

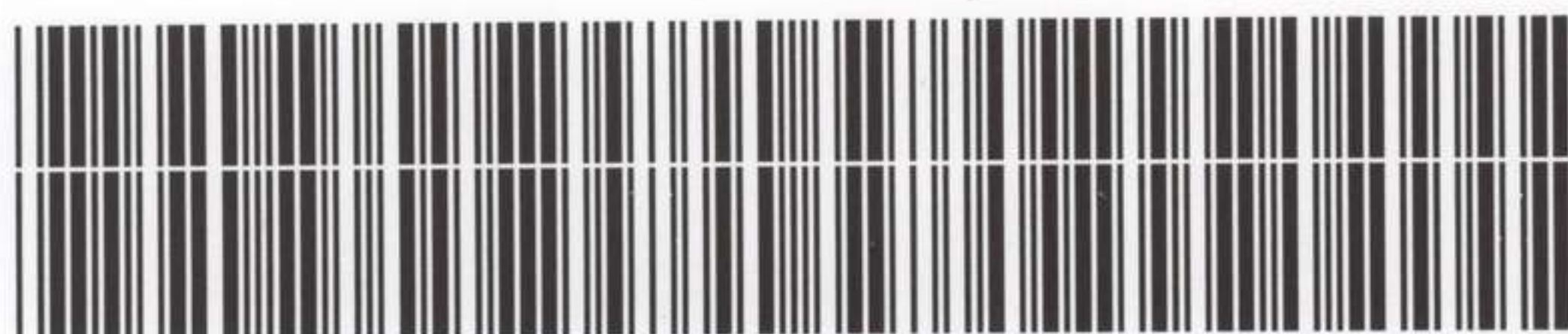
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/57/2 Part 1

Title: Administrative Staff, Headquarters
Imperial Mounted Division

March 1917



AWM4-1/57/2PART1

March 1917

Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

1st March - KANTARA

Issued Itinerary of Movements of Columns proceeding by march route to ARISH.

appendix D

2nd March

Proceeded with Div H.Q. to EL ARISH.

3rd ARISH.

DAQ M/S at KANTARA reports that camels of P Co CTC marching with 3rd Column are suffering with mange. The Column will therefore proceed without camels - which will follow after when fit. a & R

4th March "

Circulated to Sdges etc tables dealing with quantity of transport required to complete to 1st line to stab. a & R

5th "

Settled on sites of camps for 6th Mt Bde, & HQ units, A. Batt & HAC & Berks Battery, field Amb. CPE to provide 4500 galls water a day for drinking from well to be dug. 2 more wells for horses water will be opened up. a & R

6th March "

Received orders to move Div to EL BIRJ on 9th inst. Saw Administrative Command regarding the logistic arrangements for the Columns now en route from KANTARA. These Columns will now pass us at EL BIRJ.

Great delay caused by not having any camels with HQ -

A small dump will be formed at ARISH

a & R

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Hour, Date and Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
7.3.17. ARISH H.	Informed that Regt Transport for 5 th Mt Bde will be sent on by train to El. Jany C&M's arrived from El Arish	ack
8-317	Staff Capt. 6 th Mt Bde arrived linked Regt Force to appoint at Dep Inspector Canal Transport to the Des.	
9 th EL BURJ	Regt Transport of 6 th Mt Bde to move up to Bde marched from ARISH. - Informed that the Lt Quincey Canals from Alwiti will be sent here by train - They arrive tomorrow.	ack
10 th	Instructed KANTARA to delay train echelon of 6 th Bde to consign to HOWEID tomorrow there will be 16 190 Canals P & C etc arrived from KANTARA 2 Trucks 5 th Bde as train echelon ordered for ZOWAID. Prepared bad Tables for B.H.R.	ack appendix L
11 th	Bad sand storm blowing working under difficulties	ack
12 th SHEIK. ZOWAID	marched from Burj ¹⁰⁰⁰ arrived here 1300. Train echelon not arrived, owing to sand storm stopping rail service 3 rd H. Bde to march forward to Bir Abu Sheikh Ab presence decided that train echelon for	ack

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Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

13 - 3 - 17 ZOWAID

1st Bde is to come to Zowaid.
Exchange of rifles 3 & 22 Bde completed, but
3rd still require some 300 rifles & more
7 LAA

HQ. Evain echelon, with clerks & servants
arrived oboos, tents camp by 1000.
Arranged camping grounds for RA.
Still no LAA forward from Aish for 22nd

14 - 3 - 17

3rd Bde.
Sent to Capt. Quinn, part statement of
shortages of 3 & 5th Bde. Field Ambulances &
16th Squadron in 3 Corps - as a very special
urgent matter - also wired to D.A.R. re camels
& horses wanted for field ambulances.

Divisional Artillery marched in.
Informed the Council Transport of all requirements
to complete Div.

hired 25 Wagons teams 6th Bde arrived and
issued instructions upon packing of camels & they are not
to be considered as Regimental Camels, but are at disposal of C.T.C. Appendix F

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Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

15th ZOWAHD

Asked Ovest Whum bannage for train eschelon of 6th No 10 side to reach rail head by 18th. They reply that we may arrange same with RTO's concerned - but DADT Kantana wishes that nothing can come forward without K.F. authority. So have now asked D. CS to obtain this authority.

240 Remounts arrived, being 23 hours over the journey -

Issued instructions re grazing & requisitioning appendix Q in form of circular letter.

10 Horses for D.H.A. cobs arrived - they have no time to look after these horses, so have to ask Brigades to find 5 men, to come with their own horses, for the purpose

SAC & SDO. left for Abu Shunnar.

Ovest Whum sent instructions concerning the conversion of the nature of transport as we advance into Southern Syria - for this purpose we get the use of the 54th Div Train

54th Div Train arrived & camped near station - no notification of their arrival was given, & owing to weight of the railway train, the two end trucks in which their horses

16th March

17th March

act

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Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

18. March

was, had to be cut off ~~the~~ the train. these trucks came on 2 hours later

Had conference to discuss the formation of ~~the~~ Eschelon B as train transport - issued instructions dealing with same -

appendix H

The direct Column, looks to us to provide 77. 1 ton vehicles. This we can do - no more - & will leave no vehicles for SAA. Which it is considered ~~is~~ is most unwise - so wrote D. Chum accordingly - & asked them to forward 50 GP from Kantana, & to leave 22 to each side for SAA (unbound GP)

act

Conference of Divisional Commanders at D. Chum. When it was decided to ask Eastforce for all available unbound GP wagons -

Received scheme for rapid movement of D. Chum to admit of 6 days independence self contained for that time - with the assistance of eschelon transport (see appendix H)

act

19th March 1917

Attended Conference at D. Chum - when we were asked to give up 500 Carrels. 450 only can be managed - this is necessary owing to rail sending forward hind wagons for SAA & British loading Carrels in their place - ~~It~~ asked to give up our

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Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

20th March RAFFA

water camels which was not accepted - finally found unnecessary. Sent differently - obtaining transport from the Base.

JAA + Army went to Raffa

Moved to Raffa, instructed that we are to be ready to move at very short notice, as a Division & entirely mobile for 5 days -

ack

~~worked out schemes for~~

Before worked out scheme giving numbers of vehicles required to move the division - which just allows of 3 G.S. being spare, which are to be handed over to B. echelon.

21st RAFFA

54th Div Train arrived about 1300, issued orders for concentration of B. Echelon - arranged for loading, fatigue party & guards for the loaded vehicles - commenced to load at 1900 - informed by senior supply officer that train has run out at the Depot - so if this had not happened we could have had the two echelons & all camels loaded up by midnight -

ack

22nd RAFFA

All loaded & ready to move by 0500. Camel echelon ordered to take one days ration to Khan Yunis - Orders to move at 0615 tomorrow

ack

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Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

23rd - March Raffa
24th - March

Division was out on reconnaissance

The division is to move out tomorrow -
B. Echelon moves to Khan Yunis -
At 1300 Desert Column instruct us to carry an extra days rations on the men, having pointed out by telegram that B. echelon must reach us on 26th - am informed that the echelon cannot reach us - went over to Desert Column + saw the AA + QM G. told him that it is impossible for the men to carry more, that provided they do not intend us to operate for a longer period than originally intended we can arrange by purchase of arrangements to keep the field for the time arranged -

25th March. EL BEILA
26th

Div marched & bivouaced at EL BEILA.
Marched at 0230. Division engaged about SAZA
Owing to uncertainty of movement the wheel echelons & Camels convoys were kept well in rear, & after ordering to two points were finally

and

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Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

26th - hold

instructed to return to EL BELLAH
Nations were able to be obtained from Convoys, &
troops subsisted by the Special Emergency Ration, on
pack horses. Forage was badly wanted -
Horses were nearly all watered from Cisterns -

27th March BELLAH.

Division on outpost, ~~withdrew to base~~
~~during the afternoon~~
In the morning after watering, Div Concentrated
at INSERAT. Where nations forage & SAA were
issued -

Ordered to convert from Camel to Wheel Transport -
Transport being obtained from 54 Div Train &
Regimental Transport - Provided for
9 L.B.S per M.G. Squadron
1 " " Regt for Hotchkiss SAA.
5 " " for forage per Regt
with proportion of L.B.S. for Div Regt 1 Transport.

28th " "

Div returned to BELLAH. 37 Casualties
all told, & 1 Hotchkiss gun lost, through saddle
slipping round.

Considerable confusion in Villages over watering
arrangements. Plenty of wells & no supervision, food
& bad wells being used & no police control. As we

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B

Hour, Date and Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
25 th late	had been here before, we were able to take over one of the wells we had previously closed - wells should have been numbered & allotted to the various Divisions.	
29 th March BFLAH	The D.A. Column transport now consists of ASC & Rest Transport. Not satisfactory. Attended Conference at East Force, over water arrangements. & had 3 wells allotted to the Div. Developed sufficient water on the beach for 2 Bde's, men & horses. Position consequently much improved - water officer for Div appointed. Br Gen Pitt, Comd'g 6 th Mt Bde, went sick	
30 th "	G.O. inspected D.A.C. 4 horses in a g.s. wagon with 30 boxes S.A. & 16 boxes in L.S.S. wagon most unsatisfactory - Artillery vehicles should be ordered up, & reported same to D. Column. Native Troop one unsuitable for duty with a D.A.C. Sent in horses to KHAN YUNIS to draw new tool carriers, picks & shovels. The men have now been away, on light scale for 6 days, & badly want change of clothing. Canteen, very hard to get. Obtained only 25 lbs. Sugar. HQ has no office things & things are run under	<p style="text-align: right;">MAR 1917</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A37 9</p>

Hour, Date and Place.

Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and references to Appendices.

30th limit

great difficulties
Considering the changes & alterations to supply &
Transport Services have worked wonderfully.
Admitted sick during week is 127 A Ranks
10 Motor Cars available to bring out stuff
from Raffa

31st March

~~1st March April~~

~~OC has state that Artillery vehicles are
being sent from Kantara for DDC with horses.
Exchanged 15 g.s. wagons for 25 timbered from
Regt Transport - for DDC. The timber is a
better vehicle than the g.s. for the purpose~~

~~2nd March April~~

~~100 Camels to Raffa for more things - Cooking
utensils & 2nd shirts, sanitary appliances etc.
Transport again reorganized - When Div
operated - no wheels of wheel or camels will
accompany. A Company of wheels
" " of camels
2 " of " with 1/2 Gall water
" " of 75 Medical Bunds
will march - near. The supply wagons are to be of
loaded & used within the Div -
This is a more normal transport situation~~

At Johnson at all
AA + AMB.
Camp. N. D. D.

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D

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF UNITS
PROCEEDING BY MARCH ROUTE FROM KANTARA TO EL ARISH.

MARCH.

- I. The Columns will march under the orders of the Senior Combatant Officer with each Column.
- II. The Officer Commanding Column will report on arrival at halting places to the local Commandant (in places where no Commandant is appointed water and sanitary orderlies will be found) and ascertain the sites of camping grounds and bivouacs and other local arrangements. Great care will be exercised that mounted troops and camels are not bivouacked on Infantry sites. Notice boards are generally erected showing the nature of bivouacs.
- III. The Officer Commanding Column will telegraph to the Headquarters, Northern Section reporting his arrival each night at the different halting places, he will further include in this telegram his intended hour of departure for the following day.
- IV. Marching out orders from KANTARA will be rendered by 1800 by units direct to the office of the D.A.Q.M.G. of the Division on the day previous to departure. The hour of departure on the following day will be shown on this return.

CAMELS.

- V. The baggage camels will march as a complete unit under the C.T.C. Officer when such an officer is present with the Column who will be responsible for watering and feeding the animals under his Command.
- VI. Units will provide conducting parties at the rate of 1 man per 20 camels for the baggage camels of their unit. These parties will march with the Camel Column and will guide the camels in the morning to the Unit's lines to pick up their loads and similarly in the evening will bring the camels up to the Unit's bivouacs to unload.

SUPPLIES.

- VII. Three days supplies will be indented for at the following Depots in advance KANTARA, ROMANI, ABD MAZAR. These supplies will be delivered at INTERMEDIATE HALTING Places by rail.
- VIII. All units on arrival at EL ARISH will indent for supplies on the Senior Supply Officer of the Division and not direct on the Supply Depot.

SANITATION.

- IX. Commanders of Columns will take particular care that all bivouacs are left clear and tidy. An officer should be detailed to supervise this duty.

Attached is a detailed itinerary.

A.S. ROBINSON, Lieut. Colonel.
A.A.S. Q.M.G.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

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UNIT.	Distance from previous camping Miles.	10½	7½	7	14½	7½	6	16½	16½	16.
Depart	KANTARA	GILBAN	PELUSIUM	ROMANI	KHIRBA	ABD SALMANA	MAZAR	BARDAWIL	EL ARISH	Arrive.
Div. Signal Squad.) Berks R.H.A.) "A" Batty. H.A.C.) No.1 Sect. D.A.C.)	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	11th.
Dorset Yeomanry) Bucks Yeomanry)	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	12th.	12th.
Berks Yeomanry) 6th. Mtd. Bde. H.Q.) 17th. Sqdn. M.G. Cps) 6th. Fld. Trp. R.E.) Mob. Vety. Sect.) 6th. Mtd. B. F.A.)	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	12th.	13th.	13th.

A.C. ROBINSON, Lieut. Colonel.
A.A. Q.M.G.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

D

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Camp Commandant.

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The attached Table of Transport is circulated for the informing of all concerned with these Divisional Headquarters

1. The scale is one that cannot be exceeded and it is for everyone to assist by co-operating in their own particular department in their allowance of office equipment, personal baggage, blankets, water etc, to permit of the number of camels allotted, moving the Divisional Headquarters.
2. No tents will be carried by camels except two 80 lbs tents. Material of all description, not included in the scale, is to be sent in the Train Echelon, the allowance of which is as follows:

	lbs.
Soldiers 2nd blanket	300
Greatcoats.....	420
Haversacks or other receptacles....	300
Quartermasters Stores & Offices ..	2000
Officers' Kits and Mess Stores....	2000
	5320 lbs.

The Camp Commandant will inform the D.A.O.M.G. before a move takes place of the estimated weight of stores to be moved by rail. Sufficient men will be left behind to guard this echelon and to assist in loading.

3. Various N.C.O's and men of these Headquarters have their kit bags with them. These are not to go east of EL BURJI; the "haversack" of clothing is to be made up here and sent forward by the train echelon, the kit bags and balance of kit being sent to EL ARISH.
4. When a move takes place, the Camp Commandant will be the responsible officer to issue orders as to the time of loading and he will see to the collection, loading and march of the camels, and he will detail a small escort to accompany the camels on the march.
5. No doubt after one or two marches, the loading will become more systematic and carried out more rapidly, but it is necessary that a defined method should be followed.
The Table shows the numbers of camels for the various nature of stores. These stores, whatever they are, should be laid down together and the camels detailed for their loads by the Camp Commandant.
6. The troop on Divisional Headquarters escort will in future arrive with its complement of camels.
7. The "Provisional" Establishment does not admit of the D.A.D.O.S. accompanying the Division beyond EL ARISH, therefore no allowance is made in the assessment of transport for this officer or his horse and staff. Army Ordnance Corps personnel should proceed by train, with the equipment of their office.

[Signature]
Lieut. Colonel,
A.A. & O.M.G.
IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION.

11th March, 1917.

HEADQUARTERS.

ARTICLE	DETAIL.	PACK ANIMALS.	CAMELS.	FANTASSES.	DRIVERS TOTAL.	REMARKS.
Cooking utensils.	Camp Kettles, picketing gear etc.		1.			
Commander's baggage	Kit and "A" Mess Stores		2.			
Officer's baggage	14 officer's at 30 lbs. & B. & C. mess		6.			
Sun-shelters & tents.	2 Staff sets. tents poles wire etc.		4.			
Blankets & ground sheets.	1 per man		2.			
Stationery.	* 7 boxes.		3.			* C. 1. A & C. 2. Post off. 1. Camp. C. 1. A. D. V. S. 1 A. P. M. 1.
A. D. V. S. & A. D. V. S.	Medical Stores.	1.	1.			
Water.	84 all ranks & 12 drivers @ 1 gall.		6.	12		
Sanitary Equip.	appliances etc.		1.		12.	7 Duplicator, typewriters and all tables to be sent by trainz
TOTAL.		1	26	12	12	

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MAR 1917

All camels will be withdrawn to the Camel Transport Corps camel lines on the conclusion of the duties for which they may have been required and will be under the charge of the Officer Commanding, Camel Transport Corps.

The attention of all concerned is ~~not~~ directed to Divisional Routine Order No.21 of 5th. March 1917, concerning the working hours of camels.

The C.R.A. and A.D.M.S. will arrange with the D.A.O.F.C. that as far as possible the camels allotted to the D.A.C. and Field Ambulances respectively are available, when required for the purposes intended. These camels are however to be utilized for general duty except when the Division is moving.

Units will indent on the O.C. The Section, C.T.C. from which their first line camels are provided, for all local transport which may be required.

The accompanying scale for ration and water camels should not be exceeded.

When the final allotment of camels to the Division is decided upon, the Division, for camel transport purposes, will be divided into groups; to each group will be attached a Section of Camel Transport Corps as nearly as possible.

W. Hamilton

Captain,
D.A.O.M.G.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

14/3/17.

Copies to :-

Hds. of Depts. I.M.D.	O.C. "E" Section,	"P" Coy. C.T.C.
O.C., Signal Squadr.	" " "D" " "	" " " " "
" " Field Squadr.	" " "B" " "	" " "A" " "
C.R.A.	" " " " "	" " " " "
H.Q., 3rd. A.L.H. Bde.		
" " 4th. " "		
" " 5th. Mtd. Bde.		
" " 6th. " "		

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UNIT.	Camels required for	
	Rations & Forage.	Water.
H.Q., Divisional.	6	4
H.Q., A.S.C.	3	2
H.Q., R.A.	3	2
Signal Squadron.	24	13
H.Q., Field Squadron.	5	2
1 Troop Field Squadrn.	6	3
H.Q. Mtd. Bde. Yeomanry.	6	2
Signal Troop Mtd. Bde.	3	2
1 Yeomanry Regiment.	43	25
1 Regiment Light Horse.	48	28
Mobile Vety. Section.	3	2
M. Gun Squadron.	21	13
Field Ambulance.	11	11
R.H.A. Battery.	19	8
Amm. Column H.Q.	1	1
1 Sect. Amm. Col.	5	6

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C I R C U L A R L E T T E R .

REQUISITIONING OF LOCAL RESOURCES.

The attached Desert Column Memorandum is circulated for information.

1. Only in extreme circumstances is requisitioning to be resorted to, and only after the sanction of the G.O.C. of the Division has been obtained, except O.C. detached units, patrols etc. who may be unable to obtain supplies or forage from the usual sources.

2. When the necessity for requisitioning arises, the Senior Supply Officer of the Division will be responsible for the conduct of the details of the requisitioning service.

3. The Senior Supply Officer will except in special circumstances, which will be notified at the time, be the only officer who will apply for goods from Desert Column, the S.S.O. and his Brigade etc. Supply Officers (until requisitioning officers are available) being responsible for the same, and requisitioning should be carried out by these officers, who will whenever possible precede units to localities where articles are to be obtained. Escorts will when necessary be provided under Brigade arrangement.

4. The Senior Supply Officer before sending out requisitioning officer will issue instructions as to:-

- i) The direction taken by other requisitioning parties.
- ii) The description and quality of the articles or services to be collected.
- iii) The transport, if any, to be taken.

5. Below is a specimen receipt form that will be required in triplicate, original being left with the seller and the requisitioning officer retaining two copies - all copies to be signed by the requisitioning officer as well as the seller.

In the case of emergency requisitions referred to in para 1, copies of receipt note will be made out as indicated above, except that the seller will not sign the receipt.

1 copy to be given to seller.

2 copies " " " " Requisitioning officer, as soon as possible.

Requisitioning Officers will endeavour to find seller. If unable to do so, will forward receipts to S.S.O., who will keep records of such transactions and will forward to Divisional Headquarters periodically.

A. A. Robinson, Lt. Colonel.
A.A. & O.M.G Imperial Etd. Divn.

15-3-17.

REQUISITION RECEIPT NOTE.

NO. DATE.
REQUISITION FROM
ADDRESS (full name and address to be stated)

Articles	Quantity.	Quality (good, average or indifferent)	Price.		
			£-	s-	d.

Signature of Requisitioning Officer

" Seller in acknowledgement of cash.

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0.1971
12-7-17.

Headquarters
Imperial Mounted Division.

MAR 1917

1. If formations and units are unable to obtain supplies and forage from the normal sources, G.O.'s formations and O.C. detached units may authorise supplies and forage to be requisitioned from the resources of the country in which they are operating.
2. These requisitions will be carried out under Divisional arrangements, and as a general rule, except in cases of emergency, the A.S.C. only will be authorised to requisition. In all cases only commissioned officers are entitled to requisition.
3. The following is a guide for the prices to be paid for certain articles:-

Raisins.....	£22	per ton.
Dates.....	£18	" "
Dried figs.....	£30	" "
Fresh Fruit.....	2d.	per lb.
Beef.....	3d.	per lb. dead weight or per stone of 14lbs. live weight 4/-)
Sheep.....	5d.	per lb. dead weight or per stone of 14lbs. live weight 3/4d)
Fresh Vegetables.....	4/-	per 100 lbs.
Onions.....	£3	per ton.
Potatoes.....	£6/10/-	per ton.
Rice.....	£16	per ton.
Atta.....	£13	" "
Olive Oil.....	10d.	per pint.

FORAGE.

Barley.....	£9	per ton.
" Green.....	17/-	per ton.
Dhoura.....	15/-	" "
Berseem.....	15/-	" "
Beans.....	£11	" "
Tibbih.....	£1	" "
Millet.....	£7	" "

HOSPITAL COMFORTS.

Chickens and fowls.....	1/-	each.
Eggs.....	1/2d	per 100
Fish.....	3d.	per lb.

FUEL.

Fuel wood.....	£2	per ton.
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4. All supplies requisitioned under these conditions are to be paid for in gold on the spot. This gold may be obtained on application to Desert Column Headquarters, but due notice of possible requirements should be given.
5. No other formalities will be required except a receipt for the supplies collected signed by the G.O.C. the formation concerned or his representative and given to the person from whom the supplies are collected.

(sd) F.G. Trew Lieut. Colonel
A.A. & O.I.C. Desert Column.

IMPROVED DIVISIONAL TRAIN.

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MAR 1917

In order to apply the instructions contained in Desert Column letter of 15th. March to the Division the following measures will be necessary:-

1. Requirements of transport throughout the Division to form "B" Echelon of the Train are being worked out and will shortly be available.

As soon as units are informed of the amount of transport that will be required from them, they will send their quota of vehicles, horses and drivers as detailed under 3 as directed.

2. This concentration of transport will take place in R.A.F.

3. The O.C. A.S.C. *in conjunction with O.C. 52nd Div. Train* will appoint a senior officer to take charge of "B" echelon, the following personnel being found by:-

3rd. L.H. Bde.	1 officer	1 Sgt. or Corp.	1 Carrier	2 spare drivers
5th. Mtd. Bde.	1 "	1 " "	" "	" "
6th. " "	1 "	1 " "	" "	" "
C. R. A.	1 "	1 " "	" "	" "
O.C. A.S.C.			(1 Carrier	
			(1 Saddler	

4. Each vehicle will be drawn by 4 horses; the turn-out should be complete in every respect, the personnel reporting fully armed and equipped and artificers with their tools.

5. It is to be distinctly understood that A.S.C. drivers are not to be employed with Regimental Transport except with Divisional and Brigade Headquarters and Field Ambulances. All A.S.C. Drivers employed with Regiments or Batteries are to be replaced at once by Regimental Drivers and O.C. A.S.C. notified, for disposal.

6. The future operations being largely dependent upon the success of the transport arrangements, the G.O.C. is confident that O.'s C. Units will do their utmost to ensure that their share of transport will join the echelon, about to be formed, ready for hard work and plenty of it, with good drivers and N.C.O.'s.

7. In addition to the detail under 3, certain additions may have to be made to provide for the call under para 5 of attached Desert Column letter.

8. It will thus be seen that with the exception of certain technical vehicles, all wheel transport will go to form the "B" echelon units resorting entirely to Camel Transport for Regimental requirements.

9. These figures do not deal with the D.A.C. or Field Ambulances.

A.C. Robinson

Lt. Col.

A.A. S.C.

Imperial Mounted Division

-17.

Copies to:

General Staff
A.D.M.S.
O.C. Div. Sig. Sqn.
O.C. A.S.C.
O.C. Field Sqn.

C. R. A.
3rd. L.H. Brigade.
5th. Mounted Brigade
6th. Mounted Brigade.

SECRET.

To/ Anzac Mtd. Divn.
Imperial Mtd. Divn.
53rd. Division.
A.D.S. & T.
A.D.O.S.
O.S.
52nd. Division.

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1. The following scheme for enabling formations comprising Desert Column to operate at a distance of 20 miles from railhead has been drawn up.

2. For purposes of organisation this distance has been divided into two stages. Each stage will be worked as follows:-

	<u>1st. Stage.</u>	<u>2nd. Stage.</u>	
A. & N. Z. Mtd. Div.	Camels	<u>a echelon</u> <u>b echelon</u>	52nd. Divl. Train. Improvised train formed from 1st. Line Transport. of Anzac Mtd. Div.
Imperial Mtd. Div.	Camels	<u>a echelon</u> <u>b echelon</u>	54th. Divl. Train. Improvised train formed from 1st. Line Transport of Imperial Mtd. Div.
53rd. Division.	Camels.	<u>a echelon</u> <u>b echelon</u>	42nd. Divisional Train. Improvised train formed from 1st. Line Transport. vehicles of 53rd. Divn.

3. The policy is to concentrate all the above at RAFA. Parts of the above are being railed to SHEIKH ZOWAID, and parts are proceeding to that place by road; but in all cases as they arrive they are to be taken over by the formation concerned and parked within the camping areas at present occupied by the formations to which they are allotted.

52nd. Divl. Train is at SHEIKH ZOWAID now and will be transferred to the Anzac Mtd. Division on the 22nd. instant.

42nd. Divisional Train is due at SHEIKH ZOWAID on 19th. instant.

4. Divisions will detail one senior officer to be in charge of each of the improvised trains. Each of these officers is to be assisted by four regimental transport officers and a suitable number of M.C.O.'s.

5. Concurrent with the organisation of the Improvised 1st. Line Train each Mounted Division will assemble at RAFA, 18 G.S. Limbered Wagons with teams of four animals and the necessary personnel under an officer, to await disposal of H.O. Eastforce.

6. Further details regarding camels will be issued later.

7. The number of animals and vehicles to be aimed at for (a) and (b) echelons of the 2nd. Stage will be as follows:-

	<u>G.S.</u>	<u>G.S.LIMB.</u>	<u>W.C.</u>	<u>Draught Horses</u>
Anzac Mtd. Div.				
(a) Echelon	77	-	2	316
(b) Echelon	77	-	2	316
Imperial Mtd. Divn.	as for Anzac Mtd. Divn.			
53rd. Division.				
(a) Echelon	77	-	2	316
(b) Echelon	-	72	-	288

554

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Deficiencies in G.S. wagons, if any, are to be made up by their equivalent in G.S. limbered wagons.

Loads have been calculated at 1 ton for G.S. Wagons and 1 1/2 cwt. for G.S. Limbered wagons.

All vehicles to be four-horsed.

10% spare horses will be maintained in addition to above numbers. 53rd. Division may detach organised sections from echelon (a) to level up echelon (b).

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8. Divisions will please organise all 1st. Line vehicles and animals now in possession which are in excess of Mobile Establishment with Camel Transport on the above lines. They will similarly treat all other 1st. Line animals and vehicles belonging to them as they arrive. The object is to have as soon as possible a working basis to meet the above requirements.

Divisions will also please send by wire each evening numbers of 1st. Line horses and vehicles to meet requirements shown in para 7, in possession of Desert Column and numbers required to complete.

9. The Mobile scale of rations has been calculated as follows:-

Europeans.....	4 lbs.
Natives.....	2 lbs.
Horses & Mules.....	15 lbs. 15 lbs
Camels.....	2 lbs.

unless contrary orders are received later.

15th. March 1917.

(sd) E.S. Trew Lt. Colonel
A.A. & O.M.G. Desert Column.