

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/12 Part 3

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

March 1917



AWM4-1/6/12PART3

S E C R E T.

From:- Chief, Egypforce.

To:- Troopers, London.

A.M. 1830 cipher. 1/3/17. desp. 1845.

Monthly report of KANTARA EAST Railway.

Railhead at Kilo. 187. 31 Kilometres of main line completed.

EL ARISH station including sidings for Ordnance Supplies and water has been completed. EL BURJ Station, Kilo. 172 has been laid in, and station at SHEIKH ZOWAID, Kilo. 187 is in progress. Work has commenced on Bridge across Wadi EL ARISH and a siding has been laid to deal with bridging material. Meanwhile track has been laid across a temporary deviation across WADI. Arrangements for water supply NAZAH are complete; work on the permanent installation at EL ARISH is in progress, a temporary one being in use in the meantime. To facilitate handling of traffic at KANTARA EAST a loop has been laid on the locomotive Ferry siding there. Railway has carried 65,800 tons of traffic over 64,300 miles during the month; 9 Engines and 68 trucks have been added to the rolling stock.

SECRET.

From :- Eypforce.

To :- Troopers, LONDON.

A.M.1656 cipher 3/3/17. Desp.1100.

Your 21158 and 23226 cipher A.O.3. R.F.C. weekly return.

(a)	SALONIKA	47	Includes 16 balloon pilots	
	EAST AFRICA	17		
	MESOPOTAMIA	19		
	EGYPT			
	5th Wing	36	Includes 5 pilots in	
	X Aircraft Depot	1	ARABIA.	
	20th Reserve Wing	40		
(b)	MESOPOTAMIA.	1		
	SALONIKA	5		
	EAST AFRICA	3		
	EGYPT			
	5th Wing	3		
	20th Reserve Wing	5		
	X Aircraft Depot	nil		
(c)	EGYPT	Service-able	Unservice-able	Not Erected.
	<u>5th Wing</u>			
	Bristol Scout	2	7	nil
	Martinsyde	9	2	4
	De Havilland	1	nil	nil
	B.E.2.C.& E.	20(a)	15	3
	(a) includes 5 on expedition in ARABIA.			
	<u>20th Reserve Wing.</u>			
	Martinsyde	nil	1	nil
	B.E.2.C.& E.	12	8	nil
	Bristol Scout	nil	3	1
	M. Farman	16	15	3
	Avro	9	5	1
	Curtiss	2	1	nil
	<u>X Aircraft Depot.</u>			
	Martinsyde	1	nil	nil
	M. Farman	nil	7	9
	Bristol Scout	1	6	7
	Avro	nil	6	2
	B.E.2.C.& E.	nil	6	nil
	<u>MESOPOTAMIA.</u>			
	H. Farman	nil	4	nil
	Martinsyde	5	1	2
	B.E.2.C.	11	12	2(b)
	Bristol Scout	nil	nil	4(b)
	(b) in transit from EGYPT.			
	<u>SALONIKA.</u>			
	B.E.2.C.	12	1	nil
	B.E.12	9	3	3
	Armstrong W.	10	4	9
	De Havilland	1	8	3
	1 Caquot balloon serviceable, 3 uninflated.			
	4 Spencer balloons uninflated.			
	<u>EAST AFRICA.</u>			
	B.E.2.C.& E.	14	1	6
	H. Farman	1	nil	3

G.S.523.

Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W.,

3rd March, 1917.

Sir,

1. With reference to my cablegrams Nos.A.M.1591 of 13th February 1917 and A.M.1602 of 16th February, and War Office cablegrams Nos. 29518 (S.D.2.) of 18th February and 29663 (S.D.2.) of 18th February, I have the honour to report that I consider it is necessary to form a special Engineer unit to maintain the extensive water supply system which has been established from the Sweet Water Canal west of KANTARA to EL ARISH, and which is now being extended to meet the requirements of the troops further east.

2. This water supply system, as now developed, includes :-

at KANTARA WEST. Two separate filter plants with pumping engines to convey filtered water to the east bank of the SUEZ CANAL; also three sets of engines to pump unfiltered water to the east bank for the use of Egyptian labourers and animals.

at KANTARA EAST; A regular water supply system in the extensive camps, depots, workshops and hospitals.

Reservoirs with storage capacity of 600,000 gallons.

Three duplicate sets of pumping engines feeding three separate water mains leading east, viz:-

/(i)

- (i) A 5-inch pipe line to DUEIDAR and intermediate posts.
- (ii) A 6-inch pipe line to supply PELUSIUM, ROMANI, and MAHAMDIYA.
- (iii) A 12-inch pipe line to ROMANI and forward.

At ROMANI and MAHAMDIYA. Storage capacity for 600,000 gallons of water.

Two duplicate sets of pumping engines to feed -

- (i) Local mains connecting ROMANI and MAHAMDIYA.
- (ii) The 12-inch main to EL ABD and forward.

A condensing plant for local use at MAHAMDIYA, which it is necessary to keep available in case of need.

At EL ABD. Storage capacity for 500,000 gallons.

A duplicate set of pumping engines to feed the 12-inch main to MAZAR and forward.

At MAZAR. Storage capacity and engines as at EL ABD.

At EL ARISH. Storage capacity for 500,000 gallons and a pumping station to feed a 6-inch main which is being extended eastwards.

At all the camps enumerated above skilled personnel is necessary to run the machinery day and night, in reliefs. Turncocks must be provided in the main camps and at all intermediate posts on the mains where water is drawn off. The mains required constant patrolling so that faults may be discovered and be removed promptly.

3. A staff to deal with this work has been trained and organised from Royal Engineers and infantry personnel, but to regularise the organisation and establish proper control throughout the system it is proposed to transfer all this personnel to one special R.E. Company.

4. The suggestion, contained in War Office telegram No.29518 cipher (S.D.2.) dated 15th February, that native labour should be substituted for British personnel has been very carefully considered, and I have come to the conclusion

/that

that, in view of the vital importance of the water supply system to the troops, and to the railway which cannot use the brackish water obtainable locally, I cannot take the risk of replacing British soldiers by unreliable native personnel.

Native personnel is used under supervision to lay the pipe lines, and to do all work where it can be usefully employed without incurring grave risks and the British personnel is only used where it is essential.

Enclo: 5. I submit herewith the proposed establishment of the new unit, and request that I may be given authority by cable to form this unit at once and that a number may be allotted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) A. LYNDEN BELL,

M.G., C.G.S.

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

SPECIAL COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS.Proposed Establishment.

Details.	Personnel					Horses.					Remarks.
	Officers.	W.O's.	S. Serjts. & Serjts.	Artificers	Park and File.	Total.	Riding	Draught.	Heavy Draught.	Total.	
Captain ...	1					1	2			2	No transport or technical equip- ment to be provided.
Subalterns ...	4					4	4			4	
Co. Sergt. Major		1				1					
C.Q.M. Sergt.			1			1					(a) From Estab- lishment for Engr. Services.
Staff Serjeants (Mechanists)			5(a)			5					
Serjeants ...			5			5	2			2	
Shoeing Smith				1		1					
Corporals					9	9	2			2	
2nd Corporals					9	9					
Sappers ...					64	64	24*			24	* Or riding mules for patrolling pipe lines.
Pioneers ...					58	58					
Batmen ...					5	5					
Total ...	5	1	11	1	145	163	34			34	

The above establishment includes 8 Lance-Corporals

(Intld.) H.W.
1.7.17.

G.S.212.

Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W.

4th March, 1917.

Sir,

En: 1. With reference to my telegram A.M.1357 of 5th December 1916 and War Office telegram 26319 cipher (S.D.2.) of 13th December, 1916, I have the honour to forward the complete War Establishments of the 1st Imperial Camel Brigade, to which I have given provisional sanction, and to request that the approval of the Army Council may be given to these establishments.

2. It will be seen that this Brigade has been organised as a completely independent fighting unit: as such it is placed directly under the command of General Officer Commanding Eastern Force, whereas the Headquarters of the Imperial Camel Corps at ABBASSIA remain under the command of General Headquarters. The 1st Imperial Camel Brigade consists of the following :-

Brigade Headquarters.
Three Battalions each of four companies.
Brigade Machine Gun Company.
Hong Kong & Singapore Camel Battery (attached).
Hong Kong & Singapore Ammunition Column (attached).
Field Troop.
Brigade Signal Section.
Supply Details.
Brigade Field Ambulance.
Mobile Veterinary Section.

3. With regard to these units, I would call attention to the following points :-

(a) Brigade Headquarters. This establishment has been drawn up on the lines of that of an infantry brigade headquarters, with military mounted police and army postal service complete.

(b) Battalion Headquarters. This establishment is as shown in War Establishment, Part XI, No.457, dated 27th January 1917. At the same time it is requested that, in this establishment, one riding horse should be allowed in addition for the signalling officer, and it is thought that the medical officer's orderly should be a private, R.A.M.C., and shown as attached in the same line as the Medical Officer.

(c) Company. The establishment is as shown in War Establishment, Part XI, No. 457, but here again it is thought that the medical orderly should be a private, R.A.M.C., and shown as attached. Further, notes 1 and 4 of this establishment should be amended as follows :-

Note 1. third line, after "corporal" insert "two lance corporals".

Note 4. should read "the above establishment includes eight lance corporals in addition to those shown in Note 1".

(d) Machine Gun Company. This unit has been formed by utilising headquarters and two sections of the Machine Gun Company of the late 1st Dismounted Brigade. It is hoped, at a later date, to bring the residue of this machine gun company up to full strength from reinforcements.

(e) Hong Kong & Singapore Battery. The establishment of this battery as organised for desert warfare with camel transport has already been forwarded to the War Office. The ammunition column shown here is all found from the personnel of this battery, and this personnel forms part of its permanent establishment.

(f) Field Troop. This unit has been formed by utilising part of the 496th (Kent) Field Company, R.E. This Field Company will be brought up to strength from reinforcements as soon as possible.

(8) The Signal Section, Supply Details, and Mobile Veterinary Section are new units formed from personnel already in this country.

(h) Field Ambulance. In accordance with War Office telegram No. 28659 cipher (S.D.2) of 29th January 1917, the Field Ambulance being sent from Australia will form the Field Ambulance of this Brigade. As compared with draft War Establishment, Part XI, there is a slight increase of four in the R.A.M.C. personnel, which is necessary for work in the desert, and a decrease of three in the number shown as attached.

4. Besides the twelve companies included in the Brigade, there are six other companies at present formed. Of these, four are organised in a 4th Battalion (Australian) which is under the command of General Officer Commanding Eastern Force, and is allotted to the Southern Section of Canal Defences. The other two companies are allotted to the Western Front. The administration of these six companies and the base depots is carried out by the Headquarters, Imperial Camel Corps at ABBASSIA.

5. In view of paragraph 4, it is suggested that, instead of shewing the total number of reinforcements at Base Depots for the whole camel corps as in War Establishment, Part XI, No.457, it would be preferable to shew Headquarters of each base depot separately - namely one commanding officer and one batman - and to show one officer and twenty other ranks, twentyone riding camels, and one baggage camel as "reinforcements per company". Although, at this moment, I see no prospect of the number of companies being increased, it would save further amendment to the establishment, should an increase take place in the future, if the number of reinforcements to be kept at the base depots were shown as suggested above.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) A. LYNDEN BELL,
M.Gen. C.G.S.
for General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

SECRET.

G.S. Z/7.

9th March, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
 Eastern Force.

A limited supply of small box respirators having been received from England, it has been decided that these respirators shall be immediately issued to R.A. units, as under, in lieu of the Service P.H. Helmet and Goggles; but 10% of Drill P.H. Helmets and Goggles will be retained.

Issue. 1 per man, together with a reserve of 10% of the establishment of the unit. It is suggested that the reserve small box respirators might be distributed and carried on the limbers if it should be found possible to do so.

No issue of Drill Box Respirators is necessary, as the service Small Box Respirator may be used for drill purposes.

Units to be Equipped.

Divisional Artillery,	52nd Divn.)	} Includes Heavy Batteries, but excluding Divl. Ammn. Columns.
"	53rd "	
"	54th "	

The Small Box Respirator is made in three sizes, which should be issued to units as under :-

Size 2.	..	..	..	10%.
Size 3.	..	..	..	80%.
Size 4.	..	..	..	10%.

Supply. 4,600 Small Box Respirators have been forwarded to the C.O.O., KANTARA EAST. Units should therefore submit indents as soon as possible, in order that issue and training may proceed as rapidly as possible.

Training. The 8 officers and 16 N.C.O's of R.A. units, who have recently (9th inst.) completed the Gas Course at TEL-EL-KEBIR, have been instructed in the use of the Small

/Box

Box Respirator, and should be utilised in carrying out the training of their respective batteries.

It is considered that one officer and two N.C.O's from each of the batteries that will be equipped with the Small Box Respirator should attend a similar course of instruction as soon as possible. In this connection a further class of 8 officers and 16 N.C.O's should be detailed to assemble at the Central Gas School at TEL EL KEBIR on March 15th. A supply of R.A. Instructors in Anti-Gas Training will thus be ensured, and will considerably assist the work of the Divisional Gas Schools.

The above should not be allowed to interfere with the issue and training of all arms with Drill P.H.Helmets as :-

1. No supply of Box (Small) Respirators for arms other than R.A. will be available for at least a considerable period.
2. The supply of Small Box Respirators is limited, and R.A. units might be compelled, in the event of a series of severe Gas-shell bombardments, to replace exhausted Small Box Respirators with P.H. Helmets and Goggles.

One case of Small Box Respirators, for use in Divisional Gas Schools, have been despatched to the Divisional Gas Officers of the 52nd, 53rd and 54th Divisions direct.

(Sgd.) A. LYNDEN BELL,

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

S E C R E T.

20.

Copy No. 35.

F O R C E O R D E R No. 34.

by

GENERAL SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.
Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

9th March, 1917.

1. (a) With effect from 12 noon, March 15th, 1917, Western Force and Delta District will be amalgamated in a single command to be known as "Delta and Western Force".

(b) The area of the new command will comprise the areas hitherto included in Western Force and Delta District respectively, and all troops within this combined area will be placed under the command of the General Officer Commanding Delta and Western Force.

(c) Brigadier-General H. G. Casson, C.M.G., is appointed to command the Delta and Western Force on formation.

(d) (i) On the above re-organization taking effect, the following increase of establishment will be made to the existing staff of the Delta District :-

1 G.S.O.3.
1 D.A.A. & Q.M.G.

(ii) The following additional administrative officers will be allotted from G.H.Q. Directorates :-

1 D.A.D.M.S.
1 A.D.V.S.
1 D.A.D.A.P.S.
1 A.P.M.

(iii) The supervision of R.E. services will be undertaken by the Director of Works, General Headquarters, in the capacity of R.E. Advisor to the General Officer Commanding Delta and Western Force.

/2.

20.B.

2. The alteration in the conditions prevailing on the Eastern Frontier of Egypt obviates the necessity for the special warnings of the approach of hostile aircraft, instructions for which were laid down in Force Orders Nos. 17 and 19, of 22/4/16 and 6/5/16 respectively.

These orders are therefore cancelled and will be replaced by such orders as the General Officer Commanding immediately concerned or his superier commander may consider necessary.

3. North and East of the Line GAZA to BEERSHEBA the official operations map will be "SYRIA, 1/250,000, JERUSALEM Sheet". A reprint of this map showing hills will be issued as soon as supplies become available, and the original issues will be withdrawn.

A distribution of the map of SOUTHERN PALESTINE 3/8" to the mile, will be made for use of Staffs of formations only. The hills shown on this map, however, should not be regarded as accurate.

(Sgd.) A. LYNDEN BELL,

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

SECRET.

Copy No. 41.

FORCE ORDER No. 35.

by

GENERAL SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O.
 Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

13th March, 1917.

1. (A). With effect from March 15th 1917, the Imperial Camel Corps will be organised for purposes of Command and Administration as follows :-

- (i). Headquarters, Imperial Camel Corps, and Administrative Centre, ABBASSIA, will remain, as hitherto, directly under General Headquarters.
- (ii) The following units are allotted as Force Troops to Eastern Force:-
 - 1st Imperial Camel Brigade (1st Australian and New Zealand Battalion)
 - (2nd Imperial Battalion)
 - (3rd Australian Battalion)
 - 4th Australian Battalion (unattached).
- (iii) The following units are allotted for tactical purposes to the Delta and Western Force, but will remain for administration directly under the Officer Commanding, Administrative Centre, ABBASSIA :-
 - 8th Company, Imperial Camel Corps.
 - 10th Company, Imperial Camel Corps.

(B) Brigadier-General C. L. Smith, VC, MC, is appointed to command the 1st Imperial Camel Brigade.

Force Order No. 25, dated 6th January 1917, is cancelled accordingly.

(C) The functions of the Headquarters and Administrative Centre, ABBASSIA, in its relation to the Imperial Camel Corps as a whole, will be laid down in D.A.G. memorandum, No. A.7446, dated 13/3/17, copies of which are circulated herewith to all concerned.

P.T.O.

2. With reference to Force Order No. 26, the dates on which the following battalions were formed are as under and not as therein stated.

10th Battalion, East Kent Regiment.	11th February 1917.
16th Battalion, Sussex Regiment.	1st February 1917.
15th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.	1st February 1917.
12th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment.	1st February 1917.
10th Battalion, Shropshire Light Infantry.	2nd March 1917.
25th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.	4th March 1917.
24th Battalion, Welch Regiment.	2nd February 1917.
24th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.	16th December 1916.

Force Order No. 26 should therefore be amended accordingly.

3. The 1st Dismounted Brigade Machine Gun Company will in future be known as 211th Machine Gun Company.

(Sgd.) A. LYNDEN BELL,

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

HEADQUARTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

Imperial Camel Corps, Abbassia.

(1). The O.C. Headquarters and administrative Centre will command the Base Depot, I.C.C., and will train and forward reinforcements to units in the field.

(2). Reinforcements

Reinforcements to replace casualties in units of the I.C.C.:-

The O.C. The Unit in which reinforcements are required will send H.Q. & Administrative Centre a copy of A.F.B.213 the original of which he send to 3rd Echelon. The Administrative Centre will supply what men are available from the Depot and inform 3rd Echelon accordingly. 3rd Echelon will replace with reinforcements to Administrative Centre from personnel from the parent unit according to the demands on A.F. B.213 weekly return.

Anzac reinforcements for I.C.C. on arrival in Egypt proceed direct to Moascar and from there as soon as possible to Abbassia.

(3). Promotion - Officers:-

Promotion will be acting within the Corps. When vacancies occur within units application to fill these will be made by O.C. the unit through the usual channel to H.Q. & Administrative Centre who will appoint (having obtained the concurrence of the G.O.C. I.C.C. Brigade) officers to fill the vacancies.

Promotion in the Anzac battalions will be governed by the rules of promotion in the A.I.F. & N.Z.E.F. respectively, and all applications must be recommended by the G.O.C. I.C.C. Brigade to the G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division, or the G.O.C. N.Z.E.F., as the case may be.

NOTE: The H.Q. & Administrative Centre, in asking the concurrence of the G.O.C. I.C.C. Brigade, will approach him through the Headquarters of the Force in which the Brigade is serving.

-2-

(4). Promotion - N.C.Os.

All promotions of N.C.O.s in Imperial Battalions of the I.C.C. will be made by the O.C. the Battalion, except to the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major and Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant. Promotions to fill these two latter ranks will be within the Corps (Imperial) and applications to fill these vacancies will be submitted to H.Q. & Administrative Centre, who will appoint subject to the approval of the G.O.C. I.C.C. Brigade.

ANZAC:

All promotions of N.C.Os. in Anzac Battalions of the I.C.C. will be within the Battalion, excepting to the ranks of Regimental Sergeant-Major and Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, which will be within the Corps (Anzac). The existing A.I.F. and N.Z.E.F. rules as regards the authorities who can approve the promotion of N.C.Os. and promotion to Warrant Rank, stand good.

The expression "within the Corps" as used in paras.

3 and 4 means-

- (i) As regards promotion of Imperial Officers and N.C.Os.-the Imperial Battalions of the I.C.C.
- (ii) As regards promotion of Anzac Officers and N.C.O.s the Anzac battalions of the I.C.C.

(5) EQUIPMENT:-

G.O.C. Brigade, Os.C. Battalions, Os.C. Detached Companies I.C.C. will indent on the local Ordnance Stores for all ordinary forms of equipment. Specially improvised equipment for the use of the Camel Corps, which the local Ordnance cannot provide, will be commanded by H.Q. & Administrative Centre, and issued to the Units and detachments which are in need of it.

(6)/

-3-

(6) REMOUNTS:-

All indents for remounts will be dealt with by H.Q. & Administrative Centre direct with Remounts, G.H.Q. O.C. H.Q. & Administrative Centre, will as far as possible remount all units of I.C.C. with camels from his establishment.

(Signed) John Adye

Major-General.
Deputy Adjutant General
G.H.Q., E.E.F.

G.H.Q.,
13/3/17.

S E C R E T

31.

From:- Eypforce.

To :- Troopers.

A.M.1723 cipher.

24/3/17.

Desp.1630.

Your 21158 and 23226 A.O.3. R.F.C. Weekly return.

(a) EGYPT.	X Aircraft Depot	1
	20th Reserve Wing	47 Instructors.
	5th Wing	36 includes 5 on expedition in ARABIA.
INDIA.		23 includes 4 pilots en route from EGYPT.
SALON IKA		50 includes 16 balloon pilots.
EAST AFRICA.		14
MESOPOTAMIA.		20

(b) EGYPT.	X Aircraft Depot	nil
	20th Reserve Wing	9 instructors.
	5th Wing	4
INDIA		3
MESOPOTAMIA		nil
EAST AFRICA		5
SALONIKA		6

(c) SALONIKA.	Serviceable.	Unserviceable.	Not Erected.
B.E.2.C. & E.	12	5	2
Armstrong W.	8	7	7
B.E.12	9	4	2
De Havilland	4	6	2
Spencer Balloons	-	uninflated	4
Cacquot Balloons	3	"	5
<u>EAST AFRICA.</u>			
B.E.2.C. & E.	11	4	4 x
Henri Farman	nil	nil	4
x Being returned to EGYPT.			
<u>MESOPOTAMIA.</u>			
B.E.2.C. & E.	13	10	2
Martinsyde	5	2	nil
Henri Farman	nil	nil	4 x
Bristol Scout	nil	nil	4
x Being returned to EGYPT.			

Copies to:-

O
O(a)
O(b)
C.G.S.
I
A
Q
G.S.104/3
Cables
W.D.
O.O.

<u>EGYPT. 5th Wing.</u>	17(a)	9	7(b)
B.E.2.C. & E.	nil	7	nil
Bristol Scout.	9	5	nil
Martinsyde			
(a) includes 5 in ARABIA.			ABYSSINIA
(b) " 3 en route to INDIA and 3 packed for/			
<u>20th Wing (Reserve).</u>			
B.E.2.C. & E.	9	9	nil
Maurice Farman	24	10	4
Avro	8	6	1
Bristol Scout	6	1	nil
Martinsyde	nil	1	nil
Curtiss	1	1	nil
<u>X Aircraft Depot.</u>			
B.E.2.C. & E.	nil	7	nil
Avro	nil	8	nil
Bristol Scout	nil	6	6
Maurice Farman	nil	7	3
Curtiss	nil	1	nil

S E C R E T.F O R C E O R D E R N O., 36.

by

GENERAL SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.,
 Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

General Headquarters,

30th March 1917.

1. Sanction having been received from the War Office for the formation of a special company of Royal Engineers to maintain the fresh water supply system east of KANTARA, this Company, to which the No. 360 is allotted, will be formed under the orders of the General Officer Commanding Eastern Force as from 27th March, 1917. Copies of the War Establishment of the Company have been circulated to all concerned.

2. The London Wireless Section is now divided into two separate units, a pack wireless section and a wagon wireless section, to be known as the London Pack Wireless Section and No. 9. Wagon Wireless Section respectively.

The establishment of the London Pack Wireless Section will be that of a Pack Wireless Section (EGYPT), dated 17/1/16, with the exception that for "sappers" should be read "sappers and pioneers", and the word "drivers" should be inserted in the following line.

The establishment of No. 9. Wagon Wireless Section will be that of a Wagon Section - Wireless, War Establishment Part VII, No. 351/69, (Authority War Office letter 121/Mediterranean/1442 (S.D.2) of 7/3/17).

Both these units are allotted to Eastern Force.

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell.
 Major-General,
 Chief of the General Staff,
 Egyptian Expeditionary Force.