

CHARLES ASQUITH BASTION

April 24th, 1918.

Dear Montgomery,

In consideration of your letter dated April 20th, 1918, I discussed your proposal with whomever I could discover at his desk in the local administration. However this would prove somewhat of a challenge given the prevailing state of affairs.

Many of those who had survived those dark days a few weeks ago have been left in a seemingly permanent state of purgatory themselves. To me they seem just as dead as those whom we already laid to rest.

Everywhere in Baker there are haunting scenes. Women who lost

CHARLES ASQUITH BASTION

children are alive, but sit quietly, gaunt and impassive, staring without end as if into another time and place. Their minds have been lost. Hundreds of children have been left without family. Most are taken in by neighbours and distant relatives. Yet the abominations they have witnessed left them more than empty vessels.

I fear that the survivors have not, in fact, survived. They are now condemned, struck by permanent nightmares that they will never be able to purge from their minds.

With haste we will endeavour to further your proposition. No matter how timely this can be done, and then acted upon, I do

CHARLES ASQUITH BASTION

fear it will not be enough. The
grim tide of death that washed
over Baku, the Tatars especially,
quickly abated. Yet these events
have left behind a phrenic sickness
that continues to ~~sank~~ us all.

As ever in your service.

Yours faithfully,

C. Bastion