

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

Formation Headquarters

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**Title:** Intelligence Summaries, General  
Headquarters, Egyptian  
Expeditionary Force

March 1916



AWM4-1/9/1PART3

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24th March  
.....1916.

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Please note and return  
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CONFIDENTIAL.

No 52.

I N T E L L I G E N C E      S U M M A R Y .

24th March 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN THE BALKANS.
  2. PRESS EXTRACTS ON THE SAME.
-

1. SITUATION IN THE BALKANS.

Contrary to expectation it appears that the demands made by the Central Powers on Roumania were moderate. Information from Bucharest confirms the impression that the Germans were determined to gain a decisive victory at VERDUN, and allowed Roumania to understand that the result of such a success as they anticipated would be to render any Allied operations later in the year impossible, either in France or the Balkans. The interventionist party in Roumania also believe that the Central Powers were surprised at the attitude of the Roumanian Government in adopting so firm a policy, and were not prepared to face the risk of 600,000 Roumanian troops being thrown into the scale against them.

The failure of the Germans and the steady pressure of Russian troops on the Austrian positions in Galicia are having their effect. The Roumanian Government however free they may feel from the danger of the menace of the Central Powers will at any rate delay taking any part in the war until the Russian offensive is well advanced.

The success of General Ivanoff and the Russian Southern Army continues. By forcing the Austrians back across the Dniester and occupying the high ground at ZALESZCZYKI the enemy positions commanding CZERNOWITZ, 28 miles to the South, are rendered still more insecure. At this time of year the snow though thawing is still lying deep in all the Carpathian passes. The Germans have assisted the Austrians in improving their communications,

but it is more than doubtful whether the Austrians can rely on any further support of German troops. The Russians will encounter a series of strong positions before the line of the Pruth can be gained.

According to recent intelligence the efficiency of the Austrian troops has suffered as a result of a winter spent in trenches amidst most severe weather conditions. The Roumanian and Russian Governments are now in close accord, and the concentration of Russian troops in Bessarabia will be the most satisfactory reply to the threat of Bulgarian and German troops on the Danube.

The Bulgarian Government have expressed no desire to attack Roumania, and the Central Powers appear to recognise that it is by diplomatic rather than military methods that Roumania can be induced to maintain her present attitude.

Greece is understood to be on the verge of bankruptcy, and having failed to get help from the Central Powers she is now trying to raise a loan from the Entente.

The Government have proposed to alter the positions of the Greek troops in Thrace on the plea of assisting the Allies. The position of the present Government in Athens is most unstable and the Venezelist party are urging the immediate demobilisation of the Army and a complete understanding with the Allies which would result in a solution of most of the difficulties.

Bulgaria has now called up the remainder of the 1916 class, and continues to permit men of over 45 to return to their farms. Under German supervision the Serbian prisoners are being employed in sowing crops both in Serbia and Bulgaria. The German are reported to be showing the Serbian peasants every consideration being anxious at all costs to get as much produce from

their occupied territories as possible. With characteristic thoroughness the latest agricultural machinery has been sent from Germany and the peasants provided with transport facilities on the net-work of railways that have been made. Only paper money is in circulation. This is but one of the many instances that show the anxiety of the Germans to retain their hold on occupied territory both in Poland, Belgium and the Balkans by impressing upon the civilian population the equally efficient character of the civil administration as of the military organisation. The methods employed by the officials and the hide bound regulations that form part of the system cause great individual discontent in the Government Departments of these new German territories. The people tired of war and dreading a second campaign over their soil may welcome a system of Government that would be an improvement upon what they previously were accustomed to and which would save them from the horrors of war. This is part of the German scheme for weakening the offensive campaign of the Allies, and for retaining under their control the results of their victories.

2. PRESS EXTRACTS ON THE SITUATION IN THE BALKANS.

The special correspondent of the "BERLINER TAGEBLATT" in Athens forwards an account of an interview with the Greek Prime Minister in his paper.

From it we may learn that M. SKOULOUDIS is of opinion that the Greek nation has behaved like heroes, and that the Allied occupation of Salonika is a positive nightmare to all Hellenes. "We hope and trust" declared the Prime Minister, "that Germany will insist that Bulgaria shall never violate Greek integrity. Otherwise troubles

might arise. But in any case the world will never see us departing from neutrality, whatever may arise!:-

(Note:- The telegraphic summary of the above interview as published in Berlin reported M. SKOULODIS was of opinion that he would sooner see the Bulgarians in Greece than the Allies.

Extracts from censored telegrams.

Journal du Caire.

Servian Legation in Athens denies that there are negotiations for a Serbo-Bulgarian peace.

At AHRAM.

In the GEVGELI sector French and German patrols are in constant contact.

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..... INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FILE .....

25th March  
 .....1916.

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Please note and return to T(a).



CONFIDENTIAL.

No 53.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

25th March 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION UP TO MARCH 6th.
  2. NEWS FROM TURKEY.
  3. AIR RAID ON HASSANA BY R.F.C.
  4. EXTRACT FROM A CENSORED CABLE.
-

1. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION UP TO MARCH 6th.

CHINA:- On February 23rd Yuan Shih Kai issued a mandate postponing his enthronement. Until he can recapture SUIFU or obtain some definite success against the rebels of the South his position is not very assured.

DENMARK:- A Scandinavian conference was to have been held in Copenhagen on March 8th.

EGYPT:- Ali Dinar the Sultan of Darfur has proclaimed a Holy War and has announced that he intends to invade the Sudan as soon as he is in a position to do so.

(G.H.Q. note:- This was part and parcel of the Senussi's scheme of an invasion of Egypt and was to have taken place simultaneously with the defeat of the Senussi. Ali Dinar may possibly now be <sup>thinking</sup> over the matter.)

ITALY:- There were 37 German ships interned in Italian ports of which 5 for various reasons were of no use.

PERSIA:- The Russian victories have steadied the situation. Count Kanitz committed suicide when the Russians entered Kermanshah and Capt. Killander of the gendarmerie had to pay £ 1200 for a passage for himself and his men. The Bakhtiari Govern<sup>or</sup> of Isfahan who had sold himself to the Germans has resigned and left for the South. Nizam es Sultanch (a former Governor of Luristan) who was raising a force in West Persia in German interest, is now on the point of deserting the Germans altogether.

The Germans are now pretty well cut off from Turkey but trade is at a standstill.

It is probable that Sir Percy Sykes will organise an

irregular force under British Officers to hunt the Germans down.

PORTUGAL. The Governor General of Portuguese East Africa contemplates the possibility of invading German East Africa.

SWEDEN:- Efforts are being made to establish a central distributing agency in Sweden with power to control imports and prohibit re-export. The Prime Minister has practically agreed to the scheme.

SWITZERLAND:- The court-martial on Colonels Egli and Wattenwyl was concluded on February 29th. The court found that the conduct of the accused in <sup>communicating</sup> the Swiss Intelligence Bulletin to the German and Austrian attachés was unproper but not criminal. The court therefore acquitted them but sent them before the military chiefs for disposal. They were then sentenced to 20 days rigorous arrest and placed on retired list.

UNITED STATES:- The President has taken a strong line against German intrigues in the belief that he has the support of the country which will not tolerate bargaining for the German vote. He is annoyed at the way Bernstorff is intriguing against him.

2. NEWS FROM TURKEY.

The AIDAN railway is said to be working under great difficulties with a train for civil requirements every twenty days; but it is stated that coal is expected from Europe.

ENVER PASHA. It is impossible to find out at Constantinople what has happened to Enver. No one can say for certain whether he is wounded or dead, or his present whereabouts.

G.H.Q. NOTE:- From fairly reliable sources it is learnt that Enver Pasha arrived at TRIPOLI about 5 p.m. three days

ago (i.e. on 22nd inst) on his way from HOMS. A great reception was to have been held in his honour the day before yesterday at the House of the Military Commandant.

GENERAL POSITION. There is no talk of peace at Constantinople and no probability of a revolution in Turkey.

In the army the men are unquestionably against the existing Government chiefly on account of the bad food and treatment, but the feelings of the Officers are uncertain.

The public have heard the news of the fall of Erzerum, but the papers have not referred to it. General opinion still appears to have confidence in the final victory of Germany.

COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY. Trains from Berlin arrive at Constantinople on three days each week, there being several trains on each occasion. Each train brings trucks of ammunition.

FINANCE. A report dated Constantinople 24th February states that Turkish paper money has depreciated 18%: £ T. 1 note is now worth 82 piastres.

Another source states the rate of exchange for £ T. 1 gold is £ T. 1 note and 20 piastres.

CENSORSHIP. The Censor has prohibited the publication of speeches made in the Chamber.

3. AIR RAID ON HASSANA BY R.F.C.

A raid on HASSANA was carried out yesterday morning by 6 R.F.C. aeroplanes. Many bombs were dropped with effect and all the machines returned safely. Further details will be given tomorrow.-----

4. EXTRACT FROM A CENSORED CABLE.

A censored press cable states that French and German troops are in close contact on the Macedonian frontier. The Germans seem apparently to expect an Allied offensive as they are bringing up siege and heavy guns from Nish. A Bulgarian Regiment on the Roumanian frontier at LOM PALANKA is reported to have mutinied.

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S E C R E T .

C A I R O .

23rd March, 1916.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
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T U R K E Y .

General Intelligence.

M E S O P O T A M I A .

Extracts from I. E. F. Intelligence Summary.

P E R S I A .

French Foreign Office Communique.

S Y R I A .

Extracts from BEIRUT Newspapers.  
  
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M E S O P O T A M I A .

Extracts from I. E. F. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 28th Feb.

**EUPHRATES LINE:-** The tribes in the vicinity of NASIRIYAH have recently been somewhat hostile in their attitude and the G. O. C. wires that on the 22nd instant he sent a small column of all arms against a tribal gathering on the SHATTRAH Road 4 miles from NASIRIYAH. The enemy fled suffering severely. We had no casualties.

One of Captain Eadie's Scouts confirms the report of Husud ibn Suwait having got the worst of the recent encounter with the Ajman near SHAGRA. Husud ibn Suwait has now been joined by some of the Beduz under their Sheikh Shurshub. (This is a Pro-British tribe whose habitat is some 15 miles upstream of NASIRIYAH).

**TIGRIS LINE. :-** Sheikh Mahid-el-Khalifah ( who lives at village of MAJAR KABIR and has lately been visiting the Sheikh of MOHAMMERAH) states to C. P. O. that it is not practicable for any Turkish Force from the HAI to reach the TIGRIS through his Muqata and that he undertakes absolutely to prevent any Turkish approach.

He could raise 6,000 men. The C. P. O is of opinion that allowing for exaggeration he appears straightforward.

Two or Three reports have now been received that the BAGDAD boat bridge over the Tigris (which was brought down to CTESIPHON and is now at SHUMRAN) has been replaced at BAGDAD.

This is only what might be expected, the pontoons on which it is carried do not take long to build. The QARAR is reported to still exist: it was standing at the time of CTESIPHON and has doubtless remained so ever since.

An Agent lately from BAGDAD reports much talk in BAGDAD of the Russian in the CAUCASUS. They are much feared in BAGDAD.

Weather at WADI reported fine and appreciably warmer. An echelon encamped one mile North of QURNAH lately dug up a Turkish mountain gun, breach block missing. Probably buried there at the time of our capture of QURNAH. Recent BAGHDAD news (2nd February) says that the price of Bread has lately risen and there is a great shortage of cotton goods, tea, coffee and sugar. Meat is expensive.

The rise in the price of bread is ascribed to the seizure of caravan camels. Flour has, we ~~known~~ know, been cheap there up to date by reason of stoppage of export. If however the Turks have recently commandeered caravan camels the influx of flour from the country into the city would naturally be checked and result in a rise in price.

An Agent (ex BEDRAI 20th February) reports only Gendarmes there and one Arab battalion and one gun at JESSAN. He says another battalion left BEDRAI on 20th February for KHANIKIN.

**KARUN LINE:-** Haji Rais, Wazir to the Sheikh of Mohammerah visited the C. P. O. on the 22nd February and reports that he is confident of the bona fides of the Bekhtiari, Ilkhani and Ilbegi (whom he had lately interviewed) and of their loyal intentions re BEHBEHAN.

Bridge x

There is a report that machinery for the manufacture of S. A. A. has arrived at SHIRAZ. Brass and empty cartridge cases are reported as being bought in BORASJUN for this purpose.

The BORASJUN rebels sent a linesman to BAHDAR RIG on 5th February to repair the telegraph line (purposely interrupted by us). This shows they are keen on telegraphic communications between SHIRAZ and BEHBEHAN. The linesman was told to return to BORASJUN.

H. M. S. "Bramble" has penetrated still further up the creek at BUSHIRE and is now 1000 yards S. S. E. of PUPAR in a good position to command the mashileh with guns and searchlight.

G. O. C. BUSHIRE wires that ZAIR KHIDR (in reply to offers of exchange) has informed him that Major O'Connor is well but he refuses to exchange him, nor does he offer to exchange any other member of the party.

A later wire from G. O. C. says that it appears probable that SAULAT is not trying to ingratiate himself with the Persian Government. Also that the latest estimate of the SHIRAZ force is 1500 rifles with 4 guns and 3 machine guns.

BUNDRE ABBAS wires that German "Consul" (apparently ZUGMEYER) has left KERMAN in a South Westerly direction with a machine gun and S. A. A. on the invitation of some of the anti-Qawam Chiefs.

Extracts from I. E. F. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 3rd March.

EUPHRATES LINE:- Hamud as Suwait of the Dhafir has been joined by his allies the Bedur and has fallen back from SHAGRA to YOEMAR, a place on the route towards KHAMSEH.

Yesterday the Sheikh of ZOBEIR sent letters to C. P. O. and Captain More reporting arrival at ZOBEIR of a Shanmar caravan from HAIL; this caravan brought letters to the Sheikh from Ibn Rashid, from Ibn Rashid's agent, and from another of Ibn Rasdid's men. Gist of these letters is that towards the end of January Ibn Rasdid left HAIL and met a concentration of his tribesmen, (place not identified), with what object does not appear, but all appears quiet. There has been good rain. The Turks are buying camels from Ibn Rashid, 2,000 have already gone Westward to MEDINA. They are supposed to want 8,000 more. The C. P. O. is getting Sheikh of ZOBEIR to-day to discuss this news with him, and to consider whether the Turkish purchases of camels cannot be interfered with.

A letter has been received from Majid (friendly Sheikh of CHAHBAISH) giving proof that Badr Rumaidh has been sending various individuals to Mizher Bey whence they have returned with robes of honour.

G. O. C. NASIRIYAH reports that the hostile tribes have commenced to pitch their war tents at BUTANIYAH (12 miles out of NASIRIYAH).



Ali Al Fadhl ( leading Sheikh of the Khaffajah) and  
Thaiyun are reported to be the leaders in this movement.  
(NOTE. Probable object is to threaten the Azairich, and  
so prevent their re-submission to us under pressure of  
our punitive columns).

Grey's negotiations with Badr Rumaidh (through Hamud  
of MEDINA) have ended in disappointment (as we rather feared  
they would). Rumaidh sent Hamud a reply, through the latter's  
advance agent, that he was quite convinced the Turks were  
more powerful than the British and that he would see this  
within the next fortnight. He said he would on no  
account have anything to do with the British and he advised  
Hamud to open negotiations with the Turks.

The Headmen of Beni Huteit (East of Hammar Lake)  
and El Fahud (West of Hammar Lake) have now also visited  
Lizier. These two tribes are under the rulership of  
Majid (our creating as Sheikh of CHAHCAISH), but Majid's  
influence is not sufficiently powerful to keep them straight.

SAMAWA reported by an Agent to show no change up  
to 23rd February.

A Shatt-el-Agent confirms previously reported arrivals  
of Turkish S. A. A. at SHATTRAH. He speaks of 50 camel  
loads of Mauser and 50 of Martini ammunition.

He says Khaiyun el Obeid has received a Turkish  
decoration and been given honorary rank of Kaimakam.

#### TIGRIS LINE.

Air reconnaissance on 24th February does not bear  
out General Lymer's forecast of a Turkish retirement from  
SAMAWA, as it reports the position still strongly held  
and new trenches facing Northwards to the SUWAICHA Marsh.

There also appear to be new trenches along Tigris  
left bank in advance of the SANNAIYAT line.

Two new gunpits at Northern extremity of SANNAIYAT  
line and 2,000 men in bivouacs there - these latter in  
addition to the camps of 5,000 and 1,000 men reported  
by airplane on 23rd.

There is not sufficient evidence as yet to connect  
these camps with possible arrival of a new division - but  
this Division (given 12 days rest in BAGDAD) is now due,  
according to two reports considered fairly reliable.

BAGDAD is reported to be "literally full of wounded"  
German gold coinage reported in BAGDAD

Casual informer reports arrival in BAGDAD on  
23rd January of 8 German 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  c.m. guns. These are said  
to have been kept in BAGDAD because 20 Shakturs loaded  
with ammunition for them were sunk in Euphrates. (Allowing  
for exaggeration in the number of Shakturs there seems  
to be likelihood in the story).

As regards latest developments - the big camp  
in ATABA - SUWADA locality is still believed to be a with-  
drawal of some of the Hannah garrison. It is logical  
to believe that as the HANNAH defences have improved the  
Turks have found it safe to diminish the garrison of  
these defences and this would be desirable in order to  
reduce casualties from our shell fire, which became much  
more pronounced on and after the 22nd (the date on which  
the withdrawal took place).

Reinforcement on the left bank is not therefore believed to have taken place. Bu's Air report of the 27th February indicates some reinforcement (possibly 2,000 men) near HAI bridge. There is however no evidence as yet to show whether these are fresh troops from BAGDAD or are merely a transfer from SHUMRAN.

An Agent confirms the despatch of British and Indian prisoners of war, captured by Turks at CTESIPHON to MOSUL.

#### KARUN LINE.

An AHTAZ agent reports a German scheme said to be in vogue round KURRUMABAD and BURUJIRD.

They have spent large amounts of money and in addition to this give promissory notes to land holders, should the War go against these landholders and their land be lost, the promissory note is to be redeemed with interest "in BERLIN". If the Germans win the war they guarantee the land and will give the owners a bonus. (It seems open to doubt whether landholders are sufficiently credulous to be really persuaded as to these notes being worth anything - however they cost the Germans nothing.)

#### BUSHIRE.

C. P. O. has heard some of Qawam's proposals and requirements. An advance report of them does not sound very promising as he apparently chiefly requires mountain and machine guns which we shall have difficulty in supplying (or in finding ammunition for). Detailed requirements are being stated and statement will follow.

Qawam says he can muster 6,000 men: he would propose to first capture LAR - and subsequently to operate against SHIRAZ by investment - but for this he would want guns.

The following are extracts from Major Trevor's Diary up to 19th February :-

(a) Darya Bogi is described as being in more cheerful spirits. He says he could easily crush the rebel Tangistanis if he could get orders from TEHERAN and a force from HAYAT DAOUD, Shabankerah etc.

Reports go to show that the mules collected for SHIRAZ have been dispersed again. A movement of Gendarmes towards BUSHIRE therefore seems unlikely - possibly by reason of rising discontent against Gendarmes among SHIRAZ populace.

There is a general air of set back at the local rebel movement :-

Borasjun has written dolefully to Darya Bogi. Sheikh Hussein is reported to have been defied at CHAH KUTAH. Zair Khidr is discredited.

The rebels are short of money and ready to turn against their leaders directly a Persian or other force makes a movement.

(The reinforcement of BUSHIRE will doubtless help this general feeling of discouragement.)

Minister wires that only 1500 of the numbers of rebel forces at SHIRAZ are really effective. They have 4 guns (including 7, 8 and 9 c.m.) and 3 maxims. Plenty of S. A. A. but are short of gun ammunition.

#### PERSIA.

General Townshend received a message from General Baratoff on 29th February describing his entry into KIRMANSHAH. Received by Governor and population - he states he is convinced he will "very soon meet and shake hands in MESOPOTAMIA."

#### GENERAL.

The following short biography of NUR ED DIN PASHA is taken from a CONSTANTINOPLE newspaper "Tarvir-i-Efkhar" of 8-12-15. NUR ED DIN PASHA. Son of Mushir Ibrahim Pasha (Wali of Tripoli). Born Brussa 1875. Diploma Brussa Secondary and Military Schools. 2nd Lieutenant 1st Army (Departmental) Corps. A. D. C. to Mushir (Osman Pasha 1898) whom he accompanied to SALONICA. The A. D. C. to Sultan at CONSTANTINOPLE. Attached for 2 years to the staff with his father who was O. C. 9th Division in SEYRUZ. In 1908 accompanied his father who was O. C. III Army Corps at SALONICA. Was made KAIMIKAM (Governor of Makri Kone) after the constitution.

He was then in command of a Regiment and sent to KIRK KILLISAH. Thence he went with his Regiment to the YEMEN. Promoted to a Division and after two years command returned to CONSTANTINOPLE. Was sent to ADRIANOPLE as C. C. a Division for a year. He was then made Wali of BAGDAD and G.O. C. IRAQ.

of present

The following is an estimate numbers and distribution of Turkish Guns on TIGRIS :-

#### KUT -- SHUMRAN.

45th Field Artillery Regiment	8 (15pr)
1 Battery, 2nd Field Artillery Regiment	4 Q. F. (14pr)
1 Mountain Battalion 13th Army Corps, plus 1 section	10 (2 of them ( Q.F. 11pr)
1 Heavy Battery	4
	<hr/> 26 (6 Q.F.)
SINN, (R. bank)	
35th Field Artillery Regiment	8 (6 Q.F.)
2nd Field Artillery Regiment (less 1 Battery)	4 Q.F. (14pr)
1 Mountain Battalion 13th Army Corps less 1 section	6 Q.F. (11pr)
1 Heavy gun	1
1 18-pr. Q. F.	1
	<hr/> 20 (16 Q.F.)

9.

HANNAH.

3rd Field Artillery Regiment (less 1 battery)	4 Q. F. (14pr)
5th " " " "	8 " "
2 Mountain Batteries, 18th Army Corps	16 (7 Q. F. 11pr)
1 Section Gas (Howitzer) Batteries	2
	<hr/>
	30 (19 Q. F.)

Grand Total 76 (41 Q. F.)

Grand Total has been built up thus :-

At CTESIPHON	38
Arrived with 51st Division (22-11-15)	
8 Q. F.	8
Arrived immediately after the 51st Division	
8 mountain guns	8
Arrived with 52nd Division, (18-12-15)	9
Arrived BAGDAD, (5-1-16)? 12 Q. F.	12
Arrived BAGDAD, (17-12-15) 2 Horse arty, Batteries	
Q. F. 8	
	<hr/>
	83
Less 2 captured (7-1-16) 4 knocked out at KUT, and 1 at SHEIKH SAAD	7
	<hr/>
Remainder	<hr/>
	76

TURKEY.

MITYLENE 7th March, 1916.

Mitylene reports under date of 7th March that the following has been received from refugees from SMYRNA.

PROVISIONS.

The price of Petroleum in SMYRNA is L.T.2 a tin but practically not purchasable; flour extremely scarce, matches none.

According to the statement of a refugee military baker, SMYRNA bread is 60% broad beans, 40% barley, wheat and sweepings. Both military and town bread is of the same quality.

In the Christian Labour Battalions each man gets 300 drams (400 drams = 1 Oke) of bread per day. Town bread is sold at 3½ Piastres per Oke. There are no bread tickets at SMYRNA, but no family is allowed to buy more than one Oke of bread daily.

Townpeople who are sick get a special permit and are allowed to buy bread at six Piastres the Oke, this bread is 20% beans, 40% barley and 40% wheat.

Considerable stocks of flour are held in reserve by the Military Authorities.

Sugar has been reduced from 44 to 30 Piastres the Oke.

P E R S I A .

(French Foreign Office Communique)

The general result of information received from PERSIA is that the German propaganda is losing ground there. The munition factory installed by Germans at ISPAHAN to supply the rebels is said to have been transferred to SHIRAZ through fear of a fresh Russian attack.

S Y R I A .

BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS.

"AL IKBAL" 4-3-16 informs its readers inter alia that Hunter Pasha and Gordon Pasha have been killed by the SENUSSI who are marching on the Nile. In "Southern Egypt" the railway has been "extended to PORT SUDAN" for fear of the Sudanese.

The "Syrian Telegraphic Agency" reports under dated of 29th February that ADEN is Beleaguered by the Arabs.

"AL BALIGH" 4-3-16 declares that the frontier tribes in India are giving trouble.

"AL IKHA EL OSMANI" 4-3-16 reproduces an alleged article from the Cologne Gazette describing an apocryphal mutiny of the Indian troops on the "Banks of the Suez Canal".

Under Local News the same paper publishes an account of the visit of ENVER and DJEMAL Pashas to JERUSALEM "Each of the Ministers visited the Harem in JERUSALEM and each offered two prayers in the mosque of OMAR EL FARUKI to which ENVER presented a KORAN set with precious stones. He also visited the Xtian Holy Places by invitation from the Orthodox Patriarch and the heads of the other sects. A religious service was held there and prayers offered for the safety of the Ottoman Government which had granted freedom of conscience since time immemorial, and that it might emerge victorious from the War which it had entered for the sake of justice. Triumphal arches were erected and the various religious sects all specially celebrated the visit. "The respect and loyalty manifested by the inhabitants on the occasion of the visit of this our great leader to SYRIA and PALESTINE are worthy of special notice".

*M. S. Macdonnell*

Captain,  
for G. S. O. (I),  
The Force in Egypt.

S E C R E T .

C A I R O .

21st March, 1916.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

T U R K E Y .

General information.

S Y R I A .

Information from two prisoners.

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## TURKEY.

### TURKISH Press extracts. Victualling Law.

HILAL. 11Feb Parliament. A new emission of paper to the extent of L.T.I. 240,000 was sanctioned. Parliament then passed a victualling of districts where bread was unattainable by the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Finance to advance L. T. 500,000 on behalf of the Municipalities ~~and~~ ad hoc. Bread to be sold to the Public at a price fixed by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture. The bread or flour to be supplied by the Ministry of War.

### Foreign Politics.

11Feb The HILAL quotes an article from the TERJUMAN I HAKIKAT expressing the hope that JAPAN will do nothing to help the Tsardom. A leading article in the HILAL depicts the situation in France as being most dangerous for the Republic, which is in a disorganized condition.

### SWEDEN and RUSSIA.

HILAL 26th Feb This journal publishes a leading article expressing the hope that the Sweden people "will seize the opportunity and serve our noble cause and its own vital interests" by attacking Russia.

### The BALKANS.

The HILAL gives extracts from an article in the TANIN which gives a favourable picture of the situation of the Central Powers in the Balkans.

## S Y R I A .

### Information from two prisoners captured off SAIDA Military.

At SAIDA there are no troops, only trenches a lottle way inland. At SALIHIYAH near SAIDA there are 4,000 troops with German Officers.

There are small posts of reservists along the coast as formerly.

There were rumours of DJEMAL Pascha's death but he appeared at BEIRUT about 4th March and afterwards wnt to DAMASCUS He was bound for JERUSALEM and BEERSHEBA and was said to be going afterwards to MEDINA. The "canal ARMY" was being sent back to JERUSALEM and DAMASCUS. There were many German officers at BEIRUT. There were many REDIFS at BEIRUT especially camped in EL HERSH (the pine woods) but these were now being sent in detachments to DAMASCUS.

### NAVAL.

25 minew were raised by the Turks from BEIRUT Harbour the work was done by divers who cut the anchoring wires with files.

The submarines that came to BEIRUT was seen by one of the prisoners. It was about 60 metres long and carried two guns. It lay up under the Ottoman Bank. It took on Board water, provisions and benzine. It was reported that it would return to BEIRUT but that it was first to be used for conveying war material to TRIPOLI.

A large sailing vesel laden with grain for SOLLUM had left for SOLLUM and was now sheltering on the CARAMANIAN coast.

Boats carrying grain go daily from BEIRUT to HAIFA and thence to EL ARISH. The bases for this traffic are BEIRUT, AKKA and HAIFA. Four large sailing boats are loaded at BEIRUT waiting for a good chance of slipping sputh. Only Moslem owned boats are employed. The sails and riggings of all Ztian owned boats have been taken away to make tents for the troops.

ECONOMIC.

There is great distress at SAIDA where there have been deaths from starvation. Trains run daily on the BEIRUT DANASCUS line, The population, Moslem and Ztian alike demand French intervention to put an end to their distress.

*Philip Ozon*

Captain,  
for G. S. O.(I),

The Force in Egypt.



SECRET.

EGYPT COMMAND.  
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR PERIOD FROM 15th March,  
1916, TO 21st March, 1916.  
-----

T U R K E Y.

MILITARY.

(a) E. ANATOLIA and KURDISTAN.

The Russians have continued their advance towards TREBIZOND and have occupied RIZE. MAMAKHATUN is also in their hands, and they have made further small captures of prisoners and guns. None of the Units reported being dispatched to the CAUCASUS front from the West have yet appeared in the fighting line.

The latest evidence goes to show that the 5th, 10th 12th, 15th, 20th and the 42nd or 43rd or both the latter Divisions have been sent to the Eastern front where part of the force now in SYRIA is being hurried from the South. There is no very definite evidence as to the whereabouts of the 11th and 14th Divisions. Drafts have also been taken from the 48th Division and probably other new Divisions and sent to the IIIrd Army, which must be very much under strength.

(A) W. ANATOLIA and THRACE.

The 16th and 19th Divisions are now reported in THRACE with IIIrd A. C. (7th, 8th and 9th Divisions) the IIInd A. C. (4th and 6th Divisions) and several Arab divisions now in this region (24th, 26th 27th and perhaps others) to reinforce the CAUCASUS front is significant. Of late, however important troops movements have been signalled from THRACE and some of the Turkish and Arab Divisions given above may have been sent East, either

to join the IIIrd Army or to replace troops sent East from CONSTANTINOPLE.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

Accounts of general gloom and despondency are probably fairly true as far as CONSTANTINOPLE is concerned and the <sup>ad</sup>event of refugees from E. Anatolia has probably caused much anxiety and distress in the ANGORA and KONIA areas. On the other hand there is no evidence that the Peace Party has made much headway or that the ~~Porte~~ is likely to offer terms of Peace which the Entente Powers would accept. Reports that the Committee Party contemplate altering the succession to the throne by excluding VAHID ED DIN Eff. are of interest and seem to have some foundation. If they are true the Committee Party must ~~feel~~ still feel fairly sure of its position for any interference with the succession would cause much ill-feeling in ANATOLIA. Even ABDUL HAMID was unable to induce the Ulema to consent to an alteration of the succession in favour of his son BURHANEDDIN.

S Y R I A and S I N A I .

There is little doubt that ENVER Pasha visited the SINAI in company of DJEMAL Pasha at the beginning of the month and motored with the latter to BIR EL HASSANA and ROD SALEM after which he and DJEMAL left for MEDINA. Part of the Turkish force at NAKUL may have accompanied them as escort to MAAN.

Agent's information points to a rapid reduction of the Turkish garrisons in the SINAI which are being sent N to JERUSALEM and will be reinforcements to the IIIrd Army. The withdrawal of all rolling stock from NISIBIN to ALEPPI suggests fear of raid by Cossacks from BITLIS against the terminus of this important section of the BAGDAD Railway.

Details of the Budget received here show it to be a fantastic production and the deficit of L.T.14,700,000 is much below the mark. The measures by which it is to be made up will probably be confined in practise to the issue of fresh Treasury Bonds and the raising of fresh loans if Germany is still able and willing to lend. Increased taxation has been proposed, but it will merely result in reducing consumption of the article to be taxed, e.g. sugar and petrol, cigarette paper, spirits etc. to a minimum. Sugar and petrol, to judge from their present prices hardly enter the country at all.

M E S O P O T A M I A .

Information from Russian sources shows the Turkish force which was defeated near KERMANSHAH to have been composed of odd battalions from the 2nd, 45th, 51st and 52nd Divisions. A Division following the 2nd to this front may prove to be the 41st from CILICIA.

..... INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FILE .....

26th March .....1916.

G. O. C.	
B. G. G. S.	<i>CG</i>
General Staff.	<i>CG</i>
D. A. Q. M. G.	<i>and</i>
B. G. R. A.	<i>and</i>
B. G. R. E.	<i>28/3</i>
A. Q. M. G.	<i>AM</i>
<del>A. A. &amp; Q. M. G.</del>	
B. A. A. & Q. M. G.	<i>Law P.</i>
Mily. Secy.	<i>LI</i>

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General Headquarters Intelligence Summary No. 54.

Ismailia Intelligence Report No.498

Aeroplane reconnaissance reports dated 25/3/16, to 26/3/16.

Distribution of Turkish Forces.

Please note and return to Tr(a).

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 54.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

23th March, 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. R.F.C. WEEKLY DIARY.
  2. ITALIAN ACTION AT CYRENAICA.
  3. EXTRACT FROM CENSORED CABLE.
-

R.F.C. WEEKLY DIARY.

R.F.C. Reconnaissances of SINAI during the week ending to-day.

No. 1. Section. Two or three more tents were noticed at AIN SUDR which was bombed during the week. At JIFJAFa the southern camp has been removed; The Northern camp consists of only 7 tents and work seems to be in progress on the well there.

No. 2. Section. HASSANA was bombed yesterday by 6 machines of the 5th Wing. Pilots went single seater.

4 machines of No. 14 Squadron left ISMAILIA about 5-30 am; and 2 machines of No. 17 Squadron left SUEZ at 6 am.

All the machines returned safely, covering on an average 195 miles.

It is impossible to say exactly how much damage was done owing to the large amount of dust and smoke which was raised by the bombing, but the following was observed by pilots of Nos. 14 and 17 Squadrons:-

Camp East of Reservoir: 4 tents and 1 shed, hit.  
 Camp South of Reservoir: 2 tents hit.  
 1 bomb hit parapet surrounding 3 buildings S.E. of Reservoir.  
 1 " hit new building North of Reservoir.  
 1 bomb hit "T" shaped trench South of Reservoir.  
 2 bombs exploded within 4 yards of Reservoir, damaging the wall and covering the roofing with debris.  
 One pilot observing a body of infantry firing on our machines came down behind them to 200 feet without being seen and opened rifle fire with his machine gun. They scattered in all directions.  
 He then observed what appears to be an officers tent in the S.W. main camp and turned his machine gun on to this. Three men in white drill bolted out of one large tent. It is impossible to say whether there were any casualties inside the tents.

In all 40 - 20lb. bombs were dropped.

Attached is a map showing approximately fall of some of the bombs observed.

No. 3. Section. On the Eastern side of the QATIA OASIS, parties of the enemy are still observed. The enclosures at HOD ABU SHILLA, 5 miles N.W. of BIR EL ABD still appear to be occupied and between 100 and 150 men have been observed there.

ITALIAN ACTION AT CYRENAICA.

The Italian Military Attache has communicated the following:-  
24th March, 1916.

Italian Headquarters Cyrenaica report on the 19th March. In the TOBRUK, DERNA, CYRENE and BENGHAZI districts demonstrations were made by Italian, Eritroan and African Troops with native cavalry, mountain guns, motor machine guns, and machine gun sections. Near REGIMA (BENGHAZI) the enemy endeavoured to make an enveloping movement which was frustrated with the loss of 10 killed and 20 wounded. At other points the enemy was compelled to change his location. By the above action all attempts to send reinforcements East were paralysed and the desire of the G.O.C., CAIRO, complied with.

EXTRACTS FROM CENSORED CABLES.

The Germans are aiming at securing the defence of the Macedonian frontier and are preparing to remove the village population to the interior.

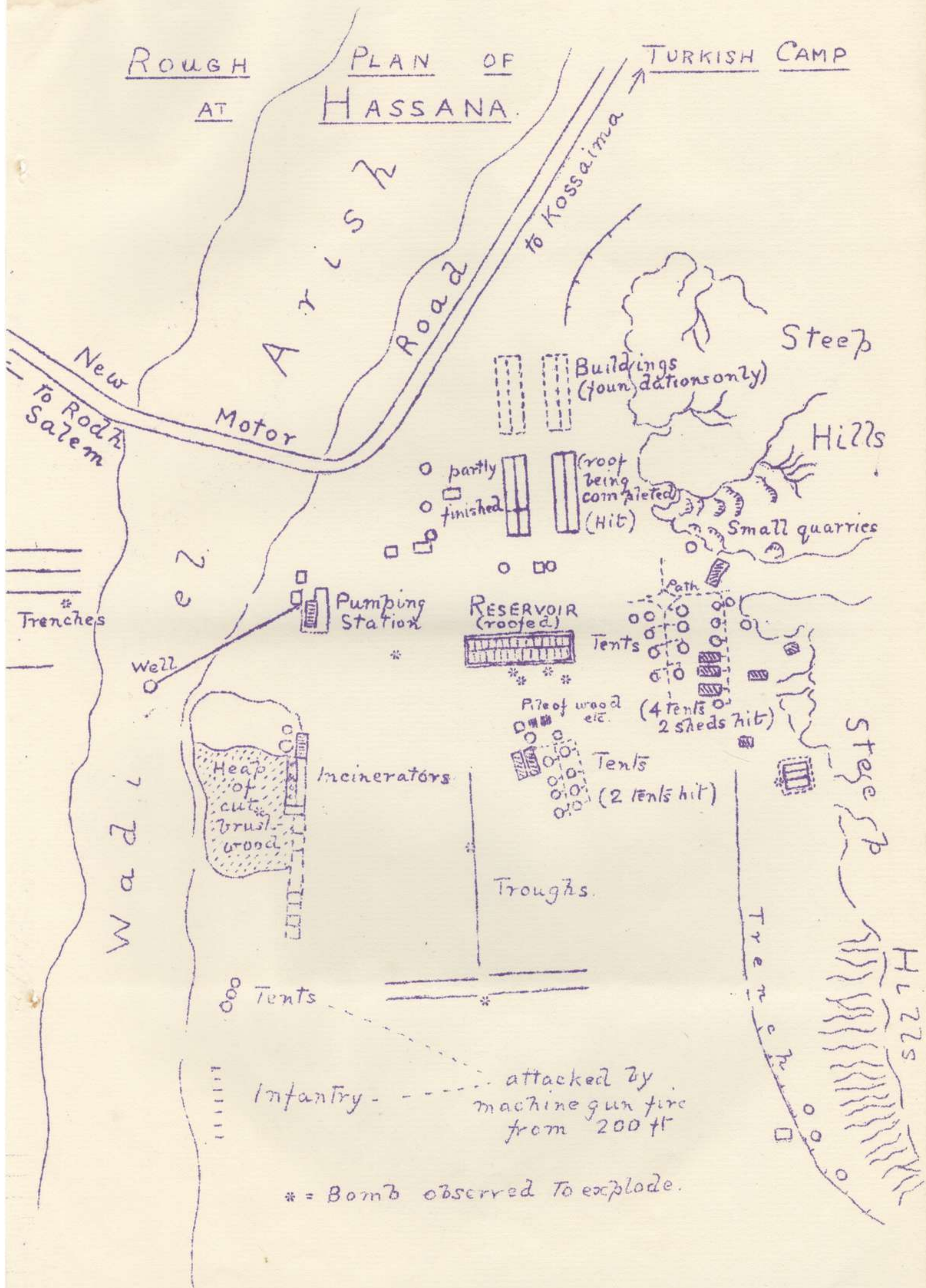
In the LEMNITZA district the Greek Troops, in anticipation of an enemy advance, are also ordering the village inhabitants to withdraw towards Salonika.

\*\*\*\*\*

ROUGH  
AT

PLAN OF  
HASSANA.

TURKISH CAMP





2nd AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Present distribution of Turkish Forces.

b Area		Divisions known to be in area.	Divisions supposed to be in area.	Remarks
Russian Front	18	5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 42, 43.		34th Division belonging to this army captured at ERZERUM.
Mesopotamia	6	2, 35, 38, 45, 51, 52.		
Syria.	2	3, 23.		
	2		44* (Jerusalem) 41 (Alexandretta)	
Anatolia.	3	46, 48 <sup>X</sup> (Smyrna) 27 (Chanak)		
European Turkey.	16	∅ ∅ * 7, 9, 11, 24, 25, 26 (Gallipoli) 16, 47, 49, 50 (Constantinople) 1, 4, 6, 8, 14, 19, (Thrace)		
Arabia.	4	21, 22, 39, 40.		
Total	51			

NOTES. ∅ Possibly at Kirk Kilisse forming 111 Army Corps.  
\* G.H.Q. reports these en route to Russian front. (Intelligence Summary dated 22/3/16.)  
X Drafts have gone to Russian front.

Ismailia,

25th March, 1916.

*A. H. ...*  
Capt.,

General Staff,

2nd Aust. & New Zealand Army Corps.

..... INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FILE .....

27th March  
.....1916.

G. O. C.	<i>See before</i>
B. G. G. S.	<i>[Signature]</i>
General Staff.	<i>[Signature]</i>
D. A. Q. M. G.	<i>[Signature]</i>
B. G. R. A.	<i>[Signature]</i>
B. G. R. E.	<i>6/23/3</i>
A. Q. M. G.	<i>[Signature]</i>
A. A. & Q. M. G.	<i>[Signature]</i>
B. A. A. & Q. M. G.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mily Secy.	

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Cairo Intelligence Summary  
dated 24/3/16. *425/3/16.*

*Air report 27.3.16.*

Please note and return  
to T(a).

*AM*

S E C R E T .

C A I R O .

24th March, 1916.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

B R I T I S H   E A S T   A F R I C A .

Extracts from B. E. A. & U. G. H. Q. Intelligence.

T U R K E Y .

Extracts from Turkish Press.

Effects of the Allied Blockade in W and S. W. ANATOLIA.

P E R S I A .

Strength of Russian Forces in Persia.

-----

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.EXTRACTS from B. E. A. & U. G. H. Q. Intelligence Summary dated 16th January, 1916.

One of our columns attacked the enemy force at NGUFUNGANI on the coast on the 10th inst. The enemy were driven back out of the village, but still occupy MKONGANI, opposite MWELE.

Elsewhere, the enemy are still in occupation of KASIGAU, they have a small picquet at MBUYUNI West, 2 Companies at SPRENGETI Camp and a small post at LANJORO DRIFT. Latest reports show only 2 Companies at TAVETA, but there must be another 5 Companies, probably at MOSHI.

Slight patrol activity in UGANDA.

During the period there has been nothing of note, and the enemy has shown a distinct falling off in their activity against the Uganda Railway, three bombs having been laid, only one of which was partially successful.

Extracts from B. E. A. & U. G. H. Q. Intelligence Summary dated 2nd February, 1916.

All quiet along whole length of frontier. We have advanced our railway to near NJORO Drift, only eight miles East of TAVETA. All attempts by the enemy to hinder this advance have met with failure.

The enemy have evacuated KASIGAU. We have occupied LONGIDO Hill (30 miles N. W. of KILIMANJARO).

There have been no attempts on the Uganda Railway during this period.

The Intelligence Section C. H. Q. of the B. E. A. and Uganda Force estimates the strength of the enemy forces in German East Africa as follows, under date 31/1/1916.

Europeans	1,660
Askaris (i.e. Native troops)	12,700
Native Levies and Recruits	2,200
	<u>16,560</u>

The great majority of these are armed with magazine rifles.

The enemy has now probably 74 serviceable machine guns, 8 of which were captured from us.

The number of Germans and Austrians in German E. Africa on 15/1/1916 is estimated at 5,277. Deducting 2,000 for women and children, 700 as unfit or required by Railway, medical services, telegraphs etc, and 233 killed and prisoners since the outbreak of the war a total of 2,344 is left, or, after subtracting a further 10% for sick or permanently disabled, 2,110. To these must be added a few neutrals, known to be fighting with the enemy.

The total enemy artillery is now estimated at 62 guns viz 10 4.1" Q.F. from the Konisberg, perhaps eight smaller naval Q. F. guns, 15 field and mountain guns, some Q. F. of different calibres from 2.25" to 3" and the balance 3pr and 1pr Q. F. guns.

TURKEY.

TURKISH PRESS.

"Hilal" 26-2-1916. Hassan Tahsin Bey, under Secretary of State for Finance and the notorious BEDRI Bey, Chief of Police at CONSTANTINOPLE have been appointed Vice Presidents of the Council General of the CONSTANTINOPLE Municipality.

"Hilal" 11-2-16. DJEMAL Bey, probably the ex Mayor of the Capital appointed Vice President of the General Assembly of the Province of CONSTANTINOPLE.

NOTE BY CAIRO.

DJEMAL the ex-Mayor is one of the few non-Committee personalities who have survived recent storms. One of his near relatives was executed on a charge of complicity in the murder of SHEVKET Pasha in June 1913, and others have been exiled or lost office. He is, however, very much liked and respected by the Sultan and his talents both as a Surgeon and as a progressive and energetic Mayor were much appreciated by the public.

TURKISH PRESS.

Recent numbers of the "Ottoman Lloyd" give few interesting references to the Financial situation in Turkey and to Court doings. Of military information there is none. On February 10th Sultan gave a banquet at MERASSIM KIOSK where were present the Grand Vizier and the Ministers and among other high dignitaries, ENVER'S obliging medical friend Dr. SULEIMAN NOMAN, who a few days before had been one of the medical commission to find that the Heir Apparent had "committed suicide". At the SELAMLIK of 19th February "a group" of freshly captured Russian Moslems prisoners" was exhibited and received the Sultan's Salutations through the medium of Ghalib Bey 3rd A. D. C. to the Sultan.

JANBULAT Bey is described in the Ottoman Lloyd of 19th Feb as Prefect of CONSTANTINOPLE and Acting Governor - General (Vali) of CONSTANTINOPLE Province and KIANI Bey, one of Enver Dasha's Proteges as Mutessarif of PERA.

CORVETTEN- Capitan HUMANN is described as German Naval Attache at CONSTANTINOPLE.

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To be substituted for Page 2 of Yesterday's Intelligence Summary which should be destroyed.

EFFECTS OF THE ALLIED BLOCKADE IN W AND S. W. ANATOLIA.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:- The following information is collected from agents and refugees arriving in KALYMNOS during January. It may serve to illustrate the effects of the actual blockade, and suggest further measures.

Throughout the past year, and especially lately, supplies of all kinds have been commandeered, for the Army, and also (as is believed locally) for transmission to EUROPE. Labour is very scarce, and much land remains unsown, especially Turkish properties: but the Christians who paid exemption money are now being warned for service, and told that their payments are being held for them in Government Stock, so that it is likely that the Christian farms will suffer as severely before long. Labour-battalions have been used to gather the olive crop of deserted Christian Farms near AIVALI, and other labourers have been told off for tobacco planting, which is said to be going on on a large scale. There is great shortage of seed corn, but in this respect districts differ. The olive crop was poor both in 1915 and 1914, and this winter the winter crops have mostly failed.

PRICES AND SUPPLIES.

Wheat at MILAS is about 9 piastres an oke (say 40 fcs per kilo) and bread at DENIZLI is 8 piastres. Figs are being eaten by the poorer Greeks in BUDRUM, for want of bread. Here in KALYMNOS we are paying 5 piastres, in spite of short supply and a ring of corn merchants.

Barley and Oats:- no market, though they say there is some supply locally. There is no rice at all.

MEAT at MILAS and SOKIA is at 3-3½ piastres an oke; i.e. cheaper than Kos (6 piastres) and KALYMNOS (8 piastres) but the export of cattle is prohibited (except under special licence) and large cattle are "sealed" and registered. Many animals have been commandeered for food, as well as for transport.

Coffee at MILAS is 54 piastres the oke.

Sugar " " is more: last quoted price was 24 piastres. There is said to be some sugar now at SMYRNA.

Petroleum at MILAS is 32 francs per tin.

Soda at MILAS is 15 piastres the oke: the supply is running out, and offers are being made for consignments of contraband soda. They say it is wanted for soap; and in a basket of commodities which I was asked lately to send into ANATOLIA I found a large bar of common Greek soap, together with coffee and sugar.

Soda should be absolute contraband and regularly searched for by the patrols.

On the other hand a few commodities are abundant, and the Turks have issued a list of permitted-exports, as follows :-

Olive oil: there are 100,000 kantars at MILAS, and oil is being sent from MILAS to AIDIN? where the price is 8 piastres.

Olive kernels :- though small outside demand, except for fuel. The S. S. AEGAION passed to-day (from RHODES to PIRAEUS) burning olive kernels instead of coal, she was said to be making 5 knots an hour, with nothing to spare for emergencies.

Oats, walnuts, Honey, wax and silk are also said to be on the free list.

Totally prohibited for export (besides cattle) are Wood and Pine bark.

PROPAGANDA:- Turkish officers are convinced that the war will be over in March. An important officer at MILAS, Veli Bay, said the war was a struggle for supplies; and that the Armenians were massacred for sending corn to RUSSIA. The Greeks are further told that if they keep quiet now (Still more if they help the Turks) they will presently be very rich. They are leniently treated at present and all is very quiet; Greek influence is evidently counted on to restrain the refugees from forming irregular bands, for I am told that "if irregular are used, the troops will come back to the coast districts". The patrol steamers are explained to the people as "protecting the Turks", which is more nearly true than they know, so long as our blockade remains defensive. The enemy's coast garrison has certainly been greatly reduced since the autumn, and the nearest large force seems to be at DENIZLI (about 50,000 men constantly changing) Many wounded men from the Straits are to be seen, and one informant says that the Straits Garrison, or a large part of it, is distributed in these western districts for reorganization; but I cannot hear of any large force nearer than DENIZLI.

#### RAILWAY.

The AIDIN railway is said to be working under great difficulties with a train for civil requirements every twenty days; but it is stated that coal is expected from EUROPE.

#### NOTE BY CAIRO.

This report affords interesting evidence of the increasing economic pressure exercised by the state of war and the Allied Blockade on what is naturally the richest and most productive province of TURKEY.

General insecurity together with shortage of labour and of seed corn have seriously reduced production; reckless requisitioning of supplies and the closing of foreign markets have destroyed the purchasing power of the population and concurrently there has been an enormous increase in the price of everything except such local products as can no longer be exported, such as fruit, olive oil and cattle.

The price of bread at DENIZLI - 8 piastres the oke compares unfavourably with the price now paid at CONSTANTINOPLE namely 6 piastres the oke as against the normal price of  $1\frac{1}{3}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  piastres the oke, and must be regarded as a famine rate, while rice which is regarded as almost a necessary of life by the Turkish population is not to be procured at all. Absolute starvation is not to be apprehended, as in this fertile region some substitute for the ordinary foodstuff can almost always be found, but general discontent and suffering caused by malnutrition appear to be inevitable if the state of war is prolonged.

Information of two passengers who left CONSTANTINOPLE 26th February.

SUPPLIES:- There is no gas in the streets or houses, and electric trams run irregularly. The water supply is good.

The S. S. "RODOSTO" and "DOBROVINK" arrived with coal from ZUNGULDAK during the week previous to informants' departure from CONSTANTINOPLE; only half cargoes, however were brought.

Flour arrives from the Black Sea about twice weekly.

Sailing vessels and the S. S. "FLORIDA" now under the Spanish flag, run between VARNA and CONSTANTINOPLE with ammunition and flour. Sailing vessels from KUSTENDJI bring petroleum, and smaller craft from PANDERMA and MUDAMIA arrive with (?olive) oil.

PRICES.

Charcoal	100	parasper	oke.
Wood	90	Piastres	per cheke.
Rice	24	"	" oke
Macaroni	20	"	" "
Oil	28/30	"	" "
Butter	60	"	" "
Cooking butter	40	"	" "
Cheese (white)	24	"	" "
do (casher)	45	"	" "
Sugar	30/35	"	" "
Meat	18	"	" "
Petroleum	180	"	" tin
Bread - black	60	parasper	100 dram loaf
			- 6 piastres per oke.
Matches			1 piastre per box.
Candles			None.

TURCO - BRITISH RELATIONS

Informant (British) stated that he has recently had several conversations with Turkish Officers whom he knew previously to the war. During the DARDANELLES operations these Officers did not acknowledge informant, but lately have become friendly to a marked degree, and on several occasions have asked "when will TURKEY and ENGLAND be friends again?"



6.

NOTE BY CAIRO.

For purposes of comparison the following list of prices in the European Quarter, Pera in October 1914 when prices had already risen somewhat, is given here.

Charcoal	60 to 80 paras per oke (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs)
Wood	45 P. T. (7s 6d) per cheke (load)
Rice	from 8 p.t. (1s 4d) per oke (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs)
Macaroni	6 P.T. per oke
Oil	18 20 P.T. " "
Butter	32 P.T. (best quality) per oke
Cooking Butter	18 P.T. (best imported) " "
Cheese (casher)	28 P.T. " "
Sugar	3 to 6 P.T. (according to quality) per oke.
Meat	8 to 12 P.T. (according to per oke. quality)
Bread (white)	1 $\frac{5}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T. per oke. (i.e. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 3d)

Turkish Official Communique.

The following Turkish official Communique is published for enlightenment rather than for information.

"On 29th February a British warship penetrated the Gulf of AKABA to the E. of the SINAI Peninsula, bombarded our camp situated on the coast and landed about 300 men. Our troops organised their resistance and after a six hour fight drove the enemy from the beach. A second attempt on his part was equally unsuccessful.

Supplementary to the preceding bulletin concerning the YEMEN front, it is stated that on the last fight between SHEIKH OSMAN and LAHDJ (E of ADEN) the enemy had 160 dead among them an English General in command of the landing force.

*Philip D. Farley*

Captain,  
for G. S. O. (I),  
The Force in Egypt.

S E C R E T .

C A I R O .

25th March, 1916.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

T U R K E Y .

General Intelligence.

C A U C A S U S .

Caucasus Front.

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2.

T U R K E Y .

ALEXANDRIA information dated 23rd March, 1916.

Following from the first dragoman Italian Embassy who left CONSTANTINOPLE 8th February. states :-

- (a) Turkish financial position improving; 2 millions pounds Turkish assigned railway construction Asia Minor.
- (b) German ammunition supplied on credit: payment after war.
- (c) Germans working copper mines ARGHANA

NOTE BY CAIRO.

(a) and (b) Any "improvement" in the Turkish Financial position under present circumstances must be purely factitious and only due to advances by Germany for the more urgent requirements of the war. Railway construction in Asia Minor and the supply of ammunition obviously come under this head.

(c) The ARGHANA Copper Mines (DIARBEKIR Vilayet) are immensely rich, but have been practically abandoned for many years past owing to lack of fuel for smelting. Ore was actually carried on camels to TOKAT a distance of over 250 miles to be smelted while wood fuel was still procurable there. The distance from ARGHANA to RAS EL AIN the present railhead of the BAGDAD Railway is at least 120 miles, and the difficulty of conveying either copper ore or fuel for smelting to the ARGHANA mines, would be very great seeing how heavy are the calls on the very defective Turkish Transport for Military purposes.

CONSTANTINOPLE information dated 28th February and the 2nd.

SUPPLIES.

Bread: Allowance 50 drams (400 drams -1 oke) per head per day. Additional supplies can be bought from soldiers who sell their rations at 12 Piastres per Oke. Legal price 3 Piastres per Oke.

Meat: Sent twice weekly to Germany.  
Price 15 Piastres per Oke.

Rice : 18 Piastres per Oke

Sugar : 50 Piastres per Oke.

Petroleum 160 Piastres per Tin. (See other estimates)

Quinine; 1500 Piastres per Kilo (peace price 150 Ps per kilo)

Castor Oil : 80 Piastres per Kilo.

GENERAL POSITION.

There is no talk of peace at CONSTANTINOPLE and no probability of a revolution in TURKEY.

In the Army the Men are unquestionably against the existing Government chiefly on account of the bad food and treatment, but the feeling of the Officers are uncertain.

The public have heard the news of the fall of ERZERUM but the papers have not referred to it. General opinion still appears to have confidence in the final victory of Germany.

#### COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY.

Trains from BERLIN arrive at CONSTANTINOPLE on three days each week, there being several trains on each occasion. Each train brings trucks of ammunition.

#### FINANCE.

A report dated CONSTANTINOPLE 24th February states that Turkish Paper money has depreciated 18%: L. T. 1 note is now worth 82 Piastres.

Another source states the rate of exchange for L.T.1 gold is L.T.1 note and 20 Piastres.

#### CENSORSHIP.

The censor has prohibited the publication of speeches made in the Chamber.

#### ECONOMIC.

##### SUPPLIES.

Considerable quantities of coal are arriving at CONSTANTINOPLE from Austria. Very small supplies now come from ZUNGULDAK and EREGLI.

In the Angora and KONIA districts there are large stocks of cereal, but for some time the authorities at CONSTANTINOPLE have not allowed these stocks to be railed to the Capital from fear that they would be exported to Germany.

At CONSTANTINOPLE the price of a sack of flour was ET 9/10: the present price is ET 16.

Traveller from KIRK KILISSE states that there are abundant supplies of flour in that district owing to the large supplies which had been sent to provision the army (30,000) concentrated at KIRK KILISSE. As the greater part of the troops have now been moved to Asia Minor, the Authorities are selling the stocks to the public who in many cases send flour to their relatives in CONSTANTINOPLE. (Informant left KIRK KILISSE about 5th March)

#### ENVER PASHA.

It is impossible to find out at CONSTANTINOPLE what has happened to Enver, No one can say for certain whether he is wounded or dead, or his present whereabouts.

NOTE by CAIRO.

It hardly seems probable that "considerable" quantities of coal are being brought to TURKEY by rail from AUSTRIA, given (a) the fact that railway communications between TURKEY and AUSTRIA-HUNGARY is by single line, and (b) that the movement of troops stores, artillery etc, must occupy the Railway Transport energies of the enemy's Officers on the whole stretch from BELGRADE to SIRKEJI.

Were coal coming in in large quantities we should hardly hear so much of "coal substitute" in TURKEY.

TURKISH PRESS.

The TANIN after hinting that there are people in TURKEY who complain of high prices and insufficient food suggests that the waste lands around the capital should be converted into vegetable gardens. Every citizen should lend a hand and the services of soldiers capable of light duty and schoolboys be enlisted. "thus we shall soon see groups of townfolk turned cultivators setting out to work at dawn singing merrily."

C A U C A S U S .Caucasus Front.

TIFLIS reports O. C. Turkish 106th Regiment among prisoners taken near BINGEUL-DAGH on 17th March. The O.C. 3rd Turkish Cavalry Division (see TIFLIS report of 20th March, CAIRO Bulletin 22nd March G. I.) is HAJI "HAMBRIB" (Note by CAIRO perhaps HAMDI Bey) Russian General Staff, PETROGRAD reports earthworks for ANGORA-YOZGAD Railway completed.

NOTE BY CAIRO.

The 106th Infantry Regiment with the 107th and 108th belong to the 36th Division. The 106th Regiment has ~~already~~ been reported almost destroyed. BINGEUI-DAGH (Thousand-Lakes mountain) is the range between ERZERUM and MUSH-VARTO.

*Philip D. Farley*  
 Captain,  
 for G. S. O. (I),  
 The Force in Egypt.

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I N T E L L I G E N C E      S U M M A R Y .

28th March 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN TURKEY.
  2. EXTRACT FROM A GREEK PAPER ON THE SITUATION IN  
TURKEY.
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SITUATION IN TURKEY.

From all the evidence we have it would appear~~x~~ that the Turkish General Staff never expected such a complete debacle as has occurred in the Caucasus, or they would never have left their communications in such a backward state.

They are undoubtedly endeavouring now to remedy defects, and it is reported that their railhead towards ERZINJAN has reached YOZGAD, but it is too late for them to pass their reinforcements quickly to the front.

In fact so slow is the movement that it seems highly improbable that they will be able to stop the Russians East of the line TREBIZOND - ERZINJAN - DIARBEKR.

At present we may say that the Turkish Army is located in six main areas, The CAUCASUS, MESSOPOTAMIA & SYRIA, THRACE, GALLIPOLI, and WESTERN ANATOLIA. Of these the last three are practically garrisons, and from them reinforcements would naturally be drawn. But the surprising factor is the withdrawal of the army from SYRIA. We have evidence that nearly all the EIR SABA troops have gone N., the garrisons of SINAI are reduced and that H.Q. of the Syrian Army have moved from DAMASCUS to ALEPPO. This would imply an abandonment of the Egyptian Expedition at any rate temporarily and plays our game. It is evidence of the straits that the Turks are in. Of course ALEPPO is the absolutely vital point on the communications with MESSOPOTAMIA and SYRIA, but there are indications that the Turks are beginning to foresee the possibility of having to make their final stand as far back as on the line KAISARIYEH - ANGORA, covering their railway system in ANATOLIA. Wherever the final defensive line against the Russians may be, it will undoubtedly be pivoted on some point in front of KONIA, with the configuration of the TAURUS and ANTI TAURUS protecting the right flank, and by



swinging the left back towards YOZGAD or ANGORA a position on the line KAISARIAD - YOZGAD becomes a very strong one.

The retiring army in the Caucasus consists, as has already been said (I.S. No. 46 of 17th inst. p. 263) of the remains of Divisions 17, 18, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37. We have now fairly definite information that Divisions 5, 10, 11, 15, 42, 43 and 44 form the bulk of the reinforcements which have been, or are being despatched. Of these the 5th Division was at RAS-EL-AIN on March 1st, and in view of the situation it was hardly likely that it was going to MESOPOTAMIA. The 10th Div. was at ERZINGAN on 5th March, and is no doubt in the firing line. The 11th Div. is now certainly in the CAUCASUS. Its 97th Regt. is reported from Russian sources to have been engaged near MANAKHATUN (March 20th) and other evidence points to this Division leaving Europe for the CAUCASUS at the end of February. A report states that between Feb. 20th and 26th, something like 15,000 men were transported by ferry to HAIDAR PASHA. This movement corresponds with the reported arrival of the 11th and 15th Divisions from the Peninsula. There are very conflicting reports about the 12th Division, but the latest evidence rather points to the fact that it has not left Europe. The 13th Div. may after all, not have been diverted at the last moment to DITLIS, and may be the unidentified Division whose arrival is signalled from BAGHDAD. The 14th Div. is reported to be still in THRACE, but ordered to ASIA. No more can be said with certainty. The 15th Div. from CHANAK passed through CONSTANTINOPLE, going to ASIA, at the end of February, but it has not yet materialized on the CAUCASUS Front. As regards 42nd and 43rd Divisions there is no further confirmation of the report that they had reached SIVAS. With regard to the remaining Divisions, about which there is no new information, 1, 4, 6, 14 and 16 may be assumed to be still in THRACE, while 7, 8, and 9 are almost certainly still there, 24, 25 & 26 are still in GALLIPOLI, and also 19, as far as we know. In MESOPOTAMIA there are Divs. 2, 35, 38, 45, 51, 52, and possibly one other unidentified, very likely 13, as stated above. In ARABIA, Divisions 21, 22, 30 and 40.

In SYRIA, Divisions 3 and 23. (In ALEXANDRETTA possibly 41).  
 In SHYRNA and MENEMEN and along ANATOLIAN COAST, total about  
 600,000 troops in this district, i.e. Divs. 48, and parts of 46,  
 47 and 49, some of which have had to find drafts for the CAUCASUS.

A 3rd Cavalry Division has been reported near ERZINGAN. It  
 consists of 7th and 8th Light Cavalry and 22nd Regular Cavalry.

EXTRACTS FROM A GREEK PAPER ON THE SITUATION IN TURKEY.

The following extracts from an account of the situation in  
 Turkey is taken from the Greek paper "PATRIS" and is published with  
 all reserve.

"The Turkish General Staff is in despair at finding it impossible  
 to send reinforcements to the retreating troops from the districts  
 of ERZERUM and TREBIZOND. The condition of the Turkish Army is  
 defined by foreign Military Circles as follows:- It is impossible  
 to detach even a single regiment from the troops in THRACE. Not  
 only is this opinion expressed by the Staff, but also by the Turkish  
 Government, which is under the impression that the friendship of  
 BULGARIA must be treated with suspicion, a proof of which is the  
 non-presenting of the Turco-Bulgarian treaty to the Turkish  
 Parliament, and the declarations of Mr. Radoslavoff to the Sobranie,  
 in relation to this same treaty. Therefore it is impossible to  
 remove any troops from Thrace, and not only for the above reasons,  
 but also to ensure the safety of the Young Turks at CONSTANTINOPLE,  
 who are afraid of a movement on the part of their political enemies,  
 which might break out at any moment.

At SHYRNA, all along the coast from the Gulf of ADRAMYT to  
 ADALIA, there are 60,000 to 70,000 troops. No troops can be moved  
 from these points, because the Turks are afraid of a disembarkation  
 of Allied Troops at different places, which would create a panic  
 and disorders amongst the Turkish population.    +    +    +    +

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+ + The Syrian troops also cannot turn towards SIVAS, and other

near lying districts, firstly on account of want of communications, and secondly for fear of a rebellion among the Arab Tribes Thirdly for fear of a disembarkation of Anglo-French Forces at Alexandretta, in SYRIA, which would cut off every communication and contact with CONSTANTINOPOLE. Of necessity therefore the retreat of the troops will be carried out without help, a desperate and aimless struggle, until they reach a likely rallying point in the interior of Asia Minor, that is a position extending from near KONIA to TREBIZOND, or perhaps to SIVAS or ANGORA,

This is the condition of Turkish Military matters, according to purely military Authorities; obligatory therefore are the so-called intentions of the peace-making group, which is headed in CONSTANTINOPOLE by Talaat Bey, and in Smyrna by Rahmi Bey, who are working feverishly to make a separate peace and to save at least the greater portion of the ASIA MINOR Empire. It is a fact that Turkish Envoys have met English and French representatives. The question that will now arise will be the attitude that Russia will take in connection with these plans. According to our certain information, the Russians are raising objections to these plans, as they do not wish to discuss peace with Turkey, until they have become the Military Masters of the Black Sea Coast, and of the interior from the line ERZERUM - KONIA - ALEXANDRETTA. In spite of this representations are being made that the conquered cities of ERZERUM and BITLIS should be sufficient to make the Turks open the DARDANELLES, which would more than help in the General War, and help Russia to obtain ammunition and other military necessities.

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I N T E L L I G E N C E                      S U M M A R Y .

29th March 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.
2. VERDUN : TELEGRAM FROM G.Q.G. FRANCE.
3. ITALIAN OPERATIONS : TELEGRAM FROM COMMANDO SUPREMO.

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1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.

There have been increasing signs of enemy activity both in the GEVEGLI-DOIRAN and XANTHI sectors. The Greek Command at KAVALLIA feeling convinced of an enemy advance being imminent, have withdrawn the Headquarters of the 5th Greek Division from DRAMA. According to reports from Greek Thrace the German-Bulgarian Staff at SOFIA have decided upon the "invasion of Macedonia", as soon as all the heavy artillery has been brought up. The Bulgarian troops will be under the command of German Officers who will themselves treat with Greek Officers, thus avoiding a cause of friction. The Greek Prime Minister is reported as having informed the ATHENS Chamber that the Greek Government were aware that the German offensive was about to begin and that all possible steps were being taken by the Greek authorities to remove the civil population from the threatened areas.

From other sources other news comes that the Germans have brought up an additional number of new siege guns and mobile batteries, and ammunition in large quantities is being moved forward from the second line to the first. The frontier incidents have so far not developed beyond the enemy occupying commanding positions in the neutral zone. These incidents have been magnified by the Greeks, who appear anxious to impress upon the Allies the importance of quickly granting Greece the money that she requires and also that the Anglo-French troops should co-operate with her in defending the whole Greek frontier and not the SALONIKA defences alone.

But after making due allowance for Greek exaggeration it is probable that the enemy is about to put

some plan into execution. It is quite certain that no more German troops have recently arrived in the Balkan Theatre. The Alpine Corps ( 5 regiments ) and the 101st and 103rd German Divisions (each of 3 regiments) are on the Greek frontier. These German troops recently displaced various Bulgarian units who moved further East. There has been no very definite location of the remaining German Division, the 105th, for the past few days it was last reported on the Roumanian frontier, but the arrival of German troops on the left of the Macedonian front may indicate that some troops of this Division have been moved South to the STRUMA area.

The most recent accounts of the condition of the Bulgarian troops do not indicate that they are at present in any way more willing to attack the Allied position at SALONIKA than they were three months ago. The Bulgarian Government has made repeated demands that Germany must send more troops to co-operate in any offensive. For obvious reasons, (that must be as well-known to the Bulgarians as to the Allies) the German Staff are in no position to divert troops from operations elsewhere. But it is possible that the Bulgarians are aware that the Greek Government had asked the Entente to assist in the defence of the KAVALLA-DRAMA area, and since the Allies have not complied with the Greek demands, the Bulgarians may feel encouraged to make an advance in that area.

The German Staff have occupied the recent period of military inactivity in re-organising the Bulgarian Army. It is now thought probable that to each

of the original ten divisions there has been added the nucleus of a reserve division, recruited from the same area, but not yet ready to take the field as a Division. There are certain exceptions to this, since the 12th Division has been located as a definite Division in the Field but not fully completed. Also in Albania and East of NEVROCOP there have been indications of a new Division being used in co-operation with the 8th and 10th Divisions respectively.

Headquarters at SALONIKA report that seven enemy aeroplanes bombarded the harbour and Northern part of the town on the morning of the 27th. Two German machines were brought down on Greek territory. The damage done was not considerable except to a French Engineers Depot: there were between forty and fifty Greek casualties and only two British. No other active enemy operations are reported.

The general situation appears to be that the German Staff, whilst unable to send more troops to combine in an attack on the Allies, are either anxious to create a diversion in the Balkans, in order to counteract the ill effect of their failure at VERDUN, or else they are unable to control the Bulgarian desire to satisfy their territorial expansion at the expense of the Greeks. The Greeks, knowing their impotence, are endeavouring to obtain Allied support at all costs; and it is possible that the Greek proposals to the Allies were not unknown to the Germans beforehand. From a military point of view the enemy has perfected his schemes for the prevention of an Allied advance through the Balkans, but neither his numbers



nor his morale makes an attack upon SALONIKA a proposal that can have any great hope of success.

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2. VERDUN: TELEGRAM FROM G.Q.G. FRANCE. dated 25th March 1916.

Summary of operations round VERDUN.

11th March 1916. West of the Meuse an attack on BETHINCOURT was driven off. At VAUX there were two attacks; one, by 4 battalions on the knoll overlooking the fort of VAUX, which failed, and in which the enemy lost heavily, although they were not able to reach our wire; the other, an attack on the West part of the village of VAUX, which had no results.

12th and 13th March 1916. Artillery action.

14th March 1916. A very violent attack on the line BETHINCOURT-CUMIERES was, as a whole, repulsed. The enemy were, however, able to gain a footing on Hill 265 between BETHINCOURT and le MORT HOMME.

15th March 1916. No change in the situation.

16th March 1916. A violent attack pushed home in great strength on le MORT HOMME failed completely. After losing enormously, the enemy had to retire into the Crow's Wood.

17th March 1916. East of the Meuse three attacks were beaten off, two on the village of VAUX and one on the slopes leading to the fort.

18th March 1916. A fairly violent general bombardment. Some partial attacks were beaten off East of the Meuse. These attacks were directed on a line from the woods South of HAUDROMONT to the village of DAMLOUP.

19th March 1916. The day was quiet.

On the night of 19/20th the South-Eastern portion of the wood of MALANCOURT, called the wood of "AVOCOURT", was violently

... a very violent hostile attack, accompanied with jets of liquid fire, enabled the enemy to gain a footing in the wood.

20th March 1916. The enemy captured AVOCOURT wood, but all attempts to deploy out of it were stopped by our fire.

21st March 1916. Artillery actions in the region of MALANCOURT-ESNES-HILL 304 - BOIS BOURRUS; there was no infantry action.

22nd March 1916. Successive attempts on our line from the salient South of the wood of AVOCOURT to the village of AVOCOURT culminated in the capture by the enemy of the little homstead of HAUCOURT, situated one kilometre South-East of MALANCOURT; but his attacks were everywhere else repulsed.

23rd and 24th March 1916. Artillery bombardment.

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From an analysis of the foregoing it will be observed:

1. The enemy has attempted in vain to take the Western portion of the village of VAUX and the fort. Yet, in his communique of the 9th (which we have denied) he announced that he had taken the fort even before he had attacked it.

2. From the 14th to the 16th of March the enemy's efforts were directed West of the Meuse on Hill 265, (where he took some trenches) and on le Morthomme (Hill 295) where his efforts met with a bloody repulse. In this region the enemy is still endeavouring to confuse the issue by pretending to mistake Hill 265 for le Morthomme. The Frankfort Gazette even goes so far as to publish a map where the name "Morthomme" is applied to Hill 265.

3. Since the 19th of March the enemy's efforts have been directed on the line AVOCOURT-MALANCOURT, on the left bank of the Meuse. Between these two villages our line ran through the South-Western corner of the wood of MALANCOURT (called the "AVOCOURT wood") We have held this line since the Autumn of 1914. It is dominated by the heights of MONTFAUCON, which have allowed the enemy to concentrate his artillery and to deploy his infantry. On the other hand our line did not permit us to use any large force - hence the relative success which attended the German attacks on the 19th and 21st of March. In spite of the strength of the enemy (one whole division) on a front of 1500 metres, he has not yet been able to deploy from the wood of MALANCOURT.

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The following information will enable us to gauge the losses incurred by the Germans in the course of their attacks.

The 3rd and 18th German Army Corps had to be withdrawn and sent to the rear for reconstitution as early as the 2nd of March. In the 3rd Corps, two-thirds of the units have been replaced and gaps in establishment have been filled by reinforcements of which two-fifths come from the Class 1916. These reinforcements were not nearly sufficient, so that it was with difficulty that companies could number 120 rifles in place of the usual 300. The 5th Reserve Corps, which was attacking the fort of VAUX, has been very badly handled. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 19th Reserve regiment and the 6th Reserve regiment of this Corps have lost two-thirds of their effectives. The 64th Regiment of the 3rd Corps (which came into line with the 5th Reserve Corps) also lost two-thirds of their

effectives.

Finally, we have proof that the Germans, since the 14th of March, have employed two divisions and half a brigade of fresh troops on the right bank of the Meuse (58th Division, 19th Division from MULHOUSE, and a brigade of Guard Ersatz).

On the left bank the 7th Reserve division and the 11th Bavarian round about MALANCOURT are new to the theatre.

To sum up, the Germans have put into the fight round VERDUN more than 27 Divisions, of which the greater part have had to be reconstituted as best they could during the course of the fighting.

3.

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ITALIAN OPERATIONS : TELEGRAM FROM COMMANDO SUPREMO.

26/3/16.

Bad weather continued yesterday to hamper our artillery action on the highest parts of our front.

There was a certain amount of artillery activity on the Lower ISONZO between TOLMINO and GORIZZA, on the CARSO and against the enemy artillery positions at DUINO.

Under cover of fog our infantry continued their snapping operations and exploded mines at several points of the enemy's line, throwing bombs and causing considerable damage.

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I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

30th March 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.
2. ENEMY DISTRIBUTION IN EUROPE:

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1. SITUATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

a. Summary of operations from 23rd February to 15th March 1916.

On 24th February the Turks were still in occupation of the HANNAH position, and General Aylmer continued to harass them by artillery fire from the right bank of the river. At KUT-BL-AMARA the enemy opened a heavy fire on a village held by General Townshend on the right bank. Between February 19th and 24th the TIGRIS rose very considerably and on 26th General Aylmer intimated that he might be compelled on this account to advance earlier than he had previously anticipated.

On the 25th, 26th and 27th the HANNAH position was effectively bombarded by our artillery. The TIGRIS at WADI rose a foot on 27th. Enemy's snipers were active during the night 27th-28th.

On the 29th there was no change in the situation. Rain fell steadily all day. At WADI the TIGRIS rose six inches on 28th, and another six inches on 29th. On March 1st General Townshend reports that the enemy bombarded KUT heavily with 23 guns, and that their aeroplanes dropped 40 bombs. At WADI the TIGRIS rose 3 inches on 1st and 6 inches on 4th.

On 5th one of our aeroplanes fell within the Turkish lines at ES SINN. Both airmen were reported killed.

At midnight 8th/9th March, General Aylmer reported that he had failed to penetrate the enemy's position at ES SINN (right bank) nor were his troops able to take the DUJAILAH redoubt which covers the right flank of that position. Our casualties in this attack were roughly 2,300 to 3000 killed, wounded and missing.

The retirement from ES SINN position was carried out most successfully on 9th March. The enemy made no real attempt to follow us up.

On 11th March it was reported from DUSHIRE that on the night of the 9/10th our outpost line on HASHILA was fired upon by small parties of tribesmen who retired at once when the fire was returned. We had no casualties.

TIGRIS LINE. A small column set out and attacked the enemy, who had occupied an advance position. They went in with the bayonet and killed a considerable number of Turks, capturing 2 Officers and 50 men. Our casualties in this fight amounted approximately to 3 British Officers and 250 men.

Between 13th and 15th March there were no fresh developments to report.

b. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

EUPHRATES LINE. The G.O.C. at NASIRIYAH reports that on 22nd February he sent a small column of all arms against a tribal gathering on the SHATTRA road, 4 miles North of NASIRIYAH. The enemy fled, suffering severely. We had no casualties. On 3rd March it was reported that these and other hostile tribes had begun to pitch their war tents at BUFANIYAH ( 12 miles from NASIRIYAH).

There was no change at SAMAWA up to 23rd February.

TIGRIS LINE. Air reconnaissances on 24th February showed the Turkish position at HANNAH to be still strongly held in spite of General Aylmer's forecast of an impending retirement. New trenches, gun-pits, camps and bivouacs were observed. It was estimated that about 7000 men had arrived since previous reconnaissances, but there is not enough evidence to identify these reinforcements as the new Division, which according to fairly reliable reports, should have been due at Baghdad at about this date.

As regards the latest developments - the big camp in ATABA-SUWADA locality was still (at the end of February) believed to be a withdrawal of some of the HANNAH garrison. In this connectic



CAIRO remarks; It is logical to believe that as the HANNAH defences have improved, the Turks have found it safe to diminish the garrison of these defences, and that this would be desirable in order to reduce casualties from our shell-fire, which became much more pronounced on and after the 23rd (the date on which the withdrawal took place).

Reinforcement on the left bank is not therefore believed to have taken place. But air reports of 27th February indicate some reinforcement (possibly 2000 men) near HAI bridge. There was however no evidence on that date to show whether these were fresh troops from BAGHDAD, or whether they were merely transferred from SHUMRAN.

BAGHDAD is reported to be "literally full of wounded".

A casual informer reported the arrival in BAGHDAD on 23rd February, of eight German 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  centimetre guns. These are said to have been kept in BAGHDAD because 20 barge loads of ammunition for them has been sunk in the LUPITATES.

An agent confirms the despatch of British and Indian prisoners of war, captured by the Turks at CTESIPHON, to MOSUL.

The following is an estimate of numbers and distribution of Turkish guns on the TIGRIS:-

KUF - SHUMRAN.		
45th Field Artillery regiment		8 (15pr)
1 battery, 2nd Field Artillery regiment		4 Q.F. (14pr)
1 Mountain Battalion 13th Army Corps, plus		
	1 section	10 (2 of them Q.F. 11pr)
1 Heavy battery		4
		<hr/> 35 (6 Q.F.)

SINN, (R. bank)	
35th Field Artillery regiment	8 (6 Q.F.)
2nd Field Artillery regiment (less 1 battery)	4 Q.F. (14 pr)
1 Mountain Battalion 13th Army Corps less 1 section	6 Q.F. (11pr)
1 heavy gun	1
1 18-pr. Q.F.	1
	20 (16 Q.F.)

## HANNAH.

3rd Field Artillery regiment ( less 1 battery)	4 Q.F.(14pr)
5th " " " " " "	8 " "
2 Mountain batteries 13th Army Corps	16 (7 Q.F. 11pr)
1 Section Obus (Howitzer) Batteries.	2
	30 (19 Q.F.)

Grand total 76 (41 Q.F.)

Grand total has been built up thus :-

At Ctesiphon	38
Arrived with 51st Division (22.11.15)	8 Q.F. 8
Arrived immediately after the 51st Division	
8 Mountain guns	8
Arrived with 52nd Division (18.12.15)	9
Arrived BAGHDAD, (5.1.16)?	12 Q.F. 12
" " (17.12.15) 2 horse	
arty.batteries	8
	83
less two captured (7.1.16) 4 knocked out	
at KUT, and 1 at SHEIKH SAAD.	7
	76

c. CENSORED TELEGRAMS. (Mokattam) 25th March 1916.

Turkish official. Two battalions attacked our advanced post near FELAHIE, South Bank of Tigris and were repulsed after an hour's fighting. Our airmen on Tuesday bombed KUT-EL-AMARA camp. "REUTER". 25th March 1916.

British Official. Our forces operating on the right bank of the TIGRIS surprised and seized a small Turkish post at FELAHIE on the night of 15th March (24/25 ?). Our casualties only

numbered four. General Townshend reports enemy aircraft and artillery bombarded KUT-EL-AMARA at intervals on the 21st and 23rd March. Our casualties were light. The situation is unchanged.

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2.

ENEMY DISTRIBUTION IN EUROPE.

From available intelligence reports the following is a Summary of the distribution of German, Austrian and Bulgarian forces up to the 15th of March:-

<u>GERMAN.</u>	-	<u>WESTERN FRONT.</u>	
		101½ Infantry Divisions	- in the line.
		17 " "	- in Reserve.
		2 Cavalry "	- in Reserve.
Total - 118½ infantry Divisions and 2 cavalry Divisions.			

		<u>EASTERN FRONT.</u>	
		44½ Infantry Divisions	- in the line.
		2½ " "	- in Reserve
		8 Cavalry "	- in the line.
		2 " "	- in Reserve.
Total - 47 Infantry Divisions and 10 Cavalry.			

P.T.O.

BALKAN FRONT.

2 Infantry Divisions - in the line.  
 2 " " - in Reserve.  
 1 Cavalry "Division"- withdrawn from Reserve elsewhere  
 Total - 4 Infantry Divisions.

1 Cavalry "Division".

Note:- The Alpine Corps is counted as a Division  
 The Cavalry "division" may only consist  
 of 3 or 4 regiments.

GRAND GERMAN TOTAL - 169½ Infantry and 12 Cavalry Divisions.

AUSTRIAN. - EASTERN FRONT.

38½ Infantry Divisions - in the line.  
 4 " " - in Reserve.  
 5 Cavalry " - in the line.  
 5 " " - in Reserve.

Total ½ - 42½ Infantry Divisions.  
 10 Cavalry "

ITALIAN FRONT.

19 Infantry Divisions -in the line.  
 7 " " - in Reserve.  
 No Cavalry "  
 Total - 26 Infantry Divisions.

BALKAN FRONT (ALBANIA)

6 Infantry Divisions.  
 Total 6 " " besides artillery cooperating  
 with Bulgarians.

GRAND AUSTRIAN TOTAL.

74½ Infantry Divisions.

10 Cavalry Divisions ( to which possibly one other not located should be added).

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BULGARIAN.

GREEK FRONTIER.

3 Infantry Divisions		- in the line
1 Cavalry	"	9 "
2 Infantry	"	- in Reserve.

Total - 8 Infantry Divisions and  
1 Cavalry "

ROUMANIAN FRONTIER.

2 or 3 Infantry Divisions.

ALBANIA or in INTERIOR.

2 Infantry Divisions.

Bulgarian total 12 Infantry Divisions.

1 Cavalry ".

NOTE:- This does not include newly formed Reserve Divisions which may be organised in each Divisional recruiting area of which there are eleven. There is proof however of 12 Divisions being in the field.

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S E C R E T .

General Headquarters(Cairo),  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force,  
27th March, 1916.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

T U R K E Y .

Alexandria information.

S Y R I A .

Information from French and Native sources.

M E S O P O T A M I A .

Mokattam and Reuters Telegrams.

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## T U R K E Y.

ALEXANDRIA information - 25th March , 1916

Following from Greek who left Smyrna 23rd February and CONSTANTINOPLE 7th March - Informant at CONSTANTINOPLE, likely to be well informed, stated two attempts made on Enver's life: first on 23rd February at CONSTANTINOPLE when bomb thrown at motor car: second beginning March at ANGORA when wounded by Turkish officer.

Note by CAIRO - Enver Pasha was in the Sinai on 3rd March, which makes the story of the two attempts on his life seem rather improbable. His sudden departure from CONSTANTINOPLE probably set every sort of rumour going and romantic justice demanded that he should at least be wounded in reply to the Heir Apparent's murder.

Talaat Bey was in CONSTANTINOPLE on 7th March.

### Affray at HAIDAR PASHA -

According to the Greek newspaper "Macedonia" (Venezelist) the recent affray at HAIDAR PASHA Station ascribed by most of the Press to a mutiny among young troops about to be sent to the Caucasus front, was really caused by an outbreak among a band of Greek, Turkish and Armenians who being regarded as political suspects were put into uniform (probably of labour battalions) and were being entrained for Anatolia.

### S. W. Asia Minor -

According to information dated 9th March from a French source the Turkish Government has decided to make the fall of ERZERUM known to the public and to announce that in all probability Greece and Roumania will make war on Bulgaria before the end of March.

The Russian advance has caused general alarm.

## S Y R I A.

POLITICAL - Information from good French and native sources dated 23rd March says that the population of the N.Syrian littoral is mostly well affected towards the Allies. The Christians and Nuseiriyah are well armed and would probably join the Allies in case of the invasion of Syria provided that they were sure that the country would not be allowed to revert to the Turks.

Note by CAIRO - The Nuseiriyah or Ansairiyeh are a curious semi-pagan sect dwelling in the hill country between Tripoli in Syria and Latakia. They are said to number about 100,000 all told.

Enver Pasha's movements.

Enver Pasha fled from CONSTANTINOPLE to Syria to escape the vengeance of the partisans of the Heir Apparent.

M E S O P O T A M I A.

Censored telegram "Mokattam", 25th March, 1916 -

Turkish Official. Two battalions attacked our advanced post near FELAHIE, South bank of Tigris and were repulsed after an hour's fighting. Our airmen on Tuesday bombed KUT EL AMARA camp.

Censored telegram "Reuter", 25th March, 1916 -

British Official. Our forces operating on the right bank of the Tigris surprised and seized a small Turkish post at FELAHIE on the night of 15th March (24/25). Our casualties only numbered four. General Townshend reports enemy aircraft and artillery bombarded KUT EL AMARA at intervals on the 21st and 23rd March. Our casualties were light. The situation is unchanged.

*Philip Hawley*  
 Captain,  
 for G. S. O. I. (Cairo),  
 E. E. F.



S E C R E T.  
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E G Y P T C O M M A N D.  
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR PERIOD FROM 22nd MARCH,  
TO 27th MARCH, 1916.  
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T U R K E Y.

MILITARY, CAUCASUS FRONT.

Important information is to hand concerning the composition of the Turkish forces advancing to reinforce the IIIrd Army, now under the command of VEHIB Pasha, a protege of ENVER.

The head of the 10th Division was expected at ERZINJAN on 5th March. The 13th Division was at NIGDE on February 29th presumably en route for SIVAS via KAISARI. The 5th Division was at RAS EL AIN on 1st March and what seems to be one of its regiments had been hurried on in the vain hope of saving BITLIS. This last Division will probably be employed for the present to cover NISIBIN railhead against raids from BITLIS.

In addition to the above the 12th, 15th and 42nd or 43rd Divisions and less certainly two more, with "5 regiments from SMYRNA " are reported moving to the CAUCASUS front, a total of at least 80,000 men. There are persistent rumours that the Turks are preparing a defensive line running, roughly speaking, across Asia Minor from SAMSUN to KAISARI. This is probably in view of a possible further reverse in the East after an attempt at a counter-offensive. To sit down now on this line would be tantamount to the surrender of all Kurdistan and Armenia to Russia. The bulk of the Army in SYRIA seems to be moving N to support the IIrd Army and this suggests an attempt at a counter-offensive in the direction of BITLIS.

TURKEY.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

There is uncommonly little evidence that Enver Pasha's life was really attempted and it now seems as if he left ~~CONSTANTINOPLE~~ partly to avoid German exigencies, leaving the astute ISMAIL HAKKI to act as buffer, and partly to take a short holiday, in the course of which he could acquaint himself with the state of some of the Arab provinces. Too ~~great~~ importance need not be attached to his visits to MEDINA and to the Mosque of Omar at JERUSALEM in JEMAL'S Company. ~~and~~ Other equally blood guilty men have turned to religion in periods of crisis.

The economic situation in the towns, SMYRNA, CONSTANTINOPLE etc, seems to be as <sup>un</sup>satisfactory as ever and is likely to remain so as long as troop~~s~~ movements occupy the principal attention of the Railway Authorities. In the ~~pr~~ province the influx of refugees from the Eastern areas which have been invaded or are threatened is likely to cause sickness and local distress.

At the capital the Germans with an increasing number of Austrians seem to have the situation well in hand and to control the police and secret service more thoroughly than ever. SMYRNA, however, under RAHMI Bey's Government seems to be resisting all attempts at German Civil Control and HRANT Bey ABRO who has been sent with others to negotiate a Commercial Treaty with Germany is a notorious obstructionist.

P E R S I A .

Lack of local supplies and snow on the mountains has prevented the Russians at KERMANSHAH pushing further W. than KARIND. The occupation of ISPAHAN by Russian and Loyalist Persian troops has further weakened Turco-German intrigues in Persia.

M E S O P O T A M I A .

No change worth reporting.

A R A B I A .

No important change. Some of Ibn Rashid's men have been reported in the SINAI of late.

S Y R I A .Political and Economic.

The latest news from SYRIA shows that the NUSEIRIYAH, a semi-pagan sect occupying the hill country between TRIPOLI in SYRIA and LATAKIA are likely to join the invaders in the event of any Allied attack on SYRIA. There is considerable scarcity in the neighbourhood of SAIDA (SIDON). ENVER Pasha during his recent visit to JERUSALEM seems to have been at pains to conciliate the Christian elements there, this, no doubt, on account of the withdrawal of large Turkish forces from Southern Palestine.

..... INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FILE .....

..... 31st March ..... 1916.

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Please note and return to Ig(a).

CONFIDENTIAL.  
No. 58.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

31st March 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.  
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. BULGARIAN POLITICS.
2. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS TURKISH SOURCES.
3. THE ALLIED LINE IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS WITH  
OUTLINE MAP.
4. EXTRACTS CENSORED CABLES.

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1. BULGARIAN POLITICS. The Bulgarian Press announces that in the 6 Districts into which SOFIA is divided arrangements are being made by a Committee authorised by Government for the sale of sugar, rice, etc., at reasonable prices to the population. This step has been taken by the Government to prevent the wholesale confiscation of stores of all kinds by the Germans and the consequent serious rise in prices that follows. Bread is being issued by the Government through the "ticket" system and the bread is said to be extremely coarse and much disliked by the people. The price of coal has likewise gone up enormously and many of the factories, and small local industries, have been brought to a standstill through lack of fuel.

The Bulgarian Press, probably inspired by the Germans, devotes much attention to the visit of King Ferdinand to the German Headquarters. It is stated that the gallant deeds of the Bulgarian troops have gained the admiration of Bulgaria's great allies, and that Germany and Austria fully realise that Bulgaria deserves ample reward for her sacrifices. There have apparently been constant rumours that Bulgarian troops should be employed on the Western frontier. These rumours gave cause for much discontent, and the press are now busy denying that Germany had ever considered such a proposal.

There are the usual German inspired statements describing anarchy reigning in Russia, and that disorganisation of trade and shortage of men have reduced the power both of Gt. Britain and France. The Bulgarian nation is encouraged to believe that the Entente Powers now realise that they are beaten and the Bulgarians are told that by co-operating wholeheartedly with the forces of Germany and Austria they will be qualified to obtain all the advantages that will result from the complete overthrow of the Allies in the near future.

These extracts from the Bulgarian press are quoted because the feeling openly expressed by many Bulgarians is that they have obtained all that is most important and that by continuing to fight the battles of the Central Powers they may be weakening their future position. The Germans controlling the Press in Sofia are thus hastening to contradict this impression, and the energy with which they are pursuing their object tends to show that they feel considerable anxiety in regard to the matter.

As regards politics in Bulgaria, the Macedonian party in the Sobranie is under the leadership of Dr. Vladoff, and it has strong connections throughout the whole country. It is undoubtedly the most powerful Bulgarian organisation, and one which will frame the future policy of Bulgaria. At the present time the whole administration of the country seems to have passed, as in Turkey, into the hands of the German Military Staff. All public offices are now under their charge and the meetings of the Bulgarian Sobranie appear to be held infrequently, and all Bulgarian national sentiments are kept in check by the Prussian administration.

King Ferdinand still remains, it is believed, in Austria. He had forfeited the goodwill of all Macedonians in 1913 by the rash policy which led to the retention of Macedonia by the Serbians. His policy of co-operation with the Austro-Germans having now proved successful in its main object, viz., to retrieve the errors of 1913, the King is presumably once again popular with the Macedonia Party. The Bulgarian nation is not excitable and seldom goes to extremes in politics and as the policy of King Ferdinand seems to have resulted successfully for the present at any rate in securing the old frontiers of the Bulgarian Empire, the whole people will doggedly resist any attempt that may be made to wrest this territory from them which they have only

acquired after taking up arms on no less than three occasions.

The whole future of Bulgaria turns upon the retention by her of Macedonia, and the Prime Minister, Mr Radoslavoff and the King himself have only been able to ally Bulgaria with Germany on the understanding that Bulgaria was out first and foremost to obtain the territorial expansion that she considered herself entitled to. Should a change of Government take place, caused by the general situation becoming favourable to the Allies, Mr Malinoff would probably return to power and his sympathies are certainly more pro-British than pro-German.

The general lack of prosperity and the high cost of living have produced a feeling amongst the majority of Bulgarians that further operations except to defend their new acquisitions should not be embarked on. Roumania is not thought likely to attack Bulgaria, and Bulgaria, unless forced into it by German insistence, has no desire to attack Roumania. At the same time the Germans appear for the second time to be concentrating Bulgarian troops on the Danube front. The purpose of this is at present not clear but it may be due to the political necessity of counter-acting any understanding of mutual action between Greece and Roumania.

The peculiar importance of Bulgaria's geographical position makes her continued co-operation with the Central powers a matter of the most urgent importance to them in order to keep open direct communication with Turkey. There are many signs which will grow clearer as the failure of the Germans in other theatres becomes more pronounced, that Austrian and Bulgarian ambitions will make the settlement of outstanding questions regarding Albania and Monastir a question of extreme difficulty. King Ferdinand, never anything but a coward for his own safety, appears to consider himself safer in Austria than in his own country. His Government is the puppet of German administration and the Bulgarian



people may not remain quiescent if they are forced to continue the war at German directions against their will.

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2. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS TURKISH SOURCES. A report from a reliable agent says that Vender Goltz will command the 6th Army in the Caucasus.

There are various unsubstantiated reports of the movements of German troops through Constantinople for the Caucasus. It is not to be denied that several hundred Germans have gone through, but they are more likely to be specialists in railway and road construction etc., than fighting troops. The extension of the railway East of ANGORA is being rapidly pushed on under German direction (Russian G.S.) and the earthworks are completed, as far as YOZGAD.

Christain refugees who have arrived in the SYMNA district state that they have been employed in the construction of new roads at ANGORA, KISKIN etc.

The Germans are working the valuable copper mines at ARGHANA North of DIARBEKR.

There are from five to ten thousand Austro-German troops in Constantinople and about one thousand (mostly artillery) in the Dardanelles.

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3. THE ALLIED LINE IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS WITH OUTLINE MAP.

With this Summary (No. 53 dated March 31st 1915) there is issued an Outline map of Belgium and North-East France 1/250,000 which can be used in conjunction with the Outline map previously issued on March 11th, showing the Allied Line from Reims on the left to the Swiss Frontier.

The Allied line passes approximately the following points, reading from North to South.

The sea coast at point northwest from Nieuport

Where the railway reaches the shore thence by ST. GEORGES - RAMSCAPPELLE between the YSER river-canal and the NIEUPOORT - DIXHOUTE Railway and thence continuing along the canal as far as BOESINGHE, where the YPRES - PILKEM railway crosses the canal. The line here branches from point 28 - west of ZONNEBEKE - through HOOGE - west of HILL 60, through St. ELLOI - PLOEGSTWERT WOOD - east of ARMENTIERES - through BOIS GRENIER - NEUVE CHAPPELLE - west of GIVENCHY - east of CAMBRIN - through the CHALK PITS - east of LOOS - through Point 45 - LIEVIN - SHOUCHEZ - NEUVILLE - ECURIE - east of ARRAS - through BEAURAINES - FISCHIEUX - east of MONCHY - east of HEBUTERNE - east of BEAUMONT - FRICOURT RAILWAY JUNCTION - east of CARNOY, crossing the river SOMME - east of VAUX. The line continues through FRISE - DOMPIERRE ABLAINECOURT - FRANSART - east of ANDECHY - POPINCOURT - west of CANNY - LASSIGNY - west of DRESLINCOURT - through St. LEDGER - MOULIN - FONTENOY - north of SOISSONS and following the valley of the AISNE on the Southern side to 8 kilometres north east of CONDE, and thence along Northern side of the AISNE valley to the west of SOUPIR - VENDRESSE - OULCHES - west of LA VILLE - BERRY OU BAC - north-west of Courcy and continuing along the line as given in Summary No. 41 of 11th March.

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4. EXTRACTS CENSORED CABLES.

On the 26th ten Allied warships entered SUDA BAY, N.W. CRETE, and landed parties to demand the surrender of the German Consul. No sailings are allowed and the bay is blockaded.

Systematic search is being made for petrol stores on EUBOEA and other islands and the French have landed men to arrest the captains of German vessels laid up at PATRAS and suspected of supplying German submarines.

The Greek Government has made a protest to the German Government regarding the loss of Greek lives at SALONIKA in the recent air raid.

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