

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/6 Part 4

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

September 1916



AWM4-1/6/6PART4

SECRET

w.p.

CMH H

From Chief, LONDON.

To Egyptforce.

22245 cipher.

3/9/16.
4/9/16.

Desp. 1750.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0630.

Reference D.O. August 24th from General Bell. No official application received for Corps H.Q. to control Eastern front. Please submit by telegram.

- Copies to :-
- O. for action.
- O.(a).
- O.(b).
- C.S.S.
- I.
- A.
- Q.
- Filed G.S.
- " G.S. Cables.
- W.D.



From Chief Egyptforce.

To Chief, London.

SECRET

52

A.M.990 Cipher

4/9/18

Desp.1455

Your 22245 cipher.

As the defensive arrangements on the Eastern Front are now practically completed, I think the time has arrived when I should move my G.H.Q. to CAIRO, where I shall be in closer touch with the High Commissioner and Government. In order, however, to free me from immediate command over the Canal Defences I consider it essential that a General Officer with a Corps staff and the rank and pay of a Corps Commander should be appointed to command the troops on the Eastern Front with Headquarters at ISMAILIA. I recommend General Dobell for this appointment. I consider it essential that the Corps staff for No:3 Section, asked for ~~me~~ by my A.M.906 of 15th. August should be maintained as it exists at present, except that I propose to substitute a G.S.O.1 for the B.C.,G.S., and an A.A. & Q.M.G. for the D.A. & Q.M.G. In order to save expense and possible confusion in sending financial effect of my proposals by wire, may I refer you to the statement attached to the demi-official letter referred to in your wire under reference. There are, however, the following ^{ad}ditions to this statement. The difference in pay of General Dobell if appointed to command Eastern Front would be £1,000. This would be compensated for by appointing a Brigadier-General to command on the Western Front, thus saving £500, and by substituting a G.S.O.1 and A.A. & Q.M.G. for a B.C.,G.S. and D.A. & Q.M.G. in No:3 Section, thus saving another £500.

If my proposals are approved I will make the necessary move of G.H.Q. at the end of October or beginning of November, about which time Government returns to CAIRO.

Copies to O(a)
O(b)
G-in-C
G.S.S.

I
A
Q
J.H.S.

Filed G.S.
G.S.Cables
W.D.



WD

app A

SECRET

53

From:- A.H.Q. SALONICA.

To :- EGYFFORCE. (Addressed LONDON, repeated EGYFFORCE.)

G.C.642 cipher

4/9/16.
5/9/16.

Disp. 2330.
Recd. 0710.
Decd. 0712.

DOIRAN front encounters between patrols at MACUKOVO and KRASTALI Continued activity. Enemy working nearer DEVIDZELLI and POBREG.

STRUMA front during night enemy turned searchlight and opened rifle fire on our troops south ORLJAK but no attack developed.



to:- O(a) M.G.R.A.
O(b) E-in-C
C-in-C D.A.S.
C.G.S. A.M.S.
I Filed:- G.S. Z/6
A " " Cables
Q W.D.

WD

From Chief, Egyptforce.

To Chief, LONDON.

app B

SECRET

A.M. 997 cipher.

5/9/16.

Deep. 2140.

Evening report. All well. Yesterday morning R.F.C. carried out further raid on enemy camp at MAZAR. Numerous bombs were dropped with considerable effect on camps, supply depots and camel lines, and one anti-aircraft gun was put out of action.

Copies to :-
O.(a). D.A.S.
O.(b). E-in-C.
C-in-C. A.M.S.
C.G.S. Col. Vitale.
I. Filed G.S. Z/23.
A. " G.S. Cables.
Q. W.D.
M.G.R.A.





54

App. C

Secretary,
War Office, LONDON, S.W.

4th September, 1916.

Sir,

Owing to the wide extent of ground over which active operations in this country have to be conducted, the journey of sick to the Veterinary Hospitals frequently becomes a matter of two or three days, involving possibly two transshipments: it has therefore been found necessary to form Field Veterinary Detachments for the collection and care of animals en route. Two such detachments have been in constant use for some months, and their utility is now thoroughly established. In view of the fact that it is no longer possible to improvise the personnel for these detachments, I have the honour to request that sanction be given for the establishment of two such Field Veterinary Detachments, in accordance with the attached "Composition in detail".

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. Lynden Bell
Major-General
G.S.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

1 copy to Q
1 copy to A

A FIELD VETERINARY DETACHMENT.

Proposed War Establishment.

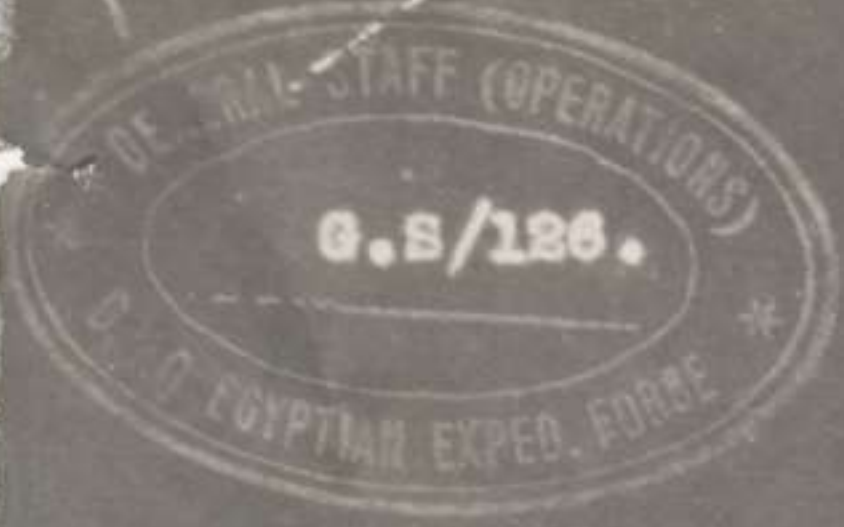
(i) Personnel and Horses.

Detail.	Personnel.					Horses.			Remarks.	
	Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeant.	Rank and File.	Artificer.	Total.	Riding.	Draught.		Total.
Captain or Lieutenant.	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	† Natives may be employed when conditions admit. * Includes 1 batman and 1 cook.
Staff Sergeant.	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	
Sergeant.	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	
Corporals.	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	
Privates. †	-	-	-	23	-	23	-	-	-	
Shoeing Smith.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	
Attached - Drivers A.S.C. for Vehicles, horse transport.	1	1	1	26	1	30	3	-	3	
Total (incl: attached)	1	1	1	27	1	31	5	2	5	

(ii) Transport.

Detail.	Vehicles.	Drivers.	Horses draught.	Remarks.
Wagons G.S. limbered.	1	1	2	Provided from Base Horse Transport Depot.

55



56

Camp D.

4th SEPTEMBER 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
No. 3. Section,

Sanction is given for the allotment of the following small arms ammunition for training purposes, subject to your discretion, to the troops in No. 3. Section.

1. Machine Guns. 300 rounds per man forming (including Lewis Guns) part of gun crew.
2. Rifles. (a) 50 rounds per recruit.
(b) 40 rounds per trained soldier.
(c) 5 rounds per man for field practice.
3. Revolvers. 24 rounds per officer and man entitled to carry.

This allotment, except as regards recruits, is additional to the allotment of Small Arms Ammunition made in this office No. G.S. 126, dated 6th February.

(Sgd) A. Hynden Bell.

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

Copy to D.O.S.

SECRET

app E 57

5th SEPTEMBER 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
No. 3. Section.



With reference to demi-official secret letter from Lieut. Colonel Dawnay, dated September 3rd, the Commander-in-Chief concurs with the views put forward in regard to the proposed operation against MAZAR, and wishes you at once to proceed with the plan on the lines which you consider most suitable.

He is most anxious, however, that the operation should be carried out during the present period of moonlight (the moon is full on the night September 11-12).

With regard to the unconfirmed report of an outbreak of cholera at MAZAR, aerial reconnaissance yesterday indicates marked increase of garrison at that place, which tells strongly to disprove the truth of such a rumour. At the same time, it^{is} of the utmost importance to avoid any unnecessary risk in this respect, and every precaution should be taken to minimise the danger, both by means of inoculation and by the issue of strict orders to prohibit the drinking of water from the local sources at MAZAR by troops taking part in the operation.

Please forward, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief, your detailed plan of the operation^{as} you propose to carry^{it} out, as soon as this has been prepared.

(Sgd.) A. Lynden Bell

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



5th September, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
Western Frontier Force.

In view of the difficulty in maintaining units of the Royal Flying Corps in EGYPT up to establishment, both in pilots and machines, it is essential, as far as tactical requirements permit, to reduce to a minimum the amount of flying carried out.

In this connection, it has been brought to notice that during the week 19th - 25th August a total of 15½ hours flying was carried out by the two machines stationed at KHARGA.

It is considered that it should be possible to reduce reconnaissances in this district to a maximum of 5 flights not exceeding 1½ hours duration and 2 flights not exceeding 3½ hours duration per week, a total of 12½ hours.

It should be borne in mind that frequent short flights on the lines indicated above cause far less strain on pilots and machines than a corresponding number of hours carried out in fewer flights of longer intervals. *duration.*

Please forward your views on these remarks as soon as possible.

Col A. Lynden Bell

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

SECRET

G.S.Z/58. 59

W.D.

app G

General Officer Commanding,
No. 3. Section.



With reference to the forward policy already decided upon in the section under your command, the Commander-in-Chief would be glad to have, as soon as possible, your detailed proposals for the permanent occupation of the water-bearing area up to and including BIR-EL-ABD.

Without wishing in any way to interfere with your complete freedom of decision as regards the dispositions which you may consider most suitable, the Commander-in-Chief wishes to emphasize the essential importance of practising the utmost economy of troops allotted to permanent, or semi-permanent, garrisons, with a view to keeping available the largest force possible for offensive action.

In this connection the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that a system of strong self-contained posts, capable of sustained defence, and designed mainly to serve as pivot centres for mobile troops operating offensively from them, should be all that is necessary in any situation which is likely to arise.

(Signed) A. LYNDEN BELL.

G.H.Q.
5/9/18.

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

SECRET.

WD

G.S. Z/43/2. 100

app. H.

General Officer Commanding,
No. 3 Section,
Canal Defences.



The attached report and photographs dealing with dummy camps are forwarded for your information. The R.N. Air Service are of the opinion that dummy camps constructed on these lines are quite capable of completely deceiving hostile aircraft.

The Commander-in-Chief considers that a considerable amount might be done in this direction and would be glad if you would forward your views in due course.

Will you kindly return photographs as soon as possible please

(sd) A. Lynden Bell

G.H.Q.,
5/9/16.

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

G.S. 343

N.D.

61



App I

Secretary,

War Office, LONDON, S.W.

5th September, 1916.

Sir,

In view of the fact that the mechanical transport units with the Western Frontier Force are distributed over a very wide area, from SOLLUM to KHARGA, it has become impossible to provide, from the existing staff of these formations, adequate supervising staffs for the smaller detachments. It is very necessary that adequate supervising staffs should be available in order that the various small motor convoys scattered in this large area should always be maintained in a state of efficiency. The despatch of two additional Mechanical Transport Companies to SALONICA has completely denuded this country of all surplus mechanical transport personnel, and I therefore have the honour to recommend that a special M.T. Company be formed for service with the Western Frontier Force, and to request that sanction be given to this establishment, the "Composition in Detail" of which is attached hereto.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sd) Aly de Balle
Wain
for b.s.

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

*Copies to R (r)
and*

WESTERN FRONTIER FORCE.

62

SPECIAL M. T. COMPANY.

Detail.	Officers.	W.O's.	S. Sergts. & Sergts.	Artificers.	Rank and File.	Total.	Motor Bicycles.	Remarks.
HEADQUARTERS.								
Major. (D.I., M.T., W.F.F.)	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Subaltern.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Staff Sergeant.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	
Privates.	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	
Batmen.	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Drivers.	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	
TOTAL HEADQUARTERS.	2	-	1	-	11	14	-	
SUPPLY COLUMN.								
Captain.	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Subalterns.	4	-	-	-	-	4	4	
C.S.M.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
C.Q.M.S.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	
Sergeants.	-	-	10(b)	-	-	10	10	(a) Includes 10 Cpls.
Drivers - For Motor Vehicles.	-	-	-	-	(a)(c) 121	121	-	(b) Includes 4 S.Sgts.
Spare.	-	-	-	-	35	35	-	(c) Includes 15 L/Cpls.
Artificers.- Fitters.	-	-	-	12 (d)	-	12	-	(d) Includes 3 Sgts. and 3 Cpls.
Vulcanisers.	-	-	-	8 (a)	-	8	-	
Wheelers.	-	-	-	4 (d)	-	4	-	
Batmen	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	
Privates for cooks.	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	
TOTAL SUPPLY COLUMN.	5	1	11	24	166	207	15	
TOTAL M.T. COMPANY.	7	1	12	24	177	221	15	

Transport.

Motor Cars and Ford Vans.	Rolls-Royce Supply Wagons.	Ambulances.	Total.
95	5	20	120

SECRET

63

5th September, 1916.

W.P.

App K

General Officer Commanding,

No. ¹/₂/₃ Section.



In accordance with instructions issued in my G.S. Z/44 of 8/4/16, weekly reports have been submitted on the progress of engineer works, but some modifications on the original instructions have been issued, and there seems now to be a certain amount of doubt as to what information is required.

The Commander-in-Chief wishes to be kept informed of the general progress of all defence and engineer work which has been undertaken under instructions from General Headquarters, and of all work involving the use of labour and the expenditure of engineer or defence stores which is initiated in Sections.

DEFENCES.

Under this heading information is required as to the general progress of the defensive works which are in hand and of any new defence works which have been undertaken since the last report.

If there are any special difficulties in the supply of labour or stores for the works these should be brought to notice

ROADS.

Information is required as to the progress of work on roads, the construction of which have been approved, so that the progress of the work may be noted on the record maps which are maintained at General Headquarters.

Any new road construction which is being undertaken should be reported and any difficulties which may arise in the supply of labour, road metal, road rollers and watering carts

/should

64

should be recorded.

RAILWAYS.

Information is required as to the progress in construction of the railways and Decauville tramways in your section.

BRIDGES,
FERRIES and
WHARVES.

Progress of work on bridges, ferries and wharves, and on the general condition of the existing bridges, ferries and wharves should be briefly reported on.

WATER SUPPLY.

The condition of the water supply systems in all Sections is of special importance. Information is required regarding the progress of any work in hand on condensing or filtration plants, pumping engines, engine houses, reservoirs, and extensions of pipe lines for the supply of water to the troops in camps and in out-posts. Generally speaking no new work on these should be undertaken without approval from General Headquarters as the supply of engines, pumps, and water piping must be controlled by G.H.Q.

HUTTING.

The progress of hutting generally should be reported on. Details are not required.

A scale of hutting which may be provided has been laid down and it is presumed that the scale will not be exceeded without authority.

The Commander-in-Chief wishes, however, to be kept informed in a general way of what hutting is still required and what is being done.

VARIOUS WORKS.

If other works, not included under the above headings, are being undertaken, and involve the expenditure of labour and materials, they should be reported to G.H.Q., e.g., any alterations and additions to existing and approved incinerators or latrine systems.

/DISTRIBUTION

65

DISTRIBUTION
OF R.E. and
E.L.C. ON WORKS.

A statement showing the numbers and distribution of
the R.E. and of the Egyptian Labour Corps on the works
should be included in your report.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell

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

copy to E-in-b.

Copy L.

The Secretary,
War Office, London, S.W.

5th September, 1916.

Sir,

1. With reference to War Office telegram No. 21993 cipher of 25th August, 1916, the organisation which is proposed for the Imperial Camel Corps when completed will be as follows :-

(a) There will be six independent companies in the Western desert. At present it is not considered necessary to organise these companies into a battalion owing to their wide dispersion. They will continue, therefore, to be commanded and administered direct from Camel Corps Headquarters.

(b) In the Camel Zone two battalions will be formed, each probably of five companies. These battalions will be attached to forces operating in the Eastern or Western desert as may be required, and will be administered as battalions from Camel Corps Headquarters.

(c) The Hong-Kong and Singapore Battery is being mounted on camels and attached to the Imperial Camel Corps.

(d) Thus the Headquarters Imperial Camel Corps will deal directly with two battalions, six independent companies, the Hong-Kong and Singapore Camel Battery, and the Imperial Camel Corps Base Depot and Remount Depot.

2. This system has been evolved as the result of experience, and will make for the greatest efficiency of the Camel Corps, which it is found necessary to keep distinct as a separate Corps instead of merely forming battalions without any central organisation and handing over such battalions to the various

/ commanders

commanders in the field. It is very necessary to maintain the Corps Headquarters from the point of view of training, inspection, postings of officers, recommendations as to promotion, etc., reinforcements, remounts, improvement of equipment and so forth.

3. Admirable work in these respects has been done by the Corps Headquarters, and it would have a serious effect on the efficiency of the Corps to change the system. As soon as the organisation is approaching completion, which should not now be long delayed, it is intended to submit a proposal to give the Officer Commanding Imperial Camel Corps, who will then command a force of some 3,500 of all ranks, the temporary rank of Brigadier-General, and the two battalion commanders, who will each command about 1,000 camel-men, the temporary rank of Lieut-Colonel.

4. Since under Article 853 of the Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, dated 1914, cavalry rates of pay are allowed for non-commissioned officers and men of infantry while employed as mounted men, and since of the six Camel Companies formed from the Territorial Force five are formed from Yeomanry units and therefore draw cavalry pay, I recommend that cavalry rates of pay should be sanctioned for all officers and men of the Imperial Camel Corps, which will include, in particular, pay at cavalry rates for :-

Commanding Officer with Command Pay as in a Cavalry Regiment.
 Second in command.
 Adjutant, with adjutant's pay as in a cavalry regiment.
 Quartermaster.
 Infantry officers attached.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) A. Hynden Bell
 Maj. Gen.
 S. G. S.
 General,
 Commander-in-Chief,
 Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Copies to :-

A. A. P. S.

W.P.



68
G.S. 2/62/4
123159

General Officer Commanding,

App. M.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Sections,
Western Frontier Force
Delta District & L. of C. Defences.
Inspector General of Communications.

The Commander-in-Chief in his next despatch proposes to deal with operations up to 30th September, 1916, and is anxious to send his despatch to the War Office as soon as possible after that date, in order that it may be ready for publication by the end of the year. You should therefore send in your despatch covering the month of September without fail in the first week of October.

(Sgd) *Alfred*

G.H.Q.,
2/9/16.

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

Copy to AMS.

W.P.

APP A

69

From Troopers.
To Egyptforce.

22422 cipher S.D.S.

5/9/18.
6/9/18.

Desp. 2200.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0625.

Your A.M. 952 and 965. Formation of two battalion headquarters for Imperial Camel Corps approved.

Copies to :-

- O.(a).
- O.(b).
- C.C.S.
- A.
- Q.
- A.M.S.
- Filed G.S. 212.
- * G.S. Cables.
- W.D.



W.P.

From:- G.O.C. MUDROS.

To :- G.H.Q.

S.C.S.C cipher

5/9/18.
6/9/18

Desp. 1645.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0620.

Vice Admiral asks passage for 10 rank and file R.E. to go to ELASA ISLAND, east of GRETTE to bore well, blast rock, assist prepare defence camp. Probable duration of work 14 days. Rationed by Naval Authorities. Can Comply.

Copies to:- O(a)

- O(b)
- C.C.S.
- Q
- H-in-C
- Filed:- G.S. 83
- * Cables
- W.D.

APP B and



SECRET

From:- A.H.Q.SALONIKA.

Addressed LONDON, repeated EGYPT.

G.C.849 cipher

5/9/18.
8/9/18.

Desp. 1320.
Recd. 0950.
Dsed. 1005.

DOIRAH Front. Our positions south of DOLDZELI heavily shelled for three hours.

STRUMA Front. Our patrols stopped by enemy patrols east of STRUMA between ORLJAK and KOMARJAN bridge this morning. Enemy's artillery active during the day. Air reports show little movement and there are no signs of enemy having left this front.

Copies to:-

O(3)	A.	A.M.S.
O(2)	Q.	Filed:- G.S. Z/6.
G-in-C	M.G.R.A.	* Cables
G.G.S.	E-in-C.	W.D.
I.	D.A.S.	

W.D. D
App.



WD
APP F

SECRET

From Troopers.
To Egypt, repeated SALONICA.



22433 cipher A.S.Sa.

5/9/18.
8/9/18.

Desp. 2230.
Recd. 0930.
Deed. 1030.

A proposal to form one infantry battalion from Lovat Scouts Yeomanry and two infantry battalions from ^{Scottish} (Canadian) Horse Yeomanry is under consideration. If finally decided on, it is proposed to utilise personnel of 1st, 2nd and 3rd line units of these regiments for this purpose. Battalions would be formed and organised at the Establishment laid down for an infantry battalion in War Establishments, Part 7, and would, for purposes of eventual reinforcements, be affiliated, Lovat Scouts to Cameron Highlanders, and Scottish Horse to Black Watch.

Please submit your views as to best way of using these battalions after giving consideration to following proposals :-

Amalgamation of 6th and 7th Munster Fusiliers, 5th and 6th Inniskilling Fusiliers, and 5th and 6th Irish Fusiliers respectively, utilising odd surplus as reinforcements either for their own or other Irish regiments as you think best.

Transfer of 1st Irish Regiment, 2nd(?) Irish Fusiliers and 1st Leinster Regiment from 27th Division to 10th Div: Replace 3 last named in 27th Division by the 3 new battalions.

This scheme would be advantageous, since it is impossible to find drafts to complete Irish battalions.

This will entail the withdrawal of 2,300 men from EGYPT, but it is felt that the reinforcements about to be sent them during this month for the 4 Territorial Divisions, amounting to about 5,000 infantry, will compensate. It is hoped to despatch shortly further drafts to bring the 52nd Division up to establishment.

Consideration of proposed constitution, your G.S.120, Aug. 24th will be suspended pending receipt of your views on above.

Copies to :-

O. for action.
O.(a).
O.(b).
C.-in-C.
G.S.S.

A.
Q.
A.M.S.
Filed G.S. 344.
" G.S. Cables.
W.D.

72

WD

From:- A.H.Q. SALONIKA.

To :- G.H.Q. EGYPTFORC.

Comp F

G.B.654 cipher 5th.

6/9/16.

Desp. 1040.
Recd. 1405.
Decd. 1410.

Have accepted offer from Vice-Admiral of two officers and 40 other ranks R.G.A. at present at LEMNOS in excess of establishment. Vice-Admiral requests me to arrange with you. Trust authority may be given for this transfer.

Copies to:- O for action.

- O(a)
- O(b)
- C.G.S.
- A
- H.G.R.A.
- A.H.S.
- G.S. EG.
- Cables
- W.D.

Filed:-



From : Troopers.
To : Chief, Egyptforce.

23447 cipher. A.Q.1. 6/9/16. Desp. 1816.
Recd. 1835.
Decd. 1827.

Your A.M. 991. These matters are being investigated but some of the statements are not understood and we must await detailed report. All Martinsydes had engines fitted to them, then removed for packing.

Copies to :- O(a).
O(b).
G.G.S.
C-in-C.
I.
Q.
R.F.C.

Filed G.S. 104/1.
" G.S. Cables.
W.D.



SECRET

From:- CHIEF EGYPTFORCE.
To:- CHIEF LONDON.

A.H.1000.cipher. 6/9/16. Despd. 2145.
EVENING REPORT.

Bomb raid made to-day by two machines on aerodrome and aeroplane repair section at EL ARISH. 12 bombs dropped some of which took effect on houses in immediate vicinity of target. Our machines attacked by hostile machine which did not close but fired at long range and finally gave up fight. Our machines returned safely.

Copies to: O(a). I. E.-in-C.
O(b). A. D.A.S.
C.-in-C. Q. A.M.S.
G.G.S. H.G.R.A. Col.Vitale.
Filed G.S. Z/29.
G.S. Cables.
W. D.





From:- EGYPFORCE.

To:- TROOPERS.

A.M.999.cipher.

6/9/16

Despd. 2150.

Your 22429.cipher.S.D.2 noted. Sanction requested for addition to each of these Camel Battalion Headquarters of 1 Signalling officer, 1 signalling sergeant and 8 signallers with necessary camels. Sanction also requested to raise number of personnel and camels kept at Base Depots to 1 officer and 20 Q.R. 21 riding camels and 1 baggage camel per Camel Company.

Copies to :	O(a).	O(b).	C.G.S.	
	A.	Q.	D.A.S.	A.M.S.
Filed G.S. 212.				
G.S. Cables.				
W. D.				

From:- EGYPFORCE.

To:- TROOPERS.

A.M.1001.cipher.

6/9/16

Despd. 2205.

By War Office letter 9/General Number/6051 S.D.2 of 8th May, artillery brigades 52nd Division are numbered 260 to 263. War Office letter 9/General Number/6213 T.F.1 of 8th August states that 1/1st Lowland Brigade, 51st Division is correctly numbered 260 and 2/1st Lowland Brigade 261. It thus appears that by War Office instructions two brigades bear same number. Please confirm numbers of brigades in 52nd Division.

Copies to :	O(a).
	O(b).
	C.G.S.
	A.
	M.G.R.A.
	A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 270.
G.S. Cables.
W. D.



W.D.



95

General Officer Commanding,
No. 3 Section.

With reference to telegram A.O. 13 dated 7th August from General Officer Commanding, Anzac Mounted Division, a copy of which is attached, it is understood that the reduction of the Australian Remount Unit from 4 squadrons to 2 is agreed to by General Chauvel and is recommended by him as a necessary economy. It is also understood that the surplus personnel, being unfit for reinforcements, is to be returned to Australia. The Commander-in-Chief concurs in this course of action and presumes that, since the matter mainly concerns the Australian Government, the Australian Government will be informed through the usual official channels.

(Sgd.) A. Lynden-Bell,

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

G.H.Q.,
6/9/16.

Copies to ()
A

76

From Anzac Mounted Division.

To General Headquarters, ISMAILIA.

A.O. 13.

7/8/16.

Desp. 1755.
Recd. 1845.

Would be glad to have your wishes with regard to the Australian Remount Unit now at HELIOPOLIS as to whether it can be reduced in establishment or dispensed with altogether.



97

A/5572

W.R.D.

APP M

6th SEPTEMBER 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
Australian & New Zealand Mounted Division.

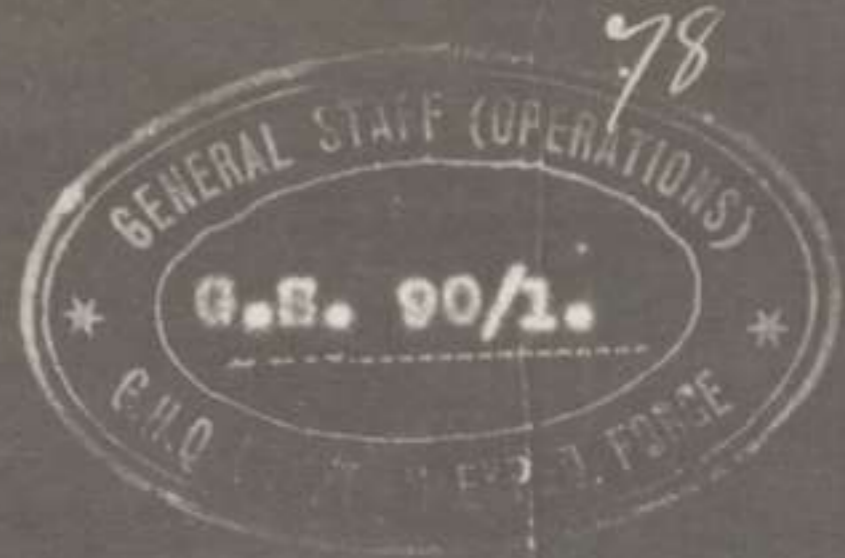
With reference to your No 126/77 of Sep-
tember 3rd, Commander-in-Chief is prepared, as a special
case, to sanction the transfer of these officers to infan-
try units in FRANCE, provided that the number of officers
so transferred is kept as low as possible, and is confined
exclusively to those obviously unsuitable for service in
mounted units, the reason for transfer being clearly stated
in every case. *numbers to be reported
to this office*

G. A. Lynden Bell

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

W.R.

app. N.



General Officer Commanding,

1. Western F.F.
Nos. 2 Sections. Delta District & L. of C. Defences.
3

The Commander-in-Chief wishes to call the attention of General Officers Commanding to the extreme importance, which has been overwhelmingly proved in the present war, of maintaining Machine Gun Companies, Squadrons and Sections at the highest possible state of efficiency. This cannot be done if the personnel of machine gun units is not given the ample time necessary for keeping its guns in order and carrying out its training, or if the sympathy between machine gun officers and superior commanders is imperfect.

The following points should be impressed on all officers who have machine gun units under their command :-

(1) The personnel of machine gun units should not be unduly depleted or dispersed for the purpose of guards, fatigues or instructional courses.

(2) To keep a machine gun unit at its highest efficiency a large amount of work requires to be done each day both in the training of personnel and the maintenance of the guns.

(3) The trained machine gunner is a valuable man, not easily replaced. It is therefore wasteful to expose him to unnecessary risks apart from those involved in the execution of his special duties.

(4) Finally, in an engagement the lives of many men will depend upon the efficiency of the machine gun units. A good machine-gun unit may make all the difference between success and failure; a bad machine gun unit is not only useless but dangerous. It is therefore in the interests of all that machine gun units should be encouraged to strive for the attainment of the highest efficiency, and that the most cordial co-operation should exist between the Machine Gun Corps and the other arms.

/ As

As regards Lewis Gun Sections, the following passage from Army Council Instructions 1589 of 14th August, 1916, may be quoted:-

"The all-round standard required for a machine gunner is far higher than that necessary for an infantry soldier. He must be well developed and sufficiently strongly built to enable him to work with, and carry, a machine gun or similar weight under adverse conditions, and if necessary to double or crawl with it. He must have no physical defects which would be likely to interfere with this work".

Though this Army Council Instruction only applies to the Machine Gun Corps, it will be seen that the above passage applies with almost equal force to Lewis gunners. Lewis Gun officers should, therefore, be given a wide discretion, in cases where they consider that men sent to them for training are unlikely, owing to inferior physique or any other defect, to become efficient Lewis gunners, to return these men and demand others in their place.

Geo. A. Hyndentree

G. H. Q.
6/9/16.

Major General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Copies to :- A.
Imp: Sch: Instr: Zeitoun.



6th SEPTEMBER 1916.

Commandant,
Imperial School of Instruction,
Z E I T O U N.

App *D*

With reference to your I.S. 4060 forwarding report of Lieut. Hampson on the experience gained with Stokes Guns during the recent operations, the contents of this report are noted.

It is, however, considered that the conditions of desert warfare do not give sufficient scope for the employment of Stokes Guns to justify completing brigades in EGYPT to their full establishment in this particular. The guns and ammunition for them are urgently required in FRANCE and MESOPOTAMIA, and it would not be in the interests of the service to divert either from these theatres to EGYPT.

The functions of School of Instruction with regard to Stokes Guns are :-

- (1) To provide a nucleus of men throughout the formations now in EGYPT, who understand these trench appliances, and who would be most useful in case divisions were called upon to operate in other theatres.
- (2) To provide a highly trained detachment who can direct to the best advantage the employment of the limited number of guns available wherever special circumstances demand their use.

In these circumstances it is not considered that the question of transport mentioned in para. 5 of the report can be taken up.

I am at the same time very glad to have had Lt. Hampson's report.

(Sd) A. H. Bell
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

NA



81

Officer Commanding,
Imperial Camel Corps.

App P.

The War Office having sanctioned the formation of two battalion headquarters for the Imperial Camel Corps, you should now forward your proposals in detail for ~~the~~ setting up these headquarters. Sanction is being requested from the War Office for the increase of the Base Depots to 1 officer and 20 other ranks, 21 riding camels and 1 baggage camel per company, and for the addition of 1 Signalling officer, 1 signalling sergeant and 8 signallers to the establishment of the battalion headquarters.

(Signed) O.C. Williams,
Captain,
G.S.
for Lieut.-Colonel. G.S.

G.H.Q.,
E.E.F.,
6.9.16,

Copies to :-
A.
Q.
A.M.S.
D.A.S.

SECRET.



WAD *app → Q*

6th SEPTEMBER 1916

General Officer Commanding,
No. 3. Section.

On the arrival of No 7 Company, Imperial Camel Corps in your section, it is considered that all the Bikanir Camel Corps in your section should be withdrawn in order that they may be given a thorough ^{and} complete rest. Should you, however, wish to retain the services of the Bikanir Camel Corps until the operations now impending are completed, there is no objection, provided the relief is not delayed for any considerable period.

(Sgd) A. C. Dawson
Capt. G.S.

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

WD
app
A
23

From : Troopers.
To : SALONICA. Repeated REEFORCE.

BB435 cipher S.D.S. 6/9/18. Deep. 2100.
 7/9/18. Recd. 0815.
 Decd. 0855.

Your A.B. 646. Situation regarding mountain artillery requires clearing up. Your predecessor considers best to organise whole divisional artillery into two brigades field artillery including howitzers and one brigade of mountain artillery, three brigades in all. It was intended that the mountain batteries already at your disposal should be utilised as part of those required to complete foregoing scheme, one old battery being utilised to form conversion for each new brigade and that personnel for new mountain artillery equipments should be drawn from displaced field artillery. Is this the scheme to which you are working, or do you consider a larger proportion of field artillery than two brigades per division can be effectively employed? If so what further mountain artillery do you consider necessary over and above these 5 batteries you now have, bearing in mind that personnel for new equipments must be taken from your existing field batteries. New 8.75 equipments are expected at (3 groups undecipherable). *rate of 12 a month.*

- Copies to:-
O(a).
O(b).
C-in-C.
C.G.S.
A.
Q.
M.G.R.A.

Filed G.S. 245.
" G.S. Cables.
W.D.



84

W.D.

SECRET.

SECRET

From : A. H. Q. SALONIKA.

To : LONDON. Repeated EGYPTFORCE.

App B

G.C. 889 cipher. 8th.

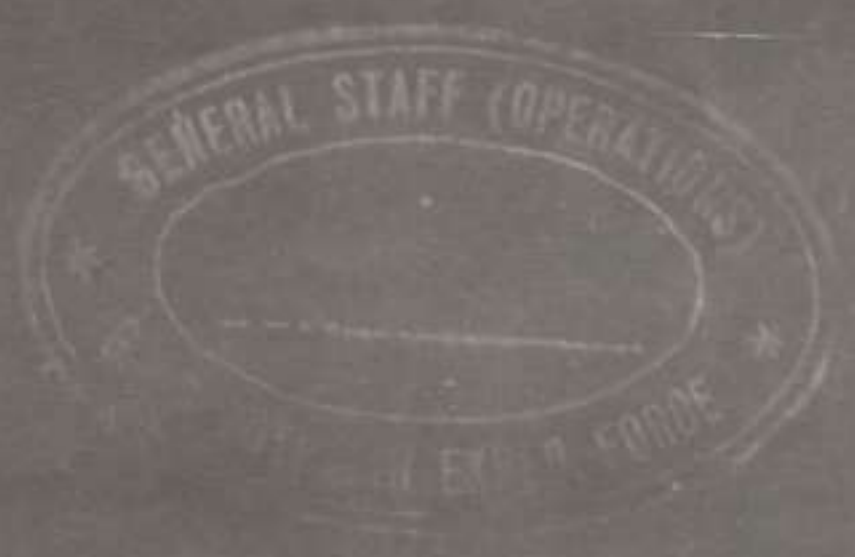
7/9/16.

Desp. 0030.
Recd. 0800.
Decd. 0845.

DOIRAN FRONT. Bombardment of enemy trenches continues. Hostile guns shelling VLADAJA silenced. Enemy aeroplanes fell in flames in DOIRAN as result of our fire.

STRUMA FRONT. Our patrols made several raids on enemy trenches and captured some prisoners. JERIMAH unoccupied but CUCULUX and BLISAN and HAZNATAR found occupied. Battalion concentrate opposite NEOHORI successfully shelled by Navy.

Copies to:-	O(a).	Filed G.S. 2/6.
	O(b).	" G.S. Cables.
	C-in-C.	W.D.
	C.G.S.	
	I.	
	A.	
	Q.	
	M.C.R.A.	
	D.A.S.	
	E-in-C.	
	A.N.S.	



55

WAR

From G.H.Q.
To General Chauvel, A. & N.Z. Htd. Div.

O.A.140. 7/9/16. Desp. 1155.

In view of recent heavy casualties in R.F.C. at SALONIKA additional pilots have been urgently demanded from EGYPT. To meet this propose, with your concurrence, to send two Australian pilots who can be spared temporarily from 1 A.F.C. pending arrival at SALONIKA of reinforcements from ENGLAND. This loan would, if approved, be purely temporary, and pilots would be returned to EGYPT as soon as relieved.

Copies to :-
O.(a).
O.(b).
G.S.S.
A.
I.
R.F.C.
Filed G.S. 104/1.
" G.S. Cables.
W.D.



From : No. 3 Section.

To : G. H. Q.



H.O. 785.

7/9/16.

Desp. 1618.
Recd. 1628.

Following received from Anzac Mounted Division, begins :
Operation east of ABD produced 4 live shells, 1100 brass shell
cases, 66 shell carriers, 2 scales 1 incomplete, 5 chains
copper wire. These will be sent in as soon as possible.
Farthest patrol east proceeded to within 8 miles of MAZAR.
No signs of enemy seen. Report follows. Ends.

Copies to:-

O(a).

O(b).

C-in-C.

G.G.S.

I.

A.

Q.

M.G.R.A.

D.A.S.

E-in-C.

A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 2/58.

" G.S. Cables.

W.D.

NO
SECRET



S E C R E T.

From :- Chief Egyptforce.

To :- Chief LONDON. *App E.*

A.M. 1004 cipher.

7/9/16.

Desp. 1545.

Your 22430 cipher A.G.2a. of 5th September.

Your proposals appear so necessary that I do not see how I can do anything else than reluctantly agree. Any diminution in my strength goes sorely against the grain for I do not see how I can advance with a force of suitable strength on EL ARISH with the consequent long extension of L.O.C. if any reduction in my strength and establishment takes place.

Owing to the extent of my fronts I cannot reduce the strength of the troops holding Nos. 1 and 2 Sections from EL FERDAN to SUEZ. Neither can I at present reduce the blockading force on the Western Frontier with its 800 miles of front until I have settled with the Senussi which will take me a month or two of cold weather.

I do not agree that the drafts referred to in the telegram will compensate for the loss of the units. I have always counted upon these drafts to complete my Territorial Force Divisions up to strength and the drafts will not bring me in excess of establishment.

Copies to :- O(a).
O(b).
C-in-C.
G.G.S.
A.
Q.
A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 344.
" G.S. Cables.
W.D.

WD

98

SECRET.

SECRET

From:- General Lynden Bell.

To :- General Milne.

A.M. 1008 cipher

7/9/16.

Desp. 1935.

Reference Troopers 32430 cipher A.G.2.A.

How do these proposals suit you? Although the proposals if carried out will deprive us of men which we can very ill afford, Chief will agree to them if you think their adoption will help you.

Copies to:- O(a)
O(b)
C.G.S.
Filed:- G.S.344.
" Cables
W.D.



WD

SECRET

From:- Chief, EGYPFORCE.

SECRET

To :- Troopers, LONDON.

A.M. 1005 cipher

7/9/16.

Desp. 1550.

Your 13088 cipher S.D.2-

G
APP

Following incorporated in E.E.F.

EGYPT. 101st Grenadiers from EAST AFRICA.

SALONIKA. 10th Railway Operating Section, 700 Coy.

A.S.C., M.T.,

Copies to:-

O
O(a)
O(b)
C-in-C
C.G.S.

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

A.M.S.

Filed:- G.S.169
B Cables

W.D.



W.D.
From Egyptforce.

To Troopers.

89

A.M. 1006 cipher.

7/9/16.

Desp. 1815.

app
Reference War Establishment of a Field Troop Mounted Brigades No. 535 dated 13th August. W.O. letter 121/Mediterranean/1005 S.D.2, 7th July, sanctioned establishment given in my letter G.S. 248, 21st June. My establishment allowed 8 drivers and 16 horses for the toolcarts R.E.. Printed establishment only allows 6 drivers and 12 horses. Request that larger establishment be sanctioned as necessary for desert work. Field Troops already working on larger establishment and am provisionally sanctioning continuance.

Copies to :-

O.(b).

G.S.S.

A.

Q.

E.-in-C.

Filed G.S. 248.

" G.S. Cables.

W.D.



W.D.
From Egyptforce.

To War Office.

app. I

A.M. 1007 cipher.

7/9/16.

Desp. 1820.

By A.M. 999. In view of increase of Camel Corps sanction requested for increase of clerks allowed for H.Q. Camel Corps by 5, including 2 Corporals and 3 Privates: this extra personnel required for duty with A.G.'s office at Base.

Copies to :-

O.(a).

O.(b).

G.S.S.

A.(R).

Camel Corps.

Filed G.S. 212.

" G.S. Cables.

W.D.



90

W.A.



Officer Commanding,
Bikanir Camel Corps.

Camp

With reference to your Nos. 5344 and 5362, permission is given for Lieut. Col. Jeoraj Singh, Bikanir Camel Corps, to proceed to INDIA to assist in the raising and equipping of additional companies for the Bikanir Camel Corps.

(Sg) A. C. Williams
Capt. C.S.

G.H.Q.,
7/9/16.

for Lieut. Colonel,
G.S.

Copies to:- A.
A.M.S.
G.O.C., No. 2. Section.

WD
From:- General Staff, TANGA.

To :- EWYFFORCE, SUEZ.

G.O.F. 1151.6th

7/9/16.

Desp. 1005.

Recd. 1843.

app. K
Your A.M.910 of 23th August distribution R.F.C. units
as follows:- Naval Wing headquarters No 7 Squadron KILOSSA.
Distributed KILOSSA and DODOMA. Air park being moved to
DARBSALAAM. Military Wing airpark and B Flight MBUYUNI.
Advanced Airpark KOROGWE. Headquarters A and C Flights
MOROGORO.

Copies to:- C(a)

C(b)

C.G.S.

I

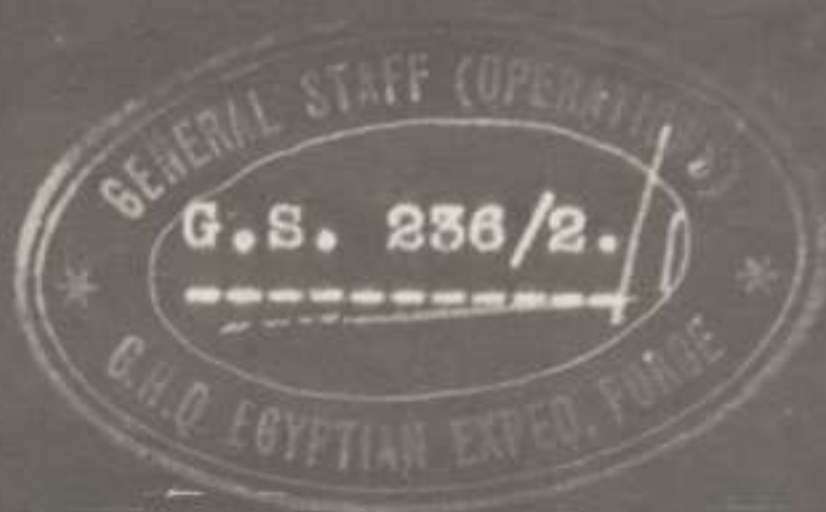
R.F.C.

Filed:- G.E.Z/64.

" Cables

W.D.





Commandant,
Imperial School of Instruction,
ZEITOUN.

App. M.

Herewith is forwarded a letter sent to the General Officer Commanding, DELTA District and L. of C. Defences, with regard to signalling courses at A. & N. Z. Training Centre. Please put yourself in communication with the Commandant, A. & N. Z. Training Centre, MOASCAR, on the subject of an elementary syllabus.

G. H. Q.
7/9/18

(Ed.) O. B. Williams
Capt
for.
Lieut. Colonel,
G.S.

7th September, 1916.

W.D.

General Officer Commanding,
Delta District and L. of C. Defences.

App N. 93

With reference to your memo. 6472/G. dated 31st August, forwarding a request from the Commandant, A. & N.Z. Training Centre, for signalling stores, it is considered advisable that the signalling course at the A. & N.Z. Training Centre should not be elaborate, since the centre for full training in signalling for all troops of the E.E.F. is at ZEITOUN. The School of Instruction only takes for its signalling courses men who have already an elementary knowledge of Signalling, and it is considered that the instruction at the A. & N.Z. Training Centre would be of the greatest utility if it did not attempt to do more than provide the elementary grounding necessary to fit men for further courses at ZEITOUN. It is also very desirable that the syllabus of any signalling course at the A. & N.Z. Training Centre should be approved by the Commandant, School of Instruction, ZEITOUN, and that the principal instructor should be an officer who has recently been through the signalling and telephone course at ZEITOUN. It is not considered that helio instruction should be attempted.

The following issue of signalling stores is therefore sanctioned :-

Lamps, (Beebie) Signalling.	6.
Flags, Sig., blue or white, 3 ft. sq.	100.
" " " " 2 ft. "	46.
Poles, flags, sig., 5'6"	125.
" " " " 3'6"	60.
Telephones, Stevens.	12.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Commandant, School of Instruction, ZEITOUN.

(Sd.) A. Pynden Bell.

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



wp
G.S. Z/63.

SECRET



7th. September, 1916.

App. ⁰

Inspector General of Communications.

Will you please add to the attached Army Form A.2. any secret documents, issued by the War Office, which may be held on your charge.

This return is being rendered in accordance with instructions received from the War Office, who require the Yearly Return of Secret Documents to be submitted as usual. Do the records of the late Force in Egypt include a copy of the last return rendered to War Office, please? If so, would you kindly forward it with your reply? .

(Sgd) Ocl Williams Capt
Sgd

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

W.D.

95



App P

EGYPTIAN

The Secretary,
War Office,
- LONDON. S. W.

7th SEPTEMBER 1916.

Sir,

Consideration of the point raised in your 121/8315 of 18-8-16 opens up the question of the organisation of the Artillery of the Territorial Divisions in this command. I am certainly of opinion that any brigade of artillery, even if only of two batteries, should have a Lieut.-Colonel in command, but I should be glad to be informed whether it is intended that howitzer brigades are to continue on this establishment. In my opinion, the most practical organisation of Divisional Artillery is the composite brigade, containing both field guns and howitzers, as lately adopted in France, and I would recommend that this be extended to Territorial Divisions. The divisional artillery of these divisions could then be formed of either :-

(a) Four brigades, each consisting of one howitzer and two 18-pr batteries.

(b) Three brigades of one howitzer and three 18-pr batteries

In the case of (a), an increase per division of two howitzer batteries is involved and the reduction of one 18-pr. battery.

On the other hand, (b) would give a decrease of one brigade, and involves only the addition of one howitzer battery to each division.

The fact that the latter organisation would place all artillery brigades on a similar basis, singles it out for preference.

preference.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

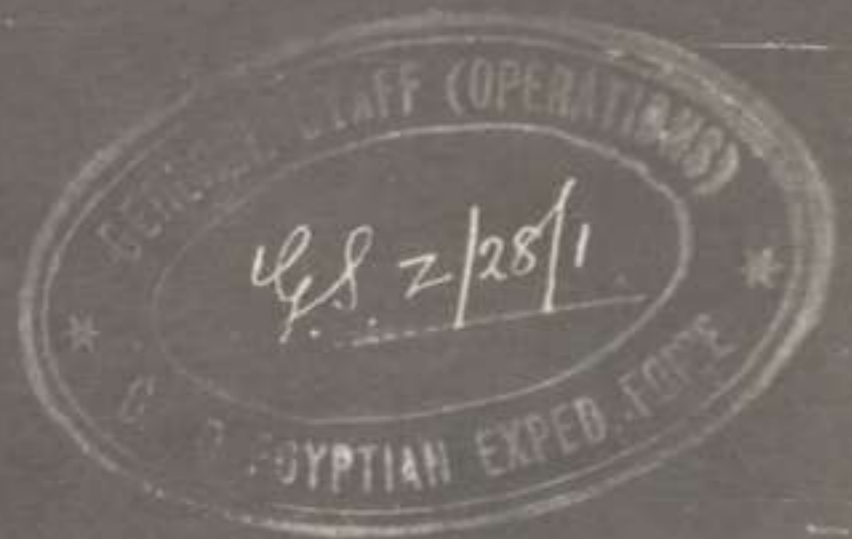
(Sd) A. Rindden Bell.
 Maj-Gen.
 for *[Signature]*
 General,
 Commander-in-Chief,
 Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Copy to A.W.M.

W.P. SECRET

Q
97
7th SEPTEMBER 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
Western Frontier Force.



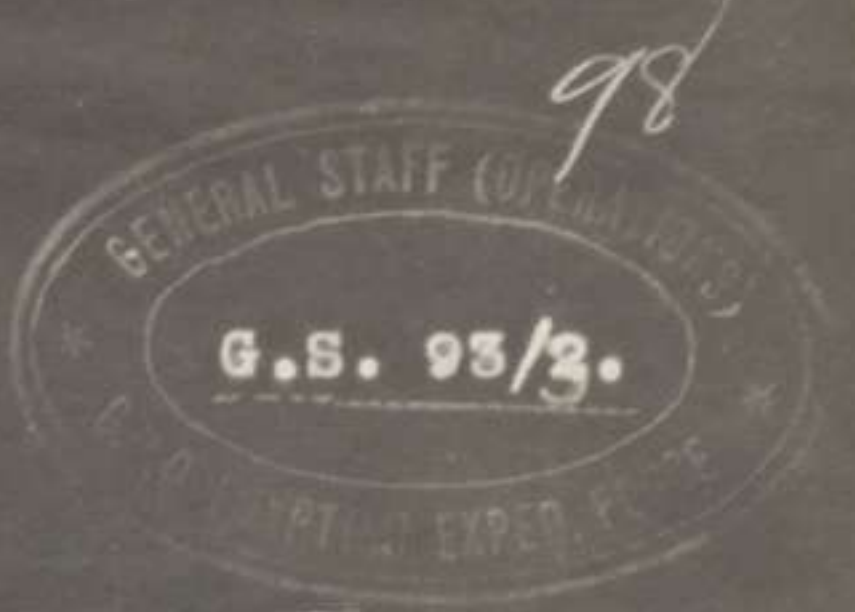
With reference to your S.R. 28/4 dated 4-9-16.

1. All Egyptian personnel with armoured trains in the Canal Zone have been sent back to the Egyptian Army ^{for a special purpose}. Should you require additional personnel to complete the Egyptian Army Detachment with No. 2. Armoured Train, you should arrange this with Egyptian War Office, CAIRO, direct.
2. No additional R.F.C. Units can for the present be allotted to the force under your command owing to the urgent requirements in the Canal Zone.
3. It is regretted that No. 1. Armoured Train is required for service on the KANTARA-KATIA railway, and it is impossible to release it for service in any other part of EGYPT.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell

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

MA *App R*



General Officer Commanding,
No. 3 Section.

The attached copies of telegrams are forwarded for the information of the General Officer Commanding, Anzac Mounted Division, with reference to his telegram No. A.Q. 176 of yesterday's date, addressed G.H.Q., asking for copies of the authority for the formation of two Depot Units of Supply for service with the Anzac Mounted Division.

Gen O. Williams
capt

G. H. Q.
7/9/18.

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

79

From : Eypforce.

To : Troopers.

A.M. 878 cipher.

6/8/16.

Desp. 2150.

Find it very necessary to form two Depot Units of Supply with Australian personnel for service with Anzac Mounted Division, owing shortage A.S.C. personnel in this country. Please obtain sanction Australian Government urgent. Establishment as in W.E. part 7 except 4 privates 2 butchers instead of 2 privates 4 butchers. If sanctioned presume units will be numbered 31 and 32 respectively.

From : Troopers.

To : G. H. Q. Eypforce.

12929 S.D.2 code.

1/9/16.
2/9/16.

Desp. 2130.
Recd. 2143.

Your A.M. 878 August 6th. Depot Units of Supply will be No. 26 and 27.