AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

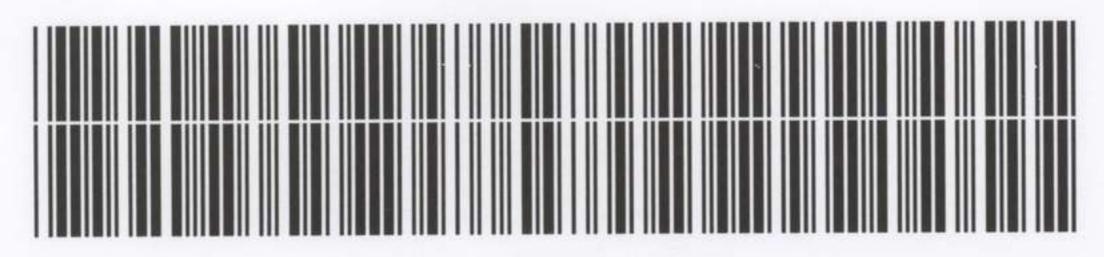
Item number: 1/4/11 Part 4

Title: General Staff, General

Headquarters, Mediterranean

Expeditionary Force

February 1916



AWM4-1/4/11PART4

SECRET

G.S. 113

Pebruary,

Lieut-General Sir A. J. Godley, & Lt-Gen. Sir W.R. Birdwood,

K.C.M.G., C.B. K.C.B., T.C.S.I. et

I beg to forward the attached copy of a wire received this morning from the War Office on the subject of the organization of new A. & N.Z. formations, and should be glad if you would forward your remarks thereon.

Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

From WAR OFFICE. To G.H.Q. MEDFORCE. Repeated EGYPT. 19901 cipher S.D.S. Our 18455. Your A.M. 7. Can you say how this question stands. When did your proposals leave and do they include what is required for EGYPT the question being one which you were to discuss with G.O.C. Egypt. It is important for many reasons that the question of Headquarters and Staffs, be settled. Copies to :-O. for action. 0.-in-0. C.G.S. A.K.S. Filed G.S. 105. G.S. Cables.

From A.H.Q. SALOHICA. To G.H.Q. Medforce. 8/2/18 GC 14. Following from Troopers, begins:-" Your telegram A,448, order of battle dated November maxim out of date. Allotment of heavy batteries in Mear East is one for C-in-C, G.H.Q. M.E.F. to decide. If you have insufficient you should represent your case to him", ends. Including naval gums there are now 21 heavy guns heing mounted along British front compared with 142 French. One or two more batteries would enable me to strongthen considerably the neck between lakes which is at present the weakest point in the Allied line. Copies to:-O. for action. GaineG. CaG.S. M.G.R.A. Filed G.S. 57.

February, 1916. Seneral Officer Genmanding, 9th, 15th, A. & N.Z. Corps. The following decisions have been made with regard to the allotment of ammunition, etc., for training TUITPONGOI-No amminition at present available. 1. Artillory. 300 rounds per men forming part of 2. Machine Guns. STATE OF OTHER S. Riflas. 60 rounds per recruit. (a) 40 rounds per trained soldier. (6) 5 rounds per man for field practice. (0) Approved musketry courses for (a) and (b) have already been issued. HOTE. 34 rounds per officer and man 4. Revolver. entitled to carry. S. Grenades, per Infantry Brigade Grenadier School. These schools should be so constituted as to be able to train coo granadiera per month. Stores as under are available:-/ (a) bopy to D.O.S.

| | | | | 1/86 |
|---|------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | Article. | | Remarks |
| | | | | |
| | | | 500 | These granades will have a yellow band round the middle, and will be used to practice throwing. |
| | | Monthly Issue. | | Live grenades at the rate of 5 per man trained. |
| | | Spherical Hand Grenade. | | |
| | | Sole Inme. | 100 | Live grenades for theoretical instruction only. |
| | | Catarults. | | Per edicol. |
| | | Spherical Grenades for above. | | Charges withdrawn and |
| | | | | Charges withdrawn and allowance of 5 Igniters (less detenators) per man. |
| * | (a) | Jones pattern. | | |
| | | Monthly Issue. | 800 | At the rate of 1 per man trained. |
| | | The question of pr | ovision fo | r trench mortars is still |
| | | r. consideration. | | |
| | | | | submitted at once. |
| | 8. | | | now been discarded; |
| | | efore no issue of Go | lignite, d | letonators or fuzes |
| | A111 | in future be made. | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | (Sgo) A. | · U | |
| | | Mod | Chief 11 terranes | of the General Staff. n Expeditionary Force. |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

· War Drawy G.S. 126 February, Inspector General of Communications. Reference your L.175, dated 3rd February. The Commander-in-Chief has carefully considered your request to have a General Staff Officer appointed to the D.I.G.C.'s Staff at ALEXANDRIA The Commander-in-Chief regrets he is unable to grant your request. (Sgo) A. Ryman Bell Major-General, Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. General Officer Commanding,

9th Army Corps.

1/125,000 Map.

With reference to your G.S. /810/S, of 80th Jamuary, the Commander-in-Chief approves of the proposal which you put forward with regard to the occupation of the line E. and R.E. of the LITTLE BITTER LAKE.

Your troops will not take up the front line in this area but will hold the landing stage (on East bank) at KABRIT, keeping bouch with the posts on right and left and patrolling the bank of the LITTLE BITTER LAKE.

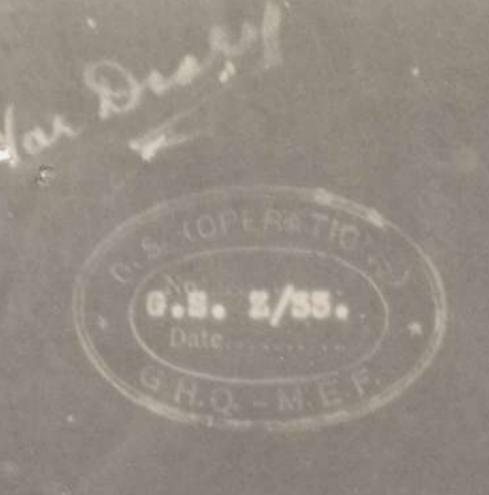
A. & N.Z. Corps will be thrown back in echelon to about the point at which the Caravan Route, as shown on the Map, is cut by the boundary line between Nos. I and II Sections.

Chief of the General Staff

Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to !-

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



SEGRET

6 - February,

Reference Map. 1: 125000

General Officer Commanding,

A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

The Commander-in-Chief has approved of a proposal put forward by the G.O.C., 9th Corps, with regard to the cocupation of the line East and North-East of the LITTLE BITTER LAKE, in accordance with which, the 9th Corps will not take up the front line in this area, but will hold the landing stage (on East bank) at KABRIT, keeping touch with the posts on right and left and patrolling the bank of the LITTLE BITTER LAKE.

To conform with these dispositions the right of the A. & N.Z. Army Corps will be thrown back in echelon to about the point at which the CARAVAN ROUTE, as shown on the map, is cut by the boundary line between Nos. I and II Sections.

Major-General,

Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

(Sgo) a Kynden Bell

Copies to E.-in-C. W.G.R.A. G.S. 128. 6 February, The Manager, Angle-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., CAIRO. Sir, Your letter to Sir John Maxwell, dated 1st Pebruary, requesting access to the trunk telephone line between Cairo and Pert Said, has been passed to me. I much regret that, owing to military exigencies, I am unable to accede to your request. It will always be pessible for urgent messages connected with military affairs to be sent from the effice of the Command Paymaster, Caire. gour obedient Servant,
(Sgd) Ark. Rynden-Bell
Major-Gor Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Ferce.

Promi- Chief, India////A Chief, London. repeated Superflux, Cairo. To1-

No. 37509.

5th. February.

Reference your telegram No 127788 Cipher and 12778 Cipher M.C. 661 both of 2nd February. Regarding 15th.Division which is being prepared for despatch to MESOPATAMIA, this Division should be complete according to your telegram No 12809 Cipher D. of February 3rd. to General Headquarters, Medforce, repeated to Commander-in-Chief in India, including one Brigade four battery Howitzers and a squadron Divisional Cavalry. 15th Division should be despatched in following order:-

- A. Divisional Headquarters complete.
- B. 1 Infantry Brigade complete. 1 Field Ambulance.
- C. 1 R.F.A. Brigade.
- D. 2nd Infantry Brigade and 1 Field Ambulance.
- E. Howitzer Brigade.
- F. Divisional Cavalry.
- G. 3rd Infantry Brigade and 1 Field Ambulance.
- H. remaining 2 R.F.A. Brigades.

A proportion of signalling Unit and 1st. and 2nd. Line Transport should go with or immediately after each formation. Interpreters of Turkish and Arabic should be sent from Egypt with the troops.

Hindustani interpreters will be arranged for from India. Please telegraph names of the following:-

> Divisional Commanders and Staff Officers. Brigade Commanders and Staff Officers of Brigades.

I shall require very considerable assistance from you as regards the maintenance of the Division, and am telegraphing to you separately as regards this.

Addressed Chief, London. Repeated Superflux, Cairo.

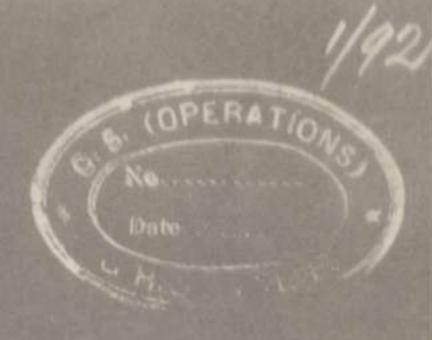
Copy to

M.G.R.A.

D.A.S.

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

W. SECRE



Parous

GolfoQo

100

15th Corps

OBA 188.

7/2/20

Desp. 1840.

Following instructions received from War Office begins:-

15th Division should be despatched in the following order :-

- A. Divisional Meadquarters completes
- B. 1 Infuntry Brigade complete.
- C. 1 R.F.A. Brigade.
- D. And Infantry Brigade, and
- E. Howitzer Brigade.
- F. Divisional Cavalry.
- G. Srd Infantry Brigade, and
- H. remaining 2 R.F.A. Brigades.

A proportion of signalling unit and let and and line transport should go with or immediately after each formation.

Copies to:-

G-in-G. G-in-G. A. H-G-R-A. B-in-G.

G.S. Cables.

1

SECRET PRIORITY. From G.H.Q. 20 18th Corps. 7/9/18 OBA 125. Deep. 1815. My ORA 182 to-day. Instructions were from INDIA not War Office, and only refer to order of embarkation if despatch of division is ordered from home. Copies to :-0. C-in-G. C.G.S. Q. Selmeo. DeAsSe Filed G.S. 152.

SECRET

Superflux.

G.H.Q.

2.58.

7/0/16

Deep. 1446.

Following from Chief India beginss-Clear line 27894 February 7th.

Reference your telegram 12 84 1668 cipher M.O. February 4th. I consider(?) the despatch of the Division necessary (2) technical law Lake has been referred to as regards the assurance asked for by you and he says (N) as follows begins:-

"Am fully able to receive and maintain 15th Division on its arrival in MESOPOTAMIA. I prosume all units of 15th Division will bring tents with them. Also request all units of 15th Division bring with them one month's supplies and requisite divisional and brigade supply column personnel and cotablishment " Ends.

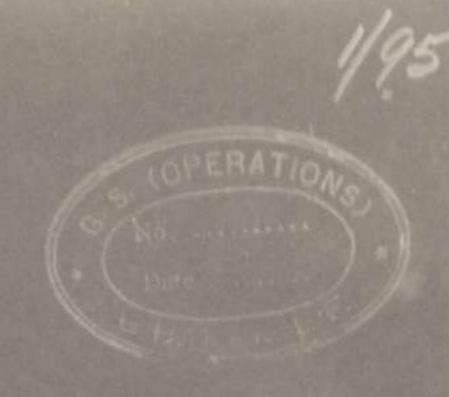
Addressed C.I.G.S. Repeated G.O.C. EGYPT.

Copies to:-

for action.

KeGeReA.

Filed G.S. 158.



TOS- CHIEF, MEDFORCE
TOS- CHIEF, INDIA DELHY.

A.H.BB.

7/2/16.

Desp. 2145.

Your 37509, February 5th.

Pollowing are Staff Officers serving with Headquarters and Brigades 15th Division Commander Major-General F.S. Meude with 2 A.D.C's AAA General Staff Brench let Grade Lieutemant-Colonel R.J.T.Hildyard, Royal West Kent Regiment, and Grade Major L.I.C. Morgan-Owen, South Wales Horderers, 3rd Grade Captain T. Misbet, 28th Cavalry, Indian Army AAA A.A.C.Q.M.G. Major W.D.S. Brownrigg, Notts and Derby Regiment, D.A.A.&.Q.H.G. Captain A.R.Godwin-Austin, South Wales Borderers, D.A.C.M.G. Major W.N.S.Alexander, Communght Rangers AAA Assistant Provost Marshal Lieut J.S.Kennedy, 5rd Bn.Border Regiment AAA Divisional Artillery Commander Brigadier-General F.E. Barker R.F.A. with A.D.C. Brigade Major Major F.W. Barron R.G.A. Staff Captain Captain B.S.Bramwell R.F.A., (T) AAA Brigade Commanders 38th Brigadier-General J.W.O'Dowda, Royal Bublin Fusiliers, 39th Frigadier-General W. de S. Cayley 40th Brigadier-General A.C. Lawin, Srd. Bn. Connaught Rengers AAA Brigade Majors 38th. Captain R.L.Petre, South Wales Borderers, - 59th Captain E.M.Simpson, Vorcestershire Regiment 40th. Major Sir W.B.Barttelot, Bt., Coldstream Guards AAA Staff Captains S8th. Lieutenant C.C. Dowding, 8th Un.Royal Lancaster Regiment 30th. Captain G.Floming, Somerset Light Infantry 40th. Captain M.D. Gambier-Parry, Royal Welsh Fuciliars.

Copy to C. G.S. C. A.M.S.

Copy to A. Q. M.G.R.A. Filed G.S. Cables.

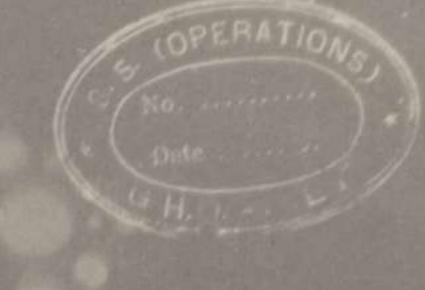
From Superflux. To G. H. Q. G.E.566. 7/2/26 Appointed Feyton to command Western Frontier Force. Can you spare Adye to succeed Peyton here in command of 53rd and 54th Divisions FATUR etc. Should like to get him at once. Altham has no objection and is wiring you. Copies to:-A.M.S. C-in-C. C.G.S. O. A. Filed G.S. Cables. G.S. Z.28. 96

From

CHIEF MEDFORGE.

To

SUPERFLUX.



A.M. 85. 7/2/16.

Desp. 2220.

Your G.E. 366.

I feel sure that War Office will never sanction what amounts to another Corps Commander and Staff being appointed to command 53rd and 54th Divisions. As a matter of fact I am sending home one Corps Commander and his Staff. If there is any difficulty in EGYPT dealing with two Divisions I can absorb one of them in place of 15th Division now being made ready for MESOFOTAMIA or in addition to my present force.

Copies to :-

A.M.S.

0.-in-0.

C.G.S.

0.

Filed G.S. Cables. G.S. Z.28.

ORERATION 198

To CHIEF LONDON.

A.M. 86. 7/2/16. Desp. 2220.

Following from G.O.C. EXXPT:-

Appointed Peyton to command Western Frontier Force.

Can you spare Adys to succeed Feyton here in command of

53rd and 54th Divisions FAYUM etc. Should like to get

him at once. Althem has no objection and is wiring you.

I have answered as follows :-

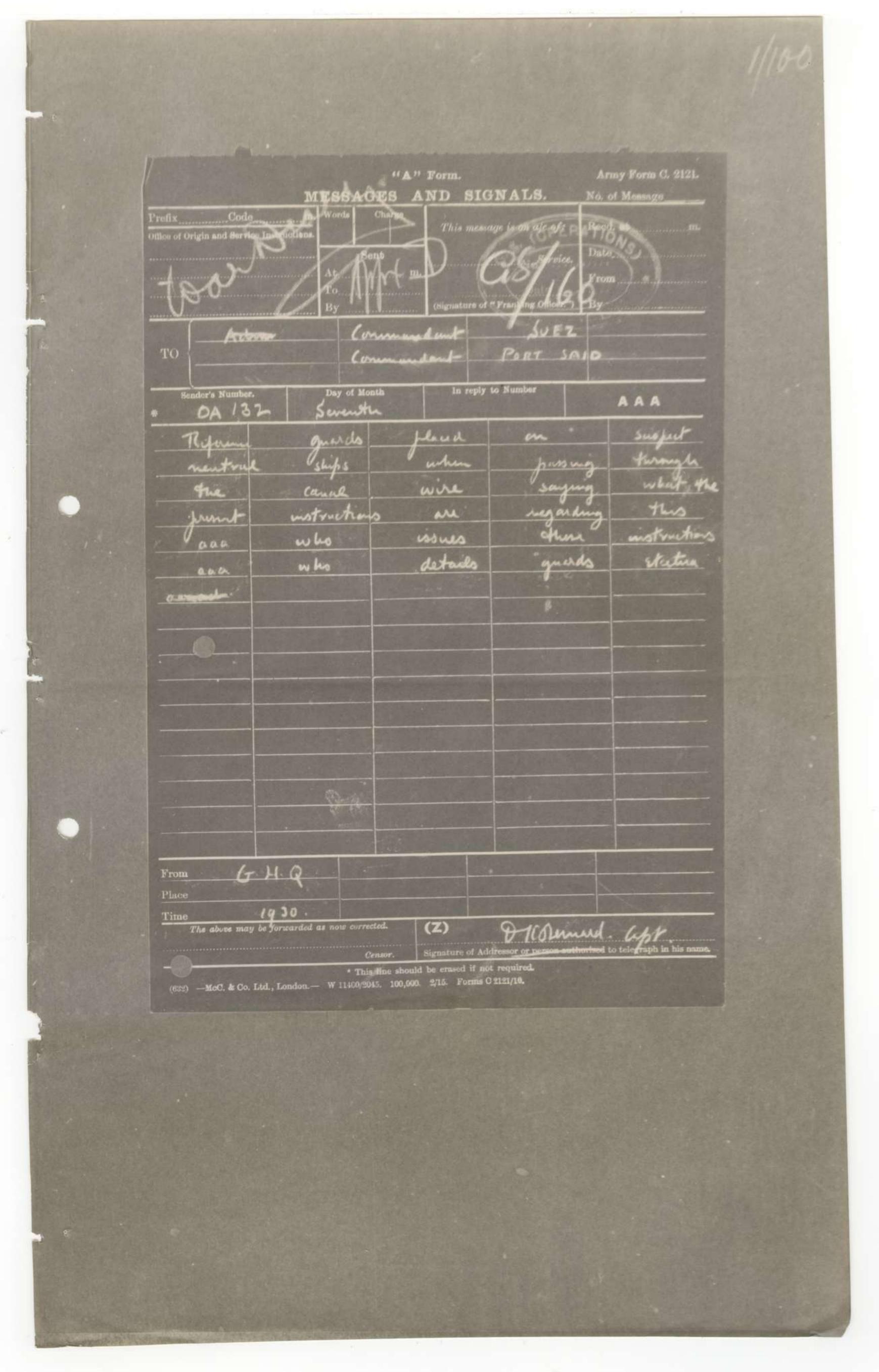
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Copies to :-

A.M.S. C.-in-C. C.G.S.

Filed G.S. Cables.
G.S. Z.28.

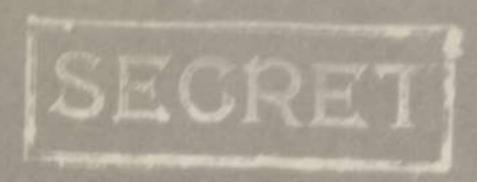
From War Office. To. Chief, M.R.F. 18935 cipher S.D.B. 7/2/16 Desp. 1410. Recd. 1850. Your A.M. 78. Yeomanry regiments in question must be used as reinforcements, for allotment see my telegram 11646 cipher. Arrangements which will most satisfactorily give effect to this decision are left to your discretion, but you should report as soon as they have been made. Copies to:-C-in-C. File G.S. 129. G.S. 10/1. G.S. Cables. NOTE. Above telegram (corrected by repetition received this morning) should be substituted for the copy circulated yesterday. G.S.(0) 8.2.16.



From: - Chief, Medforce. Tor- Chief, London. A.M. 84. cipher. 7/2/16. Desp. 2145. Evening report. Agents report 18,000 men in huts at JERUSALEM with 9000 camels AAA 2000 BETHLEHEM. AAA 18000 BIRSABA some of whom may be labour battalions AAA many washouts on railway AAA KRESS VON KHRESENSTEIN has been reconneitering for gun positions on North Road near TEL FARAMA, ABU ASAB, TEL EL HEXR AAA. construction of huts for storage supplies KATIA comfirmed AAA. 4 Seroplenes have arrived EL ARISH AAA. also 8 German officers and 50 German soldiers. Copy to C-in-C. C.G.S. M.S.R.A. E in C. D.A.S. Filed 2/29.

From: - Chief, Medforce. To:- Chief, London. Desp. 2215. 7/2/16. A.H.87. Evening report. The whole of 11th Division has now embarked for Egypt. Copy to C in C.
C.G.S.
O.
I.
A.
Q.
M.G.R.A.
E.in C.
D.A.S. Filed Z/29. G.S.Cables.

G.B./2/32



7 February, 1916.

General Officer Communding,

9th, 15th, A. & N.Z. Corps.

Mawal orders to patrol boats on the Canal have hitherto permitted fire to be opened on any rowing boats on the Canal by night.

In view of the fact that it has been found necessary sometimes to use rowing boats for military purposes at night, it has now been decided that the newel patrol boats will challenge before opening fire.

for military purposes by night are warned that they must stop immediately, if challenged, so as to permit the navel patrol boats coming up to imspect them.

Gayly P. Souran and L. Col. M. Sonoral.

Chief of the General Staff

SECRET

WP.

February,

General Officer Commanding, 15th Army Corps.

You should report as early as possible the exact position of the left flank of your defensive line, and notify this office as soon as the work on your left flank is completed and manned.

This information is specially required in order that the Vice-Admiral may make corresponding naval arrangements for the defence of the left flank.

Chief of the General Staff.

Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

· February, General Officer Commanding, 9th Army Corps. With reference to your Q.144, of 29th Jamuary, the question of the organisation of sea transport, for the purpose referred to, would appear to be mainly a naval matter. You should consult the Senior Naval Officer, No. 1 Section, and request him to arrange the organisation of the transport that exists, for use in emergency and at short notice, if you so desire. (Sgs) A. Rynden Bell. Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004062 No 65/163

1/106

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

7 February, 1916.

Sir,

The question has been raised as to the collection and organisation of such launches, lighters, etc., as exist at SUEZ, in case it should be necessary at any time to call upon all available craft of this kind for the rapid transference of troops from SUEZ and the neighbourhood across the water to EL SHATT, or to the Quarantine Station N.W. of AYUN MUSA.

There appears to be a considerable amount of craft, and it will be necessary to organise a system by which it could be made available if required at short notice in emergency.

It would appear that this work could best be undertaken by the Senior Naval Officer, No. 1 Section, I have, therefore asked the G.O.C., 9th Corps, to consult that officer and to request him to take up this matter.

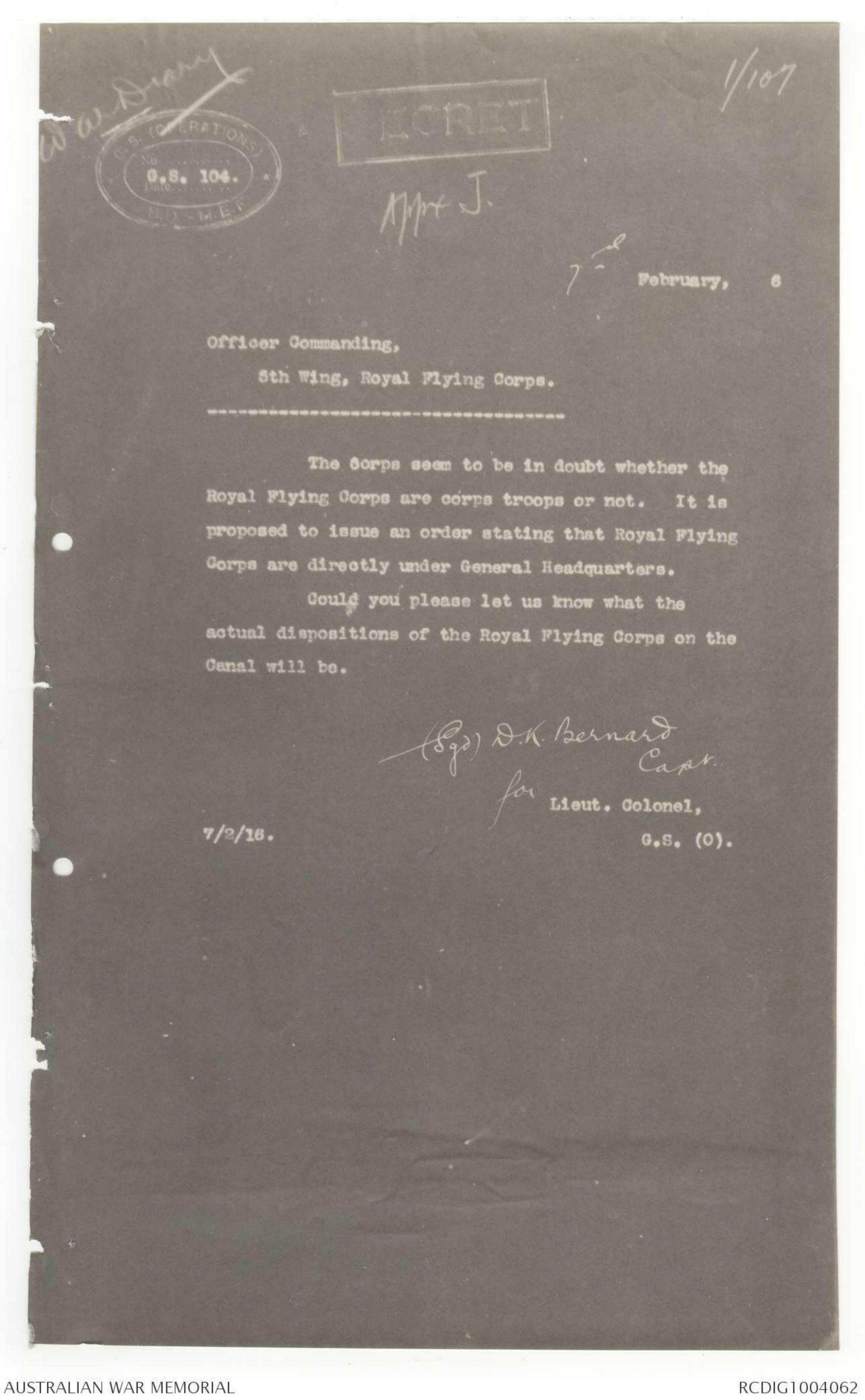
I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(8gd) A. Rynden. Bell M.G. C.G.S.

Commander-in-Chief.

Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



or 6.8.161 February, 1916. General Officer Commanding, 9th, 15th, A. & N.Z. Army Corps. In view of the difficulty of maintaining the supply of staff officers, it is important that advantage should be taken of the present opportunity of training staff officers to fill vacancies that may arise. You should make arrangements therefore, where possible, to attach to your Corps and Divisional Staffs, officers who appear likely to be suitable and who can be spared from other duties, to understudy officers holding junior appointments both of the General Staff and Administrative Staff. Reports on such officers as may by this means be found suitable for staff employment should be forwarded to this office in due course. It is thought that a month's attachment should, generally speaking, be sufficient to determine whether an officer is likely to make an efficient staff officer. (Sys) Cap Daw Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004062

February, The General Officer Commanding, The Force in Egypt. In Force Order No. 3 of January 19th, a copy of which was forwarded to you, 'B' battery, H.A.C., was retained by M.E.F. I am now anxious that this battery should be returned to the Force in Egypt, in exchange for Berkshire battery, R.H.A. Please say if you have any objection to this taking place. The services of the Berkshire battery, R.H.A., are not yet required, and I propose for the present to leave it at your disposal.

Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. 0.8. 181.

7 February

Dear Sir,

Prior to the taking over of the defences of the Suez Canal by the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, certain officers had been empowered to sign demands on the Canal Company's officials for material or work to be carried out. This list has now been revised and the following names should, if you approve, be substituted for those contained under "Armee Britannique" in Rule 7 of "Memorandum des Mesures prises d'accord avec l'autorite militaire":

The following officers, or staff officers acting for them, the fact being so stated.

G. H. Q.

Major-General Walter Campbell.

Deputy Quarter Master General.

D.Q.M.G.

Major-General G, Williams.

Engineer-in-Chief.

E.-in-C.

Brigadier-General W. Gillman.

Brigadier-General, General Staff.

B.G.G.S.

Brigadier-General F. W. B. Koe.

Director of Supply and Transport.

D.S.T.

Major-General W. G. A. Bedford.

Director of Medical Services.

D.M.S.

/15th Army Corps.

15th Army Corps. Brigadier-General G. F. Mackumn. Deputy Adjutant and Quarter Master General. D.A. & Q.M.G. Brigadier-General P. G. Grant. Chief Engineer. C.E. Australian and New Zealand Army Corpsz Brigadier-General R. A. Carruthers. Deputy Adjutant and Quarter Master General. DoA. & Q.M.G. Brigadier-General W. B. Lesdie. Chief Engineer. C.E. 9th Army Corps. Brigadier-General A. G. F. McHalty. Deputy Adjutant and Quarter Master General. D.A. & Q.M.G. Brigadier-General E. H. Bland. Chief Engineer. C.E. As changes may take place in personnel from time to time, another officer succeeding to any of the above appointments will have the same powers, in vittue of his appointment. Yours Sincerely, (Sgo) G. F. Dawnay Lt-Colonel, G.S. Mons. le capitaine Beret.

G.S. 151. Capt. Macdonald, R.N. Ismailia. ****** We are not quite clear what the orders are with regard to Hopper 35 opening fire on parties on the desert. As there appears to be some risk of patrols being fired on if they move into certain areas without giving previous notice I would be glad if you would let me know what the orders are.

G.H.Q.

6/2/16.

Coyly All Colons.

0.8.151.

SECRET

7 - February,

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that naval submarine cables have been laid under the canal at the following points:-

DEVERSOIR One cat

One cable at Kilo 95.1.

TOUBSOUM

Two cables 15 feet apart at Kilo 87.4.

BENCH MARK

Two cables at Kilo 72.8.

EL FERDANE

Two cables. 100 yards South of Kilo 64.4. attached to bollard next South of Mark.

LAGOON .

Two cables across entrance to Lagoon in Kilo. 83.1.

(Sgo) G. F. Dawnay

Yours Sincerely,

Mons. le Capitaine Beret, Canal Company. Lieutenant Colonel, G.S.

G.S. 131.

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

MAPP. 7 Pobruery. 1916.

Sir,

In view of the fact that the line of defence is now some distance East of the Canal I would be glad if you would imform me if you agree to the proposal to relax the following two rules of the Canal Company, which came into force when the line of defence was on the Canal.

- (a) Ships are not allowed to be tied up to the Eastern bank.
- (b) The SUEZ Section of the Canal is closed nightly from 6.p.m. until reported "All Clear" on the following morning.

From a military point of view there appears to be no objection to relaxing these two rules, but I would be glad of your views on the matter before communicating with the Canal Company.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sg) A. Rynden Bell et. S

> Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

NO. 8. 160.

April Q

7 Pebruary,

General Officer Commanding, 9th Army Corps.

with you direct for the relief of the platoon of 31st Division now at SUEZ, which furnishes guards on suspect neutral vessels passing through the Canal from South to North.

In future, 15th Corps should provide the necessary guard for vessels proceeding from North to South, and 9th Corps for vessels proceeding from South to North. Both corps should arrange as far as possible to utilise the guards arriving at PORT SAID or SUEZ as escorts to vessels going in the opposite direction, instead of sending them back by train. This will lessen the number of men employed on the duty.

(Sigo) G. H. Dawray Mr. for Major-Gener

Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. 0.8. 160.

February,

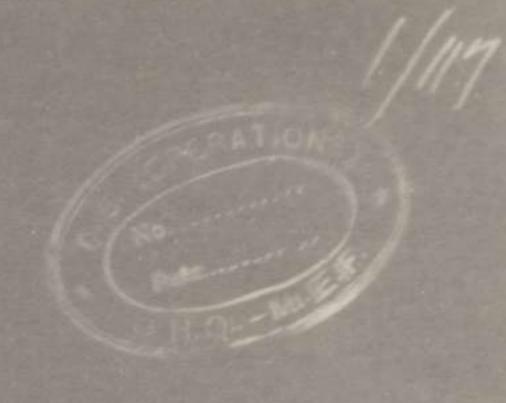
General Officer Commanding, 15th Army Corps.

In answer to your letter G.15 of 4/2/16,
9th Corps are being notified that you will arrange
with them direct for the withdrawal of the platoon of
51st Division now at SUEZ. In future 15th Corps
should provide the necessary guard for vessels proceeding
from North to South and 9th Corps for vessels proceeding
from South to North. Both corps should arrange as
far as possible to utilise the guards arriving at PORT
SAID or SUEZ as escorts to vessels going in the opposite
direction instead of sending them back by train. This
will lessen the number of men employed on the duty.

(Sgo) G-P. Dawnay Rt. Col Major-General, Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. SEC



My A



From

Chief London.

To

Chief India.

Repeated Chief, Medforce.

12972 cipher 5.D.2.

7/2/16 8/2/16 Deep. 2210. Recd. 0650.

Our 12519 and 12536.

as soon as possible. Order of despatch as in telegram

27509 of C-in-C. India February 5th. 1st Line Transport
should accompany units. India has been asked separately
whether cyclist company is required. 7th brigade mountain
artillery will follow last field artillery brigade. C-in-C.
Medforcs will arrange for 25 Arabic and Turkish interpreters
if procurable to accompany the troops and will wire names
divisional and brigade commanders staff officers to India.
Infantry will proceed and be maintained on Indian war
establishment.

Copies to:-

Q. for action.

O. ...

I. ...

G-in-C.

C.G.S.

A.

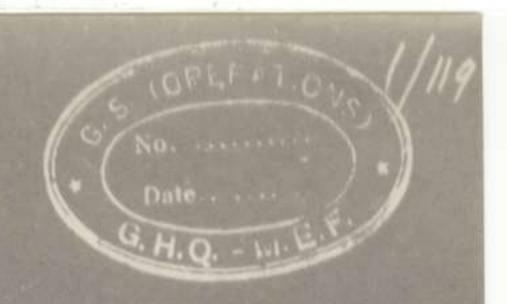
D.A.S.

E-in-C.

A.M.S.

From War Office. G.C.C. M.E.F. /2954 cipher Q.M.G.2. Reference Levbase 0839 Q and 838 Q. It is stated therein that some officers of 13th Division have left on MRGANTIC on leave. Steps are being taken to send these officers back and no more should be senta Copies to:-Q. A. C-in-C. C.G.S.

SECRET



From

Superflux.

To

G. H. Q.

Z.56.

7/2/16 8/2/18

Desp. 2400. Recd. 0615. Decd. 0715.

Following received from Chief India, eddressed Troopers and repeated Superflux, Cairo, begins :-

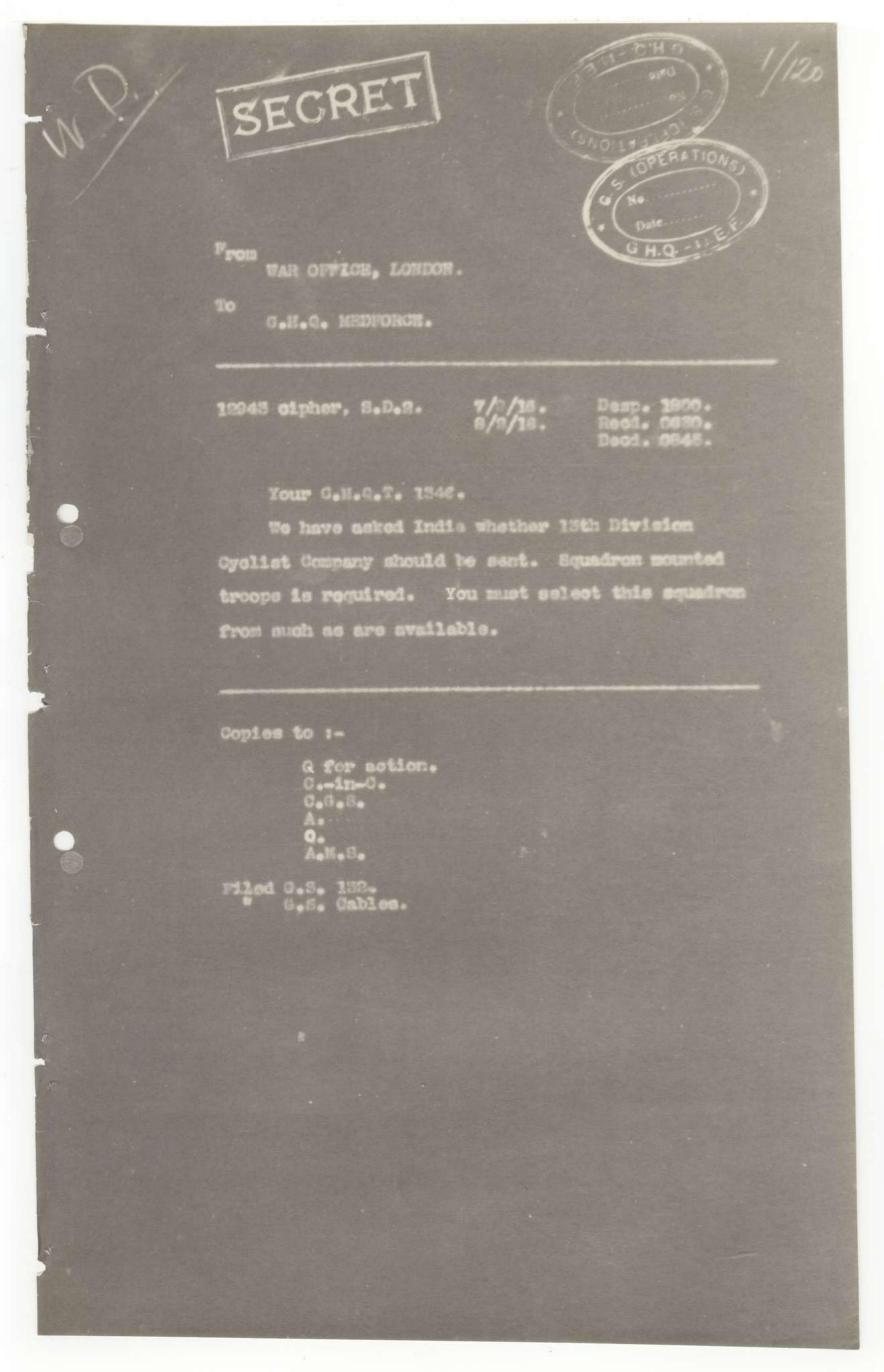
57737, February 7th, in continuation my telegram 57111 February 2nd.

G.O.C. Force D now definitely states that G.S. wagons cannot be used for transport purposes in MESOPOTAMIA and he further states the wheeled transport which accompanied Meerut Division and Lahore Division has proved unauitable. It is useless sending d.S. wagons as transport tor the 15th Division andit is imperative that this Division be equipped from mule transport released from Gallipoli. G.O.C. Force D particularly asks for A.T. carts and draught mules to replace transport sent with Meerut Division and Lahore Division. India cannot meet this demand and therefore after equipping the 13th Division the whole of the remainder of the Indian cart transport from GALLIPOLI sent to BASRA direct. On its arrival there equivalent amount of wheel transport which accompanied Meerut Division and Lahere Division can be sent back to EGYPT if you so desire. Please wire for information of G.O.C. Force D what transport will actually be sent with 13th Division.

2 copies to Q. for action. 1 copy 0.

copy C-in-C. 1 copy to A. G.G.S. Filed G.S. 752

G.S. Cables



From Chief India. 70 Chief Medforce. 27892 cipher 8th. Reference 12876 cipher M.C.669 February 5th from Chief London, addressed you repeated India. Does the 7th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade require any re-equipments Copies to 1-O. for action. M.G.R.A. C-in-C. C.G.S. Q. Filed G.S. 132.

From

War Office.

To

G.H.Q. Repeated India.

12970 cipher. D.S.D.

Desp. 2110. Decd. 0945.

Continuation of 12809 of February Srd.

India will provide Mark 6 S.A.A. for use with rifles as in case of other divisions in MESOPOTAMIA. For machine guns 50,000 bounds Mark 7 per gun should be sent. Do not alter any arrangements made as regards S.A.A. provided the quantity required for machine guns is supplied. As regards artillery 1000 rounds per gun for howitzers should be sent in place of 600 previously ordered. Tentage must be sent. Wo. 16 Casualty Clearing Station should accompany the Division. No. 23 Stationary Hospital now on route tor EGYPT and No. 32 General Hospital which completes embarkation to-day should be sent on to MESOPOTAMIA. One month's supplies of preserved meat, biscuit and medical comforts should accompany the Division, and also 30 days groceries in addition to those required for the voyage. You should as far as possible comply with the requirements as to transport given in No. 37727 from C-in-C. India, informing us and Force D of what has been arranged. Separate instructions will be sent you as regards supply of dething and reserve ordnance stores.

2 copies to Q. for action, 1 copy to O. C-in-C. CODY

C.G.S.

M.G.R.A.

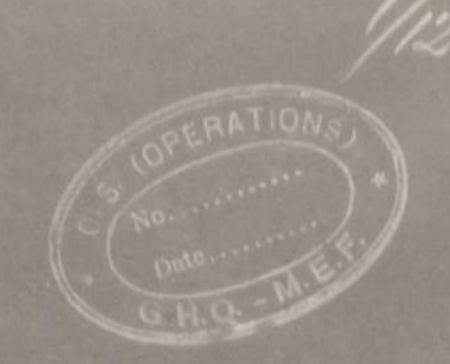
Filed G.S. 152. G.S. Cables.

PRIORITY. Prom CHIRP INDIA. Address W.O.LONDON repeated Chief Hedforce, SURZ. 8/2/26. 27887 cipher. Desp. 1984. Reed. 1825. Clear the Line. General of force D wires, begins :-Your 37895, 8th February. Please arrange despatch of Cycle Company with their bicycles though it is recognised that their use may be strictly limited during approaching floods. I hope that the progress being made in improving land communications may provide some scope for them. Ends. Copies to :-Q. Q. Q. Q. Q. Q. Q. Q. Q. Q. Filed G.S. 132. G.S. Cables.

From Chief London. To Chief Hedforce. Repeated C-in-C. India. 12001 dipher S.D.2. 8/2/16 My 12972 cipher of the 7th February. It is to be distinctly understood embarkation of 15th Division not later than February 10th and that despatch of the troops proceeds there thereafter as quickly as possible. To the units already detailed to accompany 15th Division add one field butchery and one field bakery. Copies to:-Filed G.S. 132. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004062 From

A.H.Q. SALONICA.

To D.A.G., G.H.Q. MEDFORCE.



A. 505 cipher.

Desp. 2355. Recd. 0650. Deod. 1005:

One gun 24th Anti-Aircraft Section with one officer and 7 other ranks now here. Personnel not sufficient to ensure efficient working of gum and no transport except carriage of gum has arrived. Can remaining gun personnel and transport be sent.

Copies to :-

O for action.

C.G.S.

Q.

M.G., R.A.

Filed G.S. 89. G.S. Cables.

Chief, Medferes. Troopers, London. Tos-Desp. 1500. 8/2/26+ AsMeDl. Your 18901 ciptur S.D.2. of 5/2/16. My Ache?. donls with a specific which it would be convenient to have nettled namely whether you approve of abolition I.G.C. Staff, Balonika and increase of establishment by Deputy Enspector General of Communications H.E.F., and if so whother by an officer of Adye's rank and etatus AAA Composition of Headquerters H.H.F. and order of Sattle corrected as for as wee then possible comt by N.W. February let AAA Egypt sending you composition of Headquarters direct AAA Completion of Staffs delayed waiting decision re relieving a corps etalf here and re proposed new Australian Sommations and recommutation dismounted Brigades AAA Your 1698 H.S.1 of 6/2/10 and 19895 cipher S.D.S. of 8/2/28 settling these questions now eachles us to complete except question of Corps Staff Salonika. Copy to Filed

//127

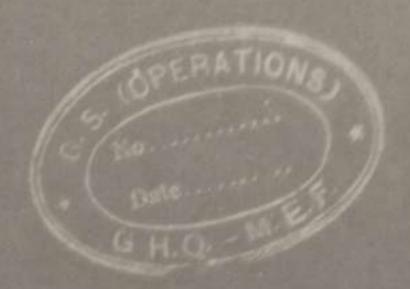
Month

From

CHIEF MEDWORGE.

20

TROOPERS LONDON.



A.M.90 .

8/2/16

Desp. 1240.

Sanction requested following increase Establishments.

G.H.Q. one Staff Captain to Major -General Royal Artillery,
one quartermaster to Camp Commandant's Staff necessary
under present conditions. One Deputy Director Army
Signals, and one Deputy Director Ordnance Services for
L. of C. work. 3rd Echelon one Staff Captain and one
Staff Lieutenant. Officers for above are available
locally. Sending draft Establishments for General
Headquarters by K.M. to-day.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. 11 G.S. Cables.

From: - Chief, Medferce .

To:- Chief, London.



A.M.92.

8/2/16.

Desp. 1305.

Personal.

Regarding your private letter to me dated 26th. January, I shall place Birdwood in general administrative centrel of all Australian Troops and in direct control of the 1st Australian Corps with status and staff of Corps Commander. Godley will command 2nd Corps with similar status and staff referring certain Australian administrative matters to Birdwood. This is necessary as postings and promotions of all Australian Officers must be done through Birdwood, who exercises these functions by Commonwealth Order in Council. I have informed Birdwood of your kind promise contained in your last paragraph and he is not the man to raise any protest.

Copy to

Filed G.S. 113. G.S.Gables.

From

Chief Medforce.

To

Chief London.

A.M.96 cipher.

8/2/18

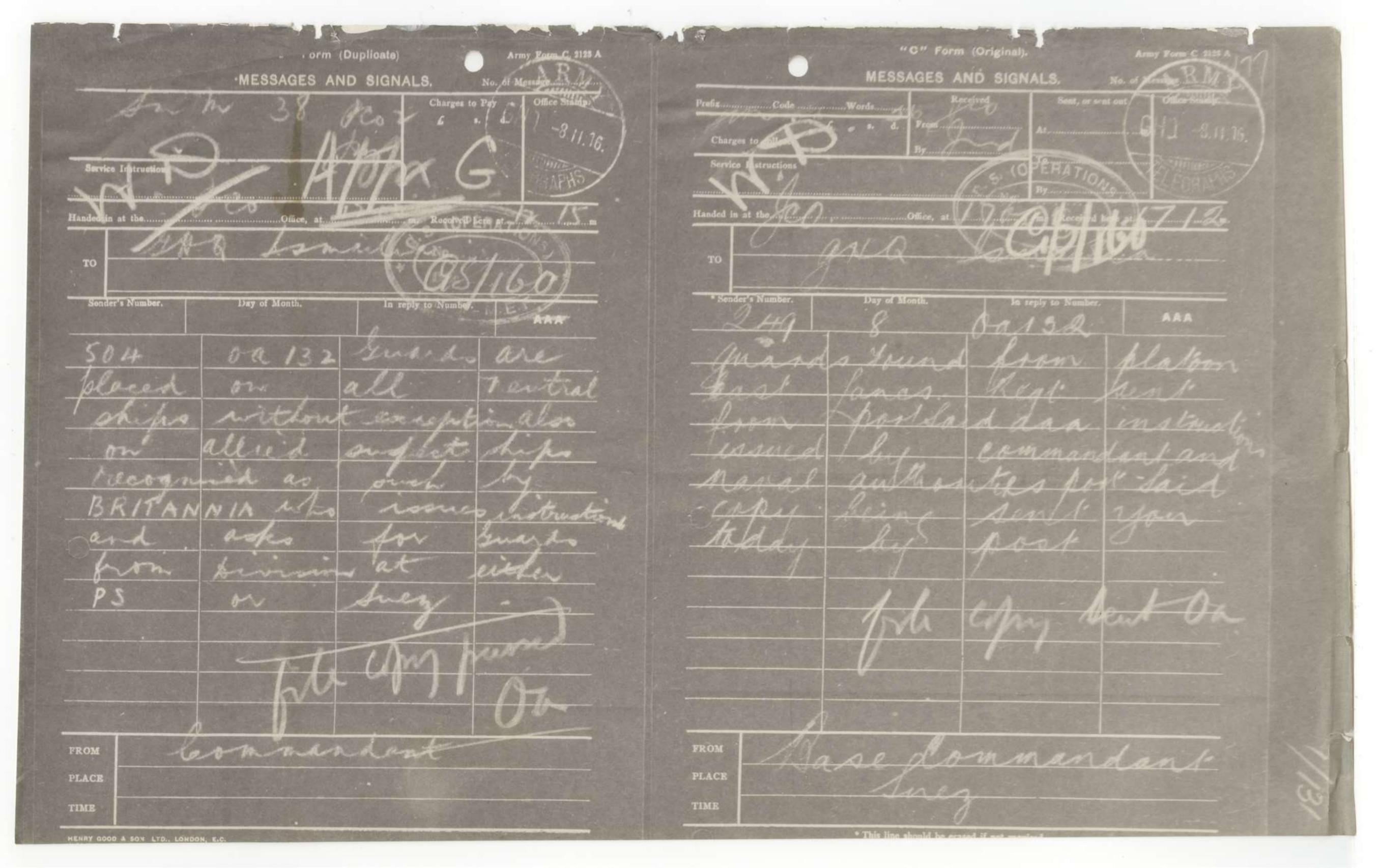
Desp. 2010.

Situation as regards New Zealand quite understood but as sufficient men in excess of establishment of two infantry brigades now available for a third brigade I trust I may be permitted at once to form this third brigade. This is necessary in any case for purposes of training and discipline. In addition to surplus infantry reinforcements who are available for formation of the third infantry brigade there is a large number of surplus mounted riflemen who are available and willing to come forward either for artillery or infantry. Reinforcements at the rate of 20% in excess of establishment are coming in every month and there seems little chance of absorbing this surplus in existing units in the near future. It seems therefore practically certain that we could keep up proposed New Zealand Division to approximate strength until New Zealand can increase present scale of reinforcements. As regards Australia, there was no intention of forming two new divisions of entirely new units. Two existing brigades will form nucleus of the two new divisions whilst remaining brigades of these divisions will be formed by the oldest battalions each forming a second battalion, existing reinforcements being equally shared by all. I will keep you informed of alld stails arranged by Birdwood with Australia.

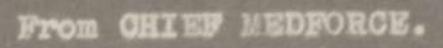
Copies to:- 0. C.G.S..

G.S. Cables.

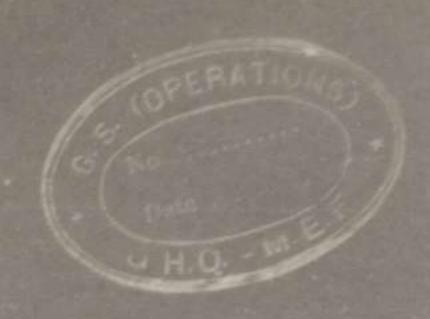
General Sir J. Maswoll, Chino. General Burray. G.E. 370 cipher. 8/2/16. Reed. 1730. Your A.M. 85. Organisation of command has received War Office sanction otherwise I should not have asked for ADIR. Payton's appointment to command was also approved as was Staff. I require no additional Staff Officers, but would be very glad if I could have ADIE. I understand that ALTHAM cam spare him. Copies to :-A.H.S. for action. C.-in-C. C.G.S. Filed Z/28. Cables.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004062



To CHIEF LONDON.



A.M. 95 cipher. 8/2/16. Desp. 1950.

Evening report.

Am pressing on preparations, especially with regard to construction of railway, for occupation of KATIA district.

Troops still awaiting shipment at MUDROS as follows :-

British Troops.

3,000.

Native Personnel.

600 -

Guns: Anti-Aircraft.

Vehicles.

150.

Animals.

800.

D.I.G.C. hopes to complete about February 12th.

Copies to :-

0.

0.-in-0.

C.G.S.

E.-in-C.

M.G., R.A.

D.A.S.

Filed Z/29.

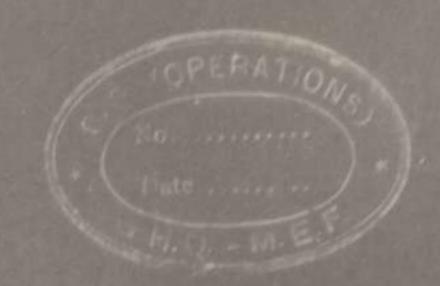
" G.S. Cables.

From

CHIEF MEDFORCE.

To

TROOPERS, LONDON.



A.M. 94.

8/2/16.

Desp. 1920.

29th Division War Establishment does not allow Regimental Sergeant Major Divisional Engineer Headquarters. Sanction now requested for this increase. Company Sergeant Major 14th Company R.E. recommended for appointment.

Copies to :-

O. A. E.-in-C.

Filed G.S. 288. [] G.S. Cables.

From

WAR OFFICE, LONDON.

Addressed

SUPERFLUX, repeated MEDFORCE.

12992 dipher D.S.D.

8/2/16.

Desp. 1345.

Recd. 2000.

Decd. 2115.

Your G.E. 560.

Formation special Signalling Section sanctioned but detailed establishment must be submitted by letter for approval. Dislocation of existing units should be avoided as far as possible and formation of unit must be without prejudice to requirements of MEDFORGE.

Copies to :-

0.-in-0. C.G.S.

D.A.S.

Filed G.S. 117. G.S. Cables.

G.S. Z/41/1. General Officer Commanding, 9th Army Corps. With regard to the attached papers, which are forwarded for your information and retention, the Commander-in-Chief desires that you will take the earliest opportunity of visiting TOR, and seeing the commander of that post, with a view to making the necessary arrangements for capturing the enemy post at GINEH and, by means of a show of activity, creating a good impression among the local Arabs. You should report your proposals to this office. Major-General, Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004062

1/136

Following message received from O.C. TOR, begins :-

Patrol of 130 rifles visited WADI EBRAN on let February, disloyal Arabs much disturbed and dispersed to hills. Turkish post retired 10 miles West of WADI SIG. Disloyal Arabs (3 groups undecipherable) and if the 2 companies this battalion at ABU ZENEINA can be temporarily replaced and sent to TOR I can make all further arrangements for column(s) here. Consider effect of this patrol would be to further question joining Government owing to shortage of food and failure of Turkish promises. Recommend column 400 rifles should visit GINEH leaving here about February 15th returning February 22nd if detachment of Arabs from disloyal Sheikhs and Turks do not anticipate more resistance than possible sniping.

Message ends.

1/137

Report from O.C. ABU ZENIMA (4/2/16) concerning the enemy post at GINEH.

The Syrian Officer there receives a post every 15 days from NEKHL.

Sheikh Madakhal suggests it would have a very good effect on the Arabs if this post at GINEH were captured. He himself would guide a party of 25 men on camels from here, and thinks they could surprise the post. The post consists of the Syrian Officer and 5 soldiers.

My M D. A. S. In reply to your A.S. /678 of February 7th. The presence of hostile aircraft should at once be reported to:-R.F.C. G.H.Q. 9th, 15th, and A. & N.Z. Army Corps. Vice-Admiral. L. of C. Defence Commander. (Go) G. P. Dawnay 40 Lt-Colonel, G.S. 7.2.16. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1004062



W. D. My

Secretary,

Was Office, London, S.W.

8th February, 1916.

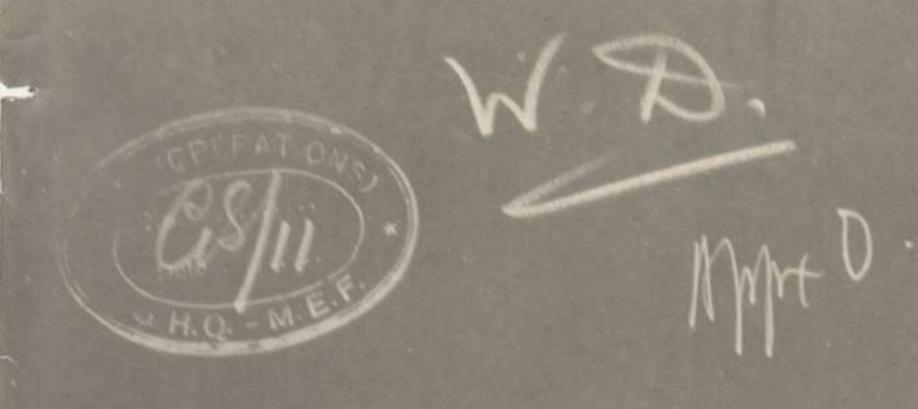
Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a provisional War Establishment for General Headquarters. These establishments are not complete in every detail, owing to the requirements of some of the Directorates being further investigated. I hope to be able to send a completed War Establishment by next King's Messenger, not only of General Headquarters, but also of Levant and other Bases in Egypt.

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

(Sgo) a hynden Bell unich

Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



The Secretary, War Office, London S.W.

8 February, 1916.

Sir,

With reference to W.O. telegram 1622 (S.D.2.) dated
4th.February, I have the honour to request that sanction
may be given for the appointment of an Assistant Director
Ordnance Services to each Corps in the Mediterranean
Expeditionary Force. I am of opinion that the appointment
is essential for the following reasons:-

- (a) The D.A.D.O.S. with Divisions are all either temporary officers or Commissaries.
- (b) The extended front of Corps requires Corps supervision of Ordnance Services in Divisions and among Corps Troops.
- (c) The re-equipment of the whole of the force necessitates the presence of an Ordnance Officer on Corps Staff to advise on Ordnance Services.

Pending War Office sanction I have authorised the appointments which have been filled by Ordnance Officers available locally.

I have the honour to be,

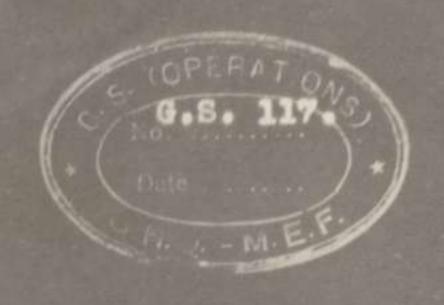
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgo) arkyrden Bell Mage

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copy to Dos (alia ()



WD

Mpt. P.

8 February,

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

With reference to G.S. 117, of 2nd February, 1916, (circular letter to Army Corps with regard to scale of equipment of units), the following amendments are made in respect of the establishments for the A. & N.Z. Army Corps, as a result of the Conference held at General Headquarters on the 3rd February, in connection with the formation of Australian Provisional Brigades:-

War Establishments, 1915, part 7, will apply to all units of the Australian and New Zealand Divisions with the following exceptions:-

- (a) War Establishments 1915, part 8, will apply to artillery units. (three battery brigades).
- (b) The existing Australian and New Zealand War Establishments will apply to Light Horse and Mounted Rifles Brigades and Regiments.
- (c) Divisional Cavalry will consist of a regiment instead of a squadron.

Major-General,

Chief of the General Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

THE PERSON NAMED IN CO.

. G Mooning

OPERATIONS!

WD

Myre a

Pebruary,

General Officer Commanding, 15th Army Corps.

51st Divisional Cavalry having been transferred to 15th Division (vide 0.A.C.29) Divisional Cavalry is now required for 11th, 51st and 52nd Divisions.

Please notify General Officer Commanding let
Mounted Brigade that these three squadrons will be
furnished by his Brigade. They will not be required to
join their divisions at present, but the squadrons to be
so employed should be selected and notified to this office.

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

(an) aprilable

C.S. (6)

W.D.

February

Mpt R.

General Officer Commanding, The Force in Egypta

In Force Order No. 3, of the 19th January,
1 Squadron, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and 1
Squadron, Surrey Yeomanry, were temporarily attached
to Force in Egypt, to be withdrawn or relieved under
arrangements to be made later.

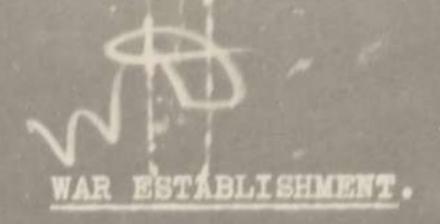
These squadrons form Divisional Cavalry for the 42nd and 29th Divisions respectively, and I am very anxious that they should rejoin their Divisions as soon as possible.

I would therefore be much obliged if you could arrange for them to be handed over to the M.E.F. as soon as you can dispense with their services. Please inform me when you think the transfer will be able to take place.

General, in-Chief,

Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

G.S. 113. February, 1916. Lt.General Sir W.R. Birdwood, K.C.M.G.. K.C.S.I., etc. Major-General Sir H. V. Cox, K.C.M.G. C.B. C.S.I. G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Army Corps. The Commander-in-Chief has decided to form five Provisional Infantry Brigades from the Australian reinforcements now at ZRITUR. These brigades # 11 be concentrated at TEL-EL-KEBIR, and arrangements will be made for their movement from ZEITUN as soon as possible. Major-General Sir H.V. Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.I., has been appointed to command with the title of General Officer Commanding, Australian Provisional Formations. A provisional War Establishment for Hajor-General Cox's Headquarters has been approved, and is attached herewith. The Australian Provisional Formations will, for the present, be directly under General Headquarters. Mediterranean Expeditions D.A.S. RCDIG1004062 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



| | | Personnel. | | | | | Horses. | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------|--------|-------------|-------------|--------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------|--------|--|
| | | Officers. | Clerks | Staff Sergt | Rank & File | Total. | Riding. | Draught. | Heavy Draught. | Paok. | Fotal. | |
| | | 1 | | | - | 1 | 2 | | | | 2. | |
| | G.O.C. | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | Staff. G.S.O. 1. | , | 1_ | | | | 2 | | | | 2. | |
| | G.S.O. 3. | î | - | - | - | ī | 2 | | | | 2 | |
| 316 | A. & Q.M.G's branches:- A.A.&.Q.M.G. | 1 | | | - | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| | D.A.Q.M.G. | ī | | - | - | ī | ī | | | | 1 | |
| | DEPARTMENTS. Medical:- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A.D.M.S. D.A.M.S. | 1 | - | - | | 1 | 1 | - | | | 2 | |
| | Ordnance: 7 D.A.D.O.S. | 1 | | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 70 | SPECIAL APPOINTMENT. A.P.M. | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | | | | 2 | |
| | PERSONAL APPOINTMENT. | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | | 2 | |
| | Aide-de-Camp to Commander. Military Mounted Police. | - | - | 4 | 21 | 25 | 25 | - | - | | 25 | |
| | Clerks to General Staff Branch: - Superintending Clerk. | | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | Clerks. | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | | 1 | |
| | Clerks to Adjutant and Quarter- naster General's Branches:- | - | 3 | - | - | 3 | - | - | | - | - | |
| | director of Ordnance Services | - | 2 | - | 3 | 5 | - | - | | - | - | |
| | Clerks,&c. to Assistant Director of Medical Services. | - | 5 | - | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | Acting quartermaster sergeant. | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | | | |
| | Cook. | - | 1: | 1: | 20 | 20 | - | - | | | | |
| | Batmen. Drivers, A.S.C. | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | - | 6 | |
| | R.A.M.C. (includes personnel for water duties) | | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | | - | |
| - | Total Headquarters. | 10 | 11 | 5 | 50 | 76 | 59 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 46. | |
| | TRANSPORT. | | | | | | | | | | | |

TRANSPORT

| Detail. | Vehicles. | Drivers. | Horses. | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| De Call. | | 51 1 01 5 | Draught. | Heavy Draught. | Pack. | | | |
| Water Cart. | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | |

Mp+ A.

OPERATIONS)

From

WAR OFFICE, LONDON.

To

G.H.Q. MEDFORCE.

13002 cipher, A.z. 8/2

Desp. 1700.

Recd. 0830. Decd. 0910.

Your C.M.Q.T. 516.

We cannot at present work up to the 50% in all natures. It is hoped to send following weekly consignments. · 2.75 inch guns shrapnel 3000 high explosive 1000. 13 pr. gun shrapnel 2000 with a proportion of high explosive. Of this, 1000 rounds should be sent to Bombay each week. 6 inch gun 1000 cartridges and tubes. 4.5 inch howitzer 3000 high explosive and 3000 shrapnel. Of this, 3000 high explosive and 1000 shrapnel should be sent to BOMBAY each week for the present. 9.2 inch 300 rounds. Of the other items asked for 4000 rounds ten pounder gun will be sent in next consignment. 5 inch howitzer 5000 rounds are en route and 8000 will be sent from FRANCE. 8 inch howitzer 500 rounds are en route and 300 will be sent later. Admiralty will be asked to supply 4.7 inch gun ammunition. You should send BOMBAY at first opportunity 40,000 18 pr. shrapnel and 10,000 18 pr. high explosive with number two gaine. These are being replaced by a consignment in the NAWAB of next ship.

² copies to Q.
1 copy O.
1 C.G.S.
1 M.G., R.A.
Filed Q Cables.

From Chief London. To Medforce. Chief Desp. 2020. 13017 cipher. Recd. 0615. Decd. 0630. Your A.M. 56. When arrangements were made for Navy to garrison islands War Office agreed to assist as necessary with artillery. Please leave at IMBROS such anti-aircraft guns as you and Admiral may agree to be necessary until they can be replaced by Admiralty which will be shortly. Copies to:-O. for action. C-in-C. C.G.S. M.G.R.A. as Cables