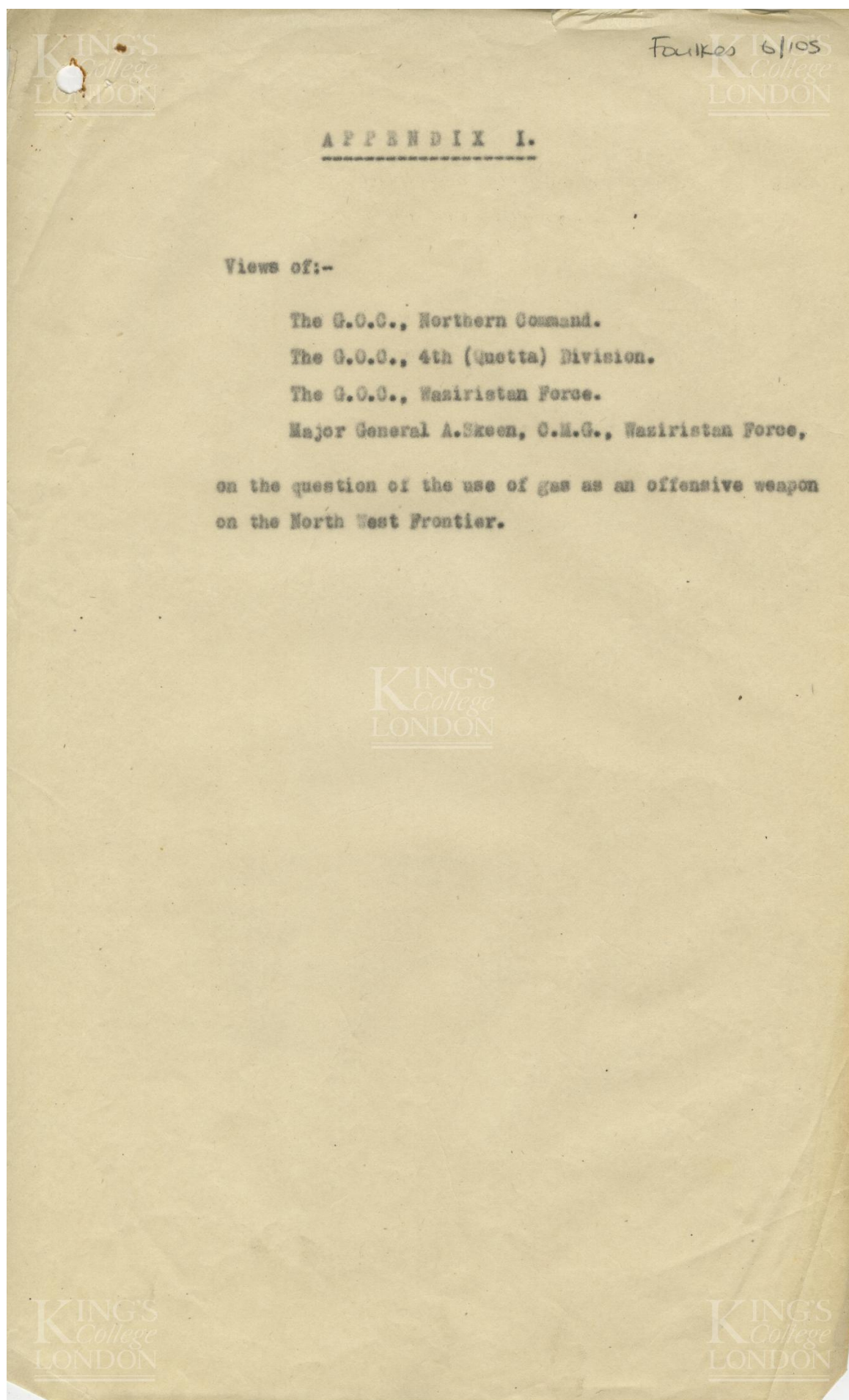
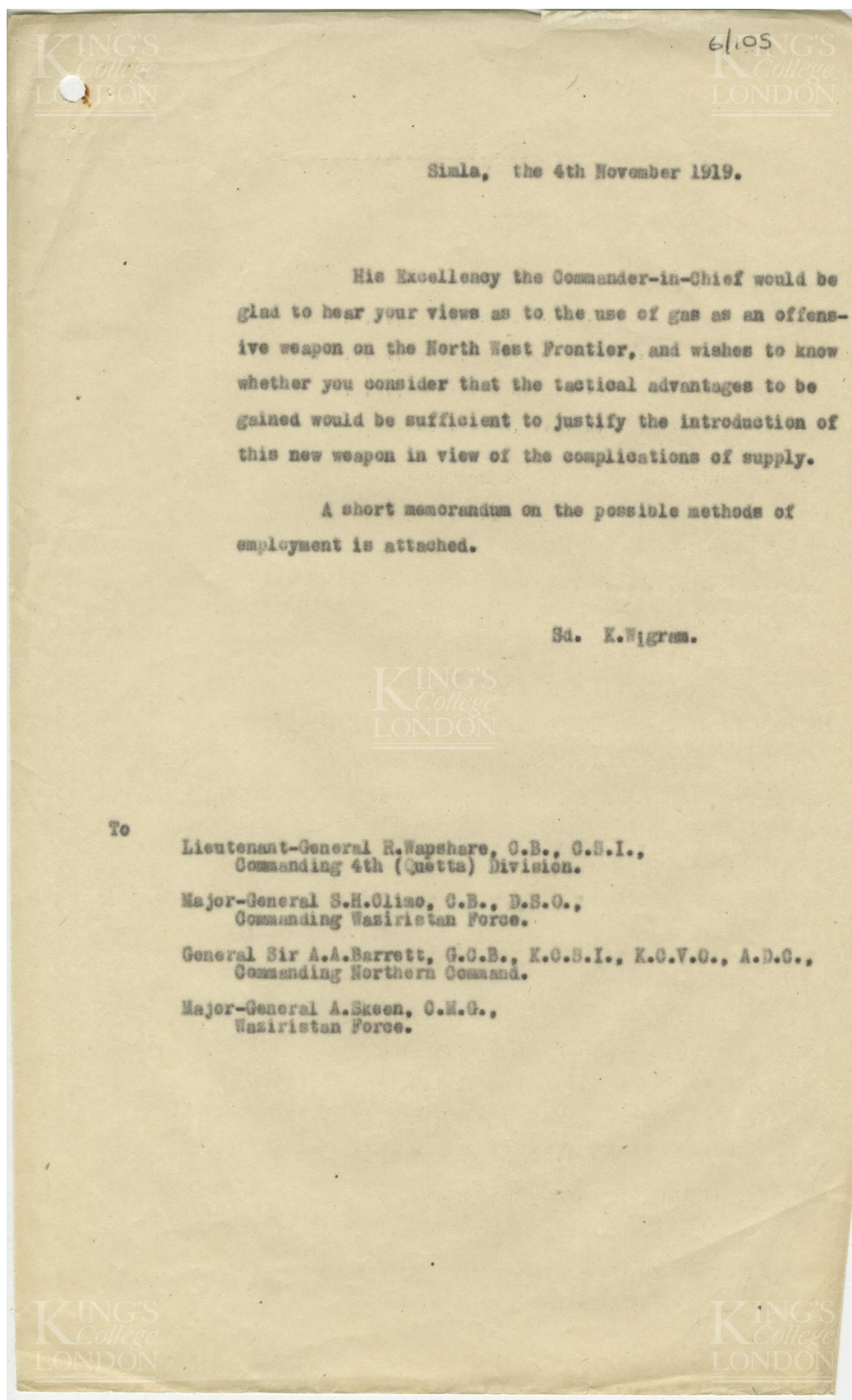
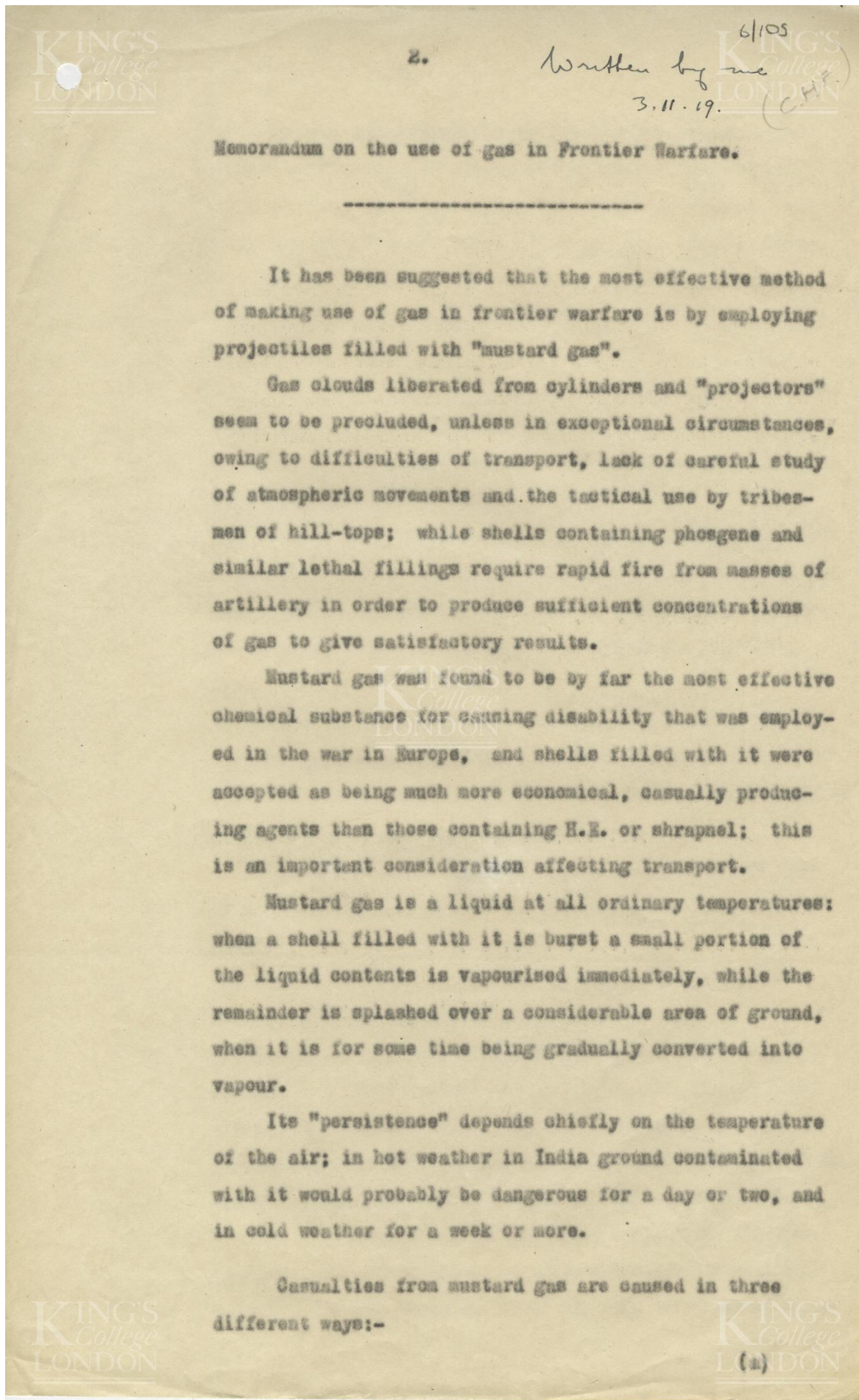
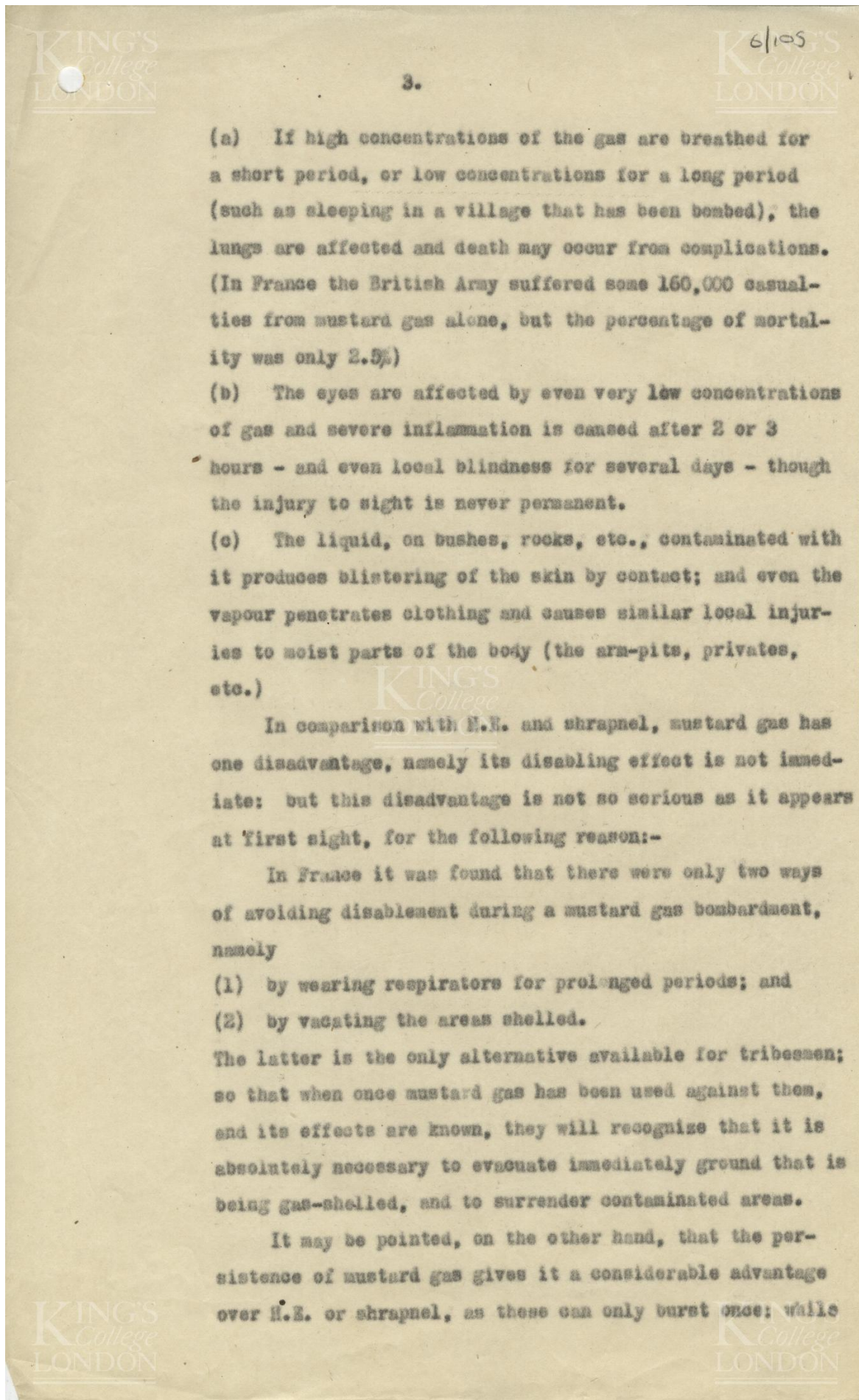
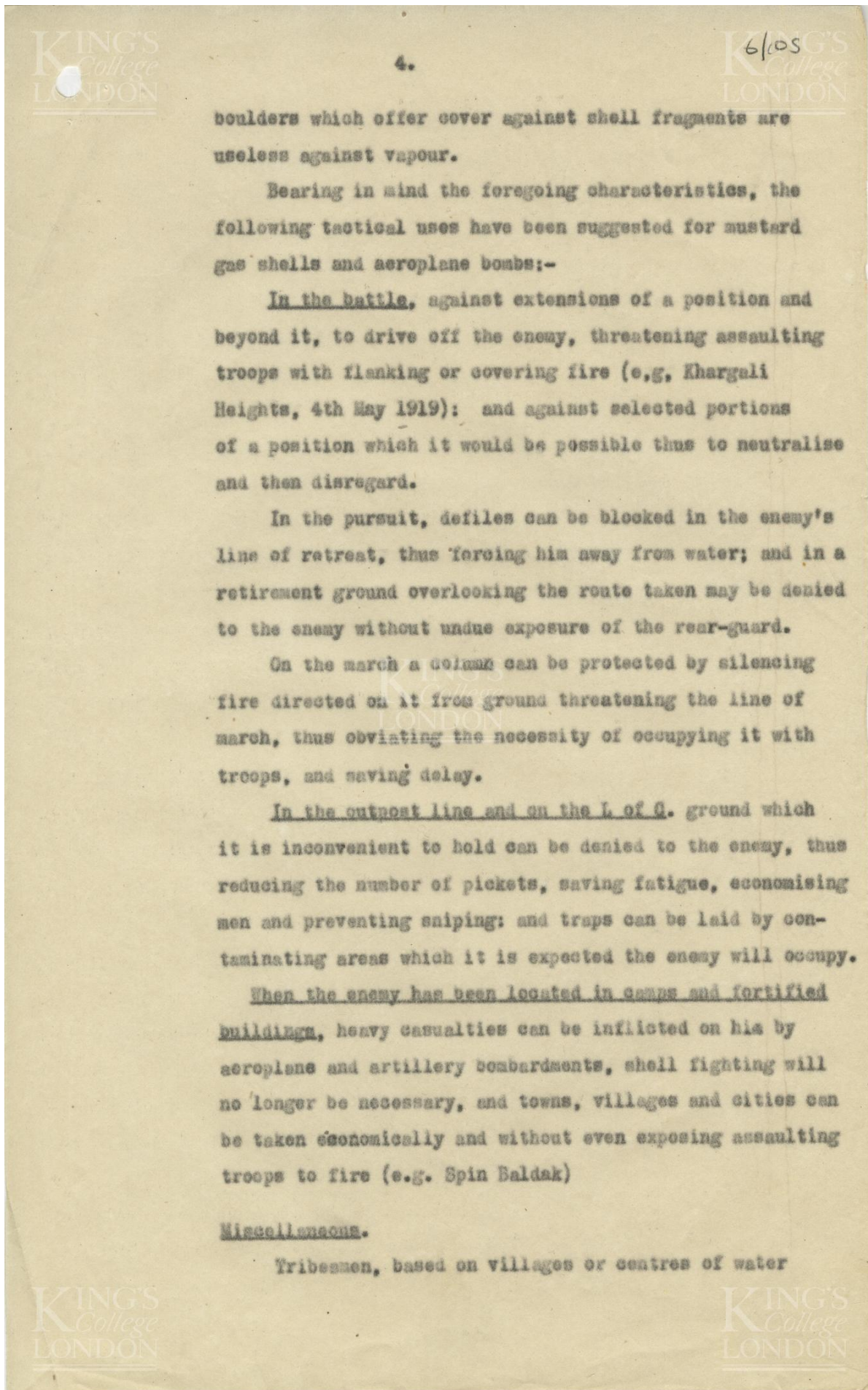










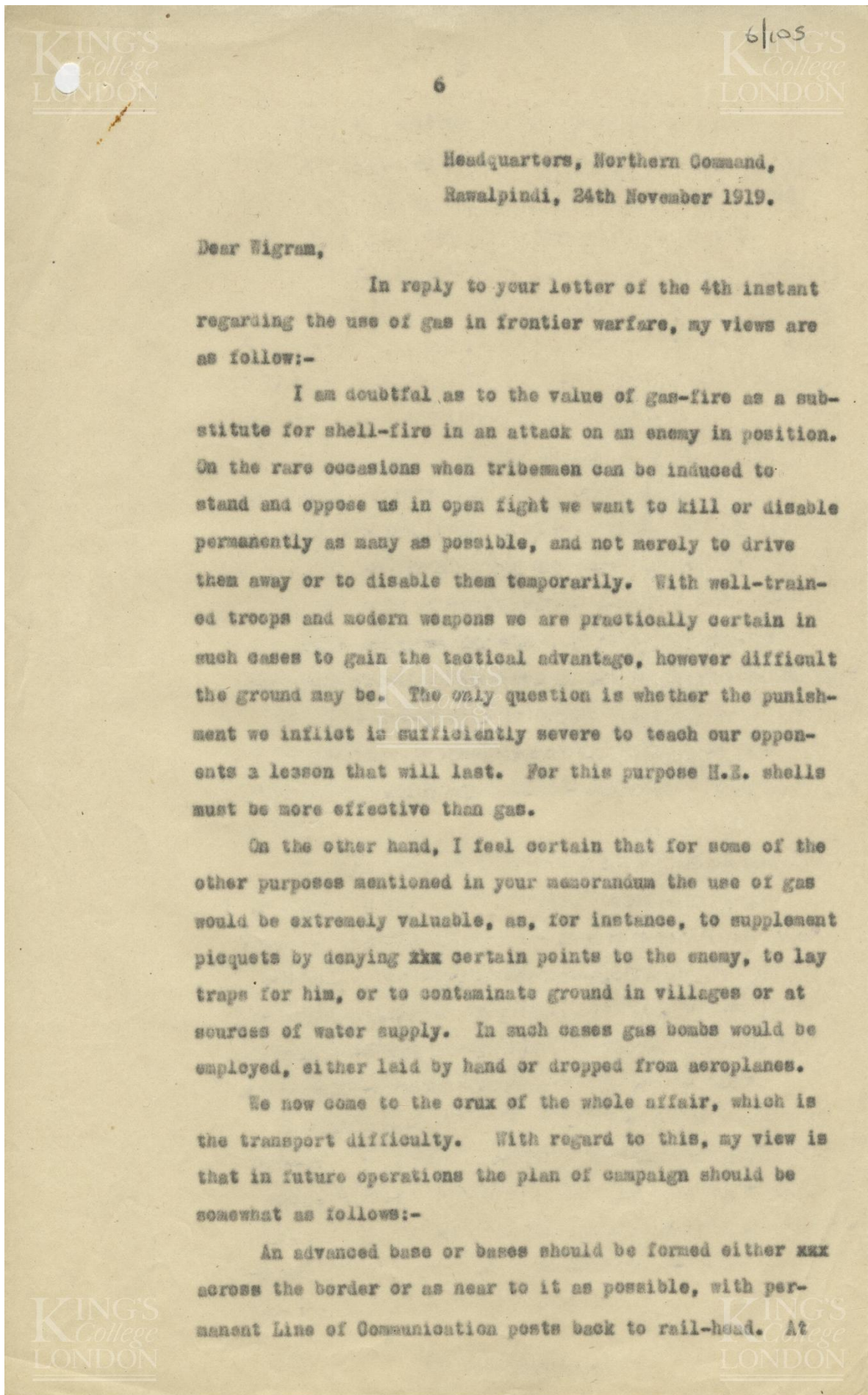


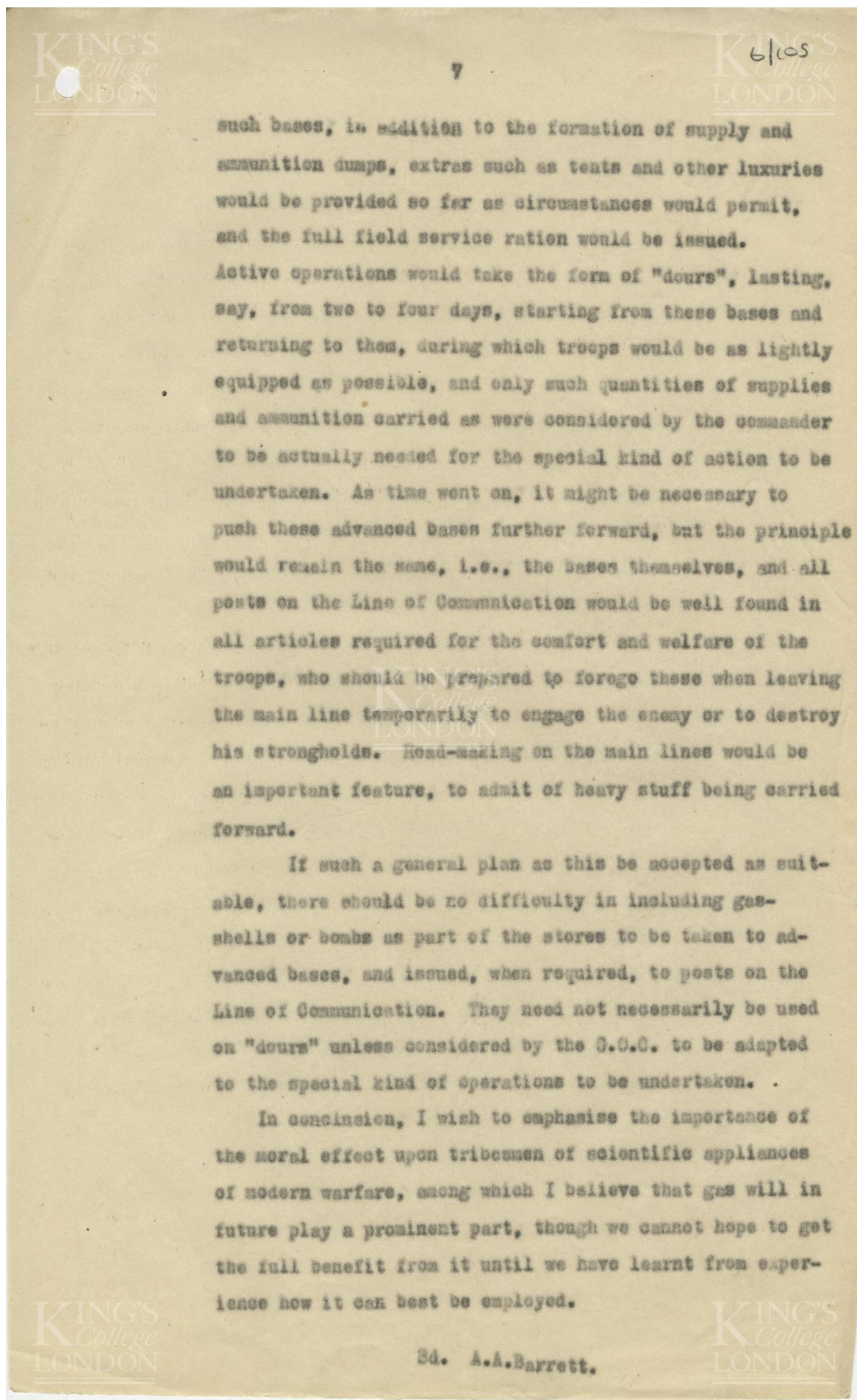
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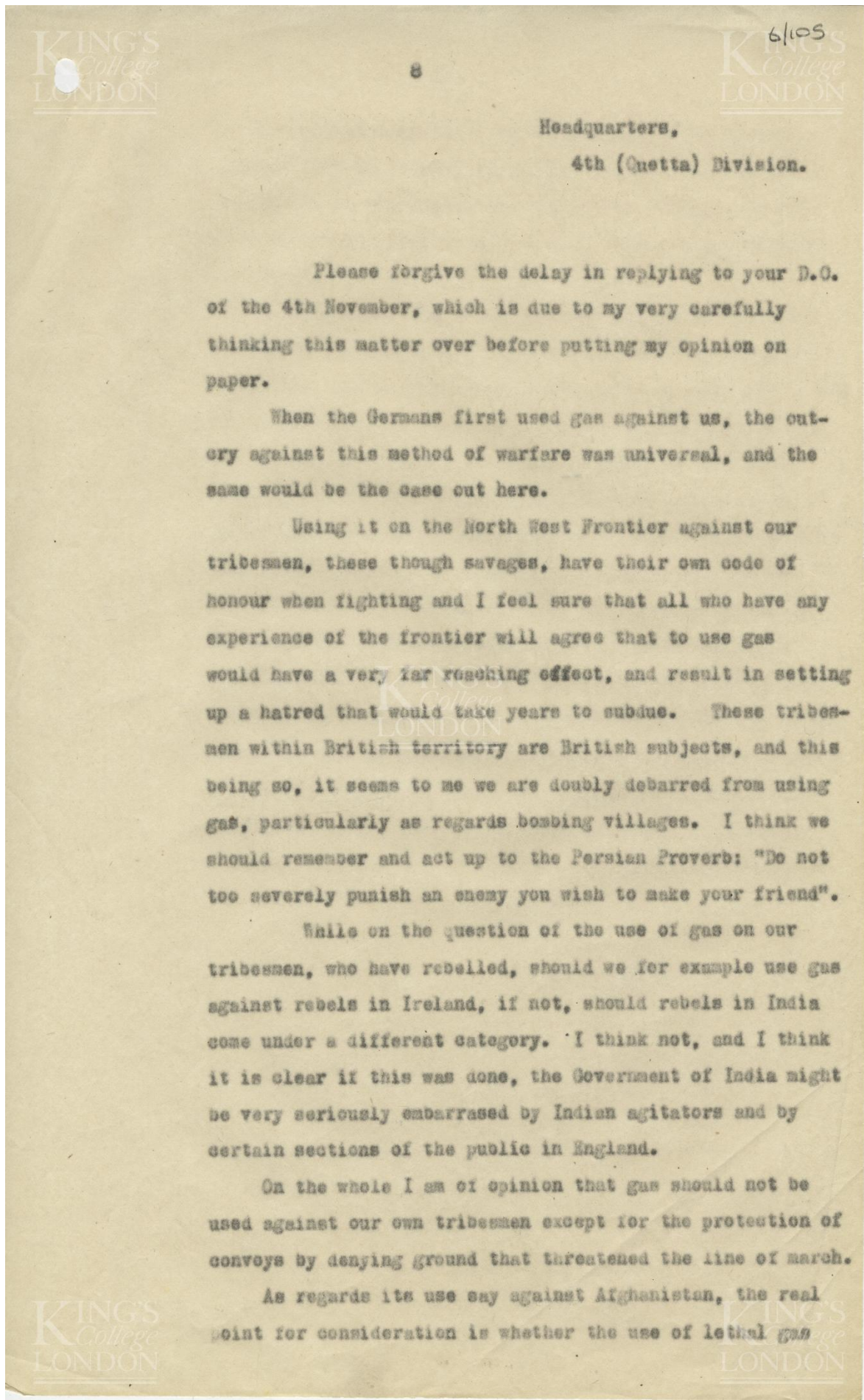
supply which are situated in inhospitable country, when threatening isolated garrisons can be dispersed by bombing the villages and making them ^{un-}inhabitable (e.g. Hindu-bagh, Thal and the Afghan camps opposite the Bagrah Pass), and finally troublesome villages can be punished economically and at long ranges (e.g. Chora); and in peace time it may be possible to deal in this manner with unruly tribesmen without mobilising troops.

Note. For some of the purposes mentioned above it would be more economical to employ a bomb of large capacity, such as the 4" Stokes Mortar bombs, which could be placed ~~in situ~~ in situ by hand and burst by time fuse.

Accurate placing would be ensured (e.g. behind a sangar) and the necessity of ranging avoided.







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6/10/5

Headquarters,
4th (Quetta) Division.

Please forgive the delay in replying to your D.O. of the 4th November, which is due to my very carefully thinking this matter over before putting my opinion on paper.

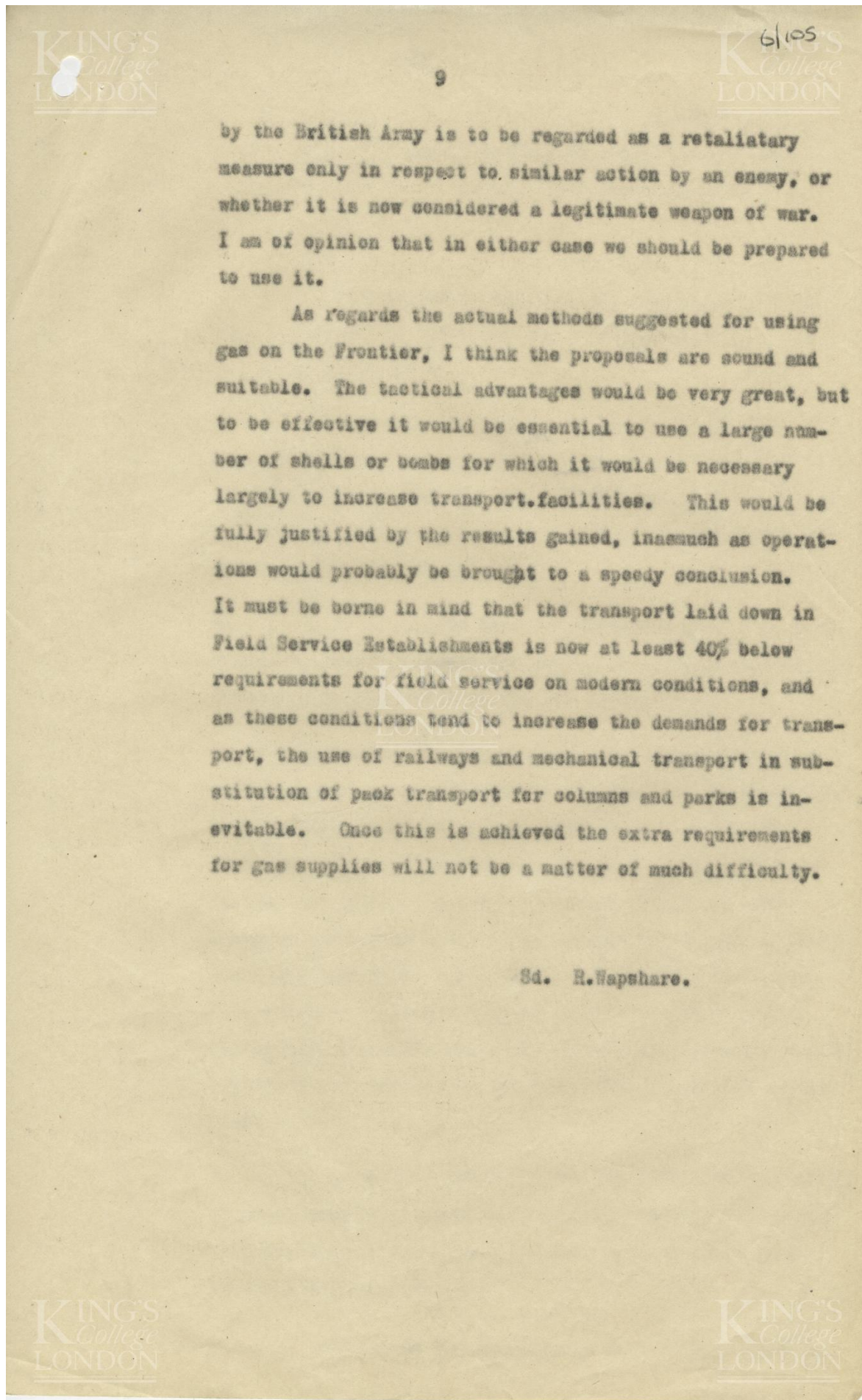
When the Germans first used gas against us, the outcry against this method of warfare was universal, and the same would be the case out here.

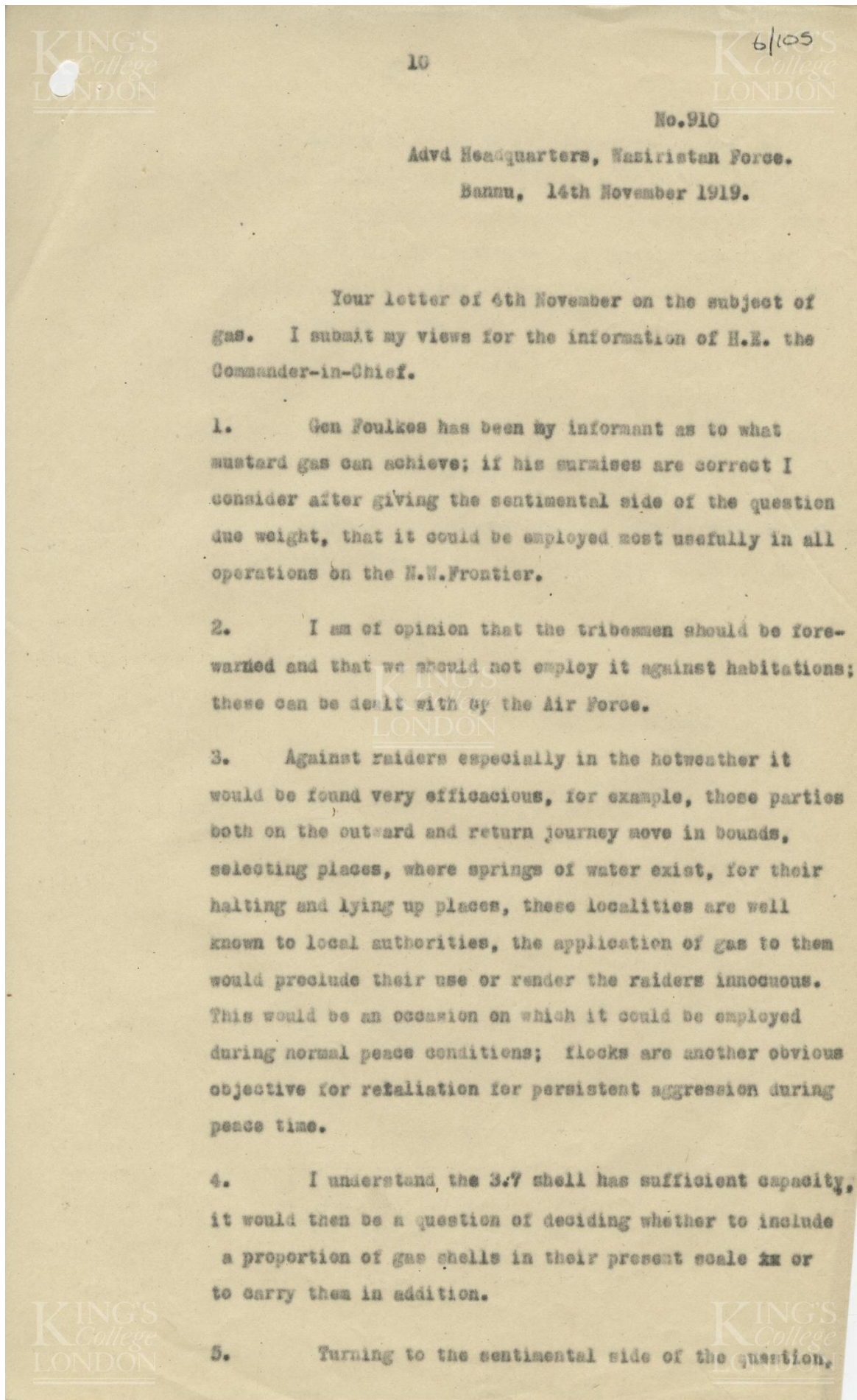
Using it on the North West Frontier against our tribesmen, these though savages, have their own code of honour when fighting and I feel sure that all who have any experience of the frontier will agree that to use gas would have a very far reaching effect, and result in setting up a hatred that would take years to subdue. These tribesmen within British territory are British subjects, and this being so, it seems to me we are doubly debarred from using gas, particularly as regards bombing villages. I think we should remember and act up to the Persian Proverb: "Do not too severely punish an enemy you wish to make your friend".

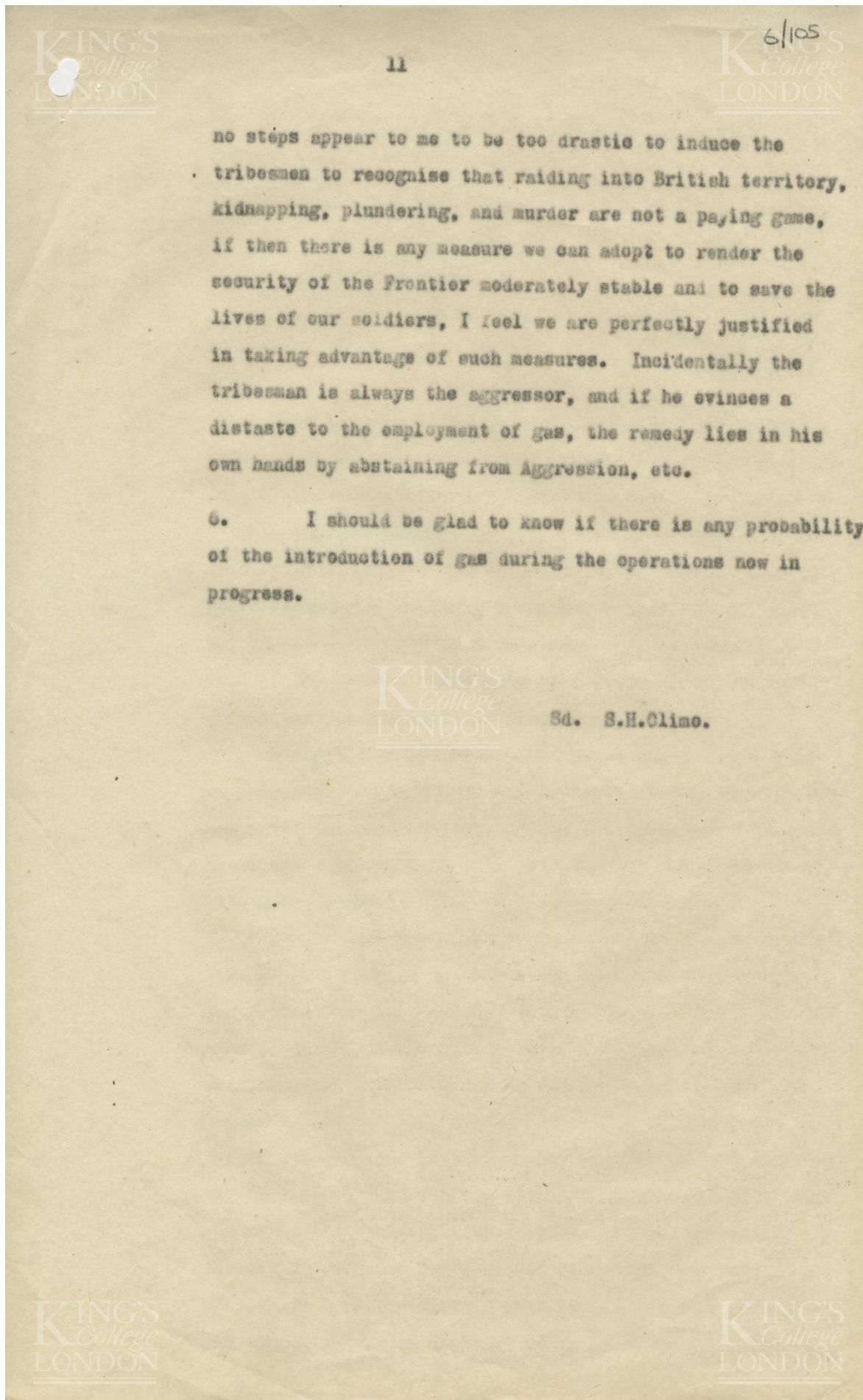
While on the question of the use of gas on our tribesmen, who have rebelled, should we for example use gas against rebels in Ireland, if not, should rebels in India come under a different category. I think not, and I think it is clear if this was done, the Government of India might be very seriously embarrassed by Indian agitators and by certain sections of the public in England.

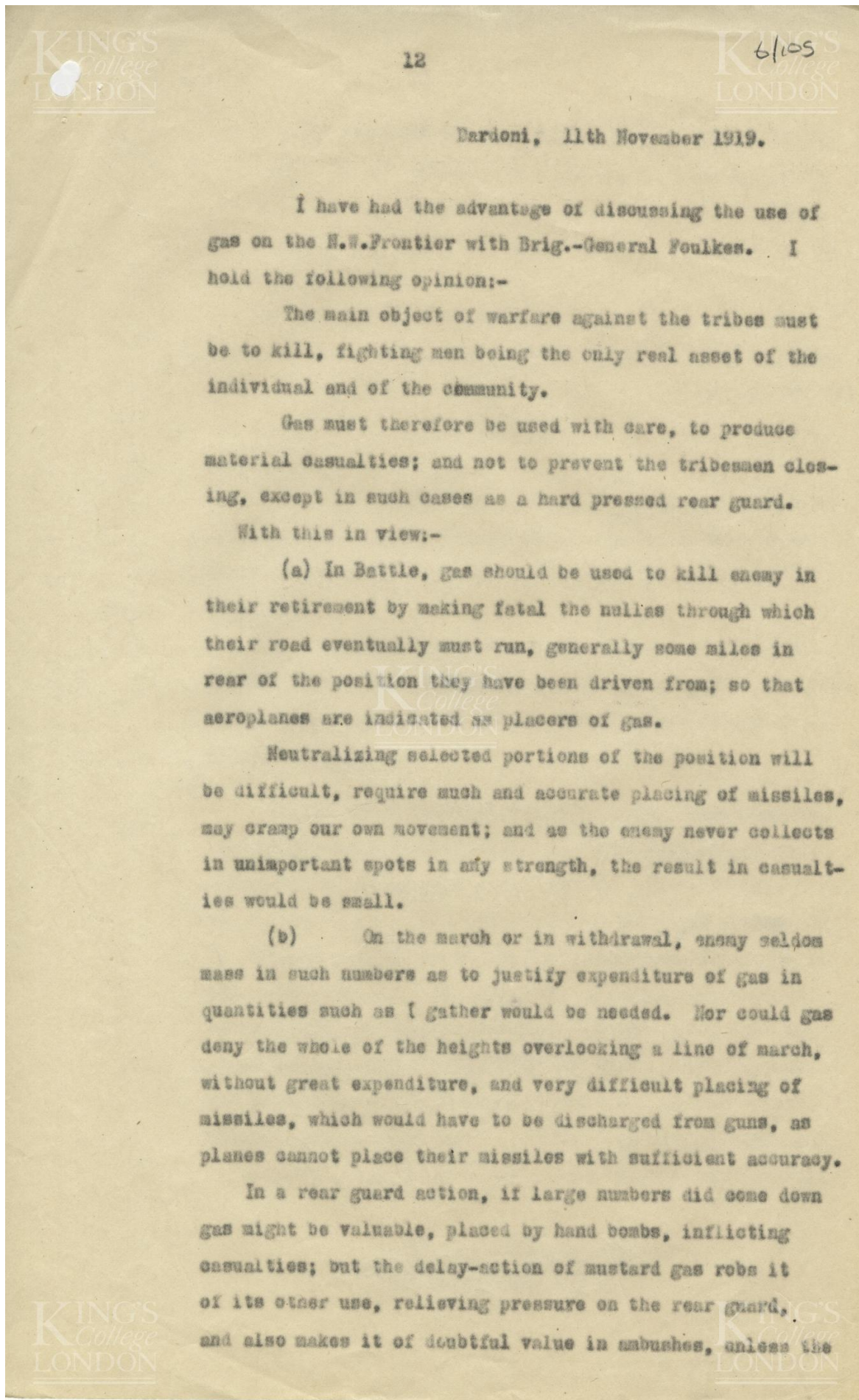
On the whole I am of opinion that gas should not be used against our own tribesmen except for the protection of convoys by denying ground that threatened the line of march.

As regards its use say against Afghanistan, the real point for consideration is whether the use of lethal gas









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enemy walks straight into a prepared area in fair numbers.

(c) In the outposts it might pay to work an ambush for snipers, but these men work separately, and if ambush is prepared near camp, the danger to our own people has to be reckoned with.

For denying night piquet positions, it is also not much use - the enemy come in few numbers and fire a number of shots - they would do this before the gas had effect, and the placing of gas would be valueless for its protective object.

(d) If the enemy is sedentary, in camps or prepared buildings the effect will be good. He never will be so found within artillery range, therefore the aeroplane is indicated.

(e) The occasional value of denying concentration points, such as the instances quoted may be great. The probably long range of such points indicates aeroplanes as placers of gas.

To sum up, I consider that gas shells should not be employed; that a limited number of hand bombs can be made effective use of on rare occasions, and that aeroplane bombs will often find a most suitable and fatal employment to complete a rout; or in the rare occasions dealt with in (d) and (e) above. If aeroplanes are used difficulties of transport and supply disappear, as the planes will be based on rail or M.T. road, and the vast moral effect of gas poisoning, the more feared because of its mysterious delayed effect, seem to me sufficient to warrant the early introduction of gas as one of our weapons in this country.

Sd. A Skeen, Major-General,
Commanding Kohat-Kurram Force,
(Temp Comdg Toshi Column).