

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/9/13

Title: Intelligence Summaries, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

March 1917



AWM4-1/9/13

B Flight

Page 502.

S E C R E T.

No. 100.

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

1st March, 1917.

Army GS

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. WESTERN DESERT.
2. ARABIA.

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1. WESTERN DESERT.

The political situation in CIRENAICA among the various factions is becoming rather complicated.

There is evidently a considerable difference of opinion between the two cousins SAYED AHMED and MCHAMED IDRIS and it seems even possible that the former may join the latter's enemies.

MCHAMED IDRIS appears to have lost confidence in the Turks' power to help him and is anxious that there should be at least no open hostility against the British in Egypt. SAYED AHMED on the other hand seems inclined to join NURI and the Turkish party, and is in receipt of friendly messages from RAMADAN IL SOFHELI the opponent of MOHAMED IDRIS.

2. ARABIA.

The Turkish withdrawal from their position South and South-west of MEDINA now appears to be completed as an R.F.C. reconnaissance has shown SATH EL GHAYIR and KHUNAGAT AR RIM to be evacuated and it had previously been reported that they had retired from BIR DERWISH.

The forces moved up the railway to MEDAIN SALEH and EL ULA have been reinforced by the arrival of the 1st and 3rd battns. of the 163rd Regt. (53rd Division).

A prisoner taken from this regiment states that the second and fourth battalions are expected at MEDAIN SALEH but says nothing as to the other regiments of this Division. It is considered that supply difficulties render it unlikely that they will follow the 163rd so far south.

Several important refugees have reached MECCA from MEDINA. Food is said to be almost unobtainable and the Turks are advising the inhabitants to withdraw to SYRIA but knowing the conditions which prevail there the latter prefer to go to MECCA.

There is further confirmation that the Arabs blew up a train and railway bridge near TOWEIRA (near HADUYA).

O. C. "B." Flight.

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SECRET.

No. 109.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

2nd March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES
IN SINAI AND SOUTHERN SYRIA.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN SINAI & SOUTHERN SYRIA.

(a) From various sources (agents, prisoners, deserters). Approximate only.

(b) Approximate only.

Locality.	Date.	Source	Units.	Men. (b)	Tents & Shelters.	Guns. (b)	Notes.
ABU IRGEIG.	24/2	RFC.	....	- (?200)	T. S. 3 24.	-	
AKABA.	15/2	Agent	....	(?250)	-	-	200 Armed Arabs, 50 Syrians.
BIR SABA.	24/2	RFC.	....	-	705	-	Including neighbouring camps. UM FARRATH camp reported gone.
		(a)	6 bns. Turk Infantry. Probably from 16th & 27th Divs. ?125th Regt - 3 bns. ? 8th Cav. Regt.	7000	-	9 2 A.A.	Labour Corps. 3000 mules. 4 guns from AUJA and 2 Mtn Guns from NEKHL possibly here also.
EL ABREISA.	14/2	RFC	....	- (?100)	2. 11	-	
EL GHABI.	14/2.	RFC	....	- (?100)	13	-	
EL SHUSHI.	9/2	RFC	....	-	3. 14.	-	
GAZA.	24/2	RFC (a)	81st Regt - 3 bns, or 136th " - 3 bns. ? Camel Corps.	- 2000	110.	-	

Locality.	Date.	Source	Units.	Men. (b)	Tents & Shelters	Guns. (b)	Notes.
SHELLAL-NURAN.	21/2.	RFC	.....	-	920	-	
		(a)	31st Regt. 4 bns. 32nd Regt. 3-4 bns. 130th Regt. 3-4 bns. 3-6 bns from 16th or 27th Divs. or both. 3rd Cav. Regt. 1 sqd. ?6th Cav. Regt. ?7th Cav. Regt. ?5th Regt. Art.	14000	-	26 6 A.A.	3rd Division. Parts of 16th and 27th Divisions. 2 German Hovs. 4 Field Guns. 2-3 Coys Austrn. Mtn Guns (8-12 guns. 8 Turkish Field Guns. 2 German M.G. Coys (12 guns). 2 Turkish " " (8-12 guns).
TEL EL SHERIA.	24/2.	RFC.	.....	-	500	-	
				3500	-	-	Not including Auxiliary units, e.g. Depots, Hospitals etc.
			TOTAL.	26500 ^H	2310.	41 8 A.A.	Including 6 guns from AUJA (unpl- aced) and NEKHL.
							^H Maximum estimate. The 31st Regt. (4 bns) reported by des- erter to be only about 2,000 strong. The real strength is more probably 3rd Div. 7,200 rifles, 16th Div. 5,400 rifles, 27th Div., 5,400, Cavalry and various 6,000, Total 24,000.

Locality.	Date.	Source	Units.	Men. (b)	Tents & Shelters.	Guns. (b)	Notes.
<u>Base Troopss.</u>							
EL TINE.	1/2	RFC	....	- 400	44 -	- -	
JERICHO.	18/1	RFC	....	-	100	-	
JERUSALEM.	19/1	RFC	....	-	30	-	Barracks but no troops seen.
		(a)	Depot Regt. - 4 bns.	?3000	-	-	Part of 23rd and 53rd Divisions. Depot Regt. probably drawn upon to replace desertions etc.
NAANE.	18/2	RFC	....	- 300.	30 -	- -	Troops possibly billeted in town.
RAMLEH.	18/2	RFC	....	-	80	?3 A.A.	
	25/2	RFC	....	- 400	- -	- -	New aerodrome, 3 hangars. Not including aviation units.
TOTAL.				?4,100	284.	?3 A.A.	
GRAND TOTAL.				30,600	2594.	41. ? 11 A. A.	<u>GENERAL NOTE.</u> Owing to desertion and sickness battalion strength is probably nearer 600 than 750, figure at which it is reckoned here.

O. C. "B" Flight

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S E C R E T.

No. 110.

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

3rd March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. GROUPING OF DIVISIONS IN TURKISH
ARMY CORPS.
2. THE PALESTINE FRONT.

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1. GROUPING OF DIVISIONS IN TURKISH ARMY CORPS.

The grouping of Divisions in Turkish Army Corps changes frequently and no details are known concerning certain Army Corps, the composition of which must therefore be a matter of speculation.

The following represents our latest information:--

<u>ARMY CORPS.</u>	<u>DIVISION.</u>
I.	Unknown.
II.	1. 47.
III.	14. 48.
IV.	11. 12.
V.	Non-existent.
VI.	15, 25, 26.
VII.	39. 40.
VIII.	3, ?16, 27.
IX.	Non-existent.
X.	" "
XI.	" "
XII.	43, 44, ?53.
XIII.	2. 6.
XIV.	Unknown.
XV.	19. 20.
XVI.	5, ?7, 8.
XVII.	56, ?59.
XVIII.	45, 51, 52.
XIX.	Unknown.
XX.	46, 50.
XXI.	? 57.

<u>ARMY CORPS.</u>	<u>DIVISION.</u> (Contd).
1st Caucasus	9 "Caucasus". 10 "Caucasus". 36 "Caucasus".
2nd Caucasus	5 "Caucasus". 11 "Caucasus". 37 "Caucasus".

Divisions available for the 1st, XIVth, and XIXth A.C. and for addition to two divisional A.C. are:--

- 4, (perhaps belonging to XIII).
- 23.
- 24.
- 35. (if existent).
- 41.
- 42.
- 49.
- 54.
- 55.

The 22nd Division (ASSIR) and the 58th (HEJAZ Expeditionary Force) are almost certainly independent Divisions.

NOTE.

The following information has been received within the last few days.

(1) Deserters who arrived MITYLENE report that 172nd Regt., 4 battns., strong, is disposed along or near the Anatolian Coast from FOKIA to AIVALI and belongs to 56th Division, 17th Army Corps.

(2) Prisoner of War's letter indicates that 57th Division including 175th Regt. is at MUGHLA (between ADALIA and SMYRNA).

(3) Letter received by Prisoner of War indicates that 59th Division is at MANISA (N. of SMYRNA). This is the first

mention of this new Division and it may be in reality nothing more than an aggregation of recruits.

2. THE PALESTINE FRONT.

There are indications that the 3rd Division has been brought up to its former strength of 12 battalions by drafts from the 27th Division. According to deserters the 160th Regiment has been absorbed by the 31st Regt. Its place in the 3rd Division is reported to have been taken by the "38th" Regiment.

This may be a mistake for the 138th Regiment. The 38th Regt. was identified by contact at BRAILA, Roumania on February 24th 1917 and that such mistakes do occur is shown by the fact that deserters and P. of W. taken in Mesopotamia on several occasions confused the 156th Regiment (Tigris Front) with the 56th (Roumanian Front).

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SECRET.

No. 111.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

5th March, 1917.

Army 98

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE R.F.C.
23/2/17 - 1/3/17.
2. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.

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1. RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5th WING, R.F.C. 23/2/17 - 1/3/17.

During the week the R.F.C. co-operated with the Column which attacked KHAN YUNIS on the 23rd.

The principal points brought out by reconnaissance were the following:-

An increase at TEL EL SHARIA on the 24th, 500 tents and shelters being observed as against 250 on the 14th inst., the evacuation of AUJA which took place between the 24th and 27th, and the disappearance of the UM FARRATH camps on the 26th.

The following is a detailed analysis of the daily events of the week.

23/2/17. Co-operation was carried out with the Column attacking KHAN YUNIS. Contact patrols operated with our troops throughout the morning, landed at the Headquarters of the Column and reported the enemy holding the town and non-combatants evacuating along the NURAN ROAD. During the operation a reconnaissance of the area GAZA - TEL EL JEMMI - NURAN and KARM IBN MUSLEH was made and report dropped that roads were clear of enemy reinforcements.

Hostile aircraft reconnoitred MAGDHABA about noon.
24/2/17. AUJA was normal and about 100 infantry were seen on parade and 12 coaches on the railway, the latter evidently in connection with the evacuation which took place before the 27th. At TEL EL SHARIA an increase of 250 tents and shelters was seen. 8 coaches were in the station.

25/2/17. Machines co-operated with troops operating at RAFA. A series of successful photographs were taken of the WELI SHEIKH NURAN position.

26/2/17.

Hostile aircraft reported flying East from EL BURJ at 1.45. Two machines went straight to BEERSHEBA to intercept but the enemy did not return there.

A photographic reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA railway from JUNCTION STATION to BEERSHEBA (a distance of 55 m.) was unfortunately wasted owing to a fault in the camera.

The camps at UM FARRATH south of BEERSHEBA were seen to have disappeared.

Rolling stock seen on the BEERSHEBA line this day amounted to one train of 30 trucks south of the Junction, and two trains at TEL EL SHARIA.

27/2/17.

Reconnaissance of AUJA reported AUJA evacuated. The Decauville rails had been removed but main line rails were still in position. Water tower blown in, and houses partly roofless. A train was attacked with machine gun fire and boiler believed pierced. Further up line two trucks containing soldiers were fired on.

28/2/17.

Hostile aircraft reported from MAGDHABA at 1257. Two machines pursued it until it was lost in a cloud over WELI SHEIKH NURAN:

1/3/17.

Patrols were maintained throughout the day. A hostile machine passed over SHEIKH ZOWALD in the morning and flew to MAGDHABA. Two machines left in pursuit but were unable to sight it.

2. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.

(4/3/17)

BELES AND STRUMA SECTORS.

Usual successful patrol encounters and raids, in which we captured several prisoners.

GREECE.

Count of guns, machine guns and rifles in MOREA is now going on. No distress from blockade in THESSALY, but PIRAEUS, ATHENS and MOREA considerably affected by it.

WESTERN SECTOR.

Italians made attack on German positions Hill 1050, capturing 69 prisoners 9th Jagers and 11th Reserve Jagers. Owing to explosion of mine they could not maintain their positions and withdrew to their original line.

GEVGELI - DOIRAN SECTOR.

Usual artillery bombardment and patrol activity. Greatly increased aerial activity. 15 enemy machines bombed 2 Allied aerodromes on 26/2/17; in retaliation we bombed ammunition depot near CERNISTE causing large explosion. 27/2/17, 20 hostile aeroplanes raided our camps about SALONIKA; in retaliation we successfully raided enemy depot and camps at STOJAKOVO south-west of DOIRAN.

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SECRET.

No. 112.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (TURKEY).
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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (TURKEY).

CAUCASUS FRONT.

No change reported on this front.

MESOPOTAMIA & S.W. PERSIA.

It is reported that the Turks in the HAMADAN area are falling back, and that the entire XIIIth A.C. may eventually retire to the Turco-Persian border.

HALIL Pasha, G.O.C. Vith Army is reported to have resigned his command. The retreat of the Turkish forces on the TIGRIS seems to have brought about the withdrawal of their troops on the EUPHRATES, who appear to be retiring upstream from SAMAWA.
SYRIA.

Central Syria and Palestine. It would seem from the statements of several deserters that the 3rd Division is being brought up to its original strength of 12 battalions by drafts from the 27th Division and from the Depot Regiment at JERUSALEM. One group of deserters reports the 160th Regiment "absorbed" and its place taken by the "38th Regiment", possibly the 138th, the 33th Regiment being in ROUMANIA, but later arrivals from the Turkish lines speak of the 160th Regiment as still in existence.

According to recent deserters the 162nd Regiment which was expected on the PALESTINE FRONT has been diverted to ARABIA.

A deserter from the 125th Regiment states that his regiment totals only 1,500 rifles. Deserters from the 31st and 32nd (4 battalion) Regiments put their total strength at 2,000 and 2,500 rifles respectively. The 32nd Regiment is said to have lost over 600 men from disease and desertion during the last 3 months. The enemy continues to be exceedingly short of pack transport. He has lost 2/3rds of the Camels which he had during the

ROMANI operations, and is short of mules and horses. His moral, as evidenced by the frequency of desertion, is bad.

Deserters have reported the 23rd and 53rd Divisions as on their way to the S. PALESTINE FRONT. On the other hand the latest information from this source gives the impression that the 162nd Regiment (53rd Division) has followed the 163rd to the HEJAZ. The non-appearance of any further units of the 43rd Division following the 138th Regiment in S. PALESTINE may be due to demands from MESOPOTAMIA (whither nine battalions - some of bad quality - were sent by JEMAL Pasha in December, according to captured telegrams) having taken precedence of other needs or to JEMAL Pasha's fears of an extension of the Arab movement.

During the period under consideration HAFIR EL AUJA has been evacuated and there has been a steady decrease of the enemy's tents and shelters at BIR SABA, 154 with 93 on the BIR SABA - KHALASA ROAD, totalling 247 on March 3rd as against 705 on Feb. 24th. There were 411 tents and shelters at TEL EL SHARIA on March 3rd (decrease of about 90) and on March 2nd an increase of 160 at the SHELLAL SHEIKH NURAN position was recorded. These figures were all obtained by R.F.C. reconnaissances.

Latest information from R.F.C., agents and deserters indicates that SHEIKH NURAN has been evacuated and a further withdrawal on the part of the enemy appears probable in the near future on this front.

ANATOLIA.

The 56th Division (Regiments 170, 171, 172) appears to be in W. ANATOLIA and to belong to the XVIIth A.C., Vth Army. Two deserters from the 172nd Regiment report its four battalions to be distributed between AIVALI and PHOKIA. A battalion of the 173rd Regiment, probably of the 57th Division, is reported at VURLA by the same deserters and a letter received by a P. or W. indicates

that 4/175 57th Division XXIst A.C. is at MUGHLA.

Another such letter places the 59th Division at MANISA,
N. of SMYRNA. Early in February only 2,000 recruits were
reported at MANISA by refugees from AFVALI and it is quite
possible that the 59th Division is still an embryo.

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SECRET.

No. 113.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

7th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. ARABIA.
2. REPORT OF RECENT OPERATIONS IN
MESOPOTAMIA.

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1. ARABIA.

The position continues to be satisfactory. The Turks retiring from SATH EL GHAYIR and KHUNAGAT AR RIM are reported to have reached BIR MASHI where the Arab force under Sherif ZEID is in touch with them. Some important refugees have arrived at MECCA from MEDINA. They state that food there is very scarce and that the inhabitants are advised by the Turks to leave the town and go to SYRIA. Many have done so and others are joining the Sherif.

The check which the Turks have sustained south of MEDINA coupled with recent events in MESOPOTAMIA appear to have produced a salutary effect upon IBN RASHID, - a report from a French Moslem Officer with ABDULLA'S force stating that he has informed the Turks that he cannot help them and that the small Turkish detachment which has been at HAIL for some time has left that place in consequence.

Deserters on the PALESTINE FRONT state that they belonged to the 162nd Regt. which they left to go to hospital at DAMASCUS 3 months ago. When they came out they heard that their regiment had gone to MEDINA and they themselves were then attached to the 16th Division. It would thus appear that the 162nd Regiment followed the 163rd in the direction of the HEJAZ but there is no evidence yet of it having arrived so far south as MEDAIN SALEH.

The activity of the Arabs against the railway continues and information received during the past week shows that they have destroyed a bridge at ABU NAIM and also destroyed the line near DAREL HAMRA, some 250 miles further North.

2. REPORT OF RECENT OPERATIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Summary of operations on TIGRIS FRONT during past week.

Following up successes of previous week on 25th Feb. our troops and gunboats pursued Turkish army retreating towards BAGHDAD and overtook rearguard holding strong position 15 miles N.W. of KUT, covering BQHALLAH. We assaulted and captured position inflicting heavy casualties and taking many prisoners. Pursuit continued on 26th. Turks again overtaken 15 miles to N.W. attacked on three sides by troops and gunboats and routed. Royal Navy recaptured gunboat "Firefly" which we lost in Nov. 1915 during retreat from CTESIPHON and took or destroyed other shipping. Enemy completely demoralised, retreat now become a rout. A line of retreat strewn with abandoned guns, arms, ammunition, transport, vehicles, equipment and stores of all kinds. On 27th, Cavalry and gunboats continued pursuit as far as AZIZIYAH, half way between KUT and BAGHDAD, punishing demoralised remnants of enemy army of which not more than some 5000 escaped. Our captures since the 23rd ult. include some 4000 prisoners, 53 guns, many machine guns and trench mortars, mass of rifles, ammunition, equipment and stores of all kinds, four ships, two tugs, ten barges and much miscellaneous river craft and bridging material. Much booty still being salvaged and there is evidence that a considerable amount has been thrown into the TIGRIS, whilst owing to the fact that it was strewn over some eighty miles of country, a good quantity has been secured by Arabs living in the neighbourhood.

B 41

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SECRET.

No. 114.

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

8th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

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EXTRACTS FROM WAR OFFICE WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

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EXTRACTS FROM WAR OFFICE WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, DATED 15/2/17.

In the WESTERN THEATRE on the British Front we have gone on with our highly successful nightly raids. We have beaten back every attack and we have moved forward our line north of the ANCRE. On the night of February 10th, we seized a strong system of hostile trenches north-east of BEAUMONT HAMEL, on a front of more than three-quarters of a mile and got 215 prisoners, our own total casualties being 150. The next night, we with scarcely any difficulty, occupied 600 yards of hostile trench in the same neighbourhood. On the morning of the 13th, our troops were specially fortunate in a raid east of SOUCHEZ, penetrating several hundred yards into the German defences and doing a lot of damage. We destroyed a trench railhead and four mine shafts and killed a great many Germans.

We have taken nearly 350 prisoners in the week's work.

The total gain of ground on the ANCRE since 17th January amounts to between 500 and 1,500 yards in depth on a front of some 5,000 yards. We now hold all the BEAUMONT HAMEL ridge, and we have pushed forward into the valley dividing this ridge from the SERRE heights. Further south we have moved on across this valley and have established ourselves on the ridge above BAILLESCOURT FARM. The 13th German Division has been very severely handled in this quarter as the whole of it - except one battalion - was engaged for two days on counter-attacking and doing all it could to try and drive us off this spur. All this ground is of great importance for purposes of observation.

On the French Front there is nothing of outstanding interest to note.

The EASTERN THEATRE has not been marked by any operations of importance. South of DWINSK the Germans say they raided the Russian positions and took 90 prisoners and a machine gun; near

KISELIN, west of LUTSK, they say they took 42 prisoners and a machine gun. While in the BUKOWINA they claim to have stormed a strongly fortified position, and to have captured 171 prisoners, 3 machine guns and much material.

In the SOUTHERN THEATRE, heavy snow has hindered operations in the TRENTINO. On the ISONZO front the Austrians made a violent attack on the Italian lines north and east of GORIZIA on February 10th: they occupied and held some front line trenches, but the next day the Italians re-occupied the lost ground, taking 100 prisoners.

We hear from the CAUCASUS that the two Turkish armies are finding great difficulty in maintaining their effectives. The troops are ill-clad and ill-fed. There has also been desertion both to the Russians and to the rear; between 7th October 1916 and 3rd February 1917, 579 deserters were received in the Russian lines.

PERSIA AND KURDISTAN. The Turks on February 8th re-occupied BURUJIRD, 70 miles S.S.W. of HAMADAN which was occupied by the Russians for a short while and evacuated.

In MESOPOTAMIA, our troops have continued to gain ground in the angle of the Tigris and SHATT-EL-HAI S.W. of KUT. On the morning of February 9th we took a portion of the enemy's trenches in this region near the HAI, and also occupied and consolidated 1,200 yards of his line further west. During the day our cavalry operated against the enemy's right flank. Next day we made a considerable advance, taking possession of the liquorice factory close to the canal, and securing a new line on a frontage of over 6,000 yards. In the course of these two days of strenuous fighting the Turks were driven back a distance of between 800 and 1,200 yards. Our artillery co-operated by shelling the enemy's bridge of boats at SHUMRAN; one direct hit was obtained. On the 11th our infantry continued to press back

the enemy so successfully that by the evening he had been hemmed in and confined to his last line of trenches - in the DAHRA bend of the Tigris. On the 12th, we advanced for distances increasing from 1,000 yards on our right, where we stormed a Turkish strong point to 2,500 on our left. On this flank we have now reached the river bank opposite the south-eastern corner of the SHUMRAN bend. The enemy have been obliged to lift their bridge of boats, and to tow the pontoons upstream. Thus for the present they have no bridge in use. The Turks have now cut the river bunds 12 miles upstream from the junction of the HAI, and so flooded the country on our left flank.

The Turkish losses may be judged from the fact that one of our brigades, whose total casualties were 190, collected over 200 dead Turks in the trenches they stormed.

With the confinement of the Turkish troops on the right bank of the Tigris to the DAHRA bend, where they have no bridge, their position is steadily becoming worse and they will have some difficulty in escaping. KUT itself is now subject to our fire from these directions, though the actual possession of the town is of little military importance.

The news that the Turks have cut the bunds of the Tigris some distance upstream may mean that they intend to evacuate their positions at and below KUT. This might hamper the operations of our cavalry west of KUT but would greatly increase watering facilities.

The total Turkish losses since 12th December cannot be less than 15,000.

EAST AFRICA. There is no change in the situation.

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SECRET.

No. 115.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

9th March 1917.

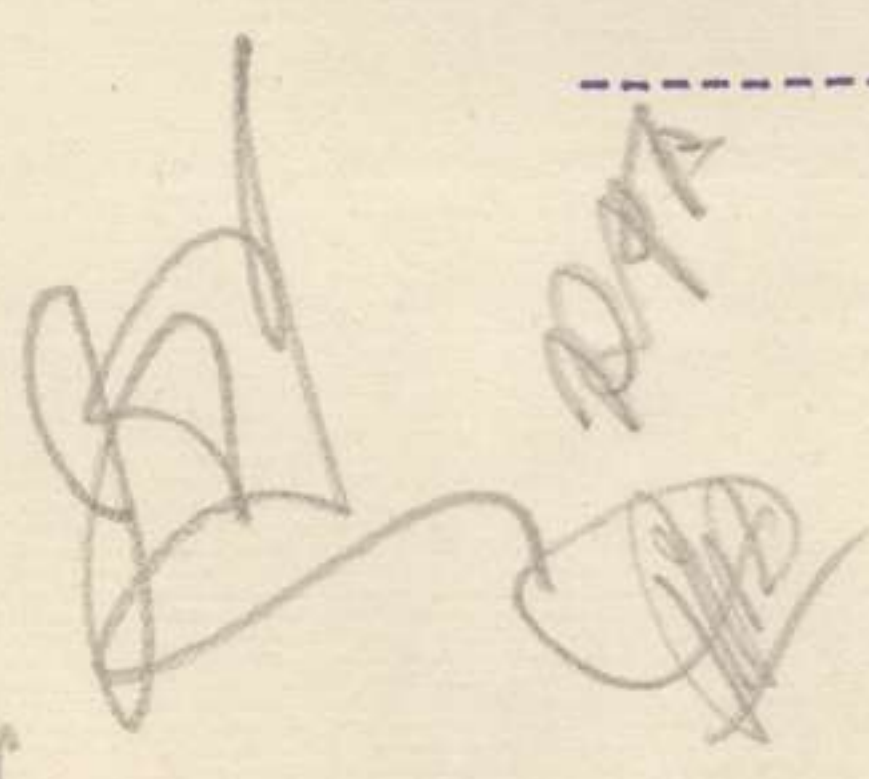
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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN SINAI & SOUTHERN
SYRIA.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN SINAI & SOUTHERN SYRIA.

Page 527.

(a) From various sources (agents, prisoners, deserters) Approximate only.

(b) Approximate only.

Locality.	Date.	Source.	Units.	Men. (b)	Tents & Shelters		Guns. (b)	Notes.
					T.	S.		
ABU HAREIRA.	7/3	FFC	... ..	2700	243.	60	-	
ABU IRGEIG.	7/3	FFC	... ..	100	15		-	
ABU JERRAR.	6/3	FFC	... ..	600	88		-	
BIR SABA. } UM FARRATH. }	7/3	FFC	... ..	3500	283.	190	-	Probably includes a number of Labour Corps.
WADI IMLEIH.	5/3	RFC	... ..	500	70		-	Bridge over wadi burnt.
GAZA.	7/3	RFC	... ..	?2000	100		-	Probably many have now moved North and East. Agent says guns removed.
HUJ. (near JEMAMA, good wells, 10 miles E. of GAZA.)	6/3	RFC	... ..	7000	1000.		-	Probably a division in the JEMAMA area where the 3rd Divn. was quartered before the ROMANI campaign. End May to July 1916.
TEL EL SHERIA.	7/3	RFC	... ..	1500	172 T.	5 AA.	-	22 hospital tents included.

Impossible to give estimate of units - enemy being still in retreat. No deserters have come in.

Locality.	Date	Source	Units.	Men (b)	Tents & shelters.	Guns (b)	Notes.
5 Miles N.W. SHEFIA.	6/3	RFC	Impossible to give any estimate of units - enemy being still in retreat, No deserters have come in.	?1000	200S.	-	Circular position. HURAB-DIAB- EL JINDI-KHAN ZUHEILIKAH. 26 lengths of trench-work being continued.
KH/N AKRA.	7/3	FFC		3000	400-500	-	22 trenches, 4 gun positions. But some of the troops may have come overnight from HUI.
ZFIDAN - TEL EL NEJILE.	7/3	RFC		6000	1250	-	
			TOTAL.	27500	4121	41 8 A.A.	Including Labour Corps, A.S.C. etc. Some of the troops classed as Base troops in Summary 109 have probably come up. Guns unplaced.
<u>Base Troops.</u>							
JUNCTION STA.	6/3	RFC		900	120	-	
ZFITA.	6/3	RFC		400	50	-	
JERUSALEM.	-	-		?4000	-	-	Depot troops probably now decreased owing to drafts.
RAMLEH.	8/3	-		-	150 T.	3 A.A.	At least 5 aeroplanes.
			TOTAL.	?5800	320	3 A.A.	
			GRAND TOTAL.	32800	4441.	41. 11 A.A.	

B Ht

Page 529.

S E C R E T.

No. 116.

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

10th March, 1917.

Army G S

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

THE TURKISH FORCES IN MESOPOTAMIA.

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THE TURKISH FORCES IN MESOPOTAMIA.

I.E.F. "D" reports that on March 6th 1917 prisoners of at least 11 different units were captured on the TIGRIS FRONT and straggling still continues.

A. Prisoner of War of the 64th Regiment states that his regiment reached BAGHDAD on March 3rd. The personnel were nearly all raw recruits, battalion strength below 400. The prisoner reports much confusion among units on the TIGRIS FRONT and the re-organisation into one Division of the remains of Divisions 4, 45 and ?52. The 41st Regiment has been re-organised as two companies. It seems a justifiable assumption that Divisions on this front will be contracted into Regiments and regiments into battalions, as in units similarly telescoped in the CAUCASUS, the original titular numbers being retained.

NOTE.

The 41st and 64th Regiments belong to the 14th Division. Its third regiment, the 12th, may be on the way to IRAK.

The Turkish forces in the TIGRIS - S.W. PERSIA Theatre are therefore presumably composed of :--

One "telescoped Division" (ex Divisions 4, 45, ?52) Divisions 2, 6, and ?51 (though the last must have suffered severely in the recent fighting) plus $3\frac{1}{2}$ battalions of the 14th Division and a weak cavalry brigade.

2 battalions of the 156th Regiment, a Cavalry Regiment and about 1,500 Gendarmes and miscellaneous troops might be withdrawn from the Lower EUPHRATES for the defence of BAGHDAD.

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Page 031.

S E C R E T.

No. 117.

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

12th March, 1917.

Army GS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (TURKEY).

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WEEKLY SUMMARY OF INFORMATION (TURKEY).CAUCASUS FRONT.

P. of W. from the IIIrd Army report two A.C. under von TROMMER Pasha arriving at SIVAS. Deserters on the other hand state that the XVIIth A.C. has already reached SIVAS having left SMYRNA early in February. This statement is almost certainly premature, since the entire A.C. in question could hardly have reached SIVAS in 3 weeks from SMYRNA. Meanwhile there is good reason to believe that between 35% and 40% of the Turkish IIIrd Army are at present casualties, mainly from sickness.

P. of W. reports work on an extension of the (unfinished) ANKARA-YOZGAD line to TOKAT. A railway from ULU KISHLA (near BOZANTI) to KAISARI is also reported under construction. H.Q. of the IInd Army are now known to be at DIARBEKIR.

MESOPOTAMIA & S.W. PERSIA.

The 64th Regiment arrived at BAGHDAD on March 3rd and shared in the disastrous defeats of the retreating TIGRIS Army. The third regiment of the 14th Division may be expected on this front. In consequence of the heavy losses inflicted on him the enemy has (according to a prisoner's very probable statement) "telescoped" three of his Divisions into a single division, perhaps on the same lines that were adopted last October on the Northern Caucasus Front, when 4 A.C. were reduced to as many divisions.

The Turkish force in S.W. PERSIA is in full retreat towards the Turco-Persian frontier.

SYRIA.Cilicia and Aleppo area.

No salient news.

Lebanon and Palestine.

Agents in LEBANON merely lament the increase of disease, famine and desertion in the country

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and furnish no important military information this week.

Information was received on March 4th that the enemy was about to retire from the SHELLAL-SHEIKH NURAN position and that the line GAZA-JEMAMA-TEL EL SHARIA-BIR SABA would be occupied and strengthened. Another (deserter's) report stated that the enemy was retiring to the line running through BAB EL WADI, 15 miles west of JERUSALEM.

The enemy evacuated SHEIKH NURAN-SHELLAL on the night of March 4/5th. A series of R.F.C. reconnaissances between MARCH 6th-10th showed the bulk of his force to be lying between JEMAMA and TEL EL NEJILI where 1,270 tents were reported on March 8th. There have been indications that the enemy may intend to retreat further N. R.F.C. reconnaissances have thus far failed to locate anything more than the minimum of defensive works in his new position. Reports from Agents and Deserters gave the impression that GAZA was being evacuated, but a deserter from that place on the 11th instant stated that there were 2 battalions of the 81st Regiment there with 5 mountain guns, 5 machine guns and 2 A.A. guns. This information taken in conjunction with the fact that part of the Decauville has been left down south of TEL EL SHARIA suggests that the enemy does not intend for the present to evacuate this line entirely.

Owing to the paucity of deserters to us during the past week there have been no new identifications on this

front. But the statements of Deserters and P.of W. from both PALESTINE and HEJAZ coupled with the report of a DAMASCUS agent give the impression that the 53rd Division is not in the PALESTINE Theatre at all but forms part of the Turkish Composite force on the HEJAZ Railway.

A Turkish deserter from the 60th German Foot Artillery reports this unit to consist at present of 45 Germans (all ranks) and about 210 Turks with four 6" and two 4.2" guns or howitzers.

EUROPE & W. ANATOLIA.

While there have been reports from Bulgarian sources that the Turkish forces in Europe were to be withdrawn for service in Asia, identifications from ROUMANIA give the impression that the 15th, 25th and 26th Divisions are still there.

Much activity is being displayed on the strengthening of the defences of the SMYRNA region.

B Lt

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SECRET.

No. 118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

13th March, 1917.

Army G

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5TH
WING, R.F.C.. 2/3/17 - 8/3/17.

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RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5TH WING, R.F.C. 2/3/17-3/3/17.

The salient event of the week has been the sudden evacuation by the enemy of his well prepared position in the WALI SHEIKH NURAN area. The camps in this area were reported by aerial reconnaissance to be normal on the 4th instant, but a reconnaissance on the 5th found the enemy to be in full retreat. The Royal Flying Corps immediately began a vigorous offensive which was still in progress at the end of the week. Excellent contact was maintained throughout each day with the retiring enemy and the whole of the forces which recently occupied the WALI SHEIKH NURAN position have been located. At the end of the period under review these forces were scattered in various camps in the area south of the WADI-EL-HESI and west of TEL-EL-NEJILE. On the 8th inst. the camps immediately west of the latter place were estimated to be sufficient for one Division. During the last four days of the week nearly 3 tons of bombs were dropped. The enemy's forces were caught on the move and very severely punished. Columns of troops and transport were repeatedly bombed from low heights and scattered with machine gun fire, every station on the line from JUNCTION STATION southwards to BEERSHEBA was bombed, many direct hits were recorded and considerable damage was done to trains and rolling stock. Other objectives were camps and bridges. The former were effectively bombed and also constantly subjected to machine gun fire. These attacks have been carried out both by night and by day by relays of machines.

The enemy's aircraft have not been in evidence and have only made one attempt to interfere with our operations. This occurred on the 8th instant when five hostile machines attempted to interfere with six of ours which were engaged

in a bomb attack on JUNCTION STATION. The hostile machines were driven off and the attack was completed.

OFFENSIVE. 5th. Bomb attacks on the TEL EL SHARIA

station, wooden railway bridge on WADI IMLEIH. Direct hits obtained on railway line, buildings and alongside train and wooden bridge damaged. Several large columns of troops and transport attacked on the roads with machine gun fire.

6th. Rolling stock, line and station buildings were bombed and damaged at BEERSHEBA, TEL EL SHARIA, EL MENSHIYE, TEL EL NEJILE and JUNCTION STATION. Machine gun fire was directed ^{at} Cavalry, trains and horse lines with good effect. The machine of a pilot attacking the new camps near TEL EL NEJILE was struck by a rifle bullet which ignited the Very's lights in the locker behind pilot and thus set the fuselage on fire, one cartridge after another exploding. The pilot although in severe pain, flew back to RAFA, where he landed, extinguished the fire and flew his damaged machine safely back to the aerodrome in the dark, in order to give in his report.

7th. TEL EL SHARIA, NEJILE and EL MENSHIYE station were bombed, as well as the railway line and camps in vicinity. The pilot attacking TEL EL SHARIA had his engine disabled by A.A. fire. He managed to reach KHAN YUNIS, where he landed; owing to the nature of the ground he was unable to get off again, he buried the lock of his machine gun and his ammunition and made his way back to RAFA where he was picked up by another machine which brought him home although already carrying pilot and passenger. The machine has since been salvaged.

In the evening six machines made a very successful attack on JUNCTION STATION, eight direct hits were obtained on buildings and rolling stock.

8th. On the night of the 7/8th five attacks were made by moonlight on TEL EL SHARIA station, camp and rolling stock at one hour intervals. Camps were also attacked with machine gun fire. Machines were received with very heavy A.A. fire, two were damaged but all returned safely.

RECONNAISSANCE.

2nd. NURAN positions 1160 tents and shelters.

ABASAN EL KEBIR redoubt occupied. 800 horses seen in the neighbourhood of TEL EL FARA.

Decauville railway within one mile of TEL EL SHARIA.

3rd. ABASAN EL KEBIR redoubt occupied, otherwise no sign of enemy in the vicinity of KHAN YUNIS. The enemy outposts at ABU SITTA, ABU KHATLI and EL GHABI were reported occupied.

BEERSHEBA 154 tents and shelters, a decrease of 350 since the 12th February. UM FARRATH 93 tents and shelters. The camps to the East on the AUJA road had disappeared. TEL EL SHARIA 419 tents and shelters. ABU HAREIRA 73 tents and shelters and a line of six trenches facing west and two facing North.

4th. BEERSHEBA no change. Rolling stock:- 10 trucks in the morning and 45 trucks in the afternoon. 1200 men seen marching towards SHELLAL from BEERSHEBA. WALI SHEIKH NURAN no change in camps. Two squadrons of cavalry observed.

5th. Weather very unfavourable for reconnaissance. On TEL EL SHARIA - SHELLAL road two bodies of 500 men were seen halted.

NURAN position reported evacuated by evening reconnaissance. 500 men were seen at a point not located owing to mist on the SHARIA - GAZA road.

6th. GAZA. 150 tents and shelters. Slight movement on GAZA - BEERSHEBA road chiefly East. EL NJJILE. In area to N.W.

of this station pilot of a bombing machine reported 2000 tents and shelters. ABU JERRAR. 88 tents and shelters and 7 trenches. ABU HAREIRA. 29 tents and shelters.

7th. GAZA. 100 tents and shelters and considerable transport movement on roads in area. 133 wagons counted. Camps N.W. of TEL EL NEJILE reported as containing 527 tents and shelters. Reconnaissance machine hit by gun fire and flying wires cut necessitating return. BEERSHEBA. 473 tents and shelters. ABU IRGEYG 15 tents. 30 infantry and 60 cavalry going S.E. SHARIA. 172 tents and shelters. Very heavy A.A. fire. ABU HAREIRA. 308 tents and shelters.

8th. Camps E.W. of NEJILE. 1270 tents and shelters. Camps near HAREIRA 290 tents and shelters.

During the week the usual protective reconnaissances were carried out of the approaches to RAFA from the N.E. and E.

RAFA position reported evacuated by evening reconnaissance. No sign of activity in the area. Reconnaissance machine hit by gun fire and flying wires cut necessitating return. BEERSHEBA. 473 tents and shelters. ABU IRGEYG 15 tents. 30 infantry and 60 cavalry going S.E. SHARIA. 172 tents and shelters. Very heavy A.A. fire. ABU HAREIRA. 308 tents and shelters.

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SECRET.

No. 119.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

14th March, 1917.

Army GS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.
2. RECENT OPERATIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

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1. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.GREECE.

The storage of guns in MCREA has been completed. The result of movement of rifles has yet to be estimated.

STRUMA SECTOR.

There have been Turkish and Macedonian desertions daily.

BELES SECTOR.

Successful raids have been made on enemy posts in the vicinity of CAKLI-AKINDZALI and BREST, 8 prisoners were taken from the Macedonian Division and more were killed.

VARDAR-DOIRAN SECTOR.

On the night of March 5th/6th our patrols entered enemy works N.W. of DOLDZELI, inflicting casualties on the garrison, which fled. Our aeroplanes made a night raid on HUDOVA aerodrome, and depots at CESTOVO.

ALBANIA.

Two Austrian Officer deserters give the following distribution of forces:--

19th Corps H.Q. SCUTARI.

47th Division H.Q., TIRANA, consisting of
14th and 20th Mountain Brigades.

Region of the Lakes 9th battalion, 23rd Landwehr Regiment, 2 battalions 23rd Landsturm Regiment, 1 battalion each 19th and 28th Regiments, 1st and 4th battalions Grenz Jaegers.

North of SKUNBI river 1 battalion 46th Regiment, 5th and possibly 16th battalions Grenz Jaegers, 21th Etape Brigade and a Hungarian Etape Brigade, composition of both these brigades unknown.

South of SKUNBI one battalion each 72nd and 54th Regiments, 1st, 2nd and 7th battalions Bosnia Jaegers. even though the enemy have been reported to

WESTERN SECTOR

No change, but on the night of March 5th/6th the enemy

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is reported to have used gas. All existing German
still
units on this front/remain there, but no additional
troops reported.

2. RECENT OPERATIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

TIGRIS FRONT, Summary of events of the
past week.

On the 5th March we advanced from AZIZIYEH on
BAGHDAD, moving by the left bank of the Tigris. The
Turkish rearguard was driven from a position at LAJJ,
100 prisoners and 1 gun being taken.

On the 7th our advanced troops found the Turks
strongly entrenched along the DIALAH river and contin-
uation of that line on the right bank of the Tigris
covering BAGHDAD from the S. and S.W. The Tigris was
bridged near BAWI on the 8th and we attached up both
banks the following day. The enemy offered a strong
resistance, but we established a footing across the
DIALAH and secured their advanced position on the right
bank of the Tigris.

On the 10th a further line of trenches was captured
on this bank and enemy driven within three miles of

BAGHDAD, while on the left bank we completely established
ourselves across the DIALAH river which was bridged in
face of strong opposition. 300 prisoners were taken
and over 200 dead Turks found in vicinity of crossing
alone. Night 10/11th enemy retreated N. of BAGHDAD.

About 600 Turks captured on the 11th and a large quantity
of booty although the enemy have removed or destroyed many
articles of military value during the past fortnight.

Marauding Arabs and Kurds were beginning to loot
city when our troops arrived and rapidly established order.

J. F. B.

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SECRET.

No. 120.

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

15th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. ARABIA.
2. WESTERN DESERT.

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1. ARABIA.

The activity of the Sherif's forces against the railway has met with considerable success. Substantial damage to the line was done on the 3rd instant at DAR EL HAMRA and MATALLI respectively 45 and 30 miles North of MEDAIN SALEH and the new confidence which now animates the Arabs is evidenced by the fact that they persistently harassed the repair gang sent out by the enemy and captured the whole of one such gang. Another report states that the bridge over WADI HAMDH at ABU NAIM has been blown up and the line destroyed "between six stations". The guard of 22 Turks stationed at the bridge was captured. As the Arabs under Feisal and Abdulla now control practically all the country and most of the tribes west of the railway up to MEDAIN SALEH and possibly even further North the opportunities for offensive action against the line are numerous and varied.

The last report from BIR MASHI (27 miles South of MEDINA) stated that the Turks still occupied that post but its evacuation must now be imminent.

IBN SAOUD'S attitude towards the Sherif is becoming increasingly friendly and reports from BASRA suggest that no aggressive action is to be feared from IBN RASHID so that the Sherif's position as a whole would now seem to be a strong one.

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2. WESTERN DESERT.

SAYED AHMED with a part of his forces is still at JAGHBUB but preparing to depart. There is little indication as to where he will go, KUFRA, CYRENAICA and TRIPOLI being all suggested in turn.

MOHAMED IDRIS shows ingenuous confidence in his relations with the British by sending about 200 camels to purchase dates from SIWA. The camels have been allowed in, but are being detained.

There is information that NURI the Turkish agent has been doing his best to reconcile RAMADAN IL SOWEHLI and IDRIS but it is most unlikely that he will succeed in forming an offensive alliance between them.

An attempt has been made to establish wireless about 40 miles from the Egyptian boundary in Italian territory, a party of Turks and Germans being reported to have been landed from a submarine.

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SECRET.

No. 121.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

16th March, 1917.

Amey G/S

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

EXTRACTS FROM WAR OFFICE WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

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1. EXTRACTS FROM WAR OFFICE WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, DATED 22/2/17.

In the WESTERN THEATRE on the British Front, our troops on February 17th moved forward on both banks of the ANCRE, and south of the river the enemy's positions opposite MIRAUMONT and PETIT MIRAUMONT were seized on a front of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. We penetrated over 1,000 yards into the enemy's defences, and carried our line to within a few hundred yards of PETIT MIRAUMONT. North of the ANCRE we stormed an important position on the upper slopes of the spur north of BAILLESCOURT FARM on a front of about 1,000 yards, taking 610 prisoners and a number of machine guns. Next morning the Germans counter-attacked our new positions on the north bank in force, but were driven back and lost heavily.

Raids have been carried out by us as successfully as usual at various points of the line during the past week, the only misadventure being that, on the evening of the 19th, one of our small advanced posts south of LE TRANSLCY was rushed by strong enemy detachments freely using flammenwerfer. Our trench had been previously demolished by a heavy bombardment.

On the night of the 20th we captured 184 prisoners in a series of raids, in one of which near YPRES 114 prisoners were taken and severe losses were inflicted on the enemy.

French raids have done considerable damage to the enemy.

Our advance south of the ANCRE on the 17th carried us across the low ground between our former line and PETIT MIRAUMONT, and though we have not yet secured the top of the ridge we now overlook the village from the south-west.

As regards the EASTERN THEATRE, in Galicia where snow and bitter cold have prevailed there has been fighting 20 miles S.S.W. of BROD; the Germans say they maintained themselves in the Russian lines for 5 hours, and destroyed the Russian galleries running to their own trenches.

Of ROUMANIA there is nothing now to be said.

Neither in the SOUTHERN THEATRE nor in THE CAUCASUS nor in PERSIA AND KURDISTAN is there any change to note.

MESOPOTAMIA.

In the early morning of February 14th our troops west of the Hai Canal again attacked the enemy positions in the Dahra bend of the Tigris. The Turkish trenches were stormed on a front of 700 yards, which was soon extended by bombing to 1,000 yards. Later in the day we succeeded, by further assaults, in clearing this bend of the river of all the enemy forces except a few detachments. Operations were continued during the night, and by day-break we had driven the enemy entirely from the right bank. 2,005 prisoners, 5 machine guns, 25,000 rifles and half-a-million rounds of S.A.A. were left in our hands.

On the same day our left flank was advanced as far westwards as the south-western corner of the Shumran bend of the river, and the country in this direction has since been reported clear of the enemy for a distance of 17 miles.

The clearance of the Turks from the Dahra bend of the Tigris appears to have been brilliantly carried out by our troops; and General Maude specially commends the performance of the artillery. Its accurate fire sank many of the pontoons in which the Turks were trying to re-cross the river, and so made their escape extremely difficult and disagreeable. Besides the large amount of material we took for ourselves, the Turks are known to have destroyed a quantity of stores and to have thrown into the river many machine guns of which also a good many were destroyed by our bombardment. Our left flank on the Shumran bend is now unopposed, but the cutting of the river 'bunds' mentioned in last week's letter, has impeded cavalry operations to westward. Heavy rain has also fallen.

EAST AFRICA.

There has been no change in the general situation in the Eastern area since 7th February. The main German force remains in the district between UTEMBE LAKE and MADABA, with posts at MPANGANYA, UNGWARA, NYANGUWE and NYANDOTE.

Heavy rains are imminent.

In the Western area, the enemy under Kraut's command are evidently short of Supplies. After the abortive attempt to march south to the Portuguese border, they moved north about February 4th (towards MAHENGE) but on February 15th were reported as having once more turned south towards GUMBIRO, whence 5 companies moved West towards Milow Station, the remainder crossing the WIEDHAFEN - SSONGEA road pursued by Colonel Hawthorne's column. A detachment of Colonel Murray's column from LUPEMBE is moving in the direction of MILOW.

The German force in this area is sorely depleted by casualties and deserters, and can scarcely muster 300 rifles.

NOTES.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Information recently obtained shows that the transport situation in Germany and Austria is becoming one of increasing difficulty owing to the drastic "combing-out" of men from industries and to the effect of our blockade.

A German Army Order dated the 21st January, stated that all leave from the front was to be suspended^{*}, and civilian traffic in Germany restricted from the 23rd January to the 19th February inclusive in order to enable necessary war material to be transported.

According to published statistics, the present monthly output of railway material is only 70% of the amount required for maintenance, excluding the increased area of railways taken over in the occupied territories.

A large number of passenger trains has been cancelled in the last three months. It is reported that in BADEN they have been reduced to two a day in each direction. The congestion in BERLIN has been reported as specially serious. Both the wheat and fuel shortage in MUNICH have been ascribed to lack of railway transport facilities. Dues for 1,300 unloaded trucks per day were being paid in Saxony in January, and it was stated in the Press that the shortage of coal and coke in BERLIN in January was due to the overcrowding of railway stations with rolling stock. We hear from quite independent sources that both goods

* G.H.Q. offers consolation to the men whose leave has been stopped. "I beg you to make them understand that it is of the highest importance that leave should be sacrificed in order that our armament may be completed."

traffic and troop movements are hindered and held up by the lack of grease and lubricating oil for the rolling stock.

It is known that the German Government have recently informed the Swiss Government that they cannot deliver the stipulated monthly amount of coal to Switzerland owing to a shortage of locomotives and trucks. Every effort is being made to confine goods traffic to canals and to restrict railways as far as possible to military traffic.

In AUSTRIA it is a very open secret that passenger traffic has been reduced by 50% and that tramway services, electric light installations and many other industries have been very seriously affected. It is the same story: no immediate

lack of coal, but no means available of moving it. The Vienna Press ruefully reported that in January 1917, more cars on the electric tramways became unfit for service per day than could be repaired. Nor will the situation be eased by the fact that heavy taxes on goods, freights and passenger tickets have been recently imposed on all Austrian railways.

GERMAN REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH RIOTS. The following are two extracts from Garrison Orders of the Xth Army Corps District, issued to all ranks arriving home on leave:--

- (a) "It is pointed out to members of other Army Corps that in the Xth Army Corps District a more stringent state of war has been proclaimed. When purchasing provisions etc., if the police are regulating traffic, N.C.Os and men will conform to the regulations of the Authorities in exactly the same manner as civilians, and will take their turn according to their arrival. Should such gatherings develop into riots, N.C.Os and men are

W. J. G. S.

W. J. G. S.

forbidden to take part in them, or even to remain in the vicinity. In these circumstances they will immediately leave the neighbourhood in which such gatherings are taking place."

- (b) "Troops are forbidden to join in gatherings which collect in front of provision shops (especially those dealing in butter and fat) and develop into riotous crowds, nor are they even permitted to remain in the vicinity of such gatherings."

TURKEY.

Talaat Bey, the new Grand Vizier, has published notices to the effect that, owing to the shortage of labour, prisoners from the various prisons throughout Turkey will be released. Anyone requiring labour must apply to the Central Prison at Stamboul, and men will be supplied from the prisons as necessary.

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SECRET.

No. 122.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

17th March, 1917

Army G.S.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN
SOUTHERN SYRIA.

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*W.A.M.
R.F.B.
L.H.
C.R.L.*

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN SOUTHERN SYRIA.

Locality.	Date.	Source.	Tents & Shelters.		Notes.
			T.	S.	
ABU HAREIRA.	13/3	RFC.	130.		3 lines trenches & inner circle covering road crossing Wadi SHERIA from S. & W.
ABU IRGEIG.	7/3.	RFC.	15	-	
BIR SABA. UM FARRATH. }	16/3.		180		Semi-circle defences from SHERIA railway to AUJA railway.
GASA.	16/3	RFC.	50		Includes hospital.
TEL EL SHERIA.	16/3	RFC.	200		Also hospital.
JERAMA area.	16/3	RFC.	400-450.		Also hospital.
EN. EL KESIH.	16/3	RFC.	22.	-	
5 miles N.W. SHERIA.	6/3	RFC.	200.		Circular position HURAB DIAB-EL JINDI-KH. ZUHEILIKAH. 26 lengths of trench; work being continued.
UM EL BAKR.	16/3	RFC.	29.		
TEL EL NEJILE.	13/3.	RFC.	31.		
AKABA.	20/2.	Agent.	--		75 men.
<u>Base Troops.</u>					
ZEITA.	6/3	RFC.	50.		
RAMLEH.	8/3	RFC.	150	--	German aerodrome, also hospital.
JUNCTION STATION.	8/3	RFC.	41	--	Also hospital.
JERUSALEM.	17/2	Deser-ter.	--		12th Depot Regt. and some Camel Corps.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN SOUTHERN SYRIA.

The enemy's forces as far as we know are composed as follows.

Locality.	Troops.	Date.	Source.
GAZA.	2 bns, 80th or 81st Regt: 5 guns, 5 machine guns, 2 A.A.	9/3.	Deserter.
JEMAMA.	3rd Division (12 bns) concen- trating here.	14/3.	Very reli- able agent.
TEL EL SHERIA.	G.H.Q. 16th Division here. It may fairly be assumed that two regiments (6 bns) at least of this division are in this area.	14/3.	Same agent.
BIR SABA.	6 - 8 infantry battalions. 125th Regt. of 16th Div. previously located here. R.F.C. reconnaissance 13/3/17 gave impression that there were fully 4000 men here without taking houses into account. Number has now materially decreased. G.H.Q. "Expeditionary Force" appears still to be at BIR SABA.	10/3.	Agent.

GENERAL RESULT.

Enemy's strength in front would therefore seem to be :--

3rd Division - 8000-9000 rifles.

16th Division - 6000-7000 "

Elements of 27th Division - ?

3 Cavalry Regts. - 1500-1800 sabres.

Camel Corps - 7500 rifles.

Engineer Bn. - 7500 "

Turkish Artillery - 25 - 30 guns.

Austro-German Artillery
and Technical Contingents - 8 - 12 Austrian 10.5 c.m.
Mountain Guns.

6 German Heavy Guns.
(4 15-c.m., 2 10.5-c.m.)

14 - 18 A.A. Guns.

6 aeroplanes.

APPROXIMATE TOTAL.

19,000 rifles.

1500 - 1800 sabres.

40 - 50 guns exclusive of A.A.

A.P.E.
L.H.C.
ced

12 Australian 10.5 c.m. Mountain Guns.

B Lt

Page 557.

SECRET.

No. 123.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

19th March, 1917.

Amey GS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5TH WING R.F.C.

9/3/17 - 15/3/17.

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RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5TH WING, R.F.C., 9/3/17 - 15/3/17.

The work for the week has been considerably hampered by weather conditions, rain and sandstorms with strong westerly winds prevailing nearly every day.

The enemy's new position at BEERSHEBA and North of HAREIRA were reconnoitred on the 13th; a few aspect photos were taken but owing to the clouds did not reveal much.

Successful offensive action against JUNCTION STATION was carried out on two occasions, rolling stock and line being damaged.

Hostile aircraft have been very active during the week reconnoitring our camps on five occasions but owing to strong westerly winds were able to return without being engaged.

Tactical reconnaissance carried out daily reported no movement both morning and evening, except on the 11th & 12th when it was only done in the morning.

The following is a brief analysis of reconnaissance and offensive work for the week :--

9/3/17.

Strategical reconnaissance reported in GAZA vicinity 30 tents and shelters, excluding the hospital. Considerable movement seen on the GAZA - SENEID and GAZA - BUREIR roads. West of TEL EL NEJILEH the camps were estimated at from 200-350 tents and shelters. The trench system west of HAREIRA consists of three lines of trenches about three-quarters of a mile apart crossing the GAZA road at right angles. There is an inner circle protecting the road crossing over the WADI SHARIA from south and west.

Offensive. JUNCTION STATION was bombed by six machines. Direct hits were obtained on line and buildings also very close to the bridge over the wadi.

10/3/17. Strategical reconnaissance was greatly hampered by very strong westerly winds with rainstorms. The GAZA-NEJILFH reconnaissance was only partially carried out owing to heavy rainstorms over that area. The AUJA-BEERSHEBA reconnaissance was abandoned owing to the weather. In the morning a successful reconnaissance of the coast was made.

11/3/17. At the conclusion of the morning reconnaissance the pilot, noticing the threatening condition of the weather, took the opportunity of reconnoitring GAZA whilst in that area. The reconnaissance was carried out at a height of 800 feet. A decided increase was observed there being from 40-50 tents and 100 shelters, also a transport camp of 15 vehicles and about 20 tents. Considerable movement of men was seen in and about the town. Machine came under very heavy fire rifle and machine gun fire. Further reconnaissance impossible owing to weather conditions.

12/3/17. The tactical reconnaissance co-operating with a patrol reported no movement except at WELI SHEIKH NURAN where a patrol of 3 Turkish cavalry was seen. An attempt was made in the afternoon to reconnoitre GAZA but had to be abandoned owing to rainstorms.

13/3/17. Strategical reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA - AUJA reported AUJA completely evacuated. The railway line has not been removed, bridges are intact. At ASLUJ no tents or shelters or sign of military occupation, movement of civil population seen. One train standing in the station consisting of an engine and six closed and five large flat trucks facing in the direction of AUJA, the engine uncoupled and proceeding to shunt two trucks on the siding.

BEERSHEBA. The trench system consists of a practically continuous semi-circular line stretching from Pt. 910 on the BEERSHEBA - SHARIA line, through Pt. 960 thence through Pt. 1209 to the BEERSHEBA - AUJA line, a distance of roughly 8 miles. Reference:-- Map. RAFA 1:250,000. 134 tents and 425

shelters in vicinity of trenches. About 2 miles S.W. of town on the west of the KHALASA road is a camp of 5 square, 9 circular tents and two huts. (Possibly Headquarters). The tents etc., in and close to the town were not counted owing to thick cloud bank. Anti-aircraft fire accurate; not more than two guns. Considerable movement in the vicinity. 250 cavalry and about 1000 men seen.

GAZA. Reconnaissance reported Hospital N.E. of town as previously reported. About 40-50 tents and shelters near defences S. of town. Only small movement on roads in the GAZA area. The new system of trenches was reconnoitred by two machines; in places observation was difficult owing to the clouds. The following appears to be the new defence line :--

Commencing at HAREIRA a line of trenches runs parallel with the BEERSHEBA road as far as the junction of road and railway line. N.W. of HAREIRA are three lines of trenches situated on the ridges guarding the road from GAZA. There is an inner circle where road crosses the WADI SHARIA. There are 240 tents and shelters in this area. N.E. of this system but apparently not at present joining it, is an irregular semi-circle of trenches running from KGFKHAR through AKRA to TEL EL HESI. These trenches appear to be old or else they have been well concealed. In the AKRA area there is a camp of about 400 tents and shelters and a large hospital.

Other camps in the vicinity are :--

UMM EL BAKR	-	70 tents and shelters.
NEJILEH	-	20 tents and shelters, and 2 sheds, also 1 large white building.
TEL EL SHARIA	-	200 tents and shelters and hospital.

Rolling stock was seen at both SHARIA and NEJILEH stations.

OFFENSIVE JUNCTION STATION was attacked by four machines. Direct hits obtained on a truck, buildings and line.

Hostile aircraft were very active this day. One machine thought to be a "HALBERSTADT" ascended from RAMLEH to attack our machines. It followed them to GAZA where it was engaged by three of the four. About 10 drums were fired in all and the hostile machine then turned in the direction of BEERSHEBA. The escort of the BEERSHEBA reconnaissance observed three hostile machines above him. One tried to draw him off so as to get the reconnaissance machine alone. A few rounds were fired by both sides without any decisive result.

Another machine was encountered by the escort of the GAZA reconnaissance but after firing two drums he was lost in the clouds.

14/3/17.

This day GAZA was visited. A large increase in tentage was observed, viz:- 310 tents and shelters. The large marquees at the hospital had been removed. A large number of transport wagons were seen. In the afternoon the machine standing by at SHEIKH ZOWAID went out, in spite of very strong wind, to look for a body of enemy cavalry which had been reported in the vicinity of ABASAN EL KEBIR. After searching the neighbouring country for nearly 1½ hours and finding nothing, it returned to SHEIKH ZOWAID.

Further reconnaissance was abandoned owing to extremely bad weather conditions.

7. Weather conditions again prevented programme of work being carried out. The tactical reconnaissance went out both morning and evening.

W. Ellis

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Page 562.

S E C R E T.

No. 124.

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

20th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.
2. TIGRIS FRONT - SUMMARY OF PAST WEEK.

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1. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.

GREECE.

Royalist army count of men and rifles into MOREA still continues.

STRUMA SECTOR.

On March 17th enemy bombarded several villages in our lines. On night of 15/16th one battalion of Turk 144th Regt. was relieved by one battalion 38th Bulgarian Regt. (G.H.Q. Note. A later report states that this Regt. (46th Division) is being moved to CONSTANTINOPLE. This is probable, and consistent with reports from other sources. It may be intended to send it to MESOPOTAMIA).

BELES SECTOR.


On March 15th, 24 Bulgarians of 5th Macedonian Regt. were captured in a successful raid on PEROITA STATI (?). On March 16th, 1 officer and 15 other ranks of 3rd Macedonian Regt. were captured in a further successful raid on BREST.

VARDAR - DOIRAN SECTOR.

On March 12th our aeroplanes raided enemy aerodromes at HUDOVA obtaining direct hits on sheds and 2 machines, also on a moving train. On March 17th a violent artillery demonstration was made by the enemy on the whole of this sector.

WESTERN SECTOR.

In the course of operations between LAKE PRESPA and OCHRIDA, the French took 35 German prisoners belonging to 12th Jaegers and 221st Mountain Machine Gun detachment, also a few prisoners 23rd Austrian Landsturm, south of VESOBRAUM south of LAKE PRESPA. In the course of 3 days' fighting



Page 564.

from 14th to 17th March west and north west of MONASTIR, the French have taken enemy's first line of trenches near MAGAREVO also 2,000 yards of trenches and village of SNEGOVO on the southern slopes of Hill 1248 and now the hill itself. Up to the present total prisoners captured number 1500.

The enemy shelled MONASTIR town with gas shells causing 50 casualties among civil population.

2. TIGRIS FRONT. SUMMARY OF PAST WEEK.

On the night of 13/14th a column was despatched from BAGHDAD to deal with the Turkish force entrenched astride the railway, 20 miles to the north. On the 14th our troops resolutely carried successive positions extending over a depth of several miles and captured the final position at midnight 14/15th, ejecting the Turks from MUSHALDIE Railway Station (on TIGRIS some 20 miles N. of BAGHDAD) at the point of the bayonet. The enemy sustained heavy loss and left 56 prisoners in our hands. A steamer containing a quantity of rifles and ammunition was also captured. The defeated Turks retreated hastily throughout the 15th, and were seen by aeroplanes the following morning straggling over a depth of 20 miles, their rear being 25 miles north of the scene of battle.

We occupied BAQUBAH on the 13th, expelling a Turkish detachment. (BAQU. BAH is 40 miles from BAGHDAD up the DIALA river).

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Page 565.

SECRET.

No. 125.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

21st March, 1917.

Amey GS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

EXTRACTS FROM SUMMARY OF INFORMATION,
11/3/17 - 19/3/17.

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EXTRACTS FROM SUMMARY OF INFORMATION, 11/3/17 - 19/3/17.

TURKEY.

CAUCASUS FRONT.

Nothing salient.

MESOPOTAMIA & S.W. PERSIA.

The evacuation of S.W. PERSIA appears to be proceeding rapidly. The vanguard of the XIIIth A.C. is reported to have reached the PAITAK PASS, on the borders of Turkey and Persia, on the evening of March 12th. The A.C. (probably only the H.Q. and vanguard) had reached KASR-I-SHIRIN by the 16th March and it was apparently intended to concentrate the Army Corps in this region.

A report from MESOPOTAMIA suggests that the Tigris Force has been reduced to 3 Divisions, the 14th, 51st and 52nd - the 4th and 45th Divisions having apparently disappeared or having been absorbed.

Reports indicate that the moral of the 13th Army Corps has completely broken down, a result which might reasonably be expected to follow after its recent experiences.

The Euphrates Force is also retreating and reports indicate that it is at or near FELUJA, nearly 200 miles upstream from SAMAWA the position which it held previous to the KUT operations.

A report from a trustworthy agent shows that the first regiment of the 53rd Division (probably the 161st Regiment) is being sent, perhaps from DAMASCUS where it is reported by an agent to have arrived at an unspecified date early in the year, to reinforce the VIth Turkish Army.

SYRIA.

S. Palestine Front, etc.

Deserters have again reported that the enemy intends to withdraw N. of the GAZA - TEL EL SHERIA - BIR SABA line and has been evacuating large quantities of stores etc., by rail at night. Movements of stores by motor lorry from BIR SABA to KHALIL (HEBRON) and TEL EL SHERIA have also been observed by R.F.C. reconnaissances. During the last few days atmospheric conditions have been more favourable to observation and some 2000 tents and shelters have been reported in the area GAZA - JEMAMA - TEL EL SHERIA - HAREIRA - BIR SABA.

It would hardly be safe to infer that the enemy proposed to effect an immediate withdrawal from his present positions. He has great quantities of valuable stores to remove and he is short of transport, but the balance of evidence now points to his intention to attempt to hold his present intermediate position while he gets his heavy stores back up the railway. He has constructed trenches with a perimeter of over 3 miles W. and S. of BIR SABA and may also intend to hold this position.

The 3rd Division has been brought up to a strength of 12 battalions and now appears to include the 138th Regiment which seems to have absorbed and taken the place of the 160th Regiment. This Division appears to be now concentrating about JEMAMA. The 16th Division has its H.Q. at TEL EL SHERIA and seems to be now holding the TEL EL SHERIA - BIR SABA front with the Austro-German artillery contingent. A deserter's statement establishes that the whole Division (47th, 43th and 125th Regts.) is now there together with the 16th Artillery Regiment.

Elements of the 27th Division are reported at GAZA. A report from a trustworthy agent shows that the 1st Regiment of the 27th Division (properly the 1st Regiment) is being sent, perhaps from DAMASCUS where it is reported by an agent to have arrived at an unspecified date early in the

year, to reinforce the Vth Turkish Army.

Burton. Cpl

Shepherd

Percival

Hawkes

Murross

Rojers.

Page 568.

The 53rd Division need not be expected at present on this front. Two of its regiments have been diverted to HEJAZ, and another to MESOPOTAMIA.

No further information as to reinforcements coming from the North has been received.

The destruction of the Jordan Bridge, probably that at EL GHORANIEH near JERICHO, by which the motor road to AMMAN crosses the river, is known to have occurred recently. It is not known how or by whom it was destroyed.

EUROPE & W. ANATOLIA.

There are indications that the statements made by deserters from the 46th Division that this unit was to be relieved by Bulgar troops and sent to CONSTANTINOPLE may be well founded.

Turkish deserters from MITYLENE show the 56th Division to be composed of the 172nd, 173rd and another regiment. The 172nd Regiment was at AIVALI on February 27th. The Divisional H.Q. were then at MENEMEN and the H.Q. of the XVIIth A.C. at SMYRNA.

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ESTIMATE OF ENEMY ARTILLERY IN SOUTHERN SYRIA.

3rd (Turkish) F.A. Regiment.

Probably in JIMAMA area.

1st Battalion.	2 Batteries	4 Q.F. Field Guns each.
2nd "	2 "	4 Q.F. " " "
3rd "	2 "	4 Mountain Guns each.

16th (Turkish) F.A. Regiment.

HAFIRA area.

1st Battalion.	2 Batteries	4 Q.F. Field Guns each.
2nd "	2 "	4 Mountain Guns each.

No 3rd battalion has been located.

NOTE. Q.F. guns are KRUPP 75 mm. and are each drawn by six horses. The mountain guns are MANTELLI, and are carried by mules and camels. 16th Regiment saw service in GALLIPOLI.

60th (German) F.A. Regiment.

Probably distributed between CAZA, SHEFIA and SABA.

Probably 8. - 150 mm. and 100 mm. guns.

NOTE. Two battalions went north in October 1916.

Austrian Howitzers.

Probably at SHEFIA.

Probably 6 - 8) 100 mm. Mountain Howitzers.
Possibly 12.)

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Page 571.

SECRET.

No. 127.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

23rd March, 1917.

Army 95

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

- 1. WESTERN DESERT.
- 2. ARABIA.

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1. WESTERN DESERT.

SAYED AHMED would appear to have been deserted by most of his Bedouin following who are making their way to their homes in CYRENAICA. It is doubtful whether he has actually gone to JALO, but he apparently does not consider JAGHBUB a safe haven owing to its accessibility by cars.

Some refugees have come in from JAGHBUB and they report that about 25% of AHMED'S following are sick, and that their morale is ^{very} bad.

The number of Muhafzia reported as being with him was about 300 but in view of the frequent desertions which are known to have taken place this number seems very much too high.

2. ARABIA.

An agent from MEDINA reports that a large proportion of the troops have been withdrawn from MEDINA and that the outposts south and south-west of the town are being gradually drawn in. BIR DERWISH is still held. The Arabs have achieved a number of small successes in this area.

The Military in MEDINA are reported to have commandeered all private stores and the people are very bitter against the Turks.

A Turkish biplane is reported to have fallen and been destroyed a few weeks ago.

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Page 573.

SECRET.

No. 128.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

24th March, 1917.

Amey 95
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

PROBABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY
FORCES IN S. SYRIA.

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PROBABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN S. SYRIA.

Page 574.

Area.	R.F.C.		Units.	Approximate Total.			Notes.
	Tents & Shelters	Date.		Rifles.	Sabres.	Guns.	
ABU IRGEIG.	16.	22/3.	Small Post. Probably found from HAREIRA or SABA. q.v.				
AKRA - HUJ - ZEIDAN.	900.	21/3.	3rd (Inf.) Division. 31st, 32nd, 138th Regts - 12 bns. 3rd F.A. Regt. - ?2 bns. 1 Sqd. 3rd Cavalry Regiment. 3 M.G. Coys, 18 guns.	8000 - 9000.	100	16 75-mm. 8 Mtn.	System of trenches and redoubts forming a broken circle round this triangle area. 4 gun emplacements 1 m. N. of ZEIDAN. On 21/3 work was being extended from trenches S. of HUJ towards HAREIRA system. Hospital 1 m. S.E. of AKRA.
BIR SABA.	513.	22/3.	3rd (Cav.) Division. 6th, 7th, 8th Cavalry Regts. 125th (Inf.) Regt. - 3 bns. 1 M.G. Coy, 6 guns. 2 Coys, Engineers. Few Camel Corps.	2500	1500.	11. 2 A. A.	G.H.Q. "Expeditionary Force". Guns said to be 2 Field, 9 Mountain.
GAZA.	240.	23/3.	80th or 81st Regt. 2-3 bns. 1 M.G. Coy 6 guns. ?1 Sqd. Cavalry. Few Camel Corps.	2500	?100	5 2 A.A.	Farthwork barricade across RAFA road level with front line trenches. Hospital 18 tents.

Area.	R.F.C.		Units.	Approximate Total.			Notes.
	Tents & Shelters.	Date.		Rifles.	Sabres.	Guns.	
HAREIRA.	250.	23/3.	16th (Inf.) Division. 47th and 48th Regts. - 6 bns. 16th P.A. Rgt - 2 bns 16 guns. 2 Turkish M.G. Coys - 12 guns. 1 Sqd. 27th Cavalry Regt. 50th German P.A. bn. 6 guns. 2 Coys, Engineers.	4750.	100.	8 75-mm. 8 Mtn. 4 150mm 2 105mm.	On 23/3 trenches of S. sector extended E. to within 100 yds. of railway. Decauville line runs from here to SHARIA.
JUNCTION STN.	59.	8/3.					Including a hospital. Probably Labour Corps elements.
JERUSALEM.	-	-	12th Depot Regt. ?4 bns. Camel Corps elements.	2400.	-	-	Deserter 17/2. Presence of this unit has frequently been confirmed from other sources.
LUDD.	-	-	? 53rd Division (part)	-	-	-	Possible arrival indicated from a source regarded as quite reliable.
RAMLEH.	150.	8/3.		-	-	2 A.A.	German aerodrome. Hospital.
TEL EL NEJILE.	25.	22/3.					
TEL EL SHERIA.	208.	22/3.	See HAREIRA.	-	-	? 10 AA.	
	2361.		GRAND TOTAL (FIGHTING STRENGTH).	21,150.	1800.	62. 16 A.A.	
			Non-Combatant elements are not included in this estimate.				* Foot Artillery.

GENERAL NOTES.

1. Unlocated units:- 8 - 12 Austrian mm Mountain Guns.
(Possibly GAZA and SABA).
 2. It is possible that the 23rd Division may now be in S. SYRIA. It was at ALEPPO on 28/1/17 and was three times reported in February as having left there and being on its way south. It is possible it may be relieving the 3rd Division, which owing to its bad moral, may be withdrawn.
 3. 53rd Division consists of 161st, 162nd and 163rd Regts. The two latter are 2 battalion regiments. The 161st possibly has 3 battalions; on 16/3/17 it was under orders for MESOPOTAMIA. 163rd Regiment was identified 23/2/17 at MEDAIN SALEH (Arabia). The 162nd was reported about the same date as having left DAMASCUS for Arabia.
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B. Lt

Page 579.

S E C R E T.

No. 130.

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

26th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5th
WING, R.F.C. 16/3/17 - 22/3/17.

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S. S. S.

Al
A. M. J. Jones

Jones:

The boy stood on the burning deck.

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RESUME OF OPERATIONS OF THE 5th WING, R.F.C. 16/3/17 - 22/3/17.

During the past week the Royal Flying Corps has watched the development of the situation and the distribution of the enemy's camps between BEERSHEBA on his left and GAZA on his right.

No important change in his dispositions has been observed. A line of defences has now been drawn round the camps in the area situated South of the WADI EL HESI and west of HUIJ. These defences do not as yet appear to be of a very formidable nature. They extend from a point North of ZEIDAN westwards to the neighbourhood of AKRA (Ref. Palestine 1/168,960), thence in a South-westerly direction over the uplands almost as far as the North-easterly extension of the system of defences guarding the approaches to the WADI EL SHARIA at its junction with the BEERSHEBA Road (the ABU HAREIRA group). North of the WADI SHARIA this group consists of three lines composed of short isolated trenches stretching diagonally across the GAZA-BEERSHEBA road, the main trend being from S.W. to N.E., with an inner circle and redoubt defending the crossing of the Wadi. South of the wadi the group extends in a South-easterly direction for a distance of about 4000 yards and thence crosses the road and runs Eastwards as far as the SHARIA-BEERSHEBA railway line. The South Eastern sector was only begun in the course of the week and by the end of the period had been formed into a practically continuous line. Emplacements for thirty six guns have been reported in the ABU HAREIRA group but no guns have been seen.

The BEERSHEBA defences are as reported last week. The defences of GAZA have been extended westwards so as to cover ground between the TEL EL JEMMI and RAFA roads and westwards of the latter road and round to the N.W. of the town.

Except for BEERSHEBA the camps have varied little; at GAZA

passengers and reached the aerodrome in safety.

a little more than 200 shelters have been usually seen, in the AKRA-HUJ group, which is very difficult to count owing to the broken nature of the ground, there are about 950 tents & shelters, and in the HAREIRA group nearly 300 North and South of the Wadi.

BEERSHEBA showed 235 tents on the 16th. On the 19th there were 500 tents and shelters, judged to be mostly military (and not labour corps) from their disposition in the neighbourhood of the defences. The defences to the North of the WADI SABA are occupied, those to the South do not appear to be so. Horse lines for 500 horses were seen at BEERSHEBA on the 19th.

DHAHERIEH was twice reconnoitred during the week. 30 tents were seen there and two camps (apparently of workmen employed on the road) between it and HEBRON. No enemy troops were seen in the whole country between DHAHERIEH and ABU IRGEIG.

HASSANA and NEKHL were reconnoitred on the 18th and found clear.

During the week bomb attacks (analysed below) have been made on the enemy's aerodrome at RAMLEH and on the railway line N. and S. of the WADI EL HESI, and patrols and transport have been attacked with machine guns. On the 19th in the course of an attack on the railway one machine was forced to descend owing to engine failure close to the objective; enemy troops were approaching and the pilot set fire to his machine being badly burnt in the process. The pilot of another machine carrying a passenger immediately landed near him, although there were two 100-lb bombs on the burning aeroplane. The passenger of the rescuing machine held off the approaching enemy with his first revolver whilst the pilot was running to them and the machine was got off (under heavy fire) carrying a pilot and two passengers and reached the aerodrome in safety.

On the 20th a similar accident occurred to another pilot under similar circumstances. Realising the situation and observing that enemy cavalry were approaching a pilot flying a single seater machine, although already severely wounded, landed near the stranded aeroplane. An attempt at rescue was made in the single seater machine but owing to the pilot's wounds this resulted in its being wrecked and it was at once burnt by the pilot who then made his way to the stranded machine and, under heavy fire, the two pilots succeeded in starting up the engine. The machine was safely got off with hostile troops now within 100 yards distance and a flight of two hours safely accomplished although the pilot was suffering seriously from loss of blood.

Meanwhile two other pilots observing the occurrence descended to a low altitude and endeavoured to hold off the advancing enemy with machine gun fire until their ammunition was exhausted when they continued to disorganise the enemy by diving repeatedly.

Hostile aircraft have been more active than usual; air combats are summarized below. The appearance of a machine of the Halberstadt type in the neighbourhood of our aerodrome on the 18th is noteworthy.

Photographs were taken during the week of the railway from TEL EL SHERIA to JUNCTION STATION, of the GAZA defences, of the AKRA-HUJ defences, of the ABU HAREIRA defences and of the road from GAZA to BUREIR and TEL EL HESI. In all 243 photographs were taken and 1470 prints distributed.

The following is a brief summary of daily reconnaissance and offensive:--

16/3/17. Reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA and reconnaissance and photography of GAZA, ABU HAREIRA and HUJ-AKRA area; no

observation of great interest. Hostile aircraft were observed from the aerodrome. One machine ascended from the aerodrome and two from RAFA. One H.A. was followed to beyond BEERSHEBA and

one was engaged over GAZA. After the pilot had expended all his ammunition he continued with his revolver until he had to abandon the fight owing to lack of ammunition.

17/3/17. Reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA, DHALERIEH, photographic reconnaissance of railway from SHARIA to JUNCTION STATION.

Photography of GAZA. No observations of great interest. Hostile aircraft reconnoitred as far as RAFA. Owing to superior speed could not be engaged.

18/3/17. Reconnaissance of HASSANA and NEKHL. No sign of enemy in the whole country traversed. RAMLEH aerodrome was attacked by eight machines; a total of 1541-lbs of bombs and shells were dropped on aerodrome and round hangars. One enemy aeroplane was engaged but went down at once. H.A. of Halberstadt type appeared in neighbourhood of aerodrome whilst the above attack was in progress.

19/3/17. BEERSHEBA 500 tents and shelters, an increase of 153. Horse lines for 500 seen South of WADI SABA. HAREIRA 290 tents and shelters. FIDAN, AKRA and ZUKHEIL IKA about 1000 tents and shelters.

Offensive. an attack was carried out on the railway line N. of TEL EL SHARIA. Delay action bombs were dropped from a height of about 30 feet five exploding on the line, the permanent way being damaged and lines observed to be distorted.

20/3/17. GAZA. 203 tents and shelters.

HAREIRA (twice reconnoitred) 250 tents and shelters.

Trenches South of GAZA road South of WADI linked up and work in progress.

Reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA and reconnaissance of WADI

Attack on railway by 4 machines at a point near the WADI

EL HESI. 18 direct hits were observed.

21/3/17. GAZA. Considerable movement of horse transport seen from the aerodrome. One machine reconnoitred from the aerodrome.

Two from RAFA. One H.A. was followed to beyond BEERSHEBA and

on the roads round GAZA, 50 wagons moving out on the North Road, and 17 on the BEERSHEBA Road.

Reconnaissance ^{to} BEIT JIBRIN showed no enemy movement on roads between that place and GAZA. AKRA-HUJ area 000 tents & shelters. The defences in this area developing into a semicircular system.

H.A. reported over RAFA at 9 a.m. It was engaged by escort of AUJA reconnaissance but after receiving one drum dived into a cloud and was lost touch with.

22/3/17. BEERSHEBA. No change. 125 men leaving the town westwards on the TEL EL FARA road.

GAZA. 230 tents and shelters.

KHALASA, A. LUJ. No enemy camps.

Photographic reconnaissance of HAREIRA defences and of AKRA ZEIDAN area.

H.A. was reported over RAFA at 10 a.m. and was engaged by the photographic reconnaissance and chased back to his aerodrome at RAMLEH.

Rolling stock seen at BEERSHEBA station has generally amounted to about 30.

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S E C R E T.

No. 131.

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

27th March, 1917.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

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- 1. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.
- 2. MESOPOTAMIA - WEEKLY SUMMARY.

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1. MACEDONIAN FRONT - WEEKLY SUMMARY.

GREECE.

During the last week 40 officers and 218 men have come from PIRAEUS to join the National movement.

WESTERN SECTOR.

In the course of heavy fighting N.W. of MONASTIR the French have taken and consolidated Hill 1248, and KRKLINA village, in spite of heavy Germanic-Bulgarian counter-attacks. Total French captures since 11/3/17 reported to be 24 officers 1777 men, 11 machine guns, and 2 trench mortars. The following units being identified:-- German 12th Jaeger, 45th Regt., Bulgarian 6th Division, 3rd and 15th Regts., 8th Division, 12th, 23rd, 55th, 56th Regts., 9th Division, 58th Regt. Between Lake PRESPA and OCHRIDA 9 prisoners and deserters of Turkish 177th Regt. Enemy shelled MONASTIR heavily both with gas and incendiary shells.

STRUMA SECTOR.

Artillery and patrol activity only. Indications point to relief of 46th Turkish Division by 38th, 39th and 40th Bulgarian Regts., 10th Division. Bombing raids carried out by R.F.C. and R.N.A.S. on PORNA and ANGISTA Stations, XANTHI, BUK.

VARDAR - DOIRAN SECTOR.

Enemy continued their bombardment of our lines of 18/3/17 and 19/3/17 using both asphyxiating gas and lachrymatory shells, but doing little damage. One of our pilots, Captain Murlis Green, brought down 3 machines of the German Bombing Squadron in 2 days.

Driven from the town and severed. Prisoners and supplies taken.

BELES SECTOR.

Successful raid on enemy post near BREST resulted in capture of 4 prisoners, 3rd Macedonian Regt.

2. MESOPOTAMIA - WEEKLY SUMMARY.

KHANIKIN LINE.

Prisoners from two battalions 16th and two of 18th Regt. and from one battalion 37th were captured at SHARABAN on March 22nd. Christian officers, deserters, report 13th A.C. H.Q. and 6th Division at JEBEL HAMRIN. 2nd Division at and east of KHANIKIN. 600 Turkish cavalry and 1,000 Persian levies were holding Russians at PAITAK Pass.

TIGRIS LINE.

Four Turkish Regiments left bank of TIGRIS believed advancing to take up line of ADHIDO (?) River. Two Regts. believed to be advancing to positions near BELED ISTABULAT, one Regt. remaining at SAMARRA. Casualties from SAMARRA March 13th and 19th report no fresh arrivals there.

EUPHRATES LINE. Main body of Turkish Euphrates detachment reported retired on HIT, leaving a small rear-guard at RAMADIE on right bank and small parties left bank downstream of HIT. Reliable informant saw at least one Regiment with

large quantity of ammunition at DEIR-EZ-ZOR on 26/2/17,

probably now at HIT. * G.H.Q. NOTE. Probably EDHAIM.

ADDENDA to above.

Summary for week ending 24th March. Our troops occupied FELIYAH 19th March, enemy detachment retired hurriedly up the Euphrates. Prisoners taken, also arms and ammunition, and steam barge and launch. CHAHROBAN on BAGHDAD-KHANIKIN road was captured 23rd March, enemy being driven from the town and severed. Prisoners and supplies taken.

B. Lt

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SECRET.

No. 132.

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

23th March, 1917.

Army G.H.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

THE PALESTINE FRONT.

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THE PALESTINE FRONT.

The 53rd Division is concentrating in the RAMLEH area, its Headquarters were at LUDD 23/3/17. The 161st Regiment has arrived in the RAMLEH - JAFFA area. The 163rd Regiment moved from MEJDEL towards GAZA 26/3/17. The 162nd Regiment has not yet arrived from the HEJAZ. In its place the 79th Regiment is attached to the Division, possibly replacing the regiment of the 53rd Division reported to be on its way to Mesopotamia. Rifle strength of division is reported at 5000; that of 163rd Regiment as 1300. One squadron of 29th Cavalry Regiment is attached as divisional cavalry, and so far only one battalion divisional artillery is reported as having arrived at RAMLEH (20/3/17).

Headquarters of 27th Division and 81st Regiment were reported at NAZARETH 18/3/17. On 15/3/17 latter regiment was reported as having two battalions at NAZARETH, one at ABU RAWA (? EL BERWE) and one at SHEFR AMR? but regiment was expected to move south on relief from DAMASCUS. 81st (2 bns) was reported by deserter from 16th Division (hearsay evidence) as at GAZA on 18/3/17. 80th and 81st Regiments are reported (27/3/17) as having been made up to strength. 80th has not been recently located but 1 battalion is possibly at GAZA. 2nd battalion 79th Regiment was reported at GAZA (18/3/17) confirmed by officer deserters from SHERIA (24/3/17). This regiment however was to be attached to 53rd Division (26/3/17)

Nothing fresh has been heard of 135th and 136th Regiments of 43rd Division, last reported in LEBANON area. 137th about 12/3/17 was reported as having left ALEY for JERUSALEM via BEIRUT and SAIDA (coast road). On 26/3/17 its transport to

RAMLEH was ordered with a machine gun company, an artillery (?) company, 44th Bakers Section, and other troops (units not stated).

The 23rd Division is reported from three sources as having left ALEPPO for south at end of January. One agent places it (15/3/17) as on DERRA - MAAN L. of C., but it is now possibly in Palestine.

The presence of two battalions of the 16th Field Artillery Regiment with 16th Division at TEL EL SHERIA is definitely known. The presence of the 3rd battalion of the 3rd F.A. Regiment is indicated, one battalion of this regiment is reported at GAZA.

A machine gun (?) company of 15 guns was reported as having arrived at RAMLEH on 17/3/17.

Ten aeroplanes are reported at RAMLEH, and ten more were expected by end of MARCH.

43rd Divisional Engineer Company is reported at TEL EL SHERIA 18/3/17.

No move of the 44th Division from ALEXANDRETTA area is reported.

No changes other than the above are reported in 3rd and 16th Infantry Divisions or 3rd Cavalry Division.

Having been made up to strength. 80th has not been recently

located but 1 battalion is possibly at GAZA. 2nd battalion

17th Regiment was reported at GAZA (18/3/17) confirmed by

officer deserters from SHERIA (24/3/17). This Regiment however

was to be moved to 3rd Division (26/3/17)

Nothing fresh has been heard of 138th and 139th Regiments

of 43rd Division, last reported in LEBANON area. 137th about

12/3/17 was reported as having left ALEY for JERUSALEM via

BEKUT and SHERIA (last road). On 26/3/17 it is reported to

be at GAZA.

2nd Battalion

17th Regiment

3rd Cavalry Division

43rd Divisional Engineer Company

44th Division

16th Field Artillery Regiment

3rd F.A. Regiment

Machine gun company

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SECRET.

No. 133.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

29th March, 1917.

Army 98
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. ARABIA.
2. WESTERN DESERT.

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1. ARABIA.

The withdrawal of the Turkish forces Northwards along the railway line continues. The impression that the 53rd Division was being transferred to PALESTINE has been confirmed by the arrival of the 163rd Regiment between MEJDEL and GAZA on the 27th instant, and the G.O.C. and Headquarters of the Division have since been captured. The 2nd battalion of the 161st Regiment is shown by a captured document to have been still at MAAN on the 18th instant. It is doubtless now en route for RAMLEH. Troops from MEDINA are being moved up the line to replace this Division.

The Arabs have driven the Turkish garrison out of BIR DERWISH and have carried out a raid upon one of the gates of MEDINA.

The Turks are reported to be making persistent attempts to induce IBN RASHID to create a diversion against the Sherif's forces from the direction of HAIL but so far these efforts do not appear to have met with any success. His own position is so insecure that it is doubtful whether he is capable of giving serious trouble.

2. WESTERN DESERT.

SAYED AHMED after remaining some time at a small Oasis West of JAGHBUB has now gone to JALO and thus transfers the waning interest from the Egyptian frontier into CYRENAICA.

It is not known what forces if any remain at JAGHBUB.

Arms and munitions of MCHAMED IDRIS are being collected at LECTAFIA (South of GEDABIA) and JALO and are supposed to be a reserve for operations against RAMADAN SHITEWI. IDRIS is however disbanding men owing to the difficulty of rationing

Page 593.

them and this is described as likely to help NURI who has agents in CYRENAICA to collect mercenaries.

The Italians do not confirm and little credence is given to a story of sheep dealers arriving at SOLLUM that NURI and RAMADAN SHITEWI are collecting a force of 3000 men at GEDABIA with 2 Mountain and 2 Machine Guns.

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WESTERN DESERT.

SAYED AHMED after remaining some time at a small Oasis west of JAGHUB has now gone to JALO and thus transfers the main interest from the Egyptian frontier into CYRENAICA. It is not known what forces if any remain at JAGHUB. Arms and munitions of MOHAMMED IDRIS are being collected at LEGTAFIA (South of GEDABIA) and JALO and are supposed to be a reserve for operations against RAMADAN SHITEWI. IDRIS is however expanding men owing to the difficulty of raising

B. Lt

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SECRET.

No. 134.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

30th March, 1917.

Army 95

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

- 1. NOTES FROM SYRIA.
- 2. KRESS VON KRESSENSTEIN.

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1. NOTES FROM SYRIA.

The following are extracts from information received from a person who has had good opportunities for obtaining reliable intelligence as to recent events and movements in Syria :

Between the 6th February and 9th March civilian traffic on the railway between DAMASCUS and ALEPPO was suspended to permit of movements of troops. It is estimated that some 7000 troops and a large quantity of war material passed south through DAMASCUS during this period. The troops passing southwards were Turks and those going north were Arabs, the latter recently mobilised belonging to the 1695 Class and were apparently proceeding to CONSTANTINOPLE. The 53rd Division is stated to have left DAMASCUS on 9th March for JERUSALEM.

On the same day, 2000 Austrian soldiers with stores and munitions passed through from JERUSALEM for CONSTANTINOPLE. (G.H.Q. Note. This agrees with the estimate given by German prisoners captured at RAFA on 9th January). During the night of the 13th March 700 wounded are reported as having arrived at DAMASCUS from JERUSALEM.

Fortifications.

Great activity is being displayed in the construction of entrenchments in the region of the Wadi SURAR, which passes close to JUNCTION STATION, some 20 miles W. of JERUSALEM.

During the period in question 19 truck loads of barbed wire are said to have passed through DAMASCUS towards the south.

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Evacuation of Arabs.

Large numbers of Arabs passed through DAMASCUS by rail bound North from the HEJAZ. (G.H.Q. Note. This agrees with several reports received from refugees from MEDINA who have reached MECCA who state that the civilian population of MEDINA is being sent North by rail by the Turks).

Rumours.

It is reported that ENVER'S recent visit to Palestine was made for the purpose of settling the differences between JEMAL and the Germans. JEMAL is stated to have been in favour of making a stand on the SHEIKH NURAN - SABA - and AUJA line, whereas the Germans advocated falling back to a line based on JERUSALEM.

2. KRESS VON KRESSENSTEIN.

This German Officer who is in command of the Expeditionary Corps on the Palestine Front, is a Bavarian. He was Chief of Staff of the 8th Army Corps and formerly instructor of the Military School, Constantinople, and a member of the German Military Mission. He was made Commandant of Sinai in March 1915 and went back to Germany in September 1916, returning later. He is said to be a "gentleman" as distinct from a Prussian Officer of his class. He is hard-working and extremely energetic. He is the only German officer in Syria for whom an Austrian captured last year had a good word.

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SECRET.

No. 135.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

31st March, 1917.

Army 95

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN S. SYRIA.

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DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY FORCES IN SOUTHERN SYRIA.

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NOTE. Owing to the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy in the recent fighting and to lack of R.F.C. reports as to tents & shelters (due to co-operation work with fighting troops) it is impossible to give any estimate of numbers.

Locality.	Date.	Source.	Units.	Guns.	Notes.
ABU HAREIRA - SHERIA area. (Moved on GAZA 26/3/17).	26/3	P. of W.	<u>16th (Inf.) Division.</u> 47th and 48th Regts - 6 bns. 1 sqd. 27th Cav. Regt. 16th F.A. Regt - 2 bns. 60th German Foot A. bn. ?43rd Engineer Coy.	16. ?6.	less 2 guns at GAZA.
	18/3	Agent.			
AKRA - HUF - ZEIDAN area. (Moved on GAZA 26/3/17).	26/3.	P. of W.	<u>3rd (Inf.) Division.</u> (31st, 32nd, 138th Regts - 12 bns) 1 sqd. 3rd Cav. Regt. 31st Regt. - 1 bn. 3rd F.A. Regt - 2 bns.	-16.	Titular number of 138th Regt. still somewhat doubtful. 31st and 32nd Regts were immediately east of GAZA 26/3/17 . P. of W. statement. 8 mountain, 8 75-mm guns.
BIR SABA. (Moved on GAZA 26/3/17).	26/3.	P. of W.	<u>3rd (Cav.) Division.</u> (6th, 7th, ? 8th Cav. Regts). Engineers - ?2 Coys. Camel Corps. ? M.G. Bn. (15 guns).		Very weak. Arrival of 8th Cav. Regt. not yet definitely established. Agent reports civilian population gone north.
GAZA.	26/3.	P. of W.	79th Regt. - ?4 bns. 81st " - ?3 bns. 125th " - 3 bns. 163rd " - 3 bns.		79th Regt. attached 53rd Div. in place of 162nd Regt. Strength of 163rd Regt given as 1300 by agent on 20/3/17.
	28/3.	P. of W.	1 sqn. Cavalry.		
	26/3.	P. of W.	Camel Corps elements. Austrian Howitzer Division.	6.	2 guns captured 26/3/17; 2 others in reserve, location uncertain.

Locality.	Date.	Source.	Units.	Guns.	Notes.
GAZA (contd).	26/3.	P. of W.	German 150-mm guns. 1 bn. 75-mm, 3rd F.A. Regt.	2. 8.	
RAMLEH - JAFFA area.	26/3.	P. of W.	<u>53rd (Inf.) Division.</u> ? 161st Regt. 137th Regt. (? 44th Div.)		163rd Regt. ordered to GAZA from MEJDEL 26/3/17. 162nd not yet in Palestine. 161st possibly now arrived, but on 18/3/17 was at MAAN on its way to RAMLEH (captured document.) 79th Regt. attached to this division 26/3/17 in place of 162nd. 137th Regt. ordered from LEBANON to JERUSALEM 22/3/17, thence to RAMLEH 26/3/17.
JERUSALEM.	21/3. 22/3.	Agent. "	12th Depot Regt. 67th Regt. (? 43rd Div.) Camel Corps elements.		
AKABA.	11/3.	Agent.	100 soldiers. 80 armed Arabs.		Garrison estimated on 20/2/17 as 75 (5 Officers, 50 men, 20 armed Arabs). According to an Arab rumour they were seen on road to NEKHL.
NAZARETH.	18/3.	Agent.	<u>27th Division</u> H.Q.		79th & 81st Regts in S. Palestine; 80th is said no longer to exist (P. of W) but an agent gives it as made up to 4 bns. in this area.
DERAA.	22/3.	Agent.	<u>23rd Division.</u> ?68th Regt. 69th " 165th Regt.		Ordered S. from DAMASCUS in mid-February (3 agents).

Locality.	Date.	Source.	Units.	Guns.	Notes.
BEIRUT area.	15/2.	Agent.	? 43rd Division. ? 135th Regt. ? 136th "		<p>22 guns of this division reported as having been railed from RAYAK to JERUSALIM 22/2/17.</p> <p><u>NOTE.</u></p> <p>(1) There is a doubtful report from an agent on 11/3/17 that 4 guns of the 54th Div. passed S. through AFULE. Two prisoners however (one at SALONIKA gives composition as 170-172, the other from SHERIA previously belonged to 164th Regt. 54th Div.) locate it in CONSTANTINOPLE early in Feby</p> <p>(2) Except for deserter's statements of 30/3/17 that 47th Regt. and 1 battn. 48th Regt. had returned to SHERIA, and that 163rd Regt. had arrived at GAZA, the exact location of units is at present uncertain.</p>

