

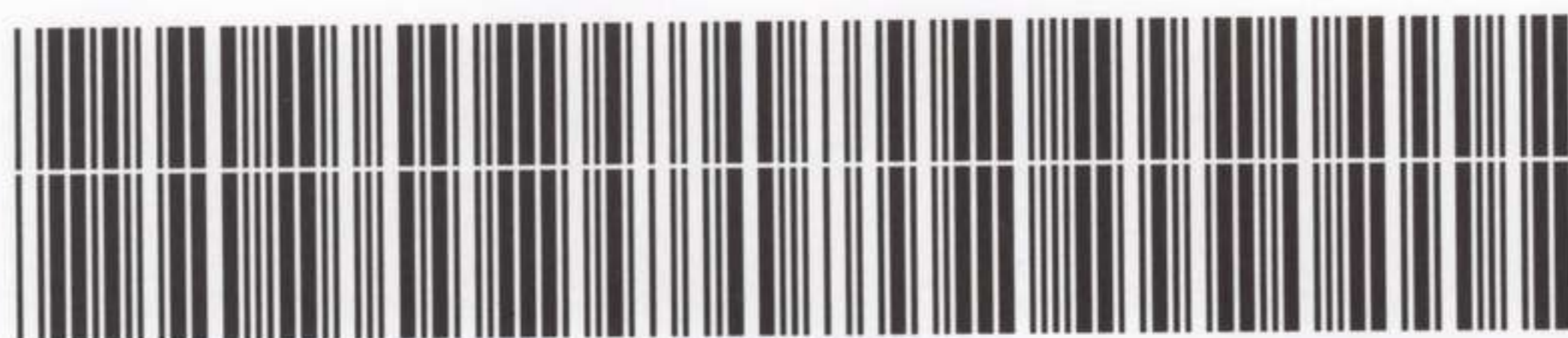
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/13 Part 5

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

May 1917



AWM4-1/6/13PART5

51
A



11th May, 1917.

The Adviser,
Ministry of the Interior.

With reference to your 854, dated 25th April, 1917, regarding the withdrawal of the party of Sudani Camel Corps Police from Sharqia Province, the General Officer Commanding, Delta and Western Force, is anxious to retain the services of this detachment, as they are practically the only means of control by which the Canal Zone Regulations can be enforced. I should be very grateful, therefore, if you would agree to the retention of this detachment in the Sharqia Province for the time being.

Ed. A. Gypaer

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

Lt-Col. Arnott , A.&N.C.T.C. Moascar.
Lt-Col. Colston, I.S.I., Zeitoun.



As a result of the Conference held yesterday between you, Lt-Col. Colston and Lieut-Colonel Lt-Col. Arnott Perkins, as to the employment of the Cavalry School Instructors and the use of the existing Cavalry School organisation at ZEITOUN during the present phase of operations on the Eastern Front, it was decided that

(i.) Two Officer Instructors and 2 Warrant Officer Instructors should be temporarily detached from the ZEITOUN Cavalry School for instructional duty with the A.&N.Z. Training Centre at MOASCAR. These instructors will be retained on the strength of the cavalry school for the purposes of pay and be shown on the School returns etc.

(ii.) Until the operations on the Eastern Front permit of the Cavalry School being carried on at its full capacity, a reduced class will be held under the remaining Cavalry School Staff (3 officers, 3 warrant officers) for the purpose of instructing Officer and N.C.O. candidates from the A.&N.Z. Training Centre Moascar. The duration of the course will be one month with a possible extension to 5 weeks if circumstances permit, and each class will consist of 35 all ranks (15 officers, 20 non-Commissioned officers).

Per. Jm. Halton

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
11/5/1917.

Major,
G.S.

53

A



12th

11th May 1917.

General Officer Commanding.
 Southern Canal Section.

In order that the position of the Officer Commanding, Troops, ISMAILIA and the garrison Adjutant may be quite clear, this is to inform you that the Officer Commanding, Garrison Battalion at ISMAILIA will act, 'ex officio' as Officer Commanding Troops. He may employ an Officer selected by him as Garrison Adjutant, who will receive extra duty pay at the rate of 2/- per day under the provisions of the Royal Warrant Art 267 as in the case of the Officer now acting in that capacity.

The name of the Officer appointed as Garrison Adjutant must be forwarded to the Deputy Adjutant-General, General Headquarters in the case of every fresh appointment.

A. A. Lyne

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

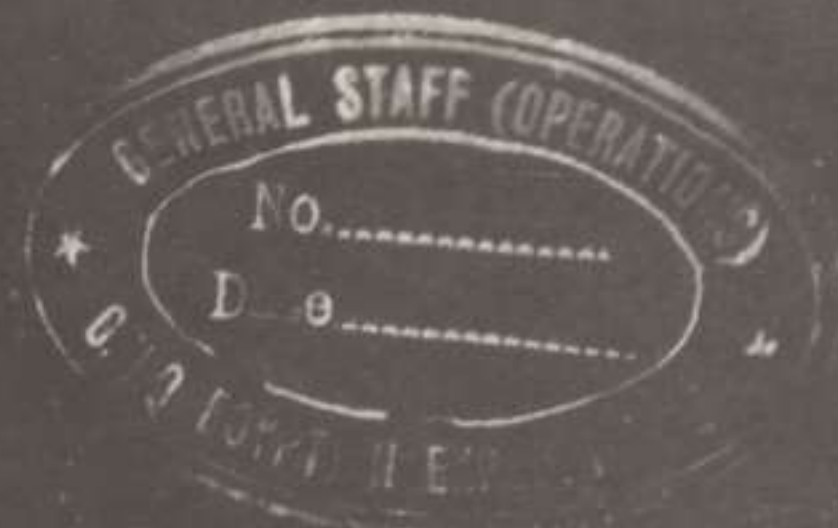
Cpr to A

SECRET

B

12th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Eastern Force.



1. With reference to your O.G. 17/1 of May 6th, whilst fully appreciating the difficulty with which you have to contend in arranging for the systematic relief of units from the front line, owing to the present inequality in strength of the divisions under your command; and whilst agreeing, in principle, with your view as regards the benefit conferred upon young and untried troops by actual training in the field in close association with more experienced troops, the Commander-in-Chief regrets that he cannot approve, without certain reservations, of the proposal contained in para. 4 of your letter above-quoted.
2. (a) In the first place, the Commander-in-Chief considers it essential that the theoretical training of the new units should be thoroughly carried out in their own brigades, and under their own brigadiers, before these units can be usefully attached to front line formations to complete their training under conditions of actual warfare.
 - (b) Further, experience has shown the importance of allowing to new units arriving in Egypt, especially from the East, a sufficient period of acclimatization to ensure their physical fitness to bear the strain of operations in this theatre. In this connection the serious effects of putting unfit units prematurely into the line has recently been clearly demonstrated in the case of the Loyal North Lanes, and the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
 - (c) Finally, the Commander-in-Chief is unwilling at present to leave EL ARISH entirely without white troops, and he is unable, therefore, to consent to the withdrawal of the 232nd Brigade, pending its replacement by units of the 233rd Brigade on the arrival of the latter from INDIA.

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3. Subject to the reservation contained in para. 2(c) above, however, as soon as the General Officer Commanding, 232nd Brigade, is satisfied that the theoretical training of his Brigade is sufficiently advanced, and provided that units are reported medically fit for active service, the Commander-in-Chief will approve of the attachment of units of this Brigade to formations under your command as you may think fit, to complete their training under war conditions, the same procedure being subsequently adopted in regard to the 233rd Brigade and 234th Brigade in succession.

4. As regards the lines on which these attachments should be carried out, the Commander-in-Chief is extremely anxious that the procedure adopted in FRANCE, as a result of careful trial and experience - whereby, in the first instance, individual men, and subsequently sections, platoons, companies, and finally battalions, undergo, in turn, periods of progressive attachment to corresponding units of the formation to which they are affiliated for instruction - should be most closely adhered to. In this connection the Commander-in-Chief wishes it to be clearly understood that on no account should a new unit be allowed to take over a section of the line independently until its fitness to do so has been thoroughly assured, and the approval of the General Officer Commanding, Eastern Force, in each case specifically obtained.

5. As regards para. 5 of your letter above-quoted, the principles laid down in para. 4 above do not, of course, apply with equal force to artillery units, which may with advantage be attached to corresponding units of existing artillery formations for training in the field as soon as their organization is completed.

Pa. A. Ryan Bell

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



56 C

11th May 1917.

G.O.C., Southern Canal Section.
G.O.C., Palestine L. of C. Defences.

1. In view of the increase in Indian troops now serving in EGYPT, and of the fact that hitherto they have been unable to participate in the instructional courses at the Imperial School, Zeitoun, on account of the language difficulty, it is suggested that the formation of a small Indian Branch at that School might prove useful.

2. At present the courses held at ZEITOUN School for British troops are as follows:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Officers. (General.) | 6. Bombing. |
| 2. N.C.O's. (General.) | 7. Musketry and Bayonet fighting. |
| 3. Vickers and Maxim Guns. | 8. Stokes Guns. |
| 4. Hotchkiss Guns. | 9. Signalling. |
| 5. Lewis Guns. | 10. Range finding. |

3. Instructors and Administrative Staff are allowed by War Establishment for each British Division on the under-mentioned scale, and for purposes of deciding the number of instructors for the proposed Indian Branch, the three Indian Infantry Brigades, the Imperial Service Cavalry would be treated as one Division:-

Officers.	6.
Staff Sergeants.	3.
Sergeants.	6.
Corporals or Lance-Corporals.	9.
Cooks.	3.
Clerk.	1.

4. With this instructional staff it is estimated that about 150 candidates could be received for instruction at each course.

5. Would you kindly say whether you consider that the formation of such a Branch would prove useful, when, in the event of your concurring in principle, detailed arrangements would be worked out and submitted for your remarks.

Pa. A. Lyndebell
C.G.S.

From:- Chief, Egyptforce.

To:- Troopers, London.

A.M. 1906. cipher

12/5/17

desp 2220

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

(A) EGYPT.
 5th Wing 35 including 5 on expedition in Arabia.
 20th Reserve Wing. 50 instructors.
 X Aircraft Depot. 1

SALONIKA.
 16th Wing. 47 including 15 balloon pilots.

I.E.FORCE D.
 No. 30 squadron. 17

EAST AFRICA.
 No. 28 squadron. 9

INDIA.
 No. 31 squadron. 25

(B) EGYPT.
 5th Wing. 5
 20th reserve wing. 11 instructors.

SALONIKA.
 16th Wing. 10 including 1 balloon pilot.

I.E.FORCE D.
 No. 30 squadron. 2

EAST AFRICA.
 No. 28 squadron. 11

	Serviceable	Un- serviceable	not erected.
(C) <u>EGYPT. 5th Wing.</u>			
De Havilland.	1	1	2
Martinsyde	5	4	-
Bristol Scout.	5	6	-
B E 2 C & E	27 (a)	6	3
(a) includes 5 on expedition in ARABIA.			
<u>20th Reserve Wing.</u>			
Martinsyde.	1	-	-
Curtiss.	-	1	-
Bristol Scout.	4	4	-
Avro.	12	8	-
Maurice Farman.	25	8	2
B E 2 C & E	17	13	1
<u>"X" Aircraft Depot.</u>			
Henri Farman.	-	4	-
B E 12 A	-	-	5
Martinsyde.	-	-	8
Bristol Scout.	-	8	-
Avro.	-	11	2
Maurice Farman.	-	8	3
B E 2 C & E	-	23	-
<u>SALONIKA. 16th WING.</u>			
De Havilland.	5	5	11
Armstrong W.	9	6	5
B E 12.	7	6	2 (b)

(b) In transit from EGYPT.
 also 4 Spencer Balloons uninflated, 3 serviceable
 Cacquot balloons and 4 uninflated.

B E 2 C & E

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6

	serviceable	unserviceable	not erected.
<u>I. E. Force D.</u>			
<u>No. 30 Squadron.</u>			
Bristol Scout.	2	1	-
Martinsyde.	3	3	-
B E 2 C & E	9	12	2(c)
(c) In transit from EGYPT.			
 <u>EAST AFRICA.</u>			
<u>No. 26 Squadron.</u>			
B E 2 C & E	12	4	4
Henri Farman.	-	-	4(d)
(d) Awaiting shipment to Egypt.			

- Copies to
- O(a).
 - O(b).
 - C.G.S.
 - I.
 - A.
 - Q.
 - R.F.C.

- Filed:-
- G.S.104/3.
 - G.S.Cables.
 - W.D.
 - C.O.

SECRET.

W.D.
SECRET E

From:- Chief, EGYPTFORCE.

To :- Chief, LONDON.

A.M.1902 cipher

12/5/17

Desp.1900.

A full appreciation of the situation on the PALESTINE Front is now at sea on way home. The following is a brief resume of the main points in case the War Cabinet may want earlier information of the situation.

It is now estimated that the 3rd, 7th, 16th, 53rd, 54th, 5rd Cavalry and part of the 27th Infantry Divisions are disposed in the front line between GAZA and BIR SABA, and the remainder of 27th, probably the whole of the 56th Division and part of the 43rd in reserve; i.e., 6 Infantry Divisions on front line, 8 in the whole theatre.

Numerical strength might be put at 55,000 effective rifles, 2,200 sabres, 150 machine guns and 120 guns, but it is difficult to say exactly. Perhaps a total force south of DAMASCUS of 45,000 rifles, 2,200 sabres, 133 machine guns and 152 guns.

Following are dispositions:- 3rd and 7th Division at GAZA. 53rd Division about KHIRBIT EL BIR. 16th Division about ATAWINEH and SHARIA. 54th Division in the neighbourhood of SHARIA, with elements at BIR SABA. 27th Division elements at BIR SABA. Positions strongly entrenched.

I am now closely in touch with the enemy, as a result of my recent operations, on a front of some 14,000 yards from SHEIKH AJLIN, on the sea, to the north-east corner of the SHEIKH ABBAS ridge. My line turns back from the latter point through SHARIA towards the WADI GHUZZE, with my right flank extended to SHELLAL, in order to deny to the enemy the valuable water supplies lying in the WADI at that point, and at the same time to protect my southern flank. In the meantime, in order to enable me to conduct operations on a broader front than is at present possible from the single railhead at DEIR EL BELAH, arrangements are being made

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made to construct a branch line of the railway as rapidly as possible from RAFA to the neighbourhood of SHELLAL.

I am also making every endeavour to strengthen the northern portion of my position from the Sea to SHARIA, in order to set free as many troops as possible, which will, on release, be concentrated as a general reserve to meet an enemy threat against my right flank, or, should the situation admit, to undertake offensive operations.

For the time being, however, the scope of my offensive action must be governed by the fact that, exclusive of my mounted troops, I have at present only three divisions, fully trained and equipped, with which to carry out operations of this nature. Moreover, owing to recent casualties and sickness, these divisions (viz., 52nd, 53rd and 54th) are at present under strength, and infantry reinforcements amounting in round numbers to 350 officers and 9,000 other ranks are required immediately to complete them to war establishment. These have been demanded through the normal channels.

At present the 74th Division consists of three Infantry Brigades with two Field Companies R.E. recently formed from Army Troops Companies, but it has no artillery.

The 75th Division exists merely on paper at present, only one brigade, namely the 232nd having been formed as yet. Too sick to be sent to the front.

I am forced to the opinion, therefore, in view of these circumstances, that my strength is insufficient to justify an attempt to undertake general offensive operations at present. I therefore intend to assume an active defensive for the time being, whilst pressing forward preparations to resume vigorous offensive as soon as the situation admits.

(2). Following is a very brief resume of the railway situation, an appreciation of which was also sent by last mail.

(a) The existing single line from QANTARA to DEIR EL BELAH is of sufficient strength capacity to maintain a force of five

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five divisions (at full strength), eight mounted brigades and one camel Brigade, operating at, or in advance of, railhead, in addition to Camel Transport Corps, Egyptian Labour Corps, and all troops allotted to the Lines of Communication.

(b) It is estimated that the capacity of the line can be developed to provide ^{one additional mounted division and} for the maintenance of ~~one~~ additional division by the construction of additional sidings and crossing places, by enlarging existing stations and by increasing supply of engines, rolling stock etc.

This work has already been taken in hand and will be pressed forward as rapidly as possible. It is calculated that it will take about three months to complete.

(c) It will be essential, however, to double the line throughout, should the War Cabinet decide to send any considerably larger force to this theatre in the Autumn. It is estimated that this operation will take about eight months to carry out provided the necessary material, constructional personnel etc., can be supplied without undue delay. With regard to this larger project, namely, doubling the line, your instructions have been requested and are now awaited, as the necessity for this course must depend upon the intentions of the War Cabinet as regards ~~the~~ future policy in this theatre.

summary of present

3. Following is/situation on Eastern Front.

(sheet 1/250,000. From the sea at SHEIKH AJLIN across GAZA-RAFA Reference SINAI-RAFA/road to SHEIKH ABBAS ridge a continuous wired and entrenched line has been constructed. From last-named point line turns back through EL MUNDUR to WADI GHUZZE about TEL EL JEMMI, this portion of line consisting of strong wired posts. West of Wadi main line resistance continued by further series of strong posts to WELL SHEIKH NURAN which position is also entrenched and wired. A defensive position of strong posts is in course of preparation east of WADI GHUZZE.

Following is distribution of troops on this line:-
52nd Division holds from sea to MANSURA ridge, exclusive.

/54th

54th Division plus one brigade 74th Division attached holds from MANSURA inclusive to TEL EL JEMMI.

74th Division (less 2 brigades) at WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

53rd Division less one brigade in Corps Reserve east of the WADI GHUZZE $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of SHARIA.

One Brigade 53rd Division in Corps Reserve near TEL EL AJUL.

One brigade, 74th Division, in Corps Reserve west of TEL EL JEMMI

My mounted troops are disposed as follows:-

Anzac Mounted Division concentrated near SHELLAL, less one brigade holding line of outposts on the east bank of the WADI GHUZZE as far south as EL GAMLI.

Imperial Mounted Division and Camel Brigade concentrated in the neighbourhood of ABASAN EL KEBIR.

Pipe line from KHAN YUNUS through ABASAN EL KEBIR to ABU SITR constructed and in service as far as ABASAN EL KEBIR.

Pipe line from RAFA to ABU KHATLI commenced and 8 kilometres pipe ready for distribution.

A spur railway from RAFA towards SHELLAL has reached Kilo 539

I propose to advance my main line of resistance to the east side of the WADI GHUZZE at SHELLAL to secure valuable water supplies at that place, as soon as the spur railway and pipe lines have been completed.

Any further offensive operations must depend upon the progress of training and equipment of the 74th and 75th Divisions, upon the rate of railway construction and water development in the area of operations and upon the arrival of drafts to complete and maintain divisions up to strength.

Copies to:- O(a)
O(b)
C-in-C
C.S.S.
I
Filed:- G.S. Z/33/2
G.S. Cables
W.D.
C.O.

GS/558.



War Diary B
A

THE SECRETARY,
WAR OFFICE,
LONDON S.W.

14th May 1917.

Sir,

The advance and growth of the Eastern Force during the last three months renders it necessary to release more Signal Sections for work in the Field. It has, therefore, become necessary to re-allot the two Airline Sections, ~~No.~~^{No.} 14 and No. 61, hitherto employed on military railways.

2. Native personnel has already been employed to some extent, under local arrangements, for the Signal work in connection with the military railways. It is now proposed, on the withdrawal of the two airline sections, to raise locally a new unit with mixed British and Egyptian personnel to be called the "Military ^{Railway} Telegraph Section". This section will consist of two sub-sections, one for the maintenance and the other for construction. It is essential to employ British rank and file for linemen's duties in the maintenance sub-section, but Egyptians can be largely utilized for the construction work.

3. I have given provisional sanction for the formation of this unit and I have the honour to forward herewith its detailed establishment and to request that it may receive the sanction of the Army Council and be incorporated in War Establishments Part XI. All the British personnel required can be provided locally.

Copies to:
A (2).
Q.
D.A.S.

(sd) A. Rindden Bell
Major Gen
for
General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

MILITARY RAILWAY TELEGRAPH SECTION.

I. MAINTENANCE SUB-SECTION (AND HEADQUARTERS).

(1). Personnel

DETAIL	BRITISH			Total British.	NATIVE		Riding Horses.	REMARKS.
	Officers	Sergeants	Rank & File		Rank	& File.		
Captain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	C.I/c Railway Telegraphs.
Subalterns	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	
Sergeants	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	
Corporals	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	
2nd Corporals	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	(a) Includes 3 L/Corporals. (b) includes 1 corporal.
Sappers & Pioneers	-	-	54a	54	-	-	-	
Batmen	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	
Motor Cyclists	-	-	4b	4	-	-	-	
Trolley-men	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	
TOTALS.	3	2	65	70	18	2		

DETAIL OF R.E. RANK & FILE BY TRADES.

Telegraphists, Permanent Line	32.
Telegraphists, Field Line	16.
Pioneers, General Duty	8.
Instrument repairers	2.
Motor Cyclists	4.
Drivers, R.E.	5.
Total	65.

(11). Transport.

	Vehicles.	Drivers.
Push Trolleys	80	16
Motor Cycle Trolleys	40	4

* Local pattern supplied by D.R.T.

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II. CONSTRUCTION SUB-SECTION.

Personnel.

Detail.	British.				Native.				Horses.		Remarks.
	Officers	Sergts.	Rank and File.	Total.	Officers	Sergts.	Rank and File.	Total.	Riding.	Draught.	
Subaltern.	1			1							
Sergeant.		1		1							
Corporal.			1	1							
2nd-Corporals.			2	2							
Sappers & Pioneers.			12*	12							* Includes 2 Lce/Cpls.
Drivers R.E.			2	2						2	
Mulazim.					1		1				
Shawish.						2	2				
Onbashi.							4	4			
Privates.							43	43			
Totals.	1	1	17	19	1	2	47	50	1	2	

DETAIL OF TRADES.

<u>British.</u>		<u>Native.</u>	
Telegraphists Permanent Line.	6.	Carpenters.	6.
" Field Line.	3.	Blacksmiths.	2.
General Duty Pioneers.	3.	Fitters.	2.
Drivers R.E.	3.	Wiremen.	22.
Carpenter.	1.	Labourers.	15.
Blacksmith.	1.		
Total.	17.	Total.	47.

(ii) Transport.

Detail	Vehicles.	Horses.	Drivers.
Wagon, G.S.	1	2	1
Total.	1	2	1

This unit provides personnel for the Supervision of Railway Telegraphic Traffic; the maintenance of 200 miles of Railway Telegraphs, Telephones and Electric Block Signalling (single line); and two detachments for new construction at Railhead, etc.



66
B

14th May, 1917.

French Military Attache.

In reply to your communication with reference to the Imperial School of Instruction at Zeitoun, I am directed to inform you that every facility will be afforded to officers and N.C.O's of the French detachment to attend the courses held at the School, but it must be remembered that a good knowledge of the English language will be necessary before candidates would profit by the instruction.

The following particulars regarding the School are forwarded for your information :-

The Imperial School of Instruction is situated at Zeitoun, close to Heliopolis (railway station - Helmia), and is under the command of Lieut-Colonel Colston, D.S.O., M.V.O., who is Commandant of the School. An average of one course per month is held throughout the year. The following classes are held during each course at the School :-

<u>Name of Course.</u>	<u>Duration.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Officers' General.	3 weeks.	For junior officers.
N.C.O's General.	3 weeks.	
Machine Gun.	3 weeks.	Mechanism, etc., of the gun.
Lewis Gun.	3 weeks.	Mechanism of the gun.
Hotchkiss Gun.	3 weeks.	For mounted troops, only.
Tactical Handling of Machine Gun.	3 weeks.)	For company commanders or seconds in command.
Tactical Handling of Lewis Gun.	3 weeks.)	

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<u>Name of Course.</u>	<u>Duration.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Grenadiers!	10 days.	Two classes held during each course.
Stokes' Gun.	10 days.	Two classes held during each course.
Signalling.	6 weeks.	
Senior Officers'.	3 weeks.	For battalion seconds in command or senior captains.
Bayonet Fighting and Musketry.	3 weeks.	

Vacancies for courses are allotted to the various formations of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force from this office, and, should you wish to send candidates for instruction in any particular subject, application should be made here for the necessary vacancies to be allotted.

If you should wish to see the actual working of the school, a course is now in progress and I should be pleased to arrange for you to visit the School on any day that is convenient.

Sa. G. F. Perkins

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.



14th May, 1917.

The Commandant,
Imperial School of Instruction,
ZBITOUN.

With reference to your I.S./3053, dated 11th inst., forwarding Syllabus of the Officers' General Course.

In view of the importance of all regimental officers having a thorough knowledge of the functions carried out by the Quartermaster's branch in a regiment, it is considered that more instruction in this subject should be included in the Syllabus.

2. It is suggested that this instruction should be carried out, broadly, on the following lines :-

- (a) The duties of the Quartermaster, Regimental Quartermaster-sergeant, and Company Quartermaster-sergeant, in the field.
- (b) The necessity for co-operation between company officers and the quartermaster's department.
- (c) How company officers can assist ^{the} quartermaster's branch, and vice-versa.

3. Would you please report in due course any alterations which you may make in the Syllabus in order to give effect to these instructions.

Paul G. F. Perkins

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.

SECRET

69
A

GENERAL STAFF (OPERATIONS)
8A. 2/28/1
15.5.17
EGYPTIAN EXPED. FORCE

14th May 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Delta and Western Force.

The attached correspondence with the Military Administrator, Frontier Districts Administrations is forwarded for your information. Will you please issue the necessary instructions to restrict the action of armed parties operating from the Coastal Section, in accordance with the decision communicated to Colonel Hunter in the correspondence under reference.

Geoffrey Hayden Bell

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



SECRET

70

15th May, 1917.

Military Administrator,
Frontier Districts Administration.

With reference to your letter No. 15/2, dated 5th May, your proposal that armed parties of our troops should no longer be permitted to operate beyond the western frontier is, in principle, approved.

As regards the actual line, however, which should for this purpose be regarded as the frontier, it has been decided, in consultation with General Officer Commanding, Delta and Western Force, that this should coincide with the line of the road from SOLLUM to SIWA Camp, since to extend the area within the frontier westwards as far as MELFA, would entail a considerable increase in the patrolling to be carried out by our armoured cars without any apparent corresponding advantage.

Arrangements are being made, therefore, to issue the necessary proclamation to give effect to this decision, and the General Officer Commanding, Delta and Western Force, is being instructed to limit the action of our patrols on the lines you propose.

(Sgd.) A. Lynden-Bell,

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

Copies to :-
G.O.C., D. & W. Force.
P.I.

COPY.

Coast Guard Administration.

Cairo. May 5th 1917.

No. 15/2.

Armed Patrols beyond Western Frontier.

G.S. "I".
G.H.Q., E.E.F.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief, that armed parties of our troops should no longer be permitted to operate beyond our Western Frontier, which, for purpose of convenience, I suggest be defined broadly as a line running North and South from SOLLUM to the western end of MELFA.

The presence of armed parties in what was previously considered to be enemy territory, cannot fail to have a disturbing effect on the local population, and also tend to raise a feeling of distrust of us in the mind of Mohamed Idris.

There is, in addition, the consideration that, by allowing armed parties west of our border, we will be encroaching on territory which either belongs to the Italians or to Mohamed Idris, according to the arrangement which has been arrived at between these two parties.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

G. G. HUNTER.

Colonel.
Military Administrator.
Frontier Districts Administration.

W.P.

G.S/810

B¹²

Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON. S.W.

15th May 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for the sanction of the Army Council the War Establishment for an Aircraft Factory, EGYPT.

In accordance with War Office instructions, personnel has already been collected to form a nucleus for this unit, which will shortly be commencing work. It will be expanded to full strength as circumstances demand. I shall be obliged if the approval of the Army Council could be notified by telegraph.

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

(sgd) W. Lynden Bell
W. B.
6.4.8.

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

Copies to :- A.
Q.
R.F.C.



PROVISIONAL WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

DETAIL	Officers	Warrant Officers	F. Sergeants & Sergeants	Rank & File.	TOTAL	Attached		REMARKS.
						British	Natives	
(1) Headquarters	4	1	3	13	21	6a	9	(a) Includes 2 R.A.M.C. (b) Batmen to be either P.B. or natives.
(2) Plane Construction Section.	1	-	1	86	88	1	5	
(3) Sailmaking Section.	1	-	1	61	63	1	9	
(4) Fuselage Assembly.	1	-	1	43	45	1	2	
(5) Erecting and Testing.	1	-	1	26	28	1	6	
(6) Stores.	2	1	2	40	45	2	25	
(7) Transit.	1	-	1	15	17	1	-	
(8) Inspection.	3	-	-	2	5	3	-	
(9) Engine & Toolroom	1	-	2	48	51	1	8	
Total	15	2	12	334	363	17b	64	

COMPOSITION IN DETAIL.

(1) PERSONNEL.

(1) HEADQUARTERS.								
Depot Commander	1	-	-	-	1			
Park Commander	1	-	-	-	1			
Adjutant	1	-	-	-	1			
E.O.3. (QuarterMaster)	1	-	-	-	1			
Disciplinary W.O.	-	1	-	-	1			* Includes 1 Flight Sergt.
Clerks	-	-	*3	7	10			
Draughtsmen	-	-	-	2	2			
Miscellaneous Labour	-	-	-	3	3			(a) Includes 2 Corporals.
Cook	-	-	-	1	1			
Total (excluding attached).	4	1	3	13a	21			
Attached.								
R.A.M.C.	-	-	-	2	2			
Batmen or Native Servants.	-	-	-	4	4			
Native Labour	-	-	-	9	9			
Total (including attached)	4	1	3	28	36			
(2) PLANE CONSTRUCTION SEC'N.								
Equipment Officer, 2nd Class	1	-	-	-	1			
Flight Sergeant	-	-	1	-	1			(b) Includes 4 Corporals.
Carpenters	-	-	-	84	84			
Cooks	-	-	-	2	2			
Total (exclu: att'd)	1	-	1	86b	88			
Attached								
Batman or Native Servant	-	-	-	1	1			
Native labourers	-	-	-	5	5			
Total (inclu: att'd)	1	-	1	92	94			

Detail.	Officers	W.Officers	F/Sergts & Sergts	Rank & File	Total.	Remarks.
(3) SAILMAKING SECTION.						
Equipment Officer, 2nd Class	1	-	-	-	1	
Flight Sergeant.	-	-	1	-	1	
Sailmakers	-	-	-	55	55	
Upholsterers.	-	-	-	3	3	
Painter.	-	-	-	1	1	
Cook.	-	-	-	2	2	
Total (exclu: attd.)	1	-	1	61a	63	(a) Includes 3 Corporals.
ATTACHED:						
Batman or Native Servant	-	-	-	1	1	
Native Labour	-	-	-	9	9	
Total (inclu: attd.)	1	-	1	71	73	
(4) FUSELAGE ASSEMBLY.						
Equipment Officer, 2nd Class	1	-	-	-	1	
Sergeant	-	-	1	-	1	
Coppersmith	-	-	-	1	1	
Electrician	-	-	-	1	1	
Riggers	-	-	-	34	34	
Engine Fitters	-	-	-	3	3	
Instrument Repairers	-	-	-	3	3	
Cook	-	-	-	1	1	
Total (exclu: attd.)	1	-	1	43b	45	(b) Includes 2 Cpls.
ATTACHED						
Batman or Native Servant	-	-	-	1	1	
Native labour	-	-	-	2	2	
Total (inclu; attd)	1	-	1	46	48	
(5) ERECTING AND TESTING SECTION.						
Flying Officer	1	-	-	-	1	
Flight Sergt. N.C.O. Pilot.	-	-	1	-	1	
Riggers	-	-	-	20	20	
Fitters	-	-	-	6	6	
Total (exclu: attd.)	1	-	1	26c	28	(c) Includes 3 Cpls.
ATTACHED.						
Native labour & batman or Native Servant.	-	-	-	7	7	
Total (inclu: att'd)	1	-	1	33	35	
(6) STORES SECTION.						
Equipment Officer, 1st Class	1	-	-	-	1	
Equipment Officer, 3rd Class	1	-	-	-	1	
Storemen	-	1	1	17	18	
Clerks	-	-	1	22	24	
Cook	-	-	-	1	1	
Total (exclu: att'd)	2	1	2	40d	45	(d) Includes 3 Cpls.
ATTACHED						
Batmen or Native Servants	-	-	-	2	2	
Native Labour	-	-	-	25	25	
Total (inclu: att'd)	2	1	2	67	73	

Detail	Officers	W. Officers	F/Sergts. & Sergts.	Rank & File	Total.	Remarks.
(7) TRANSIE SECTION.						
Equipment Officer, 3rd Class	1	-	-	-	1	
M.T. Drivers	-	-	1	7	8	
Motor Cyclists	-	-	-	4	4	
Labour Foremen	-	-	-	3	3	
Clerk	-	-	-	1	1	(A) Includes 2 Corporals.
Total (exclu: att'd)	1	-	1	15a	17	
<u>ATTACHED</u>						
Batman or native servant	-	-	-	1	1	
Total (including att'd)	1	-	1	16	18	
(8) INSPECTION SECTION.						
Equipment Officer, 1st Class	1	-	-	-	1	
Equipment Officer, 2nd Class	2	-	-	-	2	
Clerks	-	-	-	2	2	
Total (excluding att'd)	3	-	-	*2	5	* Includes 1 Corpl
<u>ATTACHED</u>						
Batmen or native Servants	-	-	-	3	3	
Total (including att'd)	3	-	-	5	8	
(9) ENGINE OVERHAUL & TOOL ROOM.						
Equipment Officer, 1st Class	1	-	-	-	1	(B) includes
Flight Sergeants	-	-	1	-	1	1 Machinist
Fitters	-	-	1	39b	40	1 Turner
Acetylene Welders	-	-	-	1	1	
Coppersmiths	-	-	-	2	2	
Electricians	-	-	-	2	2	
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	2	2	
Draughtsman	-	-	-	1	1	(c) includes 2 Cpls.
Cook	-	-	-	1	1	
Total (excluding att'd)	1	-	2	48c	51	
<u>ATTACHED</u>						
Batman or Native Servant	-	-	-	1	1	
Native Labour	-	-	-	8	8	
Total (including att'd)	1	-	2	57	60	

Summary by ranks.

(1) Warrant Officers 2.
 Flight Sergeants 4.
 Sergeants 8.
 Corporals 22.
 1st. A. Mechanics 113.
 2nd. " " 191 *
 3rd. " " 8.

(2) Native labour including
 batmen attached.
 Servants 15.
 Labour 64.

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* Note. To be found from Native
 labour when possible.

(11.) TRANSPORT.

Touring Car	...	1
Light Tenders	...	3
Heavy Tenders	...	4
Workshop Lorry	...	-
Motor Cycles	...	4
Side Cars	...	2
Trailers Wing	...	1
		<u>15</u>



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

15th May 1917.

Sir,

1. With reference to my G.S.484, dated April 15th, 1917, I have the honour to inform you that the whole situation regarding the question of Inland Water Transport has now been carefully reviewed, and my complete requirements in this respect are shown in the attached table.

Encl.

2. Although the work of this branch is developing very rapidly, it will not be possible to employ immediately the whole of the personnel shown in the draft War Establishment, but in view of possible delay in providing personnel I have included in this draft, numbers which will meet all requirements for the next six months provided no unforeseen circumstances intervene.

3. I am anxious that this complete establishment may be regularised to enable me to draw personnel up to its full extent as circumstances demand.

4. With the exception of 4 Officers and 10 other ranks which can be provided locally, the whole of the personnel will be required from other sources, and I would point out that native personnel would be unsuitable for this purpose.

5. I have the honour, therefore, to request that the sanction of the Army Council may be accorded, by cable, to the attached draft War Establishment, to which I have given provisional approval.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Gen. A. L. Lyneer Bell
MB
 General.

Commander-in-Chief.
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Copies to:- A.
Q.
E-in-C.
A.M.S.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT - EGYPT.

77

PROVISIONAL WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

Personnel.

D ETAIL	Officers	Warrant Officers (Class I.)	Company Sergt-Majors	Sergeants.	Rank & File	Total.	REMARKS.
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & DEPARTMENTS.</u>							
<u>HEADQUARTERS.</u>							
Asst-Director, I.W.T.	1a	-	-	-	-	1	(a) Graded as A.Q.M.G
D.A.D., I.W.T.	4b	-	-	-	-	4	(b) Graded as D.A.Q.M.G
	(e)						(c) Establishment to
Clerks	-	1	1	1	4d	7	provide for 2
Batmen	-	-	-	-	5	5	Majors and 2 Cap-
							tains styled
TOTAL.	5	1	1	1	9	17	D.A.D., I.W.T.
							(d) Includes 1 Corpl
							and 1 L/Cpl.
<u>I.W.T. Establishment.</u>							
Captains	12	-	-	-	-	12	
Lieutenants	8	-	-	-	-	8	
2nd Lieutenants	4	-	-	-	-	4	
Shipwrights	-	1	-	1	4	6	
Seamen	-	-	6	6	163	175	(e) Includes 19 Corpls
Canal Conductors	-	-	-	4	96	100	and 29 L/Cpls.
Checkers	-	-	-	4	36	40	
Clerks	-	1	2	5	35	43	
Batmen	-	-	-	-	24	24	
TOTAL	24	2	8	20	358	412	
					(e)		

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
14th May 1917.

The Secretary,
War Office, London, S.W.

15th May, 1917.

Sir,

1. With reference to telegram No. 53935, of the 5th May, from the Secretary of State for War, and my telegram A.M. 1894 cipher of the 10th, I have the honour to put before the Army Council further considerations regarding the use of animals in this theatre of war, and also regarding the possibility of obtaining more British personnel from the administrative services for the fighting ranks, in amplification of my telegram above-quoted.

2. As stated in my telegram A.M. 1894, the total of 98,000 animals with the force under my command is made up as follows :-

44,000 Camels.

54,000 Riding Horses and Mules.

Of these 54,000 horses and mules, 28,000 are riding horses.

Of the 28,000 riding horses, 18,600 are employed in the Mounted Divisions and Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade. I will deal with the question of riding horses for mounted units and of other animals separately.

3. There are at present in the Remounts Depots only 1,900 riding horses, of which not more than 1,500 can be considered suitable as remounts for mounted troops. This number, on the basis of average monthly wastage in the mounted divisions since January 1st, will barely cover normal wastage up to July 1st; and

/ should

should there be any increased wastage due to heat-exhaustion or battle casualties, these remounts will be absorbed into the ranks before that date. The situation, therefore, is that if no more fit and seasoned cavalry remounts can be sent the fighting efficiency of the mounted divisions must suffer.

I may, perhaps, point out that the shortage in this respect is mainly due to the fact that the supply of riding horses sent to this country last autumn fell considerably below expectation. 5,000 riding horses were promised from Australia, but only 2,000 suitable for cavalry remounts were delivered. If the mounted divisions are to be kept up to strength with seasoned horses, it is absolutely necessary that cavalry remounts should be supplied to make good normal wastage in sufficient time before they are required to take the field.

4. As regards other animals, it is estimated that the supply of riding horses (other than cavalry remounts) and draught animals should suffice until next autumn, given conditions similar to those that have prevailed in the past. In this connection I would point out that, owing to local conditions on the Eastern Front, it is absolutely inevitable that there should be a certain amount of overlapping in the different forms of transport. During the considerable period when the force east of the Canal was operating wholly in heavy sand, all transport was organized on a pack basis (camels and mules). This transport was, of necessity, of a hybrid nature, fulfilling the duties of 1st-line, train and water convoy. The work which under ordinary circumstances is performed by a supply column had to be done by camel convoys, which carried, not only food and forage for men and animals, but also thousands of gallons of water. Further, when the respective capacity, speed and radius of action of a 3-ton lorry and a camel are compared, the result is that it probably required 100 camels to do the work of one 3-ton lorry.

Of late, however, former conditions have to some extent been modified, and the Eastern Force has been operating in country where the soil, though still very heavy, is not so heavy as that of the desert, and for purposes of speed and efficiency it has been necessary to commence the organization of wheeled transport for units on this front. Divisional trains for infantry have been formed, but they were first organized on the basis of two horses per vehicle, with a result that all vehicles had to be double-spanned owing to the heavy nature of the ground, thus halving the carrying capacity of the trains. These units are now being re-organized on the basis of four horses per vehicle - a basis upon which it is absolutely necessary to work - but this reorganization cannot be completed for at least another month, since the additional native drivers required have to be recruited and trained.. When all trains are on the basis of four horses per vehicle, the transport difficulties will be to some extent modified; at the same time there is no prospect in the near future of making any considerable reduction in the amount of camel transport held available, since it is still necessary to have at hand complete provision for the Eastern Force to operate in country where only camel transport is suitable.

5. As regards the dilution of the administrative services with native personnel in order to find more British personnel for the fighting ranks, I can assure the Army Council that this process has gone as far as is compatible with the maintenance of the administrative efficiency of the force.

(a) The Army Medical Service is at present substituting native personnel for 30% of its R.A.M.C. personnel in all Convalescent Depots, General and Stationary Hospitals. The R.A.M.C. personnel thus released are to furnish the personnel for newly raised Field Ambulances and Stationary Hospitals.

In addition, consequent on the expansion of hospital / accommodation

accommodation (vide War Office telegram 33564. D.M.12-405, dated 24/4/17), "P.B." men from Garrison Battalions are being attached to Convalescent Depots and Hospitals in lieu of the additional R.A.M.C. personnel which is necessary but not available. The number so attached varies from 20% to 30% of the total authorized R.A.M.C. establishment for these units.

I do not consider that the numbers of the British personnel in the R.A.M.C. can be further reduced with safety.

(b) Army Service Corps Transport has already been diluted with native personnel to the utmost limit, and the same applies to supply personnel. The force is already considerably under its establishment of clerks, and natives cannot be employed in offices.

(c) As regards the Army Ordnance Department, so far from there being any possibility of transferring any British personnel to fighting units, it has been found necessary for some time to borrow tradesmen from the infantry, though every endeavour is being made to reduce the number so borrowed, and it is hoped to wipe out such borrowing altogether at an early date.

(d) As regards the railway, since no European personnel can be sent to this country from home, there has been no alternative but to draw all the European personnel required from units in the force, including infantry: here again, natives are being used wherever possible.

(e) The same applies to the Remounts, Veterinary and Postal Services, the Works Department and the Inland Water Transport Department; natives are being employed wherever possible and no further white personnel can be transferred.

8. These considerations have not been put forward without close scrutiny on the part of the heads of the departments concerned. The need for the utmost economy at the present moment, both in men and animals, is fully realised; but I cannot admit that, if the efficiency of this force is to be

/ maintained

maintained, any considerable economies can be made in either respect, and can only respectfully place before the Army Council the situation as it exists at the present moment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Pa. A. J. Murray

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

*Copies to A.
Q.*

83
D

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

15th May 1917.

Sir,

1. With reference to my G.S.494, dated April 15th, 1917, I have the honour to inform you that the whole situation regarding the question of Inland Water Transport has now been carefully reviewed, and my complete requirements in this respect are shown in the attached table.

Encl.

2. Although the work of this branch is developing very rapidly, it will not be possible to employ immediately the whole of the personnel shown in the draft War Establishment, but in view of possible delay in providing personnel I have included in this draft, numbers which will meet all requirements for the next six months provided no unforeseen circumstances intervene.

3. I am anxious that this complete establishment may be regularised to enable me to draw personnel up to its full extent as circumstances demand.

4. With the exception of 4 Officers and 10 other ranks which can be provided locally, the whole of the personnel will be required from other sources, and I would point out that native personnel would be unsuitable for this purpose.

5. I have the honour, therefore, to request that the sanction of the Army Council may be accorded, by cable, to the attached draft War Establishment, to which I have given provisional approval.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Gen. A. G. G. Bell

General.

Commander-in-Chief.

Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Copies to:- A.
Q.
E-in-C.
A.M.S.

G.S. 484. 50

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT- EGYPT.

PROVISIONAL WAR ESTABLISHMENT.

Personnel.

DETAIL.	Officers.	W. Officers (Class I)	Co. Sergt-Majors	Sergeants.	Rank & File.	Total.	REMARKS.
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & DEPARTMENTS.</u>							
<u>HEADQUARTERS.</u>							
Asst-Director, I.W.T.	1a	-	-	-	-	1	(a) Graded as A.Q.M.G. (b) Graded as D.A.Q.M.G. (c) Establishment to provide for 2 Majors and 2 Captains styled D.A.D., I.W.T. (d) Includes 1 Corpl and 1 L/Cpl.
D.A.D., I.W.T.	4b	-	-	-	-	4	
Clerks	(c)	1	1	1	4d	7	
Batmen	-	-	-	-	5	5	
TOTAL	5	1	1	1	9	17	
<u>I.W.T. Establishment.</u>							
Captains	12	-	-	-	-	12	(e) Includes 19 Corporals and 29 Lance Corporals.
Lieutenants	8	-	-	-	-	8	
2nd Lieutenants	4	-	-	-	-	4	
Shipwrights	-	1	-	1	4	6	
Seamen	-	-	6	6	163	175	
Canal Conductors	-	-	-	4	96	100	
Checkers	-	-	-	4	36	40	
Clerks	-	1	2	5	35	43	
Batmen	-	-	-	-	24	24	
TOTAL	24	2	8	20	358 (e)	412	

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
14th May 1917.

85/238



18th May 1917.

85
A

General Officer Commanding,
Palestine L.of C.Defences.

In view of instructions from the War Office that units of the Machine Gun Corps are not to be employed with armoured trains, it is necessary that all personnel of the 211th Machine Gun Company now employed with No. 3 Armoured Train should be withdrawn and replaced from infantry units in your command.

Will you please state the numbers of personnel requiring to be replaced, and how you propose to replace them ?

There is no objection to personnel of Indian infantry battalions being used, if suitable; and if the required number of machine gunners is not available you should arrange for a sufficient number to be trained. A copy of the establishment of No. 3 Armoured Train is forwarded herewith.

Enclo!

20 A. R. Dundas Bell

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

Copies to 'A'(2)

GS/Z/55.

War diary 86

B

The Chief of the Imperial General Staff,
War Office, London, S.W.

18th May 1917.

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No. 34149 cipher
M.C.I. dated 9th May 1917, I have the honour to forward
herewith distribution statements for -

- (1). Delta and Western Force.
- (2). Alexandria District.
- (3). Southern Canal Section.
- (4). Palestine Lines of Communication Area.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(ed) A. J. Murray

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

(iii) Kharga Oasis.

(A) Iherika.

1 Company, 1st Garrison Battalion, Royal
Irish Regiment (less 1 platoon.)
1 Company, Bikanir Camel Corps.
1 Light Ford Car Patrol.
3 Immobile 15-pdr. G.F. Guns.

(B) Light Railway Railhead (10 miles W. of Kharga
Oasis)

1 Platoon, 1st Garrison Battalion, Royal
Irish Regiment.
1 Light Ford Car Patrol.

TOTAL - DELTA AND WESTERN FORGE.

8 Garrison Battalions.
1 Company, Imperial Camel Corps.
6 Companies, Bikanir Camel Corps.
3 Armoured Car Brigades.
6 Light Ford Car Patrols.
9 Guns.

II. ALEXANDRIA.

2nd Garrison Battalion, Cheahira Regiment.
81st Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
580th (Devon) A.T. Company, R.E.
105rd Company, R.C.A. (Coast Defence.)

III. SOUTHERN CANAL SECTION.

(a) Ayun Musa to Geneffe. (Holding posts near Canal.)
2 Battalions, 29th Indian Infantry Brigade
(less 2 Companies.)

Finding patrols in this area up to 20 miles East of Canal.
2 Companies, 1st Battalion Imperial Camel
Corps.

(b) Deversoir to Ballah. (Holding posts near Canal.)
1 Battalion, plus 2 Companies, 29th
Indian Infantry Brigade.

Finding patrols in this area up to 20 miles East of Canal.
1st Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps, (less
2 Companies.)

(c) Ismailia.

(Headquarters, Southern Canal Section and
29th Infantry Brigade.)
1st Garrison Battalion, Northamptonshire
Regiment (less 2 Companies.)
1 Battalion, 29th Indian Infantry Brigade
(less 2 Companies.)

- (d) Suez. 1st Garrison Battalion, Mottis and Derby Regiment.
- (e) Abu Zeneina. 1 Company, 29th Indian Infantry Brigade.
- (f) Tor. 1 Company, 29th Indian Infantry Brigade.

TOTAL - SOUTHERN CANAL SECTION.

29th Indian Infantry Brigade.
 2 Garrison Battalions, less 2 Companies.
 1 Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps.

IV. PALESTINE LINE OF COMMUNICATION AREA.

(a) Distribution of Defence Troops:-

- Khan Yunus.
 - 1 Troop Spahis. } French
 - 1 Territorial Battalion. } Contingent.
 - 2 Algerian Battalions. }
- Rafa.
 - 300 Bersaglieri. } Italian
 - 100 Carabineiri. } Contingent.
 - Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (less 1 Squadron and 1 Troop).
 - 49th Indian Infantry Brigade (less 1 Batt'lion)
 - 10th Company, 2nd Queen's Own Sapper and Miners, (less 1 section.)
 - 35th Anti-aircraft Section.
 - 3-4.7" guns, with R.S.A. Detachment (immobile)
- Sheikh Zowaid. (less 1 Platoon)
 - 1 Battalion, 49th Indian Infantry Brigade.
 - 1 Troop Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.
- El Burj.
 - 1 Platoon, 49th Indian Infantry Brigade
- El Arish.
 - Headquarters, Palestine Line of Communication Defence.
 - 1/2nd County of London Yeomanry, (less 2 Squadrons.)
 - 2 Companies, Bikanir Camel Corps.
 - 1 Company, Imperial Camel Corps.
 - 20th Indian Infantry Brigade.
 - 23rd Brigade (temporarily)
 - 1 Section, 10th Company, 2nd Queen's Own Sappers and Miners.
 - 9th Anti-aircraft Section.
 - 1 Battery, 12-pdr. 18-cwt guns (immobile)
- Lalfan.
 - 1/2 Company, Bikanir Camel Corps.

Mazar.

1 Company, 2nd British West Indies Regiment.
1/2 Company, Bikanir Camel Corps.

El Abd.

1 Company, 2nd Battalion, British West Indies Regiment.
1 Squadron, Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, (less 1 troop.)

Rosani.

2nd Battalion, British West Indies Regiment, (less 2 Companies)
1 troop, Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.

TOTAL - LINE OF COMMUNICATION DEFENSE TROOPS.

Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (2 Regiments)
1 Reconny Regiment (less 2 Squadrons.)
* 5 Indian Battalions.
1 Battalion, British West Indies Regiment.
1 Company, Imperial Camel Corps.
3 Companies, Bikanir Camel Corps.
o 2 Anti-aircraft Sections.
3 - 4.7" guns.
4 - 12-pdr. guns.
1 Company, Sappers and Miners.

and 1 Troop } French
3 Battalions } Contingent.

1 Squadron. } Italian
1/2 Battalion } Contingent.

1 Infantry Brigade. (temporarily)

(b) LINE OF COMMUNICATION TROOPS.

Port Said.

8 Companies, 2nd Garrison Battalion, Northants. Regiment.

Kantara.

Inspector
Headquarters, Palestine Line of Communication.
560th A.T. Company, R.E.

El Arish.

19th Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
555th A.T. Company, R.E.

* 20th Indian Infantry Brigade at present 3 Battalions.
49th Indian Infantry Brigade at present 3 Battalions.
Battalions to complete these Brigades have not yet arrived from EAST AFRICA and INDIA.

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W.D.

G.S. 2/7.

C.

Chemical Adviser,
Central Gas School,
TEL EL KEBIR.

With reference to your F.W/68 dated 11/5/17,
attached please find copy of a letter to Commandant,
Training Centre, Moascar. Will you please inform me
as to the progress of this scheme?

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
16/5/17.

(Sgd.) Jm. Hulton
may 17
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
G.S.

92
G.S. Z/7.

Commandant,
Anzac Training Centre,
MOASCAR.

It has been decided that for the future preliminary training in Gas duties will be given to the troops under your command at MOASCAR.

For this purpose the Chemical Adviser at TEL EL KEBIR will arrange for instructors from the Central Gas School to attend at MOASCAR on two days a week. Will you kindly get into communication with him direct for the purpose of arranging the further details.

It has also been decided that drafts which have received preliminary Gas training shall be equipped with Gas helmets before proceeding to join their regiments. For this purpose indents for Service Gas Helmets should be put in to FERRY POST for the numbers required.

The Drill Gas Helmets required for instructional purposes may also be obtained from FERRY POST on indent, and it is estimated that these will be required at the rate of about 20%.

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
16/5/1917.

(Sgd.) J.M. Dalton
May 35.

for Lieut-Colonel,
G.S.

Copy to C.A.

Eastforce

SECRET

W.D.

GENERAL STAFF
2/172
EGYPTIAN EXPED. FORCE
A

16th May 1917

General Officer Commanding,
Palestine Line of Communication Defences

With reference to the move of the French Contingent to KHAN YUNUS and the handing over to them of that place to hold as a post on the Line of Communication, the Commander-in-Chief is particularly anxious that great attention should be paid to the following points:-

(i) You should arrange to meet Colonel de Piepape, commanding the French Contingent, on his arrival at KHAN YUNUS and show him personally the positions of all proposed and existing defences and discuss with him the arrangements to be made for the security of the area for which the French contingent will be responsible.

(ii) Special care should be taken to show to the French Commander and, as far as possible, to all ranks of the French Contingent types of our men, both in British and Australian uniform, types of the Indian troops on the Line of Communication, and the mounted and dismounted police, under the orders of Colonel Parker. It is of the greatest importance that these demonstrations should be carried out as thoroughly as possible in order to avoid any chance of our men being shot by mistake.

(iii) The situation as regards Bedouins and native population and the action in dealing with both should be thoroughly explained to the French Contingent.

In this connection it might be helpful to arrange for an interview between Colonel Parker and Colonel de Piepape.

(iv) Plates showing types of our aeroplanes are being despatched to the French Contingent and arrangements are being made with the Royal Flying Corps to send a selected Officer to explain the types of our own and hostile aircraft employed in this theatre.

As regards the employment of the French Contingent, the Commander-in-Chief is anxious that they should be very carefully "nursed" and instructions are being issued to the Inspector, Palestine Line of Communication, to meet all their reasonable administrative requirements and to make them as comfortable as is possible in the circumstances.

(sd) H. G. ...

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

G.S.Z/73.



W.D. ⁹⁴ B
17[#]
15th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Palestine L. of C. Defences.

With reference to your G.S.Z/2, dated 10th May, 1917, the Commander-in-Chief approves generally of the scheme of defence and distribution of troops proposed.

He considers, however, in view of the large entrenched position which is being prepared at RAFA, that the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade (less detachments at SHEIKH ZOWAID and BURJ) should be located at that place, in addition to the Italian contingent and the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.

As regards the Westminster Dragoons, Sir Archibald suggests that this unit would be of more value at EL ARISH than at BIR EL ABD and ROMANI, between which places a raid in any force appears, in present circumstances, improbable. He considers that a squadron of Imperial Service Cavalry, periodically relieved from the Imperial Service Brigade, would be more suitable for patrolling work in this area.

With these slight modifications the Commander-in-Chief is of the opinion that your proposals fully meet the requirements of the present tactical situation. Any necessary re-distribution of troops should, therefore, be carried out as soon as possible.

With reference to this office G.S.606/1, para. 2, dated 9th May, will you please note that it is proposed to allot one battery of 10-pdr. guns for the defence of the Line of Communication instead of one battery of 8.75" guns, since

/ the

the mountings of the former are better adapted for the high angle fire necessary for anti-aircraft work.

(sig) H. L. ...

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

130
G.S.S.



17th
10th May 1917.

General Officer Commanding.

Palsetine Line of Communication Defences.

Approval has been given for the formation of one Light Trench Mortar Battery for each British Infantry Brigade, on War Establishments, Part VII. These Light Trench Mortar Batteries will bear the number of their respective Brigades. You should therefore proceed with the formation of a Light Trench Mortar Battery for the 238th Infantry Brigade in your command.

Since Stokes guns are not, at present, available for Light Trench Mortar Batteries of the 75th Division, these Batteries will be armed with 3.7" Mortars, a sufficient supply of which is now in the KANTARA Ordnance Depot. These will be eventually replaced by Stokes guns.

Gen. A. G. G. G. G.

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

Copies to:- A.
Q. (2).
I., P.L. of C.

97 D.

WJW



17th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Eastern Force.

With reference to your G.S. 6/7/A. of the 13th May, the reason for which it is particularly desirable that the establishment of a Camel Brigade Field Ambulance, forwarded with this office No. G.S. 212 of the 23rd February, should be put into force is that, in order to place the recruiting and maintenance of natives employed with units in the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade on a satisfactory basis, it is necessary that all should be shown in a definite establishment, so that until this establishment is put into force 36 natives will continue to be employed with this Field Ambulance, though not shown on any establishment.

It is, therefore, thought that for the operations to which you refer in your letter it would be preferable that the extra number of camels, camels and native drivers required to bring the authorised establishment up to the requisite numbers should be detailed by the D.D.M.S., Eastern Force, from the ^{of Infantry Divs.} Field Ambulances, and that, so far as the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade is concerned, the authorised establishment for the Field Ambulances should be now adopted.

Ca. A. Lynden Bell

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

W.D.
G.S. 8/13

99
E
17th May 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Eastern Force.

1. With a view to keeping the Instructional Staff of the Imperial School, ZEITOUN, in close touch with units in the field, and also to enable them to study conditions obtaining in the front line, it is considered desirable that small parties of Instructors should be sent occasionally for short periods of attachment to front line units as convenient.
2. Parties would consist of about six officers, who would be attached to various units in accordance with arrangements made by you. The period of attachment suggested is one week.
3. Would you kindly say whether this can be arranged, and if so it is hoped that it will be found possible to give such officers all convenient facilities for obtaining full benefit from their attachment?

(Sgd) A. Lynden Bell.

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



SECRET.

FORCE ORDER NO.42

Copy No.....

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

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
17th MAY 1917.

1. With reference to FORCE ORDER NO.41, dated 28th April, 1917 :-
 - (a) Corrections: (i) para.3(b). "1/2nd City of London Yeomanry less 2 squadrons" should read "1/2nd County of London Yeomanry less 2 squadrons".
(ii) para.4(1) "1st Garrison Battalion Notts & Derby Regiment less 2 companies" should read "two companies 1st garrison battalion Notts and Derby Regiment."
 - (b) With reference to para.6: The boundary between the area of Eastern Force and the Lines of Communication area will be as follows:- On the north, an east and west line through a point on the road one mile north of Point 330 (BENI SELA) to the sea, excluding TEL EL MARA KEB which will remain in the Eastern Force area; on the east, a north and south line through Point 330 to the Egyptian Frontier.
2. With reference to Force Order No. 35, dated 13th March 1917 ;
 - (a) Para.1(A). Sub-para.2. 4th Battalion Imperial Camel Corps became part of the 1st Imperial Camel Brigade in relief of the 1st Australian Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps, transferred to Southern Canal Section, with effect from 11th May 1917.
 - (b) Para.1(A). Sub-para. 3. Such battalions of the Imperial Camel Corps as are not incorporated in the 1st Imperial Camel Brigade will, in future, be administered directly under the Officer Commanding the Administrative Centre, ABBASSIA, in the same manner as unallotted companies (namely 8th and 10th). In this connection the Officer Commanding Administrative Centre will, under instructions from General Headquarters, carry out periodical inspection of the battalions so administered by him.
3. From this date the companies of the Bikanir Camel Corps in EGYPT will be numbered as follows:-
 - Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Companies, under the command of General Officer Commanding Delta and Western Force.
 - Nos. 1, 3, and 6 Companies, under the command of General Officer Commanding Palestine Lines of Communication Defences.

F

4. Authority has been received for the formation of the following units :-

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Date of formation.</u>
930th Horse Transport Company, Army Service Corps.	25th April, 1917.
956th Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps.	17th April 1917.
973rd Horse Transport Company, Army Service Corps.	26th April 1917.
General Headquarters Section and Army Section of a Printing Company.	10th April 1917.

Alfred Bell

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

Issued to :-

Copy No.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. C-in-C | 19. Command Paymaster. |
| 2. C.G.S. | 20. Principal Chaplain. |
| 3. "O" | 21. Chemical Adviser. |
| 4. "I" | 22. A.A.G., 3rd Echelon. |
| 5. "A" | 23. D.O.B.D., Alexandria. |
| 6. "Q" | 24. G.O.C., Eastern Force. |
| 7. M.G.R.A. | 25. G.O.C., Delta & Western Force. |
| 8. E-in-C. | 26. G.O.C., Southern Canal Section. |
| 9. D.A.S. | 27. G.O.C., Middle East Brigade, R.F.C. |
| 10. A.M.S. | 28. G.O.C., Alexandria District. |
| 11. D.S.T. | 29. G.O.C., 252nd Infantry Brigade |
| 12. D.O.S. | 30. G.O.C., Palestine L of C Defenses. |
| 13. D.M.S. | 31. Inspector Palestine L of C. |
| 14. D.V.S. | 32. O.C., Admin. Centre, I.C.C. |
| 15. D.R. | 33. O.C., A.&N.Z. Training Depot. |
| 16. B. of W. | 34. Comdt., School of Instruction. |
| 17. D.A.P.S. | 35. V.A. East Indies & Egypt. |
| 18. P.M. | 36. G.S.O.l. Naval, Ismailia. |
| | 37. W.D. |

SECRET

G.S.Z/28/1.

WD

100
A

15th
17th May 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Delta and Western Force.

With reference to your S.R./24/10 dated 16th May it would now appear that you consider that the boundary beyond which native traffic should not be allowed to pass should be further east than the boundary beyond which our own patrols are not allowed to operate. In these circumstances the line of ^{the} former boundary may be taken as a line drawn from SOLLUM to the western end of the QIRBA Oasis and the proclamation on the subject will be altered accordingly.

As regards our own patrols, since you consider it desirable, there is no objection to their zone of action being extended west as far as a line drawn from SOLLUM to the western end of MELFA Oasis.

Colonel Hunter is being informed of these changes and instructions on the lines indicated above should therefore be issued to General Officer Commanding, Coastal Section, forthwith.

(Sd/ A. L. Murray Bell)

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

W.D. 104
G.S. Z/28/1.

Military Administrator,
Frontier Districts Administration.

With reference to this office G.S. Z/28/1 dated 15th May, General Officer Commanding, Delta and Western Force, now considers the frontier beyond which our own patrols should not operate should be further west than the boundary beyond which no native traffic should be allowed to pass. It has therefore been decided that the two boundaries shall be as follows :-

(a) Boundary, west of which no native traffic will be allowed -

A line drawn from SOLLUM to Western end of QIRBA Oasis.

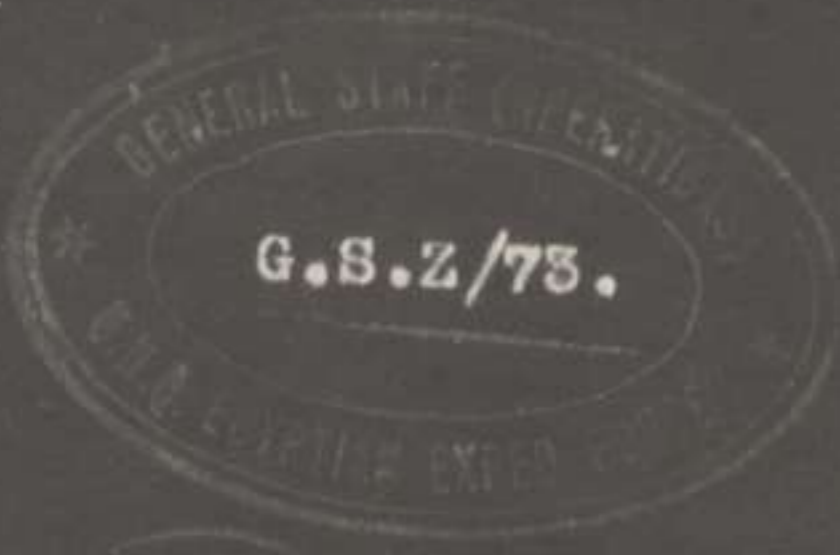
(b) Boundary, west of which our own armed parties will not operate -

A line drawn from SOLLUM to Western end of MELFA Oasis.

General Officer Commanding, Delta & Western Force, states that you are quite in agreement with these proposals, and the necessary instructions are therefore being issued to carry them into effect.

G.H.Q.,
17/5/17.

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



SECRET

112
A

19th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Palestine L. of C. Defences.

With reference to your G.S.40/146, dated 13th May, the Commander-in-Chief has decided that the wells at MAGDHABA and HASSANA should not be destroyed for the present. He considers, however, that the wells at MAGHARA and EL HAMMA should be demolished as these places threaten the Lines of Communication more immediately, and, moreover, are so placed as to be of little use for any operation which may be undertaken by us.

In these circumstances will you please issue the necessary instructions to have the wells at these two places rendered useless as soon as possible.

(Sgd.) A Lynden Bell

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

SECRET

W.D.

G.S./75.

143

EXPED. B

General Officer Commanding,
Southern Canal Section.

With reference to your S.G.S/101/2/2 dated 15th May, General Officer Commanding Middle East Brigade is making arrangements for a special aeroplane detachment to carry out daily all clear reconnaissances for the NEKHL Column during the forthcoming operations. This detachment will, however, work from SUEZ and not from MOASCAR, and will be composed of specially selected pilots and observers from the whole of 20th Reserve Wing.

General Officer Commanding Middle East Brigade has been asked to order the Officer Commanding this special detachment to report to Officer Commanding NEKHL Column, SERAPEUM, as soon as possible, as it is of the greatest importance that a personal conference should take place between Officer Commanding Column and Officer Commanding Royal Flying Corps detachment before the operations commence. Reports regarding the progress of the column will reach you through 58th Reserve Squadron, SUEZ.

As regards the weekly air reconnaissance to BIR EL GIDDI required in connection with the survey party after the conclusion of the main NEKHL operations, Officer Commanding 20th Reserve Wing has been instructed to arrange to carry out these reconnaissances with No. 58 Reserve Squadron working from SUEZ in consultation with you.

Major-General

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

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
19/5/17.

SECRET

WD

104

G.S. Z/75/1.

EGYPTIAN EXPED. FORCE

General Officer Commanding,
Middle East Brigade,
Royal Flying Corps.

With reference to your B.S/2 dated 18th May, your proposal to draw aeroplanes and personnel from the whole of 20th Reserve Wing to carry out the aeroplane co-operation required in connection with the NEKHL Column is approved. Your further proposal that this aeroplane detachment should work from SUEZ instead of ISMAILIA is also approved.

It is, however, of vital importance that the officer commanding the Royal Flying Corps detachment should have a personal conference with the Officer Commanding NEKHL Column before the operations commence, in order that a thorough understanding of the work to be done should be established. General Officer Commanding Southern Canal Section is being informed that Officer Commanding Royal Flying Corps detachment will report to Officer Commanding NEKHL Column at SERAPEUM as soon as possible, and will you therefore please issue the necessary instructions to have this carried out.

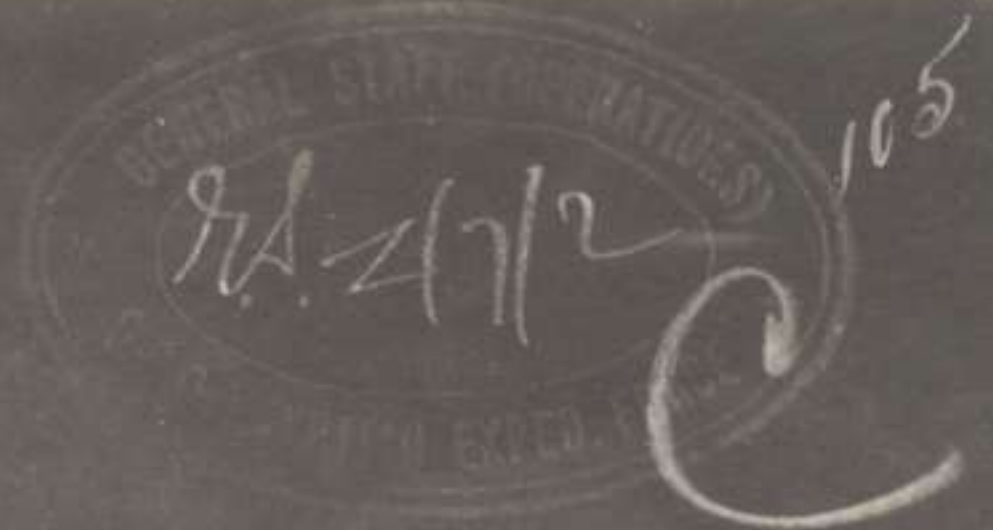
With reference to the weekly patrol to BIR EL GIDDI required after June 4th in connection with the survey party working in that area, General Officer Commanding Southern Canal Section is being informed that this will be carried out by the 58th Reserve Squadron at SUEZ.

(Signature)

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
19/5/17.

Major-General
Chief of the General Staff
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

W.D.



19th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Alexandria District.

It has been decided that in future all drafts arriving in this country shall undergo preliminary instruction in anti-gas duties, and be issued with anti-gas equipment, at the Base Depots before proceeding to their units.

2. The object of this training will be to ensure that every man is capable of looking after and making an intelligent use of his anti-gas equipment before leaving his Base Depot, all further training necessary being carried out after arrival at his unit.

3. It is ^{not} considered that this training will necessitate the retention of drafts at depots any longer than is at present necessary, nor that any additional instructional staff will be required.

4. Arrangements will be made for the training of all Base Depot Adjutants in anti-gas duties at the Central Gas School, TEL-EL-KEBIR. On return to their respective depots, these officers will be responsible for the preliminary training of all drafts mentioned in para. 2.

5. Would you kindly say how many Depot Adjutants could be spared to attend the next course at the Central Gas School, TEL-EL-KEBIR, which commences on May 28th. The duration of the course will be about 5 days.

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

Copies to :-

A. Q. Chemical Adviser.



rub
D

19th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Eastern Force.

1. With a view to ensuring the necessary supervision of Gas Training of all units in the field, it is considered important that special arrangements should be made in order to deal with such units as do not come under the control of Divisional Gas Officer; e.g., Imperial Camel Corps Brigade, Heavy Artillery Groups, etc.

2. For this purpose the following arrangements are proposed :-

(a) Formation at Eastern Force Headquarters of a Gas Organization to consist of one officer and six N.C.O's, whose role would be to supervise generally the gas training and arrangements of units not included in formations provided ^{with a} ~~by~~ the gas officer, i.e. Force Troops.

(b) Formation at Desert Column Headquarters of a Gas Organization to consist of 1 officer and 6 N.C.O's, whose role will be ~~to~~ ^{to} generally supervise the gas training and arrangements of such units of Force Troops which may from time to time be allotted to the Desert Column as Column Troops.

3. It is, ^{further} ~~however~~, considered desirable that Anti-gas Training should now be extended to units of the Camel Transport Corps. As it is essential that the officers who are to carry out this training should understand the natives and be able to talk their language, it is thought

/ that

that the best arrangement would be for officers of the Camel Transport Companies to attend a course of instruction at the Central Gas School as they can be spared, and on return to their units arrange and carry out the necessary training.

4. Will you kindly submit in due course your views on the above proposals?

(sd) Alexander Bell

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

SECRET.

SECRET

108
E

of 1/2
+
W D

From : Chief, Egyptforce

To : Troopers.

A.M. 1932 cipher.

19/5/17.

Desp. 1230.

Your 21159 and 23226 cipher A.O.1. Weekly Return

R.F.C.

(A). EGYPT.

5th Wing.	53	including 5 on expedition in Arabia.
20th Res:Wing.	48	instructors.
X Aircraft Depot.	1.	

SALONIKA.

16th Wing.	48	including 15 Balloon Pilots.
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I.E.FORCE 'D'.

No. 30 Squadn.	16.	
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EAST AFR-ICA.

No. 26 Squadn.	12.	
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INDIA.

No. 31 Squadn.	24.	
----------------	-----	--

(B). EGYPT.

5th Wing.	9.	
20th Res:Wing.	10.	instructors.

SALONIKA.

16th Wing.	6.	including 1 balloon pilot.
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I.E.FORCE 'D'.

No. 30 Squadn.	3.	
----------------	----	--

EAST AFRICA.

No. 26 Squadn.	7.	
----------------	----	--

INDIA.

No. 31 Squadn.	1.	
----------------	----	--

(C) EGYPT.

	<u>Service-able.</u>	<u>Unservice-able.</u>	<u>Not Erected.</u>
5th Wing.			
B.E.12.A.	-	-	2
Bristol Monoplanes.	-	-	2
De Havilland.	-	1	3
Martinsyde.	5	4	1
Bristol Scouts.	3	2	1
B.E.2.c. and E.	24(a)	6	3

(a) Including 4 on expedition in ARABIA.

	<u>Service-able.</u>	<u>Unservice-able.</u>	<u>Not Erected.</u>
<u>20th Reserve Wing.</u>			
Martinsyde.	-	1	-
Curtiss.	1	-	-
Bristol Scout.	2	5	-
Avro.	9	12	-
Maurice Farman.	23	10	1
B.E.2.c. and E.	18	10	-
<u>X AIRCRAFT DEPOT.</u>			
Henri Farman.	-	n 4	-
B.E.12.A.	-	-	1.
Martinsyde.	-	-	9.
Bristol Scout.	-	10	2.
Avro.	-	10	3.
Maurice Farman.	-	8	4.
B.E.2.c. & E.	-	5	10.
<u>SALONIKA, 16th Wing.</u>			
B.E.12.A.	-	-	2(b).
De Havilland.	6	4	11
Armstrong W.	9	6	5
B.E.12.	8	4	2.
B.E.2.c. & E.	9	6	-

(b) In transit from Egypt... Also 4 Spencer Balloons uninflated and 3 Gacquot Balloons serviceable and 4 uninflated.

<u>I.E.FORCE 'D'. No. 50 Squadn.</u>			
Bristol Scout.	-	3	-
Martinsyde.	4	2	2(c).
B.E.2.c. & E.	8	13	2.

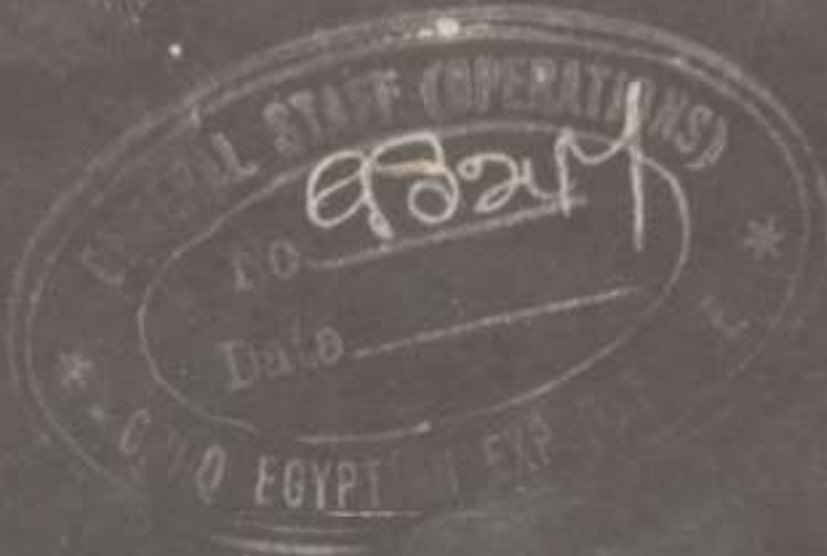
(c) In transit from Egypt.

<u>EAST AFRICA. No. 26 Squadn.</u>			
B.E.2.c. & E.	12	6	2.
Henri Farman.	-	-	4(d).

(d) Awaiting shipment to EGYPT.

Copies to :- O(a). Filed G.S. 104/3.
 O(b). " G.S. Cables.
 C.G.S. W.D. C.O.
 I.
 A.
 Q.
 R.F.O.





110 A
20th May, 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Eastern Force.

1. With reference to G.S.1/19/207, dated 3rd May.

In order to obtain full advantage from the Cavalry School, Zeitoun, for the present period during which it is not feasible to send candidates from units in the field to attend courses as heretofore, it has been decided to employ this school in the following manner, arrangements for which are already in operation:-

(i) Classes of officers and N.C.O's drawn from the Moascar Training Centre will assemble at Zeitoun to undergo a course of elementary instruction. Each course will last for one month, and the class will consist of about 15 officers and 20 N.C.O's. The syllabus, copy of which is attached, has been drawn up in consultation with Colonel Arnott, and is framed with a view to giving progressive instruction, starting with the elementary principles of drill.

(ii) A proportion of the instructional staff of the Cavalry School, viz: 2 officers and 2 warrant officers, has been temporarily attached to the Training Centre, Moascar, in order to assist the staff of that establishment in the elementary training of recruits.

2. A copy of this letter is being sent direct to the General Officer Commanding, Desert Column.

(Sgd) A. Hynden Bell

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

Copy to Des. Col

Amended Syllabus.IMPERIAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION, EGYPT --- CAVALRY WING.SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION -- 1st WEEK -- 7th CAVALRY COURSE.

DAY.	6 a.m. to 8 a.m.	9-30 a.m. to 10-15 a.m.	10-30 a.m. to 12-30 a.m.	4-30 p.m. to 5-30 p.m.	5-30 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
Monday.	Lecture on general objects of Course and Troop Training.	March Discipline.	Map Reading - Compass.	Lecture - Tactical use of Hotchkiss, Rifle and Vickers Gun.	Musketry - System of Training.
Tuesday.	Troop Training.	Bayonet Fighting.	Elementary Sketching.	Lecture - Digging and Laying out of Trenches.	Musketry Lecture - THEORY.
Wednesday.	Troop Training.	Bayonet Fighting.	Map Reading - compass. Elementary Sketching.	HALF HOLIDAY.	
Thursday.	Troop Training.	Bayonet Fighting.	Map Reading - compass. Elementary Sketching.	4-15 - 5-30 p.m. Lecture - Reconnaissance and Patrol Work.	Musketry Lecture.
Friday.	Troop Training.	Bayonet Fighting.	Map Reading - compass. Elementary Sketching.	Lecture - Field Messages and Reports.	Musketry Lecture - Visual Training.
Saturday.	Troop Training.	Bayonet Fighting.	Map Reading - compass. Elementary Sketching.	HALF HOLIDAYS	

IMPERIAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION --- CAVALRY WING.

SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION --- 2nd WEEK --- 7th CAVALRY COURSE.

DAY.	6 a.m. to 8 a.m.	9-30 a.m. to 10-15 a.m.	10-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.	4-50 p.m. to 5-30 p.m.	5-30p.m.- 6-30.
MONDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry.	Night Marching and Reconnaissance for it by day and by night.	Bayonet Fighting.	Lecture - Demolitions.
TUESDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry.	Night Marching and Reconnaissance for it by day and by night.	Bayonet Fighting.	Demolitions Practical.
WEDNESDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry.	10-30 to 11-30. Present time measures against gas. 11-30 to 12-30 Topography.	HALF HOLIDAY.	
THURSDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry.	Topography.	Bayonet Fighting.	Lecture - Demolitions.
FRIDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry.	Topography.	Bayonet Fighting.	Demolitions practical.
SATURDAY.	Troop Training.	EXAMINATION.		HALF HOLIDAY.	

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IMPERIAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION, EGYPT ---- CAVALRY WING .

SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION --- 3rd. WEEK --- 7th CAVALRY COURSE.

DAY.	6 a.m. to 8 a.m.	9.30 a.m. - 10.15 a.m.	10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
MONDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry.	F. S. Regns. and S. A. A. Supply	Lecture - Machine Gun and Hotchkiss Rifle	Selection of camps and bivouacs, and concealment from aeroplanes. Major McAlpin Leney, 16th Lancers.	Bayonet Fighting.
TUESDAY.	Troop Training Hotchkiss	Musketry.	Lecture - Machine Gun and Hotchkiss Rifle.		Tactical handling and characteristics of Hotchkiss Rifle	Bayonet Fighting.
WEDNESDAY.	Troop Training	Musketry	Topography		HALF HOLIDAY	
THURSDAY.	Troop Training	Musketry	Topography		Col. the Hon. E.M. Colston. Village and house to house fighting	Bayonet Fighting
FRIDAY.	Troop Training.	Musketry	Topography		Demolition of field guns	Bayonet Fighting
SATURDAY.	8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Troop Training		EXAMINATION		HALF HOLIDAY	

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IMPERIAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION - EGYPT ---- CAVALRY WING.

SYLLABUS ----- 4th WEEK ----- 7th CAVALRY COURSE.
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Day. 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

MONDAY. Troop Training

TUESDAY. Troop Training

WEDNESDAY. Troop Training

THURSDAY. Troop Training

FRIDAY. Troop Training

SATURDAY. Troop Training

It is intended to obtain the services of a Veterinary Officer to lecture on shoeing and the horses foot, what to look out for in bad shoeing, and what harm it does to the foot if allowed to continue; also on food and exercise in relation to health and hard work in the near future - and various other points - such as the great benefit of grooming and wisping, etc. - probably 4 to 6 lectures during the week.

The remainder of the programme will be settled when seen what particular extra instruction students are in need of most.

5th WEEK.

Regimental Tours, etc.

(Signed) E.M. Colston, Lieut. Colonel
Commandant,
Imperial School of Instruction,
Egypt.

SECRET
G.S. Z/7.

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20th May 1917.

General Officer Commanding,
Eastern Force.

With reference to the employment of Cloud Gas on the Palestine Front, the Commander-in-Chief is anxious that you should consider whether there is scope for the successful employment of this form of attack in any future offensive operations which may be undertaken.

In this connection the Chemical Adviser, General Headquarters, is being despatched to you shortly to consult with you as to the technical advantages or difficulties of any scheme of combined cloud and gas-shell attack which you may put forward. Should you consider that the situation of your troops, the configuration of the country, and probable weather conditions are such as to admit of the successful employment of this method of warfare, the Commander-in-Chief would be glad if you would submit a detailed plan showing the object and scope of the operation proposed, the results which you consider might accrue, and an exact estimate of your requirements in gas equipment and personnel to carry such an operation into effect. Should it be decided to make use of cylinder gas in this theatre, a demand ^{will} ~~can~~ then be put forward to the War Office for our immediate requirements in this respect.

(Sgd) A Lynden Bell

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

Copy to:-
Chemical Adviser.