

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/23

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

March 1918



AWM4-1/6/23

S E C R E T.

W A R D I A R Y.

G. S. Y. G. H. Q., E. E. F.

MARCH 1918.

WAR DIARY.

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

MARCH 1918

Birsalem.
Kilo.295.
March 1st.

1. OPERATIONS.

0850. XX Corps wire. Cavalry situation report. Enemy patrol were driven off from Khurbet es Sumrah (113.J.14) who proceeded up Beisan road.

2200. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Situation report. Situation unchanged. Patrol encounter as above. (E.A.915).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. G.241, G.A.488, OAM.161, OAM.162.

0400. Troopers London cable. 7th Divn. now under E.E.F. (53204 of 28th Feby).

0415. Troopers London cable. 18 pdr. reduced charges available - asked how many should be despatched. (53213 of 28th Feb).

1005. Cabled Troopers London. Asking if G.S.914 of Jan.29 had been received. (E.A.913).

1200. Wired Communications Kelab asking on what date they would extend to include Jerusalem. (OAM159).

Wrote G.O.C., Des.Mtd. Corps allotment of Squadron, R.F.C. (G.S.104/29).

Wrote G.O.C., 21st Corps approving as temporary measure during operations the allotment of 2 pack donkeys per Divn. for carrying Trench Wireless sets. (G.S.710).

Wrote Military Gov. Jerusalem re Guards. (G.S.946).

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding proposed War Establishments for O.E.T.A. (G.S.863/1).

March 2nd.

1. OPERATIONS.

0127. 21st Corps wire. Unusual movement at Lubban. (G.315).

0804. 20 Corps wire. Enemy mounted patrols attempted to advance west of Beisan road but were driven back. (G.603).

1108. 21st Corps wire. Shukbah occupied at dawn without opposition. (G.319).

1804. 21st Corps wire. An Algerian soldier came into our lines at Kibbiah stating that he escaped from Stamboul 15 months ago. (G.325).

1835. 20th Corps wire. 53rd Div. established posts M.13.c.7.7. M.13.B.8.4. M.14.A.8.4. ref.1/20,000 map. Large enemy mounted parties seen in Neby Saleh. (G.610).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. OAM.163.

0500. Troopers London cable despatching forthwith 12 How.

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- carriages and limbers with 36 wagons and limbers. 18
(53259.A.2.of 1/3/)
0830. Troopers London cable approval given to increase of W.E.
699/47. (53263.S.D.of 1st).
0845. Troopers cable W.E.,O.E.T.A. approved with exceptions
(53295.S.D.2.of 1st).
1000. Troopers London cable. Admiralty arranging to despatch
boats for Dead Sea. (53306 of 1st).
1939. G.O.C.,Aden. Wires can vacancies for Arty.Class Zeitoun
be allotted officers from Aden. (1827).
1945. Cabled Troopers London. Would like 50,000 rounds 18 pdr.
reduced charges (E.A.917)
2300. Troopers London cabled approving W.E., G.O.C.,F.in E.,
H.Q.,Delta and mainland Force and H.Q. Alexandria district.
(53344 S.D.2).
2355. Troopers London cabled approving W.E.,P.L.of C. submitted
with G.S.907 of 9/1/18. (66214 S.D.2).

March 3rd.

1.OPERATIONS.

0845. 20th Corps wire. 60th Div. reconnoitred crossings over
River Jordan yesterday from El Ghoraniyeh to Dead Sea.
Cavalry patrol reached to about 300 yards from El Henna
Ford and about 1 mile from El Ghoranyeh Bridge. (G.615)
1040. 20th Corps wire. 53rd Div.H.Q. now 099.U.12.C.51.(G.619)
1926. 20th Corps wire. 74th Div.have assumed command of front
hitherto allotted 53rd Div. (G.634).
2056. 20th Corps wire. 74th Div.H.Q. Ramallah. (G.632).
0935. 21st Corps wire. Enemy aeroplane landed near Wilhelma
Stn. Pilot and observer wounded. (G.330).
2245. Cabled Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report.
(E.A.921).

2.MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wire relating to moves. (O.A.M.165).

0430. Troopers London cable. Approving 4 Asst.E.S.O's graded
Staff Lieuts 1st Class asked for by cable E.A.909 of
28/2/18. (52343.S.D.2.of 2nd).
0700. Trooper London cable. No shipments of remounts can take
place until after completion of move of Indian Cavalry.
(53394.Q.M.G.4).
0700. Troopers London cabled. 4 San.Sects.will be despatched
when available. (53391.A.M.D.1).

Wrote G.O.C.20th Corps. Inspector of Ammunition was be-
ing sent to examine How. Ammunition of 10th Division.
(G.S.910/1 of 3rd).

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March 4th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0808. 20th Corps wire. 231st Bde. relieved by 31st Bde. (G.636)
0814. 20th Corps wire. Hill in M.6.D. occupied by 74th Div. (G.637)
1037. 20th Corps wire. Hill in M.6.D. reported occupied in error; enemy still holding. (G.642).
0716. 21st Corps wire. Considerable activity yesterday afternoon at Deir Bullut (G.341).
2300. Cabled Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report. No change in situation. The Australian Flying Corps carried out a bombing raid to-day on El Kutrani. On the railway line 2 direct hits were obtained and on the aerodrome 12. (E.A.924).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

2115. Cabled Chief, London. Changes in disposition. (E.A.922).
2250. Cabled Troopers London. Monthly railway report (E.A.923).
2300. Cabled Chief London. Strongly advising that Count Ballobar be allowed to proceed Cairo on leave and return Jerusalem when health restored. (E.A.925).
2145. Wired Military Governor Jerusalem. Egyptian Military Police are not to be employed in guarding Holy Shrines in Jerusalem. Necessary Moslem police will be found from Gwalior Battn. now attached to 20th Corps. (OAM.172).
0500. Troopers cabled. Regretted the 3 M.G. Sqdns cannot now be sent with Indian Cavalry, owing to urgent need for M.G. units in France. (53402 S.D.2).

Wrote General Staff, Hejaz Operations. Regarding transport and ordnance requirements. (Z/58/26/U).

Wrote Corps and other formations that it had been decided to withdraw all Small Box Respirators, less 10 per cent. (G.S.485/3)

Minutes of Conference held to discuss the re-organisation of 7th Division. (G.S.905/5).

March 5th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1855. 20th Corps wire. A patrol to Deir En Nidham C.23.A. at 0730 this morning killed 3 Turks and captured 1 officer and 2 O.R. All from 3rd Cavalry Div. (G.670).
2155. Cabled Troopers London. Evening report. (Repeated as usual) (E.A.927).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0920. Troopers London cabled that after consulting London Geological Society the Ministry of Munitions was most anxious to send out from home a well qualified expert with knowledge of geology and chemistry to examine occupied territory for essential salts and minerals. Requested my views. (53485)
1055. Cabled to Troopers London. Changes in organisation of 7th Div. contemplated. (E.A.926).
2207. Cabled Troopers London. That 2nd A.A.G. for O.E.T.A. asked for in E.A.806 was for inspection duties. Asked for

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special allowance for Military Governor Jerusalem of £100 per year for entertaining Missions etc. (E.A.928).

2300. Troopers London cabled. Concurring in proposal to number new Car Patrols 8 and 9. (53509).

Wrote Corps as to employment of bayonet fighting and physical training instructors. (G.S./1022).

Wrote rear-Admiral S.N.O. Egypt and Red Sea that it is not possible to supply a pivot mounting for the 4.7 inch Q.F.Mark IV gun at Femegusta, as no such mountings are available. (G.S.400).

Wrote Secretary, War Office asking for additions to establishments of Delta Force, Sollum Section, and H.Q.Alexandria Districts. (G.S.894).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, forwarding proposed establishment for a Motor Ambulance Transport Company. (G.S.1023).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, requesting that the addition of one motor cycle to the establishment of a horsed air-line section might be approved. (G.S.710).

Programme for H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught's visit to the Battlefield of Gaza, and inspection of troops at Ramleh. (G.S.1000).

March.6th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0814. 20th Corps wire. 53rd Divn.occupied N.16 central N.15.a. and N .14.b. without opposition and are remaining there. 31st Brigade relieved 231st Bde.on line .2665 (M.7.D.) Jufna Emir 16.A. at 2300. 30th Bde.relieved 31st Bde. on line G.6.D. .2665. (G.682).

0982. 20th Corps wire. Patrols towards Jordan established posts in 113.L.28.a. L.30.C. Patrol towards Ghoraniyeh drew rifle fire from 127.Q.7.c. and shell fire Mandesi 127.Q. 19. (G.683).

1836. 20th Corps wire. 60th Divn.report no Turks seen East of Jordan below 127 Q.27. 10th Divn.patrol entered Deir en Didham this morning unopposed but was sniped at from C.11.d during day, was also shelled by enemy gun from direction of Ker Ain A.24.c. on leaving village. (G.700).

1822. 21st Corps wire. Battle H.Q. 75th Div.opened at Kibbiah 1600 today. (G.362).

Wrote G.O.C.,R.A.F.,Middle East :- "Reliable information has been received that a dirigible airship of the Zeppelin type may shortly be expected to operate in the Eastern Mediterranean. In view of the possibility of attacks being made upon Alexandria, Port Said and the Suez Canal, will you please state what measures can be taken by you in co-operation with the Navy, to deal with any attacks that may be made" (G.S.104/32).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

1850. Cabled Troopers London. Sanction requested to substitute 1 Staff Sergt.A.V.C. for 1 of the Sergts.A.V.C. in establishments of Camel Transport Cos.and Donkey Transport Coys. (E.A.929).

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Wrote Secretary War Office forwarding revised statement of distribution of units on P.L.of C. and of Force in Egypt. (Z/84).

Wrote Secretary War Office regarding issue of training publications. (G.S.361).

Wrote Secretary War Office forwarding establishments showing the conversion of transport of certain units on to a wheeled basis. (G.S.873).

March 7th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1927. 20th Corps wire. Situation report. 60th Divn. report that the Ghoraniyeh Bridge on eastern side destroyed. Approach on eastern side also blown away, approach on western side intact. Length of bridge about 80 feet, width about 12 feet. Turkish post on east side of bridge. Patrol reports Mandesi ford passable for infantry without equipment, impassable for animals. Depth at ford 2 feet, breadth 70 yards, current 10 miles per hour. (G.722).

2155. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. On the 20th Corps front this morning, the 53rd and 74th Divns. advanced and occupied line as follows :- Kh. En. Nejme (113.S.24) Taiyibeh - Kh Kefh Ana - Yebrud - 099.M.9.a. Except at Nejme and Taiyibeh no opposition was met. On the 21st Corps front, 75th Divn. also with no opposition occupied line 099.C.14.a. - Kh Azzez - Kh el Beida. The enemy blew up Ghoraniyeh bridge last night. (E.A.934).

2. MOVES AND ORGANIZATION.

0640. Cable from Troopers London that orders had been given for despatch to Alexandria base of twelve 2.75 equipments with stores and saddlery for 3 batteries of four guns each. (53647)A.2.

0950. Cabled Chief India in reply to his 12532 dated 15/2/18 that no additional Deputy ^{Advocate} Judge/General was considered necessary at present. (GST.155).

1425. Cabled Troopers London asking for 2 extra Army Troops Coys.R.E. and 1 special Coy. for Waterwork which latter could be raised locally. Asked for approval of War Establishment of Water Coy. set out in cable. (E.A.932).

1845. Cabled Troopers London giving amendments required to Order of Battle. (E.A.933)

Wrote Secretary, War Office asking for increases of the Supply and Transport Directorate, W.E. Part XI, No. 867. (G.S.721).

March 8th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0812. 20th Corps wire. 230 Bde. relieved 231 Bde at 0300 from Junction with 10th Divn. to Kh. Kefr Ana exclusive. (G.725)

1852. 20th Corps wire. 29th Bde. reconnoitred neighbourhood Neby Saleh reaching high ground C.10.D. C.11.C. and C.11.D. finding no trace of enemy though our patrol sniped from long range. (g.742).

0739. 21st Corps wire. Situation unchanged. Operation yesterday met no opposition except little sniping from hills N.

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Abud and from El Diurah at patrol to Lubban. Usual addressed. (G.376)

1400. Wired to Hedghog, Cairo asking if withdrawal of Man-of-War from Akaba as suggested by Britannia is agreed to? (OAM.184)
2300. Wire from Hedghog Cairo concurs with proposal in OAM 184, subject to appointment of N.T.O. Akaba. (G.H.14).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves (OAM 182 and E.A.939).

1110. Cabled Troopers London asking for additional G.S.O.2. for G.S."I" (d). (E.A.935).
- 1450 Cabled Troopers London asking for a third Sound Ranging Section! (E.A.937).
1815. Cabled Troopers London asking when two observation sections, Field Survey Co. might be expected. (E.A.938).

Wrote Secretary, War Office asking for increase in establishment, Part XI, 699/54 (G.S.648).

Wrote Secy, War Office. Monthly Report on Coast Defences, Barrage, etc. (Z/76).

March 9th.

1. OPERATIONS.

2300. Cabled Chief London repeated as usual. Situation Evening Report. 2000. (E.A.944).
2300. Cabled Chief London repeated as usual, that 10th Divn. front is now as follows:- 099.M.7.d. - G.5c - C.18.a. - C.16.c. - C.26.d. - their left brigade having occupied high ground north of Deir en Nidham yesterday without opposition. (E.A.940).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM.185, OAM.188, OAM.189 BM.550).

0400. Troopers London cabled that 2000 Category "A" infantry notified in W.O. Letter 121/Draft/9424 of Jan.5th would not be sent. 2000 Category personnel "B" would be sent as soon as available. (53766.A.G.1).
0845. Troopers London cabled regretting that 2nd A.A.G. for O. E.T.A. could not be approved. (53799).
1225. Cabled Troopers London, requesting sanction for W.E. for Hejaz Operations based on Akaba, and W.E. for Akaba Base. (E.A.941).
1255. Cabled Troopers London that the selected Major-General O.E.T.A. Estabt. is urgently required. (E.A.942).

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding Establishment for Hejaz Operations based on Akaba and for Akaba Base (G.S.1001).

Wrote Secretary War Office forwarding revised Establishments of Motor Cars for G.H.Q. 1st Echelon and H.Q.

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Administration Services and Department, and requesting approval. (G.S./721).

Wrote Secretary, War Office asking that scale of N.C.Os. for a Field Survey Coy., R.E. enumerated in the letter, might be approved. (G.S./522).

Wrote G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps sanctioning as a local measure 1 camel per R.H.A. Bde. for Transport W/T sets and 2 donkeys per Bde for Wireless Operators. G.S.1004.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

1540. Cabled Chief London with reference to my E.A.897 of 25/2/18 enquiring whether the troops coming out to join the French contingent would be fit for fighting and complete in transport. (E.A.943).

March 10th.

1. OPERATIONS.

2330. Cabled Chief London repeated as usual. Evening
Situation/report
(E.A.953).

0940. Commandant Akaba cabled:- "There is no change. On 7th instant a very successful aeroplane attack on Maan was carried out, direct hits being scored on telegraph station engine sheds. 4 aeroplanes participated, and for the first time, Maan village was bombed. (664).

1220. Commandant Akaba cabled:- "Message as under from Sherif Feisal. Commences. Our army compelled to evacuate Tafila as result of enemy's attack with very strong forces. We have taken up defensive line at El Shobek. As soon as possible, attack South of Maan will be made. Concludes. (668).

2. MOVES AND ORGANIZATION.

0400. Chief London cabled asking what heavy artillery in this force could be given up. (53818)

0730. Troopers London cabled approving 1 G.S.O.2. as Chief Field Censor and 1 for Press Controller and propoganda. (53865-5)

1005. Cabled Britania Egypt that presence of Man-of-War Akaba could be dispensed with. (E.A./945).

1025. Cabled Chief London with reference to Russians in Jewish Battalion and asking for instructions as to what nationalities should remain with Jewish battalions and how I should dispose of others. (E.A.946).

1235. Cabled Troopers London repeated Britforce Salonika, that could let four batteries 6" Hows. coming from Mesopotamia proceed direct to Salonika, or could send 3 batteries now at Alexandria if preferred. (E.A.948).

1955. Cabled Troopers London for sanction to add 20 O.R., as German Interpreters to W.E. Part XI, No.871, Corps of Guides and Interpreters. (E.A.950).

2200. Chief London cabled it was impossible to transfer railway personnel or labour to this force from Mesopotamia. American Government have been communicated with as to formation of Railway Operating Companies. (53884).

2300. Chief London cabled that Foreign Office has been asked to

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inform French Government that the French Troops which they proposed to send could not be maintained in Palestine at present and requested them to defer their despatch. (53888).

March 11th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1818. 21st Corps wire. Enemy patrol seen at Ed Diukah. Enemy shelled Abud Road all morning till 1300. 54th Divn. advd. H.Q. opened Mulebbis. (G.414).

2315. Cabled Chief London repeated as usual. Situation, Evening report. The 53rd and 74th Divns. last night and throughout the day continued their advance reaching the line 113 Q.20.b. - 099.L.11.b. - L.10.b. - high ground south of Sinjil (J.33.central) - J.31.a. This line is now being consolidated. 10th Divn. advanced their line which now runs from left of 74th Divn. to Arbrein - 099.H.19.c.30. - Arura - thence as before. 5 machine guns and 2 Lewis guns have been captured by 74th Divn. and on one brigade front 76 enemy dead have been counted. Low clouds precluded aircraft co-operation. (E.A.955).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM.195 and OAM.200)

1230. Cabled Chief London, changes in dispositions. (E.A.954).

Wrote G.O.C., Force in Egypt, regarding administration of provinces of Sinai and of the Western Desert. (G.S.894).

March 12th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0823. 20th Corps wire. Situation 53rd Divn. occupied hill in Q.13.a. and b. and Kh. Abu Yelah during night. (G.817).

2020 20th Corps wire. 74th Divn. report considerable bodies of enemy seen about Kh. Amurieh (L.5.a.) and L.6.b. 10th Div. state enemy are holding ridge in H.22,23,24. (G.837).

0754. 21st Corps wire. Rents occupied at 0400, and by 0600 right of attack had reached El Tinany ridge 085.X.5.b.88 to V.34.b.88. Mejdal Yaba in flames.

1835. 21st Corps wire. 75th and 54th Divisions have now captured all objectives. Some opposition encountered at Sh Baraz ed Din 085.U.1.a. About 36 prisoners reported taken up to date. (G.I.235).

2247. 21st Corps wire. Counter attack on 085.V.13.b. at 1415 was repulsed and enemy driven ~~off~~ out from line of Sangras 500 yards north east. (G.424).

2300. Cabled Chief London, repeated as usual. Evening situation report. (E.A.958).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

1910. Wire relating to moves. (OAM.202).

1430. Cabled Troopers London stating that in addition to the 5 sections still due, 11 more A.A. sections are required to provide protection for Kantara, Port Said, Alexandria, and Cairo. (E.A.956).

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Cabled Chief London regarding proposed appointment Colonel Huggett as Controller of Treasury in Financial charge, O.E.T.A. (E.A.957).

March 13th.

1. OPERATIONS.

2202. 21st Corps wire. XXIst Cavalry report in touch with XXth Corps Cavalry and 10th Vivn. About 200 enemy holding Beit Rima. (G.442).

2220. Cabled Chief London, repeated as usual. Situation report. Day quiet on whole front, consolidated is satisfactorily proceeding. A counter-attack yesterday against our new positions west of Deir Ballut was repulsed and enemy were driven from line of sangars 500 yards N.W. of that place. Approximate captures reported between 9th and 12th - 17 officers 265 O.R. (not including wounded) 13 M.Gs., 3 automatic rifles and ammunition in large quantities. Information to hand that Tafila on March 12th was in Turkish occupation. (E.A.961).

0400. 2. Moves AND ORGANIZATION.

Troopers London cable approving grading of Staff Officers and Establishment for Hedjaz Operations based on Akaba.

0730. Troopers London cabled authorising despatch from India to Egypt of 2 Field Coys. Sappers, date of embarkation follows. (54053).

0935. Troopers London cable approves in general changes in organisation of 7th Div. (54086).

1130. Cabled Troopers London regarding the breaking up of 103rd Heavy Artillery Group. (E.A.960).

1530. Wingate Cairo wire regards recruiting of Jews unwise at present owing to danger from enemy subjects. (260).

Wrote Secretary War Office requests sanction for increases as shewn therein of Base Horse Transport Depot (War Establishment, Part XI, No. 699/175). (G.S.1039).

Wrote Secretary, War Office regarding arrangements made for the Administration of occupied enemy territory in Palestine. (G.S.865).

March 14th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1854. 21st Corps wire. At 0730, 800 Turks were seen in 084.N.19 moving east with 300 pack animals. They were seen at 0830 near Zawieh and at 0850 500 seen moving from Zawieh towards Rafat. (G.452).

2240. Cabled Chief London repeated as usual. Situation report. 60th Divn. this morning occd El Mussallabeh (113.W.34) and high ground in Y.10.a. 400 enemy dead were counted as a result of the engagements between 9th and 12th March. It is reported by Sherif Feisal that his forces are constructing a defensive line at El Shobek, to which place they have retired in good order.

1120. 2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Wire to Descorps and 20th Corps relating to moves. (OAM.210)

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- March 14th. 0400. Cable from Troopers London advises that an additional Sound Ranging Section will be sent to this force in May. (54107)
0710. Cable from Troopers London. Appointment of Col. Huggett as finance Official for Occupied Territory cannot be sanctioned. (54136)
0915. Chief Delhi cabled that it is intended to train Indian ranks to replace certain British personnel in Divisional Signal Coys, in order to conserve British man-power (20306).
1035. Cabled Troopers London asking for numbers allotted for R.F.A. Bdes formed for 7th (Indian) Division, (E.A.963).
1250. Cabled Troopers London, advising amendments to February Order of Battle. (E.A.964).
2230. Cabled Chief London urging appointment of Colonel Huggett re O.E.T.A. (E.A.965).
2250. Troopers London cable asks "Can you arrange to man 13-pdr 9 cwt. equipments from within your own resources?". (54187)

March 15th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0741. 21st Corps wire. At 1600 yesterday 20 Turks re-occupied Beit Rima. (G.456).
0805. 20th Corps wire. Situation unchanged. Quiet night. 60th. Divn. report patrols to El Ghoraniyeh shelled and at all fords lightly held by few enemy. Relief of 53rd Divn. less R.A. by 74th Divn. complete. Command passed to G.O.C. 74th Divn. at 2200 last night. (G.17)..
2200. Cabled Chief London, repeated as usual. Evening report. Situation unchanged. (E.A.969).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0400. Troopers London cable regarding the retention of 14 Supernumerary officers per Battalion. (54180. M.S.1)
0400. Troopers London cable regarding the provision of equipment and vehicles necessary for Canadian Railway Battalion. (54199 S.D.2).
0700. Troopers London cable asks whether three 6-in Hows: batteries can be spared for France. (54203).M.O.(2).
0700. Troopers London cable regarding reorganisation of M.Gz. Cos. into Battns. (54186 S.D.2.)
0730. Chief India cable advises that it is proposed to despatch to Egypt certain personnel of British Battalions in India as soon as shipping is available. (20637)
1840. Cabled Chief London asking whether reply can be given re erection of memorial. (GTS/182).
2345. Troopers cabled approving Estabt. of A.S.C. Officers additional to those shown in other W.Es. (67427 S.D.2).

Wrote G.O.C., 20th Corps regretting that formation of Divisional Convalescent Camps cannot be sanctioned. (Gs.1043)

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March 16th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1747. 21st Corps wire. Patrols sent to Beit Rima and Neby Saleh report both unoccupied. (G.464).
2000. Cabled Chief London repeated as usual. Evening report. Nothing to report tonight. (E.A.977).
1430. Akaba wire. From Joyce as follows:- Begins. A considerable increase in tents is shown by air reconnaissance of Maan on March 13th. They now number 105. There are also 6 large wooden huts and 13 small sheds north of Station, and others under construction. No movement of troops observed. Ends. (686)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0400. Chief Delhi cables that there is available for immediate despatch one Field Company. Owing to the disturbance on Baluchistan frontier, this is temporarily detained. (20953).
0400. Troopers London cabled sanction given for the reorganization of Heavy artillery Group H.Q. (54274.S.D.2).
0400. Troopers London cabled regarding despatch of 3 Batteries 6" Hows. now at Alexandria to Salonika and A.S.C.,M.T. unit to accompany. (54226).
0800. Troopers London cable approving proposal regarding Batteries Nos.387,392,394, and 396. (54272)
1005. Cabled Chief London requesting provision for a second A.A.G. to allow of an officer to be Inspector General and deputy of Chief Administrator. (E.A.970).
1140. Cabled Chief London respecting the pulling up of Babaa track and railway requirements to Haifa.
1255. Cabled Troopers London asking that numbers may be allotted re the 5 batteries of 4.5" Hows.to be formed locally. (E.A.973).
- Wires relating to moves. (260).
1610. Troopers London cabled that Capt.Burnham appointed Chief Field Censor. (54311.S.D.2).
1815. Cabled Troopers London repeated Chief India asking for urgent despatch of 2 Coys. Sappers. (E.A.967).
2140. Cabled Troopers London that the 1st Kashmir Rifles are unsuitable for employment in a Divn. and should be utilized to complete 20th Indian Infantry Bde, and asks which of the British battalions should be retained in this case. (E.A.975).
2145. Cabled Troopers London regarding the provision of S & T drivers for Indian infantry battalions and 6 Field Ambulances. (E.A.976).
2250. Wingate Cairo wired: "Message as under from F.O.commences My wire 327. At W.Os. request am asking French Government to defer sending reinforcements proposed, on account of difficulties existing in Palestine in the way of transport. Concludes".

Wrote G.O.C., 20th Indian Bde that Imperial Service Battns.

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March 16th.

should retain their M.G. section and should not be equipped with L.G's. (G.S.649)

Wrote Secy. War Office asking that the question of appointing a Camp Commandant for the Heliopolis Palace Hotel may be reconsidered. (G.S.104/12).

Wrote Secretary, War Office that the appointment of Inspector of Prisoners of War Camps is required and he & assistant should be added to Estabnt. of G.H.Q., 1st Echelon, under special appts. (War Estabts, Part XI. No 865) G.S. 916.

March 17th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0803. 20th Corps wire. Situation unchanged. 60th Divn. report small enemy cavalry patrol seen riding towards Ghoraniyeh bridge were dispersed by our fire. (G.39).

2110. Cabled Troopers repeated as usual, evening report. No change. E.A.998.

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 219 and OAM 220).

0400. Troopers London cabled: "Will shortly send you numbers for batteries. 3rd Arty Bde for 7th Indian Divn - No.53. (54349.A.G.6).

0745. Troopers London cabled regarding the employment of combatant battn. formed in Malta for L.of C. work - War Establishment 483 Part VII.

0900. Troopers London cabled that all telegrams are to be addressed "Troopers", at the commencement of the text of all operation telegrams "Operations" in cipher to be inserted. (54377).

1000. Troopers London cable. Amendments to telegram No. 34273, Para 7. (S.R.2).

1215. Cabled Troopers London. Requests sanction for a 6th Auxilliary H.T. Co, W.E. Part XI, 699/110. (E.A.978).

1230. Cabled Troopers London repeated India requesting ~~India~~ reinforcements for Bikaner Camel Corps. (E.A./979).

1845. Cabled Troopers London asks for summary of proposed establishment of Machine Gun Bn. (E.A./980)

1900. Cabled Troopers accepting 4 vacancies for Battery Commanders Course 31st March. (G.S.T./188)

1925. Cabled Troopers London. Requests sanction for addition to W.E. Part XI, No.867 H.Q. Admin. Services of A.D.A.S. to supervise signals of Palestine L.of C. (E.A.981).

2140. Troopers London cabled approval for Addition of 3 Offrs, graded as Staff Lieuts. 2nd Cl. to W.E.865. (54418).

March 18th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1749. 21st Corps wire. Patrols to Beit Rimas and Neby Salem report all clear. (G.476).

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March 18th. 2150. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Situation unchanged. During the last 3 days heavy rains have fallen.

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 224 and OAM 230).
(OAM.228).

0400. Troopers London cabled that owing to man-power situation sanction cannot be given for formation of 5th Aux.H.T. Coy. (54426).

0400. Troopers London cabled general policy to be followed regarding Jewish battalions and enlistments. (54424)

1120. Cabled Troopers London. Changes in dispositions.
(E.A.985)

March 19th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1832. 21st Corps wire. Hostile plane dropped bombs this morning near Mejdal Yaba and Deir Ballut and machine gunned out line west of Ballut. (G.483).

2235. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Time 2000. Operations. (E.A.991).

0700. 2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0700. Troopers London cabled that sanction cannot be granted for additional H.T. Co. (54486).

0830. Troopers London cable regarding proposed reduction of pistols for non fighting units and substitution of rifles, as pistols are urgently required for fighting units. (54487.S.D.2).

0950. Cabled Troopers London: "From every point of view I consider the employment of Malta Battalion in Palestine undesirable." (E.A.987).

1030. Cabled Troopers London asking that French troops should not be sent to this country unless they can be used in active operations and are fully equipped with horse and motor transport. (E.A.988)

1045. Cabled Troopers London. Sanction requested for employment of an additional Co. of Egyptian Sappers, to be raised and trained. (E.A.989)

1430. Cabled Troopers London regarding despatch of Batteries Nos.320,322 & 445,M.T.Cos.,A.S.C.,Nos.610,1031 and 1032. (E.A.990).

1720. Troopers London cabled: "On arrival of 3rd Indian Divn. what addl.hospital units will be required. (54488)

2334. Troopers London cable. Additions to Establishment of P.L.of C. cannot be approved. (67863 S.D.2).

Wrote G.O.C.,Force in Egypt regarding 221st,261st,262nd, and 264th M.G.Cos. now at Tel-el-Kebir. G.S.1049/2.

Wrote Secretary,War Office. Forwards Establishment for Salvage Section "X" Aircraft Depot for approval. G.S.104/

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March 20th.

1 OPERATIONS.

1838. 20th Corps wire. Situation report. Relief of 181 by 160 Bde. complete. (G.89).
1810. 21st Corps wire. 0805 to 0830 two hostile planes dropped bombs and machine gunned our troops vicinity Kh Dikerin and Kejr Insha. (G.491).
2235. Cabled Troopers repeated as usual. 9 p.m. Operations Situation unchanged. (E.A.998).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM.234)

0400. Troopers London cabled approving A.D.A.S. for Signals Palestine L.of C. (54522.S.D.2).
0400. Troopers London cabled: "Approve the increase in establishment School of Instruction, Zeitoun, but you must provide locally all officers and other ranks. (54523.SD.2)
0400. Troopers London cabled regarding W.E.699/131 Remounts Squadron and Establishment of Field Camel Section Sqn, approved. (54514 S.D.2).
0400. Troopers London cabled numbers of 5 Batteries 4.5" Hows. 438,439,440,441,& 442. (54515 A.G.6).
0700. Air Ministry London cabled: The following will not be despatched for service in Salonika but retained for service with you :- Flight of No.144 Squadron. (22.0.1.).
0835. Troopers London cabled regarding policy to be followed respecting additions to W.Es., with a view to economy in personnel. (54531)
0920. Troopers London cable forwards particulars required for Estabtn.of M.G.Battn.H.Q. (54569.S.D.2).
1025. Cabled Troopers London. Requests sanction for increase of staff of Force in Egypt so that Administration of Delta district may be carried out in F.in E.direct. (E.A.992).
2120. Cabled Troopers London. Recommends release of Russian Jews in 38th Bn.R.F.who desire dismissal owing to Russian peace. (E.A.996).

2. MOVES AND ORGANIZATION.

Wrote Secretary, War Office. Asks that Establishment may be allowed for a By-product Factory at Kantara to deal with waste, fat, bones etc. (G.S.1056)

Wrote French Military Attache. Proposal to create a separate line of communication between Port Said and Jaffa not feasible at the present time. (G.S.792).

March 21st.

1. OPERATIONS.

2120. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual, evening report. Sheikh Kauwash and Deir Gussaneh occupied by 75th Divn. without opposition. An airship was sighted 3 miles north

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of Port Said at 0500 today, and at 1000 was reported moving west by Papho, Cyprus. (E.A.1002).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 236 and OAM 239)

0510. Troopers London cabled: In East Africa, the 1st Kashmir Rifles did very well. They should be used in replacement of Battalion of British Troops. (54603).
0845. Troopers London cable. Approves additions to Labour Directorate of Deputy Asst Director graded and D.A.Q.M.G. (54651 S.D.2).
1000. Troopers London cable regarding additional French troops which have been despatched for service in Palestine. (54632).
1050. Wired Britannia Ismailia regarding conference to discuss future operations at 21st Corps H.Q. Jaffa, and suggested that a representative of the Royal Navy be present. (E.A.999).
1600. Wired Troopers London advising that Col. Huggett has been directed to take over the duties of Financial Controller of O.E.T.A., temporarily. (E.A.1000).
1635. Cabled Perardua, Cairo regarding aircraft defence for Port Said Alexandria and other places. (OAM.240).
1735. Cabled Britannia Ismailia regarding anti-aircraft arrangements for Port Said and other places. (E.A.1001).
2240. Cabled Troopers London. Amendments to Order of Battle. (E.A.1003).
Wrote Financial Advisor G.H.Q., forwarding copy of Cable E.A.1000 addressed to W.O. regarding appointment of Col. Huggett as Financial Controller O.E.T.A., temporarily. (G.S.865/1).

March 22nd.

1. OPERATIONS.

2300. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1004)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0510. Troopers London cabled: May I cancel P.H. helmets outstanding due to you? (54675 M.M.G.7)
0845. Troopers London cable regarding Malta Battalion. It is essential for political reasons that battalion shall go to Egypt as a combatant batt. It can, however, be used for labour purposes on arrival. (54700).
1100. Troopers London cables approval of re-arrangement for Delta Force Administration to be performed by H.Q. Force in Egypt. (54729 S.D.2).

Wrote G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps authorising issue of ground signal sheets, as prescribed for infantry, to the Bde. & Regimental Headquarters under Corps command. (G.S.787/A.).

Wrote G.O.C., 21st Corps forwarding device for enabling Night Firing to be carried out with Lewis Guns, and asking for report on its practical use. (G.S.195/12)

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Wrote Inspector, Palestine L.of C. regarding cases of hostile acts by natives in enemy occd territory. (G.S.1044)

Wrote Formations concerned regarding the shortage of pistols and asks what reductions can be made by units. (G.S.1033).
Force Order No.61 by Commander-in-Chief. (Copy No.42).

March 23rd.

1. OPERATIONS.

2400. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1008).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0440. Troopers London cable, regarding pulling up Dabaa line and other railway arrangements. 54759.M.R.2 A/437.

0548. Troopers London cable approves rank of Brig.-Gen: for Administrative Commandant, Kantara. 68408.S.D.2.

0700. Troopers London cable approves proposal for additional company Egyptian Sappers. (54771)

0705. Troopers London cable asks for approximate allotment of Infantry Units in Mixed Divns. (54776)

0720. Troopers London cable sanctions proposed formation of No. 16 (Egypt) Mobile Repair Unit. (54770).

0845. Chief India cable regarding reorganisation of 2.75" Batteries from India. (22950).

1000. Troopers London cable regarding despatch of reinforcements for French Palestine Detachment. (54789.M.O.2.).

1010. Troopers London cable. Nos, 123 and 124 Sanitary Sections and 38 Mobile Laboratory will be sent from England. Nos.1 and 75 Sanitary Sections and No.14 Mobile Laboratory are not now available from Italy.

1155. Cabled Britforce, Salonika; "As batteries from Mesopotamia are accompanied by a R.G.A. group headquarters, shall have one group surplus to my requirements. Are you in need of same.? (E.A.1005)

1400. Cabled Troopers London regarding P.H.Helmets due. Please cancel. (E.A.1006).

Wrote Secretary, War. Office forwarding Etabt; for the Office of the Officer i/c Railway Transport, Cairo. (G.S.1058).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, forwarding Amendment to the Note to W.E., Part XI, No.699/148, page 362. (G.S.472/1).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, Submits proposals and establishments for the reorganisation of the Signal Service on the Line of Communication East of the Canal. (G.S.1059).

March 24th.

1. OPERATIONS.

1945. Hedghog Cairo wire. Reported by Lawrence that Sherif Zeid with a view to isolating Kerak is shortly proceeding with Beni Sakr to descend Madeba area from east of railway. Major Maynard as liaison officer is accompanying Zeid. (G.154)

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March 24th. 2300. Cabled Troopers repeated as usual. Evening report.
(E.A.1015).

0700. 2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Britforce Salonika cable accepts offer R.G.A. Group H.Q.
(G.C.551).

0950. Cabled communications Ramleh. Following received from Britannia begins:- It is reported by transport that large number lights Jaffa visible at least 7 miles to seaward. To reduce chance of torpedo attack at night upon vessels in roads request that steps be taken to darken town. Ends. Will you please issue necessary instructions to ensure this. (OAM.247).

1000. Troopers London cable approves proposals for W.E. Hospitals for P.of W. (54874 S.D.2).

1030. Cabled Troopers London regarding the despatch of a complete brigade or complete division of fighting men if French can send them. (E.A.1009).

1040. Troopers London cable regarding the despatch of ammunition park and supply column with cavalry division, and one petrol company. (54879.Q.M.G.3).

1045. Cabled Formations concerned that no one will be allowed to proceed east of Jerusalem without permission being received from G.H.Q. (OAM.248).

1045. Cabled formations concerned that Jerusalem will be included in P.L.of C. area from 12 noon to-day. (OAM.219).

1155. Cabled Troopers London asking authority for formation of 2 additional Auxiliary H.T.Cos. (E.A.1010).

1620. Cabled 20th Corps that Motor Boat "Wendy" placed under your command during operations. (OAM.250).

1855. Cabled Troopers London repeated Britforce, Salonika regarding despatch of 61st Group H.Q. to Salonika, to be replaced by the Group H.Q. coming from Mesopotamia. (E.A.1012)

2330. Troopers London cabled that sanction cannot be given for entertainment allowance for Military Governor of Jerusalem. (54916).

March 25th.

1. OPERATIONS.

2300. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. At 2000 the 60th Divn advancing along the Shunet Nimran - es Salt road in touch with 1st A.L.H. Bde on the left and with N.Z.M.R.Bde. on the right were in touch with the enemy at 127 L.9. 2 miles south of Es Salt (village of Es Salt is not as shown on the 1 inch map but in J.28.c) Naaur has been reached by 2nd A.L.H. Bde. who are advancing on Amman. Up to the time of latest report, enemy are retiring and offering little resistance. Aerial co-operation has been prevented by heavy thunderstorms and mist which has also rendered progress difficult. (E.A.1019).

0730. Hedghog Cairo wire. On 18/3/18 Tafife having been evacuated by the enemy was re-occupied by Sherif Zeid's cavalry. Otherwise situation remains unchanged. Ends. (G.H.157/41)

2145. Hedghog, Cairo wire. Message from King to Ali as follows:

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Begins. On March 19th our troops returned having destroyed 2690 rails between Melil and Buwat. I hope to carry out another attack soon. No casualties(?) to report in the meantime. (G.H.160/44)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 254, G.153, G.154, G.155, OAM.257, OAM.259 and OAM.262).

0420. Troopers London cable asks proposed rank of officer re special Water Co. (54928.S.D.2).
0430. Troopers London cabled that owing to present situation in France, Canadian Railway Battalion under orders for Egypt must be retained in France. (54920).
0450. Troopers London cabled regarding disposal of No.1007 M.T. Co, and approval given for proposed disposal of 30-cwt lorries. Cable Nos.of Sections to which allotted. (54922 Q.M.G.3).
1440. Cabled Troopers London. Changes in dispositions (E.A.1017)
2110. Cabled Troopers London regarding proposed ranks of Mech. Engineer Officers with Special Water Company. (E.A.1018).
2230. Troopers London cable regarding erection of memorial after the War. (54964)

Wrote V.G.O.C., 20th Indian Infantry Bde regarding issues of further Barr and Stroud Instrument to 3 Imperial Service Battns and 2 Grenadier Battns. (G.S.1040).

Wrote Secy, War Office forwarding provisional W.Es. for an Advanced Ammunition Railhead, Egypt, and a small Ammunition Depot on Lines of Communication, Egypt. (G.S.964).

Wrote Secy, War Office forwarding detailed scheme for the reorganisation of the 7th (Meerut) Division. (G.S.905/5)

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding a further revised establishment of A.S.C. officers employed with the E.E.F. on duties which are not included in War Establishments of existing formations or units. (G.S.467).

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding proposed new W.E. Ordnance Base Headquarters, Alexandria, (Part XI, No.699/151) (G.S.472/4).

March 26th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0958. 20th Corps wire. Situation report. 60th Divn report Es Salt was occupied by 179th Bde. last night. At 0315 N.Z. M.R. Bde were reported as holding outpost line 142.T.14.b. T.14.c. R.32 and in touch with 2nd L.H. Bde. on ~~their~~ right near Naaur. (G.166).
2220. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. 60th Division occupied Es Salt last night. Two Bdes of Anzac Divn. were moving on Amman this morning at 0900 from the direction of Kurs (142.T.9) with the Imperial Camel ~~Corp~~ Bde. on their right at Deir Ghabar. No further report of their progress is to hand. 2 Officers and 66 O.R. were captured during yesterday's fighting, 6 of whom were

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Germans from the 703rd Regt. 1 Field gun and a quantity of ammunition also. One of our aeroplanes while observing for artillery was attacked by an enemy two-seater machine which he saw crash after driving it down. (EA.1027)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 265, OAM 266, OAM 269. Z/58/26T).

0500. Troopers London cabled that 1000 H.T.drivers A.S.C.under orders for you will not now be sent, in view of urgent demands from other theatres. (54971.A.G.1)
0700. Troopers London cable. Approval given re proposal to send 61st Group H.Q. to Salonika and replace by Group H.Q. coming from Mesopotamia. (54994).
1010. General Baghdad cable giving Order of Battle of 3rd Division. (X.7478).
1600. Cabled Troopers London asking by what Appointments and Ranks the M.G.C. will be represented in this country, at G.H.Q. and at H.Q. of Corps & Divn, also whether any change is contemplated in the organisation of M.G.Squadrons. (E.A.1021).
1800. Troopers London cable regarding Mr Huggett's temporary duties as Financial Controller, and despatch of Major Salkeld on March 25th.
1940. Cabled Troopers London giving establishment of chaplains required for combined Heavy Artillery Groups of a Corps, viz:- 1 for Non-conformist & other denominations, 1 R.C., 1.C.of E. (E.A.1022).
1950. Cabled Troopers London regarding Field Remount Sections or Depots which are required to be kept up to strength. (E.A.1023).
2140. Cabled Troopers London regarding the training of Cadets at Zeitoun. (E.A.1026)

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwards a statement shewing the existing establishment of the South African Artillery in this Force. (G.S.995/1).

Wrote Secretary, War Office reporting a large percentage of "blinds" during preliminary practice with the 6-inch Trench Mortars. (G.S.910/2).

March 27th.

1. OPERATIONS.

2300. Cabled Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report (E.A.1028).
1733. Hedghog Cairo cabled: "Every effort is being made in view of latest developments to hasten vigorous action by Barreid on lines which my G.H. 154 24/3/18 indicates. (G.H.181).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0606. Troopers London cabled that 4 vacancies for Battery Commanders Course available in 19th Field Course. Course assembles 7th April instead of March 31st. (68671 S.D.4)

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- March 27th. 0647. Troopers London cable regarding formation of Air Force, April 1st. (68666 C.1).
0700. Troopers London cable re - proposed expansion of 4 Aux. H.T. Cos. to six + matter is being considered. (55054).
0700. Troopers London cable. Following are titles of signal units:- A.C. Corps Signal Co, D.H. and D.J. Cable Sections, 103 Airline Section. (55065.A.G.7).
0715. Troopers London cable. Decided that all Russians called up under the Convention serving in the British Army are bound by their enlistment and that none of these men shall be released from serving. (55047).
0845. Troopers London cable regarding 2.75 Batteries from India. Subaltern officers will be supplied from home. Animals to be supplied by this Force. (55069)
2230. Troopers London cable. Requests no action to be taken on W.O. telegram 55070 March 26th, pending further instructions. (55128).

March 28th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0753. 21st Corps wire. 54th Divn. have now occupied Kh.Umm El Bureid (M.21.b.) slight opposition. (G.569).
2315. Cabled Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1031)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0630. Troopers London cabled that owing to man-power situation, sanction cannot be given to increase in establishment of 103rd Coy., R.G.A. (55142.S.D.2).
0705. Troopers London cable regarding employment for labour purposes of Russian Jews in 38th R.F. who, if any, are suitable for a fighting unit. (55150.C.B.1.).
1500. Cabled Troopers London repeated Brit force, Salonika, that Heavy Arty Group is on W.E. Part XI, No.916; no signallers in this. (E.A.1030).
2315. Troopers London cabled that proposed expansion of four Aux. H.T.Coys. to six, cannot be sanctioned. (55205.S.D.2).

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding detailed establishment and schedule regarding the conversion of four A.H.T., A.S.C. Cos. into six, all increases to be found locally. (G.S.986).

March 29th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0400. Wingate Cairo wire. Hedjaz Operations. A successful raid in which 15 Turks were killed and 3 captured was carried out by Arabs on enemy post at Abunaam south of Hedia. (G.H.192).
2255. Cabled Troopers repeated as usual. Evening report. No change west of Jordan. East of Jordan there is no material change in the situation. Enemy in Amman twice attacked our troops who are almost surrounding the town, but the attacks were driven back. 5 miles of railway track south of Amman Station have now been destroyed. We destroyed an enemy

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aeroplane which landed near the railway line. (E.A.10 34)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0700. Troopers London cable asks what additional hospital units will be required on arrival of 3rd (Indian) Divn. (55248)

1155. Cabled Troopers London regarding Hospital for P.of W. Kantara. A corresponding reduction is being made in 36th Stationary Hospital British R.A.M.C.Staff. (E.A.1029)

Wrote Inspector, Palestine Lines of Communication and Senior Military Officer, Egyptian Army regarding latter's visit to E.A. Units now with E.E.F. about 5th April. (G.S.538/2)

Wrote Military Administrator, Frontier Districts Administration regarding transfer of Arab Scouts in the E.E.F. to F.D.A. (G.S.661).

March 30th.

1. OPERATIONS.

2350. Cabled Troopers repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1039).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 288, OAM 287, OAM 290, OAM 289, OAM 292, OAM 291, OAM 293, OAM 295, OAM 298, OAM 297, OAM 299, G.241).

0710. Troopers London cable. A Lieut-Col, M.G.C. will be with G.H.Q., One G.S.O.2 with Corps H.Q.; and the Lieut-Col Commanding M.G. Battn will be with Divn, and act as technical adviser to Divl.Commander as required. (55336).

1150. Cabled Troopers London. Amendments to Order of Battle. (E.A.1036).

1745. Cabled Troopers London that personnel for 12 Hows. will be sent with 52nd Divn. (E.A.1037).

2240. Troopers London cable repeats portion of Troopers cable 55304 asked for. (55412.C.2).

Wrote G.O.C. Force in Egypt forwarding establishment of Staff of the Force in Egypt which will come into force when the abolition of Delta Force takes place. (G.S.894).

March 31st.

1. OPERATIONS.

2215. Cabled Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report Nothing to report West of Jordan. East of Jordan withdrawal to Es Salt is being carried out without interference by the enemy. (E.A.1042).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

1010. Daily wires relating to moves. (OAM 301, GA.692, G.602, OAM.304)

1150. Troopers London cable regarding move of 74th Div.to France. (55426).

1130. Troopers London cable regarding transport accommodation for conveyance of 52nd Div.to France. (55420.S.R.1.A.).

1045. Troopers London cabled that no labourers will now be sent to Egypt for railway construction. (55399.S.D.2).

Bir Salem.

Kilo 295.

March 31st. 2145. Cabled Troopers London requesting sanction for immediate additions to establt. of Indian 3rd Echelon owing to increased number of Indian troops and reinforcements in this theatre. (E.A.1041).

Wrote G.O.C., Force in Egypt approving issue of 2 Lewis Guns to the Garrison Battalion, Sollum Section. (G.S.1062).

Wrote Training Schools, Zeitoun, El Arish and Heliopolis that all Instructors and students belonging to 52nd Divn. and 5th Royal Irish Regt, should be held in readiness to proceed to Alexandria at short notice. (Z/86).

General Officer Commanding,
Desert Mounted Corps.

With reference to your G.588 dated 24/2/18, it is regretted that the present situation does not permit of a Squadron being earmarked for duty with the Corps under your command during the forthcoming operations, or of a Flight being permanently withdrawn for training purposes.

It is proposed, however, to select certain pilots and observers from the Squadron working with the XXth Corps, to work with the mounted troops taking part in the operations about to take place on the XXth Corps front. These selected pilots and observers will carry out a short course of instruction in contact work with the mounted troops taking part in these operations, and the General Officer Commanding, Palestine Brigade, Royal Flying Corps, has been asked to arrange details with you direct.

It is suggested that each pilot and observer should spend a few days with the mounted troops concerned during the periods of training.

(Signed) A. B. ROBERTSON,

B.G. G.S.
for Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff.
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.,
1/3/18.

G.O.C., 7th Division.
G.O.C., XXth Corps.
G.O.C., XXIst Corps.
G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps.
Inspector, Palestine L. of C.
G.O.C., Imperial Camel Brigade.
G.O.C., 20th Indian Infantry Brigade.
G.O.C., Force in Egypt.

It has been decided to withdraw all Small Box Respirators, less 10 per cent., now held by units, and store them at LUDD. This will be carried into effect under arrangements to be made by the A.O.D.

The 10 per cent of Small Box Respirators to be retained by units will be used for training purposes, and will, at the commencement of active operations, be stored at dumps under a N.C.O. from the Gas Directorate.

The Small Box Respirators used for training purposes, which require disinfecting, should be immersed in a 3% solution of Cresol for five minutes and then rinsed with water.

In future, drafts leaving Base Depots for the line will not be equipped with Small Box Respirators.

(Sgd) J. GURDON Captain G.S.,
for Major General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.,
4/3/18.

From : Troopers, LONDON.

To) Chief Egyptforce.

54632 cipher.

21/3/18.
21/3/18.

Depd. 0005
Recd. 1000.

Your E.A.988 March 19th.

Both Foreign Office and ourselves have made the strongest representations to prevent the sailing of French troops until you are ready to receive them. Regret however that these have not been wholly successful, and that troops you mention have left already.

The following telegram has been despatched to-day to General FOCH. Begins. For some months to come there is no possibility of utilizing additional French troops in PALESTINE, whilst a Division from MESOPOTAMIA is under orders for EGYPT, and a considerable number of Indian cavalry and infantry regiments are en route for reconstitution of General ALLENBY's force. You will understand that ALLENBY's difficulties will only be increased by the addition at present of troops which cannot be used on the front, and he asks that they should not be sent. Later on he will be glad of the extra troops, provided that they are of good fighting value and fully equipped with mechanical and horse transport, which please ensure. As soon as ALLENBY can take them you will be informed and request that you will stop further shipments in the meantime. I am also sending ALLENBY a list of troops which you propose sending to ascertain whether the composition of units is suitable to requirements of PALESTINE front. Ends.

With regard to last sentence, following are troops in question :-

Already en route.

- 1 Ammunition Column
- 1 Machine Gun Company.
- 1 Infantry Battalion
- 1 Detachment of cavalry

Following to proceed at a later date :-

- Staff
- 1 Mountain Battery
- 1 Machine Gun Company
- 1 Infantry Regiment
- 2 Sections M.T.
- 1 Trench mortar battery
- 1 detachment Flying Corps
- 1 Squadron of SPAHIS from BIZERTA
- Units to re-organise battery at PORT SAID
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -Company Machine Guns.

I have been informed that at any rate a proportion of these troops are of real fighting value.

I intend to object to the detachment of flying Corps, $\frac{1}{2}$ machine gun company, cavalry squadron, and the T.M. Battery, but your remarks would be welcome.

F O R C E O R D E R N O . 6 1 .

by

GENERAL SIR EDMUND ALLENBY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

General Headquarters,
22nd March, 1918.

1. The formation of a new Army Corps, to be incorporated in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, has been sanctioned by War Office.

(Authority : War Office telegram No. 54273 of
15/3/18).

This Corps will be known as the XXIV Army Corps.

(Authority : War Office telegram No. 54490 dated
18/3/18).

2. The Light Armoured Car Brigade was transferred from the Desert Mounted Corps to General Headquarters Troops with effect from 12/3/18.

(Sgd.) A. B. ROBERTSON,
B.G.G.S.

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