

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/8/8

Title: Intelligence, General Headquarters,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

December 1916



AWM4-1/8/8

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

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G.S.
Int. Section

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15/10		<p>412</p> <p>Two new wireless stations, with Turkish operators have been identified near JERUSALEM, and to the North of it [These may be the original stations with new call signs, due to Turkish operators having taken the place of Germans.]</p> <p>Letters dated Nov 20 + 21 were captured, from Turkish QZ LAMES to NEGUS MIRHAIL offering help. This confirms previous reports of communication between ABYSSINIA and Turks in the Aden Frontier and (Aden Intel Summary 17-23 Nov 1916)</p> <p>A report on TOR, by Intelligence officer SUEZ, shows the position there to be satisfactory - The NAZIR is a very capable official - about 1000 men with their families live on the charcoal trade. An efficient system of scouting covers a radius of about 50 miles from TOR - and agents visit NEHAL AKABA and GINNEH. 130 refugees from Northern HEJAZ arrived recently, having crossed the Gulf of AKABA in small boats - These refugees who were starving are being well treated, and will no doubt influence others. Which will give us a useful intelligence communication with N. HEJAZ.</p> <p><u>W DESERT.</u> SOLIMAN EL BARONI is reported to have arrived in TRIPOLI from CPLE by submarine and is appointed by proclamation dated 15/10 Governor of TRIPOLI and its dependencies. This proclamation has fallen into the hands of the Italians.</p> <p>MOH^d IDRIS has reached AKRAMA, and states that SAYED AHMED is now at JABH BUB</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916 2/12		<p>The Turkish official gazette, dated Oct 29th announces that all young men found physically fit, will be called up for service, irrespective of whether they have reached the official age for enlistment. This means that the calling out of part of the 1919 class, has not provided the army with sufficient recruits.</p> <p>There is confirmation of previous reports that the Benisians are withdrawing their guns and stores from SINAI and S. SYRIA.</p> <p>RFC reconnaissances on 30/11 report an increase in the number of troops at MASAID. This was to be expected in view of agents report that part of MOHAMED ALI'S force (probably about 2000) had arrived by 26/11.</p> <p>There is no evidence yet as to whether the remaining 3000, said to have left LUAD on 19/11 have yet passed GAZA.</p> <p>A Captaine reconnaissance today shows no movement at GAZA.</p> <p>Sheikh HAMAD el BEDAWI, one of FEISALS independent lieutenants has cut the Turkish communications between EL ULA and WEIH, capturing a Turkish convoy.</p>	

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6-8-7
4/8
Int Section

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	3/12		<p>Reports from a very reliable agent, show that MACHARA on 26/11, MAGDHABA on 27/11, and HASSANA on 29/11, garrisons were reduced by about one half.</p> <p>A report states that the force now at EL ARISH under MOHAMED ALI is to hold GAZA and KHAN YUNUS not EL ARISH</p> <p>RIVAS reconnaissance on 2/12. report 5000 troops, heavily entrenched at RAMLEH with many AA guns. At EL AFUJEH the camp was as before (2000)</p> <p>At TUBAUN 1000 and increased number trenches</p> <p>No movements or activity on roads or railway in S SYRIA.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> The SHERIF announces officially that a Turkish battalion on the march to KHANIK (35 miles SE of MEDINA on the inland road to MECCA), was annihilated in the night, by tribes who had previously been neutral.</p>	

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<i>916</i>	<i>4/12</i>		<p>A report states that British prisoners taken in SINAR, are employed at workshops outside ALEPPO. On Nov 8th 50 arrived for the hospital, suffering from dysentery. They were half-clothed, unable to walk, and roughly treated by the Turkish guard.</p> <p>An enemy wireless station has been located at or near ES SALT.</p>	

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E. E. F.
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TNT Section

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
mit	5/12		<p>Enemy submarine activity on the N coast of CYPRUS is reported from FATIAGUSTA (4/12)</p> <p>RFC reconnaissances on 3rd inst found no marked change at EL ARISH, and a slight increase at MASAID - No change at MAGHARA.</p> <p>It is now confirmed by agents that the rails between AUJA and KOSSAMA have been pulled up and are being removed. The embankment west of KOSSAMA has been washed away. The motor road to HASSANA has been repaired.</p>	
	6/12		<p>A report that 6 battalions of Syrian infantry reached SHEIKH ZOWAID on 26th, suggests that the second detachment of MOHAMMED ALI'S force, (said to be 3000) has now followed the first (2000) to EL ARISH - We now assume that there may be from 6000 to 7000 men at EL ARISH including MASAID.</p>	

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E.E.F.
P.S.
Jan. 1916

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1916	7/12		<p>Latest agents reports give the following figures - MASAID 5430 men and 12 guns, EL ARISH 1450 men and 12 guns. This confirms all our previous calculations.</p> <p>Examination of ¹² Turkish prisoners (deserters from MAGHARA, all belonging to the 4th Engineer Coy) brought in on 4th inst - Shows that the enemy are intend to retire from MAGHARA to HASSANA, and are prepared to move at any moment.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Telegraphic reports from YANBO and RAJBEH state that JEMAL PASHA has arrived at MEDINA, and that Turks from BIR ABBAS neighbourhood have occupied HAMRA and BIR SAID.</p> <p><u>GREECE</u> British Govt. has made no declaration of war on Greece, but has decided on stringent Naval Blockade and interruption of Greek communications.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8/12		<p>The French believe the 67th Regiment to be now in the LEBANON.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Feisal sends a message to C in C. Egypt, asking for prompt action in S. SYRIA and enumerates the Turkish forces drawn from Syria and Sinai, into the HEJAZ. C in C. sends a suitable reply.</p> <p>There are indications from several sources that the Turks are about to advance. South of MEDINA, whether on YANBO, or RABECH is not yet clear.</p> <p>FEISAL has telegraphed SHERIF of MECCA that the Turkish SINAI army is coming against him and recommends him to strengthen RABECH, and if necessary accept help from any quarter.</p> <p>News from an absolutely reliable source indicates that the Turks are endeavouring to empty the hospitals at MEDINA, by sending north all who are fit to travel. This suggests that a Turkish advance is imminent, and casualties expected.</p>	

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Int. Section*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>9/12</i>	<i>9/12</i>		<p><u>HEJAZ</u> Reports from YENBO state that the HARB tribesmen have been driven back by a Turkish patrol near HAMRA. Arabs unlikely to face Turks without artillery support. Emir of ZEIN who proceeded to HAMRA with Egyptian artillery to assist, but was forced to return on YANBAO. Strength of Turkish force at BIR SAID, not yet ascertained, and it is not yet clear whether enemy intends to advance on YANBO, or RABCOH.</p> <p><u>MEDINA</u> Syrian dealers, ^{from} Field Col Bourmond, that the Turks are encircling MEDINA, and that they are experiencing great supply difficulties. It is reported from other sources that the MEDINA garrison is getting sugar and rice from BAGHDAD. This corroborates reports from an absolutely reliable source, that caravans were coming across via HAIL - To intercept these, ABDULLA will establish himself at KHANAKA (100 miles NE of MEDINA).</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. on 8/12 report a slight decrease at HASSANA.</p>	

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E. F. G. S. INT. SEC.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1918	10/12		<p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. reconnaissance on 9/12 show a slight decrease at MAGHARA, and a new camp at SUAR EL HEITAN where trenches have been dug.</p> <p>The reduction of the garrison of MAGHARA is confirmed from two sources (deserters and R.F.C.) There are only 200 men there, and all guns have been removed.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Col. Parker, who left RABEHA on Dec 6th (does not think that the landing of British troops at RABEHA would have a bad effect on the Arabs. He thinks that the Turks can and will advance without much difficulty, and that they mean to separate FEISAL from his brothers, and move in force against one half of the Arabs, while merely holding the other.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1916	11/12		<p><u>HESAZ</u> A report has been received from British officers with the SHERIF, that the Turkish forces at MENINA are said to be drawing supplies from BASRA and the Persian Gulf, as well as from BAGHDAD.</p> <p>R.F.C. reconnaissances on 9/12 and 10/12 report no marked change at EL ARISH or MASAID.</p> <p>Agents reports show no change at HASSANA on 5/12.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916	12/12	<p><u>SINAI</u> Further small reinforcements appear to have reached EL ARISH about 5th inst. A reliable agent reports that the garrisons of RAFA, KHAN YUNUS, RAFA and GAZA, totalled about 2300 men on 5th inst. i.e. an increase of about 1000 since 1st inst. Mohamed Ali Pasha. would urgently for reinforcements on 25th November and this may be the result. The force at KHAN YUNUS is said to include young Syrian recruits under training. This is interesting confirmation of previous information.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> 200 refugees from the Hagg and Juhineh tribes, arrived in RABEGH today from WAN SAFRA - They were cut off from joining FAISAL by the Turkish advance.</p> <p><u>W. DESERT</u> Sayed Ahmed is at JAGH BUB, and is contemplating a withdrawal to KU FRA. Sayed Idris is near AKRAMA.</p> <p><u>TRIPOLI</u> Many submarines have arrived lately at ZUETINA, and landed money, clothes, food and munitions for NURI, who is still at JEDABIA, collecting men. There has been heavy rain between DERRA and BENGHAZI.</p>	

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	13/12		<p>The garrison of AVJA has been increased by about 650 men at the expense of BIR SAIBA.</p> <p>There is further evidence of the poor quality of the Syrian troops in SINAI.</p>	
HEJAZ			<p>HMS Suva wired 11/12 that seaplanes report enemy at NAKHL-MUBARAK, in a position to watch the approaches to YANBO.</p> <p>A mission for buying camels has gone from MEDINA to HAIL.</p>	

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	14/12		<p><u>SINAI.</u></p> <p>RFC on 12/12 report increased number of tents and shelters at ABU AWEIGLA, MAGDHABA, and MASARA. no change at MACHARA or EL ARISH.</p>	

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9.8 Section

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1915	15/12		<p>Information from an absolutely reliable source - JEMAL PASHA was in C'PLE as late as December 9th and ENVER left for DOBRUDJA December 12th.</p> <p>ATHENS and CONSTANTINOPLE were communicating by Wireless last night. This has not happened before.</p> <p>HEJAZ. An aeroplane reconnaissance on 14/12, 20 miles E by N of RABEGH, to EL MAGEN, JEBEL RAHAB and QUADHIMA, discovered large pools of water 20 to 25 miles E by N of RABEGH.</p> <p>FEISAL reports that his position is critical, as the Turks intend to attack YEMBO with overpowering force.</p>	

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Place Date Hour

16/12

SINAI Garrison of GAZA, KHAN YUNUS, and RAFA now total 3000, an increase since 5/12 of 600. A report that officers heavy baggage is being removed from EL ARISH, in anticipation of a hurried departure, is interesting and quite in accord with other indications. RFC 15/12 report enlargement of waterworks at AUSA.

HEJAZ Information from absolutely reliable source shows that JEMAL, signing himself as 4th Army Commander was at MEDINA on 8th complaining of the strain on his infantry. He was endeavoring to arrange for FARRIS' force to protect the railway. This JEMAL is probably JEMAL the less GOC 8th Corps. JEMAL PASHA the greater was known to be in CONSTANTINOPLE on 8th inst.

Information obtained from Syrian doctors, indicates the equivalent of a Division in the lines of communication of the HEJAZ Expeditionary Force.

GREECE SYRA reports TINOS, ANTIROS, and SANTORIN occupied and controlled without Venizelist troops. MINOS, PAROS, and EOS, occupied by Control with assistance. Our position in the CYCLADES can be consolidated, if we can feed the inhabitants.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
17/12			<p>FAMAGUSTA reports 16/12. PROVENCAL attacked from land, after 3 days fight Turks repulsed but prepared for next - Garrison escaped. Trawler being sent to recover stores and ammunition.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> On 16/12. R.F.C. observed slight increase in numbers of shells at HASAID and EL ARISH. No change at HASSANA. Where an AA gun was active. A deserter 3rd Batta 80th regiment reports 31st and 32nd regts at JERUSALEM. 39th has ceased to exist. 80th regiment, 2nd and 3rd Battalions at ARISH and HASAID. 1st Batta at KHAN YUNUS, and 4th Batta at MAGHARA. Agents report slight increase at HASSANA and KOSSAIMA, on 10th and 12th respectively. also that the Decauville railway at ABU AWRIOLA is being repaired.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Information from an absolutely reliable source shows that 'Scurvy' is increasing daily at MEDINA. Two trains arrived on 15/12 with considerable stores, but there were apparently only eleven wagons on the two trains. Seaplane reconnaissance reports NAKHL HUBARAK abandoned by the Turks. There does not seem any immediate danger of an attack on YANBO. A report from an absolutely reliable source indicates that the railway has been damaged at a point between 100 and 130 miles N of MEDINA. Increased BEDOUIN activity in the BIR MASHI area is indicated.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1916	18/12		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Deserter states that 37th Division has been re formed from 1st and 2nd TASHKILAT regiments, and holds sector on northern flank of 3rd Army.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> Examination of two deserters, one of whom is a sergeant, upset all agents statements regarding the garrison of EL ARISH. They agree that the garrison of EL ARISH and MASADA consists of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 80th regiment. Arab prisoners estimate the garrison at a maximum of 3000, including 2000 Syrian Infantry. These reports are definite and confirmatory, and are the first that we have had from persons who have been inside the MASADA Camp.</p> <p>Prisoners state that no reinforcements have arrived since the relief of the 32nd regiment by the 80th early in November, and a deserter on the 9th November reported the garrison being exactly the same, viz 2 battalions of the 80th regiment.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1916	19/12		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Caumont was 15/12 that deserters of 12th Regiment, state 5th Div has gone to ARABIA and that 7th Div has been withdrawn and will follow. This information is not at present believed. Prisoners in the DOBRUSJA report that the 16th Division has arrived there from SYRIYA.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> RFE reconnaissance of EL ARISH today reports most of the shelters unroofed which suggests preparations to evacuate on the part of the enemy. An increase of tents and shelters was observed at RWAF and MAGADHABA, which suggests troops on the move. At MASARA a decrease of shelters was observed, also a large fire in the camp.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Information from an absolutely reliable source, indicates that the Turks at MEDINA are apprehensive of their cipher messages are being read by Allied men of War at YANBO. [They have therefore agreed on a special code prefix, which is in our possession].</p> <p>We have information from an absolutely reliable source of ABDOULLA's movements. On Nov 30th he was near HEJERIA, 100 miles SE. of MEDINA. The Turks realize that his object is to cut the road from HAIL and NEJEF, by occupying HAWAKIA region (100 miles NE. of MEDINA) - This threat to their communications may be responsible for the Turkish withdrawal from NAKHL MUBARAK to HAMRA reported yesterday.</p>	

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1446	20/12		<p>SINAI RFC reports of gasworks of BIR SATOA and AVJA are confirmed by agents. There was a good deal of railway activity at AVJA on 12/12.</p> <p>A Prisoner captured near GERERAT on 16th inst states that all arrangements have been made to evacuate EL ARISH immediately. There is any indication of an advance on our part.</p> <p>I.O. Desert Column considers present force depending EL ARISH does not exceed 2000 men with 6 or 8 mountain guns.</p> <p>An Arab captured on 18/12 reports that 5 companies with 2 guns arrived at EL ARISH from SABA on evening of 17th. They were due to proceed to MAGHARBA on 18th.</p>	

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	21/12		<p><u>SINAI.</u> EL ARISH occupied by our troops. Good water has been found at BITTIA.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ.</u> A letter from the SHERIF states that about a month ago large supplies of sugar, rice, petroleum and coffee reached MEDINA from KUWAIT, as well as from other places in CENTRAL ARABIA. More supplies arrive this way than by train. Abdullas move to cut communications between MEDINA and Central Arabia, is therefore a good one. Basra has been informed of the above.</p> <p>The Turks have evacuated GHAYER, and are apparently falling back along FURA and GAHA roads.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1916	22/12		<p><u>S. SYRIA</u> R.F.C. report SEMUNIEH evacuated, TABAVN small formation. SOLAM evacuated. Very little traffic on NAZARETH, AFULEH road. - No rolling stock seen moving north of AFULEH. - Some rolling stock in AFULEH Station.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. report no change at HASSANA, but indications of a retirement, as baggage camels were seen moving north.</p> <p>Weather at EL ARISH very favorable for landing stores.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft over railhead at BIR EL GERERAT this morning.</p> <p>Agents report a decrease of 100 men at NEKHEL on 16/12, also that orders had been received from BIR SABA, for all outlying posts to be withdrawn from contact with our patrols. - Turkish troops are to be withdrawn to their railhead.</p> <p>A concentration is being effected at AVSA.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SINAI	1916 23/12		<p>Mobile column engaged all day at MAGDHAHA - Enemy had many machine guns, and four mountain guns - Water supply the only difficulty -</p> <p>Turkish column retired on AWEIHA, from MAGDHAHA, The rearward at MAGDHAHA, surrendered after protracted resistance. We took 300 prisoners, all of 80th Regiment.</p> <p>Air reconnaissance show no change at NEKHEL or HASSANA</p> <p>The camp at SUAR EL HAITAN is still occupied</p> <p>AVIA and KHAN YUNUS, were effectively bombed.</p> <p>DARB ES SULTANI, SHEIKH ZOWAID and RAFA reported clear.</p> <p>Aircraft report destruction of railway bridge north of AVIA.</p> <p>Agents report that NEKHEL and HASSANA are to be evacuated</p> <p>600 men were seen working on the railway embankment at WADI SABHA</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916 24/12		<p>SYRIA. RFC report no rolling stock on line AWA - RUSSAIMA, but large quantities of stores at AWA station.</p> <p>SINAI. Reports indicate a big increase at GAZA. MAGDHALABA temporarily evacuated by our troops owing to shortage of water, after capture of remainder of garrison.</p> <p>SUDR EL HAITAN has been evacuated by the Turks, all huts and shelters have been burnt, and trenches filled in.</p> <p>The number of prisoners now taken by Desert Column, amount to 1200, with at least 2 guns. The Turkish force at MAGDHALABA consisted of 2 Tabors of the 80th Regiment about 1600 strong.</p> <p>HEJAZ. S.N.O Red Sea reports that ALI has returned with his force to RADEGH as some of his Arabs are unreliable.</p>	

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	1916			
	25/12		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Wire from CYPRUS states agents report that MESO POTAMIA and ALEPPO units unidentified are going west, and are now passing BOZANT1 bound north.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. report no signs of enemy at MAGDHAABA, Between SHEIKH ZOWEID and RAFA, several parties of men with horses and camels were seen going NE. At KHAN YUNUS, a number of henches and rifle pits, all unoccupied, were seen.</p> <p>R.F.C. report camp of 100 shelters and 30 tents at TEL EL SHERIA, men working on railway 2 miles south of AUJA confirming report of agent who saw 15 trucks full of workmen pass south through AUJA 24/12. SADR EL HEITAN evacuated. Marked decrease AUJA. No defenses.</p> <p><u>TURKEY</u> PETROGRAD: wires 25/12 - 27th Cavalry Rpt. 26th Div. in ROMANIA (contact) and 76th and 78th Rpts and 26th Art. Rpt. (previous statements). — 58th Rpt 24th Div. in DOBRUDJA (contact).</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Pearson reports from JEDDA that reason for ALI's retirement from IBN HUSAINI to RAHMA was defection of SUBH tribe who went over to Turks.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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E. E. F.
9. S. INT SEC.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916 26/12		<p><u>SYRIA</u></p> <p>New French agent capabilities unknown but thought reliable. reports from DAMASCUS 18/12.</p> <p>(A) Coast mined TRIPOLI to RAS DAMUR.</p> <p>(B) No movement of troops south from DAMASCUS from Nov 15 Dec 18th.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u></p> <p>R.F.C. report. marked decrease of tents at AUVA.</p> <p>MAGDHAABA clear.</p> <p>AIN JUZR evacuated.</p> <p>HASSANA and KASSAIMA still held.</p> <p>Bad weather prevented any landing operations at EL ARISH.</p>	

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G. S.
INT. SEC.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
27/12	1916		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Cumulative reports departure of 53 divisions from 2nd Army area confirmed. Newly formed III Regt of 37 Div identified. Other regts besides 23rd expected at ZIARET. Petrograd wires prisoners state New Turkish Army Corps in DOBRUJA consisting of 16-13-14 divisions. Reports confirmation. 71st Regt & Regt of 14 Div reported withdrawn towards CITOLIK from front of 2nd Army.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> RFC report hostile force entrenching SSW of RAFA, on a front of about 5 miles. About 300 shelters in groups are reported in this line. Trenches are not continuous, but consist of a series of redoubts. SHEIKH ZOWEID all clear. AWEIGLA clear. Heaps of burnt stores visible at AWEIGLA. Running water in wadi between AWEIGLA and RAFA.</p> <p>NEKHL was being slowly evacuated on 22nd inst. about half the garrison having left.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> It is rumored that reinforcements have left JERUSALEM for BIR SABA.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> A representative of TRUKA SHALAM from JAVF has been with FAHSAL. Who thinks the former will co-operate.</p>	26

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
28/12	1916		<p>An officer Prisoner of War states that part of the Turkish force in S PALESTINE has been shifted to the L of C of the HEJAZ force and may be now along the railway. DAMASCUS - DERBA - MARRAN</p> <p>The attitude of the Druses is alarming the Turks, even if there is no actual insurrection.</p> <p>Existence of dockyard at JERABKUS is confirmed by intercepted letter - Vessels are being constructed for the EUPHRATES line, by ERNST INELS, under the direction of Captain v. Mucke of the EMDEN</p> <p>SINAI. RFC report 5 redoubts facing SSW across the 5 roads leading into RAFA from the S and W. The defensive line is crescent shaped, facing SSW, is about 5 miles long, and 5 miles from RAFA itself. - HASSANA is evacuated, and the garrison appears to have reached KUSSAIMA</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916			
	29/12		<p>Persian letters confirm previous indications that the 73rd Regiment has been transferred from 25th to 26th Division - A 39th FA regiment is indicated with 24th Divn. in Dardanelles. We know however that the 39th FA regiment is in the YEMEN</p> <p>A deserter formerly of 53rd Division reports that Division is being sent to SYRIA (no date). A deserter 124th regt. reports</p> <p>SINAI R.F.C. report a long train (22 trucks) moving from AVJA, towards BIR SAIBA. There is a marked decrease in the garrison of AWA - ROSSAIMA is still held. The defensive line at RAFA, now appears to be only about 5 miles long.</p>	

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H.E.F.
G.S.
INT. SEC.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916			
	30/12		<p>HEJAZ High Commissioner thinks that negotiations as regards sanctity of MCCA and MEDINA but not of the rest of the HEJAZ, should only be carried out with the SHERIF himself, & that only with the greatest caution.</p>	
			<p>Col Brimond reports that after bombardment by British aeroplanes FAKHRI PASHA retired to BIR SAH from MAKHL MUBARAK.</p>	
			<p>A Turkish officer deserter reports FAKHRI as a good Staff officer with a weak character.</p>	29

WAR DIARY

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Intelligence Section

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916			
	31/12		<p><u>TURKEY.</u> There are indications from an absolutely reliable source that there may now be 2 Divisions for operations in N.W. PERSIA - i.e. the 4th Division (Regts 11, 22, 25) and another Division (Regts 10, 156, and 167).</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> RFC reconnaissances on 28/12 report great activity at AVSA railway station. As there are no signs of organized defenses under construction, this activity would appear to be the prelude to evacuation. The road between SHEIKH ZOWAIN and RAFA is reported clear. RFC give details of shelters and entrenchments - S of RAFA</p> <p><u>HEJAZ.</u> A deserter confirms our previous information as to distribution of Turkish troops. The units of the 43rd Division reported from an absolutely reliable source, are apparently along the railway and not at MEAINA. The Turks are obviously uneasy about the railway. There are two disabled Turkish aeroplanes at MEAINA. The Arabs have broken up another caravan returning to Central Arabia from MEAINA.</p> <p><u>MESOPOTAMIA</u> Baghdad has not yet succeeded in hearing the CAP W/T Station in E AFRICA</p>	