

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/13 Part 2

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

May 1917



AWM4-1/6/13PART2

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

920-940-22F

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15/5/17	0245	<p>Letter from Troopers (34484) in reply to our 92573 of 25/4/17. - Transport for Heavy Artillery from as in War Establishments Part VII has already been despatched. Can not the motor vehicles and cycles be maintained instead of horse transport and riding horses, seeing that a motor car has been retained on your proposed establishment.</p> <p>Letter from Troopers (30253 Cdr) in reply to our AM 1337 asking for instructors for the Senior Officer's courses to be sent out - Two Officers Major CH. UNWIN 3rd Bn W. Riding Regt and Major L G. DOBSON DSO are being sent out as soon as possible.</p> <p>Wrote Secretary War Office (92310) enclosing War Establishment for an Aircraft Factory in EGYPT and requesting the sanction of the Army Council for same. (appendix)</p> <p>Wrote Secretary War Office (92612) with reference to the number and use of animals in this theatre of war and also regarding the possibility of obtaining more British Personnel from the administrative Services (appendix)</p> <p>Wrote Secretary War Office (92484) requesting sanction to a Provisional War Establishment for Island Water Transport a draft of which was enclosed in the letter (appendix)</p>	<p>B</p> <p>C</p> <p>D</p> <p>occurrence GAPES</p> <p>56 km</p>

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>16/5/17</i>	<i>0823</i>	<i>Msg from Eastern Force (EGF 1696) Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>1838</i>	<i>Msg from Eastern Force (EGF 1720) Desert Column patrol towards EL MAGAM held up by about 100 enemy entrenched just East of KHIRBIT ERK and was unable to cross the WADI SHARIFA. Patrol encounters just East of WADI UM SIRR at P: 720 and on 700 contour. Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>2125</i>	<i>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1922) Nothing special to report. All well.</i>	
		<i>0940</i>	<i>Msg Southern Canal Section (OA 365) that remainder of 14th A.T. Coy RE will be transferred from Southern Canal Section to Eastern Force as soon as train timings can be arranged.</i>	
		<i>1150</i>	<i>Msg Defence EL BRISH (OA 366) asking the G.O.C. PALESTINE L.O.C. Defence to convey to Major BENNING (OC) and all ranks of the AUSA Column the Commander-in-Chief's appreciation of the very excellent work carried out during the recent operations.</i>	
			<i>Wrote G.O.C. PALESTINE L.O.C. Defence with reference to the supply of personnel for 20.3. Amoured Train (Appendix)</i>	<i>A 5</i>

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950-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>16/5/17</i>	<i>1245</i>	<i>Wind Troopers (AM 1919) asking whether they concurred in the following proposal:- To convert the 263rd Brigade RFA. (late Essex, Hants and West Riding RFA) now organised as two 6 gun Field Artillery Batteries into two 4 gun horse Artillery batteries for the 7th and 8th Mounted Brigades coming from SARONIKA as these Brigades are not bringing any RFA with them.</i>	
		<i>1343</i>	<i>Wind Troopers (AM 1921) in reply to their wire 34372 Cipher S.D. 1. of 12/5/17 asking how many senior staff officers we wished sent out: — 3 QSO's 1, one of whom to be suitable for employment with a mounted Division and 2 AA & QMG's for a Division will satisfy our requirements for the present. It is hoped that those sent may be officers who have served in above mentioned capacities & may be allowed to retain their pay and grading as Staff officers until vacancies occur. They will be attached supernumerally to formations in the meantime.</i>	
		<i>0230</i>	<i>Wire from Chief INDIAN (32124) saying that owing to difficulties on account of necessity for naval escort the detachment of 5th Light Infantry can not leave INDIAN before the 23rd instant at the earliest and consequently can not arrive at LASH KHORAN before 2nd June.</i>	<i>58</i>

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920-948-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16/5/17	1955	<p>Wire from General Hoskins <u>SAR ES SARAAH</u> (A4130) saying that owing to delay in departure the strength of the Indian Volunteer Machine gun Coy has been reduced ^{by sickness} to 3 officers and 38 other ranks (its strength on 4/3/17 was reported as 5 officers and 102 other ranks) and that the remainder were weak and debilitated and quite unfit for service in the field. General Hoskins recommends that it shall be sent back to INDIA to reunit and reorganize before proceeding to this country and has asked the War Office and INDIA for sanction for this procedure.</p>	
		0230	<p>Wire from Troop (34532) In reply to our AM 1904 of 12/5/17. Everything is being done to hasten the supply of monoplane spars. Owing to our urgent demands the 8 machines referred to in AM 1904 were sent on in advance and the spars are now being expected and will be sent by post mail ship. In future efforts will be made to send out new types of machines and spars on the same ship.</p>	
		0230	<p>Wire from Troop (34541) informing us that the Companies of the Railway operating Division formed from late Railway Construction Companies should be numbered from 71-77 inclusive.</p>	69

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920-949-22F

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16/5/17		<p><u>Wrote C.I.G.S. War Office (90/2/55)</u> enclosing Distribution Statement for (1) Delta and Western Force (2) Alexandria District (3) Southern Canal Section (4) PALESTINE Lines of Communication Area. (appendix)</p> <p>This Statement was sent in response to a wire no 34149 Cipher M.O. 1 7 9/5/17. A wire no 34548 Cipher M.O. 1 dated 15/5/17. was received today cancelling the request for this Statement but was too late to be of any use as the Statement had already been dispatched in the K. H. Bag.</p> <p><u>Wrote Commandant AIZAC Training Centre MUDSCAR (90 2/17)</u> with reference to the future preliminary training in gas duties of the troops under his Command (appendix)</p>	<p>B</p> <p>C</p> <p>Williams Capt 90</p> <p>69</p>

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9/30-9/30-EFF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>17/5/17</i>	<i>0814</i>	<i>Wire from Eastern Force (Eqs. 1727) All well, situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>1927</i>	<i>Wire from Eastern Force (Eqs. 1750) Desert Column in touch with enemy patrols near KH. ERK and H in WADI IMLEH and one troop 1 1/2 miles south of KARM. One prisoner taken. Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>2100</i>	<i>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1926). All well. Our mounted troops are keeping enemy on the move.</i>	
		<i>2215</i>	<p><i>Order Eastern Force that all crops beyond Egyptian Border, which can not be harvested by owners under our protection or brought in for our own use, may be destroyed and no compensation will be given.</i></p> <p><i>This order was issued as the result of a telephone conversation with Eastern Force who informed us that they had reason to believe that the Turks were proposing to harvest and bring in by the AUSA-BEER SHEBA line large quantities of grain, and in view of probable probable operations in this area in the near future it was necessary to lay down a definite line of action as regards these crops.</i></p>	<i>61</i>

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G20-GHQ-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17/5/17		<p>Wrote G.O.C. PALESTINE LofC Defences (G20 2/72) with instructions reference to the move of the French Contingent to KHAN YUNUS and the handing over to them of that place to hold as a post on the lines of Communication (appendix)</p>	"A"
			<p>Wrote G.O.C. Middle East Brigade R.F.C. (G20 2/75) informing him that a column of the T. C. C. is being dispatched on the 21st inst. to NEKHEL to destroy the wells etc. The column will be away for 13 days and G.O.C. Southern Canal Section wishes a daily air patrol to be carried out by the 57th Reserve Squadron at MOASCAR during the operations. There will be also be a working party at BIR EL GIDDI for about 6 weeks starting from May 21st and from June 4th onward a weekly air patrol will be required to be carried out by 57th Reserve Squadron. The Officer commanding 57th Reserve Squadron should be instructed to carry out these patrols in consultation with G.O.C. Southern Canal Section.</p>	B
			<p>Wrote G.O.C. PALESTINE. LofC. Defences with reference to the Scheme of Defence and distribution of troops proposed by him (appendix)</p>	B 69

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900-940-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17/5/17	0530	<p>win from Troopers (34625) in reply to our AM 1915 of 15/5/17. Australian Authorities here strongly urge that a complete Australian Division of 3 brigades be formed even if it is considered necessary to put an Imperial officer in command, in which case presumably CHAYTOR would command the second division consisting of one Australian one New Zealand and one Mounted Brigade. Are you satisfied that this solution is unworkable?</p>	
		0530	<p>In reply to our AM 1913 of 15/5/17 win from STRONICA (G.C. 92). It is hoped that the two Brigades (7th and 8th) will consist of 4 B, 3 Regiments, Signal Troop, Field Troop, Mounted Bde Field Ambulance, Mobile Veterinary Section and small arms section, all approximately on Part VII W.E. which is practically the same as STRONICA.3. The 18 Pdrs which are being sent will be on a 6-gun basis and the 4.5" Howitzers on a 4 gun basis. The total being sent amounts to 4 Complete Brigades of 12-18 Pdrs and 4 Howitzers each (Note - no mention is made of Ammunition Column)</p>	
		1945	<p>win from Troopers (AM 1925) giving change in distribution for the week: - Incorporated in EEF - 2/4th Hants and 1/5th Somerset Light Infantry from INDIA - 4th Battalion I.C.C. from Southern Canal Section exchanged with 1st Battalion from 1st Y. C. Brigade with Eastern Force.</p>	

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930-248-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17/5/17		<p>wrote G. O.C. Eastern Force informing him that there are now sufficient Lewis guns available to increase the battalions of 2 Divisions to the scale of 12 guns per battalion and asking which 2 Divisions would be selected. The scale of transport will be increased proportionately in accordance with amended establishment already sent, i.e. by two wagons loaded Gs each with 4 horses per battalion.</p> <p>wrote G.O.C. PALESTINE LOC Defences with reference to the formation of a Light Trunk Mortar Battery for the 232nd Infantry Brigade (appendix)</p> <p>wrote G.O.C. Eastern Force (GS 212) with reference to the establishment of a Camel Brigade Field Ambulance and the supply of any extra number of caicolets camels and native drivers required for any special operations in the future (appendix)</p> <p>wrote G.O.C. Eastern Force (GS 327) approving the addition of one pair Cold Shovels to the provisional establishment of a Machine Gun Company with Camel Transport as a temporary measure.</p>	<p>C.</p> <p>D</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>

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G20-GHQ-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17/5/17		<p>wrote GOC Eastern Force (G2/7) that it was understood that there are certain difficulties in providing of stores for the Divisional Gas officers of Mounted Divisions. In view of the importance of having the various stores & sprayers etc. allotted to Divisional Gas officers, close at hand in case of need, the GOC is asked to give the matter his attention & to submit any recommendations that may be thought necessary.</p> <p>wrote GOC Eastern Force (G2 8/13) with reference to the question of Instructors from the School of Instruction 2E1 TOWN being attached to units in the front line for short periods to study the conditions obtaining there (appendix)</p> <p>wrote Commandant Imperial School of Instruction (G2 8/13) approving the firing of live shells (100 rounds per course) by the Artillery Cadet Class. It was considered that the benefit which would accrue to the Cadets would more than outweigh the expenditure of ammunition involved.</p> <p><u>FORCE ORDER</u> No 42 of (1) found any between Eastern Force & PALESTINE LAF. (2) Constitution of Imperial Camel Brigade (3) Numbers of British Camel Corps (4) New limits taken on the strength</p>	<p>E</p> <p>F 95</p> <p>O'Connell Capt G2</p>

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GPO-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	18/5/17	0801	<u>Wm from Eastern Force (Eqs. 1760)</u> All clear.	
		1828	<u>Wm from Eastern Force (Eqs 1783)</u> Desert Column in touch with enemy near EL KHASIF and WADI EL BAHHA. One prisoner of 19 th Regiment Captured. 'A' Battery 270 th Brigade RFA engaged a target of one Battalion Infantry marching out of GAZA on the BEER SHEBA road, it is reported that numerous Casualties were sustained by the enemy. One Motor Lorry was also put out of action on the same Road by the same battery.	
		2010	<u>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1931)</u> All well. Two prisoners of the 19 th Regiment taken by our patrols. A Battalion of enemy infantry in Column of Route was caught by one of our batteries leaving GAZA on the GAZA-BEER SHEBA Road and suffered very heavy Casualties.	
		1300	<u>Wm from Eastern Force (OA 369)</u> to dispatch to RAFA the two 4.7 guns, now at BEIR EL BELAH, complete with personnel. On arrival at RAFA these guns are allotted to PALESTINE LIAISON. A third 4.7 gun is being sent from KANTARA to RAFA to complete the battery.	66

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G20 - G44 - EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	18/5/17		<p>Wrote G.O.C Delta Western Force (G2/28/11) and Military Administrator Frontier Districts Administrator with reference to the boundary on the Western Front beyond which native traffic should not be allowed to pass (appendix)</p>	A
		1425	<p>Wrote Troopers (AM1929) in reply to their 34625 Cipher of 16/5/17 with reference to organization of the mounted divisions. — There is strong reason to believe that the Australians are being urged to form a purely Australian Division by certain dissatisfied members of the 3rd L.H. Brigade who object to leaving the ANZAC Division on reorganization. CHETWODE & CHAUVEL, both of whom have been consulted on the matter, entirely agree with that it would be very inadvisable to split up the ANZAC Division which has is the 1st & 2nd LH Bns & New Zealand Brigade which have worked together all the time. It is hoped that the proposals contained in AM 1915 of 15/5/17 may be agreed to as it is felt that they are for the general good.</p>	
		1330	<p>Wrote SARONIKA (AM1928) in reply to their EC 9277 16/5/17 and asking them to inform us whether Divisional RA HQ is being sent as well as the batteries also what will accompany the artillery in the way of BAC's or BAC's.</p>	69

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GPO-249-EEE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	18/5/17	1315	<p><u>Wind Troopers</u> (AM 1927) that if they disband disband it, our artillery could now be organized on a 6 gun battery basis, although this would mean that some brigades will be left with only one battery of 18 Pors.</p> <p>If this proposal is agreed to the situation will be as follows:- At present there are 108-18 Pors with Infantry Divisions and 24-4.5" Howitzers. On the arrival of the 48-18 Pors and 16-4.5" Howitzers from SAZONIA, the numbers will be 156-18 Pors and 40-4.5 Hows.</p> <p>Calculating on the basis of 5 Divisions, viz 52nd 53rd 54th 74th & 75th, the Divisional Artillery will be organized as follows:- 1 Division - 2 Brigades each consisting of two 6 gun 18 Pdr Batteries and 1 4 gun 4.5" Howitzer Battery (36-18 Pors & 2-4.5" Hows). 4 Divisions, each with 2nd Brigade consisting of 2-6 gun 18 Pdr Batteries and 1-4 gun 4.5" How Battery, and 3rd Brigade consisting of one 6 gun 18 Pdr Battery and 1-4.5 Howitzer Battery (120-18 Pors and 3-2-4.5" Hows). The five Divisions thus totalling 156-18 Pors and 40-4.5 Hows.</p>	
		2000	<p><u>Wind Troopers</u> (AM 1930) asking if they agreed to our proposal to disband the 17th Motor M.G. Battery & transfer personnel to M.G. Corps Base Depot as it has been found that the heavy firing has been too much for the Battery in recent operations.</p>	

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18/5

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920-249-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19/3/17	0025	<p>born from Eastern Force (EGP 1790) Patrols were active throughout the night and on one occasion drew into and heavy firing from hostile Trenches.</p>	
		1847	<p>born from Eastern Force (EGP 1806) Desert Column report 250 enemy infantry and and 50 Cavalry on line EL HAGAM KH. ERK. Our patrols have been in touch with enemy patrols at P: 550. NW of IM SIRI and P: 630 EL GIRHEIR. A prisoner from enemy 3 prisoners and 4 Deserters have been taken during the day. One Desert hit obtained on enemy gun. Hot Khamsin wind and dust storms all day, still continuing. Situation unchanged.</p>	
		1815	<p>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1934) Our Artillery has been active knocking out one gun and inflicting other losses on the enemy, despite of Khamsin which has been blowing all day accompanied by wind & dust storm. 3 Prisoners & 4 Deserters were brought in today.</p> <p>Wrote G.O.C PALESTINE Log of Success (922/73) with reference to the destruction of the walls at MAGDHABA, HASSANA, MAGHARA and EL HAMMA (appendix)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">A 69</p>

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900-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19/2/17		<p>Wrote GOC Southern Canal Section ^(902/75) & GOC Middle East Brigade ^(902/75/1) RFE with reference to the air Reconnaissance for the NEKHE Column during the forthcoming operations (appendix)</p>	B
		1920	<p>Wrote G.O.C. ALEXANDRIA ^(OA370) that 60th Mobile Veterinary Section would move from ALEXANDRIA to EL ARISH to join 232nd Infantry Brigade. The 60th Mobile Veterinary section is the one allotted to the 75th Division when formed.</p>	
		1930	<p>Wrote Dep. Comd. EL ARISH ^(OA371) that the move of the French Contingent, less the advanced party at present en route to KHAN YUNUS, is postponed pending further orders. This postponement was necessitated by the lack of water for the moment at KHAN YUNUS as Desert Column are using it as a watering place.</p>	
		1725	<p>Wrote from LAHONIA ^(GC 101) in reply to our AM 1928. The Brigades will be accompanied by ammunition Columns. The composition of the 2nd AC will be as laid down in W.O. telegram 34618 SD (nothing known of this yet). Divisional Headquarters RA are being sent.</p>	
		0625	<p>Wrote from Troopers ⁽³⁴⁷⁴⁴⁾ saying that 3 Tanks (1 male & 2 female) would be despatched in a few days. The machine guns will be drivers and not kickers with Hotchkiss.</p>	D

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19/5/17	1320	<u>Word Troopers</u> (AM 1933) in reply to their telegram 34733 of 18/3/17 asking 2 questions about the proposed reorganization of the 263 rd Brigade RFA (1) Will the 4 gun batteries be armed with 18 Pdrs or 13 Pdrs - Reply is "with 18 Pdrs" (2) What do you propose to do ^{with} the 18 Pdrs - Reply - for the present, the 4 surplus will be retained as spares	
		0320	<u>Word from Troopers</u> (34742) approving the proposed addition of an ADMS to establishment of PALESTINE L/C asked for in our AM 1881 of 6/5/17.	
		1409	<u>Word from Lieut ROOD, Liaison Officer to Italian Contingent</u> (1) saying that the Italian Contingent had arrived at PORT SAID and that it consisted of 11 officers, 444 other ranks, 6 horses, 40 mules and no vehicles.	
		2020	<u>Word Troopers</u> (AM 1935) asking that an officer with recent experience in FRANCE might be sent out to coordinate the training of recruits in this theatre as the present situation offers good opportunities for sleeping activity & we wish to take full advantage of it.	

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GSO - GHQ - EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19/5/17		<p>wrote G.O.C ALEXANDRIA District (G.S. 2/7/2) with reference to the training of drafts in anti-gas duties at the Base Depots before they proceed to join their units (appendix)</p> <p>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (G.S. 2/7) with reference to the training in anti-gas duties of all such units as do not come under the control of Divisional Gas Officers.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>D</p> <p>E</p>
		1230	Wrote Troopers (AM 1932) giving R.F.C. weekly return (appendix)	
		1845	Wrote from Gen Hoskins DARES SALAAM (G 5:32 Wd) giving distribution of Military wing R.F.C. for week ending 19/5/17:—	
			<p>HQ — MOROGORO.</p> <p>"A" Flight — LETUSI and NJEMBE.</p> <p>"B" Flight — half at TULO. and half at MOROGORO</p> <p>C Flight — KILWA.</p> <p>one machine — ALT IRINGA</p> <p>2 machines — ITIGI</p> <p>Aircraft Park HQ — MOROGORO</p> <p>Stores — DARES SALAAM</p>	
				<p>William</p> <p>Capt G.S.</p> <p>16</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24/5/17	0840	<u>win from Eastern Force (EFS 1818)</u> During the night the extreme left of our line was advanced 500 yards, and we occupied and consolidated CHESHIRE RIDGE NE of SHEIKH AJLIN. No casualties. Our patrols bombed trenches on UMBRELLA RIDGE, drawing heavy fire but they withdrew without loss. Otherwise all clear and situation unchanged.	
		1837	<u>win from Eastern Force (EFS 1843)</u> , Situation unchanged. Weather conditions much improved.	
		2030	<u>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1940)</u> weather conditions improved today. On our extreme left we advanced our line 500 yards on a front of about 800 yards last night, consolidated our position and bombed the enemy ^{trenches} with effect.	
		0330	<u>win from Troopers (34791)</u> approving our proposals ^{as regards the Australian Brigade} for the reorganization of Mounted Divisions.	
		1420	<u>win from Troopers (AM 1937)</u> that we presumed that now all the proposals set out in our AM 1915 of 15/5/17 were approved including the use of 1 Mounted Brigade and the Camel Brigade as Corps Troops.	
			<u>Troopers wind (34870)</u> on 21/5/17 that this was so.	

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20/5/17	0330	<p>Troopers word (34784) referring to our AM 1927 of 18/5/17 - Can details for proposed reorganization of artillery for Mounted Brigades and Divisions be given. — As regards Divisional Artillery - The object of reorganization into 6 gun batteries was to economise in Brigades and Battery Commanders & Staff. This object would not be obtained by forming brigades of only 1 Battery (note our AM 1927 was meant to mean Brigades of 1 battery 18 Pdrs & 1 battery of Howitzers). In your theatre, taking everything into consideration, it is desirable to have 3 Brigades per Division & in that case 4 gun batteries seem preferable to 6 gun. If you do not agree please state details of proposed reorganization on a 6 gun basis & grounds on which it is recommended.</p> <p>Reply (AM 1936) Artillery of Mounted Brigades will be organized into 3 Brigades of 3 batteries each. One battery ^{will be} for the Span Brigade which becomes a Corps unit. Batteries will retain their own A.C.'s as at present, existing Colonels RA & their Staffs will be converted to RHA Brigade Staffs. —</p> <p>The war continued setting out the reasons history of the 4 or 6 gun question and saying that it was thought that the 6 gun battery basis was preferred by the War Office & that we were prepared to meet these views. The present scheme is for one Division to have 36 guns & 8 Howitzers and the remaining 4 Divisions to have 30 guns and 8 Howitzers - 1st Brigade 2 batteries of guns and one of howitzers - 2nd Brigade 2 batteries of guns - 3rd Brigade one battery of guns & one of Howitzers</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

920-948-EEF

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20/5/17		<p>AM 1936 continued. Thus no brigade will consist of a single battery only. The 4 gun battery basis would be preferred if staff men and horses are available but if these are scarce we are prepared to accept the 6 gun buses. The War Office were asked to give a <u>final</u> decision as early as possible with regard to the size of the gun unit to be adopted.</p> <p>0570 <u>Letter from Troopers</u> (34798) in reply to our AM 1921 of 16/5/17, saying that they were sending out 5 Staff officers as soon as possible, ^{General Staff} those whom had had experience with in France and two of whom had had A & G experience in France. They are to be absorbed as soon as possible but can be retained in their present grading for a period not exceeding 4 months.</p> <p>1500 <u>Letter Troopers</u> (AM 1938) asking that Calcutta Volunteer Battery might cease to be designated as such & might be made into a R. G. A unit. Besides the 12 P or 18 cwt guns manned by this unit at EL ARISH it is hoped that they may be allowed to man the 5 Pounders which are also at EL ARISH at present manned by men belonging to no definite unit. Sanction is now asked for this unit to remain on its original establishment so as to allow sufficient personnel to man both these sets of guns. All additional personnel beyond those already being sent from home can be found locally.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>20/5/17</i>		<i>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90 247) with reference to the employment of the instructional staff of the Cavalry School at ZELTOWN (appendix)</i>	<i>A</i>
			<i>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90. 2/7) with reference to the possibility of the employment of Cloud gas on the PALESTINE front. (appendix)</i>	<i>B</i>

*occasional
apps*

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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GSO-INTG-REF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/5/17	0812	Wm from Eastern Force (Egs 1855) Situation unchanged all clear	
		1833	Wm from Eastern Force (Egs 1883) An Enemy patrol approached EL HEMBOUR last night, one Turk was killed and 4 Wm captured. In addition one prisoner was taken by 52 nd Division and one deserter, a Greek, came in. Situation unchanged.	
		2132	"Defence" EL ARISH Wm (Dg 64) that a hostile aircraft dropped 6 Bombs on RAFA at 08.15 killing one man and wounding another.	
		2105	Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1945) Fin prisoners and 1 deserter brought in by our patrols which have been very active.	
		1718	Chief LONDON Wm (34829) in reply to our letter GS 2/31 of the 7 th May with reference to the Railway Situation (Appendix) with and the number of troops that it should be capable of maintaining at and beyond Railhead (Appendix) . It was pointed out that, though it is not yet possible to see what reinforcements will be available beyond those already notified, in order to guide	3

(continued next page)

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

900-989-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>our railway policy we should be prepared to maintain at and beyond railhead a force of ^{an estimate} an estimate divisions with a proportion of heavy artillery, cavalry divisions and Army Troops by July next. request was requested (after consultation with Brigadier General Stewart who is coming to EGYPT) as to the maximum capacity of our single line at present railhead and at TAFFA and as to what our requirements are to enable it to be developed to its fullest extent. It is considered by the Railway authorities at home that it should be capable of maintaining 7 Infantry Divisions and 3 Mounted Divisions.</p> <p>The unit also asked whether it was considered that EGYPT was contributing to the fullest possible extent both as regards Railway material and in other respects.</p>	

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

920-940-FFIF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/5/17		<p>Wrote Secretary War Office (9590) enclosing a table showing the organization of the Transport of an Infantry Battalion which has been adopted in this force (appendix)</p>	A
		1640	<p>Troopers Wain (34832) that the maximum funds of the Volunteer Machine gun Company would now be kept in EAST AFRICA and would not be sent to this country with the rest of their equipment as was originally intended (see Troopers Wain 34653 of 17/5/17)</p>	
		1530	<p>Wain SAZONKA (AM 1943) asking them if they would repeat War Office telegram 24618 cipher with reference to the BAC coming to this country as we knew nothing of it and also informing them that we do not require a Divisional H.Q. RA here at the moment.</p>	
		2100	<p>Wain Troopers (AM 1944) asking them what number was to be allotted to the Siege Battery formed from sections of 292nd & 300th Siege Batteries & suggesting that it should be numbered 300 as the H.Q. was coming with that Section. As regards Mechanical Transport, as the 95th Company is coming out with the 300th Siege Battery it is suggested that this Company shall be completed in this country in place of the portion of the 917th Coy which was lost at sea.</p>	M

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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900-9HQ-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/5/17		<p><u>Wrote Secretary War Office (90392) with reference to the rank to be held by the execution officer in charge of the office of the D. O. S. at 9. HQ (appendix)</u></p> <p><u>Wrote G. O. C. Eastern Force (90621) informing him that 20 cases of plague had recently been reported in the Canal zone and that the appearance of this disease has been definitely traced to the presence of infected rats brought ⁱⁿ to this country among the cargoes from INDIA. The question of the extermination of rats in the area of operations is being taken up by the medical authorities but with a view to preventing any possible spread of the disease amongst the fighting troops, the use of wood structures behind which rats find harbourage, especially in trenches and dugouts and shellia occupied by troops or used for the storage of food, should be restricted for the present.</u></p> <p><u>Wrote G. O. C. PALESTINE LORR Depress and Southern Canal Section (90824) with reference to starting the Indian Branch at the School of Instruction ZEITOUN (appendix)</u></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">E.B.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.C.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ob</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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900-949-EEF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/5/17		<p>wrote Commandant School of Instruction 2EITOUN (95609/9) forwarding a statement showing the allotment of the vacancies for the 24th Course. (appendix)</p> <p>wrote Lt Col 232nd Infantry Brigade (95569) requesting him to forward to G. H.Q. as soon as possible, a full report on the training and general efficiency of all units of his brigade.</p>	E.D.
				<p>per Williams Capt 85</p>

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22/5/17	0810	<p>Mem from Eastern Force (9/51838) All clear. Situation unchanged</p>	
		1826	<p>Mem from Eastern Force (9/51914) More shelling than usual by the enemy, but no casualties. Our artillery dispersed several enemy working parties and inflicted casualties. An enemy working party and a patrol were surprised & bombed by 52nd Division. Seven deserters came in last night. Situation unchanged.</p>	
		2050	<p>Evening Report to LONDON and BACHMANN (AM 1947) Seven deserters have come in since last report. Our Artillery dispersed enemy working parties and inflicted casualties. Our bombers also surprised enemy working parties.</p> <p>G.O.C. Eastern Force having forwarded certain trench orders drawn up by G.O.C. 52nd Division for printing, it was decided that it was undesirable to have orders of this kind for individual divisions. G.O.C. Eastern Force was asked whether he considered that these orders were applicable to all divisions in his command and if not to draw up and submit a copy of "Eastern Force Trench Orders" when steps would be taken to reproduce them in booklet form. (9/5364/134)</p>	16

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920-940-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22/5/17	1710	<u>Troopers</u> (34894) approving our proposals with regard to Divisional Artillery organization on a 6 gun battery basis (submitted in our AM 1936 of 20/5/17) and asking us to telegraph allotment of all Horse and Field Artillery Batteries already in EGYPT under the Scheme of reorganization to be adopted	
		1230	Wire from <u>SALONIKA</u> (GL 120) in reply to our AM 1943 of 21/5/17, saying that the last part of their wire GL 101 of 19/5/17 should read "Divisional Artillery HQ and key sent in accordance with War Office instructions" also giving us the composition of "B" Echelon DAE coming to EGYPT.	
		1245	<u>Wire Troopers</u> (AM 1946) asking that 6 Rolls Royce or Talbot vans might be sent out by the first available ship. They are required to mobilise one section of mountain guns (2 F) for service with the Detachment at SIWA. These are the only form of vehicles which will take these guns over the Western Desert and no such vans are available in EGYPT. The provision of these vans would greatly increase the fighting power of the armoured cars, which are now practically the only mobile fighting units in the Coastal Section on the Western Front.	85

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22/5/17		<p>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90617) with reference to the increase in the establishment of a Sanitary Section with a mounted Division by 11 riding horses (appendix)</p> <p>wrote G.O.C Delta & Western Force (90354) with reference to the responsibility for the safe custody of 2 copies of Bound Volumes of War Establishments Part VII (appendix)</p> <p>wrote Commandant School of Instruction ZETTON (90813) informing him that the arrangements had now been completed for the occasional attachment of a small number of officer instructors to units in the front line in Eastern Force and asking him to inform us what branches of instruction will be represented in the first group of officers so that timely arrangements may be made for them to be attached to the arm of the service from which they will gain most experience.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>B</p>
				<p>overseen Capt G</p> <p>pb</p>

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900-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23/5/17	0722	<u>Wm from Eastern Force (Eps 1921)</u> All well, Situation unchanged.	
		1826	<u>Wm from Eastern Force (Eps 1954)</u> One Patrol was heavily fired at from Point 510 ABU SHAWISH at 06.30 otherwise all clear. Four armed Bessiers have come in. Situation unchanged.	
		2045	<u>Enemy Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1950)</u> . Four armed Bessiers came in last night. Situation unchanged.	
		2200	<u>LOZONIXA WIND (QB 3234)</u> giving strengths of the 60 th Divisional Artillery and of the 7 th & 8 th Mounted Brigades which are coming to this country (Appendix)	A.
			<u>Wm Lt Col PARETINE Lt Col Dipness (90598)</u> ^{expressing his request for the} with appointment appointment of a CPE on his headquarters. It is thought that all Engineer duties which would be fulfilled by such an officer can be undertaken by Lt Col. No 10 Company QVO. Sappers and Miners who are under his command. If considered necessary this officer could be attached to Palestine Lt Col Dipness HQ and an extra officer attached for duty to the Sappers and Miners when available.	B.

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920-940-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23/5/17	2135	<p>Trooper Lind (34976) saying that no transport vehicles are available in SOUTH AFRICA for the Ammunition Column coming with 14" 240 44" FA Batteries and asking us what transport we can provide — Passed to G to answer.</p> <p>wrote for Delta & Western Force (9/2/69) requesting him to forward his suggestions as to the units from which we would form the garrison to be earmarked for No 2 Armoured Train which forms part of the Emergency Reserve of this force</p> <p>wrote GOC PARABELINE LOPC DEFENCES (9/8/24) with reference to the Indian Branch Camp formed at the School of Instruction ZESTOUN (appendix)</p>	B

O. Clifton
C. P. G.

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900-949-BEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17		<p><u>Letter from G.O.C Eastern Force (3 W 11)</u> with regard to the water requirements of Eastern Force in the event of offensive operations in the near future. The scheme was worked out on the supposition that the next serious stage in the operations would be an advance East of the WADI GHUZZE from SHELLAL & BIR ESANI to the line of the WADI IMLIEH and WADI HANNAFISH. No difficulties are anticipated as regards transport but the question of the water supply becomes of vital importance and presents considerable difficulties. Etc. Eastern Force considers that he can water his troops without much difficulty on the line SHEIKH AJLIN to ESANI with the exception of the stretch between EL MESHREFE and KIRBET ERK which is too far from the main supplies at BEIR EL BELAH and the lower stretches of the WADI GHUZZE and SHELLAL and that a water base will therefore have to be established for this portion of the line in the neighbourhood of TEL EL JEMI. The suggestion is that this base shall be formed at ATSU BAKRA by continuing the pipe line from RADA and KHAN YUNUS to this place and he wishes the pipe line to be extended of all water carrying for the railway East of EL ARISH. — The C.I.C. approves of the water proposals but advised</p>	87

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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920-249-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24/5/17	0800	<p>win from Eastern Force (Eps 1962) All Clear</p>	
		1128	<p>win from Defences ELARISH (DG 84) Hostile aircraft succeeded about 0600 about Kilo 90 and damaged about 1 foot of railway. Picquet close by find on party who made off leaving a camera, a box of explosives & a goat. The damage to the line was repaired by 0850.</p>	
		1830	<p>win from Eastern Force (Eps 1985) Enemy parties were shelled between FRYER HILL and PILLAR and near HARKNEY WICK and casualties amongst men and animals were observed. A raid on the Railway SE of ASLUB was carried out yesterday by Desert Column. Ten miles of track were destroyed. The report of Imperial Camel Corps has not yet been received. One prisoner was taken. Otherwise the situation is unchanged.</p> <p>This raid was undertaken with the idea of destroying as much of the BEERSABA - ELAUSA line as possible in order to prevent the Turk from picking up this line, which he is not making any use of, and using the material for the new branch line which he is building between JUNCTION STATION and GAZA.</p>	
		2035	<p>Enemy Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1952) emboldening the above words from Defences ELARISH and Eastern Force</p>	2

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~~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
	24/5/17	1625	<p>Wired Chief, LONDON (A.M.1953) in reply to his 34829 of 21/5/17, with regard to the part EGYPT is taking in the War, and as to whether she can contribute to a greater extent with regard to railways or in any other respect.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** *** *** *** *** *** ***</p> <p>It has always been thought that the strain of the war has practically not been felt at all in EGYPT. The question of further utilising Egyptian resources has constantly been studied, and yesterday a conference on this subject was held with the High Commissioner, and he agreed as to the unimportance of Egypt's part in the war.</p> <p>There would appear to be two main headings under which Egypt could further help in the war, - viz., personnel and railways:-</p> <p>As regards personnel, no compulsory recruitment is possible in EGYPT ^{at present} owing to a proclamation issued on the 6th November 1914 by General Maxwell, to the effect that "GREAT BRITAIN takes upon herself the sole burden of the present war without calling upon the Egyptians for aid therein". In spite of this there are some 15,000 men in the Egyptian Army and 98,000 manual labourers, all serving under voluntary engagements; but no serious increase in these numbers can be expected with voluntary enlistment. Large numbers of Egyptians would, of course, become available if compulsion is introduced, but it is doubtful whether the advantages thus obtained would compensate for the serious check to the production of the cotton and foodstuffs which EGYPT is now required to supply and, moreover, compulsory recruitment might have an unfortunate effect on the present satisfactory internal condition of the country.</p> <p>As regards railways, every request that has been made to the Egyptian authorities has been complied with. The question of taking up further lines in EGYPT has been carefully considered and it is not thought that this can be done without seriously interfering with the conduct of the war in other ways. Wheel transport being practically non-existent in this country, practically the whole produce of the country has to be carried on the railways, although inland water transport is being developed to its fullest extent.</p> <p>Any suggestions as to the line of action which might tend to increase EGYPT's contribution to the war would be gratefully accepted.</p>	

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230-940-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24/1/17	1625	<p>Letter Chief of Staff (AM 1753) in reply to des 24829 P, 24/5/17 giving our view as regards the part EGYPT was taking in the war and as to whether she could contribute to the extent of repairs Railways or in any other respect (attached)</p> <p>Letter for Southern Canal Section (90.2/75) in reply to their request that the garrisons at HBU ZENEIMA and TOR might be relieved that there was no objection to the relief of these garrisons as soon as the Quarantine restrictions are withdrawn from the Southern end of the Canal & instructing him to forward detailed requirements to the D.G. M.F. who will make all necessary arrangements as shipping becomes due.</p> <p>Letter for PALESTINE (90 611) informing him that the 3 pompoms which are at present manned by details of the 52nd Division will be taken over by the CALCUTTA Volunteer Battery as soon as ^{the scheme to} their establishment has been sanctioned by the War Office and that pending this arrangement, the present personnel will remain and will be attached to the Calcutta Volunteer Battery and come under the orders of the Officer Commanding that unit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>

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(Erase heading not required.)

320-249-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24/5/17	2355	<p>Word from Troopers (35044) informing us that the departure of the remaining British Infantry T.F. Battalions from India, which were to have formed the 75th Division, may now be delayed for some considerable period and instructing us to complete the formation of this Division by incorporating battalions drawn from the Indian Brigades. [Gen. Paine ordered to confer at GHQ tomorrow]</p>	
		1010	<p>Word Troopers (AM 1951) ^{proposed} giving composition of RFA Brigades for the 3 mounted Divisions and RFA Brigades for 52nd 53rd 54th 74th 445th Divisions (appendix)</p>	A
		11.45	<p>Word Troopers (AM 1952) asking that a number might be allotted to the Field Troop of the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade — a reply (35117) was received on 25/5/17 allotting the number 10.</p>	
			<p>Word G.O.C Eastern Force (9/5/25) enclosing a syllabus for an elementary course of instruction in topography, compass work and night marching. (appendix)</p>	B
			<p>Issued FORCE ORDER NO 43 (1) constituting 233rd Brigade (2) reorganizing Delta & Eastern Force Squads (3) allotting numbers to the Sections of the Railway operating Division (4) ^{proving} units taken on cost the strength of E.E.F.</p>	C

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17	0840	<p>Winn from Eastern Force (Eps 1994) The result of the railway raid by our mounted troops is that the line for 10 miles from ASLUS, ^{has been destroyed also} 14 arches out of the 18 were destroyed at ASLUS, all 8 arches at THAMILET EL RASHID and 2 arches 2 miles NE of that place. Our casualties were 1 man wounded. 5 Turks were killed 2 wounded and 1 taken prisoner. The Tuzenat Camel Brigade destroyed 5 miles of rail and 2 Bridges and captured 1 Turk. During the 23rd inst one direct hit was obtained on an enemy gun. An officers patrol from 74th Division got within 500 yards of AZIMUNTAR. Situation unchanged.</p>	
		1900	<p>Winn from Eastern Force (Eps 202342024) 3 Turkish deserters came in from the 7th Cavalry regiment at BIR SABA. It is stated by desert column that both the 7th Infantry Division and the 3rd Cavalry Division are at BIR SABA. One arch of the bridge North of BIR SABA has been destroyed by our shell fire and this has prevented trains arriving. An enemy Cavalry Squadron is reported at KHARBET ERK also enemy cavalry at KHARBET commencing harvesting parties. An officers patrol had two encounters with strong enemy patrol in WADI ENOZEES. Four direct hits were obtained on enemy guns yesterday by our heavy howitzers and 3 guns are reported to have been destroyed. Situation unchanged.</p>	
		1145	<p>After the morning win (Eps 1994) the win (Eps 1994) was sent to Lt. Eastern Force congratulating him on the preparation & the troops on the successful execution of the raid on the railway</p>	92

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17	2000	<p><u>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1960)</u> Four direct hits on enemy guns yesterday. Our artillery also destroyed bridge north of BIR SABA which has apparently caused considerable dislocation of traffic on BIR SABA railway. The destruction of the railway between ASLUS and AUSA has been completed for a distance of 15 miles. Six Turks were killed, 2 wounded and 1 taken prisoner. 3 deserters from 7th Cavalry Regiment came in today.</p> <p>1215 <u>Word from Eastern Force (ES 188)</u> ^{asking} whether 2 Battalions of the 75th Division could be sent up to be attached to the 54th Division for training.</p> <p>1250 <u>Word from Officer EL ARISH (OA 375)</u> asking him to submit a report on present state of defenses of EL ARISH and RAPA and instructing him to furnish a weekly condition and progress report.</p> <p>0845 <u>Word from G.O.C. ALEXANDRIA District (OA 373)</u> that 569th A.T. Coy RE will move from ALEXANDRIA to PORT SAID on June 1st. While stationed at PORT SAID this A.T. Company will be departmentally controlled by D of W. G.H.Q.</p>	

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GPO-948-15EF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17	0915	<u>Word Delta & Isthmus Force</u> (OAH 3) that the Calcutta Volunteer Battery will move to ELARISH under train arrangements to be made by DQMG. GHQ.	
		0840	<u>Word Southern Canal Section</u> (OAH 2) that one brigade section of the 75 th Divisional Signal Company would move from MOASCAR to ZEITOUN to form the 233 rd Brigade which is forming there.	
		1425	<u>Word Troopers</u> (AM 1956) that our complete requirements from England for the Headquarters of the 3 rd (Yeomanry) Mounted Division are - 1950 2, one officer to command the Field Squadron RE and one S.A.O.S. The remainder of the staff can be found locally.	
		0330	<u>Word from Troopers</u> (35054) informing us that one 6" Howitzer Battery and H.Q. and 1 Section of another 6" Howitzer Battery will be sent from SALONIKA, who are to report which batteries are selected and the date by which they will be ready. The transport for these batteries consists of 5 quadruple motor lorries for guns and equipment and 13 3 ton lorries for ammunition etc. W.O want to know whether this transport will be of any use in EGYPT.	pb

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

920-949-EEF

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17	1330	<p><u>Wire Troopers</u> (AM 1957) in reply to a question by them (35019 of 24/5/17) as to whether we intended to form 1 battery of 6" & 1 battery of 8" with the 201st ^{& 300th Batteries} or intention to keep Composite batteries of one 6" & one 8" — we propose to retain both the 201st and 300th as composite Batteries consisting of one section of 6" & one section 8" each.</p>	
		2045	<p><u>Wire Troopers</u> (35091) informing us that native personnel to the number of 3410 gunners and 740 drivers are being sent from INDIA for our four Divisional Ammunition Columns. For unarmoured speaking officers (1 for each Division) are also being sent</p>	
		1930	<p><u>Wire Troopers</u> (AM 1957) in reply to their 34976 of 23/5/17 that all transport for the South African Brigades RFA could be found locally, ^{with} exception of 13 Pdr ammunition wagons. The 44th Brigade RFA will also have to be supplied with these, and the total number to be supplied from England will then be 72 (36 for each Brigade)</p>	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

900-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17	1605	<p><u>Winds Troopers</u> (AM 1950) asking that definite instructions might be sent out regarding the construction of an Aircraft Factory. This request became necessary as there was some uncertainty as to whether the War Office had given definite sanction for the erection of this factory. A large consignment of aeroplanes, in parts, has already been despatched to EGYPT under departmental arrangements and under arrangements made with Sir FREDERICK BLACK Ambassadors has been ordered from INDOIA India for erection at ABOUKIR.</p>	
		1100	<p><u>Winds Troopers</u> (AM 1955) giving changes in distribution for the week:- Incorporated in EEF but not yet allotted 906th M.T Coy ASC, Italian Contingent, 44th Bengal RFA. - Incorporated in EEF & allotted to Eastern Force PALESTINE Local Deposits. - French Contingent consisting of 5th Battalion 115th Regt. Territorial Infantry; 7th Battalion of 1st Regt and 9th Battalion of 2 Regt of Algerian Tirailleurs; Detachment Engineers and Field Ambulance. Incorporated in EEF as formation - 60th Mobile Veterinary Section.</p>	<p>O. Williams Capt. G.S.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">90</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/5/17	2230	<p>Wire No. 34900 cipher was received from Chief, LONDON, with reference to appreciation sent under our G.S. Z/33/2 of 7/5/17. The remarks on it by Chief, LONDON and our replies thereto are set out in paragraphs.</p> <p>1. The appreciation appears to exaggerate the extent to which Turkish forces have been reinforced since the middle of March. It also gives the impression that the probable arrival in the front line of reserves known to be available for the 4th Turkish Army did not enter fully into your calculations.</p> <p><u>Reply.</u> The possibility of a considerable increase in the strength of the enemy opposed to me in the event of the situation in CAUCASUS allowing of the withdrawal of troops from that front has always entered into my calculations in estimating enemy strength in Southern SYRIA (vide appreciation of 21/10/16, para. 9). Moreover, in my appreciation 13/12/16, I estimated the strength of which he might dispose early in 1917 as 40,000 exclusive of reinforcements from the CAUCASUS.</p> <p>2. According to the Turkish Order of Battle (prepared on March 7th), which, as regards your own theatre of war, was based on information from EGYPT, As that time ^{then was}, in Palestine and Syria, 5 infantry divisions and possibly 7, besides cavalry divisions were to be reckoned on as possible opponents. The divisions referred to being the 3rd, 16th, 27th, 53rd, 43rd, 7th and 23rd. It now seems that the 54th division was brought into Palestine instead of the 23rd, but this did not alter the size of the concentration in the front line.</p> <p><u>Reply.</u> Agreed! but it is thought that all divisions have been considerably strengthened as a result of reinforcements diverted to Syria and Palestine which were originally intended for Caucasus front.</p> <p>3. The omission of any reference to the 27th Division was doubtless an oversight as the presence of this division in Syria and Palestine has been established for the last year.</p> <p><u>Reply.</u> This division was included in the phrase "certain unattached regiments belonging to other formations".</p> <p>4. It is believed that the force in front of you does not exceed 45 battalions, or the equivalent of 5 divisions. From detailed reports received from you the strength of these battalions does not appear to be more than 28,000 as against 33,000 given in your appreciation.</p> <p><u>Reply.</u> The detailed reports giving the strength of the enemy as 28,000 were prepared /before</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase 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
			<p>before I was satisfied that the enemy had been considerably reinforced. These estimates were mainly based on the prisoners' and deserters' statements.</p> <p>The estimates given in our G.S. Z/33/2 of 7/5/17 are still adhered to. The discrepancy between our estimates and those of Chief, London, appear to be regarding the number of men more than the number of divisions. We are satisfied here that the enemy has been greatly strengthened by reinforcements from depots, and also with Austrian artillery and German machine guns. The Intelligence department at the War Office are apparently not prepared to admit this.</p>	

*Overman
Capt*

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

GPO - 249 - EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>26/5/17</i>	<i>0809</i>	<i>Wm from Eastern Force (Eqs 2031) Enemy working parties on OUTPOST HILL, GREEN HILL and MIDDLESEX HILL were shelled between 0700 & 0900 yesterday and casualties were inflicted. Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>1834</i>	<i>Wm from Eastern Force (Eqs 2056) Enemy heavily shelled ABAS APEX and the trenches NW of it at 0200 - 0330 and 04.30 last night. A hostile enemy battery was silenced by our Field Howitzers and 4 teams which were later seen approaching the gun positions were also shelled. Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>2140</i>	<i>Evening Report to LONDON and BACH DAD (AM 1964) A good deal of reciprocal shelling last night and this morning. Enemy working parties were shelled and one enemy battery was silenced, also an enemy A/A gun was destroyed by our fire.</i>	
			<i>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (GPO/606) giving the constitution of the Divisional artillery in the arrival of the 8 - 6 gun batteries of 10 Pors & 4 - 4 gun batteries of 4.5" Howitzers from SAZONIKA (appendix)</i>	<i>AB</i>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

920-989-EEF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>26/5/17</i>		<p><i>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90/629) with reference to the grouping of the Heavy Artillery on the arrival of the 97th Heavy Artillery Group (appendix)</i></p> <p><i>1205</i> <u>Wind Troopers</u> (AM 1962) in reply to their 35044 Cipher SO 2 of the 24th instant. The formation of mixed ^{Bengalis} Indian and English Bengalis ^{troops} is objected to by us in view of the great administrative difficulties and our proposals, for which sanction is requested, are that the 233rd Brigade which now has 2 battalions only shall be made up to 3 battalions by withdrawing the 1/4th B.C.L.I. from the 232nd Brigade, the 2 English Brigades thus having 3 Battalions each. The remaining brigade for the Division to be the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade consisting of 2/3rd & 70/5th Gurkhas, 123rd Rifles and 58th Rifles. The inclusion of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade will however entail a complete readjustment of the Southern Canal Section and it is now proposed to send the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade from PALESTINE to the Southern Canal Section in relief of the 29th Brigade but as the 49th Brigade at present only consists of the 1/101st & 2/101st formations it will be necessary to retain 2 Battalions of the 29th Brigade in Southern Canal Section pending the arrival of the 2 Indian Battalions promised from EAST AFRICA and to be then on asked to hasten the dispatch of these Battalions.</p>	<i>B</i>

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26/5/17		<p>wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90569) with reference to the formation of the 75th Division and the planning of the 232nd Brigade at his disposal (appendix)</p> <p>wrote C.I.G.S (90627) enclosing a letter received from the The High Commissioner with reference to the part taken by EGYPT in the war (appendix)</p>	<p># C</p> <p>D</p>
		0930	<p>Wind Troopers (AM 1961) requesting that various alterations might be made as regards transport in the War Establishment for a Tractor drawn Heavy Artillery Battery (Part X) No 518.</p> <p>An early reply was requested as part of the 189th & 202nd Batteries have already left England.</p>	E
		1300	<p>Wind Troopers (AM 1963) with R.F.C weekly Returns (appendix)</p> <p>Issued Amendment to Force Order No 43 (appendix)</p>	F

O. C. Williams
Capt

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26/4/17		<p>A letter (ES 189) was received from <u>Gen. Easton Force</u> setting out his views with regard to future operations with special reference to water supply and railway construction (appendix)</p>	<p>8.</p>

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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920-249-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>27/5/17</i>	<i>0805</i>	<i>Wm from Eastern Force (E/S 2065) An enemy Convoy of 50 Carts and one Motor Van was seen at 0855 on 26/5/17 proceeding towards GAZA on the BEERSHEBA Road. The motor van was destroyed by our shell fire. Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>1821</i>	<i>Wm from Eastern Force (E/S 2096) Enemy reported by Desert Column to be holding from Point 410 to Point 520 in WADT IM LIEH otherwise all clear. Our artillery obtained 2 direct hits on enemy A/P gun. Situation unchanged.</i>	
		<i>2050</i>	<i>Enemy Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1969) Our artillery effectively shelled enemy convoy of 50 carts and one Motor Van proceeding from BEERSHEBA to GAZA. The motor van was destroyed.</i>	
			<i>Write G. O. C. PALESTINE L/C Officers (E/S 2/73) with reference to the employment of irregular troops for patrol work along the Railway line. (Appendix)</i>	<i>A</i>

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

950-940-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/3/17		<p>Wrote C.I.G.S. War Office (95630) with proposals for the reorganization of the Command of Eastern Force (Appendix) on the arrival of the 60th Division from Salonika and the completion of the formation of the 75th Division Eastern Force will consist of 6 Infantry Divisions and 3 Cavalry Divisions and attached Troops. It is proposed to form these with 2 Infantry Corps and 1 Cavalry Corps and to expand the Staff of Eastern Force as considered necessary.</p> <p>Wrote Chief London (AM 1967) that the above mentioned proposals were being sent by the next mail and asking Chief London to await these proposals before issuing any definite instructions on the subject.</p>	3
		0530	<p>Wrote from Trooper (35188) informing us that the remainder of the 60th Division will now be sent to this country from Salonika. It is organized in accordance with W.E. SALONIKA 3. A further communication is to be sent with regard to allotment of Artillery for this Division.</p> <p>On receipt of the above wire the C.G.S. went personally to General GILLMAN at SALONIKA asking him to let us know the names of the Brigade Commanders, the CRA and the CRE and also asking if their Order of Battle was as shown in SALONIKA Order of Battle for January 1917 a copy of which we have got.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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920-948-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/5/17	0200	<p>Word from Troopers (35193) informing us that they were sending 4 - 6" Howitzer Batteries from England. Caterpillar Tractors are being sent with the batteries but not caterpillar trucks, though these will be sent as soon as the supply admits. They would ask whether we would like lorries to be sent with the batteries instead.</p>	
		1930	<p>Word Troopers (AM 1968) and repeated SAZONIKIA with reference to the Transport for 6" Howitzer Batteries coming from SAZONIKIA that we had no local experience of Quaduple driven lorries but that we thought that they might be all right and would therefore like them to be sent. The three ton lorries offered are not required.</p>	
		0352	<p>Word from Troopers (31213 Code) in reply to our AM 1957 of 24/5/17 informing us that the new members of the Brigades of R.H.A. would be 18 - 19 & 20 but that the Batteries should retain their territorial titles.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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930-914-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
	<i>27/5/17</i>	<i>2220</i>	<i>Wm from Troopers (35218) Agreeing to the principle of establishing an aircraft factory in EGYPT on the lines previously suggested but informing us that upon the scheme can be finally approved a satisfactory disposal of difficulties connected with the land question is awaited</i>																									
		<i>1348</i>	<p><i>Wm from General Hawks DAR ES SALAAM (G.632 Code) giving distribution of military wing RFE for week ending 26/5/17.</i></p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td><i>H.Q.</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>MOROGORO</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>"A" Flight</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>LIKUJU and FORT JOHNSON</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>"B" "</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>half TULO & half MOROGORO</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>"C" "</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>KILWA</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2 Machines</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>ALT IRINGA</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>2 Machines</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>IMIGI</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Aircraft Park</i></td> <td><i>H.Q. ---</i></td> <td><i>MOROGORO</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Stores</i></td> <td><i>---</i></td> <td><i>DAR-ES-SALAAM</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>H.Q.</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>MOROGORO</i>	<i>"A" Flight</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>LIKUJU and FORT JOHNSON</i>	<i>"B" "</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>half TULO & half MOROGORO</i>	<i>"C" "</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>KILWA</i>	<i>2 Machines</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>ALT IRINGA</i>	<i>2 Machines</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>IMIGI</i>	<i>Aircraft Park</i>	<i>H.Q. ---</i>	<i>MOROGORO</i>	<i>Stores</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>DAR-ES-SALAAM</i>	
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				<p><i>Williams</i> <i>Capt</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>106</i></p>																								

WAR DIARY

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G.00 - GHQ - EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22/5/17	0814	<p>Wm from East force (E G S 3009) All clear, situation unchanged. One prisoner captured from the 47th Regiment states that his regiment is situated between SHERIA and ABU HAREIRA.</p>	
		1848	<p>Wm from East force (E G S 3026) 3 Troops of enemy, working harvesters, reported at ERK and one troop at EL GIRHEIR, otherwise all clear. One Turkish Officer and 10 other rank captured near MENDOR. Two enemy guns were destroyed yesterday and one heavy Howitzer shell burst in the middle of a working party of 800 men causing considerable casualties. Two of our aeroplanes engaged a hostile aeroplane over BELAH at 17.15 but enemy aeroplane escaped.</p>	
		2055	<p>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1975) One Turkish Officer and one other prisoner brought in today. Two enemy guns destroyed by our heavy Howitzers and heavy casualties were caused by a shell which burst into the middle of an enemy working party 300 strong.</p>	
		0900	<p>Wm Troopers (AM 1971) asking whether another half battery 16" Howitzers is being sent, as the present number being sent is apparently 5 1/2 Batteries and also inquiring W.O. that another Heavy Artillery front H.Q. complete will be required from them.</p>	107

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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GPO - GPR - EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28/5/7	0945	<p><u>Lord Troopers</u> (APP 1972) asking for a definite statement as to what further artillery is being sent so that there may be no delay in carrying out the reorganization. It is presumed that further artillery not less strength than that at present allotted to the divisions at hand is being sent. If this presumption is correct it is proposed to give the 60th Division the artillery at present allotted to the 74th Division so that the former may retain their own units.</p> <p><u>Write G.O.C. Eastern Force</u> (GP 605) reorganize the mounted troops of the EEF into 3 mounted divisions and enclosing an order of battle. Showing this reorganization (appendix) A</p> <p><u>Write G.O.C. Eastern Force</u> (GP 2/67) giving him a list of ^{some of the} troops due to arrive in this country at a future date (appendix) B</p> <p><u>Write G.O.C. PALESTINE LOC Depues + Southern Canal Section</u> (GP 622) enclosing a l.e. for a Brigade Depot Section (British) with Indian Infantry Brigades for which proposals sanction has been from pending War Office approval (appendix) C</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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920-9149-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22/5/77.		<p>wrote the Secretary War Office (90392) with reference to the clerical establishments of the Adjutant General's and Principal Chaplain's Offices (appendix)</p> <p>Winds Troopers (AM1970) with reference to the Indian gunners and drivers being raised in INDIA for SAC's in this country, saying that we preferred not to have them in 'A' Echelons, which are the first reinforcements for batteries but that they could be employed in 'B' Echelons and Sub. Parks.</p> <p>wrote G.O.C. Eastern Force (902/72) and PALESTINE LofC Officers (902/72/1) informing them the General BAILLOUD, who has been dispatched by the French Government on a tour of inspection of all French Troops in the Near East, had arrived in EGYPT and would shortly visit their respective Headquarters. They were instructed to give General BAILLOUD every facility for seeing the conditions obtaining at the front and on the LofC.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">O'Connell Capt. G.S.</p>	D

WAR DIARY

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900-944-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29/5/17	0814	<u>Wm from Eastforce</u> (9p 3032) All clear. Situation unchanged.	
		1852	<u>Wm from Eastforce</u> (9p 3053) Desert Column has been in touch with enemy on line Point 570 ATBU SHAWISH - Point 410 WADI IMLEH - KH. ERK. One prisoner was taken yesterday and 3 officer deserters came in last night. 3 enemy guns were hit by our Heavy Batteries yesterday.	
		2020	<u>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD</u> (AM1977) All well. Three direct hits on enemy guns have been obtained. 3 officer deserters came in last night and 1 prisoner was brought in by our mounted patrols.	
		1540	<u>Word Delta & Western Force</u> (OA 377) that the 233 rd Brigade, less any men undergoing instructional courses, would move from ZEITOUN to EK ARISH at an early date under arrangements to be made by D G HQ, G HQ. This Brigade is going up to EK ARISH in relief of the 232 nd Brigade (less the 1/4 th D.C. L.I.) who were ordered (Wm OA 376 announced to Defences EK ARISH) to move up to BEIR EL BELAH for attachment to EASTERN FORCE. The 1/4 th D.C. L.I. are to be attached to the 3 rd Regiment in the 233 rd Brigade in the proposed reorganization for the formation of the 75 th Division.	10

WAR DIARY

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900-249-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29/5/17		<p>note G.O.C Eastern Force and PALESTINE LOC Divisions ^(90104/2) informing them the G.O.C Middle East Brigade R.F.C. has brought to notice the fact that reports of certain recent operations by hostile aircraft have only reached the R.F.C. through unofficial channels and after a considerable lapse of time and pointing out that it is of the greatest importance that H.Q. 5th Wing R.F.C. at DEIR EL BELAH should have the earliest possible information of any such operations so that immediate counter measures may be taken. G.O.C Eastern Force & PALESTINE LOC Divisions are therefore asked to take up the question as to how best this information can be transmitted to 5th Wing H.Q. from units and formations in their respective commands.</p> <p>note Italian Military Attaché (90 85/4) with reference to the C in C's inspection of the Italian Contingent at PORT SAID (appendix)</p> <p>note G.O.C Eastern Force (90 485) giving provisional sanction for the addition of the following additional transport to gas detachments with mounted formations:— Provisional gas detachments - 4 riding horses & 1/2 G.S. Limbered wagon with 2 draught horses & driver - Brigade gas detachment - 2 riding horses. This issue has become necessary owing to the way mounted divisions and Brigades are scattered and ^{consequent} the necessity for increased mobility on the part of the gas detachments.</p>	A.

WAR DIARY

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920-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29/5/77	2055	<p><u>Ward Troopers</u> (AM 1978) asking that establishment for RHA Batteries might be increased to include 4 Subalterns as is allowed in W.E. Part III for ^{49mm-} 18 Pdr Batteries. The present establishment in this country provides major & 3 subalterns with the battery and a captain and subaltern with the Ammunition Column. If this increase is approved all the officers can be provided locally.</p>	
		0530	<p><u>Ward Troopers</u> (35259) informing us that the question of the proposed increase in the establishment of the Calcutta Volunteer Battery is being taken up with INSCA and that an answer will be sent us shortly.</p>	
			<p><u>Wrote G.O.C. Southern Canal Section</u> (90657) with regard to the training in anti gas measures of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade in view of their probable inclusion in the 75th Division (appendix)</p>	B.
			<p><u>Wrote Secretary War Office</u> (90584) requesting sanction for the appointment of an Inspector of Recruiting ^{of Egyptian Labour} (appendix)</p>	C.
			<p>O. Williams Capt 8</p>	117

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950 - 948 - EEF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30/1/17	0814	<u>Warr from East force (Eps 3064)</u> All Clear.	
		1857	<u>Warr from East force (Eps 3089)</u> Enemy reported to be holding WADI IMLEH in some force this morning. One deserter and one prisoner brought in last night. Our heavy batteries and Howitzers did effective shooting on a field gun and an M/A gun. Situation unchanged.	
		2045	<u>Evening Report to London and Baghdad (AM 1980)</u> Artillery and Patrol activity continues. One deserter and one prisoner brought in today.	
			<u>Wrote G.O.C. Eastern Force (Eps 2/58/24)</u> asking him to consider the question of the amount of ammunition of all kinds which would be required for the capture and consolidation of the enemy's lines in front of Gaza GAZA and to forward his views to G. H.Q. in due course. These lines are rapidly developing into a highly organized trench system on the most modern lines and it is fully recognized that an estimate of this nature can only be approximate, since for accuracy it must depend largely upon the extent of any future works which the enemy may construct between now & any future operations but some such estimate is considered very necessary, in order that the question of the provision of the necessary ammunition and guns, especially heavy guns, may be taken up in good time.	

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900-914-222

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30/5/17		<p>wrote C.I.G.S. War Office (95104/11) with reference to an increase in the strength of the R.F.C. in this theatre. With the arrival of the 60th Division and the formation of the 75th Division Eastern Force will consist of 6 Infantry Divisions (probably reorganized into 2 corps) and 3 mounted Divisions (1 Cavalry Corps) with 3 Heavy Artillery groups and it is considered that 5 Squadrons R.F.C. will then be required instead of the present 2 Squadrons. (appendix)</p> <p>wrote G.O.C. Southern Canal Section (952/75) with proposals for the reorganization of the Southern Canal Section on the departure of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade to join the 75th Division and asking the G.O.C. for his views thereon and his detailed recommendations as regards any redistribution of troops that may be necessary. The 29th Indian Infantry Brigade is being replaced by the 29th which at present only consists of 2 Battalions pending the arrival of 2 more battalions from EAST AFRICA and it is therefore proposed to loan one Battalion of the 29th Brigade to the in Southern Canal Section and that that battalion shall continue to furnish the garrisons at TOR and ABU ZENINA, when it is considered essential that the garrisons should be composed of thoroughly reliable troops. As of this Battalion remains in Southern Canal Section the infantry will be reduced from 4 battalions to 3 and a redistribution will ^{consequently} be necessary.</p>	A.

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920-248-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30/5/17		<p>wrote Secretary War Office (9290) asking that the question of the increase of the establishment of Machine Gun Companies might be considered and that if possible W.I.E Part VII A No 501/87 may now be adopted for M.G. Companies in this force. This need for a larger establishment has been clearly shown in the recent operations in this theatre and it is considered that it is even more necessary than in the BEF, where it has already been sanctioned, owing to the trying nature of the climate and the delay often experienced in the arrival of reinforcements (appendix).</p> <p>wrote G.O.C Middle East Brigade R.F.C. (92 2/58/1) informing him that the ^{question of the} removal of the flight from the HEDJAZ was at present under consideration and that meanwhile it has been decided that for the present the flight will not be moved from WEST and further that should it be moved later, it will, under no circumstances be separated from the EL KEHIRA.</p> <p>The local authorities in the HEDJAZ have recently been urging that this flight shall be moved to YEMBO as they consider that this place is a better base for the pending operations against EL ULA. It was also suggested that the flight should move without the EL KEHIRA which acts as workshop, supply ^{base} and barracks for the personnel. The R.F.C. were naturally very much opposed to this and their opinion was finally concurred in.</p>	B

D. W. M. J.
Capt. G.P.

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900-949-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31/5/17	0828	<p>Wm from Eastern Force (Eps 3094) All clear.</p>	
		1846	<p>Wm from Eastern Force (Eps 3112) Cavalry in touch with enemy patrol at BASAK otherwise all clear. Bombs were dropped on Imperial Mounted Division this morning, casualties 1 killed and 12 wounded. Sets 9 Prisoners of the 16th Division were captured by Imperial Mounted Division yesterday. Situation unchanged.</p>	
		2100	<p>Evening Report to LONDON and BAGHDAD (AM 1982) 9 Prisoners of the 16th Division captured. Enemy aeroplanes bombed Imperial Mounted Division today inflicting casualties of 1 killed and 12 wounded. We retaliated at once by effectively bombing enemy's camps at HAREIRA.</p> <p>Wrote GOC Eastern Force (Ep. 2/58) informing him that the proposals (contained in his ZW 11 of 21/5/17 and ES 189 of 25/5/17) as regards possible future operations to be conducted on his centre and right flank and the scheme for developing a supply of water for the troops ^{in camp} therein are being carefully considered. The Engineer in Chief has been sent up to Eastern Force HQ and a full report will be submitted by him on his return. Upon receipt of this report a further communication will be sent regarding the decision of the Com C as to the final policy to be adopted. (Appendix)</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31/5/17		<p>Wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90628) informing him that 12 - 2.75" equipments would shortly be available ^{among} from home without personnel or animals and that it was proposed to form these into a mountain artillery Brigade of 2 6 gun batteries & BAC. As it is impossible to provide enough horses to make the whole brigade mobile, only one section in each battery will be equipped for mobile operations and the remainder of the Brigade will be utilised as immobile Towed guns (Appendix)</p> <p>Wrote G.O.C Eastern Force (90605/1) instructing him to proceed with the formation of one additional cable section for Desert Column in view of the formation of the 3rd Mounted Divisional Signal Squadron. The personnel for this section is to be drawn from the Signal Depot.</p> <p>1000 Wrote 'Depot' EL ARISH (9A380) that the men of the 2nd Bn Royal North Lancs Regt was postponed on medical grounds pending further instructions and that on the departure of the 232nd Brigade this Battalion would be attached to the 233rd Brigade as a temporary measure.</p> <p>This postponement was deemed necessary owing to a very adverse medical report submitted by the Regimental M.O. The Battalion has not yet seen to have returned from the repairs of the East African Campaign and it was thought advisable to keep them at EL ARISH instead of sending them up to Eastern Force with the rest of the Brigade.</p>	B

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GSO-9HQ-EEF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31/5/17	1915	<p><u>Winn Troopers</u> (AM 1901) giving changes in distribution for the week: - Calcutta Volunteer Battalion and No 8 Coy J.C.C from Delta & Western Force to PALESTINE LofC Expenses</p>	
		1150	<p><u>Winn</u> from WILSON at WESH (W.C. 20) saying that a scheme had been worked out for the RFC flight to cooperate when FEISAR attacks the Railway line, which should ensure success and that it had been decided that the flight will not go to YEMBO</p>	

O. Williams
Capt G

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>SUMMARY OF EVENTS FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1917. =====</p> <p><u>EASTERN FORCE.</u> There has been no material change in the situation during the month, which has been spent in consolidating and improving the position already gained. The only advance of any importance was on our extreme left, north of SHEIKH AJLIN, on a front of 800 yards to a depth of 500 yards. Patrols, however, both infantry and cavalry, have been active throughout the month, and have brought in prisoners to the numbers of 6 officers and 145 other ranks. Excellent practice was made by our artillery, who have scored a large number of hits on enemy guns, of which not less than 19 have been definitely put out of action by direct hits. The only active operation on a large scale was carried out by the mounted troops against the railway line between BIR SABA and AUJA. This operation was carried out on the 23rd inst., and resulted in 15 miles of railway line being destroyed and every bridge on the line being blown up. This raid had become necessary in order to prevent the enemy from moving this stretch of line and utilising it for the new line which he is building from JUNCTION Station to GAZA.</p> <p>For the appreciation of the general situation on this front, see Appendix B. to 7/5/17, and War Office wire No. 34900 of 25/5/17, and our reply thereto. For appreciation of the railway situation, which is a governing factor on this front, see Appendix A. to 7/5/17.</p> <p>During the month every effort has been made to increase the water supply. For appreciation of this question with regard to future operations, see letter from G.O.C. Eastern Force, No. Z.W./11, received on 23/5/17, and our reply thereto, Appendix A. to 31/5/17. <i>and appendices G & H 24/5/17.</i></p> <p><u>PALESTINE L. of C. DEFENCES.</u> The only operation of any importance carried out was the destruction of the wells and cisterns at AUJA, BIREIN and KOSSAIMA. This operation was carried out by a detachment of the Imperial Camel Corps and lasted from the 7th inst. to the 12th inst.. The big wells at AUJA were destroyed, and the masonry bridge north-east of the town was blown up. The town itself was unoccupied and everything of value had been removed by the enemy. Five wells were destroyed at BIREIN, and 3 wells and 4 reservoirs at KOSSAIMA. A train with</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>steam up just escaped at AUJA, but 5 railwaymen were captured; there were no casualties on our side.</p> <p>During the month a stricter system of patrols of the railway and pipe line was introduced, by which each stretch of the railway ^{was} patrolled three times nightly by infantry and once or twice during the day by cavalry.</p> <p><u>DELTA AND WESTERN FORCE.</u> No active operations took place on this front during the month. SIWA Oasis was taken over by the civil authorities, under the protection of a detachment of armoured cars stationed at SIWA Camp. Arrangements were made to allow Bedouins on the Western Front to obtain supplies, provisions, etc., on payment, from SOLLUM; also, supplies were sent to SIWA, as there was a great scarcity of grain in the Oasis, causing great debility amongst the inhabitants, and, with the fever season approaching, it was considered that, unless supplies were obtained from outside, the mortality would be very high. During the month it was decided to move Headquarters of the Light Armoured Car Brigade from MATRUH to SOLLUM and to supply the SIWA Camp from SOLLUM instead of MATRUH, as it has been ascertained that the SOLLUM-SIWA road was an improvement on the MATRUH - SIWA road.</p> <p><u>R. F. C.</u> During the month the R.F.C. have been very actively employed on strategical, tactical and artillery co-operation flights. The enemy has shown a certain amount of aerial activity during the month, and was especially active between the 5th and 10th inst. In all cases where bombs have been dropped on our troops, immediate retaliation raids have been carried out by the R.F.C.</p> <p>On the 12th inst. 8 aeroplanes of the new type arrived from England, but as no spare parts were sent with these aeroplanes, they could not be erected. This fact has handicapped the R.F.C. during the month, as the hostile aeroplanes are still considerably faster than our own.</p> <p><u>ORGANIZATION:</u> (1). During the month sanction has been obtained from the War Office to reorganize the mounted divisions at present in this country. The first idea submitted to the</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>War Office was that they should be organized into three mounted divisions, consisting of -</p> <p>1st ANZAC Division : New Zealand Mounted Rifles and 1st and 2nd Light Horse Brigades. Commander : ^{Major-General} General Chaytor.</p> <p>2nd IMPERIAL Division : 3rd and 4th Light Horse Brigades and 5th Mounted Brigade. Commander : Major-General Hodgson.</p> <p>3rd MOUNTED Division : 6th and 22nd Mounted Brigades and Camel Brigade. Commander : Major-General Barrow.</p> <p>The whole three divisions to be called the Desert Column and to be commanded by Major-General Chauvel.</p> <p>After numerous wires between this country and the War Office, the composition of the three divisions was fixed as above, with the exception that the 8th Mounted Brigade comes into the 3rd Mounted Division instead of the Camel Brigade. (Note: notification of the pending arrival of the 7th and 8th Mounted Brigades was received on 12/5/17). Under this arrangement the 7th Mounted Brigade and the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade become Corps Mounted troops under Eastern Force.</p> <p>(2) Artillery. Notification was received on 15/5/17 that 48 18-pdrs. and 16 4.5" howitzers, being the artillery of the 60th Division, would be sent from SALONIKA. The arrival of this artillery would enable the artillery of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force to be organized on a 6-gun battery basis instead of a 4-gun battery basis as at present, and a wire was sent to the War Office asking that this might be done. The scheme of reorganization finally approved by the War Office is shown in Appendix A. to 24/5/17. On 27/5/17 notification was received that the remainder of the 60th Division would be sent from SALONIKA. If no further artillery is sent, either from SALONIKA or from England, one division will be entirely without artillery, and a wire was sent to the War Office, asking for definite information as to whether more artillery was being sent, as, if it was, it is proposed to give the 60th Division the artillery at present allotted to the 74th Division (no reply has yet been received).</p>	

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			<p>(3) During the month Light Trench Mortar Batteries have been formed in all divisions, and personnel and trench mortars have been promised from England for the formation of medium Trench Mortar Batteries for 5 divisions.</p> <p>(4) Formation of 75th Division. By Force Order No. 43, dated 24/5/17, the 233rd Brigade was constituted with the 1/5th Bn. Somerset Light Infantry and the 2/4th Hampshire Regt. On the 24th inst. notification was received that the remainder of the battalions coming from India, and with which it was proposed to complete the 75th Division, would not now be sent for some considerable time, and instructions were given that the 75th Division should be completed by the inclusion of Indian battalions. It is now proposed that this division shall consist of the 232nd Brigade and the 233rd Brigade, each of three battalions, and the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade drawn from the Southern Canal Section and replaced by the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade ^{from} the Palestine L. of C. Defences. During the month the 75th Divisional Signal Company has been formed, and also the 60th Mobile Veterinary Section.</p> <p><u>TRAINING.</u> The third and last Staff Course at the Mena House Staff School started on the 7th inst., with 40 candidates instead of 30 as in the previous two courses. All these candidates are members of the E.E.F., as SALONIKA were unable to send any.</p> <p>Arrangements were made during the month to start an Indian Branch at the School of Instruction, ZEITOUN, in order that Indian Battalions in this country might receive the benefit of instruction at this School.</p> <p>Arrangements were also made for the occasional detachment of the instructors at the Zeitoun School, to proceed to Eastern Force to be attached to formations in the front line, in order that they might keep pace with existing conditions.</p> <p>During the month gas Training in Anti-gas measures was actively carried out, and arrangements have now been made by which all drafts shall receive instruction in elementary anti-gas measures before joining their units, either at the Base Depots in Alexandria or at the Moascar Training Centre. Arrangements were also made for the instruction of units of the 29th Indian Infantry Brigade in anti-gas measures.</p>	

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