

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/12/2

**Title:** Intelligence Reports, Ismailia,  
General Headquarters, Egyptian  
Expeditionary Force

February 1916



AWM4-1/12/2



Army S.S

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No.449.ISMAILIA,

February 1st 1916.

Source of Intelligence.	INTELLIGENCE	REMARKS.
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AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
1.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 23rd inst for rail-head.

KATIB EL HENU	24th.	Nothing to report.
GEBEL EL BARGA	24th.	{ From Gebel Hamaiyin, east very heavy rain. All wadis coming down in heavy spate.
WADI KHARIG	25th.	
" MASAGID	"	
" EL FAT'H	"	

Very much more rain has fallen north of Gebel Maghara than last year.  
ES SIRR 25th. Heavy rain.  
EL MAGDHABA 26th. Agent saw 40 tents from a distance. There was a little water running in wadi el Arish.  
AUJA 26th. There was very heavy rain and nearly everyone was under shelter. Agent estimates the number of tents as something under 1,000. They are full of soldiers but he could not estimate their numbers.

RAIL-HEAD 27th. Rails are laid 4 paces south of the bridge over wadi Asluj. There are 2 lines of rails, the large gauge is on the embankment and measures nearly 92 centimetres between rails. Agent did not measure the gauge of the smaller line, which runs alongside the embankment to the east.  
A motor road runs on the west of the embankment. All 3 cross wadi Asluj on one bridge which has two arches.  
There is a heap of rails about 4ft 6 inches high by 7 metres by 3 1/2, approximately and also a small heap of sleepers.

Agent did not see an engine or trucks on either line of rails. Men are working in a very half hearted way on the embankment in the heavy rain.  
South of Auja 28th nothing but heavy rain.  
Agent joined the motor road west of Auja and followed it to ABU AWEIGILA. Motor cars are using the road as far as ABU AWEIGILA. From there the road divides, one branch going north towards Magdhaba west bank of wadi El Arish and the other branch which Agent followed continues west as far as El Afeira.  
It is said by Arabs that it is being made to Gebel Libni.

Wadi El Arish when Agent crossed it on 29th was in heavy flood. No attempt has been made to bridge the wadi.

Agent returned by the road he went out by. Heavy rain was falling and all the wadis north of Gebel Maghara were in flood as far as Gebel Barga when the rain stopped.

NOTE.....Agent has hitherto proved reliable. A.W.J.B.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
1.2.16.

Agent employed as watchman at Bir El Giddi and Gebel Mukhsheib reports that no Turks have been there during the past month.  
There has been much rain in the hills but very little water has come down in the wadis.  
On the 26th January 3 Loheiwat Arabs came from the east to inspect the water supply.  
Agent reports all the Khabrot dry in Wadi Mukhsheib (See Intellig once report 419. dated Jan 2nd) and wadi Giddi on the 30th ult. In wadi el Haj he heard that there was a pool 30 ft by 10 ft and 1 foot deep somewhere north of the "stone pillar" on the darb El Haj,

2nd Inf bde  
3rd Inf bde  
(9)  
Dir HQ  
Gen. Ly. 11114



S E C R E T. INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 449. ISMAILIA, Feb 1st 1916. (PAGE 2.)

but he cannot define exact locality. As regards Gebel Mukhsheib (See Int. Report No. 421 dated Jan 4th) he reports as follows:-

There is about 2ft of water in three of the rock cisterns at Moiya Harab 30.1.16.

HARABA HASSAN MEHSIN. Holds no water.

HARABA GUMA SALAAMA ABDULLA. Has a little water but not much.

EL MASIF. No water.

MISIC EL HUSAN, is full. 29.1.16.

HARABA UM MUKHSHEIB, is full. 29.1.16.

MUAR. Three cisterns all full. 29.1.16.

BIRKET KEREIZA. A little water.

Wadi DHALMA. A little water in the rocks up the wadi but none lower down.

UM HAMETA. A wadi north of Misic el Husan holds a quantity of water in the rock. Size of pool, 15'x10'x 4'deep.

*JKT.*



SECRET.

*Amey S.S.*

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.451.ISMAILIA,February 3rd 1916.

Source of Intelligence.	INTELLIGENCE.	REMARKS.
G.S.O. INTELLIGENCE S U E Z 2.2.16.	INTELLIGENCE REPORT FROM O.C. T O R . 30.1.16.  Agent reports that on the 4th January one train load of troops from the Garrison of Maan left for the north. About 50 horses(or mules) and 50 camels left by the same train.  The troops remaining at MAAN number about 150 with 20 mules and 20 horses. It is stated that these are shortly to proceed to Akaba. The troops who left by train were much better diciplined than those remaining.  <u>AKABA.</u> No increase or decrease in Garrison. The Officer commanding at Akaba recently took away the arms from the Arabs of the Leheiwat, Huitat and Amran Tribes. These rifles were on loan from the Turks.  <u>W.GINEH.</u> Agent reports that on the 24th Jan,5 camel loads of rifles were sent from W.Gineh to Nekhl. These rifles were previously stored at Gineh ostensibly for arming friendly Arabs.  All reports go to show that no offensive action is to be expected from W. Gineh and it has been rumoured that the post may return to Nekhl. Arabs coming from W. Gineh stated that Arabs previously friendly to the Turks round Gineh(Walad Said and Gararsha) are now very dissatisfied as the promises of the Officer of the Post to feed them have not been fulfilled.  REPORT FROM O.C. T O R 31.1.16.  <u>AIN SUDR.</u> Reliable Agent who was at Ain Sudr on the 20th Jan, states he saw:- 6 Bell tents. 4 Arab tents. 30 soldiers, Syrians, mixed. 1 Turkish Officer. 50 Armed Arabs from 'Omdigat and Terrabin Sheikhs Zeidan Hamid, Salem Abu Khudir and Suliman El Karabiti. Food was, barley from Nekhl , and not plentiful. Hamla-15 camels. ("Hamla"= Transport). There is a telephone to Nekhl. Patrols go to wadi Lahita. Reports state that the railway has reached wadi E Khalassa. Work on road for motor cars has been completed about 6 miles west of Hassana.  =====	
AGENT ISMAILIA 3.2.16.	Left Ismailia on the 24th instant for HASSANA, with instructions to find out all details re the reservoir there. KATAIIB EL KHEIL 24th { NORTH OF EL ASHUBI 25th { Nothing to report.  <u>WADI EL HEGAIIB 26th.</u> A patrol of 4 camelmén passed him going south. Heavy rain. <u>MENEIDRET ABU GURUN 27th.</u> Nothing to report except heavy rain. <u>WADI EL LETHEILI 28th.</u> Wadi contained many pools of water. Work was proceeding on the road. <u>HASSANA 29th.</u> Agent saw 150 tents scattered, most of them east of the wadi. Garrison about 2,000 men approximately.	



He saw 80-90 horses, 50-60 mules, and about 160 camels. Also 8 guns covered with tarpaulins between the road and the wadi.

Some building with limestone is going on east of the guns.

The pumping engine is on the east bank of the wadi, and from it lead pipes into 2 small stone cisterns and 1 zinc tank to the south, and one stone and three zinc to the north. These are used for watering men and animals.

Immediately east of the pumping engine is a reservoir about 36 metres long by 15 metres wide.

The stone wall of the cistern is one metre above ground, and water reaches to within  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre of the top.

There is a sentry between the pumping engine and the Reservoir and agent could not approach close, but he saw 2 men disappear into the ground past the sentry. He asked some Arabs, whom he was with, as to where they had gone and they told him that for fear of aeroplane attack the Turks had built their ammunition magazine under the reservoir as bombs might be dropped on tents and buildings but not on the water.

About 50 yards east of the reservoir is a large heap covered with black blankets, agent does not know what it contains.

On the east bank of the wadi, south of the pump, are 4 sheds. These contain stores as agent saw 30 camels unload grain and boxes of provisions which were put in these sheds.

WADI EL KHAMARA 29th. Agent saw 50 labourers road making. There was heavy rain.

Gebel EL KHATHIA 30th. ( Nothing to report except the  
GEBEL EL GEDEIRA 31st. ( tracks of a patrol of 3 camelmen  
going east.

KATIB EL SABHA 2st Feb. Nothing to report.

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*Army S.S.*

SECRET. INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 452. ISMAILIA Feb 4th 1916. (~~SECRET~~ 2.)

INTELLIGENCE  
~~OFFICER~~  
KANTARA  
4.2.16.

Agent left WASET 24th ult, and went to EL ARISH arriving 25th.  
He saw there a large convoy of camels about 300 bringing stores from Khan Yunis.  
Saw very few soldiers, perhaps 50 in the Fort and 75 outside.

The wadi was in spate.  
Arrived at Khan Yunis the evening of the 26th ult.  
Saw 50 tents in the woods there.  
Reached GAZA on the 29th ult. Where he counted 200 soldiers and saw between 300 and 400 camels bringing stores from LIDD.  
He reached BIR SABA on the 29th and says that he saw 3,000 ~~THREE~~ tents, about half of which were of goats hair. He reports that there are approximately 300 armed Arabs of the Ibn Ra~~ch~~id Tribe in SABA.  
On the railway saw 3 Trucks each loaded with 2 guns. Guns appeared to be about 9 ft long.  
Near the railway are large stocks of camel fodder.  
The actual rails are laid for about 3 miles out of SABA.

On his way back he heard that 16 Turkish soldiers had been drowned by the flood in Wadi El Arish.

He reports that 10 new wells have been dug at BIR EL ABD- 6 new wells at MOSEIFIG and 8 new wells at Abu El Afein.

He met at Bir el Abd on the 1st Feb, the Turkish patrol who had been at Un Ugba and Afein.

One of our agents under suspicion by the Turks sent in his son to report that:-

Kress Bey was with the last patrol who inspected MEHEMDIA - TEL EL FARAMA - TEL EL HEIR with a view to mounting guns at these places.

That the wells previously reported along the EL ARISH road, have now been completed and covered with wood and sand.

That the underground store at Katia is now completed.

INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER  
ISMAILIA  
4.2.16.

Among documents picked up by an Agent at Hassana on the 1st Feb, some prove to belong to a Private of the 3rd Battalion, 80th Regt, 27th Division, 8th Army Corps: some to a private of the 25th Division of the 8th Army Corps, and others to a private of an Engineer Battalion of the 5th Army Corps.

As the latest date on these documents is January 1915, they may have been left behind in the retreat of last year.



SECRET.

Army 55

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 453. ISMAILIA, February 5th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G.S.  
INTELLIGENCE  
S U E Z .  
4.2.16.

FROM ARAB SOURCES.

On 29th at point 1954 between Um Mitla and wadi El HAJ, all clear. Agent learnt here that Arab patrols composed of about 15 men visit Giddi periodically. These patrols come from Rodh Salem.

On 30th at Gebel El RABBA, 2 tents, 2 Arab shelters and some Arabs were seen. It is reported that this post is eventually going to repair the Government well at wadi Soila El Churza, (where wadi El Ghydry crosses the Darb el Haj.) (Mecca Road)

AIN ABU REGUM 31st. 1 tent, 2 horses, 3 camels, and post of 3 to 9 Arabs. 1 Officer seen. Plenty of water reported in wadi SUDR.

AIN EL DEASA 1st inst. All clear. Agent heard here Post at Ain Sudr as previously reported - no reinforcement, with exception of 1 German who arrived about 29th Jan with four mines. He is stated to have come from the direction of Nekhl.

Also rumoured that many reinforcements have recently arrived At SABA.

SINN BISHAR, UM GURF 2nd inst. All clear.

BIR ABU GARAD Agent returned via SUDR. No tracks seen and eventually got on telegraph line reaching Ayan Musa 3rd inst.

REMARKS. From above there is no increase of enemy posts. Several patrols chiefly composed of Arabs appear to reconnoitre the Raha Hills and adjacent wadis.

The arrival of a German at Ain Sudr with mines should be noted.

Water still appears plentiful in all wadis adjoining the Raha.

Reinforcements at SABA are rumoured.

Ref. Intelligence Report 449 dated 1st inst.

Cavalry reconnoitred from stone pillar on Darb el Haj to trigonometrical point 388 and from there west to 440. No trace of water pool was found.

Reconnaissance Mitla Pass returned. No enemy seen nor any signs of his having been there recently.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
5.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 26th January for BIR SABA.

KATIB EL HENU 27th ( Nothing to report, all wadis  
GEBEL EL BARGA " ( had been in flood.

WADIS MASAGID & EL FATH 28th (

Agent crossed wadi El Arish north of Magdhaba. The wadi had pools in all low lying spots.

GEBEL GARN 29th ( nothing to report.  
RAHELBA " (

BIR ES SABA 30th. Agent saw very many soldiers and tents: about 2,000 transport camels; 100 mules and 500 horses. On the collars of some soldiers, he saw the numbers 39 and on others 51 or 15, uncertain which.

He heard from local Arabs that:-

(1) The first and second "taburs" were at SABA (tabur" to an Arab means any force from a company to an Army Corps. A.C.J.B.)



- Saba*
- (2) The total number there now were 15,000 men, Syrians and Turks; some of the former with long beards.
- (3) Five aeroplanes have reached El SABA one of which had flown to AUJA and back. They were housed in 3 wooden buildings with cemented roofs.
- (4) 25,000 troops have reached Jerusalem.
- (5) There has been a wash out at wadi ash Sharia, and ~~ten~~ trains have to unload north of the wadi, goods are brought thence on camel back. One big gun has arrived at wadi ash Sharia, it took 4 camels to transport it to El SABA. Its barrel unscrewed into 3 bits.

*Auja*

Agent followed the railway line from Saba to Auja via Asluj. He insists that rail-head has reached wadi Asluj. Both lines are laid as far as there, the main line and the Decauville. There was no traffic on either on the day he was there possibly owing to the wash-out in wadi ash Sharia. Men are working at clearing the ballast from the rails of the main line. It has been dumped down by camels and in many places covers the rails. Wadi Asluj is crossed by a bridge with two openings. There are heaps of rails for the main line and sleepers there.

There are no wash-outs between SABA and AUJA. Very few men are working between Saba and Asluj but a big number between Asluj and Auja. All the wadis have been in flood but they all have been bridged.

Agent slept the night of 31st at GOZ SABUN. He did not make visit Auja but was at wadi el Amr night of 1st FEB.

He followed the new motor road past Aweigila to El Afoira and then left it. A branch road on east bank of wadi el Arish from Abu Aweigila, leads towards El Arish. Wadi el Arish has not been bridged.

Agent returned via wadi el Fat'h, Masagid and Gebel el Barga. All the wadis were in flood but otherwise he saw nothing worth reporting.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
5.2.16.

An Agent who was at Hassana on Feb 2nd reports that he saw there, 150 tents; 2,000 soldiers; 30-40 mules; 70-80 horses and 300 camels. The rest of his statement agrees with Ent report 451 dated 3rd FEB. He gives the size of the reservoir under which there is a magazine as 34ft by 13ft.

He states an anti-aircraft gun is mounted to the S.E. of the reservoir. 3 ovens have been built south of the reservoir.

Agent heard while at Hassana that 5 aeroplanes have reached El Saba and that one had flown over Hassana and Auja and returned safely to Saba.

All the wadis between Rodh Salem and Hassana have come down in spate.



SECRET.

Army S.S.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 454, ISMAILIA, FEBRUARY 6th 1918.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G.S.  
INTELLIGENCE  
SUZ  
5.2.18.

FROM ARAB SOURCES.

Jan 29th. UM MUKHMERIS - all clear. There were signs of rain fall but not to any extent.

KOTYA HARAB Jan 30th. A post of 10 Arabs was seen. It is not thought that any of the cisterns had been filled in this locality, the rainfall being very slight.

WADI KEGALIB Jan 31st. Between Gebel Merjam and Gebel El Uzi 2 tents were seen and about 11 camels and 15 Syrian soldiers and Arabs. This post get their water from Wadi Ghilna, where there is as stated to be a small water hole.

ABU RUHANA & WADI EL SAHA Feb 1st- All clear. No signs of water.

UM SEIALA & Jiret-el ALADI Feb 2nd. All clear. Many Siddi Arabs with families and flocks seen between UM SEIALA and TOWAL. They are said to be moving for grazing purposes to those parts where there have been good rains i.e. between Towal and Wadi Sudr.

At Gindi and Towal nothing seen. There has been no spate at Gindi and there is no increase in the water supply. At Towal there is a good quantity of water owing to the recent rains.

Agent returned to KUBRI along Darb El Haj - nothing to report.

REPORT FROM O.C. ABU ZENINA 4.2.18. concerning the enemy post at EL GINEH.

The Syrian Officer there receives a post every 15 days from Nekhl. He gives Arabs "chits" for grain in place of money. These they get "honoured" at Nekhl or some other Turkish Post up north.

at Ganoh

The Post consists of the Syrian Officer and 5 soldiers.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
5.2.18.

Agent left Ismailia on 24th January for JERUSALEM.

<u>GENEL BARGA</u>	35th	{ Nothing to report.
<u>WADI EL ARTSI</u>	36th	
<u>NORTH OF El Lahfan</u>		
<u>SHEIKH NURAN</u>	37th	
<u>S.E. OF Ichen Yunis</u>		

He crossed the railway close to wadi el Sheria where the embankment adjoining the bridge had been washed away.

DAWAIMEN (Lat. 34.55') 28th. Nothing.

BEITLEHAM 29th. He saw 2,000 to 3,000 troops.

JERUSALEM 30th. 12,000 to 15,000 troops living in tents. About 8 guns, 3 metres long covered with tarpaulins. 2,000 to 10,000 woolly camels from Northern Syria. 5,000 horses and mules.



SECRET. INTELLIGENCE REPORT No454. ISMAILLIA, FEB 6th 1916. (PAGE 2.)

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Many motor lorries.

Quantities of grain coming from the North by camel and train, and some leaving for south by camel.

Talk in the market states:-

(1) that Enver Pasha had come to command there.

(2) that no advance of troops from Jerusalem will be made until the railway reaches AUJA.

HEBRON (El Khulil) 31st January. Only 2,000 troops  
No guns.

DAWAINEH 1st Feb. Nothing to report. Thence he returned by the same route as he had gone out seeing nothing worth reporting.

NOTE.....New Agent, hitherto untried. A.W.J.B.

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Army 53

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 455. ISMAILIA, February 7th 1918.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

Intelligence  
Officer  
Kantara.  
6.2.16.

A trustworthy Agent arrived here last night, having escaped from the Turks. Two Turkish camelmen arrived in KATIA the afternoon of the 4th inst and came to his place to arrest him. He hid under some litter near his force and got away at night.

He confirms the information that Kross Pasha was round looking for gun positions at MINEMDIA, TEL EL FARAWA, TEL EL REIR, & ABU ASAS.

The store which has been reported as built at KATIA he states as being 30' x 30' & 12' deep into the ground. It has been roofed over with wood and sand heaped on the top. It is fenced round - (his dimensions are only approximate) though he is positive about the depth.

Stores similar to this have been constructed at BIR EL ABD & BIR EL MAZAR.

The two ovens built at KATIA are solid affairs of brick stone and mortar and are situated in the Gardens on the east side of KATIA.

Agent learns from his brother that there are two "Tabura", approximately 2,000 men, at EL FAGIRA (Lat 31. 5' Long 33.50') in the wadi El Arish close to and south of the town, but that more soldiers are arriving every day.

The Commandant at present is Zaki Bey. In the camp there, there are four aeroplanes each of which carries a machine gun. There are no shade or tents for them. Eight German Officers and 50 soldiers have arrived there. German

The talk in the Army is that the attack on EGYPT is to be carried out in three columns. The first composed of Germans, on KATIA & KAFARA. The second, of Turks, on ISMAILIA. The Third, of Austrians, on SUEZ.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
7.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 22th Jan to examine the water supply in wadis Mukhsheib and Giddi, Gobol Um Mukhsheib and Shabret Rodh Salem. (See Int reports 419 & 421 of 2nd and 4th January)

KHABRET HUSBAL	{	in wadi Mukhsheib. No water on 30th January.
KHABRET MELHA		
" EL AGOOZ		
" EL ASHUBI		
" EL ZOHRA		

MOIYA HARAB 31st. Only one cistern with water in it, about 300 gallons only. HARABA HASSAN MENHIE 31st. Empty.

HARABA GUNA ABDULLA 1st. About 12,000 gallons of water. EL KASIF 1st Feb. 20,000 gallons approx.

BIRKET KEREIZA 1st. 4,000 gallons approx.

KHABRET EL MAHMA in wadi Giddi on 2nd Feb. D R Y.

There was a small flood in wadi Giddi, but it dried up a few hundred yards below Bir el Giddi.

The water in Bir el Giddi is now sufficient for about 300 camels daily, roughly 3000 gallons.

Wadi ABU SHAR 2nd Feb. 3 pools containing 6,000 gallons approximately.

MISIC EL HUSAN 3rd Feb. 5,000 gallons approx.

HARABA UM MUKHSHEIB 2nd Feb. 30,000 gallons approx.

MUAR 3rd Feb. 500 gallons.

WADI DHALMA 3rd Feb. BIG POOL empty. 2 small pools holding about 8,000 gallons between them.



S E C R E T. INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 455. ISMAILIA FEB 7th 1916 (PAGE 2.)

KHABRET ROUH SALEM 4th Feb. Pool had water in it  
from recent flood, but is now dried up.  
Agent saw 30 tents; 50 soldiers; 50 riding camels.



SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE FOR THE PERIOD 1st to 7th  
FEBRUARY, INCLUSIVE.

*Army S.S.*

RAIL-HEAD.

Agents continue to report that rail-head has reached wadi Asluj, about 15 to 20 miles south of SABA, though they state that they have seen no rolling stock on the line. This however is not borne out by sea-plane reconnaissance, which stated that rails have not been laid on the main line south of SABA.

There has been a bad washout at wadi Shoria whence all material is being transported to Saba by camel.

Agent who was at Saba on the 30th January reported that 3 aeroplanes had reached there, one of which is said to have fallen flown to Auis and back.

An Agent on 26th reports 4 aeroplanes at El Arish. The digging of new wells on the north road is confirmed.

Rumour reports 72,000 men have reached northern Syria on their way to advance on the Canal.

STRENGTH OF GARRISONS AS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK:-

JERUSALEM	12,000	to 13,000
BETHLEHEM	2,000	to 3,000
HEBRON	2,000	
SABA	15,000	
GAZA	1,000	
KHAN YUNIS	1,700	
RAPA	200	
EL ARISH	1,000	
HABSAHA	2,000	
MAAN	150	

Rain has fallen on Gebels Maghara and Yallog and the wadis on the northern slopes of Maghara have come down in heavy flood.

*[Signature]*  
Lt. Colonel,  
Chief Intelligence Officer  
ISMAILIA

February 7th 1918.



S E C R E T.

Army G.S.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 458, ISMAILIA, February 8th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G.S.  
INTELLIGENCE  
S U E 2.  
7.2.16.

Report from 10th Division states a group of 6 pools of good water have been discovered. They are situated 2 miles North of the Darb El Haj route, halfway between points 440 and 888.  
N.B. These pools are presumably temporary from recent rainfall.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
8.2.16.

Agent left Ismailia on the 30th January with instructions to visit the dam reported by aeroplane in Wadi El Arish south east of NEKHL.  
KATIB EL MAKHAZIN 31st Jan. Nothing to report.  
WADI DHALMA 1st Feb. There is a pool of water in the wadi containing about 12,000 gallons.  
WADI BRUK 2nd inst. Nothing to report.  
KHOVJA IN WADI EL ARISH, the probable site of the dam, 3rd inst. Agent reports that a large pool of water was held up in a hollow in the wadi bed by the help of a small bank of earth. This pool has now practically dried up and the ground is being cultivated.  
While there, 12 armed Arabs arrived from NEKHL.  
NEKHL 4th. He saw many tents, about 1,000 soldiers 200 riding camels; 30 transport camels; 40 mules and horses. 150 transport camels arrived from Kossaima with stores etc while he was there.  
North of the NEKHL fort he saw 3 big guns covered with tarpaulins. He heard that 100 more fast riding camels were due at Nekhl from Kossaima about the 9th inst.  
5 miles west of Nekhl he saw 2 guns in emplacements; 2 small tents and about 7 soldiers.  
WADI ASU GIDIL 5th. Nothing to report.  
WEST OF WADI DHALMA 6th. He saw tracks of a patrol of about 20 horses and 30 camels going north, evidently coming from Moiya Harab.  
KATIB EL MAKHAZIN 7th. Nothing to report.



SECRET.

Army 9.8

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 457. ISMAILIA. February 9th 1918.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

Agent left Ismailia on the 31st Jan.

BAWANISH 31st Jan. Nothing to report.

SOUTH OF BIR EL MAGGIBRA 1st Feb. He passed the fresh tracks of a patrol of 4 camelmen and saw the old tracks of 60 camels & 15 horses coming from the south and going towards KATIA.

BIR EL JAMEIL 2nd inst. 1, Old well; 1 new one.

BIR EL KASSEIBA 3rd. Two new wells have been dug.

BIR KOSSEIFIA. 3 new wells.

BIR EL GERERAT. 3 new wells.

Agent heard that:-

(1) There were 3 new wells at Bir el Mazar.

(2) According to contract the railway had to reach Auja by the 19th inst.

(3) Kress Bey with several Germans and five Austrians on horses had made a tour of inspection from Hassana to Rodh Salem through Rigal el Khalla and Magoibra to Katia and El Arish. (NOTE. The tracks

seen by Agent at Magoibra were probably those of the above patrol. A.W.J.B.)

EL MAGIBA in wadi El Arish on the 4th. Agent saw 3 tents and 50 men, and one mule for fetching water.

EL ARISH 4th inst. He saw 100 tents, very scattered, in hollows between the dunes south of the town and west of the wadi; many dug outs each capable of holding 4 or 5 men, but estimates the total garrison at only 800-900. There are 3 guns in emplacements west of the wadi opposite Nakhil Abu Sagal and near the palm grove. Also 4 guns in trenches south of the town, between the town and the troops.

He saw about 30, mules; 40 horses; 70 transport and 30 riding camels in the camp.

While at Arish he saw 15 camels loaded with boxes and 20 with sacks arrive from Khan Yunis and unload in the Camp. Agent spent the night at Bir el Maasid and returned via Bir El Jameil and Magoibra seeing nothing worth reporting.



SECRET

SECRET Army 88

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 458. ISMAILIA, February 10th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER  
KANTARA  
9.2.16.

Agent having had instructions to report on Bir Saba reached there on the 26th ult and stayed 5 days in the town. He could not estimate the number of troops there but there must be about 4,000 tents.

The day after he arrived 2,000 Arabs of Azbain El Sherif came in from MECOA. Large number of mules were arriving every day also.

There had been a bad wash-out where the railway crossed Wadi SHERIA and now the trains do not come into Saba. Before arriving he had heard there were 5 aeroplanes at SABA, but he found that this was not true and that there was only one. This one he saw flying. It flew very badly and in landing pitched over on one side breaking its right wing.

He did not see them, but he heard that there were stored in Saba four big guns- so large that a man might get into them. The projectile stood about one metre high on the ground.

He says that in one of the recent floods about 400 Turks were drowned in the wadi in one night.

He left SABA and reached El SHELLAL on the 31st ult. Here he found that a pump had been put up, worked by an oil engine. Two reservoirs had been built, each about 30 ft square and 9 ft 10 in deep. They had largely been dug out of the rock, but the walls projecting above the ground were built of stone and mortar. One reservoir had 8 pipes leading out of it each with a cock at the end so that the water could be turned on or off.

From Shellal he went to KHAN YUNIS 1st Feb: there he thought there were about 500 soldiers.

From there he went to El Arish 3rd inst, where he stayed two days. The first day he was there 500 soldiers arrived, (Syrians) and each day 300 - 400 camels came in bringing pumps, barley, flour and food-stuffs generally.

From El Arish he came into Kantara arriving 8th inst. On the way in he counted 3 wells at Bir el Mazar - 6 at Moseifig - 24 at Bir el Abd and a post of 52 men - 6 at Bir el Afein - 8 at El Kharbi. (Kharba?) The last post he passed was at Um Uga where there were 50 men, some were camelmen, but their camels were in very bad condition. (This is an untried Agent and too clever perhaps for much reliance to be placed on his statement. W.F.S.)

NOTE. (The plane seen at Bir Saba is probably one of the French seaplanes which has been repaired. A.W.J.E.)



SECRET.

Amey 95

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 459, ISMAILIA, February 11th 1918.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICE  
ISMAILIA  
11th Feb  
1918.

The following notes bring the information contained in Intelligence Report, No. 459, dated 22nd Jan, up to date.

NORTH ROAD

During the last month the following new wells have been dug:-

ROD EL KHIRBA	8 1/2	wells
BIR ABU AFLIN	6	wells
BIR EL ABD	24	"
BIR EL JAMEIL	1	"
BIR EL MOSEIFIG	6	"
BIR EL KASSEIBA	2	"
BIR EL MAZAR	6	"
BIR EL GERERAT	3	"

GENERAL ROAD

There has been very heavy rain on the northern slopes of Maghara and all wadis flowing north have come down in spate. All wadis to the north of Yelleg have also been in flood but not heavily.

Khabret Rodh Salen had water in it for some days but is now reported to have dried up, but the water supply in the wells may be considered to be at least double.

Some damage was done to the metalled road but not to any serious extent. Work has stopped on the road owing to the workmen having been recalled east.

About 90,000 gallons of water are reported to have been held up from the recent rain in the Gobel Um Mukhsheib Massif.

SOUTH ROAD

Conditions on the south road have not altered materially although more rain has fallen.

Aeroplane reconnaissance reports a dam to have been built and water held up in Wadi el Arish 10 miles S.E. of Nekhl. This however, according to an agent, is only the usual earth embankment built by the Arabs across the wadi to hold up sufficient water to thoroughly soak the ground for cultivation and he now reports it to be dry.



S E C R E T.

Army 95

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.460.ISMAILIA, February 12th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

Intelligence  
Officer  
Kantara  
10.2.16.

Agent sent to Bir Saba reached there on the 2nd inst, but returned with very little news worth reporting. Ibn<sup>h</sup> He reports very many Arabs there of the Rashid tribe. Those men are all armed with single loading rifles. GAZA. He describes the Turks as digging many trenches facing the sea.

EL ARISH. He saw 10 German Officers; 150 riding camels and between 400 and 500 tents. Taufik Bey was still in the town.

Two Agents report separately that DJEMAL PASHA has arrived at El Arish, bringing with him two "taburs" neither agent saw any aeroplanes there.

The talk in El Arish is that the main Army for Egypt is still north of Jerusalem.

Posts along the northern road are now reported as follows:-

BIR EL MAZAR. 50 men - store still empty.

BIR EL ABD. 100 men. 30 new tents expected there on the 7th inst. 130 camels with loads arrived evening of 5th inst.

HOL EL DABABIS (Lat 31. 0' Long 32.55') 10 men at Telegraph Station. 200 camelmen reported here. (This is not confirmed. F.S.)

Agents agree that coal is being collected all along the coast in Neighbourhood of MAHEMDIA. (Lat 31. 4' Long 32.41') and being sent to BIR SABA.

Agent who had been at Rodh Salem on the 5th inst reports that, though the Turkish Post is still there, the workmen on the road have all gone back to Kossaima and Auja to repair the wash-outs.

He reports a small quantity of water in a pool near Rodh Salem but not much, though water is standing in pools in all the wadis leading north from Gebel Hamaiyir and Gebel Barga.

Agent  
Ismailia  
12.2.16.

Left Ismailia 1st February for rail-head.

GEBEL TASSA 1st inst. Nothing to report.

GEBEL GEDEIRA 2nd inst. Fresh tracks of a patrol of 4 camelmen going south.

WADI KHARIG ) ( Recent floods have now dried  
WADI MABAGID ) 3rd inst. ( up. Arabs busy cultivating  
WADI EL FAT'H ) ( in wadi beds.

ABU AWEIGILA 4th inst. The metalled road from Auja goes along the east bank of wadi El Arish towards El Arish. A Dam has been made half way across wadi El Arish and a bridge is being commenced across the rest of the wadi. A post of 4 tents, about 40 soldiers and 4 Arab guides with their camels were seen by Agent.

BIR SABA 5th inst evening. It was raining when Agent reached Saba, and the soldiers were wearing great-coats so that agent could not see the regimental numbers on their collars. He estimates the force at more than 15,000 men. There were many more tents there than when he last visited Saba: i.e. beginning of January. He saw 2,000 transport camels, 100 mules and 500 horses. All guns were under cover.



He saw 3 aeroplane sheds north of the Government buildings, north of the town, and heard there were 5 aeroplanes there.

HE SAW 3 railway engines at Bir Saba, 2 alone and one with about 20 trucks.

The wash-out at Wadi esh Sheria has been mended. All the workmen had been sent from work on the embankment to do so.

Agent left Bir Saba on the evening of the 6th for Asluj. He states that both the main line rails and the Decauville have been laid as far as wadi Asluj, where the main line stops at the bridge, the Decauville is continued for 2 miles further south. The rails on the main line are to a great extent covered with ballast of small stones which has not yet been cleared away as all workmen were taken away to the wash-out. No engines or Trucks were seen on the main line south of wadi Saba. On the Decauville south of wadi Asluj, agent saw small trucks but no engines. No work is being done. There are heaps of rails and sleepers at rail-head.

On 6th inst. Half way between Saba and Asluj, Agent saw a monoplane flying very high. He could see no marks on it but was told that it was a Turkish plane flying to Auja.

From Asluj agent returned via wadi Azarig, Abu Aweigila and wadi el Fat'h to Gebel Hamaiyir. Here he was chased and caught by a fellow tribesman, Id Amer, in the employ of the Turks, who was accompanying a patrol of 9 soldiers. Luckily Id Amer was the only one, well mounted. They exchanged blows with their sticks, agent being cut over the eye, then as the patrol was closing up, agent slipped from off his camel and ran and hid in the rocks. They fired 5 shots at him but missed and though they searched for the best part of a day they failed to find him in the Gebel. As soon as they had gone, he came in on foot; they had driven off his camel. He was two days without food or water.

Agent  
Ismailia  
12.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 3rd inst for Hassana & Kossaima.

KATAIB EL KHEIL 3rd inst. Nothing to report.

WADI EL SHELAHL 4th inst. The day old tracks of a patrol of 4 camelmén.

BIR EL JIFJIFA 5th. Agent saw 4 tents from a distance.

WADI ABU GURUN 5th. Nothing to report

HASSANA 6th. Agents description tallies with previous accounts. He states that the big cistern is 30 paces by 10 paces and 1½ metre high. It contains water. He did not dare approach too close, as there were two sentries on it, but he saw what he thinks was an entrance underneath it, and heard from Arabs that the Turks had built a Magazine under the cistern.

An Anti-aircraft gun has been mounted E.S.E. of the cistern, and the 2 guns previously reported are still near the road. Not far from there some stone buildings are in process of construction. About 1/4 of a mile S. of the cistern is a black heap which agent was told was wood, but for what purpose he could not learn. He estimates the number of troops at 2,500 in 200 tents, well scattered.

Agent slept at wadi el Hamth (6th) There is a telephone line along the Hassana Kossaima road.



SECRET. INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 460. ISMAILIA, February 12th 1916. (PAGE 3 )

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KOSSAIMA 7th. Agent saw 70 tents, 30 camels bringing stone for building, 350 mules approximately and 500 horses tied to a rope in one long line. 7 guns on wheels each about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  metres long and a guard of 10 men in 2 tents. He estimates the total number of troops at 2,000 men. He saw the pumping engine on the spring and the pipe line covered with sand, leading down the wadi.

He returned from Kossaima by the way he had come, keeping north of Hassana. Arabs told him that there were Turkish posts established at Gebel Godeira, and Zereim and a cordon of posts north to Katia.

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SECRET.

*Amey SS*

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 431. ISMAILIA. February 13th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G.S.  
Intelligence  
SUEZ  
12.2.16.

Copy of Intelligence Report from O.C. T O R.

DABA. Reis of Grain Gatira (boat) towed here by H.M.S. Dufferin (Gatira came from Daba and had been over 1 month there) reports:-

50 Camel Corps and several (?) Turkish Officers at Daba town.

400 infantry behind the hill about 4 miles inland from Daba.

Civil population about 400.

400 Camel Corps went from Daba to Tabuk about end of November.

MAAN. Agent heard that the advance troops of a division of irregular Arab troops, Muwahib tribe, arrived at Maan from south (by road) this is hearsay and lacks confirmation.

AUJA. From several reliable agents: A food depot has been established at Auja and Arabs are told to go there to obtain relief.

Arabs proceeding from Auja to Nekhl who have camels are given 2 loads of grain to every one which they take there for the Turks. Auja is the supply depot for southern Turkish posts such as Ain Sudr etc.

NEKHL. From reliable agent: Garrison at Nekhl about 400 Syrians. It was relieved about a month ago from the north. Food is now more plentiful at Nekhl as there is a constant supply of transport, (Arab) from Auja.

Present price of barley per kilo 8 P.T. old price 15P.T.  
" " " DURA " " 10 P.T. " " 20P.T.

There are 6 Officers at Nekhl, all Turkish. 4 guns which were previously mounted on hills south of Nekhl have now been brought to the town.

On 28th Jan 3 Officers proceeded from Nekhl to Ain Sudr, nationality of Officers not known. There are weekly mails between Auja and Nekhl, the journey takes four days each way.

There is a telephone from Nekhl to Hassana and also to Ain Sudr.

RAILWAY. Agent heard that railway had reached Khalassa and embankment Ain Mowellieh where a bridge was being constructed. He was told that rail-head was to be at wadi Forashat (?) other agents state that railway is only 5 miles south of SABA. (NOTE. There is a place called Forashat between wadi El Gobab and wadi Um Mitla on the Suez Nekhl road. There is also a wadi of the same name near wadi Ruag on the Nekhl Themed road. Neither of these places can be referred to, but no other place of this name is known. A.W.J.B.)

BIR SABA. Agent heard that there were 3 big guns at Saba (11") also that many Arabs had been pressed into service round Saba and Gaza and sent north.

AKABA. No increase in garrison. Food still scarce.

SUDR EL HEITAN. Agent reports that he heard that there was a Turkish post at Sudr El Heitan.

WADI GINEH. Agent confirms that 97 old rifles were sent from Gineh to Nekhl at the end of last month. They have not been replaced.



Mail arrives once a fortnight from Nekhl. On hearing of patrol from Tor which visited wadi Hobran on 1st Feb. The Turkish post retired to Wadi Sig, about 10 miles N.E. of wadi Ginoh. The Arabs dispersed to the hills. Sheikh Messsir Musa on hearing of arrival of patrol advised the Officer in charge of the post to withdraw as he (Musa) could not trust the Arabs.

Agent left Ismailia on the 7th inst for Hassana.

Agent  
Ismailia  
13.2.16.

GEBEL TASSA 7th. Nothing to report.

North of Bir el JIJAJA 8th. 4 tents from a distance. Small enemy patrols numbering from 3 to 7 men are now very active in patrolling all the country east of Tassa, with a view to preventing agents getting out.

WADI EL MAGHAZA 9th. No road making, only the proposed line of road marked out. Tracks of many patrols.

WADI EL KHAMARA 9th. There are very few workmen now employed on the road. Only that part from the head of the wadi east has been properly metalled. The remainder has only had the surface cleared and rammed.

Agent saw 2 or 3 motors on the road going from Hassana to a post of about 15 tents at wadi Letheili.

HASSANA 10th. Agent states the big cistern is about 35 paces by 8, and one metre high. A sentry is mounted on the west end. He could not see whether an underground store has been made, but there were no heaps of excavated earth. He describes the place closely in accordance with the aeroplane photographs. There is an anti-aircraft gun mounted east of the cistern and a lime kiln near the long stone buildings close to the road.

The troops were practising the attack in extended formation when he was there. He estimates their numbers at 2,000 to 3,000. There are 200 to 300 tents very much scattered. Kross Bey and Sami Bey were there on a tour of inspection. Khidr Eff is the Yuzbashi (Captain) in command of the Camel Corps, stationed at Hassana.

Agent saw no camels except two lots of about 50 with stores from Kossaima while he was there. He saw no horses nor mules, except 2 or 3 for Officers. Grain and Tibn is spread out to dry in large heaps south of the cistern.

A carriage road has been made north to Es Sirr, and the road towards Nekhl has been cleared and the surface rammed, but not properly metalled.

Agent heard that:-

- (1) 70 workmen near Auja had been washed away and drowned in a flood in wadi el Abiad after the recent rain.
- (2) A British aeroplane flew over Hassana and fired at the troops, one man was knocked down but not killed.
- (3) 4 bombs were dropped at Jifjafa; they all fell wide; one did not explode and was sent to Saba.

Agent returned by the way he went out seeing nothing worth reporting.



SECRET.

Army 9.3

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 462. ISMAILIA. February 14th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

Agent  
Ismailia  
14.2.16.

Left Ismailia on the 5th instant for rail-head at Saba.

GEBEL EL TASSA 5th inst. Nothing to report

WADI EL KHARIG 6th inst. Agent passed the tracks of many small patrols between Katib ol Henu and Gedeira.

MAGDHABA 7th. A post of 30 tents, several empty, about 60 or 70 men. The motor road from Abu Aweigila has reached Magdhaba and after crossing the wadi ol Arish from East to west there, it continues towards El Arish. Agent could not say how far north it has been finished. There is no bridge over the wadi but the bed is cleared of large rocks and small stones are put wadi down to make a hard crossing.

WADI EL ABIAD 8th. Nothing to report.

On the morning of the 9th agent followed the wadi to where a bridge is being built over it. The bridge is not finished but an embankment covers half the width of the wadi. About 50 men were working on the bridge. No rails were laid. Agent heard that a week or two previously, a flood had come down the wadi and swept away 12 tents and drowned 70 men employed on the bridge who were encamped in the wadi bed. Only 38 of the workmen escaped.

Agent followed the embankment past Goz Sabun to ASLUJ 9th inst, and counted about 100 workmen working at the embankment. No rails have been laid south of wadi Asluj. The main line rails have been laid from Saba to Asluj and the Decauville about half a mile further south. No trucks are used on the main line and only trucks for carrying rails and sleepers were seen on the Decauville line. No engines were seen. There are large heaps of rails and sleepers.

The Decauville rails are visible to the eye but the main line rails for about 10 kilos north of Asluj are covered with 1ft to 1 1/2 ft of small stones and gravel.

Agent followed the line to SABA and about half way he saw about 200 workmen with crowbars raising the rails and letting the gravel and ballast slide under the sleepers. North of where they were working there were small heaps of gravel and stones at intervals along the line.

Agent's description of the bridge over wadi Saba is that there is one big opening in the centre of the wadi bed and a stone and cement embankment on either side, on top of this is being built a viaduct with six or more arches.

BIR ES SABA 10th. Agent states he was unable to count the number of tents, there were 13,000 or more troops, and a lot of them were doing musketry practise at targets. He saw the numbers 14 and 238 on a few men who were bearded and wore dark green astrakan turbushes. (238 is possibly 8th company of 23rd regiment). He also saw many men with the numbers 68 and 69 on their collars. These wore khaki beduin head-dress and wore Syrians. He saw about 400 horses about 2,000 camels and 100 mules. He saw no guns but he saw some Officers wearing blue (field ~~artillery~~ artillery) and light green (machine gun coy) collars.

He saw 3 aeroplane sheds north of Saba, but no aeroplanes though he heard that they were there. While he was there, i.e. 1/2 a day, two trains arrived from the north, 1 containing camels and the 2nd forage and provisions.



The price of grain at Saba is as follows:-

WHEAT	for 100 piastres	200 lbs.
DURA	" " "	250 " .
BARLEY	" " "	300 " .

Agent heard that:-

(1) Sami Bey (O.C. Camel Corps Sinai) has issued orders collecting all his different detachments and as many Arabs as possible. Each man is to be provided with 5 day's rations for himself and camel. With these men Sami Bey intends to make a reconnaissance in force against the Canal Defences shortly and try and ascertain our exact positions. Agent could not learn when the attack ~~the~~ would take place.

(2) Posts have been established at Katia, Mageibra, Rigal el Khalla, Godeira, Zereim, Khabrét ol Hama in wadi Giddi, and at different places as far south as Sudr el Heitan. These posts send out patrols daily which meet half way and examine all tracks. The idea is to catch any agents that get through.

Agent returned via Gebel Garn, Magdhaba, El Murr and wadi ol Masagid. He was seized by a patrol consisting of Id Amer, and two Arish policemen near Gebel Godeira, but was let go after they had taken from him all his money and his cloak.

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SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE FOR THE PERIOD 8th to 14th  
FEBRUARY INCLUSIVE.

1915

Army G.S.

Small posts which patrol the intervening ground daily, have been established by the Turks at Katia, Mageibra, Rigal el Khalla, Gebel Gedaira, Zerin-near Gebel Um Makhassa, Khabret Hama in wadi Giddi and other places south to Sudr Heitan. These posts are making it increasingly difficult for our agents to penetrate unobserved into Sinai. Two agents have already run foul of them.

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NORTH ROAD 56 new wells are reported to have been dug between El Arish and Katia.

EL ARISH Garrison of about 1,000 men is reported to have been reinforced by 500 men according to one agent, and by 2 "taburs" according to ~~others~~ who also state that Jemal Pasha has arrived there. Stores are continually arriving from the east.

The Garrison of Khan Yunis is reported to have decreased to 500 men.

-----  
Agents are positive in their statements that rail-head has reached wadi Asluj although no trains have been seen on the main line, the rails of which are covered with gravel. The Decauville line is laid about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile ahead of the main line.

-----  
One branch of the Auja Abu Aweigila motor road is reported well past Maghaba on its way to El Arish, and the other branch goes due west from Abu Aweigila but does not seem to have progressed far.

BIR ES SABA. Men wearing the numbers of the 68th and 69th regiments of the 23rd Division, and of the 14th regiment of the 5th Division and possibly of the 23rd regiment of the 8th Division, have been seen by an agent at Bir es Saba. One aeroplane was seen flying from Saba to Auja but it is not absolutely clear that this was a Turkish plane. 3 to 4 very big guns are reported at Saba.

HASSANA. Stores continue to arrive. Work on the Rodh Salem road has practically stopped, but work seems to have begun on the Hassana Nekhl road.

Garrisons reported during the week:-

BIR SABA	15,000
KOSSAIMA	2,000
HASSANA	2,000 to 3,000
NEKHL	1,000
KHAN YUNIS	500
EL ARISH	2,000 (?)

*Admiral B. B. B.*

Lt. Colonel,  
Chief Intelligence Officer  
Ismailia

14.2.16.



SECRET

Army SS

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 464. ISMAILIA, February 16th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

Agent  
Ismailia  
16.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 5th inst for AUJA.

GEBEL GEDEIRA 6th. Nothing to report.

WADI MASAGID 7th. Agent passed the tracks of many patrols. Arabs are cultivating in the wadi.

GEBEL LIBNI 8th. The line of a road from Abu Aweigila is marked out by heaps of earth and some hollows have been filled in. No men working there now. From about 1 mile west of wadi Arish to Abu Aweigila, the road has been levelled to a width of 5 paces, but has not been metalled.

ABU AWEIGILA 9th. Agent saw 70 men working in placing stones to form a roadway across the bed of wadi el Arish. No bridge building is taking place. There is a post of 35 tents and about 100 soldiers. A road leads north of Abu Aweigila, east of wadi El Arish, it is not metalled as the ground is hard. A telephone line with a single wire runs to Auja. Agent followed road to Auja. For the first mile or two it is not metalled as the ground is hard, but from Um Shihan east, there is about 5 paces width of metalled road, then 5 paces cleared and levelled, and north of the levelled space a ditch for drainage purposes. One motor (containing 6 people) passed him going towards Abu Aweigila.

AUJA 10th. Agent estimates the number of troops there at about 5,000, but he heard men were continually arriving from the east, and moving on west towards Kossaima and Hassana. He saw 6 mountain guns; 150 horses picketed in lines and 45 men mounted on horses being drilled; 30 mules and 50 transport camels tied up. 70 camels laden with grain arrived at Auja while he was there.

WADI EL AMR night of 10th. Agent heard from Arabs encamped there that the enemy would start from Jerusalem and north towards Egypt as soon as the railway reached Auja.

Agent crossed the road between Abu Aweigila and Auja. It is not metalled as the ground is hard, but it has been cleared and motors have used it.

EL AFEIRA 11th. Nothing to report.

WADI EL FAT<sup>H</sup> 12th. Agent saw the tracks of many camels and a few men going east.

BIR EL ROHWI 13th. Nothing.

WADI KHARIG 13th. Arabs told him that the Turks had established posts at Gobol Godeira, Rigal el Khalla and Mageibra. These patrolled the intervening ground all day, therefore they advised him not to cross between these posts except at night, which he did, escaping observation.

G.S.O.  
Intelligence  
SUEZ  
15.2.16.

Left Suez 8th instant.

8th MANHALIA (2 miles N. of 1890. Square E.9) Nothing.

9th ABU YENTUL (near 1841. Square F.9) Nothing.

On 10th Agent saw about 50 Syrian soldiers 5 miles east of Sudr el Hoitan on the Darb el Haj repairing the telephone line.

On 11th, 4 miles north of Bir el Themada (Square H.8) a post of 3 tents and 15 Syrian soldiers.



On 12th he saw the tracks of 20 camels 4 miles N.E. of Bir el Giddi going towards Giddi. In wadi El Giddi he saw a party of 2 German Officers and 20 camels, 5 of which were laden with equipment going in the direction of wadi el Hadhira. (Square H8).  
Rain fell on 9th and 10th, agent saw no wadis in spate.  
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Another agent reports he left Suez on the 9th inst. Conical pillar, Darb el Haj. Nothing to report.  
GEBEL UM MUKHSHEIB 10th. Tracks of 3 camels going to Giddi.

WADI ABU RUMANA 11th ( Nothing to report.

WADI ~~UM~~ SEIALA 12th (

MANHALIA (2 miles N. of 1890 Sq E 9) 13th. Agent <sup>met</sup> another agent ~~Arab~~ who had been captured by the Turks and taken to El Arish and Saba from which latter place he had been

released under guarantee.

He reports that the workmen have been collected from Rodh Salem, Hassana and Kossaima and sent to Saba to work on the railway there. There are now about 5,000 Germans, many Turks and 1,000 camelmen at Saba. He saw 7 big guns there. While he was there 400 camels left to patrol the road to Auja, Hassana and Nekhl. On his way back he saw the patrol at Auja. While he was at Saba a patrol returned from Gedoira, Hamaiyir, and Maghara. He was told that these patrols had been sent to look for suitable places for aeroplane bases.  
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S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 465: ISMAILIA. FEBRUARY 17th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
17.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 9th inst for Abu Aweigila and Pipe-head.

KATAIB EL KHEIL 9th. Nothing to report.

KATIB EL SABHA 10th. Agent saw fresh tracks of 8 camelmén, who had visited El Tassa and were returning east.

N.W. of Gebel GEDEIRA 10th, evening. Agent crossed numerous tracks of patrols going from south to north and vice versa.

WADI EL KHARIG 11th { Nothing but Arabs cultivating.

WADI EL MASAGID 11th {  
WADI EL FAT'H 11th. Agent saw a patrol of 60 soldiers on camels coming from Es Sirr and going towards Maghara. They were wearing light bluish grey great-coats.

BIR EL MURRA 12th. Two wells of very bitter water giving only about 500 gallons daily.

ABU AWEIGILA 12th. Agent saw about 35 tents, 200 soldiers, about 200 camels, 15 mules and 10 houses. Some of the soldiers were wearing bluish grey great-coats and others were in Khaki.

The road towards Gobel Libni has only reached 2 or 3 Kilometres west of wadi el Arish. The road crosses wadi el Arish on an earth bank which was washed away in the recent floods and has since been repaired.

Agent saw no wheel tracks on the embankment. North of the embankment on either side of the wadi, blocks of stone have been collected and holes dug for the foundations of a bridge.

A road leads along the east bank of the wadi towards el Arish which is metalled where necessary.

Agent did not follow the metalled road to Auja, which is finished, but went south down wadi el Arish along a levelled road through the gorge to pipe-head, which he places at about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of where wadi el Arish goes through the gorge between Gebels Helal and Dhalfa, (i.e. about the "0" of 630. Square L.5.)

The pipes are laid from Kossaima to El Mowilleh and thence along wadi El Mowilleh across to the west bank of wadi el Arish at the point given above.

At Pipehead are 2 cisterns made of stone and cement, 10 metres by 4 metres and 2 metres deep. There is a post of 60 to 70 soldiers, 4 tents and 2 Arab shelters, about 20 camels and half a dozen Arab guides etc.

There is a road from Kossaima past pipe-head through the gorge to Abu Aweigila and a branch from pipe-head goes S.W. to join the Kossaima Hassana road. Agent cannot say whether this road is properly metalled but it looks white (from broken up limestone on the surface).

On the road close to pipe-head, were 4 large motor trollies full of sacks.

Agent returned by the way he had come.

WADI ABU YENTUL 12th {  
WADI EL FAT'H 13th { Nothing to report.  
WADI EL KHARIG 14th {

Arabs told him that the Turks are forming a cordon from Gebel Gedeira north and south, and any tracks crossing from west to east would be followed and the owner taken prisoner.

EAST OF KATIB EL HENU 15th. Agent heard that 3 Ayayda Arabs with 2 camels were searching for stray camels north of Gebel Tassa when an aeroplane opened fire on them and they scattered for safety.



INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER  
KANTARA  
16.2.16.

AGENT left Kantara Market 10th inst and reached EL MAZAR on the 12th, where he found a post of 40 soldiers. He was at El Arish on the 13th. He passed 10 German Officers riding horses and going towards Bir el Abd. On his way back he heard that this party had returned leaving one German Officer making wells there. At BIR EL ABD there was a post of 50 men, but he saw no one at Um Ugba. 54

Agent living in neighbourhood of EL JEFFEIR reports that he had sent his son south to see what was happening in the GEBEL MUKHSHEIB the boy returned having met on the late afternoon of the 13th inst a German Officer and one Arab riding camels and coming north west from GEBEL MUKHSHEIB. The Arab was riding a camel with the brand of the Lehelwat tribe. They offered the boy 150 P.T. to show them where the water was, but he was unable to tell them as he did not know that part of the country. The Gorman did not seem to know Arabic. They returned towards Gebel Maghara. 50

Same Agent reports that he knows that with the Turks at Bir el Abd are two Messaid Arabs who are going to try and cross into Egypt. One of them is called Mohsin Hussein and has a white beard.

Agent left Kantara for El Arish arriving there on the 13th inst. He learnt from a friend that DJEMAL PASHA had gone to Bir Saba and then on to Gebel Libni to see the troops there. The camp there is now very large and there is a stream of troops going down there both from Saba and El Arish. They are mostly Cavalry and Camel Corps. K5

After Auja the railway will pass to the north of Libni.

There is an aeroplane in the wadi about 2 miles south of El Arish, in a tent but it never comes out. Agent says it is a seaplane which fell near there between two and three months ago. He reports it as being only slightly damaged, however.

Agent reports Zaki Boy and a German Officer to have gone to DABABIS on the 14th inst, where they gave orders that everywhere, where there were 4 wells, 8 wells were to be dug. At this post there are now 100 Camel Corps and 50 Infantry.

AT Bir el Mazar he saw men bringing in stone from the north on camels, for facing the new wells with.

At Bir el Abd is now a post of 100 men of whom half are employed in building wells.

At Um Ugba he reports a small post of 10 men. They patrol about every other day as far as Abu Raml. 40

Agent who went out from Kantara to Bir el Abd reports a post of 17 men at Um Ugba - 20 men at Bir el Afein under a Turkish Officer named Mahmud Effendi El Kurdi, with whom is a Syrian telegraph operator. - 100 men at Bir El Abd of whom 40 only are soldiers the rest workmen. There was one German Officer there making wells. There are now 8 old, and 13 new wells. While he was there on the 14th inst orders came in by

telegraph that another 16 wells were to be dug there - that a party were to go to go to Bir Mageibra to dig 50 wells there and also at Hod El Bayud. (Agent informs me that he thinks both these latter orders to be quite impracticable. F.S.).

Agent heard that many soldiers are being sent down to Libni. He says that the Turkish posts on the northern road do not light any fires at night now for fears of the English. Agent living near Bir El Afein reports 10 German Officers as having been there inspecting the wells. 3E



SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 467. ISMAILIA. February 19th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

- AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
19.2.16.
- Reference  
Int. Reports  
419 & 421 of  
2nd & 4th  
Jan.
- Left Ismailia 10th February 1916.
- 11th. Agent visited the Khabret (pools) in wadi Mukhsheib. The wadi had come down in flood but stopped some 200 yards short of Khabret Zohra, consequently all the Khabret are dry and the flood left no pools behind.
- 11th. MOIYA HARAB. Big cistern has about 5,000 gallons in it, remaining cisterns dry.
- HARABA GUMA ABDULLA. full, approximately 28,000.
- HARABA HASSAN MEHSIN. both cisterns full. Approximately 11,000 gallons.
- 12th. EN NEHAYA. All pools dry.
- MISIC EL HUSSAN. About 5,000 gallons.
- MAAR. 500 gallons.
- HARABA UM MUKHSHEIB. 10,000 gallons.
- 13th. BIRKET KEREIZA. 6,000 gallons.
- BIR EL GIDDI. A flood has filled the wells, there is now sufficient water for 200 camels daily i.e. 2,400 gallons approximately.
- KHABRET EL HAMMA, in wadi Giddi is dry, the flood not having reached as far.
- Agent heard that there was no water hold up in wadi Dhalma, though he did not visit the wadi.
- 14th. BIR EL THEMADA. A post of 1 tent, 10 Syrian soldiers and 5 Arab camelmen. Water about 2,000 gallons daily.
- 15th. WADI EL BRUK & HASSANA. There is no prepared road from Hassana and there are no wheel tracks on the canal road.
- There is a telephone from Hassana to Nokhl.
- A levelled road starts from Hassana towards Nokhl but stops after a couple of miles.
- 16th. HASSANA. Agent saw from 250 to 300 tents, in 3 groups, the biggest group just south of the big cistern. Just to the west of this group is an anti-aircraft gun. He estimates the garrison at about 3,000 men. He saw 7 or 8 guns, 500 camels; 50 horses and 20 mules working in carts. There is a sentry on the cistern, which is very big. Arabs told him that ammunition was stored underneath against aircraft attack. Agent saw no motor cars, but there were plenty of their wheel tracks. (NOTE. This agent has not been to Hassana for some months previously. His drawing of the place is pretty accurate according to aeroplane photographs. A.W.J.B.)
- From Hassana, agent went to Bir el Murra. There is a cleared road, banked on either side, but not metalled, from Hassana to Es Sirr. It is about 4 yards wide and has been used by many wheeled vehicles. There are a few small rain pools near Murra.
- 17th. MAGHARA. A post of 4 tents; 2 huts; 20 soldiers and 10 camels. Agent heard that a mounted patrol of 150 to 200 men were leaving Hassana about the middle of the Arabic month (19th February) for Gobel Um Mukhsheib, Gebel ol Tassa and Bir el Mahadat from which they would return to Hassana.
- WADI EL KHARIG. Agent learnt from Arabs that the following tribes were responsible for patrolling:-
- (1) The Mossaid from Katia to Mageibra.
- (2) The Bili from S. of Mageibra, through Rigal el Khalla to Gebel Gedeira.
- (3) The Ayayda from S. of Gedeira through Zereim to wadi Giddi. Any Arab or camel found west of that line would be considered as belonging to the English.



SECRET.

Army 93

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 468. ISMAILIA, February 20th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
20.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 9th February for Jaffa.  
He went out avoiding all wells etc, except Bir Kasseiba & ~~BEIT~~ BEIT HANUN (Lat 31.33' Long 34.33'), where he filled up his water skin. Bir Kasseiba has 6 new wells and one old.  
He reached JAFFA on 13th inst. He estimates the number of troops in the town at 16,000, but can give no reason for his estimate. He cannot give the number of regiments or where they came from or the Commanding Officer's name. He states that they are Turks and Syrians mixed. He saw many camels, horses and motor lorries.  
He saw 10 small forts along the sea coast south of Jaffa each containing 2 or 3 guns.  
From Jaffa he went to LUDD (Lat 31.58' Long 34.54') and rode his camel along the railway line to Ramleh.  
Six trains passed him going south, each with 10 or 12 waggons. 3 trains were full of troops, 2 trains contained camels and the sixth was loaded with stores.  
AT RAMLEH ON 14th. He estimates the number of troops at 9 or 10,000.  
MEJDEL 15th (Lat 31.40' Long 34.36') No troops but saw 5 small caravans of from 10 to 30 camels in each passed him taking military stores south.  
ABASAN EL KEBIR 16th. (Lat 31.20' Long 34.23') (Nothing to report.  
BIR LAHFAN in wadi El Arish 17th. (report.  
BIR BAYUD 18th. 1 old and 5 new wells. Here Agent learnt of the new Turkish patrols. He made his way through the cordon at night.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
20.2.16.

Left Ismailia 10th February.  
North of Gobel el Tassa, agent passed the fresh tracks of a patrol of 10 men who had come from the east and returned.  
KATIB EL HENU 11th. Fresh tracks of two camelmen who had visited Katib el Henu and returned to Rigal el Khalla.  
Agent learnt of the Turkish cordon from an Arab so rode through it at night. All persons crossing the line are liable to arrest.  
ZAGADAN 12th (Nothing to report except 2 patrols  
GEBEL EL RISHA 12th. (from El Arish, one of 8 going to El  
GEBEL AMRAR 13th. (Maghara on 13th and another of 7  
EL AJEIRA " (going to Hassana on the 14th.  
HABAL EL MASKAR 14th (  
MAGDHABA 14th. Agent saw 60 tents, about 150 Syrian soldiers, about 30 mules and 20 horses.  
A Caravan of 200 camels from Auja reached there on their way to El Arish. They were loaded with boxes. On the east bank of the wadi 200 labourers were busy metalling the motor road with stone from the wadi.  
WADI EL AMR 14th. 20 Arab shelters and 5 tents for labourers who are repairing the motor road from Auja, large portions of which have been washed away by the recent rain.  
AUJA 15th. Agent saw only 95 tents and estimates the number of troops at 1,000 only. The majority are wearing dark green khaki and black astrakhan tarbushes, the remainder wear greyish blue greatcoats and Beduin head-dress. These latter are all Syrians.  
Troops in small numbers are continually moving on to Kossaima. 60 left Auja on the 12th for Kossaima.  
Agent saw about 250 baggage camels tethered and also 100 more arrive from Saba carrying stores.



He saw 50 horses; 40 mules; 15 motor trollies and 4 guns covered with tarpaulins. Also an Arab shelter filled with sacks of lime.

Bahgat Bey the Commandant of Bir es Saba and the troops in the Peninsula arrived at Auja by motor car on the 15th and returned the same day. He was wearing the shoulder cords of a Major General, and aiguillettes fastened with a star and crescent brooch on each shoulder. Agent saw 5 Officers wearing the <sup>striped</sup> trousers of Officers of the General Staff.

The floods caused by the recent rain have swept away large portions of the railway embankment between Asluj and Auja and also of the motor road, wherever they cross wadis. All available workmen have been sent to repair the wash-outs (This probably accounts for most of the diminution of the Auja garrison. A.W.J.B.)

Agent returned to Um Shiha, on the 16th. The motor road has been considerably damaged by the floods.

ABU AWEIGILA 16th. 15 tents; about 50 soldiers; 30 camels 10 mules and 5 horses. Agent heard that 10 tents had been transferred from Abu Aweigila to Maghara. The motor road from Auja goes through Maghara on the east bank of the wadi el Arish. The road south through the gorge between Helal and Dhalfa is not metalled, but only cleared of obstacles and levelled.

There is nothing but a camel road west of wadi el Arish. It goes towards Hassana south of Gobel Libni and north of Gebel Helal.

RIZAN ANEIZA 17th (Nothing but a patrol of 5 camelmén  
RAS ABU DEHABA " (going from Maghara towards El Arish.

From there agent returned by the way he had gone out, seeing nothing worth reporting. He avoided the Turkish cordon by travelling at night.

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S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 469. ISMAILIA. February 21st 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
21.2.16.

Loft Ismailia on 15th February for Hassana.  
KATIB EL SABHA 15th. Nothing to report.  
GEBEL UM MARJAM 16th. Agent out the fresh tracks of 5  
camolmen, riding south from Gebel Gedeira.  
North of BIR EL JIFJAF 17th. Nothing. Thence he kept  
south of the metalled road from Hassana to Rodh Salem.  
He saw from a distance a few men working on the road.  
HASSANA 18th. Agent was last at Hassana on 6th Feb:  
he thinks the garrison has been slightly increased by  
100 men or so. His last estimate was 2,500.  
He saw a lot of tents scattered in every direction,  
which he estimates between 2 & 300. About 30 camels  
carrying stores arrived from Auja. In the camp were  
some 400 mules and 300 horses. 8 guns under tarpaulins  
were in the same place as previously reported. (See report  
460). Agent saw the muzzle of a gun pointing to the sky  
out of a hole east of the big reservoir. He was told  
that it was against aircraft. A road has been cleared  
and levelled towards Nekhl.  
The rest of the camp has not altered except that the  
hole leading to the entrance under the reservoir  
has been filled up and 2 sentries are posted over it.  
He returned by the way he had gone out, seeing  
nothing worth reporting.



Army G.S.

1915

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE FOR THE PERIOD 15th to 21st  
FEBRUARY Inclusive.

Recent heavy rain east of wadi ol Arish has brought down the wadis in spate with the result that large portions of the railway embankment between Asluj and Auja have been washed away. The road between Auja and Abu Awoigila has been seriously damaged by the same cause.

The number of troops reported in Auja on the 10th was 5,000 while only 1,000 were reported on the 15th. Small movements of troops are reported to Kossaima and west, and a concentration of mounted men at Gebel Libni, while a report from Hassana shows an increase of only 100 or so; it therefore seems probably that the diminution of Auja garrison by 4,000 men in 5 days has been caused by large numbers being sent out to mend the wash-outs in the embankment and road. The concentration of mounted men at Gebel Libni is probably connected with the intended reconnaissance in force by Sami Bey, of which an agent heard a rumour at Bir Saba on the 10th Feb.

A reconnoitering patrol of 150 to 200 men were reported by an agent to be leaving Hassana about the middle of the Arabic month (19th FEB). This patrol was located by aeroplane at Moiya Harab on the afternoon of the 20th. This also may have to do with the reconnaissance in force.

Patrols are reported to have been sent out to look for suitable ground for aeroplane bases, but there is no reliable news of the Turks having as yet any aeroplanes in Sinai that they can use.

Orders have been given to dig large numbers of new wells on the north road. A German Officer is reported to be in charge.

The cordon established by the Turks on the line Katia, Rigal ol Khalla, Mukhsheib etc, seems only effectual during daylight, if then. Responsibility for maintaining the cordon has been portioned out among the different tribes.

None of the hollows in Wadi Um Mukhsheib or in Wadi Giddi contain water. In different rock cisterns and pools in the Gebel Mukhsheib about 70,000 gallons are reported as held up.

GARRISONS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK.

NEKHL	1,200	confirmed by air reconnaissance.
AUJA	5,000	on 10th Feb.
"	1,000	" 15th "
HASSANA	2,700 to 3,000	
EL ARISH	garrison is reported to have been reinforced.	
JAFFA	16,000	
RAMLEH	9,000 to 10,000.	

Three troop trains in one morning were seen by an agent going south between LUDD & RAMLEH.

21.2.16.

*A. Murray Bramley*  
Lt. Colonel,  
Chief Intelligence Officer  
ISMAILIA.



S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 471. ISMAILIA, February 23rd 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G.S.O.  
SUEZ.  
22.2.16.

Two Agents left Suez on the 17th inst and proceeded towards Mabeiuk where they arrived on the 18th inst: One well about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  metres deep; gives enough water for about 100 camels daily (approx. 1,200 gallons). This amount could be doubled by digging to the extent of about 1 metre.

They left for Raha and at wadi Khahail (about 4 miles N.W. of Ain Sudr) saw 4 tents in the trees (8) and about 10 trees converted into tents by the branches being bent over to the ground. They waited in the vicinity all the night and saw about 80 armed Arabs and Syrian soldiers, and 6 mules. These people leave their tents during the day and hide in the hills from aeroplanes. On 20th they slept at Nifnaf (on the Darb el Haj) (N. of Jaifi between Um Mitla and Ras ol Jaifi, and in the morning they came to wadi ol Ferashat, between wadi Gebab and wadi Um Mitla on the Suez Nekhl road, where they saw the tracks of 6 camelmen: this track came from El Haj to Um Mitla.

On 21st they met Suliman Abu Biham at wadi Abu Yentul (near 1841 square F.9) who told them that this track left Gebel Rabba post at Sudr el Heitan and went to wadi el Niserif ? and then returned to Gebel ol Rabba.

At Rabba there are 3 tents but the number of soldiers is not known as they were all out on patrol work. He further states that all the patrols are without camels and their work is to remain on the hills all day on the look-out for our patrols and aeroplanes. Should any of the latter be seen they inform Gebel el Rabba post and Ain Sudr.

Suliman Abu Biham stated:- one aeroplane visited Nekhl lately and dropped 5 bombs, but he does not state what day. No damage was done. He also told them that the telephone line was connected between Nekhl and Gebel el Rabba.

He made arrangements to meet our agents at Um Mukhsheib on March 3rd and give them any information he can regarding Nekhl, after taking a permit at Ain Sudr to proceed to Nekhl to buy grain.

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SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 472. ISMAILIA, February 24th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
24.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 18th to examine Gebel Libni with reference to the reported concentration there. (See Intelligence report No. 465 dated 17th February page 2)  
On 19th between Gobels Gedeira and Hamaiyir agent saw a patrol of 2 horsemen and 10 camelmen going from north to south. They did not see him.  
On 20th wadis Kharig, Magagid, El Fat'h: Agent saw nothing but Arabs cultivating barley.  
On 21st. Agent visited Gebel Libni. He passed 30 transport camels in charge of 5 camelmen going north towards El Arish, and saw from a distance 5 or 6 horsemen and 30 camelmen south of the hill going west. Otherwise there were no troops there.  
On top of the hill there is a rock sangar, about 5 metres square, with walls about 2'6" high and 1ft thick. Inside this was a heap of paper. (The place had evidently been used as a signalling station between Hassana and Es Sirr camp, when it was occupied) ES SIRR CAMP. Agent passed this at some distance. It did not appear to be occupied.  
Agent returned by the way he had gone out, seeing nothing of interest.  
He saw the fresh tracks of a patrol of 3 men west of Gebel Gedeira.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA  
24.2.16.

Left Ismailia on the 15th for El Arish.  
BIR EL MAHADAT 19th. One big well and three holes containing water.  
BIR EL MAGEIBRA 19th. One old well, 4 new ones wells  
BIR EL GANADIL 20th. One old well, 3 new ones wells. The old well is stone lined, the 3 new ones are wood lined.  
BIR EL GERERAT 20th. One old well stone lined, 3 new ones wood lined.  
UM ZUGHLA 21st. Nothing.  
BIR EL MASMI 21st. One old well, only.  
Fresh tracks of 10 camelmen coming south from south.  
EL ARISH 21st. 1½ miles south of the town and west of wadi el Arish in the hollows of the sand dunes are about 200 tents very scattered, some of them surrounded by bushes. Most are single poled tents but a few have 2 poles. They are of white canvas. The number of troops he estimates at 1,200, a few wearing beduin head-dress but the majority green khaki astrakan tarbushes. On the right collar of one man agent saw the figures "321", possibly 1st battalion 32nd regiment. South of the old fort at El Arish is a fire trench and on the west of the trench an emplacement containing 4 guns. To the S.E. of the Mosque, close to the west of the wadi is a large store about 20 metres square with stone walls and wooden roof. This contains forage, grain etc. North of the town and south of Nekhl Abu Sagal are 8 guns covered with tarpaulins in a line behind an entrenchment; 3 tents and a few soldiers.  
BIR EL MAZAR 22nd. A post of 10 soldiers and 7 Arabs 15 riding and 3 transport camels. Agent saw nothing to report on the way <sup>back</sup> except the fresh tracks of 2 horses and 10 camelmen going from Bir el Mageibra towards Rigal el Khalla on early morning 23rd.