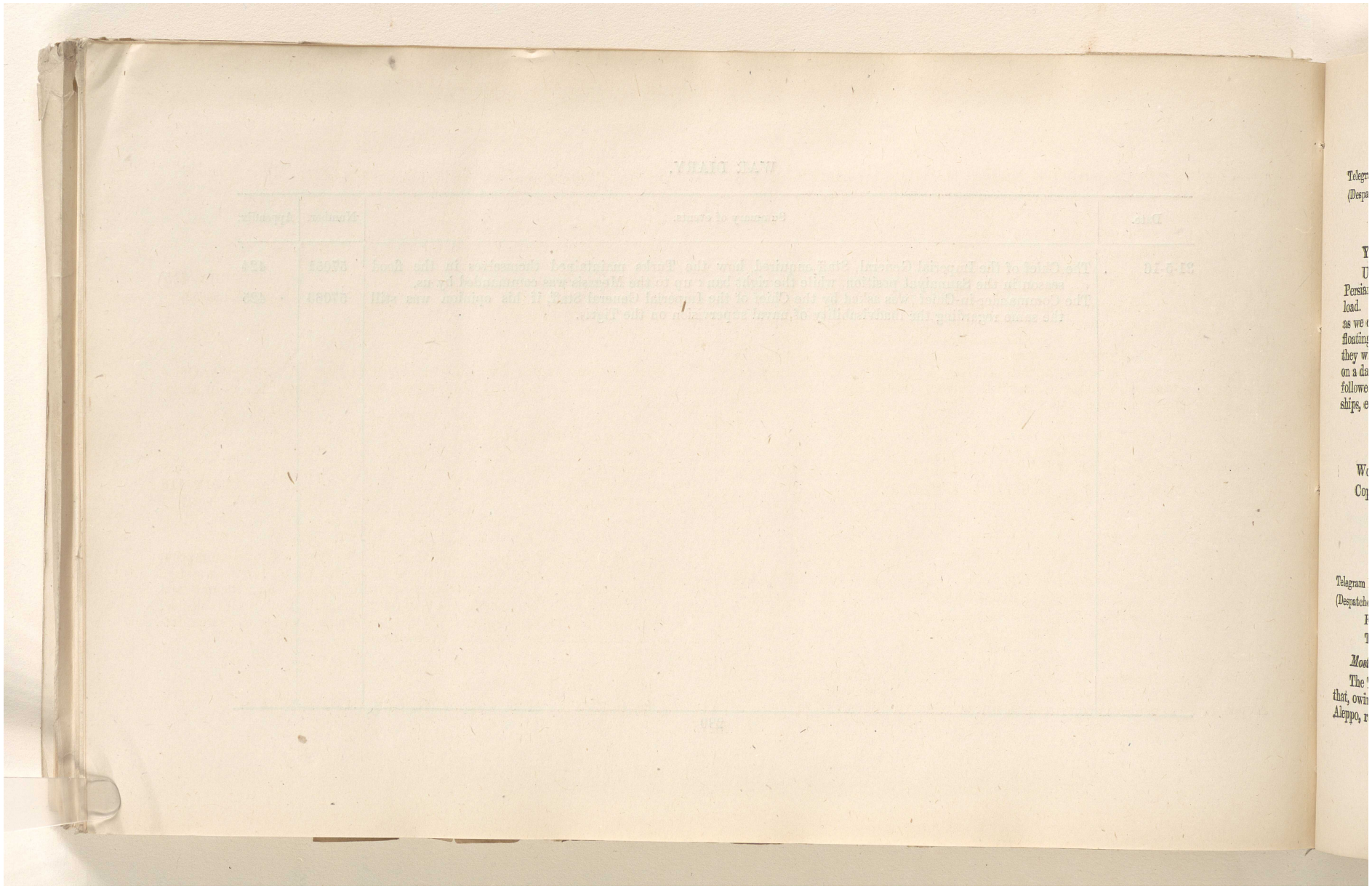

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Telegram P., No. 17332-Cipher-Q.M.G.-2, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **413**
(Despatched 3-50 P.M., received 1-30 A.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56914*)
From—The Secretary, War Office, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Your 55339, May 23rd.

Until it has been ascertained that they can be dealt with promptly in the Persian Gulf, Egypt, has been instructed that ships are not to be allowed to load. We do not concur in the allotment of a vessel for warehouse purposes as we consider that a warehouse on shore would be more economical than a floating warehouse. At Bombay and Karachi ships shall not be kept loaded, and they will not be loaded until such time as will enable them to reach Basrah on a date when they can be discharged. It may be possible, if this course is followed, to release some of the Force "D" store transports. To economise ships, every effort should be made.

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

Telegram P., No. 17327, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **414**
(Despatched 2-55 P.M., received 0-30 A.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56923*)
From—The Director, Military Intelligence, London,
To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Most secret.

The Turkish Foreign Minister is reported on reliable authority to have said that, owing to Turkish forces massing behind the line Samsun-Sivas Diarbekir-Aleppo, relief measures in certain areas will be rendered difficult.

Addressed Basrah; repeated Egypt, India and Marsh.

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

Telegram, dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **415**
(Received 30th May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56952*)
(Received in War Section, 31st May 1916.)
From—The Secretary of State for India,
To—The Viceroy (Army Department).

Your telegram dated 5th May, H.-3591 (*Dy. No. 52153*). War Office agree to sugar and sweets being issued to non-smokers amongst troops in Mesopotamia.

Working copy to Q. M. G.

Telegram No. 56973, dated 31st May 1916. APPENDIX **416**
(Despatched 2-45 P.M.) (*Dy. No. 56973*)
From—The Chief of the General Staff,
To—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah.

Your No. 1614-8-Q. (*Dy. No. 56574*), dated 28th May. Your presumption is correct. The object of the Committee is to advise as to the best system of providing, organizing, and maintaining in Mesopotamia, an efficient and adequate river fleet. The detailed terms of reference are left for you to decide. Theyshould be sufficiently wide to cover all questions relating to the organization a nd maintenance of an efficient river service.

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

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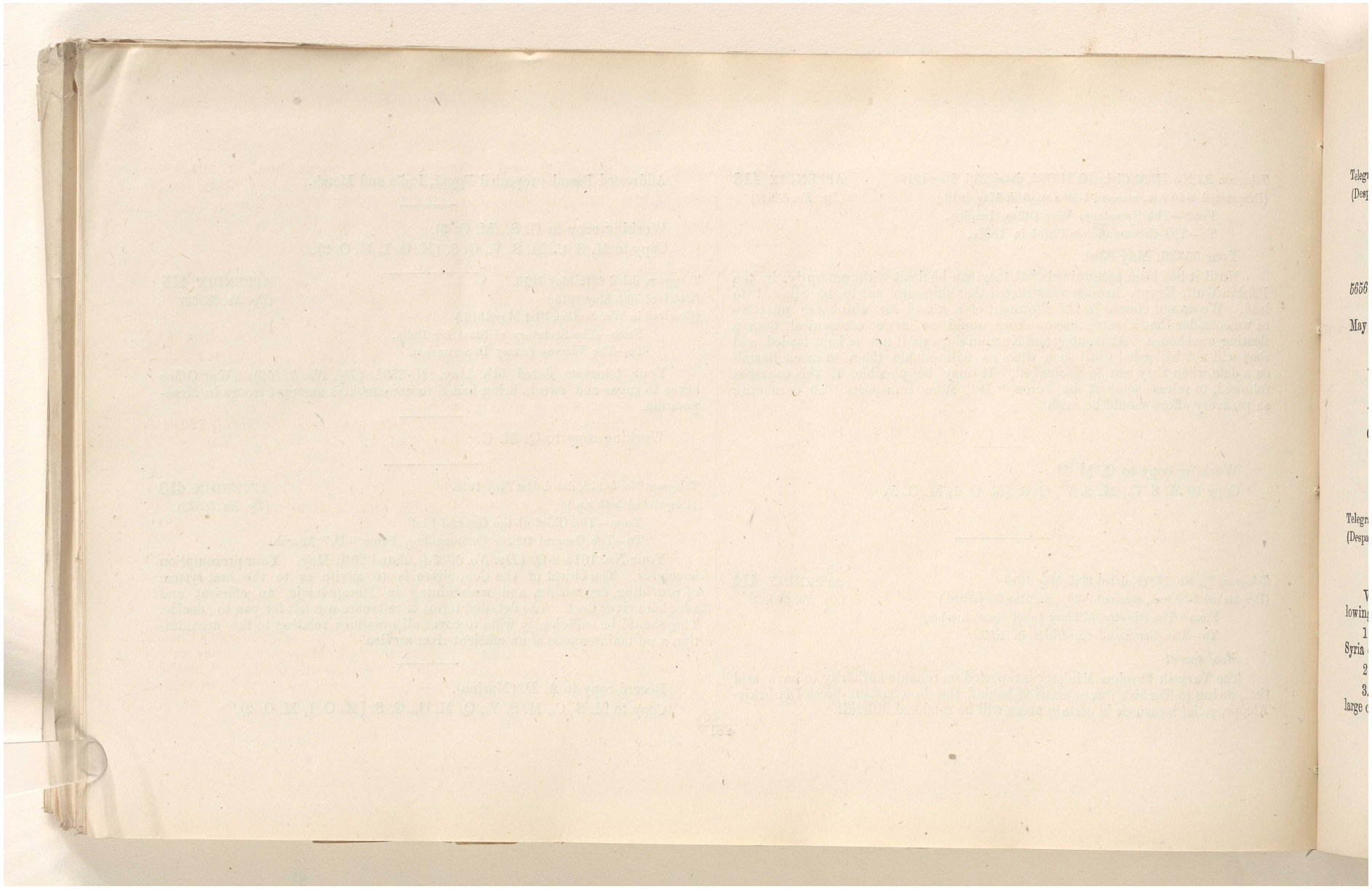

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Telegram P., No. I. G.-2922, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **417**
(Despatched 5-35 P.M., received 1-30 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56985*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Following is intelligence and for Baratoff's information.

In continuation of my telegram of May 28th, No. I. G.-2903 (*Dy. No. 56569*).

The arrival of the 22nd Regiment of Turkish infantry at Baghdad between May 7th and May 13th is indicated by recent reports from that place.

This regiment left immediately for Khanikin.

Addressed London; repeated India.

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2921, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **418**
(Despatched 6-10 P.M., received 1-30 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56987*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Will you please telegraph any available information regarding the following:—

1. Number, calibre and make of Turkish heavy and other guns in Southern Syria during the last few months.

2. Whether any batteries had German or Austrian personnel.

3. What are your deductions as to withdrawals of guns, especially those of large calibre, from Southern Syria, and as to destination of any withdrawn?

The actual and impending arrival of heavy guns and howitzers in this theatre is indicated by reports here and it seems that the most likely theatre from which the same could be withdrawn is Southern Syria.

Addressed Egypt; repeated London and India.

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

Telegram No. 1-5-925, dated 29th May 1916. APPENDIX **419**
(Despatched 2-40 P.M., 30th May 1916, received 1-30 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 56994*)
From—The Director, Medical Services, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Continuation my telegram dated 18th May (*Dy. No. 54914*) 722 cases of cholera of which there were fatal 297 up to and including 27th May.

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

Telegram P., No. I. G.-2918, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **420**
(Despatched 6 P.M., received 3-30 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 57002*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Intelligence. It is reported by Agent that soon after Gamali's Cossack patrol left Wali's 'amlah at Changulak on 13th May on their way to Ali Gharbi, 200 Turkish Cavalry commanded by German officers reached "'amalah" 100 went back to the Tigris and remainder went on in the direction of Mahidasht. Pleased inform General Baratoff.

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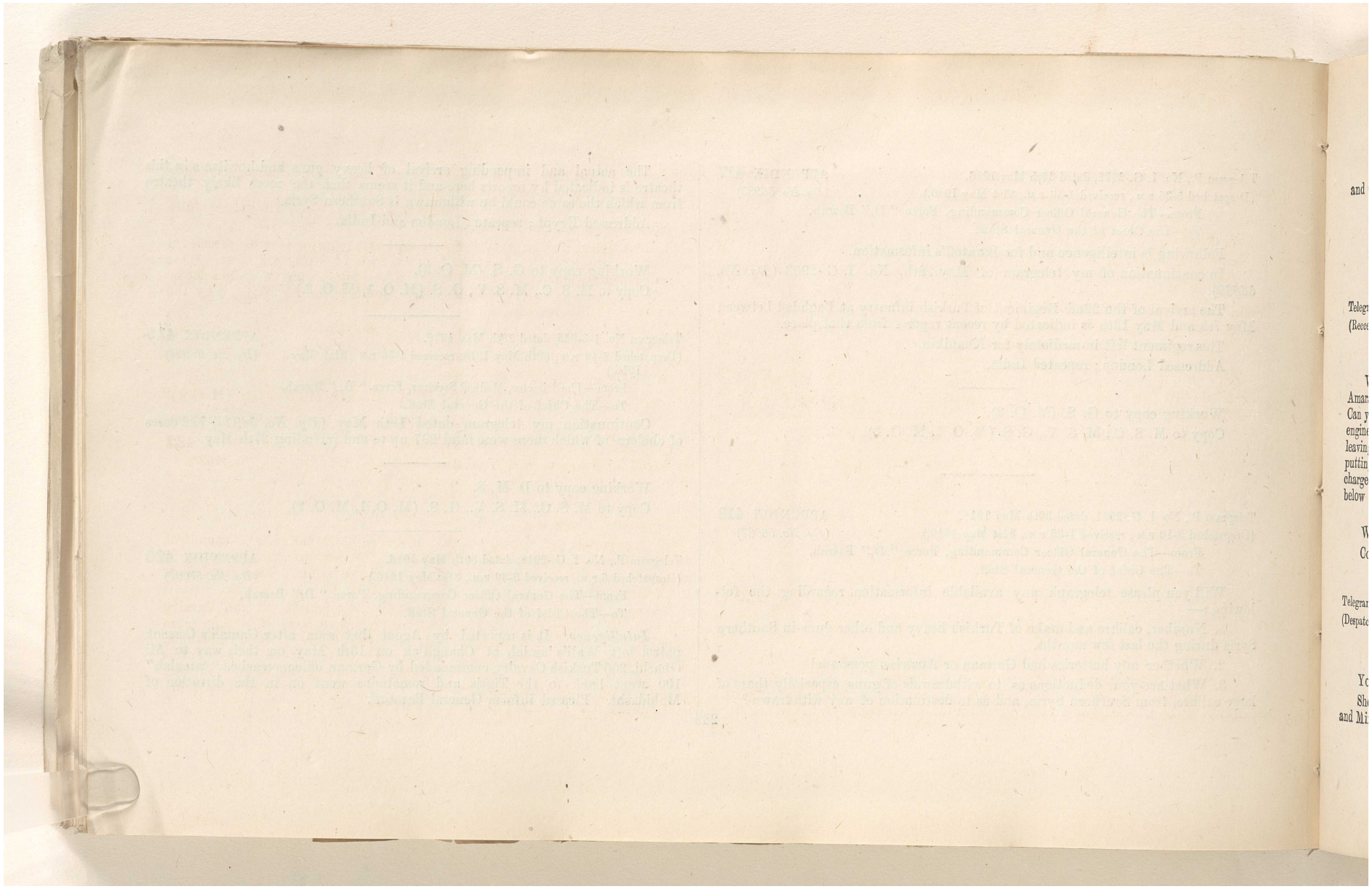

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This telegram, repeated to Director of Military Intelligence, War Office, and Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla, is addressed to Williams.

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

Telegram No. 2-W., dated 28th May 1916. APPENDIX **421**
(Received in War Section, 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 57014*)
From—Mr. WHITE, Director of Railways, Magil,
To—The Secretary, Railway Board.

Want 25 miles track for Sheikh Sa'ad line also 85 miles track for Qurnah-Amarah line. We have 45 miles track 10 engines and 120 serviceable wagons. Can you arrange for 65 miles track 8 reliable and reasonably light axleload engines and 200 useful wagons of good carrying capacity? Materials to start leaving India beginning July. Above refers to 2 foot 6 inch gauge. Am putting Izat in charge Qurnah-Amarah construction. Berkeley will have charge of Sheikh Sa'ad line under Military Works. Sheikh Sa'ad is 30 miles below Kut.

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

Telegram P., No. 10-28-c 1-O., dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **422**
(Despatched 7-30 P.M., received 4-45 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 57025*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

Your 4519 of March 24th.

Should be glad to know if two additional companies of Regular Sappers and Miners could now be sent here by withdrawals from Egypt or elsewhere to make good deficiencies in 7th and 13th Divisions. These divisions have only one company of Sappers and Miners each.

2. Tehri and Maler Kotla Imperial Service Sappers and Miners are fully engaged on Lines of Communication.

3. Divisions on British Establishment are each equipped with three field companies, as the result, it is presumed, of experiment during the war. It is for consideration whether divisions on the Indian Establishment should not be similarly equipped. Certainly such a step would be amply justified by the (condition of ?) Mesopotomia.

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

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

Telegram P., No 129-449-O., dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **423**
(Despatched 1-30 P.M., received 6-20 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 57027*)
From—The General Officer Commanding, Force "D," Basrah,
To—The Chief of the General Staff.

May 30th, Tigris line.

It is reported by Gorringe that enemy still strongly hold Sannaiyat position. Considerable movement of transport on left bank and decrease in number of tents indicate removal of impediments which may foreshadow further retirement.

Paragraph 2. Karun line.—On May 29th a squadron of 23rd Cavalry from Shush came into contact with a force of Bakhtiaris. The latter were reported to have opposed Russian advance on Qasr-i-Shirin. These tribesmen, who were trying to get back to their own country, *vid* Pusht-i-Kuh, were intercepted by our cavalry while crossing the Ab-i-Dis *en route* for Dizful and were dispersed. About 35 were taken prisoners but as they were afterwards found to be tribesmen of no consequence, they were released.

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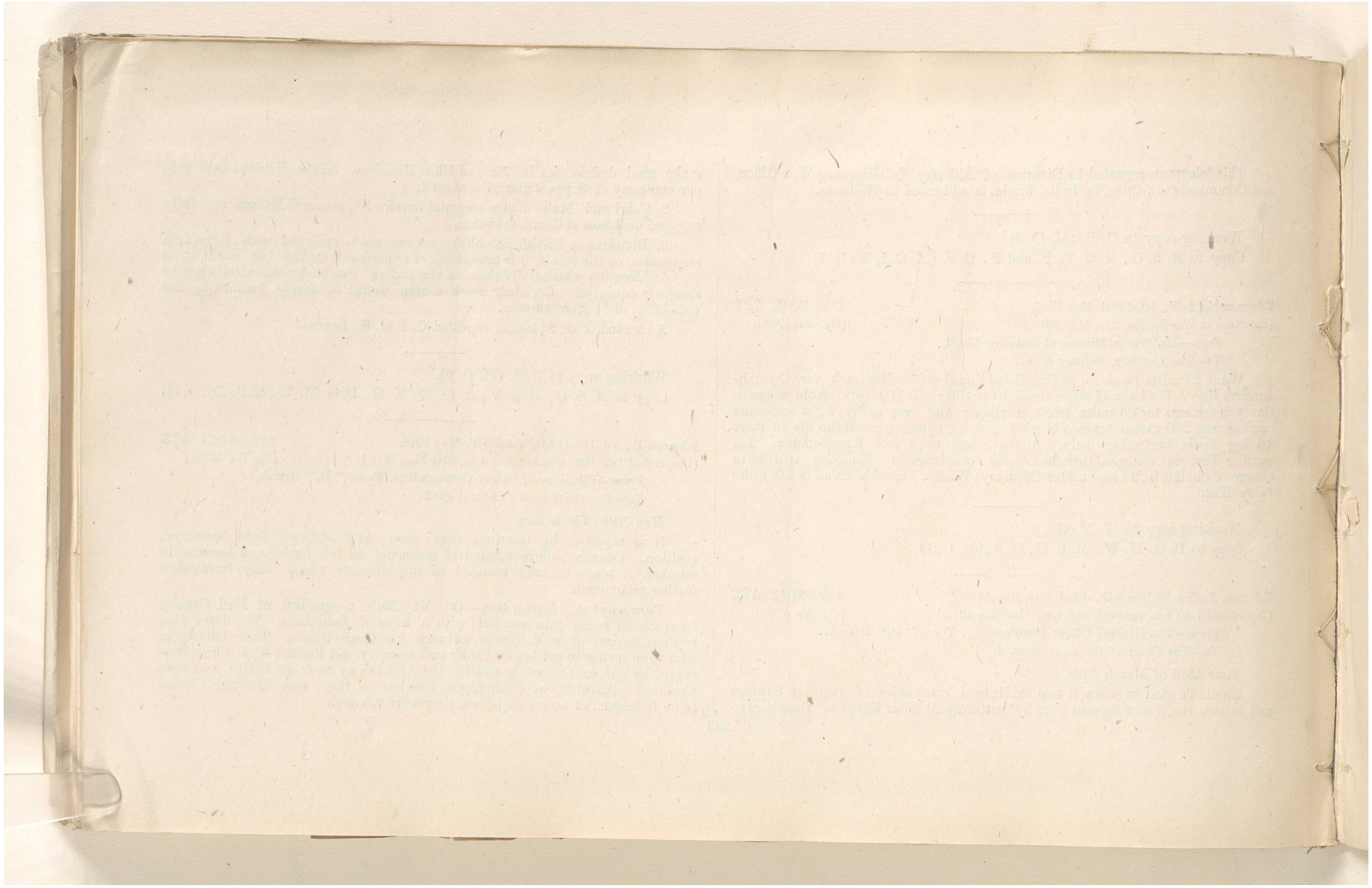

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Addressed C. G. S., Simla ; repeated C. I G. S. London.

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

Copy to M. S. C., M. S. V., G. S. (M. O. 2, M. O. 3), F. and P., Heads of Branches, Q. M. G.

Telegram P., No. 17351-Cipher, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **424**
(Despatched 10-15 P.M., received 7 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 57051*)

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

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

For my own information, and without suggesting any criticism, I shall be glad to know how the Turks maintain themselves in flood season in the Sannaiyat position, while right bank up to Megasis is commanded by us.

Addrsesed Basrah ; repeated India.

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

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

Telegram P., No. 17352-Cipher, dated 30th May 1916. APPENDIX **425**
(Despatched 10-30 P.M., received 7 P.M., 31st May 1916.) (*Dy. No. 57063*)

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

To—The Commander-in-Chief in India.

Regarding inadvisability of naval supervision in Tigris, *vide* your 47687 of 9th April.

In view of your 56669 of 29th instant, is your opinion still the same ?

Are you satisfied that the personnel and means at your disposal are sufficient, or shall we approach the Admiralty again, on the subject ?

Addressed India ; repeated Basrah.

Working copy to A. D. (Marine).

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

S. G. P. I., Delhi.—No. 33 C. G. S.—21-7-16—8.

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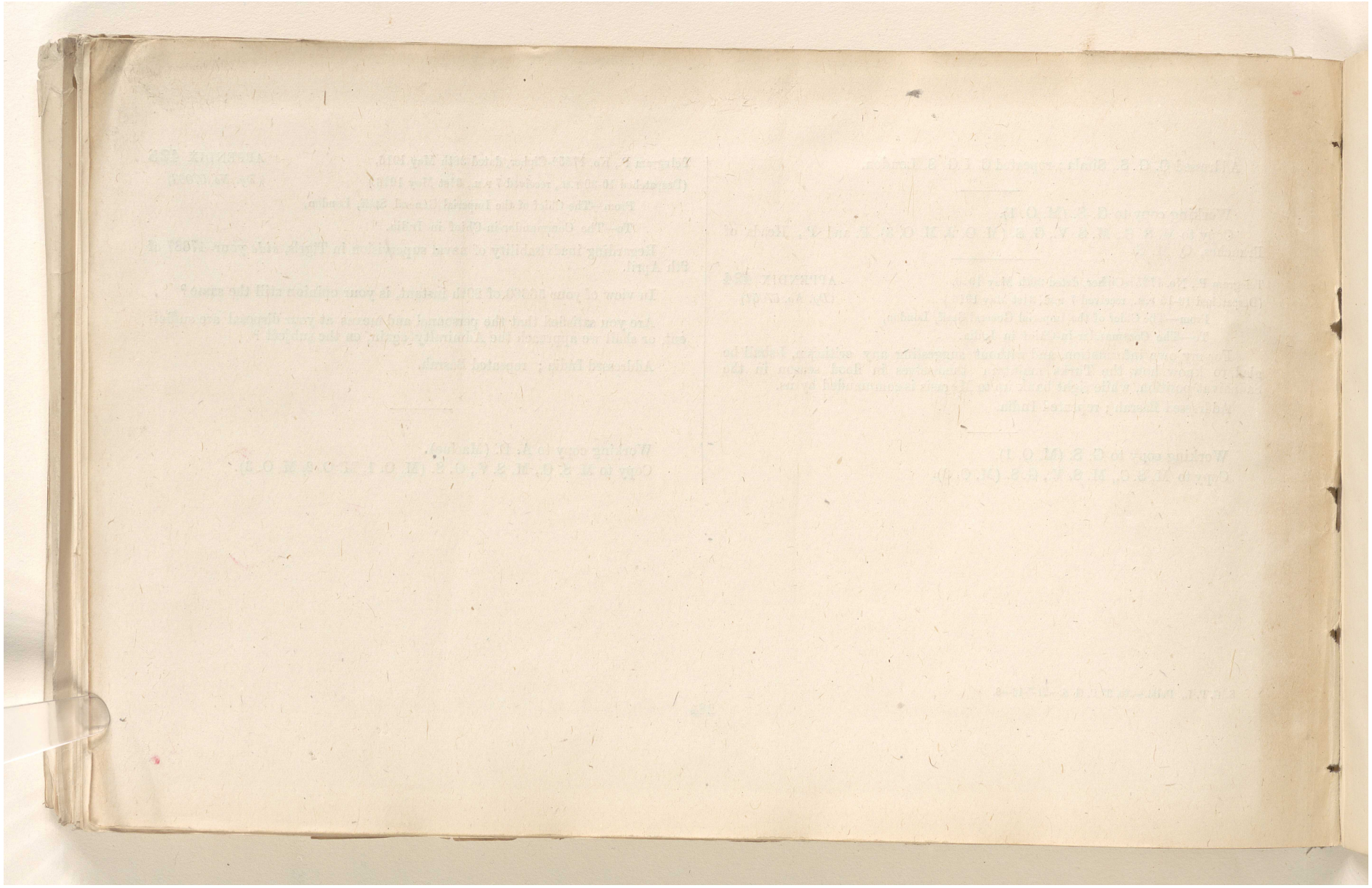

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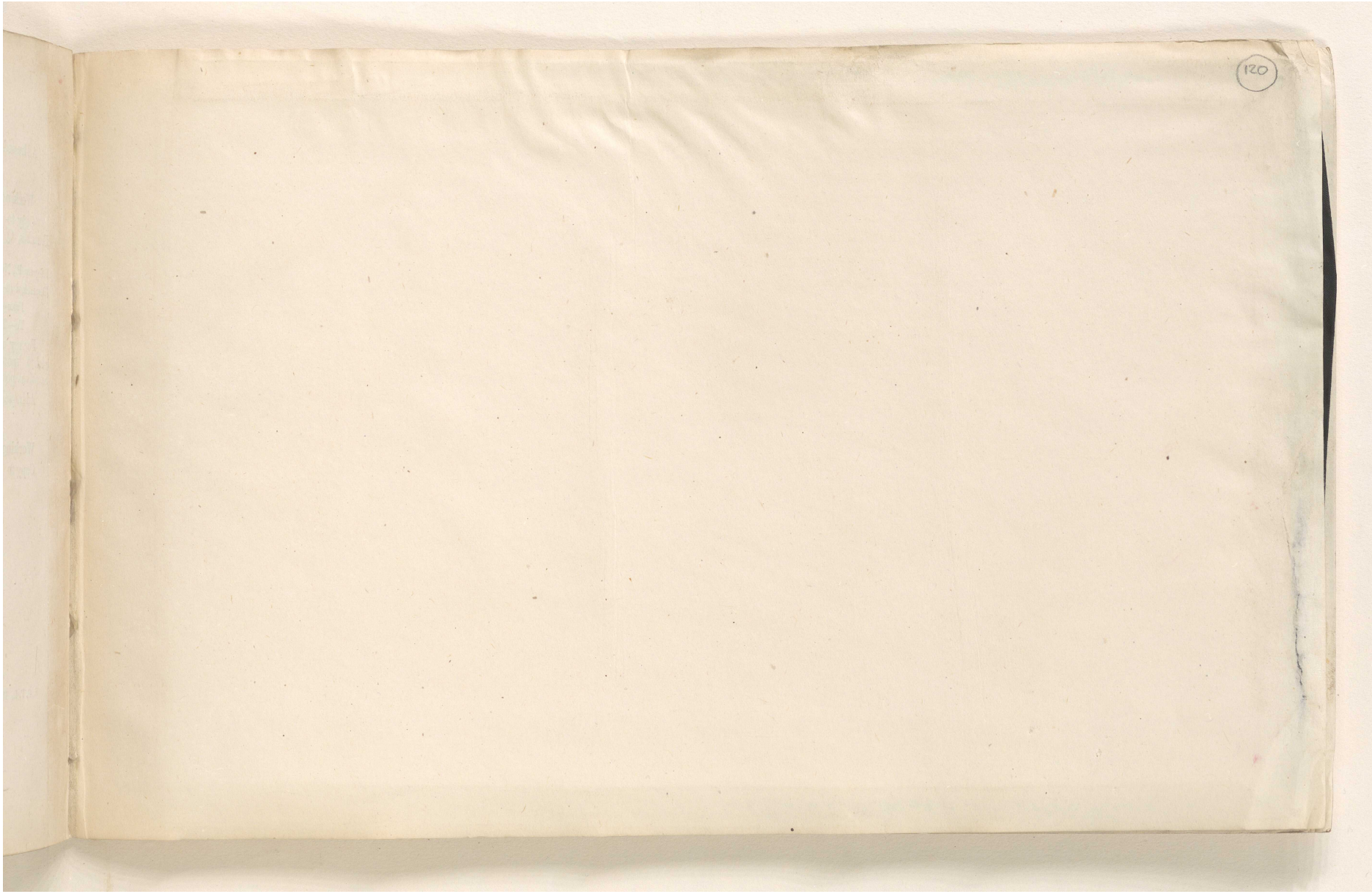

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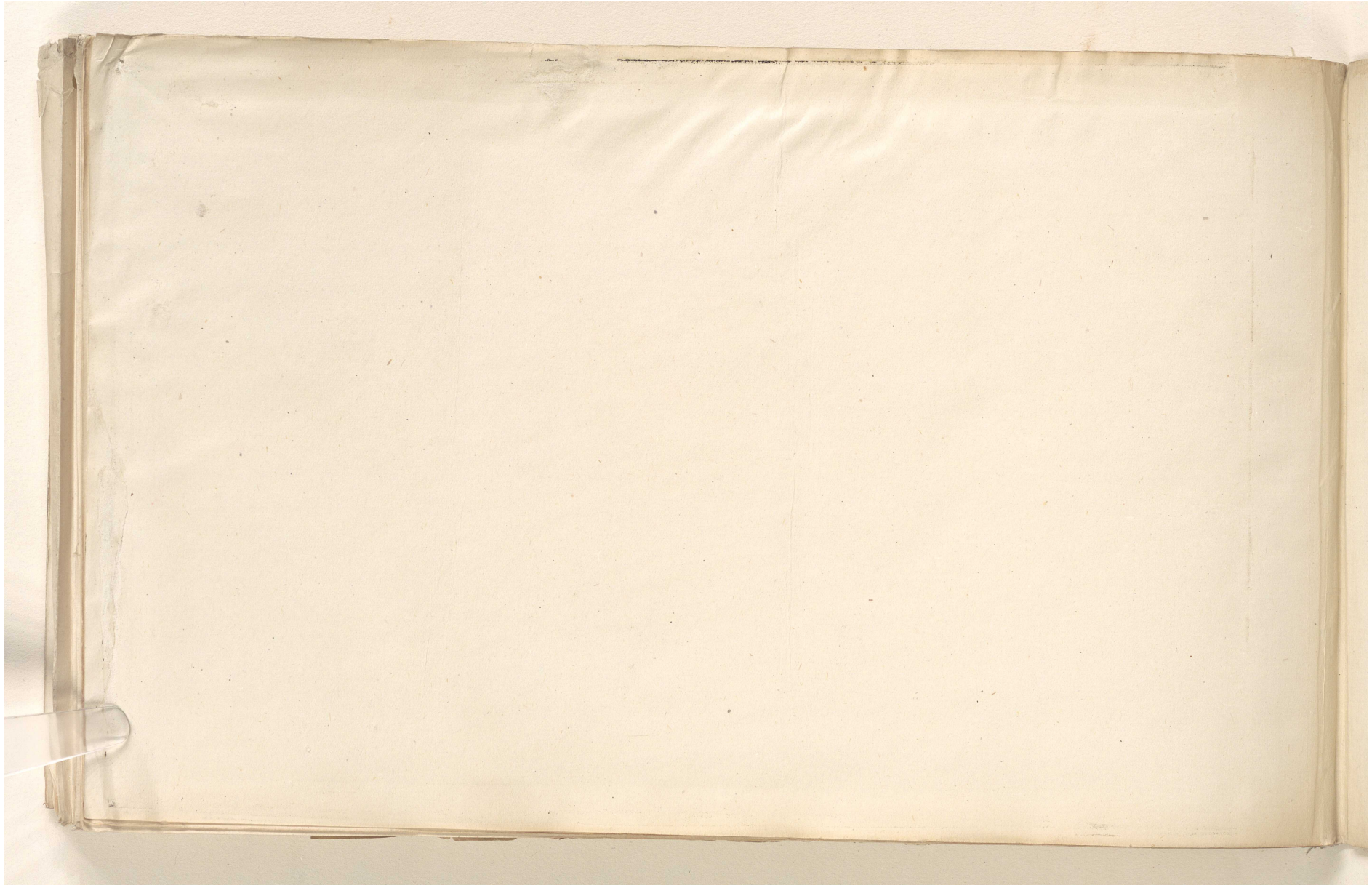

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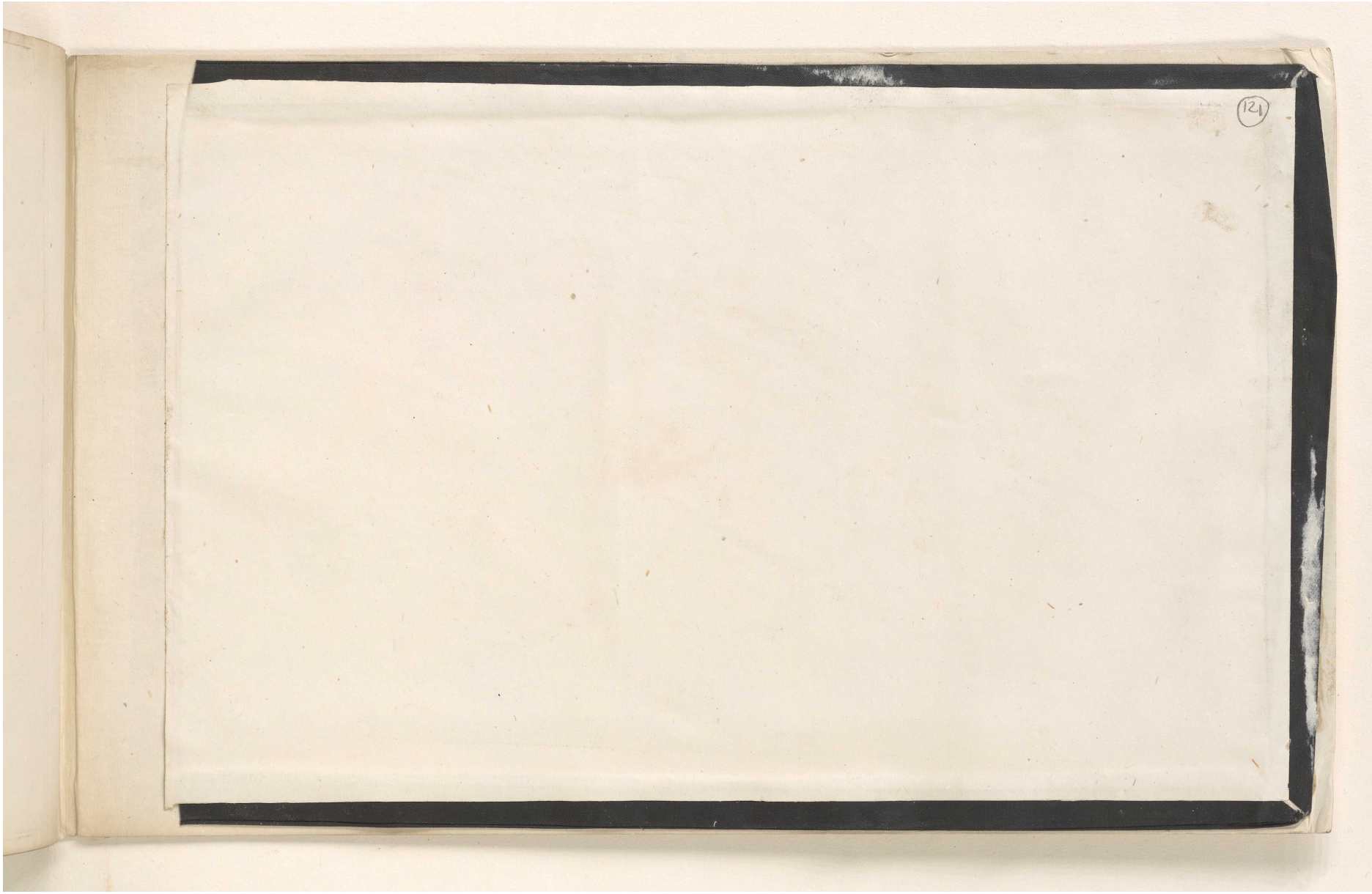

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