

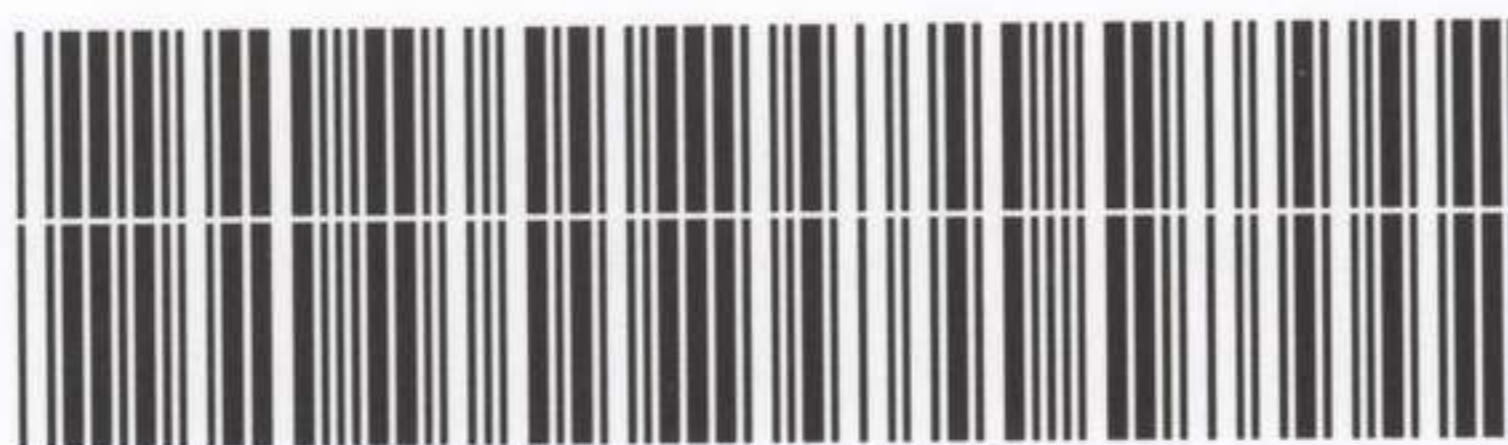
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/50/1

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 5th  
Australian Division

February-March 1916



AWM4-1/50/1



15  
3/16 To 2/16

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

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

HQ A795A D

Vol. 1.

Vol 1-2 +

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

FORMATION OF AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

The 5th Australian Division was formed as follows. After the evacuation from the GALLIPOLI PENINSULA the 1st, 2nd, & N.2nd Australian Divisions, the latter containing 4th Inf. Bde., returned to Egypt. Large nos. of reinforcements were available and after completing the existing units to W.E. it was found that many thousands were still left over. In consequence the new formations were taken in hand in February and 1st Inf. Bde. then under command of Brig Gen Smyth VC was split in two at Tel El Kebir Camp. One half formed the nucleus for the new formation viz 4th Inf. Bde (Bns. 53rd to 56th). General Smyth VC took over command of this and Colonel Elliott (late 7th Bn) took over 1st Inf. Bde. 1st Australian Division was at SERAPEUM at this time with the exception of 1st Inf. Bde. At SERAPEUM the old 2nd Inf. Bde was also split in two - the new Bde forming 15th Inf. Bde. and Brig Gen Irwin took over command of this. It had lately arrived from AUSTRALIA. The remaining Inf. Bde of the Division was now the 8th Inf. Bde under command of Brig Gen Twig DSO and at this period they were holding the front line some seven miles EAST of the Canal. The 3 Brigades were collected at TEL EL KERBIR and Gen Smyth VC temporarily commanded the 5th Aust. Div. An exchange was later effected and Gen Smyth VC rejoined 1st Inf. Bde. Colonel Elliott went to 15th Inf. Bde and Brig Gen Irwin took 4th Inf. Bde.



WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Major General McCay CB. arrived from AUSTRALIA, a staff was appointed by Hd. Qrs. Aust. N.Z. Forces (at ISMATHIA) and Brig Gen Christian was made Divisional Artillery Commander.</p> <p>On the departure of 2nd Australian Division to France the new 5th Division moved, mostly by route march, to FERRY POST, ISMATHIA, and there took over the line called "B" Subsection of No 2 Section of the Defences. The 8th Inf Bde went out to railhead and held the front line defences as an outpost line whilst the rest of the Division concentrated at FERRY POST EAST, staying camp, and devoted all their energy to training and organization. The 15th and 14th Bdes took their turn at the front line. Musketry and drill and field training were carried out with vigour and during the month of MAY many divisional days were held. The Division rapidly developed into a good fighting force and the energy of all ranks was maintained at a high standard by the prospect of an early move to France. About May 20th we knew pretty well that the 4th Division at SERAPEUNT was to sail on June 1st and the 5th Division on June 10th.</p>	



# WAR DIARY

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>During these two months on the Canal there have been one or two scares and the Turks were expected to attempt a sudden raid - May 12<sup>th</sup> was reported to be the date by our agents and spies. Nothing occurred however in our subsection though at KATIA (North) the Turks surprised the Yeomanry and gained a small success. Much time has been devoted to digging trenches round our BRIDGE HEADS and the front line has been very much strengthened. The policy has been to hold 'strong points' of about <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> a battalion each along our front. We have 8 of these and in addition an almost continuous belt of barbed wire. Should the Turks attack these 'strong points' would inevitably break it up and our mobile column at sleeping camp would be strong and ready to counterattack. The strong points were actually held by about one company each and the remaining two battalions of the Brigade were concentrated at Railhead -</p> <p>Gen Irving handed over Command of 14<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde to Colonel H. Pope CB who was in the old 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade and later in 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division under Gen Sir H. Cox KCMG at SERAPONG.</p>	



## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15.3.16		Lt Col J. P. McGhin late Bde. Major 4 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde assumed duty asDAQ of the Division - at TEL EL KEBIR.	
	20.3.16		Captain G. D. Smith from 2 <sup>nd</sup> L. H. Bde Staff assumed duty asDAQ - Lt Col Wageroff GSO I went down to SUEZ on this day by 9.13 am train to meet Major Paul McCay CB who was arriving from AUSTRALIA to take over Command.	
	21.3.16		Major S. H. King GSO 2 + Captain G. D. Smith DAQ went down to ISMAILIA by the evening train from TEL EL KEBIR to make forward arrangements for the move of the Division to FERRY POST. G.O.C. landed at SUEZ 15-day.	
	22.3.16		G. S. Circular No 1 of 23.3.1916 issued 15-day by 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army. This states that "the front line of works commenced with a view to meeting a heavy attack during the winter is to be looked on and occupied as an out post line, no more, no less. The force occupying it will be reduced to a minimum". The remainder of the troops in the Subsection are to be disposed so as to be able to move forward rapidly in case of attack. A distribution proposed for front line was attached to this circular. Advance party 8 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde arrived by train at MARSAR Station and proceeded by march to FERRY POST and relieved a battalion of the NZ Division who had taken over front line after 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust Div left. At this time N.Z. Mt Rifle Brigade held the 'front line'. G.O.C. arrived at TEL EL KEBIR 15-day and assumed command of the Division. H. R. H. The Prince of Wales with General Sir W. Birdwood inspected TEL EL KEBIR Camp.	



WAR DIARY

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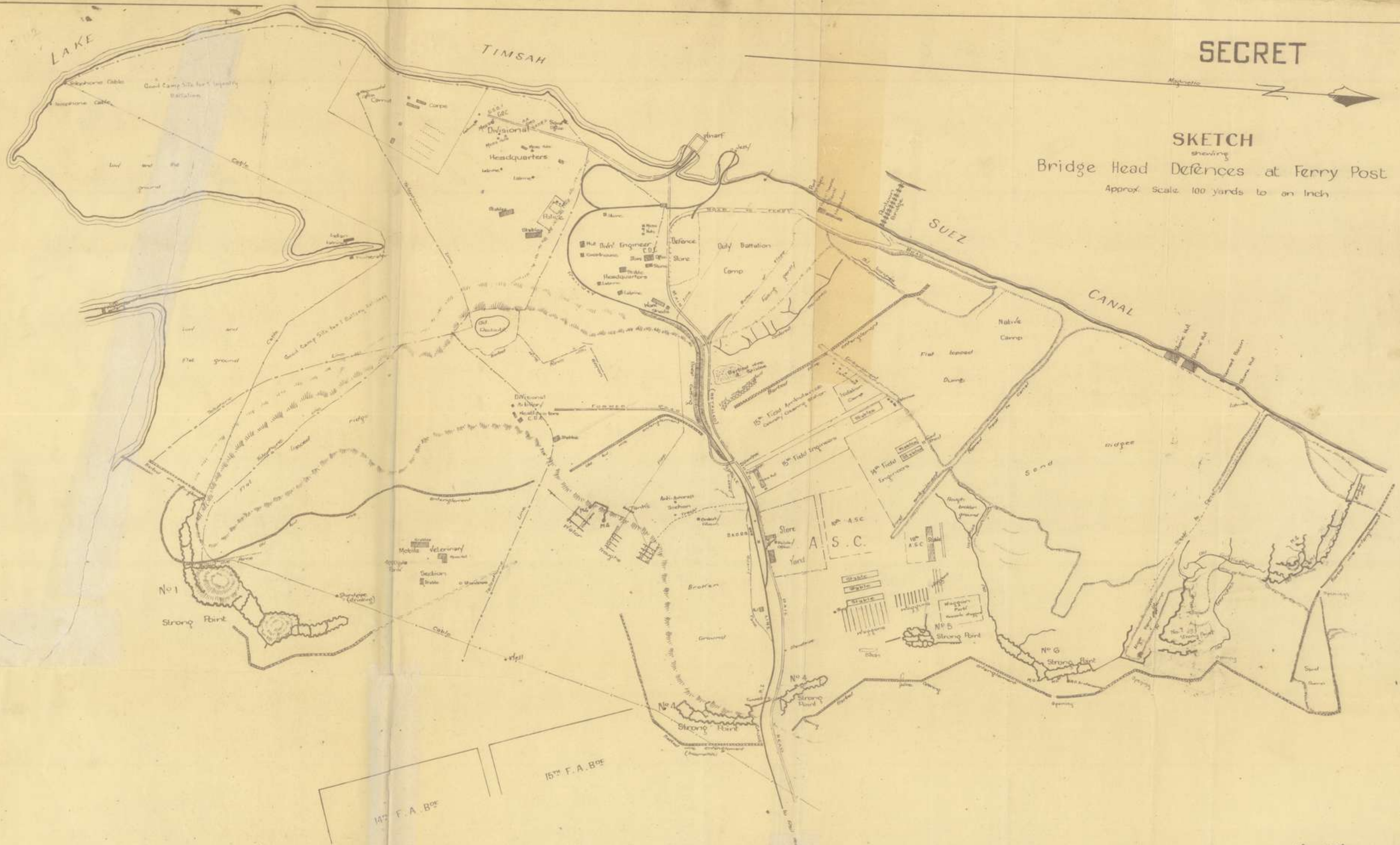
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23.3.16.		8 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde arrived at FERRY POST by train from TEL EL KEBIR to MOASCAR and thence by march route through ISMAILIA.	
	24.3.16.		Army Corps Order No. 1. Issued ordering move of 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Australian Divisions from TEL EL KEBIR to SERAPEUM and FERRY POST respectively in alternate day flights.	
	27.3.16.		1 <sup>st</sup> Flight. 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. and details left TEL EL KEBIR and arrived at NAHSAMA.	
	28.3.16.		1 <sup>st</sup> Flight. 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. and details arrived at MOASCAR. Many hundreds fell out in the last 4 miles owing to the great heat and lack of march discipline. The NZ Division gave assistance in furnishing water carts and ambulance wagons.	
	29.3.16.		1 <sup>st</sup> Flight arrived at FERRY POST and went into camp beyond the Bridge Head on the SOUTH side of the main road. Instructions handed to Br Gen Irving 14 <sup>th</sup> I.B. directing him to take command of the troops at FERRY POST.	
			2 <sup>nd</sup> Flight, 15 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. and details left TEL EL KEBIR and arrived at NAHSAMA.	
			Personnel and horses of our Divisional Train arrived at MOASCAR from ALEXANDRIA.	
	30.3.16.		32 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. 8 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde, relieved by 55 <sup>th</sup> Bn. 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde, at FERRY POST. 32 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. proceeded to join 8 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde at rail head.	
			2 <sup>nd</sup> Flight arrived at MOASCAR in good order.	
	31.3.16.		2 <sup>nd</sup> Flight arrived at FERRY POST and went into camp opposite 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde on N. side of main road.	
	1.4.16.		3 <sup>rd</sup> Flight. Pioneer Bn + details left TEL EL KEBIR and arrived at NAHSAMA	



SECRET

SKETCH

showing  
Bridge Head Defences at Ferry Post  
Approx. Scale 100 yards to an Inch



A.B. Cary

Lead - Colonel  
C.D.E. 5th Div. Ferry Post 15th May 1918

Sketch  
A



"C" Form (Original).  
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.

No. of Message

Prefix <i>SM</i>	Code <i>FEB</i>	Words <i>79</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
£   s.   d.			From <i>AC</i>	At <i>V</i> m.	<i>10</i>
Charger to collect <i>AC</i>			By <i>JM</i>	To <i>V</i>	<i>2</i>
Service Instructions.				By	<i>16</i>

Handed in at \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ m. Received *1928* m.

TO *OC 1st Australian Details Tel el Kibir*

*Sender's Number <i>QA 182</i>	Day of Month <i>10th</i>	In reply to Number	<b>AAA</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------	------------

*In place of one battalion ordered to Serapeum in my P.O. 128 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> you will send two half battalions.*

*In making selection you will send to Serapeum officers and men selected by you to remain in Battalions of first Brigade in scheme for formation of new Brigades which is being put in hand at once. Acknowledge. Addressed 1st Australian Division Serapeum Repeated OC 1st Australian Details Tel el Kibir*

*(Handwritten mark)*

FROM	<i>Angac</i>
PLACE & TIME	

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
W.3334-523. 20,000 Pads-8/14. S. B. Ltd. - Forms/C.2123.



Prefix	Code <i>H.B.</i>	Words <i>126</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect			From <i>H.B.</i>	At <i>V</i> m.	<i>10/2/16</i>
Service Instructions.			By <i>F.H.</i>	To	
			By		

Handed in at *A.B.* Office m. Received *20 28* m.

TO *1st Aust. Divl Details*  
*Tel El Kebir*

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
<i>E.H.A.</i>	<i>10th</i>		

*Continuation my Q A 182 today's date please arrange to split up battalions of first Bde at once into two half Battalions each and select which half battalions will remain in first Bde which will be completed on Monday 14th by 30 officers 1964 other ranks from Zeitoun and the half battalions left over will form nucleus of Battalions 53 54 55 56 of the new 14th Bde at Tel El Kebir and drafts from Zeitoun to complete these new battalions of 14th Bde will*

FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
 PLACE & TIME \_\_\_\_\_

\* This line should be erased if not required.

Prefix	Code	Words	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect			From <i>H.B.</i>	At <i>V</i> m.	<i>10/2/16</i>
Service Instructions.			By <i>F.H.</i>	To	
			By		

Handed in at \_\_\_\_\_ Office m. Received *20 28* m.

TO \_\_\_\_\_

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA

*arrive on Wednesday 16th and Balance of first Bde as reconstituted will be moved to Serapeum as soon as possible and addressed 1st Aust Divn Serapeum repeated 1st Aust Divl Details Tel El Kebir*

FROM *Angus Somalini*  
 PLACE & TIME *1935*

\* This line should be erased if not required.



## AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Ismailia, 14/2/1916.

General Staff Circular No. 15.Subject: Siting and organisation of defence lines.

The undermentioned memorandum from General Headquarters is forwarded for information and guidance, and in the case of the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions, in confirmation of this office memorandum No. 41/8/2 dated 7.2.1916.

-----

As a result of his inspection of certain portions of the defensive line east of the Suez Canal, the Commander-in-Chief has come to the conclusion that too much attention is paid, in the siting of works, to avoidance of any possibility of their being subjected to heavy artillery bombardment, while, on the other hand, any attempt to gain a good field of fire has, in many cases, been entirely abandoned.

The Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that the problem of defence presented to us in this country is a very different one from that which has to be solved in FRANCE. In the latter theatre, thanks to ample means of transport, the enemy is able to bring up large quantities of heavy artillery and ammunition; and, therefore, the concealment of works, which would otherwise be subjected to the heavy and continuous bombardment of which our troops have had so much experience, is a matter which claims close consideration.

In the case of the defences which we are now preparing, on the contrary, owing to the obviously great difficulties which the enemy would have to surmount, the number of guns and the amount of ammunition which he could bring against us is likely to be strictly limited. The concealment of works thus becomes of less importance, while the advantages of a good field of fire are correspondingly increased. It should be noted that it is, in any case, practically impossible to conceal trenches, constructed in the desert, from the air, and that the enemy's aircraft may be expected to have a comparatively easy task in this respect, whatever precautions as regards siting are taken. Moreover, as the Posts which form part of the Canal Defences must necessarily, in many cases, be a considerable distance apart, a good field of fire is especially important so to cover the ground in the intervals and to bring cross-fire to bear on gaps between posts or groups of trenches.

In these circumstances the Commander-in-Chief desires that experience gained in France should not be



allowed more than its due weight in the very different circumstances which obtain in this theatre; and that considerations of concealment should not be allowed to obscure the importance of siting works in such a way as to give opportunities for inflicting the greatest loss on an advancing enemy, and for supporting an active defence such as trench warfare does not admit of in the main theatre.

-----

*R. Dodington Murray*  
*for*

Brig.-General,  
General Staff,  
A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

Issued to/

1st Australian Division  
2nd Australian Division  
New Zealand and Australian Division. ✓



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

Diagram shewing details of 5 Divisions and method of completing same. (Infantry).

Divisions.	1			2			3			4			5			
Brigades.	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	10	11	4	12	13	8	14	15	
Battalions.	1	5	9	17	21	25	55	37	41	13	45	49	29	53	57	(b) These will be formed by splitting existing Battalions 1 to 16 making up with reinforcements.
	2	6	10	18	22	26	34	38	42	14	46	50	30	54	58	
	3	7	11	19	23	27	35	39	43	15	47	51	31	55	59	
	4	8	12	20	24	28	36	40	44	16	48	52	32	56	60	
Battalions formed from existing units forming New Battalions.	53	57	49	This Division remains unchanged.			This Division will be formed in Australia.			45	13	9	Remains unchanged.	1	5	
	54	58	50							46	14	10		2	6	
	55	59	51							47	15	11		3	7	
	56	60	52							48	16	12		4	8	

(a) The new Battalions to be formed in Egypt are 16 numbered 45 to 60 inclusive.

Explanation. Each existing Battalion 1 to 16 is in the same relative position on the diagram as the Battalion formed from it. Thus 11th. Battalion formed the 51st. the 59th. is formed from the 7th.



Copy of letter No. 41/8/1 dated 9.3.16.

From: G.O.C., 1st ANZAC

To: C.G.S., G.H.Q., M.E.F.

Subject: Suez Canal Defences - Siting and organisation of  
defences.

1. With reference to your G.S. 2/54 dated 6th March, 1916, the proposed distribution of troops in Section 2 is shown on the schedule attached.
2. It will be seen that the Mobile Column and bulk of the mounted troops at my disposal would be stationed in Subsection A. It is considered that, in view of the anticipated forward dispositions on the KATIA District, any considerable force of the enemy is most likely to approach this section from the S.E.
3. The proposed mobile column though possessing a considerable radius of action is slow moving and could not deal effectively with a raid by mounted parties. It is therefore considered advisable to keep surplus mounted troops, not actually required for covering force, well forward and available to act with either the covering or "surplus" force.
4. The normal covering force would be kept at the minimum - approximately 2 regiments Light Horse, and 2 battalions infantry for the whole section. In each subsection there would be a force available to support the covering force and to furnish reliefs at frequent intervals to troops comprising the latter.

These supports should provide working parties to keep railways clear etc., and be available for musketry and other training. They would include personnel required for guns in position but not horses.

5. The "surplus" troops would consist of 2 infantry brigades and one brigade artillery with divisional troops in each subsection.

It is considered that the best way to render this force mobile for counter offensive action is by completing the road, railway and water supply system up to the front line. Such large num-



bers would require a prohibitive amount of camel transport to secure power of action further than about ten miles in advance of the road system; but tactical efficiency within that limit would be greatly increased by providing camel transport and fantasses to carry  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of water per man, viz., about 80 camels and 160 fantasses per brigade of infantry.

Machine gun wagons, S.A.A. wagons and at least one battery in each subsection should be provided with sandtyres.

6. The road, railway and water systems are well advanced and it is proposed to complete them as originally designed. It is also strongly recommended that the South Branch roads in subsection B and Northern Branch road in Subsection A be connected to secure lateral communication along the whole front line of the Section. About 4 miles of additional road would be entailed.

7. It is understood that the full completion of the works in front line on the scale originally contemplated will not now be carried out. In B subsection practically all works are sufficiently advanced for occupation by a purely outpost force. In subsection A owing to difficulties of water supply, works have not been completed at certain places. In these gaps I propose to make works of somewhat lighter type than was originally intended.



No. 2 SECTION.

Proposed distribution of troops

B SUBSECTION

A SUBSECTION

Outposts.

Outposts

B.2  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Squadron  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Battalion  
Reserve - 1 regiment (less two  $\frac{1}{2}$  squadrons)

B.1  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Squadron  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Battalion  
Reserve - 1 regiment (less two  $\frac{1}{2}$  squadrons)

A.2  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Squadron  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Battalion  
Reserve - 1 regiment (less two  $\frac{1}{2}$  squadrons)

A.1  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Squadron  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Battalion.  
Reserve - 1 regiment (less two  $\frac{1}{2}$  squadrons)

Supports

Supports

Station Railhead, about 6 miles out

Functions (a) Furnishes reliefs of outposts.  
 (b) Reinforces outposts  
 (c) Advanced guard of counter attacks  
 (d) Furnishes artillery to support front line  
 (e) Musketry and training

Troops

2 or 3 bdes of Arty (less horses)  
 2 Coys of Engineers  
 1 Inf. Bde (less 2 half battalions)  
 1 Field Ambulance

Station Railhead, about 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles out.

Functions as in B subsection

Troops

Mtd. Brigade (less 2 regts)  
 2 or 3 Bdes of Arty (less horses)  
 2 Coys Engineers  
 1 Inf. Bde (less two  $\frac{1}{2}$  battalions)  
 1 Field Ambulance

Mobile Column

1 troop Divl Cavalry  
 1 sec. Field Artillery  
 1 det. Engineers  
 1 W/T Section  
 1 Inf. Bde (less two battalions)  
 Det. Bikanir Camel Corps  
 2 Sections Field Amb.

"Surplus" troops

"Surplus" troops

Station Ferry Post East

Functions (a) Find canal patrol Bridge head and post garrisons  
 (b) Available for counter attack  
 (c) Training

Troops

1 Sqdn Divl Mtd Troops  
 1 or 2 bdes Artillery  
 1 Coy. Engineers  
 2 Inf. Brigades  
 2 Field Ambulances  
 A.S.C. and details  
 Horses of 2 or 3 Bdes Artillery

Station Serapsun

Functions as in B subsection

Troops

1 Divl Sqdn (less one troop)  
 1 or 2 bdes Artillery (less 1 section)  
 1 Coy. Engineers (less detachment)  
 1 Inf. Bde  
 2 Battalions  
 2 Field Ambulances  
 A.S.C. and details  
 Horses of 2 or 3 Bdes of Artillery.



IN YOUR REPLY  
PLEASE QUOTE THIS  
No. G.S. Z.34.

SECRET

✓

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

18<sup>th</sup> March, 1916.

General Officer Commanding,

2nd A. & N.Z. Army Corps.

1. In continuation of memorandum G.S. Z.34 of 6th March, dealing with the principles laid down for guidance in making preparations and dispositions for defence east of the Suez Canal, the Commander-in-Chief considers it necessary somewhat to elaborate those principles with regard to certain details on which questions have been raised.

2. Since the front line is to be looked upon, generally speaking, as an outpost line, and in view of the fact that there will be certain mobile forces in each section with a radius of action of at least two days' march east of the Canal, the Commander-in-Chief considers that it will be sufficient if any surplus troops, beyond those required as covering troops or those which form part of the mobile columns, are made sufficiently mobile to operate rapidly at a distance east of the Canal not exceeding half a day's march from road and railheads. This radius of action is considered sufficient, at any rate during the summer.

3. If the enemy should attempt to advance across the desert, sufficient warning of his approach may <sup>be</sup> anticipated with some confidence. The rôle of the covering troops in the front line is to give sufficient warning of an enemy's approach, and to offer sufficient resistance to his advance, to enable the mobile troops and section reserves to come up

/ and to







and to act offensively. Whether the enemy's forces be met and driven off two or three miles east of the front line, or be engaged on the front line itself, is a matter which the actual circumstances alone can decide. In any case, the covering troops in the front line will be sufficient to ensure that an offensive can be launched against an advancing enemy so far east of the line of bridge-heads on the Canal as to have ample room to manoeuvre and to strike effectively.

4. The following principles as regards the employment of artillery allotted to the various sections are also laid down for guidance of all concerned :-

(a) No more field guns than can be rapidly and easily moved or, if necessary, withdrawn, should be employed in or near the outpost line. Immobile field artillery should not be placed in forward positions.

While in no way limiting the discretion of Commanders, the Commander-in-Chief considers that a brigade of 18-pdr. guns (or a corresponding number of field gun and field howitzer batteries) in forward positions should be sufficient in each section, the necessary horses being kept at hand to render all forward batteries completely mobile.

(b) 6" Mark VII guns or 9.2" howitzers should not be placed on the east bank of the Canal, such ordnance being best employed to flank the various bridge-heads with their fire.

(c) The employment of 60-pdrs., 4.7" guns, and 6" howitzers, needs careful consideration before it is decided to place them on the east bank. It would appear necessary that they should be located near existing railway lines

/ and





and that they should not be further forward than the rail-heads. They should in all cases have suitable infantry protection.

(d) It is important to note in connection with the heavier artillery that 9.2" and 6" howitzers have no shrapnel, and are therefore not suitable for use against infantry in the open. 6" Mark VII guns have very little shrapnel. 60-pdrs. and 4.7" guns are more suitable for use against infantry, though the range of the latter is somewhat limited.

*Alfred Bell*

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



Headquarters, ~~5th Australian Division~~

Tel. No. - Kobir, 22nd March, 1916.

MOVEMENT ORDER NO. 1.

1. Under instructions from ANZAC the following will move to-morrow, 23rd. inst. to Camp at FERRY POST via MOASCAR.

8th. Infantry Brigade. (less Machine Gun Coy).

1 Brigade Section Divisional Signalling Coy.  
(8th. Brigade Section).

2 Sections 8th. Field Coy. Engineers.

2. Table of train movements is attached

3. No first line transport will be taken.

4. 120 rounds S.A.A. will be carried on the man.

Mobilization equipment in possession will accompany units.

5. Troops will carry cooked rations for 24 hours and full water bottles.

6. Transport will meet the first three trains for the march of four miles to Camp. The units travelling by the last train will bivouac at MOASCAR till the following morning.

7. C. Squadron, 13th. Light Horse will move by road to FERRY POST starting at 7-30 a.m. Squadron baggage, with guard of all dismounted men will move by rail in No. 3 train on the attached time table.

(Sgd.) J. P. McGLYNN.

Lt. Colonel.

A.A. & Q.M.G. 5th. Division.

Issued to:-

8th. Infantry Brigade-10 copies.  
Divisional Signalling Coy. 2 copies.  
H.Q.'s. Divisional Engineers-2 copies.  
O.C. "C" Squadron, 13th. Light Horse.



TIME TABLE REFERRED TO.

Train Number.	Type of Train. Capacity.	Time ready to load	Time of despatch.	Flat-form.	Time of Arrival.	Des-tin-ation.	Units.
1.	Infantry Goods. 38 open trucks 1200 men.	0600	0750	2	0900	Moas-car	29th. Batt 1 Coy. 30th. Batt.
2.	Infantry Goods.	1230	1405	2	1520	Moas-car.	31st. Batt 1 Coy. 30th. Batt.
3.	Emergency. 13 Animal Trucks. 1 Flat Truck 28 Open Trucks-980 personnel.	1400	1545	1	1700	Moas-car.	H.Q. 8th. Bde. 30th. Batt (less 2 Coy's.) 1 Bde. Sect. Sig. Coy. Wagons of Eng. All Officers chargers, horses of Engineers and Signal Sect. Baggage of L.H. 2 Sects. ENC
4.	Infantry Goods.	1800	1935	2	2050	Moas-car.	32nd. batt.

Details of departure altered at request of Headquarters 8th Brigade  
(See G3/452 in Movements file)



Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1916.5th. Australian Division

G.S.O. 1.	Lt.Col. Wagstaffe. C, I.E., D.S.O., R.E,
G.S.O. 2.	Major. D.M.King.
G.S.O. 3.	Capt. A.J.Boase.
A.A.&Q.M.G.	Lt.COL. J.P.McGlin. V.D.
D.A.A.&Q.M.G.	Capt. R.P.Varwell.
D.A.Q.M.G.	Capt. D.G.Smith.
Sanitary Officer.	Capt. Mattei.
C.R.E.	Col. Caye
A.D.M.S.	Col. Hardy. V.D. A.A.M.C.
D.A.D.M.S.	Major. Follatt.
Divl. Train.	Major. Francis.
S.S.O.	Lt.Col. McMorland
Divl. Sigls.	Capt. Stanley.
A.D.V.S.	Major. Henry.
A.P.M.	Major. Langley. D.S.O.
D.A.D.O.S.	Capt. J.M.Rodd.
O.C. Pioneer.Batt.	Major. H.G.Carter.

8th. Inf. Brigade.

C.O. Brg. General. Tivey. D.S.O. B.M. Major. Davis.

Staff. Captain. Major. Wooton.

29th.Batt.	O.C.	Lt. Col. Bennett.V.D.	A.D.J. Capt. McArthur.
30th. "	O.C.	Lt. Col. Clark.	A.D.J. Capt. Sloan.
31st. "	O.C.	Lt. Col. Toll.	A.D.J. W.O. O'Rooke.
32nd. "	O.C.	Lt. Col. Coghill	A.D.J. Leut Hutchins.

14th. Inf. Brigade.

C.O. Brg. General. Irving. B.M. Major. A.B.Baker. D.S.O

Staff. Captain. Capt. Tollemache.

53rd.Batt.	O.C.	Lt. Col. A.B.Morris.	A.D.J. Leut.J.J.Murray.
54th. "	O.C.	Lt. Col. W.E.H.Cass. C.M.G.	A.D.J. Leut.H.Taylor.
55th. "	O.C.	Major. D.M.McConaghy.C.M.G.	A.D.J. Leut.P.S.Woods.
56th. "	O.C.	Major. A.H.Scott. D.S.O.	A.D.J. Capt.T.S.Anderso

15th. Inf. Brigade.

C.O. Brg. General. Elliott. B.M. Major. Durrant.

Staff. Captain. Capt.

57th.Batt.	O.C.	Lt. Col. Steward.	A.D.J.
58th. "	O.C.	Lt. Col. Davies.	A.D.J.
59th. "	O.C.	Major. Harris.	A.D.J.
60th. "	O.C.	Lt. Col. Fields.	

Divisional Artillery.

Col. S. Christian. C.M.G.  
 Major. Capt. Thornwaite.  
 Staff. Capt. Capt. Newmarch.  
 A.D.C.



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5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.  
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Headquarters 5th Australian Division.

## 3 Infantry Brigades.

Headquarters 9th Infantry Brigade.

29th Battalion

30th Battalion

31st Battalion

32nd Battalion

Headquarters 14th Infantry Brigade.

53rd Battalion

54th Battalion

55th Battalion

56th Battalion

Headquarters 15th Infantry Brigade.

57th Battalion

58th Battalion

59th Battalion

60th Battalion

## Divisional Troops.

Divisional Mounted Troops.

13th Light Horse Regiment ("C" Squadron).

5th Div. Cyclist Company.

## Divisional Artillery -

Headquarters 5th Divisional Artillery.

3 Field Artillery Brigades.

Headquarters 13th Field Artillery Brigade.

49th Battery.

50th Battery.

51st Battery

52nd Battery

13th Brigade Ammunition Column.

Headquarters 14th Field Artillery Brigade.

53rd Battery

54th Battery

55th Battery

56th Battery

14th Brigade Ammunition Column.

Headquarters 15th Field Artillery Brigade.

57th Battery

58th Battery

59th Battery

60th Battery

15th Brigade Ammunition Column.

Headquarters 25th Field Art. (Howitzer) Brigade.

113th Battery

114th Battery

115th Battery

25th (Howitzer) Brigade Ammunition Column.

5th Divisional Ammunition Column.



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## 5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION (CONTD.)

## Divisional Engineers.

Headquarters 5th Divisional Engineers,  
 8th Field Company  
 14th Field Company  
 19th Field Company

5th Divisional Signal Company.

5th Pioneer Battalion.

8th Machine Gun Company  
 14th Machine Gun Company  
 15th Machine Gun Company

## Divisional Transport and Supply Units.

5th Divisional Train.  
 10th A. A. S. C. (Headquarters Company).  
 18th A. A. S. C.  
 29th A. A. S. C.  
 29th A. A. S. C.

## Divisional Medical Units.

3 Field Ambulances.  
 8th Field Ambulance.  
 14th Field Ambulance.  
 15th Field Ambulance.

5th Sanitary Section.

5th Mobile Veterinary Section.

## Attached - L. of C. Units. A.S.C.

5th Field Bakery  
 5th Field Butchery  
 21st Depot Unit of Supply  
 22nd Depot Unit of Supply  
 23rd Depot Unit of Supply  
 24th Depot Unit of Supply  
 25th Depot Unit of Supply

5th Australian Div. Infantry Base Depot.



See p. 3 re Movement of  
Division.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Major-General the Honorable J. W. McCay, C.B., V.D.; Comr. L. d'H.,  
Commanding 5th Australian Division.

Headquarters,  
Tel-el-Kebir,  
24th March, 1916.

ADMINISTRATION.

COMMAND,  
5th DIVISION.

1. Major-General the Honorable, J. W. McCay, C.B., V.D.; Comr. L. d'H., having arrived at Tel-el-Kebir, on 22nd inst. assumed Command of the Division.

COMPOSITION  
OF DIVISION.

2. The 5th Division will be constituted as under :-

(a) TROOPS.

Headquarters 5th Australian Division.

3 Infantry Brigades.

Headquarters 8th Infantry Brigade.

29th Battalion.

30th Battalion.

31st Battalion.

32nd Battalion.

8th Machine Gun Company.

Headquarters 14th Infantry Brigade.

53rd Battalion.

54th Battalion.

55th Battalion.

56th Battalion.

14th Machine Gun Company.

Headquarters 15th Infantry Brigade.

57th Battalion.

58th Battalion.

59th Battalion.

60th Battalion.

15th Machine Gun Company.

Divisional Troops.

Divisional Mounted Troops.

13th Light Horse Regiment ("C" Sqdn.)

5th Division Cyclist Company.



5th Australian Division. Routine Orders. 24th March, 1916.

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Divisional Artillery.

Headquarters 5th Divisional Artillery.

3 Field Artillery Brigades.

Headquarters 13th Field Artillery  
Brigade.

49th Battery.

50th Battery.

51st Battery.

52nd Battery.

13th Brigade Ammunition Column.

Headquarters 14th Field Artillery Brigade.

53rd Battery.

54th Battery.

55th Battery.

56th Battery.

14th Brigade Ammunition Column.

Headquarters 15th Field Artillery Brigade.

57th Battery.

58th Battery.

59th Battery.

60th Battery.

15th Brigade Ammunition Column.

Headquarters 25th Field Artillery (Howitzer)  
Brigade.

113th Battery.

114th Battery.

115th Battery.

25th Howitzer Brigade Ammunition Column.

5th Divisional Ammunition Column.

Divisional Engineers.

Headquarters 5th Divisional Engineers.

8th Field Company.

14th Field Company.

15th Field Company.

5th Divisional Signal Company.

5th Pioneer Battalion.

Divisional Transport and Supply Units.

5th Divisional Train.

10th A.A.S.C. (H.Q. Company)

18th A.A.S.C.

28th A.A.S.C.

29th A.A.S.C.

Divisional Medical Units.

3 Field Ambulances.

8th Field Ambulance.

14th Field Ambulance.

15th Field Ambulance.

5th Sanitary Section.

5th Mobile Veterinary Section.



The following Officers have been detailed for the Headquarters :-

Commander - Major-General the Honorable J. W. McCay, C.B., V.D.; Comr. L. d'H.

G.S.O. 1 Lt.-Colonel C. M. Wagstaff, C.I.E., D.S.O.

G.S.O. 2 Major D. M. King.

G.S.O. 3 Captain A. J. Boase.

5th Australian Division: Routine Orders, 24th March, 1916: 3:

~~A.A. & Q.M.G. Lt.-Colonel J. P. McGlinn, V.D.~~  
~~D.A.A. & Q.M.G. Captain R. P. Varwell.~~

~~D.A.Q.M.G. Captain G. D. Smith.~~

~~A.D.M.S. Lt.-Colonel C. W. H. Hardy, V.D.~~

~~D.A.D.M.S. Major H. H. B. Follitt.~~

L. of C. Units A.S.C.

5th Field Bakery.

5th Field Butchery.

21st Depot Unit of Supply.

22nd Depot Unit of Supply.

23rd Depot Unit of Supply.

24th Depot Unit of Supply.

25th Depot Unit of Supply.

5th Australian Divisional Infantry Base Depot.

(b) HEADQUARTERS.

The following Officers have been detailed for the Headquarters :-

Commander - Major-General the Honorable J. W. McCay, C.B., V.D.; Comr. L. d'H.

G.S.O. 1 Lt.-Colonel C. M. Wagstaff, C.I.E., D.S.O.

G.S.O. 2 Major D. M. King.

G.S.O. 3 Captain A. J. Boase.

5th Australian Division: Routine Orders, 24th March, 1916: 3:

~~A.A. & Q.M.G. Lt.-Colonel J. P. McGlinn, V.D.~~  
~~D.A.A. & Q.M.G. Captain R. P. Varwell.~~

~~D.A.Q.M.G. Captain G. D. Smith.~~

~~A.D.M.S. Lt.-Colonel C. W. H. Hardy, V.D.~~

~~D.A.D.M.S. Major H. H. B. Follitt.~~

A.D.V.S. Major M. Henry.

D.A.D.O.S. Captain J. M. Rodd.

A.P.M. Major F. J. F. Langley, D.S.O.

Camp Commander

and A.D.C. Captain S. W. Evers.

A.D.C. (Vacant).

MOVE OF DIVISION.

3. In connection with march of balance of 5th Division from TEL-EL-KEBIR to FERRY POST, ISMAILIA, which has been ordered and will probably begin on Monday next, 27th inst., in successive echelons, the following administrative details are published for information:-

(I). Tents will be left standing ; Camp equipment to be collected by Battalions or other Units and left in a hut or marquee under guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men per Battalion or other Unit. This equipment will be handed over by the guard to advance parties of incoming Units, and receipts obtained.

(II). DRESS. Marching Order, with full packs and water bottles and one waterproof sheet.



5th Australian Division. Routine Orders. 24th March, 1916. 4.

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(III). RATIONS. One day's iron rations and unconsumed portion of current day's ration to be carried in haversacks and packs.

(IV). AMMUNITION. 120 rounds S.A.A. on soldier.  
3500 rounds S.A.A. per machine gun.

(V). To be carried on Camel Transport. Officers' kits, 2 blankets per man, mobilisation cooking utensils.  
(Note) A small proportion of G.S. Limber Wagons will be available for each echelon.

(VI). Black kit bags and other surplus equipment will be stored in huts of 8th Infantry Brigade lines under Brigade arrangements in the case of Infantry and Artillery; and Unit arrangements in the case of other Divisional troops, and left in charge of a guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men.

The G.O.C. 14th Infantry Brigade will detail a Field Officer to remain in charge of all Divisional details and kits until orders are issued as to their disposal.

(VII). It is hoped that facilities will later on permit of the removal by train of equipment and stores surplus to the foregoing.

(VIII). All Units will forward a return through the usual channel so as to reach Divisional Headquarters by 9 o'clock on Sunday, 26th inst., showing approximate numbers of Officers and other ranks, also vehicles, marching out, and also a list of vehicles left behind owing to lack of transport.

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

4. Officers, N.C.O.'s and men detailed for the School of Instruction will remain at TEL-EL-KEBIR until the date when they should proceed to ZEITOUN.

MESS HUT FURNITURE.

5. When the Division leaves this camp tables and forms should be left in the Mess Huts. Tables and forms left in the Mess Huts should not be taken away by other Units without authority from Officer i/c Works.



5th Australian Division. Routine Orders, 24th March, 1916. 5.

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ARTIFICERS.  
(A56/472).

- 6. From enquiries received, some doubt appears to exist as to the rank of the personnel shown in the Establishment Tables as "Artificers." Reference, however, to King's Regulations 282 (VIII) will show that the appointment of "Artificer" is graded as of the rank of Private. (A.N.Z.F. 72/38).

*A. A. McPherson*  
 Lieut.-Colonel,  
 A.A. and Q.M.G. 5th Australian Division.



MOVEMENT ORDER NO.2

Headquarters,  
5th. Australian Division.  
24th. March, 1916.

Headquarters, 5th. Divisional Signal Company  
will move to **FERRY POST** via **MOASCAR** on 25th. March by  
ordinary train at 0913.

Personnel move fully equipped and will take  
kits and cooking utensils.

Transport for the March to **FERRY POST** will  
meet the unit at **MOASCAR**.

(Sgd.) CM. WAGSTAFF.

LT. Colonel.



DIVISIONAL  
MOVEMENT ORDER NO. 3/.

by

~~Major General Hon. C. W. McGay C. B. F. V. D.~~  
Commanding 5th. Australian Division.

Tel-el-Kebir,  
25th. March, 1916.

1. The remainder of the 5th. division will move to FERRY POST and ISMAILIA by march route in successive echelons as shewn on the attached table.
2. The Artillery details in the first echelon will take over the guns and Artillery material of the 2nd. Australian Division and the equipment of the following New Zealand Units:- 2 Batteries 18 pr. Q.F. and 1 Battery 4.5 Howitzer
3. Echelon Commanders will appoint their own Staffs, and will issue the orders for the march of their Columns to the units composing them. Troops will march as a formed column. A reconnaissance report on the route has been furnished to Echelon Commanders.
4. Transport as shewn in the March Table will be allotted to each Echelon. This will be apportioned among units by the O.C. Echelon. Camel Transport so apportioned will be taken over by the units in the transport lines in sufficient time to allow of loading up before the starting hour.  
5 per cent spare transport will not be loaded.
5. Baggage guards will not exceed one man per 2 camels exclusive of N.C.O's. An Officer will be detailed by the O.C. Echelon to command the transport of each Echelon.
6. Troops will bivouac at MAHSAMA and MOASCAR in bivouac areas already selected and prepared by the 4th. Division and N.Z. Division respectively.



sheet no.2.

7. Units will receive orders at MOASCAR regarding their destinations and locations at FERRY POST and ISMAILIA. Wheeled transport will be provided at MOASCAR for the third day's march. Camel Transport of the First Echelon will be sent back to TEL-EL-KEBIR from MOASCAR.
8. Supplies will be drawn at MAHSAMA and MOASCAR from the Depots at those places.
9. Drinking water up to 4500 gallons per diem is being provided at MAHSAMA O.C. of each Echelon will arrange for its distribution.
10. Ambulances are being established at MAHSAMA and MOASCAR for the reception and evacuation by train of sick unable to continue marching.

Cases which fall out on the road will be dealt with by the Field Ambulances accompanying each Echelon.

O's.C. Echelons will report at the end of the move the numbers of each unit which fall out.

11. Reports will be made to D.H.Q. TEL-EL-KEBIR up to 1000 on 28th. Inst. After that hour to D.H.Q. care of 2ND. ANZAC, ISMAILIA.

## Issued to:-

14th. Infantry Brigade.	Nos. 1-5.
15th. Infantry Brigade.	6-10.
C.D.A.	11-15.
C.D.E.	16-19.
Pioneer Battalion.	20.
A.D.M.S.	21-25.
G.O.C.	26.
General Staff.	27-30.
Administrative Staff.	31-33.
2nd. Anzac.	34.
4th. Division.	35.

*Cuway Staff*

Lt. Colonel.  
G.S. 5th. Australian Division.



Number of Echelon	Composition	Approx. Numbers officers. O.R.	Transport allotted for kits &c.	Leave Tel-el-Kebir Arrive Mahsama.	Arrive Moascar.	Arrive Ferry Post.	Remarks.
1.	Commander. Brig. General G.H. Irving. Details Div.H.Q's. 2 14th. Brigade 85 div. Sig. Coy. (less 2 Sects.) 5 8th. Field Coy. Engineers (less 2 Sects.) 4 8th. Field Ambu- lance 4 H.Q. Div. Arty. 2 Artillery Details 12	50 2950 125 110 160 20 60	250 camels 15 limbered G.S. Wagons 4 Railway trucks.	Monday 27th. March	28th .	29th.	
2.	Commander Colonel H.E. Elliot. 15th. Inf. Bde. 80 25th. Howitzer Bde. Field Arty. (less details) 4 13th. Bde. Field Artillery. (less details) 8 15th. Fd. Ambu- lance. 5	2970 240 360 180	250 Camels 15 limbered G.S. wagons 4 Railway trucks.	Wednesday 29th. March	30th.	31st.	

94.3



Number Echelon.	composition.	Approx. Numbers Officers. O.R.	Transport allotted for kits &c.	Leave Tel-el-Kebir Arrive Mahama.	Arrive .Moascar	Arrive Ferry Post.	Remarks.
3.	<u>Commander.</u> Lt.Col. O.F. Phillips A.F.A. Pioneer Battn. 14 Fd.Coy.Engin- eers. 15 Fd.Coy.Engin- eers. 14 Bde.Fd.Arty. (less details). 14 Fd.Ambulance	12 4 6 14 8	550 220 230 390 135	250 Camels 7 limbered G.S.Wagons 4 Railway trucks.	Saturday 1st. April	2nd. 3rd.	

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DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 4.

by

Major General Honble. J.W. McCay C.B. & V.D.

Commanding 5th. Australian Division.

Tel-el-Kebir,

26th. March, 1916.

1. Reference Divisional Order No.3/ instructions have been received for the Artillery personnel of the 5th. Division to stand fast at Tel-el-Kebir for the present.
2. All orders for movements of Artillery units and details will, therefore, be cancelled.
3. The command of the 3rd. Echelon will devolve upon Major H.G. Carter, Commanding 5th. Pioneer Battalion.

*C. W. Wagstaff*

Lt. Colonel.  
G.S. 5th. Aust. Div.

Issued to:-

14th. Infantry Brigade.	1 - 5.
15th. Infantry Brigade.	6 - 10.
C.D.A.	11 - 15.
C.D.E.	16 - 19.
Pioneer Battalion.	20.
A.D.M.S.	21 - 25.
G.O.C.	26.
General Staff.	27 - 30.
Administrative Staff.	31 - 33.
2nd. Anzac.	34.
4th. Division.	35.



When troops are ordered to make marches it is for some definite purpose, and it is always necessary that the troops reach their destination as formed bodies capable of immediate action; for example taking part in a battle, forming an outpost line, or in the easiest case forming a camp.

The 14th. Brigade did not answer this test on any of the 3 days of its march from Tel-el-Kebir to Ferry Post. This might be excused for the first days march to Mahsama, for the Brigade was marching for the first time. The rank and file might be excused for the 2nd days journey (Mahsama to Moascar) for they were directed in the latter part of the route to make their way to Moascar individually. But there is no excuse for anyone in the Brigade for what happened in the final stage of the 3rd days March, when large numbers of the Brigade fell out without authority and regrettable to say unchecked in many cases by Officers or N.C.Os. indeed some Officers and N.C.Os. were themselves <sup>offenders</sup> and the Brigade again straggled into its Camp without cohesion and for the time without value.

A soldiers duty is to do what he is told in the time and manner appointed, and to persevere to the limits of his endurance.

It is the duty of all N.C.Os. and Officers, firstly to set an example and secondly to ensure the compliance with orders of their subordinates. Applied to marches this means that men must move when ordered, halt only when ordered, move again when ordered, and under all circumstances retain their formations. It means that N.C.Os, and Officers must not only do the same but must also see that the rank and file do it, encouraging them when the task is hard and setting an example of cheerful endurance. Similarly advise to the troops is meant to be heeded. In many cases the unpleasantness of the march Mahsama to Moascar, was directly due to the emptying of water bottles early in the day despite warnings to the contrary.

I returned from Australia to take over the command of the 5th. Division which includes the 14th. Brigade full of pleasurable anticipations of again commanding in the field Australian Soldiers, but I am compelled to say plainly that to days failure in soldierliness of the 14th. Brigade after crossing the SUEZ CANAL has been a great disappointment to me, and that the blame rests largely with regimental Officers as well as N.C.Os. and the men themselves. The Brigade must pull itself together and every man must remember he is part of A Regiment and not merely an individual, if I am to hope to take it into battle. The material is all right but the men themselves, guided and assisted by the N.C.Os. and Officers must realise more fully their responsibilities and their duties and act accordingly. If they will do that I look forward to being as proud of the 14th Brigade, in the firing line, as I have previously had reason to be of my old Brigade in the first Division; but until a great improvement takes place I shall not be able to report the Brigade as fit for active service.

This was handed to Brig Gen  
Invering Command 14th Inf Bde  
On completion of his march  
from Tel el Kebir to Moascar  
J. Invering  
Gen