

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/6/21

**Title:** General Staff, General  
Headquarters, Egyptian  
Expeditionary Force

January 1918



AWM4-1/6/21

S E C R E T.

W A R   D I A R Y.

G. S.,   G. H. Q.,   E. E. F.,

JANUARY, 1918.

3



WAR DIARY.

G.S.,(O), G.H.Q., E.E.F.

JANUARY 1918.

-----

---

Kelab.

Kilo 207.

Jan. 1st. 0745. 1. OPERATIONS.  
XXI Corps wired nothing to report. (G.333)

0802. XX Corps reported situation unchanged (T.2129).
1240. XX Corps reported situation unchanged.(T.2139).
1250. Desert Mounted Corps wired nothing to report (G.A.160).
1258. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. Enemy artillery active on area 084.C.21. (G.2)
1451. XX Corps wired total casualties for Corps on December 27th,28th and 29th were :-  
Officers,29 killed,58 wounded, 1. missing.  
Other ranks,230 killed,1129 wounded,76 missing.(T.1242)
1745. XXI Corps reported situation unchanged. (G.4).
1810. Desert Mounted Corps wired all quiet. (G.A.163).
1837. XX Corps wired situation unchanged,Nothing to report.(T.2146)
2207. Wired evening situation report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.680).

Received Desert Mounted Corps Operation Order No.11., ordering the relief of the Australian Mounted Division in the line by the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division and the withdrawal to the neighbourhood of Deir El Belah of the Yeomanry Mounted Division, the Australian Mounted Division and the 7th Mounted Brigade.

Letter to the Senior Military Officer, Egyptian Army, Cairo, in answer to his letter of the 22nd December, in which a detachment of 2 British Officers and 150 N.C.Os. and men of the Egyptian Army were placed at the disposal of the E.E.F. for service with Kite Balloon Sections, informing him that the cost of transport of this detachment from the Sudan, and of its upkeep whilst with the E.E.F. would be met from Imperial Funds. (G.S.530/1).

Letter to G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps approving the suggestion that the following changes should be made in the amount of ammunition carried in Horse Artillery Brigade Ammunition Columns -

- (a) 13-pdr.ammunition - an increase of 50 rounds per gun.
- (b) S.A.A. - a decrease of 366,000 rounds.

The extra 13-pdr.ammunition to be taken from the Corps dump and the surplus S.A.A. being returned to the Corps dump. (G.S.912).

Wire from War Office saying it is not possible to approve of additions to the establishments of Signal Units asked for in letter G.S.710 of November 17th. (49028 S.D.2b).

(The units whose establishment it was proposed to increase were :-



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan. 1st.

Corps Signal Company, Cable Sections, Airline Sections,  
General Headquarters Signal Company, Signal Sections,  
Corps Heavy Artillery).

- " 2nd. 0738. XXIst Corps report situation unchanged. G.6.
0801. Desert Mounted Corps wired quiet night, nothing to report.  
G.A.172.
0828. XXth Corps report situation unchanged. T.2151.
1712. Desert Mounted Corps wired, nothing to report. G.A.175.
1813. XXIst Corps reported considerable activity about O.84.K.26.d.  
and K.27.c. A party of 20 enemy attacked one of our ob-  
servation posts in a wood at O.84.C.11., at 0700 this morn-  
ing. We lost 1 O.R. wounded and one missing. A strong  
patrol sent out immediately afterwards found the wood clear.  
G.9.
1857. XXth Corps wired, 10th Division report Harashweh area clear  
of enemy. Our patrols entered Mezeirat el Kibliyeh O.99.  
G.21.b. at 0930 and the natives reported that Turks evacua-  
ted that village about December 31st. Situation normal on  
Corps front. T.2164.
2245. Evening situation report wired to Chief, London repeated  
Baghdad and Salonika. E.A.682.

Wired to Southern Canal Section, ordering the Pathan Company,  
58th rifles to move to Suez for embarkation for East Africa.  
O.A.T.416.

Wired to General Officer Commanding, Alexandria District,  
ordering the 390th and 391st Siege Batteries R.G.A. to embark  
for Italy at an early date. O.A.T. 415.

Letter to General Officer Commanding, Palestine L.of C. Defen-  
ces, ordering the Section (2 - 60 prs.) of the 195th Heavy  
Battery, now situated at Belah for Anti-submarine defence,  
to be moved to Jaffa for the same duties. G.S.679/23.

Letter to B.G.G.S., Hedjaz operations in answer to his letter,  
asking for the Arab Scouts to be placed at his disposal, in-  
forming him that this unit was under the orders of Frontier  
Districts Administration, to provide escorts for the protec-  
tion of parties engaged in the opening of wells and re-erec-  
tion of the telegraph line in Sinai, and could not therefore  
be spared for service in Arabia. Z/58/26/T.

Force Order No.58. issued.

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Letter to General Officer Commanding XXIst Corps, informing  
him that in future one Kite Balloon Section R.F.C., would be  
stationed at Zeitoun, for instructional purposes. G.S.530.

Letter to General Officer Commanding XXIst Corps, informing  
him that it is proposed to start a course of instruction in  
the Barr and Stroud Range Finder at Zeitoun for Indian Troops.  
G.S.8/24.

Letter to General Officer Commanding, Palestine Brigade R.F.C.  
giving provisional sanction for the issue of horses to R.F.C.  
Units as follows:-



Kelab.	Brigade H.Q.	2.	
Kilo.207.	Wing H.Q.	2.	
Jan.2nd.	Squadron.	3.	
	Balloon Wing H.Q.	2.	
	Balloon Company H.Q.	2.	
	Balloon Section H.Q.	2.	G.S.294.

A letter No.G.S.294 has to-day been sent to the War Office asking approval to include the above horses in the War Establishments of the Units concerned.

Letter to the Secretary, War Office, asking for a fourth Machine Gun Company to be sent out to each Division. G.S.913.

Letter to General Officer Commanding, Delta and Western Force, informing him that the War Office has sanctioned the disbandment of the 25th (Calcutta) Motor Machine Gun Battery. Officers and other ranks of this unit who are willing will be reposted or transferred as above will be returned to India. G.S.478.

Wire from Chief Delhi asking for certain Indian Officers and other ranks of the 1/23rd and 2/23rd Sikh Pioneers to be sent to India to form a nucleus for the 3/23rd Sikh Pioneers which will shortly be formed in India. 342.

Wired to the High Commissioner, informing him that from mid-day January 7th, a subordinate command, designated Force in Egypt, will be created. E.A.681.

Jan. 3rd.0724.1. OPERATIONS.

Desert Mounted Corps wired quiet night. Nothing to report. (G.A.178)

- 0811.XX Corps wired 10th Division report that at 1400 yesterday the enemy were holding a weak line of posts 099,P.6.a.6.6. to P.5.b.10.10., Deir es Saidieh, with two machine guns displaying some activity at last place. Enemy also seen in Deir Abu Meshal, 085, X.30.b. (T.2169).
- 0822.XXI Corps reported reorganisation of line of 52nd Division completed. (G.10.).
- 1100.The Commander-in-Chief held a conference of Corps Commanders at Latron. The Minutes of the conference are shown as an appendix.
- 1437.Desert Mounted Corps wired with reference to the conference held this morning. It is proposed that one regiment and 16 machine guns of the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division take over duties of observation on the 6th instant, coming under orders of the XX Corps. Propose leaving the remainder of the A. & N.Z.Mounted Division in the Escud area until siding at Kilo.293 is completed. (G.101).
- 1722.Wire to Desert Mounted Corps, repeated XX Corps approving the proposals contained in the above telegram, and saying that the siding at Kilo 293 will probably be completed on the 12th instant. (Q.A.81).
- 1800.XXI Corps reported enemy patrol about 50 men seen moving East from Rentis at 1530. Enemy shelled left section of 54th Division front and right section of 52nd front. No damage was reported. (G.13).
- 1911.XX Corps reported Haresheh, G.27.b.was occupied today by the 10th Division without opposition. Line now runs Kh Meiderus,



Kelab.

Kilo.207. 1911. P.4.a. - Haresheh - Sh Aisa, G.27.a. - G.25 central - F.27. central. The following reported clear of enemy Mezeirat el Kibliyeh, G.21., Deir Ammar, F.10., Jemmalah, F.9., Shebtin, Z. 11. Situation unchanged on rear of front. (T.2182).

2008. Desert Mounted Corps wired nothing to report. (G.A.186).

2330. Evening situation report wired to Chief, London, repeated Baghdad and Salonika. (E.A.684).

Wire sent to G.O.C., Alexandria District, ordering the C.O. and small detachment of 95th Heavy Artillery Group to join XXI Corps. (O.A.T.417).

Wire received from Chief London at 0800 with regard to future policy in Palestine (49150)

At 2305 wire despatched to Chief London in answer to the above. (E.A.683).

Map showing situation of our troops and of the enemy troops at 1800 is shown in the Map Appendix.

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Wire received from War Office approving establishment for Rest Camp as under :-

All appointments to be filled from local resources and to be temporary.

Commandant, Lieut.-Col.

Adjutant,

Quartermaster.

Sergt-Major W.O., Class I.

Quartermaster-Sergeant.

Orderly room Sergeant.

Sergeant cooks 2.

Officers Mess Sergeants 2.

Clerks 3.

(49128 S.D.2).

Wire received from R.F.C., Middle East, reporting that Brig-General Salmond had taken over command from Major-General Brancker. (A.3960).

Jan.4th.

### 1. OPERATIONS.

0729. Desert Mounted Corps wired nothing to report. (G.A.191).

0822. XX Corps reported cavalry patrol reached Muntar, 114, Q.12. yesterday. 10th Division drove Turkish post off Kh. Askariyeh, P.75. causing 18 enemy casualties. Turks retired to G.24. (T.2185).

0826. XXI Corps reported situation unchanged. Between 0615 and 0715 hostile aircraft dropped 4 bombs about 084., F.30.b., 3 bombs about 085., O.29.c. and 4 bombs in the vicinity of Corps Headquarters. (G.17).

0934. XX Corps reported 60th Division have occupied Point 2635 at U.2.central., and have established small post on hill in U.3. (T.2187).

1235. XXI Corps reported that their Corps Headquarters had opened at the French Schools, Jaffa. (G.17).

1850. XXI Corps reported considerable hostile artillery activity on front of 52nd Division left Section, Headquarters were



Kelab.

Kilo.207. 1850. accurately shelled this afternoon. At 0930 an enemy battery with a mounted escort advanced to A.27. and came into action. Our artillery retaliated on enemy troops and bivouacs. (G.18)

1855. Desert Mounted Corps reported at 0545 this morning star shells were observed North of and a considerable distance from Malin. Otherwise nothing to report. (G.A.196).

1912. XX Corps reported Ibn Obeid, 100.L.23. reoccupied this morning without opposition. Slight opposition was encountered this morning when occupying Point 2635 in U.2., the enemy holding it with a detachment of about 40 with one machine gun. About 40 enemy were seen on ridges N. and S. of Abu Kush, M.19. El Muntar was visited by patrols yesterday and today, who were fired on from N.W. A few enemy were seen S.E. of that place.

2223. Evening situation report wired to Chief London, repeated Baghdad and Salonika. (E.A.687).

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Wire sent to Royal Flying Corps, Middle East, approving the proposal to send the Staff of the Training Group at Heliopolis in turn to visit Palestine Brigade R.F.C. for short periods, so as to keep in touch with the situation and requirements of the Palestine front. (O.A.28).

Force Order No.59 issued.

Jan. 5th.

## 1. OPERATIONS.

0727. XXI Corps reported situation unchanged (G.20).

0754. Desert Mounted Corps wired nothing to report. (G.A.199).

0814. XX Corps reported situation unchanged. (T.2204).

1053. XX Corps reported Corps Headquarters closed at Latron at 0900 and reopened at the same hour at the German Hospital on the Mount of Olives. (G.1).

1805. Desert mounted Corps reported considerable enemy movement of men and camels seen on works East of Abu Meshal to-day. 2nd A.L.H. Regiment relieved 4th A.L.H. Brigade by 1600, and passed command of XX Corps. (G.A.205).

1805. XX Corps reported situation unchanged. (G.23).

1937. XX Corps reported 53rd Division has completed relief of 60th Division in Bireh area, and 60th Division has relieved 53rd Division in Jerusalem area. 4th Light Horse Brigade relieved by 2nd Light Horse Regiment. An enemy patrol approached our post at Tel Miriam, 099, X.10., but was driven off. (T.2213).

2340. Evening situation report wired to Chief, London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.689).

Letter to G.O.C., XX Corps with regard to future operations on the right of his Corps.

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

A memorandum submitted by G.O.C., Coastal Section, Delta and



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.5th.

Western Force, on the subject of training of Light Car Patrols is shown as an appendix.  
A copy of this was sent to G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps.

Wire to War Office with regard to the possibility of rolling stock for the Jerusalem - Jaffa railway being supplied from France.

Southern Canal Section Order No.36, dated Jan.1st received, ordering 49th Indian Infantry Brigade to concentrate at Ismailia on completion of relief of the 1st Battalion I.C.C. by the 3rd Battalion I.C.C. The 1st battalion I.C.C. will be distributed as under :-

Ferdan.	1 Company, less detachment on duty on the Kantara cordon under the orders of Palestine L.of C.
Serapeum.	1 Company.
Kubri.	1 Company.
Ismailia.	Headquarters and 1 Company.

1st Garrison Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, less detachment at Cairo, will move to Suez in relief of 1st Garrison Battalion Notts. and Derby Regiment, which is under orders to move to Cairo.

Jan.6th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0812. XXI Corps reported situation unchanged. Enemy dump of 800 shells near Ras en Ain successfully blown up by 54th Division. (G.25.).
0837. XX Corps reported situation unchanged. (T.2215).
1730. XXI Corps reported situation unchanged. (G.29).
1940. XX Corps reported reconnaissance towards Marsaba, 114, Q.29., found no sign of enemy. (T.2224).
2200. Evening report wired to Chief London, repeated Salonika and Bagdad. (E.A.690)

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Letter to the 3 Corps with regard to the economy in Man Power in units of the Signal Service. (G.S.722).

Letter to G.O.C., Force in Egypt, informing him that when the relief of the 1/101st and 2/101st Grenadiers on the Southern Canal had been completed, these two battalions would join 20th Indian Infantry Brigade, in which they will be incorporated, and the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade will then cease to exist. Brig.-General Murray will assume command of the 20th Indian Infantry Brigade. He will also have under his command the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade. The two sections 110th Indian Field Ambulance, at present with the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade will join the 157th Indian Field Ambulance at El Arish, and form a casualty clearing station there for Indian troops. The Signal Section of the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade will rejoin the Base Signal Depot at Alexandria on the breaking up of the Brigade. (G.S.349).



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan. 6th.

Letter to G.O.C., Delta and Western Force approving of his **proposal** to send a reconnaissance party to the Eastern edge of the Kufra Oasis. (K/28/8).

G.H.Q. is in communication with the Italian Government with regard to this reconnaissance. It will therefore not start until a reply has been received.

Continuation of Desert Mounted Corps Order No.11 and G.O. 30, both of December 31st, received.

Telegram received from War Office giving approval for establishment of Headquarters, Corps Heavy Artillery. (49396 S.D.2b).

Telegram received from War Office approving establishment of Imperial School of Instruction, Egypt, but altering the grading of the Commandant to G.S.O.1., and Assistant Commandant for training to G.S.O.2.

Ranks of Administrative Staff approved, with 2/- a day extra duty pay for Assistant Commandant in charge of Administration, but gradings not approved. (49395 S.D.2b).

Jan.7th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0755. XXI C corps reported situation unchanged. (G.31).
0825. XX Corps reported situation unchanged. (T.2227).
1825. XXI Corps reported unchanged. Unusual amount of enemy movement near Jiljulieh. (G.35).
1926. XX Corps wired 60th Division report that at 1445 enemy party, estimated at 50, worked up the Wadi Netif towards Jeba, X.21.d. They were dispersed by our artillery and machine gun fire. A party of about 100 Turks seen in Mukhmas, X.5.d. this afternoon. (T.2238)
2235. Evening report wired to Chief, London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.693).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Letter to Secretary, War Office, in answer to No.5/761 (D.F.W.) dated 12th December 1917, reporting that no gas-proof doors were required for Coast Defence Works in this country (G.S.485/8).

Wire received from Major-General Watson reporting that he assumed command of the Force in Egypt at 1200 to-day. (E.G.3)

Wire received from War Office, addressed G.H.Q., France, repeated Egypforce, ordering France to prepare 3 Broad Gauge Railway Construction Companies for despatch to Egypt as soon as possible. These units are to return to France before April. (49468 S.D.2.).

Jan.8th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0730. XXI Corps reported fires seen in enemy lines near Jiljulieh at 2245 and 2315. (G.36)
0745. XX Corps wired nothing to report. (T.2240).



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.

- Jan.8th. 1730. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. Enemy parties near Mezeibah dispersed by our artillery. (G.39).
1858. XX Corps wired Corps Cavalry reported ground  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles East and North of Kh Jinjis, 114.Q.8.central, and high ground overlooking Mar Saba all clear. Patrols reported all clear at 099, X. 24.a. No enemy activity on our front.(T.2250).
2300. Wired evening report to Chief,London,repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.695).

2.MISCELLANEOUS.

London

0745. Chief/wired that it may be necessary to send additional garrison battalion to India and enquiring whether this battalion could be provided by Egypt. (49527)
1000. Wire from Chief London stating that Foreign Office proposes to instruct High Commissioner to approach G.O.C-in-C. with a view to employing two Italian and two French officers in the administration of Palestine, provided that Military operations are not thus hindered. Suggests one French Officer as Deputy Governor, Bethlehem, and the other in a sanitary or police post, and the two Italian officers in similar posts. All of these would be under orders and solely responsible to G.O.C-in-C.,E.E.F. (49697).
1500. Wired to Palestine L.of C. and Governor,El Arish, ordering Arab Scouts to move from Beersheba to Nekhl on the 19th instant, and main body on 21st instant. On arrival at Nekhl Arab Scouts will come under Frontier Districts Administration. (G.S.168).
1505. Wired Monthly Railway Report for December to Troopers, London,(E.A.727).
1950. Wired Chief,London, reference his 49527. The 1st Garrison Battalion Essex Regiment from Khartoum could be spared when its relief now in progress has been completed. Unable at present to spare any further Garrison battalions.(E.A.694)

Letter to Secretary, War Office with reference to War Office telegram 40112 S.D.2., dated 24th August 1917, submitting question of the ranks of the Army Postal Directorate with recommendations. (G.S.140).

Jan. 9th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0700. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.42).
0840. XX Corps wired situation report. 10th Division report small body seen moving towards Deir Abu Meschal, 085,X.30. from post about 1000 yards South East of village. 68 F.A.B. moved to Amas. XXI Corps and 53rd Division report no enemy activity on their front. 60th Division Corps Cavalry patrol report Marsaba, 114, Q.5. all clear. Patrol fired on from Q.18.a. (T.2253).
1755. XXI Corps wired enemy party in U.25.b.dispersed by our artillery. Three enemy aircraft flew over left sector and Jaffa at 1530. (G.45).
1900. XX Corps wired a few enemy shells of small calibre evidently fired at long range from direction Jufna,099,M.16.a., burst high over Surdah,099,M.27.a.,and also West of it.



Kelab.

Kilo.207.

Jan.9th. 1900. 10th Division report at 0900 small enemy party observed apparently relieving post S.E. of Deir Abu Meshal, 085, X.30.b., at 1200 a few enemy shells burst about 600 yards N.N.E. of Mezeirat el Kibliyeh, 099, G.21.b., position of gun unobserved. Patrols report high ground North of line Jemmalah - Shebtin and about 099, F.18.central., clear of enemy. (t.2259).

## 2.MISCELLANEOUS.

0545. Wire from Troopers London, requesting information as to railway policy as regards use of captured lines. (49578).
1045. Wire from Troopers, London, approving appointment of C.R.E. at Jerusalem with rank of Lieut-Colonel. (49571)
1930. Replied to Chief London, reference his 49497, that situation does not at present admit of the employment of Italian or French officers in the administration of Palestine, but that the services of one Italian ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and one French sanitary or medical officer to act under military administrators would be accepted willingly. (E.A.696).
1045. Wire from Troopers, London, approving establishments, and rank of clerks, for Force in Egypt (49570 S.D.2b).

Letter to Secretary, War Office, forwarding proposed establishments of the following formations :-

Headquarters, G.O.C. Force in Egypt.  
Headquarters, Delta and Western Force.  
Headquarters, Alexandria District. (G.S.894).

Letter to Secretary, War Office forwarding proposed establishment for the Headquarters of Palestine Lines of Communication.

Jan. 10th.

## 1.OPERATIONS.

0550. General Wingate, Cairo wired that Sherif Nasr has made further substantial progress North of Maan, and has occupied Jauf er Derwish, capturing over 200 prisoners, including 7 officers, and also a field gun and two machine guns. 80 Turkish dead counted. Arabs also claim to have seriously damaged two trains. 30 prisoners also captured in separate engagements at Kalaat Aneiza. (A.B.959).
0744. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.48).
0850. XX Corps reported that yesterday afternoon one of their patrols, on reaching 099, G.30.d., was fired at by enemy post of six rifles. Our artillery fired on slight enemy movement in Abu Kush, 099, M.19.c. at 1600 yesterday. (T.2261).
1753. XXI Corps wired 52nd Division report enemy shelled right section with 5.9 and 4.2. (G.49).
1933. XX Corps reported/<sup>patrol</sup>to 099, F.23.a. and Jemmallah saw no enemy. Enemy patrol observed at 0815 just south of Abu Kush, 099, M.19.c. Quiet day on Corps front. (T.2270)



Kelab.

Kilo.207.

- Jan.10th. 2131. Aeronautics G.H.Q. reported bombing attack carried out by R.F.C. against targets at Amman and Kissir on the Hedjaz railway. 62 bombs were dropped, some direct hits being obtained on troops, rolling stock and buildings. (S.1).
2200. Wired evening report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.699)

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0319. Wire from Troopers enquiring whether, instead of additional Transportation Section requested in E.A.722 of the 4th instant, requirements would not be met by bringing two of the existing sections to establishment authorised for France. (60792 M.R.2c.).
1000. Wire from Troopers, reference E.A.723 of January 5th., stating that present establishment of 7th Divisional Artillery will be retained. (49642 S.D.2).
1230. Wire from Troopers stating that one Flight of No.144 Squadron is to be despatched for service in Salonica as soon as possible. (49688 M.S.1).
1430. Cabled Troopers requesting approval for reorganisation of Pack Artillery into two composite brigades, each consisting of 2 - 3.7" Howitzers and one 2.75" gun battery. (E.A.732)

Letter to G.O.C., Force in Egypt, informing him that the proposal of the G.O.C., Royal Flying Corps, Middle East, that the transport of the detachment of the R.F.C., now stationed at Matruh to Alexandria for anti-submarine work, has been approved. (G.S.104/21).

Letter to Secretary, War Office, requesting sanction for the formation of a Pilot's Base Depot, R.F.C.

Advanced G.H.Q. closed at Sejed at 12 noon and opened at the same hour at 071, V.18.a.

Jan.11th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0600. General Wingate reported R.F.C. again effectively bombed Maan yesterday, dropped nearly half a ton of bombs on ~~XXXXXX~~ railway station. Have now received further information indicating that raid on Jamfer Derwish reported yesterday took place between January 3rd and January 7th, Arabs remaining fully three days in occupation. During that time six-arched bridge North of Station was damaged with bombs and all rolling stock in station was burnt. Subsequently Arabs withdrew to positions West of railway taking prisoners and booty. Arabs reported to have suffered very slight casualties. (A.B.960).
0737. XXI Corps wired nothing to report. (G.51).
0834. XX Corps wired fresh enemy camp of about 150 men seen yesterday at 099, N.1.a. Our Patrols yesterday visited Deir Ammar, 099, F.10. and Beit Ello, F.6. When in latter place our patrol was fired at by enemy patrol. Villagers reported Turks in Neby Saleh, C.12., and mounted



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.11th.

Turks in Kubar, D.28. (T.2274).

1814. XXI Corps reported situation unchanged. Artillery shelled enemy party at U.25.b.8.9. (G.54)
1952. XX Corps wired that officers patrol proceeded to Ain Farah, 113, F.2.c., and found well also running water in Wadi. 160th Brigade relieved 159th Brigade in 53rd Divisional left sector. Usual slight enemy movement near Abu Kush. (T.2284).
2045. Wired evening report to Chief London, repeated Salonika and Bagdad. (E.A.751)
2315. General Wingate wired operations in Maan district had been impeded by heavy snow. Cold intense. 10 men died from exposure yesterday. Otherwise nothing to report. (A.B.970)

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

1149. General Staff, Hedjaz Operations, Cairo, wired that the formation of a small British-led unit from the Yemini Detachment undergoing training at Ismailia has been definitely abandoned. (Q/563/4)  
(The original proposal for the employment of this unit emanated from the General Staff, Hedjaz operations, on the 28th December 1917, as it was considered that the services of a disciplined mobile unit of this nature would be of inestimable value for employment from Akaba in the proposed operations against the Turkish railway).

1015. Wire from Troopers, London, sanctioning A.D.C. to G.O.C., Lines of Communications. (49775 S.D.)

2215. Wired Troopers London, requesting sanction for increase to establishment of Instructors at School of Instruction, Zeitoun. (E.A.734).

Letter to G.O.C., Force in Egypt, with reference to the abolition of permanent posts at Shebb, and their replacement by Car patrols. (Z/28/8).

Jan.12th.

## 1. OPERATIONS.

0730. XXI Corps wired report by 52nd Division that mosque at El Haram was shelled yesterday by 77 mm. battery. (G.57).
0843. XX Corps wired situation normal on right flank. Patrol to Kh. Annir, 099, F.22.b., to within 300 yards of Kh. Annir saw no enemy. 68th F.A.B. now at L.31.central. (T.2288).
1808. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. Day post at V.16.a. and Ridge north of it reported by 52nd Division to have been found occupied by Germans this morning. Enemy were driven off and ridge occupied. One German with range-finder captured. (G.50).
1950. Desert Corps wired that the move of the A. & N.Z. Division to area Kh Deiran, Richon le Zion, Wadi Hanein, has been completed. (G.A.237).
2003. XX Corps reported patrol reached Ain el Alia, 099, V.4.d. at dawn this morning. Small enemy patrol from direction of et Taiyibeh, 099, N.24.a. seen in Wadi El Ain. Deir Diwan



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.12th.

099,V.22.a. reconnoitred and found all clear. Slight enemy shelling of road in 099,V.4.b. Enemy sniping fairly active opposite 53rd Division left sector, also an occasional shell. 10th Division report small enemy patrol seen yesterday on Sheikh Gifeith,099, F.10.b. Our patrols to-day reached within 400 yards of Beit Ello,099, F.4.d., good observation of village and surroundings obtained but no enemy seen. (T.2299).

2330. General Wingate wired Sherif Ali reports successful raid on Turkish post in vicinity of Hafirra and destruction by Arabs of important railway bridge between Hafirra and Bowat. Nothing to report in Maan area. (A.B.979).

2245. Wired evening report to Chief London, repeated Salonika and Bagdad. (E.A.753).

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0600. Troopers, London, wired that as soon as it is reported fit for further service, 1st Battalion Cape Corps, lately employed in East Africa campaign and now recuperating in South Africa, will be sent to Egypt. Half a Machine Gun Company is also being organised and trained, Unit will probably not be ready to embark before April and will proceed to Egypt without rifles or machine guns and will be equipped on arrival. 1000 stands of arms S.M.L.E. will be sent as early as possible to D.O.S.Alexandria. (49797).

0730. Troopers London wired that it is not now possible to spare from France the three Railway Construction Companies, referred to in War Office telegram 49468 of January 6th, the orders for the despatch of which have accordingly been cancelled. (49810).

1845. Wired Troopers, London, reference War Office telegram 49318 of January 4th, that No.196 and 197 Training Squadron, R.F. C. will be cancelled as such. (E.A.737).

Jan.13th.

## 1. OPERATIONS.

0730. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.102).

0835. XX Corps wired Mukhmas was raided early this morning by party of 2/17th London Regiment, 180th Infantry Brigade. Village cleared and 5 prisoners taken. Our casualties 1 slightly wounded. (T.2302)

1803. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.65).

1945. XX Corps wired patrols report high ground in square 099, F.18. and Shebtin, Square 085, Z.11. clear of enemy. (T.2310).

2145. General Wingate wired no change in the situation. (A.B.981)

2320. Wired evening situation report to Chief London, repeated Salonika and Bagdad. (E.A.755).

## 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

1115. Wired Britannia, Port Said, requesting the services of Naval Diving Party until the construction of the second bridge over the Auja is completed (E.A.754).



Kelab.

Kilo.207. 0740. Wire from Troopers London, approving generally alteration in organization of Pack Artillery, requested in E.A. 732 of January 10th (49914 S.D.2)

January 13th.

1200. Wire from Troopers, London, approving grading of Staff Captain for Camp Commandant for Political Mission. (49906 dated 12th).

1215. Wire from Troopers, London, approving reference E.A. 730 of January 9th, stating that D.A.A.G. will continue to be graded as D.A.A.G. (49905 S.D.2 dated 12th).

2300. Letter to G.O.C., Palestine Brigade R.F.C., regretting that the distribution of Anti-Aircraft batteries renders it impossible to increase the number of Anti-Aircraft guns to be used for the protection of G.H.Q. (G.S.886)

Letter to Secretary, War Office reporting on the establishment of the Inland Water Transport, Egypt. (G.S.484).

Letter to Secretary, War Office, requesting certain additions to War Establishments of Headquarters, Desert Mounted Corps.

Jan. 14th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0710. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.69)

0745. XX Corps wired situation unchanged during night. (T.2312)

1805. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. 52nd Division report enemy shelling centre sub-section of right section. (G.70).

1935. XX Corps wired small enemy post and probable M.G. emplacement observed on Arnutieh, 099, M.22.d. this morning. Small enemy movement observed Abu Kush and Deir Abu Heshal. Patrol of 30th Brigade to Beit Ello, 099. F.5.b. was attacked on entering village by about 25 Turks. 3 of the enemy were killed, 2 being shot and one bayoneted. Our casualties nil. (T.2324).

2150. General Wingate wired Tafila, 20 miles North of Shobek, has been occupied by Arabs and entire garrison of 80 Turks captured.

Snow storms and intense cold continue Northern area. No change southern area. (A.B.986).

2245. Wired evening report to Chief, London, repeated Salonika and Bagdad. (E.A.757).

2. Miscellaneous.

0213. Wire from Troopers, London, approving additions to Labour Directorate proposed in G.S.584 dated 5th December. (61329 S.D.2).

0615. Cable from Troopers, London, stating that 7 vacancies - 3 for the Senior Course and 4 for the Junior Course - can be allotted for 3rd Staff Course at Cambridge, commencing March 30th. (49995 S.D.1).



Kelab.

Kilo.207.

Jan.14th. 0900. Troopers, London, cabled that the 38th Jewish Battalion, Royal Fusiliers will be despatched early in February for service in Palestine. (50016 S.D.2).

2148. Troopers, London, wired that vacancies for the Field Battery Commanders' courses can be arranged as follows :-

February 6th.	6
March 3rd.	6
March 17th.	6
March 31st.	6

and so on every fortnight.

Vacancies in R.G.S. Battery Commanders' courses can also be arranged for March 18th if desired. (61222 S.D.4).

Letter to G.Os.C., Australian Imperial Force in Egypt and New Zealand Expeditionary Force forwarding copies of correspondence from the Commandant, A. & N.Z. Training Centre and Details Camp, with reference to the formation of a School for the training of young Australian and New Zealand officers. (G.S.236/4).

Wrote officer Commanding, Cavalry Training School, Uckfield, forwarding copies of "Notes on the employment of Hotchkiss automatic Rifles" and "Notes on the tactical employment of Hotchkiss Rifles" also copy of memorandum on "Mounted action of the 17th Machine Gun Squadron at El.Mughar" (G.S.361/404).

Wrote Headquarters, Desert Mounted Corps, with reference to the amount of ammunition carried by Machine Gun Squadrons and the disposal of 18 Limbers on their establishment. (Z/77/M.G.)

Jan.15th.

#### 1. OPERATIONS.

0720. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. G.72.

0800. XXth Corps wired no enemy activity reported. Situation quiet. T.2325.

0905. Wired XXth, XXIth, Corps and Desert Mounted Corps, approving continuation of boundary between XXth and XXIst Corps, that is, as before Wadi Junction, Square 086 Z.4.a., thence Deir Abu Meshal inclusive to XXth Corps to Abud inclusive to XXIst Corps. O.A.M. 55.

1802. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. Enemy party in U. 25.b. dispersed by our artillery. Mulebbis shelled by enemy this morning; our casualties 3 other ranks slightly wounded. 3 civilians killed, 12 seriously wounded. 52nd Division report slight enemy shelling. G.74.

1830. XXIst Corps wired, in continuation of G.74. 4.1" gun was engaged and silenced by 4.5" Howitzer. This 4.5" Howitzer was then engaged by 5.9" Howitzer, but latter was silenced by 60 Pdr. G.75.

1902. XXth Corps wired slight enemy shelling in vicinity of Pt. 2930. Square 0.99.U.5. Enemy standing patrol of 10 men observed about Square 0.85.Z.3.c.44., and small parties of enemy seen moving from Abu Kush towards Askariyeh. T.2341.

#### 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Received from Headquarters, R.F.C., Middle East, by D.R.L.S.



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.15th.

copy of Troopers cable 49575 dated 8th January, agreeing in principle to suggested establishment of 'X' Aircraft Depot.

0520. Statement of disposition of Egyptian Expeditionary Force, giving divisional frontages and detached groups to be forwarded weekly by telegram to Chief, London. 50029. dated 14th.
1025. Cabled Chief, London, enquiring whether 1st Garrison Battalion Essex Regiment now at Suez, will be required to proceed overseas. E.A.758.
1825. Cabled Troopers London, requesting sanction for reorganization of Field Survey Company R.E. owing to the extent of new territory occupied and its intricate nature and distance from Cairo which necessitates urgent reproduction of map and printed work on the spot. E.A.738.

Wrote General Officer Commanding, Desert Mounted Corps, that the new establishment for a Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance will be brought into force at once. G.S.873.

Wrote General Officer Commanding, XXth and XXIst Corps, enquiring whether a decrease in the number of Range Finders in Infantry Battalions in this country is recommended. G.S.922.

Jan.16th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0738. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.76).
0746. XX Corps wired no enemy activity during night. (T.2342).
1105. Wired Chief, London, giving Corps and Divisional frontages, as requested in 50029 of 14/1/18. (E.A.761).
1730. XXI Corps wired nothing to report. (G.77).
1900. XX Corps wired vicinity of Surdah, 099, M.27.a. slightly shelled by 5.9 this morning.  
Relief of 180th Brigade by 181st Brigade completed at 1400.  
60th Division report movement of about 40 enemy seen at Arak Ibrahim, 113.F.15.c., at 1600; probably a relief taking place  
New enemy work observed about 099, P.24.d. and usual movement about Deir Abu Meshal. (T.2356).
2200. Cabled evening report to Chief, London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.763).
2300. General Wingate reported no change in situation. (A.B.003)

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0930. Troopers, London, cabled with reference to E.A. 734 of January 11th, approving additions to establishment at Zeitoun School of Instruction for training men of Administrative Services as Infantry. (50157 S.D.2).
1350. Wired S.N.O., Port Said, in reply to his letter N/130/165, dated January 9th, that it is hoped that trading may be resumed as soon as possible, as it is considered that satisfactory guarantees as to Masters can be obtained. (E.A.760).
1545. Cable from Salonika requesting despatch from Egypt of an Agricultural unit formed from fellahin or berberin well versed in maize cultivation to undertake farming operations on



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.16th.

right bank of Struma. Strength of unit to be 400, to arrive at end of March. Ground will be prepared now, but British troops cannot plant or harvest crops owing to climatic conditions whilst the malarial nature of that district also presents great difficulties to collecting of hay harvest in summer months. (C.23).

1940. Cabled Troopers, London, urging despatch of the remaining 10 A/A Guns promised in 43440 S.D.2. of 17th October. These are urgently required owing to present extended Lines of Communication. (E.A.740)

Jan.17th.

1 OPERATIONS.

0725. XX Corps wired no change on Corps front. (T.2359).  
0735. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.81).  
1720. XXI Corps wired slight enemy shelling is reported by 52nd Division, and that enemy plane has been driven down within enemy lines near Tabsor. (G.88).  
1855. XX Corps wired 53rd Division report less enemy sniping than usual. Few enemy shells burst near Kh.el Meidan, 099, F.15.d., at 0830. Small enemy movement observed to and from Deir Abu Meshal at 1430. (T.2377).  
2248. Cabled evening report to Chief, London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.765).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

1115. Cabled Troopers, London, requesting sanction to place R.A. Staff G.H.Q. and Corps H.Q. on the same basis as that of an Army and a Corps in France as regards grading, except that in the case of Corps Headquarters one Staff Captain is required in lieu of Lieut-Colonel and Orderly Officer for Counter batter work. (E.A.741).

Wrote General Officer Commanding Desert Mounted Corps, XX Corps, XXI Corps, ordering the immediate move into the open country of troops billeted in the towns of Jerusalem, Ramleh, and Jaffa.

Wrote General Officer Commanding XX Corps and XXI Corps with reference to revised distribution of Heavy artillery Groups consequent on the withdrawal of 3 Diege batteries to Salonika and Italy.

2130. Cable from Troopers, London, stating that only 250 men of the 38th (Jewish) Battalion under orders for service in Palestine are fully trained, and that the remainder will complete training in Egypt. Recruits will be drafted to Egypt in batches, as they become available, after a few week's training in the country. A second battalion will be formed in Egypt when the numbers are sufficient. (50295).

Jan.18th.

1. OPERATIONS

0738. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. G.90.  
0830. XXth Corps wired 53rd Division advanced their line during the night to include Square 0.99.V.2.c.central - N.25.b. central - Point 2984 - M.29.b.8.8 - M.29.c.central - M.28.c. 59. Point 2984 was occupied with slight opposition.  
T.2381.



Kelab.

Kilo.207. 1742. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. Enemy plane forced  
Jan.18th. down in 070.V.6.approx. G.95.

2240. Cabled Evening report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and  
Salonika. E.A.766.

2245. General Wingate wired nothing to report. A.B.014.

2.MISCELLANEOUS.

1200. Cabled weekly changes in distribution to Troopers,London.  
E.A. 743.

Jan.19th.

1.OPERATIONS.

0705. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. G.96.

0750. XXth Corps wired situation all clear. T.2393.

0840. XXIst Corps wired 52nd Division report enemy patrol approach-  
ed wire of No.2 Post right section at 0400. G.97.

1807. XXIst Corps wired 2/3 Gurkhas sent two platoons to Rentis.  
Patrol was attacked by enemy estimated one company strong.  
Ten casualties inflicted on enemy. Our casualties nil.  
Our patrol returned later bringing five prisoners. G.100.

2214. Cabled evening report to Chief,London, repeated Bagdad and  
Salonika. E.A.768.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0700. Cable from Troopers London approving reorganisation of Field  
Survey Companies subject to revision of details on receipt  
of letter giving establishment. 50403.

0700. Cable from Troopers,London,regretting that no A/A guns can  
be sent before April. 50416.

0710. Troopers,London wired approving formation of agricultural  
unit for Salonika, and enquiring whether this unit can be  
provided by Egypt. 50414.

Jan.20th.

1.OPERATIONS.

0725. XXth Corps wired nothing to report. T.2401.

0740. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. 2/3rd Gurkhas sent  
two platoons to Rentis. They captured Turkish patrol of 5  
men. Our patrol was attacked by enemy estimated at one  
Company who were beaten off. Patrol withdrawn 1215. A.101

1730. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. One unarmed deser-  
ter surrendered this afternoon. G.14.

1845. XXth Corps wired enemy made no attempt to attack new posts  
established by 53rd Division yesterday and only fired a few  
shells there today. 159th Brigade relieved 158th Brigade  
in 53rd Division Right Sector. Usual enemy movement in  
Deir Abu Meshal. Enemy working parties observed south and  
east of Kh.Burham 099.D.36.a. T.2399.

1945. XXth Corps wired slight shelling by enemy mountain guns on  
099 M.27.a. at 1030. At 1100 enemy registered point 2984  
099.M.24.c. with 5.9" and 77 m.m.guns. Helio seen working



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.20th.

on Tell Asur 099 L.34.d. Usual enemy movements Deir Abu Meshal. Patrol of 29th Brigade visited Kh.el.Meidan this morning and returned via Khurbetha Ibn Harith without seeing any enemy. 10 deserters surrendered during past 24 hours. T.2419.

2300. Cabled evening Report to Chief London repeated Bagdad and Salonika. E.A.769.

2.MISCELLANEOUS.

Dehorted, London, cabled that on arrival in Egypt of Field Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, Major R.H.Bridges, R.A.M.C. will be attached to him for duty. 50442.

0630. Cable from Chief London requesting reconsideration of decision with regard to the employment of French and Italian Officers, and suggesting that one of each nationality might be employed as Governors of Ramleh and Ludd respectively. 50582.

1000. Cable from Commander-in-Chief, India, informing that Lewis Machine gun equipments, rifles, bayonets, and scabbards, will not be brought by Indian units proceeding to Egypt. 5044.

2200. Troopers cabled that in future, one copy of each issue of Composition of Headquarters, E.E.F., and Order of Battle, will be sent to Commander-in-Chief, India. 50538.

2250. Cabled Chief London with reference to his 50482, that the opinion expressed in E.A. 696 January 9th, cannot be modified as the conditions which led to this decision still exist. Any change in the situation which admits of concurrence in the proposal of the Foreign Office will at once be notified. E.A.770.

Letter to General Officer Commanding, Desert Mounted Corps, with reference to the work of Hotchkiss Automatic Rifles during the late operations.

Jan.21st.

1. OPERATIONS.

0715. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged.

0745. XX Corps wired no change. (T.2422).

1115. Cabled Chief, London, changes in Divisional frontages. (E.A.771).

1730. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. Patrol to Rentis reports that place clear of enemy. One prisoner and three deserters taken during last 24 hours. (G.106).

2155. Cabled evening report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.773).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0800. Troopers, London, cabled that gradings of appointments in Central Claims Bureau still under consideration by Treasury. (50541 D.D.2).

0800. Troopers, London, wired in reply to E.A.741 of January 17th that grading of Senior Staff Officer, R.A., at G.H.Q. and Corps Headquarters will be G.S.O.2., but that approval cannot be given for any other changes in grading or increase to establishment. (50543).



Kelab.  
Kilo.207.  
Jan.21st.

2.Miscellaneous,Contd.

1800. Wire from Britannia, Egypt, stating that Naval Commander-in-Chief asks whether any military bombing aeroplanes can be spared to attack "Goeben". (0615).

Wrote Rear-Admiral, Commanding Egypt and Red Sea with reference to naval cooperation during last operations.

Wrote G.O.C., XXth Corps, with regard to the collection of rifles at present in the possession of the inhabitants of Hebron and villages in its vicinity.

Force Order No.60 issued to all concerned.

Bir Salem.  
Jan.22nd.

1.OPERATIONS.

0745. XXIst Corps wired enemy fired salvos about 2045 last night in left sector. Two German prisoners of 701st regiment captured this morning by patrol to 070 - V.10.c. G.109.
0751. XXth Corps wired slight enemy movement at Deir Abu Meshal 1715. G.11.
1740. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. Two German prisoners captured by 52nd Division. Otherwise nothing to report. G.113
1930. XXth Corps wired enemy shelled hill in 099 N.25.b. - 88 about midday. Usual enemy movement on Kummananeh 113.A.17.central and Ras et Tawil 113.c.14. This morning a patrol from 10th Division to Kh.Harashah 099.G.23.c. found no enemy there or in the vicinity. An enemy patrol of 10 men was seen in Beit Ello 099.F.5.b. and shelled by our guns. Prisoners and deserters nil. G.17.
2220. Wired evening report to Chief, London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. E.A.774.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

2235. Wire Chief, Salonika as follows:- I have asked Britannia, Egypt to assist the Naval C-in-C with aeroplanes to bomb the "Goeben" It has been suggested by Perardua Cairo, who have wired you to this effect, that it would be quicker if you could supply aeroplanes as they would not require to be shipped. Please let me know if you can do this, If not, I will undertake to give Admiral assistance. E.A.775.

Letter to His Excellency The High Commissioner, with reference to a reconnaissance about to be made between Dakhla and Kufra.

Jan.23rd.

1.OPERATIONS.

0723. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. G.115.
0823. XXth Corps wired, Turks estimated 50 strong attacked post in N.25.b. at 2355. They were driven off by grenades and rifle fire. Other Turks moved towards left of post but were caught by Lewis guns and Stokes mortars. Our casualties nil. Turks casualties unknown at present. Patrol subsequently reported all clear. Otherwise situation normal. G.20.
1742. XXIst Corps wired Our artillery dispersed enemy working party at Mezeireh. Prisoners and deserters nil. Nothing



Bir Salem.  
Kilo.295.  
Jan.23rd.

further to report. G.119.

1835. XXth Corps wired Enemy registered Kh Kefr Ana 099.N.7.d. and Ain Yebrud 099.N.19.a. this morning. Enemy also registered post N.of 099 N.25.b. and back to Kh Deir Shebab 099 V.1.d. at 1515. Et Tell slightly shelled at 1330. Prisoners and deserters nil. G.35.

2.MISCELLANEOUS.

0600. Cable from Troopers London, approving, subject to revision in three months time, establishment Mobile Veterinary Section, Imperial Camel Corps, submitted in letter G.S.212/6 dated December 24th, 1917. 50706. dated 22/1/18.
0845. Cable from Troopers London, approving formation of 5th Transportation Section. Unit to be formed by local transfer of low category men. 30730.M.O.2.c.dated 22/1/18.
1825. Cable from Chief Salonika stating that he has already sent 6 machines fully equipped for bombing to Mudros, for the purpose of attacking the 'Goeben'. G.C.270.

Letter to General Officer Commanding, Force in Egypt, with reference to the location of the 1st Garrison Battalion Essex Regiment, pending further instructions regarding its move from this theatre.

Jan.24th.

1.OPERATIONS.

0725. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.124).
0733. XX Corps wired situation report. Quiet night. Situation on Corps front remains unchanged. (G.38).
1735. XXI Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.129).
1805. XX Corps wired intermittent shelling by enemy of our post in square 099 (South of Ain Yebrud) N.25.b. Deserters 5. (G.46).
2200. Cabled Evening report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.780).

2.MISCELLANEOUS.

0430. Cable from Troopers, London, enquiring whether 30,000 P.H. Helmets, which are now waiting shipment, are required. (50773).
1945. Cabled weekly changes in distribution to Troopers, London. (E.A.779).

Letter to Secretary War Office, requesting sanction for certain alterations in the transport of Corps Signal Companies.

Jan.25th.

1.OPERATIONS.

0737. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. G.133.
0744. XXth Corps wired - situation normal. Nothing to report. G.49.
1803. XXIst Corps wired - Our heavy artillery fired on hostile battery at M.2.b.8.3. 52nd Division report one German captured. Patrol to Rentis report no enemy there. G.135.



Bir Salem.  
Kilo.295.  
Jan.25th.

1835. XXth Corps wired - Enemy shelled 099 N.25.this morning causing 4 casualties. Shells believed to be 4.2" Patrol this morning to Kh.Attabbeh 099 E.31.d. reported no enemy seen. Usual enemy movement about Deir Abu Meshal. Enemy registered Wadi es Surar,Deir es Saideh 099.G.23.b. Abu Kush and Abu Shukheidim 099.G.17.b. Prisoners and deserters nil. G.56.

2240. Cabled Evening report to Chief,London,repeated as usual. E.A.784.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

1255. Wired to all concerned cancelling move of Arab Scouts from El Arish and R.E.party from Suez to Nekhl in connection with the re-erection of the El Arish - Nekhl - Akaba telegraph line. Arab Scouts to remain at El Arish until further orders. O.A.M. 77.

1730. Cable received from the High Commissioner with reference to the inclusion of Italian Officers in the proposed reconnaissance by armoured cars between Dakhla and Kufea. 170.Cipher.

2300. Cable received from Chief London with reference to attack on Constantinople and railway communications between Sofia and that place, agreeing that D.H.9 Squadrons would be best employed from Aegean Islands, provided that operations in Palestine at the time these Squadrons are available do not require co-operation of bombing Squadrons. 50905.Cipher.

Letter sent to the G.O.C.,XXIst Corps with reference to XXIst Corps report of the recent operations forwarding the following remarks from the Commander-in-Chief :- I have read this with great interest and great pleasure. It is a vivid and stirring record of great deeds,by gallant troops,faithfully described by their brilliant leader" Z/77/039.

Jan. 26th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0720. XXth Corps wired - Situation unchanged. G.60.

0730. XXIst Corps wired - Situation unchanged,nothing to report. G.137.

1759. XXIst Corps wired - Situation unchanged. Slight hostile shelling about G.2.d. 8.7. Enemy working parties near Mezeirah and Rentis dispersed by our artillery. Prisoners and deserters nil. G.144.

1830. XXth Corps wired - 180th Brigade relieved 179th Brigade in 60th Division Right Sector. 3 deserters came in during past 24 hours; prisoners nil. Officer Commanding Hebron Detachment reported this morning that one Company moved to Dura at 0930, one Company moving to Dhaheriyeh and one Squadron Corps Cavalry moving to Yutta. Situation in the above area normal. G.68.

2200. Cabled evening report to Chief London repeated as usual. E.A.786.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0519. Cable received from Troopers London approving generally



Bir Salem.  
Kilo.295.  
Jan.26th.

to proposed War Establishment for Military Labour Bureau,  
submitted in letter No.G.S.584/1 of 12th December,1917.  
62555 S.D.2.

0720. Cable received from Troopers stating that, with minor amendments, reorganisation of No.9 British Mountain Artillery Brigade is provisionally approved, but owing to Remount situation no increase can be made to supply of Remounts now allotted. 50945 Cipher S.D.2.
0825. Cable received from Troopers asking if two Indian Mountain Batteries which will probably be available for overseas service in a few months, can be employed in this Force. 2.75" equipments for them could be sent from home.

Letter sent to G.O.C., XXth Corps with reference to the XXth Corps report on the operations, forwarding the following remarks from the C-in-C. :- "I have read this with great interest. It is a clear and accurate account of a great feat of arms, well conceived and ably conducted to complete success". Z/77/039.

Jan.27th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0736. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged.
1341. XXth Corps wired that Corps cavalry regiment (less 1 squadron detached to assist in the collection of arms from inhabitants of Hebron area) will leave Bethlehem on the 29th instant and march to Beersheba for training under officer commanding. Arrangements for supply during the march will be made by 60th Division. The Squadron left behind in Hebron area will rejoin the regiment on receipt of orders from G.H.Q. (G.76).
1754. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.151).
1817. XXth Corps wired that patrols to 099, G.9 and G.13 encountered no enemy. No enemy movement to report on Corps front. One deserter in past 24 hours. (G.78).
1936. XXth Corps wired that O.C., Hebron detachment, reports that companies have returned from Dhaheriyeh and Dura, and have collected 300 arms. No report has been received from squadron Corps Cavalry, who have left Yutta. O.C., detachment does not anticipate collecting as many as 6,400 rifles. Situation quiet. (G.79).
2150. Wired evening report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.791).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

Wire from Troopers, London, stating that India had been asked to select an Indian Army Officer not below the rank of Lieut-Colonel to be A.A.G. on Staff of E.E.F. This officer will be additional to present establishment. (51041)

Wire from Governor, Sinai, stating that a number of police deserters had been reported to be near Kossaima, and requesting permission to use Arab Scouts to open a post in the neighbourhood. (S.447).

Wire from Milrail reporting that first span of Wadi Ghuzze bridge had been completed, and that the girders for the second span were in place. (51/143.)



Bir Salem.  
Kilo. 295.  
Jan. 27th.

Cabled to Chief, London, copy of telegram sent by General Clayton to High Commissioner, with reference to formation of Arab Bureau for Palestine, and the direction of Arab operations. (E.A. 788).

Cabled to Troopers, London, requesting sanction for increase in establishment of Egyptian Military Police. (E.A. 790)

Cable from General Wingate in answer to Foreign Office cable 105, with reference to reorganization of Arab Bureau. (184).

G.O.C., XXth and XXIst Corps informed by letter that the re-organisation of the Heavy Artillery Group Headquarters and the Signal Sub-Section for the Heavy Artillery Group would now be proceeded with. (G.S. 834).

G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps, instructed to employ the two Mounted Divisions, now quartered in the Belah area, in salvage operations in the Gaza and Beersheba battlefields area, in conjunction with the inspector, Palestine Lines of Communication. (G.S. 974/1).

G.O.C., Palestine Lines of Communication, informed by letter that the Lines of Communication would be extended to include the town of Jaffa, and that the railway from Junction Station to Jerusalem would also come under his control. One brigade of Imperial Service Infantry would be placed at his disposal for these duties. (G.S. 907).

Jan. 28th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0740. XXIst Corps wired - Situation unchanged. Patrol exploded dump of 4.2" shells at 084.D.32.a. G.152.
0755. XXth Corps wired - All clear. G.51.
1250. Cabled Chief, London, - There is no change in the dispositions of this Force. E.A. 792.
1746. XXIst Corps wired - Situation unchanged, one deserter surrendered to 54th Division. G.154.
1855. XXth Corps wired - Hebron detachment report situation quiet in all stations at 1000. Visibility was bad with thick fog almost all day on Corps Front. Prisoners and deserters nil. G.89.
1930. Wire sent to communications Kelab, repeated to XXIst Corps and S.N.O., Jaffa :- Jaffa will be taken into your administration from 1200 on 30th instant. O.A.M.88.
2200. Evening report cabled to Chief, London, repeated as usual. E.A. 797.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0208. Cable from Troopers London, with reference to War Establishment, Indian Section, 3rd Echelon, enquiring whether establishment of this section is included in W.E. 699/4 or additional to it. If the latter authority for present establishment requested. 62770.S.D.2. Code.
1420. Cabled Troopers London as follows :- With reference to your 43440 S.D.2 of 17/10/17, para 2, in reply to my E.A. 403 of 13/10/17. I would be grateful if you could send in the near



Bir Salem.  
Kilo.295.  
Jan.28th.

future 4 complete equipments of 4.5" Howitzers, in order to enable me to complete a Field Artillery Brigade with South African personnel now available. The South Africans are keen gunners but having no further guns to equip them, I am forced at present to employ a large number with the D.A.C. E.A.793.

1842.

Britannia Egypt cabled as follows - British C-in-C. Aegean sends following:- begins, Please inform G.O.C. that as there is an insufficiency of Naval Fighters to ensure continuous operations against the Goeben I should be grateful if he could possibly spare a flight of Fighters with their pilots for these operations. Do you require seaplane carrier for Transport to Mudros if G.O.C., can supply these machines, ends. 1601 Cipher.

2100. Cabled to Perardua Cairo with reference to Britannia's 1601, instructing R.F.C., Middle East to complete arrangements for despatch of aeroplanes to bomb Goeben and to advise date of sailing by wire. E.A.796. Cipher.

1845. Cabled to Troopers London requesting that appointment of one Captain graded as Staff Captain on Headquarters, Inspector, Prisoner of War Camps may be sanctioned. E.A.794.

Letter sent to General Officer Commanding, Australian Imperial Force in Egypt, with reference to the proposal of the D.A.S. that the New Zealand Government should be asked to provide a Cable Section to release the Australian Cable Section, now with the Desert Mounted Corps, to form the nucleus of the proposed new Australian Imperial Force Squadron. G.S.956.

Letter sent to all Corps with reference to the training of specialists within their units. G.S.438/2.

Jan.29th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0730. XXIst Corps wired - Situation unchanged. G.159.

0736. XXth Corps wired - Situation normal. Nothing to report. G.91.

1353. 60th Division wired - 3 hostile aeroplanes passed over Hebron at 1000 flying North. One small bomb was dropped on town but ~~carried~~ caused no material damage. G.9.

1800. XXth Corps wired - Hebron detachment reports situation quiet. 24 hours extension of time granted for handing in arms. Situation on Corps front remains unchanged. One deserter captured. Prisoners nil. G.103.

1819. XXIst Corps wired - At 0600 patrol of 75th Division occupied Shukbah X.34.c. during reconnaissance to X.36.b. Patrol returned 1400. Slight rifle fire from Deir Abu Meshal. No casualties. G.164.

2310. XXth Corps wired - Hebron detachment reports that at 2035 situation quiet. Result of search up to 1900 is as follows:  
Old firearms including flintlocks, pistols, revolvers and guns. .... 1683.  
Rifles. 347.  
Automatic pistols. 6.  
Search of Hebron will be made to-morrow. Squadron of cavalry proceed to Hulhul at 0630 to-morrow returning before night-fall. Mills grenade exploded on roof of native house this morning, three women injured, no military involved in any way.



Bir Salem.  
Kilo.295.  
Jan.29th.

It is probable that this accounts for reputed bomb being dropped by aeroplane. G.106.

2215. Cabled evening report to Chief, London, repeated as usual. E.A.600.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0420. Cable from Britannia stating that British C-in-C had wired as follows:- Will you please tell G.O.C. that R.F.C. Flight of Fighters B.E. will now not be required and thank him for any trouble taken. 2030 Cipher.

0845. Cable from Troopers London approving re-organisation of Headquarters and Staffs, R.F.C. submitted in letter No. G.S. 104/11 dated 5/12/17. 51160. Cipher O/A.

1620. Cabled to Troopers London with reference to the two Indian Mountain Batteries. Requesting that at least four out of the twelve should be 3.7" Howitzers if the equipments are available. E.A.799 Cipher.

1100. Cable received from Troopers London with reference to Zionist representation in Palestine. The Foreign Office urges the desirability of commission of Zionist leaders under presidency of Doctor Weizman leaving Cairo about February 15th and proceeding thence to Palestine. 51182 Cipher.

Letter sent to the General Officer Commanding, Desert Mounted Corps with reference to the formation of a School for the training of young officers at Kelab. G.S.236/4.

Letter sent to General Officer Commanding, XXth Corps and Inspector, Palestine L.of C. with reference to the revised establishments for the 8th and 9th Mountain Artillery Brigade. G.S.914.

Letter sent to the Secretary, War Office, forwarding the proposed establishments for mixed brigades of Pack Artillery. G.S.914.

Jan.30th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0725. XXth Corps wired situation unchanged. G.107.

0748. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. G.166.

1818. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. 4 Deserters. G.174.

1830. XXth Corps wired Hebron detachment reported this morning that the situation was unchanged. Search for firearms is being made and weapons are still being handed in. 53rd Division advanced their line last night to include Arnutieh 099, M.22. d. Usual enemy movement at Deir Abu Meshal and working parties observed during day between 099.B.24.a. and D.24.c. also at Deir Kulah 085.V.22.b. and Ridge V.17. Prisoners 3, deserters nil. G.115.

2155. Cabled evening report to Chief London repeated as usual. E.A.801., Cipher.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0720. Cable received from Troopers London, stating that, pending decision as to general policy the question of disposal of



Bir Salem.  
Kilo.295.  
Jan.30th.

troops relieved is still under consideration, and that we shall be informed when the matter is decided. 51210.Cipher S.D.2.

0845. Cable received from Troopers London with reference to E.A. 793 of January 28th, stating that we should take 4 complete 4.5" howitzer equipments from reserve at Alexandria Base, and that if found necessary these will be replaced in due course. 51247 Cipher.

1143. Wire received from Nilebos Cairo, stating that Frontier Districts Administration can maintain Arab Scouts at Nekel by local camel transport from El Arish. Stores to be purchased from Army. Arrangements for development of water at Nekhl can proceed and if so camels originally sent to Kubri and returned to Kantara may again be sent to Suez. E.G.84.

Letter sent to War Office, with reference to the causes of wastage of S.A.A. G.S.971.

Letter sent to War Office, requesting that the Government of India be approached with a view to increasing the number of British Officers serving with Regiments of Imperial Service Cavalry and Infantry in this Force. G.S.649.

Jan.31st.

1. OPERATIONS.

0724. XXIst Corps wired situation unchanged. (G.176).

0752. XXth Corps wired Mukhmas occupied by 60th Division at 0545. Casualties thought to be nil; otherwise situation unchanged. (G.120).

1830. XXIst Corps wire that our field artillery shelled party of enemy at 085.P.24.b.7.3., and engaged enemy 5.9 howr. Battery at 084.B.14.d.3.1. Three deserters. (G.182).

1950. XXth Corps wired that O.C. Hebron Det. reports the total fire-arms collected from all sources up to 2400 yesterday amounts to 2,368, including over 400 modern rifles. Enemy attack on our posts on Tel Es Suwan about 0730 this morning easily repulsed, 1 prisoner being taken. Enemy reported in some strength at Ras et Tawil. Our posts in and around Mukmas will withdraw tonight on completion of reconnaissance. Patrol from 53rd Division proceeded to Kefr Nata this morning, and returned at 1525. (G.132).

2200. Cabled evening report to Chief London, repeated Bagdad and Salonika. (E.A.804).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0845. Cable from Troopers approving addition of Captain, graded as Staff Captain, to establishment of Headq uarters, Inspector of Prisoners of War. (51324 S.D.2).

1933. Cable from Salonika requesting that one Egyptian Labour Company might be sent there for employment on railway work. A.D.1507.

1955. Cabled to Troopers changes in E.E.F. (E.A.803)

2136. Wire from XXth Corps reporting that owing to the spread of disease amongst the troops, all towns and villages will be completely evacuated by all fighting troops by the 3rd February, and by Hospitals and Trains as soon as possible. The only exception to this will be Divisional Headquarters, at the discretion of Divisional Commanders, and certain troops in Jerusalem. (P.C.Q.T.2085).



Bir Salem.

Kilo.295.

Jan.31st. 2200. Cable from Troopers stating that it has been decided to place transport service at Egypt, Taranto, and Salonika under the control of a P.N.T.O., with Headquarters at Cairo.  
(51340 S.R.l.a.).

Letter sent to G.O.s.C., XXth and XXIst Corps, laying down the duties of Divisional Machine Gun Officers. (G.S.825).



F O R C E   O R D E R   N o .   5 8 .  
by

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

---

Advanced General Headquarters,  
2nd January, 1918.

1.           The following alterations in the general organization of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force will take effect from 1200 on the 7th January, 1918.

(a) A Subordinate Command, designated "The Force in Egypt" consisting of the present Delta and Western Force, Southern Canal Section, and Alexandria District will be created.

(b) The Southern Canal Section will cease to form a separate command and will be absorbed into the Delta and Western Force Sub-command.

(c) The Coastal Section will be absorbed into the Alexandria District Sub-command.

(d) Alexandria District Sub-command will be extended eastward to include the area bounded by the East bank of the Rossetta branch of the Nile and the South bank of the Mahmoudieh Canal.

(e) KANTARA and PORT SAID and the road and railway between these two places remain in the Palestine L. of C. area, forming its western boundary.

2.           Major-General H.D.Watson, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O., is appointed to command "The Force in Egypt" and is allotted a staff as follows:-

A.D.C.  
G.S.O.2.  
G.S.O.3.  
A.A. & Q.M.G.  
D.A.A.G.  
D.A.Q.M.G.  
Staff Captain.

Brigadier-General H.G.Casson, C.M.G., is appointed to command the Sub-command, Delta and Western Force and is allotted the following staff:-

G.S.O.2.  
G.S.O.3.  
A.A. & Q.M.G.  
D.A.A.G.  
D.A.Q.M.G.  
Officer Clerk.  
Compensation Officer.

and for Southern Section:-

Lieutenant-Colonel.  
Staff Captain.

Brigadier-General R.C.Boyle, C.B., is

/appointed



appointed to command the Sub-command, Alexandria District, and is allotted the following Staff:-

G.S.O.3.  
A.A. & Q.M.G.  
2 Staff Captains.  
Compensation Officer.

and for Coastal Section :-

Brigadier-General,  
Brigade-Major.  
Staff Captain.

3. The troops at present allotted to Delta and Western Force, Southern Canal Section, Alexandria District and Coastal Section, will be allotted to the Force in Egypt, with effect from 1200 on the 7th January, 1918.

4. The General Officer Commanding, The Force in Egypt, will be responsible for the defence of Egypt from SOLLUM and the Western Desert to the West bank of the SUEZ Canal, and also for that area East of the Canal (including ABU ZENIMA and TOR) which is patrolled by the troops of the present Southern Canal Section.

5. General Officer Commanding, The Force in Egypt will act as the Commander-in-Chief's representative in dealing with the Civil Government of Egypt.

He will be responsible for the administration of Martial Law in Egypt, with such reservations as may be communicated to him.

6. The administration of Martial Law in Egypt includes the administration of the Frontier Districts, which will be carried out through the Military Administrator, Frontier Districts Administration.

7. The Inspector, Prisoners of War Camps, will be attached to the Staff of the General Officer Commanding, The Force in Egypt, by whom the Prisoners of War Camps in Egypt will be administered..

8. The D.Q.M.G. at General Headquarters will continue to control:-

Egyptian State Railways.  
Inland Water Transport.  
Sea Transport.  
Central Requisition Office.  
Local Resources Board.  
Maintenance of HEDJAZ and AKABA Forces.  
Correspondence with Egyptian Government on "Q" matters.  
Correspondence with the Suez Canal Company.  
Permanent Arbitration Board.  
All Administrative Depots, Hospitals, Veterinary Hospitals, Army Postal Services, and Inspectorate of Recruiting (native), will remain under the control of the Directors at General Headquarters,

/and



and will be only under local commanders for purposes of administration and discipline.

The Schools of Instruction at MOASCAR, ZEITOUN and HELIOPOLIS will continue to be controlled by the General Staff at General Headquarters, and will be under local commanders only for purposes of administration and discipline.

9. The Director of Works, General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, will act as adviser to the General Officer Commanding, The Force in Egypt, on all matters connected with his Directorate.

10. The Headquarters, Force in Egypt will be established at Savoy Hotel, CAIRO.

Telegraphic address - SUPERFLUX.

(Sd.) G.P.DAWNAY

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



Minutes of the Commander-in-Chief's Conference,  
held at LATRON at 1100, 3rd January, 1918.

---

Present: Commander-in-Chief.  
C.G.S.  
B.G.G.S.  
G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps (Major-General Barrow).  
G.O.C. XXth Corps.  
G.O.C. XXIst Corps.  
B.G.G.S., Desert Mounted Corps.  
B.G.G.S., XXth Corps.  
B.G.G.S., XXIst Corps.  
Brig-General Clayton.  
Lieut-Colonel Robertson.  
Lieut-Colonel Nugent.

1. Lieut-Colonel Nugent gave a general review of the enemy situation.

2. General Bulfin explained the dispositions of the XXIst Corps. When his line was completed he anticipated being able to withdraw one brigade from each division into reserve.

General Bulfin also stated that he was endeavouring to establish an Advanced Supply Depot north of the NAHR AUJA, in order to maintain troops there should a spell of wet weather set in. He required a decauville line from YAZUR (O71.L.9.b.) to SELMEH (J.27.b), and stated that he was laying corduroy roads, from wood collected in the MULEBBIS district, over the marshy ground in the vicinity of the AUJA.

3. General Chetwode explained the dispositions of the XXth Corps, which provide for one complete division being held in reserve. He stated that he hoped to be in possession of EL MUNTAR within the next few days.

4. After discussion as regards the best means of watching the gap between the XXth and XXIst Corps, the Commander-in-Chief decided that one mounted regiment was sufficient, and that it should be attached to one of the Corps for this purpose. The remainder of the mounted Division to be concentrated in the vicinity of railhead as a mobile reserve under his orders.

5. General Chetwode requested a ruling as to the degree of mobility to be maintained by his reserve division. The Commander-in-Chief decided that the fighting portion of the division should retain mobility to be able to move within 48 hours' notice, and that the whole division would be expected to move after 5 days' notice. This would enable a large number of horses to be withdrawn to the rear and would ease the supply situation.

6. The Commander-in-Chief expressed a desire that more attention should be given to the dress of the men, especially in the back areas.

7. All Corps Commanders requested that their troops in rest should receive liberal supplies of towels and underclothing. The Commander-in-Chief gave his sanction to this.

G.S.(O), Adv. G.H.Q.  
3/1/18.



General Officer Commanding,

XXth Corps.

---

1. In order still further to consolidate our gains in Southern PALESTINE, it is desirable that the right of your Corps should be advanced eastwards and northwards to include ERIHA (JERICHO) and crossings on ESH SHERIEH (River JORDAN).

The occupation of that area would attain the following results:-

(a) Prevent enemy incursions into the country known as the Wilderness.

(b) Create a situation which would not only threaten the HEDJAZ Lines of Communication, but which would provide a point of departure for operations eastwards.

(c) Enable trade routes to be opened from the DEAD SEA ports into LOWER PALESTINE.

2. The capture and retention of EL MUNTAR (Q.12 central) is a necessary preliminary to further operations, and when that place is occupied it will, to a considerable extent, ensure the security of the country lying to the south.

It is believed that preparations to carry this into effect have already been made by you.

3. Although the enemy has withdrawn a considerable proportion of his hospitals and heavy transport east of the JORDAN, there is a possibility that he may offer a strong resistance on his prepared KHAN HATHRUNEH position, to a direct advance on ERIHA.

It is, therefore, possible that the solution of the problem may be found in a gradual closing in on ERIHA from the south and north, rather than in a frontal attack.

This possibility is mentioned, as the Commander-in-Chief does not wish to incur heavy losses in an operation where time is not the ruling factor and where the enemy's position precludes the likelihood of obtaining results commensurate with heavy losses.

4. The Commander-in-Chief desires you to submit, for his approval, proposals to achieve the object mentioned in para. 1.

(Sgd.) L. J. BOLS.  
Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Adv. G.H.Q.  
5/1/18.



General Officer Commanding.

XXth Corps.  
XXIst Corps.  
Desert Mounted Corps.  
-----

1. The call for economy in Man Power renders it necessary to substitute in front line units of the Signal Service a proportion of Class 'B' men for men of Class 'A', especially in the less skilled occupations

2. Personnel of Class 'B' will shortly be available and in the first instance, the following numbers will be replaced :-

Each Divisional Signal Company of the XXth Corps (including 10th Division) and XXIst Corps will absorb 15 'B' men.

Each Corps Signal Company of the XXth, XXIst and Desert Mounted Corps will absorb 20 'B' men.

This substitution will be applied first to pioneer trades :- batmen, telephone operators, cooks, etc.

Further substitution among sappers will be effected man-for-man as suitably trained men become available. A further 70 men (approximately) will be distributed within each of the XXth and XXIst Corps in this category, under arrangements to be made by the D.A.S. with the A.D.A.S. of Corps and the Signal Depot.

Class 'B' reinforcements will be provided up to those numbers; and in future Signal units will demand Class 'B' men to replace any men of that class who may become casualties.

3. All Class 'A' personnel released will be sent to the Signal Depot, ALEXANDRIA as soon as possible.

(Sgd.) H. L. WRIGHT,  
Major,

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

Adv. G.H.Q.  
6/1/18.



General Officer Commanding,  
Australian Imperial Force in Egypt,  
New Zealand Expeditionary Force.  
-----

The attached copies of correspondence from the Commandant, A. & N.Z. Training Centre and Details Camp, is referred to you for your views, please, before a decision is made.

The School suggested by Major Wells appears desirable if details regarding instructors and accommodation could be arranged, but War Office sanction would have to be obtained for the increased establishment.

(Signed) J. Spencer,  
Lt-Col.  
for Major-General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.  
14/1/18.



Commandant,  
A. & N.Z. T.C. & D. Camp, MOASCAR.

-----  
Ref. An Australian & New Zealand Officers' School  
at MOASCAR.

I beg to submit the following training proposal  
for your earnest consideration:-

A small School to be started at MOASCAR Camp for  
the training of young Australian & New Zealand  
Officers - Duration of each Course not to exceed 4  
weeks.

From what I have observed, a younger and less  
experienced type of Officer is gradually filling up  
the various Regiments from Overseas than was previously  
the case. Many officers pass through MOASCAR, after  
having been wounded or sick; others come there on the  
Training Cadre. These officers, who may have done  
magnificent work in the Field, are, in my opinion,  
not trained in what an officer should know. In  
conversation with them I find that they do not  
understand what real discipline means, how to be  
friends with their men without being familiar, how  
to check a man for not saluting and how to tell him  
off in an Orderly Room; how to really instruct a  
squad or drill a Mounted Troop, and the many other  
things a competent officer should know. It is  
simply placing the cart before the horse to lecture  
every day to the hundreds of men who pass through  
MOASCAR on the subject of discipline generally when  
their own officers are not capable or willing to  
speak to them themselves on these and other subjects.  
It is understood that officers of the N.Z. E.F. have  
in some cases had a certain amount of training before  
leaving New Zealand, and the above remarks therefore  
might not apply to them to quite such an extent.

It may be argued that the Cadets' Course  
at ZEITOUN will now meet these requirements, but I  
do not agree with this, for the following reasons:-  
The duration of the Cadets' Course is 3 months, and  
has only recently been started for the Aus. & New Zeal-  
and Forces, it will thus be fully 9 months or a  
year before its influence on the training of young  
officers is really felt, and in the meantime there  
must be a large number of more or less junior officers  
who will have missed this Course; there is also a  
considerable amount of Infantry Training in the Course.

The expenditure required for the small  
establishment suggested would be a mere nothing in  
comparison with the value of the training imparted  
to Officers.

I suggest a small and separate Camp here  
with the following Staff:-

1 Senior Instructor	with rank of	T/Major	and chosen	
			from the Imperial Army.	
1 Assistant	"	"	"	T/Captain do.
1 Adjutant	"	"	"	T/Captain and chosen
			from A. & N.Z.Forces.	
4 N.C.Os.	"	"	of	T/Sergeant and chosen
				from A. & N.Z.Forces.

/Any



Any other staff required could be found from here.

With reference to the Senior Instructor, it would be obviously more suitable for this officer to have fairly Senior rank with several years of past experience, and I can forward the name of a suitable and I believe available Officer if required. Possibly one of the two British Infantry Officers who are coming here to complete the Instructional Staff, and who are on the way from England now, could fill the place of the Assistant Instructor. In this manner no extra expense would be incurred except the difference between Captain and Major's rank in the case of the Senior Instructor.

I am sure that this small Institution is earnestly needed, even if only temporarily, and if provisional sanction be given I could start the School at once, borrowing from my own Instructional Staff.

(Sgd.) R. P. WELLS, Major,

15th Hussars,  
Chief Instructor.

MOASCAR.  
10th January, 1918.



Z/82.

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

To : Rear-Admiral Commanding,  
Egypt and Red Sea.

---

Advanced General Headquarters,

21st January, 1918.

Sir,

It has been brought to my notice that, during the operations which took place on the XXIst Corps front on 21st, 22nd and 23rd December, 1917, the date on which naval co-operation was asked for by General Headquarters did not coincide with that asked for by XXIst Corps.

I much regret that you were wrongly informed of the date on which your co-operation was required. Fortunately, operations were not materially affected by this, and your valuable support on the morning of the 22nd greatly contributed to our success.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) E.H.H. ALLENBY.

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



General Officer Commanding,  
Desert Mounted Corps.  
-----

With reference to your G.525, dated 17th January, 1918, your proposal, to form a School for the training of young officers at KELAB is approved as a temporary measure.

Please state your exact requirements as regards accommodation as early as possible.

With reference to paragraph 4 of your letter, it is regretted that it is impossible to make any grant towards the starting of a Mess and Library.

The proposal set forth in paragraph 5 of your letter regarding the duration of the course, the number of pupils to be taken, and the attachment of a Squadron to the School, is concurred in.

Will you please forward a copy of the syllabus which you propose to carry out at the School.

(Sgd.) A. B. ROBERTSON,

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

G.H.Q., E.E.F.,  
29/1/18.



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

To : The Secretary,  
War Office, London, S.W.1.

---

General Headquarters,  
30th January, 1918.

Sir,

In reply to your A3/1046, of 28th November, 1917,  
I have the honour to report as follows:-

1. Wastage of S.A.A. caused by men throwing it away to lessen weight is not apparent in this force.
2. A percentage of loss is caused by -
  - (a) Press clip fastener on web equipment becoming unserviceable. The stud fits very lightly in the recess, and when sand or grit lodge in the latter, or when the stud gets out of shape, the flap cannot be fastened down and the S.A.A. falls out.
  - (b) Unsatisfactory nature of the leather pouch equipment. These pouches quickly lose their shape, becoming soft and gaping at the ends, thus allowing the ammunition to slip out.
  - (c) Failure to close the pouch after extracting a charger.
  - (d) Use of cotton bandoliers which tear easily and the ammunition falls out.

To minimise this loss I am employing the following methods -

- I Frequent inspections.
- II Systematic salvage.
- III Immediate repair of equipment.
- IV Training to close pouch immediately a charger is extracted.
- V The use of cotton bandoliers is forbidden, except on emergency.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) L. J. BOLS, Maj-Gen. C.G.S.  
for General,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.