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**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in  
India, on the Minor Military Operations undertaken by the South Persia Rifles  
from November 1919 to November 1921'**

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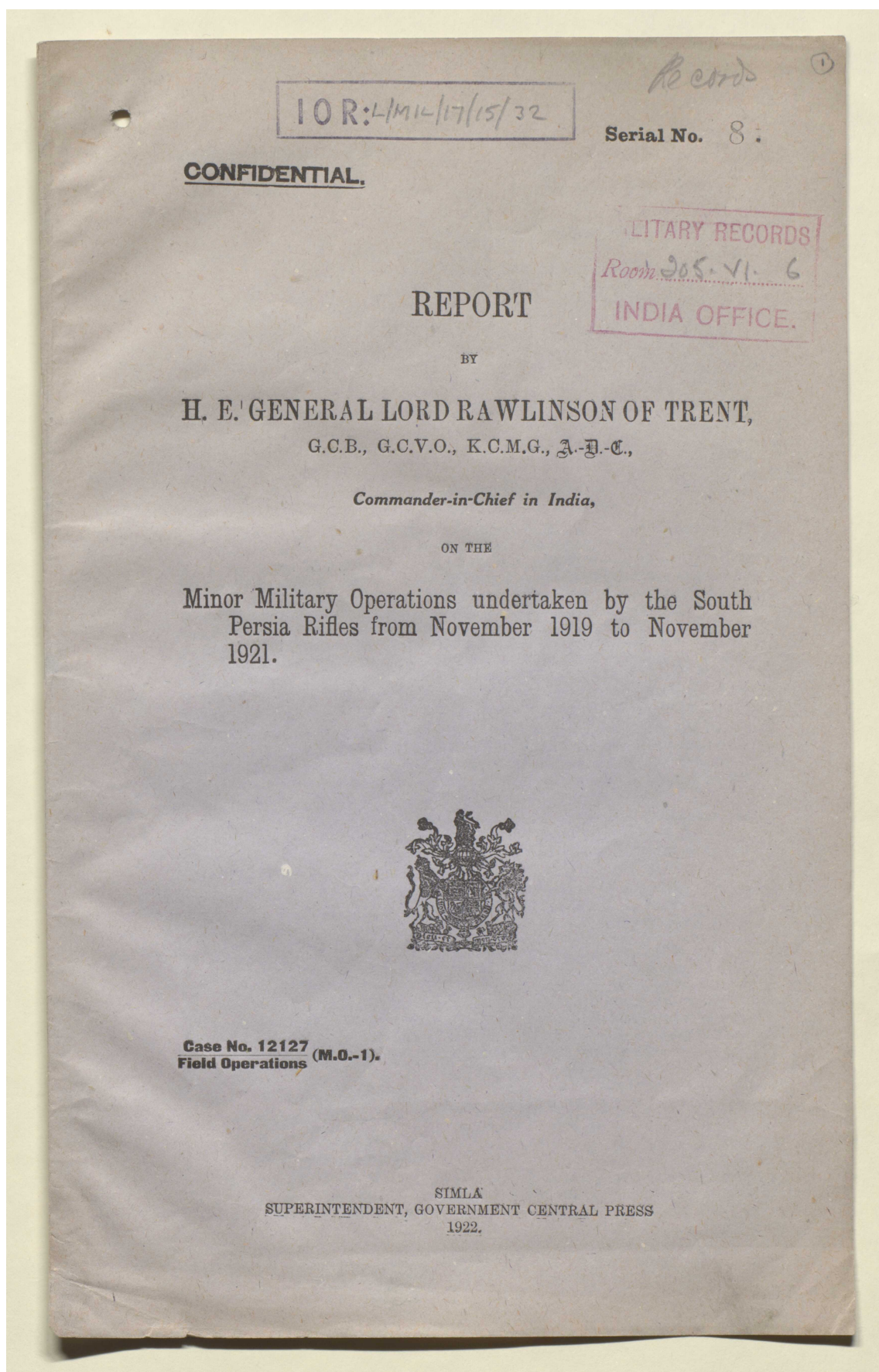


**About this record**

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 undertaken by the South Persia Rifles, November 1919 to November 1921.

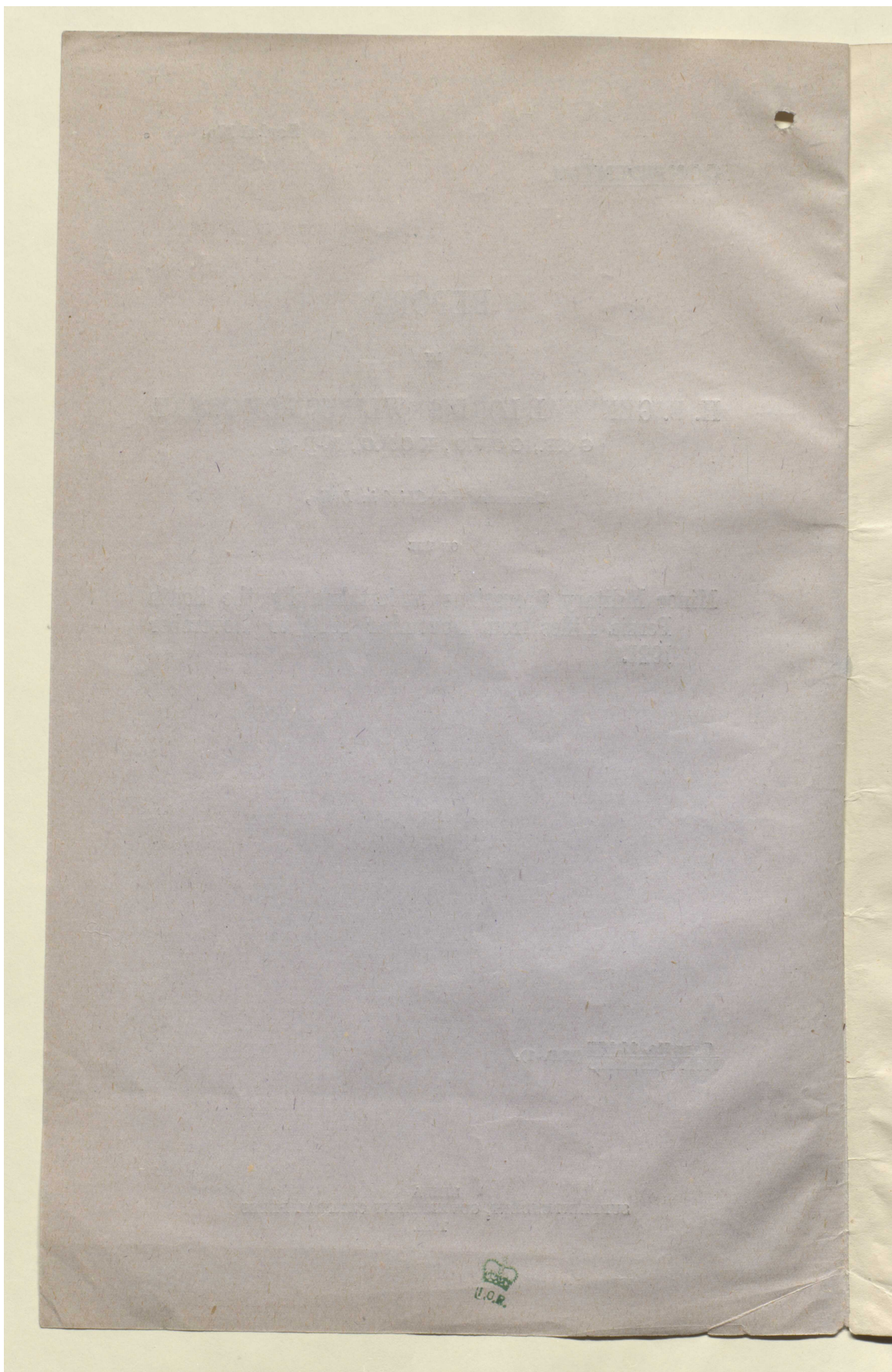
It includes: command appointments; operations, with statistics for killed and wounded; and the disbandment of the South Persia Rifles.

'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,  
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken by the South Persia Rifles from  
November 1919 to November 1921' [front] (1/6)





**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,  
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken by the South Persia Rifles from  
November 1919 to November 1921' [front-i] (2/6)**





'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,  
on the Minor Military Operations undertaken by the South Persia Rifles from  
November 1919 to November 1921' [2r] (3/6)

**FIELD OPERATIONS.**

No. 12127-1 (M.O.-1).

**Army Headquarters, India.**

GENERAL STAFF BRANCH,

SIMLA

Dalhi, the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1922.

FROM

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on Minor Operations carried out by the South Persia Rifles since 31st October, 1919.

2. *Command.*—On the departure of Colonel E. F. Orton from Shiraz on the 30th October, 1919, for England, Brevet Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. A. K. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., assumed the duties of Inspector-General, but on his appointment to the Anglo-Persian Military Commission on the 19th November, 1919, he handed over command to Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) M. H. Lucas, D.S.O. The latter officer died suddenly on the 2nd August, 1920, and the command devolved on Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) C. H. G. H. Harvey Kelly, D.S.O., who left for India on the 10th September 1920. Brevet Major (temporary Major) A. N. I. Lilly, M.C., then officiated as Inspector-General until the arrival of Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. A. K. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., on the 14th November, 1920, who retained command until the force was finally disbanded.

3. *Operations.*—During the months of March and April, 1920, the Indian troops in Shiraz and in the posts on the Shiraz-Bushire road were withdrawn and their duties taken over by the South Persia Rifles, who by the 30th April had assumed entire charge of the road from Shiraz to Bushire Island (exclusive) and of the railway line from Borazjun to Bushire Island (exclusive).

During the whole period under review minor operations against raiders and robbers were of frequent occurrence. Prior to the departure of the Indian troops, projects for operations against certain rebel Khans were examined, but none of these proposals were sanctioned.

On the 22nd July, 1920, an operation was undertaken by a force\* under the command of Captain F. L. R. Munn, M.C., in co-operation with 250 tofangchis of the Darya Begi (Governor of the Gulf Ports) to seize or drive back into the Dashti hills the hereditary Khan of Chakutah, by name Sheikh Hussein, who was in the vicinity of Ahmadi (about 15 miles North-east of Bushire) with about 100 followers. This operation was entirely successful. Sheikh Hussein was killed and his son, Sheikh Khayal, was wounded and later died of his wound. The enemy suffered over 20 casualties, while the losses of the South Persia Rifles were—

*Killed—*

4 Persian other ranks.

*Wounded—*

2 Persian officers.

9 Persian other ranks.

The tofangchis gave little or no assistance. This action had a most encouraging effect on the whole of the South Persia Rifles, and greatly increased their prestige throughout South Persia.



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On the 26th November, 1920, two troops of the 2nd Cavalry, who were out in search of a band of robbers, were ambushed in a narrow defile and lost—

*Killed—*

Captain W. S. Knowles, M.C., 2-1st Gurkha Rifles.

*Wounded—*

1 Persian officer.

5 Persian other ranks.

On the 21st May, 1921, a column\* under the command of Captain Villiers Stuart was despatched from Kazerun to arrest Nur Mohamed, the Khan of Daliki, who had been interfering with caravans and travellers. The column reached Daliki before dawn on the 21st May, and after the village had been surrounded, the surrender of Nur Mohamed was demanded; but he elected to fight. The village, which was fortified and strongly defended, was captured with great dash after five hours' fighting, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, of whom over 40 were killed, while Nur Mohamed died of his wounds. The casualties of the South Persia Rifles were—

*Killed—*

1 Persian other rank.

*Wounded—*

6 Persian other ranks.

All ranks fought with great gallantry, and an interesting incident was that a charge by the Cavalry accounted for six killed and four prisoners.

4. *Disbandment.*—During the latter part of 1920 and the early part of 1921, the constant changes in the political situation and the uncertainty regarding the future of the South Persia Rifles added greatly to the difficulties of the command and administration of the force.

On the 10th July, in accordance with instructions from His Majesty's Minister, Teheran, the Inspector-General, South Persia Rifles, proposed a scheme whereby disbandment was to be carried out in three stages, approximately one-third of the force being discharged at each stage.

On the 16th July, His Majesty's Minister issued instructions for disbandment to be begun on the above lines, and between 17th and 31st July, the numbers discharged were 71 Persian officers and 1,873 Persian other ranks.

On the 28th August, as the Persian Government had made no acceptable proposal for the upkeep of the force, His Majesty's Minister issued orders for disbandment to be completed. In consequence during September, 91 Persian officers and 2,221 Persian other ranks were discharged.

The final disbandment, with the exception of small garrisons for posts on the Shiraz-Bushire road, began on the 15th October, and was completed during November.

The arrangements made to carry out the disbandment reflect great credit on Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. A. K. Fraser, D.S.O., M.C., and all those serving under him. The difficulties to be surmounted were great, and the successful conclusion of the task, combined with the admirable behaviour of the Persian ranks during the disbandment, testify to the powers of command of the British officers.

A list of recommendations will follow.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

RAWLINSON,

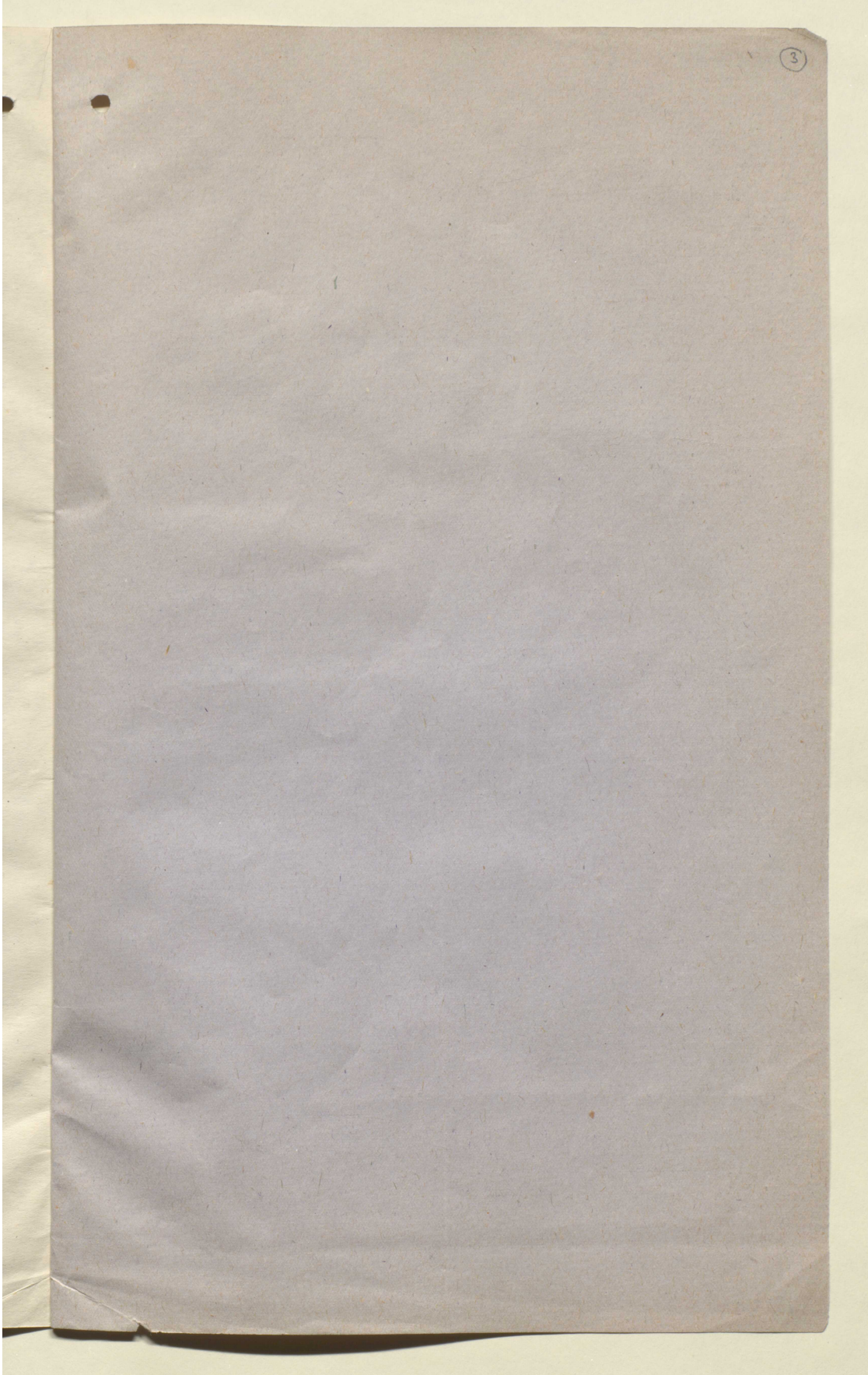
Commander-in-Chief in India.

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**'Report by H. E. General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, Commander-in-Chief in India,  
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November 1919 to November 1921' [back-i] (5/6)**





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