

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/4/11 Part 7

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Mediterranean
Expeditionary Force

February 1916



AWM4-1/4/11PART7

W.D.

1/269



From:- G.H.Q. MEDFORCE.

To:- TROOPERS. LONDON.

AM. 133

17.2.16.

Wash. 7005

Your 13357. cipher. S.D.2. 16/2/16.

Establishment of a dismounted brigade, Headquarters, 6 Yeomanry Regiments, 1 Signal Troop, 2 Mounted Brigade Field Ambulances. Total officers 166, other ranks 2927, horses 567.

Establishment Brigade Headquarters and supply units as follows AAA Commander, Brig.General, riding horses 3, Brigade Major, riding horses 2, Staff Captain, riding horses 2, Army Postal Service other ranks 3, A.D.C. to Commander, riding horses 2, Chaplains 3, riding horses 3, Brigade Machine Gun Officer 1, riding horse 1, Clerk to Staff 1, Acting Quartermaster Sergeant 1, Bicycle 1, Cook 1, Batmen 14, Drivers A.S.C., 6, draught horses 8, Interpreters officers 2, other ranks (batmen) 2, riding horses 2, AAA Attached Veterinary Officer 1, riding horse 1, Transport details officer 1, riding horse 1, Supply details officer 1, Clerk 1, other ranks 2, riding horses 1, bicycles 2, Total Officers 13, Clerks 2, Staff Sergeants 1, other ranks 28, riding horses 18, draught horses 8, bicycles 3. AAA Transport Bicycles for supply duties 2, G.S.limbered wagons. 2

Establishment of regiment. Read Officers, Sergeants, and Staff Sergeants, artificers, trumpeters, other ranks, horses riding, draught, pack, bicycles etc AAA Headquarters excluding attached 4, 5, nil, nil, 15, 7, nil, nil, 3. AAA Headquarters attached 1, nil, 1, nil, 12, 1, 20, nil, nil. Machine Gun Section 1, 1, nil, nil, 22, 1, 12, nil, nil, Three Squadrons 18, 30, nil, 6, 345, 3, 24, 6, 12. Total 24, 36, 6, 394, 12, 56, 6, 15.

Composition

Composition in detail as laid down for Yeomanry Regt.,
 in War Establishment 2nd Mounted Division (T.F.) 12th Oct.
 1914, with following exceptions ^{aaa} Headquarters, riding
 horses for Lieut. Col. 2, for Adjutant 2, no other riding
 horses except one for transport sergeant, no draught
 horses, no bicycles. No farrier-quartermaster sergeant, no
 saddler Sgt, no orderly to veterinary officer, batmen only 9. AAA
 Attached Headquarters ^{aaa} R.A.M.C. officers 1, other ranks 3,
 riding horse 1, bicycles 3 AAA No veterinary officer,
 no interpreters, armourer artificer 1, drivers A.S.C,
 other ranks 9, draught horses 20, Total Headquarters
 including attached officers 5, sergeants and Staff Sergeants
 5, artificers 1, other ranks 27, riding horses 8, draught
 20, bicycles 3.

Machine Gun Section, Subaltern 1, riding horse 1, sergeant
 1, other ranks 15, drivers 6, draught horses 12, batmen 1.
 Total officers 1, sergeants 1, other ranks 22, riding horses
 1, draught 12.

Squadron as in War Establishment for 2nd Mounted Division
 with following exceptions AAA One riding horse for Major,
 no other riding horses, no farrier sergeant, no shoeing-
 smiths, no saddler, privates 96 with 2 pack horses, drivers
 4, with 8 draught horses, batmen 7, Total Officers 6,
 sergeants 10, trumpeters 2, other ranks 115, riding horses 1,
 draught 8, pack 2.

Transport composition in detail read vehicles, drivers,
 draught horses :

Bicycles	3,	nil,	nil.
Cart for medical equipment	1,	1,	2.
Cart, water	1,	1,	2.
Officers' Mess Cart	1,	1,	2.
Wagon, cooks,	1,	2,	4.
Wagon limbered G.S. for S.A.A.	2,	4,	8.
drivers for spare horses	nil,	1,	2.
Total Headquarters	9,	10,	20.

1/271

Machine Gun Section

Wagons, limbered G.S. for machine guns etc.	1, 2, 4.
ditto for S.A.A.	2, 4, 8.
Total	3, 6, 12.

Squadron.

Wagons G.S. for S.A.A. <u>limbered</u>	1, 2, 4.
ditto for tools and signalling	1, 2, 4.

" Pack horses for S.A.A. 2.

Bicycles 4.

Total squadron. 6, 4, 8 & 2 pack horses.

Signal Troop AAA Subalterns 2, riding horses 4,
 sergeants 2, riding horses 2, Corporals and 2nd Corporals
 4, riding horses 2, motor cycles 3, Privates 32, draught
 horses 4, pack horses 3, bicycles 6, Wagons R.E. limbered
 2, Total Officers 2, Sergeants 2, other ranks 36, riding
 horses 8, draught 4, pack 3, motor cycles 3, bicycles 6,
 Wagons R.E. limbered 2.

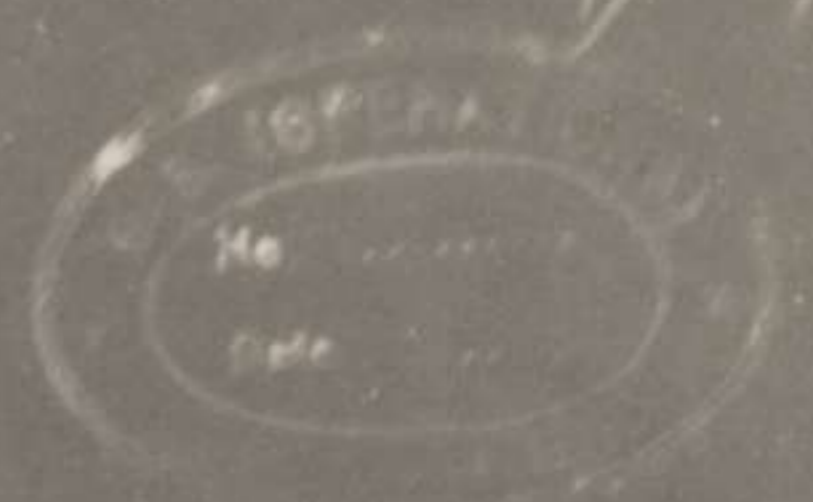
Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance ~~an~~ in Army Form 1098 - 177
~~177~~, September 1915, Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance
 for dismounted duties.

*Am sending complete establishment by
 next messenger.*

1/272

W.R.

Mpt B



From G.H.Q. Medforce.

To Chief, India.

O.B.A.142 cipher.

17/2/18.

Desp. 1155.

Please inform us if Basra has A.W. or V. ciphers. We have no others. Telegrams from Basra regarding embarkation of 13th Division or Indian troops should be addressed here or to I.G.C. Levbase Cairo, not G.O.C. EGYPT. Inform Basra.

Copies to :-

- O.
- C.G.S.
- I.

Filed G.S. 6/1.
" G.S. Cables.

Appx C.

1/273

W.D.

SECRET

G.S. (OPERATIONS)
No.
Date.
G.H.Q. - M.E.

From: SUPERFLUX. CAIRO.
To G.H.Q. MEDFORC.

G.E.440 cipher. 17/2/16. Desp. 1236.
Recd. 1435.
Decd. 1455.

Sudan

Following received from Governor General, Port
Said, message begins. " Am still hopeful that the need
for British reinforcements may not immediately arise
though I am relieved to know they are available when
required. The early despatch to KHARTOUM of two Egyptian
Battalions, the 1st and 2nd battalions would help me over
the present shortage and would enable me to increase
the number of Soudanese infantry at NAHUD by 1000 rifles
which is most desirable. I hope G.O.C. will agree to
relinquish these Egyptian troops as soon as he can relieve
them by British or Colonial Troops. Meanwhile I am
making the necessary preparations for the possible garrison
of British Troops at OMDURMAN " message ends. Egyptian
battalions referred to are 1st battalion H.Q. ISMAILIA,
with detachments elsewhere, 2nd battalion at TOR and ABU
ZEHIMA. Can you provide Indian battalions for relief
of the above. If so, how soon ?

Copy to O.
C in C.
C.G.S.
Q.
A.
Filed 2/28.
" G.S.Cables.

SECRET



From Chief Medforce.

To Superflux.

A.M. 136

17/2/16.

Desp. 1920.

Your G.E.440 cipher.

Will make arrangements release Egyptian battalions
as soon as possible. Must let you know later how soon
I can effect necessary reliefs.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. Z/28.
" G.S. Cables.

1/275

W.R.D.

Approved



From Chief, Medforce
To Troopers, London.

A.M. 134. 17/2/16. Desp. 1915.

Reference your 13088 cipher S.D.2. 10/1/16 and Order of Battle forwarded 2/2/16, following changes have taken place : 11th Division transferred to 15th Corps. 9th Corps. Eight battalions 10th Indian Division to India. 29th Division receives 57th Brigade R.F.A. (2 batteries) from A.N.Z. Corps. Corps Troops. 4th Highland Mountain Artillery Brigade from A.N.Z. Corps. 3rd Dismounted Brigade allotted to 42nd Division. 2nd Dismounted Brigade and Hong Kong and Singapore Battery transferred to Force in Egypt. 7th Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade to India. A.N.Z. Corps Troops. 84th Siege Battery receives two additional guns and is now manned by details Australian Divisional Ammunition Column. 15th Army Corps. 13th Division, including two batteries 89th F.A. Brigade formerly lent to 11th Division, but less Divisional Cyclist Company attached 42nd Division, leaves for Mesopotamia, being replaced by 11th Division. 1st Dismounted Brigade allotted to 52nd Division. 15-inch Naval howitzer leaves for FRANCE.

'A' and 'B' Batteries H.A.C. received from Force in Egypt with a view to eventual allotment to Mounted Brigades. Five Garrison battalions have arrived from MUDROS of which two (Royal Scots and Royal Irish) have been allotted to Force in Egypt. Remainder allotted as L.of C. troops.

Copies to :-

- O.
 - C.-in-C.
 - C.G.S.
 - A.
 - Q.
 - M.G.R.A.
 - E.-in-C.
 - D.A.S.
 - Filed G.S. 169.
- Filed G.S. Cables.

W.D.

G.S. 128.

1/276

Appx E



17/2 February, 6

Dear Sir,

It would be a great convenience to the Army if the Canal Company would kindly allow us the loan of certain telephone wires, which we understand it may be possible to spare on your ordinary routes, as follows :-

SUEZ to GENEFFE 2 wires.

DEVERSOIR to TUSSUM 2 wires.

* ISMAILIA to EL CAP 2 wires.

We should of course return these wires to you on demand; but hope that it would suit your convenience to give us 24 hours' notice when you required them released.

A large, cursive handwritten signature that reads "Sgt) A. Lynden Bell".

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

M. Beret,
Suez Canal Company.

Copy to DAS



SECRET

1/277

Appx F.

17/18

February, 1918.

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

Reference Force Order No. 5, paragraph 7.

1. At KUBRI and KANTARA one of the three bridges should be able to take 60 pounder guns, while it is sufficient if the other two can take infantry in file.
2. At other points one of the three bridges should be able to take field guns and infantry in fours, and it is sufficient if the other two can take infantry in file.
3. Where the necessary material is available, and arrangements can be made by the Corps Commanders concerned, either or both of the second and third bridges at each crossing place should be made capable of taking infantry in fours.

(Sgd) G. P. Dawson
Li. Col. C.S.
for

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

Copies to :-

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

G.S./2/32

SECRET

W.D

1/278

Appt G.

17th February, 1916

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

With reference to your C.68/3 of the 13th February enclosing draft of proposed additional orders to be included in memorandum 1147.B (gunnery on Canal) I concur generally with the draft subject to the following comments :-

1. Page 1, lines 4 and 5.

I have suggested an amendment so as to retain the usual nomenclature of the Signal Service.

2. Page 2, "Great Bitter Lake".

In view of the position of the front line East of the Northern end of the Great Bitter Lake, a forward observing station in communication with DEVERSOIR will not be required.

At the South end of the Great Bitter Lake a forward observation station in communication with KABRIT will be required.

3. Last 3 lines of page 2.

I would suggest that this paragraph should be altered, if you concur, so as to read - "when active operations are expected a Naval officer will be landed to work with the artillery observation officers and to assist in controlling the fire of their ships' guns

When an attack is imminent, artillery

/observation

observation officers will inevitably be fully occupied with their own work, and it will hardly be possible for them to undertake observation of Naval gun-fire in such circumstances.

When it is merely a question of registration arrangements can, of course, always be made to obtain the services of the artillery observer of a neighbouring battery.

4. It will be necessary to consider the question of observation of fire during a possible occupation of the intermediate line or the inner line of defence.

Since the intermediate line has not yet been begun, you will probably prefer to deal with this matter later.

With regard to the inner line of defence, however, the Canal defence observation posts as shown in the original Naval scheme (1147.D) will, I presume, remain in existence.

(By) Alexander Bell
M. Gen.
Act.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to D.A.S.
W. J. R.

W.R.
G.S.113.
SECRET
1/280
OPERATIONS
H.Q. - M.E.F.
Apppt H.
17th February 6

General Officer Commanding,
Levant Base.

With reference to your S.F./1/266 of 16th February,
the following units are being formed immediately:-

Four provisional Infantry Brigades from the Australian Reinforcements now at ZEITUN. These will be formed and concentrated at TEL-EL-KEBIR under the command of Major-General Sir H. V. Cox, Commanding Australian Provisional Formations.

One provisional Infantry Brigade, five Field Artillery Batteries, one Field Company, R.E., one A.S.C. Company, from the New Zealand Reinforcements now at ZEITUN, will be formed and concentrated at MOASCAR, under the command of Lieut-General Sir A. J. Godley, Commanding A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

The 4th and 8th Australian Infantry Brigades will, in due course, join the the provisional Australian Brigades at TEL-EL-KEBIR, and arrangements will also be made for the formation of the necessary units to compose the Divisional Troops of the two new Australian Divisions. The 11th and 12th Australian Light Horse Regiments, which already exist, will form the Divisional Mounted Troops for these Divisions.

The War Office has undertaken to send out equipment and harness for six Field Artillery (18-pdr.) Brigades, but informs us that howitzers are not available at present.

/Finally

Finally, it is proposed to re-organise the New Zealand and Australian Division, replacing the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade by the New Zealand Rifle Brigade on its arrival from New Zealand, and completed^{ing} by the addition of the ^{two} Divisional Infantry Brigade and Divisional Troops referred to above as in process of formation at MOASCAR.

Further developments will be notified to you as decisions are reached.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell

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

Copy to 12

1/382

W.D.



17th February, 6

General Officer Commanding,
Australian Provisional Formations.
TEL-EL-KEBIR.

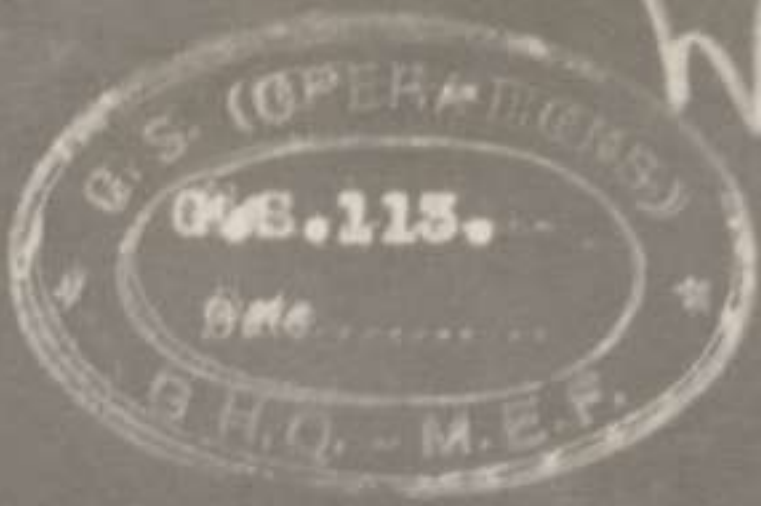
With reference to your G.27 of 13th February, my G.S. 113 of the 8th February was amended by my G.S. 113 of the 11th February, as was stated in the latter letter.

Your programme for forming four provisional Infantry Brigades is noted.

Orders will be issued in due course for the 4th and 8th Australian Infantry Brigades to be moved to TEL-EL-KEBIR, where they will come under your command .

(Sgd) C. O. Dawson
for Lt. Col. G.S.

Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



W.D.

1/283

Appx J.

17^H February, 6

Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Birdwood,
K.C.M.G., K.C.S.I. etc.
Commanding Australian and New Zealand Forces.

With reference to your 136/1 of the 14th February, the War Office has been requested to send out an additional Army Corps Headquarters Signal Company for the 2nd A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

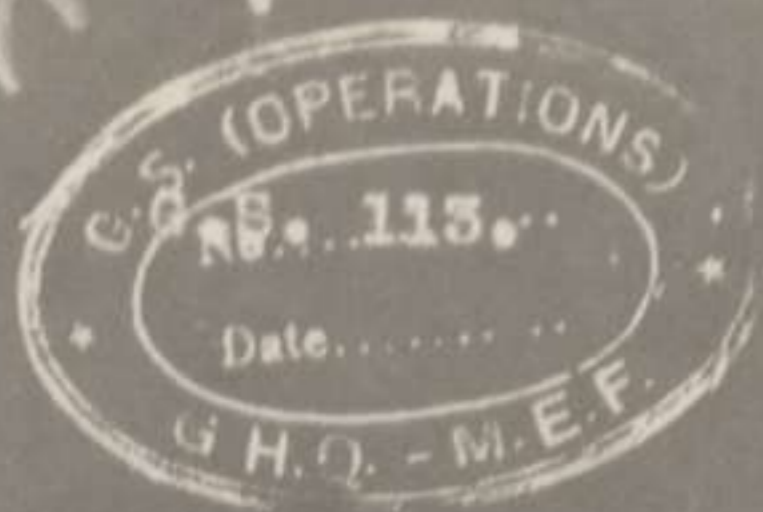
The 8th Army Corps Headquarters Signal Company is at present required for the 15th Army Corps which has not yet been provided with a Headquarters Signal Company of its own.

Geo. C. O. Dawney
Lt. Col.
G.S.
for Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copy to D.H.

W.D.

1/284



Ampt K

17^u February, 6

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

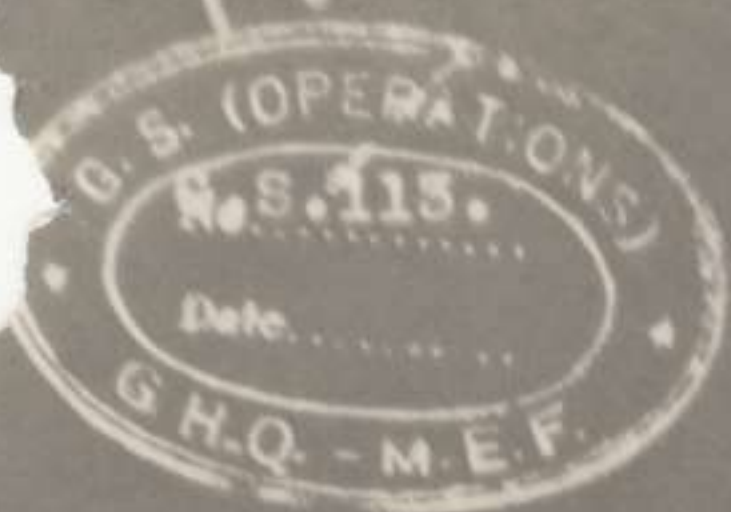
Lt-Gen. Sir W.R. Birdwood,
Edg. Austr. & N.Z. Forces.

With reference to your C.R. No. 1/6/2 Ga of 15th February, copies of Amendments to War Establishments, part VIII 1915, for Territorial Divisions for operations in Egypt, have now been received at the Base Stationery Office.

These lay down the establishment for Field Artillery Brigades of three batteries, each of four 18-pdr. Q.F. guns; and Howitzer Brigades of two batteries, each of four 4.5" Q.F. howitzers.

These War Establishments will apply to the artillery of the Australian and New Zealand formations. Copies of the War Establishments in question will be sent you as soon as received from the Base Stationery Office.

(Sgd) C. P. Dawson
Lt. Col
for C.S.
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



17th February, 1915.

Lieut-General Sir W.R. Birdwood,
K.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., etc.
Commanding Australian and New Zealand Forces.

Copies of Amendments to War Establishments, part VIII, 1915, for Territorial Divisions for operations in Egypt, have now been received at the Base Stationery Office. These lay down the establishment for Field Artillery Brigades of three batteries, each of four 18-pr. Q.F. guns; and Howitzer Brigades of two batteries, each of four 4.5" Q.F. Howitzers.

These War Establishments will apply to the artillery of the Australian and New Zealand formations. Copies of the War Establishments in question will be sent you as soon as received from the Base Stationery Office.

C. O. Dawson
J. H. Collins
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to Q.
M.G.R.A.

W D
1/286
17/6
G.S.95.



17/6 February, 1918

Officer Commanding,
5th. Wing, Royal Flying Corps.

In reply to your No.13 of 13th, Corps
have been informed that weekly courses of 2 days' duration
will be held at ISMAILIA.

A copy of the proposed syllabus has been
forwarded to them.

Each Corps will send 3 artillery and 1 infantry
officer, all of them to be officers of some experience.

Please notify us the date and hour at which
the first course will commence so that the necessary
instructions can be issued to Corps.

(Sgd) C. P. Dawnay
Lt. Col.
C.S.
for
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

W R
G.S. 95.

17th February, 1916.
OPERATIONS
No.
Date

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

Reference G.S. 95 of 11th February.

The Officer Commanding, 5th Wing, Royal Flying Corps, is of opinion that better results will be obtained if the proposed courses are held at Headquarters, 5th Wing, Royal Flying Corps, at ISMAILIA.

It is proposed, therefore, to hold weekly courses at ISMAILIA. Each course will last two days. Each Corps will send three Artillery and one Infantry officer. Only officers of some experience should be selected to attend. The date of the first course will be notified later.

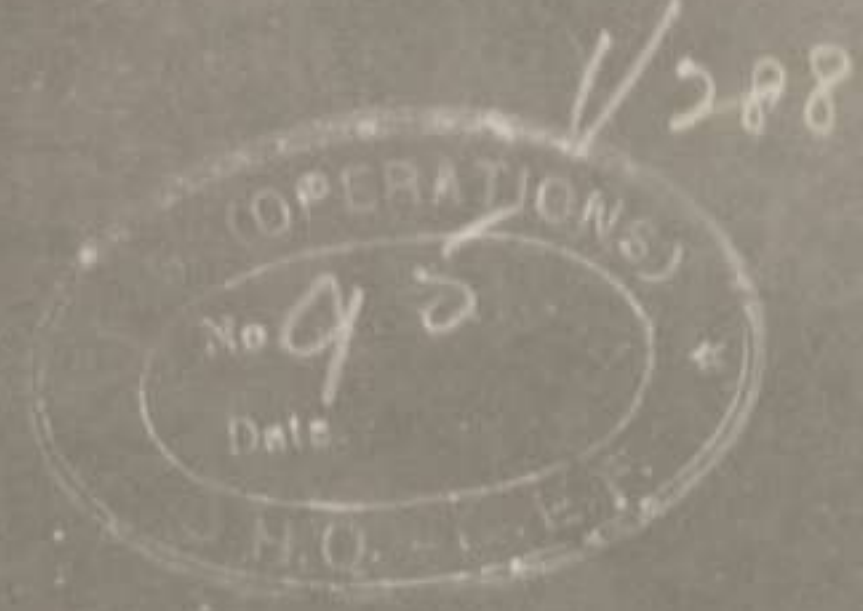
A syllabus is enclosed.

(Sgd) G. P. Dawson
R. Col
A.S.
for
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to :-

M.G., R.A.

Syllabus for suggested course
for Artillery and Infantry Officers
to be held at H.Q., R.F.C., ISMAILIA.



First Day.

Morning.

Lecture on -

- (a) The organisation of the Royal Flying Corps in France and in Egypt.
- (b) The distribution and employment of the aircraft with the M.E.F.

Co-operation of aeroplanes with a force of all arms on the march and during a moving battle.

Afternoon.

- (1) Short lecture in aerodrome on types of aeroplanes employed by the R.F.C. and by the enemy, and hints on recognition of both in the air.
- (2) Lecture on aerial photography, and method of reading aerial photographs.

Second Day.

Morning.

Lecture on the co-operation of aeroplanes with artillery.

Afternoon.

Demonstrations in aerodrome of systems of co-operation between aeroplanes and artillery.

11289



M.A.

From War Office.

To G. H. Q.

13415 cipher S.D.2.

17/2/16.
18/2/16.

Desp. 1730.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0655.

Minister of Defence New Zealand cables G.191 stating Godley has proposed to raise 3rd Artillery Brigade, guns being provided by Imperial Government. He enquires whether Council approve and states if unit is raised as proposed in EGYPT that NEW ZEALAND can supply reinforcements. It seems desirable that the Artillery of the N.Z. Division should if possible be raised to the establishment laid down in British War Establishment Part VII, that is, 3 Field Artillery Bdes., each of 16 guns, and one F.A. Howitzer Brigade of 12 guns. If 3 F.A. Brigades cannot be supplied 2 might be formed and one Howitzer Brigade. Guns can be provided by us if NEW ZEALAND can supply personnel. What do you recommend?

Copies to :-

- O.
- C.-in-C.
- C.G.S.
- A.
- Q.
- M.G., R.A.
- A.M.S.
- C/S/113*
- C.S. cables*

1/290



17/2/16

From A.H.Q. Salonica.
To G. H. Q.

G.C.50 cipher.	17/2/16.	Desp. 2120.
	18/2/16.	Recd. 0610.
		Deed. 0625.

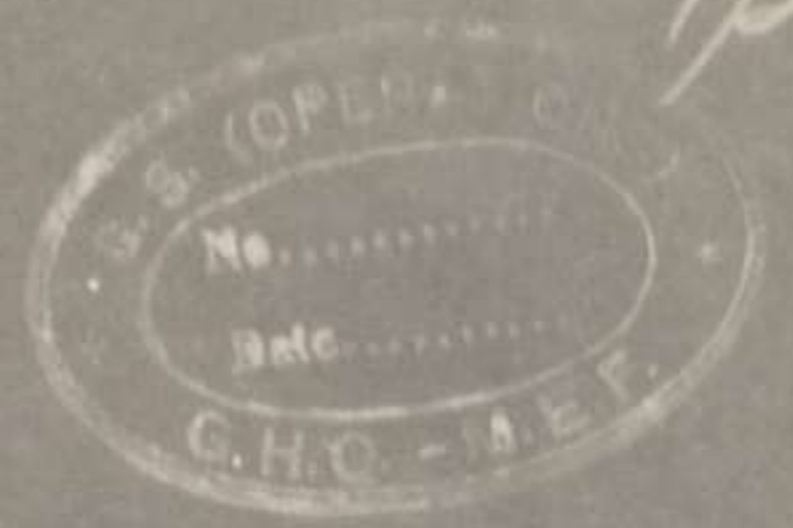
Your O.B. 205.

Captain O.B. Power, 2nd Gloucestershire Regt. will be chief instructor machine gun school. Proposed to train with Vickers and Lewis machine guns. Hope to start working in a week from now.

Copies to :-

- O.
- C.G.S.
- A.
- A.H.S.
- AS/149*
- AS cables*

1p91



Appx C.

From:- WAR OFFICE.
To:- MEDFORCE, repeated LEVDASE.

13429 cipher S.D.S. 17/2/16 Desp. 2110.
 18/2/16. Recd. 0740.
 Decd. C785.

Despatch to Egypt of following artillery
has been countermanded, 131st Heavy Battery, 56th Brigade
R.G.A., 54th and 55th Siege Artillery Batteries, 49th
Siege Artillery Battery and H.Q. 40th. Brigade R.G.A.

Copies to O.
 C in C.
 G.S.S.
 A.
 Q.
 M.G.R.A.
Filed G.S.78.
 G.S.Cables.

W.D.
SECRET

1/292

Approved

From : Chief, London.
To : Chief, Medforce.

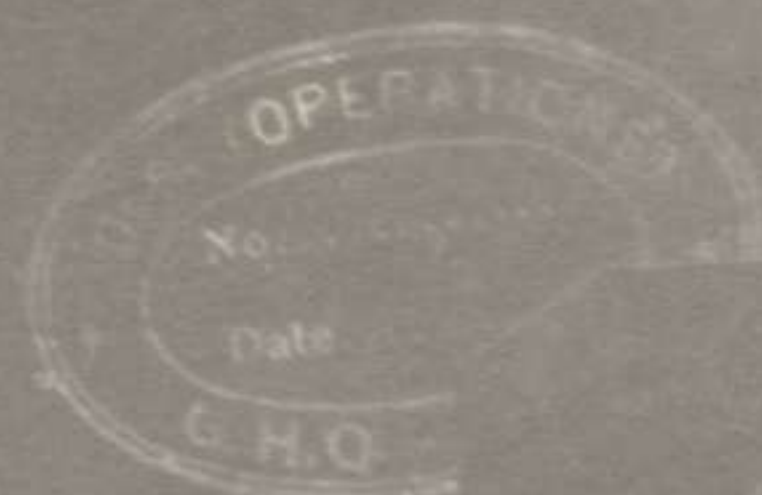
Desp. 2000, 17/2/16.
Recd. 0950, 18/2/16.
Decd. 0900, 18/2/16.

13078 cipher. 17th.

From a shipping point of view the most convenient and economical time at which to begin transfer of troops to France would be about first week in March. As far as can be judged here military situation likely to admit of withdrawal of one division at that time, to be followed by three others during the month, but final decision cannot yet be made. Will you have one division in readiness by beginning of March? I suggest 29th Division, to be followed by A.N.Z.A.C. I should be glad of full statement of your views as soon as possible.

1 copy to O.
1 copy to C.-in-C.
1 copy to C.G.S.
1 copy to D.A.G.
1 copy to D.Q.M.G.

Filed 2/45.
Secret Cables.



WD

SECRET

1/293

From : Chief, Medforce.
To : Chief, London.

A.M. 130. Cipher. 18/2/18. Desp. 1405.

Your 13673 cipher.

I am pushing on the equipment of the 29th Division. Since it arrived in Egypt it has had to be almost complete re-equipped. I think now the 31st had better follow the 29th. It is a very good Division and has done excellent work out here, better work than any other Division in my command. I would not at present recommend any more than these two Divisions leaving during March and would prefer not to lose these until the situation is clearer (see my appreciation which left by last King's Messenger) but I shall not raise any objection as I realise we must reinforce France with all available troops. Regarding A.N.Z.A.C. Divisions, Birdwood would like to delay their departure (see my letter by the same King's Messenger).

1 copy to O.
1 copy to C.-in-C.
1 copy to C.S.S.
1 copy to D.A.G.
1 copy to D.Q.M.G.

Filed 2/45.
Secret Cables.

SECRET

W.R.

SECRET

1/294



Appx E.

From

G. H. Q.

To

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

O. 738.

18/2/16

Desp. 1220.

Agent reports force of cavalry and some camel
corps concentrating about GEBEL LIBNI possibly for
raid on or reconnaissance of Canal defences AAA

Copies to :-

- O.
- C.G.S.
- I.

Filed Z.34.

" G.S. Cables.

W.D.
SECRET

1/295

18th February, 1916.

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

With reference to my telegram No. 0.738 of this morning, it seems likely that the enemy force, said to be concentrated about GEBEL LIBNI, will make for MOIYA HARAB, 35 miles east of the Little Bitter Lake. There appears to be abundance of water there and it would be a suitable point from which to start any reconnaissance or raid which the enemy may contemplate.

The enemy force may be some 2,000 strong or more.

If the enemy should appear at MOIYA HARAB it will be necessary to have a sufficient mounted force ready to push out immediately and, if possible, to round up the enemy, By seizing MOIYA HARAB we should obtain the enemy's water supply and make it difficult for his troops, if not killed or captured, to get back across the desert.

In these circumstances, the Commander-in-Chief has decided to bring up the 2nd and 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigades immediately, giving this move precedence over all others. These Brigades are being ordered to SERAPEUM WEST according to present arrangements. The regiments will be brought up at a strength of three squadrons - the fourth squadron being reduced on account of the re-formation of

/the

1/276

the 11th and 12th Light Horse Regiments which will not accompany the Brigades.

Details are being worked out with regard to the maintenance of the two Australian Light Horse Brigades and the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade for a few days at 30 miles distance from the Canal. The distance of MOIYA HARAB from GENEFFE is 25 miles in a straight line. The question of the 1st Line Transport necessary for an operation of the kind indicated should be gone into by you as soon as possible.

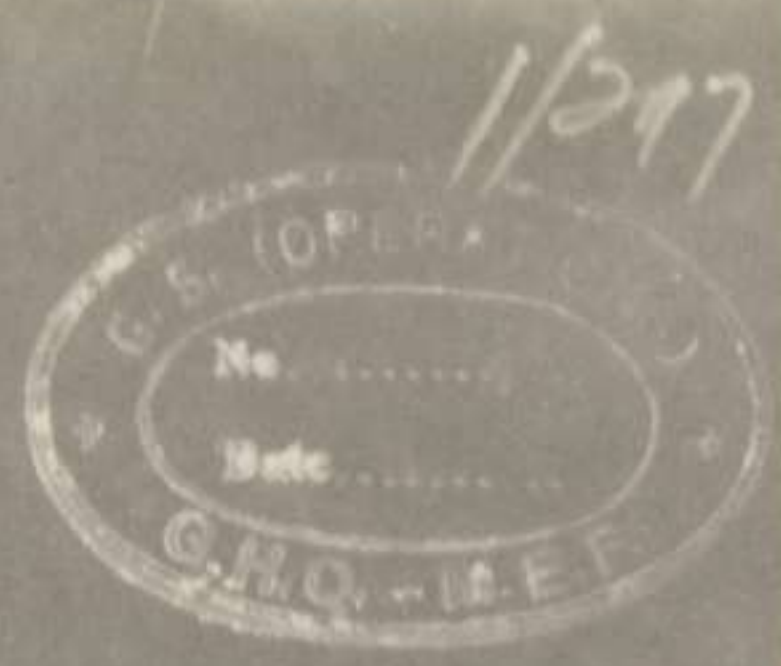
It will also be necessary to consider the question of a Commander for a force of two or three Mounted Brigades.

(sd) A. Lynden Bell

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

WR

Appx F



From Chief Medforce.
To A.H.Q. Salonica.

A.M. 158.

18/2/18.

Desp. 1300.

I understand that you have borrowed a 6" gun from the Navy. Please note that actions of this kind should be done through G.H.Q. If it had been a matter of extreme urgency you would, of course, have been at liberty to take action reporting circumstances to G.H.Q. This particular gun was required to replace one lost by one of my Siege Batteries.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. 57.
" G.S. Cables.

1/298

W.D.

SECRET



From Chief Medforce.

Appt G.

To Chief London.

A.M.141.

18/2/18

Desp. 1930.

Evening report. Aerial reconnaissance of KATIA, JIPJAPPA and NEKHL. Nothing new observed. Bombs dropped on camp at JIPJAPPA and at NEKHL.

Copies to:-

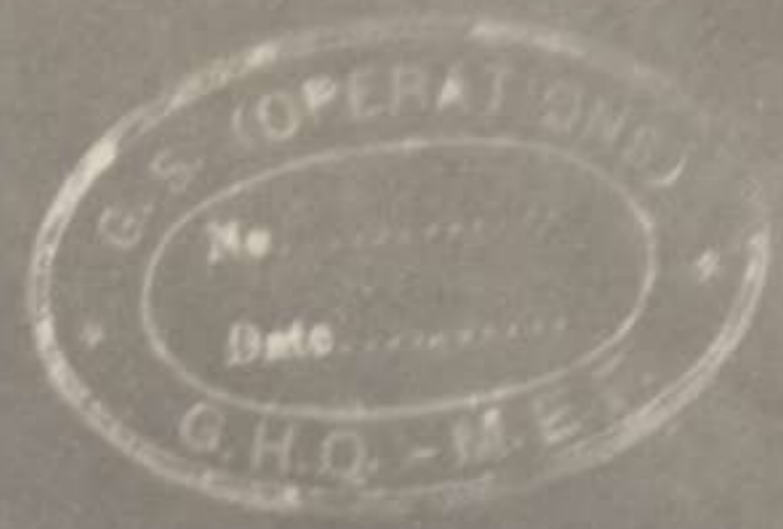
- O.
- C-in-C.
- C.G.S.
- I.
- A.
- Q.
- M.G.R.A.
- E-in-C.
- D.A.S.
- A.M.S.

Filed Z.29.
" G.S.Cables.

1/299

W P

Myrtle H.



From
Chief Medforce.
To
G.O.C. SALONICA.

A.M.140. 18/2/16 Desp. 1930.

Your 572 Q February 4th AAA Proposed establishment not considered suitable. The mixture of train and battery undesirable. Battery ammunition column should be constituted to carry 98 rounds per gun and one days rations. Train requirements must be treated separately. Work on these lines and forward proposals, showing existing establishment and suggested changes.

Copies to:-
C.
Q.
M.G.R.A.
Filed G.S. 162.
" G.S. Cables.

1/300

W.R.

SECRET



From Chief Medforce.
To Chief London.

Appt J.

A.M. 157.

17/2/16.

Desp. 8005.

Evening Report.

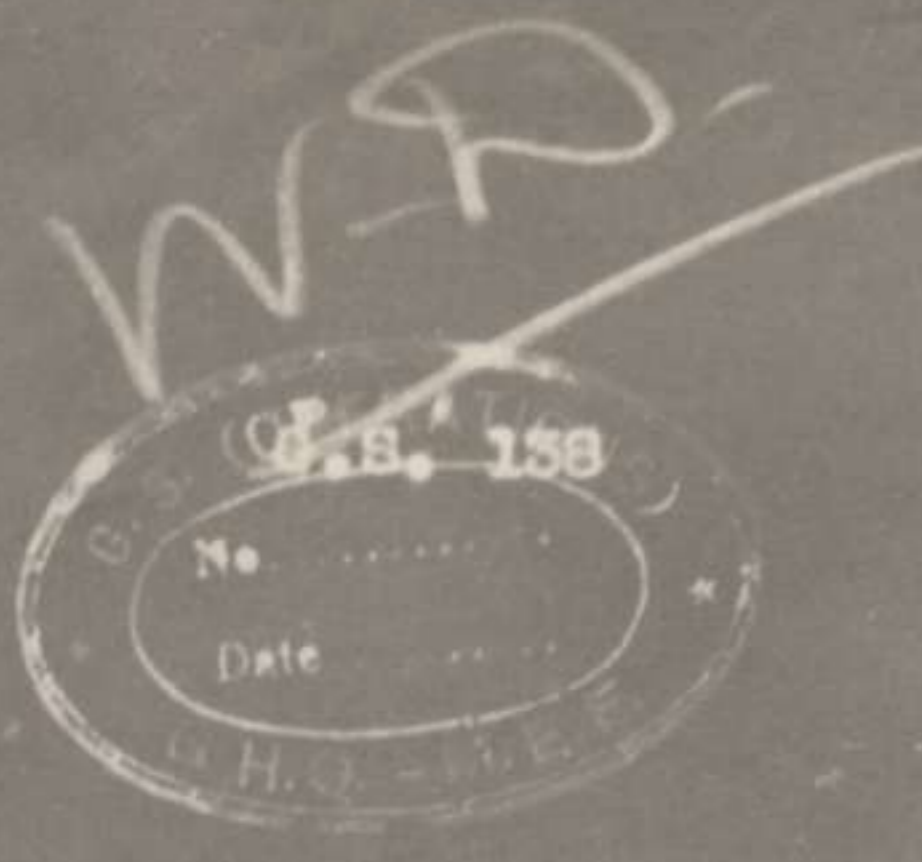
Reliable agent reports that early February 10 or 12 battalions passed South through APULE and that some 38,000 left DAMASCUS for Bir SABA latter half of January. This would account for movements of troops reported going South through LEBANON end of January and supposed presence of 5th and 8th Divisions at BIR SABA. Another agent reports force of cavalry and some Camel Corps concentrating neighbourhood GEBEL LIBNI possibly for raid on Canal as previous reported.

Copies to :-

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

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

1/30/16



Appx K.

18 February, 16

General Officer Commanding,
9th Army Corps.

In answer to your G.S. 828 of 16/2/16,
please order

- Lieut. V. Millard, 2nd Battn. Essex Regt.
- 2nd Lt. E. King, 1st Battr. K.O.S.B.
- 2nd Lt. Clarke, 14th Battn. Manchester Regt.
attd. 1/6th Bn. Manchester Regt.

to report on board H.M.S. "Ben-my-Chree" at Port Said
to undergo a course of training as observers. Please
inform us the date on which they will join so that the
Navy may be notified.

(Sgd) C. P. Dawnay
Lt. Col.
A.S.
 for Major-General,
 Chief of the General Staff,
 Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

1/3021



W.R.

App L 18/0

February, 6

General Officer Commanding,
Force in Egypt.

Information has been received from the War Office that three further garrison battalions will be sent to Egypt, making 15 sent in all. I propose to retain the services of one of these battalions for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Please say if you will take over the other two.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell

for M. G. C.
General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copies to

*A.
Q.*



WR

1/303

Appt M.

18^g

February, 1916.

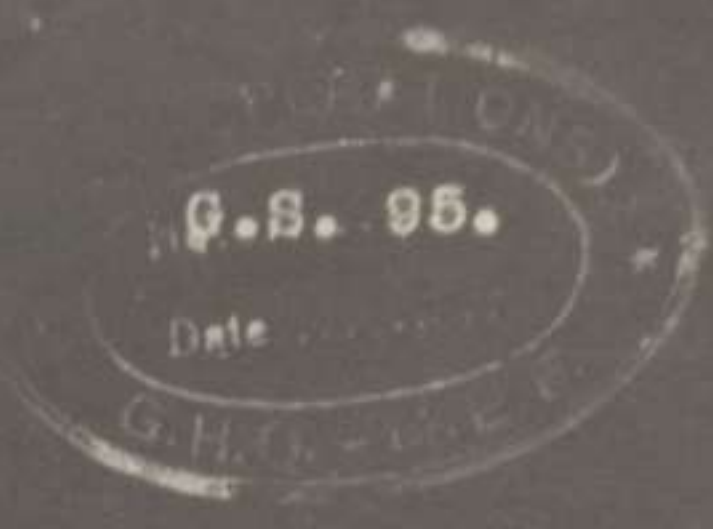
O.C. 19th Bn, Rifle Brigade,
O.C. 5th Wing, Royal Flying Corps, ISMAILIA.
Administrative Commandant, ISMAILIA.

The attached copies of letters regarding
the assembly of officers at the Aerodrome, ISMAILIA,
for a course of instruction, are forwarded for
your information.

Byd. C. P. Dawney
Lt. Col

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

1/304



W.D.

18th February, 1916

General Officer Commanding,
15th Army Corps. 9th Army Corps.

Reference G.S. 95 of 17th February, 1916.

It is proposed to hold the first weekly course for officers at Headquarters, 5th Wing, Royal Flying Corps, at ISMAILIA, on Tuesday 22nd February, officers to report at Aerodrome, ISMAILIA, at 11 am.

Officers attending will be attached for the duration of the course to the 19th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, ISMAILIA, who should be notified direct as to numbers and time of arrival.

Edw. C. P. Dawson
Lt Col

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



W.R.

1305

18th February, 6

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

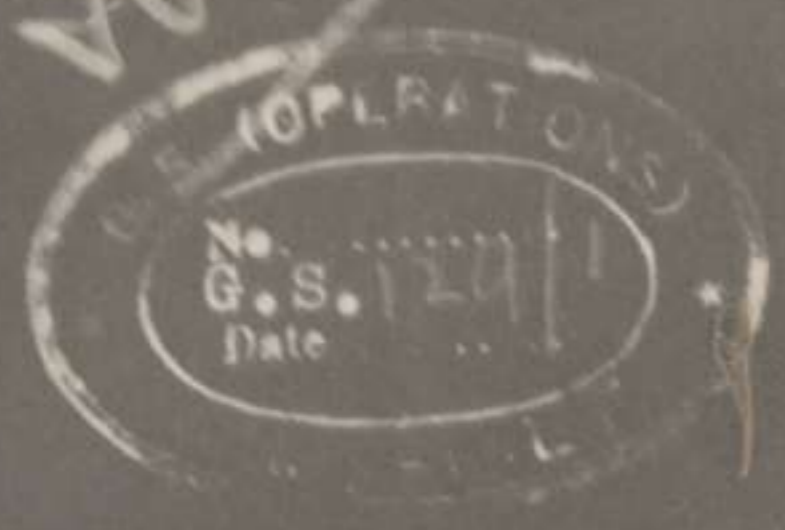
Reference G.S. 95 of 17th February, 1916.

It is proposed to hold the first weekly course for officers at Headquarters, 8th Wing, Royal Flying Corps, at ISMAILIA, on Tuesday 22nd February, officers to report at Aerodrome, ISMAILIA, at 11 am.

Could you please arrange to have officers not belonging to the New Zealand & Australian Division ~~to~~ ~~be~~ quartered at MOASCAR Camp for the duration of the course.

(Sgd) C.P. Dawney
Lt. Col
C.S.
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

1/306



Appx N

8th February, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,

9th, 15th Army Corps, Levant Base, Force in Egypt,
Scottish Horse, Lowland Mounted, Highland Mounted,
South Eastern Mounted, South Western, and Eastern
Mounted Brigades, 42nd and 52nd Divisions.

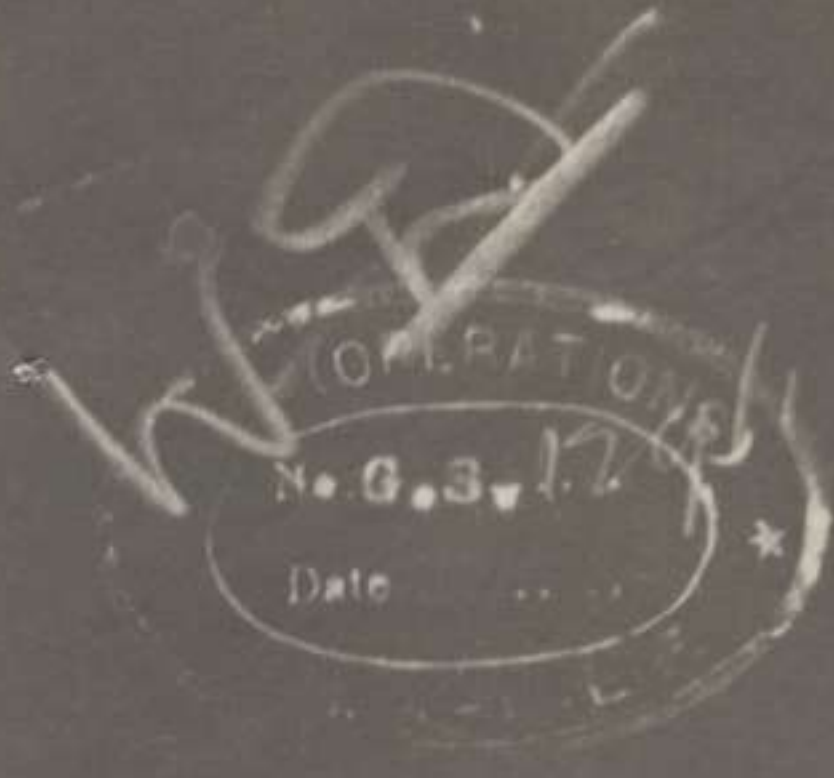
The enclosed copies of War Establishment,
which has been drawn up for Dismounted Brigades serving
in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, are forwarded
for your information.

Copies have been issued to all concerned.

(Sgd) G. P. Dawson
H. L. L.
A. S.

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

1/307



186
February, 6

General Officer Commanding,
Force in Egypt.

The enclosed copies of War Establishment,
which has been drawn up for Dismounted Brigades serving
in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, are forwarded
for your information.

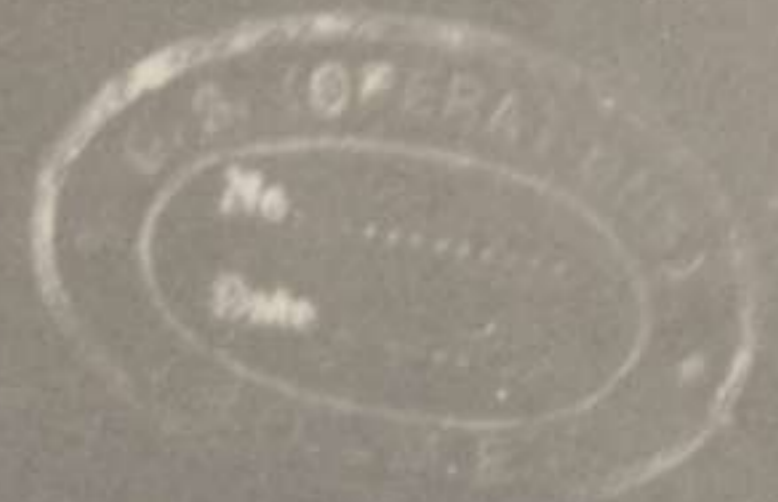
Copies have been issued to all concerned, *except*
54th div

C. P. Dawson
Lt Col
AS
General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

1/308

W.D.

John A.



From
Chief India.
To
Chief Medforce.

39554 cipher.

18/2/16
19/2/16

Desp. 2305.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0650.

Your telegram OBA 142, dated February 17th, not understood. All communications regarding embarkation of 13th Division are already being sent by Levbase to Base Commandant BASRAH and are understood by him vide Levbase No. O.893 dated February 15th, No. O.904 Q dated February 16th and No. O.911 Q dated February 17th. These were sent in "P" and India Office "C" 1910 and India Office "C" 1910 (sic) respectively. Cannot the same procedure which is satisfactory continue. BASRAH has neither "V" nor "A.W." ciphers.

Copies to:-

O.
C.G.S.
I.
CS/6/1
AS Cables

Alan Gray

SECRET



From Chief Medforce.

To Chief India.

OBA.147.

19/2/16.

Desp.

Your 39554 cipher.

System of sending telegrams by Levbase to BASRAH will continue. If G.H.Q. need to correspond direct with BASRAH Foreign Office cipher P. will be used.

Copies to :-

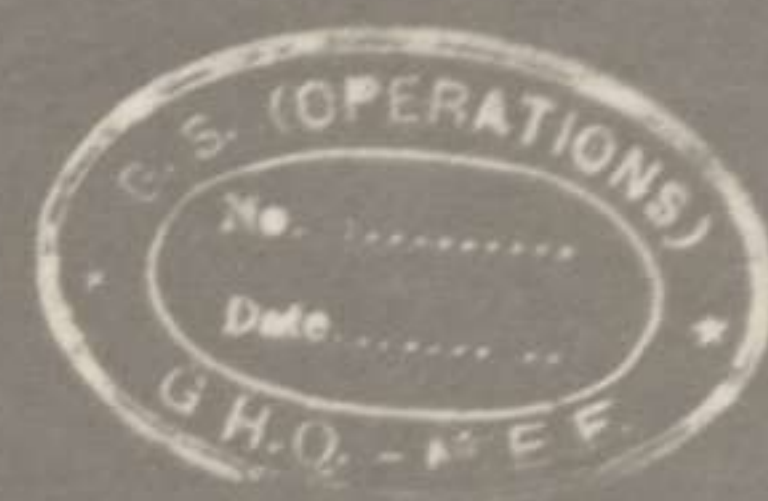
O.
C.G.S.
I.

Filed G.S. 6/1.
" G.S. Cables.

1/3/10

W.F.D.

M.H.B.



From Chief London.
To Chief Medforce.

13468 cipher.	18/2/16.	Desp. 2130.
	19/2/16.	Recd. 0510.
		Decd. 0625.

Your M.S. 413 and our 13425.

Commander-in-Chief ^{India} wires he would be glad if all Indian regular battalions that can be spared from EGYPT could be placed at his disposal with staffs of the 10th Indian Division and 20th, 29th and 31st Indian Brigades. What are your views on this proposal.

- Copies to :-
- D. for action.
 - C-in-C.
 - C.G.S.
 - A.
 - A.M.S.
 - Q.

C/S/157
C/S Cables



W.D.

From
Chief, Medforce.
To
Chief, London.

A.M. 147. 19/3/16 Desp. 2115.

Your 13468 cipher.

The Indian regular battalions are holding the defences near SUEZ where they are very suitably placed for climatic reasons and easily supplied and maintained.

My strength is now about right should Egypt be attacked, or Canal endangered before the end of March; after that, as you will see from my appreciation, four, or five in certain circumstances, Divisions at war strength are all that will be necessary. If you send the Indian troops back to India it will be so many the more British troops unavailable for France. For this reason I should retain them in Egypt. Indian officers 10th Division Staff return to India shortly. I think it is improbable that Egyptian Delta will require two Divisions after March.

Copies to:-

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

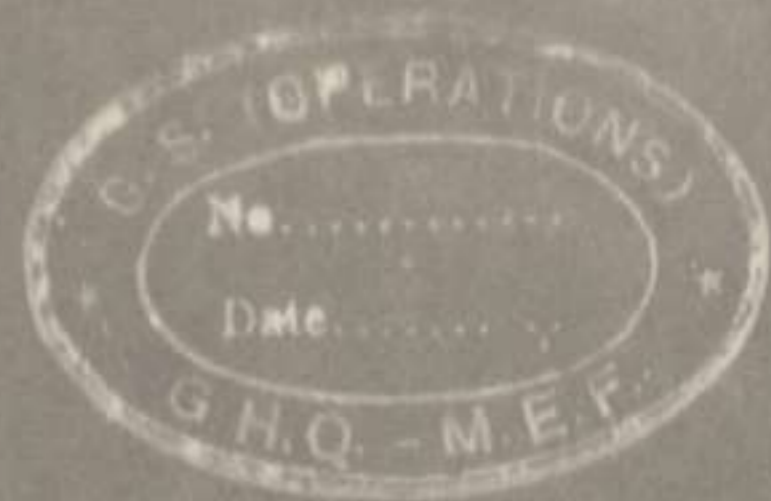
Filed G.S.151.
" G.S.Cables.

1/3/16

W.F.R.

SECRET

Amre C



From War Office.

To G. H. Q.

13464 cipher S.D.2.

18/2/16
19/2/16

Desp. 2030.
Recd. 0630.
Decd. 0645.

Your A.M.101.

1st and 2nd Australian Divisions are each short of twelve 18-pdr. guns and twelve 4.5" howitzers. It is desirable that these ² divisions should if possible be raised to British War Establishments, part 7. What can you do to meet these needs in personnel (a) as regards 1st and 2nd Divisions and (b) as regards the 3 new divisions.

Copies to:-

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

Filed Z.45.
" G.S. Cables.

SECRET



From

Chief, Medforce.

To

Troopers, London.

A.M.144.

19/2/16

Desp. 3000.

Your 13361 and 14338 ciphers S.D.S. AAA
Have no information available here showing what
allotment L, of C. units per division you now work
on for France. Please Cable necessary information.

As regards Australasian Divisions, have been
working on British War Establishments Part 7 except
for Divisional Cavalry and Artillery. Regarding
Divisional Cavalry I agreed at General Birdwood's
request to allotment of one Light Horse Regiment
per Division, establishment as in War Establishments
Australian Military Forces 1915 - 1916. In view of
probable delay in completing with artillery equipment,
and of necessity for hastening completion of first
three Australasian Divisions at earliest possible
date, I thought it best in case of Artillery to
work on War Establishments Part 8 as amended for
Territorial Divisions for operations in Egypt.
Do your 13415 and 13464 ciphers S.D.S mean that this
proposal is not approved. Complete statement of
deficiencies Australasian Divisions will be sent
on receipt of your reply.

As regards 11th, 29th, 31st Divisions. 31st
Division deficiencies, one Divisional Ammunition
Column. 11th Division: one Brigade R.F.A. Rowitzer,

/ one

1/314

- 2 -

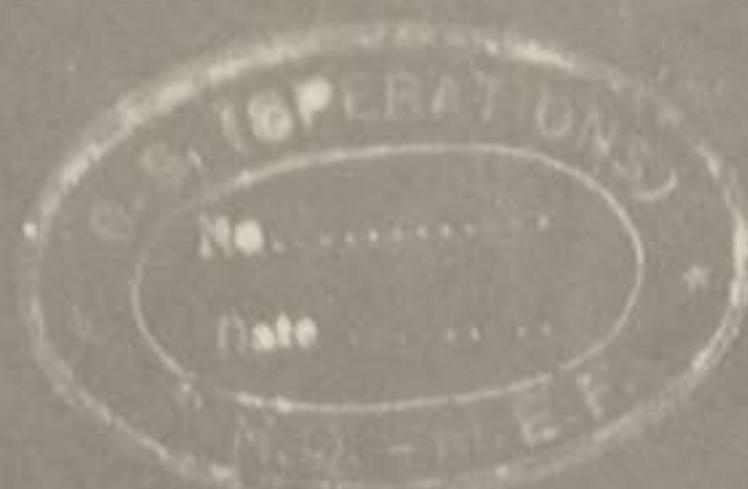
one Cavalry Squadron, one Divisional Train, one Divisional Ammunition Column, motor ambulances, one Workshop Motor Car Ambulances. 29th Division: three Batteries R.F.A. 18-pounder, one Brigade Headquarters and Ammunition Column and three Batteries R.F.A. Howitzers, one Pioneer battalion, one Workshop Motor Car Ambulances. With regard to 29th Division Howitzers I suggest adding 'A' and 'D' batteries 57th Brigade R.F.A. to 400th Battery. This would still leave the Division deficient of Brigade Headquarters and Ammunition Column and one Battery.

Copies to:-

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

Filed Z.45.
" G.S.112.
" G.S.Cables.

SECRET



From
Chief Medforce.

To
Troopers London.

A.M.145.

19/2/16

Desp. 2010.

Your 13415 and 13464 ciphers S.D.2.

See my A.M.144 of to-day regarding establishments on which I had proposed to work for Australasian artillery and my reasons. Regarding New Zealand artillery, Godley has agreed that it will probably be better to work to War Establishments part VIII as amended for Territorial Divisions for operations in Egypt and so avoid possible difficulty in providing and maintaining personnel required. Think decidedly preferable to give New Zealand Divisions three F.A. Brigades each of 18 guns rather than find ourselves obliged to do with 2 F.A. Brigades each of 16 guns, especially in view of fact that since New Zealand Division already has 2 batteries 4.5" howitzers the former proposal would correspond with recognised establishment. Will wire later in answer to latter part of your 13464 after hearing from Birdwood as regards artillery personnel for first 2 and second 3 Australian Divisions.

Copies to:-

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

Filed G.S. 113.

" Z.45.
" G.S. Cables.

1/316

W.D

G.S. / 2 / 45

SECRET

19th February, 1918

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

A telegram has been received from the War Office to-day referring to the deficiencies of the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions in artillery, and stating that it is desired^{able} that these two Divisions should, if possible, be raised to British War Establishments 1915 Part VII. The telegram concludes "what can you do to meet these needs in personnel (a) as regards 1st and 2nd Divisions, (b) as regards the three new Divisions".

The War Office has been informed that, in view of the probable delay in completing the artillery equipment of the Divisions and in view of the necessity for hastening completion of the 1st A. & N.Z. Army Corps, it was proposed to work - in the case of the artillery - on War Establishments Part VIII as amended for territorial Divisions for operations in EGYPT.

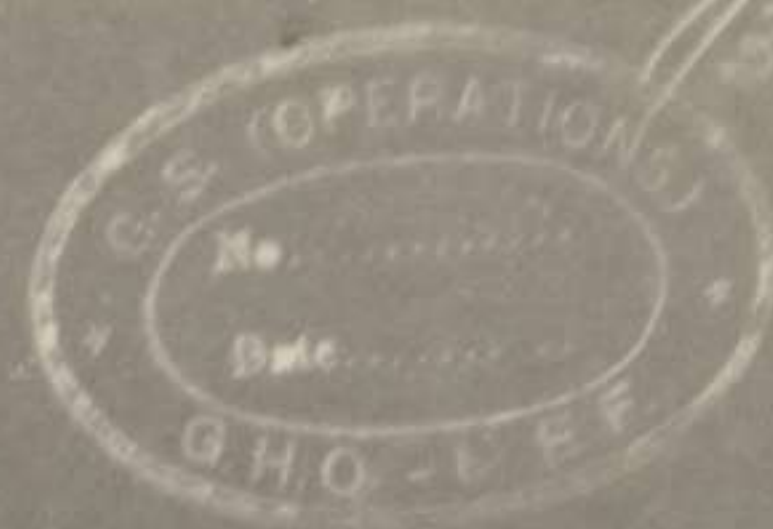
In the meantime please forward your remarks on the question above quoted as to the provision of the necessary personnel.

(cc) *A. G. ...*

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

Copy to 'A'.

App (D)



SECRET

From:- WAR OFFICE.
To:- CHIEF, MEDFORGE.

13465 cipher S.D.2. 18/2/16. Desp. 2000.
 19/2/16. Recd. 0615.
 Decd. 0625.

Having regard to difficulty of finding experienced staff officers. Would it not be possible to reduce the number of officers allotted in your proposed General Headquarters 1st Echelon to General Staff and A.G.'s and Q.M.G.'s branches of staff. Are 2 attached officers graded as G.S.O. 3 and 3 liaison officers now necessary.

Copies to G. for action.
C in C.
G.S.S.
A.
Q.
A.M.S.

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

2/45

1318

W.R.D.



From
Chief, Medforce.
To
War Office.

A.M.145. cipher. 19/2/16 Desp. 1305.

Reference your 13463 cipher S.D.E. I am in great sympathy with your wish and have been very carefully going into the question, and I regret that, with the exception of 1 attached officer graded as G.S.O.3, it is impossible to reduce the number of officers allotted in my proposed G.H.Q. 1st Echelon to General Staff and A.G.'s and Q.M.G.'s branches. The front covered by the M.E.F. is about 80 miles and I consider it absolutely essential that staff officers of all branches at G.H.Q. should be in as close touch as possible with Corps and Divisional Staffs and the troops. Apart, moreover, from the questions of operations, the very difficult task of reorganising, re-equipping and training this force and of creating new Australian and New Zealand formations, is throwing a very heavy strain on the existing staff some of whom are showing obvious signs of overwork so much so I have been obliged to send two of them away on a month's leave. In view of the necessity for keeping in touch with SALONICA, the two Liaison officers for that purpose should be retained at any rate for the present. Bigham, who is Liaison officer for Egypt, is not fit for much work since his experiences in the "Persia"

Copies to:-

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

Filed G.S.11.
" Cables.

WAD

AMHE



From Chief Medforce.
To Vice Admiral, Eastern Mediterranean Squadron.

A.M. 142 cipher. 19/2/16. Desp. 0930.

With reference to your telegram of 28th January re disposal of Naval 6 inch Mark VII gun it appears from return forwarded to me from SALONICA Army that this gun, which, if it was not needed by you for naval use, I required in EGYPT to replace gun lost by one of my Siege batteries, is now being handed over by you to SALONICA Army. While I am grateful for any assistance you can afford, I must ask for perfectly definite understanding that allocation of artillery between land forces at SALONICA and in EGYPT is a matter which I must control, even when it is a question of guns lent by Navy.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S.57.
" G.S. Cables.

1/321



Approved

From G. H. Q. Medforce.
To A. H. Q. Salonica.

O.B. 309. 19/2/18. Desp. 1035.

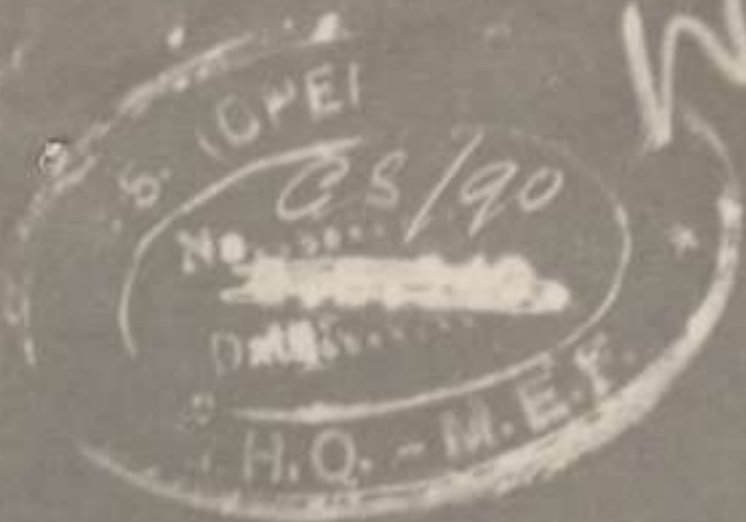
G.O. 34 cipher.

Machine gun companies for 22nd and 26th Divisions are being mobilized at home and will be sent out in due course. You will have to raise locally machine gun companies for 10th, 27th and 28th Divisions. Battalion machine gun sections will in future be armed with four Lewis guns. Principle of forming machine gun companies is the four Maxim or Vickers in each battalion will be replaced by four Lewis guns. The guns thus released in each brigade will form the company which will take the number of the brigade it is allotted to. Existing personnel as far as possible to be transferred to Machine Corps. New detachments for Lewis gun sections to be raised from battalions. Lewis guns will be sent when available probably middle of March. Letter follows. Will your school be able to deal with this, if not we could perhaps help by sending our commandant with experts for short time in March.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. 90.
" G.S. Cables.



1/322

19/2 February, 1915

General Officer Commanding,
Salonica Army.

1. Instructions have been received to proceed with the formation of Brigade Machine Gun Companies in accordance with the establishment issued with Army Order No. 413 of 22nd October, 1915.
2. It has been decided that Machine Gun Companies for 10th, 27th and 28th Divisions will be formed as soon as practicable. This will depend on the rate Lewis guns can be delivered at SALONICA. It is hoped that the first consignment of Lewis guns will reach SALONICA about the middle of March.

Machine Gun Companies are being mobilised at home for the 22nd and 26th Divisions.
3. Machine Gun Sections with battalions will in future be armed with Lewis guns on the establishment laid down in the attached table.
4. The principle on which these Machine Gun Companies will be formed is that the four Maxim or Vickers guns in each battalion will be replaced by four Lewis guns. The sixteen guns thus released in each Brigade will be formed into a Brigade Machine Gun Company on the establishment laid down in Army Order No. 413 of 1915. Each Machine

/ Gun

1/323

Gun Company will bear the number of the Brigade to which it is allotted.

5. The personnel selected for the Brigade Machine Gun Companies will be transferred to the Machine Gun Corps in accordance with paragraph 3 of Army Order No. 413, and the necessary documents will be forwarded to the Officer i/c Machine Gun Records, Woking.

6. The Army Commander will decide whether the whole of the existing personnel of the battalion sections are to be transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, or whether only part will be transferred so as to leave a nucleus of maxim-trained machine gunners from which to build up the battalion Lewis gun sections.

It is suggested that the brigade machine gun officers, if suitable, should be appointed to command brigade machine gun companies.

7. The mechanism of the Lewis Machine-gun is entirely different from that of the Maxim or Vickers gun. This will necessitate training battalion Lewis gun sections ab initio. The training cannot be undertaken until one officer and one N.C.O. from each unit has undergone a course of instruction at a Machine Gun School, and until Lewis guns have been issued to units.

8. The tactical employment of Lewis guns will require consideration owing to their limitations as compared with Maxims and Vickers due mainly to the biped mountings. The Lewis gun may be described as more nearly in the nature of an automatic rifle, in the limited sense of that term, than the Maxim or the Vickers - either of which

/ is

1/324

is more suitable than the Lewis for overhead or indirect fire, etc., etc.

9. It should be remembered that although the present personnel of the Machine Gun Sections may pass from battalions to the Machine Gun Corps, yet that personnel will still serve in the Brigades to which the battalions belong.

Capt C. P. Dawnay
Lt Col
AS

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

Copies to
A

SECRET



From

15th Corps.

To

G.H.Q.

G.27.

19/2/16

Desp. 1845.
Recd. 1855.

Following received from reconnaissance east of
KANTARA AAA 17th inst. All clear at 1500 at
KATIB ABU ASAB, BIR EL NUSS, HOD NEGEIRET ALI, HCD
SHOHAT AAA 18th inst. All clear at 1500 up to
line BIR ABU RAML - KATIB GAUNIT, but a few camel
men reported by aeroplane near ABY HAMRA.

Copies to:-

O.
C-in-C.
C.G.S.
I.

Filed Z.43.

" G.S. Cables.

W.P.

SECRET

1326
U.S. (OPERATIONS)
No.
Date
H.Q. - M.E.F.

From
Chief Medforce.

To
Chief London.

A.M.148.

19/2/16

Desp.2135.

Evening Report. 15th Corps, reconnaissance
towards KATIA, found no enemy as far east as KATIB GANNIT.

Copies to:-

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

Filed Z.29.
" C.S. Cables.

1/327

WFD

Appt H



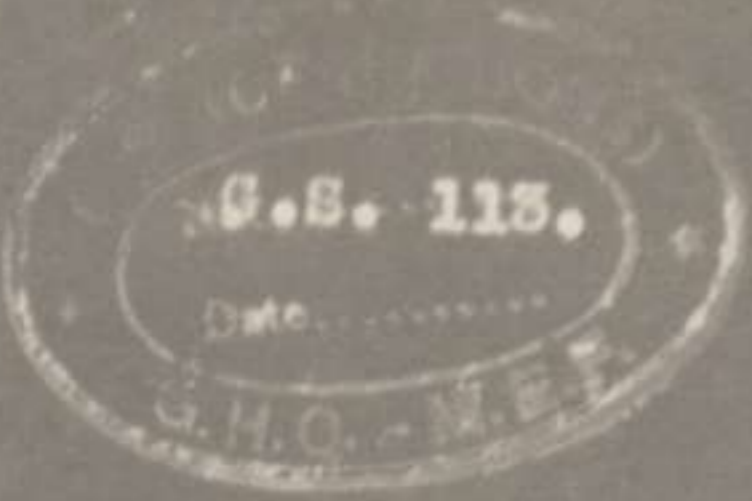
From Chief, Medforce.
To Troopers, London.

A.M.146. 19/2/16 Desp. 2120.

Reference War Office letter 121 over Mediterranean Over 718 S.D.2 of 15th January. Situation changed on account of altered composition M.E.F. and of preparation of new Anzac formations. Total deficiencies now one Corps Headquarters Signal Company, which you notified intention to despatch and which is still required vide my A.M.120 of 14th. Three cable sections and one airline section. Details and explanation by next King's Messenger.

- Copies to:-
- O.
 - C-in-C.
 - C.G.S.
 - D.A.S.
 - A.
 - Filed G.S.3.
 - " G.S.Cables.

1/328



W R
M J

19 February 1916.

General Officers Commanding,

1st A. & N.Z. A.C.
A. & N.Z. Forces.

Aust:Prov:Formations,
Levant Base.

I.G.C.

1. The creation of a 2nd A. & N.Z. Army Corps having been approved by the War Office, the formation of this Corps is now being proceeded with.

As a temporary measure Lieut-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., will act as General Officer Commanding Australian and New Zealand Forces.

2. All communications on matters of principle with regard to the raising of new Australian and New Zealand formations and units, and on matters affecting organisation, establishments and appointments, should be addressed to Lieut-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, Commanding Australian and New Zealand Forces, ISMAILIA.

3. (1) All communications with regard to operations affecting No. 2 Section of the Canal Defences, or on matters of routine affecting the original Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, should be addressed to General Officer Commanding 1st Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, ISMAILIA.

/(11) All

1/329

(iii) All communications concerning the Australian Provisional Formations referred to in G.S.113 of 11th February will be addressed as heretofore to General Officer Commanding Australian Provisional Formations, TEL-EL-KEBIR.

(iii) All communications concerning the new New Zealand units, referred to in G.S.113 of 11th February, which are being formed at MOASCAR, should be addressed to General Officer Commanding, 1st Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, ISMAILIA.

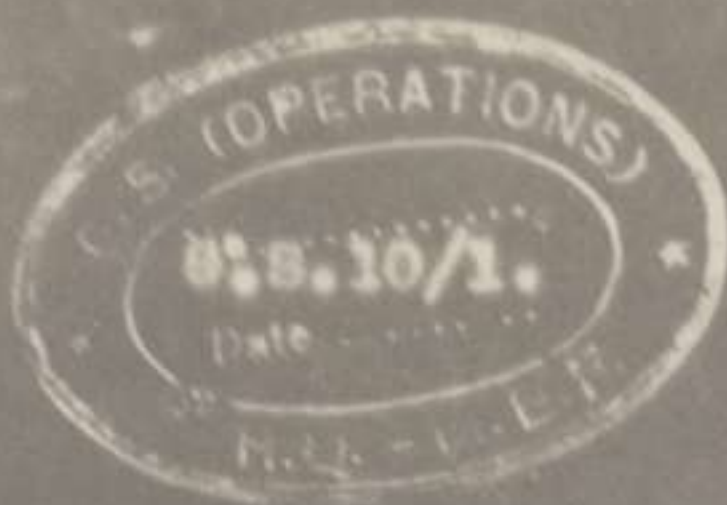
Copies of all communications referred to in (i) (ii) and (iii) above, should be sent to General Officer Commanding Australian and New Zealand Forces.

(Sd.) G.F. Dawray.
Lieut.-Col.
G.S.

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

Copies to:-

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



11330

Secretary,
War Office, London, S.W.

19th February, 1916.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of War Office letter 121/Mediterranean/775 (S.D.S) of the 22nd January, drawing attention to various points in connection with the re-organisation of the Forces in Egypt.

1. It is stated in the letter under reference that Divisional Squadrons will be required for the 42nd, 52nd, 53rd and 54th Divisions, and that the Army Council are of opinion that these should be formed from mounted units already in Egypt other than the 2nd Mounted Division and the Australian Mounted Division. The 42nd Division already has its Divisional Squadron, namely, 'A' Squadron, Duke of Lancaster Yeomanry.

As I have already reported, (see my A.M.45 of 26th January), the 2nd Mounted Division has ceased to exist. The 1/1st South Midland Mounted Brigade (1st Mounted Brigade) and the 1/1st London Mounted Brigade (4th Mounted Brigade) are operating as independent mounted brigades with the force under my command. The 1/1st Notts and Derby Mounted Brigade (3rd Mounted Brigade) has been despatched to the SALONICA Army. The 1/2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade (2nd Mounted Brigade) forms part of the Force in Egypt under General Sir John Maxwell.

/ Excepting

Excepting one squadron Surrey Yeomanry (Divisional Squadron 29th Division) the only other mounted troops in this country are the Imperial Yeomanry Brigade consisting of the 2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons) and the Herts Yeomanry. These two units form part of the Force in Egypt under General Sir John Maxwell, and are engaged in active operations with the Western Frontier Force. I am sending a copy of the War Office letter under reference and of this letter to General Sir John Maxwell, who has agreed to break up the Herts Yeomanry so as to provide Divisional Squadrons for the 52nd, 53rd and 54th Divisions. The other regiment to the 1/2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade. The Brigade Commander and Staff will be economised.

2. With regard to the provision of a third field company R.E. to complete the 54th Division, the War Office letter under reference states that the Edinburgh and Renfrew Field Companies are now on their way to Egypt. This is presumably due to some misconception, since these two Field Companies were already in this country before my arrival. Since assuming command, I have allotted them as Corps Troops to the 9th Army Corps.

On the other hand, the 1/1st and 1/2nd Kent Field Companies which were temporarily attached to the 2nd Mounted Division while it was operating dismounted, were handed over by me to the Force in Egypt, (see my A.M.45 of 26th January). These companies are so much reduced in strength that both are to be employed in the forthcoming operations for the re-occupation of SOLLUM. General Sir John Maxwell hopes to be in a position to

/post

post one of them to the 54th Division on the conclusion of these operations.

3. Since the 2nd Mounted Division is no longer operating as a Division, the question as to the provision of Engineer units becomes one of provision of field troops for each of the Mounted Brigades. I am endeavouring to find suitable officers here for the command of the troops for each of the Mounted Brigades under my command in EGYPT and at SALONICA, and I propose to call for volunteers from the R.E. units of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in order to provide the necessary personnel, (see my telegram A.M.45 of 28th January). At present there is some difficulty about finding suitable officers to organise the troops. I am informed by General Sir John Maxwell that, with the sanction of the War Office, a field troop for the 1/2nd South Midland Mounted Brigade is already in process of formation, and that the number 6 has been allotted to it.

4. This information is noted.

5. I note that the Tunnelling Companies formed in Australia will proceed direct to ENGLAND for service in FRANCE.

6. A statement of my proposals has been prepared for transmission to the Army Council, and was despatched by the last King's Messenger.

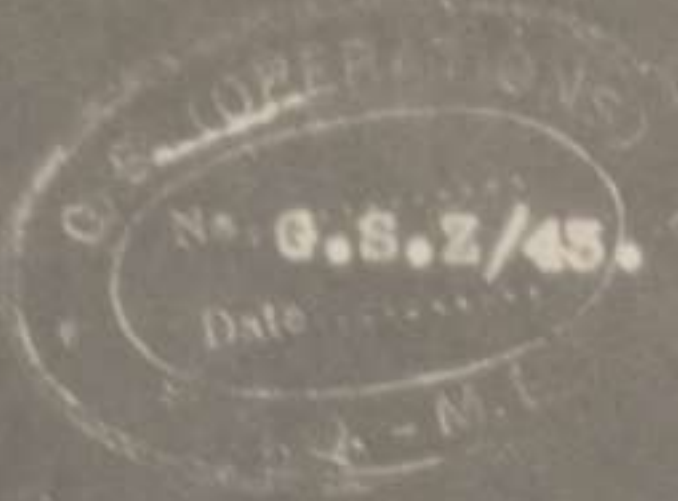
I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) A. G. Murray

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



1/333

WR

Ampt L.

19th February. 6

General Officer Commanding,
A. & N. Z. Forces.

Herewith are forwarded 2 copies of instructions regarding the employment of the Royal Flying Corps with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. 5 Copies have been sent to the 1st. and 2nd A. & N. Z. Army Corps, 2 copies to be retained at Corps Headquarters and one to be issued to each of the Divisions.

(Signature) C. P. Dawnay
Rt. Col.
G.S.

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

G.S. 2/45.

WIND.

1/334

1919^d February, 6

Officer Commanding,
5th Wing,
Royal Flying Corps.

Copies of the enclosed instructions have been
issued to Corps on the following scale:-

2 Copies Corps Headquarters.

1 Copy per Division.

(Sgd) C. P. Dawson
Lt. Col
as

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

1335

W P

OPERATIONS
G.S. 2/43.
Date.....
I.Q. -

19/2 February,

General Officer Commanding,
9th. Corps, 15th. Corps,
1st. A.&.N.Z. Army Corps.
2nd. A.&.N.Z. Army Corps.

Herewith are forwarded 8 copies of instructions regarding the employment of the Royal Flying Corps with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, 8 copies for retention at Corps Headquarters, and one for issue to each of the Divisions under your command.

(Sgd) A. P. Dawnay
Lt Col
A.S.
for Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

W. R. 1/336

MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

G.S. 2.43.

SECRET.

Instructions re Employment of the Royal Flying Corps.

(1) DISTRIBUTION.

The R.F.C. with the M.E.F. will be distributed as follows:-

- 1 Flight of No. 14 Squadron at KANTARA for work with the 15th Army Corps.
- 1 Flight of No. 14 Squadron at ISMAILIA for work with the A. & N.Z. Army Corps.
- 2 Flights of No. 17 Squadron at SUEZ for work with the 9th Army Corps.

(2) RECONNAISSANCES.

General Officers Commanding Army Corps should not, as a rule, issue instructions for air reconnaissances to proceed further than 50 miles beyond Corps front lines, and the overlap of such reconnaissances on the flanks of sections should not exceed five miles.

(3) RECONNAISSANCE REPORTS.

Four copies will be made of each reconnaissance report; these will be forwarded by the R.F.C. unit concerned as follows:-

- 1 copy to the Headquarters of the Corps by which the reconnaissance is ordered.
- 2 copies to H.Q., R.F.C. (1 for G.H.Q. M.E.F.).
- 1 copy retained at Squadron Headquarters.

Headquarters of Army Corps will, at once, report by wire to G.H.Q. M.E.F., and H.Q. R.F.C., any information of an important nature which a reconnaissance report may contain.

/(4) ARTILLERY.

1/327

(4). ARTILLERY CO-OPERATION.

It has been found that the best results are obtained if Corps and Divisional Artillery Commanders are in direct communication with the O.C., R.F.C. detachment concerned, so that, when opportunities for co-operation arise, delay may be reduced to a minimum. Direct telephonic communication should be arranged wherever possible.

(5). PHOTOGRAPHY.

In order to avoid duplication of work, all orders for the taking of photographs will be issued, as a normal procedure, by H.Q., R.F.C. under instructions from G.H.Q., M.E.F. On emergency, however, General Officers commanding Army Corps may use their discretion as to the ordering of additional photographs. Copies of all photographs taken will be issued to the following :-

- 1 copy to G.H.Q., M.E.F.
- 2 copies to H.Q., R.F.C.
- 2 copies to the Army Corps concerned.
- 1 copy to the Intelligence Officer, ISMAILIA.

Further copies may be obtained on application to H.Q., R.F.C., ISMAILIA; and in the case of the 9th Army Corps, to the O.C. No. 17 Squadron, SUEZ.

Alfred Bell

G.H.Q., M.E.F.
19/2/18.

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

W.D. 1/338
SECRET

G.S./Z/54⁴⁶

A. P. M.
19th February 1916.

The

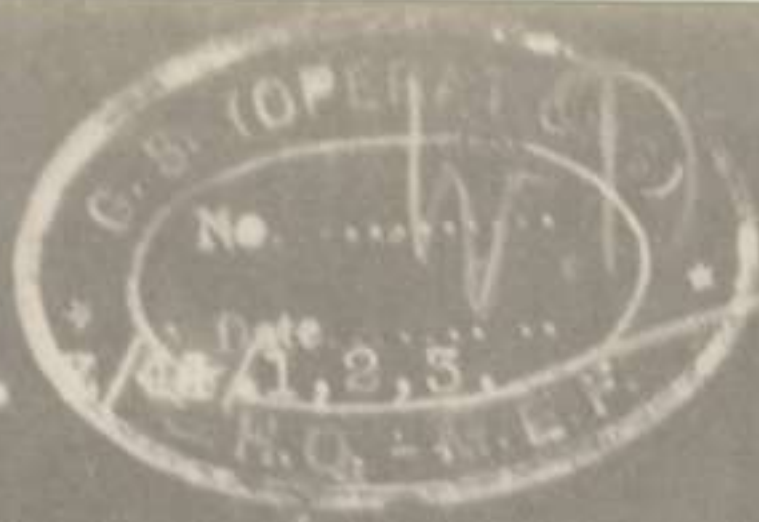
General Officer Commanding,
9th Army Corps.

Would you kindly let me know whether you have any remarks to add to the observations forwarded by your predecessor on the 28th January last, under No. G.S. 815, on the occasion of a visit made by him to the posts at TOR and ABU ZENIMA.

*(sd) K. K. Bernard
for Capt.*

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

G.S.



SECRET

1/339

App + N

19th

February, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,

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

Reference ^{my} our G.S. 136 of 27th January.

Weekly progress reports should be sent in in future so as to reach General Headquarters by Sunday evening.

A tracing from the 1/250,000 map is forwarded herewith.

Please mark on this the actual position of the railway, Decauville, road and pipe completed to date, viz.

2' 6" railway	+++++
Decauville	_____
Metre Gauge	-----
Road	_____
Pipe	_____

The tracing completed as above for stations in your Corps should be forwarded with the weekly progress report (commencing with the report due in on Sunday February 27th)

The tracing will be returned to Corps as early as possible each week.

Please also indicate on it the position of entrenchments, showing those constructed with a

/continuous

-3-

1/340

continuous red line and those not completed with a dotted red line.

(sd) G.P. Dawson
for Lt. Col. led.

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

Encl
Copy to M.G.R.A.

SECRET



1/311

Appx A

From
Chief London.
To
Chief Medforce.

13485 cipher M.C.719. 19/2/16 Deep. 1710.
20/2/16 Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0635.

Your A.S.139 February 18th.

There is no objection to 31st Division following 29th or even preceding if you consider this advisable.

Be ready however to delay the issue of definite orders until your appreciation has been received. The Admiralty inform me that move of four divisions will take six weeks after first ship sails and on arrival in France there will be further delays before Divisions are concentrated ready to go into the line. You will therefore realise importance of beginning the transfer of troops to France at earliest possible date and pushing on with preparation of Australian as well as 29th and 31st Divisions so that the first Division to leave can begin embarking during first week in March and the remaining divisions may be ready to follow in their turn without an interval should the situation permit.

Copies to:-

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

*2/45
C.S. Cable*

W/R

1/342

Appx B.



From:- TROOPERS.

To:- G.N.Q.

15491 cipher S.D.S.

19/2/18.
20/2/18.

Desp. 1828.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0640.

Our 13017 February 8th.

Admiralty states that 2 6-pounder guns
H.A. left England on January 30th and that 2 3-inch
(? Siege Guns) will leave in a few days, also that
V.A. has been instructed to arrange for replacement
of guns at IMBROS as soon as possible.

Copies to O.

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

C/S/86
C/S cables

1/343



W.R.D.

M.P.H.C.

From
Vice-Admiral.
To
Chief Medforce.

2337 cipher.

20/2/18

Desp. 0040.
Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0700.

Your A.M. 143. (102?)

I take great exception to telegram. This gun belongs to and is manned by the Navy and has never been lent to the Army. It is being used in accordance with directions I have received from the Admiralty.

Copies to:-

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

C.S./S
C.S. cables

W.D

SECRET



From

A.H.Q. SALONICA.

To

Chief, London. Repeated G.H.Q. and ATHENS.

G.C.37 cipher.

19/2/16
20/2/16

Deep. 2245.
Recd. 0740.
Decd. 0910.

Sarrail informed me to-day (I) that 20,000 horses would shortly arrive here for Serbia Army to be followed gradually by Serbian Force up to 6 Divisions. (II) That British Government and Lord Kitchener are considering question of adapting our organisation to possible offensive operations. (III) That Sarrail himself leaves for ATHENS to-night to interview Greek King. Greek doctor returned from SERBIA via BUDAPEST, PERDEAL, RUSTCHUK, ADRIANOPLE (20 days journey) states considerable southward movement of German troops through KRUSHEVATZ said to be for CONSTANTINOPLE. Information ^{from} OCHRIDA states that 3rd Bulgarian Division now at ELBASSAN. Austrians near DURAZZO consist of two Divisions. According to our previous information, however, the major portion Bulgarian 3rd Division entered ALBANIA from PRIZREND and not from the STRUGA direction, latter route having been taken by part of 8th Division. Elements of the German 105th Division are still reported PRILEP - VELES zone as also elements of 103rd Division behind DOIRAND front. 200 more German Cavalry believed to be 23rd Dragoons have arrived at DOIRAN, and 3,000 German Cavalry with colour on helmets are stated to have arrived MONASTIR February 16th. Above information from various agents. French aeroplanes report having seen train circulating between MRZENCI and PRDJEC..?. Question now arises of possibility

BULGARIA giving leave to soldiers to prepare spring sowing of crops. If such leave is given it will go far to appease any discontent there may be at being kept under arms after Serbian and Albanian Campaign is finished. This matter will be carefully watched as German plan might be to contain us here with skeleton Bulgarian Divisions supported by German elements purporting to belong to various different Divisions.

Copies to:-

- O.
- C-in-C. §
- C.S.S.
- I. (8 copies)

Filed Z.S.
" G.S.Cables.