

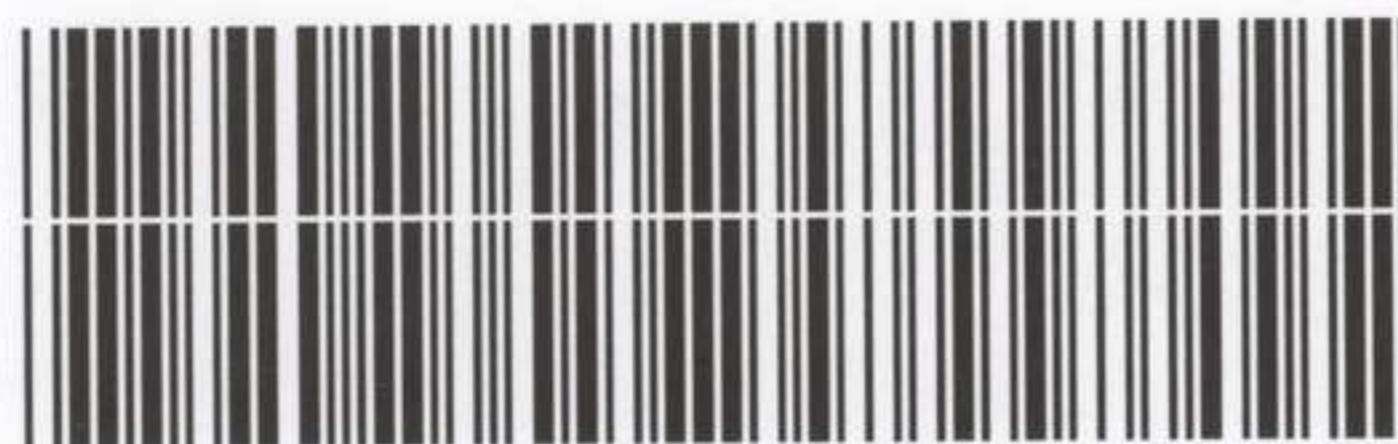
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/8/9

Title: Intelligence, General Headquarters,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

January 1917



AWM4-1/8/9

SECRET

EGYPTIAN EXPEDY. FORCE
GENERAL STAFF
INTELLIGENCE SECTION

I. 228

No.

Director of Staff Duties,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W.

Sir:

In accordance with instructions contained in War Office Letter No:40/W.O./2790 (S.D.2) of 20/1/16, I have the honour to forward herewith War Diary for the Month of January 1917, together with 2 Appendices; one of which is a series of maps showing disposition of enemy forces in Sinai and S. Syria.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

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

10th February 1917.

W. M. M. M.
Major-General, C.G.S.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information,	Remarks and references to Appendices
	11/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Reliable information obtained by IEF 'D' - The railway is being extended from RAS EL AIN to the GORGAN river and eventually to MARDIN. The Turkish L.V.C. HQ. is still at RAS EL AIN, MOSUL being unsafe. There are 6 passing places between RAS EL AIN and ALEPPO.</p> <p>On 29/10/16 there was a general levy of the population at BAGHDAD, all males between 10 and 50 years old being included.</p> <p>The 3rd Battalion of 167th Regt is at MOSUL (Extract from letter to prisoner dated 6/12/16)</p> <p>Information from absolutely reliable source indicates that 203rd German 22 C.M. Heavy Mortar Battery, lately with 1212th German Division left HAIJAR PASHA on 26/12 without means of transport, destined for 6th Army.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> RFC on 30/12 report trenches S.W. of RAFA to be partially flooded.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u> Information from A.R.S. indicates that there is no more gold in the Turkish War chest at MEDINA also that Turks may advance on RABEESH - from GHAYIR and possibly HAMAHA at the same time. ALI'S retreat having encouraged them.</p> <p>British flag has been hoisted on some of the FARASAN Islands in the Red Sea. Idria who objected is said to be in process of being 'squared'.</p>	

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	2/1/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>An attack on CASTELORIZZO by Turks organized by 15 Germans is expected by the Governor, between 7th and 14th inst. A number of motor boats have been collected in the ANADRAKI river.</p> <p>Information from an absolutely reliable source shows that the Inspector of Arms and Ammunition at Constantinople has demanded the return of all empty Cartridge Cases from Baghdad owing to the total absence of raw materials in Germany and the considerable consumption of metal.</p> <p>Information from an absolutely reliable source shows that ENVER proposes to include the 3rd A.C. Hq in the 3rd Army. 3rd A.C. to consist of 4th and 14th Divisions, 4th Division to be composed of 10th, 156th and 167th Infantry Regiments.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u></p> <p>RFC reconnaissance 31/12/16 experienced heavy A.A. gunfire from all round AUSA, where 2 large camps were seen 3 and 9 miles West respectively. No further development S of RAFA but work was being carried on, the trenches being improved. They are however not elaborate.</p> <p><u>HEJAZ</u></p> <p>The 32nd Regt has been sent to MEDINA with a regt belonging to 42nd Div (? 42nd regt) (prisoners statement). GOC HEJAZ Expeditionary Force is at GAYIR from where an advance appears to be contemplated. 42nd Regiment is at GAYIR. and 55th regt at BIR HOSANI, about 15 miles SE of HAMRA.</p> <p>ILDRISI is protesting against British flag being hoisted on FARASAN island.</p> <p><u>W. DESERT</u></p> <p>SAYED AHMET has been appointed Emir of the Muslims in Africa by a firman of the Sultan of Turkey.</p>	

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	3/1/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>Information from an absolutely reliable source shows that ENVER has instructed the 6th Army to take the offensive in Mesopotamia as soon as the 14th Division arrives at BAGHDAD.</p> <p><u>SYRIA - SINAI</u></p> <p>Turkish prisoners taken at MAGADHABA are unwilling to divulge enemy dispositions in Syria.</p> <p>Armenian Labor Corps prisoners think that 3rd Div. moved from Jerusalem to Hejaz Railway late in November - Arab prisoners however say part of 3rd Divⁿ is still at RAMLEH.</p> <p>Turkish force South of HEBRON-GAZA line Dec 22nd - 4 Battalions 50th Regt - 3 Mountain Batteries of 27th Artillery Regiment. One Battalion Engineers, and about one Battalion Camel Corps.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> - Turkish excesses in neighbourhood of HILLY have caused widespread indignation in neighbourhood of Holy Places. Fresh propaganda is being prepared from the standpoint of the Arab Race against the infidel Turk.</p>	

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4	4/1/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Information from absolutely reliable source indicates that 24th Division is still at DARDANELLES.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> <u>SINAI</u> Prisoner from 80th Regt states 4 aeroplanes working at BIR SABA. Others out of action. Iron factory of WAGNER and STEIN at JAFFA recommenced work in November.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> It is definitely confirmed from absolutely reliable source that total Turkish forces operating from MEDINA do not exceed 12,000 and that on Dec 27 there were in hospital 1200 sick and 1000 wounded.</p>	

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5/1			<p><u>TURKEY</u> French agent confirms report that unidentified troops from ALEPPO and MESOPOTAMIA were on 22/12 passing BOZANTI proceeding in North wby direction.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> Agent reports 3000 at AUSA in addition to workmen who had been armed. Also heard that 2000 were entrenched 2 miles west. Head MERKE was evacuated numbers probably exaggerated.</p> <p><u>W. DESERT</u> It is reported from Italian sources that BARUNI sultan of CYRENAICA has called upon tribes to stop fighting amongst themselves and to concentrate against the common enemy at AZIZIA, 40 miles S of TRIPOLI.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> Col Brindley reports that Abdulla's force had crossed railway near HADIYA, 50 miles North of MEDINA. This is confirmed from many sources. Turks reported to have vacated some positions N.E. of MEDINA owing to his advance. St Wilson reports genuine Arab fear that British may take over country HEJAZ.</p>	

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	4/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>Reported from SALONIKA 50th + 45th Divisions (Turkish) now on that front. 20th Army Corps now formed of 46, 50 and 56 Divisions</p> <p>Courage reports 14th Division still on CAUCASUS front: 23/12 - 25/12.</p> <p>Information from absolutely reliable source suggests that attack is meditated upon Russians in CAUCASUS in which 2nd Army Corps will attempt to penetrate Russian right flank of 3rd Army Corps.</p> <p>French agent reports activity of 43rd Division is still (25/12) between BEIRUT and DAMASCUS.</p> <p>R.F.C. report considerable work done on Traches SW of RAFA. Agent states they are held by two tanks (? 2000)</p>	
			<p><u>SYRIA</u></p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u></p>	
			<p><u>ARABIA</u></p> <p>Reported by Navy that Idriani refuses to discuss question of hoisting British flag on FARASAN islands.</p> <p>R.F.C. report no signs of troops or tanks at IBN HOSANI showing that Turks have withdrawn posts which they had pushed South towards RABECH.</p>	

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	7/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Cumulative reports 7th Division at DIARBEKR. Ultimate destination still doubtful.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> Agents report 6 aeroplanes at DAMASCUS and 2 weak battalions early December desertion said to be rife.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. report increase at AVVA. Estimate 2000-3000. Hospital still there. A.A. guns reduced. 6 redoubts 3/4 mile W. strongly held. Work proceeding. 2 " 8 miles W. still held. <u>KOSSAIMA</u> still held. 2 redoubts. <u>SHEIKH NURAN</u> 5 miles W. of SHELLAL. Work proceeding on trenches. Agent reports garrison at BIR SABA on 31/12 2300. States that 300 men arrived by train on 31/12 and proceeded to AVVA. More troops said to be expected from the north.</p>	

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8	8/1/17		<p><u>TURKEY</u> - BASRA reports strengthening of Turkish posts on EUPHRATES as far upstream as MISKENEM with apparent object of opening EUPHRATES L of C from JERABLUJ to RADWANLEH & MUSEYIB.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> Reported rumour that 139th Regt (44th Division) is at MEDINA - possibly draft.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> O.C. Assent Column reports civil population in HEIKH ZUWAID area welcome British troops.</p> <p>agent reports (1) small mobile force (2000) at JERUSALEM on Dec 20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) concentration of 6 battalions at KHAN YUNIS. This is not confirmed by PTC. (3) 2 Australian Batteries arrived at SHELLAH from SABA on 20/12. (4) Rabble of deserters met group first on road to JERUSALEM. <p>PTC estimate 1000 in trenches at SHEIKH MURAN.</p>	

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	9/1/17		<p><u>SYRIA</u> Pigeon reports, 3rd Div. at JERUSALEM 22/12 31st Regt. sent across JORDAN to extract local Regt. reported coming South to replace 39th Regt. 27th Div HQ at SEFURIEN. 79th & 9th Regts. fine to HAURAN. morale bad.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. report. Turkish positions SW of BABA surrounded by our troops. 1500 seen approaching from SHELLAL. AVA estimated 3000-4000. SAISA 500 Turks</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> R.F.C. report. Turks entered EL HAFAN 5 miles South of GHAYR. BASRA reports SAUD ES SALEH Capt. Kizim? IBN RASHID captured caravan with many rifles & 6000 lbs. from HAIL to KERBELA.</p>	

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	10/1		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Information from absolutely reliable source indicates that the 6th Army is being reinforced by 3 95mm howitzer batteries from 1st Army (C.P.L.E) and that 14th Division when moving S. will take all transport except one Ammunition Column.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C. report no sign of enemy between RAFA and SHEIKH NURAN. Force at latter place estimated at 2000 to 3000. Agent reports garrisons of 60 at GAZA and 300 at KHAN YUNIS. NEKH L fort and village reported undamaged. Only Camel Stables burned. Prisoners from 31st Regt captured at RAFA.</p>	
			<p><u>ARABIA</u> R.F.C reconnaissance shows no sign of Turk advance. There is reliable information that Turks are having trouble with AHAMIDA tribe who recently left Shera to join them.</p>	

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	11/1		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Abs. reliable information shows that 11th Batty 3rd Mtn Bn. 14th Art. Regt. had been attached to 14th Division which thus had 3 mtn batteries.</p> <p>also that German General Staff. located 3, 7, 14 & 15 Indian and 13th Brit. Divisions in MESOPOTAMIA estimate total strength there at 88 000 certain + 37 000 possibly available.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> Prisoners taken at RAFA state that 80th Regt was only infantry unit of 27th Div. South of RAMLEH - SALT line. Remainder thought to be in MAZARETH area. RAFA garrison composed of 2 Bns. of 31st Regt. RTC estimate 4000 in SHELLAL - SHEIKH NURAN area. Increase at AUJA to 187 tents.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> Reported by Col Bernard that the IMAM YAHIA has made proclamation hostile to the allies and viscerally hostile to Sheny. Turks reported to be withdrawing towards GHAYIR.</p>	

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	12/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Abs reliable information indicates existence of Battery numbered 11th in 3rdrd Bn of 14th Army Regt which appears to confirm reports as to increase of Turkish Artillery strength in CAUCASUS.</p> <p>Reported by French that CASTELLORIZO has been bombarded and HMS BEN MY CHREE sunk.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> Information from prisoners shows that 160th Regt. has arrived at SHELLAL from ZUNGULDAK (120 miles E of CPLE) where it had been protecting coalfields. Formed of elderly reservists & territorials. 3 Bns strong all reported here. Replaces late 39th Regt in 3rd Div.</p> <p>32nd Regt reported at AUJA.</p> <p>79th & 81st Regts recently at S. of NAZARETH.</p> <p>1st Bn of 80th is near SHELLAL. 4th Bn. AUJA area.</p> <p>1 Cavalry Div & 2 Infantry Divisions reported (not confidentially) to be coming South.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> Agent reports 7000 at JERUSALEM. on Jan 3.</p>	

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	13/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Campaign reports 41st Division shown by captured document to belong to 12th Corps of which MOSUL is H.Q. Its presence in this area has been indicated by other sources. (Note. 41st may have been moved last information being dated Oct 1916. It has since formation belonged to XII A.C. of which H.Q. were moved from ALEPPO to MOSUL in 1915).</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u> Agent reports storm being removed from AUSA by night. RTC report decrease at AUSA. Troops probably moving to SHELLAL. 3200 reported at SAHIA.</p>	
			<p><u>ARABIA</u> Reported by BASRA that IBN RASHID with Turks is threatening IBN SAUD. Lawrence reports MURI SHA LAN, MAWAF, FAWAZ, IBN FAIZ ready to break off relations with Turks & will act for Sherif when Faisal established on railway at EL ULA. MAWAF aims at possession of HAIL.</p>	
			<p><u>ABYSSINIA</u> Reports indicate that situation is now settled LIU YASU still a fugitive.</p>	
			<p><u>W. DESERT</u> Report from SIWA states that TAREK with 3 or 4 Turks & much money has gone to SUDAN. SULEIMAN BAROUNI said to be expecting arms & munitions by sea. (SIRT Area)</p>	11

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	14/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>It is indicated from absolutely reliable source that 6th Heavy Field Howitzer Battery is being sent to 6th Army having left ULUKISHLA on 12/1/17.</p> <p>Prisoners' letters show that 3rd Cav. Div. 2nd Army has Intn Bty - 48th Rgt at PSAMMATER (CPLE) on 11/12/16.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u></p> <p>Prisoners report that at JERUSALEM Turks are being trained to replace Germans (who are leaving) in Machine Gun Companies also that Cavalry Division (3500) is being collected at ALEPPO for S. SYRIA.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u></p> <p>Prisoners of 603rd Machine Gun Co were taken at RAFA. It is stated Turks mean to hold line SHELLAL-AUJA with second line JERUSALEM-JAFFA. This second line is being vigorously worked on. 160th Rgt had no machine guns. 14 Cavalry prisoners taken probably belong to Independent Divisional Squadron.</p>	

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	15/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> From abs reliable source it appears that food & transport of a division with 2nd Army were very short in view of probable activity. Bad weather on South sources of TIGRIS had interfered with transport.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u> RTC report marked decrease at AUJA. Very large camp SHELLAL. 700 tents SABA. 7 tents KASSAIMA.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u> Prisoner's state German Mack Pan Corps. 601-607 inclusive (less 603 & 605) now being handed over to Turks. 606 (late 608) allotted to 81st Rept, 604 to 79th, 603 to 80th. Apparently 3 of these Corps to be handed over in AUJA area and 2 at JERUSALEM to 31st & 32nd Repts. Units actively in PALESTINE now is 2 Aust. Bties at SHELLAL - 2 41 gun 105 mm. Howitzer batteries AUJA - 2 field and 1 mtr batteries of 27 Art Rept (less 1) NAZARETH area. 10-15 heavy guns left with Turks by departing Germans. 2 3 Coy. Camel Corps Repts. of about 450 rifles each of which one Coy. lost at RAFA</p>	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

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	16/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Camouflage worn. 23rd Regt said by deserter to be at ZIARET.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> deserter states 166th & 166th Regts recently arrived from North at BIR SABA. 166 was formed at near CPLE from 4th Bn of 166th with old men & recruits.</p> <p>W/T stations located at JERUSALEM, SHELLAL & BIR SABA.</p> <p>RTC report 26 new redoubts at SHEIKH MURAM.</p> <p><u>W DESERT</u> French navy report captured 2 Turkish Schooners with 1 Turk officer, some men & 800 rifles en route for TRIPOLI.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> It is specially reported from MECCA that Turk Colours & uniforms expert has been captured by Arabs at MANJUR about 15 miles from MEDINA.</p> <p>Information from absolutely reliable source shows that Turks are falling back from HAMRA towards BIR ABBA S.</p>	

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	17/1		<p><u>SINAI.</u> RTC report aerodrome removed from SABA. Just decrease at AUJA and KOSSAIMA evacuated. Trenches and redoubts at SHELLAL & SHEIKH MURAN again improved. Nearly 700 bivouacs at SABA. Prisoners state 32nd Regt moved from SA AUJA to SHELLAL a few days ago.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> There is further conclusive evidence of Turkish retirement towards BIRABAS.</p>	

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	18/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>Caucasus reports 34th Regt relieved by a complete Regt. 33rd Regt now in line. Operations by Turks improbable owing to deep snow.</p> <p>BASRA report (for Demilit) presence of 167th Regt on TIGRIS line confirmed. Prisoners from 160th & 134th Regts called ISMID division. Draft of 2400 recently arrived from ZUNGULDAK.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u></p> <p>Greek deserter from 160th Regt. states 134th Regt formed from 4 Battalions of gendarmes + 5th Bn. of Reservists 45 years of age. 3 Battalions ^{at C'PLE} numbered as 160th. 4th & 5th Battalions remained ZUNGULDAK and numbered 166th being brought up to regimental strength by recruits. While at C'PLE many younger gendarmes drafted East. Probably explains BASRA capture of prisoners from 134th & 160th.</p> <p>R.F.C report 500 shelters & 200 tents at SHEIKH NURAN apparently motor road from SHELLAL to TELELSHERIA.</p>	
			<p><u>ARABIA</u></p> <p>Shenq states there are 22 Germans at MEDINA.</p> <p>nothing is known of the situation in the Arabian Peninsula</p>	
			<p><u>ABYSSINIA</u></p> <p>Gov. ERITREA reports that LIJ YASU is at DANKALI and trying to cross to SHEIKH SAID where Turks expect him.</p>	

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	19/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> ^{reported} rumoured wins 7th Div left PALU for DIARBEEKIR en route for MARDIN & (rumoured) BAGHDAD. Also reported that 6 Battalions from SYRIA arrived MARDIN about the same time having debanded KASELAIN. Agents state Turks owing to supply difficulties mean to keep on defensive on 2nd & 3rd Army fronts and attack at VAN, ROWANDUZ & in PERSIA. Russians think 7th Div. destined for these points.</p>	
			<p><u>S. SYRIA</u> R.F.C reports JERUSALEM 30 tents, JERICHO 100 tents, HEBRON 30 tents, SABA 500 men entering from AUJA, AUJA 82 tents outer line of trenches unoccupied. NURAN & SAELLAL no change. Small trenches W & S of JERUSALEM.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u> Agent reports HEBRON 7/1 no garrison but troops moving South JERUSALEM 9/1 5000 more than 24 guns. heard troops had gone South & that Ferrabin tribe not being properly fed had dispersed with 5000 rifles given them by Turks. Prisoner states 79th & 81st Regts at NAZARETH each with machine gun Co of 6 German guns. 12th Regt Regt at SALT proceeded to JERUSALEM.</p>	
			<p><u>ARABIA</u> Ali reports HAFAN evacuated & Turks said to be leaving GHATIR</p>	

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	21/1		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Win from Caunlage Jan 18. indicates 132nd Regt (41st Div) near BANE.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u> Captured order signed by KRESS dated JERUSALEM 31/12/16 shows (1) Depot Regt unnumbered to hand over trained men to 3rd Div & proceed to JERUSALEM to train 3rd Div recruits (2) Heavy Art. Bn. ordered to SHELLAL (3) 141st AA Section asked for reattachment to Exp. Force. (4) 162nd Regt in transit to join Exped. Force. R.F.C. report 30% increase at AUSA; 80 tents at ASLUV; 600 tents & shelters SHEIKH NURAN SHELLAL; 700 SABA.</p>	
			<p><u>W. DESERT</u> Agent reports Senussi strength SIWA & vicinity including GIRBA not more than 450. Siwans have been awaiting relief by British but gave up hope early in January & surrendered to Senussi.</p>	
			<p><u>ARABIA</u> Abdulla reports captured Turk detachment under Ashraf Bey 2 days NE of ABULNAIN station with 1 gun 34 men & £20000 in gold. Taken in a surprise attack</p>	

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	22/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>Russian R.S. report snow 6ft deep on hills 28 inches in valleys in MUSH - BITLIS region. Passes blocked, deep snow everywhere in VAN URUMIYAH SAKIZ region.</p> <p>SALONIKA reports rumours of possible arrival of Turkish troops to replace Germans.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u></p> <p>German prisoners taken at RAFA report Turks ill fed. Withdrawal of German personnel was decided upon in October but machine gunners about to leave had orders cancelled as result of MADHABA action. Up to Jan 9. full complement of machine gun companies (8) existed No 606 having been replaced. Crew of mine-wrecker detachment 350-2 left for GERMANY end of Nov. Prisoners uncertain as to guns. Thought crew of 60th Foot Art. also gone but guns handed to Turks.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u></p> <p>Inf. from abs reliable source indicates that WFT stations are being moved back to MEDINA from IBIR DERVISH, IBIRABBAS and GHAYIR</p>	

WAR DIARY

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23/11			<p><u>SINAI</u> RTC report no sign of win at SHEIKH NURAN defences. ASLUS bridge completed.</p> <p><u>W. DESERT</u> Reported from TOBRUK SAYED IDRIS still at AKRAMA. It is believed that SAYED AHMED is giving him authority to treat and that he will hand over command of his army now at SIWA and return to KUFRA.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> There is further confirmation from abs. reliable source of Turk withdrawal towards MEDINA. RTC report GHAYIR decreased but still occupied by Turks.</p>	

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24/11			<p><u>SYRIA</u> Report from Italian H.Q. per <i>Deminent</i> states that censored correspondence shows hospitals at JERUSALEM full of epidemic patients.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> Prisoner reports bridge at TEL EL SHERIA considerably damaged by aircraft but not destroyed. 1 Coy. Camel Corps at SHELLAL. (making 800) R.F.C. report 100 new tents at BIR SABA, 500 cavalry marching towards SHELLAL from SABA. also 500 mixed camelry cavalry & infantry and another force of 500 infantry. Small camp 16 tents & shelter at KHAN YUNIS</p> <p><u>W. DESERT</u> Reported SAYED AHMED ready to leave SIWA any day. Expected to move west early February</p> <p><u>ADEN</u> <u>ARABIA</u> Reported tribes giving Turks trouble in the Hinterland Brimond reports Turks fallen back from KHEIF to BIR DERWISH, BIR ARBAS being evacuated.</p>	

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	25/1		<p><u>SYRIA</u></p> <p>Reported by agent from DAMASCUS (18/1) 2300 troops & 12 guns sent on Dec 19 & 20 from ZAHLE to DAMASCUS & thence towards Canal. No troops now at ZAHLE. (Report of BEIRUT agent suggests these may be 138th Regt.)</p> <p><u>Dec 24</u> 2000 troops sent from ALEPPO towards Canal</p> <p><u>Dec 31</u> Battery (? 53 bn) left " for AMMAN.</p> <p><u>Jan 2</u> 4th Regt (? Cavalry) arrived DAMASCUS from ALEPPO.</p> <p>Bn. 132 " (? 4th Bn) " " ALEY.</p> <p><u>Jan 9</u> Meuleri Bn. moved from " to HOMS.</p> <p><u>" 13</u> Passenger traffic ALEPPO-RAYAK suspended for military (confirmed by agent from BEIRUT)</p> <p>Reported by agent from BEIRUT.</p> <p><u>Dec 30</u> DIEMAL returned from CPLE with 3000 Turk soldiers (? 160th)</p> <p>135 & 136 Regts now between ZAHLE & SOFAR</p> <p><u>SINAI</u></p> <p>Reports from 160 Regt. reports 1/80 renumbered 3/160 thus making 160 a 4 Bn. Regt. German machine gunners left about 15/1 leaving guns with Turks. 1 Co. 160th at KHANYUNIS. Cavalry Regt. said to have left DAMASCUS about 20th. 7th Division said to be coming</p>	

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	25/11		<p><u>SINAI</u> R.F.C.</p> <p>report 300-400 cavalry at SHELLAL-SHEIKH MURAN position bridge over wadi at SHELLAL completed. Decrease of 100 tents at SABA but new camps of about 100 tents W. and S.W. AUJA decrease from 140 to 100 tents. TOR report reports NEKHL occupied by consid. Turk force.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u></p> <p>Reported that BAB KABA barracks at MEDINA have been blown up - Ali says by a detachment from his force.</p> <p>Navy report NEJH occupied by Faisal's force on 24/11</p> <p>BASRA report that SAUD AL SUBHAN late Vizier of IBN RASHID has offered to establish touch between NEJEF tribes and NURI SHALAN and that he may prove useful.</p>	

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26/1			<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>Cauvillage reports 48th Div said to be withdrawn to DIARBEKR 15-3 & 154 Regts stated by agents to have moved North into 11th Cauc. Div. area. - Newly formed 35th Div. said to be expected from SIVAS at RIFA (40 m. SE of ENDERES). Some units of 8th Div in addition to 23rd Regt said to be South of BITLIS.</p> <p>BASRA report that prisoners state 160th and 134th Regts both formed at ZUNGULDAK about end 1915. and that 134th apparently stayed there.</p> <p>Prisoners letter SIDI BISHR shows MOURREDIN BEY late O.C. Mesopotamian army appointed GOC SMYRNA District officer P of War gives foll. guns at SHELLAL NURAN position.</p> <p>1. 10.5 How. Bty. (4 guns) 2 10.5 How. Bties (12 guns) 1 10.5 Field Gun Bty 4 guns and 2 15 or 15.5 c.m. guns.</p> <p>R.F.C. report NEKHL all clear. SHEIKH NURAN 35 redoubts & gun positions</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u></p> <p>Arab from MEDINA states that owing to shortage of food Arabs are being allowed to leave town. Sherif reports 80 prisoners taken at WEJH. Turks retreating to TEL ULA.</p>	

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27/1			<p><u>SYRIA</u></p> <p>French agent reports. Big movement troops to ALEPPO from CPLE and CAUCASUS en route for South. 53rd DW left ALEPPO with its guns on 16/1/17. Between 24/12 & 18/1 14000 arrived DAMASCUS. Railway instructed to arrange for 50000 from the north. SYRIAN railways closed to passenger traffic for transport of troops and owing to lack of fuel & oil. Few troops left in CILICIA.</p>	
			<p><u>SINAI</u></p> <p>RFC report GAZA 51 large shelters 18 tents work on trucks. KHANYUNIS slight increase. EL TIME 50 tents.</p>	
			<p><u>W. DESERT</u></p> <p>agent from SIWA reports 1800 troops at SIWA. orders received from IDRIS for immediate evacuation. Some had left. SAYED AHMED to leave on 25/1 with war guard.</p>	

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	28/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Abs. reliable information shows ISMET in command of 4th Army Corps to which 12th Div. is attached.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> Agent reports TULKERAM no troops. Entrenched positions with wire. JAFFA few gendarmes. RAMLEH hospital no troops. JEMAMA old entrenchments. BIR SABA 1000 Syrians. Town entrenched. wire. 2 aircraft. 4 sent North. SHELLAL ^{17/11} 9000 with 1500 Aust. arty. 4. 15cm guns. ^{17/11} SHERIA 7000. (probably en route for SABA or SHELLAL). GAZA nil. Good road JEMAMA to BIR SABA. 8000 Cavalry expected from C'PLE. ^{Arabs} Arabs been ordered to move to JERUSALEM mountains. PALESTINE wheat supply practically exhausted. British reports no wire or trenches at SHEIKH MURAN.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> Information from abs. reliable source shows that certain technical units which had been at GHAIH, DERWISH, MEDINA respectively had been moved north to MEDINA and to points on railway north thereof.</p>	

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	29/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u></p> <p>Turkish official order shows that men of classes 1884-1890 who had purchased exemption are being called up.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u></p> <p>Further report by French agent from DAMASCUS states that out of the 14000 which arrived there between 24/12 & 18/11 3000 were sent back to ALEPPO. 5000 were sent to SABA on 1/11. They had been intended for HAURAN. Between 8 & 18 Jan. 2200 cavalry & 4250 infantry left DAMASCUS to fortify JERUSALEM. Many desertions. All troops withdrawn from ADANA & TARSUS. All available being collected from here. Also convalescents & others who had been sent from SMYRNA to CIPLE now being sent towards SYRIA.</p> <p><u>SINAI & N. DESERT</u></p> <p>Airborne located at RAMLEH by reliable information & by RFC. Refugees from SIWA report. 100 mukafzia had left for JACHBUR on 21/11. 300-400 remained with SAYED AHMED. Thought these might leave any moment.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u></p> <p>BILLI, HUWEITAT and BENI ATIYEH tribes reported by S.N.O RED SEA to be joining Faisal as result of capture of WEJH.</p>	

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	30/11		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Postmark on letter to P of W shows 1/15th 2nd Regt 48 Div at HORAN (prob. HARRAN near URFA) on Dec 7. Caucasean reports withdrawal of Turkish main body KIBHI-OGHNAI upon to KHARPUT BALU CHOLIK line.</p> <p><u>SYRIA</u> Agents' report states that correspondence of Turkish officer showed that 2 Battns. 81st Regt. had moved from DERAA for destination unknown (probably BIRSABA) reaching RAMLEH middle of January or after.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> Two Turk deserters captured from 138th Regt. which they state arrived at BIR SABA from DERAA on 26 Jan. On Jan 25. they state cavalry regt. passed through SABA to SHELLAL. Composed of Turks with carbines lances & sabres. Horses very poor condition. Commanded round DAMASCUS. Deserter reports barbed wire in wadi at SHELLAL but not yet erected.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> Some Technical units shown by abs. reliable information to have moved to some 200 miles N. of MEDINA.</p>	

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	31/1		<p><u>TURKEY</u> Abs. reliable report dated 27/12 to 2/1 indicates that Turks in DOBRUDJA are very irritated at selfish attitude of Germans & Bulgars. Strength of Turkish Division (? attached to 52nd A.C) apparently reduced to 5000. Letter to P.O.W. indicates presence of 56th Div. at VURLA recently.</p> <p><u>SINAI</u> Prisoner deserters from 138th Regt state that it is mostly composed of Arabs - 3 Bttns. 2300 strong. Railway only used for supplies. Road SABA SHELLAL not metalled and in any weather is fit for any wheeled traffic. Dump of barbed wire at SABA here erected.</p> <p><u>ARABIA</u> Ali reports Turkish aeroplane appeared 25/1 and bombed his camp at ADHAB.</p>	