

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/1 Part 4

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

April 1916



AWM4-1/6/1PART4

1/61

W.P.

Appx B

From:- TROOPERS.

To:- INFANTRY.

15194.cipher.

7/4/16
8/4/16

Despd. 2045
Recd. 0830
Dec'd. 0830

What is the final arrangement in regard to provision
artillery personnel for 3rd Australian Division? Is it
the case that Australia is sending personnel for three
brigades 18-pounders, 4 batteries each, and that you
are finding personnel for one brigade 3 batteries.
Who is supplying personnel for Divisional Ammunition
Columns?

Copies to O for action.

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

Filed G.S. 115.
G.S. Cables.



WD

SECRET



Appx C.

From:- G.H.Q.

To:- General Horne, 15th Army Corps.

O. 749.

8/4/16.

Desp. 1520.

Under instructions from War Office you and your personal Staff will proceed to FRANCE as early as possible. No information as to your appointment.

You will hand over to Major-General Lawrence the Command of your Section.

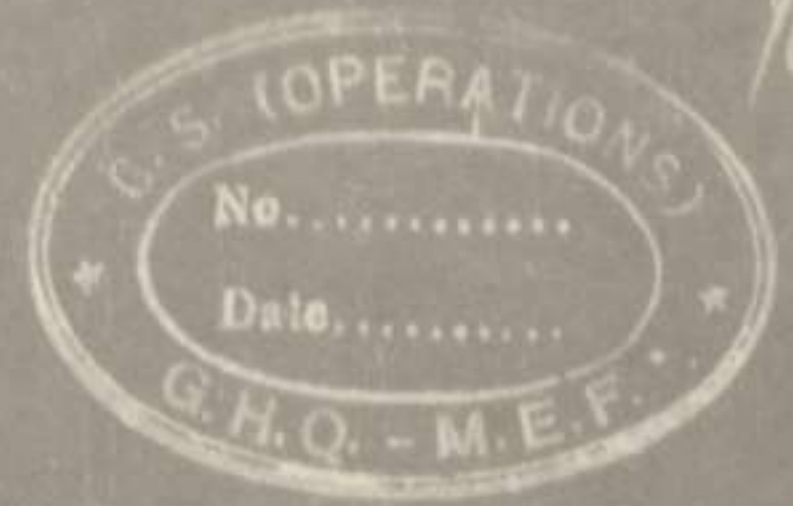
The 11th Division will be brought into reserve under G.H.Q. Further instructions on this point will follow. 52nd Division will take over from that Division.

Report when you have made all arrangements. Commander-in-Chief would like to see you next Wednesday morning, at ISMAILIA.

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

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

W.D.



Approved

From:- Chief, Egyptforce.

To:- Chief, London.

A.M. 577.

8/4/16.

Desp. 1805.

I have 18 batteries of Stokes guns. I have a high opinion of this weapon and do not like to see them lying idle. I should like to keep six batteries for any special emergency which may arise, and for training, and can place the rest at your disposal for FRANCE or MESOPOTAMIA as you may direct. 14,748 rounds of ammunition available.

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

Filed G.S. 5.
" G.S. Cables.

210
SECRET



From Chief, Egyptforce.

To Chief, London.

A.M. 378.

8/4/16.

Deep. 3000.

Evening Report.

A road has been smoothed for the passage of camels through sand dunes between BAYUD and ZAGADAN. Thence it is constructed to HASSANA via BIR MAGHARA and BIR HAMMA. What appears from photographs to be an aerodrome has been prepared and levelled in vicinity of BIR HAMMA. Further air reconnaissances to verify these points are being made.

Copies to :-

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

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

1/65

W.D.

SECRET

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

From. Eypforce.
 To. Troopers.

Ampr F.

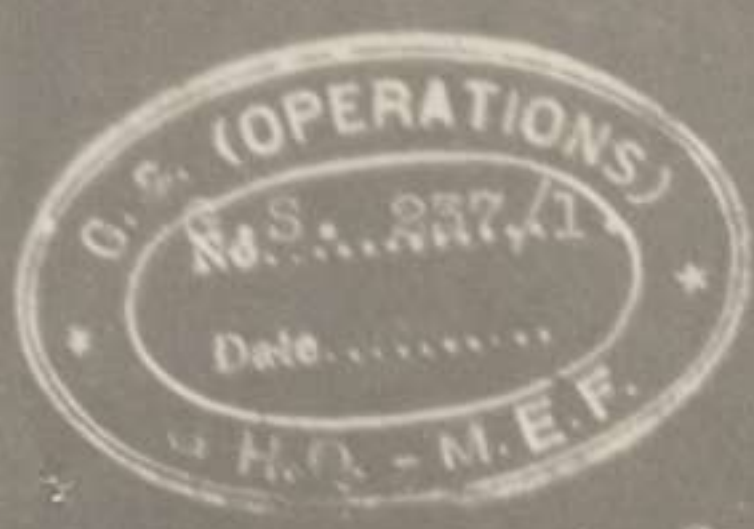
A.M. 379 8/4/18. Despd. 2125.

Am forming Six more companies of Imperial Camel Corps making total of ten companies as I consider this absolutely essential for proper protection and patrolling. This involves no additional purchase of camels as sufficient riding camels have been found among remnants of Camel Transport Corps. One Corps headquarters will be sufficient but in view of above expansion consider essential to give Adjutant temporary rank of Captain.

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

Filed G.S. 212.
 " G.S. Cables.

1/66



Mpt+J

General Officer Commanding,
Western Frontier Force,

In order to facilitate the training of the Howitzer personnel of the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, it has been decided that two sections of 4.5" Howitzer equipment shall be taken over temporarily by 2nd A. & N. Z. Army Corps, from the 53rd Division.

General Officer Commanding, 2nd A. & N. Z. Army Corps has been instructed to make the necessary arrangements with 53rd Division direct, and to send a party to take over this equipment at BENI SALAMA Camp.

(Sd) G.P. Dawnay, Lt-Colonel,
G.S.

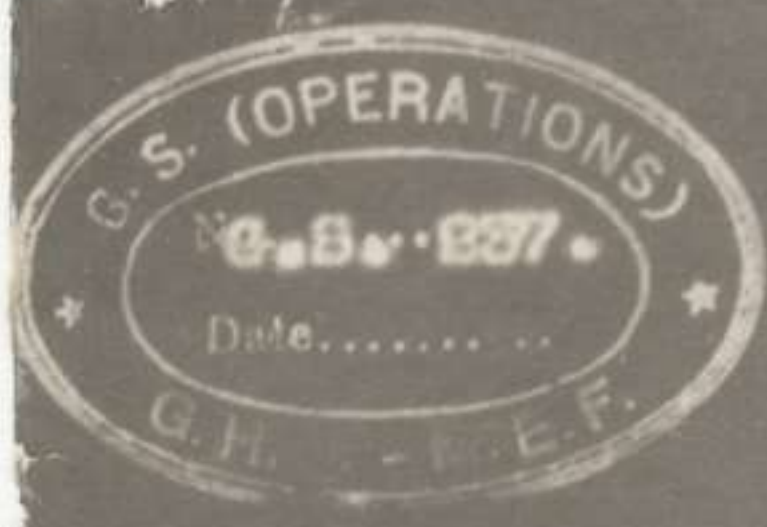
for

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

G.H.Q.

8/4/16.

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



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

In order to facilitate the training of the personnel of the Howitzer Brigades of the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, it has been decided that two sections of 4.5" Howitzer equipment shall be taken over temporarily from the 53rd Division. One section will be attached to each of the Australian Divisions, thus allowing of each battery having a section for drill purposes.

Please make the necessary arrangements with the 53rd Division direct, and send a party to take over this equipment at BENI SALAMA Camp.

(sd) E.P. Rawney
Lt. Col. G.S.

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

G.H.Q.
8.4.16.

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

SECRET

1/68

Appx K

G.O. 2,44/1.

B.
B.

General Officer Commanding,

9th Army Corps.
2nd. A. & N. Z. Army Corps.
~~15th Army Corps~~

In supersession of previous orders contained in G.O. 135 of 27th January, 1918, and subsequent correspondence regarding the submission of weekly progress reports, the following orders should be substituted :-

A report will be sent to reach G.H.Q. not later than Sunday evening giving the following information -

- (a) Detailed distribution of troops in your section.
- (b) Detailed statement of progress made in the provision of hutting for the troops. This report should state the number of huts of each description, e.g. Dining huts, Recreation huts, Cooking Shelters, Horse Shelters, etc., completed and in progress to date.
- (c) Any remarks considered desirable on the progress of work on railways, roads, water supply, etc., in the section.

B. The usual tracing showing the progress on defence works etc., will be submitted.

(sd) G. S. Dawson
for H. B. C. [initials]

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

G.H.Q.
8.4.18.

Copies to :- E-in-C.
Q.

W.D.
G.S. Z/43.

1/69
SECRET

Ampt L.
General Officer Commanding,
Western Frontier Force.

With reference to my G.S. Z/43 of April 5th.,
3rd paragraph, 2nd line should read :-

" involving a flight of over 100 miles out is
"to be treated as an Army reconnaissance" etc.

The restriction is of course intended to apply
only to long distance reconnaissances - the word "out"
having been omitted through a clerical error.

(sd) D.K. Bernard
Capt

G.H.Q.
E.E.F.
4.16.

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

SECRET



WD

From. Troopers. *Ampt A.*
To. Egyptforce.

15230 Cipher.

8/4/16.
9/4/16.

Despd. 1815.
Recd. 0610.
Deod. 0630.

Army in France is still short field companies which are urgently required. I shall be very glad if you can now spare RENFREW and EDINBURGH Companies. If so please say when they can be sent.

Copies to :--

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

Filed. G.S. Z/48.
" G.S. Cables.

SECRET

1/71

From Egyptforce.
To War Office.

A.M. 831. 9/4/18. Despatch 1138.

Your 18330 cipher.
I will send Harrow and Edinburgh Companies
immediately shipping is available.

Copies to :-
O.
O.(D)
G.-in-C.
C.S.S.
E.-in-C.
A.
Q.
Filed C.S. 2/48.
" C.S. Cables.



SECRET



From- G.H.Q.

To- 9th. Army Corps.

OA. 265.

9/4/16.

Desp. 1140.

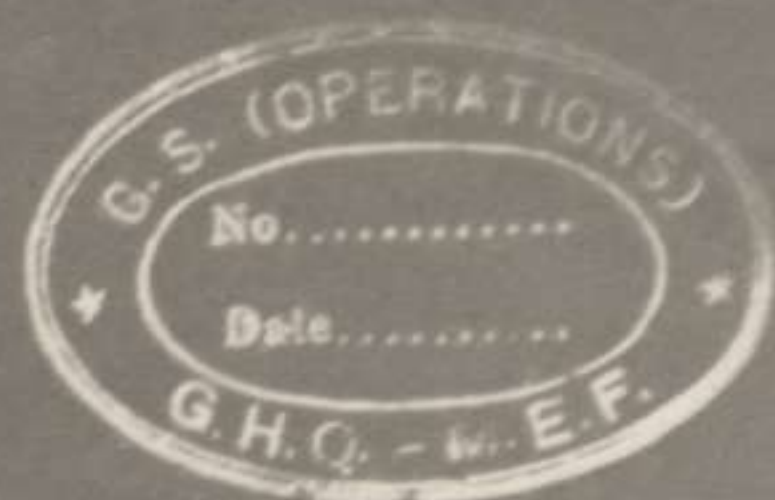
Renfrew and Edinburgh Field Companies should be held ready to move to FRANCE at an early date. As 54th Division has only two companies, hope to send them a Kent Field Company soon.

Copies to :-
O.
O(b).
G.S.S.
Q.
E-IR-C.
A.

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

1/73

MR



From Troopers.

Appx B.

To G.H.Q.

4717

9/4/16

Desp. 0415.
Recd. 0430.

With reference to your letter of 15th March No. G.S. 149. Establishment sanctioned until June 30th, Machine Gun School, with these exceptions :- Commander, Major, Adjutant, Acting Company Sergeant Major, Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant; all ranks to be paid regimental rate.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. 149.
" G.S. Cables.

1/74

From:- Egyptford.

To:- Troopers.

A.M. 382.

9/4/16.

Desp. 2105.

Your 4717 Code of April 5th, not clear. Please amplify.

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

Filed G.S. 147
" G.S. Cables.



W.D.

1775
K.M.C.



From : A.H.Q., Salcnika.

To : G.H.Q.

G.A. 566. 8th.

8/4/18. Desp. 1708.
9/4/18. Recd. 0600.

Captain Shaw Stewart has reported here as liaison officer. With Colonel Tyrrell, Captain Scott, and two French officers, not counting Major De Putron, available there is no need for another liaison officer. Speaking generally, work of liaison officers has greatly decreased during last three months now that all British and French staffs know each other well and deal so frequently direct. Another young officer for whom no work can be found is Lieutenant Macrury, originally sent here to take charge of maps. He has been replaced by Captain O'Grady, who includes care of maps with general charge of survey work, two officers being unnecessary for this purpose. Both Captain Shaw Stewart and Lieutenant Macrury are well educated linguists and anxious to be useful but lack proper military training. Can you provide employment elsewhere or could they be transferred to Regimental from General List?

- 1 copy to A.M.S. for action.
- 1 copy to O.
- 1 copy to I.
- 1 copy to C.G.S.
- 1 copy to A.

M.S.Cables.

1/76

1/76

W
N

From:- G.H.Q. Egyptforce.

To:- A.H.Q. SALONICA.

O.B. 303.

9/4/16.

Desp. 2130.

Your G.A. 386. With reference to Capt. Shaw Stewart, see my telegram O.759. of 19th February instituting fortnightly liaison service between SALONICA and G.H.Q. This instruction still holds good, and it is more than a fortnight since the last officer from SALONICA, Col. Fairholme, visited G.H.Q. The retention of Tyrrell, Scott and Shaw Stewart will enable you to keep up regular service.

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

Filed G.S. Z/6.
G.S. Cables.



SECRET

1/77

From

C.S.S. G.H.Q.

To

General Dallas, Westforce.

A.M.380. cipher.

8/4/18.

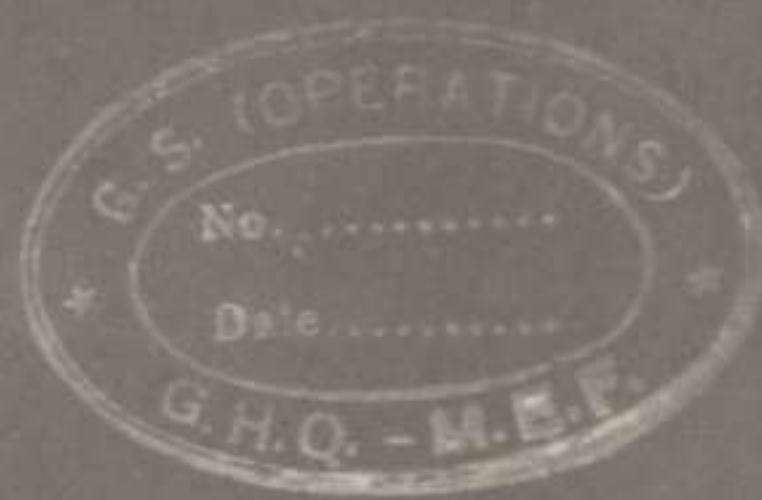
Deep. 0950.

Your proposed arrangements for occupation of K. are approved and you may carry out this operation as soon as you are ready, informing me of the actual date when the first troops will leave HAGAHAMADI, as C.-in-C, wishes to see troops before they start. I am sending Colonel Dawney to see you on Monday with certain suggestions which C.-in-C. would like you to consider. I understand you are arranging a conference at CAIRO on Monday or Tuesday to discuss final arrangements, at which Hodgson, McNeill and principal officers taking part in operation will be present. I should be glad if you would allow Colonel Dawney to attend. C.-in-C. wishes Colonel Dawney to act as liaison officer between you and G.H.Q. during the operation.

Copies to:-

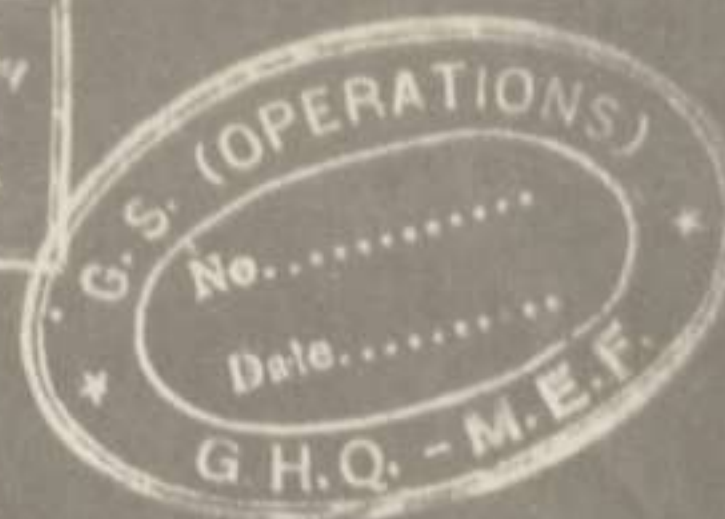
O.
O(b).
C.-in-C.
C.S.S.
I.
A.
G.

Filed 2.88/2.
" G.S. Cables.



PRIORITY

SECRET



1/78

From

General Dallas CAIRO.

To

General Lynden Bell, G.H.Q.

G.S.B. S. W.F.F. 8/4/16.
Cipher.

Desp. 1952.
Recd. 2100.
Decd. 2108.

Your authority to proceed with KHARGA operations received. Conference of those concerned will be held 10th instant 10 a.m. Glad to have DAWHAY. Instructions noted.

Copies to:-

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

Filed 2.28/2.
" G.S. Cables.

1/79

W.A.

1/79 E



From

15th Corps.

To

G. H. Q.

G.27.

9/4/16.

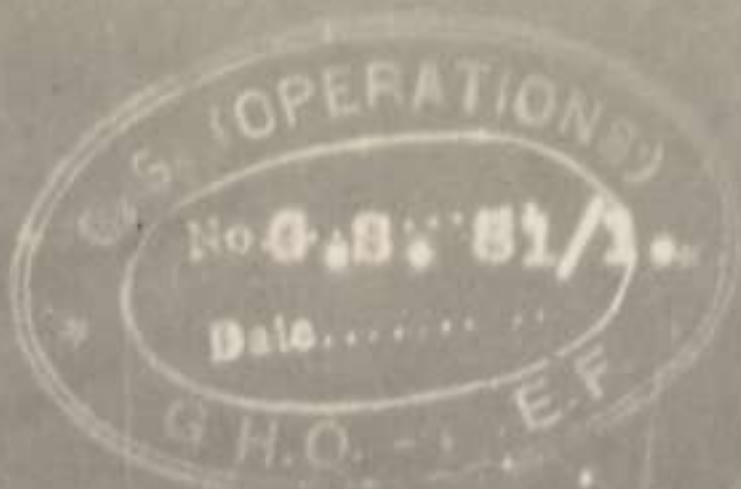
Desp. 1502.
Recd. 1530.

First Mounted Brigade report that Colonel Coventry with strong squadron moved out to AFRIN at 2100 last night another squadron moving out in support to OGHRAHINA at 0400 this morning. At dawn Colonel Coventry pushed on to EL ABD and at 0615 engaged party of enemy estimated at 100. After sharp skirmish enemy retired East Colonel Coventry pushing on a mile or two beyond EL ABD where heavy sand rendered further pursuit useless, no casualties. Colonel Coventry is now back at OGHRAHINA will report more fully later.

Copies to:-

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

Filed Z.48.
" G.S. Cables.



1/80

W.D.
Maj F.

General Officer Commanding,
Western Frontier Force.

The 54th Division, at present on the Canal Front, has only two Field Companies. In order to bring it up to an establishment of 3 companies, it is intended to post one of the Kent Field Companies to that Division as soon as possible.

Please say which of the two Kent Field Companies, now at MERSA MATRUH and SOLLUM, you wish transferred to the 54th Division, and also the earliest date at which you will be able to dispense with its services.

(Sgt) C. P. Dawson

for Lt. Col. R.D.

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

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
9/4/16.

Copy to E.-in-C.

1/81

W D

Appendix G



General Officer Commanding,
 9th Army Corps. 1
 15th Army Corps. 2
 2nd A.&.N.Z. Army Corps. 5
 -----Salonics Army----- 4
 Western Frontier Force. 3

The accompanying "Notes on the Tactical Handling of the Lewis Gun", are forwarded for distribution to the units under your command on the scale laid down in G.R.O. 1101 of this date.

(Sgd) C. F. Perkins
 Major-General
 for

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

G.H.Q.,
 E.E.F.,
 9.4.16.

1/12

NOTES ON THE TACTICAL HANDLING OF THE LEWIS GUNS.

1. The characteristics of any weapon will usually determine its tactical handling.

2. The Lewis gun is a type of automatic rifle. It is capable of producing extremely rapid fire, but is incapable of sustaining this fire for long, it not being possible to use water for cooling purposes without increasing its weight.

3. Chief characteristics:—Lightness, mobility and invisibility.

4. The Lewis gun cannot take the place of the machine gun; it is a supplement to and not a substitute for the machine gun.

5. *Methods of Employment: Trench Warfare.*

(a) *Front Line.*—The chief value of Lewis guns in a defensive line is to economise infantry, not to reduce the number of machine guns. Lewis guns should be used for searching and sweeping all ground in front of the line of trenches which cannot be swept by the machine guns from their low command in their emplacements. Lewis guns firing *over* the parapet from prepared "firing places" can bring fire to bear on depressions, covered approaches, etc., which the machine guns cannot cover. Lewis gun teams should be made familiar with all the "firing places" in the section of trench to which they are allotted; and the ground to be swept from each. Owing to their mobility, considerable liberty of action should be allowed to Lewis guns, as their fire can be brought to bear on an object very rapidly. During a bombardment it is just as essential to keep Lewis guns and their teams under cover as machine guns and their teams, but since Lewis guns have not permanent "emplacements" built for them, a greater choice is possible in the selection of the spot for their shelters, provided they can come into action quickly. On no account should a complete gun team be all put into one shelter, they should be distributed among several. There are many instances of whole gun teams being killed by one shell through non-observance of this precaution.

"Firing Places" for Lewis guns should, where possible, be so constructed as to be protected from frontal fire, while at the same time being able to fire to either flank.

(b) *Support Trenches.* The same principles hold good as in the case of the front line. Owing to mobility and invisibility the Lewis guns may be able to fire from positions covering the front line if this is captured, which would be impossible for machine guns.

(c) *Strong Points.* The chief role of these is to bring sudden and intense fire to bear on the enemy from an unexpected direction, if he has succeeded in breaking through the front line of defence. Machine guns are most suitable for this, but Lewis guns can be used from places which only afford slight cover, and also for providing a mobile reserve of fire power.

(d) *The attack from the Trenches.* Lewis guns are very suitable for providing *covering fire from the front*, owing to their mobility and invisibility. They can be placed in forward positions under cover of darkness, smoke or artillery bombardments, etc., and establish themselves in any suitable cover available, such as ditches, shell holes, crops, long grass, etc. From their close proximity to the enemy they may be able to locate his machine gun emplacements, etc., and be able to materially assist the advance of our own troops. It is inadvisable to send forward machine guns or Lewis guns with

the first lines of attacking infantry, but Lewis guns, owing to their mobility and invisibility, can be pushed forward earlier in the fight than machine guns. In other words, machine guns should not move into a hostile trench unsupported by infantry; that is until their own infantry have obtained a footing therein; but once a trench is gained the machine guns should have timed their arrival so as to be there immediately; how this is to be done will depend chiefly on the proper use of ground and cover.

On an enemy's trench being captured, Lewis guns are extremely useful in helping to cover the re-organisation of the infantry, pursue the enemy with fire, take part in warding off counter-attacks, and with the arrival of the machine guns will assist in the consolidation of the new lines.

Lewis guns should be on the look out for hostile machine guns and concentrate their fire upon them.

Lewis guns are also very useful in conjunction with a bomb attack.

- (e) *The attack in open warfare.* In an advance in open warfare Lewis gunners should simulate the formations and movements of the infantry, and especially be careful to carry the gun either "at the trail," using a leather strap and handle (as for carrying a cricket bag or suit case), or slung over one shoulder like a rifle; by this means they are unlikely to be detected as automatic riflemen during their advance. It will therefore be often possible to push Lewis guns forward with the leading line and provide covering fire for the Infantry, and thus assist them to advance. Where ground is suitable it may sometimes be possible for the Lewis gunners to precede their own infantry, and opportunity to carry this out should be carefully looked for.

6. Conclusions to be drawn from the above. Lewis guns will be of great value for the following:—

- (a) To supplement the fire of infantry and machine guns.
- (b) To economise infantry in trench warfare and in defensive positions.
- (c) To fire from the parapets, to command ground which cannot be swept by machine gun fire.
- (d) To sometimes provide covering fire, *from the front*, during an attack.
- (e) To assist in consolidation of positions won.
- (f) To cover the re-organization of the attacking troops.
- (g) To provide "a mobile reserve of fire power" in the hands of battalion or company commanders.
- (h) For small enterprises at night where the weight and visibility of the machine gun would render the latter unsuitable.
- (i) To assist offensive or defensive bombers.

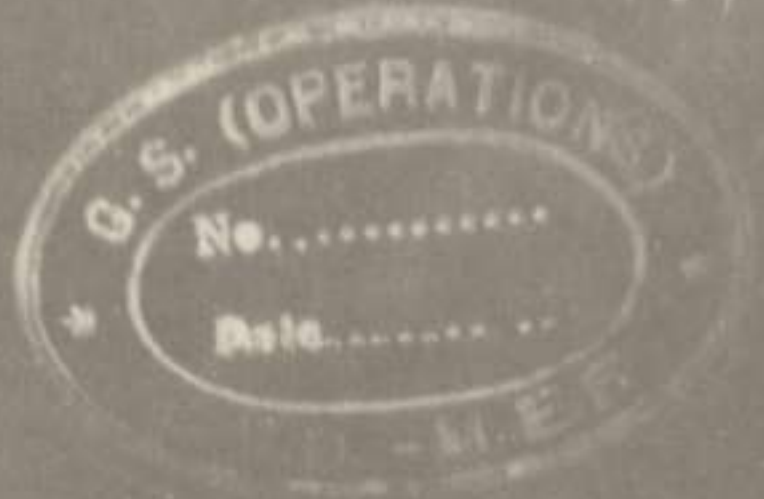
7. Lewis guns are *not* suitable for the following:—

- (a) Overhead fire.
- (b) Prolonged firing.
- (c) Long range fire.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
E.E.F., 4/4/16.

SECRET

1/84



M.H.A.

From. Troopers.
To. Egyptforce.

15002 Cipher. S.D. S. 18/4/18: Demand. 1030
Recd. 0810.
Deed. 0815.

Your M.S. 985. General Home is being sent to France it is understood 15th Corps will be broken up. If so its Corps Signal Company will be transferred to France. What Officers, if any can be spared at once from 9th Corps Headquarters.

Copies to :--

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

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

1/15

SECRET

W.R.

From G. H. Q.
To 15th Corps.

OAB. 112.

10/4/19.

Desp. 1250.

15th Corps Signal Company must be held in readiness for early embarkation to FRANCE. Further definite instructions in due course.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. 10/2.
 " G.S. 2/45.
 " G.S. Cable.



W.D.

Amth B.

1/86



From:- Chief, London.

To:- BASRA, repeated INDIA, EGYPT.

15864.cipher.

9/4/16.
10/4/16.

Desp. 2300.
Recd. 0610.
Decd. 0640.

There are available for your use in EGYPT
 48 Stokes Guns with personnel and 10,000 rounds also
 2 six inch guns 30 cwt Howitzers without personnel. If
 you can usefully employ any of these please state
 requirements. 30 Stokes Guns with ^{over} personnel despatched
 to you from ENGLAND, March 14th.

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

Filed G.S. 5.
 " G.S. Cables.

SECRET

1/87
G.S. (OPERATIONS)
No.
Date.....
G.H.Q. - M.E.F.

W.F.D.

Appx C

From Westforce.

To G.S.S., G.H.Q.

G.S.S. cipher W.F.F. 10/4/18.

Desp. 1830.
Recd. 1830.
Decd. 1835.

First train leaves QARA for KHAISA Saturday
15th inst. at 5 a.m. Summary of general arrangements
will be sent you to-night. Following additional troops
required as referred to in my Secret Memorandum dated 8th
inst., paragraph 12 :- One garrison battalion to ASSIUT
and one company Imperial Camel Corps to DEIRUT.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. Z/28/18.
" G.S. Cables.

2/89
SECRET

From Chief, Egyptforce.

To Chief, London.

A.M. 384.

10/4/18.

Desp. 2150.

Evening report.

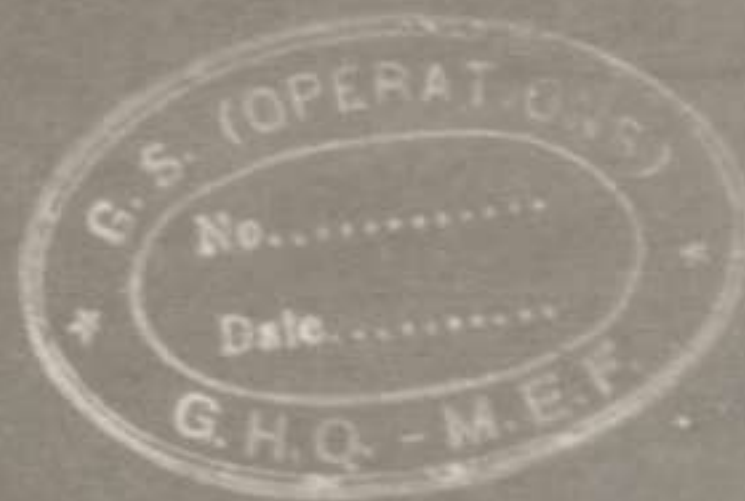
On Eastern Frontier First Mounted Brigade report that Colonel Coventry with strong squadron moved out to AFEIN, 12 miles east of QATIA on the EL ARISH road, at 9 p.m. on 8th, another squadron moving out in support to OSHRATINA at 4 a.m. yesterday. At dawn Colonel Coventry pushed on to EL ABD, 5 miles east of AFEIN, and engaged party of enemy estimated at 100. After sharp skirmish enemy retired east, Colonel Coventry pushing on a mile or two beyond EL ABD where heavy sand rendered further pursuit useless, no casualties.

On Western Frontier at a point about 60 miles west of MINIA one of our Motor Car patrols captured four armed prisoners mounted on camels and ponies. One of the prisoners is a Turkish officer.

Copies to :-

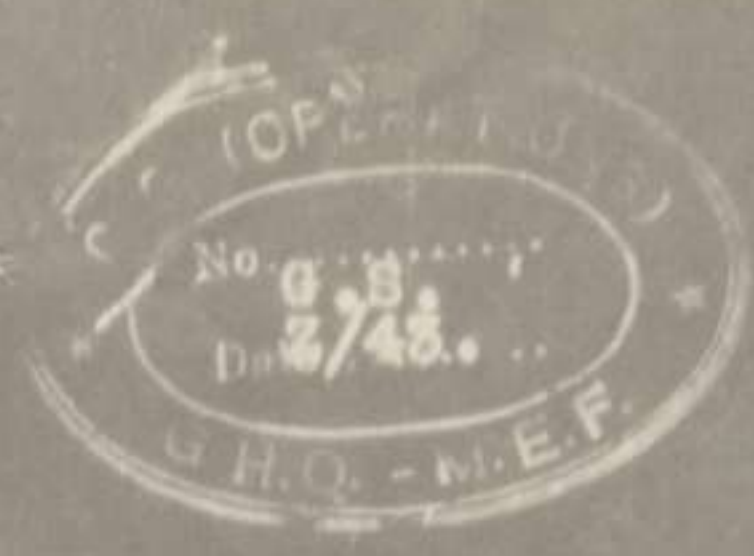
O.
O.(b)
C.-in-C.
C.G.S.
A.
I.
Q.
M.G.R.A.
E.-in-C.
D.A.S.

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



1/89

W R



SECRET

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

10 April, 1918.

Sir,

I should be obliged if you would arrange for the following aerial reconnaissances to be carried out :-

1. GAZA - BIR SABA - and return.

Special points :-

- (a) Condition of BIR SABA railway bridge.
- (b) To damage the aerodrome at BIR SABA.

2. RAFA - railway embankment near ESBEITA - EL AUJA -
MAGDHABA - and return.

Special points :-

- (a) Is there a railway embankment from AUJA to MAGDHABA ?
- (b) Are rails laid ?
- (c) If so, what size, Decauville or S.Syrian Standard metre gauge ?

3. AUJA - KUSSAIMA - MAGDHABA - and return.

Special points :-

- (a) Estimated size of garrison.
- (b) To bomb same.

4. EL ARISH.

Special points :-

- (a) To carry out a bomb attack, especially against the tents. The town should, if possible, not be damaged.

/I should

I should be much obliged if you will allow the Royal Flying Corps to be represented at any conference which you may hold with regard to the attack on EL ARISH, so that the necessary measures may be concerted between the two services.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

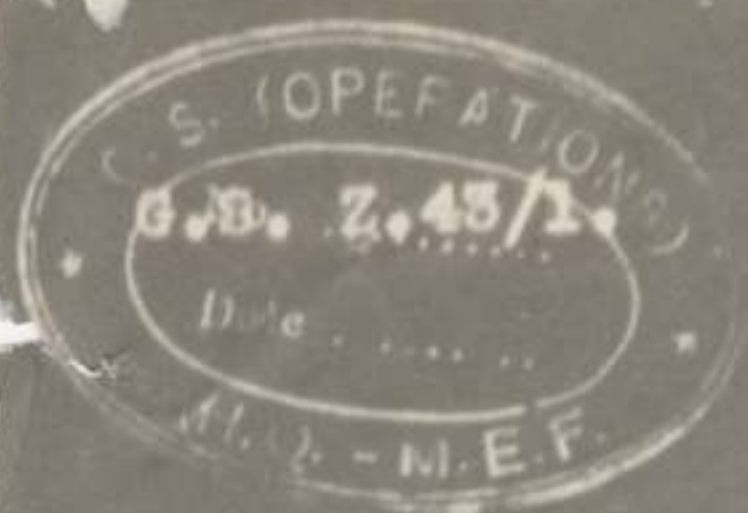
(Sgd) A Hyndent Bell

M.G.

C.C.S.

for General,

Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.



1/91

W.D.

SECRET

Officer Commanding,
5th Wing,
Royal Flying Corps.

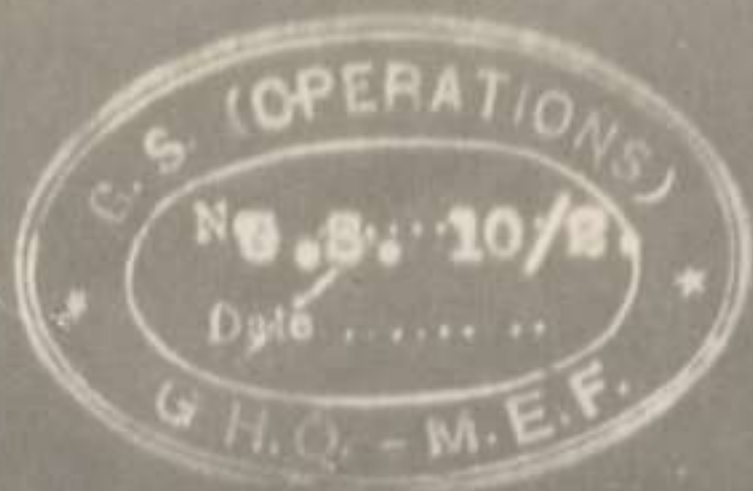
The R.N.A.S. has been asked to carry out a reconnaissance of EL ARISH, combined with a bomb attack against the camps, etc. Every effort is to be made not to damage the town.

It is desired if possible that this attack should be carried out in co-operation with the R.F.C., and the R.N.A.S. has been asked to consult with you with a view to a combined operation.

(Sgd) *A.C. Dawnay*
Capt. C.S.
for
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

G.H.Q.
10 .4.16.

to pay to I



W D 2

1/92

Approx F.

SECRET

General Officer Commanding,
18th Army Corps.

With reference to telegram No. O.749 of
the 8th inst. As soon as the 11th Division has
been relieved, it will move to ISMAILIA, where it
will come under the orders of General Headquarters.

It will be camped at MOASCAR CAMP. All
arrangements regarding the camp will be made by General
Officer Commanding 11th Division with the D.Q.M.G.,
General Headquarters direct.

"A" Subsection, at present held by the
11th Division, ^{may} ~~should~~ be taken over by the 1st Dismounted
Brigade, or such other troops as you have available.

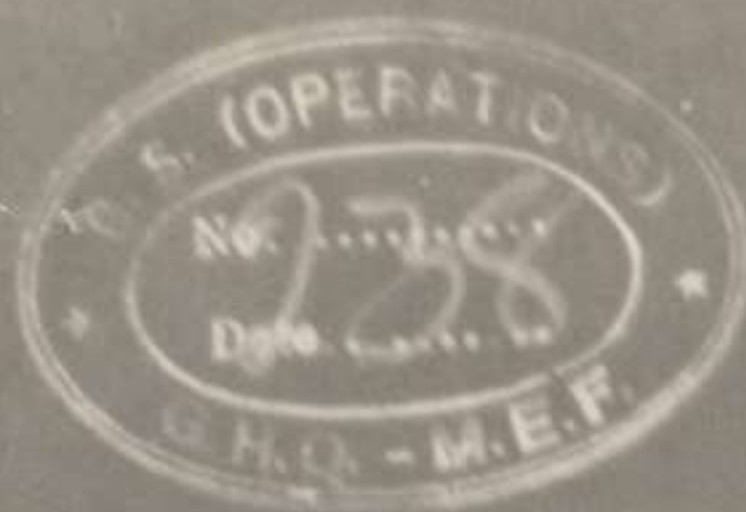
*The actual arrangements for holding the
line are of course left in your hands,
& this is merely a suggestion.*

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
10/4/18.

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

Copy to Q.



W.S.
Appx G.

1/93

General Officer Commanding,
Western Frontier Force.

1. Referring to your S.F. 863/A. of March 28th, re establishment for armoured trains, it is not considered that a fixed establishment can be laid down, as each armoured train is improvised for a specific purpose, and must be manned and equipped in accordance with the special requirements of the particular duty it is designed to carry out.

2. As regards the armoured trains allotted to the Western Frontier Force, it is considered that the present crews are too large. The permanent personnel of such trains should be restricted to the specialists required to run the train and to man its fixed armament. It appears quite unnecessary to include an infantry detachment in the permanent crew, as such detachments would be better improvised, as occasion demands, from the troops available at the locality upon which the train is based.

3. Arrangements should therefore be made for the return of the infantry detachments to their units forthwith - only the specialist personnel (e.g. machine gunners, R.E. etc.) being retained as permanent crew. Should occasion arise in the future for these trains to take part in active operations, suitable infantry detachments should be detailed temporarily by the General Officer Commanding Sections to which the trains are allotted.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell,

G. H. Q.
10.4.16.

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

Copy to 'A'.

C.S. (OPER.)
No. S. 93/1.

DATE

W.D

1916

Appx H.

General Officer Commanding,
2nd A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

Reference your 6/11/21 G.

Your suggestion is concurred in in principle
except as regards the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade.
The change in the case of this Brigade should be deferred.
Kindly submit your requirements for the other three
Brigades.

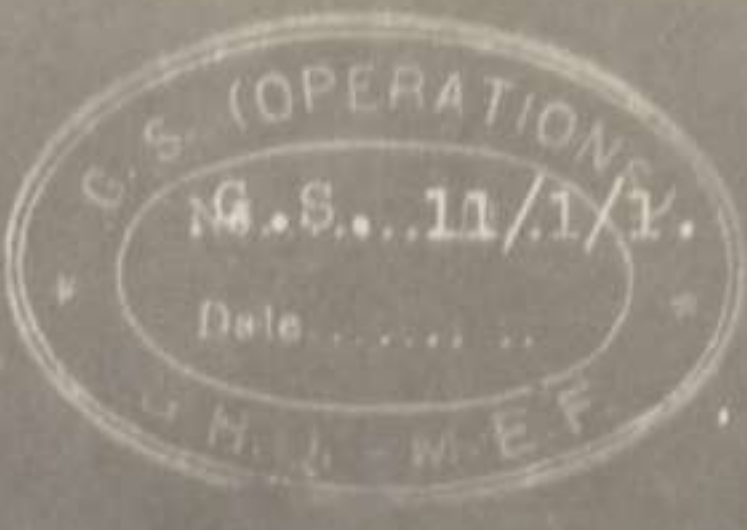
Sgt A. Lynden Bell

G. H. Q.

10.4.16.

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

Copy to D.A.S.



1/95

WD
Appnt J.

Secretary,
War Office, London, S.W.

10th April, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, subject to your approval, Lieut.-Colonel G. Lubbock, R.E., has been appointed D.D.R.T. (Construction) at General Headquarters.

This officer has for some time past been in charge of Railway construction and Railway Companies, but has not been gazetted to any definite appointment. Since Lieut.-Colonel Lubbock is drawing pay under the Indian Government as a Royal Engineer Officer in the Military Works branch, no additional expense will be incurred by this appointment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

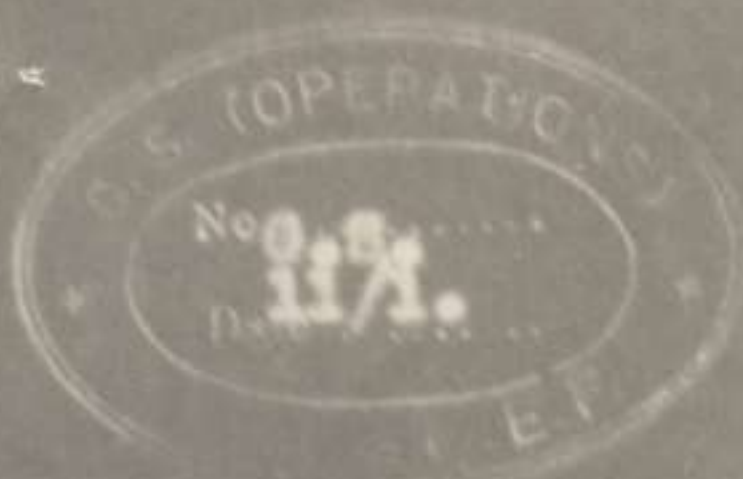
(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell
M.C. C.S.
for

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

Copies to :-

- A.M.S.
- Q.
- A.

1/96



W. G.

Appx K

The Secretary,
War Office, London, S.W.

10th April, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that it has been found necessary to appoint and place at the disposal of the I.G.C. a District Barrack Officer to deal with all questions of barracks, barrack accounts and requisitioning of accommodation throughout the area occupied by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Temp: Lt-Colonel W. G. Huskisson, A.S.C., has already taken up these duties and I request that his appointment may be sanctioned; also that this officer may retain his temporary rank which I consider essential.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Copies to:-

- A.
- Q. (P.S.).
- A.M.S.

Edw. A. Hyndman Bell
 M.G.
 for C.C.S.
 General,
 Commander-in-Chief,
 Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

SECRET



From Chief London.

Addressed Salonica, repeated Egypt.

15281 cipher.

10/4/18.
11/4/18.

Desp. 1815.
Recd. 0610.
Decd. 0630.

Your G.C. 97, 8th April.

Subject to your concurrence I have no objection to your moving mounted brigade forward as proposed, provided Greek frontier is not crossed and that no action is taken which would commit your force to offensive operations, for which it is not organised.

Copies to :-

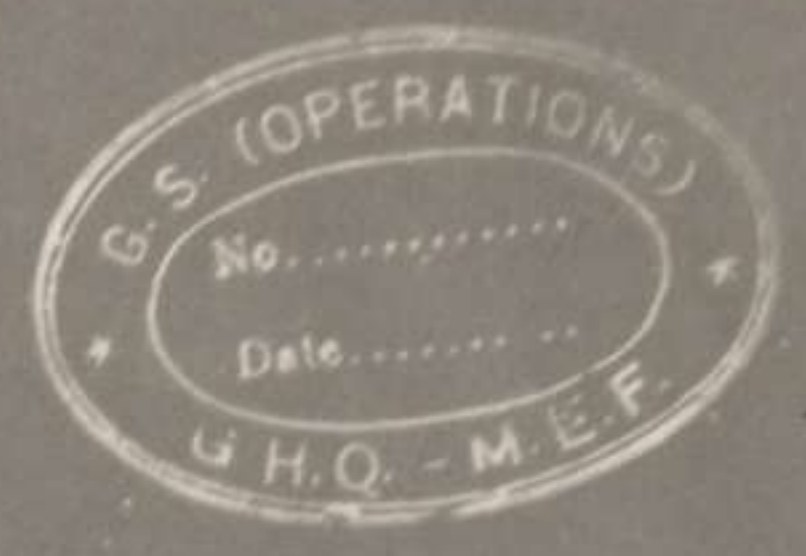
O.
O.(b)
C.-in-C.
C.G.S.
I.

Filed G.S. Z/6.
" O.S. Cables.

1/91.

W-10

App B



From. Chief. London.

To. S.M.Q.

18238 Cipher. D.S.D.

10/4/18.
11/4/18.

Despd. 1840.
Recd. 0610.
Decd. 0620.

Your A.M. 379.

In view of the increase of mounted troops notified cannot the following units be spared for employment elsewhere. 1/8th Royal Scots. 2/7th Middlesex Regiment. 2/8th Middlesex Regiment and 2/5th Devonshire Regiment. How soon could they be made available.

Copies to :-

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

Filed. G.S. 212.

" G.S. Cables.

140

SECRET

199

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

From Chief, Egyptforce.

To Chief, London.

A.H. 391.

11/4/18.

Desp. 2213.

Your 15283 cipher D.S.D. of 10th instant. Of course I can easily spare the number of battalions you have asked for. Three of them have just been placed at MERSA MATRUH and SOLLUM in relief of the South Africans for FRANCE and in turn will also have to be relieved, which is not easy, in that relief has to be carried out by sea in small craft. It would, however, be helpful if you could now tell me more definitely the minimum you propose to reduce the EGYPT Force to, so that I may arrange more or less definitely the location of troops on the east and west. At present I am holding the 11th, 42nd, and the 4th and 6th Australian Divisions at your disposal, and was about to move the 53rd Division into reserve to be available on the departure of these Divisions. Now I must use some of this latter Division to relieve the battalions you ask for, which must be replaced by infantry in consequence of lack of water and the presence of a particularly ^{deadly} horse fly on this coast.

I do not consider the Garrison Battalions suitable for this desert work and you may rule out of consideration the three West India Battalions, as they will not be trained for three or four months, and are even then not likely to be of any particular military value, judging from the appearance and physique of the men whom I carefully inspected to-day.

Put shortly, my real difficulty is I want to give you all the big organizations I can, but you must remember I shall find it difficult if you draw off units in addition.

Copies to :-

C.

C.(p)

C.-in-C.

C.G.S.

A.

M.G.R.A.

E.-in-C.

Filed G.S. 10/2.

" " 8ables

SECRET



From Troopers.

To G.H.Q., Egyptforce.

4784 A.G.S.

10/4/18.
11/4/18.

Desp. 2050.
Recd. 0410.

Your A.M. 354. Admiralty arranging despatch draft of one officer, 40 rank & file, Royal Marine Artillery. As regards Royal Garrison Artillery, since you did not find Royal Malta Artillery personnel suitable, arrange direct with MALTA for their return and substitution of equivalent Royal Garrison Artillery personnel, which will not be fully trained.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. Z/54.
" G.S. Cables.

W.D.

SECRET

* Appx D.



From
Chief EGYPTFORCE.

To
Chief LONDON.

A.M. 392.

11/4/19

Desp. 2155.

Your 15262 cipher S.D.S. of 9th inst.

In view of the fact that the 9th Corps Signal Company is standing by to accompany the 11th and 42nd Divisions to INDIA if required and presumably the present ANZAC Signal Company will proceed to FRANCE with the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, I would greatly prefer if you would leave the 15th Corps Signal Company at my disposal until the destination of the 9th Corps Signal Company has been definitely settled. I have in my telegram A.M. 277 of 18th March explained to you how difficult it is with my extended fronts to spare these corps units. The communications on the eastern front can be effectively maintained with a minimum of one Corps Signal Company and a part of the G.H.Q. Signal Company.

Copies to:-

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

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

4/102

NS

1/1/18 E

SECRET

From:- Chief, Egyptforce.

To:- Chief, London.

A.M. 599.

11/4/18.

Desp. 1925.

Evening Report. All well. Preparations for occupation of KHARGA Oasis almost complete. Column will probably start Saturday morning.

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

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





11/103

W.C.D.

Approved

General Officer Commanding,
15th Army Corps.

Reference your G.45 dated April 9th.

The Machine Gun School, ISMAILIA, is shortly to be absorbed by the Imperial School of Instruction, ZEITOUN.

The next course will begin at ZEITOUN on May 1st, when Captain Basten will have an opportunity of attending for a 3 weeks' course.

The proportion of vacancies allotted to the 15th Army Corps will shortly be issued.

(Sgd) C. F. Perkins

Major

for C.S.

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

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
11/4/16.

1/164

WZ

From

Troopers.

Mpp4A

To

G. H. Q. EGYPTONCH.

18354 cipher. S.D.E.S.

11/4/18
12/4/18

Desp. 2155.
Recd. 0610.
Decd. 0625.

Your A.M.587. As the Administration of the North West Force will be carried out by H.Q. of the 58rd Division and as in the South West there are apparently two detached and self contained brigades the necessity of officers of administrative services and departments on Peyton's H.Q. is not apparent. Will it not be sufficient if he has staff officers only.?

Copies to:-

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

Filed G.S. 11/1.
 " G.S. 10/2.
 " G.S. Cables.



107

SECRET

1/105
U.S. COOPERATION
Date.....
G.H.Q. - M.E.F.

From:- Chief, Egyptforce.
To:- War Office.

A.M. 394.

12/4/16.

Desp. 1443.

Your 15334 cipher B.D.E.C. of 11th.
Peyton's command extends over an 800 mile front with numerous formations which have no representatives of Administrative Services and Departments except an A.D.M.S., A.D.V.S. and D.A.D.O.S. with 53rd Division. These officers are fully occupied looking after their Division. It is in my opinion essential that the S & T, Medical, Veterinary and Ordnance Directorates should have representatives to control and co-ordinate all services on Western Front and I consider they are best placed by being attached to Peyton's Headquarters.

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

- Filed G.S. 11/1.
" G.S. 10/2.
" G.S. Cables.

40

SECRET

1/10/19

From A.H.Q., SALONICA.

To Egyptforce.

G.O. 104 cipher.

12/4/19.

Desp. 1200.
Recd. 1445.
Decd. 1450.

Reference A.M. 37, January 21st.

Progress everywhere satisfactory. Shortage
of R.E. Drivers and shoeing smiths serious.

Copies to :-

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

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



SECRET



From 9th Corps.

To G. H. Q.

H.O./550.

12/4/16.

Desp. 1651.
Recd. 1700.

Reference map SINAI Peninsula 1/100000, sheet C.20.
Patrol 4th Mounted Brigade yesterday moved up pass between
BIRABUGARAD, E.4, and BIR UMM GUAF, F.4. About 1 mile
from latter found wire entanglement and were fired on at
close quarters. Enemy tried to move round flank on
hills and patrol returned. Casualties 2 wounded, 2
missing. Enemy strength estimated about 30 to 40. Those
in pass Bedouin, those moving round flank reported in
uniform. Patrol has been reinforced and remain in
observation pending putting into force plan for clearing
enemy out of pass.

Copies to :-

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

Filed G.S. Z/34/1.
" G.S. Cables.

W.D

1/09

App E

From:- Training.
To:- G.H.Q.



T.G.l. 12/4/18. Desp. 1650.
Recd. 1717.

General Hare assumed command TEL EL KEBIR
11-30.a.m. Staff present G.S.O.1., G.S.O.5. and
D.A.Q.M.G.

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

Filed G.S. Cables.
" G.S. 236.

W.P.

1/110

Major-General S. W. Hare.

1. You will take over command of all troops at TEL EL KEBIR on Wednesday 12th April, and will be under the direct orders of G. H. Q.

2. The Commander-in-Chief is particularly anxious that you should at once take in hand the thorough and systematic training of all troops at TEL EL KEBIR.

3. You will submit weekly to G.H.Q. a statement giving information on the following points :-

- (i) The number of troops under training.
- (ii) How they are organised for training purposes.
- (iii) The general course of instruction carried out during the past week by each formation.
- (iv) Your programme for the ensuing week for each formation.
- (v) Your opinion as to the progress which has been made by each formation.
- (vi) Any difficulties which you cannot deal with yourself and in which you require the help of G.H.Q.

4. You will correspond with the Headquarters Australian Imperial Forces and Headquarters New Zealand Expeditionary Force on any matters you may consider necessary.

5. You will give facilities for Brig-General Sellheim to visit the A.I.F. troops when he expresses a wish to do so.

(Sgt A.L.B.)

G. H. Q.
12.4.16.

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

SECRET



From:- A.H.Q. SALONICA.

To:- London, repeated Egypt.

Mypt F

G.C. 105.cipher.

12/4/16.

Desp.1255.

Recd.1740.

Decd.1800.

In reply to 15100.

Detailed figures of proposed new scale were posted you on April 5th., please send acknowledgement. One Howitzer Battery is being transferred from 26th Division to 10th Division, Headquarters being locally raised. Number of divisions I recommend for re-equipment must depend upon regiments intended for operations. There is good reason to believe at least 7,000 drivers could be enlisted locally which would cover all our divisional requirements. If A.S.C. personnel, allowed us in SALONICA Scale, could be brought up to strength then local re-adjustment could be probably be made and all necessary native drivers absorbed in our organisation without requiring any extra British personnel. Process would probably require at least two months to complete. Drivers would be partly Christian, partly Mahomedan. (group undecipherable) given fair treatment and due precautions, trouble with them need not be anticipated.

Copies to :- O.
O(b).
C-in-C.
C.G.S.
I.
A.
Q.
M.G.R.A.

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

W.D.

SECRET

1117

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

From:- Chief, Egyptforce.

Mmt G.

To:- Chief, London.

A.M. 398.

12/4/18.

Desp. 2140.

Evening Report. Patrol 4th Mounted Brigade yesterday moved up pass between BIR ABU GARAD, 25 miles S.E. of SUEZ, and BIR UMM GUAF, almost 5 miles further east. About 1 mile from latter found wire entanglement and were fired on at close quarters. Enemy tried to move round flank on hills and patrol returned. Casualties 2 wounded, 2 missing. Enemy strength estimated about 30 to 40. Those in pass were Bedouins, those moving round flank reported in uniform. Patrol has been re-inforced and remain in observation pending putting into force plan for clearing enemy out of pass.

Copies to :-
O.
O(b).
C-in-C.
C.G.S.
I.
A.
Q.
H.G.R.A.
E-in-C.
D.A.B.

Filed G.S. Z/39.
" G.S. Cables.

W.D. 1/113
H.M.H.
G. G. S.

1. In accordance with your instructions I accompanied the Commander-in-Chief on his tour of inspection of ALEXANDRIA on the 10th and 11th April.

2. No hitch of any sort occurred in the carrying out of the programme.

3. The Commander-in-Chief directed me to furnish a report on the reason why 'UU' Cable Section has been retained at ALEXANDRIA. Report attached, marked 'A'.

4. Inspection, S. African Infantry Brigade at SIDI BISHR.

The Commander-in-Chief made a careful inspection of the men. He rode round the ranks of each company.

The battalions of this brigade have leather equipment, which is much worn.

The Commander-in-Chief wishes a wire drafted and shown to him, recommending that Web equipment be issued to this brigade on its arrival in FRANCE. (Draft wire attached).

5. After the troops had filed past, the Chief addressed the Brigade Staff and Commanding Officers. He complimented them on the fine appearance of the men and the steadiness they displayed in the ranks.

He promised to write to Sir Douglas Haig to tell him that he had never seen a finer body of men.

e.s. 93/1.

1/13a

Approved

General Officer Commanding,
2nd A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

It has been decided to move the Inverness
Battery R.H.A. up to SERAPEUM to join the 3rd
Australian Light Horse Brigade, as soon as you can
make arrangements to receive it.

Please communicate direct with the D.Q.M.G.,
General Headquarters as regards the date you wish this
movement carried out.

(sd) G. Dawson
F. B. H.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
1/4/16.

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

Copy to Q.

6. The brigade has no machine gun company. It has a brigade section of a signal company and a field ambulance.

7. Tuesday 11th April.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions W. India Regiments were drawn up in line at MEX CAMP to receive the Commander-in-Chief, who rode round the ranks, after which the two battalions filed past him.

The men and officers require training, and their physique is poor. The personal equipment of the men was not properly put on.

The 3rd Battalion (at present in quarantine) filed past the Commander-in-Chief in the Quarantine Camp.

These battalions are armed with E.Y. rifles. The Commander-in-Chief wishes them to have each 100 accurate rifles for range practices. Also when Lewis guns become available, the Commander-in-Chief wishes each battalion to be issued with one gun, so that training may be commenced.

8. The Commander-in-Chief decided (i) that these 3 battalions were not to be brigaded, (ii) that they should remain at ALEXANDRIA and continue their training for two or three months under the Base Commandant, during which period they may be used by the Base Commandant for any garrison duties if required, (iii) that eventually these battalions will form part of T.F. divisions, by adding them as a fifth battalion to existing T.F. brigades.

9. At the conclusion of this inspection the Commander-in-Chief visited the 3rd Echelon, where he was met by General Adye.

G.S.(O), 12/4/16.

Major,
G.S.

Report on 'UU' Cable Section and Horse Transport of
G.H.Q. Signal Company.

1. 'UU' Cable Section (a spare one) was left at ALEXANDRIA and not brought up to the Canal as it was not considered desirable to bring more horses up to the Canal than was necessary on account of shortage of water. In addition the D.A.S. considered that it was being usefully employed at the Signalling School, as its equipment and personnel were then available for instructional purposes. It has done good work in this respect.

The Cable Section was ordered yesterday to join the Western Frontier Force.

2. The Horse Transport for G.H.Q. Signal Company was organised in case operations should necessitate a move of G.H.Q. to a district where motors would not be suitable. From time to time part of this transport has been used to reinforce signal companies with horses and D.A.S. is taking steps to release the remaining horses and wagons.

1/16

From Egyptforce.

To Troopers.

A.M. 395

12/4/16.

Desp..... 1850

When I inspected the South African Brigade on Monday, I found they had much worn leather equipment. I recommend that they be issued with Web equipment on arrival in FRANCE. *if such is available*

G.S. 2/54/1.

Approved

1/17

SECRET

General Officer Commanding,
9th Army Corps.

Referring to your O/SIO/21/9 of April 9th., the
modifications proposed in the disposition of troops
in No.1 Section during the summer months are approved.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell.

G.H.Q.
E.E.F.
v. 4.16.

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

G.S. 104.

Appx K

O.C. 5th Wing, R.F.C.

G.O.C. 2nd A. & N.Z. A.C.

The attached copy of War Office letter No. 121/Overseas/
1414 (M.A.1) is forwarded for your information.

G.H.Q.

12.4.16.

(sa) G. B. Williams
G. B. Williams
Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

121/Overseas/1414 (M.A.1).

War Office,

London, S.W.

28th March, 1918.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that the Australian Government have undertaken to raise a squadron to be incorporated in the Royal Flying Corps.

As it is understood that the officers and men will require further instruction in their duties, both as pilots and mechanics, before they are ready to take their places in the field, the Council has decided that this unit shall be despatched to EGYPT where the training of pilots and mechanics can be proceeded with. In this way the training of the squadron can be started at an earlier date than if it was sent to England, and it is hoped, though this cannot be guaranteed, that it may be possible to employ it in the area in which the remainder of the troops of the Commonwealth are operating.

I am to say that 6 Avro Machines have been despatched for purposes of training this squadron, of which the advance party of 20 men were expected to leave Australia about 14th March.

There are already three Flying Officers for this squadron undergoing training at home, but the selection of an officer to command the unit is still under consideration.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd)

B. B. CUBITT.

Y/120

WPA



From
EASTFORCE.
To
War Office.

M.H.A

A.M. 597.

15/4/26.

Desp. 1040.

In view of retention of Lt-Col. Stephen A.D.O.S. for duty at home propose to substitute one deputy assistance director ordnance services at G.H.Q. for one of the two assistant directors mentioned in my A.M. 545 of 31st March. Please amend proposed establishment accordingly.

Copies to:-

- G.
- O(b).
- G.S.
- G. on 'Q' file to A.M.S.
- A.
- A.M.S.

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is a/c of:	Recd. at.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						
					Sent	Date
					At.....	From
					To	
					By	By

Army B. Service.
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { STRALIS. CAIRO.

* **O.V.B. 307.** 13/4/18. In reply to Number. **AAA**

~~It has been decided to amalgamate the Artillery Training Depot at ZEITOUN, under Major Schwabe with the Imperial School of Instruction. Major Schwabe and his organisation with 4 guns and 4 howitzers are at present attached there. The A.I.F. will be allotted full proportion of vacancies and it is considered that this arrangement will provide for better co-ordination in training. Please submit any remarks you may have.~~



From **C. H. Q.**

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Signature of Addressee or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

Major, G.S.D.

* This line should be erased if not required.

121

Ampt Co

Y/22

W.P.

From:- Engineering Department, E.S.R., ISMAILIA.
To:- Military Authorities, Canal Defences, ISMAILIA.

13/4/16.

Desp. 1717.
Recd. 1723.

Owing to strong winds in bad weather our
plate layers have to work on the line in clearing
sand off the track for the safeguard of trains during
night. Please wire all concerned and sentries not to
prevent our men from, patrolling on the line for the
purpose. Awaiting your instructions. This concerns
PORT SAID, ZAGAZIG and SUEZ Lines.

Copies to :- O.
A.
Q.
E-in-C.

Filed G.S. 6/1.



From:- G.H.Q.
To:- Engineering Depot. E.S.R. ISMAILIA.

O.B.A. 230.

13/4/16.

Desp.

Your telegram of to-day - have warned all
concerned.

Copies to :- O.
A.
Q.
E-in-C.

Filed G.S. 6/1.

1/123

From:- G.H.Q.

To:- 52nd. Division, 9th Corps, 2nd.ANZAC, Administrative
Commandant, ISMAILIA.

O.B.A. 229.

13/4/16.

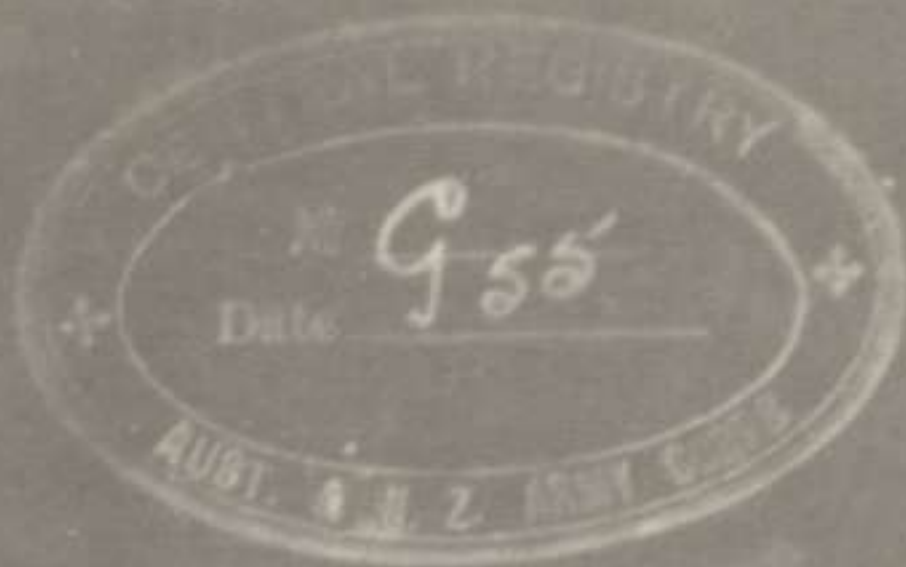
Desp. 1725

Following received from State Railways, begins :-
Owing to strong winds in bad weather, our platelayers
have to work on the line in clearing sand off the track
for the safeguard of trains during night. Please wire
all concerned and sentries not to prevent our men from
patrolling on the line for the purpose. Awaiting your
instructions. This concerns PORT SAID, ZAGAZIG and SUEZ
Lines. ends. Addressed 52nd Division, repeated
9th Corps, 2nd.Anzac and Administrative Commandant
ISMAILIA.

Copies to :- O.
A.
Q.
E-in-C.

Filed G.S. 6/1.





Weybridge 1/124

2nd AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

From:- Lieut.-General Sir A. J. Godley,
Commanding 2nd A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

To:- Chief of the General Staff,
General Headquarters, E.E.F.

RAID ON JIF JAJA - 10th to 15th April, 1916.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the operations carried out between 10th and 15th April for the completion of the destruction of JIF JAJA in accordance with the instructions contained in your G.S. Z. 34/2 of 3rd April, 1916.

The date for the column to start was fixed for April 11th in order that there might be a suitable moon and to enable necessary camel transport to be thoroughly organised.

The detailed organisation of the column was placed in the hands of Major-General Sir H.V.Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.I., commanding 4th Australian Division, A.I.F. to whom the following was suggested, as a suitable composition for the column -

Squadron A.L.H. (3rd Brigade).
Detachment Bikanir Camel Corps.
Detachment of Engineers.
Detachment of Field Ambulance.
W.T. Detachment for communication with base
and R.F.C. Detachment for communication with aeroplanes
whose co-operation was arranged.

The services of Capt. Macaulay, G.S.O.3, 2nd A. & N. Z. Army Corps were placed at his disposal. General Cox detailed Major H.W.Scott of 9th A.L.H. to command; the squadron being found from 9th A.L.H. with some men of 8th A.L.H. added who had been over part of the ground previously.

The information as regards the enemy post at JIF JAJA was limited, but comparison of reports of aeroplane reconnaissance and photographs, with reports of native agents led me to the conclusion that the post would consist of from 20 to 40 men, some of whom might be labourers.

The photographs showed two well boring plants in operation,

in operation, evidently of an elaborate nature.

From the starting point of the column to its objective, was about 52 miles, the first 15 miles being over very heavy sand.

Water for animals was obtainable in cisterns located by a previous reconnaissance in GEBEL MUKHSHEIB about 32 miles from starting point.

The general outline of the operations which followed closely the pre-arranged plan was as follows -

Camel Transport starting at nightfall April 10th was sent forward under escort. The remainder of the column started afternoon of April, 11th, overtaking the camels the same night. On the morning of the 12th the whole column moved to water at GEBEL MUKHSHEIB, and rested during the day, patrols being sent out southeast to mislead Bedouins, of whom there were known to be a considerable number in the neighbourhood, as to the objective.

The same night the column, less 1 officer and 16 men, left behind at water with some of the transport animals, moved to point 1340, 8 miles southwest of objective, arriving at 2.30 a.m. on 13th April. This point became the jumping off place for the attack and formed a supporting point with water supply to fall back on in case of difficulties. Transport and W.T. station were left there under escort and the striking column moved off at 5.30 a.m. JIF JAFI was reconnoitred from 1082 which screened the column. The attack was not delivered until 9 a.m. as reports had been received that the garrisons of posts were withdrawn at night. It was carried out by 3 troops, one working round on each flank and one advancing direct; the Engineer Detachment with machine gun and escort were held in reserve.

An enemy sentry gave the alarm as the force advanced and whole of the enemy bolted from their camp; some southeast and some to the ridge north of the camp. They were headed off by the

off by the right hand troop under Lieut. Pender and a sharp fight took place in which it is regretted No. 976, Cpl. Monaghan 8th A.L.H. was killed.

The enemy put up a good fight and lost 6 men killed and five wounded before surrendering. One Austrian Lieut. of Engineers and 29 unwounded prisoners were captured and brought in by the column together with four wounded, one was too severely wounded to be moved.

The destruction of the enemy's camp and well boring plant was carried out in a most thorough manner. The latter consisted of two complete sets, one 6" and one 8" of the most up to date description. Although the two main bores had reached depth of 276 and 260 feet respectively, no water had been struck. The site of the bores is however very promising, and the Austrian Officer had no doubt that water would be found. Work has been in progress for 5 months. The Column brought back a number of papers including record of the boring operations at JIF JAJA and elsewhere.

On completion of the work of demolition the Column withdrew on the same day to water at GEBEL MEKHSHEIB. Thence the return journey was made on 14th and 15th, chiefly by night.

The total casualties in animals were one horse killed during the action and 1 camel abandoned.

During the night of 12th/13th the camp of the party left at GEBEL MUKHSHEIB was fired on fairly heavily, probably by Bedouins. This party had however been reinforced by a patrol from a column which the G.O.C., 9th Corps had sent out to BIR EL GIDDI when my proposed plan of operations was communicated to him.

No doubt the presence of the column helped to deceive the Bedouins as to our real objective and I am grateful to Lieut.-General Sir F.J.Davies for his spontaneous co-operation.

I have already called the attention of the C. in C. to the admirable and thorough manner in which Major W.H.Scott conducted the operation; the preparations for which Major-General Sir H.V.Cox and Brig.-General J.M.Antill commanding 3rd A.L.H.Bde. worked out most carefully.

Major Scott's detailed report is attached and I have much pleasure in recommending to the notice of the C. in C. the names of the Officers and N.C.Os he mentions; although all ranks appear to have displayed both gallantry and efficiency.

I would especially draw attention to the services of Capt. Wearne, 8th A.L.H., who had previously conducted a reconnaissance to GEBEL MUKHSHEIB in an excellent manner and has proved himself a light horse officer of exceptional ability; and of Capt. Macaulay, G.S.O. 3, 2nd A. & N. Z. Army Corps, who accompanied Capt. Wearne's ~~XXXXXX~~ previous reconnaissance and also went over the route in an aeroplane. It has been reported to me that while others rested he was incessantly at work collecting information etc. and that his energy was tireless.

The Bikanir Camel Corps who have been in constant employment on patrol duty had a fresh opportunity of proving their usefulness. I would mention the name of ^{Jemadar} Lieutenant ~~Major~~ ^{DHOR} Singh who commanded the detachment on this occasion.

I wish also to bring to your notice the work done by the Royal Flying Corps, both on reconnaissances previous to, and indirect co-operation with, the column. During the 12th and 13th these were carried out under the most unfavourable weather conditions. The value of such close co-operation cannot be over-estimated as it enables a column to move with

4126

-5-

confidence and effects great saving of horses.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

S. Alex. Girdly

ISMAILIA, Lieut.-General,
Commanding 2nd Australian & New Zealand Army Corps.

18th April, 1916.

P.S. Forms A & B are attached

*copy
22.4.16.*

From/

Headquarters,
3rd A.L.H. Brigade,
RAILHEAD.

To/

Headquarters,
4th Australian Division.

I herewith attach report of Major W.H. Scott, 9th L.H. Regiment, the O.C. Column, organised and sent out from RAILHEAD 12th April to attack JIFJAPA vide G/34 Secret Instructions 5.4.16 forwarded to G.O.C. "A" Subsection.

Other matters to be reported upon are dealt with in detail in the attached report.

In forwarding the report I wish to make the following comments :-

On the afternoon of 12th inst. I personally inspected the Column before it moved off and was very satisfied with the personnel and turn out - I was confident if there was anything ahead of it, the men selected would carry it through, and as things have turned out my opinion was quite justified.

From what Major Scott tells me the whole undertaking worked most harmoniously and almost to the times set out in the itinerary; the attack on JIFJAPA itself being delayed until later in the morning on account of information received on the point of departure that the enemy evacuated their posts at night, and did not return until all was reported clear in the morning.

I thought it wise to embody in the Column one Officer (Captain Wearne) and 12 men of the 8th L.H. who had taken part in a previous reconnaissance and I am informed that their knowledge of the country was most useful. One of them was killed, Corporal Monahan, and Major Scott tells me that the services of Captain Wearne were particularly valuable, and that the other men of the 8th L.H. were most useful.

It will be seen that Major Scott has reported very comprehensively on the operations and enemy's works, and I venture to say has shown himself possessed of powers of a high order. He has been ably seconded in this interesting little raid, none the less difficult on

account of its long distance from the base, by the before mentioned. Captain Macaulay of the 2nd A.N.Z. Staff, and Captain Ayris, Orderly Officer to myself and the Officers and personnel generally who showed the greatest zest and intelligence throughout these operations.

Major Scott desires me to say how much he has appreciated the excellent services of Lieuts. F. Eggar and Beall of the Wireless Section and also of the hearty and valuable co-operation of the Bikanir Camel Corps under their native Officer Lieut. Bhir Singh.

I have had occasion before to bring under favourable notice the conspicuously fine work of Major W.H. Scott, particularly at Hill 60 Gallipoli under Generals H.V. Cox and Sir Alexander Godley, and can only repeat how I appreciate at all times his services.

(Signed) J. M. ANTILL
Brig.-General, G.O.C.,
3rd Light Horse Brigade.

Serapeum,

Egypt, 15.4.16.

Forwarded. I fully endorse the above - particularly as regards the capabilities of Major Scott as a leader. I found him very gallant and resourceful at ANZAC. The whole affair reflects great credit on the 3rd Light Horse Brigade.

(Signed) H. V. COX

SERAPEUM, Major-General, Commanding 4th Australian Division

15.4.1916.

Y/128

W.R. / G.M.

From Troopers.
To G. H. Q.

Approved

18580 cipher. S.D.S.

15/4/16.

Resp. 1130.
Recd. 1740.
Decd. 1745.

Your H.F.A. 68.

Defence AUSTRALIA stated in his C.106.,
March 3rd., that he was not raising divisional Head-
quarters or Howitzer Brigade for 3rd Australian
Division. He is raising three Field Artillery Brigades
and Divisional Ammunition Columns, War Establishments
Part 8. Please report whether you are able to form
in EGYPT the divisional headquarters, howitzer brigade
and the balance of Field Artillery to complete
division to part 7. Reference had also been made
to Birchwood as you suggested.

Copies to :- O for action.
O(b).
C-IN-C.
C.S.S.
A.
Q.
H.C.P.A.

Filed G.S. 113.
" G.S. Cables.



SECRET

From Chief, Egyptforce.

To Chief, London.

A.M. 399.

13/4/16.

Desp. 2200.

Your 13088 cipher S.D.2.

Following cease to belong to E.E.F.:- N.Z. Division; South African Infantry Brigade; Heavy Artillery, 24th, 32nd, and 35th Brigades and 48th Battery; No. 7 Canadian General Hospital; N.22 and N.25 Airline Sections.

Following become part of E.E.F.:- 38th Anti-Aircraft Section; 11th and 12th Armoured Motor Batteries; 6 and 7 Pack Wireless Sections; 19th Motor Ambulance Convoy and Heavy Repair Workshop A.S.C. H.Q. 15th Army Corps ceases to exist. Major-General Lawrence has assumed command of No. 3 Section Canal Defences; Area of responsibility and troops same as previously for 15th Corps. 54th Division has joined 9th Corps. Australian Training Centre established TEL EL KEBIR under command of Major-General Hare. Reference your 15342 cipher of April 12th, composition of column for KHARGA :- 1 squadron E.A. cavalry, 3 regiments 2nd Dismounted Brigade, 1 company Imperial Camel Corps, Det. Signal Troop 2nd Dismounted Brigade, 1 section Hong Kong & Singapore Mountain Battery. Det. R.E. and $\frac{1}{2}$ Flight R.F.C. Reference location units W.F.F., reorganisation and redistribution now in progress, but subject to future modification, proposed distribution will be approximately, (A) North Western Force. SOLLUM and MATRUH. Composite T.F. Brigade less one battalion, 2 companies Imperial Camel Corps, 4 mountain or H.A. guns, 2 Naval 4 inch guns and detachments Armoured Cars and R.F.C. MARIUT District. 2nd County of London Yeomanry, 2nd garrison battalion Liverpool Regiment, 1 company Imperial Camel Corps, and detachment Armoured Cars. WADI MATRUH. 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade and 1 company Imperial Camel Corps. FAYUM. 1st North Midland Mounted Brigade with Berks Battery R.H.A., and detachments Armoured Cars and R.F.C. MINIA. 4th Dismounted Brigade, 4 mountain or H.A. guns, 1 company Imperial Camel Corps, detachment Armoured Cars, and No. 1 Armoured Train. From this force will be found column for eventual occupation of BAHARIA. (B) South Western Force. ASSIUT. 1 garrison battalion, 1 company Imperial Camel Corps, and detachments Armoured Cars and R.F.C. KHARGA force as already stated, and at QARA 2nd Dismounted Brigade less 3 regiments, 2 mountain or H.A. guns, detachment Armoured Cars and No. 2 Armoured Train. ASSOUAN to be garrisoned by 1 company E.A. infantry. When above redistribution is effected, 53rd Division will be concentrated as general reserve for Western Frontier Force or for use elsewhere as may be required.

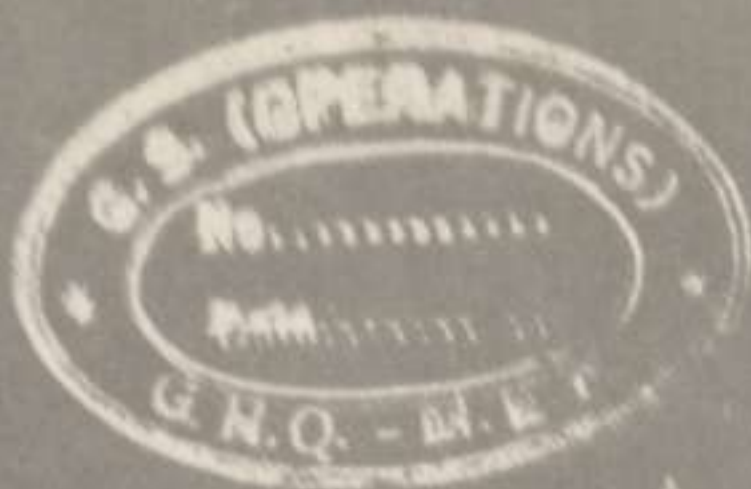
Copies to :-

O.
O.(b)
G.-in-C.
C.G.S.
I.
A.
Q.
M.G.R.A.
E.-in-C.
D.A.S.
Filed G.S. 169.
" G.S. Cables.



W.D

1/130



M.H.E

From:- A.H.Q. SALONIKA.

To:- Chief, London, repeated EGYPT.

G.C. 107. cipher.

15/4/16.

Dep. 1520.

Recd. 1938.

Depd. 1948.

Continuation my telegram G.C. 97. Sarraill now wishes me to move up infantry brigade to vicinity of KUKUS replacing French Infantry in that area and in SPANC Valley. I have agreed presuming you will have no objection.

- Copies to :-
- C.
 - C(b).
 - C-in-C.
 - C.S.S.
 - I.
 - A.
 - G.

Filed G.S. 3/8.
G.S. Cables.

4/131

WD

SECRET

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

4/131

Mpt F

From:- Chief, Egyptforce.
To:- Chief, London.

A.M. 400.

13/4/18.

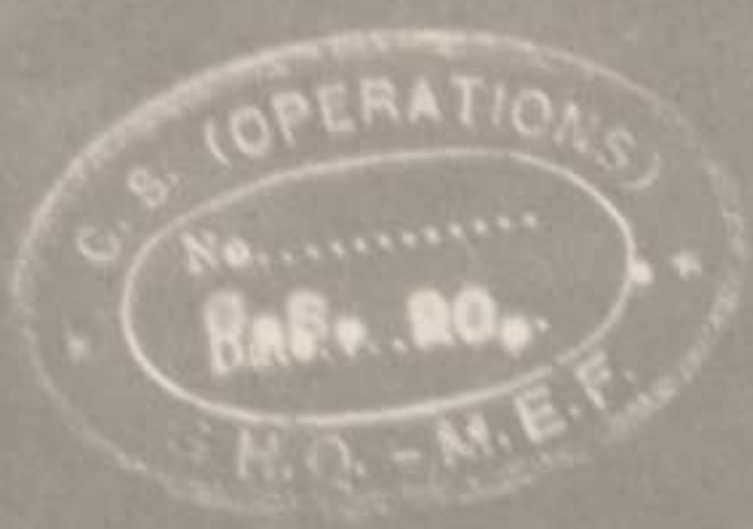
Desp. 2130.

Evening Report. Eastern Front - Arrangements
for clearing RAHA Pass in progress. Western Front -
One of our motor car patrols captured and drove in
two small camel convoys to ALAMEIN.

- Copies to :-
- O.
 - O(b).
 - C-in-C.
 - C.G.S.
 - I.
 - A.
 - Q.
 - A.M.S.
 - M.G.R.A.
 - E-in-C.
 - D.A.S.
 - Major Vitale.

Filed G.S. Z/39.
" G.S. Cables.

1/132



W. D.
M. G.

General Officer Commanding,

9th, 15th Corps.

With reference to this office G.S. 90 of 12th February, and para. 4 of G.S. 24/3 of 6th March, it has been decided that Yeomanry Regiments belonging to Dismounted Brigades will be armed with 2 Lewis Guns only. When this change is effected the War Establishment of a Dismounted Brigade issued from General Headquarters on February 18th will be amended and the Table for Composition in detail of Machine Gun Section on page 9 will read as follows :-

	Vehicles.	Drivers.	Horses.		Remarks.
			Draught.	Pack.	
Wagons Limbered G.S.					
For M.G. Co.	1	2	4	-	
For S.A.A.	1	2	4	-	
Total M.G. Section.	2	4	8	-	

(Sgd) C. P. Dawnay
for Lt. Col. C.S.

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

G.H.Q.
13.4.16.

Copies to :-
Q.
D.O.S.



4/133

Apppt H.

Commandant,
Imperial School of Instruction,
ZEITOUN.

The attached copy of letter to the Commandant,
Machine Gun School, ISMAILIA, is forwarded for your
information.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
13.4.16.

(ca) G. F. Perkins
bapt
Lieut-Colonel,
G.S.