

*on
Beign
The ~~street~~
and from*

137
AUSTRALIAN
WAB MEMORIAL

a considerable distance forming three
 fronts (1) from GORRIT to 3 miles West
 facing south (2) from the west point
 of that line running south 5 miles
 along east (3) from the southern point
 running south east facing north east
 they made a stand. The enemy had
 pushed forward into the recess thus
 formed a large quantity of their troops
 machine guns and a battery of Light
 Artillery. Meanwhile Light Horse & Infantry
 movements led the enemy for Romeros
 3rd Light Horse and light horse with
 any particular pushed portions of our
 neighbouring to the which I have no
~~particular to do with~~. These will only
 in a flow from different sources

4/8/16

operations there were employed the
 1st & 2nd Brigades of Light Horse & the N.Z.
 Mounted Infantry & I am unable to
 supply full particulars of other units
 with the exception ^{of portion} of the 52nd Division
 & the Essex & Devonshire Batteries. The
 enemy were attacking with anything
 from 15000 to 19000 troops & we were
 outnumbered ~~by~~ in the proportion
 of 3 to 1.

I shall now continue by narrating the
 movements & operations of our own (the
 3rd A. Brigade, interspersed with
 very particulars of movements of our
 neighbouring troops which I have ~~no~~
~~the means to learn~~. These will only
 come from different sources

13

4-8.1916

be meagre owing to close attention
^{which had}
~~having~~ to be paid to our own particular
 job, preventing me from going to any trouble
 to collect the necessary information.
 AUGUST 4th
 Having a pretty fair knowledge of
 the general intention in the ~~event~~ event
 of an enemy attack on this particular
 sector of our ~~current~~ defences I
 knew that the Brigade had ^{already} moved off
 from BALLYBUNION (10 am 4/8/16),
 I resolved to push on to HÖD-d-
 SAMARA from whence I could gain
 touch per heliograph with B.H.Q.
 Arrived @ SAMARA (200 ft or so) where
 I found detachment of 8th L.A. (well equipped
 party) concentrating on account of
 proximity of enemy patrols.

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4/8/16

Despatched helio. message to B.H.Q. & notified that I would push back east to Hôpital ARRAS, would arrive there @ 1430 (2.30pm) & establish visual connection with Bally Bordon via HILL 300 @ that hour precisely; (Arras would be nearer the Brigade's line of march) for orders. Anticipating a heavy continuation of the day work we ~~were~~ brushed, water & feedhouses & ~~from~~ a ham, some bottled potatoes & tea abandoned by the 8th L.H. party provided us with an excellent meal all under the "Shade of the ^{shutter} Palm". Precautions were observed, a mounted vidette.

15

4/8/16

Having ^{been} posted on a look out hill.

I arrived & established a visual station @ Hod-el-ARRAS @ 2.30 (1430)

but it was not until (1600) 4 pm

that I received a message ~~that~~

from "B.H.O. Detail's BALLYBUNION

~~that~~ to report to Brigades @ HILL

70 (3 miles W of DUEIDAR) or 5 miles

~~S.W.~~ ^{N.W.} of HILL 383) We picked up

Brigade travelling east between Hill

70 & DUEIDAR @ 1930 (7.30 pm) &

I reported to Brigades & rejoined

my regiment. (My small party

had now ridden 36 miles since

3.45 am) The Brigade moves on another

3 miles & bivouacs. (Total 39 miles)

16

H/8/16

Water was unobtainable for horses
the troops having only a small quantity left
in their waterbottles for themselves.

Saturday August 5th 1916

Reveille 0230 (2.30 am) The Brigade,
with which is attached the INVERNESS
BATTERY (Map. Tra. only) pushed
on to BIR-EN-NASS (6 miles due
east of DUEIDAR)

We were now on the caravan route
KANTARA - JERUSALEM, which is
undefined & impassable to any transport
^{but} ~~excepting~~ camels. ~~A dismantled telegraph~~
~~line to JERUSALEM~~ The Egyptian to
Jerusalem telegraph line (now dismantled)
runs along almost parallel with the

17

5. 8. 1916

caravan route.

The horses are watered from wells at Bir^{en} Nuss fed. The troops breakfast. From time of departure yesterday from now on our diet consists of "bully", biscuits & tea. Starting at 11.30 (am) the Brigade proceeded 4 miles due west to BIR NAGID, quitting the caravan route & telegraph line at Nuss. BIR NAGID is slightly over 4 miles + a few degrees east of south of KHATIB GANNIT. From a point midway between DUEIDAR + Nuss on a straight line to NAGID ^{west} the south arm enveloping the Turkish left. Our scouts were now

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5/8/1916

in buck with the enemy at the moment their extreme left flank were occupying positions about 1000 yards west of NAGID. The 9th regiment ~~was~~ supplied advance guards. The Turkish attack had pushed about 3 miles into the recess (previously described) ~~was~~ facing MT ROYSTON. It was outfanked owing to our mobility could not straggle itself. Our troops which had retired back on a line running north & south through MT ROYSTON had now assumed the offensive, were pressing the partly exhausted enemy hard, capturing about 1000

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5/8/1916

prisoners & a battery of light guns
 & some machine guns.

The enemy flank guard had established
 itself on ridges about 1 1/2 miles
 west of BIR NAGID. Our advance
 guard was pressing enemy protecting
 screen very closely & by a series
 of mounted rushes ~~that~~ ^{of their force} was successful
 in capturing about 200, before they
 could fall back upon their previously
 prepared positions. The 10th Regiment
 was holding itself ^{@ NAGID} ~~itself~~ in
 readiness to support the 9th.

Our push all round was now
 bearing fruit, the enemy were ~~being~~
 preparing to withdraw to their main

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5. 8. 1916

body to OGHRAFINIA had established a strong rearguard supported by the whole of their artillery, with the right flank resting on Hill 110 (sea coast) the centre lying east of ABU HAMRA through QATIA (or KATIA) the left between NAGID + BIR-el. HAMISAH reaching south through BIR ABU THEILA to BIR WASET. The mobile column, consisting of the 11th Light Horse + Imperial Camel Corps were ~~now~~ pushing ^{rapidly} up from EL FERDAN to take the enemy on the 4th line south. At 1530 (3.30pm) the 10th Regiment were called into action in co-operation with the 9th

- 21 -

5.8.1916

Our whole line was now attacking
Germany, N.Z. Zealanders, Light Horse
artillery supported by Territorials
pushing the enemy home. The Turks
had failed to destroy portion of the
rail road which fell into their hands
advantage was taken of this fact
to push forward an armoured train
~~which~~ ^{which} ~~was able to~~ ^{dashed} right into
the enemy lines ~~and~~ ^{using} its rifles and
machine guns very effectively. ~~The~~
~~mobile column was approaching rapidly~~
~~from the south~~. The enemy command
was now evidently viewing our
flank with apprehensions to relieve
the pressure he supported with all

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5. 8 1916

his available artillery (four 6^{inch} howitzers and two 13 pounder guns) they were soon subjecting the 10th Regt to concentrated H.E. & shrapnel, fortunately for us not too effectively. We were soon within several hundred yards of the enemy's main position from whence he made a determined stand. (4 pm) using his four machine guns with determination.

A large number of our men were under fire for the first time. Nevertheless their behaviour ~~was~~ was worthy of our greatest admiration. There was nothing to choose between them and the

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5.8.1916

veterans. The Turkish rifle & machine
gun fire was steady & accurate but
our men had become adepts at taking
advantage of any cover, in consequence
our casualties were not heavy.
Unfortunately Corporal Frost was
killed & Grooper, ^{C. Dyer} M/Gunner (since dead)
& several others wounded.
The 9th Regiment were not so fortunate
their losses were more extensive. Lieutenant
Palmer (9th) severely wounded (since dead).
① (Machine gun officer)

Cleaning casualties was an extremely
difficult problem. As light horsemen
were all not provided with stretchers

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5/8/1916

we had to rely solely upon ~~the~~
 light carts (provided with sand tyres) working
 upon along frontage to carry off our
 casualties. These carts can only carry
 two lying down patients & are unable to
 proceed faster than a walk. As on the
 present occasion the dressing station was
 @ NAGID a lot of time was wasted in
 conveying casualties there & then returning.
 I also consider that we had ^a insufficient
 number of doctors. Under the circumstances
 first aid men would have been of
 enormous value. Tremendous difficulty
 was encountered in extracting McQueen
 under fire. The poor chap was bleeding
 internally & I think an hour or ^{more} passed

25

3-8-16

before he obtained a doctor's attention
He was clean gut + although in pain
never lost heart. The conduct of our
men was admirable, every man
pushed on + seized points of vantage,
using their own initiative. It was no
joke lying on the burning sand +
to a manless sun with empty
water bottles, a parched tongue +
bleating lips well that was my
condition + the course of everyone else.
Our horseholders were not so lucky in
avoiding foes. Enemy machine guns
+ rifles gave them a little attention
knocking out a number of their charges
Frank was a number 3 on this occasion

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5. 8. 1916

stumbled into a hot shop. They executed
their horses splendidly, calmly & in
~~splendid~~ order.

Our own machine guns ~~to~~ were being
used with good effect & the enemy were suffering
in consequence of their ~~own~~ excellent
shooting. They were situated right in the
front line opposite to the enemy's snipers
& quick fires. Unfortunately our gun
crew suffered the loss of a number of
officers & men (including Lt Palmer ^{4th Regt} &
" Buckley ^{8th Regt})
At 4.30 we reinforced our right
flank with another machine gun
& thus were enabled to envelop the
enemy's first line. ~~Ten minutes later~~
~~the enemy displayed a white flag.~~

27.

5. 8. 1916.

The INVERNESS BATTERY was brought into action during the afternoon but after ~~the~~ they had fired several rounds ~~the~~ the 4 enemy howitzers & 2 field guns bombarded it out of action. At 4.40 pm the Turks displayed a white flag. Mounting two squadrons were galloped round their flanks & took possession of 2 German, 250 Turkish officers & men, 4 machine guns & 15 Camels. The Germans made an effort to dash away with the guns or camels but some of our men cut them off. This cleared up the situation on our front we returned to MAG 10

28

5. 8. 1916

with our captures. Prisoners taken during the day numbers between 500 + 600. There is no doubt the captures represented troops covering the main retirement. I certainly ^{think} we should have pushed on & forced them to make a battle. Only by doing so could ~~we make~~ a decisive blow be struck. We were certainly more mobile & should have used every ounce of our weight in breaking them up to make an opening into their central line of retreat. Orders have to be obeyed however. NAGID it was; ~~I must have~~ an order to withdraw

29

5. 8. 1966

arrived during the height of the encounter, but thank God I did not receive it until 5 pm when we had collected the prisoners. These were a magnificent body of men. Many had no boots, but this is no inconvenience to such hardy men in the soft sand, ~~and~~ otherwise they were magnificently equipped. Our fellows treated them well ~~it~~ did not appear to me that they were in any way down hearted or discomfited @ their misfortune. Water was not plentiful @ NAGID + some considerable time elapsed before we were able to

30

5 8 1916

quench the thirst of our animals
 We were not to rest however, for
 orders arrived to fall back on
 HOD el ENNA (the reasonings of the
 mighty are inexplicable) 3 miles
 NNW of NAGID. We marched after
 dusk ~~after~~ (it was a dark night)
 The guns were soon in difficulties
 in the heavy sand. After proceeding
 two miles in as many hours, the
 proposition was "turned up" ~~see below~~
 at ~~HOD~~ el ABIR ABU RAML.

So far the day's work had been
 satisfactory, but I consider that there
 existed a tendency on the ^{part of the} Command to
 hold us back. They were exercising too much

5/8/1916

careful hesitation. Our methods were giving the enemy time to select good positions for his rear guards (flank) + to dig in, enabling him to check us & locate his guns, conooy re from an impossible position.

Sunday August 6th 1916

Stand to arms 3:30 am. At daylight I descend into the Hob @ BIR Abu Rameh. The depression has about 50 date palms & a small Bedouin well & was until recently a German officers camp site. Their goods had been hurried & found many abandoned water carriers of fantasses (German Mor water

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Sunday 5. 8. 1916

tanks to fit upon camel pack saddle
had 2 padlocks) recent German
newspapers, many cigar boxes & HAIG
HAIG whisky bottles (empties)

Brigade moves (6 am) back to BIR -
NAGID. Advance guard (8th Regt) pushing
on to BIR-el-HAMISAH (4 miles east of NAGID)
take 1 prisoner & 2 machine guns.

At 1500 (3 pm) Brigade moves east
(10th Regt. advance guard) pass on left
(north side) of HAMISAH, proceeding in
direction several degrees north of east
& arrive without opposition @ HOD-ABU DHREM
(7 miles) & HOD GIRGAFFA (1/2 mile south).

The enemy had established 7 wells
supplied with pumps & wood in troughing

22

Sunday 6. 8. 1916.

Whilst in occupation some of our men unearthed bottles of light wine, saddles outfit supplies of small arm ammunition petrol etc, whilst on the surface were empty Haig & Haig Whisky wine bottles, cigar boxes, Keros. tins containing olives in oil & dried dates & empty fruit cans in profusion.

C. S. D. remained here whilst our advance guards pushed north east 2 miles to HÔP. es. SAGIA. The enemy had entrenched on ridge commanding the HÔP from the west & hot rifle & machine gun ^{fire} & sharpnel compelled our scouts who had entered among the palm groves to fall back under shelter.

24 Sunday 6-8/6

Dusk had now fallen various units
recused to consolidate for the night. My
request to storm the enemy positions ^{with the} @ ^{beyond}
midnight, endorsed by Colonel Todd was
"killed down" by the Brigadier. I felt
keenly disappointed as I anticipated
many prisoners + I am certain now that
if I had ~~had~~ the necessary permission ^{been given}
their battery of small guns (13 pieces)
would have fallen into our hands
prevented the reaction which they wrought
on the following day. The guns had
left a broad track in the sand. There
was a brilliant moon after midnight
+ my ^{Scheme} ~~arrangement~~ arranged for led
horses to follow close behind the

22 Sunday 6-8+6

stormers. The same old "British" methods were followed throughout "careful hesitation" (Hold onto my coat-tails while I hit him, the blackguard)

Establishing protection for the night were left in our hands ~~we~~ ~~had~~ orders from B HQ to anticipate a night attack from the now reinforced enemy.

Changing my horse I remained in the saddle all night personally reconnoitering the HOD - es - SAGIA - Dysentery? has

got a grip on me now (Cholera) I was not quite feeling up to "scratch".

During the horses were practically starving for want of water, nevertheless they were holding out magnificently.

26

Sunday 6-8. 1916

The work was fearfully heavy, feeds consisted of barley grain (whole) & was not relished, time was limited & facilities for watering were crude. But in spite of these disabilities they were showing splendid stamina. We were riding light but no doubt their good condition was a tribute to their riders.

Monday Aug 7th 1916

ANNIVERSARY of RUSSELLS TOP

All day back we (10th reg) were relieved by the 8th Regt who had orders to proceed through HOD. L.S. - SINGIA to occupy the high ground on the west. The enemy had moved their line of resistance about 1 mile ^{west} during the early hours of the morning, which

31 Monday 7-8 1916
allowed the 8th Reg to occupy the
position indicated without opposition.
They held the line throughout the day
but not without trouble. Enemy
rifles & guns had picked up their ranges
poured in a steady fire, causing
several casualties among the troops
& killing a number of horses. The
9th & 10th regiments fell back on
DAREM & GIRGAFFA to water feed horses
draw rations and replenish ammuni-
tion supplies. I am kept busy
throughout the day, establishing mes-
sage stations & reorganising. The 9th relieve the
8th ^{at} dusk. I lay down at
midnight in spite of the C.O.'s

38

Monday 7-8 1916

hefty snowing deep snows etc

Tuesday August 8th 1916

3 am when we saddle up
to stand to arms.

In addition to the artillery ~~used~~
~~by the enemy~~ described on foregoing
pages the enemy ^{are} ~~were~~ armed with
a number of very effective high explosive
anti-aircraft guns, whereas I have
never seen these latter used by our
forces either here, ~~at~~ the CAMP
or @ ANZAC ~~at~~ SÜVLA Bay - why!
with the exception of machine guns
(enemy planes fly out of range) & a few
old bone-shakers aeroplanes
we have nothing to oppose ^{enemy} them:
machines

39 Tuesday 8-8-1916

It is an established fact that the
Turco-Germans have the command
of the air here. True, our aeroplanes
are obsolete, ^{slow} in many cases unnamed
machines are doing scout, but they
are easily outmanoeuvred by the
fast TRUBES. ^{retire} ~~the~~ aeroplanes near the
stomach just, ^{when} show, they please.

Before daylight 10th Regiment
move through HOD-LS-SAGIA
to occupy positions vacated by the
8th Regt last night. Pushing
forward we find enemy had retired
east during the ~~night~~ early
~~morning~~ morning.

~~39~~ 40

June 8th 8 9/16

General advance, 10th Regt providing
advance guards. Going very rough
we traverse immense dunes of
soft deep sand. We proceed
without opposition about 10 miles
(8 miles across line) North east to
HOD el HASSANIYA passing HODS-
BAHEIRA & HAMMAN en route. Scouts
find abandoned medical stores, ammunition
in one place many Australian badges.
We gain back on our left (south)
with 11th Regt which is portion
of the Mobile column from EL FERDAN
north which is incorporated the
IMPERIAL CAMEL CORPS. Scouts find
Yomanry & Gurkha Corps spears

41 Tues 8/8/1916

up wounded Turk.

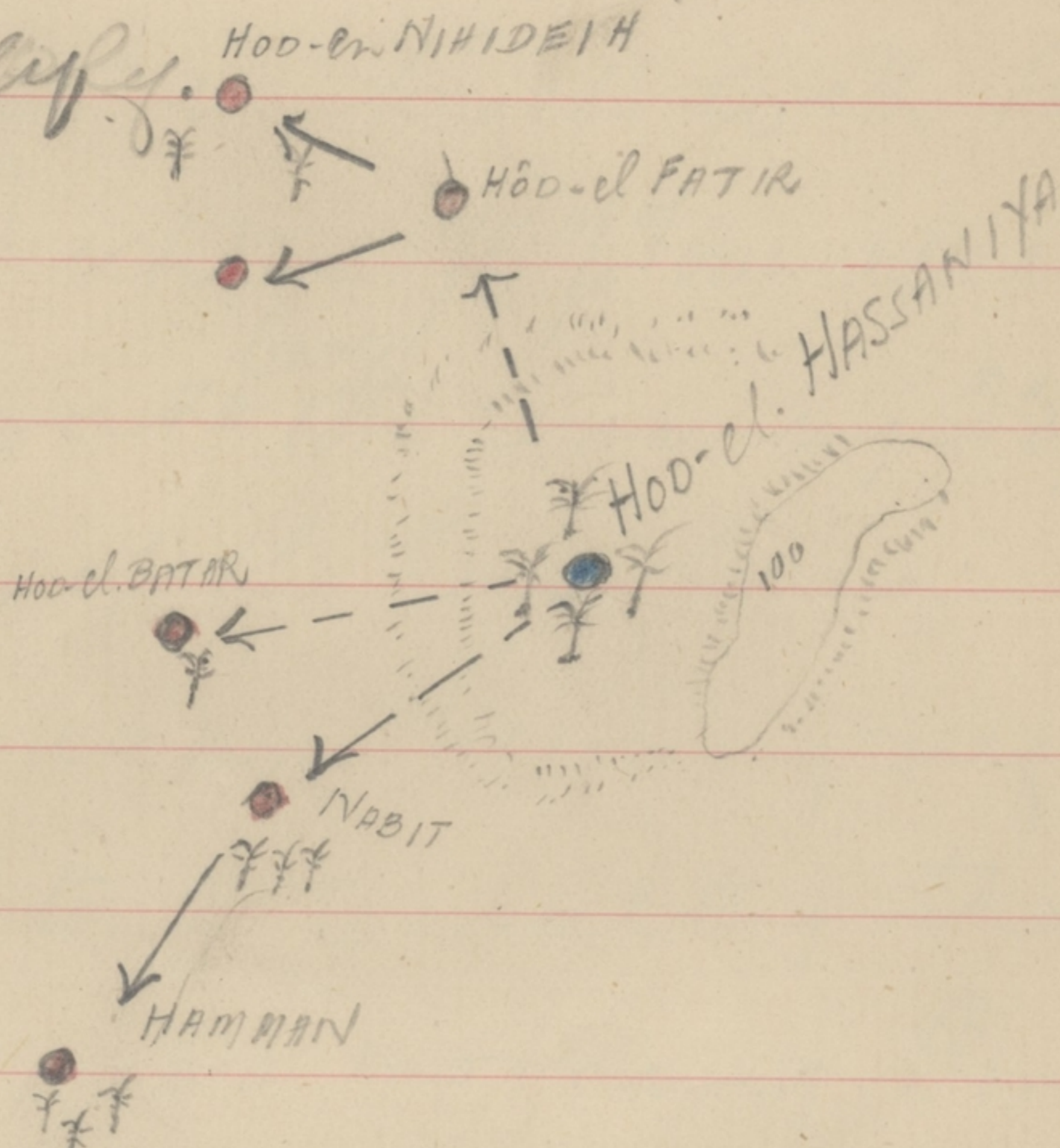
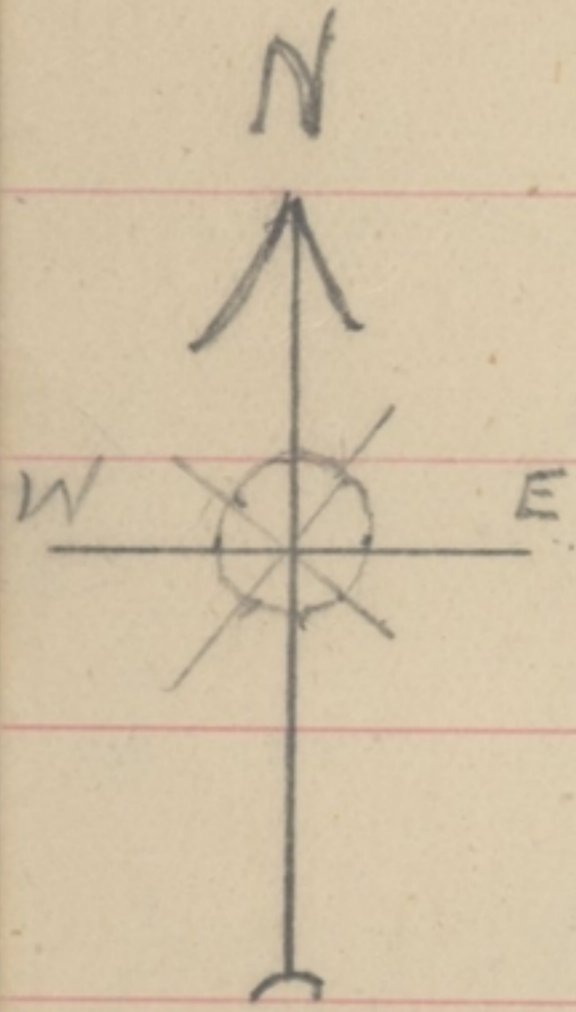
HASSANIYA is the usual palm grove situated between steep sand dunes.

It was provided with a small Bedouin well with good supply of fresh water. One small well however is very small provision for ~~2~~ 400 odd thirsty men & horses so it was long past midnight when the last horse's thirst was assuaged. B.N.O. remained behind at HÔD el HILLALI, (they understood they were at BAHEIR until we acquainted them of their whereabouts.) + sent us instructions to set light upon an outpost. We sent patrols to the following places to report on

H 2

Tues 8/8/1916

water supply.



Direction of patrols → or - - - →

SCALE 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 MILE 2 MILES

R.F. $\frac{1}{50000}$ (1 inch = 16.79 miles)

WELLS { Good water ●
 { Bad water ●
 (brackish)

After dusk I established a strong ring of outposts owing information enemy strongly entrenched on line of HODS from Hम्मOSIA to ABO

43

Tues 8/8/1916

~~we were almost~~
This necessitated after falling back
on the wells, which is a dangerous
custom in this benighted country
where the supply is open to all &
sundry, including as it does diseased
natives Bedouin, Arabs, & last not
least pariah dogs. ^{Will Knowlton & Gordon the merchant}
Father Goodman & myself joining forces
bought the belly, maketh the tea & have
breakfast. Shortly after we move
forward with the Brigade to HOD -
HASSANIEIN. 1 1/2 miles due east of
HASSANIYA. Occupy position about 500
yards west. The 8th regt advance guard
with the supported by the 9th regt

43

Tues 8/8/1916

we are almost in touch with their outposts. I utilize 75% of our effectives for outpost work ^{leave} & the remaining 25% to be in charge of the horse lines.

My trouble is now becoming very severe & I intend consulting the M.O. tomorrow morning. Remain in saddle inspecting outposts until early morning.

~~Stand 4~~

Wednesday August 9th 1916.

Stand to arms 3 am. Guard on horse saddle up their own horses & relieve outposts (mounted). ^{who} Later saddle up & stand to arms. Regiment withdraws from HQ at daybreak, meets Convoy.

44

Wed 9/8/1916

of camels, fill water bottles from fantassies (brought from Base) draw rations, feed horses & snatch some breakfast.

The authorities are very dubious about the purity of water in the wells for which later on they had good cause to be

Our instructions were to use it only as a last extremity. Thousands of camels were being used to carry water from the base, water that had previously been filtered. The effectiveness of the water supply per camel was one of the features of the campaign. Unfortunately however owing to the rapidity of our movements it was impossible to supply

V
Disposition of our
troops.

1st Bde on left.
2nd Bde & N30 centre
3rd . . . on right
Mobile Column
sweeping southward.

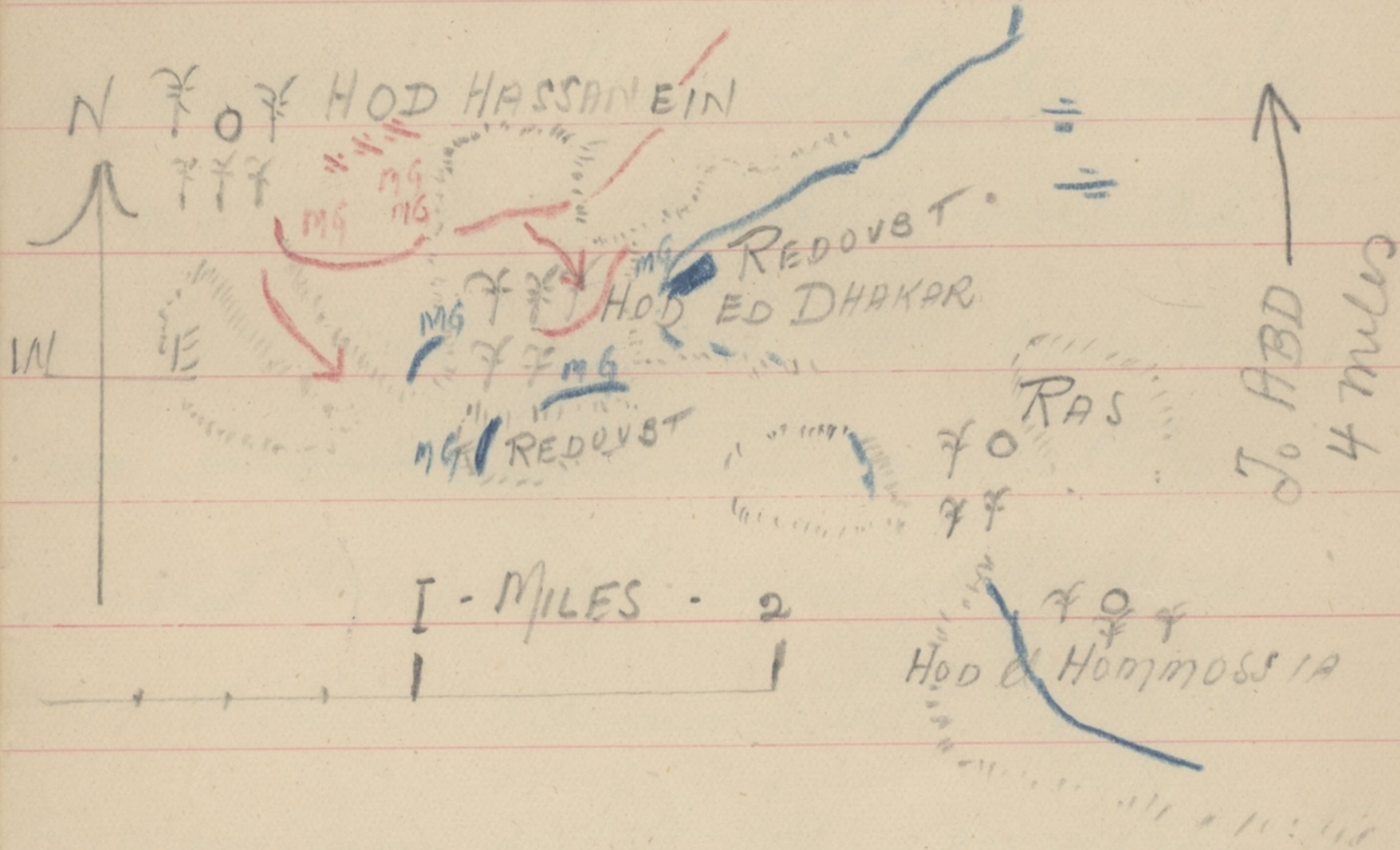
45 Wed 9/8/1916

advanced troops except intervals.
This necessitated often falling back
on the wells, which is a dangerous
custom in this benighted country
where the supply is open to all &
sundry, including as it does diseased
natives, Bedouin, Durbars, & last not
least pariah dogs. ^{Will know in 1/2 hr. the morning}
Father Goodman & myself joining forces
bought the belly, maktah, the tea share
breakfast. Shortly after we moved
forward with the troops to H20 -
HASSANEIN. 1/2 mile due east of
HASSANIYA. Occupy position about 500
yards west. The 8th regt advance guard
with the support of the 9th regt

46

Nov 9-8 1966

locate the enemy who have strongly entrenched ~~between~~ at HOD-ED DHAKAR Ras and HOD el HOMOSSIA as under:-



Turkish defences

- m. guns MG
- guns

BRITISH ATTACK

- B.M guns MG
- guns

In trying to press forward see right red arrow mark the 8th Regt ^{right} are severely handled. On the right ^{flank} of

47

Wed 9 8 1916

The advance enemy display white flag
 Lieut Robertson (9th Regt) standing upright
 was shot dead. - The enemy captured ~~some~~
 of ~~a~~ wounded 8th sqt Lieut who unable
 to walk, leaving the badly wounded to
 be picked up by our own ambulances -

~~The heavy~~ ^{Numerous} casualties occurred
 amongst the 8th sqt regiment in both
 men & horses occasioned both by rifle
 machine gun & shell fire, necessitating the
 presence of the 3rd Field Ambulance unit
 in the firing line.

The INVERNESS BATTERY vigorously
 bombarded the enemy position. Major
 Fraser observed for his battery from
 an elevated forward position, connected

48

Wed 9/8/1916

up with the battery by field telephone

Capt Opens directed operations @

the ferry point. I sent 4 men

from the regiment to assist the

gunners. - ~~Shortly afterwards the~~

Shortly after midday the Brigadier

was in conversation with Colonel

Todd when I overheard the words

'we will let Kidd have the job.'

I knew then that I was in for some

job, strangely, however I received no orders

either in connection with the present

operations or in connection with any of

the foregoing events. Apparently they

depended upon powers of second sight

(intuition) to assist me in anticipating their desires.

49

Wed 9. 8. 1916

Late in the afternoon I suggested to my
CO. that I should run across ^{to the}
front line to gain an appreciation of
the situation & to provide myself with
all information possible in case of
an emergency. He concurred. Taking
budd with me I examined the line
shown in red on page of this
diary. I condemned part of the
situation held by troops of the 8th & 9th
regiments. That is the centre ~~line~~, which
was in a basin with very little
protection ^{and} which was being swept by
fire from the enemy entrenched on
much higher ground. As the present
intention was to remain on the defensive

53

Wed Aug 9th 1916

Machine gun ^{single} ~~our~~ rendered
invaluable assistance during the
manoeuvre & gave me the support of his
guns during the for the following
night. The position was not a good
one & I only completed organizing
the defence of the position @ 9 p.m.
Major Greenwood reported with his
Squadron @ 9.30 p.m. I placed
them in the position to support B
Squadron. ~~I reported to my~~
Capt McDonald with 2 ~~troops~~
A Squadron less 2 troops reported
@ 10 p.m. I posted them on the
right flank in support of 2
machine guns - I reported to

54

1600 9 Aug 1916

machine gun Squadron rendered
invaluable assistance during the
manoeuvre & gave me the support of his
guns during the for the following
night. The position was not a good
one & I only completed organizing
the defence of the position @ 9 p.m.
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55.

Wed 9 Aug 1916

The CO @ HASSANIEN ~~was~~ ~~gone~~
~~has~~ ~~gone~~ The Comdg officer
@ HASSANIEN @ 1.30 am

on ~~to~~ Aug
Thursday ~~Sept~~ 10th 1916.

I gave him an outline of
the position + applied for orders.
Received instructions to send

out a patrol @ daylight to ascertain
if the enemy ^{was} still in occupation of the redoubt
position ~~of the~~ ^{of my} positions

~~troop~~ furnished with the balance of 17 Pzdn
(2 troops)

under Major O'Brien. I was given
practically carte blanche in the
matter, ~~to do as I pleased~~

~~to do as I pleased~~. using my own discretion

Lay down to rest @ 1.45 am was

56

~~Wed 9th~~ 10 Aug '16

back with the Paddle @ 2.30 am.

Moved off @ 2.45 am intending
to pick up the outposts &
remain with them until dawn.
It must be ~~not~~ understood that
I had a small body of troops to
hold a rather extensive front. The
right flank of the Brigade on our left rear
was distant about 4 miles. The
~~my~~ Mobile Column was somewhere
about 8 miles South West. To
maintain thorough control of my force
in the event of a night attack.
I ^{had} posted one outpost with orders to
scratch themselves in the sand. with 2
strong Cosack posts to protect the

57 Thurs 10 ~~Sept~~ Aug 16

flanks. Supports to protect the rear.

We marched 2 degrees South of East unfortunately passing between the right of the main outpost position and the right Cossack post. We were plainly discernible to the sentries who were lying down in clumps of scrub, invisible to any of my party. We were allowed to pass through without a challenge. This confirms the necessity for challenging all parties whether coming from front or rear. All commanders of units should thoroughly impress this on their commands. - However soon after passing through the lines of sentries I extended the small force as a precautionary measure.

58 Thursday 18-8-1916

Away @ a ridge ~~which I did~~
the features of which I did not
recognise I called a halt &
rode forward towards two figures
on horses. When within ten yards
or so of them I realised they
were Turkish Bedettes, called
upon them to halt & rushed them.
They were too smart however, wheeled
about & galloped off. Directly they were
off the redoubt, which I discovered
was only about forty yards ^{distance} away
opened fire with both rifles &
machine guns. This was followed
by an enfilade fire from both
flanks in which machine

59 Thurs 10th / 8 / 16

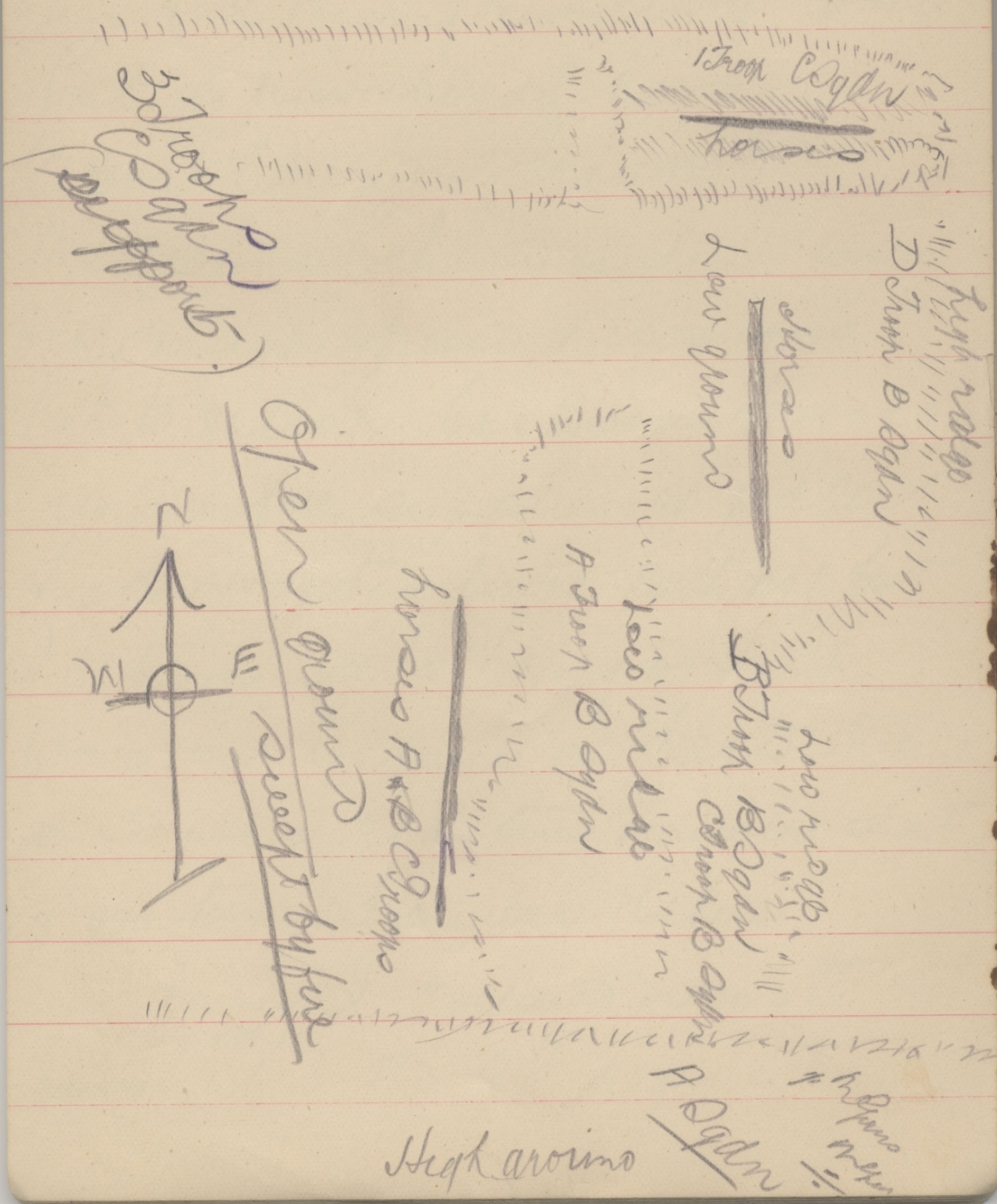
guns were used. Our object - viz: -
to ascertain if the reports of
adjoining works were occupied
by the enemy was achieved.
We retired without casualties to
a healthier locality. My last
orders ^{received} were to the effect that we
were not to assume the offensive
my force was inadequate for
storming a position I therefore
returned to the outpost position.
arriving there just before dawn
on

#

~~Friday 11th August 1916~~
Pending instructions to the contrary
I resolved to hold on to our

Thurs 10th
~~Friday~~ August 1916

present until relieved. The position
was now thus: —



~~Thursday~~ ^{Friday} of Aug 1944

Throughout the very hot day we
were subjected to rifle & machine
gun fire owing to scanty cover
lost a number of horses
(about including Frank's)
The ground behind our line was
very much exposed, messengers
had to gallop backward & forward
under fire, supplies of fodder
& water were cut off, but
I determined to hang on. It
was an inferno of heat the
sand was roasting & we were short
of water. However before
sundown I received orders to
~~retire~~ ^{fall back} when the 9th regiment

~~Thursday~~ ^{Friday} 19th Aug 1916
(relieving) had occupied the heights
in rear of the open ground. I
decided to withdraw quietly under
cover of darkness. Felt
pretty ill throughout the day
& on top of it all ~~even~~ had a
fit of vomiting. Returned to
HASANIYA, arrived there 2100.

Friday 20th Aug 1916
Had a bad night some
arriving HASANIYA. Adjutant
supervised protection of
position. Forced to blanket
down. Woke 0300. A cup
of Borul sipped for
breakfast. Saddle up

~~Saturday 11th Aug 1916~~
Friday 11th Aug 1916
Brigadier (B. Genl. Antill)
receives orders to personally
proceed to France no transfer
to a brigade operating there.
He leaves today early.

~~Pass~~ Whilst assembled
near Hasanen we witness
a Turbo German Gotha out-
manoeuvre one of our
reconnaissance planes
after suspecting it to be
shot fusillade from his
m. gun bring our machine
quickly to earth. Result
Observer killed + pilot

Friday 11th Aug '16

Dangbroudy wounded. Our
plane was a slow machine
+ unarmed.

@ 1400 we receive orders to
move south to Had-el Bayud
(4 Miles S.S.E) to support
Mobile Column engaged in
~~that~~ vicinity. (Mobile Column
= IMP. CAMEL CORPS + 11th A.L.H.)

After proceeding 1 mile
receive helio. message from
Mobile Column "Enemy
dispersed, retreating fast"
Return to HASAN EIM Browne

Saturday 12 Aug 1916

Colonel Royston assumes
command of the Brigade. viz
Br. Genl Antill

Reming @ 0300 we move
off @ 0430 to cooperate
with Mobile Column on
Hod-el-Bayud frontage.
We connect with Mobile
Column @ 1100 after proceeding
2 miles. Messags received
from B.H.Q. @ 1130
(Homosco Station) that
enemy had vacated all
positions the previous
night ordered us to assemble
@ Hod-el-DHAKAR.

Saturday 12th Aug 16
Passing thro' a small
creek had named RAS.
Commenced to vomit violently
& felt incapable of proceeding
further. Sent message
to C.O. stating my position
& struggled back to
HASANEIN reporting to 3rd
L.H. Field Ambulance. Am
relieved of clothing. Eject
all stimulants & medicine
receive injections of
morphine & sent along to
OCHRATINA in a sprung
cot ambulance with
band types; Receive

Saturday 12th Aug 16.
Recieve more morphine
visited by D.A.A. G. Anya
Devaon (mapo: Jarr)
told was mentioned in
despatches / Guesed
things must be serious
Friends said goodbye
@ Hasanen but from
outside door of tent -
Parson was anxious to
"say a few words". Got rid
of him by saying would see
him in the morning
~~Doed up in the morning~~
~~with more morphine injected~~
~~packed off to~~

Saturday Aug 12th 1916
Receive further injection
of morphia placed in
ambulance cart in case
of medical officer, packed
off to Kilo 47 where I
arrive unconscious
I am operated upon for
Cholera @ the 1st General
Field Ambulance ^(1st Gen. Amb. Co.). Two incisions
were made in left arm
the veins opened + 4 pints
of saline injected by
gravitation. Was conscious
throughout operation &
recollect everything
perfectly. This was

followed on several days
by ~~as a~~ similar treatment
12 pints of similar
solution pumped into the
~~system~~ ^{system} for medium of the
bowels.

Between this day + ~~the~~
Thursday August 17th
remains ~~rather~~ a blank
Had ~~rather~~ rather a rotten
time of it + today feel
weary but cheerful however
Captain Taylor M.D. has
been specially attentive
+ as I looked up to the
mark he gave me the
information that it a case

77
Sunday 20 Aug 1916
my scale operations has
been visibly increased &
in consequence have grown
somewhat stronger. Am
allowed porridge, arrowroot
Oxo & a little bread, but
no tea or coffee.

Colonel Robertson # D.M.S
called & congratulated me
on my wonderful recovery
He stated I was the worst
case that they had to deal
with. The last to arrive the
first to recover. He said
it was a feather in the
cap for the pt L. J. F. B.

Sunday 20th Aug 1916
Visited by Colonel Martin
D.M.S (Professor of
Bacteriology)

Monday 21 Aug 1916
During the early stages of
my illness Colonel Robertson
informed me that Cpl Pearce
& Pl Moulton were

in an adjoining T.A.
suffering from Cholera. It
was not until ^{later} ~~what~~ was on the
safe road to recovery that I
was told that Moulton had
died, & that three others viz
today

had died

Monday 21st Aug 1916
on the road to the hospital
There are many more
patients who suffer only
from a slight attack, these
latter will undergo a period
of isolation. They have
burned Moator several
hundred yards from my
tent.

I am now getting along
famously have a bath
each morning from a
small basin + sponge

Tuesday 22nd Aug 1916
I am now practically on
a full diet. (Canned Chicken
bread butter, tea, stew
porridge + milk + stout)
All my wearing apparel
uniform has been
burned + I am strictly
in quarantine. We are
situated @ K14047 on
the KANTARAH - BIR el- ABD
new railway (strategical)
about 4 1/2 miles South
of MAHAMDIYA GERHA
which is situated on the
TINABAY Coast. My tent
flap faces north although

Tuesday 22nd Aug 1944

my view is restricted to
a desolate sand ridge
I receive the benefit of an
almost continuous sea breeze
I am not permitted to
send away any correspondence
Frank is en route to Regimental
Headquarters, situated @
FATIR colled. He released
the information that Major
Olden had left the Regt.
Capt Imperley assumes
command of A Sqdn only
Olden. No letters received
since Aug 30?

Wednesday 23rd AUG 1916

Report of blood analysis
shows trace of Cholera bacilli

FRIDAY 25th AUG 1916

Rations increased. Steves
apples added to diet

Sunday 27th AUG 1916

Abu Hamra isolation tent
Specimen of excreta forwarded
to base for analysis today

Capt Taylor presents me
with 6 Cheroot - Chicken,
bacon, stewed apples, bread
& butter, tea, a bottle of stout
followed by cigars

ECSTASY - bed -

The howls from pariah

Sunday 27 Aug 1916
dogs roaming @ Laras are
an abominable nuisance @ night.
I am in the habit of always
having my Wadley loaded
& ready to hand. Nevertheless
I have so far been unable
to secure a shot.

Monday 28th Aug 1916
Abu Hamra - Isolation.
The railway, now in course of
construction from KANTARA
(Suez Canal) running eastward has
for its aim, not only protection
to the Canal, but a far reaching
strategical & political one no
doubt. The line will in a very

Monday 28th Aug 1916
short period reach Bir-el-ABD
I am convinced that it will
be pushed on to EL ARISH
on the western side of the
Turkish - Egyptian frontier
line. - EL ARISH is now
held by the Turks, who have
also established a strong
protective post @ MAZAR
about 24 miles west. ARISH
is being utilised by the
enemy as a base of
operations against the northern
zone of the SUEZ CANAL.
It appears quite obvious
that our new line will

Monday 28th Aug 1916
ultimately link with the
BAGDAD ~~Asiatic~~ Turkish
railway
system to divert trade from
PALESTINE & the far east through
Egypt. It seems a far cry
but I understand the scheme
was originally promoted by
Lord Cromer during his tenure
of office in Egypt, ~~but~~ ^{however} the
opposition put forth by
our then friends the Turks
was sufficient to prevent
the project being carried into
effect. The line now under
construction throughout its
length from ROMANI eastward

Monday 28th Aug 1916

runs close to & almost parallel
~~to~~^{with} the sea coast. This will also
apply to its continuation as
far as EL-ARISH. It is well
therefore be under the
protection of fire from
our Naval guns.

Lt Rodsted left tonight
whilst passing, letters
from Bob Kubb & Philad &
my existence is now becoming
wearily monotonous. True
Capt Taylor very kindly
passes on his English
papers to me. But these are
soon read, then I have nothing

Monday 28th Aug 1916
to occupy my mind. Perforce
I have to fwood to my thumbs

Tuesday 29th Aug 1916

Abu Hamra (Kilo 47)

Enemy plane dropped 2
(two) bombs along side Lowland
Field Ambulance tent @

0630 - 2 natives (Egyptian
Labo. Corps killed)

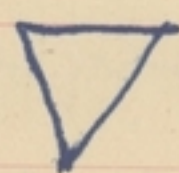
News received that ROMANIA
has thrown in her lot with
the Allies.

Negative result from
specimen & creta submitted
for analysis

Wednesday 30th Aug 1916
0100 (1AM) Anniversary of
the Turks glorious charge
at HILL 60 (KALAJIK AGHALA -
Gallipoli) — Regiment
wins 1 V.C 3 D.C.M.s &
few despatches.

Official news - Roumania declares
war on Austria. Germany
declared war against Roumania
Roumania already attacking
Austria - British troops
to be THEIPVAL (FRANCE) by
steam. THEIPVAL is a strong
German post threatening
our left flank.

Lieut Williams called today



Wednesday 30th Aug 1916
The weary Resolation of
my present Confinement in
isolation ~~is~~ beginning to
fall.

Thursday Aug 31st 1916

Abu Hamra isolation

Roumania declares war
upon Turkey

Friday 1st Sept 1916

1 British + 2 enemy aeroplanes
exchange shot whilst over-
head at daybreak. Our
old "bone shaker" is too
slow, nothing eventuates.

143 ft
2
= 512" 6 ft
= 512" 6 ft
A.A. B.V.H.
✓
10 ft

*8
1
CP to 190 from 108
~~108~~
~~108~~

18 months
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To 30th General Hospital
PORT SAID per medium
of war steamer.

[Handwritten signature]

