

AWM4

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/19 Part 3

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

November 1917



AWM4-1/6/19PART3

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- I -
Summary of Situation Reports 1st NOVEMBER

~~Chief Admiral,
by telephone 51st.~~

~~"Enterprise" is due at BELAH between mid-day and
1800 on 1st November; capable of embarking one brigade
with a flotilla accompanying her.~~

Desert Mounted
Corps, 0130,
1st November.

Desert Mounted Corps holding line BIR EL HAMAM to
BIR EL SAKATY to the K of ARAB EL KADEIRAT - Pt. 1020
- Pt. 970 - Mosque western edge of BIR SABA.
To protect flank of XXth Corps Anzac Mounted Division
will advance at 0700 from BIR EL SAKATY with about one
brigade to the line BIR EL MAKRUNEH - high ground west
of KH. EL LEKIYTH, establishing touch with I.C. Brigade
at Pt. 1510. One regiment of same division will
advance at the same time and seize spur at M of
CHACHIM EL BUTEIYR to the R of CHACHIM EL BUTEIYR.

D.M. Corps 0440.

Deserps Advanced Headquarters moved at 0530 to
point where railway crosses WADI SABA south of the town.
Estimate of prisoners :-

A. & N.Z. Mounted Div.	169 unwounded.
Australian Division.	42 Offrs. 900 other rank

4th L.H. Regt. galloped a trench 10 feet deep.

All wells in BIR SABA but one intact. Sufficient
water already for one division for three days.

XXI Corps 0625.

Artillery plan according to programme. A
successful raid on OUTPOST HILL; 15 prisoners, 1 Lewis
gun captured; our casualties, 8 wounded.

XX Corps 0625.

60th Division: no change.

situation.

74th Division concentrating north of WADI SABA
about squares H.6, Y.30 and Y.24.

53rd Division, less one Bde. Group, with I.C. Brigade
moving towards ridge running due west from TOWAL ABU
JERWAL.

10th Division: one brigade group GOZ EL BASL. One
Brigade holding line KH. IMLIEH to Pt. 510. One brigade

group relieving brigade group of 53rd Division. Quiet
night.

Company
Biv. 0730.

Line 550 - HISEIA taken over at 0600 from 53rd
Division.

G.S.(O)
1/11/17.

SITUATION, 1st Nov.

R.F.C. Contact

Contact patrol dropped a message on XX Corps reporting a party of 2,500 to 3,000 infantry round station at SHERIA.

0700 (about)

R.F.C. will bomb these infantry. Later, 36 bombs dropped; casualties seen to be caused and 1 shed hit.

Desp. 1000

From Chief Egeyforce.

To Chief LONDON, repeated General BAGHDAD, Britforce SALONIKA, High Commissioner, Rear-Admiral, 2nd Echelon G.H.Q.

E.A.477 cipher.

Desp. 1035.

Situation 0800 1st Nov. Prisoners now estimated at about 1800 and 9 field guns. Water at BEERSHEBA intact - operations continued to plan. Our casualties estimated about 1300.

R.F.C. Tactical

Machine landing 0700 reports large clouds of dust south-east of ERK. No movement seen in GAZA. (Yeomanry say no sign of movement. Confirmed by next tactical machine. W. SHERIA and W. IMLEIH clear as far as HAREIRA and HANAFISH WADI repectively.)

0.

0930

By letter

Z/77/

XX Corps informed of their Zero day. "Q", "A", D.A.S., M.G.R.A., E.-in-C., Pal. Brigade informed. Rear-Admiral. Zero hour for UMBRELLA HILL, 2500 on 1st Nov. Main Zero hour for attack, 0300 on 2nd Nov. notified by XXI Corps S.2/66 dated 31/10/17.

R.F.C. 0930

Strategical

Reconnaissance

Reports RUSHDI and KAUWUKAH systems held normally as far east as U.15.e, thence continued by a line of cavalry posts.

XX Corps

Liaison Officer

By telephone.

D.M. and XX Corps Commanders met in BIR SABA. It was agreed that water for 1 Mtd.Div. and 1 Div. could be developed almost immediately in BIR SABA. 53rd Div. report 4 extra guns found and an aeroplane. prisoners D.M. Corps about 1000 } + 15 or 15 guns. XX Corps about 600 } G.O.C.XX Corps says 6 guns have been found.

SECRET

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Continuation of Situation Report, November 1st.

R.F.C.
1st Nov:

Tactical: reports 2 squadrons Turks moving south from KAUWUKAH towards Wadi IMLIEH about 1030.

XXIst Corps.

Enemy camp V.20.D struck during night. Amended casualties in raid on OUTPOST HILL:- 2 killed, 20 wounded, 1 missing and wounded.

R.F.C.

At 0950 strategical reconnaissance saw about 2 regiments of Turkish cavalry about KURNET GHUZALEH, and a smaller force at KH. UM EL RUMAMIN, both moving N.E. Our cavalry covering right flank of 53rd Division and also moving N.E.

SITUATION,
1200 1st Nov.

XXth Corps.

60th Division unchanged except for 2 Field Coys. to BIR SABA.

53rd Division moving to ridge W. of TOWAL ABU JERWAL.

10th Division: 1 brigade has relieved 1 brigade of 53rd Division.

74th Division clearing battlefield.

XXIst Corps.

Enemy shelled -

AJLIN Garden.

SAMPSON'S Ridge.

Front and rear lines CARNARVON Redoubt.

" " " BUNKER'S HILL.

In all cases damage negligible.

Artillery plan proceeding.

1420 G.H.Q.

Orders issued to Yeomanry Division to place 1 brigade, 1 battery and 1 field troop at the disposal of G.O.C. Descorps from 1700 to-day. To be at 1 hour's notice.

1340 R.F.C.

No sign of enemy in front of our troops advancing on TOWAL ABU JERWAL. No movement IRGEIG. Redoubt in W.1.D. (outpost position held). About 2,000 troops round SHERIA. 3 columns infantry of about 2 companies each moving north from SHERIA. Small movement in KAUWUKAH system.

Recd. 1310.

At 1100 one infantry brigade 53rd Division had reached L of KHASHIM EL DUTEIYIR, with I.C.Bde. on its right. Two infantry brigades advancing N. on the KOHLER Road about 2 miles from the Mosque.

1300
French Det:

Felicitations from Colonel Pignapè to the
Commander-in-Chief.

1345. De^gcorps:

Desert Mounted Corps H.Q. (report centre) move into
BIR SABA, close to Mosque, at 1500. Telephone
communication open to D.M. Corps H.Q. at 1400.

R.F.C. 1220.

Strategical reconnaissance reports: (map: 1/125,000
BIR SABA). Our line approximately 1 mile north of the first
A in ARK EL ABREK to 1 mile north-west of Pt. 1510.
Infantry moving north from BIR SABA about second E in
KASHIM EL BUTEYIR. Detachment of cavalry to the east
of our line running through the H in Wadi SALAMTAH.
Redoubt in square W.1.D. (ref. map 1/20,000) appears to
be occupied. No sign of any troops between this and
our left flank.

G.S.(O).
1/11/17.

(Continuation of Situation Report, 1st November).

R.F.C.

H. Aircraft

Patrol reports

1600.

DEIR SINEID bridge, 2 direct hits at least on bridge. Large cloud of dust at SHERIA and much movement in station.
New work in progress in redoubt in U.20 and U.21.
200 cavalry near TEL EL MEJADIL (10 miles E. by N. of SHERIA).
No cavalry behind trenches east of railway seen.

R.F.C. GAZA -

HAREIRA tactical.

1630 - 1715.

No movement whatsoever between GAZA and SHERIA roads leading eastward from GAZA.
Apparent decrease in tents and shelters behind the line from GAZA to HAIRAN Redoubt. No concentration seen.

D.M. Corps.

1640.

Hostile aircraft dropped 4 bombs on A. & N.Z. Mtd. Division near TEL EL SABA. No report as to damage.

SITUATION REPORT, 1800.

Yeo. Division.

No change.

XX Corps.

10th Division - No change.

60th Division - No change (1 battn. and 2 Field Coys into BIR SABA).

74th Division - No change.

53rd Division - In position TOWAL ABU JERWAL to KH MUWEILEH.

Corps Cav. Regt. (less 1 squadron) en route for KARM.

1 Squadron BIR SABA.

XXI Corps.

Artillery plan proceeding.

Enemy shelled ABBAS APEX, WADI TANK, P.2.B front line; P.25.B. support line and WINDY TRENCH.

SECRET

Situation Report 1/2nd November, 1917.

For the use of the Commander-in-Chief
and General Staff only.

R.F.C. Strategical
Landed 1740.

SHERIA 32 rolling stock, including two made-up trains, one with engine facing south at station. This rolling stock entering from north. Station K.22 (sheet 25) 14 rolling stock, one engine detached, 50 - 60 mechanical transport close by. Very little infantry movement behind RUSHDI and KAUWUKAH systems. Water plentiful between SHERIA and HAREIRA. No hostile movement east of point 2 miles east of SHERIA. In P.18 (ref. C.5 sheet) 4 horse transport, apparently guns, facing SHERIA. BEIT HANUM and HUIJ not reconnoitred owing to bad light.

His Highness The Sultan informed that our troops captured BIR SABA, prisoners and guns.

XXth Corps 2250.

I.C. Brigade transferred to command of G.O.C. D.M. Corps. Addressed 53rd Division, repeated G.H.Q. and D.M. Corps.

Advanced D.M. Corps
2030.

Observation party at Pt. 1020 reports at 1600 on 1st dust apparently representing column three miles long moving eastwards. End of column about 6 miles east of SHERIA.

Advanced D.M. Corps
2212.

7th Mounted Brigade will march at 0700 on 2nd to occupy the area TEL KHUWUELFEN - BIR KHUWUELFEN - BIR ABU KHUFF - AIN KOHLEH. On reaching point where track through the R of ARAB leaves HEBRON Road, brigade will come under orders of G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Divn., who will issue detailed instructions and place at least 2 armoured cars at disposal of Brigadier. Special instructions are being issued to G.O.C. Anzac Mtd. Divn. on the above subject. Tactical patrols have been arranged for 1100, 1300, 1500. Addressed Australian Div Anzac Divn. Repeated G.H.Q. XXth Corps.

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Situation Reports for 2nd November

Advanced D.M. Corps.
2247.

Owing to lack of sufficient pumps and to a portion of water area in BIR SABA being reserved for infantry, it will not be possible to move up any more mounted troops for night of 3/4th when (? until) it is hoped to be able to bring up one, or perhaps two brigades (of Yeomanry Division). Even this not certain. Hope arrange with XXth Corps on 2nd November to water fewer of XXth Corps troops in BIR SABA.

XXIst Corps
telephoned 0155.

UMBRELLA Hill captured. First objective rushed 14 minutes after Zero hour, and shortly before time of this message division had reported final objective reached. Enemy shelling front line very heavily, but shelling now dying down. 156th Brigade apparently quite happy.

0220 - 0315.

Telephone conversation at intervals with General Salmond, who had been pressed by XXIst Corps at 0130 to send out a second aeroplane to stop heavy shelling of front line of 52nd Division. He seemed to think they were rather anxious. He didn't think it wise to send a second machine, since only one had been arranged for, and the second would be taken for an enemy machine. Our machine had gone up and would be followed by another when it returned.

At 0235 he reported shelling becoming less. At 0315 the first machine reported not really very many batteries firing. Two batteries silenced by bombs. The most active being new battery reported in G.21.

0500.

General Salmond telephoned that the second machine to go out had dropped bombs on ^{active} batteries and silenced them all for the time.

0535.

Telephone reported from Liaison officer with XXIst Corps: 24 Turks captured at UMBRELLA HILL. Enemy had put heavy barrage on the front line, especially SAMPSON'S RIDGE. 156th Brigade have not definitely reported consolidation, but all seems well.

Main Attack. At 0534 Tanks 3 and 4 reached their objectives. BEACH POST and SEA POST captured and the communication trench between them. Our troops have pushed beyond SEA POST. The PEBBLE (E. OF BEACH POST) is in our hands. Machine gun fire from PEBBLE had been troublesome. 2 officers and 16 men captured on SUGARLOAF. No news from RAFA REDOUBT or RAJA JUNIOR. Enemy bombarded SAMPSON'S RIDGE, HEREFORD RIDGE and BLAZED HILL heavily.

XXIst Corps,
0609.

UMBRELLA HILL occupied 2314, and 24 prisoners captured. EL ARISH Redoubt, BEACH POST and SEA POST captured and consolidated. 2 officers and 16 O.R. taken prisoners. No reports from RAFA REDOUBT, ZOWAID and EL BURJ trenches, where opposition is being met with. Enemy shelled SAMPSON'S and HEREFORD Ridges, QUEENS, BLAZED and LEE'S HILLS intensely, but was quiet in ABBAS APEX.

Yeomanry Divn.
0635.

Post report no movement at 0600.

Advanced D.M. Corps.
0620.

All clear.

Liaison XXIst
Corps, 0715.

1. Contact plane message reports flares just north of GUN HILL, all along RAFA Trench and between EL BURJ and ZOWAID trenches.
2. Following received from 54th Division by telephone, not yet confirmed:- We have taken EL ARISH redoubt and ZOWAID. At 0604 we were reported to be held up between EL BURJ and ZOWAID (probably just south of ZOWAID).
3. At 0640 Tank reported moving about at CRESTED ROCK; infantry in EL BURJ, and ZOWAID trenches and on RAFA = BELAH Ridge; and as having taken GUN HILL.
4. 0710. Junction has been established between 166th and 163rd Infantry Brigades at ROCK trench

(behind EL ARISH Redoubt), and our troops are
in EVE Trench, north-west of GIBRALTAR.

R.F.C. Tactical
Reconnaissance,
telephone message
received 0700.

Large bodies of troops moving from HARBIRA to
SHERIA; unable to estimate numbers owing to dust.
500 infantry at BEIT HANUN moving into GAZA.

2/11/17.

(Continuation of Situation Report, 2nd Nov.)

R.F.C.

Reports large bodies of troops moving from HAREIRA towards SHERIA.

Smaller parties all along line moving out towards SHERIA.

Tactical,

Landing 0700.

Tactical,

Landing 0650.

Reports no movement west of BEIT LAHI. Machine flew low over area and machine gunned likely cover. Scattered scrapings of trenches lining sand dunes seen.

About 500 infantry moving towards GAZA from direction of hospital at BEIT HANUN.

G.21 and G.28 appear ^{un}occupied.

Liaison,

XI Corps,

0905.

Corps Commander has ordered back I.S. Cavalry Brigade and Corps Cav. Regt. to bivouac, where they are to be ready to move at 1 hour's notice.

162nd Brigade occupied LION TRENCH (G.22, 28) with 1 company of Northamptonshire Regt. Pigeon message received saying that this company was being heavily counter-attacked. Second message reported that the company had withdrawn.

R.F.C.

Strategical and tactical reconnaissances

0730 to 0810.

Tactical landed 0810. Clouds of dust caused by numerous bodies of troops moving as follows. (It is impossible to estimate numbers concerned owing to the morning light and dust raised) :-

- (1) Movement eastwards from HAREIRA to SHERIA and continuing eastward towards KHUWEILFEH.
- (2) Movement along GAZA - SHERIA road towards SHERIA and continuing eastwards.
- (3) Movement from RESM area towards UM DABKAL.
- (4) Movement between KAUWUKAH and RUSHDI system eastwards
- (5) Dust rising in JEMAMEH area, but direction could not be ascertained.

R.F.C.

0630 - 0805.

Hostile Aircraft patrol reports 350 infantry and 100 cavalry moving east 2 miles east of BUREIR at 0715.

032
Continuation of Situation Report, 22nd November 12

XXI Corps. 1015.

Report enemy's front line system on front of attack captured earlier in the day, and is being consolidated. SHEIKH HASSAN also taken.

Captures are -

12 officers.
216 other ranks.
3 machine guns.
1 trench mortar.

R.F.C. Strategical.

0600 - 0815.

Report BEIT HANUN railway line has been heavily shelled and line is blown up opposite station. Several R.S. derailed, 1 nearly 40 yards from line.

Railway line blown up in 4 places between BEIT HANUN and DEIR SINEID; both bridges also damaged.

No movement seen in direction of KHOFKRAH or village in G.S. from HUIJ.

Camp appears to have decreased in area about village in G.S.

UM DABKHAL. (Kilo.22). 1 made up train of 22 R.S. facing north, and 10 R.S. in station. Considerable movement north-east from SHERIA and Kilo.22 station. 250 - 300 infantry round station.

SHERIA. 30 R.S. 700 - 800 infantry moving from direction of HARBIRA crossing railway below SHERIA station and moving to easterly extension of KAUWURAH system. 100 - 200 infantry 100 yards east of station in Wadi halted.

R.F.C. Bombing Squadron.

Bombed UM DABKHAL with considerable success. Half-ton explosives dropped. Formation attacked by 2 Albatross Scouts which were driven off.

R.F.C. Artillery Observation.
Machine landing 0945.

Reports dust seen 0730 between Wadi SAFIEH and TUMRAH, apparently moving in a southerly direction. Much dust seen 0800 - 0830 in SHERIA road N. of ATAWINEH.

R.F.C. 14th Squadron.
Tactical.
Landing 0750.

Reports dust of bodies of troops moving from behind BIR SABA Road towards SHERIA from KH. EL JINDI direction and N.W. side of square P; also apparently a continuous movement from HAREIRA towards SHERIA along line of Wadi and beyond in a E. by N. direction.

Dust of movement in practically continuous line towards (or MEDAJIL (or MEJDEL) running north of a pass in the hills (not so marked as on GAZA - SHERIA road).

Dust at JEMAMEH and neighbourhood. Dust of much movement behind trenches in RUSHDI and KAUWUKAH and along line eastwards.

R.F.C. by telephone from General Salmond.

Artillery machine just landed 1210, reports observed large Turkish counter-attack massing about G.24, north of GAZA. Gave S.O.S. call and batteries got all M.O.K's right on the Turks.

Situation Yeomanry Mounted Division. No change.

1200

XXth Corps.

10th Division 20th Bde. GOZ EL BASAL area
30th Bde. R 95 D to Hill 610
31st Bde. group IRGEG incl.
to R 24 D with patrols moving
N.E. from IRGEG towards W 21.

53rd Division No change.

60th Division No change.

74th Division No change. 229th Infantry Bde.
at short notice to move to ridge
N. & N.W. of EL EL MUGHALI.

XXIst Corps.

3rd objective gained with exception of Southern
portions where situation is obscure.

4th objective taken with exception of portion
of YUNIS BELAH Trenches where fighting is
proceeding.

Total captures include :-

16 officers	
230 other ranks	Rifles and
5 machine guns.	S. A. A.
1 Trench Mortar	

Desert Mounted Corps.

Prisoners taken
on 31/10/17

Officers 170 Other Ranks 1763 = 1933

R.F.C.
14th Squadron
Resp. 1125

Batteries firing with aeroplane observation on SHIRAZI
REDWAN secured 3 O.K's and 21 M.O.K. rounds.

0700 to 0935 Counter battery patrol reports no
enemy batteries active on right.

1300
R.F.C.
wireless.

W/T. R.F.C. reports bodies of enemy's infantry seen
returning in G. 30 e. 9. 0.

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SITUATION REPORT (CONTINUED) 2nd November 1917.

Situation
16 10-1300
R.F.C.

Our troops occupy country round MUGHAIR EL MAKAWER.
No movement at DHAHERIYEH and no sign of trenches.
No movement between HEBRON - DHAHERIYEH.
No movement at TEL EL KHUWEILFEH but 100 Bedouins (stationary)
between TEL KHUWEILFEH and DHAHERIYEH.
Our troops holding line from first A in ARAB EL KEDEIRAT -
RIJM ABU JERWAN.

SHERIA. No movement immediately east of SHERIA or in
hilly ground E.N.E.

-1300
R.F.C.
Telephone
Message.

16 T.S. N. of HAREIRA.
80 horses S. of Pt. 470 W. Sharia.
No movement in KAUWUKAH System.
60 T.S. scattered near ABU JERRAH.
No movement on roads radiating from SHARIA.
Our line runs from ABU JERWAL - KH. EL MUWEILAH - 1st
culvert N. of IRGEIG - BIR IFTEIS.

1440
D. M. C.

1200 situation. A.&N.Z. Mounted Division.
N.Z. Bde moving to BIR IMSHASH EL MALAH on account of
water.
2nd L.H. Bde moving on DHAHERIYEH was held up by small
trench and guns 2000 x N. of BIR EL MAKRUNEH at 10.30.
Hostile guns have been silenced and Brigade outflanking
them.
R.F.C. report our troops at TOR EL SADAN at 11.30 but
this uncertain.
7th Mounted Brigade plus one A.L.H. Rgt and one battalion
Imperial Camel Brigade moving to KHUEILFEH.
L.A.C. report line of small enemy posts along W. KOHLEH.
1st A.L.H. Bde at TEL EL SABA.
One battalion Imperial Camel Brigade on right of 53rd
protecting flank.

1500
1st Corps
Prison Officer.

Telephoned that attack on BELAH trench would take place
at 1430. Island wood will be attacked later.
Garrisons of BURJ - ZOWAID trenches not yet in touch
with one another.

Situation Report (Continued) 2nd November.

XXIst Corps, We took TORTOISE HILL, but had to evacuate it
1800. later on account of heavy shelling.

Counter attack from direction of G 7 broken
up by artillery and M.G. and rifle fire.

XXth Corps. 53rd and 60th Divisions unchanged. H.Q. of
latter J.16a.42.

10th and 53rd Divisions' point of junction W.21.

74th Division: 229th Brigade Group moving to
relieve 180th Brigade Group on left of 53rd Division.

230th and 231st Brigades in
squares Y.23 and Y.24 respectively.

D. M. C. Telephone Message from Liaison Officer: 2nd A.L.H.
Brigade about 4 miles south of DHAHERIYEH in touch
with enemy. 7th Mounted Brigade have occupied AIN
KOHLEH and captured 2 guns and a few prisoners at RAS
EL NAGB. They are now attacking KHUWEILFEH.

Water situation not clear. It may be necessary
to relieve 2nd A.L.H. and 7th Mounted Brigades by
1st A.L.H. and N.Z.M.R. Brigades.

Yeomanry Divn. Situation normal.

Advanced D.M.
Corps, 2120. Situation 1800. Enemy has been driven from
line KHURN EL GHIZALET - KH. UM EL RUMAMIS to line
MUGHAIR EL MAKHWEN - TEL EL KHUWEILFEH. 8 prisoners
and 2 small guns taken. Our line ran at dusk from BIR
EL NETTAF 3 miles south of DHAHERIYAH - DEIR EL HAWA -
Pt. 1580 (south of TEL EL KHUWEILFEH) - AIN KOHLEH. One
I.C. Brigade is in touch with 53rd Divn. about TOWAL ABU
JERWAL. Anzac Mtd. Divn. continue operations to-morrow.

19

R.F.C.
XXIst Corps.
Artillery Patrol,
landing 1715.

About 200 infantry 1,500 yards north of EN NUZLE in semi-circular depression, with advanced post on sandhill in front. Sudden movement observed on tracks between NUZLE and BEIT LAHI and cultivation west of BEIT LAHI, particularly on track about M.25.a.00 to M.13.c.90. A battery position at G.24.c.05 empty. Battery position about G.30.a.55 active up to 1645. No sign of movement in wooded area between SHEIKH REDWAN and EL MESHARAH. One heavy gun active about M.24.c.05.

R.F.C. Artillery
Patrol, XXIst
Corps,
landing 1740.

Reports trench in G.21.d. strongly held at two southern branches. 2 parties of 20 men each in communication trench running into G.22.c.

G.28.a. strongly held.

P.4.a. " "

P.4.c.69. not so strongly held.

No troops seen in SHEIKH REDWAN Redoubt. 500 infantry lying down in depression south of SHEIKH REDWAN. Shell holes round SHEIKH REDWAN area appear to be occupied. A battery G.30.a.58 active. One heavy gun firing in P.12.d.

R.F.C. Counter-bty:
Patrol.
1515 - 1715.

Reported infantry massing G.24.a. 200 - 300 seen.

Anzac Mounted
Division.

Hostile aircraft dropped 2 bombs on N.Z.M.R. Bde. at 1530, at a point 1,000 yards west of Hill 1140. (IMHASH EL MALAH.

By telephone from
XXth Corps
Liaison officer
2250.

Two squadrons 7th Mounted Brigade attempted to gallop TEL EL KUE^{FEH} at 1715. Apparently unsuccessful. If not taken 7th Mounted Brigade will attack again to-morrow morning 3rd November.

53rd Division will advance to-morrow as early as possible to assist and gain touch with mounted troops.

operating towards TEL EL KUWEILPEH and to seize line from about Pt . 1250 north of AIN KOHLEH to the west of that point.

74th Division moved at 0600 3rd Nov. to a position of readiness to cover left of 53rd Divn.

Telephone Message
From Major
Mainertzhagen 0015
3rd November.

Reported all spare baggage and apparatus of RAMLEH W/T set being moved to DAMASCUS. Indications of loaded convoys being sent north from EL HULIEKAT.

SECRET.

A

From : G.H.Q.

To : Advanced Descorps.
Advanced XXth Corps.

O.A. 710.

5/11/17.

Desp. 1130.

XXth Corps and Desert Mounted Corps will advance to attack the enemy's left flank to-morrow. XXth Corps may, if necessary, extend right as far as the KANAN EL SERU track, both with a view to getting round the enemy's flank if possible and to facilitate movement of artillery on right of Corps. General Officers Commanding XXth Corps and Desert Mounted Corps will arrange direct between themselves with regard to dividing line between their two Corps, portions of both of which may have to use KANAN EL SERU track.

Desert Mounted Corps will act in accordance with instructions No. Z/77/29, dated 23rd October, issued with Force Order No. 54. XXth Corps will press enemy wherever found in order to break his resistance east of HARBIRA as rapidly as possible. G.O.C. XXth Corps will realise the importance of exerting full pressure against the enemy when once engaged. Owing to extension of front of XXth Corps, The Yeomanry Mounted Division will be retained in general reserve between the Wadi HANAFISH and Wadi GHUZZE during initial stages of movements above ordered. Western boundary of XXth Corps area of responsibility will be Wadi HANAFISH.

The Commander-in-Chief expects SHERIA and NEJILE to be reached to-morrow. Addressed Adv. Descorps and Adv. XXth Corps.

Copies to :- Q. Filed Z/77.
D.A.S. W.D.
G.O.C. Palestine Bde., R.F.C.

P R I O R I T Y.

SECRET

B
22

From G.H.Q.,

To Desert Mounted Corps
XX Corps.

O.B.W.13 cipher.

3/11/17.

Desp. 2100.

With reference to telephone conversation with B.G.G.S. and my O.A.710 of today. Though Commander-in-Chief is loth to postpone the operations later than November 5th, he does not wish to hurry you if postponement is absolutely necessary for your preparations.

You will, however, bear in mind the importance of taking advantage of the success at BIR SABA and the value of the position that has been gained on the flank of enemy's communications. No sign of any weakening of the enemy in the GAZA sector is apparent. Your final decision is to be reported early tomorrow.

Copies to :-

O.(a) for situation report.

O.(b) for War Diary.

Q.

D.A.S.

G.O.C., Pal. Bde. R.F.C.

Filed Z/77.

C.O.



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Summary of Situation, 3rd November - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ C
19

R.F.C.

0530 -0815.

BEIT HANUN. No movement; no R.S.; 2 hospitals east of station removed.

DEIR SINIED. Railway embankment apparently repaired. Three parties of 50 infantry each moving south from direction of BEIT JERJA.

TUMLAH and SIM SIM. No movement.

NEJID. 200 cavalry in Wadi east of village. 80 infantry north of village.

HUJ. 500 cavalry in line. 450 infantry scattered in squares A.4, 5 and 6.

KHOFIKHAH. 1,000 infantry scattered 2,000 yards north of village.

UM AMEIDAT. 150 infantry halted in D.3, scattered. 30 R.S. with engine just north of Wadi SHERIA.

SHERIA. 1,500 - 2,000 cavalry moving east along Wadi in column of route. Column estimated 2 miles long. A large scattered movement in and around siding at SHERIA. Large cloud of dust observed in the distance in the direction of HEBRON and JUNCTION Station. This observation made from a distance when over AMEIDAT.

150 cavalry and 50 infantry in U.13, 14, 15 and 16.

KAUWUKAH extension east of railway apparently occupied.

HAREIRA. 150 cavalry halted in F.27.

T. & S. behind RUSHDI and KAUWUKAH systems have now diminished by 50% since operations began.

XI Corps 0905.

UM JERRAR balloon has broken loose, and is drifting north. Observer landed in our area.

R.F.C. XI Corps,
tactical
reconnaissance.

B.26.d.4 apparently held by the enemy. All works north-east of SHEIKH HAEAN very strongly held. Large semi-circular work observed 500 yards north-east of SHEIKH REDWAN. About 800 men concealed in three parties in G.18, 24 and 30 and E.2. No movement along tactical front. Big cloud of dust seen towards JERMANA.

74

Camps behind trenches in X.13 (north of BAGHDAD system).
Very few shelters behind SABA Road trench.

Total prisoners captured by XXIst Corps up to 13 midnight 2/3rd November from commencement of attack on UMBRELLA Hill on the night of 2nd November, is 21 officers (unwounded) 321 O.A. (unwounded).

Telephone message from Liaison Officer D.M.Cmps, 1000.

The 1st L.H. Brigade have relieved 7th Mounted Brigade who are being withdrawn.

Enemy still hold KHUWEILFEH.

2nd L.H. Brigade have found water in Wadi SIM SIM about 4 miles south-west of DHAHRERIYEH, and report there is sufficient to water the whole brigade.

A message has been received from the 7th Mounted Brigade, through the Anzac Division, time 0850, that the enemy force estimated at 1 Brigade Cavalry and 1 Regiment Infantry was moving from SHERIA in the direction of KHUWEILFEH.

Orders issued to Desert Mtd. Corps, Yeomanry Divn., and XXth Corps.

Situation Report, November, 3rd, 1917.

For the use of the Commander-in-Chief and
General Staff only.

XXIst Corps 0600.

Situation unchanged on front of Composite Force and 75th Division. Very slight shelling on 75th Division line. Considerable shelling during night on front 52nd and 54th Divisions. Use of Tear Gas Shell reported against BEACH POST and SEA POST. Enemy counter-attack neighbourhood of CRESTED ROCK repulsed. Result of attack on BELAH TRENCH ordered for 0405 to-day not yet known. Total prisoners of war to date : 15 officers, 297 O.R., 6 machine guns and 1 minenwerfer.

XXth Corps 0600.

No change, quiet night. 229th Brigade Group in position on left of 53rd Divn., V.31.w.9.

Yeomanry Mtd.Divn.
0645.

All clear, no change.

D.M. Corps
0732.

Report no further advance made during night. 1st A.L.H. Brigade relieve 7th Mounted Brigade this morning south of KHUWEILFEH. Operations against DHAHEIRIYEH and TEL EL KHUWEILFEH will be continued today in conjunction with the 53rd Division.

082
Situation Report. 1200 November 3rd, 1917.

26

For the use of the Commander-in-Chief and General Staff only.

Yeomanry Mtd. Report two troops enemy seen 1 mile East of KH ERK.
Division.
1200. Otherwise nothing.

XX Corps. Situation Report. 10th DIVISION. 29th Brigade Group
1200. less 2 Battalions and F.A. Brigade en route for BEIT ABU
TAHA - otherwise no change. 53rd DIVISION. Advancing
on AIN KAHLEH. 60th DIVISION. 180th Brigade Group
ordered to move to area Pt. 870 - 900 - 1 mile South of
2nd 'A' of TEIAHA. 74th DIVISION. No change.

XXI Corps. Artillery action according to programme. Enemy battery
1200. position engaged for neutralization. Enemy artillery fire
normal. Patrols last night reached within 300Y of trenches
G.21 A & D and found enemy consolidating. Enemy has begun
a line Eastwards behind TORTOISE HILL. Our barrage on
RAFA - BELAH after failure of attack reported very effective.

1200 I.G. Brigade relieved left regiment of 7th Mtd. Brigade.
D.M. Corps. 1st A.L.H. Brigade relieved right regiment of 7th Mtd. Brigade.
7th Mtd. Bde. returning to bivouacs. 5th Mounted Brigade moved into
reserve at ABU JERWAN. Situation of 2nd A.L.H. Brigade
unchanged.

1250 R.F.C. At 0700
XXI Corps. { G.28.A as above; G.28.C - P.B.4.A - P.4.C - P.4.D a
few men scattered along bays, not so thick as 1700 last
night. SHEIKH REDWAN, a few small groups of men in the
redoubt. Trenches F.21 east of GIBRALTAR appear full.
Heavy rifle fire on plane. Between 0530 and 0700 area
SHEIKH REDWAN - BEIT LAHI no concentration seen. Little
movement between BEIT LAHI and NUZLE. Tracks from G.18
lead to shore at G.S.A.41 (about) and G.11.B.01 (about).
At each point are four pits facing west, possibly machine
gun emplacements. Heavy guns observed firing from G.30.D.35
and U.1.A.87. Field guns active at P.11.C.77 have been
silenced by N.F. calls.

27

The following further report dropped 0845
 XXIst Corps:- 0530. Heavy bomb fighting round
 trench P.9.A.12, but could not say who held trench.
 At 0730 TORTOISE HILL Trench P.2.D.91 - P.9.A.23
 appeared empty. YUNUS Trench strongly held, area
 north of BEACH Road 0715 - 0730 in depressions G.23, 24,
 18, parties of infantry standing among dug-outs and
 the sandhills. Most of groups of men in SHEIKH
 REDWAN appeared to be in north half of Redoubt,
 a half-moon trench in P.29.C. - P.5.A observed to
 be held. Largest party and biggest number of
 dug-outs in area north of BEACH ROAD observed at
 G.18.B.45, where steep sandhill slopes down into
 corner of field shown on NUZZLE sheet. A short
 communication trench from corner of this field
 to top of sand ridge where appears to be O.P. or
 M.G. post. Gun pits behind sandhill.

1320 XXth Corps. Prisoner of 1st battalion, 20th Regiment, 7th
 Division, captured last night says that 20th Regiment
 is in line north of GUN HILL, 21st Regiment between
 it and the sea and 79th Regiment on its left. He
 states that 136th Regiment was at EN NUZZLEH 5 days
 ago.

1500. XXth Corps. Number of guns captured by XXth Corps on 31st
 was 6: 53rd Divn. 4, and 60th Divn. 2.

Summary of Situation, 3rd November, continued. 28

D.M. Corps, 1545.

Strong patrol of 2nd A.L.H. Brigade worked round to N. of DHAHARIYEH where it saw 3 motor lorries full of Turks moving South into DHAHARIYEH on HEBRON road. 2nd A.L.H. will to-night hold same line as last night. It can water there.

R.F.C. Tactical,

R.F.C. Photographic
Reconnaissance.
1145 - 1400.

200 cavalry in DHAHARIYEH. 100 cavalry 3 miles S.W. of DHAHARIYEH and $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile west of HEBRON Road.

1800.

60th Division report Divisional H.Q. and 180th Inf. Bde. bombed and machine gunned by H.A. in Z.31.b. and Z.14.c.

Yeomanry Division.
1735.

Report that post at 510 saw about 1650 a large body of troops moving up the BIR SABA - GAZA Road near the SAMMARRA Bridge in the direction of GAZA being bombed by two of our aeroplanes.

1800. Report.
Yeomanry Division.

Nothing to report; all clear.

XXIst Corps.

Artillery bombardment according to plan.
Enemy artillery fired on -
ABBAS Ridge.
LEES Hill.
SAMPSON'S Ridge - UMBRELLA Ridge.

Total prisoners now 28 officers - including 2 battalion commanders,
418 other ranks.

Of the above 8 officers and 180 other ranks were wounded

XXth Corps.

29th Inf. Bde. of 10th Divn. at BEIT ABU TAHA.
10th Division otherwise unchanged.
53rd Divn. at 1340 moving on KHUWEILFEH.
60th Divn: 179th Bde. Z.15; 180th Bde. Y.12; 181st Y.
74th Divn: 229th Bde. V.31 - X.3 central - X.4 cent
230th " X.24 W.10 - V.3/
231st " W.299.

29

Situation Report, 3/11 November, 1917.

For the use of the Commander-in-Chief
and General Staff only.

XXth Corps, 2140.

53rd Division reported at 1745 no definite information as to exact position of 60th Divn. on KHUWEILFEH Hills. Undoubtedly Turks have gone, but they stuck tenaciously to their trenches. Very tiring attack for infantry, as country so steep and rocky. Will inform you of situation as soon as possible.

SITUATION REPORT
1800.

D.M. Corps.

2nd L.H. Bde. holding line BIR EL NETTAF - DEIR EL HAWA - EL JABRY (in touch with 5th Mounted Bde. at last-named), with strong patrol 2 miles north of DHAHERIYEH and 1,500 yards from the HEBRON Road.

5th Mounted Brigade has completed relief of 1st L.H. Bde., and holds line from left of 2nd L.H. Bde. to RAS EL NAGB, through second K of KHU KHUWEILFEH north of Wadi UM EL RUMAMIM, in touch at last-named with 53rd Division.

1st L.H. Bde. returning to bivouacs near SABA.

Yeomanry Division,
1910.

Division H.Q. close at Pt. D.15.d. at 1800 on 4th November, and re-open same hour at Point $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile south of Z in GOZ EL GELLEIB.

R.F.C. TACTICAL
2038.

New line of trenches in course of construction in

V.4.c.
V.4.d.
V.10.b.
V.11.a.

Two little trenches in front of redoubt in V.12.a.

Scattered shelters in V.10.b. and V.12.d.
New trenches in V.13.a.59.

V.13.d.	12	T. & S.
U.20.	9	T. & S.
P.17.d.	7	T. & S.
U.21.a.58.		Probable battery position.
W.4.a.01.		" " "

ep 448 D

General Officer Commanding,

Xth Corps.
XIth Corps.
Desert Mounted Corps.

30

It is found that the use of "Priority" telegrams is not in all cases being employed with discretion. In view of the strain thrown on the Signal Service during operations, indiscriminate use of "Priority" telegrams must be guarded against, more particularly as it only defeats its own object, which is to ensure the rapid transmission of messages of importance immediately affecting the addressee.

"Priority" telegrams describing the situation despatched by one formation and addressed to a neighbouring formation, are frequently necessary. Such telegrams are often, however, repeated "Priority" to other formations which cannot be immediately affected. In such cases the original addressee should be communicated with "Priority" and the telegram repeated, not "Priority", to other addressees.

(sd) Q.A. Heshaw
Lt Col

C.H.C. & R.M.F.
3/11/1917.

for
Major General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

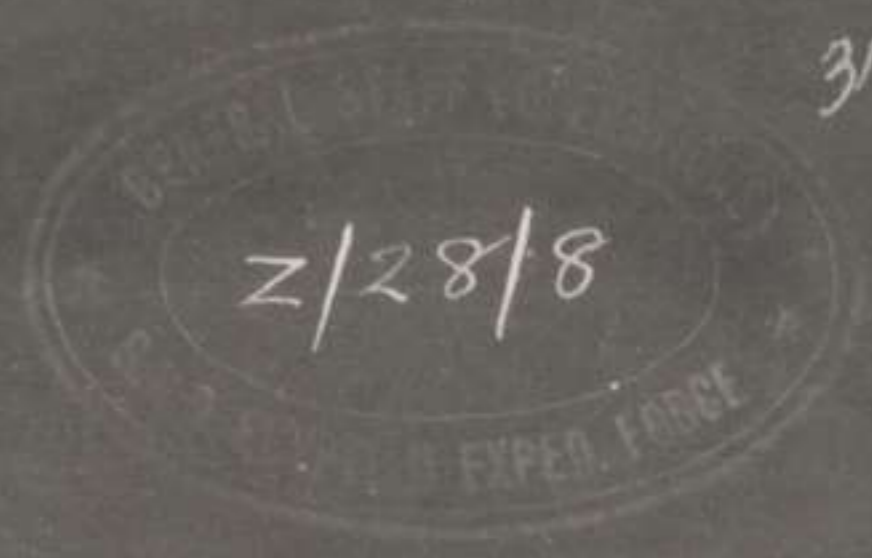
Copies to: -

D.A.S.

Gov. Pal. Bde. R.F.C.

SECRET

General Officer Commanding,
Delta and Western Force.



31 E

With reference to the attached letter, will you please forward the necessary information to this office as soon as possible.

(Signed) S.H. Kershaw,
Lt. Colonel,

for,

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
3/11/17.

Major General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

SECRET.

32
71/3112.

Arab Bureau,
Savoy Hotel,

CAIRO.
30th October, 1917.

General Staff Intelligence.

The Italian Minister has addressed a "note verbale" to the High Commissioner drawing attention to the fact that the British Military Authorities have placed posts at Ain Lagheil uar, about a mile to the South West of Amsaet, and at Gherba, about 12 miles to the South West of Sollum.

The Italian Minister contends that these places are on their side of the Frontier and incontestably in Cyrenaica. He therefore begs for a statement to the effect that these posts are merely of a provisional nature.

In order to reply to this note, His Excellency The High Commissioner would be grateful for the following information:-

- (A) Is it a fact that posts have been established in the localities mentioned by the Italian Minister. ?
- (B) What is the nature of these posts and the objects for which they were established. ?
- (C) What is the exact locality of these posts in terms of latitude and longitude. ?.

(Signed) G.F. Clayton,
Brig. Gen.

SECRET

153 A

FROM : Desert Mounted Corps.

To : G.H.Q. Repeated XXth Corps.

G.A. 126.

4/11/17.

Desp. 0138.
Recd. 0235.

Following is water situation.

BIR SABA one division and XXth Corps can spare very little more. South of DHAHERTYEB one brigade up to to-morrow morning only, no other water except at KHUWILFEM if taken to-night.

I suggest, if the attack is postponed till Nov. 8th, that one division be sent to KARM to relieve the Yeomanry who would come up to BIR SABA on the evening of November 5th. The XXth Corps think that, if trains are used, water could be provided at KARM.

Copies to :-

O(a).
O(b).
C.G.S.
B.G.O.S.
I.
Q.
E.-in-C.

SECRET

2/77/35. ³⁴ B

General Officer Commanding,
XX Corps.
Desert Mounted Corps.

1. The enemy disposes of about 45,000 infantry, of which 15,000 are ascertained to be pinned at GAZA and nearly 5,000 more are in the defences between GAZA and ATAWINEH.

The 25,000 infantry which the enemy has available in addition to the above are, therefore, widely extended, even if he has entirely demuded his line from ATAWINEH to HAREIRA; for the distance from HAREIRA to BIR KHUWEILFEH is 16 miles.

We have placed a force of 40,000 rifles and two divisions of mounted troops in position to attack the enemy at the vital point of his extended left flank, that is, about SHERIA, the possession of which will secure for us and deny to him essential water supplies.

2. The Commander-in-Chief intends to attack the enemy with the XX Corps on the line KH. BUTEIMAH - SHERIA - KH. HAUWUKAH on the 6th inst. The Desert Mounted Corps, will co-operate on the north of the XX Corps seizing the NEJILE and the JEMAMA water supplies, and thereafter acting in accordance with instructions (No. 2/77/39 dated 23/10/17) issued with Force Order No. 54. The orders given in telegram No. C.A.710 of yesterday therefore hold good, except that the date of the attack is deferred until November 6th.

3. The Commander-in-Chief wishes it to be impressed upon all Divisional and subordinate commanders that rapidity and determination will be the essence of the success of the operations above ordered. SHERIA and NEJILE must be taken on the first day of this phase of the
/operations,

operations, and the troops must understand that they will be called upon to continue fighting in order to give the enemy no respite until his resistance is broken down and any success gained can be confirmed and exploited.

4. The right flank guard division of the XX Corps at present appears to be opposed by one, or at the most two weak enemy regiments (19th Division), whose combined strength is not one fifth that of one of our divisions, though some three enemy cavalry regiments are co-operating with the weak infantry force referred to. G.O.C. XX Corps will realise that as soon as the main operation begins, his flank will be best protected by the success of his attack in front, and that his flank guard should not exceed what is necessary to hold off comparatively weak enemy forces until a success has been gained. This is more especially true in view of the strong force of mounted troops which will be operating on the right of the XX Corps.

5. The Commander-in-Chief does not consider it necessary to leave any considerable force in BEERSHEBA, but that, on the other hand, it will be vital to produce the maximum pressure of all available troops at once to break down the enemy's defence of the main objective. A small mounted force up the HEBRON road supported by a battalion and a half, which is being sent to BEERSHEBA for that purpose, should be fully sufficient for the protection of BEERSHEBA until the objective is gained.

(Sgd.) LgBol

G.H.Q.,
4/11/17.

Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

SECRET

WD



C
A

General Officer Commanding,
Australian Mounted Division.

The XX Corps and Desert Mounted Corps will not be in a position to attack for 36 to 48 hours. It has been found that the right of the XX Corps will be necessarily somewhat extended during the preliminary movements and until the attack is approaching its final stages.

In these circumstances, the Australian Mounted Division will remain in General Reserve until the initial stages of the main attack have developed, ready to co-operate with the left flank of the XX Corps, and responsible for the protection of the railway between SHELLAL and the WADI HANAFISH.

General Officer Commanding Australian Mounted Division will maintain the approximate day observation and night outpost line taken over from the Yeomanry Mounted Division, keeping the main body of his division as much concentrated as the above duties admit, and will make such dispositions as should enable him, in co-operation with the left of the XX Corps, to delay for at least 72 hours the advance of an enemy force into the gap between the XX and XXI Corps, especially if directed against the SHELLAL - KARUK railway.

The Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade of the XXI Corps is at TEL EL JEMMI with day and night observation posts at and east of KENT FORT.

Please acknowledge receipt by wire

*Genl S.H. Kershaw
for Lt Col*

Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

G.M.G.,
4/11/17.

*Copies to XX Corps
5 m. b. b.*

99

Summary of the Situation, November 4th, 1917 - contd.

250th Inf. Bde.
0730.

Enemy aircraft dropping bombs W.24.d. at 0730.

Royal Navy.
1930, 3/11/17.

6 bombs, direct hits, dropped by seaplanes on November 3rd on railway near JILJULIE Bridge; 4 bombs on Oil Factory at HAIFA, also direct hits.

From "A".
0930.

Summary of prisoners of war captured from commencement of operations up to midnight 3/4th Nov.:-
Officers 307, other ranks 2,429 = 2,636.
Numbers reported taken between 2400 2/3rd and 2400 3/4th: 11 officers, 287 other ranks = 298.
Total taken to date by XXIst Corps = 27 officers, 423 other ranks.

R.F.C. Tactical.
Landing 0710.

Reports 300 men in small groups proceeding towards SHERIA from W.28 (just N.E. of HAREIRA TEPE). Machine flew at 2,000 feet over TARK HAIRPIN and ATAWINEH. No enemy fire drawn.
Trench N.E. of SHEIKH HASAN apparently lightly held; no movement or concentration observed.

0920 XXth Corps.

53rd Division reports still fighting for KUWEILFEH, where it is opposed by 2 regiments with guns. Prisoners state they belong to 19th Division.

74th Division
0914.

268th Bde. R.F.A. bombed at 0730 by H.A. to-day.

XXth Corps, 1000.
Telephoned by
Major Schuster.

In reply to G.C.S. cipher wire to XXth Corps and Desert Mtd. Corps: XXth Corps are sending cipher wire to ask for the extra day as 53rd Divn. now about 1000 yards S. of TEL EL KHUWEILFEH will not be able to take the position before to-night owing to water difficulties. G.O.s.C. XXth and D.M. Corps have conferred. Divl. Commanders of XXth Corps attended conference, and above decision was arrived at after careful consideration.

XXth Corps, 0625.

10th Division. No change except right flank of 51st Bde. (north of IRGEIG) advanced to W..15.c. (? W.13.c.). 29th Bde. relieving 30th Bde. east of Wadi HANNAFISH. Yeomanry Division relieving 30th Bde. west of Wadi HANNAFISH.

53rd Division. Patrol with R.E. officer visited far side KHUWEILFEH. Found masonry-lined well with water at 6 feet. Well blown in, but will be repaired to-day. At 0300 160th Bde. was advancing to complete occupation of KHUWEILFEH so as to command water, when brigade will be relieved by 158th Bde.

60th Division. No change.

74th Division. No change.

4/11/17.

Summary of Situation A! November 1917 D

Report from Brig-Gen.
Salmond at 2240 of
Tents and Shelters
in KAUVUKAH system
and extension, RUHDI
and HAREIRA system.

Telephone message from
DESCORPS, substance of
wire G.A.126, of 4th,
received 0235.

Water situation as follows :-

BIR SABA one division. Very little more can
be spared by XXth Corps. South of DHAHERIYEH one
brigade up to tomorrow morning only. No other
supply (?) except KHUWEILFEH. Possibly one
brigade if taken to-night. If attack postponed
till 8th suggest sending one division to KARM to
relieve Yeomanry, who would come up to BIR SABA
evening 5th. XXth Corps think water could be
provided at KARM if trains used. (Copy to E-in-C).

SITUATION REPORT,
0600.

Yeomanry Division,
0645.

XXIst Corps, 0615.

All clear, nothing to report.

At 2115, 3rd, enemy approached our wire at APEX
LEFT, and were driven off. No details as to numbers.
Trench mortar causing trouble by firing on EL ARISH
redoubt, and 77 mm battery close up behind
GIBRALTAR. Both silenced at 0100 by our artillery.
10 minutes bombardment of P.21.d.55, U.1.a.32, and
P.35.b., and fire at gaps in wire carried out.
Enemy firing intermittently on our line, and bom-
barded BRENTWOOD in support of patrol mentioned above

1040.
G.H.Q.

Orders for move of one Mounted Division from
BIR SABA to KARM, and for Yeomanry Division to be
relieved and placed at the disposal of G.O.C. D.M. Corps
issued.

Copies attached.

4/11/17.

41
From : G.H.Q.

To : Advanced H.Q. Descorps.
Yeomanry Mounted Division.
Advanced H.Q. XXth Corps.

O.A.T. 243.

4/11/17.

Desp. 1115.

Reference Descorps cipher G.A. 126. Descorps will move mounted division to KARM as soon as possible. Water for this division available at KARM, 80,000 gallons by 1600, balance by 1800 to-day. Mounted division withdrawn to KARM will take over line watched by Yeomanry Division as early as possible on 5th November under arrangements to be made by G.O.C. Yeomanry Division, and must water from Wadi GHUZZE from night 4/5th November exclusive. Yeomanry Division will continue to water from Wadi GHUZZE. On relief Yeomanry Division will concentrate east of wadi near SHELLAL, ready to move at short notice. G.O.C. Yeomanry Division will arrange watering for his own and other mounted division for 5th November. H.Q. Yeomanry Divn. is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Z of GOZ EL GELLEIB. Addressed Descorps, Yeomanry Divn., repeated XXth Corps.

Copies to :- O(a).
O(b).
Q.
D.A.S.
Pal. Bde. R.F.C.
Filed
W.D.

42

(Continuation of Situation Report, 4th November).

XX Corps, 1015

General Chauvel and myself, after closest consultation,

4/11/17.

have decided with great reluctance that owing to water

and 23B cipher.

difficulties and thirst of men postponement till Nov. 6th

is inevitable.

G.O.C. 53rd Division thinks he will not be able to
take KHUWEILFEH till tonight, Nov. 4th.

G.H.Q. cipher

Chief concurs. Please inform Descorps.

reply to XX

O.A.712 cipher.

Corps, 1110.

B.G.G.S. to
C.G.S., 0900.

Appreciation of situation - attached.

O.C. L. of C
Defences.

2/4th Devons and Det. B.W.I. moved to BIR SABA as
L. of C. Defence troops.

R.F.G. 0630

Tactical and

Contact

Patrol.

Flares show our troops as follows :-

W.4.c.	U.36.d.central	V.27.central.
W.4.c.99	V.31.a.central	V.28.central
W.5.central	V.25.d.99	V.29.a.11
W.36.c.88	V.26.central	V.29.b.59.

No flares shown in 53rd Division area about KHUWEILFEH.
No movement on roads east of SHERIA or in SHERIA.

1200.

Situation

XXI Corps.

Artillery plan proceeding; counter-battery work on
active batteries; slight enemy activity. Raid made on
BRENTWOOD REDOUBT. Raid preceded by shelling, which
damaged C.T.S. between Company and Battalion Headquarters.
Little doubt enemy suffered heavily; caught by barrage and
rifle fire. Our casualties, 4 killed, 16 wounded. Enemy
force estimated 300 men.

XX Corps.

10th Division - reliefs completed.

53rd Division - no further information.

60th Division - no change.

74th Division - 229th Inf.Bde. V.22, 21, 20, in touch
with 159th Inf.Bde. in U.30.b. 230th Inf.Bde. continue

/W.C.A.,

XX Corps (cont'd) ^{W.S.d.} W.S.d., ^{W.S.d.} thence swung back to connect with 10th Division.

D.M. Corps, 1505. Situation at 1200.

2nd A.L.H. Brigade no change.

N.Z.M.R. Brigade relieving 5th Mounted Brigade on last night's line.

5th Mounted Brigade withdrawing to Corps Reserve.

Australian Division, less 5th Mounted Brigade, 1 Coy. train and Field Squadron, plus 7th Mounted Brigade, moving to KARM.

1915.
Geo. Mtd. Div. Enemy infantry, estimated at 400, with pack transport seen 1050 one mile south of POINT 540 marching east. Continuous movement of enemy observed along WADI SHERIA.

062
44
SITUATION REPORT 4th NOVEMBER (continued)

R.F.C.
Bombing
Squadron
1000-1130

Our machines dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of bombs on Dumps,
Sheds and Camps at UM DABKAL.

STRATEGICAL

Strategical
reported 1330

- I. Disconnected length of trench facing seaward, running from system N. of HERBIE along sand dunes to ASKALON.
- II. Two long lengths of trench in ASKALON Gardens facing the sea.
- III. Between EBIT JERJAH and N. of SIMSIN 350 new TS behind the trenches. S.W. of BURBIR 50 T & S and 30 men scattered about.
- IV. Trench system runs in an easterly direction from BURBIR in short lengths as far as railway.
- V. 14 Marquess and 150 T & S (new) in B 24 (NEJILEH sheet) and 6 green covered dumps in B 24 and in the gardens.

(All reported to 20th and 21st Corps.)

Defences
EL ARISH
1616

Relief by French of B.W.I. Regiment at
SHELLAL - GAMLI - WELI SHEIKH HURAN - KARM
IMARA now completed.

Tactical.
1230-1430

SHARIA 1310 Large columns of dust from N. of
SHARIA.
1340 Trenches at U 20 and U 21 occupied
300 Inf. in Wadi U 15 c.
1350 About 1 Brigade on edge of Wadi in
U 4 b.
1355 Infantry scattered estimated 1500
in Wadi N 25 c.
1400 Horses (400) in Wadi at V 14.
? 600 of our own cavalry going
W.E. in V 25.

Photographic
Reconnaissances.

500 new shelters in Wadi SHARIA in N 27 and 28.

45

(Continuation of Situation Report, 4th November)

XXI Corps
by telephone
1440.

XXI Corps carrying out an increasing bombardment of the BELAH - YUNUS trench and strong points in trenches behind. Firing by day and night on these objectives (about 1,000 4.5" and 3,000 18-pdr. rounds in 24 hours). 6" howitzers on dug-outs, etc., especially in P.28 and 29 and that neighbourhood. The whole front from MIDDLESEX HILL including the LABYRINTH, MAZE, and up to MAGDHABA TRENCH and GIBRALTAR are being increasingly bombarded just as for a bombardment preliminary to an attack. Bombardment will intensify until night 5th/6th, when OUTPOST HILL will probably be raided and the BELAH - YUNUS TRENCH made good.

Situation Report, 4th November 1917 (Continued)

R.F.C.
Tactical.
landed 1615.
GAZA.

Trench in G.21, 27, 28 and P.8 and 9 (N.E. Sh.HASAN)
appear lightly held.

New fire trench running N. and S. 500 yards E. of
Kunis trench with communication trench running E.

Bombing
Squadron.

SHARIA Station bombed at 1635 by 7 machines.

46 bombs dropped: 1 direct hit on trucks, several
direct hits on sheds.

Situation
Report
1800.

10th Division.

30th Bde Group in T. 1 and 2
otherwise no change.

XX Corps.

53rd Division.

158th Infantry Bde in reserve
behind 160 Bde.
160th Inf. Bde about line
1580 - 1250.
162th Inf. Bde A.25d to V.28 central

60th Division.

179 Inf. Bde. W.17.a.
190 " " moving to sq.W.12.e.
191 " " relieving 230 Bde
group.

74th Division.

229 Inf. Bde no change.
230 " " being relieved by 131
Inf.Bde. on left of
229 Inf. Bde.
231 " ") U.34.b.
less 1 Bn)
1 Bn. relieving 1 Bn of 159 Inf.Bde

Situation
Report
1800
Desert Mounted
Corps.

2 L.R.Bde.

from L. of Wadi EL GHORAN through
N.el.MAKAWEN to S.W. of DEIR EL
BANA. In touch by patrols with
thence through EL JABRY to RAS EL
MAGB. Thence back to right of 53
Divn about Kh. Um .el Kumamin.
in Corps reserve E. of BIRSABA.

H.Z.M.R.Bde.

5th Mtd.Bde.

One of our aeroplanes located 5th Mtd. Bde at RAS EL
MAGB. Before relief by H.Z.M.R.Bde, 5th Mtd. Bde
repulsed attack on RAS EL MAGB by 1800 Turkish
infantry with 5 camel guns.

I.C.Bde.

1 Battn behind right of 53 Div.
1 1/2 Battns Kh.el LESKIYEH.
1/2 Battn SABA.
1/2 Battn en route to SABA.

Aust.Mtd.Divn.

en route to KARM to relieve Yeo.Div

XXI Corps.

Artillery plan and bombardment.

Situation Report, 4th November 1917 (Continued)

SITUATION REPORT.

Yeo. Div. No change. Australian Mtd Dvn beginning to arrive

1925. S H.A. opened M.G. fire on trenches on BLAZED HILL
75th Div. at 1700.

R.F.C. 100 cav. in C.19 (sheet D.4. moving towards C.8)
Stragetical 130 cav. round village in C.8.
1815 to 1745. 160 cav. just S. of HUI.
150 cav. 1000 yards E. of Kh. el KHOPKHAH (D.3.a)

UM DABKHAL station (H.22) 30 R.S.

Camp of tents in regular lines E. of TEL el HESI
(probably Hospital.

SHERIA 3 columns each about 100 infantry halted
in P.5 and P.11 (about 2,000 yards S.E. of TEL EL
SHERIA.

XX Corps. 160 Inf. Bde (53 Div) twice attacked TEL KHUWEILFEN
and twice stopped by hostile M.G. fire.

53 Divn ordered not to attack KHUWEILFEN again
without direct orders from Corps.

Divn now adjusting line and consolidating with
view of forming solid flank for main attack.

Enemy has been using mountain guns with accurate
shooting and some fire from a heavier calibre gun
has been observed.

56

Continuation of Situation Report 4th-5th November, 1917

XXth Corps.
2145.
telephone.

Can Australian Mounted Division furnish standing patrol by day and night at junction of Wadis SAMARNA and IMLIEH to protect batteries of 10th Division Artillery in action on that flank. Standing patrol required from sunset tomorrow 5th November.

Arranged by telephone with Capt. Gavanagh 0810 5/11/17

Yeo. Div.
2200

G.O.C., Aust. Mtd. Dvn received instructions Z/77/38 dated 4/11/17.

Aust. Mtd. Dvn.
G.K. 58 4th
2145.

Orders for taking over the line HANAFISH WADI inclusive to HISEIA, and exact dispositions of Yeo. Div. from 0630 tomorrow.

4 L.H. Bde Group right sector WADI HANAFISH inclusive to PT 550 inclusive relieving 22 Mtd. Bde. H.Q. at Q.32.B by 0630. Left sector to be taken over from 6 Mtd Bde by 3 L.H. Bde Group by 0630. Front left sector 550 exclusive HISEIA inclusive. H.Q., near EL AMARA. 3 and 4 L.H. Bdes will take over exact dispositions of relieved Bdes, ascertaining from them names H.Q., and dispositions of flanking troops.

7 Mtd Bde Group advanced parties under senior officer will relieve 8 Mtd Bde in Div. Reserve 1 mile E. of GOZ EL GELEIB by 0630. Remainder of Bde resting present bivouac until further orders. Div. H.Q. will open at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S of GOZ EL GELEIB at 0630.

SECRET



49 A

General Officer Commanding,
Australian Mounted Division.

In continuation of my Z/77/38 of yesterday, the XXth Corps will move forward to the attack after moonrise on the night 5th/6th with a view to seizing SHERIA and the north bank of the WADI SHERIA on the 6th. As soon as your front is reported clear on the morning of the 6th, you should thin the left portion of your line of day observation as far as possible, so as to keep the weight of your division towards your right. The XX Corps Cavalry Regiment (less a squadron) having been attached to your command, and your front having been extended to the BEERSHEBA - GAZA Road exclusive. (this office telegram O.A.T. 245 of 4th) you will keep touch with the left of the XX Corps (10th Division) on your right, and will be prepared to act rapidly if you should receive orders to push in with every available man on HAREIRA in co-operation with the left of the 10th Division.

If your division is not required for this purpose, or for checking an enemy movement against the railway, it will in all probability be required eventually to pass behind the XXth Corps to rejoin the Desert Mounted Corps in its advance on NEJIL, as to which further instructions will be sent you in due course.

One brigade can be watered at KARM station, where it is hoped to maintain a reserve of water which might be made available in case of need for one emergency watering for the remainder of your division.

G.H.Q. Acknowledge.

(signed) Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff,

5/11/17.

Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Copies to XXth & D.M. Corps.

Situation Report, 8th November 1917.

B.

70

Situation Report.

0800.

XXIst Corps.

Artillery bombardment according to programme. Intermittent shelling by enemy on MANSURA RIDGE and front line KURD HILL. Sh. HASAN and GUN HILL heavily shelled from direction of JEBALINH. Patrols report old British trenches strongly held. Sounds of heavy traffic on GAZA - BEKREHEBA road. Enemy made demonstration against APEX L with Lewis Gun after a bombardment but did not approach our line.

XXth Corps.

10th Division.

No change.

53rd Division.

Situation unchanged.

60th Division.

181 Inf. Bde has relieved 230 Inf. Bde of 74 Divn. Otherwise unchanged.

74th Division.

230 Inf. Bde to X.9.B and X.3.D

Desert Mtd
Corps.

Yeo. Div.

Situation at 0800 No change.

SITUATION REPORT 5th November, 1917.

"A".

Prisoners reported to 0900 on 5th:
157 officers, 2,853 other ranks = 3,010.

Australian Mtd.
Divn. 0900.

G.O.C. Australian Mtd.Divn. has relieved Yeomanry
Division on line Wadi HANAFISH to HISEIA. H.Q. Australian
Mtd.Divn. at point $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile south of Z in GOZ EL GELEIB.

G.H.Q. to
XX and D.M.
Corps, 0955.

Right flank guard of XX Corps placed temporarily
under orders of G.O.C. Desert Mtd. Corps. Recall of this
division to be arranged mutually between G.O's.C. XX and
Desert Mtd. Corps.

SITUATION 1200.

XXI Corps.

Artillery programme continued.

Enemy bombarded KURD HILL.
QUEEN'S HILL.
DAVID'S HILL.
MANSURA RIDGE.

Enemy shelled considerably RAFA Trench.
ZOWAID Trench.
BEACH Post.

Enemy shelled at distant range -
WHALE Post.

Enemy shelled dummy battery heavily.

XX Corps.

No change 10th, 60th and 74th Divisions.

53rd Divn. 158th Inf. Bde. A.12.a. - A.12.b. - A.5.d - A.5.c.

159th " " A.14.b - A.14.a - A.13.d - A.13.c -
V.24 central.

160th " " A.10.b - A.10.a - A.9.b - A.9.c -
A.14.b.

74th Division in touch with left of 53rd Division. 53rd
Divn. H.Q. A.27.d. Divl. Reserve: 3 battns. 158th Bde.
A.23 and A.24. Situation quieter. Enemy battery in
action between 0900 and 1000 was silenced by Divl. Arty.

Australian
Divn. 1345.

Relief of Yeomanry completed 0900. No change.
At 1250 small parties of enemy seen moving from
KAUWUKAH towards HAREIRA. Our infantry appear to be
north of 550 (sq. R.E.), and attacking (?) KAUWUKAH.

Australian
Mounted
Division.
1240

Asks if right Brigade can be watered from KARM.
Answer Yes.

G.H.Q. 1610.
to Australian
Mounted Divn.

Instructions to G.O.C., Australian Mounted Division.
Copy attached (Oa copy only)

Situation.
1800

Australian
Mounted
Division.

Nothing to report.

Desert Moun-
ted Corps.

I. C. Brigade moving up to take over line from KURNET
GHUZALEH through 1910 EL JABRY and
RAZ-EL-NAGB to the right of 53 Divn.

2 L.H. Brigade unchanged.

Telephone report received that Turks attacked N.Z.M.R.
Bde on RAZ-EL-NAGB with bayonet, but were caught by
Machine Gun fire and repulsed with casualties estimated
at 300.

1 L.H. Brigade No change.

Yeo.Mtd.Divn concentrated near BIRSABA by 1500.

XX Corps.

10 Division.

53 Division 158 A.12 D-B-A, A11B, A50, A 10 B.

159 A.30.D, A 19 A,-B, V25.

160 left of 158 Bde, A10a,A9b,A9c,A15a.

60 Division Report not received.

74 Division V22c central - V19d to work V46 in square
U30a thence to U55.

XXI Corps.

Artillery Bombardment continued. Active enemy batteries neutralised.

Enemy movement observed in ROAD REDOUBT.

Normal enemy fire on GUN HILL
APEX AREA
WHALE POST.
QUEENS HILL.
UMBRELLA HILL.
BLAZED HILL.

Bombing Report.

28 20-lb bombs were dropped on dumps in the neighbourhood of UM AMEIDAT DACKHAL. Direct hits were obtained on a train which was stationary on the line.

SUMMARY OF AERIAL OBSERVATION.

Tactical.

0730.

Fresh work in G28c and P4a.

Enemy line in G squares opposite our new position in P squares is strongly held with the exception of A5 BELAH and YUNUS trenches. Rifle pits in front of trenches in G22 and 28, Camps in V31 and 25 N.E. of TANK REDOUBT are thick. X7 and 8 about the same as October 3rd.

Strat-
egical.

0530-
0815.

DEIR SINEID. 4 white R.S.

Camp at KH. JAMMAMEH (B15) confirmed.

20 H.T. moving from D20 (KH. ZUHEILIKAH), towards SHERIA.

33 M.T. at KHEL KADY (D33).

Hospital (14 E.P. tents) at TEL EL HESI confirmed.

Station (K22). No movement 30 R.S., 60 M.T., 30 M.T., in K36, 18 M.T. in M7.

SHERIA. No movement 10 R.S., no T.S. in Wadi 1000' each side of Station (40 T.S. normally).

100 infantry halted in V4 and V5 about 60 cavalry and few shelters in A2.

No movement observed along track A2 - TEL EL KUWEILFEH or at KUWEILFEH.

3 miles W. of MUNAH 3 horse lines of 100 horses each and about 300 M.T. parked S. side of various Wadis
4 large clouds of dust on Hebron Road near HEBRON.

Tactical.

0700-
0843.

HAREIRA. No movement observed.

RUSHDI SYSTEM. Considerable movement in camps behind trenches.

SHERIA. No movement observed. Small movement of transport going East in the Wadi towards KUWEILFEH.

KAUWUKAH SYSTEM. Trenches in P22,23,24, U19,20,21 are occupied. Estimated garrison 300 - 500 men. No movement on roads entering KAUWUKAH.

STATION in K23. Two made-up trains.

- (i) 10 trucks and engine with steam up.
- (ii) 8 trucks no engine.

10 Horse lines and bivouacs N.W. of station. Large tents, probably hospital E. of railway in L1.

KUWEILFEH. Approximately 500 men and horses between TEL EL KUWEILFEH and BIR KUWEILFEH. Scrapings on hill in front of TEL EL KUWEILFEH.

RAS EL MAGB. Approximately 30 enemy in scattered posts.

DHAHERIYEH. About 300 men in town. No movement on roads North.

56

Summary of Aerial Reconnaissances (Continued). 5/11/17

Photographic
Reconnaissance
Landed 1845.

SHERIA 10 H.B.

Small movement towards SHERIA from direction P.7 and 8.
There appeared to be a general increase of tents and
shelters throughout area photographed.

Tactical
Reconnaissance
1200.7

TOWAL ABU JERWAL.

I.C.C. left flank in TOWAL
with 53rd Division.

TEL EL KHUWBILAH.

500 infantry.

TEL MEJADIL

10 shelters N. of L in MEJADIL

DHAHRIYAH.

No movement seen. Our line :-
Last H in KH EL MUWBILEH thence
N.E. excluding AIN KOHLEH to
Pt. 1580 at KH UM EL RUMAMIN, thence
1 mile N. of U in UM DEIMNEH across
metal Road just S. of S in TOR EL
SADAN thence 3 miles E. of road.

Stratigical
Reconnaissance
Landed 1230.

DEIR SIRRID.

Railway bridge across Wadi HESI
completly
apparently/destroyed.

HIRBIRH.

System of short length of trenches
disconnected, and facing sea:
running from most westerly of
those already reported in Square
H.38 to ASKALON.

BEIT JERJAH.

Approximately 250-300 tents and
shelters scattered between here and
SIMSIM.

TURAH.

30 infantry.

BURRIR.

There appears to be a trench system
running N.E. by E. from Square S.18
to the SHERIA railway. Approximately
50 - 100 shelters behind this line.
K.22 38 Rolling stock.

HUJ.

there appears to be H.T. packed in
Groups of 20 in distance E. of K.22. (confirms A.27
of to-day). 40 H.T. moving S. on road in K.17 and 22
Scattered Cavalry in large parties east of railway
and N. of Wadi SHERIA.

SHERIA

60 Cavalry in Wadi 1000^x E. of Bridge. Decrease
in shelters round station. Very slight movement
behind BURRIR and BURRIRAH Systems.

SUMMARY OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCES (cont).

57

Strategical Reconnaissance

1120-1400 HAREIRA. 150 cavalry approaching Wadi Sheria in F28.

Small scattered movement behind RUSHDI.

KAUWUKAH System emplacements P41 and P43 appear to be occupied.

80 infantry in O24c (KAUWUKAH)

160 Cavalry in V5. (

150 " " V2. (behind KAUWUKAH extension.

40 Infantry " V5. (

UM DABKAL. 50 T.S. one mile North of village.

Station K22 30 R.S. one engine shunting.

KELKHAH. Hospital of 40 tents N. of village.

MALEIHAN. 1/2 mile E. 300 shelters on S. bank of Wadi.

DEIR EL ASL. 80 Cavalry halted.

DHAHERIYEH. 80 Cavalry 1 mile N. on HEBRON Road. No other movement as far as HEBRON.

YETTA ROAD. Between this road and DHAHERIYEH Road 1500 shelters (probably Bedouins). One mile E. of YUTTA 150 Cavalry.

Tactical Reconnaissance.

1305-1350. Between EL HENU and WADI AAJADIL two Cavalry regiments in small formations. TEL MEJADIL strongly held by infantry. Infantry extended on lower slopes of RAS EL NAGE. Between Pt. 2070 and UM EL KUSAH 4 detachments of mounted troops about one Regiment.

Tactical Reconnaissance.

landed 1840. GAZA front. Trench in P4d joined to P11a. Work on trenches G28, G22, G23, G24a and c, G17b and d.

Covered shelters which may be H.Q. or dumps in G22c.

No movement in tactical area.

New advanced post in front of ATAWINEH redoubt

SUMMARY OF AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE (cont).

Tactical Reconnaissance.

1240-1300. No movement observed in HAREIRA - KHUWEILFEH
area.

Tactical Reconnaissance.

1510 - 1610. No movement observed in HAREIRA - KHUWEILFEH
area. Water in Wadi SHERIA from PETA - HAREIRA in
pools from G19 - SHERIA also in pools.