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MONDAY, 28 JULY, 1919.

*India Office,  
28th July, 1919.*

The following despatch from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India on the part taken by India, including the Indian States, in the prosecution of the war, has been received from the Government of India:—

Army Headquarters, India.  
*Dated Delhi, 19th March, 1919.*

From the Commander-in-Chief in India,  
To the Secretary to the Government of India,  
Army Department.

SIR,  
In continuation of my despatch dated 20th August 1918, I have the honour to submit the following brief review of the part played by India, including the Native States, in the prosecution of the war:—

INTRODUCTORY.

2. The strength of the Army in India at the outbreak of war was approximately 77,000 British and 159,000 Indian ranks, exclusive of 38,000 Volunteers and 35,000 Indian reserv-

ists. Judged by pre-war standards, these numbers are large; but, if the services rendered by India in the early stages of the war are to be assessed at their full value, it is important to emphasise that this force was in no sense a potential reserve to the armed forces of the British Empire. As the Government of India are aware, the primary functions of the pre-war Army in India were two-fold, namely, the maintenance of order within and on the borders of British India, and, secondly, the provision of a field army capable, should the necessity arise, of undertaking a campaign beyond the border for purposes of defence against external aggression. The Army in India was in no sense maintained for meeting external obligations of an Imperial character.

3. It is true that there have been many precedents for the employment of small contingents from India in support of Imperial interests in other parts of the world, but it has never been the policy to maintain troops in India in excess of those actually required for the protection of her own interests; and as the strength of the Army in India has hitherto been governed by these considerations alone, no appreciable contingent could be furnished for