

The Creation of Modern Iraq

British India Office Files, c. 1914-1921

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British Library

Contents

Introduction	2	
BII-1	Gazetteers and handbooks	5
BII-2	Outbreak of the First World War: situation in Turkish Arabia	8
BII-3	Wartime military and civil administration	9
BII-4	Wartime economy: trade and communications	10
BII-5	Post-war administration and constitution for the state of Iraq	12
BII-6	Local government and education	15
BII-7	Kurdistan	16
BII-8	Iraqi boundaries	17
BII-9	Post-war economic development	18
BII-10	The oil industry	19
Index	20	

The Creation of Modern Iraq India Office Political and Secret Files, c 1914-1921

The geopolitical identity of present-day Iraq can be traced back to the British Military occupation of the First World War and the civil administration established at the beginning of the British Mandate, which lasted from 1921 until independence in 1932. The materials in this collection consist of India Office Political & Secret Department confidential reports, memoranda, maps, and handbooks, as well as policy files describing the background and practicalities of the creation of a political administration, as well as of a social and an economic infrastructure. IDC Publishers now makes this unique material available for research.

Detailed intelligence reports

On November 5, 1914, three months after the outbreak of the First World War in Europe, Britain officially declared war on Germany's eastern ally, Turkey. On November 22, a British Indian army – Indian Expeditionary Force “D” (IEFD) – occupied Basra, where a local British administration was immediately set up under the leadership of Sir Percy Cox as Chief Political Officer. While the British Indian military forces advanced slowly upriver towards Baghdad, and then remained bogged down in the famous five-month siege at Kut, Cox and a small team of officials set about creating a civilian government which would ultimately be extended to all the former territories of Ottoman Turkish Arabia. Among those recruited for the work were Arnold Wilson and Reader Bullard, as well as the more well-known travelers and Orientalists of the period, including T.E. Lawrence, Gertrude Bell, and Harry St. John Philby. While political officers such as Bullard and Wilson were sent out to run regional administrations, Bell and her colleagues worked under the auspices of the Arab Bureau's Eastern Branch at Basra, preparing detailed intelligence reports on local personalities, tribes, and political affiliations. When Baghdad was finally captured in March 1917, Cox – now promoted to the post of Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia – appointed Gertrude Bell as his ‘Oriental Secretary’, the key intelligence post in the administration.

New form of government

Mosul, in the north, was not actually taken by the British until November 1918, but by then British officials had collected extensive dossiers of information on the territories they were to be assigned at the post-war San Remo meetings in April 1920. At San Remo, Britain was assigned the Mandate to govern the newly unified region of Iraq. In October of the same year, Sir Percy Cox was appointed as High Commissioner in Iraq and posted to Baghdad to set up a new form of government which would ‘give effect to the spirit in which His Majesty's Government regarded their responsibilities’ under the Mandateⁱ. At the Cairo Conference in March 1921, Faysal bin Husayn was chosen as future king.

Factual material on the area

During the years of gradually expanding British occupation (1914-1921), the former Ottoman territories – “Turkish Arabia” before the war, “Mesopotamia” during the war, and now the modern state of Iraq – were the subject of enormous interest to officials in London. Information gathering was an essential tool of imperial rule, and in Mesopotamia the need for intelligence was intensified by the requirements of war and the military campaign. By 1918, British government files were full of wide-ranging factual material on the area, and after the end of the war this was supplemented by lengthy discussions on the future government of the new state. In August 1921, Faysal bin Husayn was enthroned in Baghdad. The style and details of his administration, however, had already been established in the seven years preceding his accession.

Provenance and archival background

British interests in Turkish Arabia, or Mesopotamia, before the First World War were the administrative responsibility of the Imperial Government of India and its supervisory body, the India Office, in London. In the India Office, the department responsible for the conduct and supervision of relations with areas outside

ⁱ ‘Historical Summary of Events in Territories of the Ottoman Empire, Persia and Arabia affecting the British position in the Persian Gulf, 1907-1928’, Committee of Imperial Defence, October 1928, *IOR:L/P&S/20/C247A*, p.31.

the sub-continent was the Political and Secret Department. Its archives now form part of the Oriental and India Office Collections (OIOC) at the British Libraryⁱⁱ.

Imperial officials posted in Persia, Turkish Arabia, and the Gulf reported, either directly or indirectly, to the Political and Secret Department in London, as well as to the British Government in India. After 1902, the most important of the departmental papers accumulated in London were registered, indexed, and arranged in files according to subject. At the same time, the Political and Secret Department also maintained its own departmental reference library of confidential handbooks for the restricted use of its own officials, as did the Military and other India Office departments. The Political and Secret Department papers have now been catalogued under the OIOC reference L/P&S/.

In 1921, a new Middle East Department of the Colonial Office was set up in London and took over responsibility for British policy and administration in Iraq during the Mandate. At the same time, the India Office ceased to have direct involvement in the day-to-day affairs of the new state.

Organization and contents of files

For the present publication, the material has been arranged in ten groups. The first group (BII-1) comprises printed gazetteers and handbooks now preserved in the departmental libraries of the India Office Military and Political departments. The other groups (BII-2 through BII-10) comprise India Office Political and Secret Department subject files arranged broadly according to subject.

BII-1	Gazetteers and handbooks
BII-2	Outbreak of the First World War: situation in Turkish Arabia
BII-3	Wartime military and civil administration
BII-4	Wartime economy: trade and communications
BII-5	Post-war administration and constitution for the state of Iraq
BII-6	Local government and education
BII-7	Kurdistan
BII-8	Iraqi boundaries
BII-9	Post-war economic development
BII-10	The oil industry

The materials in these groups are both wide-ranging and detailed. The gazetteers and handbooks include historical, topographical, social, and economic data on all areas of the country, as well as maps, descriptions of tribes, information about languages, and biographical notes on major personalities.

The Political and Secret subject files consist of the confidential intelligence reports on which the handbooks were based, and of many more reports from officials on the political situation in the region, the development of the economy and infrastructure, oil and water resources, trade, currency, banking, land and river transportation, irrigation, and even antiquities and archaeology. Major policy files describe the background and practicalities of the creation of a political administration, a social and an economic infrastructure, and a future constitution. Officials argued at length about the nature of the constitution and the extent of Arab participation and self-government.ⁱⁱⁱ They also devoted time and energy to the development of the revenue, judicial, municipal, and education systems. At the same time, both military and civilian experts produced technical geographical and topographical surveys of the entire region, from the boundaries with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the south, to Kurdistan in the north. A typical file, for

ⁱⁱ For further information on the OIOC collections relating to Iraq and the Gulf, see Penelope Tuson, *The Records of the British Residency and Agencies in the Persian Gulf*, London: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1979, and *Sources for Middle East Studies*, London: The British Library, 1984.

ⁱⁱⁱ See, for example, Gertrude Bell's 'Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia', 1920, which was published as a British Parliamentary Paper (*IOR:L/P&S/10/752*. See microfiche 404-410 (115-121) in **BII-5 below**) and India Office Political Department memoranda on 'The future constitution of Mesopotamia' (*IOR:L/P&S/10/757-759*. See microfiche 422-433 (133-144) in **BII-5 below**).

example, includes political memoranda prepared by officials in London or Baghdad, minutes of international or departmental meetings, intelligence reports from local officials and experts, printed reports, maps, and photographs.

Within the ten groups, the following information is provided for each item: fiche number; title or subject description; covering dates; OIOC reference number and (in the case of files) original P&S registry number; and number of pages or folios.

Penelope Tuson
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Oriental & India Office Collections, British Library*

Fiche 1-47

**IRAQ, BII – 1
GAZETTEERS AND HANDBOOKS**

Fiche 1-10

A Handbook of Mesopotamia
Vol 1, General
London: Admiralty War Staff, Intelligence
Division, August 1916
360pp, illus, maps, *Confidential*
with 2nd edn, Nov 1918, 550pp
L/MIL/17/15/41/1-2

Fiche 10-15

A Handbook of Mesopotamia
Vol 2, Iraq, Lower Karun and Luristan
London: Admiralty War Staff, Intelligence
Division, May 1917
510pp, plates & maps, *Confidential*
L/MIL/17/15/41/3

Fiche 15-21

A Handbook of Mesopotamia
Vol 3, Central Mesopotamia, with Southern
Kurdistan and the Syrian Desert
London: Admiralty War Staff, Intelligence
Division, January 1917
416pp, maps, *Confidential*
with Corrections and additions, June 1918,
116pp
L/MIL/17/15/41/4-5

Fiche 21-28

A Handbook of Mesopotamia
Vol 4, Northern Mesopotamia and Central
Kurdistan
London: Admiralty War Staff, Intelligence
Division, April 1917
497pp, plates & maps, *Confidential*
with Corrections and additions, December 1918,
166pp
L/MIL/17/15/41/6-7

Fiche 28-29

Field Notes on Lower Mesopotamia
Simla: General Staff India, October 1914
v, 85pp
L/MIL/17/15/48

Fiche 29-31

Field Notes: Mesopotamia
Simla: General Staff India, February 1915
iv, 211pp
L/MIL/17/15/49

Fiche 31-35

Field Notes: Mesopotamia
Calcutta: General Staff India, February 1917
326pp
L/MIL/17/15/50

Fiche 35

Where's Where in Arabia, Mesopotamia and
Persia
Simla: General Staff India, 1915
i, 63,9 pp, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/C128/1

Fiche 35-36

Where's Where in Arabia, Mesopotamia and
Persia
Simla: General Staff India, 1916
i, 110, 10pp
L/P&S/20/C128/2

Fiche 36-41

Who's Who in Mesopotamia
Compiled by Intelligence Branch, Indian
Expeditionary Force "D"
Simla: General Staff India, 1915
420, 9 pp, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/C129/1

Fiche 41-44

Who's Who in Mesopotamia [abbreviated edn,
Nov 1914-Jul 1916]
Compiled by Intelligence Branch, Indian
Expeditionary Force "D"
Delhi: General Staff India, 1916
133 pp, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/C129/2

Fiche 44-47

Who's Who in Mesopotamia
Calcutta: General Staff India, 1916
167 pp
L/P&S/20/C129/3

Fiche 47-64**Fiche 47-48**

Personalities. Iraq
[Delhi: Government of India Foreign and Political Department for Arab Bureau, Basra Branch, 1917]
94pp, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/C143

Fiche 49

A sketch of the political history of Persia, Iraq and Arabia, with special reference to the present campaign
Calcutta : Government of India for Office of the Chief Political Officer, IEF "D", 1917
ii, 43pp
L/P&S/20/C150

Fiche 49-51

Vocabularies: English, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Armenian, Kurdish, Syriac
London: Intelligence Division, Admiralty War Staff, c 1917, 171pp
L/MIL/17/15/52

Fiche 51

Tribes of the Tigris
Calcutta: Government of India [Foreign and Political Department] for Arab Bureau, Basra Branch, 1917
26pp, genealogical tables
L/P&S/20/C151

Fiche 51-52

Tribes round the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris
Calcutta: Government of India [Foreign and Political Department] for Arab Bureau, Basra Branch, 1917
24pp
L/P&S/20/C152

Fiche 52-53

The Muntafik. Al Sa'dun, Bani Malik, Ajwad, Bani Sa'id, Bani Huchaim
Calcutta: Arab Bureau, Basra Branch, 1917
156pp, map, genealogical tables, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/63

Fiche 53-56

Arab tribes of the Baghdad Wilayet, July 1918
Calcutta: Government of India for Arab Bureau, 1919
276, ixpp, tables
L/P&S/20/235

Fiche 56-58

Geology of Mesopotamia and its borderlands
London: Intelligence Division, Admiralty Naval Staff, May 1918
116pp, maps, illus
L/MIL/17/15/54

Fiche 58-59

Report for the Army Council on Mesopotamia
Sir John Prescott Hewett, London: War Office, July 1919
72pp, maps
L/MIL/17/15/55

Fiche 59-60

Mesopotamia. Handbook prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office, No.92
London: Foreign Office, 1919
vi, 138pp, 2 maps, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/C190

Fiche 60-61

Armenia and Kurdistan. Handbook prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office, No.91
London : Foreign Office, 1919
iv, 85pp, map, *Confidential*
L/P&S/20/C192

Fiche 61-62

The Kurdish tribes of the Ottoman Empire. Lt-Col Sir Mark Sykes
[London: War Office, 1915] Reprinted from the 'Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute', vol.38, Jul-Dec 1908
pp 452-486, map
L/P&S/20/C122

Fiche 62-63

Kurdistan and the Kurds
Intelligence Branch, General Staff Palestine, c 1919, [compiled by Cpt G.R.Driver]
[‘an attempt to collect and edit all the information at present available about the Kurds and Kurdistan’]
116pp, map
L/MIL/17/15/22

Fiche 63-64

Diary of Major E.M.Noel, on special duty in Kurdistan
Basra, 1919
76pp, illus
L/P&S/20/284

Fiche 64-69

Fiche 64-67

Personalities. Iraq (exclusive of Baghdad and Khadimain)

[London: War Office, 1919]

138pp, *Confidential*

L/P&S/20/221

Fiche 67-69

Personalities. Baghdad and Kadhimain

Baghdad: Government Press. 1920

92pp, genealogical tables, *Confidential*

L/P&S/20/C199

Fiche 69

Note on military organisation in Mesopotamia and North Persia, explaining the interim and eventual establishments and conditions

London: War Office, January 1920

14pp, maps, *Confidential*

L/MIL/17/15/56

Fiche 70-110 (1-41)

IRAQ, BII – 2

OUTBREAK OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR: SITUATION IN TURKISH ARABIA

Fiche 70-4 (1-5)

Monthly 'Summary of Events in Turkish Iraq',
Nov 1911- July 1914
L/P&S/10/212 File 211/1912 195ff

Fiche 74-80 (5-11)

German War: Turkey; situation in Persian Gulf
and Turkish Arabia, Jun –Oct 1914
L/P&S/10/462 File 3136/1914 Pt 1 330ff

Fiche 80-85 (11-16)

German War: Turkey; situation in Persian Gulf
and Turkish Arabia, Sep-Nov 1914
L/P&S/10/463 File 3136/1914 Pt 2 243ff

Fiche 85-91 (16-22)

Baghdad Consulate: post of consular assistant;
appointment of J.C.Gaskin and his detention by
Turkish authorities during the war, Dec 1904-
Mar 1929
L/P&S/10/117 File 636/1907 300ff

Fiche 92-96 (23-27)

German War: Turkey; position of British citizens
in Baghdad; proposed exchange of British
women and children prisoners for Turkish
officials, Dec 1914-Dec 1915
L/P&S/10/532 File 94/1915 Pt 1 199ff

Fiche 96-100 (27-31)

German War: Turkey; arrangements for
payments to British consular staff and other
British Indian subjects in Turkish territory, Jan
1915-May 1922
L/P&S/10/533 File 94/1915 Pt 3 216ff

Fiche 100-105 (31-36)

Prisoners of war in Mosul and Baghdad:
proposed exchange of British women and
children for Turkish officials, Apr 1915-Dec
1916
L/P&S/10/534 File 94/1915 Pt 4 234ff

Fiche 105-110 (36-41)

Turkish and Arab prisoners deported to India;
Sayyid Talib, Oct 1914-Nov 1920
L/P&S/10/535 File 94/1915 Pt 5 217ff

Fiche 111-206 (1-96)

IRAQ, BII – 3

WARTIME MILITARY AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

Fiche 111-116 (1-6)

Basra administration, Oct 1914-Dec 1915
L/P&S/10/513 File 4097/1914 Pt 1 284ff

Fiche 116-120 (6-10)

Mesopotamia administration: personnel; civilian appointments, Nov 1915-Apr 1919
L/P&S/10/514 File 4097/1914 Pt 2 172ff

Fiche 120-127 (10-17)

Administration: personnel; appointments of military officers to civil administration, Jan 1916-Feb 1920
L/P&S/10/515 File 4097/1914 Pt 3 346ff

Fiche 127-134 (17-24)

Administration: policy and personnel; administration of occupied Basra; recruitment and employment issues; system of civil administration in Baghdad, May 1916-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/516 File 4097/1914 Pt 4-5 333ff

Fiche 134-141 (24-31)

Administration: personnel; recruitment papers; appointment of a successor to Sir E. Bonham-Carter as Judicial Secretary, Dec 1917-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/517 File 4097/1914 Pt 6-7 358ff

Fiche 141-157 (31-47)

Miscellaneous papers on administration and policy, Jul 1916-Nov 1917, *including*: Gertrude Bell's memoranda on 'The administration of justice in the occupied territories of Iraq', 'The Shiah and their position in Iraq', 'The basis of Government in Turkish Arabia' *with* Miscellaneous proclamations and notifications, Dec 1914-Mar 1919
L/P&S/10/617 File 3540/1916 736, 16ff

Fiche 157-171 (47-61)

Miscellaneous papers on administration and policy; revenue reports; land revenue reports; reports on tribes and topography; reports on the administration of civil and criminal justice, Sep 1917- Sep 1918, *also including* 'Notes on the tribes of Southern Kurdistan', by Maj. E.B. Soane, 1918; 'Personalities on the Persian Frontier', Arab Bureau, May 1918
L/P&S/10/618 File 3540/1916 676ff

Fiche 171-175 (61-65)

Occupation of Baghdad; administration of occupied territory; position and status of Chief Political Officer, Mar 1917-Sep 1919
L/P&S/10/666 File 978/1917 Pt 1 193ff

Fiche 175-179 (65-69)

Occupation of Baghdad: protection of Holy Places, Mar 1917-Feb 1919
L/P&S/10/667 File 978/1917 Pt 3 199ff

Fiche 179-196 (69-86)

Mesopotamia: fortnightly reports by High Commissioner, Nov 1917-Jan 1919
L/P&S/10/732 File 470/1918 Pt 1-2 818ff

Fiche 196-202 (86-92)

Mesopotamia administration: costs; disposal of surplus revenues; claims of the Ottoman Public Debt; stamp duties; control and audit of expenditure, Nov 1914-Nov 1918
L/P&S/10/868 File 6665/1919 Pt 1 288ff

Fiche 202-206 (92-96)

Reports of administration for 1918 of divisions and districts of the occupied territories in Mesopotamia. Vol. 1
445pp, maps, tables
L/P&S/20/250

Fiche 207-276 (1-70)

IRAQ, BII – 4

WARTIME ECONOMY: TRADE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Fiche 207-211 (1-5)

Status of conquered territory: Basra trade; status of local population; goods looted by Turks, Nov 1914-Nov 1915
L/P&S/10/564 File 3104/1915 Pt 1 199ff

Fiche 211-216 (5-10)

Status of conquered territory: trade; compensation claims, Feb 1915-May 1918
L/P&S/10/565 File 3104/1915 Pt 2 238ff

Fiche 216-219 (10-13)

Trade with Baghdad under war-time restrictions, Mar-Dec 1917
L/P&S/10/566 File 3104/1915 Pt 3 182ff

Fiche 219-224 (13-18)

Mesopotamia trade: export of wool, Dec 1916-Aug 1918
L/P&S/10/567 File 3104/1915 Pt 4 240ff

Fiche 224-228 (18-22)

Mesopotamia: wool trade, Sep 1918-Sep 1919
L/P&S/10/568 File 3104/1915 Pt 5 161ff

Fiche 228-232 (22-26)

Trade with Baghdad under war-time restrictions; lifting of restrictions; British exports; position of individual firms, Jul 1917-Sep 1918
L/P&S/10/569 File 3104/1915 Pt 6 220ff

Fiche 232-239 (26-33)

Trade with Baghdad: activities of individual firms; Black List, Jan-Dec 1918
L/P&S/10/570 File 3104/1915 Pt 7 314ff

Fiche 239-242 (33-36)

Mesopotamia trade: prize court proceedings re SS *Albistan* and *Avristan*, Jan 1915- Dec 1919
L/P&S/10/571 File 3104/1915 Pt 8 161ff

Fiche 242-249 (36-43)

Trade with Mesopotamia: payments from enemy assets in England; liquidation of, and claims against, enemy assets, Apr 1918- Mar 1922
L/P&S/10/572 File 3104/1915 Pt 9-10 354ff

Fiche 249-252 (43-46)

Mesopotamia: Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company mail contract; mail service between Baghdad and Basra; commercial transport on the Tigris, Jun 1912-Jun 1919
L/P&S/10/333 File 342/1913 135ff

Fiche 252-253 (46-47)

Reports on (1) the conservancy of the Shatt al-'Arab river from the port of Basra to the Persian Gulf and on (2) the development of the port of Basra. By Brig-Gen Sir George Buchanan, Director of Port Administration and Conservancy Simla: Government of India, June 1917
33pp maps
L/P&S/20/C149

Fiche 253 (47)

Report on the development of Mesopotamia with special reference to the regeneration of the river systems
Sir George Buchanan
Simla: Government of India, Aug 1917
21pp, illus, maps
L/MIL/17/15/53

Fiche 253-257 (47-51)

German War: banks at Basra, Nov 1914-May 1917
L/P&S/10/528 File 74/1915 Pt 1 203ff

Fiche 257-262 (51-56)

German War: banks at Basra; The Eastern Bank Ltd, Mar 1915-Dec 1917
L/P&S/10/529 File 74/1915 Pt 2 211ff

Fiche 262-269 (56-63)

Mesopotamia: banking arrangements and facilities; Imperial Ottoman Bank, Baghdad Branch; Eastern Bank branches at Mosul and Kermanshah, Mar 1917-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/531 File 74/1915 Pt 4-6 350ff

Fiche 269-276 (63-70)

Mesopotamia: export of dates, May 1916-Sep 1920
L/P&S/10/596 File 1889/1916 346ff

Fiche 276-289 (70-83)

Fiche 276-282 (70-76)

Mesopotamia: postage stamps, Apr 1917-Dec
1918
L/P&S/10/670 File1323/1917 Pt 1 268ff

Fiche 282-289 (76-83)

Mesopotamia: postage stamps, Jul 1918-Mar
1921
L/P&S/10/671 File1323/1917 Pt 2-5 341ff

Fiche 290-399 (1-110)

IRAQ, BII – 5

POST-WAR ADMINISTRATION AND CONSTITUTION FOR THE STATE OF IRAQ

Fiche 290-293 (1-4)

Mesopotamia: future administration; War Cabinet and Mesopotamian Administration Committee papers and policy, Mar 1917-Oct 1919
L/P&S/10/686 File 2571/1917 183ff

Fiche 293-314 (4-25)

Mesopotamia: personnel for civil administration; applications for employment, Apr 1917-Mar 1920
L/P&S/10/676 File 1429/1917 Pt 1-3 952ff

Fiche 314-328 (25-39)

Mesopotamia: personnel for civil administration; applications for employment, Jan 1919-Aug 1920
L/P&S/10/677 File 1429/1917 Pt 4-5 676ff

Fiche 328-332 (39-43)

Foreign consular representation in Baghdad: appointment and activities of French and Italian consular officers, Jul 1917-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/693 File 3000/1917 212ff

Fiche 332-336 (43-47)

Mesopotamia: apostolic delegate and Catholic missions, Sep 1917-Sep 1920
L/P&S/10/720 File 3948/1917 154ff

Fiche 336-351 (47-52)

Miscellaneous papers on administration and policy; revenue, administration of justice and tribes, Oct 1918- Aug 1919
includes: District Administration Reports; Civil Notifications and Departmental Orders; 'Note on wheat experiments, Mesopotamia, 1917-1918' by C.C.Garbett; 'Pictorial souvenir of the reception given by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Baghdad', September 1918, with photographs of leading Iraqi notables; 'Tribal Criminal and Civil Disputes Regulation'; Baghdad Criminal Procedure Regulations; Iraq Civil Postal Regulations; 'Note on Land Law' etc
L/P&S/10/619 File 3540/1916 741ff

Fiche 351-365 (52-66)

Miscellaneous papers on administration and policy: monthly reports of political officers; revenue reports; notes on tribes; memoranda on self-determination; municipal proclamations, Nov 1918- Nov 1919
includes: 'Western affluents of the Euphrates between Basrah and the Wadi Hauran', Douglas Carruthers, Royal Geographical Society, London 1918; Liquor policy in Iraq; Basra and Baghdad Municipal Proclamations and Notifications; Translations of Turkish Laws etc
L/P&S/10/620 File 3540/1916 654ff

Fiche 365-375 (66-76)

Miscellaneous papers on administration and policy: annual and monthly reports of political officers; irrigation reports; revenue, health etc reports, Aug 1919-Nov 1920
L/P&S/10/621 File 3540/1916 494ff

Fiche 375-393 (76-94)

Miscellaneous papers on administration and policy: annual district administration reports; monthly reports of political officers; revenue, police, communications reports, May-Aug 1920
L/P&S/10/622 File 3540/1916 869ff

Fiche 393-395 (94-96)

Mesopotamia: temporary administration of occupied territory; mission of Sir John Hewett to report on agricultural development and irrigation schemes, Feb 1918-Sep 1919
L/P&S/10/749 File 3156/1918 Pt 1 131ff

Fiche 395-399 (96-110)

Sir John Hewett's 'Report for the Army Council on Mesopotamia' on agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure (*with* maps and photographs including Basra port, major rivers, canals, bridges and dams): public criticism and questions in Parliament, 1919; articles in the *Times*; Sir G.Buchanan's criticisms; publication of report; Baghdad criticisms of report
Jun 1919-Mar 1920
L/P&S/10/750 File 3156/1918 Pt 2 196ff

Fiche 400-489 (111-200)

Fiche 400-404 (111-115)

Mesopotamia: past, present and future administration; parliamentary questions and public criticism, Dec 1919-Dec 1920
L/P&S/10/751 File 3156/1918 Pt 3 214ff

Fiche 404-410 (115-121)

'Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia', 1920: publication of Gertrude Bell's Blue Book, Nov 1918-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/752 File 3156/1918 Pt 4 266ff

Fiche 410-417 (121-128)

Future administration of Iraq: policy and situation, Oct 1918-Nov 1919
L/P&S/10/755 File 4722/1918 Pt 1 334ff

Fiche 417-422 (128-133)

Mesopotamia: situation, May 1919- July 1920
L/P&S/10/756 File 4722/1918 Pt 2 256ff

Fiche 422-428 (133-139)

Mesopotamia: future constitution; question of further announcement of British intentions; transfer of departments to civil administration, Dec 1918-May 1920
L/P&S/10/757 File 4722/1918 Pt 3 297ff

Fiche 428-429 (139-140)

Mesopotamia: future constitution; copies of background papers supplied to Sir Arnold Wilson, Apr 1919-Jun 1920
includes: India Office Political Department memoranda on 'Mesopotamia: present political situation', October 1919; 'The future constitution of Mesopotamia', November 1919; and 'Mesopotamia: future constitution', April 1919
L/P&S/10/758 File 4722/1918 Pt 4 25ff

Fiche 429-433 (140-144)

Mesopotamia: future constitution; draft mandate, Arab reaction to proposals; political situation; electoral reform, Apr-Oct 1920
L/P&S/10/759 File 4722/1918 Pt 5 192ff

Fiche 433 (144)

Proposed visit of Amir 'Abdullah to London, Apr-May 1920
L/P&S/10/760 File 4722/1918 Pt 6 20ff

Fiche 433-443 (144-154)

Mesopotamia situation: unrest and rebellion, Jun 1920-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/761 File 4722/1918 Pt 7-8 489ff

Fiche 443-444 (154-155)

Future control of Mesopotamia, Mar-Nov 1920
L/P&S/10/762 File 4722/1918 Pt 9 37ff

Fiche 444-445 (155-156)

Mesopotamia administration: appointment of Sir Percy Cox as High Commissioner, Aug-Oct 1920
L/P&S/10/763 File 4722/1918 Pt 11 64ff

Fiche 445-448 (156-159)

Mesopotamia: creation of provisional Council of State, Oct 1920-Mar 1921
L/P&S/10/764 File 4722/1918 Pt 12 118ff

Fiche 448-452 (159-163)

Mesopotamia: civilian air services and military airforce, Nov 1918-Sep 1920
L/P&S/10/766 File 4948/1918 205ff

Fiche 452-456 (163-167)

Iraq: medical officers for civil administration, Dec 1918-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/771 File 5633/1918 193ff

Fiche 456-459 (167-170)

Persia and Mesopotamia: future telegraphic arrangements, Dec 1918-Jun 1920
L/P&S/10/772 File 5646/1918 144ff

Fiche 459-473 (170-184)

Mesopotamia: police reports, May 1919-Oct 1920
L/P&S/10/839 File 3467/1919 637ff

Fiche 473-476 (184-187)

Major N.N.E.Bray: employment in India Office; appointment to investigate causes of outbreak of 1920, Aug 1919-Oct 1920
L/P&S/10/866 File 6445/1919 163ff

Fiche 476-485 (187-196)

Mesopotamia: finance; demarcation of responsibility between military and civil authorities; budgets, 1918-1919, 1919-1920 & 1920-1921, Dec 1919-Apr 1921
L/P&S/10/869 File 6665/1919 Pts 2 & 4-6 432ff

Fiche 485-489 (196-200)

Mesopotamia: military forces; recruitment and training of levy forces, Aug 1919-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/874 File 7512/1919 177ff

Fiche 489-519 (200-230)

Fiche 489-491 (200-202)

Mesopotamia and Palestine: cost of military forces, Aug 1919-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/891 File 1913/1920 124ff

Fiche 491-499 (202-210)

Mesopotamian and Palestine Mandates, Jun 1920-Dec 1924
L/P&S/10/911 File 4917/1920 373ff

Fiche 499-503 (210-214)

Return of leading Baghdadi officers and civilians from Syria; Nuri Said Pasha and Ja'afar Pasha, 1920-1921
L/P&S/10/913 File 5268/1920 Pts 1-2 212ff

Fiche 503-513 (214-224)

King for Iraq: question of suitability of Faysal bin Husayn; French protest; Faysal proclaimed King; Anglo-Iraq treaty, 1922, Aug 1920-Dec 1924
L/P&S/10/919 File 5876/1920 492ff

Fiche 513-519 (224-230)

Mesopotamia: High Commissioner's intelligence reports, Nov 1920-Aug 1921
L/P&S/10/962 File 301/1921 284ff

Fiche 520-530 (1-11)

IRAQ, BII – 6

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

Fiche 520-524 (1-5)

Mesopotamia: education policy and reports, Dec 1918-Mar 1923

includes: 'Department of Education syllabus of the Primary Course of Study', 1919;

'Memorandum on educational policy', August 1919; Department of Education Administration Report for 1919

L/P&S/10/816 File 1454/1919 214ff

Fiche 524-530 (5-11)

Mesopotamia: local administration, Apr 1919-Dec 1920

L/P&S/10/821 File 2023/1919 Pts 1-13 269ff

includes:

File 2023/1919 Pt 1 Formation of divisional and municipal councils;

Files 2023/1919 Pt 2-13 Proceedings of municipal and divisional councils:

Pt 2 Baghdad Municipal Council

Pt 3 Mosul Municipal Council

Pt 4 Amara Divisional Council

Pt 5 Baghdad Divisional Council

Pt 6 Basra Divisional Council

Pt 7 Diwaniyah Divisional Council

Pt 8 Diyalah Divisional Council

Pt 9 Hillah Divisional Council

Pt 10 Kirkuk Divisional Council

Pt 11 Kut Divisional Council

Pt 12 Samarra Divisional Council

Pt 13 Shamiyah Divisional Council

Fiche 531-558 (1-28)

**IRAQ, BII – 7
KURDISTAN**

Fiche 531-542 (1-12)

Kurdistan: situation, policy and future; question of northern limits of the Iraqi state, Oct 1918-Feb 1920

includes: 'Precis of affairs in Southern Kurdistan during the Great War', 1919; 'Note on the Kurdish situation' by Maj. E. Noel, July 1919
L/P&S/10/781 File 36/1919 Pt 1-2 542ff

Fiche 542-548 (12-18)

Kurdistan: situation and policy, Dec 1919-Nov 1922

L/P&S/10/782 File 36/1919 Pt 3 293ff

Fiche 548-552 (18-22)

Reports of Major E.M.Noel, on special duty in Kurdistan, Mar 1919-Apr 1920; printed 'Diary', 14 June-21 September 1919, with photographs
L/P&S/10/818 File 1512/1919 193ff

Fiche 552-558 (22-28)

Kurdistan: political incidents and uprisings at Sulaimaniyah, Amadia, Aqrah and Tel 'Afar, May 1919-Dec 1921

L/P&S/10/833 File 2879/1919 279ff

Fiche 559-578 (1-20)

**IRAQ, BII – 8
IRAQI BOUNDARIES**

Fiche 559-563 (1-5)

Mesopotamia: boundary with Syria; delineation of British and French spheres; disturbances at Dair-uz-Zor, Nov 1918-Dec 1919
L/P&S/10/769 File 5202/1918 Pt 1 221ff

Fiche 563-571 (5-13)

Mesopotamia: boundary with Syria; situation at Dair-uz-Zor; hostile Sharifian forces; complicity of Damascus government, Nov 1919-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/770 File 5202/1918 Pt 2-3 353ff

Fiche 571-578 (13-20)

Iraq boundaries; Iraq-Persia boundary, Aug 1920-Jan 1923
L/P&S/10/932 File 7173/1920 338ff

Fiche 579-652 (1-74)

**IRAQ, BII – 9
POST-WAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Fiche 579-584 (1-6)

Mesopotamia: trade; proposed commercial mission; reports on 'The prospects of British trade in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf', 1919, and 'Conditions of trade in Mesopotamia', 1920, May 1918-Oct 1920
L/P&S/10/368 File 123/1913 Pt 5 261ff

Fiche 584-592 (6-14)

Mesopotamia: river conservancy; note on Basra port; dredging of Shatt al-'Arab, Apr 1917-Dec 1919
includes photographs and blueprints
L/P&S/10/678 File 1510/1917 Pt 1 346ff

Fiche 592-599 (14-21)

Mesopotamia: river navigation; dredging of Shatt al-'Arab; Basra port dues, Jan 1919-Apr 1925
L/P&S/10/679 File 1510/1917 Pt 2-3 370ff

Fiche 599-605 (21-27)

Irrigation policy: general policy, Irrigation Directorate reports; irrigation works at Amara, Nov 1918-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/822 File 2137/1919 Pt 1-2 238ff

Fiche 605-612 (27-34)

Mesopotamia: land policy; tenure and acquisition, Aug 1917-Dec 1920
L/P&S/10/847 File 4613/1919 Pt 1-8 329ff

Fiche 612-617 (34-39)

Mesopotamia: concessions; general principles re granting of concessions; Baghdad tramways; water supply and electric lights; applications for right to collect reeds for pulp; oil and mineral concessions; registration of concessions, May 1917-Jan 1921
L/P&S/10/682 File 1980/1917 Pt 1-7 256ff

Fiche 617-624 (39-46)

Mesopotamia: railway construction, Feb 1919-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/723 File 4494/1917 328ff

Fiche 624-633 (46-55)

Mesopotamia: cotton industry, Jun 1917-Aug 1920
L/P&S/10/726 File 5160/1917 434ff

Fiche 633-637 (55-59)

Mesopotamia: Ottoman Tobacco Regie: reports on Turkish Tobacco monopoly; land revenue reports, Jun 1918-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/861 File 5800/1919 185ff

Fiche 637-642 (59-64)

Antiquities from Samarra: question of disposal, Jun 1917-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/689 File 2813/1917 240ff

Fiche 642-649 (64-71)

Preservation of Mesopotamian antiquities, Sep 1917-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/742 File 2447/1918 336ff

Fiche 649-652 (71-76)

Mesopotamian antiquities: action regarding collection seized by Portuguese authorities from German ship in Lisbon, Jul 1919-Feb 1921
L/P&S/10/845 File 4368/1919 163ff

Fiche 653-675 (1-23)

**IRAQ, BII – 10
THE OIL INDUSTRY**

Fiche 653-658 (1-6)

Geological reports, Mesopotamia and Kurdistan: annual geological reports, *with* maps and sectional diagrams; individual reports, *including* 'Underground water resources of Northern Mesopotamia', reconnaissance reports on the Euphrates Valley; 'Report on the prospects of petroleum in the Baghdad Vilayet', Mar 1918-Jun 1922
L/P&S/10/815 File 1450/1919 235ff

Fiche 658-663 (6-11)

Mesopotamia and Persia: oil; general file, policy and operations, Jan 1918-Dec 1919
L/P&S/10/555 File 2249/1915 Pt 1 231ff

Fiche 663-669 (11-17)

Mesopotamia and Persia: oil; policy and operations; activities of Shell, Standard Oil and Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Apr 1919-Mar 1921
L/P&S/10/556 File 2249/1915 Pt 2 291ff

Fiche 669-675 (17-23)

Mesopotamia and Persia: oil; Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Jun 1915-May 1924
L/P&S/10/557 File 2249/1915 Pt 3-4 327ff

INDEX

All references are to fiche numbers 1 through 675.

All fiche (and the descriptions in this guide) have two numbering sequences:

- Numbers 1 through 675 run through the whole series, BII-1 through BII-10;
- In addition, each set (such as BII-2), has an individual internal numbering system.

- ‘Abdullah, Amir, 433
Administration reports, 202-206, 336-393
Admiralty, War Staff Intelligence Division, 1-28,
49-51, 56-58
agriculture, 393-399
air services and airforce, 448-452
Ajwad, 52-53; *see also* tribes
Albistan, 239-242
Amadia, 552-558
Amara, 599-605
Amara Divisional Council, 524-530
Anglo-Iraq Treaty, 1922, 503-513
Anglo-Persian Oil Company, 663-675
antiquities, 637-652
Apostolic Delegate in Baghdad, 332-336
Aqrah, 552-558
Arab Bureau, Basra Branch, 47-48, 51-56, 157-
171
Arab prisoners in First World War, 105-110
Arabia: history, 49; *Where’s Where in*, 35-36
Arabic language, 49-51
Armenia, 60-61
Armenian language, 49-51
Army Council on Mesopotamia, 58-59
Avristan, 239-242
- Baghdad, 67-69, 92-96, 100-105; administration,
127-134, 171-175; banking, 262-269;
British consulate, 85-91; British
occupation, 171-179; British prisoners
in, 92-96, 100-105; Catholic mission,
332-336; French & Italian consular
representation, 328-332 Government
Press, 67-69; mail service, 249-252;
Personalities, 67-69; trade, 216-219,
228-239; tribes, 53-56
Baghdad Criminal Procedure Regulations, 336-
351
Baghdad Municipal & Divisional Councils, 524-
530
Baghdad Vilayet, 53-56, 653-658
Bani Huchaim, 52-53; *see also* tribes
Bani Malik, 52-53; *see also* tribes
Bani Sa ‘id, 52-53; *see also* tribes
banking, 253-269
- Basra: administration, 111-116, 127-134;
banking, 253-262; mail service, 249-
252; port, 252-253, 395-399, 584-599;
trade, 207-216; *see also* Arab Bureau,
Basra Branch
Basra Divisional Council, 524-530
Basra Port Administration, 252-253
Bell, Gertrude, 141-157, 404-410
Bonham-Carter, *Sir E.*, 134-141
boundaries: with Persia, 571-578; with Syria,
559-571
Bray, *Maj N.N.E.*, 473-476
British Indian subjects in Turkish territory, 96-
100
Buchanan, *Brig-Gen Sir George*, 252-253, 395-
399
- Calcutta, 31-35, 44-47, 49, 51-56
Carruthers, Douglas, 351-365
Catholic mission in Baghdad, 332-336
Chief Political Officer, Mesopotamia, 171-175
Civil Administration of Mesopotamia, Review of,
404-410
communications, 375-393
constitution, for Iraq, 422-433
cotton, 624-633
Council of State, 445-448
Cox, *Sir Percy*, 444-445
- Dair-uz-Zor, 563-571
Damascus, 563-571
dates, 269-276
Delhi, 41-44, 47-48
District Administration Reports, 375-393
Divisional councils, 524-530
Diwanayah Divisional Council, 524-530
Diyalah Divisional Council, 524-530
Driver, *Capt G.R.*, 62-63
- Eastern Bank, 257-269
education, 520-524
electoral reform, 429-433
electricity, 612-617
employment, 127-134; applications for, 293-328
Euphrates river, 51-52, 351-365, 653-658

- Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, 249-252
- Faysal bin Husayn, 503-519
Field Notes: on Mesopotamia, 28-35
 finance, 476-485, *see also* revenue
 Foreign Office Historical Section, 59-61
 France, 503-513, 559-571; consular representation in Baghdad, 328-332
- Garbett, C.C., 336-351
 Gaskin, J.C., 85-91
 geology and geological reports, 56-58, 653-658
 German War (First World War), 74-85, 92-100, 253-257
 Germany, 649-652
- Handbooks*: of Armenia, 60-61; Kurdistan, 60-61; Mesopotamia, 1-28, 59-60
 Health reports, 365-375
 Hewett, Sir John Prescott, 58-59, 393-399
 High Commissioner, Mesopotamia, 179-196, 444-445
 Hillah Divisional Council, 524-530
 Holy Places, 175-179
- Imperial Ottoman Bank, 262-269
 India, 105-110; General Staff, 28-47; Government Foreign & Political Department, 47-49, 51-56, 252-253
 Indian Expeditionary Force "D", 36-44, 49
 intelligence reports, 513-519
 Iraq: constitution for new state, 410-417, 422-433, 443-448; history, 49; Mandate, 429-433, 491-499; *Personalities*, 47-48, 64-69
 Iraq Civil Postal Regulations, 336-351
 irrigation and irrigation reports, 365-375, 393-399, 599-605
 Irrigation Directorate reports, 599-605
 Italy, consular representation in Baghdad, 328-332
- Ja'afar Pasha, 499-503
 Judicial Secretary, 134-141
 justice, administration of, 141-171, 336-351
- Kadhimain, 67-69
 Karun river, 10-15
 Kermanshah, 262-269
 Kirkuk Divisional Council, 524-530
 Kurdish language, 49-51
 Kurdistan, 62-64, 531-558, 653-658; *Handbooks*, 15-28, 60-61; tribes, 61-62; 157-171
 Kut Divisional Council, 524-530
- Land Law, 336-351
 land policy & tenure, 605-612
 land revenue reports, 157-171
 levy forces, 485-489
 liquor policy, 351-365
 Lisbon, 649-652
 local administration, 524-530
 Luristan, 10-15
- mail contracts and services, 249-252
 Mandates, 429-433, 491-499
 medical officers, 452-456
 Mesopotamia: banking, 262-269; *Field Notes*, 28-35; geology, 56-58; *Handbooks*, 1-28, 59-60; trade, 207-249, 269-276, 579-584; *Where's Where*, 35-36; *Who's Who*, 36-47
 Mesopotamia Administration, 116-120, 127-134, 141-171, 196-202, 290-328, 336-395, 404-410; administration reports, 202-206, 336-351; Army Council report, 58-59; fortnightly reports of High Commissioner, 179-196; future administration and constitution, 290-293, 400-417, 422-433, 443-456; intelligence reports, 513-519; military administration, 69, 485-491; personnel, 116-141, 293-328; revenue and expenditure, 196-202, 336-393, 476-485
 Mesopotamian Administration Committee, 290-293
 military administration, 69, 485-491
 Mosul, 100-105; banks, 262-269; British prisoners in, 100-105
 Mosul Municipal Council, 524-530
 Municipal councils, 524-530
 municipal proclamations, 361-365
 Muntafik, 52-53; *see also* tribes
- Noel, Maj E.M., 63-64, 531-542, 548-552
 Nuri Said Pasha, 499-503
- oil and mineral concessions and operations, 512-617, 653-675
 Ottoman Empire, 61-62
 Ottoman Public Debt, 196-202
 Ottoman Tobacco Regie, 633-637
- Palestine, 489-499; General Staff Intelligence Branch, 62-63
 Parliamentary questions, 400-404
 Persia, 35-36, 49, 69, 157-171, 456-459, 658-675
 Persian Gulf, 80-85, 252-253, 579-584
 Persian language, 49-51
Personalities: Iraq, 47-48; 64-69, 157-171

photographs, 336-351, 395-399, 548-552, 584-592
 police reports, 375-393, 459-473
 Portugal, 649-652
 post and postage stamps, 276-289, 336-351
 prisoners, British in First World War, 92-105
 Prize Court proceedings, 239-242

 railways, 617-624
 rebellion of 1920, 433-443, 473-476
 recruitment, 127-141, 293-328
 revenue reports, 157-171, 196-202, 265-393
 river conservancy and navigation, 252-253, 584-599
 Royal Anthropological Institute, *Journal*, 61-62
 Royal Geographical Society, 351-365

 Al Sa'dun, 52-53; *see also* tribes
 Samarra, 637-642
 Samarra Divisional Council, 524-530
 Sayyid Talib, 105-110
 Self-determination in Iraq, 351-365
 Shamiyah Divisional Council, 524-530
 Shatt al- 'Arab river, 252-253, 584-599
 Shell Oil Company, 663-669
 Shiahs in Iraq, 141-157
 Simla, 28-31, 35-41, 252-253
 Soane, *Maj E.B.*, 157-171
 Standard Oil, 663-669
 Sulaimaniyah, 552-558
 Sykes, *Col Sir Mark*, 61-62
 Syria, 499-503
 Syriac language, 49-51
 Syrian desert, 15-21

 Tel 'Afar, 552-558
 telegraph, 456-459
 Tigris river, 51-52, 249-252
Times newspaper, 395-399
 tobacco, 633-637
 topography, 157-171
 trade, 207-249, 579-584; Black List, 232-239;
 enemy assets, 242-249; war-time
 restrictions, 228-239
 tramways, 612-617
 Tribal Civil and Criminal Disputes Regulation,
 336-351
 tribes, 51-56, 61-62; 157-171, 336-365
 Turkey, 74-85, 92-100
 Turkish Arabia, 70-110, 141-157
 Turkish Iraq, *see* Turkish Arabia
 Turkish Laws, 351-365
 Turkish language, 49-51
 Turkish prisoners, 105-110
 Turkish tobacco monopoly, 633-637

Vocabularies, 49-51

 War Cabinet, 290-293
 War Office, 58-59, 61-62, 64-67, 69
 water supply, 612-617
 wheat, 336-351
Where's Where: in Arabia, 35-36; in
 Mesopotamia, 35-36; in Persia, 35-36
Who's Who, in Mesopotamia, 36-47
 Wilson, Sir Arnold, 428-429
 women and children: British prisoners in
 Mesopotamia, 92-96, 100-105
 wool trade, 219-228