

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/8/20

Title: Intelligence, General Headquarters,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

February 1918



AWM4-1/8/20

EXTRACTS FROM WAR DIARY
OF

INTELLIGENCE G.H.Q., E.E.F.,

FEBRUARY 1918.

1918.
February.

1st. DEAD SEA COAST.

The peninsula and island of RUJM - EL - BAHR (114.V.17.b.) no longer exist having been crossed by a rise in water level. The greater part of the Eastern coast of the DEAD SEA is impassable. The mountains of MCAB fall very steeply into the water, and there are long stretches of cliff.

2nd.

An officer deserter states that the 600 cavalry which were based on JERICHO left there on the 26th January for MADEBA and KERAK. Five refugees from JERICHO confirm this, and state that they were accompanied by 20 mile mountain guns.

3rd.

PALESTINE FRONT.

Distribution of enemy camps.

	<u>T.S.</u> <u>23rd Jany.</u>	<u>T.S.</u> <u>2nd Feby.</u>
Western Sector	1863	2,148 + 285
Eastern "	2224	2,096 - 128
East of Jordan	590	614 + 24
Syria S.of C.(in proximity to Palestine front)	195 4,872	195 5,053 + 181

5th

ORGANISATION.

Railway. Reliably reported that the standard (broad) gauge line is now completed through the TAURUS, and that through trains are now run between HAIDAR PASHA and ALEPPO.

6th.

PALESTINE FRONT.

R.F.C. report considerable movement of horses and men was observed on the north bank of the NAHR - EL - FALIK, also many tents and shelters.

B. Summary of Aerial Reconnaissance, during January.

Throughout January traffic on Dead Sea continued. During the last week a certain amount of movement from the HORDAD bridge towards JERICHO observed. Towards end of month a marked decrease of motor transport on the roads took place, but there were a large number of motor vehicles at the parks and refilling points near NABLUS and RAMIN (098.D.20) Large increase of camps behind TABSOR Defences. The chief centres of railway activity were at TUL KERAM and MESSUDIEH station (098.D.35.a)

/ 17th

1918.
February.
17th.

Slightly increased aerial activity in Eastern Sector by enemy

ARABIA.

S.W. of MEDINA on 6th instant 15 Turks killed and 12 captured. Prisoners state that FAKH-REDDIN PASHA G.O.C. HGF left MEDINIA on 6th instant for Syria.

18th.

Hostile Artillery.

Unusual activity by night in Eastern Sector.

19th.

A Turkish officer captured on 19th reports no German or Austrian troops in JERICHO.

Agent reports that JEMAL PASHA recently instructed MADEBA sheikhs (143Q.16) to provide 500 for patrolling to S. to protect convoys. Western Desert.

A Light Cav. Patrol (No. 3 under Lt. Moore) carried out a 12 day reconnaissance towards KIARA from DAKHLA. Covered 670 map miles (total nearly 1000) furthest point reached being 300 miles westwards. Heavy sand impeded further progress when near Tropic of Cancer.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

7th Div. 21st Regt. Feb. 9th. Sea Coast

Relieved Germans who had previously relieved 2nd Caucasus Cav. Bde.

25th Regt. Feb. 9th. Miskeh 084 B.3.C.

VIII Army Reserve.

20th Div. 61st Regt. Feb. 9th. MISKEH 084 B.3.C

VIII Army Reserve.

VIII Army Depot Bn. Reserve at ? KULUNSAWEH
084.W.27.a.

In all 1000 rations.

2nd Can. Cav. Bde. Feb. 9th. EL HUDEINA A.3.
Haif a Shett

700 strong.

XXII A.C.H.Q. MISKEH.

20th.

Eastern Sector.

At 0715 the enemy was observed retreating in disorder from TALAT ED DUMM (1139 13) Troops totalling 300-400 Infantry and 40-50 vehicles moving E. to JERICHO and NEBI MUSA.

Mechanical transport seen approaching GHORAMYEH Bridge from both E. and W. and continued movement of all transport towards JORDAN and crossing by road and pontoon bridges.

At 1630 NEBI MUSA was held by enemy with 5 guns and M.G's.

At RUJM EL BAHR the biggest shed and a large boat were on fire. No signs of reinforcements moving down JORDAN valley or on SALT road for 15 m. E. of river.

Reputed that road at KHAN HATHRURAH has been blown up. (113 G.13)

22nd.

PALESTINE FRONT.

Eastern Sector.

Inhabitants of JERICHO state that 2000-3000 Turks with 8 guns crossed the east bank of the JORDAN between the night of the 20th and morning of the 21st instant.