



Ministry of Defence

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Ministry of Defence
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Mr M Occleshaw

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31st October 2017

Dear Mr Occleshaw

Thank you for your email of 16 October requesting the following information:

"I need to see the records of the Naval Mission to Siberia and Perm in 1918. The Mission departed from Vladivostock in August 1918 and returned to that port in December 1918. It was led by Commander James Wolf-Murray. Its existence is established by

- a) The log of HMS Suffolk;*
- b) Correspondence from General (Sir) Alfred Knox to the War Office;*
- c) James Wolf-Murray's Service Record; [These are all in the National Archives.]*
- d) Richard Lockett's "The White Generals" (Longman, London, 1971.)*

I have checked the catalogue of records destroyed by the Luftwaffe when they bombed the Arnside Street repository in September 1940 and that shows that no naval records were destroyed. This strongly suggests that the report(s) of the Naval Mission are still held by HMG"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I have to advise that a search of the MOD archive has not identified any records on the information you require; documentation of that age that has survived is held at the National Archives at Kew. The address is:

The National Archives,
Kew,
Richmond,
Surrey,
TW9 4DU.

Web Address: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Its catalogue (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/>) is available on the web so you will be able to search for files, although you will not be able to view any documents online.

If you decide to visit the National Archives you will either need to bring your Reader's Ticket, or if you do not possess one you will have to obtain one at the registration desk. For this you will

require some form of identification, a passport, driving licence etc. The National Archives does not charge for reader's tickets. Alternatively, you may consider employing a researcher to carry out the work for you. If you do decide to do this, then the National Archives will supply you with a list of independent researchers who will make a charge for their time. The National Archives do not carry out research on individual members of the public's behalf.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that information may also be found at the following places of deposit for MoD records:

The National Museum of the Royal Navy

HM Naval Base (PP66)

Portsmouth

England

PO1 3NH Email: lix@xuk

Website: <http://www.nmrn-portsmouth.org.uk/research>

Imperial War Museum London (Headquarters)

Lambeth Road

London SE1 6HZ

United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7416 5320 Fax: +44 (0)20 7416 5374 Email: mail@iwm.org.uk

National Maritime Museum

Park Row,

Greenwich,

London

SE10 9NF website: <http://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance Team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DBSKI-RRFOI Team