

Thurly
Lincoln

10th June 16

My dearest Will
You sent me the cutting from
your letter about Percy - nothing has
been heard so far. & now your two
friends Lord K. & Mr. Fitzgerald are dead
& begin to think Percy's chances, are very
small. Why they allowed a man like
Lord Kitchener to go on such a journey
without an escort, no one can understand
The King does not go on a journey
without a Pilot Square in front & surely
it might have had a couple of
Bentleys & a crawler in front
to get out of dangerous waters.
all knew, the whole of the North Sea
is dangerous. The German submarines
are all over it.

2 Wind 2 Current did the rest +
I read about the felling competition. 2
at the time, had two woodmen at work.
real good men. by a strong like Pullocks
but being over 41. illegible!! I read
it to them, all of said they wished they could
have had a try, but nearly all the
felling after thinning the tree^{root} is done
with saw close to the ground. Felling
is now going on all over Inland. 2 they
are employing Canadians at the work
they are stripping the country in places
nearly all for mine tips. What a
heap. they could get out of the (at least)
2 all the Hymalians. but I expect the
the Transport cost, would stop that.
as it is. though I have had some
1500 trees done the last 4 months
or more. I want a Transport. not
one as yet has been moved off
I got a letter from Terry saying

2 The 20th V. I had been sent back
from Mesopotamia to India. Then
headed off at Bombay & at last
landed in E. Africa. Now
this morning I heard by word in
Mesopotamia that, with no idea
of naming them, also that a Colonel
was there (commanding) a Division
also, that one of the reasons that
the relief of Kut failed was the
want of Bombs & hand grenades
the European Troops had very
few. The Indian Troops none
while the ~~the~~ Turkish Troops had
more than I wanted all German
with any amount of Machine
& trench guns. etc. Heavy
rain but it, wanted, I have

had a beastly time lately its a long
Story, but I'll make it — and the Tenant
has a Son a big hulking good looking lad
moots, motor cycles, & carries on with
the girls, not much use to his Father —
The Father has two farms, he understood
me. To put the boy in as Co Tenant, as
he said plainly it was the only way he
could save him from being taken. His
Son in law was in charge of the Thunley
Farm a good hard working man. he
was felled up, but cant be medically
helped. I of course had refund the Fathers
consent to making his Son a Co — The
Father has now discharged his Son
in law from the farm, put in his
Son, went before the Board & with
the help of a lawyer got his son off
altogether. its the case everywhere
with the Small Farmers, & the
have some of them on these boards

3/ It's all not about the Shortness
of labor. the greatest Quantity of
Farm labor is much over 40. it
is simply a matter of Payment. a man
now wants 4/- a day against 2/6
& 3/- of a Short time back. I get
what I want but I have to pay 4/6
the last time, & considering the
Price of things the land can afford
it - I have the (as practically) layed
up. Kathleen & Judy are both very
good drivers, but Kathleen after
30 Miles has to give up & Judy is
away I can't afford a driver
to get me by the day cost 4/6
his grub. Mr McLeventy wrote to
me about her boy Arthur. he was
very badly wounded in France

part of his jaw shot away &
Shoulder I think, any way he was in
an awful mess. He got rained, & was
employed at the War Office, he is
a ^{State} college man. a short time ago
the India office ordered him out. but
as the War office saying they wanted him
agreed to let him stop. when suddenly
they said he must go. & he is now with
the Depot at Lucknow 2nd Rajputs.
Still partially paralysed on the left side.
She wanted me to write to Bobbe &
get him a berth in Simla or any Hill,
Cobbe's left. I would write if you could tell
me, who to write to. Do you recollect you
got one boy of letters into the 2nd Plunkets
he was killed the son in the 1st Coy. I know
I know that was in the 1st Plunkets attached
to the record. He was badly wounded
& only just got rained. but still not

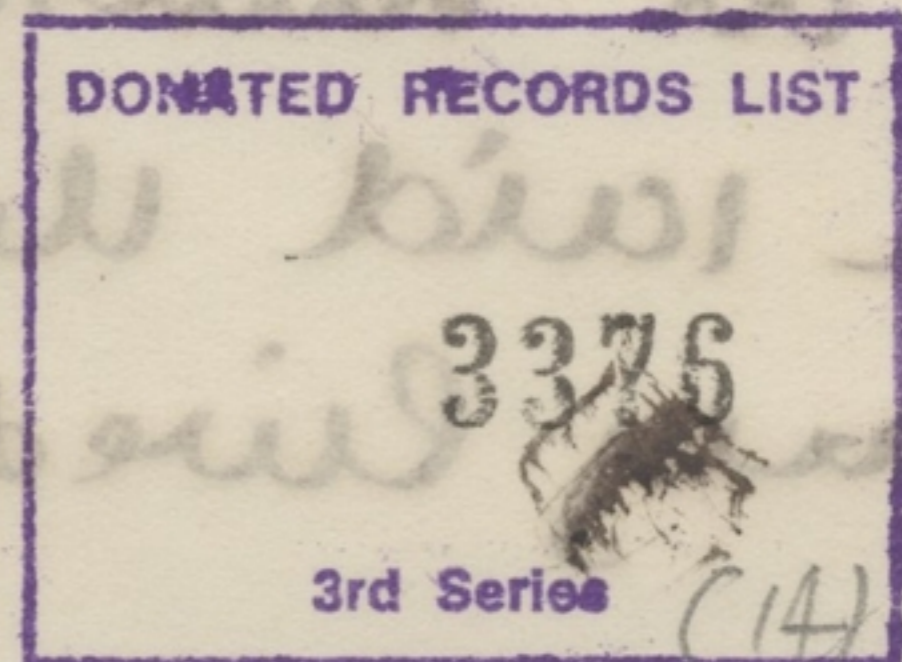
all night. He was sent back to
India via Hospital, & now is with
2^d Battalion in Mesopotamia. The
4th Coy is with the 20th V. B. at Kut.
So M^{rs} M^r has not done badly. She
has 2 girls one married Colonel James
you recollect him, & the other is a
Hospital nurse. Lord Kitchener's death
did startle people & ladies were sobbing
all over Lincoln & I think most of the
people thought it was the end of all
things, if Government don't do something
I should not at all wonder, if the crowd
don't take affairs into their own hands
& do for all Germans was out. Minnie
Bottomley has been staying here. Left
me on Thursday. She was very funny
She said she knew for a fact had
Harry lived he would have succeeded

Lad Kitchener. That he was known -
"Harry" to be the best man in the army
etc etc. She left me in the deepest widow
needs I have seen out of any advertisement.
Wells who took me to the station. simply
stood with his mouth open. Katta is
at on Wednesday. to Southmore, North
winds in the evening. To see what else
does in the State. Willa is well, doing
nothing but reading novels - very careful
but Katta is helpless. I saw in the paper
the Swell wedding of Miss Clements the
Barkstone Varsons daughter. The Varson is
a better. To the funeral you knew. & the
two Miss Clements at Suicola. if I can find
it I will let you the cutting

Yours affectionately

B. Meredith

Found it



Telephone: 21 Epping.

11th June.

Hill Hall
Theydon Mount
Epping.

'96
Station & Telegraph Office.
Epping 3 miles.

My dear Birdie -

I must write you
a line whilst we are
both under the shadow
of this public calamity
which has so close a
bearing on our private
lives. My last letter
to you was all about K.
and your charming
answer to me of six
days ago was mostly
about K. How large

he loomed in both our
lives and now he
seems to be suddenly
blotted out! I say,
"Seems", because I believe
that in many ways his
influence will be greater
than ever. My own
feeling still is that
of having received a

stunning blow. No
one in the world knows,
as you know, my
half indignant, half
puzzled frame of mind
with regard to K's
latter day attitude
towards myself. I had
trusted him all in all
and he seemed to be

throwing me to the wolves
of Calumny - Murdoch,
Ashmead Bartlett and
Co - But I like to
think now of our last
meeting when I asked
him direct "Are
you my friend or
not?" and he replied,
"I am!" So there it
is. Whatever shadow
passed across our
long association at

27

The end, at least he had
reaffirmed his friendship
and I had accepted his
reassurance. The memory
of this occasion is indeed
a great solace to me

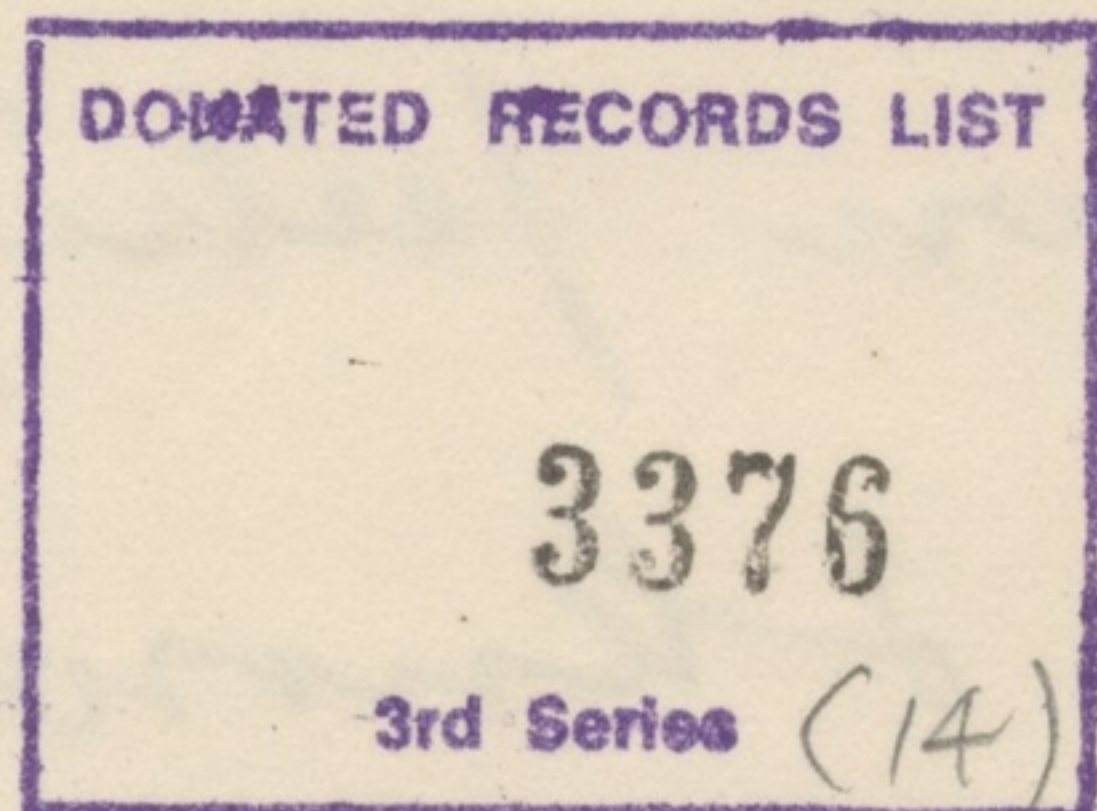
now. He would have helped
you had he been able to help.
Tell my dear Birdie,

Goodbye for the present.

If I have written mostly
about my own feelings
it is because I know

Show me ^{you} one
who will sympathise
with them -

Yours ever
Leut Hamilton



12th. June, 1916.

My dear General,

Many thanks for your letter.

Directly I heard the sad news of this national disaster, my thoughts went to you. I share your grief and sorrow, and can hardly realise that we shall never see Lord K. and Fitz again in this world.

It was a great shock to the King, and I had to break it to His Majesty while he was inspecting troops at Felixstowe, where I received the first intimation.

The King was always devoted to Lord K. and to Fitz. His Majesty was so pleased when he could help Lord K. in a residence when they had to leave Lady Wantage's house in Carlton House Terrace.

I represented the King at Fitz's funeral on Saturday, and the number of people who went down in the train, and the quantities of wreaths testified to his great popularity. The whole of Eastbourne must have come out as the funeral procession went through the streets, and it was a most impressive ceremony.

I am more sorry than I can say about poor little George Arthur, and I really do not know what he will do. It is not likely that anyone else will take him on as Private Secretary.

I do not think there is any foundation for the suspicion as regards foul play over the sinking of the "Hampshire". It seems quite clear that she left Scapa Flow with two destroyers, and it became so rough that these were sent back about 7 p.m. I expect the Captain of the "Hampshire" would have liked to return also, but probably Lord K. suggested that he should go on.

She struck a mine about 8 o'clock - probably a floating one which had broken adrift from perhaps our own mine field.

The "Hampshire", of course, was not a very new cruiser, and all her arrangements as regards water-tight compartments cannot compare with those of modern improvements. Probably if she had been one of our new cruisers, she would not have sunk.

I fancy Lord K. and some of his Staff put off in boats, but these must have been swamped at once.

Fitz was a very strong swimmer, and no doubt he struck out for the shore, which may account for his body having been washed up.

It is all too sad, but of course K. was on the top of the wave of his fame, and his declining years would have been made miserable by all these bitter controversies raging round him as the central figure.

Yours sincerely,

Lt.-General
Sir W.R. Birdwood,
K.C.S.I., D.S.O.

Clive Wigram

3378

(H) 2010 2010

2 June 13

WAR OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

S.W.



My dear General
only one line to thank you for
your letter. I have been under an
avalanche of correspondence. Not your letters
single itself out and will always be
precious to me.

I know that you were to me glorious
chief and that the thought of you
in this desolation you and I are passing
the price of having been admitted to the
closest association with the wisest and
ablest of men. His life was so
serious that more for whom he reserved his

WAR OFFICE
WHITEHALL
S.W. 1



I miles enjoyed a bump which makes
the chill of parting sharp - almost
beyond endurance. Only for car
rejoice is the work which he gave you to
do.

He stepped back out of the train to say
to me "Take care of everything while I am
away". I think I may be allotted
the task of collating his papers and
perhaps writing his life. That will be

my "care".

as four officers in khaki were seen
on the deck after the explosion. We can
only suppose he did get into a boat. but



WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.

could so powerfully and immediately
effected him that the first contact with
the water probably ended all struggle.
He kept on saying to me that he was
so looking forward to the rest he was
going to have and expected this in the
way to the station. so one must not
further him the rest. I am so glad
he dominated and claimed the Honour
Commons. it was the best obstacle in his
path. how wonderful the coincidence
that the rest of the battalion of his enemies

RECEIVED
MAY 1918
W. S.



about the same day he died (There
I came in private). I do much

but to her ex. and then Miss and a
little straight. I shall ask if I may
come over and spend a day with her.

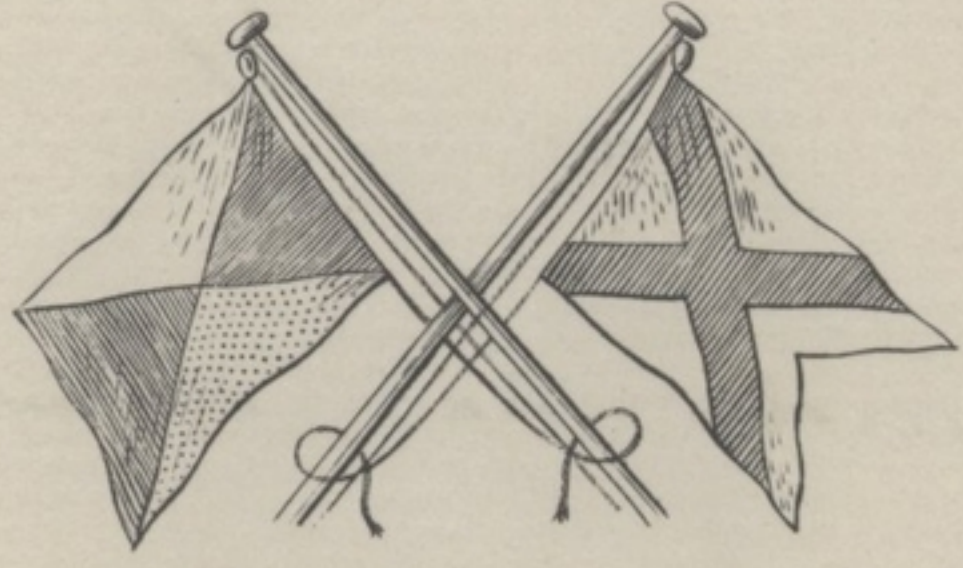
Toby goes to his new ship on Thursday.
The father gets a sum for his life
but Toby gets everything in Berne. The

all is in trust. The other nephew
has got 20,000 of the other sister
£5000 No more now. I prefer such a

Servant from George Arthur

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DRL
3376

(14)



P. & O. B. I.

P. & O. S. N. Co.

S.S. Kaiser-i-King

19th June

Dear Birdie,

It was a terrible shock.

Sort of thing I never thought possible.

He spoke so nicely of you, when I
got back as the only man, who could
manage the Australians & that they would
take anything from you, stop all drink etc.

I am sure he had the very highest

opinion of you.

Arthur Benschaw (Trustee) and I agreed on

Lad Rosebery as the best possible man to

write his life. George Arthur has agreed
to help.

I have seen Roseley, who said he would
have done it, had he not been so old.
I think that if you could see him, when
you are next in England, it might make
a difference with him.

I will write to Roseley & tell him I
have asked you to see him.

Primrose who is onboard this ship thinks
this a good plan.

I spent K's last week with him at York

House, which is a comfort to me now
on my way to join "Raglan" a big Monitor.

I was pleased to be able to meet your
wife.

Yours sincerely

F. Pritchard

3
DRL

3376 (17)



COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE

2, WHITEHALL GARDENS

19th June 1916. S.W.

My dear General,

To no-one in the world can the death of Lord K., with its tragic suddenness, have come as a greater shock than to yourself. Although of late years dear old Fitz was his intimate friend and confidant, Lord K. always seemed to have you in his mind. I know his implicit confidence in you and in your ability — "Birdie will do it all right" he would say.

Please accept my deep sympathies in the loss of one, whose close friendship you enjoyed in a unique degree.



Fitz asked me in the very early days of the war to stand by and help him. "You will not regret it" he said. I shall always regard it as the greatest privilege of my life to have served for K. as with Fitz.

Fitz, Cuddy and I worked like true brothers. In times of the highest pressure there was never once an inefficient word. The only time I ever saw Fitz ruffled was when K. was being bothered almost beyond endurance.

I often took delight in to meet K. a few minutes from town when I didn't accompany, and the three of us used to discuss events in

Wain or Steamer.

Once when Fitz was away, K. wanted
Credy to take a brief holiday. Credy demurred.

"Go along" said K. "Stone will look after me."

Fitz had lots of friends. I only became
really intimate with him during the Mediterranean
tour, when we used to talk on deck at
lunch or dinner on the "Dartmouth".

I still wonder if they are not only absent on
a short tour. Has his last mission been of
shorter duration. I believe I would have gone too.
When first I heard the bad news, I wished I had.

Yours ever,

Richard Stone.

Telephone,
Mayfair 4765.

27 June 1966.

37, Portman Square,
W.

My dear Bidwood.

Thanks for your kind letter. You & I
will feel poor Ki's death more than most
of his friends. He often talked to me about
you & his pleasure in meeting you again
in fallipohi. To me his death was a
great shock - but what an irreplaceable loss
to England! Who but he could make
such an effect in peace terms & who
among us had such an European
reputation? The folly of sending such a
valuable life on a Russian mission!
But he went gladly & told me with
glee how he looked forward to the rest
& holidays it would give him - little thinking
of the long rest it meant! Poor Fitz too!
He has made me his executor & trustee
and by his will he leaves you £200 - as
a remembrance!

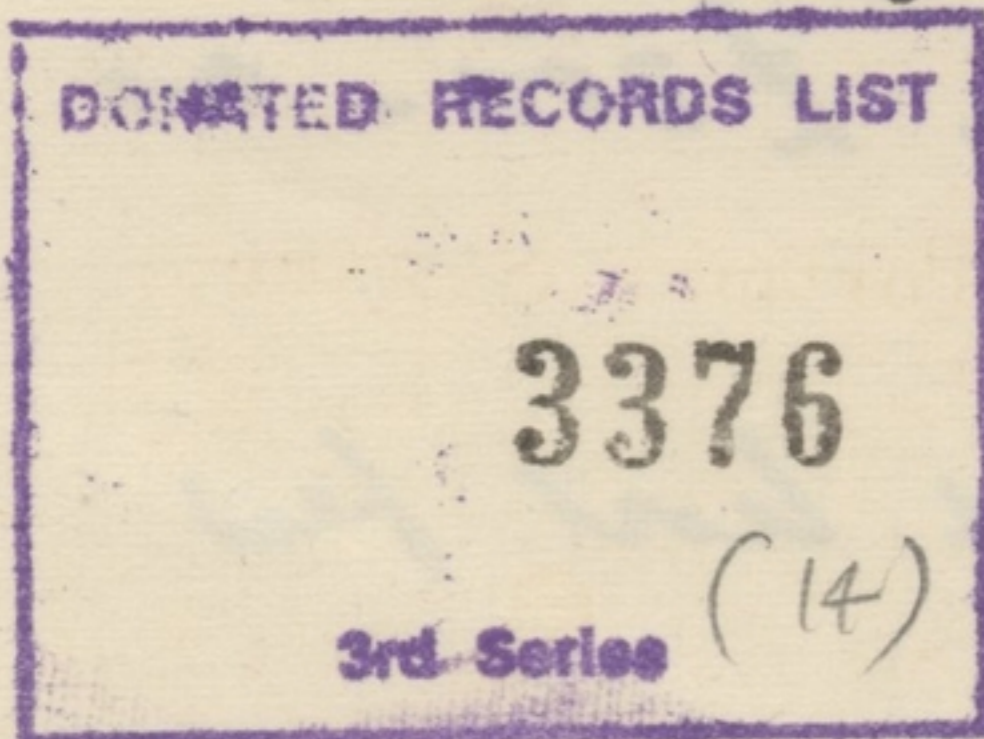
I often think how little & how few

people except those who lived with him
really knew him & how few recognized under
his stern demeanour the kind heart that
excited & his unswerving love of his
Country & devotion to its service. However all
is over & I have lost my dearest & best
friend & we mourn over him together.

I am anxious for Lord Derby & Sir
G. Arthur to write his life. I tried Mr
Rusbery but he declined as he is not
well. but he strongly recommended Sir S.
Arthur. Lord Cromer was too old or he
might have been asked. Toby Kitchener
comes into the picture - I think he is a
good fellow - I often think of our
Indian party & of the good fellows who
have gone.

Do let me know if you come to England.
& we can talk over past things.
My wife sends her kind regards.

Yours as usual
Arthur. W. Grenham





WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.

28th. June 1916.

My dear General,

Very many thanks for your last letter. I thought you might like to see the enclosed epitome of the will, which will obtain probate tomorrow or next day.

I believe that the Trustees are asking Lord Derby and myself to collaborate in the collation of papers for publication - at some future period - in the "Life" of our beloved Chief. There are very many points as to which I should like to speak to you before starting on the work. I am wondering if you would be too busy to receive me if I came to you for a day either next week or the week after? My own engagements would allow me to come next Wednesday 5th. July, or Monday the 10th., but I do not know if you would be too busy to spare me an interview for a few hours talk, and of course I should like to take the opportunity of seeing your trenches? Perhaps you would send me a wire in order ~~xxxxxx~~ that I may have time to get the formal consent from A.G., & make arrangements for a car to G.H.Q.

Although your close contact with Lord Kitchener dates from only 15 years ago, I am certain you will be able to

throw



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WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.

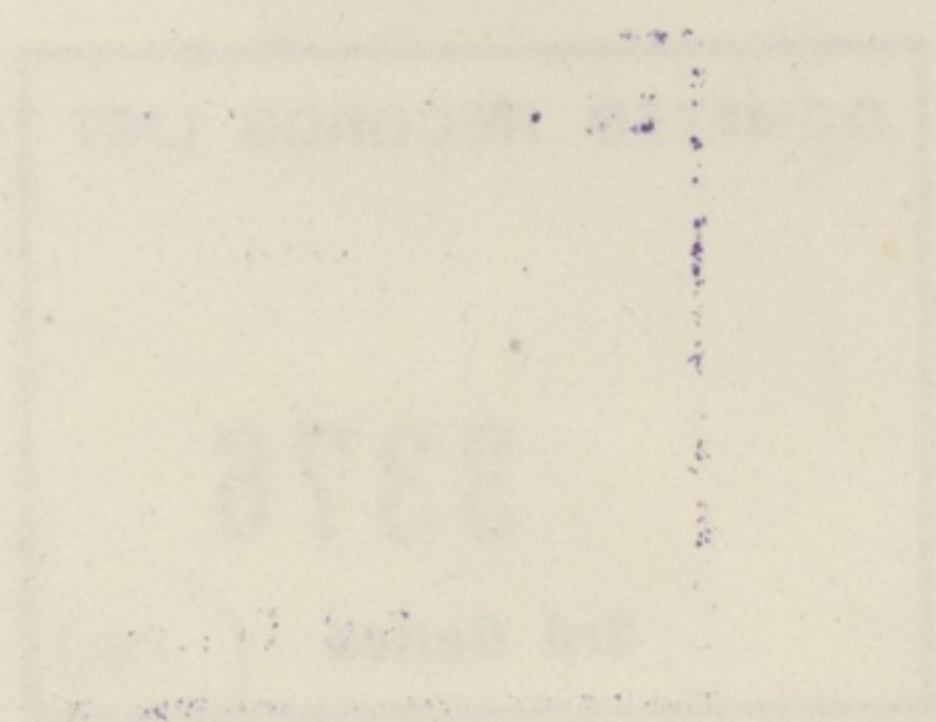
throw much light on previous years, for which first-hand information will be difficult. Of course I quite understand that you may be unable to receive me.

The feeling of national loss, and regret and dismay does not diminish, and one's personal sense of emptiness increases.

Yours ever,

Genl Arthur

Lt. General Sir W.R. Birdwood, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Anzac Corps,
B.E.F., France.



Probate of the Will of Field Marshal Earl Kitchener has been granted to Mr. Arthur H. Renshaw of Watlington Park, Oxon, and the Hon: A. H. Mills of Messrs Glyn Mills Currie & Co., the Executors, the amount of the Estate (which includes the Settled Funds) being provisionally sworn at £165,421.

The Will is dated the 2nd November 1914 and the Testator entails his property at Broome Park, Kent, and the contents of the House and the Funds subject to two Trust Deeds, being the Gifts of £30,000 and £50,000 made to him by the Nation at the conclusion of the Soudan and South African Campaigns, and all his residue upon his Nephew Commander Henry Franklin Chevallier Kitchener, R.N. now Viscount Broome and his male issue with remainder in tail to Henry Hamilton Kitchener, now Captain in the Royal Flying Corps, the son of his Brother the late General Sir Frederick Walter Kitchener.

The Testator bequeathes a sum of £1,000 to his Brother Colonel Henry Elliott Chevallier Kitchener with a statement that he gives him only this legacy because of his being well off and because of the large benefits conferred by the Will upon Colonel Kitchener's issue. He also leaves to Colonel Kitchener for life his Swords of Honour, Presentation Plate and gifts from Public Bodies.

He bequeathes £20,000 to his Nephew Henry Hamilton Kitchener and a life interest in a sum of £5,000 to his half sister Miss Kitchener.

He bequeathes a legacy of £2,000 upon trust for his Godson Horatio Herbert Renshaw and a legacy of £200 to his Godson Maurice Bovill.

There are also legacies of £200 to each of the following :-

Major J. K. Watson
Colonel R. J. Marker
Colonel F. Maxwell
General W. R. Birdwood
Captain G. G. E. Wylly
Colonel Oswald A. G. FitzGerald.

and the last named is also given Earl Kitchener's Estate in East Africa.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
STIMY, LONDON.

TELEPHONES
CITY 7663 (2 LINES)

2. Suffolk Lane,
Cannon Street.

London, E.C. 29th June 1916.

General
Sir. W. R. Birdwood, K. C. B. & C.,
Anzac Division,
B. E. F.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Executors of the Will of the late
Field Marshal Earl Kitchener we have to inform you that by the
Will, which is dated the 2nd November 1914. a legacy of £200
free of duty is bequeathed to you.

Yours truly,

Herbert Smith Kaye

