

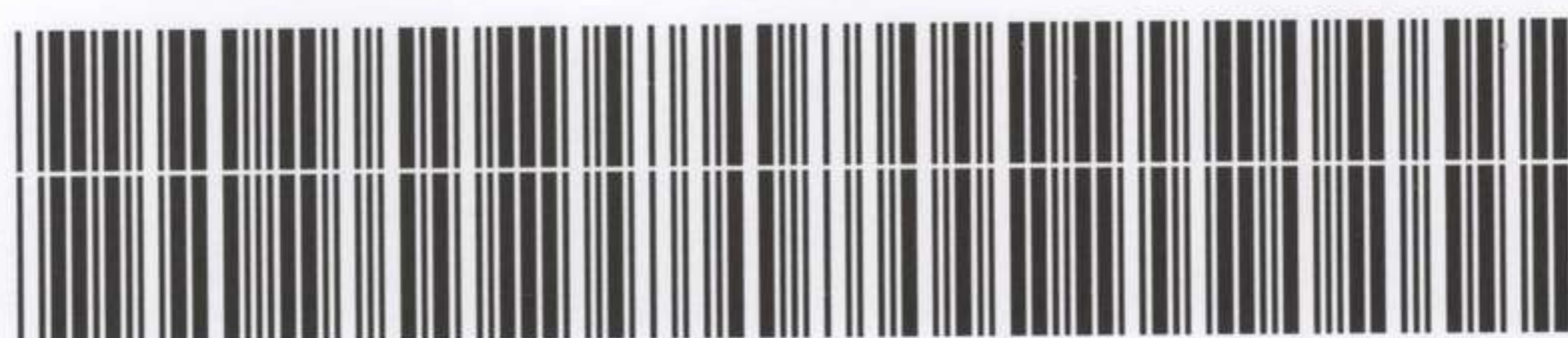
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/20 Part 4

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

December 1917



AWM4-1/6/20PART4

SECRET



General Officer Commanding,
Southern Canal Section.

1. A review of the general military situation in this theatre discloses the possibility of making a considerable reduction in the strength of the troops allotted to the Southern Canal Section.

2. Since the Turkish Army in Palestine has suffered severely in action against our troops, and since no formed body of the enemy has been located further South than the JAFFA - JERUSALEM line, it follows that no hostile advance is possible against the Canal under present conditions.

This confines the possibility of hostile action against the Canal to small enemy patrols and to ill-disposed persons. It would, therefore, appear that patrols based on small posts would be able to deal with any attempts at interference, either with shipping or with the Canal itself. This would admit of the greater part of the force now distributed along the Canal being located and concentrated at one or two central places on the west side of the Canal.

3. Man Power problems are daily increasing in difficulty, and on that account it is imperative that no greater number of white troops should be maintained on the Canal than is actually required for ordinary routine purposes.

In this connection it has been decided to transfer the garrison battalion of the Sherwood Foresters at SUEZ to CAIRO at an early date, in relief of the 2/7th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers under orders for the SUDAN.

4. It is not known exactly what British troops are necessary as a garrison at SUEZ to furnish guards on ships in harbour etc., but whatever the numbers are, they will have to be found from the 1/2-battalion Warwick Regiment at ISMAILIA on the withdrawal of the Sherwood Foresters from SUEZ.

5. The Commander-in-Chief desires you to submit your proposals for the re-organisation of the Southern Canal Section on the lines indicated above.

Any saving that can be effected in white personnel over and above the battalion of Sherwood Foresters will tend to ease the situation in other parts of the theatre of operations, and special consideration should be given to that point in submitting your proposals.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
17/12/17.

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

Copy to Adv C.M.C.

SECRET.

35
A
22
Copy No.....

FORCE ORDER No. 57

by

General Sir Edmund Allenby, K.C.B.
Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Map PALESTINE 1/63,360.

Advanced General Headquarters,
18th Decembor, 1917.

1. The latest intelligence regarding the enemy will be issued to all concerned from time to time as the information is received.

2. The Commander-in-Chief intends to advance both the right and left flanks of the force so as more effectively to cover JERUSALEM and JAFFA respectively.

3. G.O.C. XXth Corps will accordingly advance his right, pivoting on the left flank of his Corps in the neighbourhood of SUFFA, with a view to occupying the general line BEITIN - EL BALUA - KH. EL BURJ - ABU AINEIN - DEIR IBZIA - north of SUFFA.

G.O.C. XXIst Corps will advance the left of his Corps with a view to occupying the general line KIBBIAH - BANTIEH - FEJJA - MULEBBIS - TEL EL MUKHMAH - SHEIKH EL BALLATAH - EL JELIL.

4. The date of the operations will depend on the weather and will be notified later.

Corps Commanders will arrange their plans so that on Zero day the left of the XXth Corps attacks the general line BEITUNIA - SH. ABU EZ ZEITUN - KH. EL KEREINA - DEIR IBZIA, and the left of the XXIst Corps attacks the line TEL EL MUKHMAH - SHEIKH EL BALLATAH - EL JELIL.

5. As soon as the final objective has been occupied, General Officers Commanding XXth and XXIst Corps will immediately take up and consolidate a defensive line.

6. The Rear-Admiral, S.N.O. Egypt and Red Sea, has arranged for Naval co-operation with the left flank of the XXIst Corps, employing the following Naval force :-
H.M.S. "Grafton", "M.31", "M.29", "M.32", "Arbalete", "Coutebas", "Hacho", "Vultigeur", "Lapwing", "Lizard", and a number of trawlers.
G.O.C. XXIst Corps will arrange direct with the Navy, through the Naval Adviser G.H.Q., who will remain for the present at XXIst Corps Headquarters, with regard to the targets to be engaged from the sea in order to assist his operations. All communications between G.O.C. XXIst Corps and the Navy will be passed through S.N.O. JAFFA.

G.O.C. Palestine Brigade R.F.C. will arrange for aeroplane observation of Naval gunfire.

7. Advanced General Headquarters will close at ES SUAFIR EL GHARBIYEH at 1500 on the 19th December and will open at the same hour and date at Square 086, P.14 (SEJED).

8. Acknowledgo.

(Distribution overleaf).

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



119

General Officer Commanding ,

Delta and Western Force.

With reference to your G.S. 270 of the 12th December; your contention that the 28 Yeomanry personnel now remaining with the 5 Light Car Patrols are specially valuable by reason of the peculiar knowledge they have acquired of Light Car Work in the Desert, and of their acquaintance with certain desert routes, is admitted, and it is realised that, if these men were to be sent back to Base Depots at once and replaced by men without knowledge of desert work, the efficiency of the units would be much impaired.

Questions of Man Power, however, must be looked at, not only from a local point of view, but from that of the Army as a whole, and on the assumption that hostilities will continue for some considerable time longer.

It is already a matter of great difficulty to keep infantry units up to strength, and this difficulty will not decrease. It cannot, therefore, be considered justifiable to retain indefinitely even 28 infantrymen with the Light Car Patrols, if they can be eventually replaced by the same number of men from the Motor branch of the Machine Gun Corps who cannot be otherwise absorbed.

The 28 reliefs for the Yeomanry personnel will therefore be sent up to be attached to the Light Car Patrols, and every effort must be made during the next three months to train them to become efficient members of the unit. The Yeomanry personnel will be retained for the present, and a special report will be rendered at the end of 8 weeks on the progress made by the Machine Gun Corps personnel, stating how many of the Yeomanry it has been possible to release. It is considered that by the end of three months at the latest it should be possible for all the Yeomanry personnel to be replaced.

The Officer Commanding, Light Car Patrols, should be informed that, while there is every sympathy with his desire not to lose exceptionally good men, it is his duty in the interests of the Service to do everything in his power to bring the Machine Gun Corps personnel up to a level of efficiency which will enable the Yeomanry personnel to be replaced and to be made available for service with the 74th Division, in which their services will be needed.

(Sgd) G. P. Dainay 29.11.

Adv. G.H.Q.

10/12/17.

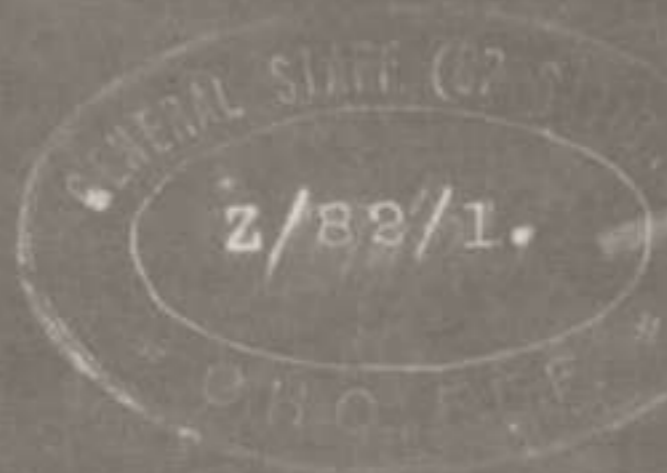
Copies to:

A (on file A/5996)

A (M.G.)

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

SECRET



General Officer Commanding,
XXth Corps.

With reference to your G.Z. 22/3 of the 14th inst., the Commander-in-Chief approves generally of the plan therein submitted.

In accordance with this plan and with Force Order No. 57 of to-day, the preliminary advance of the 53rd and 60th Divisions to the approximate line KEFR AKAB - RAFAT will take place on Z-1 and during the night of Z-1/Zero; and the date indicated in your plan for the attack on the final objective, BEITIN - EL BALUA - KH. EL BURJ - ABU EL AINEIN, is Z+1.

The actual dates to which you propose to work are provisionally approved, but in the event of wet weather, or until the roads have sufficiently recovered after wet weather, the Commander-in-Chief intends to postpone the operations.

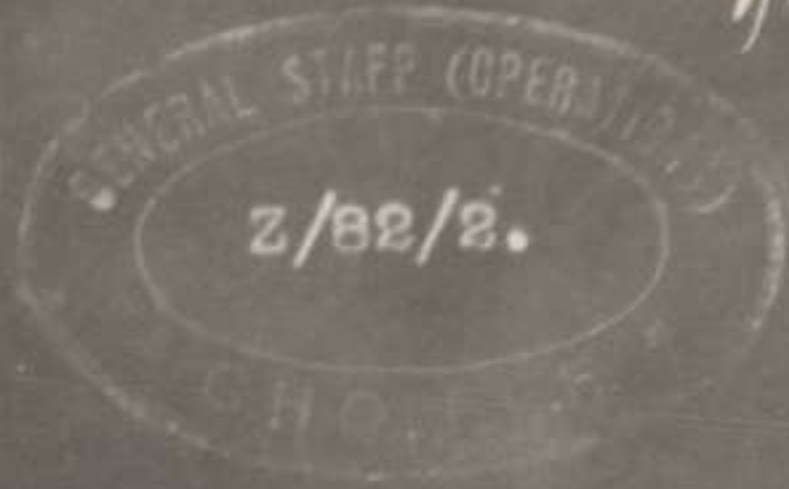
Owing to the comparative difficulty of supply until the standard gauge railway reaches RAMLEH, and until the Turkish railway is open for traffic to JERUSALEM, it will be important to hold your eventual objective, when once it has been consolidated, with the minimum of troops compatible with security. The Commander-in-Chief does not apprehend any considerable danger from any attempt which the enemy might make against the right centre of the line on which the force will eventually be placed - that is to say, against the left of the Corps under your command - owing to the difficulty of the country, of which both the enemy and our own forces have already had ample experience. It should therefore be practicable to hold this portion of the line with very light forces, and probably, when our arrangements are complete elsewhere, to leave a distinct gap between the left of the line which you will eventually occupy and the right of the XXI Corps.

Adv. G.H.Q.
18/12/17.

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

SECRET

Approved



75
BA
WSP
WD

General Officer Commanding,
XXIst Corps.

With reference to your G.S. 702/9 of the 16th inst., the Commander-in-Chief approves generally of the plan therein submitted.

In order, however, to co-ordinate the operations of the Corps under your command with those of the XXth Corps, the dates given in your memorandum under reference will be postponed for 24 hours. But in the event of wet weather, or until the roads have sufficiently recovered after wet weather, the Commander-in-Chief intends further to postpone the operations.

In accordance with Force Order No. 57 of to-day your attack on the line TEL EL MUKHMAR - SHEIKH EL BALLATAH - EL JELIL will take place on Zero day. It is understood that you propose to attempt to seize the line KH. HADRAH - TEL ER REKKEIT by surprise night attack on the night Z-5/Z-2, and, if unsuccessful, to take this line on the night Z-2/Z-1 under cover of an artillery bombardment.

Adv. G.H.Q.
18/18/17.

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

W.D. Appendix 19.12.17



General Officer Commanding,
IXth Corps
XXIst Corps

With regard to the Provisional Establishment of a Division with Camel Transport, the following alterations should now be put into effect:-

(1) It is thought that it will be sufficient if 8,000 rounds S.A.A. for each Lewis Gun are now carried with an infantry battalion. This is the number of rounds laid down in the War Office Leaflet "Tables showing number of rounds of ammunition carried in the Field", dated 23rd October 1916, and it is understood that in recent operations it has been found that the number of rounds laid down in the Provisional Establishment with Camel Transport is excessive. It is not proposed to reduce the amount of transport for Lewis Guns and Lewis Gun ammunition, but the reduction of ammunition will make it possible to reduce the loads of the mules, or alternatively, to reduce the number of wagons with the front line troops in country which is difficult for wheeled transport.

The increase of S.A.A. carried with the D.A.C. (see below) will give each Lewis Gun 2,000 rounds in the D.A.C., as laid down in the War Office leaflet referred to.

(2) The amount of S.A.A. carried with machine gun companies is also excessive, and will be reduced from 11,500 to 8,500 rounds per gun. The amount laid down in the War Office leaflet is 8,000 rounds with the unit and the additional 300 rounds per gun, or 8,000 rounds in all, will be held in respect of the rifles of the machine gun company. All the camels of M.G. Companies will now be replaced by wheeled transport, on the scale shown in annexure 'A'. The camels on relief will return to the C.T.C. Company with the Division, from which water camels can be allotted when Companies are working in country where the water cart will be insufficient. The limbered G.S. wagon with Headquarters will obviate the necessity of a second vehicle in the Train. The establishment of the XXIst Corps Troops Train should be reduced accordingly in respect of the 51th M.G. Company. It will be observed that 18 additional drivers will be required from infantry, so long as 57 pack animals are used.

(3) It is considered that it will be sufficient in normal circumstances if the Divisional Ammunition Column carries 105 rounds per 18-pounder, which is the amount laid down in the War Office Leaflet referred to above, instead of 130 rounds as at present. The camels now used with 'B' Echelon for carriage of S.A.A. will be dispensed with, and 7 G.S. wagons, now used for 18-pounder ammunition, will be used for S.A.A. Also 3 water carts, each with 2 drivers and four horses will replace the water camels. All camels will be returned to the Divisional C.T.C.

Thus, the D.A.C. will revert to War Establishments, Part XI, No. 699/43 less 5 limbered G.S. wagons for S.A.A., but with 4 horses and 2 drivers, instead of 2 horses and 1 driver, for each limbered G.S. wagon actually used, and with 2 drivers and 4 horses for each water cart.

The number of rounds carried will be :-

18-pounder	105 per gun.	
4.5" Howitzer	114 per gun.	
S. A. A.	1,364,000	(48 Vickers at 4,500 rds. (182 Lewis at 2,000 rds. (10,000 rifles at 65 "

G. J. Spencer
Major General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

G.S.C., S.E.F.
19/12/1917.

Copies to :-
A Q(2) G.S.(M.G.)
M.G.M.A. 3rd Echelon.
A.C.M.G. 2nd Ech. D.O.B.D. ALEX.
I. P. L. of C.

PROVISIONAL ESTABLISHMENT
 TRANSPORT FOR A MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

DETAIL	Vehicles	Drivers	Draught Horses	Pack	REMARKS
Headquarters -					
Cook's Cart	1	1	2	-	(a) Includes 49 drivers from infantry.
Water Cart	1	2	4	-	
Wagon limbered G.S.	1	2	4	-	
Drivers for spare horses	-	1	2	-	
Signalling gear	-	1	-	1	
4 Sections					
16 guns and tripods	-	16	-	16	
S.A.C. with guns (3000 rounds a gun)	-	40	-	40	
Wagons limbered W.S. for ammunition (5000 rounds a gun)	6	10	20	-	
Train :-					
<u>Wagon G.S. for baggage and supplies</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	
	8	73 (a)	32	57	

From:- D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q.

To:- C.G.S., Advanced G.H.Q., repeated Daglock CAIRO.

QKT.5319. 20/12/17

Desp. 1135

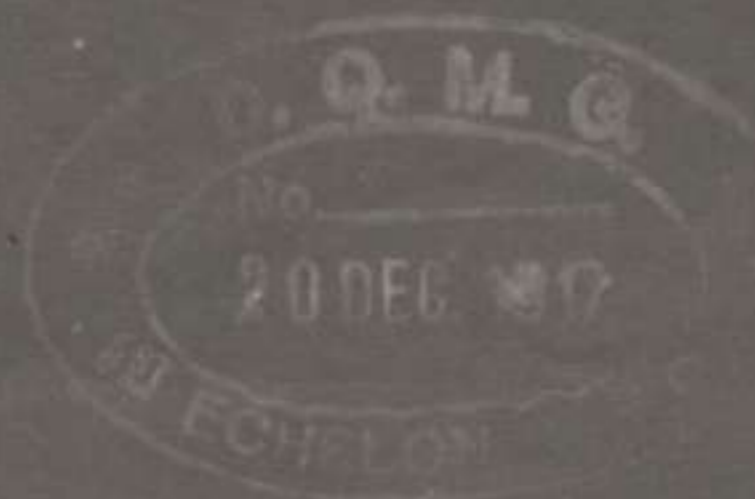
Re landing stores etc at JAFFA. Rear Admiral definitely refuses to allow work to be carried on simultaneously at SUKEREIR and JAFFA and therefore progress in the improvement of Port facilities latter place as regards 60 centimetre line at a standstill. I cannot transfer sea base for discharge supplies from SUKEREIR to JAFFA till such time as I am able to clear supplies so landed rapidly by 60 centimetre line from landing place at JAFFA. Have only asked Rear Admiral to authorise K lighters not a transport to discharge timber urgently required by 21st Corps and 60 centimetre material at JAFFA but he will not approve unless I temporarily close down SUKEREIR which I consider impossible. Understand his refusal based on submarine menace and insufficient protecting craft for two places at same time. Trust C-in-C. will intervene.

Circulated by "Q" to:- M.G.R.A.

G.S.

D.S.T.

D.O.S.



From :- C.G.S., Adv. G.H.Q.

To :- D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., 1st Echelon.

A.O.A.174.

20/12/17.

Desp. 1925.

Recd. 2027.

In reply to Number QKT.5319.

Chief must leave decision to Admiral, but will as soon as land situation is made secure ask Admiral to land Light Railway and timber at JAFFA keeping SUKEREIR open.

Circulated by "Q" to :- M.G.R.A. G.S. D.S.T. D.O.S.
"Q" 2nd Echelon.

42



General Officer Commanding,
Palestine L. of C. Defences.

Your G.S. 40/236 dated 18th December 1917. The alteration (b) is approved, viz.

- (1) 1st Bn. B.F.I. to relieve 3rd Bn. Egyptian Army at EL ARISH with detachments as far as ROMANI.
- (2) 2nd Bn. B.F.I. at RAFA with detachments at SALLAL and KARM.
- (3) 3rd Bn. Egyptian Army to GAZA.

John G. Robinson
Lt. Col.

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

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
20/12/17.

From :- Chief, Egyptforce

To :- Troopers, LONDON

E.A. 702 cipher

20/12/17

deap. 1130

Sanction is requested for following reorganisation in EGYPT and on L. of C. and in Occupied Enemy Territory.

1. EGYPT.

As I am now too far distant from EGYPT for effective administration and co-ordination of existing sub-commands, I propose Major-General to command there. Sub-commands to be (a) Delta and Western Force, absorbing Southern Canal Section and TOR and ABU ZENIMA, (b) ALEXANDRIA District, absorbing Coastal Section; both to be under a Brigadier-General.

As Brigadier no longer required to command Southern Canal Section, Headquarters 49th Indian Infantry Brigade now containing only 2 battalions, to be abolished.

2. L. of C.

For reasons of economy and co-ordination, amalgamation of H.Q., Inspector, L. of C. and H.Q., L. of C. Defences proposed. In (1) and (2) combined there is a decrease of two Brigadiers against increase of 1 Major-General, and the only net increases in Staff are, one senior Administrative Staff Officer ranking as Lieut.Colonel and advance of one grade for three junior staff officers.

3. Occupied Enemy Territory.

Organisation is considerably more serious matter than appeared at first.

One Major-General required as Senior Administrator at G.H.Q. with Staff which will be drawn largely from Intelligence Corps, but one D.A.C.M.G. will be required.

Full explanation of proposals in detail follows by letter but as it is of immediate importance for efficiency to start reorganisation at once, hope I may have general sanction by cable.

Copies to :-

O(a)

O(b)

C.G.S.

B.G.S.S.

I.

Filed :-

A.

Q.

A.M.S.

G.S. 894

G.S. Cables

W.D. C.O.



WD

CONFIDENTIAL



From :- The Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To :- The Secretary,
War Office, LONDON, S. W. 1.

General Headquarters,
25th December 1917.
20

Sir,

1. The advance of the Army into PALESTINE and the consequent lengthening of the Lines of Communication with EGYPT have now rendered it advisable that the subordinate Commands west of the Canal should be re-organised under a single control, so as both to co-ordinate military operations west of the Canal, and to reduce the increasing difficulties of dealing with details of Egyptian administration from a General Headquarters more than 200 miles distant from CAIRO.

2. I have the honour, therefore, to submit for the approval of the Army Council my proposal that there should now be created the post of Major-General Commanding the Force in EGYPT, with an adequate staff, who would command the whole of EGYPT west of the Canal, and under whom would be two sub-commands, namely, the Delta and Western Force (including the present Southern Canal Section), and ALEXANDRIA District, each under a Brigadier. The Major-General Commanding the Force in EGYPT would himself be under my command, and would be my representative in all matters in which I delegated to him my authority.

As regards (a) military operations, he would be responsible, subject to my approval, for the defence of EGYPT from SOLLUM and the Western Desert to the West Bank of the SUEZ CANAL, and also for that area East of the Canal (including ABU ZENIMA and TOR) which is patrolled by the troops of the existing Southern Canal Section. He would be responsible for all movements (with the exceptions stated in para. 3 below) and for administration of troops within this area, though in all these matters subject to my control.

As regards (b) relations with the Civil Authorities, he would be my representative in dealing with the Government of EGYPT and the Civil Authorities and in the administration of Martial Law and its application to the civil population, though the power to sign proclamations under Martial Law would remain in my hands alone. The appointment of this officer would be particularly valuable in this respect; he would always be on the spot to deal with the many questions in which the Military Authorities are brought into direct relations with the High Commissioner, the British Advisers to the various Government Departments, and the Native Ministers; also he would free my Deputy Adjutant General and his staff from much routine work in this connection and in connection with the details of substitution and Man Power, as applied to soldiers and civilians in EGYPT, thus freeing the D.A.G.'s staff for their proper work with the Army in the Field, including the administration of occupied enemy territory, which is becoming a matter of increasing importance and complexity.

The Major-General Commanding the Force in EGYPT would receive my direct orders in these matters, through my Deputy Adjutant General, and would be given the main lines upon which to work. The amount of delegation considered advisable would be carefully laid down, and the detail would be left to him and his staff. His relations with the High Commissioner and the Government of EGYPT would be definitely laid down.

3. As regards the Quartermaster General's Department, the Major-General Commanding the Force in EGYPT would not be in a position of Inspector General Of Communications. The D.Q.M.G., would retain personal control over the following :-

- 'Q' office at General Headquarters, 2nd Echelon, CAIRO.
- Egyptian State Railway Services.
- Inland Water Transport Services.
- All matters connected with sea transport.
- Central Requisition office.
- Local Resources Board.
- Permanent Arbitration Board.
- Maintenance of HEDJAZ and AKABA Forces.
- Correspondence with Egyptian Government on 'Q' matters.

Further, all administrative depots, A.S.C., Ordnance, Works, Remounts, and Veterinary Hospitals, would continue to be controlled by the Directors at General Headquarters concerned, either direct or through their Deputies, without interference on the part of the Major-General Commanding the Force in EGYPT, though as regards discipline and interior economy, they would be under the local Commanders.

The same principle would be applied to the schools of Instructions at MOASOAR, and ZEITOUN. These would be controlled by the General Staff at General Headquarters, who would stand to them in the relation of Directors to their departments, while for discipline and administration they would be under the local Commanders.

4. A scheme is annexed hereto showing the distribution of the various commands under this proposal, and also the suggested composition of the staffs.

The following reductions in present staffs are made:-

- In Southern Canal Section
 - 1 Brigadier-General.
 - 1 Brigade Major.
 - 2 Staff Captains.
- In Delta & Western Force
 - 1 D.A.A.&Q.M.G.

(Note. The decrease of one D.A.A.&Q.M.G., and 1 Staff Captain ALEXANDRIA District, has been taken into account in my separate proposals for the amalgamation of the two commands on Palestine Lines of Communication).

As against that decrease, the new staff of the Force in EGYPT will consist of -

- 1 Major-General
- 1 A.D.C.
- 1 G.S.O. (2)
- 1 G.S.O. (3)
- 1 A.A.&Q.M.G.
- 1 D.A.A.G.
- 1 D.A.Q.M.G.

The details of clerical establishment will be forwarded if the Army Council sanction in principle the reorganisation proposed, and the composition of the staffs as regards officers.

5. I request that I may receive early intimation if these proposals are approved, since it is advisable that some reorganisation on these lines should be put into effect as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) E.H.H.Allenby,

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

*Copies to A
Q
ams*

E G Y P T.

Major-General Commanding.
A.D.G.

G.S.O.2.

G.S.O.3.

Administrative Staff.

A.A.&Q.M.G.

D.A.Q.M.G.

D.A.A.G.

Staff Captain

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT.

Brigadier-General Commanding (Brig-Gen. Boyle).

G.S.O. 3

A.A.&Q.M.G.

2 Staff Captains

DELTA & WESTERN FORCE (including present Southern Canal Section).

Brig-General Commanding (Brig-Gen. Casson).

G.S.O.2.

G.S.O.3.

Administrative Staff.

A.A.&Q.M.G.

D.A.A.G.

D.A.Q.M.G.

Officer Clerk.

Compensation Officer.

COASTAL SECTION.

Brig-Gen. Commanding (Brig-Gen. Yorke).

Brigade Major.

Staff Captain.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Lieut-Colonel.

Staff Captain.

CONFIDENTIAL



From :- The Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

To :- The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

General Headquarters,
15th December 1917.
20

Sir,

1. It has been found that the dual control of the Palestine Lines of Communication by the Inspector, Palestine L. of C., and the General Officer Commanding, Palestine L. of C. Defences, is uneconomical as regards man power, and it is considered that a saving in the number of troops allotted to the Palestine Lines of Communication may be effected by placing the whole of the Palestine Lines of Communication both as regards administration and defence under one officer with a single staff.

2. I therefore request the sanction of the Army Council to amalgamate the present staffs of the Inspector, Palestine Lines of Communication and General Officer Commanding, Palestine L. of C. Defences under one officer (a Brigadier-General), to be called the General Officer Commanding, Palestine Lines of Communication, with a staff as follows :-

- 1 G.S.O.(2).
- 1 G.S.O.(3).
- 1 A.A.G.
- 1 A.Q.M.G.
- 1 D.A.Q.M.G., and
- 3 Staff Captains.

The Staff Officers for duty on the Lines of Communication now shown on Headquarters, Inspector Palestine Lines of Communication, including the additions sanctioned by War Office telegrams 45466 S.D.2.b. of 14th November, 46874 S.D.2.b. of 30th November and 47688 S.D.2.b. of 11th December would remain as at present. At the same time the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. and the Staff Captain for Reinforcements in ALEXANDRIA District will be abolished, and the D.A.A. & Q.M.G. temporarily allowed on Headquarters Palestine L. of C. Defences (War Office telegrams No.40385 S.D.2. of 29th August and 46893 S.D.2.b. of 30th Novr.

The net result therefore is a reduction of two D.A.A. & Q.M.G.'s and the substitution of one A.A.G. and one A.Q.M.G. for one A.A. & Q.M.G. This re-organisation will effect a greater degree of co-ordination in the administration of the Lines of Communication and will also set free troops for service elsewhere.

If this proposal is sanctioned, I request that I may be informed by telegram, when a detailed establishment showing the clerical staff required will be submitted.

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

(Sgd) E.H.H. ALLENBY,

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

*Copies to A
P
Cms*

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message

MS 31 WBS

Charges to Pay

Office Stamp

£ s. d.

A



Service Instructions

WCR

AMX

Handed in at

Office

m.

Received

m.

TO

Sender's Number

Day of Month

In reply to Number.

AAA

Cancel 31 Corps order no 21
21 AAA operations ordered
in 21 Corps order no 28
will now be carried
out on 3-1 day
ack. On 3-1 day
WD
Cap I

FROM

PLACE & TIME

21 0600

45

SECRET.

Copy No.

49
13
4111
P/R

XXIst CORPS ORDER No. 27.

Ref: Map Palestine 1" to mile.

19th December 1917.

1. The enemy is on the right bank of the AUJA and has trenches covering the crossings over that river between KH HADRAH and the Sea.
2. The Corps Commander intends to force the crossings over the AUJA and secure the general line KH HADRAH - SH MUANNIS - TELL ER REKKEIT.
3. The operation will be carried out by the 52nd Division on the night Z-2/Z-1. It will be preceded by a bombardment of the enemy's trenches during the whole of Z-3 day and on Z-2/Z-1 night.
4. Two 6" Siege Batteries will be attached to the G.O.C. 52nd Division for bombardment purposes. Should these Batteries not be required solely for this purpose, their fire is to be directed on the enemy trenches about MULEBBIS.
5. The operation will also be assisted by the Royal Navy and the remainder of the Heavy Artillery, in accordance with a programme to be coordinated by the G.O.C., R.A., XXIst Corps.
6. A contact aeroplane will fly over the 52nd Division at 0700 on Z-1 day, when the leading troops will light flares or wave their hats to show their position when called upon to do so.
7. Acknowledge.

E. A. Humphreys

Brigadier-General,
General Staff, XXIst Corps.

Issued at 1500.....

P.T.O.

Zero day will be 23rd December.

50
DA
OTS
W.D.
P/10

P.D. Stirling
Brigadier General
General Staff, XXIst Corps.

Headquarters,
XXIst Corps,
19-12-17.

Ref: Map Palestine 1" to mile.

19th December 1917.

1. (a) The XX Corps, pivoting on its left flank, is advancing its right so as more effectively ^{to} cover JERUSALEM.
(b) The enemy has trenches covering RANTIEH - MULEBBIS and the crossings of the AUJA from KH HADRAH to the Sea. The sites of these trenches, as taken off aeroplane photos, are given in the attached sketch.
2. The Corps Commander intends to advance and secure the general line ET TIRIH - RANTIEH - FEJJA - MULEBBIS - TELL ER MUKEMAR - SHEIKH EL BALLATAH - EL JELIL to the Sea.
3. The advance will take place on Z day.
4. By Z day, the 52nd Division will have seized the crossings over the AUJA and secured the line KH HADRAH - SH MUANNIS - TELL ER REKKEIT, in accordance with Corps Order No. 27.
5. The advance on Z day will be commenced at 0800 and the objectives of Divisions will be :-
 - (a) 52nd Division:- Bridge in F.C. (inc) - SHEIKH EL BALLATAH - EL JELIL to the Sea.
 - (b) 54th Division:- FEJJA - MULEBBIS - Bridge in P.6. (ex). The right is to be brought back to the present 54th Division line at a place to be selected by the G.O.C. 54th Division.
6. The objectives given are not arbitrary. Divisional Commanders will consolidate such tactical points on the general line given in para. 2. as will afford protection to the observation posts required by the artillery.

7. BALD HILL and MULEBBIS are to be bombarded by all available guns of the 54th Division and of the Heavy Artillery on Z-1 day. This bombardment will be coordinated by the G.O.C., R.A., XXI Corps.

8. The attack on BALD HILL may take place on the night Z-1/2 and not at 0800 on Z day at the discretion of the G.O.C. 54th Division.

9. The advance will be supported by the Royal Navy and the Heavy Artillery in accordance with a scheme to be arranged by the G.O.C., R.A., XXI Corps.

All communications with the Navy will be arranged direct through Captain Macdonald, R.N. and the S.N.O. JAFFA.

10. RANTIEH will be bombarded by all available guns of the 54th Division and of the Heavy Artillery on Z day. This bombardment will be coordinated by the G.O.C., R.A., XXI Corps.

11. A contact aeroplane will fly over the area of attack about noon on Z day. Advanced troops will light flares or wave their hats when called on by the aeroplane to show their positions.

12. Corps Headquarters remain in their present position. Reports to be sent every half hour after the advance commences.

13. Acknowledge.

Issued at 1500

W. J. ...
Brigadier-General,
General Staff, XXIst Corps.

P.T.O.


Copies to :-

- A.D.C. (to G.O.C.).
- B.G.G.S.
- G.S.O.
- G.S.O. "1".
- G.O.C., R.A.
- C.F.
- IA.
- A.D. Signals.
- D.D.F.S.
- A.D.S.A.T.
- Adv. G.H.Q.
- G.H.Q., 1st Echelon. (3 copies). ✓
- Desert Mounted Corps.
- Adv. XX Corps.
- 52nd Division.
- 54th Division.
- 73rd Division.
- 2nd T.E. Division.
- Calcutta Sea R.F.C.
- 5th Wing R.F.C.
- 11th Squadron R.F.C.
- 30th Balloon Section.
- Rear Admiral S.I.O. Egypt.
- Capt. McDonald R.I.
- S.I.O., JAFFA.
- File.
- or Diary.
- O.C., Heavy Artillery.


57

MAP SHOWING ENEMY DEFENCES

Scale 1/3300

TRENCHES MARKED THUS: 

ARE REPORTED BY R.F.C.

TRENCHES SHOWN THUS: 

ARE TAKEN FROM AERO PHOTOS



T.

53 B 12

COPY NO. 12

SECRET.

XXth CORPS ORDER NO. 19.

Advanced Headquarters,
XXth Corps,
20th December 1917.

1. The Corps Commander intends to secure the general line :-
BURKAN - ZEITUN - EL FAHIA - KH EL BURG (U.15.a) - KH ST TIRSH - Point
2435 ABU EL AINEIN (P.16.c) - DEIR IBZIA - SUFFA.
This line will probably be further advanced at a subsequent date.

2. The 60th Division reinforced if necessary by one Infantry Brigade
53rd Division will form the "RIGHT ATTACK" and will advance Northwards
astride the JERUSALEM - NABLUS Road with the object of seizing ground
to secure possession of BIRSH and RAM ALLAH while the "LEFT ATTACK"
(10th Division and 74th Division less two Infantry Brigades) under the
command of the G.O.C., 10th Division will advance in an Easterly direction
from the front ST TIRSH - SUFFA.

One Infantry Brigade 74th Division will hold the line from BEIT
IZZA inclusive to BEIT UR ST TAHTA exclusive.

One Infantry Brigade 74th Division will be in Corps reserves.

53rd Division will form the right flank guard of the Corps.

3. The date of the advance by the "LEFT ATTACK" will be notified
later and will be known as "Z" day.

4. (i) The 53rd Division with the Corps Cavalry Regiment attached will
cover JERUSALEM and will protect the right flank of the Corps by
occupying suitable positions on the general line ANATA - HISMAH - JEMA -
BURKAN, as the 60th Division advances.

The G.O.C., 60th Division will be responsible for clearing the
JERUSALEM - NABLUS Road for the passage of 53rd Division troops
detailed to occupy positions East of the road.

From 1400 on Z day G.O.C., 60th Division may call on G.O.C., 53rd
Division to place one Infantry Brigade at his disposal if required.

(ii) The 60th Division will advance on the night Z-2/2-1 to the
line P.24 central - KH ERAYAH - Point 2430 (P.27.d) - EL JIB (inclusive)
to cover the advance of the Divisional Artillery and batteries of the
96th Heavy Artillery Group to positions from which fire can be brought
to bear on the objectives of the "LEFT ATTACK". Artillery to be in position by dawn on Z day.

(iii) On Z day the 10th Division and 74th Division less 2 Infantry
Brigades ("LEFT ATTACK") under the command of Major-General J. G. Longley,
C.I., commanding 10th Division, will attack the KH EL BIR BSH SHARA -
SH ABU EB ZEITOUN Ridge and the enemy between the Wady RS - SUNE and
Wady SAD.

First objective. Eastern end of KH EL BIR BSH SHARA - SH ABU EB
ZEITOUN Ridge overlooking BEITANIA and thence through P.33 central to
P.13.

Second objective. The general line P.36 central - EL MUSTAR (P.29) -
high ground near KHUBART PUSIR.

In the event of the progress of the "LEFT ATTACK" being sufficiently
rapid to afford a reasonable prospect of the whole operation being
completed in one day the 60th Division will be called upon to resume
its advance at the shortest notice but in order to ensure co-operation
no advance by the "LEFT ATTACK" to its second objective will be made
without Corps Orders.

(iv) The G.O.C., 74th Division will place 2 Battalions from his Brigade
holding the line BEIT IZZA (inclusive) - BEIT UR ST TAHTA (exclusive)
at the disposal of G.O.C., "LEFT ATTACK" at an hour on Z day to be
arranged direct between G.O.C.

The remaining Brigade of the 74th Division which will be in Corps
Reserve will assemble in the BEIT IZZA - KUB BIRSH Area by dawn on Z day
and will be prepared on receipt of orders from Corps Headquarters to
operate Northwards towards KH ST TIRSH should it be necessary.

5. ARTILLERY.

The 98th Heavy Artillery Group (less 1 Section 60 pdrs attached 53rd Division) will be distributed by dawn on Z day as follows :-

- 2 6" Howitzer Batteries and 1 60-pdr. battery on the JERUSALEM - NAPLUS Road.
- 1 60-pdr. battery KH EL BURG.
- 1 6" howitzer battery near BEIT UR ET TAHTA.

The Group will be employed primarily in neutralizing the enemy's artillery but may be called upon by G.O.C. Divisions to provide direct support to the Infantry when guns can be spared for this task.

6. Orders for movements of Trains and Camel Convoys will be issued by the D.A. & Q.M.G., XXth Corps.

7. Reports to XXth Corps Headquarters at LATRUM.

8. Acknowledge.

W. H. Bartholomew

Brigadier-General,
General Staff,
XXth Corps.

Issued at 2230

Copies to :-

Copy No.

- 1. G.O.C.,
- 2. S.G.S.,
- 3. G.S. "O",
- 4. G.S. "I".
- 5/6. G.O.C., F.A., XXth Corps,
- 7. Chief Engineer, XXth Corps.
- 8. D.A. & Q.M.G., XXth Corps,
- 9. A.D.A.S., XXth Corps,
- 10. D.D. S., XXth Corps,
- 11. Advanced G.H.Q.,
- 12/15. G.H.Q., 1st Echelon,
- 16. G.O.C., Desert Mtd. Corps,
- 17. G.O.C., XXIst Corps,
- 18. G.O.C., Australian Mtd. Division,
- 19. 10th Division,
- 20. 53rd Division,
- 21. 30th Division,
- 22. 74th Division,
- 23. H.Q., Palestine Fde, R.F.C.,
- 24. O.C., 14th Squadron, R.F.C.,
- 25. O.C., 5th Wing, R.F.C.,
- 27/28. War Diary,
- 29. File.

ND
SECRET

General Officer Commanding,

XXth Corps.
XXIst Corps.
Desert Mounted Corps.



The Batteries comprising Heavy Artillery Groups are re-allotted as under :-

81st Group.

189th Heavy Battery. (4 - 60 prs)
205th Siege " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
379th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
420th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)

95th Group.

304th Siege Battery (4 - 6 in.Hows)
314th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
320th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
322nd " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
334th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)

96th Group.

10th Heavy Battery. (4 - 60 prs)
378th Siege " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
383rd " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
440th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)

97th Group.

195th Heavy Battery (4 - 60 prs)
201st Siege " (2 - 6 in & 2 - 8 in.Hows)
292nd " " (2 - 6 in.Hows)
421st " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
422nd " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)

100th Group.

15th Heavy Battery (4 - 60 prs)
181st " " (4 - 60 prs)
134th Siege " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
423rd " " (4 - 8 in.Hows)
43rd " " (2 - 6 in.VII.)

102nd Group.

91st Heavy Battery (4 - 60 prs)
202nd " " (4 - 60 prs)
209th Siege " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
300th " " (2 - 6 in. & 2 - 8 in.Hows)
380th " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)

103rd Group.

390th Siege Battery. (4 - 6 in.Hows)
391st " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
443rd " " (4 - 6 in.Hows)
445 " " (2 - 6 in. & 2 - 8 in.Hows)

ies to :-

G.R.A.

A.S.

A.P.S.

G.O.C., Pal.

Ede R.F.C.

Adv. G.H.Q.

A.Q.M.G., 2nd

Ech. G.H.Q.

G.A.G., 3rd Ech.

G.H.Q.

G.O.C., Pal.L.of C.

Defences.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
21/12/17.

(Sgd) A.O. Robertson
Lt. Col.
for Major-General.
Chief of the General Staff.
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

15

55 A

I.S./7604.

Chief Ordnance Officer,

C A I R O.

With reference to Sergeant Long's invention, this was tested in my presence to-day.

It worked quite satisfactorily and if it is considered by the Authorities that an attachment for regulating the rate of fire of Machine Guns is necessary, I am of opinion that Sergt. Long's invention should be sent home to Machine Gun Centre for further trial or be sent by him direct to Vickers Maxim for experimental manufacture.

Its disadvantages are that it adds considerably to what already has to be taught to Machine Gunners, and also hinders immediate action when stoppages occur.

A somewhat similar device is in use on French Machine Guns and is not considered really necessary.

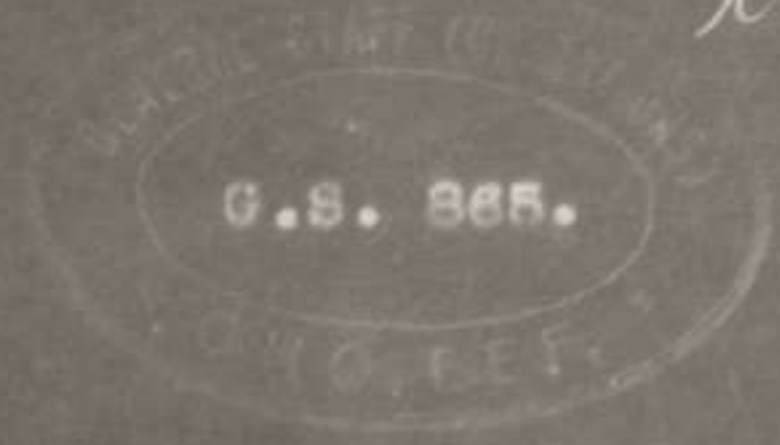
(Sgd) L. de Putron, Lieut-Col.
Commandant,
Imperial School of Instruction,
E G Y P T.

ZEITOUN.
3/11/17.

Copy to :- G.S.(M.G.)

W.D.

36
B
B



Brigadier General H. T. Borton, C.M.G.,

The Commander-in-Chief has decided that, in view of the responsibilities of the post of Governor of JERUSALEM, it is necessary that an officer of considerable military experience in organisation and administration should occupy this position.

Brigadier-General H. D. Watson, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O., is now appointed to relieve you; he will take over from you on his arrival on the 26th inst.

The Commander-in-Chief thanks you for the good work you have done, and hopes that you will arrange to see him at Advanced General Headquarters on your way through.

(Adj. L. J. Bolo)

Adv. G.H.Q.
24/12/17.

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

Copies to :-
D.A.G.
A.M.S.
I.

57 C.

G.S. 212/3.

IMPERIAL CAMEL CORPS BRIGADE.
A MOBILE VETERINARY SECTION. (CAMEL).
WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

(Provisionally approved pending War Office sanction.)

PERSONNEL and ANIMALS.

DETAIL.	PERSONNEL.					CAMELS.			Riding Horses.	REMARKS.
	Officers.	S. Serjts. & Serjts.	Rank & File.	Natives.	TOTAL.	Riding.	Baggage.	TOTAL.		
Veterinary Officer.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Staff Serjeant.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Serjeants.	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	
Corporals.	-	-	4	-	4	50	-	50	-	
Reissos.	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	
Clippers.	-	-	-	40	40	-	-	-	-	
Syces & Dressers.*	-	-	-	96	96	-	-	-	-	* Includes 3 cooks.
Baggage Camels.	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	23	-	
TOTAL.	1	3	4	142	150	50	23	73	1	

G.S.(O), G.H.Q.
 23/12/17.

SECRET.

g.2.14/3.

58 A
OB
WD

General Officer Commanding,
10th Division.
53rd Division.
60th Division.
74th Division.
Australian Mounted Division.
R.A., 20th Corps.

Reference 20th Corps Order No.19.

1. (i) In order to broaden the front of attack the brigade of 74th Division hitherto earmarked as Corps Reserve is placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. 74th Division who will advance his line to the general line Pt.2462 (R.24.c) - R.22.d at the same time as the 60th Division advances to the line W.24.central - KH ERAYAH - Pt.2480 (W.27.d) - EL JIB (inclusive) vide para 4 (ii) of 20th Corps Order No.19.

G.O.C. 60th Division will determine the hour at which this advance is to take place and will inform G.O.C. 74th Division repeating the message to 20th Corps Headquarters.

(ii) When the advance northwards is resumed by the 60th Division from the line W.24.central - KH ERAYAH - Pt.2480 (W.27.d) - EL JIB G.O.C. 74th Division will co-operate with the object of filling the gap between the left of the 60th Division and the right of the LEFT ATTACK.

Dividing line between 60th and 74th Divisions EL JIB - RAFAT - RAM ALLAH all inclusive to 60th Division.

(iii) The Brigade 74th Division holding the line BEIT IZZA (inclusive) - BEIT UR ET TAHTA (exclusive) less 2 Battalions placed at the disposal of G.O.C. LEFT ATTACK will form the Corps Reserve as soon as they can be safely withdrawn from the line and will concentrate near BEIT IZZA.

2. In the event of the enemy attacking the 60th Division before its preliminary advance is made (vide para 4 (ii) of 20th Corps Order No.19) as appears possible the advance planned for "Z" day by the "Left Attack" will take place at the earliest possible moment that can be arranged by the G.O.C. "Left Attack" with the object of securing his objectives while the enemy is occupied with their attack on the 60th Division.

In this case G.O.C. "Left Attack" will give Corps Headquarters as early notice as possible of the time he will be ready to attack.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Headquarters
XXth Corps
24th December 1917.

W. J. ...
Brigadier-General
General Staff
XXth Corps.

Copies to:-

D.A.S.Q.M.G., 20th Corps.
Chief Engineer : :
A.D.A.S. : :
D.D.M.S. : :
Advanced G.H.Q.
✓ G.H.Q., 1st Echelon.

G.O.C. 21st Corps.
~~G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps.~~
H.Q. Palestine Bde R.F.C.
O.C., 14th Squadron R.F.C.
O.C., 5th Wing R.F.C.

msd

B



General Officer Commanding,

XXth Corps,
XXIst Corps.

A request has been received from the XXth Corps that Canvas Covers for Vickers Guns, of the same pattern as those supplied to Desert Mounted Corps, should be issued to their Machine Gun Companies.

This question has been discussed on several occasions during the last 12 months, and at a Machine Gun Conference held at DEIR EL BELA last May the general concensus of opinion appeared to be that the Trench Bags at present issued to the Companies, though possibly not in every way as good as the pattern now supplied to the mounted troops, could be carried on the pack-saddle and that they fulfilled the purposes for which they were required.

In view of the necessity of making every possible use of existing material, and of the expenditure of material and labour entailed in re-equipping the Machine Gun Companies throughout the Force, I would request that a report may be forwarded to this Office stating

- (a). Whether, in your opinion, this change of equipment is absolutely necessary.
- (b). In what way the Trench Bags already supplied have proved unserviceable.

As regards (b) it is thought that it may be possible for units to carry out such slight alterations in the existing pattern as might be required to overcome any defects which may have come to light during the recent operations.

(Sgd) D. Vivian, Maj. Gen.

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

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
24/12/17.

GENERAL STAFF COPIES
G.S.478. 60
C
GENERAL STAFF COPIES
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

From :- The Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To :- The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON. S.W.1.

General Headquarters.
25th December, 1917.

Sir,

In order to economise British personnel, it is considered desirable to replace British drivers shown for "spare draught mules" and "general duties" by native drivers in the following units :-

- Mounted Divisional Train.
- Divisional Train.
- Train for mounted Brigade not allotted to a mounted Division.
- XXth Corps Troops Train.
- XXIst Corps Troops Train.

At the same time, to enable more supervision to be exercised by British personnel over small convoys, it is necessary to issue riding mules for junior Non-Commissioned Officers of the above units on the following scale :-

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------|---|
| Mounted Divisional Train.) |) 5. | (2 for Headquarters company, 1 each for brigade companies.) |
| Divisional Train. | | |
| Remainder | 1. | |

It is requested that sanction may be given for the above reorganisation, for which provisional approval has been given.

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

(Sd) *J. General*
Lt. Col. G.S.D.
General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

- Copies to :-
Q.
A.
D.S.T.
D.L.

SECRET.

SECRET

From :- General BAGHDAD.

To :- Chief Egyptforce.

X.5538.

25/12/17.
26/12/17.

Desp. 1905.
Recd. 1700.

Your B.A.798. of 24th.

Order of Battle 7th Division as follows :-

Divisional Headquarters.

19th Infantry Brigade.

- 1st Seaforth Highlanders.
- 28th Punjabis.
- 32nd "
- 125th Rifles.
- 134th M.G. Company.
- 19th Brigade Supply and Transport Company.

21st Infantry Brigade.

- 2nd Black Watch.
- 1st Guiana Infantry.
- 30th Punjabis.
- 1/8th Gurkhas.
- 135th M.G. Company.
- 21st Brigade Supply and Transport Company.

28th Infantry Brigade.

- 2nd Leicestershire Regiment.
- 51st Sikhs.
- 53rd "
- 56th Rifles.
- 136th M.G. Company.
- 28th Brigade Supply and Transport Company.

Headquarters Divisional Artillery.

- 9th Brigade R.F.A. (19 - 20 - 28 and D - 69th Batteries) and Brigade Ammunition Column.
- 56th Brigade R.F.A. (A.B.C. and (†) - 27th Batteries) and Brigade Ammunition Column. 3 S.A.A Sections.

Headquarters Divisional Engineers.

- 1st, 3rd and 4th Companies 1st Sappers and Miners.
- 7th Divisional Signal Coy. 1st Pioneer Coy.
- 272nd Machine Gun Company.
- 7th Divisional troops Supply and Transport Coy
- Combined Field Ambulances Numbers 127, 128, 129 and 130.
- No. 2 Mobile veterinary Section.
- No. 12 Sanitary Section.

Also attached D.B. and F. Light Trench Mortar Batteries and Numbers 133, 134 and 135 Medium Trench Mortar Batteries. Machine Gun Companies and Trench Mortar Batteries British. Artillery British except proportion of Drivers. Signal Company united British and Indian. Field Ambulances, Veterinary and Sanitary Sections mixed. I.C.C. is wiring order of despatch by convoys.

- Copies to :-
- O(a).
 - O(b).
 - C.G.S.
 - B.G.C.B.
 - A.
 - Q.
 - M.G.R.A.
 - D.A.S.
 - E-1D-C.

- Filed :-
- G.S.905.
 - G.S.Cab.
 - W.D.
 - C.O.



62

A

W.D.

SECRET.



General Officer Commanding,
XXth Corps.

G.O.C. XXIst Corps is consolidating a strong line of defence on the line KIBBIAH - Cave in Square 085, R.11.b. - Mill and Bridge in Square 084, F.6.a. - EL HARAM.

The right flank division of the Corps will hold from KIBBIAH to the Cave in R.11.b. with a mobile reserve to the right flank, which reserve will be located about HADITHEH.

You will observe that the right flank of the XXIst Corps does not extend far enough to the eastward to reach the continuation of the existing dividing line between the XXth and XXIst Corps. The Commander-in-Chief, however, does not consider that a gap in this area to be a source of danger, and has so informed G.O.C. XXIst Corps, of whose dispositions you are now notified so as to assist you in making your arrangements for the disposition of the left flank of the Corps under your command.

(Sgd.) G. P. Dawson
B.B.S.

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

Adv. G.H.Q.,
27/12/17.

SECRET.

B



General Officer Commanding,
XXIst Corps.

With reference to your G.S.655/23 of the 26th instant, the proposals which you make with regard to the occupation of the defensive line of your Corps are approved. General Officer Commanding XXth Corps is being informed that your right will not extend further east than KIBBIAH, thus leaving a gap between that place and the left of the XXth Corps.

(Sgt.) G.P. Dawson
B.E.F.

Adv. G.H.Q.,
27/12/17.

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

SECRET.

A
SECRET

65

From Wingate CAIRO.

To C.-in-C. Egyptforce.

28/12/17.

Desp. 1402.
Recd. 1820.

For Macauley as follows :-

Have received the following from STACK :-

No.1010. MIDWINTER has wired MACAULEY that he is sending him 25 double bogie trucks, which are what he now asks for. Although, as you know, I am anxious that SUDAN should do everything possible to help I am bound to look ahead and am being caused considerable anxiety by sacrifice of transport. We cannot really spare any rolling stock owing to our limited resources and possibility of increasing them. Permanent reduction of our carrying capacity for a considerable time after the war will be caused by what is now withdrawn.

Our resources are already strained to the utmost during any pressure of traffic and in the near future we shall have to meet demands for transport of material for works on White and Blue Nile.

Therefore I earnestly hope that it will not be found necessary by the railway authorities to demand our rolling stock.

I am confident of your sympathy with our difficulties and hope that the requirements of the situation will be adequately met by the considerable sacrifice we have made.
Ends.

Copies to :-

Q.
O(a).
O(b).
C.G.S.
B.G.G.S.
O(b) 1st Ech:
Q. Cables.



SECRET.

B

SECRET

WD

From :- Troopers, LONDON.

To :- Egyptforce.

48770 cipher A.B.

27/12/17
28/12/17

Despd 2100
Recd. 0700

Your E.A. 847 December 18th. *

It is not desirable to maintain larger stocks of ammunition than are absolutely necessary in distant theatres in view of possible fall in production during forthcoming year.

Propose therefore to send you only 50,000 rounds 18-pdr. gun during January, and no 4.5 Howitzer. This will give you over 3,000 rounds per 18-pdr. gun, and approximately 4,000 rounds per 4.5. Howitzer, according to our calculation.

Provision is being made for 3.7 Howitzers as asked for in your telegram of December 17th No. O.C.T. 3061.

* re requirements in connection with move of 7th (Mesrut) Division.

Copies to :-

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| O(a) | Filed G.S.910 |
| O(b) | G.S. Cables |
| C.G.S. | W.D. |
| B.G.G.S. | C.O. |
| Q. | |
| M.G.B.A. | |



~~SECRET~~

WD

C

Z/82/09.

67

From : Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To : Rear-Admiral Commanding,
EGYPT and RED SEA.

General Headquarters,

28th December, 1917.

Sir,

Having in view the possibility that the Turks may fall back so far as to uncover HAIFA and ACRE, and possibly other landing places further north, and the desirability for our army to follow them up quickly, the question arises whether it is possible for us to make more use of sea transport, thereby being enabled to free ourselves from our railway for some weeks.

The available landing places would be better than those we have used hitherto, but the weather will always limit the number of days during which landing is possible.

Would it be possible to treble or quadruple the amount landed during favourable weather by increasing the numbers of ships employed and the number of boats ?

Do you think it would be possible to obtain the craft required from the Admiralty if the necessity of the situation is pointed out by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff ?

In order to place me in a position to demand what may be required, would you be so kind as to cause a scheme to be prepared, showing the number of various craft required in order to make sure of being able to maintain the landing of an average per day of 1,500 tons of stores, supplies and ammunition ?

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sd) Lj. Bols, Major Genl
for

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

Copy to
Genl

SECRET

D



General Officer Commanding,
Southern Canal Section.

Reference your S.G.S. 92/21 dated 21st December 1917.

1. The Commander-in-Chief approves of the first of your alternative proposals being put into force as soon as the relief of the 1st ANZAC Battalion by the 3rd ANZAC Bn. Imperial Camel Corps has been completed.

2. It is agreed that the Headquarters of the Battalion Imperial Camel Corps should be located at ISMAILIA, and that posts of approximately 100 men be stationed at KUBRI, SERAPEUM and FERDAN.

These posts will undertake the duty of patrolling the whole length of the swept track (excluding the Lakes) once by day and once by night, with periodical patrols round Lake Timmah and the Bitter Lakes and occasional reconnaissances into the desert to the East.

3. Your recommendations that the existing arrangements now in force for the patrolling of the Bitter Lakes by the Naval Patrol, and the Canal by the Canal Motor Boat Police, should be continued, are also concurred in.

4. The Garrison Battalion Warwick Regiment (less detachment at CAIRO) should move from ISMAILIA to SUEZ as early as possible to take over the duties at that place from the Garrison Battalion Sherwood Foresters, which is being held in readiness to move to CAIRO at short notice.

To reduce the Military guards as far as possible at SUEZ, the D.A.G. is making arrangements to provide ghaffirs for the protection of certain places and is communicating with you on the subject.

5. As soon as the 3rd ANZAC Battalion Imperial Camel Corps has got into position, the 1/101st and 2/101st Grenadiers should be concentrated at ISMAILIA and held in readiness to move on receipt of orders.

6. This office should be informed by telegram when the above arrangements have been carried out.

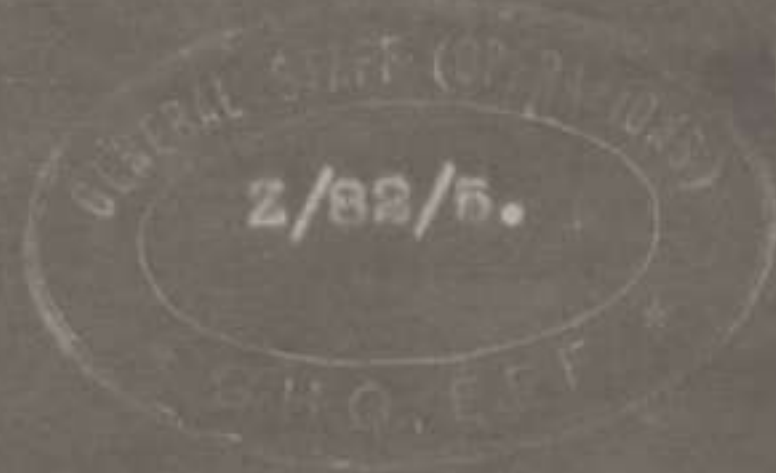
(Sgd.) G.P. Dawson
B.B.S.

Adv. G.H.Q., B.E.F.
28/12/1917.

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

SECRET.

WD A



69

General Officer Commanding,

XXth Corps.
XXIst Corps.
Desert Mounted Corps.

1. The Desert Mounted Corps, less one mounted division, will be withdrawn to DAIR EL BELAH as soon as possible. Completion of this move will be dependent on the date on which General Officer Commanding XXth Corps is able to release the Australian Mounted Division, which must be released as soon as the arrangements of General Officer Commanding XXth Corps have been made for the assumption of his defensive line north of BIREH.

2. As soon as the new dispositions are completed, the boundary of the right flank of the XXIst Corps will be the right bank of the WADI EN MATUF to the Wadi junction in Square 985, Y.E.O.a., and thence straight to NAANEH (inclusive to XXIst Corps) along the existing boundary line.

The boundary of the left flank of the XXth Corps cannot be defined until General Officer Commanding XXth Corps is able to decide upon the tactical dispositions of his left flank. It seems probable, however, that the final dispositions of the XXth and XXIst Corps will leave a gap between some point in the KH. EL MEIDAN - KEFR NAMAHA - JAHIAH area on the left of the XXth Corps and KIBBIAH on the right of the XXIst Corps.

3. General Officer Commanding Desert Mounted Corps will detail one mounted division -

(a) to provide the necessary force to patrol the gap between the XXth and XXIst Corps, and

(b) to form a small mobile reserve in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief.

The mounted division so detailed will for tactical purposes receive orders direct from General Headquarters, while remaining under the command of General Officer Commanding Desert Mounted Corps for administrative purposes.

4. General Officer Commanding Desert Mounted Corps will select a suitable point at which to place the small force required to patrol the gap between the XXth and XXIst Corps. One mounted brigade should be sufficient for this purpose, its headquarters being probably in the area BRIT SIRA - BIR MAIN. The remainder of the forward mounted division will be stationed in the YEBNAH area until the standard gauge railway reaches RAMLEH, when it will be placed at a convenient point within reach of RAMLEH railhead.

5. General Officer Commanding XXth Corps will report as soon as possible to Advanced General Headquarters, repeating to Desert Mounted Corps, the locality on which his left flank will rest.

6. General Officer Commanding Desert Mounted Corps will begin immediately to move back to DAIR EL BELAH the troops which he does not intend to detail for employment in the forward area, making the arrangements for their move direct with D.Q.M.C., 1st Echelon.

[Handwritten signature]

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

Adv. G.H.Q.
29/12/17.

[Handwritten notes on left margin:]
DAG
DQM G
Meyha
Bair
yad
do. P. B. de
APC
M. P. L. de

40

B

70

From:- Egyptforce
To :- Troopers, LOWEON.
S.A.713 cipher

29/12/17

Page.1500

Your 47757 cipher S.D.2 of 18th December. Having considered whole question of establishments for X Aircraft Depot and X Aircraft Park, recommend that present special establishments should be cancelled, and these units be organized on lines of War Establishments, Part XIX, for Army Aircraft Depot, Army Aircraft Park, and Engine Repair Shops, in view of largely increased number of squadrons now allotted M.I.P.T., and fact that stores and aircraft are now being received more regularly. The following would then be required:-

(1) X Aircraft Depot.

- Aeroplane Repair Section 4 units
- M.E. Repair Section, which will take the place of M.V. Repair Depot 2 "
- Stores Section 3 units
- Port Depot 1 unit
- Wireless Telegraph Repair Section 1 "

(2) Engine Repair Shops (which would be affiliated to X Aircraft Depot) 4 units

(3) For Experimental Section, which now forms part of X Aircraft Depot, a small special establishment of 1 Equipment Officer 1st Class and 2 Other Ranks would be required.

(4) X Aircraft Park to become a mobile unit as in W.E. Part XIX, No. 823/19 with addition of Advanced Desert Station, as shown in W.E. Part XI, No. 749.

Only increase entailed above present organisation is 4 officers and 21 Other Ranks.

Letter follows with further details but in order that re-organisation may be carried out as soon as possible early sanction is requested.

Copies to:-	O(a)	G.S.S.	A	Filed	G.S. 104/17
	O(a)	S.D.V.S.	G		G.S. Cables
	O(b) Adv.	R.F.O.	G.O.		W.D.



W.D.

C

91



From:- The Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To:- The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

General Headquarters,
29th December 1917.

Sir,
With reference to War Office letter No.20/Engineers/5196
(A.G.7), dated 25th November 1917.

I trust that the reduction of two Engine Drivers in the establishment of the Field Companies, R.E., with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force may not be found necessary.

In this theatre of operations the troops have to depend to a very large extent on water pumped by engines from deep wells. An adequate supply of engine drivers with all R.E. units is essential to enable them to work power pumps which are found in the villages, or are installed by us.

I fully realize the difficulty in supplying reinforcements of skilled tradesmen, but there are still sufficient engine drivers in Infantry Units in this Force to fill casualties in the Engineer Units when they occur.

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

Lt. Col. J. Spence
Lt. Col. J. Spence

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

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

W.D. A
GENERAL STAFF (C) 1917
G.S. 926 92
G.H.Q. S.F.
From :- The Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To :- The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

General Headquarters,
30th December 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith an amended establishment for the Indian Section of the 3rd Echelon of this Force, and to request that the sanction of the Indian Government be obtained for the increase involved. It will be noted that the increase to the existing establishment is very small, being an addition of 1 Staff Captain, 2 Record Officers and 6 clerks only.

On the arrival of the 7th Indian Division in this country the number of Indian troops in this command will approximate 32,000, and the present establishment of the Indian Section, 3rd Echelon, will not then be adequate to cope with the additional work involved.

The legitimate work of this Section of 3rd Echelon is considerably increased by the passage through EGYPT of Indian reinforcements en route for FRANCE, and the evacuation of Indian troops from FRANCE via EGYPT, the responsibility of reporting casualties etc., in both cases falling upon the Indian Section of 3rd Echelon. To this may be added the work involved by reinforcement and record questions in connection with Indian Troops serving in SALONIKA.

I would therefore request that sanction for this attached establishment be obtained, and that I may be informed by cable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sd)

H. Dawnay

Resd.

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

Copies to :- A (S)
A.M.S.

General Headquarters, 3rd Echelon, Indian Section.

PROPOSED WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

Composition in detail.

DETAIL	PERSONNEL				REMARKS
	Officers	N.O.'s	Clerks	Total	
<u>HEADQUARTERS</u>					
D.A.A.G.	1(a)	-	1	1	(a) Personnel.
Clerk to D.A.A.G.	-	1	-	1	(b) Reinforcements
Clerks to Central Regy.	-	-	3	3	(Personal Services)
Staff Captain	1(b)	-	-	1	(c) Casualties,
Clerks	-	1	5	6	(Returns and Documents)
Staff Captain	1(c)	-	-	1	(d) Acting Rank
Clerks	-	1(d)	5	6	
Total H.Q.	3	3	13	19	(e) Indian Units of 75th Division, 20th and 49th Brigades and Unbrigaded units.
<u>RECORDS SECTIONS</u>					
<u>Co. 1 Infantry (e)</u>					
Officers	1	-	-	1	(f) Indian Units of 7th Division
Clerks	-	1(d)	13	14	
<u>Co. 2 Infantry (f)</u>					
Officers	1	-	-	1	
Clerks	-	1(d)	13	14	
<u>Co. 3 Cavalry</u>					
<u>Artillery & Departmental</u>					
Officers	1	-	-	1	
Clerks	-	1(d)	20	21	
<u>Co. 4 Details of France</u>					
<u>Alonika and Mesopotamia.</u>					
Officers	1	-	-	1	
Clerks	-	-	4	4	
Total Records Sections	4	3	50	57	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF</u>					
for Pay and Mess Duties of Establishment.	-	-	1	1	
Police, Orderlies, Cooks, etc.	-	-	-	-	As required:- to be found from Class "B" Indian Personnel.
Total War Establishment	7	6	64		

O.B. P. 10

A

74

U.D.

SECRET.

COPY NO. 12

XXth CORPS ORDER NO. 20.

Headquarters
XXth CORPS.
30th December 1917.

1. The Eastern Boundary of the 21st Corps will be the right bank of the WADI EN NATUF to the Wadi junction in Square 085 Y.30.a. and thence to NAANEH 085.C.23.

The Western Boundary of the XXth Corps will be fixed later but the left flank will temporarily extend to DEIR EL KUDDIS (inclusive).

A mounted division under the orders of General Headquarters is to be detailed.

- (a) To provide the necessary force to patrol the gap between the XXth and XXIst Corps.
- and
- (b) To form a mobile reserve in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief.

2. (1) The troops of the XXth Corps will be re-distributed in 4 Groups, allotment of troops and tasks as below:-

<u>GROUP.</u>	<u>TROOPS.</u>	<u>TASK.</u>
JERUSALEM GROUP.	60th Division. Corps Cav. Rgt. 2 L.A.M. Batteries, G.O.C. Gwalior Infantry } 60th now at JERUSALEM, Divn: BETHLEHEM, and HEBRON.	(1) To protect JERUSALEM from the East and North East and the JERUSALEM-NABLUS Road as far North as a line through KEFR NATA (V.29) - BURSAH - TEL EN - NASBEH (W.4) all inclusive. (ii) To protect the BETHLEHEM-HEBRON Road as far as the latter place inclusive.
BIREH GROUP.	53rd Division } G.O.C. 1 L.A.M. Battery } 53rd Divn:	To cover BIREH and RAM ALLAH from the N.W. N. and N.E.
DEIR IBZIA GROUP.	10th Division.	To cover the front AIN ARIK - DEIR EL KUDDIS.
CORPS RESERVE GROUP.	74th Division.	

(11) The boundary between the BIREH and DEIR IBZIA Groups will be a North and South line through KH ET TIREH (U.19). This boundary is subject to revision as found necessary.

VERY SECRET.

B WA

45

From:- Chief, LONDON.

To :- Egypt (paras 1 to 8), repeated BAGDAD & INDIA.

48983 cipher M.O.2.

30/12/17
31/12/17

Desp. 1645.
Recd. 0600.

(1) A military mission is being organised and will proceed via BAGDAD as soon as possible for the organisation and training of Armenian and other irregular troops in the CAUCASUS.

(2) Chief of Mission will be Major-General L.C. Dunsterville and Staff will probably be selected in INDIA and MESOPOTAMIA.

(3) It is probable that Mission will eventually consist of 100 or 150 officers and 200 or 300 N.C.O's. Some are being found in MESOPOTAMIA and some sent out from home.

(4) Temporary rank of Captain will be granted subalterns selected and N.C.O's will be sergeants.

(5) Imperial Officers will receive British rates of pay and all officers will receive one pound sterling per night in lieu of all other allowances, while they have to provide their own accommodation and food, but this rate is subject to revision. For N.C.O's under similar conditions rate will be ten shillings.

(6) Outfit allowance of £20 for winter kit and £5/10/- for tropical kit, if eligible under Army Order 251 of 1915, may be drawn at once by officers who have not drawn one or other of these allowances. The Agents should be notified of the names of (?) British Service Officers receiving the allowance.

(7) If Officers and N.C.O's of Colonial Contingents are selected they will be paid by their own Government at rates settled by them.

(8) Please select suitable officers up to 20 and N.C.O's up to 40, whom you can spare, and despatch to BAGDAD as soon as possible. Qualifications in Russian, Turkish or Armenian languages would be advantageous but character is the essential.

Wire names and units of officers despatched, please.

Copies to:- O(b)

A

Filed :-

W.D.

C.O.



From :- The Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To :- The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON. S.W.1.

General Headquarters.
3/12 December, 1917.

Sir,

1. With reference to War Office telegram 47757 cipher S.D.S. of 12/12/17, and my E.A. 715 of 29/12/17, after carefully considering the whole question of Establishments for "X" Aircraft Depot and "X" Aircraft Park, I have the honour to request that, in view of the fact that Stores and Aircraft are now being received more regularly in this country and on account of the largely increased number of Squadrons now allotted to Egypt, the present special establishments may be cancelled, and that these units may be organised on the same lines as are Army Aircraft Depots, Engine Repair Shops, and Parks in France.

These Establishments are laid down in Part XIX War Establishments, Royal Flying Corps, 1917.

No. 528/17 for Army Aircraft Depot.
No. 528/19 for Army Aircraft Park.
No. 528/25 for Engine Repair Shops.

2. "X" Aircraft Depot and Engine Repair Shops.

To meet present and such future requirements as can be foreseen, it is estimated that the work required can be efficiently dealt with by a Depot and Engine Repair Shop of the following number of units :-

(i) <u>"X" Aircraft Depot.</u>			
Aeroplane Repair Section	..	..	4 Units.
Stores Section.	..	..	3 Units.
M.T. Repair Section (which will take the place of M.T. Repair Depot)	..	..	8 Units.
Port Depot.	..	..	1 Unit.
Wireless Telegraph Repair Section.	..	..	1 Unit.
(ii) <u>Engine Repair Shops.</u>			
	..	..	4 Units.

By adopting these establishments, which are specially contrived to automatically cope with expansion by admitting of an increased number of Units for every four Squadrons dealt with, constant changes in establishments can be avoided in the future.

It is proposed that "X" Aircraft Depot and Engine Repair Shops shall be affiliated, the Engine Repair Shops being located at the Egyptian Swiss Iron Works, ABBASSIA, and the remainder of "X" Aircraft Depot in present accommodation at ABOUKIR and ALEXANDRIA.

3. It is also proposed that "X" Aircraft Park shall become a mobile unit on exactly similar lines to a Park in France, the establishment for which is sufficient to deal with eight Squadrons, and should, therefore, be sufficient to deal with any possible future increase of Squadrons in Palestine..

P.T.O.

3. (i) G.O.C. 53rd and 60th Divisions will arrange direct to take over their respective fronts as early as possible reporting completion to Corps Headquarters.

(ii) The 74th Division (less one infantry brigade and two battalions) will continue to hold the portion of the line between KH EL BURJ (U.15) and P.17.a. until G.O.C. 60th Division and G.O.C. 10th Division have arranged the disposition of troops allotted to the BIRRH and DEIR IBZIA GROUPS.

One infantry brigade (74th Division) and one infantry brigade less 2 battalions will march forthwith to the BEIT SIRA - BEIT NUBA - YALO area. Routes and halting places to be arranged direct between G.O.C. 10th and 74th Divisions.

(iii) G.O.C. 10th Division will take over the front now held by the Australian Mounted Division as far West as DEIR EL KUDDIS (inclusive) Square 085 (Z.28) by 12 noon tomorrow 31st instant.

4. Proposals for the necessary reallocation of zones and tasks to the 96th Heavy Artillery Group will be submitted to Corps Headquarters by the G.O.C. Royal Artillery, XXth Corps.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE. ✓

W. H. Bartholomew

Brigadier-General
General Staff
XXth CORPS.

Issued at 2140

Copies to:-

<u>Copy No.</u>		<u>Copy No.</u>	
1.	G.O.C.	17.	G.O.C. XXIst Corps.
2.	B.G.G.S.	18.	,, Aust. Mtd. Div.
3.	G.S. "C"	19.	,, 10th Div.
4.	G.S. "I"	20.	,, 53rd Divn.
5/6	G.O.C. R.A. XXth Corps.	21.	,, 60th Divn.
7.	Chief Engineer	22.	,, 74th Divn.
8.	D.A. & Q.M.G.	23.	H.Q. Palestine Edo. R.F.C.
9.	A.D.A.S.	24.	O.C. 14th Sqdn: RFC.
10.	D.D.M.S.	25.	O.C. 5th Wing RFC.
11.	Advanced G.H.Q.	26/27.	War Diary.
✓ 12/15.	G.H.Q. 1st Echelon.	28.	Filo.
18.	G.O.C. Desert Mtd. Corps.		

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>Issued to</u>
1.	C.-in-C.
2.	C.G.S.
3.	B.G.G.S.
4.	"O".
5.	"I".
6.	D.A.G.
7.	D.Q.M.G.
8.	M.G.R.A.
9.	E.-in-C.
10.	D.A.S.
11.	D.S.T.
12.	D.M.S.
13.	P.M.
14.	G.O.C. XXth Corps.
15.	" XXIst Corps.
16.	" Desert Mtd. Corps.
17.	" Palestine L. of C. Defences.
18.	Inspector, Palestine L. of C.
19.	G.O.C., Palestine Bde. R.F.C.
20.	S.N.O., Egypt and Red Sea.
21.	Naval Adviser.
22.	W.D.

WAR ESTABLISHMENT.
EXPERIMENTAL SECTION.

Detail.	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Flight Serjts. and Serjts.	Rank and File.	Total.	Remarks.
<u>Experimental Section.</u>						
Equipment Officer, 1st Class	1	-	-	-	1	
Serjeant	-	-	1	-	1	
Clerk	-	-	-	1	1	
Draughtsman	-	-	-	1	1	
Miscellaneous Trades.	-	-	-	4	4	
Photographers	-	-	-	1	1	
Total (excluding attached)	1	-	1	7	9	
Attached :- Batman	-	-	-	1	1	
Total (including attached)	1	-	1	8	10	