

AWM4

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/4/12 Part 4

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Mediterranean
Expeditionary Force

March 1916



AWM4-1/4/12PART4

W.D.

SECRET

1/195

G.S. Z.34/2.

Apppt D

13th March, 1918

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

In reply to your S.4.

The Commander-in-Chief has decided that both the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions will come up from TEL-EL-KEBIR to the Canal, where in addition to the camps at SERAPEUM and FERRY POST, MOASCAR Camp can, if necessary, be used.

There should be no difficulty in finding suitable training ground near the Canal.

As soon as 4th and 5th Australian Divisions move forward, all details from SAIRO will be moved out to TEL-EL-KEBIR.

(sd) D. H. Bernard
Capt. G. H.

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

Copy to Q.

1/196

W-15

SECRET

App A



From:- CHIEF LONDON.

To:- CHIEF MEDFORCE.

14362.cipher.

15/3/18
14/3/18

Deepd. 2100.
Recd. 0215.
Dec'd. 0250.

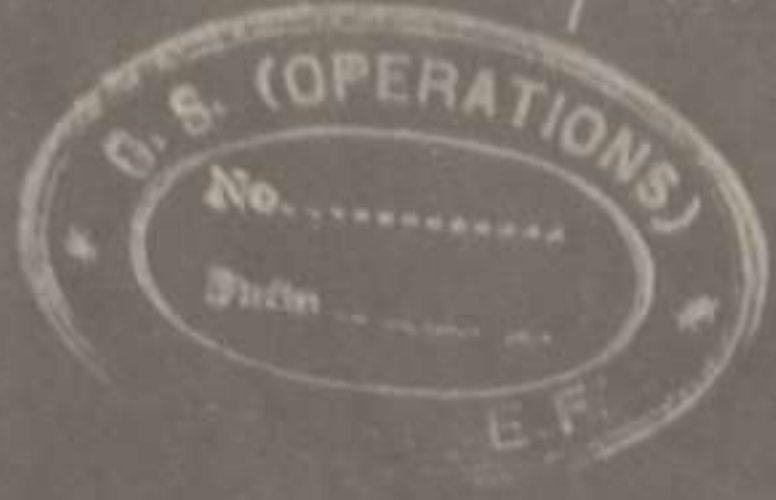
Proemial's 14248 of 10th.

It is most important that the adjustment of your own and subordinate Headquarters to what is really necessary should be taken in hand as soon as possible and that all redundant commanders and staffs should be sent home. To assist you a draft establishment for your Headquarters (?) and that of I.C.C. is being sent. As regards camel transport it appears that large purchases of camels have already been made in EGYPT and that four camel corps have been despatched from INDIA at the request of G.O.C., EGYPT. It seems probable that a reduction in the number of camels originally considered necessary can now be made but you are no doubt reviewing the requirements in camels for EGYPT as a whole particularly in view of the improvement in the situation effected by the construction of light railways on Eastern Front. Please report as soon as practicable details of any mobile forces you are organising for either front.

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

Filed G.S. 10/8.
G.S. Cables.

1/194



WTR

From Chief, Beirforce.

To Chief, London.

A.M. 889 cipher.

14/8/18.

Desp. 1448.

Your 14368 cipher.

Hope to make substantial reductions in Staff in
EUPR. I am carefully studying question of control of
Western front, which is eight hundred miles long, with
a view to the greatest economy in Staffs and men. It is
a difficult matter, but I hope to report within a week
of my assumption of command.

The canal question is a serious and difficult one
and I am going into it with the Sirdar and High Commissioner;
please leave the matter in my hands. I have worked out
the mobile columns required for the Eastern frontier and
am taking up the Western front problem; in the meantime
no canals are being purchased beyond our actual commitments
and I will be as economical as possible.

Copies to :-

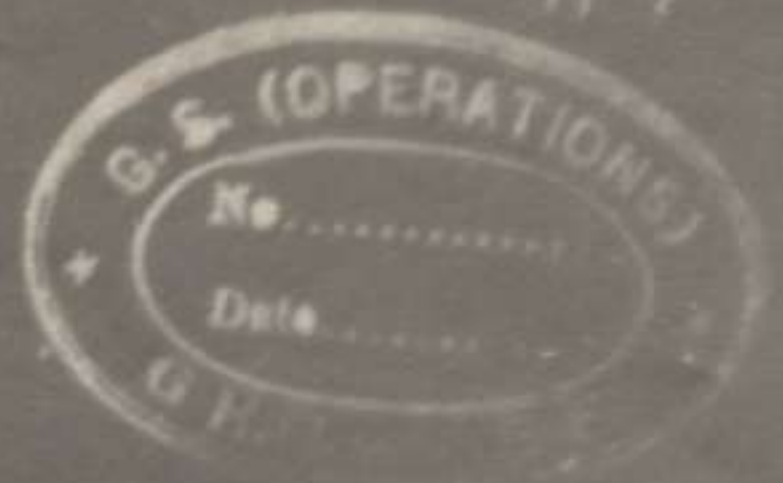
- O.
- G.(b)
- G.-in-C.
- G.S.
- A.
- G.
- A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 11/1.
" G.S. 147.
" G.S. Cables.

W.D.

App B

1/19/18



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

14349 Cipher. S.D. 2. 13/3/18. Despd. 2330.
143/18. Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0640.

Your A.M. 249 and G.O.C. Egypt's previous request for one additional Armoured Car Battery. As personnel will be sent you for the two batteries to be formed with the cars taken over from R.N.A.C.D., see War Office telegram No. 14315 do you still require an additional complete battery of 4 (?) Armoured Cars from England.

Copies to :--

- O. for action.
- O(b).
- C.G.S.
- A.
- Q.

Filed. G.S. 211.
" G.S. 28.
" G.S. cables.

MA

1199



From Chief, Medforce.

To Troopers, London.

A.M. 261.

14/3/16.

Desp. 1950.

Your 14340 cipher S.D.2. Additional armoured car battery requested by G.O.C. Egypt is not required.

Copies to:-

- O.
- O(b).
- C.S.S.
- A.
- Q.

- Filed G.S. 28.
- " G.S. 311.
- " G.S. Cables.

SECRET

1/200
No.
Date

From :- G.H.Q. Medford.

To:- G.O.C. Aden.

A.M.258.

14/3/16.

Desp. 1420.

Your 5146.

Commander-in-Chief M.E.F. greatly regrets that no aeroplanes can be spared from EGYPT at present as all available machines are fully occupied in carrying out necessary aerial reconnaissance.

Copies to :- O.
O(b).
C.G.S.

Filed Z/^AW.
G.S.Cables.

W.D.

1/201

Apppt D



From Vice Admiral, Mudros.

To Chief, Medforce.

0943 cipher.

14/3/16

Desp. 1130.
Recd. 1415.
Decd. 1455.

The two Army anti-aircraft guns which were lent by Army for protection of aerodrome KEPHALOS are now ready for disposal.

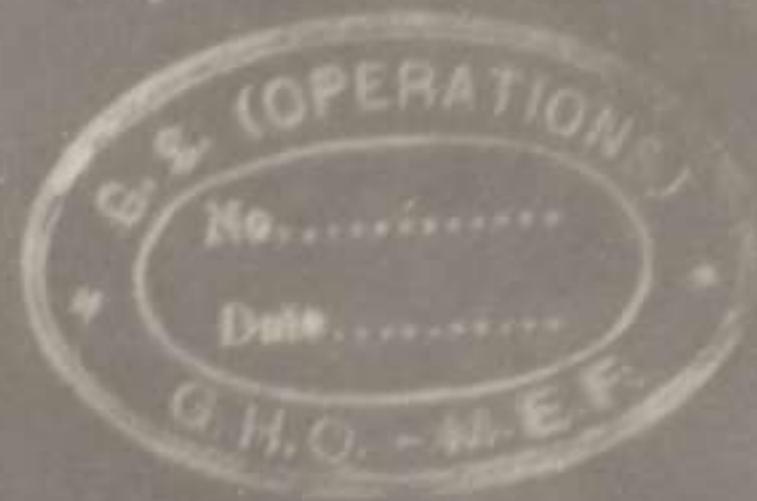
Please inform me if you still wish them sent to ALEXANDRIA.

Copies to :-

- O.
- O.(b)
- C.-in-C.
- G.G.S.
- A.
- Q.
- M.G.R.A.

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

1/202



W.R.

From A.H.Q. Salonica.

To G.H.Q. Medford.

A.806. cipher.

14/3/18.

Desp. 1430.
Recd. 1830
Decd. 1835.

Understand from Vice Admiral that two anti-aircraft guns previously lent to Navy and now at KEPHALOS are no longer wanted there. If not required by you in EGYPT these guns would be useful here, where aircraft activity appears to be increasing.

Copies to :-

- O.
- O.(b)
- G.S.S.
- A.
- Q.
- M.G.R.A.

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

1/203

N/A

SECRET

MMP+E



From Chief, Medforce.
To Chief, London.

A.M. 230. 14/5/16. Desp. 1930.

Evening report.

Reconnaissance of KATIA district March 10th to
March 13th showed no signs of the enemy. Established
cavalry post at ROMANI.

Copies to :-

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

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

1/204

SECRET

Mpof F

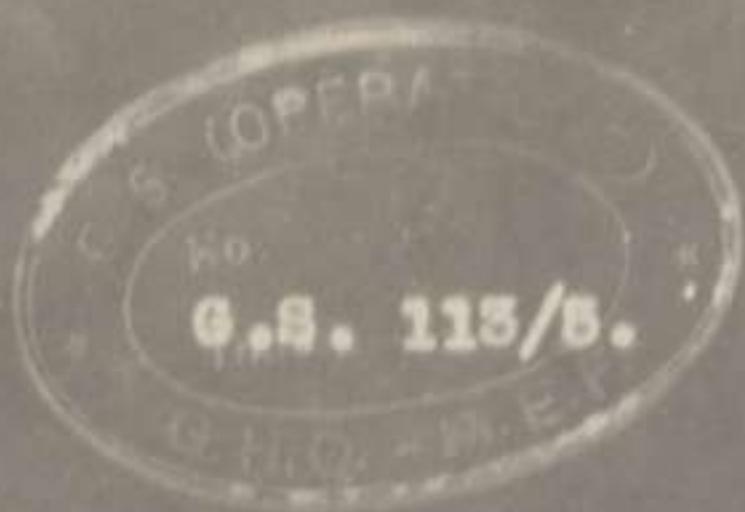
From : Sir W. Robertson.
To : Sir A. Murray.

14th March 1916. Desp. 1315.
Recd. 1940.
Decd. 1950.

R. 5.

Have carefully considered question of command of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps going to FRANCE, and Hughes has been to see me on the subject. He is much against Godley going. It is very essential the Corps should be given every chance to make a good beginning in FRANCE, and therefore Secretary of State for War and I have decided that Birdwood must go. Please arrange accordingly. Birdwood should give Godley every assistance to enable him to take up his organization duties in EGYPT. But you may think Birdwood's departure affords a suitable opportunity for your taking control and dealing with the Australian and New Zealand Governments, thus leaving Godley merely as a Corps Commander. This would seem far preferable.

1 copy to C.-in-C.
1 copy to C.G.S.
1 copy to A.M.S.



1/205

W.D.

Appx G.

M.P. March, 6

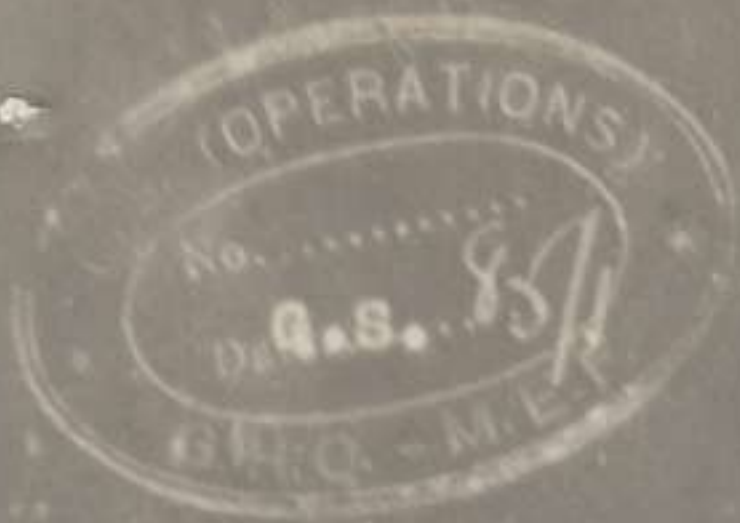
General Officer Commanding,
A. & N.Z. Forces.

Reference your letter G.R.No.136/116.

A telegram has been received from the War Office stating that the Australian Mining Corps cannot be utilized to form nucleus of pioneer battalions, as tunnelling companies are urgently required in FRANCE. The personnel of pioneer battalions will therefore have to be found from other sources.

Sgt C.P. Dawson
R. Col
ja *ls*

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



1/206

W.D.

Appt H.

14th March, 6

General Officer Commanding,
15th Army Corps.

The Commander-in-Chief proposes to visit the railway along the sea-coast in the course of next week. The date is at present uncertain but it will probably be 22nd. inst. Definite date and arrangement will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Sgd C. P. Dawnay
Lt. Col. G.S.
for

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



W.R.
Appt J

1/207

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

14th March, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 9th, informing me that the Admiralty cannot see their way to allow the anti-aircraft guns of any battleships which may be withdrawn from the Canal being left behind and handed over to the Army.

There is now in Ordnance at FERRY POST a Naval 6 pdr. Q.F. gun (No.1653). It is impossible at present to obtain any time fuze shells for it, and there does not seem any likelihood of any being available in the near future.

Under these circumstances I think it would be advisable to hand the gun back to the Navy, and I would be obliged if you could tell me where you wish it delivered.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Sgt. A. Lynden Bell
M.C.
for C.I.S.

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

WJ

SECRET

1/208
G.S. (OPERATIONS)
No.
Date.
G.H.Q. - M.E.F.

Chief. London.
Chief. Medforce.

Approved

14374 cipher. 14/3/18. Despd. 1750.
 15/3/18. Recd. 0810.
 Decd. 0830.

Your A.M. 256. General Altham is your I.S.C.
and you have complete authority to utilize his services in that
capacity and to reorganize the duties hitherto performed by
Levbase as you think. Alexandria must remain the main base
for all British Forces in near East.

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

Filed G.S. 10/2.
G.S. Cables.

SECRET

1/209

From. Superflux.
TO, Addressed Troopers, repeated Medforce.

G.E. 578. Cipher. 15/3/16. Despd. 1300.
Recd. 1400.
Decd. 1425.

Am glad to report following received from
General Peyton begins " Occupied SOLLUM 8 p.m. to-day,
14th., with practically no opposition. Enemy evacuated
their position this morning having blown up their magazine
yesterday. Successful pursuit by Armoured Cars resulted
in capture of one gun, two machine guns and one Turkish
Officer. About 50 enemy killed. Camel Corps and
cavalry followed armoured cars and occupied enemy's
position. Abandonment of enemy's position due to seizure
of NAGB-MADIAN plateau and combined advance along plateau
and coast road. Troops have endured hardships from want
of water but have marched and worked with fine spirit
and determination! ends

Copies to :--

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

Filed G.S. Z/28.

" G.S. Cables.



SECRET

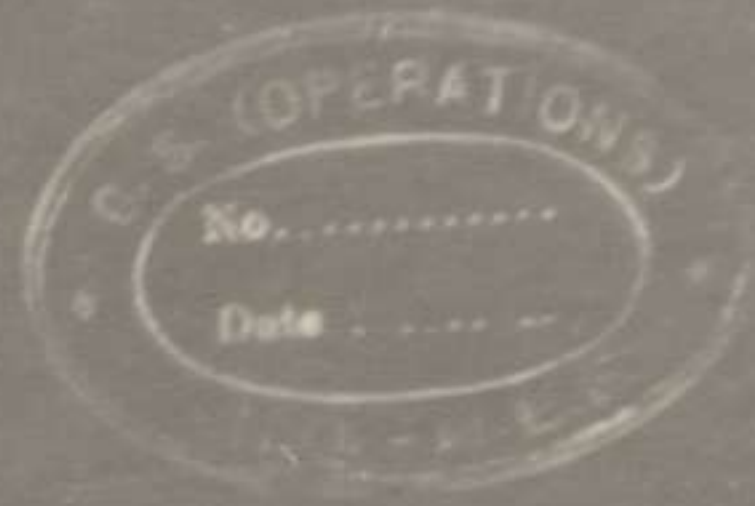
1/210

From

Superflux, Cairo.

To

Troopers. Repeated Medforce.



G.E. 582 cipher.

15/3/16.

Desp. 1740.

Recd. 1825.

Decd. 1830.

In continuation of my No. G.E. 578 further information from PEYTON states WESTMINSTER captured three 10-pdr. guns, nine machine guns, twenty-eight prisoners, including three officers. Killed fifty and two officers. Destroyed over a quarter of a million rounds S.A.A. and about 80 rifles and twenty-seven 10-pdr. shells.

Copies to:-

O. O(b).
I. M.G.R.A.
Q. E-in-C.
A. D.A.S.
C-in-C. ✓
C.G.S.

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

W.P.

1/211

CONFIDENTIAL

Appx C

From

Troopers, London.

To

Chief, Hedforce.

14395 cipher A.G.15.

15/3/18.

Desp. 1380.
Recd. 2048.
Decd. 2120.

Your A.M.337.

It is suggested that O'Leary would be more satisfactory than Poett who would be better as D.A.S. in succession to O'Leary. Beaton now Director of Personal Services here has a good knowledge of Adjutant-General's work and can be made available if you would like him.

Copies to:-

- O.
- O(b).
- C-in-C.
- G.S.S.
- A.
- A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 215.
" G.S. Cables.



WD
SECRET

1/212

G.S. 2/53.

M.H.D.

15th March, 1916.

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

The Commander-in-Chief has decided that the original programme laid down for the construction of roads, pipe lines and railways to the Front Line shall be carried out. Now that the exact positions of all posts in the system of defence have been settled, you are requested to forward a detailed statement, on copies of the 1/20,000 contoured plans, showing exactly what roads, railway lines and pipes you propose to construct. When these proposals have been sanctioned, in order to ensure economy in labour and material, no further extensions will be carried out without reference to General Headquarters.

(Sd) G.P.Dawney, Lt-Col.G.S.
for

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

Copies to :-

Q.
E-in-C.
A & N Z Forces.



W.R.
M. E.

1/2/13

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

B. C. March, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith for
sanction the proposed establishment for the Machine Gun
School, SALONICA.

1 Encl:

Owing to the necessity of making provision
for machine gun training, I have given temporary
approval for this establishment.

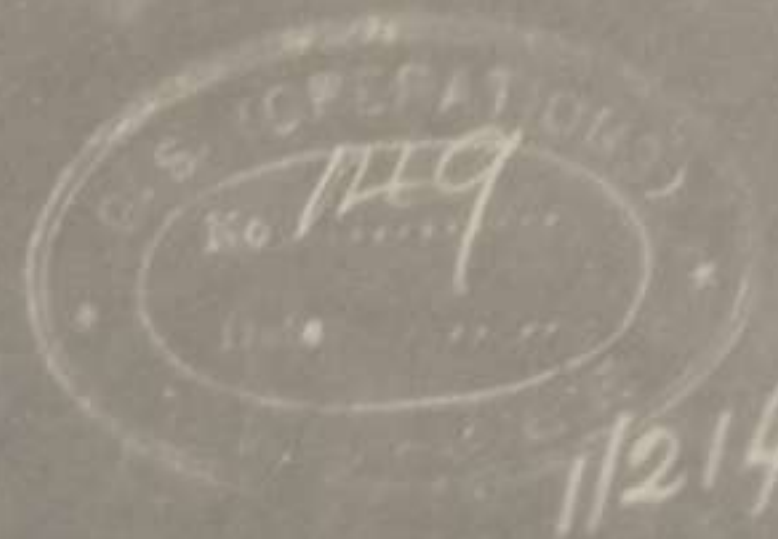
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) A Lynden Bell
M.C.
for C.I.S.
General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

MACHINE GUN SCHOOL, SALONICA.



ESTABLISHMENT.

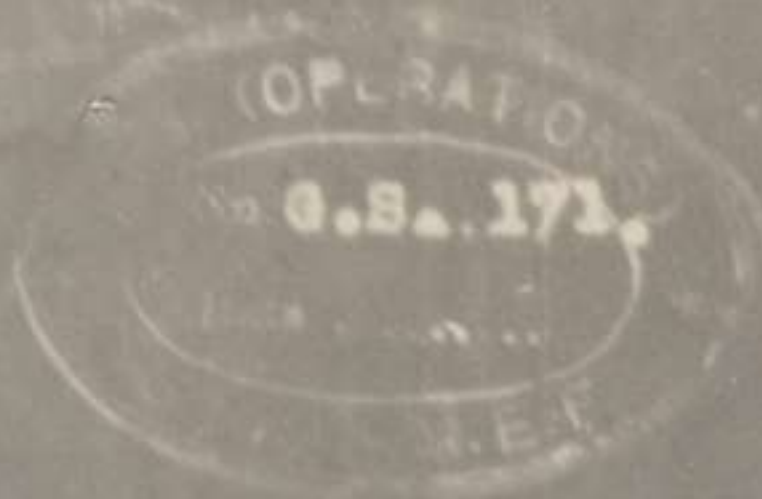
(1) Personnel.

DETAIL.	PERSONNEL.					Riding Horses.	REMARKS.
	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergts. and Sergeants.	Other ranks.	Total.		
Commandant, and Chief Instructor. }	1	-	-	-	1	1.	
Asst. Commandant.	1	-	-	-	1	1.	
Sergeant-Major.	-	1	-	-	1	1.	
Quarter Master Sergeant.	-	1	-	-	1	1.	
Sergeant Instructors.	-	-	5	-	5	-	
Sanitary Squad.	-	-	-	4	4	-	
For Transport Duties.	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Gun Storeman.	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Quarter Master's Storeman.	-	-	-	1*	1	-	* Carpenter.
Orderly.	-	-	-	1	1	-	
Cooks.	-	-	-	3	3	-	
Batmen.	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Totals.	2	2	5	14	23	2.	

(ii) Transport.

Detail.	Vehicles.	Drivers.	Mules.	Remarks.
Wagons, Limbered G.S.	1	2	4	

N.B. All other ranks, except instructors, to be marked permanent base if possible.



1/2/15

Major F.

15 March, 1915

Inspector General of Communications.

In reply to your letter of the 13th inst.
The fighting personnel of Camel Transport Corps
should be armed as under:-

Officers.

Revolvers.

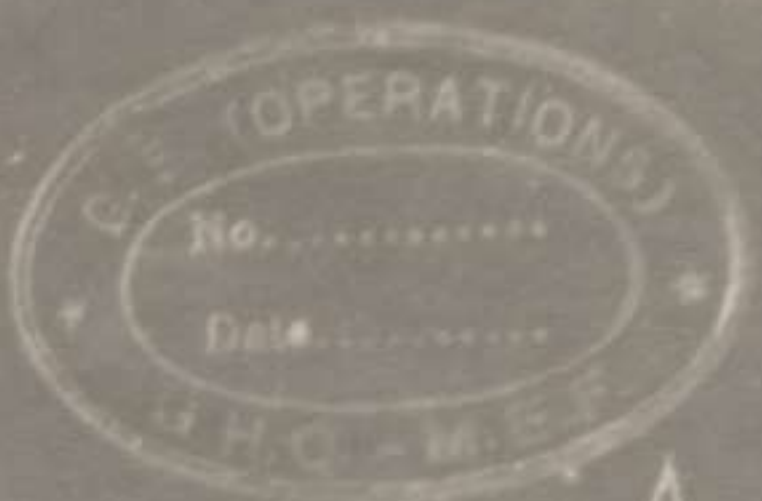
Other Ranks.

Rifles, short or long according
to which are available.

Sgt. C.P. Dawney
Lt. Col.
for A.S.
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

1/2/16

W.D.



Approx A

From War Office.
To Chief, Medforce.

14408 cipher D.S.S.	15/3/16.	Depd. 1850.
	16/3/16.	Recd. 0818.
		Decd. 0848.

Your A.M. 258 and 14332 cipher 15th.

Following is draft establishment for your Headquarters and that of I.S.C. assuming Levbase abolished. G.H.Q., M.E.F. 1st Echelon. G.S. branch, G.S.S. Major-General, G.S.O. 1st Grade 2, 2nd Grade 4, 3rd Grade 5; attached General Staff for cipher duties 3 officers, for topographical 1 officer, for censor duties 2; for intelligence accounts Army Pay Department, officer. A.C's. branch, D.A.C. 1, A.A.C's. 2, D.A.A.C's. 2, Staff Captain 1. Q.M.C's branch, D.Q.M.C. 1, A.Q.M.C's. 3, D.A.Q.M.C's 3, Staff Captain. Special appointments, Liaison officers, G.S.O. 1st Grade 1, 2nd Grade 1, total 2. Press officers 2. Personal appointments, A.M.S. 1, A.D.C. to G.-in-C. 3. Attached to Headquarters; Major-General R.A., Staff Officer R.A. graded G.S.O. 2nd Grade, Staff Captains, Engineer-in-Chief; Interpreters 4. G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon. Camp Commandant, Camp G.H.; Administrative Services and departments; Medical Officer, Veterinary Officer 1. Special Appointments, P.M. 1, A.P.M's 2. Headquarters Administrative Services and departments. D.D.A.S. 2. A.D.A.S., D.S.&T., D.D.S.T., A.D.S & T. 2, D.A.D's.S & W. 4. D.O.S.; Deputy Director, Assistant Directors 2, Deputy Assistant Directors 2, Chief Inspector of Ordnance Machinery. D. of W. : D.D.W., A.D.W., D.A.D.W., Deputy Director Accounts: A.D.R., D.A.D.M.R., Director Medical Services; D.Director, A.Directors 2, Deputy Assistant Director. Director of Railways; Deputy Director. D. Vet. S.: D.D.V.S., A.D.V.S., D.A.D.V.S. Director Army Post Service; D.D.A.P.S., A.D.A.P.S. Paymaster-in-Chief; Command Paymaster, Local Auditor Assistant. Deputy Judge Advocate General; Principal Chaplain, Assistant. G.H.Q.,

3rd Echelon Headquarters. D.A.G. Brig.-General, A.A.G. 2, Deputy Assistants 2, Staff Captains 3, Staff Lieutenant, attached for cipher and code 2 officers, for information Bureau 1; Administrative Staff, Camp Commandant, Quartermaster. Total Officers 1st Echelon 51, 2nd Echelon 7, Headquarters Administrative Services and departments 45, 3rd Echelon 14. Records Sub-sections not inclusive. Headquarters I.G.C.; Inspector General Communications; A.&Q.M.G. branch. A.A. & Q.M.G. 1, D.A.A.G. 1, D.A.Q.M.G. 1, Staff Captain 1, attached for cipher work 2 Officers; special appointments, Assistant Provost Marshal 1, Camp Commandant 1, A.D.C. to I.G.C. 1, total officers 10.

Copies to :-

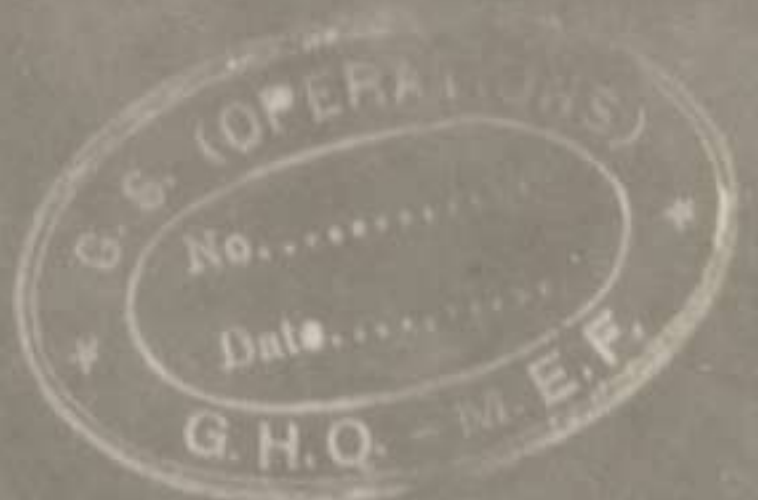
- O.
- O.(b)
- C.G.S.
- A.
- Q.
- I.
- A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 11/1.
 * G.S. Cables.

1/2/18

W.D.

Appt B



From
Chief, Medforce.

To
Troopers.

A.M. 268.

16/3/16.

Desp. 1205.

Your 13088 cipher S.D.2.

29th and 2nd Australian Divisions cease to belong
to H.R.F.

Copies to:-

- C.
- O(b).
- G.S.S.
- A.
- Q.

Filed G.S. 169.
" G.S. Cables.

11/219

W.D

Apppt C



From C.G.S.

To A.H.Q. Salonica.

O.B. 255.

15/3/16.

Desp. 1516.

Your 572/1 dated 26th February.

Regret proposed establishment for Mountain Battery and ammunition column cannot be approved, ^{as} and there is no possibility of finding the additional drivers and pack mules required.

Transport for Train for Mountain Battery should be provided from the Indian Mule Cart Corps now at SALONICA.

Regarding proposal to create a Train for Mounted Brigade. Existing organisation of 1st Line Transport and of Supply Column must be adhered to. Supply Column consisting of Headquarters and two sections each carrying one day's rations and forage may be formed from local resources. No further transport can be made available from here.

Copies to :-

- O.
- O.(b)
- C.G.S.
- Q.
- M.G.R.A.

Filed G.S. 182.
" G.S. Cables.

11220



N. 90

SECRET

Apppt D

16

March, 1918.

General Officer Commanding,
15th Army Corps.

It is understood that you propose to construct a road from the present road-head at FERDAN to the foot of ABU EL ARUK and then on to BALLAH.

This is an extension of approximately 11 kilometres of road beyond the original scheme, and involves considerable further outlay.

As the front line is to be held as an outpost line, it is not likely to be found necessary suddenly to transfer large bodies of troops from one flank to the other, and a mobile force proceeding in the direction of BIR EL MAHADAT can move out direct from EL FERDAN or BALLAH.

The Commander-in-Chief therefore hopes that before undertaking this extension you will consider carefully what necessity there is - under the modified scheme of defence as outlined in G.S. Z.34 of March 6th - for this lateral communication close in rear of the front line. It is urgently necessary to keep down road construction to a minimum.

Ego A. Lynden Bell

Copy to E-in-C.
" Q.

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

W.D.

SECRET

1/221

G.S.2/34/2.

Major E

16th March, 1916

General Officer Commanding,
1st A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

1. With reference to your 41/8/1 dated March 9th, the Commander-in-Chief concurs generally in the distribution of troops in No. 2 Section, contained therein.

2. He is of opinion, however, that the question of artillery dispositions calls for some further consideration, as the location of 2 or 3 immobile artillery brigades, without horses, in a forward position covered only by an outpost line, would involve risk in the event of a sudden rush which might temporarily penetrate the line.

If a sufficiently large number of horses cannot be maintained in forward positions, it would be advisable to reduce the forward artillery to an extent which would admit of giving full mobility to what is left.

3. With regard to the mobility of the "surplus" troops, it will be sufficient if they are prepared to operate at a distance east of the Canal not exceeding 10 or 12 miles, or not more than 5 or 6 miles east of road and rail-heads. To attempt more than this would involve a very considerable increase of transport which does not appear to be called for in the circumstances.

(sd) A. Lynden-Bell

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

Army F

16th March, 1916

General Officer Commanding,
A. S. H. Z. Forces.

1. With reference to your G.O. 130/118 dated 10th. March - organisation of a Signal Squadron for the A. S. H. Z. Mounted Division - it has been decided to organise this unit on a special scale modified to suit the conditions under which the Division will be operating.

2. In view of the unsuitability of heavy wireless wagons to a country of deep sand, and as it is improbable that the Division will be called upon to operate at very great distances from the Headquarters of the force, it has been decided to dispense with "A" Troop altogether and with the wireless wagon station in "C" Troop, though the latter will be replaced by an additional wireless pack section (2 stations).

Three wireless pack sections are expected from England shortly and one of these will be allotted.

3. As regards "D" Troop, this will be formed by bringing A.O. Cable Section from Salonica, the additional cable wagon to complete being provided by Ordnance. These wagons will require fitting with sand tyres.

4. "D" Troop will be altered only in so far as affects mobility. All motor cars, motor cycles and bicycles will be withdrawn, the 6 motor cyclists and 20 bicyclists being replaced by 18 additional horsemen and 16 men mounted on camels.

/s.

1/223

5. The reconstituted squadron will thus consist of 3 troops :

"B" Troop (A.O. Cable Section from Salonica *plus 1* cable wagon to be furnished by Ordnance).

"C" Troop (3 wireless pack stations).

"D" Troop (50 horsemen and 6 camel men).

6. An officer will be detailed by the Director of Army Signals, General Headquarters as requested - if not of the rank of captain, an experienced subaltern.

(sa) A Lynden Bell

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

Copies to :-

1st. A.&N.Z. Army Corps.
D.A.S.
A.
Q.

C.R.No. 40/4/1 Ga.

U R G E N T



1st AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

To/

Appx G

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

Subject: Signal Communication

1. It will shortly be impossible to maintain the existing signal communications owing to the withdrawal of the Cable Sections of the Corps Signal Company and the Divisional Signal Companies.
2. The latter will ultimately be relieved by the Companies of the incoming Divisions but during the period in which reliefs will take place, considerable difficulty will occur. I have no information as to how it is proposed to replace the Corps Signal Co.
3. The Corps Signal Company in addition to normal work maintains signal communication for all troops at Ismailia.
The New Zealand Division on the departure of the 2nd Australian Division will have to maintain signal communication at MQASCAR and also assist the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade to maintain communication in B Subsection east of the Canal.
4. It is requested that signal personnel be made available to replace the Corps signal personnel which is being withdrawn and to assist in maintaining communication during the interruptions which may occur, owing to relief of Divisions.

J. A. Godley

Lieut.-General,
Commandg. 1st A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

ISMAILIA,

.3.1916.

W.D.

1/225

G.S. 10/2

Egypt H

16th March, 1918

Inspector-General of Communications.

In accordance with instructions received from the War Office, the Levant Base is to be abolished. The Base at Alexandria will continue, however, to be the base of all British forces operating in the Eastern Mediterranean.

In view of the above and of the fact that the whole of Egypt will shortly pass under a single military control, it will no longer be necessary to maintain separate Directors as heads of Administrative Services and Departments for both the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force ^{the E.M.F.} and the Levant Base. The resulting unification will simplify organisation and will make for economy.

You will continue to keep the position of I.G.C. with administrative control of the Bases at Alexandria, Port Said and Suez. The title of General Officer Commanding Levant Base will cease to exist.

The necessary orders will be published in due course.

(sd) A. Lydenberg

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

W.D.

SECRET

G.S./2/32



1226

App't J.

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

16th March, 1916.

Sir,

With reference to your question as to the possibility of making arrangements admitting of a reduction of the Naval patrols westward to SOLLUM, I am now considering what arrangements can be made by land along the coast, and hope to be able to communicate more fully with you on this subject within the next week or ten days.

As regards the question of a bombardment of EL ARISH from the sea, after full consideration I have come to the conclusion that this would not be likely to serve any useful purpose. I think, therefore, it would be well not to undertake an operation of this kind.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sd) A. L. Gordon Bell
Major Gen
asst.

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

W.D.

1/227

G.S. 171.

16th March, 1918

App L

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

Herewith a copy of a letter sent to Inspector
General of Communications regarding the return of
officers at present serving with the Australian Camel Corps.
The whole matter is being taken up with the I.C.C.

(sd) G. P. Downey
Lt Col Gf

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

16th March, 1918

Inspector General of Communications.

In reply to your L.380 of 15th.

General Officer Commanding, A. & H.Z. Forces, says that, as stated in your letter, the officers for the Camel Transport Corps were selected by Headquarters Force in Egypt and General Officer Commanding Cairo District without reference to A. & H.Z. Forces.

The latter specially require the services of the three officers of the Divisional Ammunition Columns and also of the two officers of the regular battalions. These should be sent back at once. The return of the other officers is not so urgent and they should be kept on at present, at any rate until arrangements can be made for their relief.

(sd) G. H. Dawson
Lt Col G

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

Copy to A

M.H.M.

16th March, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
15th Army Corps.

Reference your G. 14 of 13th instant.

The only grenades that are now issued are the Mills Grenade and the Spherical Grenade, the latter being for use with the catapult only. Large quantities of these grenades are now available and it is most unlikely that troops will again be called upon to improvise grenades. In these circumstances an issue of Gelignite appears unnecessary.

Each Brigade Grenadier School should have in its possession 100 live Spherical Grenades with fuzes and detonators, and for purpose of demonstration, it is thought that these should be sufficient.

Periscopes at the rate of four per Brigade School have been sanctioned, and may be drawn on demand.

The Commander-in-Chief authorises you to sanction issues; other than explosives which are legislated for in G.S. 120 of 6th February; which you may deem necessary for the efficient training of grenadiers.

(sd) A. Lynden Bee

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

Copies to :-
D.O.S.
2

1/230

G.S. 24/4

App N

16th March, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,

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

Herewith are forwarded, for your information, copies of the remarks of the Commandant, Machine Gun School, on the officers and N.C.O.'s who attended the Refresher Course at Ismailia 8th to 10th March 1916.

The result, taken as a whole, shows that the standard of knowledge obtaining both among officers and N.C.O.'s is not high, and consequently a considerable period will elapse before the new Machine Gun Companies can be expected to be efficient and capable of taking their place in the fighting line.

In future when candidates, both officers and N.C.O.'s, are detailed to attend courses at the Machine Gun School, the Commander-in-Chief desires that the greatest care be exercised in selecting suitable officers and N.C.O.'s. It must be recognized that the qualities necessary to make good Machine Gunners are not inherent in every individual.

At the last course held, the selected Machine Gun Company Commanders in four cases had little or no experience of Machine Guns, and in the majority of cases the officers are reported as having a weak or only fair knowledge of the gun and of the tactics affecting it.

/The standard

1/23/

The standard of the N.C.O.'s attending the course was higher than that obtaining in the case of the officers. In one case, however, an N.C.O. who had already failed to qualify at a Machine Gun Course had been selected to attend. The Commander-in-Chief would like Corps Commanders to impress on their subordinates that N.C.O.'s of this description are quite unsuitable for Machine Gun work.

The Commander-in-Chief hopes that Corps Commanders will consider the question of creating efficient Machine Gun Companies as a matter of urgent importance, and that they will take any steps necessary to attain this end.

(sd) A Lyden Bell

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

11232
GAC

G. H. Q. MACHINE GUN SCHOOL.

RESULTS.

COURSE No. 6. - M.G. Company Officers' Refresher Course.

From:- 5/3/16. To:- 10/3/16.

Regl.No.	Rank.	Name.		Regiment.	Previous Qualifications.	Remarks.
				<u>125th Brigade.</u>		
	Capt.	Lowe.	B.	5.Lanc.Fus.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Fair on gun. *
767.	Sergt.	Perkin.	C.H.	1/5.Lanc.Fus.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Good. *
				<u>126th Brigade.</u>		
	Capt.	Bloor.	F.	10.N.Staff.	Q.Hayling Island.	Fair on gun. *
268.	Sergt.	Mills.	J.	1/10.Manch.	Q.Broughty Ferry.	Poor. *
				<u>127th Brigade.</u>		
	Capt.	Hayes.	F.	7.Manch.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Very weak. Little knowledge. Extra work 1 hour.
1440.	Sergt.	Evans.	C.H.	1/6.Manch.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Good. Did extra work.
				<u>1st Dismounted Brigade.</u>		
	Capt.	Miller.	G.L.	1/3 Sect. Horse.	Q. Strensall.	Good. Did extra work.

* = Did no extra work out of School work hours on the gun.

M.E.F.
15/3/16.

(Sd) H.K.Charteris, Major.
Commandant, G.H.Q. Machine Gun School.

1/233
1571

G. H. Q. MACHINE GUN SCHOOL.

RESULTS.

COURSE No. 6. - M.G. Company Officers' Refresher Course.

From:- 5/3/16. To:- 10/3/16.

Regt.No.	Rank.	Name.	Regt.	Previous Qualification.	Remarks.
<u>32nd Brigade.</u>					
	Capt.	Geaussant.	H.A. 6.W.Riding.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Learned a good deal while here *
8325.	Sergt.	D'Arcy.	P. 6.Yorks R.	Q. Strensall.	Learned a good deal while here. Did extra work.
<u>33rd Brigade.</u>					
10151.	Capt.	Snell.	A.P. 1/6.Lines.	Q.Hythe.	Weak on gun.*
	a/C.S.M.	Bowen	J.W. 1/7.S. Staff.R.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Good.*
<u>34th Brigade.</u>					
	Lieut.	Norbury.	A.L. 11.Manch.	Q. Strensall.	Weak on Vickers.*
2631.	S.M.	Pickles.	F.H. 11.Manch.	Q. Strensall.	Weak on Vickers.*
<u>155th Brigade.</u>					
	Lieut.	Pirie.	W.S. 1/5.R.S.F.	Q.Mudros. ("D").	An excellent officer. Not a M.G.Coy. Commander. Came vice M.G. Coy Commander who was on leave.
6381.	C.Q.M.S.	Darroch.	G. 1/5.R.S.F.	Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Good. Did extra work.
<u>156th Brigade.</u>					
	Capt.	Pattison.	J.W.H. 1/8.Scot. Rifles.	Q. Hythe.	V.G.*
24.	Sergt.	Duff.	L.F. 1/7.R. Scots.	Q. Barry Camp.	Good. Did extra work.
<u>157th Brigade.</u>					
1463.	Capt.	Murray.	W.A.K. 1/6.H.L.I.	Q. Strensall.	Weak.*
	Sergt.	Louden.	J.D. 1/5.H.S.S. Highs.	Q. Broughty Ferry.	V.G. Did extra work.

* = Did no extra work out of School work hours on the gun.

M.E.F.

(Sd) N.K.Charteris, Major,
Commandant G.H.Q. Machine Gun School.

ANZ
1234

G. H. Q. MACHINE GUN SCHOOL.

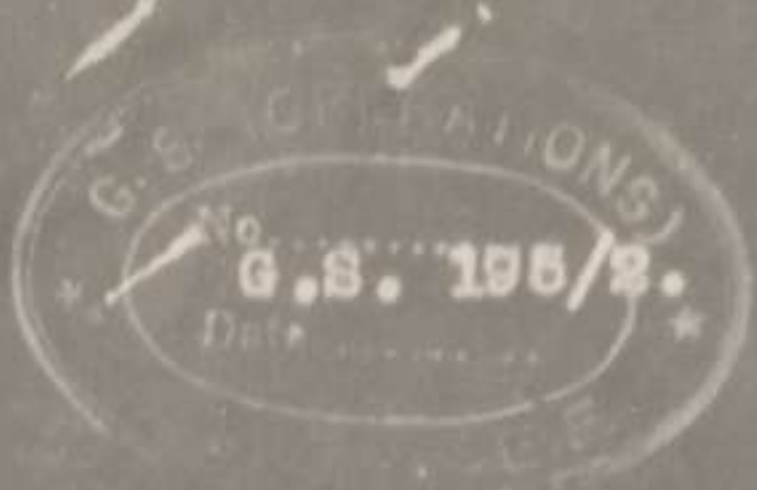
R E S U L T S.

COURSE No. 6. - M.G. Company Officers' Refresher Course.

From:- 5/3/16. To:- 10/3/16.

Regt.No.	Rank.	Name.	Previous Qualifications.	Remarks.
<u>1st. Brigade (1 Aust Div.)</u>				
7	Lieut. Sergt.	French. Hedley.	W.R. Q. Zeitoun. E.B. Q. Randurih.	Weak. Did not know T.A. V.G. Did extra work.
<u>2nd. Brigade (1 Aust Div.)</u>				
37	Capt. Sergt.	East Almond. Gibb.	G.N. Q. Hythe. J.M. Failed Mudros.	Fair. * Fair. Did extra work.
<u>3rd. Brigade (1 Aust Div.)</u>				
2874.	Capt. Sergt.	Steele Snelling	A. Q. Randurih. C.W. Q. Zeitoun.	V.G. Did extra work. Fair. Did extra work.
<u>5th. Brigade (2 Aust Div.)</u>				
	Lieut.	Wright.	A.H. Never qualified at at a Machine Gun School.	V.G. Did extra work.
1187.	S.M.	Dakin.	C.H. do. do.	V.G. Did extra work.
<u>6th. Brigade (2 Aust Div.)</u>				
1028.	Capt. Sergt.	Darley Palling.	W.J. Q. Zeitoun. E.A. Q. Zeitoun.	Good. Did extra work. V.G. Did extra work.
<u>7th. Brigade. (2 Aust Div.)</u>				
494.	Capt. S.M.	Radford. Armit.	E. Q. Zeitoun. E.F. Q. Zeitoun.	Good. Did extra work. V.G. Did extra work.
<u>1st. Brigade (N.Z. Div.)</u>				
12/1013.	Capt. Sergt.	Rose. Hayes.	J.M. Q. Hythe. C.A. Q. Zeitoun.	Very rusty on gun. Did extra work. V.G. Did extra work.
<u>2nd. Brigade (N.Z. Div.)</u>				
12/1604.	Lieut. Sergt.	Parkes. Steele	J.B. Q. Hythe. R.B. Q. Zeitoun.	V.G. Did extra work. V.G. Did extra work.
<u>N. Z. Rifle Brigade.</u>				
24/595.	Lieut. Sergt.	Gallien. Taylor.	R.G. Q. Zeitoun. C.E. Never qualified at a Machine Gun School.	Fair. Did extra work. V.G. Did extra work.

* = Did no extra work out of School work hours on the gun.
 M.E.F. (Sd) N.K. Charteris, Major.
 13/3/16. Commandant, G.H.Q. Machine Gun School.



W.D.
APPRO.

1/235

Secretary,
War Office, London, S.W.

16^d
March, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for consideration the accompanying particulars and sketches of an invention by Second Lieutenant G. Jessop, 7th Battalion, Manchester Regiment, in connection with the Stokes Gun.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Sgt. A. Lynden Bell
M.C.
in C.E.S.
General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



16th March, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,
9th Army Corps.

With reference to your O/151 of 6th instant,
the Commander-in-Chief is much obliged for the particulars
of 2/Lieut. G. Jessop's invention, which are being passed
to the War Office for consideration.

Sgd. A. LYNDEN-BELL. M.G.,
C.G.S.,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Copy to D.O.S.

WSD

Appx A

1/237
G.S. (OPERATION)
No.
Date

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

16/3/16. Desp. 1708.
17/3/16. Recd. 0615.
Decd. 0650.

14442 cipher S.D.S.

Your M.F.A. 6856 of 10th.

Trench mortars should be organized in batteries of four guns. Establishment of a battery is as follows :-
Officers, 2; sergeant, 1; corporals or lance-corporals, 4; privates, 16; batmen, 2. No battery Sergt.-Major or Battery Q.M.S. is allowed. All are entitled to payment according to rank held from date of appointment to that rank.

1 copy to A.
O.
O(b).
C.G.S.
M.G.R.A.
Q.

Filed MA² Cables.
G.S. 5.

W.R.D.
Appet B
OPERATION 1/238

From War Office.

To G.H.Q. Medforce.

14469 cipher D.S.D.

16/3/16.
17/3/16.

Desp. 2115.
Recd. 0620.

Reference Superflux G.E. 570.

If you can complete the equipment of the West Indian battalions to scale laid down in Mobilization Store Table A.F. G.1008/238 without detriment to other more urgent requirements, there is no objection.

Copies to :-

Q. for action.
O.
O.(b)
C.G.S.
A.

Filed Q. Gables.
" G.S. 159.

1/239

W.D.



From
Superfluous.
To
G. H. Q.

G.E. 566. cipher. 17/5/16. Desp. 1535.
Recd. 1725.
Deed. 1735.

Your C.M.Q.T. 955, March 17th. My G.E. 570 begins:-
Your 13478 cipher S.D.2. Please see War Office letters of
27 - general number - 4798 A.G.1. December 18th.
Both consider West Indians as Service Battalions and they
have arrived in Egypt expecting to be equipped on lines
indicated. Respectfully submit that unless there are
very cogent reasons for change of policy earlier promise
should be kept. Battalions will be more useful and
disappointment which would have had effect in Colonies
would be avoided.

Copies to:-
G. (2).
O.
O(b).
C.G.S.
A.

Filed 'Q' Cables.
95/139

Handwritten signature

From

SECRET

Superfluous.

1/240
G.S. (OPERATIONS)
No.
Date.
G.H.Q. - M.E.F.

To

Handwritten initials

Medforce.

G.708.

17/3/16.

Desp. 1848.
Recd. 1950.

Reports by officers who have returned from SOLLUM show that the action of the armoured cars on the 14th under Major the Duke of Westminster was a much finer affair than had been understood from earlier accounts. Early in the morning aeroplane reconnaissances discovered that the camp at BIR WARR was empty. The armoured cars were at once ordered to put forward in pursuit "with reasonable boldness". This was done. For the first eight miles going was bad but the cars then struck the DERNA road and pace was increased to nearly 40 miles an hour. Some hundreds of Bedouins were passed flying westward. Many were armed but no notice was taken of them. Twenty-five miles west of SOLLUM the main camp was seen about a mile south of the road. Direction was immediately changed and the cars advanced in line with the exception of two which, acting on a preconcerted plan, went on along the road about two miles before turning south. As the cars approached one gun and two machine guns which were smartly handled came into action, but the whole gun team were shot down at a distance of 400 yards the cars dashed into the camp. The hostile force scattered in every direction and pursuit was carried on for 10 miles when there was danger of the petrol supply being exhausted; when the cars were again concentrated it was found that all the enemy's artillery, three guns and nine machine guns, with 24 spare

Handwritten initials

/barrels

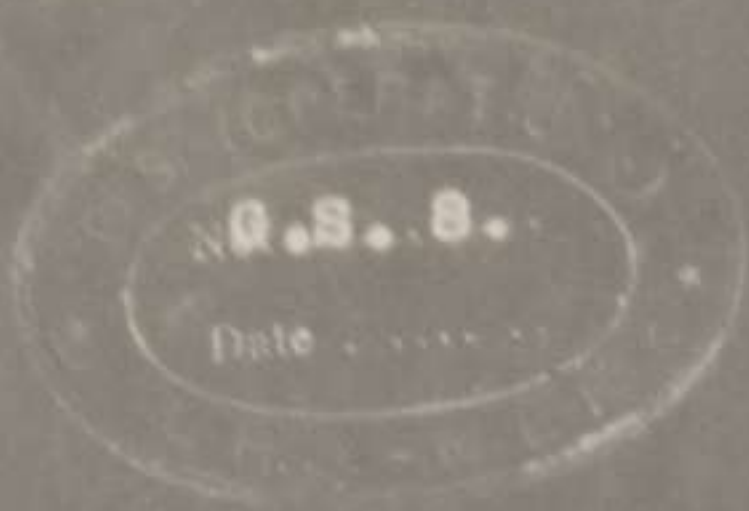
1241

barrels, some 40 revolvers and a large quantity of ammunition had fallen into our hands. Eight officers and thirty-two other ranks took part. Our casualties one officer slightly wounded. The enemy's casualties are as already reported. This action has brought to a successful conclusion what is in my opinion a very skilful little campaign. In three weeks General Peyton's force has advanced nearly 150 miles, captured the hostile commander, and killed or captured quite 50 per cent of the Turkish subordinate commanders, has taken all his artillery and machine guns and driven the scattered remnants of his force far beyond the Egyptian border. Want of water made the work of the infantry extremely arduous, but all difficulties were met and overcome with splendid spirit. I regret to say that the previous report of Nuri's death has proved to be untrue. He was seen disappearing from the action on the 14th.

Copies to:-

- O.
- O(b).
- C-in-C.
- C.G.S.
- I.
- A.
- Q.
- M.G.R.A.
- B.A.S.
- E-in-C.

Filed Z.28.



[Handwritten signature]

1/242

Apppt D

17th March, 1918

General Officer Commanding,
Force in Egypt.

With reference to your G.S. 190 of the
13th inst. on the subject of the School of Instruction
at ZEITOUN, the effect of which is cancelled by
impending changes, the claims of the A. & N.Z. forces
are noted, and will be borne in mind when arranging
future courses at the School.

[Handwritten signature: Sgt A. B. Robertson]
Major
A.S.
for

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

SECRET

1/24/40

W.P.

AMHA



From. War Office.
To. G.H.Q.

14491 Cipher. 17/3/18. Despd. 1858.
18/3/18. Recd. 0618.
Decd. 0630.

Your A.M. 266. Following Corps Troops will accompany A.H.Z.A.C. Corps Headquarters. Corps Headquarters Signal Coy. No. 94 Airline Section. Can you spare 14th and 134th Army Troops Companies R.E. If so they should be sent. No animals should be sent except Officers' chargers. No vehicles except those of Corps Headquarters Signal Coy and Airline Section,

Copies to :--

- O. for action.
- O(b).
- C.G.S.
- A.
- Q.
- D.A.S.
- E-in-C.

Filed 2/40.

* G.S. Cables.

1/244

W/P

SECRET

From Chief, Hedforce.

To War Office.

A.M. 277.

18/3/16.

Desp. 1110.

Your 14401.

As regards Corps Signal Company please see your 14032 cipher of 3rd March. My front remains the same and I cannot let this Signal Company go. I regret I cannot spare the 14th and 154th Army Troops Companies R.E. as much work remains to be done and I have only just enough engineers as it is.

It must be remembered that the defence of both frontiers, one 50 miles long and the other 800, is a question of quick information, rapid movement, and strong defensive points. As my troops decrease in numbers so much the more do these points stand out.

Copies to :-

- O.
- O.(b)
- C.-in-C.
- C.S.S.
- A.
- Q.
- D.A.S.

Filed G.S. 2/47.
" G.S. Cables.



SECRET

1/245

From

A. H. Q. SALONICA.

To

London. (Repeated Alexandria).



17/5/16.
18/5/16.

Desp. 2020.
Recd. 0610.
Decd. 0648.

French Mixed Brigade under Colonel TOPART now established in area BEKIRLI KARASINANCI BAJALGA. Another mixed Brigade under Colonel FILLONNEAU will move forward March 19th to about AVRET HISSAR and will improve all roads from French front north towards frontier. At the request of French one Yeomanry regiment has taken over French cavalry posts at KURKUT GRAMATNA and IRIKLI with headquarters about KUKUS. In order further to relieve French cavalry on whom patrol work reported heavy, it is proposed to send another Yeomanry regiment to about MIHALOVA JENIKOJ JAMES. General Howell visited on March 15th and March 16th vicinity of frontier along line SHEVCE YOUNINDIR BEKIRLI KARASINANCI. Except desultory mutual shelling about MACUKOVO all quiet. Bulgarian 11th Division still north of DOIRAN Lake. Germans south of Lake and clearly visible fortifying line DOIRAN SEVGELI. Seemed very busy and to pay little attention to French patrols. Understand that SARRAIL has now received orders to prepare supplies for force 250,000, namely 140,000 French, 110,000 Servians.

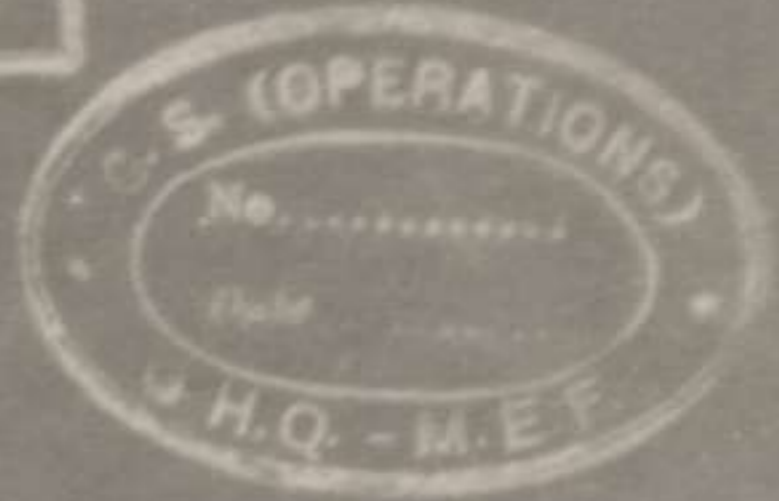
Copies to:-

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

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

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

11246



Am H C.

From

Chief, London.

To

Chief, Medforce.

14499 cipher.

17/3/16.
18/3/16.

Desp. 1950.
Recd. 0620.
Decd. 0635.

As soon as you have had time to consider question of the Western Frontier of Egypt I should be glad to know whether the South African Infantry Brigade can be made ready to follow New Zealand Division to France.

Copies to:-

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

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

1/24Y

SECRET



From Chief, Medforce.
To Chief, London.

A.M. 378. cipher. 18/3/18. Desp. 1055.

Your 1499 cipher.

Yes, I will send them but should like a little time before fixing the exact date. They are the best fighting troops I have and I shall be sorry to lose them but consider for every reason that they should go to FRANCE.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. 2/45.
" G.S. Cables.

Q
M

M.H.D.

SECRET

OPERATIONS
No 1248
Date.....
G.H.Q. - M.E.F.

From War Office.

To G.H.Q. Medforce. (repeated to I.G.C. Egypt).

14505 cipher D.S.D.

17/3/16.
18/3/16.

Desp. 2110.
Recd. 0950.
Decd. 0955.

(Our 14285 and your A.M. 250).

You should be prepared to equip divisions* with transport on scale laid down in SALONICA War Establishments No. 5 except that no S.A.A. sections of ammunition column(s) for infantry brigades will be required and artillery transport will be as laid down in W.E. Part 7, no change is proposed in number of guns now held by 42nd Division but 11th should take 36 18-pdr. guns only. What do you recommend as regards providing howitzer batteries for this division? Would it be feasible to arm with five inch howitzers of 52nd Division, two of the batteries of 11th Division thus freed, these guns being replaced from home if necessary? Supply details will not accompany Divisional Train. Reserve Park will not be required. Ambulances as W.E. Part 7. Infantry will proceed at their present strength, but will be maintained at Indian War Establishment. Dismounted Yeomanry will accompany 42nd Division. Ordnance personnel will accompany divisions. There should be Casualty Clearing Station; 1 General and 1 Stationary Hospital will be sent with each division, also Field Bakery, Field Butchery, Infantry Base Depot, but no other L. of G. units. Following Signal units will be required to accompany divisions: 1 Army Corps H.Q. Signal Company, and two Cable Sections, one Wagon Wireless section, all with horse transport. These would be replaced from home if necessary. I.G.C. should wire what vehicles, if any, and other stores are required from home to complete these divisions.

Copies to :- O. for action. Q.
O.(b) M.G.R.A.
G.-in-C. E.-in-C.
G.S.S. D.A.S.
A. Filed G.S. 2/52.

* i.e. 42nd & 11th which, on W.O. instructions, are to be earmarked for service elsewhere if required.

W.D. Copy of cablegram received 16/3/16.

1249

From

Troopers, London.

To

Superflux, Cairo.



3587 S.D.2.

15/3/16.
16/3/16.

Besp. 2105
Recd.

Your A.353. Australian Camel Corps organised as follows approved. Headquarters, Lieut-Colonel, Major, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Regimental Sergeant Major, Quartermaster-Sergeant, Orderly Room Sergeant, Storeman, 2 saddlers, 6 batmen, orderly to Medical Officer, attached Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Sergeant, Medical Officer. Four companies each Captain, 4 Subalterns, Company Sergeant-Major, Company Quartermaster-sergeant, 6 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 108 privates, 5 batmen. Total for unit including attached 26 officers, 514 rank and file, 594 Riding Camels, 48 Baggage Camels.

2.

General Headquarters,

Medforce.

For Information.

(Sgd) W. Ainsworth,
Lt-Col, A.A.G.

Cairo.

for

17/3/16.

General
Commanding The Force in Egypt.

Copies to:-

O.
O(b).
C.G.S.
A.
Q.
A.M.S.

Filed G.S. 212.

W.D
SECRET

1/250

From

Superflux.

To

G. H. Q.

Maj F.



G.E. 592. cipher. 18/3/16.

Desp. 1415.
Recd. 1430.
Decd. 1435.

Following from Sirdar Khabtoun begins :- Ask
G.O.C. and inform Defence Bureau here what the general scheme
is of British troops now defending Upper Egypt and what action
it is proposed that the British troops should take in the
event of the ASSOUAN - WADI HALFA reach being threatened. Ends.

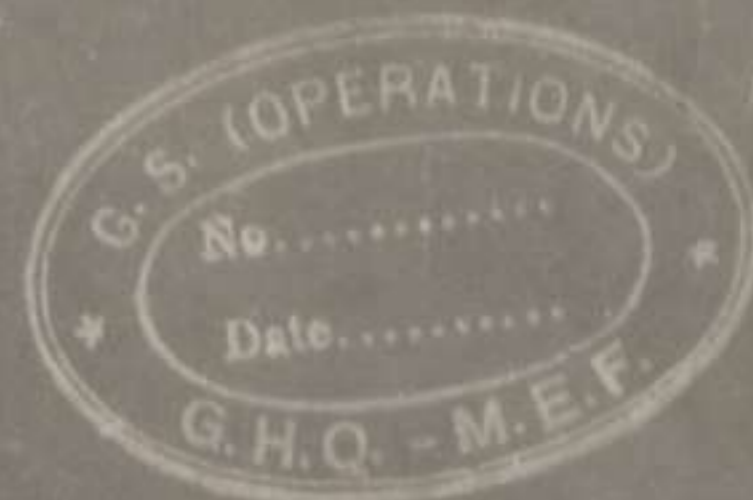
Copies to:-

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

Filed G.S. Z.28/1.
" G.S. Cables.

W.P.
SECRET

1/251



From Chief, Medforce.

To Chief, London. *Mpt G.*

A.M. 279.

18/3/18.

Desp. 2140.

Evening report.

SINAI Arabs state that Turkish troops have been withdrawn from BIR SABA to PALESTINE. R.F.C. reconnaissance and agents agree that garrison of NEKHL is considerably reduced. The enemy's patrols on northern road are slightly strengthened.

Copies to :-

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

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

G.S. 2.34.

W. D.
SECRET

1/252



My H.

18

March, 1918.

General Officer Commanding,

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

1. In continuation of memorandum G.S. 2.34 of 6th March, dealing with the principles laid down for guidance in making preparations and dispositions for defence east of the Suez Canal, the Commander-in-Chief considers it necessary somewhat to elaborate those principles with regard to certain details on which questions have been raised.
2. Since the front line is to be locked upon, generally speaking, as an outpost line, and in view of the fact that there will be certain mobile forces in each section with a radius of action of at least two days' march east of the Canal, the Commander-in-Chief considers that it will be sufficient if any surplus troops, beyond those required as covering troops or those which form part of the mobile columns, are made sufficiently mobile to operate rapidly at a distance east of the Canal not exceeding half a day's march from road and railheads. This radius of action is considered sufficient, at any rate during the summer.
3. If the enemy should attempt to advance across the desert, sufficient warning of his approach may ^{be} anticipated with some confidence. The role of the covering troops in the front line is to give sufficient warning of an enemy's approach, and to offer sufficient resistance to his advance, to enable the mobile troops and section reserves to come up

/ and to

and to act offensively. Whether the enemy's forces be met and driven off two or three miles east of the front line, or be engaged on the front line itself, is a matter which the actual circumstances alone can decide. In any case, the covering troops in the front line will be sufficient to ensure that an offensive can be launched against an advancing enemy so far east of the line of bridge-heads on the Canal as to have ample room to manoeuvre and to strike effectively.

4. The following principles as regards the employment of artillery allotted to the various sections are also laid down for guidance of all concerned :-

(a) No more field guns than can be rapidly and easily moved or, if necessary, withdrawn, should be employed in or near the outpost line. Immobile field artillery should not be placed in forward positions.

While in no way limiting the discretion of Commanders, the Commander-in-Chief considers that a brigade of 18-pdr. guns (or a corresponding number of field gun and field howitzer batteries) in forward positions should be sufficient in each section, the necessary horses being kept at hand to render all forward batteries completely mobile.

(b) 6" Mark VII guns or 9.2" howitzers should not be placed on the east bank of the Canal, such ordnance being best employed to flank the various bridge-heads with their fire.

(c) The employment of 60-pdrs., 4.7" guns, and 6" howitzers, needs careful consideration before it is decided to place them on the east bank. It would appear necessary that they should be located near existing railway lines

/ and

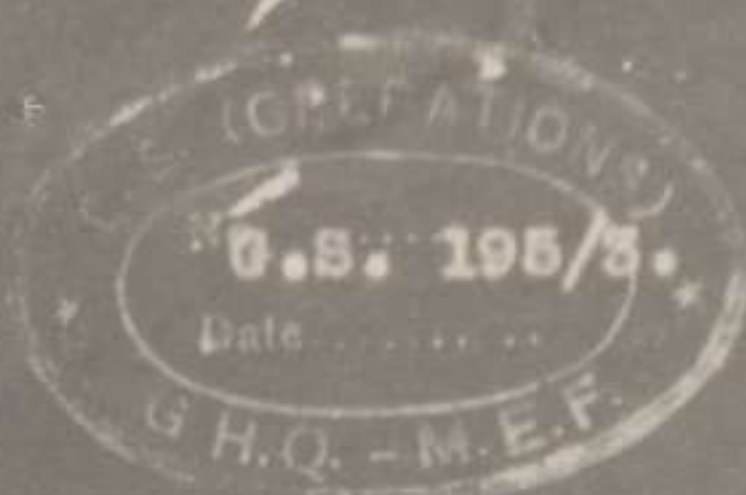
and that they should not be further forward than the rail-heads. They should in all cases have suitable infantry protection.

(d) It is important to note in connection with the heavier artillery that 9.2" and 6" howitzers, have no shrapnel, and are therefore not suitable for use against infantry in the open. 6" Mark VII guns have very little shrapnel. 60-pdrs. and 4.7" guns are more suitable for use against infantry, though the range of the latter is somewhat limited.

(Sgd) A. Hynden Bell

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

*Copy to A.M.F. Forces.
M/S Ra
Q*



W.D.

1/255

Apppt J

18th March, 6

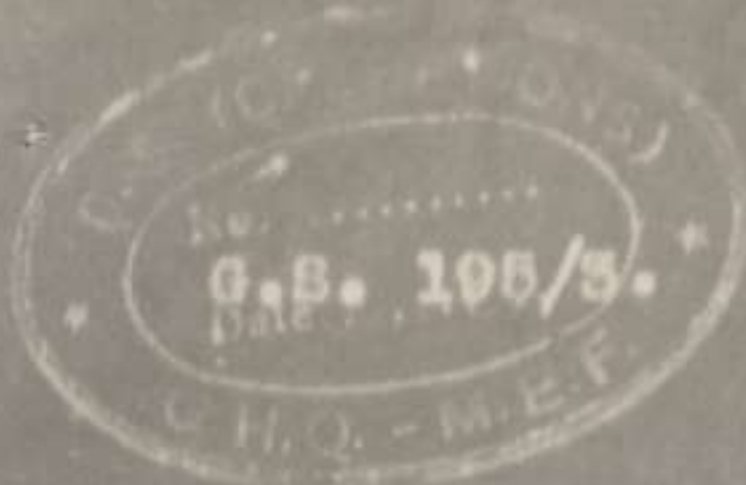
Director of Ordnance Services,
Levant Base,
Cairo.

I am anxious that, if it is possible without interfering with important work, facilities at the Ordnance Workshops should be given to two officers of the New Zealand Division for constructing a working model of what seems a very promising bomb projector. These two officers, Lieutenants Kemp-Small R.E. and R.P. Butler R.E., are both engineers by profession and skilled mechanics, so that they will be able to do a large amount of the work themselves. I should be much obliged if their reasonable requirements in the way of appliances, machinery, castings etc., could be met. They should be allowed to incur expenditure not exceeding £20 (twenty pounds).

*(copy by P. Barman)
H. Col. J.S.*

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

Copy to D.A.S.



W.D.

1/254

18th March, 1916

General Officer Commanding,
1st. A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

Reference your C.R. No. 21/7 dated 11th. March, 1916, please see attached copy of a letter addressed to the D.O.S., Levbase.

It should be impressed upon the two officers concerned that no work in hand is to be delayed on account of their invention, and the facilities will only be afforded, if at all, on the distinct understanding that Government work will be given precedence.

This should be made quite clear to the officers to avoid any chance of disappointments.

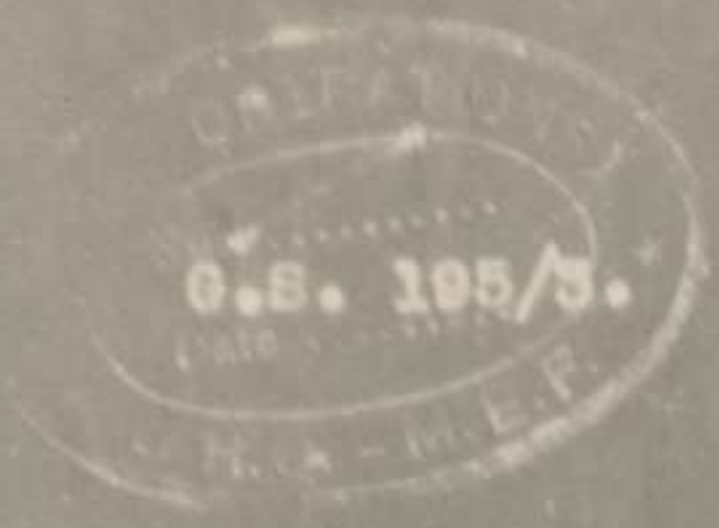
Herewith are returned the papers in connection with the model.

Ego A.B. Robertson
Major
AS

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

1/257

W.R.



18th March, 6

Inspector General of Communications.

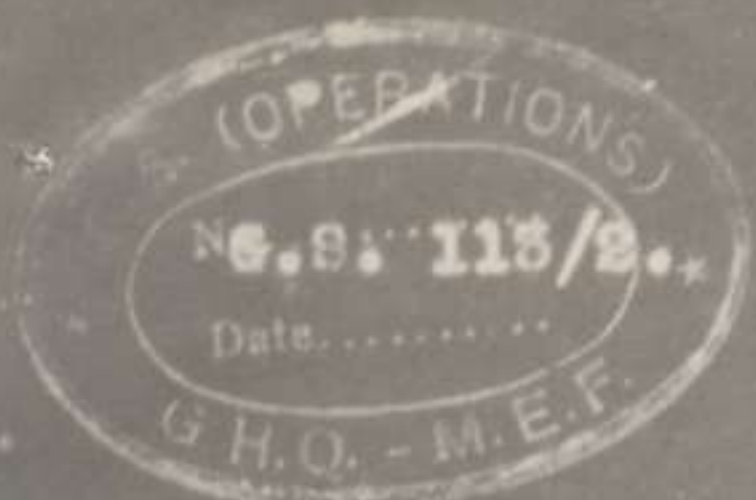
The attached copy of a letter addressed to D.O.S. Levbase is forwarded for your information.

The letter was sent direct in order to save time as the two officer inventors happen at present to be unemployed.

The officers have been informed that they will only be given facilities provided Government work is not thereby interfered with or delayed.

*(Sgd.) A.B. Robertson
Major
for C.S.*

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



W.D.

1/259

Wmpt K.

18th March, 6

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

With reference to circular memorandum No. 44, dated 15th March, herewith is forwarded a copy of the establishment for an Ammunition Column for a three-battery Howitzer Brigade, which was adopted by the 29th Division on its departure for service in France. It is thought that this establishment should also be adopted by the Australian and New Zealand forces. The change involved is small, merely an increase of 8 in personnel and 6 in horses. Additions are shown in pencil on the attached copies of your establishments, which kindly return when done with as they are the only copies in our possession.

Sgt. A. P. Dawson
Lt. Col.
for A.S.
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

11259

G.S. 219

W. D.

Appx 2

18/3

March, 6

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

With reference to an application No. 33/4/1 Ga received from the 1st A. & N.Z. Army Corps on the 14th inst., it has been decided as a temporary measure to attach two extra Maxim guns to each regiment in the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division, while employed on the front line.

In order that provision may be made, will you please cause a return to be rendered showing the number of Maxim or Vickers guns now in possession of each regiment of the Mounted Division. There may be some small delay in providing the extra guns on account of the workshops being congested with overhauling and repairing guns, but every endeavour will be made to supply the extra guns as early as possible.

Sp. Col. P. Dawson
R. Col.

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

Copy to D.O.

G.S. 217.

WFD



Appx M.

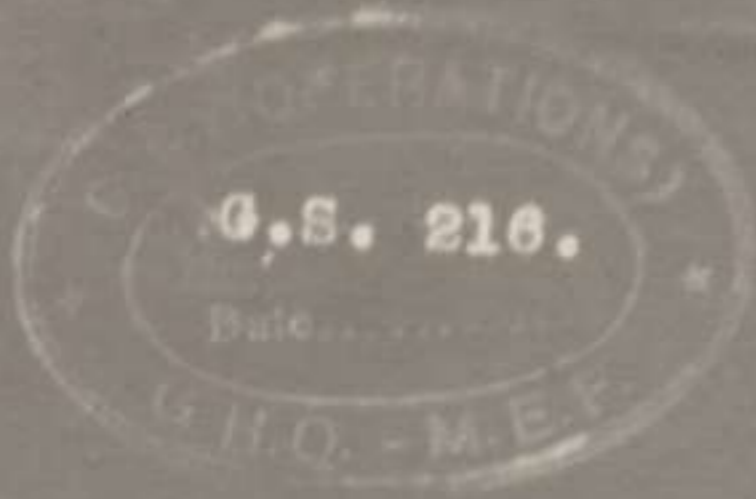
18 March, 18

General Officer Commanding,
9th Army Corps.

With reference to your No. O/140/4 dated 16th March. There is no intention of equipping the 20th and 29th Indian Brigades with Lewis guns, but arrangements are being made to complete the units of these Brigades each with 4 Vickers or Maxim guns, and it is hoped that this will be done at an early date. It is not proposed to form Machine Gun Companies for those Indian Brigades.

Sgt C. P. Dawson
Rt. Col.
R.S.

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



11261

W.D.
11/261

18th March, 1918

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

With reference to the application forwarded with your
C.R. No. 316/316 of the 15th inst., information on the
following points is required :-

1. Does the 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train wish to be transferred to the Royal Navy as a unit, that is, as a Bridging Train, or
2. Is it proposed to disband the Bridging Train altogether, in which case -
3. Do the personnel: officers, petty officers and men, wish to place their services at the disposal of the Royal Navy as naval ratings.

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



~~SECRET~~

1/262

W.D.
18/3

18/3 March, 6

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

With reference to your C.R.136/137 of 16th inst., all the points detailed in your memorandum have been made clear in the correspondence with the War Office with regard to the despatch of the 1st and 2nd Australian and New Zealand Division to FRANCE.

The existence in the New Zealand Division of a workshop for motor ambulances has not been specifically made known to the War Office. War Office, however, has not required the despatch of a motor ambulance workshop with any of the Divisions proceeding from this country to FRANCE.

Sgt. C. P. Dawson
Rt. Col.
for A.S.

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

1/263

NRD

Approx A



From:- A.H.Q. SALONIKA.

To:- G.H.Q. MEDFORGE.

T.R.B. 504. cipher.

18/3/18

Despd. 2055.

19/3/18

Recd. 0615.

Dec'd. 0655.

Provision of 5 ground pack wireless sets for artillery purposes expedient. Can these sets with personnel complete be demanded from home? Under conditions obtaining here need of these pack sets much felt and they will be essential should even a small column ^(?) move forward.

Copies to O for action.

O (b).

C.G.S.

Q.

M.G.R.A.

D.A.S.

Filed G.S. 179.

G.S. Cables.