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'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India, on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North East Persia'

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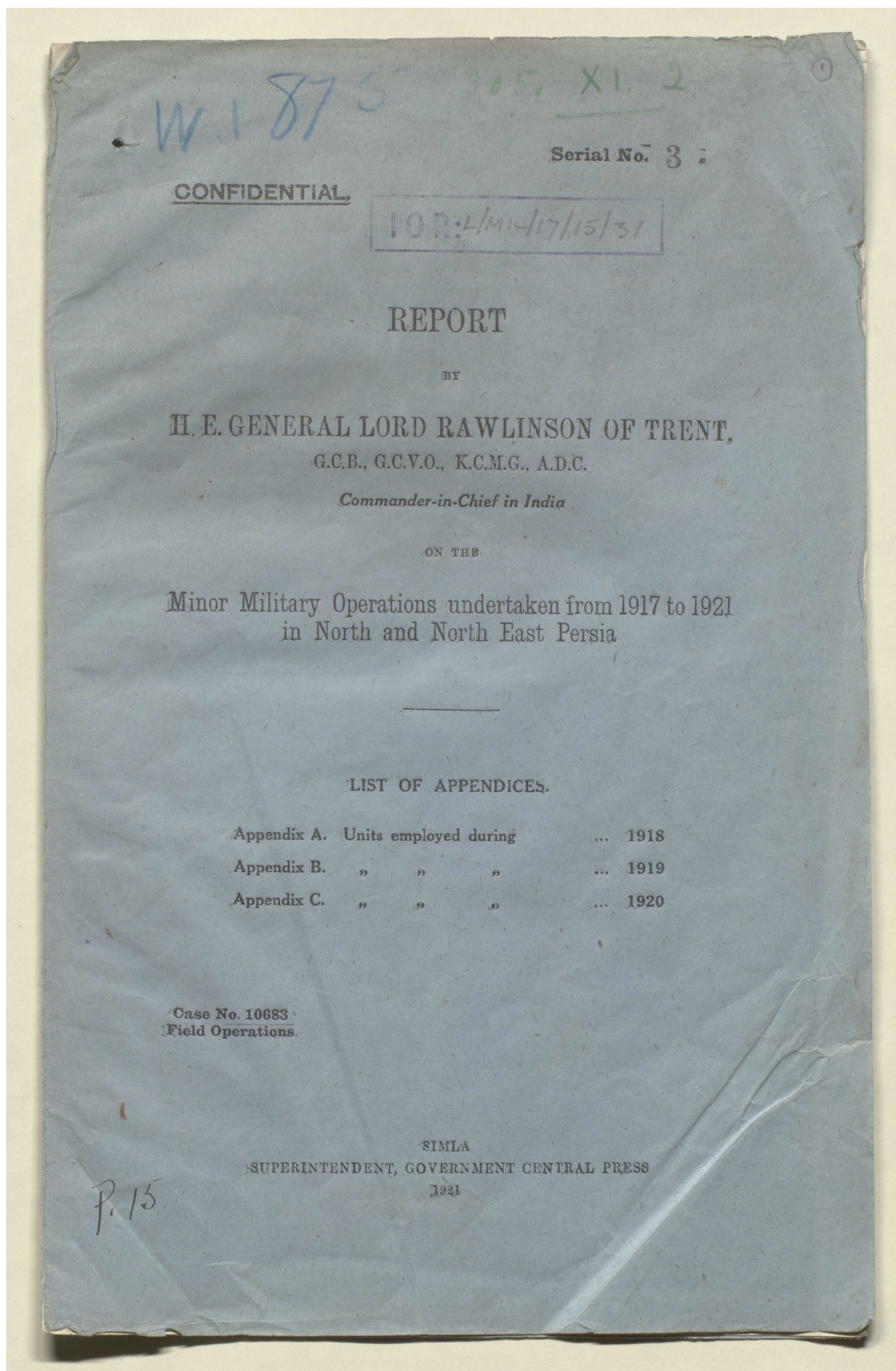
About this record

The file consists of a report by Henry Seymour Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Army Department on minor operations in North and North East Persia from 1917-21.

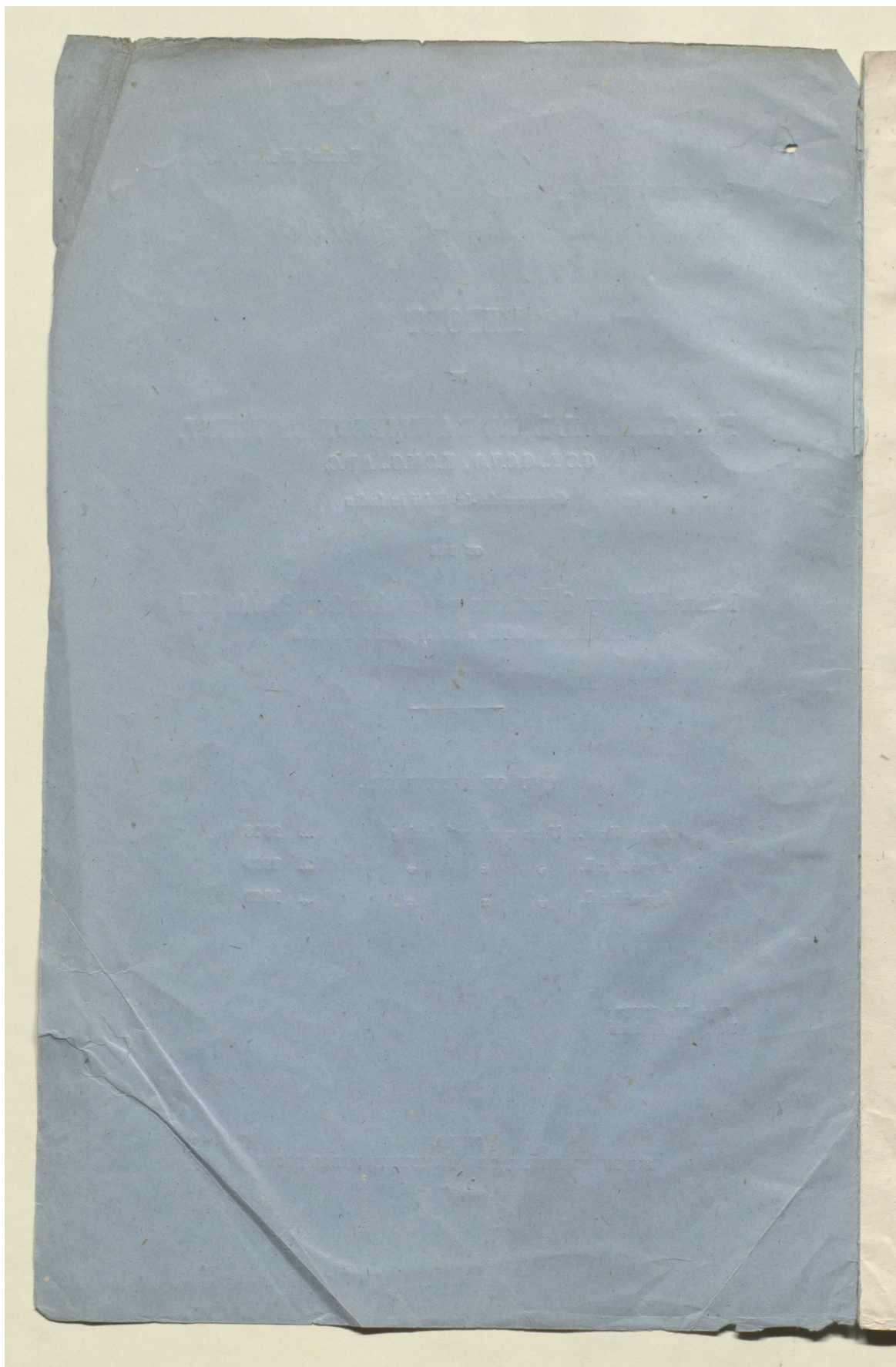
It includes the East Persian Cordon and Meshed [Mashhad] Military Mission, with three appendices listing the units employed in North and East Persia during the period covered:

- Appendix A – Meshed Mission and East Persian Cordon, January 1918;
- Appendix B – Meshed Mission and East Persian Cordon, January 1919;
- Appendix C - East Persia Force and Line of Communications, February 1920.

'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [front] (1/8)



**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [front-i] (2/8)**



**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [2r] (3/8)**

Field Operations.

No. 10683-1 (M.O.-1).

Army Headquarters, India

GENERAL STAFF BRANCH;

Simla, the 31st May 1921.

FROM

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, INDIA,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
ARMY DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on Minor Operations in North and North East Persia from 1917 to 1921.

During 1917, German and Turkish intrigue was directed towards stirring up the Pan-Islamic elements in Persia and Transcaspiia with a view to alienating Afghanistan and thereby to threaten India.

This necessitated the establishment of a military cordon, along the Perso-Afghan border. The force, known as the East Persian Cordon, was composed partly of Russian and partly of Imperial troops from British India. The Imperial Forces held the line from India to a short distance North of Birjand and Russian troops occupied the remainder of the Afghan border line to the Trans-Caspian Frontier.

Owing to the Russian revolution of 1917, Russian troops were withdrawn in February 1918 with the result that the entire province of Khorassan was given over to anarchy, and became accessible for the unchecked movements of hostile armed bands and enemy agents.

To remedy this state of affairs a detachment of the 19th Punjabis was immediately pushed up to Meshed, followed by a squadron and Headquarters of the 28th Cavalry, medical, and supply units and the remainder of the 19th Punjabis.

Concentration of this force, which became known as the Meshed Military Mission was completed by July 1918, under the command of Major General W. Malleeson.

From now onwards the Meshed Military Mission was frequently engaged in a series of operations against the Bolshevik troops in Transcaspiia, all of which were successful and added greatly to the prestige of our Imperial forces in Persia.

The most important action was perhaps that of Dushakh (about 60 miles North East of Meshed) in October 1918, where Mission troops engaged a greatly superior force and completely routed the enemy with considerable loss.

Our casualties amounted to killed British officer 1, Indian officers 2 Indian other ranks 52, wounded British officers 3, Indian officer 1, Indian other ranks 148.

In April 1919 circumstances arose necessitating the withdrawal of the Mission Force from Transcaspiia to Meshed. This was accomplished without incident. In May 1920 Brigadier-General Leslie took over command and in November of the same year the command of the Mission devolved on Colonel Redl.

'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [2v] (4/8)

2

In May 1921 the Mission was withdrawn leaving a small Consular escort and intelligence centre at Meshed, with sufficient mechanical transport for emergencies.

The conduct of our troops, both officers and men, engaged in the above operations is worthy of the Highest praise.

Appendices are attached enumerating the units employed in North and East Persia during the period under review, for your information.

A list of recommendations will follow.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

RAWLINSON.

Commander-in-Chief, India.



**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [3r] (5/8)**

3

Appendix A.

Mesher Mission and East Persian Cordon, January 1918.

28th Cavalry.
19th Punjabis.
1 Company 98th Infantry.
2 Machine Gun Sections.
No. 24 Field Company 3rd Sappers and Miners (less 2 Sections).

Levies.

Hazara Levies.
Sistan Levies.
Sarhaddi Levies.

Appendix B.

Mesher Mission and East Persian Cordon, January 1919.

28th Light Cavalry.
41st Cavalry (2 Squadrons).
1-19th Punjabis.
1-98th Infantry (*plus* two companies).
107th Pioneers.
120th Infantry (2 Companies).
2 Machine gun sections.
No. 7 Field Troop 3rd Sappers and Miners.
Sistan Detachment 3rd Sappers and Miners.
No. 7 Litho Section.
12th Cavalry Brigade Signal Troops.
104th Labour Corps.
Administrative units.

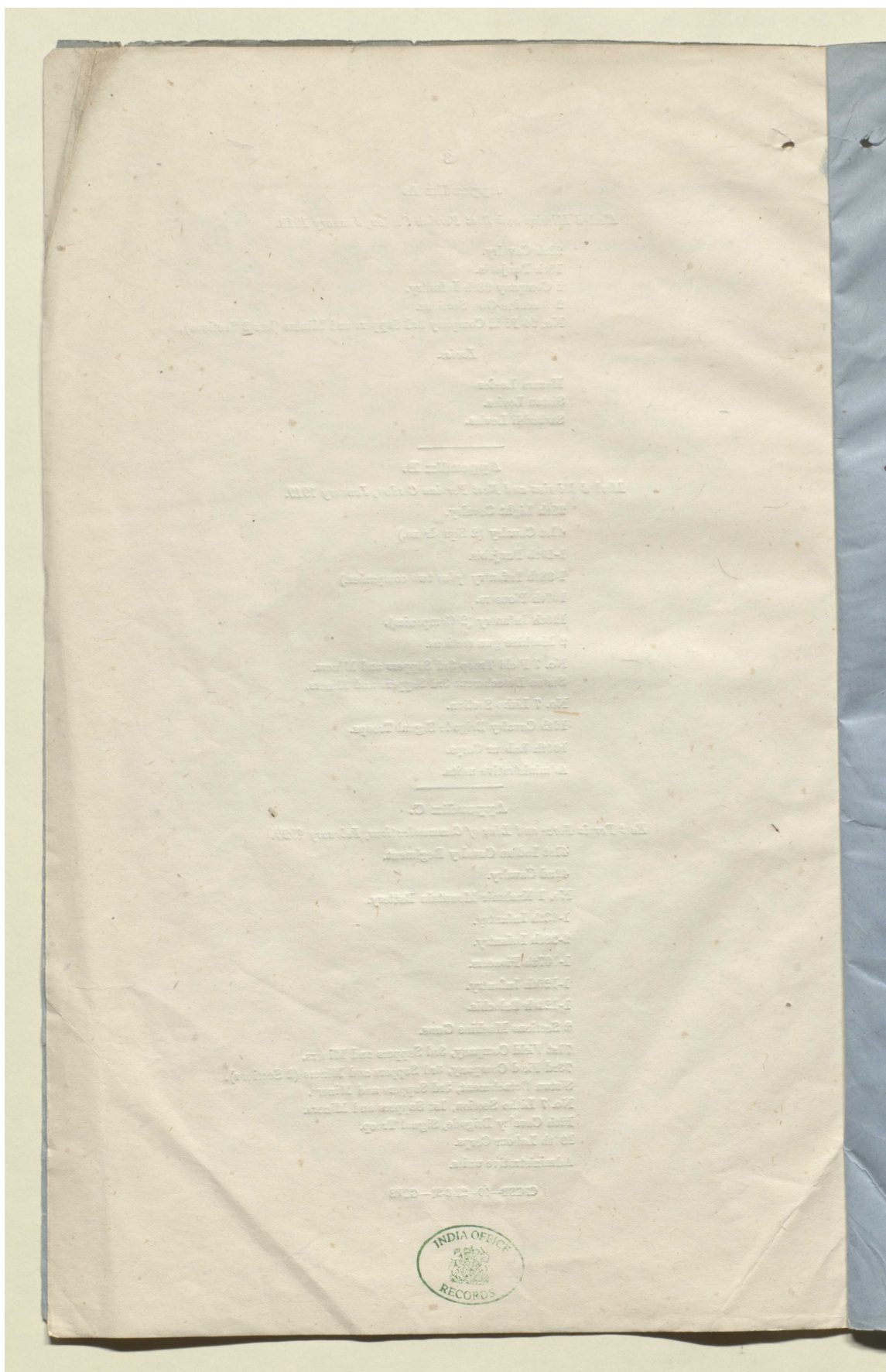
Appendix C.

East Persia Force and Line of Communications, February 1920.

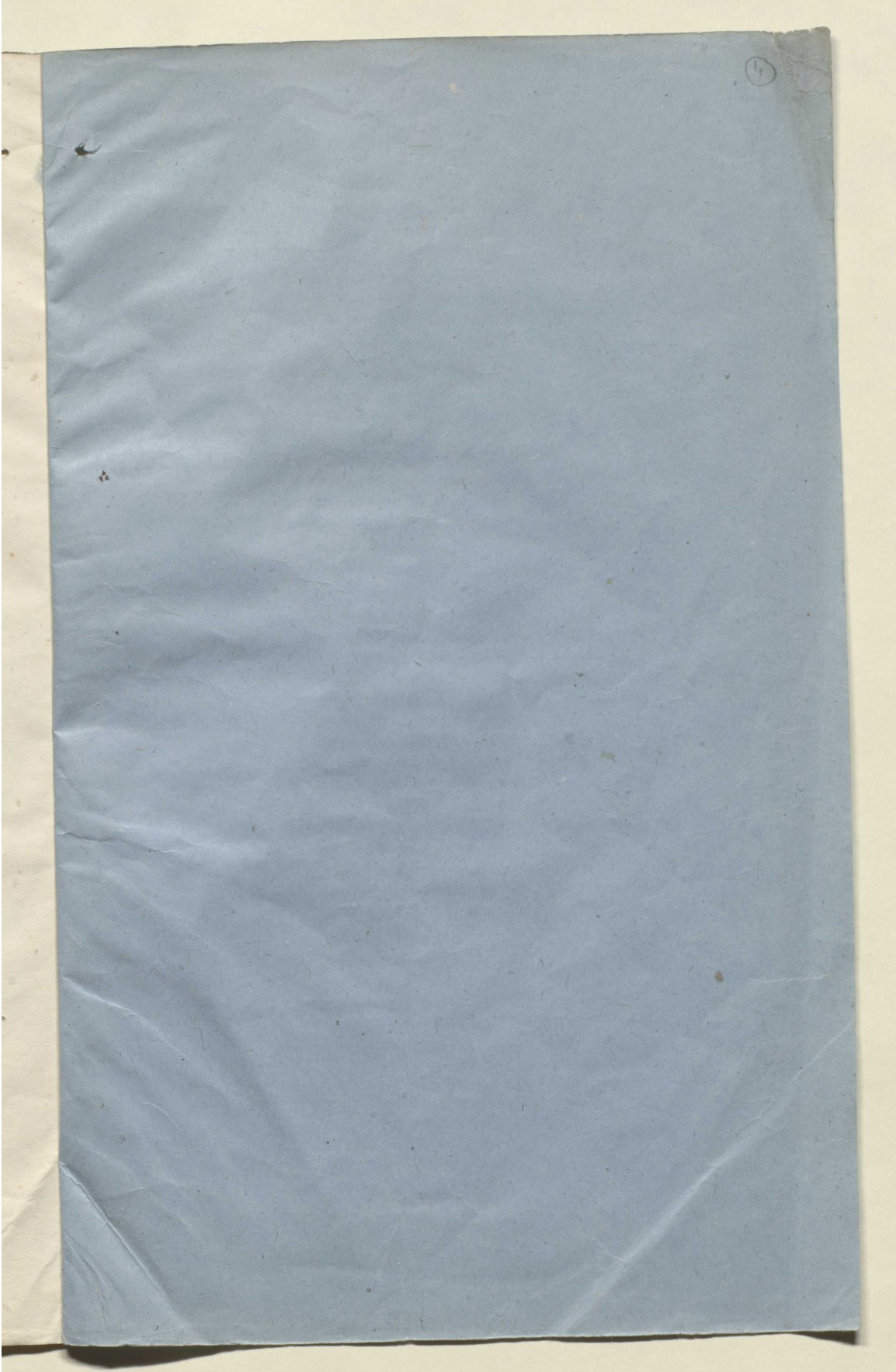
41st Indian Cavalry Regiment.
42nd Cavalry.
No. 1 Kashmir Mountain Battery.
1-98th Infantry.
2-98th Infantry.
1-107th Pioneers.
1-120th Infantry.
1-124th Baluchis.
2 Sections Machine Guns.
71st Field Company, 3rd Sappers and Miners.
73rd Field Company, 3rd Sappers and Miners (2 Sections).
Sistan Detachment, 3rd Sappers and Miners.
No. 7 Litho Section, 1st Sappers and Miners.
12th Cavalry Brigade, Signal Troop.
104th Labour Corps.
Administrative units.

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**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [3v] (6/8)**



**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken from 1917 to 1921 in North and North
East Persia' [back-i] (7/8)**



**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,
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East Persia' [back] (8/8)**

