

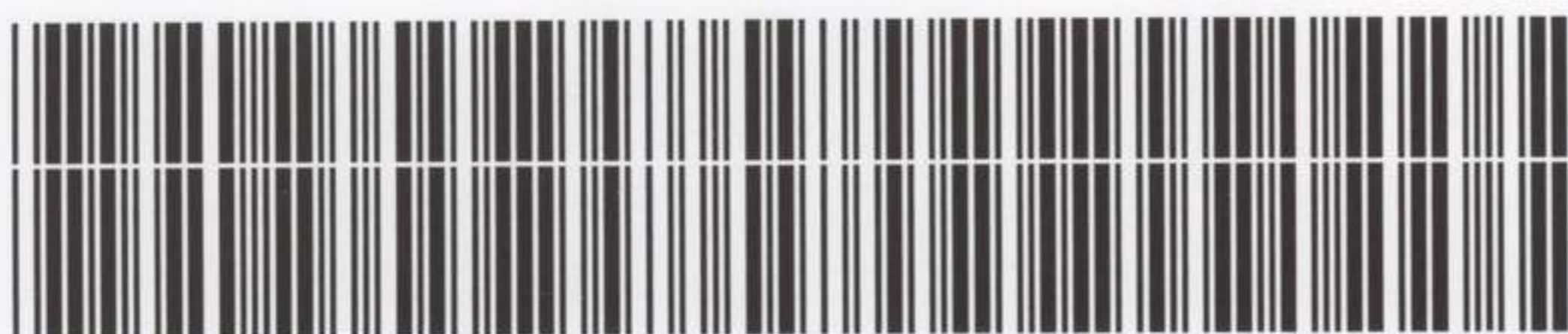
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/4/11 Part 3

**Title:** General Staff, General  
Headquarters, Mediterranean  
Expeditionary Force

February 1916



AWM4-1/4/11PART3

War diary

Max A.



From:- A.H.Q. SALONIKA.

To:- G. H. Q.

G.C.S.cipher.

1/2/16.

Despd. 0945.  
Recd. 1410.

Propose to start machine-gun school here where exceptional facilities exist as regards ranges but capable instructor is badly needed. Can you spare the services of Lieut Smith, East Yorkshires, for this purpose ? If so wire when he may be expected.

Copies to "O".  
C. G. S.  
"A".  
"Q".

Filed G.S. 24/1.

War Diary

SECRET



Appt B

From:- CHIEF MEDFORCE.

To:- CHIEF LONDON.

A.M.64.cipher.

1/2/16.

Despd. 1850.

Evening report. There still remain at MUDROS for shipment, British troops 22000, native personnel 2500, guns nil, animals 1000 and various vehicles.. The D.I.G.C. MUDROS hopes to finish embarkation by February 15th.

An agent returned today states that railway has reached ASLUJ and has crossed WADI, but that no engines or trucks are working.

Copies to "O".  
C.-in-C.  
G. G. S.  
"I".  
"Q".

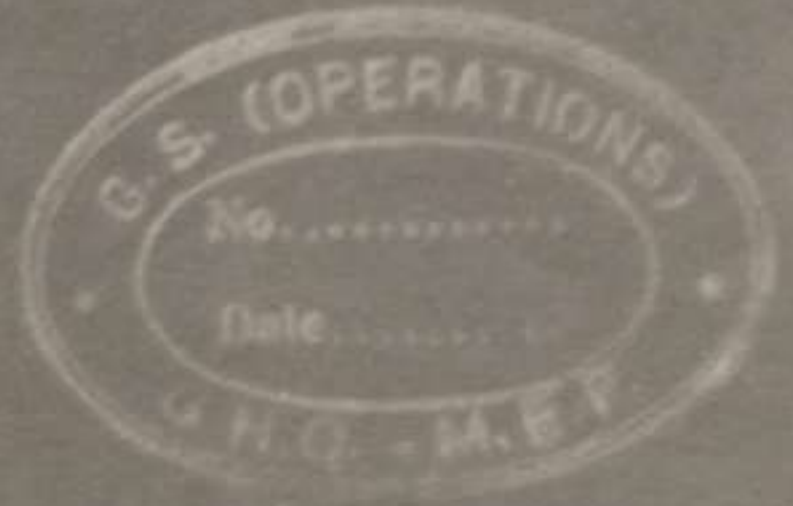
Filed G.S. Z/29.

SECRET

War Diary

1/3

Appx C.



From

A.H.Q. S.A.

To

G. H. Q.

G.C. 4 cipher.

1/2/16

Desp. 1250.  
Recd. 1850.

Zeppelin, possibly two, probably one, dropped incendiary bombs on harbour and western side of town at 3 am. to-day. One ammunition ship *hit* but not *exploded* considerable damage in docks and vicinity. Fire started close to French H.Q. and completely gutted large warehouse. Fire now under control but operations considerably impeded by lack of fire fighting appliances. See my telegram M.36 dated January 20th and your reply O.C.T. of January 23rd. In view of probable repetition of these visits large additions to original demands is necessary. Casualties so far reported one conductor killed and one officer wounded. Some Greeks killed and wounded, but number at present unknown.

Copies to O.  
C-in-C.  
C.G.S.  
I.  
Q.

File G.S. Z.S.  
" G.S. 89.

\* cipher corrupt, repetition asked for.

*War Diary*

*1/4*

G.S. 104.

*Appx D*

1st February, 1918

Officer Commanding,  
5th Wing, Royal Flying Corps.

---

General Officer Commanding A. & N. Z. Army Corps has written asking whether it will be practicable to detail for duty as observers with the Flying Corps one artillery officer from each of his three divisions. He is also anxious for a relief officer to be trained at the same time.

Will you please say whether you will be able to take on these six officers for training and employment as observers.

*(sd) G. P. Dawney*

Lieut. Colonel, G.S.

War Diary

SECRET

1/5

G.S. 152.

Appt E.

12 February, 1918

General Officer Commanding,  
9th Army Corps.  
-----

In accordance with a telegram received from the War Office it is possible that one Division of the 15th Army Corps might be required to proceed at short notice to MESOPOTAMIA.

It is probable that a decision on this point will be telegraphed to us within the next fortnight.

In the event of a Division being ordered to proceed, it will become necessary again to alter the allotment of troops and to allow the 11th Division to revert to the 15th Army Corps.

You will be informed as soon as definite instructions are received here.

(sd) G. P. Danaway  
Lt Col G.

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*War diary*

*116*

G.S.113

*Appx F.*

31st January 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

-----

It has been decided to move from Zeitun to Tel el Kebir, as soon as arrangements can be made, sufficient troops from the Australian & New Zealand re-inforcements to form eight new infantry brigades. These will be organized at Tel el Kebir into provisional brigades of four battalions each under a brigade commander, and their training will be carried out under a specially selected General Officer with a view to the eventual incorporation of these brigades in two new divisions, 18, and when, sanction is received from the War Office.

With reference to your Memorandum of 29th January, the necessary authority is given you to raise the personnel necessary to form an additional battery for each of the existing brigades of the New Zealand Field Artillery and four extra batteries for a third New Zealand Field Artillery Brigade; also personnel necessary to form a third New Zealand Field Company and an additional New Zealand A.S.C. Company. It is presumed that you propose that this personnel should be sent for training to the existing divisional troop units of the Australian & New Zealand Division ?.

*(sd) Sydney Bell*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*War Diary*

*Gf. 113*

*117*

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1st February 1916.

Dear *Birdwood*

I propose to bring up to Tel el Kebir, as soon as arrangements can be made, sufficient Australian & New Zealand reinforcements to form eight provisional brigades of four battalions. These will be trained with a view to their incorporation in new divisions when the time comes. I propose Cox for command and supervision of the training at Tel el Kebir, with a staff on the lines of a divisional staff but somewhat smaller. The question of the appointment of eight brigade commanders will come up, and brigade majors.

Godley has also asked for authority to raise the personnel necessary to form six more New Zealand batteries (filling up his two existing brigades and forming a third), as well as a third New Zealand Field Company and another New Zealand A.S.C. Company. I think it advisable to employ surplus reinforcements in this way, though it is a great question when any guns will be available to arm the additional batteries.

I should be glad if you would come down here to see me and talk over this and other matters in the course of the next few days.

*Your sincerely*  
*(sd) Archibald Murray*

Lieut.-General Sir W.R. Birdwood, K.C.B., K.C.S.I.



*War Diary*



*1/8*

"A"

"Q"

-----

Please see attached letter to General Officer Commanding A. & N.Z. Army Corps with regard to the movement of a certain proportion of the Australian and New Zealand re-inforcements from Zeitun to Tel el Kebir. Will "Q" please inform us as soon as it is likely that arrangements can be made to carry out this move, which is urgent.

*(sd) G. P. Downay.*

31st Jan. 1916.

Lieut. Colonel, G.S.(O)

*War Diary*

G.S./113.

119

12<sup>th</sup> February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
Force in Egypt.

-----

With reference to previous correspondence regarding the location of Australian & New Zealand reinforcements, it has now been decided to move sufficient troops to form eight new infantry brigades, six new batteries field artillery, one new field company, and one new A.S.C. company, from Zeitoun to Tel el Kebir as soon as arrangements can be made.

(sd) A. J. Murray

General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

W D  
Appx G

1/10

A  
Q  
E. in C.

1st February, 6

General Officer Commanding,  
9th Army Corps.  
Australian & New Zealand Army Corps.  
15th Army Corps.

Prior to the taking over of the defences of the Suez Canal by the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, an arrangement had been come to with the Canal Company, which empowered certain officers to sign demands for material or work to be carried out by the Canal Company's officials.

These officers were : -

- The G.S.O. 1st Grade and D.A.Q.M&G. Canal Defences, Ismailia.
- C. R. E.
- Staff Officer to Deputy Director of Works.
- Officer in charge of Water Supply.
- D. M. S. and D. D. M. S.
- C.S.T.O. and Staff Officer to ditto.
- Officer i/c Supplies.
- Commandant, Port Said.
- One officer from Suez to Shaloup.
- One officer from Port Said to Serapeum.

It is suggested that the following officers should now be empowered to act : -

- |                       |                |   |
|-----------------------|----------------|---|
| <u>For G. H. Q. -</u> | D.Q.M.G.       | } or Staff Officers acting for ditto - this fact to be so stated. |
|                       | E.-in-C.       |   |
|                       | B.G., G.S.     |   |
|                       | D. S. T.       |   |
|                       | D. M. S.       |   |
| All Corps             | D.A. & Q.M.G.  | }   |
|                       | Chief Engineer |   |

Please say if you agree.

*(Sd) W. J. Moran*

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to "Q".  
"A".  
E.-in-C.

*War Diary*

SECRET

*1/11*

G.S. Z/32.

31st January, 1918

*Appt H.*

The Vice-Admiral,  
Naval Commander-in-Chief,  
East Indies and Egypt.  
-----

The attached copy of proceedings of the  
joint Conference held here to-day is forwarded  
for your concurrence or remarks.

*another  
copy sent  
to H. F.  
by road*

*(sd) A. J. Murray*

General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

SECRET 112

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT NAVAL AND MILITARY CONFERENCE

HELD AT G.H.Q. ISMAILIA, JANUARY 31st, 1916.

Present:-

Chief of the General Staff.  
Sub-Chief of the General Staff.  
Capt. Burmester, R.N. Flag Captain to Vice-Admiral  
Commanding -in- Chief, East Indies.  
Lt.Colonel Tyrrell.  
Lt.Colonel Dawnay.  
Major Heldich.  
Capt. Bernard.  
Lt.Commander Pinsent, R.N.  
Lt.Commander Bevan, R.N.  
Lieut. Gregory, R.N.

1. It was pointed out that some slight adjustment was needed so as to make the Naval and Military Sections of the Canal Defences coincide.

Decided that the exact limits of the Military Sections should be communicated to the Vice-Admiral with a map, and that the Vice-Admiral should be requested to make the necessary adjustments.

2. The question of naval co-operation in the defence of the Front Line was considered. The naval arrangements contemplate allocation of ships as follows:-

Two battleships in the Gulf of Suez

One battleship and two large monitors in the Bitter Lakes.

(The two large monitors would be available, if required, in PELUSIUM Bay for the defence of the left flank.)

Two battleships at PORT SAID.

The small monitors in PELUSIUM Bay on the left flank.

This distribution will be confirmed, and any alterations or amendments communicated, by the Vice-Admiral to the Commander-in-Chief.

A communication will be sent to the Vice-Admiral in due course, giving a list of important points, in connection with the defensive line, on which it is desired that the Naval guns should be registered. Attention was drawn to the

/desirability

113

desirability of being able to bring naval gunfire to bear from the Gulf of Suez on the Western portion of the NEKHL - BIR ABU GARAD - AYUM MUSSA Road.

3. The question of communication with the garrisons of TOR and ABU ZENIMA was brought up.

Decided to ask the Vice-Admiral to go into the question of the three possible alternatives -

- (a) Submarine cables.
- (b) A warship in constant touch by wireless.
- (c) A land wireless station.

Captain Burmester said that the laying of a submarine cable would be the best and simplest solution, and that the Vice-Admiral had the matter in hand.

4. The proceedings of a Naval and Military Conference held on January 26th at PORT SAID, which was attended by representatives of the Force in Egypt and not by representatives of M.E.F., were discussed.

Decided that, so far as the M.E.F. is concerned, the decisions taken by that Conference will not apply. All questions of military reconnaissance by aircraft, or requests for reconnaissance, etc., will be communicated by G.H.Q. direct to the Vice-Admiral who, it is understood, is willing to undertake co-ordination of seaplane work, including arrangements with the French for the use of their seaplanes on services required by M.E.F..

It is understood that, in the event of simultaneous demands for reconnaissance by Force in Egypt and M.E.F., the Vice-Admiral, if he is unable to meet both demands at once, will himself decide, after any necessary telegraphic communication with either force, the order of relative urgency.

5. It was proposed and agreed to that Corps Commanders should be placed in direct communication with S.N.C. of sections on

/the

1/14

the Canal, and that the Vice-Admiral should inform the Commander-in-Chief the name and position of Headquarters of the several S.N.O.

On tactical details (requisitions for Naval artillery support, patrolling, etc.), Corps Commanders will communicate direct to the S.N.O. of sections, and the latter will be to this extent the channel of communication between the military forces defending the canal and the Vice-Admiral.

6. If the bulk of the M.E.F. should be transferred elsewhere, leaving reduced forces to defend the Canal so that the defensive lines would have to be withdrawn to the vicinity of the Canal itself, the existing naval arrangements, as incorporated in the various memoranda issued by Vice-Admiral Sir R. H. Peirse, will be revived with such modifications, particularly as regards artillery co-operation and inter-communication, as may be found necessary. The necessity for such revision will be considered by M.G.R.A. and D.A.S. with the naval officers concerned.

7. BARDAWIL Lagoon. Captain Burmester undertook to obtain information as to the numbers of small native craft, which it might be possible to procure, suitable for running supplies up to the Eastern end of the Lagoon and landing them to form a Supply Depot there, for a force of, say, 50,000 men. He also undertook to consider generally the question of the establishment of a base of supply in that locality, and of the protection of supply-ships off the coast. He agreed to endeavour to make further reconnaissance of the coast at the Eastern end of the Lagoon, and to take soundings, etc. with this in view.

8. At the conclusion of the Conference Lt. Commander Bevan conferred with D.A.S. with regard to the questions of Communication and inter-communication, and Lt. Commander Pinsent conferred with M.G.R.A. with regard to gunnery in the Canal, artillery co-operation, etc.

G.S. 150.

*War Diary*

*1/15*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Appx J.*

*125* February, 1918

General Officer Commanding,  
15th Army Corps.  
-----

A copy of a letter received from the General Officer Commanding, Force in Egypt, is attached for your perusal and remarks.

It is considered very doubtful whether it is desirable to keep these Armenians within the zone of military operations. The question of a possible outbreak of disease has also to be considered.

The Commander-in-Chief would be glad to have a considered report on this matter from you as soon as possible.

*(sd) A. Lynden Bell*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



116

ARMENIAN REFUGEE CAMP AT PORT SAID.  
- - - - -

The circumstances of its existence are peculiar. The French Naval Authorities operating on the Syrian Coast found themselves obliged to remove to a place of safety some 5,000 Armenian Refugees from the neighbourhood of ANTIOCH near ALEXANDRETTA.

The obligation to keep and support these people is really one for the French Government - certainly not the Egyptian - but as they were dumped down by French warships the Egyptian Government, pending other arrangements, were obliged to look after them. At that time Egypt was, and is, housing several thousand Syrian refugees deported by the Turkish authorities in Syria. None of these are Egyptian subjects. At PORT SAID the Egyptian Government has gone to considerable trouble and expense to organise this Camp. The site was selected by myself as one that could not interfere with any Military Operations or indeed with any Military accommodation. It will be immensely inconvenient to move them elsewhere to say nothing of the money wasted in so doing; much of this money has been subscribed by charitable people. The Military has taken up all available camping grounds in EGYPT, so unless you consider it a matter of grave military importance it may remain where it is.

G.S.

Z/34

Wardery

SECRET

117

App't K.

The Vice-Admiral, Naval Commander-in-Chief,  
East Indies and Egypt.

120 Feby  
31st January, 1916.

Sir,

The question has been raised as to the provision of a proper system of communication with TOR and ABU ZENIMA, both of which places are at present garrisoned by the Egyptian Army.

There appear to be three alternatives -

- (a) A submarine cable;
- (b) A warship in constant and close touch with these posts which could supply wireless communication.
- (c) A wireless installation on land at each post.

Of these three, it would appear that a submarine cable would be preferable, and I should be glad if you would give this matter your consideration and inform me in due course what you recommend and how your recommendations could best be carried out.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sd) A. J. Murray

General,  
Chief,  
Commander-in-  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

War Diary

SECRET

118

G.S. 2/32/1

Appt L

THE VICE-ADMIRAL,  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,  
EAST INDIES.

101  
February, 1916.

Sir,

In accordance with the decision arrived at by the Naval and Military conference held yesterday, I enclose under separate cover a map shewing the exact limits of the Military sections of the Defence. I understand that the Naval and Military sections do not quite coincide, and as it would be very difficult to re-adjust our sections now that the defensive works have reached such an advanced state, it would greatly simplify and assist the organisation of the defence if you could slightly alter the Naval sections so that the boundaries of both should be the same. Copies of Force Orders Nos. 5 and 6 are forwarded herewith. Paragraph 2 of the former gives the exact definitions of the limits of these sections.

I hope to forward in due course, a list of important points in connection with the defensive line on which it is desired that the Naval guns should be registered.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

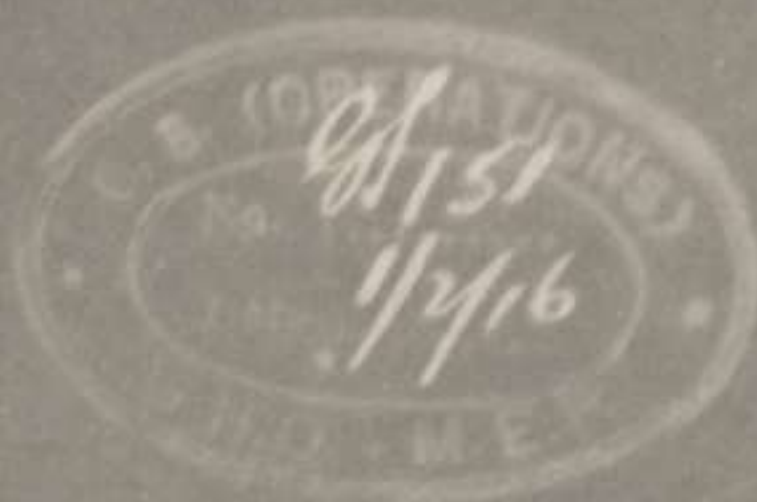
Your obedient Servant,

(sa) A. Lynden Beele *in G.*  
*b. G.*

101  
General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

War Diary

App M.



Chief of the General Staff.

10th Indian Division.

The following appointments of the Divisional Staff appear to be unnecessary, owing to reduction in strength, and as India wants officers, it is suggested that they be returned.

G.S.O. 1 Bt.Lt.Col. W.F.Bainbridge, C.M.G., D.S.O.  
51st Sikhs.

A.D.of T. Major Wildes, (C.B.D.), S. & T. Corps.

A.D.M.S. Lt. Col. H.Burden, C.I.E., I.M.S.

D.A.D.M.S. Capt. S.W.Jones, I.M.S.

H.Q. Div. Engineers. Lt.Col. W.O. Scudamore, R.E.

1 Bde. Major. Major H.C. Duncan, D.S.O., 9th Gurkhas.

1 Staff Captain. Capt. R.C.G. Pollock, 51st Sikhs.

Directors and E.-in-C. raise no objection.

At present no reduction can be effected on SUEZ base.

(sd) G. L. Dawney

"O"  
1/2/16.

2

Lieut. Colonel, G.S.

ams

Please speak about this

1/2/16.

(int) A. L. B.

*War Mary*

*Appt A*

*1/20*



From V.A.,E.M.S., SALONICA.  
To CHIEF MEDFORCE.

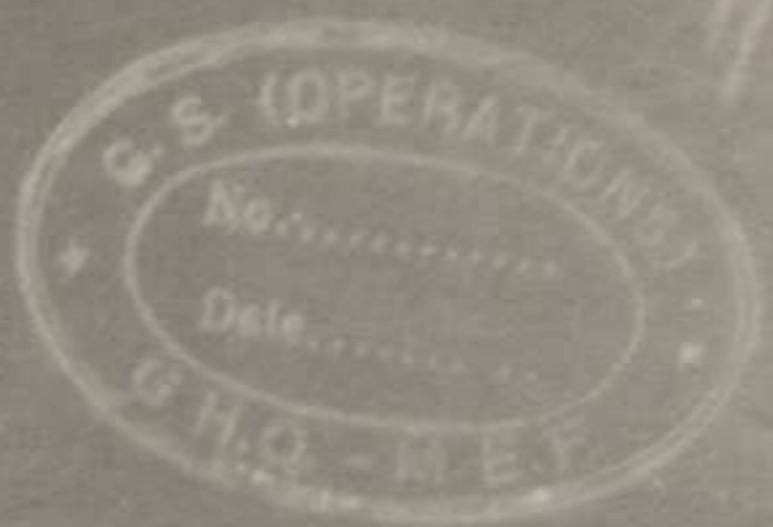
170 Cipher. (9.18 p.m.) 1/2/16 Desp. 2200.  
2/2/16 Recd. 0630.

My 141. I have received copy of telegram A.M. 61 of 31st from Chief of the Staff Mediterranean Force to Chief of the Staff War Office. Latter being requested to inform you (sic) of purport of telegram which deals with equipment R.N.D. R.N.D. was fully equipped when it arrived at Dardanelles in April to fit themselves for service and only a portion of their <sup>proper</sup> equipment which belongs to the Admiralty but has been appropriated by the Army has been demanded from MEDFORCE EGYPT. The R.N.D. in certain eventualities may be called upon to reinforce the right flank Salonika Army and equipment asked for is necessary for their undertaking this service. I Therefore request the demands we have forwarded which are moderate may be complied with.

1 copy to "O"  
1 " C.-in-C.  
1 " C.G.S.  
1 " "Q"  
Filed G.S.86.

*War Diary*

SECRET



*Appx B.*

From TROOPERS.

To CHIEF MEDFORCE.

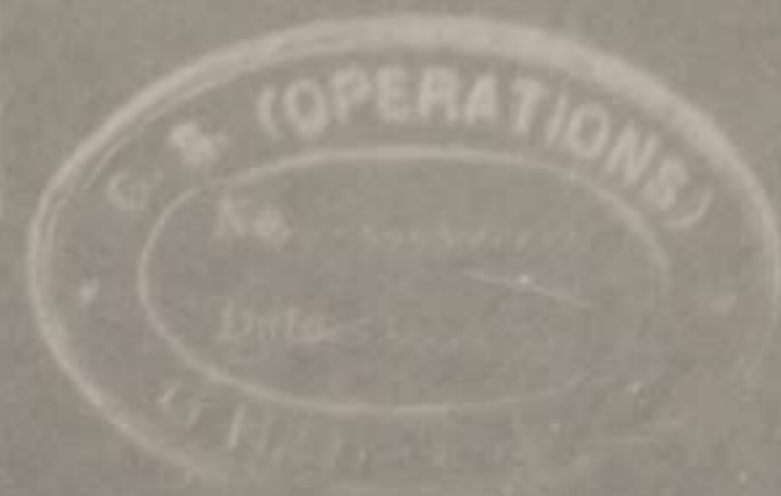
12735 Cipher, 1718 A.M.D.Z. 1/2/16. Desp. 1735.  
2/2/16. Recd. 0630.

Despatch of 260,000 Phenate helmets for SALONICA is completed to-day. Colonel Willcox sent out for anti-gas work as well as physician has returned to ENGLAND. He states all chemists have been ordered to return. Large numbers of helmets been ordered presume gas attacks feared. After use helmets must be re-impregnated. How can this be done if chemists sent home. Chemists necessary for instruction of troops and for investigation of anti-gas problems which are daily arising all theatres.

1 copy to O  
1 " C.-in C.  
1 " C.G.S.  
2 " A  
2 " Q  
File Z/7.

War Day

SECRET



1/22

Mme C.

From CHIEF MEDFORCE.

to CHIEF LONDON.

---

A.M. 65

2/2/16.

Desp. 1155.

Reference my A.M. 51 of 27th and your 12586 cipher of 28th and 12747 cipher of 1st could you now inform me if any special steps to be taken as regards organisation and equipment of 13th Division if it proceeds to MESOPOTAMIA. I am anxious to take the matter up as soon as possible.

---

1 copy to O.  
1 " C.-in C.  
1 " C.G.S.  
1 " A.  
1 " Q.  
File G.S. 132.

*War Diary*

123



*Am D*

From CHIEF MEDFORCE.  
To CHIEF WAR OFFICE.

A.M. 66 cipher.      2/2/16.      Desp. 1950.  
Recd.

Evening report. All going well. Am inspecting  
13th division tomorrow at Port Said.

1 copy to "O"  
1 " C.-in C.  
1 " C.G.S.  
Filed Z/29.



*War Diary*

152

G.S. 152.



*Appt E*

2nd February, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,  
A. & N.Z. Army Corps.  
9th & 15th Army Corps.  
O.C., Camel Corps, KANTARA.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. It is important that probable enemy artillery positions within 12,000 yards of our front line should be surveyed as soon as possible, so that they may be inserted in the new 1 : 80,000 map now in process of preparation.

2. In order to expedite this work and to ensure that the most important points are surveyed first, Corps will arrange for artillery officers, with escorts from the Camel Corps, to reconnoitre hostile artillery positions in front of their section of the line.

These positions will then be roughly inserted on the 1 : 100,000 or 1 : 125,000 map, which should be forwarded to Map Section, G. H. Q. The latter will then carry out a detailed survey of the positions indicated.

*(sd) G. P. Downey Lt Col*

*for*  
Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to "I".  
M.G., R.A.

*War Diary*

125  
**SECRET**

G.S. 104

*Appt F.*

THE VICE-ADMIRAL,  
COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF,  
EAST INDIES AND EGYPT.

2nd February, 1916.

Sir,

I should be obliged if you would arrange for the following aerial reconnaissance to be carried out -

GAZA - BEERSHEBA - ASLUJ - KHAN YUNUS (the actual starting and landing points are immaterial).

Special attention should be paid to road BEERSHEBA - ASLUJ, and note made of any camps or concentrations in the neighbourhood of these two places.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*(sa) a. Lynden Bee*  
*Col.*

*for* General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copy to "I".

1/26

2/34

W.D.

Appx G.

SECRET

E,-in-C.

The following is an extract from a letter received yesterday from the 9th Army Corps - for your information and remarks.

"As regards Corps Artillery, the present bridges at EL KUBRI and SHALLUFA are not, as I understand it, capable of taking siege guns, but in emergency arrangements could be made to ferry or raft them across. .... These bridges will, I trust, in the near future be much improved."

(sig) G.P. Dawson

"O".  
2.2.16.

Lt.Colonel,  
G.S.

SECRET

W.D. 1/27

G.S. 2/34

Appt H.

2 February, 1918

General Officer Commanding,  
9th Army Corps.  
-----

1. With reference to your G.S. 739/1, of January 30th, the 2nd and 3rd Dismounted Brigades will be despatched to SHALLUFA WEST as soon as possible. You should report to D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., when you are ready to receive these Brigades, upon which the necessary arrangements for their move will be made.

2. With regard to the replacement of the 29th Division by the 11th Division, as you were informed in my G.S. 132 of 1st February, it is possible that the latter Division may not now join the Corps under your command. The move of the 11th Division from ALEXANDRIA has therefore been postponed for the present.

3. With regard to the Hong-Kong and Singapore Battery, you should inform D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., when you are ready to receive this unit so that arrangements may be made for its movement from ISMAILIA.

4. Arrangements will be made for sending up in due course the 90th Heavy Battery and 14th Siege Battery to SUEZ, the 60th Siege Battery to EL KUBRI WEST, and the 48th Siege Battery to SHALLUFA.

5. Arrangements will be made for the 4th Mounted Brigade to march to SUEZ as soon as possible.

/Arrangements

1/28

Arrangements have already been put in hand for one regiment of this Brigade to move to EL KUBRI and SHALLUFA as requested by you in order to relieve the Patiala Lancers so that the latter may be transferred to G.O.C., L. of C, Defences.

6. In the case of all movements connected with the concentration of your Army Corps, where troops have to be brought up from outside the area of the M.E.F. command, you should communicate direct with D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., as soon as you are ready to accommodate the troops in the localities which you have selected.

7. With reference to Force Order No. 5, of 27th January, paragraph 10, the concentration at SUEZ of the Indian Infantry Battalions under orders for INDIA, as detailed in my telegram OA 91 of 20th January, should be completed not later than February 10th.

*(Sd) G.P. Dawman*  
*for* *W. G. G. G.*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

SECRET

WD

1/29

G.S. 7.54.

MMJ. 2<sup>nd</sup>

February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
15th Army Corps.  
-----

With reference to your Q.150 of 27th January, and to my G.S. 132 of 29th January, the following arrangements are being made with regard to the disposition of troops belonging to your command which are to be moved into your Corps Area:-

(a) The movement of the 11th Division from ALEXANDRIA will be temporarily postponed and will probably not take place until a final decision is reached as to the disposal of the 13th Division. This will only concern you if the 13th Division is removed from the Corps under your command.

(b) The 52nd Division will be moved up to the position selected by you for the reserve division at BALLAH, West of the Canal, as soon as the necessary water arrangements have been made at that place. You should communicate direct to D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., as soon as you are ready to receive this Division.

(c) The 1st Dismounted Brigade: As soon as you are ready to receive this Brigade you should inform D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., who will arrange its move on hearing from you where you wish it to be sent.

/ (d)

1/30

(d) Instructions contained in my G.S. 132, of 29th January, with regard to the 13th Division will hold good until further information is received from the War Office.

*Col G. H. D. ...*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

G.S./Z/25.

*W. Brown*  
**SECRET**

*1/31*

*Ampt K*

Chief of the Imperial General Staff,  
War Office, London, S.W.

2nd February 1916.

Sir,

I beg to forward herewith a provisional Order of Battle shewing the composition of the Corps only of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt.

A complete Order of Battle is being compiled and will be forwarded at an early date.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*(Signature)*

General,

Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



War diary.

1/32

G.S. 117.

M. J. L.

2nd February, 6

General Officer Commanding,  
9th Army Corps.  
A. & N. Z. Army Corps.  
15th Army Corps.

1. With regard to the horse establishment of artillery units of Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, it has been decided that equipment will be carried out in all cases on the scale laid down in War Establishments Part VII.

2. In view of the fact that it will be impossible to horse all these units to War Establishment for some time, this will be done in successive phases as follows:-

(a). Field Artillery Brigades.

1st Phase. To equip guns and firing battery wagons with the minimum of horses for preliminary work.  
Brigade Headquarters .....16 Horses.  
Each Battery .....75 Horses.

2nd Phase. Complete batteries to establishment.  
Brigade Headquarters .....14 Horses.  
Each Battery .....50 Horses.

3rd Phase. Complete the Brigade Ammunition Columns.  
A 4-battery Brigade .....192 Horses.  
A 3-battery Brigade .....177 Horses.

(b). Mountain Batteries.

7th I.M.A. to be completed in view of possible move 'elsewhere'

Highland Mountain Brigade (2 batteries):-  
1st Phase. Headquarters, 12 Riding, 3 Draught Mules, 1 Pack.  
Each battery, 11 Riding, 48 Pack.

2nd Phase. Headquarters, 12 Riding .....1 Pack.  
Each battery, 11 Riding .....48 Pack.

3rd Phase. A. C. .... 18 Riding, 30 Draught Mules.

1/33

(2)

(c). Hong Kong and Singapore Battery :-

1st Phase. 8 Riding<sup>ing</sup>, 82 Pack.

2nd Phase. 8 Riding<sup>ing</sup>, 82 Pack.

(d). 20th & 35th Heavy Artillery Brigades (each of 3 - 60 pr. batteries) :-

1st Phase. Headquarters, 6 Riding, 4 Draught.  
Each Battery, 14 Riding, 44 Heavy Draught.

2nd Phase. Headquarters, 5 Riding, 2 Draught, 2 H.D.  
Each Battery, 14 Riding, 48 Heavy Draught

3rd Phase. Each A.C. (2), 3 Riding, 44 Heavy Draught.

(e). 90th Heavy Battery :- As for one battery only of 60 prs.

(f). 14th Siege Battery :-

1st Phase. 14 Riding, 48 Heavy Draught, 7 Light Draught.

2nd Phase. 14 Riding, 48 Heavy Draught,

3rd Phase. 3 Riding, 23 Heavy Draught.

3. As regards other units it may be taken that in each case the 1st Phase will be half their establishment for the batteries, the 2nd Phase the other half and for the 3rd Phase anything in the shape of an Ammunition Column allotted to them.

4. The 32nd Siege Brigade, which has no horses, will be supplied with 40 riding, 88 heavy draught and 22 light draught to go on with.

5. In order to complete phases 1 and 2, the Divisional Ammunition Columns of the 31st, 42nd, and 52nd Divisions will be demuded of horses.

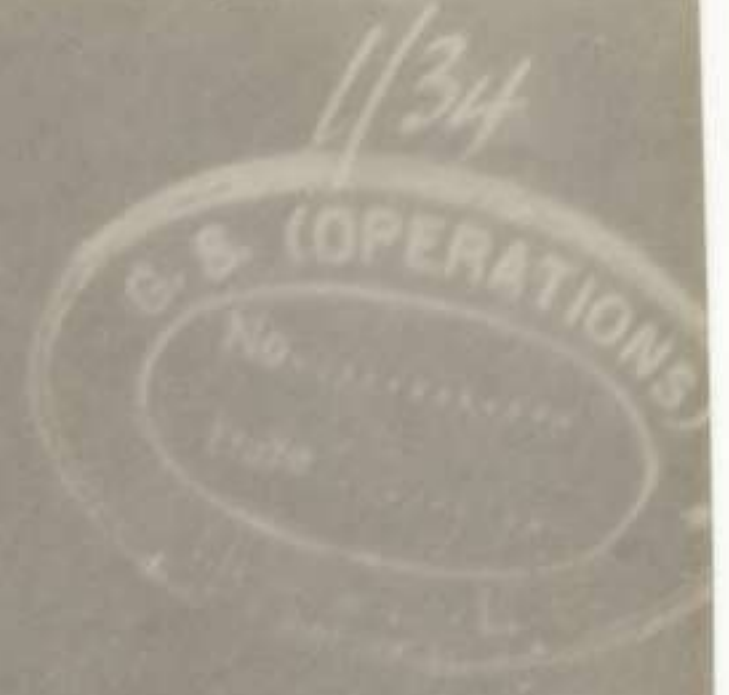
(ca) G.P. Dawson  
Lt Col

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

1 copy to "O"  
1 " "Q"  
1 " M.G., R.A.  
1 - ADR

*Handwritten:* Max Henry

*Handwritten:* J. J. M. M.



From  
Chief INDIA (Delhi).

To  
Superflux (Cairo).

36641.

29/1/16.  
30/1/16.

Desp. 2240.  
Recd.

Your letter C.R. 12779/A dated 7th January.  
In view of the fact that 8 Indian Battalions forming  
bulk of 10th Division are proceeding from EGYPT to  
INDIA, should be glad to know whether any more staff  
officers are to return to INDIA.

G.H.Q.,  
M.E.F.

Passed to you for action please.

"G".  
31/1/16.

(Sgd) B. R. Russell,  
Major,  
General Staff.

Copies to O.  
C.G.S.  
A.M.S.  
A.

File G.S. 122.

*Barbary*

SECRET



1135

*Agmt A*

From

A.H.Q. SALONICA.

To

Chief, LONDON. Repeated G.H.Q., and British  
Minister, ATHENS.

G.O. 9.

3/2/16  
4/2/16

Desp. 2330.  
Recd. 0615.  
Decd. 0650.

Information from an agent at FLORINA usually well-informed states that Greek local authorities there anticipate impending enemy move across frontier. On the other hand there seems little doubt but that Bulgarian Divisions on our front have been sending regiments back to refit and are not yet completed. Deserters' stories as to want of food and discontent in Army probably only passing phase due to communication difficulties which are being remedied and there is no sure evidence to show that army is otherwise than generally efficient and ready for further operations if such is policy. Our defences on 18th Corps front so well advanced that 2 days weekly will be devoted to training. 16th Corps behindhand owing to difficulties of communication.

Copies to :-

- O.
- C-in-C.
- G.S.S.
- A.
- Q.
- M.G.R.A.
- E-in-C.
- D.A.S.

*2/6*

War diary

SECRET



1/36

Append B

From:- CHIEF LONDON.  
To:- CHIEF MEDFORC.  
Repeated C.-in-C., INDIA.

12302.cipher.S.D.R.

3/2/18  
4/2/18

Despd. 1815  
Recd. 0615  
Deciph. 0700

The following units of the 18th Division should be prepared for service in MESOPOTAMIA. Divisional H.Q., Divisional Signal Company, 3 infantry brigades, 3 18-pdr. gun brigades, 1 howitzer brigade, 3 field companies, 3 field ambulances as for SALONIKA, 1 Mobile Veterinary Section. As regards howitzer brigade, ~~regimental~~ <sup>India</sup> is being asked ~~for~~ whether all four batteries are required. A divisional squadron may be required, if so it will be provided by you from local resources. 1st Line Transport will accompany the division on scale as laid down in War Establishments for Salonika Force. Train Transport for the carriage of packs (?)<sup>o</sup> and one day's rations may be required. India has been asked whether G.S. wagons can be employed for train. No mechanical transport will be sent. Ammunition on the following scale: 18-pdr. gun 1000 rounds per gun, 5" How. 600 rounds per gun, small arms ammunition in accordance with table 'B' and 'C' of War Establishments Part VII, including provision for line of communication.

Addressed to G.H.Q. Medforce. Repeated C-in-C. India.

- Copies to:
- "O" for action.
  - C.-in-C.
  - G.G.S.
  - "Q"
  - "A"
  - E.-in-C.
  - M.C.R.A.
  - D.A.S.

\* These groups are doubtful. If required a repetition will be asked for.

45/132

*War Diary*

*137*

*Appel*



From WAR OFFICE.

To G.H.Q.

18827 cipher A.2

3/2/16  
4/2/16

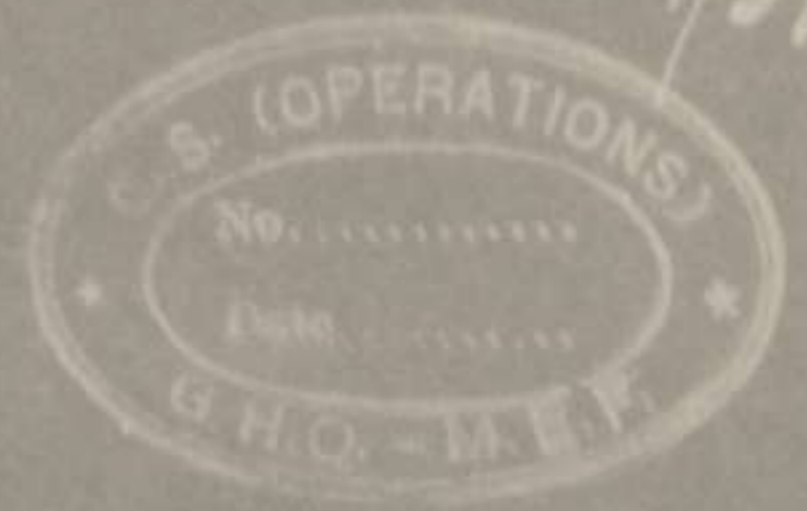
Desp. 2105.  
Recd. 0615.  
Decd. 0845.

Will you please place 2,000 rounds of 60 pr. shrapnel and 2,000 rounds 60 pr. H.E. and 2,400 rounds 4.5" H.E. at disposal of Commander-in-Chief INDIA. He has been asked to inform you the port to which it should be sent. We will make it up to you in next ship.

1 copy to "Q" for action.  
1 " C.-in-C.  
1 " C.G.S.  
1 " "O"  
Filed "Q" Cables.

War Diary

AMxD



From  
Communications MUDROS.  
TO  
G.H.Q.

---

H.C. 248 cipher

3/2/16  
4/2/16

Desp. 8050.  
Recd. 1615.  
Decd. 0900.

C.M.Q.T. 491 of 5rd.

P.N.T.O. informs me he is informed by Vice-Admiral that the Admiralty direct that naval transport be not to be used for the removal of the anti-aircraft guns from KEPHALOS until further orders. Await your further instructions.

---

2 copies to Q. for action.  
1 copy to C.  
1 " C.G.S.

Filed G.S. 86.  
" Q. Cables.

*War Diary*

139

G.S. OPERATIONS  
No. ....  
Date .....

From

Sir A. J. Murray, Chief Medforce.

To

Sir J. N. De Robeck. V.A. MUDROS.

---

A.M.71.

4/2/16

Desp. 1035.

Personal for Admiral de Robeck. I am informed that you have instructed P.N.T.O. that the Admiralty direct that naval transport is not to be used for the removal of the anti-aircraft guns from KEPHALOS. I shall be glad to know if this is a correct statement of facts as I cannot believe the Admiralty would negative my instructions in this manner.

---

Copies for information to :-

O.  
Q.  
M.G.R.A.  
U.G.S.

Filed G.S. 86.

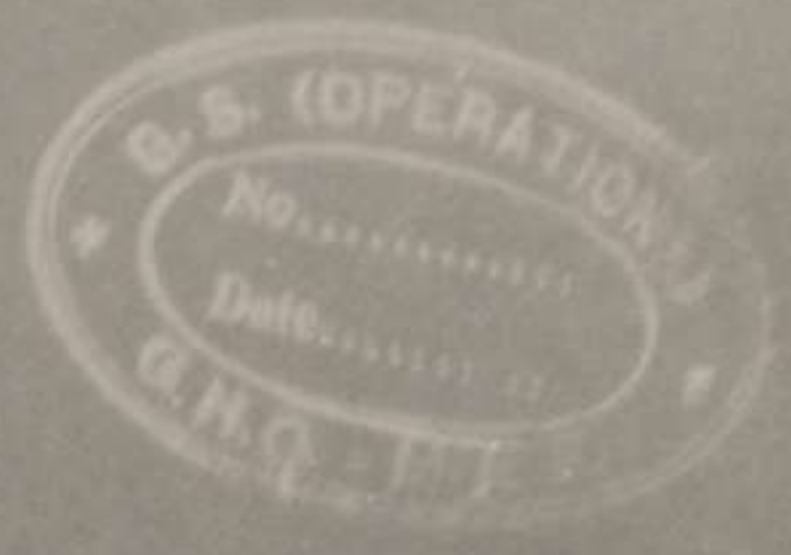


*Wartburg*

*1/40*

SECRET

*MPT E*



From Chief Medforce.  
To Chief, London

A.M.72. 4/2/16. Desp. 1600.

I inspected 13th Division at Port Said yesterday. It is a fine Division & fit to go anywhere. I am concentrating on its equipment which is far from complete.

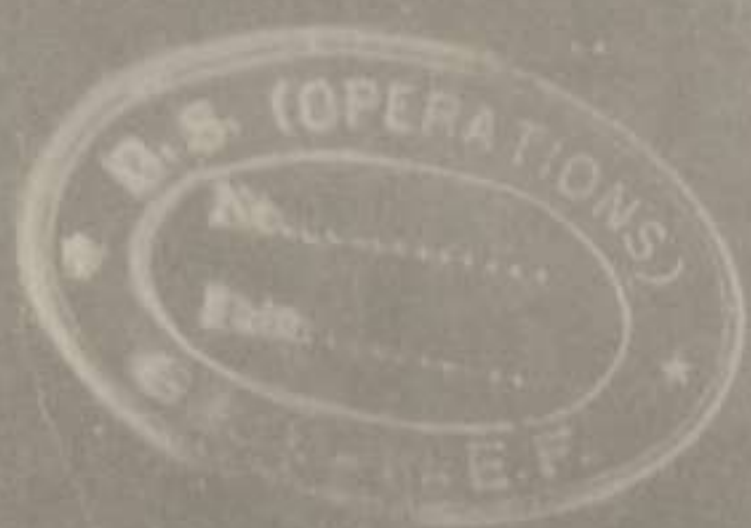
Copy to O. for information.  
C.in C. " "  
C.G.S. " "  
A. " "  
Q. " "  
Filed G.S.132.

War Diary

1/41

SECRET

Appx F



From  
Chief, Medforce.  
To  
Chief, London.

A.M.73. cipher. 4/2/16. Desp. 1825.

Evening report. Aeroplane reconnaissance HASSANA this morning estimated total enemy encamped about 1500 AAA. Aeroplane descended to height 200 feet observed nature of buildings road surface etc., and engaged hostile troops on whom two observed casualties were inflicted by rifle fire. Returned safely after flight over four hours duration.

Copy to  
O.  
C.in C.  
C.G.S.  
I.  
A.  
Q.  
E.in C.  
M.G.B.A.  
D.A.S.

Filed Z/29.

*War diary*

*1/42*

G.S. 138.

*Appx G*

The Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-Chief,  
East Indies and Egypt.

*4th* February, 1916.

Sir,

In answer to your letter of January 25rd, I am calling for the names of officers who are suitable and recommended for employment as Observers.

Will you please inform me where they should be instructed to report themselves, and how many officers you are at present able to train.

I will notify you the names of the officers selected in due course, and let you know the date on which they will join.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*(sa) a. Lynden Bell*

General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

War Diary

G.S. 6/1

1/43

App't H.

4<sup>d</sup> February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

-----

In confirmation of the conversation with your B.G., G.S. this morning, the Commander-in-Chief will visit the front line of the 2nd Australian Division on Monday next, 7th February. He will be accompanied by the Chief of the General Staff and one A.D.C. Will you please arrange for a motor car to be at ISMAILIA Ferry at 10 a.m. to drive him out to road head. The horses of the Commander-in-Chief and his party will be sent out from here to meet him at that point.

(sd) D.K. Bernard Capt

for  
Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*War Diary*

G.S. 155.

*1/44*

*Appt J.*

*4th* February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
9th Army Corps.

---

Reference your A.1903 of 31st January.

The badge of a grenade for regimental and battalion grenadiers, as laid down in War Establishment, was approved by A.O. 403 of 1915. The badges are awarded solely on the recommendation of Commanding Officers. No tests are laid down. Also please see G.R.O. published 31st January.

*(sd) A.B. Robertson*  
*for Major G*  
Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

G.S. 129/1

WD

5A

Appx K

1/45

4 February, 1916

**General Officer Commanding,**

9th, 15th Corps; Scottish Horse, Highland Mtd., Lowland Mtd., South-western Mtd., South-eastern Mtd., and Eastern Mtd. Brigades.

1. The dismounted Mounted Brigades in EGYPT will be formed into 3 Dismounted Brigades, *vide Force Order No. 7*

Provisional War Establishment of a Dismounted Brigade is forwarded herewith for information.

2. The Dismounted Brigades will be formed as follows:-

1st Dismounted Brigade. Brig-General Marquis of Tullibardine.

M.V.O., P.S.D.

- 1/1st Scottish Horse (4 squadrons)
- 2/1st Scottish Horse (4 " )
- 3/1st Scottish Horse (4 " )
- 1/1st Ayr Yeomanry (5 " )
- 1/1st Lanark Yeomanry (5 " )
- Scottish Horse Signal Troop.
- Scottish Horse Field Ambulance.
- Lowland M.B. Field Ambulance.

2nd Dismounted Brigade. Brig-General R. Hoare.

- 1/1st R. Devon Yeomanry.
- 1/1st N. Devon Yeomanry.
- 1/1st W. Somerset Yeomanry.
- 1/1st Fife and Forfar Yeomanry.
- 1/1st Lovat's Scouts.
- 1/2nd Lovat's Scouts.
- South-western Signal Troop.
- South-western M.B. Field Ambulance.
- Highland M.B. Field Ambulance.

3rd Dismounted Brigade. Brig-General H.W. Hodson.

C.V.O.

- 1/1st Welsh Horse.
- 1/1st Norfolk Yeomanry.
- 1/1st Suffolk Yeomanry.
- 1/1st E. Kent Yeomanry.
- 1/1st W. Kent Yeomanry.
- 1/1st Sussex Yeomanry.
- South-eastern Signal Troop.
- South-eastern M.B. Field Ambulance.
- Eastern M.B. Field Ambulance. (*Side Bisha*)

*Being printed*

1/46

3. Corps Commanders concerned will select positions in the area allotted to their Corps for these Dismounted Brigades (vide Force Order No. 5, of 27th January 1916, paragraph 3.), and will report to G.H.Q. as soon as possible the position selected, and the date by which arrangements can be made to receive the brigades in whole or in part. It is important that the brigades should be brought up to their respective stations in the 9th and 15th Corps' areas at the earliest possible date, so that their organisation, equipment, and training may be undertaken under the supervision of the G.O.C. Army Corps to which they are severally attached.

4. The 1st Dismounted Brigade will form part of the Corps Troops of the 15th Corps.

The 2nd and 3rd Dismounted Brigades will form part of the Corps Troops of the 9th Corps.

*(Signature)*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

SECRET

W.D. 1/47

G.S. 129/1

4<sup>th</sup> February, 1918

General Officer Commanding,  
Force in Egypt.

-----

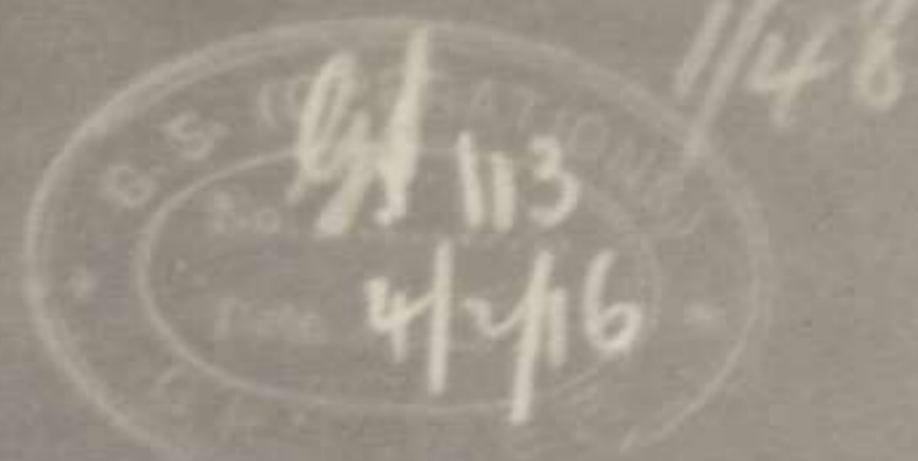
The attached letter is forwarded for your information. Copies of this letter have been despatched direct to the Dismounted Brigades concerned in order to save time.

The Provisional War Establishment referred to in para. 1 is being printed, and a copy will be sent you when ready.

*(ed) A. Lawrence*  
*M.S. Ch.*  
General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



W.D.  
Appx AA.



A conference was held at G.H.Q. on the 3rd February to discuss some of the arrangements which will be necessary in connection with the formation of the new Australian Brigades at Tel-el-Kebir.

The following were present :-

Lt.Gen.Sir William Birdwood.  
Lt.Gen.Sir Alexander Godley.  
C.G.S., M.E.F.  
D.Q.M.G., M.E.F.  
Brig.Gen.C.B.White.

(1). It was agreed that General Cox, who had been appointed to command the troops at Tel-el-Kebir, should be ordered to proceed there with his staff as soon as possible.

(2). It was agreed that Generals Cox and Godley should be directly under G.H.Q. until the Australasian Army had been formed.

(3). As regards the selection of the actual men to proceed from Zeitoun to Tel-el-Kebir, it was agreed that General Cox should proceed to Zeitoun and, in conjunction with the G.O.C. Force in Egypt, select the men to go to Tel-el-Kebir. The men having been selected, General Cox was to inform the D.Q.M.G. exactly what men were to move from Zeitoun to Tel-el-Kebir, and on what dates it was desired that their movement should be carried out.

(4). General Cox was to be responsible for forming the troops at Tel-el-Kebir into brigades.

(5). No appointments of Brigadiers or Brigade Staffs at Tel-el-Kebir to be made without previous consultation with General Birdwood.

(6). It was agreed that all units of the Australian and New Zealand Divisions should henceforth be on the

1149

2.

1915 War Establishment, Part VII, with the following exceptions :-

As regards artillery, three-battery brigades were to be on 1915 Establishments, Part VIII.

Mounted Troops to be on Australian and New Zealand War Establishments.

Divisional Cavalry to consist of a Light Horse Regiment instead of a squadron.

-----

Copies to :-

- "O".
- "A".
- "Q".
- M.G.R.A.
- A. M. S.
- E.-in-C.
- D. A. S.

G.S. (O).

4/2/16.

*War Diary*

*1/50*

G.S. 131

*MMA*

3rd February, 1918

General Officer Commanding,  
15th Army Corps.

---

The Canal Company has forwarded a request received by them from General Officer Commanding 94th Brigade that the Canal be dredged at the EL-FERDAN ferry, where sand has been falling in and preventing the ferry being pulled close to the landing. As the question of the cost of this work will come up later, will you please state whether the damage was caused by military work or merely due to natural causes.

*(od) G. P. Dawney*  
*for H. C. Cold*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*copy to Gen C*

*War Diary*

**SECRET**

*1/51*

G.S.10/1.

*APP+B.*

*2nd February, 1916*

The General Officer Commanding,  
15th Army Corps.

-----  
Reference your letter G.S/2 of 29th January, 1916, and telegram G.22 of 2/2/16, the detailed composition of the 52nd Division and 1st Dismounted Brigade is shown in the attached papers 'A' and 'B'. A paper (marked 'C') showing the staff of the 52nd Division is also attached. The staff for the 1st Dismounted Brigade has not yet been finally approved.

Para (a) 52nd Division is concentrating at ABASSIA. 1½ Brigades have arrived there and the embarkation of the remainder from MUDROS was completed 2/2/16. 1st Dismounted Brigade is at MEHA Camp (less Lowland Brigade (Ayr & Lanark Yeomanry) at MUDROS)

Para (b) Ration strength of 52nd Division (less 1 Brigade R.F.A. temporarily attached to 10th Indian Division) ..... 7,927.  
Effective Infantry strength 271 officers, 5217 other ranks.

Total strength 1st Dismounted Brigade	1935.
Scottish Horse	71 officers 964 o.r.
Ayrshire Yeo.	16 " 321 "
Lanark Yeo.	16 " 358 "

Para (c) As 52nd Division is not yet concentrated it is impossible to state at present the exact state of equipment. It may be taken that it is not complete. The 1st Dismounted Brigade is not concentrated and will also require completing in equipment.

Para (d) The transport of 52nd Division is not complete and the formation of the transport for the 1st Dismounted Brigade has not yet commenced.

*(sd) A.B. Robertson*  
*Major*  
for Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

1/52  
52nd (LOWLAND) DIVISION.  
-----

155th Infantry Brigade:-

1/4th R.Sco.Fusiliers.  
1/5th " " "  
1/4th K.O.S.Borderers.  
1/5th " " "

156th Infantry Brigade:-

1/4th Royal Scots.  
1/7th " "  
1/7th Sco. Rifles.  
1/8th " " "

157th Infantry Brigade:-

1/5th High. L.I.  
1/6th " "  
1/7th " "  
1/5th Arg. & Suth. High.

\*C Squadron Glasgow Yeomanry & Machine Gun Section.

1/2nd Lowland Brigade R.F.A.:-

1/1st Ayrshire Battery.  
1/2nd " "  
1/1st Kircudbrightshire Battery.  
Ammunition Column. (?)

1/4th Lowland Brigade R.F.A.:- (Howitzer)

1/4th City of Glasgow Battery.  
1/5th " " " "  
Ammunition Column. (?)

52nd Divisional Ammunition Column.

52nd Divisional Cyclist Company.

2/1st Lowland Field Company, R.E.  
2/2nd " " " "  
1/3rd " " " "

52nd Divisional Signal Company.

52nd Divisional Train.

1/1st Lowland Field Ambulance.  
1/2nd " " "  
1/3rd " " "

1/1st Lowland Mobile Veterinary Section.

1/53

1st DISMOUNTED BRIGADE.

1/1st Scottish Horse.

1/2nd " "

1/3rd " "

1/1st Ayr Yeomanry.

1/1st Lanark Yeomanry.

Scottish Horse Signal Troop.

Lowland Signal Troop.

Scottish Horse Field Ambulance.

Lowland " "

HEADQUARTERS 59th (LOWLAND) DIVISION.

1/54

Appointment	Name.
Commander. . . . .	Major-General Hon. H.A. Lawrence, p.s.c.
Aide-de-Camp to Commander . . . . .	Lieut. W.R.C. Laverton, Res. of Offrs.
Aide-de-Camp to Commander . . . . .	Lieut. K.S. MacRae, 2nd Bn. Royal Highlanders.
<u>General Staff Branch.</u>	
General Staff Officer, 1st Grade.. . . .	Lieut.-Colonel F.W.H. Walsh, R.A. P.S.C.
General Staff Officer, 2nd Grade.. . . .	Captain C.M. Davies, D.S.O. Rifle Bde.
General Staff Officer, 3rd Grade.. . . .	Captain E.D.H. Tellemache, Coldstream Guards.
<u>Adjutant &amp; Quartermaster General's Branch.</u>	
Assistant Adjutant & Quartermaster General... . . . .	Major (temp.Lieut.-Col.) C.A.H. Maclean Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.
Deputy-Assistant Adjutant & Quartermaster-General... . . . .	Major R.B. Cousens, R.A.
Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General... . . . .	Major S.J. Denevan, A.S.C.
<u>Administrative Services and Depts.</u>	
Assistant-Director of Medical Services	Major (temp.Lieut.-Col.) A.M. MacIntosh, R.A.M.C. (T.F.).
Deputy-Assistant Director of Medical Services	Lieut. A.S.M. Macgregor, R.A.M.C. (T.F.).
Assistant Director of Veterinary Services	Captain J. Adamson, A.V.C. (T.F.).
Deputy-Assistant Director of Ordnance Services	Hon. Captain T. Redcliffe, A.O.D.
Field Cashier . . . . .	
<u>Special Appointments.</u>	
Assistant Provost Marshal . . . . .	Major J. Stevenson-Hamilton, Reserve of Officers.
Interpreter.. . . .	
<u>Headquarters, Divisional Artillery.</u>	
Commander.. . . .	
Aide-de-Camp to Commander. . . . .	
Brigade-Major . . . . .	
Staff Captain . . . . .	
<u>Headquarters, Divisional Engineers.</u>	
Commander.. . . .	Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) R. L. Waller, R.E.
Adjutant . . . . .	Temp. Lieut. K.B. Griffith-Williams, R.E.

*War Diary**1/55**App B.**3<sup>rd</sup>* February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

-----

In reply to your G.R. 7/4/3 G.B., dated 26th January, the Commander-in-Chief has decided to sanction an allowance of not more than 5 rounds per man, for field practices. This allowance, however, is not to be expended until men have been exercised in the Trained Soldiers' Course and have passed their musketry tests satisfactorily.

Field practices do not teach the individual to shoot. Individual skill can only be obtained on the range; it is there that the man learns to shoot.

As regards field practices, the Commander-in-Chief does not wish to lay down hard and fast rules, but it is not considered by any means necessary for every man to fire; the principle should be that the ammunition allowance is expended in such a manner as to give the greatest educational value.

Training in Fire Direction and Control can be carried out without expenditure of ammunition. The Commander-in-Chief lays particular stress on the importance of men being constantly exercised in rapid loading.

*(sd) A. Lyson Bell*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force



*Wardlaw*

G.S. 87

*1/56*

*3rd* February, 1915

General Officer Commanding,  
9th Army Corps.

-----

In continuation of G.S. 87 dated 20th January, the Commander-in-Chief has decided that an allowance of 5 rounds per man may be drawn for field practices. This is in addition to ammunition allowed for the Recruits' and Trained Soldiers' Course.

Field practices are not to be fired until men have been exercised in the Trained Soldiers' Course, and have passed the standard tests satisfactorily. It is not considered by any means necessary for every man to fire field practices: the principle should be that the ammunition allowance is expended in such a manner as to give the greatest educational value.

The Commander-in-Chief lays particular stress on the importance of men being constantly exercised in rapid loading.

*(sd) A. Lynden Bell*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*War Diary*

*1157*

G.S.87

*3<sup>rd</sup>* February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
15th Army Corps,

---

Reference your No. G.14 dated 30th January.  
The Commander-in-Chief agrees with your proposal to dispense generally with the firing of the musketry courses as far as the 31st Division is concerned. Ammunition for the courses will, however, remain at your disposal in order that men of the Division may be exercised should at any time you consider it necessary.

As regards Field practices, the Commander-in-Chief has authorised an allowance of 5 rounds per man. It is not considered by any means necessary for every man to fire; the principle should be that the ammunition allowance is expended in such a manner as to give the greatest educational value.

The Commander-in-Chief lays particular stress on the importance of men being constantly exercised in rapid loading.

*(sd) A. Lyden Bell*

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*Wendell*  
*Am C*

158

C.S. (OFFICIAL USE)  
No. 111  
Date 3/2/16

D.A.G. D.Q.M.G. M.G.R.A. E-in-C.

---

1. There seems to be danger of the Headquarter Office becoming paper-logged, and I hope you will agree with me that we should arrange, so far as possible, that the various branches should be encouraged to do as much as possible by personal interview so as to reduce minute-writing to a minimum.

A matter may often be settled in half an hour by going round to three offices, when to send a file round with the three corresponding minutes in succession may take the best part of a week.

2. I think it should be clearly understood that any letters or telegrams despatched involving action, or any records of decisions taken, should be marked by the "A", "Q", or "G.S.O(b)" Registry for copies to be sent to all branches, sections, etc. concerned; and that arrangements should be made for such copies to reach their destination in the shortest possible time.

3. I am taking up the question of forming a proper staff of office messengers, by which means I hope to be able to arrange with you for a much more rapid circulation of papers through the office.

"O".  
3.2.16.

*(a) a.l.b*

*Lt. Colonel,*  
*G.S.O.*

1/59

War Diary

Appx A.



From

A.H.Q. SALONICA.

To

G.H.Q. Medforce. Repeated War Office.

G.C.10.

4/2/16  
5/2/16

Desp. 2153.  
Recd. 0650.  
Decd. 0905.

Following gas experts have arrived here. Captains Colston and Gardner and 2nd-Lieut. Davis with 12 other ranks 189th R.E., but without equipment. I do not anticipate any likelihood of gas operations in this area and cannot spare men for formation and training of gas corps. May I order them to return to Egypt or to France.

Copies to:-

- O. for action.
- A.
- Q.
- C.G.S.

Filed G.S. (Z,7.

War Diary

SECRET

1/60



From CHIEF MEDFORCE.  
To TROOPERS LONDON.

A.M. 75.                      5/2/16.                      Desp. 1420.

Reference G.G. 10 from SALONIKA repeated to you.  
I do not concur in the proposal and am ordering 2 gas  
experts to remain at SALONIKA and 2 with Medforce.  
Any surplus will be ordered home.

Copies to:-

- "O"
- G.-in-C.
- C. G. S.
- "A"
- "Q"

Filed G.S. 2/7.

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"A" Form.

Army Form C. 2121.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on file of: <i>W.D.</i> Service.  (Signature of "Franking Officer.")	No. of Message
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Recd. at
			At			Date
			To		From	
			By		By	

TO { A H Q SALONICA }

Sender's Number.	Day of Month	In reply to Number	
<u>QA 129</u>	<u>Fth</u>	<u>G C 10.</u>	<u>AAA</u>

<u>24</u>	<u>Darius</u>	<u>should</u>	<u>go</u>	<u>houses</u>
<u>and</u>	<u>quadr</u>	<u>will</u>	<u>remain</u>	<u>Colon</u>
		<u>must</u>	<u>remain</u>	

ZH

From	<u>G H Q</u>
Place	
Time	<u>1715</u>

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)	<u>D. W. ...</u>
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
 (33) —McC. & Co. Ltd., London.— W 11400/2043. 100,000. 2/15. Forms C 2121/10.

1/62

War Diary

17/1/13



From - WAR OFFICE.

To - G. H. Q.

19860.cipher.

4/2/16  
5/2/16

Despd. 2155  
Recd. 0615  
Dec'd. 0700

Your A.M.50 of January 27th and A.M.58 of  
January 29th.

It is not clear that you understand these dismounted  
Teesmry Brigades must be used to reinforce the 42nd,  
52nd, 53rd and 54th Divisions. In this connection,  
refer to War Office telegrams 11537 December 29th and  
11646 January 1st.

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10/1

Copies to "C" for action.

- C.-in-C.
- C. G. S.
- "A".
- "Q".
- E.-in-C.
- D. A. S.
- A. M. S.

Filed G.S. 102.  
G.S. 10/1.

War Diary

SECRET



1/63

From Chief, Medforce.  
To Chief, London

A.M. 78. cipher. 5th February. Desp. 2130.

Your 12860 cipher.

I thought War Office had accepted my A.M.58 of the 29th and regret I did not understand that the dismounted Yeomanry Brigades must necessarily be used to find T.F. reinforcements.

I would point out that the amalgamation and loss of identity of these Yeomanry regiments will be very severely felt by all ranks concerned and that I do not recommend it.

Referring to your 11848 cipher D.S.D. dated 1st January, there will be no question of voluntary agreement on the spot.

I must therefore either add a composite fourth infantry brigade to each Division or a Yeomanry regiment or regiments to each brigade. The fighting power of the Divisions will therefore be strengthened but the Territorial Force battalions composing them will remain just the same weak ineffective fighting units.

In the circumstances I feel justified in asking you once more to reconsider your decision and allow my proposed organization to continue. Pending your final decision I will go on with the equipment of these brigades as infantry so that no delay will ensue.

Copies to :-

- O
- G.-in-C.
- C. G. S.
- A
- Q
- A.M.S.
- D.A.S.
- E.-in-C.

Filed G.S. 129.  
G.S. 10/1.  
G.S. Cables.



War Office

Appx C.



1/64

From:- WAR OFFICE.

To:- G.O.C. MEDFORGE.

12841.cipher.

4/2/16  
5/2/16

Despd. 1800  
Recd. 0630  
Des'd.

Army Council do not wish King's Messenger to proceed beyond EGYPT. Further it appears doubtful when so many officers proceeding to and from Egypt are available whether heavy weekly expense of sending messenger beyond MARSEILLES can be justified except when despatches of special importance have to be carried. Council would like your remarks.

2 copies to "Q" for action.  
1 copy to G.-in-C.  
1 copy to C. G. S.  
1 copy to "G".  
1 copy to "A".  
1 copy to "I".

Filed G.S. 44.

War Diary

4/65



From CHIEF MEDFORCE.

To WAR OFFICE.

A.M. 74 cipher.

5/9/16.

Desp. 1410.

Your 12841 cipher. I am strongly of opinion that King's Messenger should come to EGYPT weekly. He need go no further. Every week I send home communications of a highly secret nature which it is absolutely necessary should be in the hands of a responsible officer who is solely responsible for their custody. All officers who are going home for the present have already started and in any case I consider it a most unsatisfactory arrangement to rely on any stray officer who may happen to be going home for the conveyance of important correspondence.

Copies to:-

- "Q"
- C.-in-C.
- C. G. S.
- "O"
- "A"
- "I"

Filed G.S. 44.

*Handwritten signature*

*Appx D*

*1/66*



From  
Troopers.  
To  
G.H.Q. Medforce.

12863 cipher D.S.D. 72263. 4/2/16 5/2/16 Desp. 2155.  
Recd. 0830.  
Decd. 0850.

Reference your O.615 and subsequent telegram S.  
Do you consider that in present circumstances it is necessary for the force at SALONICA to be organised in two Corps with 2 Corps Headquarters and an Army H.Q. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide efficient staff officers for the forces in the field and we can hope satisfactorily to meet requirements only if the utmost economy is exercised in the number of higher formations and in the size of H.Q. Staffs.

- 1 copy to G. for action
- 1 " C-in-C.
- 1 " C.G.S.
- 1 " A.
- 1 " Q.
- 1 " A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 119.

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*Wandary*

**SECRET**



From:- CHIEF HEADQUARTERS,  
To:- TROOPERS LONDON.

A.M.76.

5/2/16.

Despd. 1610.

Reference your 12863.cipher.D.S.D.72265.

I was much averse, when it was done, to the formation of the five divisions of Salonika Force into two Corps. I considered that five divisions were not too much for an Army Corps Staff to deal with especially in the present state of affairs. Monro and his staff were very strongly of a contrary opinion. I have not consulted Mahon. If the force is likely to remain at SALONIKA for a considerable period I recommend that the two Corps Staffs be removed. If it is likely to move to FRANCE soon I would not alter the organisation.

Copies to :- B.  
C.-in-C.  
C. G. S.  
A.  
Q.  
A. M. S.

Filed G.S. 119.  
G.S. Cables.

War Diary

SECRET

AMHE



From CHIEF MKDFORCE.

To CHIEF LONDON.

---

A.M. 77 cipher.

5/2/18.

Desp. 1905.

Evening report.

Aerial reconnaissance this morning confirms previous reports from Agents that Turks are improving water supply at wells on Northern road and are commencing to build huts and houses stated to be for storage supplies in KATIA district.

---

Copies for information to :-

"I"  
G.-in-C.  
C. G. S.  
"O"  
"A"  
"Q"  
E.-in-C.  
M.G., R.A.  
D. A. S.

Filed G.S. Z/29.  
G.S. Cables.

*War Diary*

*1/69*

**SECRET**

*Apppt F*



From:- CHIEF LONDON.  
To:- CHIEF MEDFORCE.  
Repeated to INDIA and BASRA.

18876.cipher.M.O.659.      5/2/16      Despd. 1500  
Recd. 2150  
Des'd. 2200

Please despatch to BASRA No.7 Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade, with animals, equipment and ammunition columns complete. Instruct LEVRASE to cable numbers officers and other ranks, animals etc. by units, requiring conveyance.

Copies to "O" } for action.  
"Q" }  
C.-in-C.  
C. G. S.  
M.G.R.A.  
"A".

Filed G.S. 132.  
G.S. Cables.

*War Diary*

*App G*



From

Vice-Admiral de Robeck, SALONICA.

To

G. H. Q.

5/2/26.

Desp. 1335.  
Recd. 2115.  
Decd. 2200.

Your A.M.71. Personal for General Murray.

You have been correctly informed. I requested Admiralty to arrange retention of the anti-aircraft guns at IMBROS until they are replaced by guns which are being sent from England. They are required for the protection of the Royal Naval Air Service Aerodrome which was moved to IMBROS at the request of the Army and Royal Naval Division camp. Admiralty suspended transport pending settlement with War Office. In taking this action the Admiralty have no doubt been influenced by fact that IMBROS is frequently attacked by hostile aircraft.

Copies for information to :-

G-in-C.  
C.G.S.  
M.C.R.A.  
D.Q.M.G.  
C.

Filed G.S. 86.  
" G.S. Cables.

SECRET

171

G.S. 2/35.

*War Diary*

*5th* February, 1916

*Appt H.*

The Vice-Admiral,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
East Indies and Egypt.

The attached copy of Proceedings of the Joint  
Naval and Military Conference held here on the 4th instant,  
is forwarded for your concurrence or remarks.

*(sd) A. Lynden Bell*

*L.S. M.S.*  
*for*

General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



SECRET

1/72

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT NAVAL AND MILITARY CONFERENCE

held at General Headquarters, ISMAILIA

on 4th February 1916.

Present :-

Chief of the General Staff.  
Capt. Burmester, R.N., Flag Captain to Vice  
Admiral Commander-in-Chief  
East Indies.  
Lieut.Col. Tyrrell.  
Lt. Commander Pinsent, R.N.  
Lt. Commander Bevan, R.N.  
Lieut. Godfrey, R.N.  
Capt. Bernard.

1. A draft of the Naval Memorandum on the defence of the Canal was read. The wording of that part of the Memorandum dealing with the division of the Canal into three sections was amended so as to agree with Force Order No. 5 of January 27th.
2. It was agreed that the French Squadron will operate in No. 5 Section of the Canal, and that General Officer Commanding 15th Army Corps will communicate direct with the French Squadron besides communicating with the S.N.O. detailed for No. 5 Section.
3. Further questions with regard to communication and inter-communication, and also with regard to gunnery in the Canal, artillery co-operation, etc., were left to be further discussed by the D.A.S. and M.G., R.A. with Lieut. Commander Bevan and Lieut. Commander Pinsent respectively.
4. It was decided that as soon as the Naval Memorandum was approved by the Admiral, a copy of it should be forwarded to General Headquarters, who would then issue necessary Force Orders with regard to it.

1/73

5. The Navy were informed that steamers passing through the Canal need no longer be protected by sandbags.

6. The question of communication with the garrisons of TOR and ABU ZENIMA was discussed. The Navy stated that cable communication with TOR is being arranged, and will probably be finished in about a week. No decision was come to with regard to ABU ZENIMA.

7. Decided that copies of the new 1/100,000 map would be sent to the Navy as soon as they were issued.

8. The question of patrol boats firing on military rowing boats at night was discussed. It was decided that firing was not to take place without challenging. Orders to be issued that boats must stop, if challenged, to let Naval patrol boats come up and inspect them.

9. A report on reconnaissance of BARDAWIL LAGOON was discussed. The Navy reported that the coast line along the BARDAWIL LAGOON and the shore East of that point was quite unsuitable for the landing of supplies, and it was decided that if a movement is to be made against EL ARISH, the railway must be relied upon.

10. A note was made that the General Officer Commanding 15th Army Corps must notify the Navy as to the position of his left flank, and must inform them as soon as the redoubt on his left is constructed and manned.

\*\*\*\*\*



*War Diary*

*Appt J.*

February, 5. 1916.

Dear Sir,

On January 26th., Brig-Genl. W. Gillman replied to letter No 70 of The Chef du Service du Transit that he would be pleased to sign passes for men who were being transferred by night from PORT TEWFIK to KANTARA. Will you kindly inform me by telegram if the movement in question has been completed so that I may inform the Commander of the troops on that section of the canal.

*(sd) J. G. Ramsay*  
*Major*

*for*  
Lieutenant-Colonel,  
G.S.

Monsieur le Capitaine Beret,  
Canal Company.

*nk*

War Diary

1/75

G.S.65.

5<sup>d</sup> February, 1916

Appt K.

Headquarters,  
Levant Base.

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Herewith copy of War Office letter No. 121/Stores/  
4078 (S.D.2.) dated 8th January, 1916, for your information.  
Will you please inform me where the cars referred to are,  
and also when the other two armoured cars, referred to  
in War Office wire No. 11362 cipher B.S.D. dated 24th  
December, 1915, will be despatched.

(sd) A.B. Robertson  
Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

*War Diary*

*1/76*

G.S. 110.

*Appt L*

5th February, 1916.

The General Officer Commanding,  
The Force in Egypt.

There are four Stationary Hospitals due from MUDROS which are surplus to the local requirements of the M.E.F. in the Canal Zone. I suggest that they should be transferred to the Force in Egypt.

Please say whether you are agreeable to this taking place.

The hospitals alluded to are as follows :-

- No. 16 Stationary Hospital.
- " 19 " "
- " 1 Canadian Stationary Hospital.
- " 3 " " "

(Sgd.) A. Lynden-Bell,  
M.G.  
C. G. S.

for General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

G.S. 158

W.D.

477

Appx M

5<sup>th</sup> February, 1916

Inspector General of Communications.

-----

Five garrison battalions will shortly be arriving in EGYPT from MUDROS. It is proposed to allot them as follows :- 1st Garrison Battalion Notts & Derby Regiment, 1st Garrison Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment, will be placed under your command for garrison work under the Administrative Commandant at PORT SAID and SUEZ respectively. Please arrange for their reception at these places. The 1st Garrison Battalion Essex Regiment has been allotted to the L. of C. Defence Commander at ISMAILIA.

It is proposed to place the remaining two battalions, i.e. 1st Garrison Battalion Royal Scots, 1st Garrison Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, at the disposal of the Force in Egypt if they require them. Should the Force in Egypt not want them they will remain with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and arrangements will be made to utilise their services elsewhere.

(sd) a Lynden Bell  
H. G. Bell  
for  
Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

W.D.

1/78

G.S. 158

5th February, 1916

Line of Communication Defence Commander.

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The 1st Garrison Battalion Essex Regiment will shortly be arriving from MUDROS. It will be placed under your orders, and the D.Q.M.G., General Headquarters, will notify you when it will arrive.

(sd) A. Lynden Bell  
M.G.H.S.

for Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

G.S. 158.

*W. J. J. J.*

1/79

5<sup>th</sup> February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,  
Force in Egypt.

-----

Five garrison battalions will shortly be arriving in EGYPT from MUDROS. Three of these will be employed with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at SUEZ, ISMAILIA, and PORT SAID respectively.

The services of the remaining two battalions, viz. 1st Garrison Battalion Royal Scots, 1st Garrison Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, are not required by the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Please say whether these battalions would be of any use to the Force in Egypt, and if so I will arrange for them to be transferred.

*(cc) a. Lynden Bell  
m/s b/h  
for*

General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



War diary

1/80

4564

Apprx N

5<sup>th</sup> February, 1918

General Officer Commanding,  
15th Army Corps.

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Reference your Q.47 of the 2nd inst.

The service you suggest is already in force.

The usual practice is to hand in correspondence to the Signal Office, where it is registered and receipts given by an officer. The despatch rider takes receipt for the registered correspondence.

Under these conditions it is not considered necessary for the correspondence to be forwarded in a sealed bag.

(sd) A. B. Robertson  
for Major G.

Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



*War Office*

*Apppt A*

From:- TROOPERS.  
To:- CHIEF MEDFORGE.

12893. cipher. S.D.S.

5/2/16  
6/2/16

Despd. 2015  
Recd. 0620  
Dec'd. 0700

Your A.M.55.

Australia agrees to your proposal but New Zealand requires some further information as it will be necessary to maintain their three brigades with reinforcements <sup>raised</sup> only for two brigades and no increase on present scale of reinforcements available before the end of August. Instead of forming two new Australian Divisions containing majority of newly formed units it would seem better to withdraw an infantry brigade from the 1st and 2nd Divisions and replace them by one of the new brigades. You would thus obtain a seasoned nucleus for your new divisions. We will send out equipment and harness for six 18-pdr. gun brigades but as you have already been informed howitzers are not available at present. There is no objection to General Birdwood arranging details with Minister of Defence Australia provided he keeps the War Office acquainted through you with what is done. He must await instructions with regard to New Zealand.

Copies to O for action.

G.-in-C.  
C. G. S.  
A.  
Q.  
A.M.S.  
M.G.R.A.  
E.-in-C.  
D.A.S.