

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/11 Part 1

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

February 1917



AWM4-1/6/11PART1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Explanatory heading not required.)

G. S. O. - G. H. Q. - E. E. F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	1.2.17	1734	Desert Column S. L. 816 Two enemy aeroplanes flew over EL ARISH today - No bombs were dropped.	
	1.2.17	1950	Miss Chief London A.M. 1559 <u>Evening report</u> All well.	
	1.2.17	1530	Miss Chief London A.M. 1557 Monthly report on the KANTARA Railway -	A
	1.2.17	1945	Miss Troopers A.M. 1558 Weekly movement returns.	B
	1.2.17	1935	Miss from Troopers 28789 When may the reversed order of battle be expected?	
	1.2.17	2358	Miss from Troopers 28909 The increase of European N.C.O.'s for the Hong Kong and Singapore Battering is approved.	
	1.2.17	1220	Miss From Hong Kong A.M. 1556 One British officer, and 3 European N.C.O.'s (serjeants) as asked by in this office letter of 9.9.16 should be sent at once.	
	1.2.17		Miss Britains - Kuala A.M. 1555 1100 on 5.2.17. will be convenient for the conference on Coastal patrol of EGYPT - D.G. of Coastguards will be asked to attend.	
	1.2.17	1915	Miss - D.G. of Coast Guard Alexandria - O.A. 269 Request to attend conference with Commanding Officer at Naval Command-in-Chief, at G.H.Q. - at 1100 - 5.2.17.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1.2.17	2000.	<p>Wire Chief, Salonika. Salonika's Candidates for 2nd Staff Course should arrive in EGYPT by 21.2.17 - Course commences on 26.2.17.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A.M. 1560</p>	
	1.2.17		<p>Letter to Eastern Force. With reference to the request by Eastern Force for 4 Lewis guns, and 5 Hotchkiss Guns for the L of C, KANTARA to EL ARISH, information is required as to what units these would be issued and whether any transport is required.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">G.S. 96</p>	
	1.2.17		<p>Letter to Eastern Force. A letter was forwarded to Eastern Force showing the formation of the two mounted divisions:-</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>A & N.Z. Mtd. Div.</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1st A.L.H. Bde.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2nd A.L.H. Bde.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">N.Z. M. R. Bde.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">22nd Mtd. Bde.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><u>Imperial Mtd. Div.</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">5th Mtd. Bde.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">6th Mtd. Bde.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">3rd A.L.H. Bde.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">4th A.L.H. Bde.</p> </div> </div> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The Imperial Mtd. Div. to be commanded by Brigadier H.W. Hodgson C.V.O.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A list of appointments for the Staff of the Imperial Mtd. Div. was also forwarded.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The new units for this division are being formed as quickly as possible.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">It is hoped that the two mounted divisions may be ready for operations in Southern SYRIA.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		2.17	<p>The 4th Battalion Imperial Camel Corps, however, process of formation from the Dismounted Australian Squadrons, one Coy I.C.C., 2 Cyclist Coys, and the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, will be available for mounted work in the SHARQIA PROVINCE and SOUTHERN CANAL SECTION.</p> <p>Due to the recent reorganisation of the Counter-Espionage System in the SHARQIA PROVINCE, these mounted troops would appear to be sufficient.</p> <p>As regards the NORTHERN CANAL SECTION, the only remaining troops mounted troops for would be Hdqrs and one Squadron, County of London Yeomanry, and one Squadron Duke of Lancaster Yeomanry, armoured trains, however, might prove useful. Mounted brigades from the two mounted divisions would frequently be withdrawn for rest, and would therefore, during that period, be available for the L of C in the NORTHERN CANAL SECTION.</p> <p>It is requested that Eastern Force will submit their opinions on this redistribution.</p>	

*Overland
C.P. 3*

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G.S. O-G.H. Q-E E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	2.2.17	1715	Wire from Desert Column H.I. 820.	No hostile aircraft activity today.
	2.2.17	1955	Wire Chief, London A.M. 1532	Evening report - All well.
	2.2.17	0940	Wire Troopers A.M. 1561	One 4.7" gun is being allotted to ALEXANDRIA for the defence of the aerodrome at ABOUKHAR against submarine attack. An increase in the establishment of the 103 rd Coy. R.G.A. of 1 officer, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 1 bombardier, 1 act/bombardier, and 11 gunners is required.
	2.2.17	0426	Wire from Troopers. 28519.	A representative of the Administrative Staff of the 42 nd Div. should be included in the advance party in the "ARCADIAN".
	2.2.17	2135	Wire Troopers A.M. 1563.	Order of battle for A&N.Z. Mtd Div. and IMPERIAL Mtd Div. and proposals for the formation of the units which are at present non-existent.
	2.2.17		Letter to Senior Military Officer Cairo G.S. 503	With reference to the Egyptian Army War Office letter of 19.1.17 it is requested that a reply has not been sent before. The 4 8 cm Krupp guns in question which were lent by the Egyptian Army in December 1914 will be returned as soon as arrangements are completed for their withdrawal.

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G.S. 102 G.H.Q. E.E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	2.2.17		<p>Sanction has now been obtained from the War Office for the following increase in the establishment of the Hong Kong and Surge Force contingent battery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Addition of 3 European N.C.O's. (b) Increase in establishment of native N.C.O's by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Hauliers. 4 Marks. 6 Paid act/Marks. <p>No mention was made by W.O. of the extra saddles. If these are still required a fresh application must be made to the War Office.</p> <p>The Governor and C.M.C. of HONG KONG has offered to send another British officer. This offer has been accepted.</p>	
	2.2.17		<p>An amended establishment for the Army Printing and Stationery Services in ^{EGYPT} EGYPT ^{SALONIKA} has been forwarded. This establishment shows the method proposed for linking up the Army Printing and Stationery Services in EGYPT with that of SALONIKA. A headquarters is shown in EGYPT, separate to the two depots, near ALEXANDRIA and near SALONIKA. The former depot is seen to have a larger establishment as it is charged with supplying both stores to the SALONIKA DEPOT.</p>	B 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	2.2.17		<p>Letter to; A. NZ. Field Div G. S. 93/1</p> <p>It has been noticed that, in para. 9. 4. N. Z. Expeditionary Force Orders (Egypt) of 14. 1. 17, an increase of 3 officers is allowed for in the NZ Mounted Rifle Regts. A copy of the establishment of these regiments as below authorized by the N. Z. authorities should be forwarded to this office; also information as to the covering authority for this increase.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	3.2.17	1752	Wire from Desert Column H.I. 225.	
			Enemy aircraft flew over TILUL, KILO 143, and EL MRISH today - No bombs were dropped.	
	3.2.17	2000	Wire Chief London A.M. 1565.	
			Four more deserters gave themselves up today - Altogether since the action of RAFA, over one hundred have come in -	
	3.2.17	1630	Wire Delta District OAS 13.	
			6th Field Troop should be ordered to proceed to EL SHATT to join the 6th Mtd Bde. Marching out status should be issued direct to D.G.M.G. - G.H.Q. -	
	3.2.17	0159	Wire from Troop 22902	
			MAJ. E. B. DEL FORTH M.C. MANCH. REGT. has been appointed to command Imperial Camel Corps School - ABBASSIA.	
	3.2.17	1230	Wire Troop A.M. 1564.	
			Weekly R.F.C. return.	A.
	3.2.17		Wire Delta District OAS 14.	
			Proposals for redistribution of Garrison Battalion in Delta District have been submitted to this office and approved. In accordance with instructions from this office, it has been arranged to relieve Hdqrs and 2 Coys. of Conl Chesters Regt now at TANTA and BENHA, by Hdqrs and 2 Coys. 20/Rifle Brigade, now at the CAIRO DISTRICT.	3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	3.2.17		<p style="text-align: center;">* <u>TOR & ABU ZENEIMA</u></p> <p>The march of about one hundred Indian Infantry from these two places to SUEZ, having been postponed for political reasons, it has now been decided to bring these troops to SUEZ by sea as an unnecessary delay can thereby be avoided.</p>	
	3.2.17		<p>Letter to, Eastern District G.S. 2/54/15.</p> <p>The question of visual signalling for the Alexandria defence scheme was the subject of a recent proposal by Alexandria District. The most personnel available for as signallers did not appear to be sufficiently efficient ^{efficient} to warrant the continuation of their training as such. After discussion however, it has been decided to maintain the existing system of visual signalling, but to supplement it, by an organised system of motor despatch orders.</p> <p>The question of the defence of ALEXANDRIA is one which deals almost exclusively with the prevention of sinking, and also of preventing hostile submarines shelling the town. It is not considered that the town is likely to be attacked either by land or sea by enemy forces.</p>	
	3.2.17		<p>Minute Letter to D.A.G. C.M.C. G.S. 341</p> <p>In accordance with instructions received from the War Office, the reorganisation of Field Artillery Brigades and Divisional Ammunition Columns will take place on the figures shown in draft copy of War Establishment, Part <u>XI</u>.</p>	<p>O.C. [Signature] Capt.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	4.2.17	1900	Wire to Hdqrs. ASSIUT. O.A. 271.	
			A wire was sent to catch the Commander-in-Chief on the train at ASSIUT to the following effect, "SIWA COLUMN reports that the point of concentration midway between LAMLAZ and NEQB SHESSA, and about 10 miles North of GIRBA at 1130 on 2.1.17. All going well".	
	4.2.17	1720	Wire from Desert Column H.I. 828.	
			Enemy aircraft flew over LAMFAN and ELARISH today. No bombs have been reported.	
	4.2.17	1950	Wire: Chief, London A.M. 1570.	
			Evening report. All well.	
	4.2.17	1805	Wire from Troopers. 28934.	
			Reference the question of using the animals and stores which had been kept for the possible move of two divisions overseas, permission has now been given to make use of them. It is intended however that the stores and animals in question should not be allowed to decrease permanently, but should be replenished as opportunity offers.	
	4.2.17	0930	Wire from Troopers. 28910.	
			Hotchkiss guns could be sent to replace the Lewis guns with the Imperial Camel Corps so that the Lewis guns could be released to assist in bringing up the establishment of Lewis guns to 16 for each infantry battalion.	
	4.2.17	1930	Wire, Troopers. A.M. 1569.	
			The proposal in the wire immediately above has been agreed to, and it is requested that Hotchkiss guns be sent.	9

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	4.2.17	1115	<p>Wire, Troopers - A.M. 1567.</p> <p>With reference to the establishment for a Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, it is desired to include one Quartermaster Sergeant and one Staff Sergeant in the total of 7 Staff Sergeants. This was shown in Part IX dated 6.9.15, but these two ranks are not specified in Part XI - Approval for amending Part XI to read as Part IX is requested - (Approved later)</p>	
	4.2.17	0855	<p>Wire from, Troopers 28933</p> <p>It has been decided to lend two aeroplanes with pilots and mechanics to the Abyssinian Government for six months for purposes of demonstration - When these are despatched, the establishment of Middle East Bde. R.F.C. will be increased accordingly.</p>	
	4.2.17	0630	<p>Wire from, Troopers 28904</p> <p>The Minister for Defence, AUSTRALIA, has represented that the R.A.N.B.T. are engaged on non-combatant work in EGYPT, and is desirous of withdrawing them for fighting or for work definitely connected with active operations - Verification of these statements are required, and also an opinion as to whether this unit should be disbanded and the men transferred to artillery or engineers -</p>	
	4.2.17	1300	<p>Wire, Genl. Chauvel G.A. 270</p> <p>This was reported to Genl. Chauvel - It was further pointed out that, as this unit had been employed exclusively on military work, Troopers were not</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	4.2.47		<p>Understood - A reply from Genl. Chauvel's will opinion will be awaited before a reply is sent to Troopers -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A.M. 1568.</p>	
	4.2.47		<p>Orders have been issued to G.O.C. Middle East Brigade to the following effect:- In view of the importance of pressing forward the railway East of EL ARISH, it is the question of hostile bombing raids is a matter of considerable importance, on account of the Egyptian labourers employed on this work. In order to avoid the inevitable cessation of work caused by a hostile bombing raid, it is desired to impress on the enemy that instant retaliation will always be made. It is not intended therefore that the R.F.C. shall drop any bombs except as as a measure of reprisal.</p> <p>This order was necessitated by the fact that a bomb recently dropped from an enemy aeroplane killed and wounded some 50 or 60 labourers, much hindering the work. The retaliatory measures are proving very successful.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
	4.2.17.		Letter to, Eastern Force G.S. 476	* Further details on the reorganisation of the artillery in Eastern Force -	A
	4.2.17.		Letters to, Eastern Force. G.S. 212.	A small increase in the personnel and animals of the Signal Section, I.C.C. Bde. is provisionally sanctioned. Also a small increase in the complement of the Field Troop of the same brigade.	A

J.C. Williams
Capt. G.S.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cars	5.2.17	2215 2215	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SIWA COLUMN.</u></p> <p>Two wounded officers, Capt. BALD and Capt. MACDONNELL left Column Hdqrs. at GIRBA* at 1000 on 4.2.17, and arrived at MATRUH by special car at 1730 on 5.2.17. No official report was sent by them by B. Genl. Hodgson - Capt. Bald, however, was able to make a report. Two batteries of armoured cars and two light car patrols found the enemy encamped on the Southern slopes of the GIRBA cañon on 3.2.17. They vacated their camp before the armoured cars reached them and took up a position 1200 yards away on a rocky slope. The cars were unable to reach them, but held them there from 1100 till 1800. The enemy had two guns and two machineguns. No more definite information could be given, but Capt. Bald believes that the cars remained in the same position that night. If this is so, the enemy would have been unable to get to his water. At 0500 on 4.2.17 the enemy fired two consecutive gunshots - This may have been the signal to retire. It was further reported their tents had been struck. A third officer, Capt. WELLS was wounded. All three casualties were only slightly wounded. The enemy encountered were believed to be about 800; while 600 more were reported at SIWA.</p>	<p>Telephone message from Western Force.</p> <p>2215.000 SIWA 004114</p>

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	5.2.17	1400	Wire from Genl. Chandel. A 1014 -	
			Genl. Chandel, in reply to the request for his opinion on the question of disbanding the R.A.N.B.T., said that he has already knew that the men of this unit were discontented and troublesome, and recommended the disbanding of the unit, and the personnel to be transferred to artillery or engineers or infantry - Army officers or M.C.O.'s suitable for employment in other units might be transferred -	
	5.2.17	1715	Wire from Desert Column H.I. 835.	
			No hostile aircraft activity today -	
	5.2.17	2130	Wire Chief, London - A.M. 1572	
			Evening report - All well -	
	5.2.17	0025	Wire from Troopers. 23091 -	
			The increase in the establishment for the special W/T section is approved - Capt. Struigen will bring out the necessary additional personnel.	
	5.2.17	0020	Wire from Genl. Britman Salonika - G. 572	
			Major GARCIA has been ordered to report to G.H.Q. as an additional instructor (G.S.O. 2) for the Staff School, at the expiration of his leave to the U.K.	
	5.2.17	0950	Wire from, General - Basra - 9/362	
			Account of fighting in MESOPOTAMIA from 28.1.17 to 4.2.17	A
	5.2.17		Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 212	
			One R.A.M.C. orderly and camel may be added to M.G. Coy. I.C.C. Bde. No ammunition can be allowed for this unit.	Hdqs M.G. Coy. I.C.C. Bde. J.C.W. [initials]

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Cairo	6.2.17	1751	Wire from Desert Column - today. H. I. 842.	
	6.2.17	1955	Wire; Chief. A.M. 1574. London-	
	6.2.17	1655	Wire; Eastern Force - O.A. 272.	
	6.2.17	1430	Wire; Troopers - A.M. 1573.	
	6.2.17		Letter to Eastern Force. G.S. 173.	

Hostile aircraft reported to have flown over EL BURJ

Evening report - All well -

The question of disbanding the R.A.N.B.T. has been raised by the Commonwealth Government, and the suggestion has been made that they might be transferred to artillery, engineers or infantry - Com. Chauvel concurs in this proposal, and as he considers this unit to be troublesome - Before replying to War Office, the opinion of Eastern Force is awaited -

Reference the suggestions from the War Office as to the establishment on which the Railway Operating Division should be organised; the establishment suggested is not suitable for this country - No railway construction troops would be released from this country -

It has been arranged to provide a small amount of live shell for the 201st Siege Battery to practise with at GILBAN, before going up to EL ARISH. The M.G.R.A. should be informed when this practice will take place -

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	6.2.17.		<p>Letter to; Eastern Force - G.S. 490.</p> <p>A small increase in the number of horses allowed by War Establishments for the Cable sections of the Desert Column Signal Coy, and the Visual Signalling sections of the same Company are approved as a temporary measure.</p>	
	6.2.17.		<p>Letter to; Eastern Force - Western Force - G.S. 486/7.</p> <p>Vacancies for the next Senior officers course at the School of Instruction, commencing on 12.2.17, have been allotted to all the adjutants in the battalions of the 229th, 230th, and 231st Inf. Bdes.</p>	
	6.2.17.		<p><u>ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE OF CAIRO.</u></p>	
	G.S. 440		<p>As the enemy has now withdrawn from SINAI, the scheme for the anti aircraft defence of CAIRO has been reconsidered, and it has been decided to make certain modifications thereto - The two aeroplanes, hitherto held in readiness at the aerodrome ABBASSIA are to be released for other service - The Machine Gun detachments in the Cairo District, on anti aircraft duty, are to be released for service elsewhere - For political reasons, it has been decided to continue the existing lighting regulations.</p> <p>G.O.C. Delta District, G.O.C. Middle East Brigade R.F.C., and the Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior have been informed of this decision, and requested to give effect to the Commander-in-Chief's wishes.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	6.2.17		<p><u>BRITISH TROOPS TO AKABA.</u></p> <p>Col. Brémont, Chief of the French Mission to the HEDJAZ was, by his special request, granted an interview with the Commander-in-Chief on 5.2.17. His object was once more to endeavour to persuade the British to send troops to AKABA. There they would form a base for aerial operations against the HEDJAZ Railway, and also for raids by troops. The French would send native troops from SUEZ and JIBUTI. These proposals were met with a definite and firm refusal by the Commander-in-Chief, who is and has been working in close accord with H.E. The High Commissioner. It was pointed out that troops could not be spared for this diversion, and even if it was possible, but little damage could be done to the railway line.</p> <p>It would appear that the recent successes obtained by the Sherif, unaided by Christian troops, have not been in the nature of a disappointment to the French. Col. Brémont stated that if the British would not join with the French ^{making} _{in} a landing in ARABIA, every effort would be made to obtain the co-operation of the Italians.</p> <p>This information was despatched to Chief, London, at 1500, 1500 by cipher wire A.M. 1571 of 5.2.17.</p>	

Oswald
Capt G

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	7-2-17		<p><u>SIWA COLUMN. 7th February 1917.</u></p> <p>No report having been received from the Officer Commanding this Column, Captain Macdonnell, who was in ALEXANDRIA, slightly wounded, was asked to report on the state of affairs and intentions of the Commander when he left the Column at 1030 on the 3rd.</p> <p>Captain Macdonnell stated that the plan was to proceed on the 4th to SIWA, assuming that the enemy appeared to have left that place. Information at that time lead the Column Commander to believe that SAYED AHMED had no guns or machine guns, and it was considered probable that he would go south from SIWA into the sand and turn north when west of GIRBA, in which case the force at MUNASIB, consisting of one Light Armoured Car Brigade and one Light Car Patrol, which was in touch by wireless with the Headquarters of the Column, should be able to cut off his retreat.</p> <p>Captain Macdonnell had no information of the plans consequent on the opposition encountered.</p> <p>The difficulties of communication were revealed, when it was found that the following message, received in MATRUH on the evening of the 7th, had been despatched by General Hodgson on the 4th. "GIRBA successfully cleared by 0800 on 4th, after continuous action lasting 20 hours. Enemy 200 strong held position on rough ground with 2 guns and 2 machine guns. "Vacated position at dawn. Impossible ground enabled him to withdraw; retreated west. Our "detachment at MUNASIB reported in position at 1900 on 3rd. Information as to enemy moves "reported to this detachment by W/T. Enemy's camp burnt, about 100 rifles destroyed and 20 "fresh graves found. Main force moves towards SIWA, where MOHAMMED SALEH and SAYED AHMED are "reported on 5th."</p> <p>This message was closely followed by wireless communication, intercepted by Eastern Force, to the effect that the Column reached BAYUD on the evening of the 7th and expected to arrive in MATRUH on the 8th.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><i>Macdonnell</i> Capt</p> </div>	

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
Cairo	7.2.17	1736	Wire from, Desert H.I. 845 Column	Hostile aircraft flew over BIR EL ABD, KILO 143, and EL ARISH today - No report received of bombs being dropped.	
	7.2.17	1945	Wire, Chief London A.M. 1575.	Evening report, all well.	
	7.2.17	1702	Wire from, Angac Mtd. Divn A 60.	Request for 6 officers and 174 other ranks of Victoria L.H. units to proceed from the Camel Training Depot to the Australian Training Depot, MUASCAR for training and equipping.	
	7.2.17	2227	Wire from, Angac Mtd. Divn A 67.	The formation of the 4 th A.L.H. ^{Bde} Brigade has been approved by the Commonwealth Government.	
	7.2.17		Letter ^{to} Eastern Force G.S. 167.	In reply to a request by A Squadron, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, at present Divisional Cavalry to the 42 nd Divn, to proceed with the division to FRANCE, where the remainder of the regiment is at present serving, it is regretted that their request cannot be granted.	
	7.2.17		Letter to Delta District G.S. 517.	A Board of Officers (President Lt Col. Macleworth D.D.A.S) will be assembled to consider the advisability of reducing the number of telephones known use in the CAIRO District. The number is very large and is a source of considerable expense to the public.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7-2-17		<p>Letter to Secretary War Office - an infantry division equipped for desert warfare, has been forwarded to the War Office. The general principle which has been adopted in drawing up this mobile establishment has been to retain at embarkment points on the L of C any administrative or other personnel which it is not essential to keep with the fighting units. This establishment is only local and temporary and does not affect demands for reinforcements, promotion or pay.</p> <p>The provisional establishment for a mounted Division with camel transport is now under revision and will shortly be forwarded to the War Office.</p>	
	7-2-17		<p>Letter to Staff School - During the last week of the present course, reports will be forwarded to the C.G.S.-G.H.Q. on each officer giving his qualifications for employment on the Staff, for which branch he is recommended, and the order in which officers should be employed. The Chief of the General Staff will interview each officer individually.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7.2.17		<p> A scheme for releasing the 231st Inf. Bde. from the Western Front has been submitted to this office - The Coastal section will not be materially altered - BAHARIA and KHARQA will be held - SIWA will not be permanently occupied - </p> <p> The suggestion that a post should be established at QATTARA is not approved - The posts which will be held in all other places should be made absolutely impregnable - All surplus material which under the scheme for redistribution of troops should be handed in to Ordnance or P.E. Stores - </p> <p> The 231st Inf. Bde. will shortly be concentrated at ZEITOUN. </p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7.2.17		<p>Letter to Eastern Force G.S. 7/66</p>	
			<p>The personnel of the Artillery of the 42nd Divn will be embarked on the instructions given in G.S. 2/66 (shown as appendix to War Army of 29.1.17) and not on the instructions given by the S.O.M.G. under C.M.O. 2787 of 30.1.17.</p> <p>In accordance with instructions received from the War Office, 2 Captains and 8 Subalterns, R.A. will be added to the numbers quoted in G.S. 2/66 of 29.1.17 for duty with Trench Mortar Batteries.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo-	8.2.17.		<p><u>SIWA COLUMN.</u></p> <p>B. Genl. Hodgson and his column arrived back at MATRUH today. A report on the operations was received by wire to Western Force and transmitted to G.H.Q. The operations were brought to a successful conclusion. The column which entirely consisted of armoured cars travelled 200 miles across the desert and found the enemy, about 800 strong, in a well defended position south of GIRBA on the morning of 4.2.17. They were attacked at once, and withdrew to a rocky ridge where the cars could not follow them. The action lasted 20 hours. During the night the enemy burnt part of his tents, stores and ammunition. SAYED AHMED, the Commandant, was in SIWA when the action commenced. He and his son, SAHIB SALEM, left at once for SHIYATA, 10 miles S.W. of GIRBA. On the morning of 5.2.17 when our forces entered SIWA, it was found to be abandoned. A friendly reception was accorded them by the inhabitants. In the meantime, a detachment of the column had occupied the MUNASIB PASS (24 miles W. of GIRBA), the only pass between GIRBA and TARABOUS practicable for camels. An enemy convoy coming from the west was captured here. Shortly afterwards the leading party of the enemy from GIRBA was ambushed. The main body of the enemy, with SAYED AHMED, were obliged to strike south through the waterless desert. SAYED AHMED was not captured, but his cause has received a severe blow. Their casualties include 5 Turkish officers and are known to have exceeded 40 killed and 200-300 wounded. A machine gun, and a large quantity of stores, ammunition, camels and donkeys were captured. Our casualties were 3 officers slightly wounded.</p>	<p>(Rev)</p>

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G.S.O. G.H.O. E.E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8.2.17	2110.	Wire from Chief's London - A.M. 1579.	
	8.2.17	1710.	Wire from Desert Column H.I. 845.	
	8.2.17	0940.	Wire from Troops. A.M. 1576.	
	8.2.17		Wire from Eastern Force - O. 1780.	
	8.2.17		Wire from Troops - 29105.	

Evening report. The foregoing account of the operations of the Sixth Column was sent. It was further stated that the Italian Military Attaché accompanied the Column throughout.

No hostile aircraft activity today.

As practically all the mounted troops in NO.E.E.F. are in the EL ARISH area, sanction is requested for the appointment of an Assistant Director of Remounts with Hdqrs. Eastern Force. This officer should be sent from home.

With regard to the question of the disbanding the R.A.N.B.T. Eastern Force consider that the better and most technical part of the personnel, about 4 officers and 90 O.R. would be glad to remain in the unit, and would be of great use. The unskilled ratings should be transferred to another arm, or to the Navy.

The undermentioned units will be ready to embark in E. AFRICA for EGYPT at the end of February.

- 2nd Rhodesian Regt. (requiring rest and reorganisation)
- 1 5" Howitzer. (Cape R. G.A. personnel)
- 3 13 pdr. guns. (S. African F.A.)
- 4 15 pdr. B.L.C. guns (Calcutta Volunteer battery)
- 1 Indian Volunteer M.G. Coy.
- 3 Armoured Car batteries - (one maybe of too low horse power for EGYPT)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8-2-17	1802	Wire from Gail Hoskins A 117 - Dar-es-Salaam	A
	8-2-17	1855	Wire, Troopers - A. M. 1578	B
	8-2-17		Letter to Eastern Force - G. S. Z/5 E/12	
<p>A scheme was submitted by Eastern Force, whereby the Command and Staff of SHARQIA PROVINCE might be released for service elsewhere. This it was proposed to do by fixing the western limits of Eastern Force Area by a line running from SUEZ, west of the Sweetwater Canal to MAHSAMA, and then along the west bank of the Port Said branch of the Sweetwater Canal to PORT SAID. This boundary between the NORTHERN and SOUTHERN Canal Sections to be a line running ^{E 2 W} from a point half way between KANTARA and BALLAH.</p> <p>These proposals are approved, but it is not practicable to effect this alteration until the Control-espionage system of the Canal Zone has been altered.</p> <p>The area ^{W of this line} previously administered by SHARQIA PROVINCE HQRS will be under Delta District; the troops at present in the area will remain there.</p> <p>As regards the works and R.E. work of these Commands, the portion of the work now done by the A.D. of W. Sharqia Province will now be done by the same officer as C.R.E. Southern Canal</p>				

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8.2.17		<p>Section - For the Northern portion of the Canal, the work will be done by the A.D. of the Northern Canal Section. The remainder of the work will be done by C.R.E. CAIRO.</p> <p>It is noted that the release of the 5th Mtd Bde from the Southern Canal Section is dependent upon their being replaced by the new I.C.C. Coy about to be formed from the Australian Light Cavalry.</p>	
	8.2.17		<p>The War Office have accepted the offer of the Australian Government to provide a Field Ambulance for the Canal Brigade. The establishment suggested by them is Mtd 7 A Part XI.</p>	
	8.2.17		<p>As most of the Senior Officers of the mounted units have now attended the Cavalry Course at the School of Instruction, it is thought that the Course might be extended from 3 to 7 weeks and that young officers might attend for a thorough grounding in mounted work. Eighty Officers could be taken but as there is rather a large number of a proportion of N.C.O.'s might be added to make up the total. The opinion of Eastern Force is requested on these proposals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">D. Williams Capt</p>	

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G.S.O. - G.H.Q. - E.E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	9.2.17	1719	Wire from; Desert Column - H.I. 855. Hostile aircraft reported flying near EL ARISH today - No report received of bombs being dropped.	
	9.2.17	1950	Wire; Chief, London - A.M. 1532. During the last two days 15 more deserters have come in. All well.	
	9.2.17	1925	Wire; Troopers. A.M. 1531. Information as to the scale of transport for Lewis Guns with Infantry battalions is requested. Because wire from W.O. Ordnance Base states that the hand carts allowed by W.E. Part III had proved unsatisfactory in France. The Commonwealth Government have approved of the establishment for an I.C.C. battalion of one Lt Colonel and one Major 2nd in Command.	
	9.2.17	1628	Wire from; Azizac Mtd. Div. 281. The proposal to inaugurate an aircraft factory in EGYPT is approved.	
	9.2.17	0905	Wire from; Troopers. 2943. The increase in the establishment of the 103rd Coy. R.C.M. to allow for one gun for the defence of the aerodrome at ABOUKIR has been approved.	
	9.2.17	0535	Wire from; Troopers. 2910. Mobile Veterinary Sections and Yeomanry Field Ambulances are allotted to Mounted Divisions as under:	
	9.2.17	2005	Wire; Troopers. A.M. 1580. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><u>IMPERIAL MTD DIVN:</u> 1/ S. Midland Mtd. Bde. F.A. 3/1 S. Midland Mtd. Bde. Mtbl. Vet. Sect. 3/1 and not 41* is the number of the Sanitary Section with the Imperial Mtd. Divn. *(stated in A.M. 1563.)</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><u>ANZAC MTD DIVN:</u> 1/ N. Mid. Mtd. Bde. F.A. 3/1 IV. Mid. Mtd. Bde. Mtbl. Vet. Sect.</p> </div> </div>	M

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G.S.O - G.H.Q. - E.E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9.2.17. 2025		<p>Wai from Eastern Force - E.G.S/270.</p> <p>G.O.C. Desert Column would like instructors attached to Light Horse and Mounted Brigades to lecture on the following subjects; -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Action of Hotchkiss Guns with mounted troops. (b) Dismounted action of Cavalry with special reference to led horses - (c) Preliminary measures for attack. 	
	9.2.17.		<p>Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 2/2.</p> <p>The suggestion that a proportion of wheeled transport should be included in the I.C.C. Bde Field Ambulance is approved in principle - It is most undesirable, however, to add a wheeled echelon to the present organization at the present juncture -</p> <p>It is suggested that the Field Ambulance might adopt the establishment of that of a L.H. Bde F.A. which would appear to satisfy the requirements in wheeled transport, sledges and caçolats - It would, however, be necessary to increase this establishment for the I.C.C. Bde F.A. There is no objection to this -</p> <p>As this F.A. will eventually be taken over by Australian personnel, it would have an advantage of being of a nearly similar establishment to that of a L.H. Bde F.A. The inclusion of cycle ambulance stretchers cannot be sanctioned -</p>	

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G. S. 'O' - G. H. 'O' - E. E. F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
Cairo -	10.2.17.	1833.	Wire from; Desert Column. H.I. 858.	No hostile aircraft activity reported today.	
	10.2.17.	2000.	Wire; Chief. London - A.M. 1535.	Evening report - All well.	
	10.2.17.	12.55.	Wire; Eastern Force - O.A. 274.	Report on water supply at NEKHL. <u>Quantity</u> - Unlimited - <u>Wells</u> - Three - Depth, 33 feet. <u>Quality</u> - Fit for animals. Somewhat brackish. Boiling does not render it any more palatable. Europeans might drink it for 24 hours without suffering from any ill effects. The late Governor of SINAI used to obtain his drinking water from BIR EL THEMED, 40 miles S.E. of NEKHL, on the AKABA road - At AIN SUDR, 40 miles west of NEKHL, on the SUEZ - AYUN MUSSA - ABU GARAD - NEKHL road, there are two springs which give an unlimited supply of slightly brackish water, fit for Europeans if the leeches are removed.	
	10.2.17.	1715.	Wire; General. Basra & Salamina - A.M. 1534.	Account of SIWA operations -	A.
	10.2.17.	0850.	Wire from; Ferrous 841. Hong Kong.	One British officer and one European Sergeant will be sent for the Hong Kong and Singapore Battery. (One British officer and three European Sergeants were asked for).	M

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G.S. O.L.G.H.Q. - E.E.F. 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
	10.2.17	1130.	Wried, Troopers - A.M. 1583.	Weekly R.F.C. return -	B.
	10.2.17	1739.	Wrie from; Genl Hookins. G.129. Dan-ss-Salaam-	Weekly location return of R.N.A.S. and R.F.C. in E.AFRICA	C.
	10.2.17		Letter to; Lt Col Jennings - G.S. Z/58/12. Bramley -	Lt Col. Jennings-Bramley's services have been lent by the Egyptian Government to Eastern Force for a fortnight. He was instructed to report to G.O.C. Southern Canal Section on 12.2.17. This is for an operation at NEKHL.	
	10.2.17		Letter to; Delta District. G.S. 440.	Permission has been given to Delta District to return the three searchlights hired for the anti aircraft defence of CAIRO, thereby saving unnecessary expense.	
	10.2.17		Letter to; Alexandria Dist. G.S. Z/54/1. ^{Dist.}	The proposal to hold the majority of motor cyclist dispatch riders in readiness at Hagers Alexandria District, in the event of an alarm, is approved.	
<p><u>SCREENING OF LIGHTS AT CYPRUS.</u></p> <p>The question of screening lights at CYPRUS, in order to prevent hostile submarines from utilising them as aids to navigation has been under discussion -</p> <p>It appears easy to arrange for all lights to be</p>					

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10.2.17		<p>Screened, with one exception; namely the lights of the Prisoners of War Camp at FAMAGUSTA -</p> <p>It is not desirable to darken the Camp completely; also it is not desirable to remove the Camp from its present locality, on the Sea shore - This ground has recently been purchased expressly for the Camp, and a considerable expenditure would be involved, were the Camp to be moved inland.</p> <p>It is therefore hoped that the O.C. Troops, CYPRUS, working in conjunction with the High Commissioner of that island, may be able to evolve some scheme whereby a compromise may be effected -</p> <p>It was pointed out that the desirability of giving no aid to hostile submarines was fully realised -</p> <p>This decision has been communicated to:- The High Commissioner, CYPRUS - O.C. Troops - CYPRUS - Naval C in C - E. INDIES & EGYPT, under G.S. 2/56/1. of 10.2.17.</p>	

G.S. 2/56/1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10.2.17.		<p>Letter to; Middle East G.S. 1024/1. Brigadier - R.F.C.</p> <p>The site at SUEZ which is required for the aircraft factory is not at present available - It is now occupied by a barley crushing plant. Arrangements are now being made to carry out this work elsewhere, and on completion of these arrangements, the site will be available.</p>	
	10.2.17.		<p>Letter to; Eastern Force G.S. 513.</p> <p>A small increase in the establishment of the Royal Artillery Headquarters Signal section is provisionally sanctioned. Approval must be obtained by Genl. Chauvel from the Commonwealth Government.</p>	
	10.2.17.		<p>Letter to Secretary, War Office - G.S. 2/25.</p> <p>A revised order of battle for the E.E.F. has been forwarded to the War Office - Certain minor changes in distribution, and the amalgamation of the SHARQIA PROVINCE with the Northern and Southern Canal Sections, have been included, though these changes are not yet completed.</p>	
	10.2.17.		<p>Letter to; Secretary - G.S. 145. War Office -</p> <p>Copy of War Diary for January, 1917, has been forwarded to War Office.</p>	<p>addition Capt G.S.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	11.2.17.	1742.	Wire from; Desert Column. H.I. 861.	Hostile aircraft reported flying near EL ARISH today. No report received of bombs being dropped.
	11.2.17.	1950.	Wire, Chief, London. A.M. 1587.	Evening report - All well.
	11.2.17.		Wire; Western Force. OAS 17.	Orders for concentration of 231 st Inf. Bde. at ZEITOUN.
	11.2.17.	1500	Wire; Troopcom. A.M. 1585.	With regard to the question of disbanding the R.A.N.B.T. Great Channel has been consulted. It is considered that the unit should be retained, but its establishment reduced to 4 officers and 80 other ratings, organised in 2 sections, one of expert pier builders and beach workers, and one of skilled artificers. The remainder, who form the troublesome element in the unit, will be given the option of transferring to another unit or to be returned to AUSTRALIA. Sanction is requested from War Office.
	11.2.17.		Letter to; Eastern Force. G.S. 212.	The conversion of nos. 17 and 18 Corps. I.C.C. from Light Camelry to an at I.C.C. basis is nearly completed.

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	11.2.17		<p>and they will be despatched to Eastern Force as soon as definite authority for the conversion is received from the Commonwealth Government -</p> <p>Nos. 2 & 13 Coys. I.C.C. are being withdrawn from Western Force to go to Eastern Force -</p> <p>When these two moves are completed, all, except nos. 8 and 10 Coys, of the I.C.C. Coys, of which 12 are Australian and 4 Imperial will be in Eastern Force - It is considered that the present organisations of battalions might be altered so that as to be on a more symmetrical basis; no 1 battalion to consist of nos 1, 2, 3, & 4 Coys; no 2 battalion of nos. 5, 6, 7, & 8 Coys, etc etc -</p> <p>Proposals as to this reorganisation should be forwarded by Eastern Force to this office -</p>	
	11.2.17		<p>Letter to Western Force - G.S. 2/25/10</p> <p>No. 10 Coy. I.C.C. will not be taken from Western Force, as previously arranged - Nos. 2 and 13 Coys will be withdrawn, and should be concentrated at ABBASSIA as soon as possible - Nos. 8 and 10 Coys will be the only two to remain with Western Force -</p>	
	11.2.17		<p>Letter to Middle East Bde. G.S. 1024/1. R.F.C.</p> <p>The approval of the Commander-in-Chief has been conveyed to O.C. 20th Reserve Wing - R.F.C. for the excellent results obtained by his wing: i.e. in instructional flying, in which a record number of hours in the air has been attained.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	11-2-17		<p>Letter to; Delta District. G.S. 2/58/12. With reference to Force Order no. 30. Given in appendix, para 2. The garrisons mentioned are all found by the 1/6th Warwick Regt. They will all remain at their present stations with the exception of 1/2 Coy at ISMATHIA which will be relieved. The Force order provides for the amalgamation of Shargia Province, in Northern Canal Section, Southern Canal Section and Delta District.</p>	A
	11-2-17		<p>Letter to; Staff School. Mine. G.S. 504. A roll of officers attending from SALONIKA, attending the 2nd Staff Course, was forwarded.</p>	<p>Oldham Capt 81</p> <p style="text-align: right;">36</p>

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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G.S.O. - G.H.Q. - E.E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	12.2.17	1846	Wire from; Desert Column H.I. 868.	
	12.2.17	1935	Wire; Chief, London - A.M. 1589.	
	12.2.17	0920	Telephoned; Eastern Force - DA 276.	
	12.2.17	1440	Wire; Western Force - Report Eastern Force - OAB 322.	
	12.2.17	1205	Wire from; Eastern Force - G.C. 38 - 12 -	
			<p>Hostile aircraft flew over EL ARISH today - No report received of bombs being dropped -</p> <p>Evening report - All well -</p> <p>Col. Jennings - Brainley leaves CAIRO at 1100 today to report to Eastern Force - Subject to approval of Eastern Force, Capt. Stirling, G.S.O. (3) - G.H.Q. will also accompany NEKHL Column</p> <p>No. 11 Light Armoured Motor Battery will move from MINIA to KANTARA - Marching out starts to be wired to D.Q.M.G. - G.H.Q.</p> <p>Arrangements for rendering 3 bopdr batteries and 201st Sica Batty mobile are being made - Horses are available for 2 bopdr batteries - The remaining bopdr battery and 201st Sica Batty Caterpillars are being used - The caterpillars working on the 12" pipe line were being counted on for this - It is now found that at least 2 more caterpillars will be required as some of those counted on are unusable - If the War office could be asked to send 4, we should have 2 spare -</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	12.2.17	12.15.	Wire from Amzac Mtd. Div A 94	
			Reference to a D.R.L.S. letter despatched to G.H.Q. on 10.2.17. The letter deals with the formation of the 4 th L.H. Bde. Authority was received by Genl. Chauvel from the Coalition Government for the formation of the 4 th L.H. Bde from the 4 th , 11 th , and 12 th L.H. Regts. and the formation of a Brigade Staff, M.G. Squadron, Signal Troop, Field Ambulance. It was suggested that the Signal Troop and Field Ambulance could be raised from reinforcements in EGYPT.	
	12.2.17	1950.	Wire, Troopers - A.M. 1590.	
			Hong Kong was asked to provide 3 European Sergeants. They are only sending one. Can two more be provided? Also 2 fitters, 1 Wheeler, and 3 Saddlers. Technical Native personnel, 22. (Tyces, mechanics, Rakhalis, Smiths, Carpenters, and Sweepers) would be discharged if this establishment were approved.	
	12.2.17	0743.	Wire from General, Basra - O/223/18.	
			Account of fighting in MESOPOTAMIA from 5.2.17 to 11.2.17.	A.
	12.2.17	0620	Wire from Lieut. Maude - Basra X 664.	
			Congratulations on the success of the SIWA operations.	197

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G.S. O-L G.H.O-E E F

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	2.2.17		Letter to, Eastern Force - G.S. 2/56/2. The extension of the 6" pipeline beyond EL ARISH should be put in hand as soon as possible.	
	2.2.17		Letter to, Eastern Force - G.S. 2/28/10- The 17 th Motor M.G. Battery could be made available for Eastern Force - Before allotting it, however, to Eastern Force, information is required as to how it could be utilized in Eastern Force - The battery consists of six machine guns mounted on side-cars and motor cycles - It would be necessary to give the battery the opportunity to reorganise and train before employing them in the field.	
	2.2.17		Letter to, Eastern Force - G.S. 198. It is understood that instructions have been issued by Desert Column for a certain number of D.P.C.S. letters to be opened, to guard against the improper use of this service - Instructions should be issued that no letters franked by the C.G.S. or A.M.S. should be opened, as these communications are often of a very confidential nature -	
	2.2.17		Letter to, Eastern Force - G.S. 2/58/5. The reason for Eastern Force's request for the addition of 2 Ford box cars to the establishment of the 201 st Bicy. Battery is not understood - A more detailed explanation should be given -	
	2.2.17		Force order no. 31. Details of the reorganisation of the Mounted Troops into two mounted divisions -	B. J.W. Mearns Capt. 8

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo	13.2.17	1709	Wire from Desert Column - H.I. 875.	
			Hostile aircraft reported flying East from MAZAR at 1230 - No report received of bombs being dropped.	
	13.2.17	1935	Wired, Chief London - A.M. 1594.	
			Evening report - All well -	
	13.2.17	1130	Wired, Camel. Abasco - 09323. Eastern Force -	
			Nos. 17 and 18 Coys I.C.C. will move by march route from ABBASSIA to ISMAILIA forthwith -	
	13.2.17	1240	Wired, Troopers - A.M. 1592	
			A provisional establishment for the Intelligence Section G.H.Q. was cabled to War Office -	
			The new establishment divides the Intelligence section into two sections, each under a G.S.O.(1) and each one to be the Field Intelligence Section, and one to be the Political Intelligence Section; both sections responsible to the C.G.S. Coordination to be obtained by the formation of a central secretariat.	
			The net increase will be one G.S.O.(1) and one G.S.O.(3), which will be filled locally, subject to War Office sanction.	
	13.2.17	1910	Wired, Troopers - A.M. 1593	
			The caterpillar tractors (9), and trucks (6), promised under War Office 26642 of 15.12.17, are most urgently required for the 60 pdr. batteries. When may these be expected?	

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G.S. O. G.H.Q. E.E.F. 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13.2.17	1930	Wire, Eastern Force - O 279.	
			Eastern Force proposed yesterday to advise all three Co per. batteries in their command in any forthcoming fighting - This proposal is approved - Previously the intention was to use only the mobile sections (i.e. 1/2 a battery) - The request to W.O. in the foregoing wire is repeated for the information of Eastern Force -	
	13.2.17	0600	Wire from Troopers - 29335	
			With the 4 officers and 50 O.R. retained in the R.A.N.B.T. to remain naval personnel - It is suggested that they might be turned into an Army Troops Coy R.E., and transferred to Australian Engineers -	
	13.2.17	1000	Wire, Eastern Force - O 277	
			Genl. Chanock's opinion on the suggestion in the foregoing wire is requested -	
	13.2.17	1030	Wire, Troopers - A.M. 1591	
			Hitherto all work on the pipelines in the Northern Canal Section has been performed by artificers drawn from R.E. or attached from Infantry - In order to place this on a proper basis and to coordinate the work, an establishment for a Special Water Coy, R.E. is submitted - Strength, 4 officers, 1 W.O.; 10 S/Sgt/1st Sgt; 127 O.R.; 33 riding horses -	
	13.2.17	0535	Wire from Troopers - 29356	
			In reply to the request (G.S. O. G 27-1-17) for an increase in the establishment of an M.G. Coy. (as in 72 (MCE) War Office	10

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G.S. 10- G.H.Q. E.E.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13.2.17		<p>Stated that the increase was only to make M.G. traffic self-sustaining, with regard to belt-filling and ammunition supply - it was suggested that native personnel might be employed in order to economise European personnel.</p>	
	13.2.17		<p>Wire, Eastern Force - OB 510</p> <p>13 officers and 7 batmen (Staff school Candidates from SALONIKA) arrive at KANTARA at 1121^{14.2.17} for attachment to units in the field till 24.2.17.</p>	
	13.2.17	13.15	<p>Wire from Western Force - 4536 G.</p> <p>Names of 3 Indian Officers to accompany Col. RAWLINS to receive the Maharajah of BIKANIR on his arrival at SUEZ.</p>	
	13.2.17	0555	<p>Wire from Troopers - 29357.</p> <p>A machine gun will be mounted on each of the two aeroplanes to be lent to the Abyssinian Government.</p>	
	13.2.17		<p>Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 385.</p> <p>The suggestion that the M.G. Sections of the Hertford Squadrons of the:- Hertford Yeomanry, Divisional Cavalry to 54th Divn - Glasgow Yeomanry, " " " 52nd Divn - 1/2 Co. of London Yes. allocated to Northern Canal Section - should be utilised in forming a M.G. Squadron for the Imperial Mounted Division, is approved.</p>	

J
O. William
Capt. G.P.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo.	14.2.17.	0805.	Wire from, Liaison N.C. 1.	
	14.2.17.	Midnight 14/15	Wire from, Northern Column N.C. 2.	
	14.2.17.	1717.	Wire from, Desert Column. H.I.S. 77.	
	14.2.17.	2000.	Wired; Chief, London - A.M. 1596.	
	14.2.17.	1130.	Wired; <u>Eastern Force</u> rep. <u>Angac Mtd. Divn</u>	
14.2.17.	1150.	Wired; Troopers - A.M. 1595	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NEKHL OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>Northern Column, less I.C.C. Detachment left SERAPEUM RAILHEAD for ZOGHA at 0700. From ZOGHA signalling communication with SERAPEUM RAILHEAD will be possible.</p> <p>Column reached concentration point at 1615, and await orders.</p> <p>No hostile aircraft activity today.</p> <p>Six of our aeroplanes raided BEERSHEEA today. Forty 20 lb. bombs and two 100 lb. bombs were dropped on aerodrome and hangars and one enemy A.A. gun was knocked out by a direct hit. All our machines returned in safety.</p> <p>Formation of new units necessitated by the formation of a second mounted division should now be proceeded with by G.O.C. Angac Mtd. Divn direct with G.O.C. Eastern Force.</p> <p>It was requested that 65 Vickers guns might be sent as soon as possible to rearm the mounted divisions. The maxims released will go towards forming the 10% reserve for M.C. Coy.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
	14.2.17	2323	Wire from Troopers - 23675.	Scale of transport for Lewis Guns with Infantry -	A
	14.2.17	2240	Wire from Troopers - 29441. Wire from Troopers of E. Africa - 29443. W.P. Egypt -	Four 12 pdr guns for will be sent to EGYPT from E. AFRICA - 850 rounds of shrapnel and 5200 rounds of Lyddite shell will be sent with them - At present the four 4" Mark VII Naval guns cannot be spared.	
	14.2.17	1610	Wire, Western Force - O.A. 326.	The 17 th Motor Machine Gun Battery will move from DABAA to MOASCAR -	
	14.2.17	1920	Wire, Western Force - O/280.	The 17 th Motor M.G. Batty will be concentrated at ALEXANDRIA before despatch to MOASCAR for overhaul and repairs - Report should be sent as to when these vehicles' repairs will be completed.	
	14.2.17		Letter to Eastern Force - G-5 2/25/10.	Eastern Force were recently informed that two garrison battalions were to be made available - This will not now take place - In their place the 230 th Inf Bde from the COASTAL SECTION, Western Force, will be made available for Eastern Force - The two garrison battalions Devon & Rept - and Royal Welch Fusiliers - will relieve the 230 th Inf Bde - This has been rendered possible by the recent success at SIWA -	L-3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14.2.17		<p>Letter to Imperial School of Instruction - G.S. 511. It was suggested by the School of Instruction that since the 23rd Inf. Bde was to be concentrated at ZEITUN for training, it would be advantageous to omit the next Senior Officers Course. This suggestion cannot be approved, but it is hoped that the Instructional Staff will be able to render the brigade considerable assistance.</p> <p>The suggestion to include a bayonet fighting course for prospective N.C.O. instructors is approved.</p>	
	14.2.17		<p>Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 161. On the return of officers from the Staff School, arrangements should be made to attach them for less than one month to some unit of another arm of the Service and subsequently to another arm.</p>	
	14.2.17		<p>Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 452. Major Spencer and Major Macalpine Kemp, two instructors from the Staff School will report to the Administrative Commandant, KANTARA, on 15.2.17. Facilities for seeing as much as possible of the troops in the field should be accorded them.</p>	
	14.2.17		<p>FORCE ORDER NO 32. by Genl. Sir A. Murray. (1) Additions to list of units to be controlled by D.M.S. (2) 4th Angac bn. I.C.C. to go to Eastern Force on formation - NOT to form part of I.C.C. Bde.</p>	B overlaid Capt G.S.

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Cairo.	15.2.17.	1958.	Wire from Northern Column N.C. 4.	
			Column arrived G1231 at 1430, and was then met by detachment I.C.C. - Officers patrol reported that there was no water at TEMADA - A Party is being sent to TEMADA to develop the water, and an expedition water convoy is being organised - The original plan will be adhered to -	
	15.2.17.	1704.	Wire from Desert Column H.I. 883.	
			No hostile aircraft activity reported today.	
	15.2.17.	2110.	Wire Chief London A.M. 1598.	
			Aerian successful bombing raid was carried out at BEER-SHEBA - 1,500 lbs. of bombs were dropped with great effect and two direct hits on hangars were observed.	
	15.2.17.	1843.	Wire from Jordan-Kharkom 494.	
			The Sinder would like the gun mountings on the M.V. Steamers on the SHELLAL-HALFA to be removed from the steamers and stored at HALFA where the guns and ammunition are at present. At present a considerable waste of deck space is incurred - The chances of a Persian raid which now appear to be remote.	

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	15-2-17	1420	Wireless Troopers - A.M. 1597	
			The 4 12/16 guns from E.AFRICA are to be used as Coast defence armament. The armament to be used with the guns from E.AFRICA will therefore be different.	
	15-2-17	1824	Wireless Troopers - 29456	
			The appointment of a D.A.D.R. with Eastern Force is approved (NOTE - an A.D.R. was asked for)	
	15-2-17	2235	Wireless Troopers - 28287	
			Attention on the establishment given under Troopers 28599 of 27.1.17. Of a Railway operating division.	A
	15-2-17	1632	Wireless Troopers - HQ. 719	
			Information for the formation of the 45th Int. Bde. Staff has not yet been received from the Commonwealth Government.	
	15-2-17		Letter to Western Force - G.S. 2/28/10/1	
			The 230th Int. Bde. will be concentrated at Alexandria after being relieved by the 11 Coy Devon Regt and 21 Coy Royal Welch Fusiliers. Details as to the distribution of the two garrison battalions shown in the Coastal Section should be forwarded to this Office.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15.2.17.		<p>Letter to Secretary War Office G.S. 212.</p> <p>At present there are 6 British I.C.C. Coys and one Depot Coy I.C.C. The establishment of officers is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Lt. Cols Commanding. 2 Majors 2/m Command. 2 Adjutants. 7 Captains Commanding Coys. 36 Lieutenants 2/Lieutenants. <p>In order to put these officers on the same footing as Cavalry and Infantry for promotion it is requested that the establishment may be amended as under:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Lt. Cols Commanding. 2 Majors 2/m Command. 2 Majors Commanding Coys. 5 Captains 12 Lieutenants 24 2/Lieutenants. 	
	15.2.17.		<p>Letter to Secretary War Office G.S. 522.</p> <p>When the M.E.F. came to EGYPT from the DARDANELLES, the Topographical Section was was sent to SALONIKA. The Survey work of EGYPT has since been done by 13 officers and 30 O.R. attached from other units. These officers and O.R. have no status as topographical officers. Also very considerable demands have had to be made upon the Survey of EGYPT. It is therefore requested that a definite establishment may be approved for the Topographical Section - (See Appendix)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">B.</p>

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	<i>15.2.17.</i>		<p><i>Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 212.</i></p> <p><i>Copies of the undamented War Establishments to Headquarters of the I.C.C. Bde, as finally provisionally sanctioned were despatched to Eastern Force -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Brigade Headquarters -</i> <i>Machine Gun Company -</i> <i>Ammunition Column -</i> <i>Supply details -</i> <i>Mobile Veterinary Section -</i> <i>Signal Section -</i> <p><i>As soon as the question of the establishment of the Field Ambulance is settled, these establishments will be submitted to War Office for approval -</i></p>	
	<i>15.2.17</i>		<p><i>Letter to Eastern Force - G.S. 327/14 -</i></p> <p><i>Some slight alterations in the draft mobile establishments of Field Ambulances in the mounted brigades have been approved -</i></p>	

*O. Williams
Capt G.S.*