

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/56/1 Part 4

Title: General Staff, Headquarters Imperial
Mounted Division

March 1917



AWM4-1/56/1PART4

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION ORDER No.4.

by
Major General H.W.HODGSON, C.V.O., C.B.
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

In the Field,
7th. March 1917.

MOVES.

1. Divisional Headquarters, Headquarters Units, 3rd. Aust. Light Horse Brigade and Notts Battery R.H.A. will move to EL BURJ on Friday March 9th. by march route.
2. These units will move on the scale laid down in Provisional Establishment for a Mounted Division with Camel Transport.
3. The following tents may be added to the train echelon :-

Divisional Headquarters	7	C.D.L. tents.
Brigade Headquarters	2	do.
Regiment.	}	1 each.
Battery.		
Field Squadron.		
C.R.A.		
O.C., A.S.C.		
- All other tents not allowed by the Provisional Establishment will be handed into Ordnance, EL ARISH, before departure.
4. Marching out states and demands for railway transport for the train echelon will be sent to A.A. & Q.M.G., Imperial Mt. Division forthwith, stating numbers of all ranks and quantity of baggage.
5. All maps of EL ARISH and the country to the West of it will be handed in to Divisional Headquarters before leaving.
6. O.C. Field Squadron, will proceed to EL BURJ on March 8th. with the necessary personnel to ensure that sufficient water is developed there for Headquarter units, 2 Brigades, 2 Batteries and 1 Infantry Brigade group, by March 9th.
7. Brigadier General E.A. WIGGIN, D.S.O., Commanding 5th. Mt. Brigade will remain in command of the troops at EL BURJ until the arrival of the G.O.C. and will allot bivouac areas and water supply to the incoming troops.
8. Units will send a representative to report to G.O.C. 5th. Mounted Brigade at least two hours before the arrival of their unit to be shown their areas and water supply.
9. The current days rations and forage only will be taken - Indents for the following days supplies, to be drawn at EL BURJ should be sent to the O.C., A.S.C. at these Headquarters at once.
10. DIVISIONAL DUMP.

A small Divisional Dump is being arranged for in EL ARISH where all surplus kits, stores etc. above the Provisional Establishment will be deposited.

A Quartermaster Sergeant Notts R.H.A. will be in charge of this dump and units making use of this dump should leave one man to represent their interest.

54

No animals are to be left at the dump.
~~The actual site of the dump will be telegraphed to~~
~~01 units later in the day.~~

Units will report their arrival at EL BURJ to G.O.C.
5th Mounted Brigade.

C. Kavanagh.

Captain. G.S.

Imperial Mounted Division.

Issued at 1200

Copies to :-

Nos. 1 - 13 Hds. Dpts. I.M.D.
" 14 - 17 H.Q. Eastforce.
" 18 Adminis: Commandt. El Arish.
" 19 - 22 H.Q. 3rd. A.L.H. Bdo.
" 23 " 4th. do.
" 24 " 5th. Mounted Bdo.
" 25 " 6th. do.
" 26 - 27 C.R.A.
" 28 O.C. Field Squad. R.E.
" 29 O.C. Signal Squad.
" 30 O.C., A.S.C.
" 31 File.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.				No. of Message	
Prefix	Code	Words	Charge	This message is on a/o of:	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Recd. at.....m.	
Sent				Date.....	
At.....m.				From.....	
To.....				By.....	
By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")					
TO { Moundiv 5 th Mounted Brigade					
Sender's Number.		Day of Month		In reply to Number.	
1MW4		9 th		AAA	
5th Mounted Brigade will move to check ZOWAID tomorrow 10th March by march route AAA. Requirements for train echelon will be communicated to AAA & QMS Imp. Mounted Divn who will arrange with Q Desert Column to forward same when traffic permits AAA on arrival at-SHEIKH ZOWAID the Brigade will camp on the ground to be evacuated by a Brigade of Angae Mounted Division AAA Instructions will be received from Q Desert Column re Adv. Parties AAA addressed 5th Mounted Bde copy to Moundiv					
From General Staff Moundiv					
Place					
Time					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z) HESWAN Lt Col SS	
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
* This line should be erased if not required.					
750,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.					

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.				No. of Message
Prefix	Code	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of: Service. Date From By
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Sent		
		At		
		To		
		By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")
TO { Imperial Mtd Div. handed personally. Q # A.M. Div.				
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.
H.O.		9th		AAA
5th Mounted Brigade will move to SHEIKH ZOWAID from BURJ on 10th March and occupy ground vacated by Brigade of Anyae Mounted Division AAA Q Desert Column will receive the necessary instructions AAA addressed Q Imperial Mounted Division (repeated Anyae Mounted Division				
From Desert Column Place 1230 Time				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Lt. Kenward Major Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.				

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.	Date
Copy			At		m.	From	
			To		By		
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		
TO			3 rd L.H. Brigade				
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.		A A A	
* 1.M.W. 6		9 th					
The following patrol will be detailed daily by your Brigade until further orders AAA Leave EL BURJ at daylight and proceed South visiting UJRET EL MASAUD daily but varying the route as to include points 150 250 180 and return AAA on other days to include 293 260 and return AAA UM GARAD should also be visited occasionally AAA Strength of patrol not less than one officer and 8 O.R. AAA 162 nd Infantry Bde are protecting EL BURJ on the South of the said dunes AAA You are responsible for your own protection and the protection of the beach route as far E as BIR EL AMAID.							
From		Moundin					
Place							
Time							
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z) Sgt. H.C.S. Ward. Sec. Staff			
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.							
750,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.							

(in pads of 100).
No. of Message _____

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix: _____	Code: _____ m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of: _____	Recd. at: _____ m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions: _____				Service: _____	Date: _____
Copy					From: _____
					By: _____
					(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO {	C.R.A. A' Battery H.A.C. Berks Battery R.H.A.	
------	---	--

Sender's Number. * 6582	Day of Month. 11 th	In reply to Number.	A A A
----------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------	-------

Batteries will halt one day at-
EL ~~PARISH~~ ARISH and will proceed
to EL BURJ on the 13th and
will receive further orders on
arrival

From: Moundiv			
Place:			
Time: 1000			

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

Censor.	(Z) Sgd. HCS Wain H.A.C. GS
---------	--------------------------------

* This line should be erased if not required.

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Reed. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.
Copy			At.....m.		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	From
			To			By
			By			

TO { 3rd L. H. Brigade

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* G.S. 88	11th		

Brigade will move to SHEIKH
ZOWAID on 13th AAA. Add
party to report to AA+QMG Division
on 12th AAA. Marching out state and
regiments for train echelon to
be joined AAQMG Division

From	Morindis		
Place			
Time	2120		
This above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z) Hes Ward L. L. G.S.	
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

* This line should be erased if not required.
750,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Service.
Copy			At.....m.		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	From
			To			By
			By			

TO { 6th Mounted Brigade

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 55 90	11 th		

Brigade will move from EL BURJ
to SHEIKH ZOWAID on 16th AAA
Adv party under Brigade Staff
Officer to report AA+QMG Division
on 15th AAA Marching out-
stiles and rail requirements for
train echelon to be wired AA+QMG.

From	Murdoch		
Place	2128		
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Sgd. Hcs. Ward & Col. G.S.)	
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

* This line should be erased if not required.
750,000. W 2135-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

Vol I
Appendix 12 b.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message _____

Prefix _____	Code _____ m.	Words _____	Charge _____	This message is on a/c of: _____ Service. _____	Recd. at _____ m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions: _____		Sent _____			Date _____
At _____ m.		To _____			From _____
By _____		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By _____	

10 {	C.R.A.			
------	--------	--	--	--

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* G.S. 89	11 th		

R.H.A. Imps Mtd. SW: will move
from ELBURJ to SHEIKH ZOWAID
on 14th March AAA. Adv. parties
to report to AA+QMG Division
on 13th AAA Marching out-stations
and rail requirements for train
echelon to AA+QMG Division

From	Moundia		
Place			
Time			

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

Censor.

* This line should be erased if not required.

SECRET.

C O P Y.

Copy No 4

Appx 12 C

60

NORTHERN CANAL SECTION ORDER No.16.

HEADQUARTERS.
NORTHERN CANAL SECTION.

Reference Map 1/125,000.

16th March, 1917.

1. On the re-constitution of the Desert Column, the following troops will come under the orders of the G.O.C. NORTHERN CANAL SECTION from 1200 on the 17th instant :-

- 263rd Brigade R.F.A.
- Nos 30 and 96 A/A Sections.
- 201st Siege Battery R.G.A.M.
- Left Sections 10th, 15th and 91st Heavy Batteries R.G.W.
- Improvised Artillery Unit manning 1 pdr. Pom Poms.
- * H.Q. and 2 Sections 496th Field Company R.E.
- No.10 Company 2nd Q.V.O.Sappers & Miners.
- * 2nd Battn. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
- * 1/4th D.C.L.I.(T.F.)
- No. 1 Armoured Train.

* On arrival.

2. The 4th A.L.H.Bde., on War Establishment, will move to ROMANI on the 20th instant by march route, under arrangements to be made between General Officers Commanding Southern and Northern Canal Sections, any necessary railway accommodation East of KANTARA being provided on the metre gauge only.

On arrival at ROMANI, this Brigade will be temporarily attached to the command of the G.O.C. NORTHERN CANAL SECTION.

3. The 1st I.C. Brigade will move from EL ARISH to EL BURJ on the 17th instant under arrangements made by the Brigadier General Commanding.

4. The O.C., EL ARISH sub-section will take early steps to concentrate all Camps, Depots etc., as far as possible, inside the line selected for the L.of C. Posts at EL ARISH.

5. On the arrival at EL ARISH of the 2nd Battn. Loyal North Lancs. Regiment and 1/4th D.C.L.I.(T.F.) (on 18th and 19th inst., respectively) they will be allotted as garrisons of the L.of C. Posts at EL ARISH, in relief of the two Battalions 229th Infantry Brigade, who will rejoin the Headquarters of their Brigade.

6. No 10 Company 2nd Q.V.O.Sappers & Miners are allotted to the EL ARISH Sub-section for the special purpose of completing the defensive line (apart from the L.of C. Post referred to in para 4), and so long as the 54th Division remain at EL ARISH the C.R.E. of that Division will be available for the supervision of the general construction.

When the 54th Division moves forward, the O.C. No. 10 Company 2nd Q.V.O.Sappers and Miners will be the R.E. Officer responsible to the G.O.C. NORTHERN CANAL SECTION for the construction of these defences and for the preparation and maintenance of all plans etc.

Sd/ ?Bruce Turnbull Major,
General Staff,
NORTHERN CANAL SECTION.

Vol I Appen 13.
"A" Form.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message _____

Prefix _____	Code _____	m.	Words _____	Charge _____	This message is on a/c of: _____ Service. _____	Recd. at _____ m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions: _____			Sent _____			Date _____
Copy			At _____ m.		(Signature of "Franking Officer.") _____	From _____
			To _____			By _____
			By _____			

TO { 3rd L. H. Brigade

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
1MDW7	12 th		

Brigade will only halt for
one night at BIR ABU
HAMTHALA and will proceed on
14th to BIR ABU SHAMMAR ^{UNN} AAA.
A detachment of the 3rd Field Troop
will proceed direct to BIR ABU
SHAMMAR ^{UNN} on the 13th to develop
water here for the Brigade AAA.
On arrival at BIR ABU SHAMMAR ^{UNN}
Brigade will be placed temporarily
under orders of ANZAC Division

From	Morandiv		
Place			
Time			
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z) Hcs. Waw 6-12 58	
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

* This line should be erased if not required.

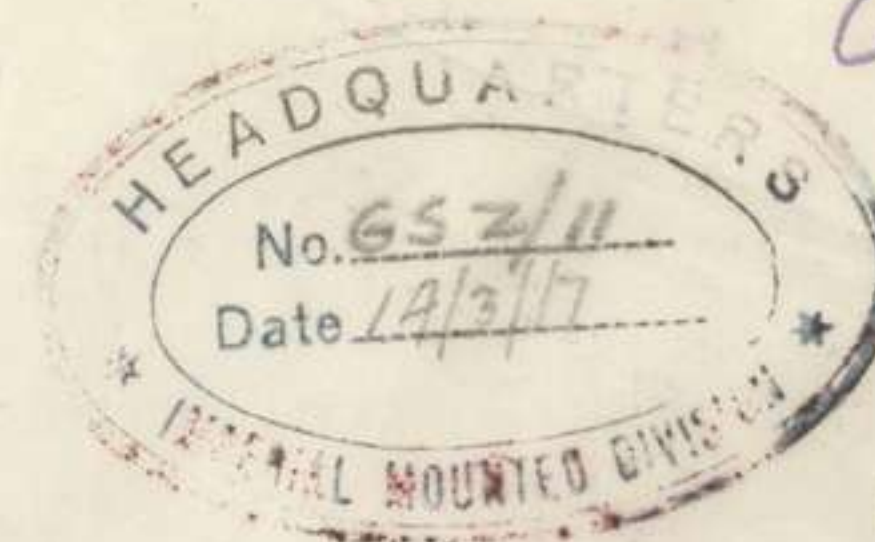
SECRET

Vol I
Appendix 1A

ORDER OF BATTLE.

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION.

G.O.C. - Major-General H.W. HOBSON, C.V.O., C.B.



3rd Australian L.H. Bde.	4th Australian L.H. Bde.	5th Mounted Brigade	6th Mounted Brigade.
Brig. Gen. J. Royston, C.M.G., D.S.O.	Brig. Gen. J.E. Meredith, D.S.O.	Brig. Gen. E.A. Wiggin, D.S.O.	Brig. Gen. T.H.S. Pitt.
8th Aust. Light Horse Regt	4th Australian L.H. Regt.	1/1st Warwickshire Yeo.	1/1st Berks Yeomanry.
9th -ditto-	11th -ditto-	1/1st Worcestershire Yeo.	1/1st Buckinghamshire Yeo.
10th -ditto-	12th -ditto-	1/1st Gloucestershire Yeo.	1/1st Dorset Yeomanry.
Signal Troop.	Signal Troop.	Signal Troop.	Signal Troop.
3rd Aust. Machine Gun Sqdn.	4th Aust. Machine Gun Sqdn.	16th Machine Gun Squadron.	17th Machine Gun Sqdn.

DIVISIONAL TROOPS.

Headquarters, Imperial Mounted Division.
Headquarters, C.R.A., Imperial Mounted Division.
Nottinghamshire Battery & Ammun. Column, R.H.A.
Berkshire Battery & Ammun. Column R.H.A.
A Battery & Ammun. Column R.H.A.
B Battery & Ammun. Column R.H.A.
Imperial Mounted Division Field Squadron R.H.
Imperial Mounted Division Signal Squadron, R.H.
Imperial Mounted Division A.S.C.
3rd Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance.
4th Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance.
5th Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.
6th Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance.
8th Australian Mobile Vet. Section.
9th Australian Mobile Vet. Section.
4/1st South Mid. Mtd. Bde. Mobile Vet. Section.
3/1st South Mid. Mtd. Bde. Mobile Vet. Section.
No. 51 Sanitary Section.

Unusual

SECRET

Vol 1 Appen 15

Copy No. 4

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION ORDER No. 5.

by
Major General H. W. JODSON, C.V.O., C.B.
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

The Imperial Mounted Division will move to RAFA by march route on 21st. March 1917. Routes, hours, and order of march of units will be notified later. In the field. 18th. March 1917.

1. The Imperial Mounted Division will move to RAFA by march route on 21st. March 1917. Routes, hours, and order of march of units will be notified later.
2. (a) The 53rd Division are occupying RAFA, and from the 21st. March will be holding a defensive line from the Sandhills N.E. of RAFA - EL GUBBA track exclusive. (b) The 8th Mounted Brigade will hold a continuation of this line from RAFA - EL GUBBA track inclusive, along a line to be pointed out to the C.O.C. Brigade to a point S.W. of TOWAIL EL ELIR. (c) This will be the line of resistance. (d) Observation posts, Reconnoitring and Night Standing Patrols :-
 - (a) Observation Posts at Point 370 (HAITH), EL FUKHARI, EL GUBBA and SHOKH EL SUFI.
 - (b) Daily Patrols (Strength not less than a squadron) in the direction of DEIR EL BELAH, WELI SHEIKH MURAN & EL PADARI.
 - (c) Night Standing Patrols :-
 - (a) At the junction of KHAN YUNUS - RAFA & ABASAM EL KEBIL RAFA roads.
 - (b) Road junction of RAFA - EL GUBBA road 2 miles East of TOWAIL EL ELIR.
 - (c) The cross roads at point 250, 2 1/2 miles South of TOWAIL EL ELIR.
3. The 8th Mounted Brigade will furnish the following observation posts, Reconnoitring and Night Standing Patrols :-
 - (a) Observation Posts at Point 370 (HAITH), EL FUKHARI, EL GUBBA and SHOKH EL SUFI.
 - (b) Daily Patrols (Strength not less than a squadron) in the direction of DEIR EL BELAH, WELI SHEIKH MURAN & EL PADARI.
 - (c) Night Standing Patrols :-
 - (a) At the junction of KHAN YUNUS - RAFA & ABASAM EL KEBIL RAFA roads.
 - (b) Road junction of RAFA - EL GUBBA road 2 miles East of TOWAIL EL ELIR.
 - (c) The cross roads at point 250, 2 1/2 miles South of TOWAIL EL ELIR.
4. Camping grounds and water arrangements will be communicated by A.A. & Q.M.G., Imperial Mounted Division, with the exception of the camp of the 8th Mounted Brigade, which will be shown to the C.O.C. simultaneously with the outpost line.
5. Divisional Headquarters will close at BIR ABU HAITHALA at 0900 on 21/3/17 and will open at RAFA at the same hour.

GCM Beech

Issued at 1500

Copies to :-

Nos. 1-13 Hqs. Depts. I.I.D. Hqs. Desert Col.

Issued at 1500

Copies to :-

- Nos. 1-13 Hqs. Depts. I.I.D. Hqs. Desert Col.
" 14-17 Hqs. Desert Col.
" 18 H.Q. 53rd Division.
" 19 H.Q. Anzac Mt. Div.
" 20 C.O.C. 3rd Aust. L.H. Bde.
" 21 C.O.C. 4th. do.
" 22 C.O.C. 5th Mounted Bde.
" 23-26 C.O.C. 6th. do.
" 27 C.R.A.
" 28 O.C. Field Squadron.
" 29 O.C. Signal Squadron.
" 30 O.C. A.S.C.
" 31 File.

GCM Beech

Captain. G.S.

for Lieut. Colonel. G.S.

Imperial Mounted Division.

Imperial
S E C R E T.

Copy No. ³.....

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION ORDER No. 6.

by

Major General H.W. HODGSON, C.V.O., C.B.

Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

*Vol I
Appendix 16*

In the Field.
17th. March 1917.

Reference Imperial Mounted Division Order No. 5 dated 16/3/17.

Para: 3 sub para: (c) is amended and should now read :-

(c) Night Standing Patrols.

- (a) On KHAN YUNUS - RAFA & ABASAN EL KEBIR - RAFA roads at a distance of 1 mile from the outpost line.
- (b) The road junction on RAFA-EL GUBBA ROAD 2 miles East of TOWAIL EL EMIR.
- (c) At the cross roads at Point 250 - 2½ miles South of TOWAIL EL EMIR.

Issued at 1000

Copies to :-

Nos. 1-13 Hds. Depts. I.M.D.

" 14-17 Hd. Qrs. Desert Col.

" 18 H.Q. 53rd. Division.

" 19 H.Q. Anzac Mtd. Div.

" 20 G.O.C. 3rd. Aust. L.H. Bde.

" 21 G.O.C. 4th. do.

" 22 G.O.C. 5th. Mounted Bde.

" 23-26 G.O.C. 6th. do.

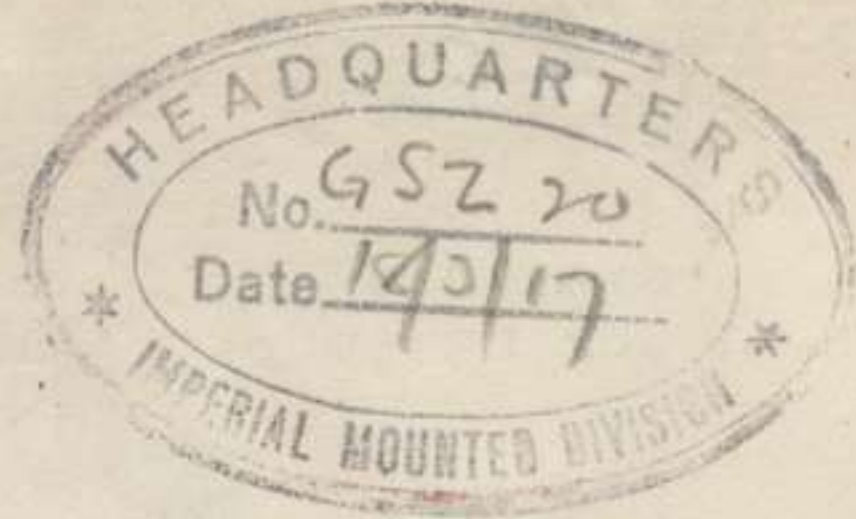
" 27 C.R.A.

J. M. Beech
Captain. G.S.
for Lieut. Colonel. G.S.
Imperial Mounted Division.

28 O.C. Field Squad.
29 O.C. Signal Squad.
30 O.C., A.S.C.
31 File.

SECRET

*Vol I
app 17*



To Headquarters Brigades
& all Hd.Qrs.Units, and Depts.

Headquarters Imperial Mounted Division will move to RAFA
on 20th instant, and not on the 21st instant, as previously
ordered.

Arrangements for the move will be made by the A.A. & Q.M.G.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

18th March, 1917.

Sd/ H.G.S. Ward, Lieut.Col., G.S.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

Sent		Service.		Date	
At		m.		From	
To				By	
By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	
TO { 3rd L.H.Bde ANZAC DIVISION DESERT COLUMN					
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.	
* G.S.156		18th		AAA	
Efforts	will	be	made	to	
round	up	enemy	reconnoitring	parties	
in	neighbourhood	of	DEIR	EL	
BELAH	ON	19th	AAA	3rd	
L.H.	Bde	will	detail	one	
Regt	to	advance	on	DEIR	
EL	BELAH	by	the	beach	
route	starting at	0400	AAA	A	
second	regiment	will	move	at	
0200	via	RAFA	and	EL	
FUKHARI	on	EL	IMAAIN	North	
of	ABASAN	EL	KEBIR	AND	
from thence	over	the	GOZ	EL	
AIRE	ridge	on	EL	DEMEITA	
East	of	DEIR	EL	BELAH	
AAA	DEIR	EL	BELAH	should	
be	reached	by	both		
From					
Place					
Time					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)			
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.					

750,000. W 2185-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.				Army Form 5.2121 (in pads of 100). No. of Message	
Prefix	Code	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Recd. at	
Sent				Date	
At				m.	
To				From	
By				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO {					
2.					
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.	
*				AAA	
regiments	at	0730	AAA	A. & N.Z.	
Division	Sig.	Squad	will	arrange	
for	communication	with	regiments	carrying	
out	this	operation	AAA	On	
clearing DEIR EL BELAH one regiment will remain					
in observation N. and E. of KHAN YUNUS until 1600					
AAA Second regiment will withdraw to a position in					
support as usual AAA The 11th Armoured Motor Battery					
will co-operate with the Southern Column and will					
not be in advance of RAFA before 0500 AAA Acknowledge					
AAA Addressed 3rd L.H.Bde repeated Anzac Division					
and Desert Column					
From Moundiv.					
Place					
Time 1855					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.		(Z)			
Censor.		Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.					

750,000. W 2185-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent		Service.	Date	
			At			From	
			To		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By	
			By				
TO { MOUNDIV							
Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.		A A A	
* O.O.323		19th					
Have joined up		Southern		and			
northern forces on		AAA horseback		Thirteen with		mounted lances	
holding ridge two miles		East from		of GAZA		WADI AAA	
We opened M.G. Fire on them		from Western side of WADI		driving back on to KHAN YUNUS			
NOW							
Gen. ROYSTON EL BREIJ							
From							
Place							
Time Hill 210		0705					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z)			
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.			
* This line should be erased if not required.							
750,000 W 218-1550 H. W. & V., Ltd. 5/12							

THIRD AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

COMMUNICATIONS. ANZAC Mounted Division will have stations established on points 183 (W. 5) and 370 (W. 3) - B.H.Q. will move along the high ground of GAZA EL TAIH.

March, 18th 1917.

Ref. Map

RAFA 1:125,000.

INFORMATION. Enemy patrols are known to visit KHAN YUNUS and BENI SALA nightly - 15 - 20 mounted men were in touch with our protective regiment on 16th instant and two parties of 12 - 15 men were seen to-day.

INTENTION To endeavour to round up and capture any enemy patrols in the vicinity of KHAN YUNUS on the night 18th/19th. To carry this out the mounted troops will occupy by 0545 the 19th instant a line running from SHEIKH SHABASI (J.2) through 330 (J.3) to the TEL EL JEMMI - ABASAN EL KEBIR road. On this line being completed a drive towards KHAN YUNUS will be commenced. Troops will not become seriously engaged to the EAST of the line mentioned.

TROOPS The following troops will take part in the operations B.H.Q. and Signal details, 8th L.H. Regt, 9th L.H. Regt, 2 Sections Machine Gun Squadrons, 2 Sections Field Ambulance and the Armoured Car Battery (4 Machine Guns). The above will be divided into two forces, less Battery working independently.

LEFT.

In Command 8th L.H. Regiment.
Lieut. Col. L.C. Maygar, V.C. 1 Section M.G. Squadron.
1 Section Field Ambulance.

RIGHT.

In Command 9th L.H. (Regt)
1 Section M.G. Squadron.
1 Section Field Ambulance.

The Armoured Car Battery will leave RAFA at 0515 on 19th instant. Two cars will proceed by the KHAN YUNUS - GAZA road and two via ABASAN EL KEBIR to point 430 at which point they will turn North, both detachments co-operating with the drive as circumstances indicate.

The G.O.C. will accompany the right force.

MOVE.

The LEFT Force will move via the Beach road to DEIR EL BELAH at which point one squadron will be detached the remainder moving on to TEL EL SHABANI, from this point the line will be formed, a sufficient force being detached to guard against attack from the WADI. The DEIR EL BELAH squadron will co-operate as the "drive" proceeds.

The Right Force will proceed via RAFA - EL FUKHARI to the vicinity of ABU SITTA PREPARED TO MOVE INTO their position which will include 330. Sufficient protection will be detached to guard against attack from the WADI.

Every endeavour will be made to conceal any movement until the line is being taken up, which will not commence before 0530 from the points of assembly mentioned.

At the conclusion of the drive the 8th L.H. will remain out as protection to the working parties at KHAN YUNUS and TEL EL MARAHEB.

70
SECRET

Vol 1
appen 19
G.O.C. 3rd Australian L.H.Bde.
4th -ditto-
5th Mounted Brigade.
6th -ditto-

C.R.A.
O.C.Field Squadron R.E.
O.C.Signal Squadron R.E.
O.C.A.S.G.
A.D.M.S.

From March 22nd. the Division will be ready to move at very short notice.

The Mobile Column must be prepared to operate for at least five days away from its base.

All arrangements for carrying rations and forage must be cut and dried, in case of a sudden move.

We must remember that a great measure of success depends on our travelling light. The G.O.C. makes the following suggestions, but leaves it to Brigadiers to make their own arrangements.

Blankets. Either horse blanket, bed blanket and Water-proof sheet

or

Horse Blanket, cloak and waterproof sheet.

The former is recommended.

<u>Shoes.</u>	One set per section.
<u>Helmets.</u>	to be worn.
<u>Wallets.</u>	1 days rations.
<u>Haversacks.</u>	1 days rations and 1 pair socks.
<u>Picketing gear.</u>	2 sandbags on sword.

No officers baggage will be taken. The spare horse, to be of any value, should be very lightly loaded, and should not carry more than 2 extra blankets and extra feeds.

Forage. Nose bags will be carried full (9 lbs of corn) if possible two.

Packhorses. 6 per squadron. Loads 140 lbs. including one dixie each.

Sd/ D.C.M.Beech, Capt
for Lieut.Col., G.S.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

18th March, 1917.

Wandering
SECRET.

Appen 20
Copy No. 4

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION ORDER No. 7.

by
Major General H.W. HODGSON, C.V.O., C.S.
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

In the Field.
18th. March 1917.

1. MOVES.

(a) The Imperial Mounted Division will concentrate at RAFA on March 21st. They will march according to following March Table :-

UNIT.	Point.	Time to be clear of starting point.	Route.
6th. Mounted Bde.	'D' in	0930	DARB EL SULTANI.
5th. do.	SHRIKH	1030	
R.A.	ZOWAID	1130	
54th. Divisional Train.			

(b) Advanced Party. Staff Captains of Brigades and representatives of Divisional Units will meet the D.A.A.Q.M.G. at Divisional Headquarters at 1000 on 21st. instant.

(c) Rations. The current days rations will be carried. Indents for first issue required at RAFA, to be submitted forthwith to the S.S.O. of the Division.

(d) Train Echelon. Estimate of quantity of stores to be moved by train echelon should be immediately reported to the D.A.A.Q.M.G. I.M.D. who will issue further instructions.

2. EVACUATION OF VETERINARY CAMELS.

On arrival of 6th. Mounted Brigade at RAFA, the 3/1st. Mobile Veterinary Section, under Captain Sargeant, will remain at RAFA railhead until further orders, for purpose of receiving and evacuating animals unfitted to travel with the Division.

The 4/1st. Mobile Veterinary Section, under Captain Rylands, will act temporarily as Mobile Veterinary Section for both 5th. and 6th. Mounted Brigades.

3. ORGANIZATION.

The 54th. Divisional Train come under the orders of the Imperial Mounted Division from the 18th. instant inclusive. (Authority Desert Column letter No. Q.S. 163 dated 18th. March 1917.)

4. DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

Divisional Headquarters will close at BIR ABU HANHALA at 1000 on 20th. March 1917 and will open at RAFA at the same time.

J.M. Beech
Capt. n. G.S.
for Lieut. Colonel. G.S.
Imperial Mounted Division.

Issued at 2400.

Copies to :-

Nos. 1-15 Hqs. Depts. I.M.D.

" 14-17 H.Q. Desert Column.

" 18 H.Q. Anzac Mounted Div.

" 19 G.O.C. 3rd. Aust. L.H. Bde.

" 20 G.O.C. 4th. do.

" 21 G.O.C. 5th. Mounted Bde.

" 22 G.O.C. 6th. do.

No. 23 C.R.A.

" 24 O.C. Field Squad.

" 25 O.C. Signal Squad.

" 26 O.C. A.S.C.

" 27 O.C. 54th. Div. Train.

" 28 File.

Imperial Mounted Division.

A, The following amendments are made to Reconnaissance Programme.

- No.1
Reconnaissance
-sance
- ABASAN EL KEBIR - FUKARI. Will now take place on 20th instant. Infantry officers will examine RAFA - ABASAN EL KEBIR Road with a view to being able to lead their division there by night or day. This in addition to the reconnaissance of the position.
- No.2
Reconnaissance
-sance
- GOZ EL TAIRE will take place on 21st instant. It is specially important that the main GAZA- RAFA road should be avoided if possible and officers should examine routes on to the position and be prepared to lead their Divisions into it by night or day.
- No.3
Reconnaissance
-sance.
- SHELLAL - TEL EL JEMMI, is cancelled.
- No.4
Reconnaissance
-sance
- EL GHUZZE from WADI TEL EL JEMMI to SEA, will take place on the 23rd instant.
Para. (b) Officers of Camel Brigade will reconnoitre to EL MENDUR with view to leading his Brigade there by night or day.
Para.(c) Routes will be reconnoitred to the EL JURA area with a view to moving a Division on to it by night or day. A report will be furnished as to the prospects of watering a division in the neighbourhood of EL JURA on either side of the WADI EL GHUZZE.
- No.5
Reconnaissance
-sance.
- GAZA - SHEIKH ABBAS. Will take place on the 24th.
B. A Staff Officer from each Division carrying out reconnaissances will make a personal report to H.Q., DESERT COLUMN on the conclusion of the reconnaissance.

Sd/ V.M.FERGUSON, Lieut.Col.,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

March 19th, 1917.

Reference Map: RAFA Sheet.
Scale 1:25,000

GSZ/27.

DESERT COLUMN
RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMME.

John McEwen
Appendix 20A.

Copy No. 10

Area to be reconnoitred.	Formation responsible for protection.	Date	Information required	Report to be submitted by	Remarks
1. ABASAN EL KEBIR - FUKHARI	Imperial Mounted Division.	21st March	This position will be examined with a view to its being held by one Division against attack from the N.E. & N.	52nd Division 54th Division	1. In every case R.F.A. officers of the divisions concerned will accompany reconnaissances and submit proposals for gun positions, O.P., & the work being apportioned by Divl. arrangements.
2. GOZ EL TALH.	A. & N.Z. Mtd. Div.	23rd March	This area, especially the region about IN SEIRAT, will be examined with a view to its being held by one Division against an attack from the East. As the mounted troops and 53rd Division will be using the DEIR EL BELAH valley road for supplies, efforts should be made to select another line of supply suitable for this position. This area being much intersected with deep wadis the question of internal communication in the position should specially be considered. An advance might have to be made from this position Eastwards to SHEIKH ABBAS. Routes for guns across the wadis should be examined and estimates made of work required.	52nd Division 54th Division	2. It is not intended to do anything in the way of preparing these positions for defence beforehand; but, from the knowledge of the ground gained by officers in these reconnaissances Divisions should be able to move direct into their positions should it become necessary to occupy them.
3. The country between SHELLAL & TEL EL JEMMI E. of Wadi.	A. & N.Z. Mtd. Div.	24th March	General report on the country required with a view to flank action. *	A. & N.Z. Mtd. Div.	* Officers of the I.M.D. should accompany this reconnaissance & learn the ground. During reconnaissance No. 3 / officers

<u>Area to be Reconnoitred</u>	<u>Formation responsible for protection</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information required</u>	<u>Report to be submitted by</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
4. The WADI GUZZEE from TEL EL JEMMI to the sea.	Imperial Mounted Division.	23 rd 25 th March 23	(a) The road from ABASAN EL KEBIR to TEL EL JEMMI will be reported on as a line of supply for divisions occupying SHEIKH ABBAS and EL JURA positions. (b) EL MENDUR on WADI SHERIA will be examined with a view to its occupation by the Camel Brigade to block the road junction at that place against a possible advance from HUJ or a movement to reinforce from SHERIA. (c) The crossings over the WADI from TEL EL JEMMI to the sea will be examined - the difficulty likely to be experienced in getting wheels across noted, and the amount of work necessary to improve these places stated. Are the banks such as to prevent wheels crossing wadi anywhere? What average amount of work would make them practicable? (d) The Wadi will be tested for water in this area also; the depth at which found, nature of soil and difficulties likely to be met in developing it commented on. (e) The possibilities of finding a position suitable for a Division in the area EL IZRAAIN - SHEIKH EL NAKHRIR will be reported on with a view to resisting an attack from the N.E. or E. or from which to move out and attack in flank any movement from HARREIRA or SHERIA towards GAZA.	(a) I.M.D. (c) Imperial Camel Bde. (e) I.M.D. (d) I.M.D. (e) 52nd Div. 54th Divn.	officers, desirous of doing so, may visit the WADI Sheikh NURAN position.

<u>Area to be Reconnoitred</u>	<u>Formation responsible for protection.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information required</u>	<u>Report to be submitted by</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
5. GAZA - SHEIKH ABBAS	Imperial Mounted Division.	24 th 26 th March	(a) Thorough reconnaissance of the approaches as close as possible to the ALI LUNTAR position. Best line on which to attack; cover rear position; gun positions; observing stations, etc. (b) Combined with this TEL EL AHMAR - SHEIKH ABBAS area will be reconnoitred with a view to selecting a position for occupation by a division against attack from E. or S.E. Country E. of this position should be examined with a view to offensive action against the flank of troops moving North on BIR SAFA road.	(a) 53rd Div. (b) 52nd Div. 54th Div.	

Copies No. 1/3 Eastern Force.
4/9 A. & N. Z. Mounted Division
10/15 Imperial Mounted Division.
16/21 52nd Division.
22/27 53rd Division.
28/33 54th Division.
34/35 Imperial Camel Brigade.
36/37 Chief Engineer
38/39 B.G.R.A.
40/42 General Staff.
48 File
44/45 Intelligence Summary.
46
47
48
49
50

W. J. Quinn
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

18th March 1917

76

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received		Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
£ s. d.			From.....	At.....m.		
Charges to collect.....			By.....	To.....		
Service Instructions.....			By.....			
Handed in at.....			Office.....		Received.....m.	
TO: <u>Impl Mtd Divn</u>						
*Sender's Number		Day of Month		In reply to Number		AAA
G 902		19				
Reference G. 865 of 18th instant						
reconnaissance to be carried out						
by 22nd Mtd Bde on 20th						
instant is cancelled aaa Imperial						
Mtd Division will be carrying						
out No 1 reconnaissance of						
reconnaissance programme tomorrow						
20th instant aaa Except 2 Lt						
Bde Officers who have not						
been over this Country should						
accompany reconnaissance aaa						
Position described is being made						
good by 0900 aaa addressed						
22nd Mtd Bde repeated 2						
Lt. Bde NZMR Bde of						
Sig Sqd and Imp Mtd						
fw						
FROM: <u>Anga Mtd Bde</u>						
PLACE & TIME: <u>1645</u>						

* This line should be erased if not required.

(B 8070) Wt. w. 7495—M 857 250,000 Pads. 10/16 H & S (E 436.) Forms/C. 2123/3.

79

Prefix.....	Words.....	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.					
£ s. d.		From.....	At.....m.						
Charges to collect		By.....	To.....						
Service Instructions.		By.....							
Handed in at.....		Office.....	Received.....						
TO.....									
*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	A A A						
H.O. 26	19								
Reference	Reconnaissance	programme							
aaa	Reconnaissance	Nº 1	will						
be	carried out	tomorrow	20 th						
by	Imp Mt d	Divn.	52 nd						
and	54 th	Divn.	aaa ABASAN						
EL	KEBIR	FUKARI	positions will						
be	made	good	by 0900						
aaa	Officers	in	reconnoitring						
positions	thoroughly	will	Examine RAFA						
ABASAN	road	so	that they						
will	be	able	to lead						
their	division	by	night and						
day	aaa	ack?							
Copy to CR Ward GS 106									
FROM	Desert Column								
PLACE & TIME	1445								

* This line should be erased if not required.
(B 8970) Wt. w. 7495—M357 / 250,000 Pads. 10/16 H & S (E436.) Forms/C.2123/3.