

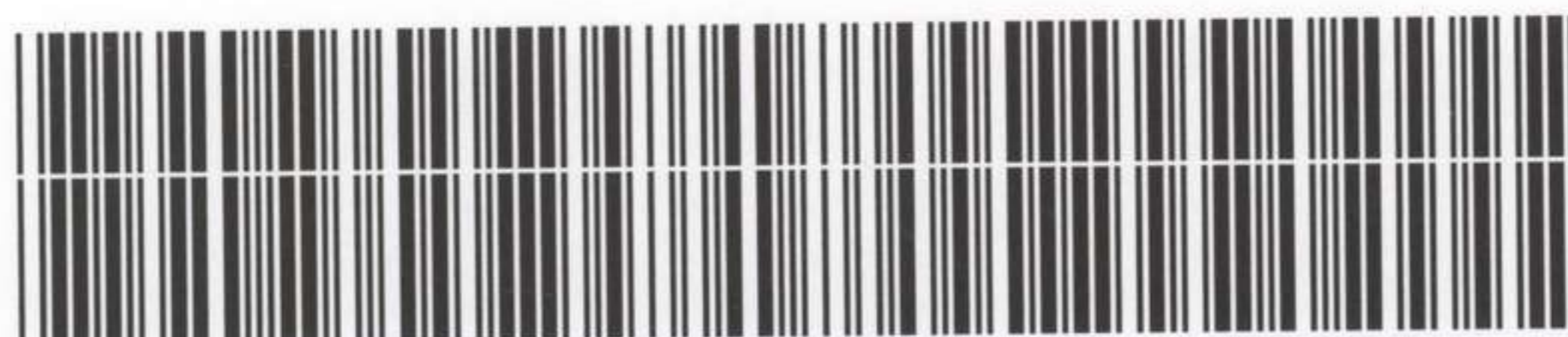
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/6/24 Part 1

Title: General Staff, General
Headquarters, Egyptian
Expeditionary Force

April 1918



AWM4-1/6/24PART1

S E C R E T.

GENERAL STAFF (OPERATIONS).

G. H. Q. EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

WAR DIARY - APRIL 1918.

WAR DIARY.
G.S.(O). G.H.Q. E.E.F.

APRIL 1918

Birsalem.
Kilo.295.
April 1st.

1. OPERATIONS.

0754. XXIst Corps wire. Situation report. About 100 enemy advancing towards Kh el Ikba and Company in artillery formation E. of Rafat dispersed. 2230 Post on hill in A.14.a. attacked by bombers. Enemy quickly driven back. Considerable artillery fire against left of 52nd Division Sector. (G.610).
0815. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Shea's Group last night. N.Z.M.R. Brigade at cross roads one mile east of Ain es Sir. 2nd L.H. Brigade and R.H.A. Battery at Es Salt, 181st Brigade and Mountain Brigade at Ain es Sir. 2/17th London Regt. at Ain el Jiria. 2/18th London Regt. on road 4 between Ain es Sir and Ain el Jiria. 179th Brigade and 3rd L.H. Regt. at Es Salt. 1st L.H. Brigade less 1 Regt., 1 battalion 158th Brigade and 1 L.A.C. Battery between Es Salt and Umm es Shert. 180th Brigade, less 3 battalions, at Nimrin. I.C. Brigade at Nimrin. 1 Battalion 180th Brigade at Howeij. All quiet during night. Withdrawal recommenced 0430. On 10th Division front between 2030 and 2230 enemy rifle fire from 099.B.20 and slight shelling. (G.256).
1303. XXIst Corps wire. Corps Headquarters now open at new site. (1).
1917. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Shea's Group report following situation this evening. 181st Brigade about 127.V.6. central. 179th Brigade at Es Salt both brigades withdrawing to Shunit Nimrin tonight. 180th Brigade between Shunit Nimrin and El Howeij. I.C.C. Brigade Shunit Nimrin area. N.Z.M.R. Brigade withdrawing tonight on Shunit Nimrin by road No.4. Remainder of mounted troops no change in position. Only interference was by party of about 200 Turks who attacked rearguard passing through Ain es Sik and were easily beaten off. (G.264).
- 2157 XXth Corps wire. 158th Brigade Group with 266th Brigade R.F.A. attached will march on April 3rd to Talat ed Dumm, on 4th to Jerusalem, on 5th to Ramallah. On 6th it will come under orders of 74th Division and will march to 74th Division area. Field Ambulance now at disposal of 60th Division will revert to 158th Brigade on evening of 2nd inst. Platoon now at Rujm el Bahr will be relieved to-morrow 2nd inst. by party of not less than 1 officer and 20 other ranks from I.C.C. Brigade. (G.268).
- 2215 Commandant Akaba wires. Situation report. 22/3/18. Amman bridge captured by Sherif Ali Ibn Hussin, 15 of guard being captured. Bridge to be destroyed by dynamite. (67101/34).
2230. Wired evening report to Troopers London repeated as usual. Continuing withdrawal towards Jordan. Main body reach Shunit Nimrin to-night. Party of 500 Turks attacked rearguard at Ain es Sir, but were easily repulsed. (E.A.1046).

Birsalem. 1430. Wired Troopers London changes in dispositions on Front.
Kilo.295. (E.A.1045).
April 1st. Wrote to XX Corps. Boats for patrol of Dead Sea.
(Z.85/011).
XXIst Corps sent Operation Order No. S.G.113 1/4/18.

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0710. Received wire from Troopers London stating that 4.5 How. equipments should be sent with 52nd Division. (55446).

Wrote Inspector Palestine L. of C., stating that the cost of setting up an installation of Electric Lighting for the Wharves and Depots at Kantara would be quite prohibitive. (GS.104/32).

Wrote Desert Mounted Corps re formation of Machine Gun Battalions from Yeomanry Regiments. (G.S. 1070).

0400. Troopers cabled giving order of priority of move of three Divisions overseas. (53449).

April 2nd.

1. OPERATIONS.

0736. XXIst Corps wire. Situation report. Bombing raid by enemy on hill in A.14.a. (G.625).

0820. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Shea's Group concentrated at NIMRIN this morning. (G.270).

1436. XXIst Corps wire. 52nd Div. H.Q. now at Surafend. (G.631).

1544. Descorps wire. Yeo Div. and 7th Mtd.Bde. concentrated at Deir el Belah 1430. (G.A.703).

1820. XXIst Corps wire. Artillery carried out destructive shoot on El Kefr. 2 prisoners 63rd Regiment captured. (G.635).

2200. Wired Troopers London evening report repeated as usual. (E.A.1049).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0400. Wire from Air Ministry London sanctioning upkeep of equivalent of 20 air training squadrons to Egypt. (102.OA.)

0710. Wire from Troopers London re XXIV Corps Signal Units disbandment. (55515).

0710. Wire from Troopers London re release of medical unit from Egypt. (55513).

0835. Wire from Communications Basra. Embarkations 3rd Division. (S.4828).

0906. Wire from Communications. Detachment E.C.C. left Beersheba for Akaba. (G.417).

1005. Wired XX Corps to place one Brigade 53rd Division and one R.F.A. Brigade at disposal of XXI Corps from 12 noon 3rd April. (OAM.307).

1120. Wired Hedghog Cairo. Detachment E.C.C. left Birsaba on 1st April for Akaba. (OAM.309).

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2. MISCELLANEOUS.

1345. Wire from Britannia, (0951) French Transport La Loire torpedoed off Rosetta. Japanese destroyers removed all troops.
1351. XXth Corps wire one infantry brigade group and one brigade R.F.A. of 53rd Division now in LUDD area placed at disposal of XXIst Corps from 12 noon, 3/4/18. (G.280).
1900. Wire to XX XXI Corps and D.M. Corps one light armoured motor battery from XX Corps and one from Descorps to proceed to Selmeah 071.J.27 on 5/4/18. (OAM.314).
1911. Nilebos, Cairo wired they propose discontinuing car patrols to El Shebb from now onwards owing to heat and possible sandstorms. (E.G.222).
1940. Wired to Descorps, the 9 Yeomanry Regts mentioned in our G.S.1070 of 1/4/18, will move from Belah to Alexandria on 7/8th April. (OAM.313).
1940. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Shea's group report 180th Bde. forming bridgehead east of Ghoraniye. All troops except part of 1st L.H. Bde. and 2 How. Batteries attached 180th Bde. are west of the river. 160th Bde. report enemy in some strength in following areas. Approximately 300 cavalry in 127.C.2.b. C.3.a & b, and about 300 infantry S. of C.3. (G.284).
2126. Descorps wire Australian division arrived Mejdal 1700. (705).

Letter to War Office, London, forwarding an amended establishment for the Indian Section of the 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q. of this Force. (G.S.986).

Letter to War Office, London, enclosing W.E. school of Instruction for Native Clerks, Egypt, for approval. (G.S. 8/37).

Letter to War Office, London, forwarding report from O.C. Tank Corps, E.E.F. on Road Chain A.86, fitted with rollers. (G.S.397).

Letter to the War Office, London, regarding amendments to the new W.E. Part XI, No. 931, Corps Signal Co. dated 21/1/18.

Letter to XX & XXIst Corps regarding the suggested formation of Branch Intelligence Sections for work with the Corps Squadrons. G.S.1052.

Letter from XX Corps ~~404/1/18/74th Divn~~ - XXth Corps Order No. 26 and March Table. Copy No.5. Re relief of 74th Divn.

Letter to XX Corps notifying 74th Divn will shortly embark for France. Z/86/1.

1320. Wire to Nilebos, Cairo. 440th Batty R.F.A. to be formed at Alexandria and will be allotted to the 271st Bde. R.F.A. 54th Division. OAM.310.

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April 3rd.

1. OPERATIONS.

0748. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Relief of 160th Brigade by I.C.C. completed. 266 R.F.A. camp situated west of Jericho in Wadi Kelt bombed this morning. Casualties 1 killed, 10 wounded. (G.291).
0400. Troopers London wire regarding situation East of Jordan and Dead Sea. (55550.M.0.1).
0400. Troopers London wire for composition and strength state of Yemeni Camel Contingent. (55560).
0817. XXIst Corps wire. Situation report. 54th Division occupied valley between Mejdal Yaba and Ras el Ain. Enemy outposts on ridge in 084.M.20 and M.21 fired on. (G.645).
0845. Troopers London wire for report on efficiency of 2nd Batt. L.N. Lancs. Regt. (55569 M.O.X).
1800. Descorps wire. Situation report. 3rd County of London Yeomanry and detachment 21st M.G. Squadron arrived high ground vicinity of Julis. (G.A.713).
1901. XXI Corps wire. Headquarters 28th Infantry Brigade now at Saron. (G.659).
1947. XX Corps wire. Situation report. 180th Brigade have been relieved by 1st L.H. Brigade plus 1 Regt. 2nd L.H. Brigade and G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division has assumed command of troops in Jordan valley. Anzac wire timed 1550 reported estimated force of 500 enemy mostly cavalry moving down from hills into Jordan Valley directly east of El Auja. No further news. 60th Division estimate total captures during operations East of Jordan at 48 officers and 853 other ranks of whom 1 officer and 66 other Germans. 10th Division report enemy have line of barbed wire 2 posts thick from H.22.C.99 to H.22.A.53. Deserters 4 namely 2 Arabs Damascus Hospital Sanitary Section and 2 Greeks 2/127th Regiment. (G.308).
1220. Wired XXth and XXIst Corps. Section 54th Division Field Coy. R.E. with 13th Pontoon Park will rejoin 54th Division arriving LUDD not later than night 6/7th. (OAM.322).
1435. Wired XXIst Corps to render report on present state of efficiency including health, training and strength of 2nd Loyal North Lancs. Regt. (OAM.323).
1930. Wired XXth Corps and Descorps that Worcester Yeomanry selected as Corps Cavalry Regt. to XXth Corps will not be available for the present. One Regiment ANZAC to be utilized pending their arrival.
1950. Wired Sirdar, Khartoum. During summer it is proposed that car patrols to El Shebb be discontinued. (OAM.325).
2330. Wired Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1053).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

1315. Wired XXth, XXIst Corps and Communications Ramleh. Equipments and animals of C/117 and C/268 Howitzer

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2. MISCELLANEOUS:

1315. Batteries, 74th Division with their proportion D.A.C. will be handed over to personnel of 53rd and 7th Indian Divisional Artillery respectively. These batteries will be then renumbered 439 and 438 respectively.
2145. Wired Troopers London. When reconstituted, proposed that Yeomanry Division should be known as 5th Cavalry Division. (E.A.1050).
2150. Wired Troopers London re transfer of 7th Indian Division Artillery to 52nd Division. (E.A.1051).
2310. Wired Troopers London. Reorganisation of Zeitoun School of Instruction. (E.A.1052).

Wrote all Corps, Force in Egypt and Inspector Palestine L. of C. that the Divisional Artillery of the 52nd (Lowland) Division is permanently transferred to the 7th (Indian) Division from this date, and will in future be known as the 7th (Indian) Divisional Artillery. The Divisional Artillery of the 7th (Indian) Division is permanently transferred to the 52nd (Lowland) Division from the same date, and will be known as the 52nd Divisional Artillery. (Z.86).

Wrote XXth and XXIst Corps, Force in Egypt and Inspector Palestine L. of C. Re-allocation of batteries of Royal Artillery in the E.E.F. (G.S.1054).

3. ORGANISATION:

Force Order No. 62. Abolition of sub-command Delta Force. (Force in Egypt.) (Copy No.41).

April 4th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0720. Wire from XXIst Corps. Situation unchanged. Nothing to report. (G.668).
0801. Wire from XXIst Corps. Add to situation wire received 0720:- Enemy fired 6 5.9" H.E. shells on Hill in A.14.a. and some bombs were thrown at same place during night. (G.670).
0820. Wire from XXth Corps. Situation report. Quiet on all Division fronts. Anzacs report all clear within two miles of Bridgehead. (G.317).
1046. Wire from XXIst Corps. Concentration of 52nd Division being now complete at Surafend, they are no longer under the orders of G.O.C., XXIst Corps. Addressed all concerned. (G.671)
1132. Wire from XXth Corps. 60th D.H.Q. now 113.G.10.D. (G.320).
1439. Wire from XXIst Corps. Hdqrs. 157th Infantry Bde now at Surafend. (G.676).
1815. Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Kerak captured by detachment of King of Hedjaz troops under Sheriff Abdulla Ibn Hamza. (G.H.244).
1846. Wire from XXIst Corps. Slight hostile shelling on 75th Divn front. Our Artillery silenced Trench Mortar

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1. OPERATIONS.

1846. Battery at 085.V.6.C. One deserter 43rd Divn. (G.680).

1910. Wire from XXth Corps. Situation report. Anzaacs report considerable movement of small parties of enemy cavalry and infantry in vicinity Shunet Nimrin and E. of Umm es Shert. These were engaged by our artillery. Slight shelling of our bridgehead. 10th Divn report occasional enemy shelling of H.34.C and South slopes of K.3. 4 prisoners one of whom belongs 71st Regt others no details yet. Deserters 5 of whom 1 Arab probably of 2/33rd Regt. 2 Turks 3/33rd Regt and 2 Turks 3/136, rest 53rd Divn. (G.326).

Wired to Troopers, (repeated as usual) - Evening report.
(E.A.1064).

XXIst Corps Order No.32 Operations, (reference Palestine Map 1/63360). (Copy No.32).

"Operations of XXIst Corps". Preliminary Instructions No.1 - Action of 159th Bde. Group (Reference Palestine Map 1/63360) (Copy No.17).

2. MISCELLANEOUS.

0945. Wired to Troopers London, regarding embarkation of units for France. (E.A. 1054).

1100. Wired to Troopers London, that the proposed scheme to form a unit of Camelry from the Yemini Contingent (Infantry) has been abandoned mainly owing to the difficulty of providing camels. (E.A.1056).

1235. Wired to Troopers, London, that we have raised 2 A.A. Sections from spare equipments for Alexandria and Kantara. (E.A.1060)

1305. Wired to Troopers, London, advising amendments, etc. "Order of Battle". (E.A.1061)

2140. Wired to Troopers London, requesting authority to form an Indian Veterinary Hospital and a Field Veterinary Detachment from Indian Field Veterinary Sections which have arrived from France. (E.A.1063)

2120. Wired to Troopers, London, re Signal Units XXIV Corps.
(E.A.1062)

Letter to Senior Military Officer, Egyptian Army regarding provision of personnel for a Railway Construction Company etc. (G.S.538).

Letter to G.O.C. Palestine Bde. R.A.F. giving present Order of Priority for aerial Photography. (G.S.939).

April 5th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0755. Wire from XXIst Corps. Situation report. Enemy shelled Hill in A.14.a. with 5.9 and 4.2 H.E. At 0500 enemy shelling Ghussaneh. P. and D. nil.

1225. Wire from XXIst Corps. Locations. Headquarters 3rd A.L.H. Bde O.71. J.22.c. Headquarters 4th A.L.H. Bde. J. 11.d. Headquarters 5th A.L.H. Bde. J.17.d. (G.704).

1534. Wire from XXIst Corps. Australian Mounted Division are now under command of G.O.C. XXIst Corps. Divisional Head-

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quarters has been established at Jewish Agricultural School, 071.L.1. addressed to all concerned. (G.695).

1810. Wire from XXIst Corps. Slight enemy shelling on Hill in 099.A.14.a. and Ras Ammar (085.X.6.) with mountain gun. Our artillery shelled enemy parties in 084.N.18.a. and M.24.d. with good results. One deserter 1st Coy. 2nd Labour Battn. Addressed as usual. (G.699)
1845. Wire to Troopers, London. Railway progress report for the month of March. (E.A.1066).
1847. Wire from XXth Corps. Situation report. Anzacs report enemy about 127.O.8 and 9 appear to be digging in. Enemy artillery fired from about 127.P.4.c. Imperial Camel Corps report enemy artillery fired from about 113.T.3. Nothing to report on remainder of Corps Front. Anzacs took 3 prisoners and 2 deserters, identification not yet known. 74th Division report 3 deserters, 2 Arabs, one Turk belonging 3rd battalion 136th Regt., 53rd Division. 10th Divn. report one deserter Turk 127th Regt. taken near Jiljilia. Usual addresses. (G.344).
2130. Wire from Commandant, Akaba, repeated Hedghog. From Dawnay the following. Begins:- In view of conversation with Clayton at Suez, do you still wish Lawrence's plan to proceed. Could at present intercept him if you approve. Wire instructions through Hedghog. Ends. (A.D.1/40).
2155. Wire to Troopers, London, repeated Salonika, Baghdad, Britannia, Ismalia and G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon. Evening report. E.A.1067

Wrote to G.O.C., XXIst Corps. The Commander-in-Chief approves proposals for operation to be carried out by the XXIst Corps. The XXth Corps, as arranged at the Commander-in-Chief's Conference held at G.H.Q. this morning, will not advance their line to Furkhah, but will take over the defence of Deir Ghussaneh and Berukin on 14th April. A bombardment of the enemy's positions opposite XXth Corps will be carried out on 15th April and following days. (Z/85/6).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements. (OAM329, 331, 332)

Memorandum to Stationery Depot, Alexandria, notifying changes in the E.E.F. (G.S.439).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

Letter from War Office, London, with reference to the employment of Pathan Squadrons of Indian Cavalry in Palestine. (G.S.1080).

Letter to War Office, London, forwards proposed revised War Establishment of the Palestine Brigade, Royal Flying Corps, for approval. (G.S.104/33).

Letter to War Office, London, forwards proposed revised War Establishment for the Egyptian Labour Corps. (G.S.268)

Bir Salem.
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April 6th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0742. XXIst Corps wire. Reports enemy patrol estimated at 30 strong was encountered in Wadi Lehham and driven off. Nothing further to report. (G.706).
0804. XXth Corps wire. Situation. Quiet night on whole front. Brigade on Auja front report column of troops composed of infantry and mounted troops and apparently artillery entering hills at 1800 yesterday on Roman Road about 113.U.20. (G.352)
1100. Wired to Hedghog, Cairo. Reference A.D.1/40 cipher of 5th. Consider Lawrence with his immediate programme, and then return here to consult Commander-in-Chief regarding future. (OAM.333).
1852. XXIst Corps wire. 200 Turks and transport seen entering Bidieh from N.E. at 1500. Two deserters, one belongs to 70th Regt, other is hospital orderly. (G.715).
1953. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Anzacs report enemy position in H.27.0.8/9 shelled throughout the day. Column of 3 squadrons Cavalry, 1 Coy Infantry seen to leave 112. N.20.b. at 0745 moved to 113.U.17.d. thence N.W. along Roman road. Enemy reported holding line about Wadi in 113.W.9.a./b. 74th Divn. report out artillery dispersed group 25 enemy in front of Hill in Q.2.a. at 1115. 1130 about 20 enemy who approached O.P. in Q.13.B. were driven off leaving 5 killed, 4 O.R. wounded. Rest of line quiet. Prisoners nil. Deserters 8, 3 Arabs belonging to 3/156 Regt, 53rd Divn deserted near Sinjil. 1 Arab, 1 Greek, 1 Turk, belonging 2/127th Regt. taken near Abwein. (G.357)
2150. Wired Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1073).
2245. XXIst Corps wire. In continuation Evening Situation Report. 0400 enemy party approached Ghussaneh and at 0530 under cover of mist reached ridge 500 yards N.E. Fire was opened on them and at 0715 enemy finally withdrew. Enemy strength estimated 30/40 and a covering party with M.G. Estimated enemy casualties 15 killed and wounded. Our casualties nil. (G.720).

Wrote all Corps. Forwards Minutes of the Commander-in-Chief's Conference, held at G.H.Q. on 5th April 1918, regarding plan of future operations. (Z/85/015).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

- Wire to Troopers London. Reference 54569 cipher dated 19th March, para 2, regarding organisation of five spare companies. (E.A.1069.)
- Wrote G.O.C., Force in Egypt and Inspector Palestine Lines of communication, regarding French Troops which it is proposed to move to a Training Camp at Ferry Post. (G.S.792)
1218. Descorps wire. 2nd County of London Yeomanry arrived Belah at 0900 to-day, and came under orders of Yeomanry Division. (G.A.748).
- Wrote G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps, approving the proposal to place one squadron Yeomanry Mounted Division at disposal

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of G.O.C. 75th Division on "Z" day. (Z/85/7).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

0400. Wire from Broadness, London, regarding Infantry Cadets Course at Zeitoun. (55753 cipher 335) S.D.4.
1825. Wire to Troopers, London, regarding reduction proposed in the establishment of revolvers. (E.A.1072).

Wrote Commandant, School of Instruction, Zeitoun, notifying alterations which will take place in the courses of instruction at the next cycle. (G.S.8/13/3)

Letter to War Office, London, forwards particulars of suggested improvements to the present pattern of tripod for the Hotchkiss Gun. (G.S.1065).

Bir Salem.
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April 7th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0715. XXth Corps wire. Situation unchanged. Daylight patrols report all clear 2 miles in front of Bridgehead outpost line. (G.361).
0749. XXIst Corps wire. Situation unchanged. Referring to last night's situation wire. 5 dead Turks brought in at Ghussaneh. (G.721).
1015. XXth Corps wire. 60th Divn Hdqrs now English Hospital Jerusalem. 179th Bde. Hdqrs at 100.H.6.c. 180th Bde moving to Tel el Sultan. 181st Bde Hdqrs Greek Hospice, Jerusalem. 158th Bde relieving 230th Bde. 231st Bde marching to Ramallah. 160th Bde Hdqrs at Ramallah. (G.363).
1804. XXIst Corps wire. Situation report. 1415, 100 mounted men, 150 Infy with transport left Kh. Kefr Thilth going south west. 1615 enemy planes forced down. One about P.7.b. the other thought about Bidieh. Prisoners nil. deserters 2, 81st Regt. (G.724).
1936. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. Slight movements all day between 127.F.18.c. and F.9.b. Reference 1/20000 map. A small patrol encounter E. of Kefr Ain A.24.9. enemy suffered 8 casualties. Deserters 1 Arab 1/32 Regt, 53rd Divn deserted about Q.34. 1 Arab 32nd Regt taken near Abwein H.26. (G.364).
1952. XXIst Corps wire. Locations. Hqrs. 159th Bde V.26.D.88. Ref. Bidieh 1/40000. (G.729)
2220. Wire to Troopers, London. Evening report. (E.A.1079)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0700. Wire from Troopers, London. Approval given for formation of 2 A.A. Sections, numbers 151 and 152 are allotted. (55835 cipher A.G.6).
0830. Wire from Troopers, London. Approval granted for proposals regarding signal units, i.e., formation of Indian Field Veterinary Hospital, and additional Cable Sections and Airline Section. (55874 cipher).
0930. Wire from Troopers, London, regarding reinforcements for France. (55843 cipher).

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1526. Wire from Perardua, Cairo, states full details to follow regarding upkeep of equivalent of 20 training squadrons in Egypt for Air Force. Meanwhile approval is required for new aerodrome sites at Helouan and El Rimal. (G.S.162)
1747. Wire from Troopers, London, regarding formation of Veterinary Hospitals with Indian personnel (69834 V.D. code.).
2155. Wire from Troopers, London, states Yeomanry Division after reconstitution will be called the Mounted Division. (55898 cipher).
2115. Wired Troopers, London, regarding health, numerical strength, physique and training, of the 2nd Loyal North Lancs.
- XXth Corps Order No.27. (Copy No.5).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

2140. Wire from Dirmilint, London, regarding question to be answered by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, 9/4/18, about affairs of Kingdom of Hedjaz. Sultanates Riyadh and Hail and countries adjoining. (55899 cipher)

April 8th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0747. XXIst Corps wire. Situation. 0315 enemy estimated about 10 rifles took up position on ridge W. of Umm el Bureid and opened fire on our post. Dawn patrol reported all clear. (G.732).
0760. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. 74th Divn. report considerable movement yesterday evening on 229th Brigade front, of transport camels mules and wagons. This would indicate a relief. Situation otherwise unchanged.
1815. XXIst Corps wire. This morning 120 of the enemy with transport left Bivouac area north of Rafat and proceeded North. Kh Emir 085.V.15.d. slightly shelled. No prisoners or deserters. (G.743).
1852. XXth Corps wire. Situation. Anzacs report parties of cavalry in all about two regts. and 100 infantry came down No.5 road during afternoon and turned north along foothills engaged by our artillery and forced to take cover. 1430 column of 300 cavalry about 127.G.13 dispersed by 60 pounders 74th Divn.report at 1115 2 hostile aircraft flew over 158th Bde and dropped one bomb in J.32.d.no damage was done. Deserters. One Arab,no details. (G.377)
1859. Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Kerak Arabs who are now actively pro-Sherif attacked stations at Khan-ez-Zebis, Ziza and Leb-ban meeting apparently with no opposition and after looting station buildings withdrew again. Turks still hold Kutrani and other principal points thence to Amman but stations named above evacuated doubtless to facilitate supply. Azeiza and Jurf will be reconnoitred by air when weather permits. This information supplied by Maynard as amplifying report as to Amman ridge (?bridge). (G.H.277).

XXIst Corps Operations Memorandum regarding Royal Air Force Co-operation. Copy No.15.

XXIst Corps Operations Memorandum. Preliminary instructions No.3. - Communications. Reference Palestine Map 1/63,360. Copy No.17.

Operations of XXIst Corps. Amendment No.2 to preliminary

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Instruction No.1. Action of 159th Brigade Group. Copy No.14.

1146. Wire to Troopers, London. Advises changes in dispositions etc. (E.A.1080).

2200. Wire to Troopers, London. Evening situation report, addressed as usual. (E.A.1084)

XXIst Corps order No.33. (Copy No.19)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0950. Wire to Descorps and XXIst Corps, relating to move of 6th Stafford Yeomanry. (OAM.340).

1150. Wire to Troopers, repeated G.H.Q., France, advises that on embarkation personnel of Field Artillery Bde. Hdqrs and Divl. Signal Co. of 52nd Divn. is according to W.Es. Nos. 501/16 and 501/69 but may be changed on arrival to W.Es. Nos. 560 and 557. (E.A.1081)

1920. Wire to Descorps repeated XXIst Corps, advising move of Descorps Bridging train. (O.A.M.342).

Memorandum to G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps. Yeomanry Divn. is to be called "The Mounted Division" after re-organisation Mounted Brigades to retain their present titles.

1950. Wire to Troopers, London, relating to the establishment of Indian Details Camp at Suez, on account of expansion and removal to Kantara of Indian Military Base Depot. (E.A.1083).

2000. Wire from Troopers, London. Re re-organisation of Zeitoun School. Approval given to Headquarters Training Staff, Brigadier General, etc. (55929 cipher).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

Letter to G.O.C., 74th Division. Copy of War Establishments, Part VII A, forwarded and comments with regard to adjustments, etc.

April 9th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0730. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. No change except that 10th Divn. had reoccupied at 0630 A.23. and were moving further as far as A.17.c. Daylight patrols report all clear 2 miles in front of Bridgehead. (G.381).

0800. XXIst Corps wire. 75th Divn. report they had occupied Rafat, El Kefr, Sheikh Nafukh, at 0525 hours. Hostile opposition at Rafat considerable. Enemy carried out five minute bombardment 070.V.10.c. at 0430 hours. (G.745)

1102. XXth Corps wire. 10th Division report 1010 attack on A.17.c. progressing. Artillery is dealing with Machine Guns who have been impeding the advance. (G.385).

1205. XXth Corps wire. 10th Divn. have occupied Hill A.16 and 17. (G.387).

1210. XXIst Corps wire. 75th Divn. report 1035 Somersets nearing top of hill A.10.c.1.1. after very considerable resistance. Left Brigade line under very heavy shell, rifle, and M.G. fire. Reference 1/40,000. (G.749).

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1245. Wire from Hedghog Cairo. From Sherif Feisal to King and Sherif ~~Rakrak~~ Abdulla as follows, begins:- Our troops after capture of Salt by British occupied railway at several points between Kutrani and Amman. Hope you will continue to destroy railway in your area - Ends. Addressed Yanbo, repeated Wejh and Eypforce. (G.H.278.cipher).
1536. XXIst Corps wire. 75th Divn.report our troops attacking Berukin and enemy counter-attacking our positions from V.3.d.25. to N.26.d. Much hostile artillery fire reported directed against attacking troops. Enemy are resisting stubbornly, and are occupying ridge in A.8.a.and b. and ground in A .11.and 12. Ref. 1/40,000. (G.754).
1915. XXth Corps wire. Situation report. 10th Divn advanced their line to Hill A.16 and 17. 600 enemy infantry located at 113.X.26 and 27. 1200 enemy cavalry reported advancing south from 113.W.4. Prisoners 32 taken and 2 M.Gs.by 10th Divn. Deserters 2 Arabs. 1 Turk Labour Corps surrendered to Anzacs. (G.391).
2140. XXIst Corps wire. General situation. 232nd B de.hold Hill in A.9.d. 10.C.15.b. 16.a. Berukin Ridge in A.8.a.and b. 233rd Bde.A.7.d.central point 1248,Point 1220 Rafat. 234th Bde thence through N.26.d. Three Bushes Hill. U.5.b. central Kh Ikba, U.4.a.central. (G.763).
2205. XXIst Corps wire. 75th Divn are resuming attack to-morrow at 0600. Objectives from Berukin through ridge in S.26.c. and d. to eastern slopes of Sh Subih about S.29.c. thence Arara to Rafat. (G.764).
2235. Wire to Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1086).
Force Order from XXIst Corps, regarding operations of Aus. Mtd.Divn. (Copy No.16)
Wrote all Corps respecting Commander-in-Chief's programme of future operations. (Z/85/8).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

2100. Wire from G.H.Q.France. Refers to provision of 1 G.S.wagon saddlery and pack saddlery for 52nd and 74th Divns on their transfer to France. (269.C.1.cipher).
1925. Wire to Troopers, London, regarding organisation of M.G. Squadrons. (E.A.1085 cipher)
2000. XXIst Corps wire. Regarding move of one battn Sikh Pioneers for work in Mejdal Yaba. (OAM.343)

Memorandum to "Q" notifying alterations proposed in transport.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

Wrote G.O.C.Desert Mounted Corps, regarding improvements to defiles. (G.S.1085).

Wire from Navy, S.S. Notifies S.S."Bengali" was torpedoed off Alexandria on 8/4/18. (2000 cipher)

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April 10th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0659. Wire received from XXIst Corps. 75th Division heavily attacked at Berukin about 0430. Situation there obscure. (G.768)
0806. XXth Corps wire situation report. Enemy shelled El Mussalabeh (113.W.34) with 77 mm. at 0420 this morning. Casualties 2 killed, 3 wounded. Otherwise quiet night on Anzac front. 74th Division, slight sniping during night. 10th Division intermittent firing at new positions. Our artillery dispersed 30 - 40 Turks in Wadi in front of right brigade. Relief of 74th Division by 53rd Division completed. (G.399)
0807. XXIst Corps wire that enemy is reported to have reached Berukin but have been driven out. At 0410 enemy opened short bombardment on 54th Division and at 0500 heavily shelled left of 75th Division. Prisoners captured yesterday include men of 3/702 Battalion and 48th regiment. (G.769).
0905. XXth Corps report that 53rd Divisional Headquarters is moving to Ludd to-day. (G.400)
1223. XXIst Corps wire situation report. 232nd Brigade have occupied Hill in S.26.c. with Turks in S.26.d. Advance of 233rd Brigade hung up in A.1.c., V.6.d., V.6.c., by M.G. and gun fire. Guns firing from Wadi Junction S.21.d. 233rd Brigade have reached N.29.c.9.5. and 5.0. Turks hold V.6.a. (Hill) and S.29.a. (Reference 1/40,000 Map) G.782.
1840. XXth Corps wire situation report. Anzac Division report light intermittent shelling on right sector. 10th Division report patrol entered Kurawa Ibn Zeid (A.18. - Map 1/20,000) without opposition. 53rd Division report light intermittent shelling in 099, J.32.a. and Felah, 099, L.18.d. G.405
1840. XXIst Corps wire situation report. About 1315 counter-attack on right of 232nd Bde. by Germans beaten off. One Company working west along Wadi Lehham and other troops working east, south of Rafat, to try to cut off enemy M.Gs. at V.6.a.2.5. which are holding up advance. V.6.a. rushed twice frontally, but unsuccessful. Counter-attack on Arara beaten off with loss to enemy. Heavy 15 cm. fire all morning on 233rd Brigade. 1 M.G., 2 prisoners captured. 7th Division took 2 deserters 2/63 Regt. (G.785).
1859. XXIst Corps wire situation report. 2/3rd Gurkhas captured ridge east of Kh.Susieh. Heavy German and Turk counter-attack coming down Wadi Lehham through Kh.Susieh broke through right of Wilts Regt. and advanced on El Kefr. Barrage put down and one Company 2/3rd Gurkhas and 1 Company Wilts holding up enemy advance. Two battalions 159th Brigade proceeded to relieve Berukin have been temporarily detached to secure Kefr under 232nd Brigade. One battalion 159th Brigade to Mughair Ahmeh under 233rd Brigade till situation clears. Barrage has checked Turks. 233rd Bde. taking measures to catch enemy in flank. (G.787)
2011. XXIst wire situation report. 233rd Brigade report 1/4th Wilts retired slowly, protecting left flank of 2/5th Hants Some Gurkhas and Hants with them. Turks did not seem pressing ^{on} hard. Wilts now in position across A.7.a., facing north-east. 58th Rifles, less 2 companies, with one company Devons in position across top of square A.7.d

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Six Lewis guns on V.12.b. (G.792).

220 9. XXIst Corps wire situation report. Enemy counter-attack suffered heavily under our barrage and fell back to ridge in S.26.c. and a. A number of Gurkhas who were holding this ridge and were cut off have joined Hants including all officers except one. Line now runs A.15.b. - Berukin - A.8.b. - A.7.a. - A.12.b. - Arara - Rafat. (G.798)

2218. XXIst Corps wire situation report. The arrangements for tonight are:- One battalion 159th Brigade relieves one battalion 232nd Brigade on ridge in A.8.b. Arrangements for tomorrow or tomorrow night - 159th Brigade H.Q. to 232nd Brigade H.Q. 159th Brigade take over A.15.b. and Berukin. On relief 232nd Brigade become 75th Division Reserve. (G.797).

Received XXIst Corps Order Nos. 35, 34, and addendum to Instructions as to Air Force Co-operation.

2230. Cabled evening situation report to Chief, London, repeated as usual (F.A. 1087).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Letter to G.O.C., Force in Egypt, with reference to formation of two new Anti-Aircraft Sections, (G.S. 165).

Letter to War Office enclosing copies of proposed War Establishments for Indian Cable Section and Mixed British-Indian Airline Section (G.S. 1049/3).

Letter to War Office enclosing establishment for a Machine Gun Battalion (G.S. 1041).

Letter to War Office enclosing detailed establishments for the Imperial School of Instruction (G.S. 997).

Wire to Commandant Tel El Kebir, repeated G.O.C. Force in Egypt and G.O.C. XXI. Corps, stating that Indian officers will be attached to 7th Division and not to 75th Division as previously arranged (G.S. T.285).

Wire received from Troopers giving instructions that the 2nd Loyal North Lancs. Regt. should be sent to France after the Yeomanry (56039).

Wire received from Troopers stating that Maltese Battalion cannot be raised owing to failure of recruiting. W.O. telegram 54700 is therefore cancelled (56030).

April 11th.

0759. 1. OPERATIONS.

XX Corps wire. Anzac Division report about 0600 about 2000 enemy in open order advanced along line of road running through 127.0.16 and 22, and are now in contact with GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. Our guns are shelling them effectively. 0400 AUJA Sector. Heavy enemy shelling since 0400 and enemy now developing attack against EL MUSELLABEH, 113.w.34.d. 53rd Division no change. (G.415)

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- Apr. 11th. 0837. XXI Corps wire. 54th Division report heavy bombardment of left sub-section right section 0500 to 0510. About 6 batteries 77 mm. bombarded MEJDEL YABA sweeping left and towards WADI BALLUT. 54th Division report artillery activity against left company 28th Punjabis apparently from SISTERS 0450 to 0510. (G.800)
1101. XX Corps wire. Attack on MUSALLABBEH checked. Enemy active about W.26 and 27. Enemy fired 40 shells in minute during attack. Attack on Bridgehead in progress, situation well in hand, and severe casualties have been inflicted on enemy. All clear in areas south of line GHORANIYEH - TELEIL - MUSLIM also area about MANDESI FORD and at TEL EL TRUNY, 113.T.23.d. (G.418)
1233. XX Corps wire. Situation on Anzacs front quieter, shelling of bridgehead and AUJAH defences continues intermittently. (G.420)
1347. XXI Corps wire. Reference 1/40000 54th Division will take over the left of 75th Division to-night as far as M.30 central inclusive to 75th Division. ~~XX~~ 75th Division can arrange to cover this front with artillery if 54th Division wish. (G.805)
1356. XXI Corps wire. Reference Corps Order No. 33 of 8th para 3(A) and (C) date for 7th Division to advance their line is postponed. Date later. (G.806)
1420. XX Corps wire. Anzacs report AUJAH Sector quiet except little shelling and sniping. Enemy have 500 men under cover N. of MUSELLABEH. GHORANIYEH sector our guns bombarding enemy whose main strength is between WADI NIMRIM and No. 6 road. In the centre enemy are within 300 yards of our wire. 1st L.H. Brigade have sent troops outside bridgehead to envelope the enemy. Prisoners captured so far - 2 officers 31 other ranks. (G.421).
1430. XXI Corps wire. Reference corps order No. 35 of 10th paras 3, 4, 5 and 6, dates are postponed. Details later. (G.807).
1559. XXI Corps wire. Enemy stretcher party with large red cross flag collected wounded at A.1.d.6.8. 234th Brigade report line was advanced 250 yards on THREE BUSHES HILL. Enemy caused us casualties with large grenades and accurate shell fire. (G.809).
1726. XX Corps wire. 3rd L.H. Regt. held up by heavy M.G. fire 2000 yards west of SHUNET NIMRIN and now slowly withdrawing to bivouac. 1st L.H. Regt. squadron held up by M.G. from 127.R.14 and 20 and now withdrawing. Patrol to 127.Q.34 report all clear to the South¹ (G.423).
1844. XXI Corps wire. 1100 some enemy movement in S.28.d. dispersed by artillery. Enemy casualties this morning in front of one battalion estimated at 60 killed and wounded. Sniping continues on left of 75th Division front. 6 prisoners belonging to 20th, 28th, and 702nd battalions. (G.815).

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- 1917.XX Corps wire. Situation GHORANIYEH Sector. Our attempted enveloping movement was held up by rifle and machine gun fire about 127.K.15 and P.31 and regiment making it has now returned. AUJAH Sector. Enemy bombarded MUSSALEBEH (113.W.34) and attacked about 1600 but was driven back with loss. In fighting throughout day in GHORNAIYEH Section 2 officers and 51 O.R. have been captured by us and a number of dead can be seen in front of our trenches. (G.424).
- 2201.XXI Corps wire. 75th Division now report THREE BUSHES HILL being heavily bombarded and attacked. 2/4th Dorsets are being pushed up to support this part of line. (G.821).
- 2234.XX Corps wire. Reference corps order No. 27 of 7th and GZ.28/7 of to-day addressed to 60th Division. 181st Brigade Group will not march to RAMALLAH until further orders. (G.426).
- 2235.XXI Corps wire. 232nd Brigade report machine gun located A.10.b.55. Our guns firing on it. 234th Bde. reports after hurricane bombardment enemy at 1900 attacked THREE BUSHES HILL; attack was beaten off. (G.822).
- 2245.Wired Troopers London repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1093).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

- 0720.Troopers London wired. No change contemplated in organisation of Machine Gun Squadron. (56123 S.D.2).
- 1125.Wired Troopers London. Amendments to Order of Battle. (E.A.1088).

Wrote Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade and 20th Indian Infantry Bde. that India had been requested to increase the number of British officers from 4 to 6 in each Regiment of Imperial Service Cavalry and Infantry with F.E.F. (G.S.649).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, London. Distribution of units on Palestine L. of C. and Force in Egypt. (Z.84).

1. OPERATIONS.

Apr. 12th.

- 0800.XXI Corps wire. Enemy now appears to hold crest of THREE BUSHES HILL. 123rd Rifles hold position on southern slope of hill. Desultory firing and constant sniping continues in this sector. (G.823).
- 0810.XX Corps wire. Mounted troops pushing out towards NIMRIN. Camel Bde. patrols engaged with snipers on their front but believe majority enemy force has withdrawn. (G.430).
- 1147.XX Corps wire. Relief mentioned in para 3 (A) of XX Corps GZ.28/5 of 9th inst. is postponed until further orders. (G.432).

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Apr. 12th. 1230. XX Corps wire. GHORANIYEH Sector patrols to P.20 report enemy holding foothills in strength but no movement could be seen N. or S. Enemy position covers No. 5 road and SHUNET NIMRIN. We have taken 30 prisoners here this morning and are collecting enemy wounded. The attack on bridgehead yesterday was very heavily repulsed. Enemy spent all night burying dead. 367 bodies still lie unburied before 1st L.H.Bde. defences. (G.434).

1824. XXI Corps wire. 1 German officer and 1 other rank were killed out of a party of 1 officer and 4 other ranks who attempted to advance towards our lines. (G.834).

1902. XX Corps wire. Attempted forward movement by 2nd L.H. Brigade at 1140 held up by heavy artillery, rifle and M.G. fire. (G.440).

2130. Hedghog Cairo wire. Preparations will be completed April 16th. Operations as arranged commence about April 18th. (GH.6/1).

Amendment to XXI Corps orders No's 33, 34 and 35. (Copy No. 20).

2200. Wired Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening Report. (F.A.1096).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Wrote XXI Corps that 2nd Bn. Loyal North Lancs. Regt. will shortly proceed to France. (Z/86/2).

Wrote Desert Mtd. Corps, Force in Egypt and Insp. Palestine L. of C. Reorganisation of the Mounted Troops in this Force. (G.S.1024).

Wrote XX Corps. Indian Battalions allotted to 10th Division. (Z/81).

Apr. 13th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0802. XX Corps wire. Anzacs report MUSALLABEH 113.W.35.c. shelled between 0600 and 0630. (G.443).

1430. Hedghog Cairo wire. Preliminary operations have commenced north and south of MAAN. For some days, regular or detailed reports should not be expected. (GH.S/2.)

1814. XXI Corps wire. Deserter from Cavalry Squadron, 19th Division (attached 57th Regt.) taken by 7th Division states 57th, 77th Regts. in line, 72nd in reserve. (G.845).

1956. XXI Corps wire. Turks during counter-attack on THREE BUSHES HILL on night 11th/12th suffered casualties estimated not less than 200. (G.846).

2000. Wired Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report - no change in the situation. (F.A.1097).

Palastine
Wrote Inspector/L. of C. re 5000 refugees from Es Salt. (G.S.940/2).

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Wrote G.O.C. Force in Egypt, re assistance Navy are prepared to give in defence of Ports against Zeppelin attacks. (G.S.104/32).

Outline of XXI Corps Operations (Ref. 1" Map). (Z/85/06).

Wrote XX Corps. Demonstration to be made against enemy holding positions about SHUNET NIMRIN. (Z.85/9).

2. MOVES/ AND ORGANISATION.

Wrote Liaison Officer, French Palestine Detachment re training portion of the French Contingent as first line troops. (G.S.792).

Disposition of L. of C. Troops on 13/4/18 (Copy No. 2).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, London requesting increase in establishment of Egyptian Military Police. (G.S.229/1).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, London. Revised Establishments Inland Water Transport. (G.S.484).

Apr. 14th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0743. Wire from XXI Corps. At 0425 enemy put down 3 minute barrage 77 mm. shrapnel and H.F. about U.1. central and U.2.b. and repeated at 0440 and 0500. Estimated 3 batteries engaged. Same period some shelling of WADI KEHHAM and MUGHAIR. No infantry action developed. (G.851).

0803. Wire from XX Corps. Enemy shelled Wadis N.E. of DEIR GHUSSANEH from 0400 till 0545. Light shelling of mounted patrols round MUSSALLABEH otherwise situation unchanged. (G.430).

0945. Wire from AKABA, repeated ARAB BUREAU. Message as under from Maynard commences. Progress of main operations to midnight 12/13th. 200 rails South of ANEIZAH Station have been destroyed by Northern half column which is now operating on railway above WADI JERSAM. During night 11/12th GHADIR-EL-HAJ Station was seized by Southern half column who captured 25 prisoners and 2 officers and destroyed about 1000 rails. Minor attacks are in progress by BENI SAKHR above LHAZA and BENI ATTYEH above MUDOWARA. (72513/96 cipher).

0956. Wire from XXI Corps. Headquarters 75th Divn. now at V.27.A.52. Ref. BIDIEH 1/40,000. (G.852).

1330. Wired to 3 Corps, cancelling operations mentioned in this office letter Z/85/8. (OAM.363).

1430. Wired to BRITANNIA, PORT SAID, cancelling operations as mentioned in Z/85/8. (E.A. 1099 cipher).

1821. Wire from XX Corps. Situation. GHORANIYEH Sector. 100 yards enemy trenches observed on right bank WADI NIMRIN 127.P.23.a. Enemy working party seen 127.R.16.a. 6 prisoners taken. AUJAH Sector. Patrol to UM ES SHERT

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experienced rifle and m.g. fire from west bank. Our patrol is in touch with the enemy just on south bank of WADI BAKR about W.22. Patrol to 099.A.17.b.7.6. came under rifle fire. One deserter to 53rd Division. (G.431).

1940.Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Following from Sherif Abdulla to King (begins). Since April 8th our troops have been making continual attack on railway north and south of MAAN (ends). (G.H.332).

2200.Wire from Troopers, repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1101. cipher).

Wrote to 3 Corps, cancelling the instructions contained in this office letter Z/85/8, dated 9th April, and also with ~~future~~ reference to future programme of operations. (Z/85/10).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0450.Wire from Troopers, London. Regarding substitution of British by Indian personnel, on account of situation in France. (56296 cipher).

0845.Wire from Troopers, London. Regarding despatch of 5 M.G.Companies to France. (56336 cipher).

Apr. 15th.

1. OPERATIONS.

Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Message as under received from FEISAL addressed King. Commences, Fighting south of MAAN continues. GHADIR Station was occupied by our troops and 10 miles of railway destroyed. Captures comprise 150 prisoners, 6 officers and doctor. Sherif FAHAD and NURI BEY SAAD commanded with ours and French guns. First line of defence SAMNEH taken after 3 hours' fighting. Fighting at MAAN continues, satisfactory progress made. Concludes. (G.H.336).

0725.Wire from XX Corps. Quiet night. One prisoner taken by 53rd Division. (G.468).

0817.Wire from XXI Corps. Situation unchanged. Some enemy sniping in left subsector 75th Division front. (G.865).

1045.Wire from AKABA. Lawrence is compelled to abandon original plan owing to unforeseen development of situation. At present engaged in second alternative in conjunction with these operations. (73414/65 cipher).

1100.Wire from AKABA. Operations to midnight 12/13th South of GHADIR EL HAJ a small garrison captured and 3 culverts destroyed. Northern Column captured Station between ANEIZAH and MAAN, taking 200 rpsioners and 2 machine guns. At daybreak Central Column attacked SEMNEH, 5000 yards off MAAN, taking 30 prisoners and one machine gun, remainder retired on MAAN. (73114/80 cipher).

1415.Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Probably SAMNEH (Referred to in wire of 14th) of SEMENA is Turkish position covering the western defences of MAAN. (G.H.345 cipher).

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1550. Wire from Commandant, AKABA. Message from Maynard as follows :- On night 14/15th raiding operations Northern Column captured 1 machine gun, and up to now has destroyed nearly (?) 1000 rails. North of DERRA a troop train was destroyed by FLADZ (?).
(73915/52 cipher).
1806. Wire from XXI Corps. Slight shelling of WADI BALLUT A.15.c. and Wadi MUTWY near BERUKIN. One prisoner 2/88th Regt. and one deserter 3rd Railway Labour Battalion.
(G.869).
1818. Wire from XX Corps. Situation. Anzac Mtd. Divn. report ford at UMM ES SHERT 127.F.2. 1-inch map held by 1 squadron enemy cavalry. 10th and 53rd Divisions, no change. 2 deserters.
(G.476).
2330. Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Message as under to King from FEISAL commences:- At MAAN no change to-day. Our army at AZRAK under ALI IBN HUSSEIN attacked railway near DERRA on March 25th destroying a train and killing all the passengers. Concludes. Suggest that until confirmation this be accepted with reserve.
(G.H.352, cipher).
2200. Wire to Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening report.
(E.A.1104, cipher)
2200. Wire to Troopers, London, forwards particulars of line held and changes in dispositions. (E.A.1103 cipher)

2. MOVES AND ORGANIZATION.

0102. Wire from Troopers. Reference War Establishment No. 879 for Field Survey Company, R.E., numerical designation of this company will be 7th. (70683 code, A.G.7.b.)
1400. Wire to Troopers, regarding embarkations various battalions for France. (E.A.1108 cipher).
2323. Wire from XXI Corps, relating to moves of Corps.
(G.874).

Memorandum to "D.M.S." regarding scheme of reorganization of British and Indian Battalions owing to situation in France.
(Z/81).

Apr. 16th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0900. Hedghog, Cairo wired. Left flank under Sherif ZEID and JAAFAR PASHA attacked railway and occupied ABU EL GIR (?) AM station, taking 2 machine guns and 100 prisoners. Position gained at SENEH has been consolidated and TAILAR and MAAN are almost surrounded. Our casualties are 8 killed and 12 wounded including MALUD EL SAAD. Further report from ZEID states that GIRDARA station has been taken, 7 bridges and about 1½ miles of rail destroyed, 3 German machine guns and rations captured.
(G.H.349).
1545. Hedghog, Cairo wired. FEISAL'S Army is operating in three columns. Southern column attacked and captured CHADIR EL HAJ station, 10 miles S.E. of MAAN, during

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night 11/12th capturing 2 officers and 25 other ranks. On 12th, garrison of small Turkish post was captured and 3 culverts and 1000 rails were destroyed. Northern column attacked railway about one mile N. of WADI ABU JERSAM, having first destroyed 200 rails S. of ANEIZAH station. On 13th they captured JERSUN station taking 2 machine guns and 200 prisoners. 3000 rails have been destroyed and on 14th another machine gun was captured. Central column stormed the SENNA position 5000 yards S. of MAAN at daybreak on 13th capturing 1 machine gun and 30 prisoners. Remainder of enemy garrison retired on MAAN. Minor operations have been made in conjunction with these three main attacks by BENI ATOYEH north of MUDOWERE and by BENI SAKR north of EL HESA.

(G.H. 356).

1817.XX Corps wired. Enemy patrol of 12 cavalry engaged by Anzacs in S.12 and 5 of them captured. Prisoners 7 deserters ~~5~~ all to Anzacs. (G.492).

2240.Wired Troopers London, repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1111).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- G.A.811, O.A.M.373, O.A.M.376.
Letter to XX Corps and Inspec. Palestine L. of C. - G.S.165.

1850.Wired Troopers London. Request for numeral prefix to the title of "Mounted Division". (E.A. 1109).

Apr. 17th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0733.XX Corps wired. Between 2100 and 2400 enemy shelled in rear of 53rd Division line. (G.500).

0736.XXI Corps wired. At 1730 enemy shelled BALLUT. 161st Brigade relieved by 162nd Infantry Brigade. (G.891).

1910.Hescorps wired. Proposed to move one brigade Ausdiv. so as to arrive TALAT ED DUMM 22nd. Remainder of Ausdiv. so as to arrive TALAT ED DUMM 23rd. (G.A.833).

1911.XX Corps wired. Anzacs have reported considerable movement northward on both ~~flanks~~ banks of Jordan during day. About 600 enemy infantry with a few mounted men were seen moving N. out of WADI BAKR. Our patrol reached 113.X.19.a and b. It experienced a little rifle fire from WADI MELLAHAH about 113.X.14 and saw no enemy in front. Considerable movement of enemy cavalry northward from SHUNET NIMRIN was observed this morning. (G.507).

2200.Hedghog, Cairo wired. On 8/4/18 demolition party of Egyptian Army destroyed 5 kilometres of railway and telegraph and 3 large culverts between ZUMURRUD and SEIL MATARA. Known casualties of Turks 9 killed and 1 prisoner. Arab and Egyptian army casualties. (G.H.365).

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2213.XX Corps wired. Anzac Mounted Division report reconnaissance Squadron A.L.H. held up this afternoon by machine gun in 113.R.36.b and 113.W.32.a. and shelled by battery in Wadi 113.R.29.b. Enemy cavalry patrols found on line east and west through squares 113.X.18, 20, 21 and 22.

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- OAM.379,
OAM.381, OAM.380.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

1435.Troopers London wired. Numbers of limbered G.S.wagons to be brought by 74th Division. Total 225.
(56535).

Wrote Desert Mtd. Corps re Indian Wing at ZEITOUN.
(G.S.8/24).

Wrote XX and XXI Corps forwarding copies of Provisional War Establishment for a Machine Gun Battalion.
(G.S.1041).

1040.Wired Troopers London. Employment of a G.S.O.l. in CYPRUS is no longer necessitated by situation here. Lieut.-Colonel Belgrave's services can therefore be spared.
(E.A.1112).

Apr. 18th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0756.XX Corps wire. Quiet night. Our heavies bombarding MORMIN 0715 this morning.
(G.514).

0800.XXI Corps wire. Some shells and rifle fire on BOND HILL 084.C.2.d. at 1900 hours 17th.
(G.904).

1500.Hedghog, Cairo wire. Regarding Press Bureau Communications concerning MAAN operations. Suggest that communications are not issued until further report from Maynard or Dawnay// comes to hand.
(G.H.372).

1753.XX Corps wire. Situation reports in future from the 10th and 53rd Divisions as far as possible will refer to the 1/40,000 map. When it is necessary to use 1-inch map as on the right of the 53rd Division the fact will be stated.
(G.523).

1814.XXI Corps wire. Some slight shelling of Wadi LEHHAM and BALLUT RIDGE. 2 prisoners and 3 deserters all 21st Regiment, 7th Division.
(G.912).

1847.XX Corps wire. Anzac Mounted Division report enemy holding Wadi BAKR from 113.W.33.a. and b., thence S.W. to T.6., TEL EL TRUNY (113.T.24) patrol report 30 enemy observed in Wadi BAKR. On AUJA sector our 60-pdr section exploded enemy ammunition dump in 113.W.5.b.5.4. 53rd Division report at 2200 last night enemy attempted attack on posts L.5.d. and L.11.c. Attack driven off.
(G.526).

2215.XX Corps wire. Systematic bombardment of enemy's positions from 127.R.11. to 127.P.17. was carried out

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at frequent intervals to-day. Registration for to-morrow was also carried out. (G.531).

1915. Wired Hedghog, Cairo in reply to G.H.372. Suggestions approved. (OAM.389).

1950. Wired Troopers, London repeated as usual. Evening report. Situation unchanged. (F.A.1115).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires regarding Corps movements:- 56663, 56585 cipher D.M.O., Circular memorandum from Desert Mounted Corps. (G.O.34).

2215. Wired Troopers London. Reorganisation in staff of Hejaz Mission. (F.A.1118).

Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding for sanction establishment for an Indian Infantry Base Depot. (G.S. 1100).

2200. Wired Troopers, London. A complete division or brigade of fighting troops complete with transport and equipment would be gladly welcomed. (F.A.1117).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

Circular Memorandum G.S.1042.

Apr. 19th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0400. Wire from Wingate, Cairo. Southern Hejaz Operations, 1930. Damage was done to permanent way and several trucks destroyed by demolition party under Sherif SHERAF who exploded 700 charges on railway between MESHED and SEIL MATSO from Kilo 1029 to 1032. (G.H.377).

0747. Wire from XXI Corps. Yesterday morning our artillery dispersed parties in M.10 and N.19. A five minute bombardment was carried out at 1015 on KEFR KASIM to catch enemy relief. At 2100 patrol encountered about 60 enemy between BELJA sheet V.10.c. and 15.b. (G.532).

0808. Wire from XX Corps. Situation Report. 0600 1st L.H. Bde. and N.Z.M.Bde. moving towards NIMRIN. 2nd L.H. Bde moving towards KABR HUTAHID. Enemy guns have opened, but very little musketry fire. 1st A.L.H. Regt. has passed through usual outpost line and at present can only observe a few enemy in main defences. (G.532).

0900. Wire from Commandant, AKABA. Operations carried out on 15th, 16th and 17th, against outworks MAAN resulted in their capture with 2 machine guns and 70 prisoners. Main position about railway station was assaulted on 17th April and station temporarily occupied. The enemy trenches are very strong with concrete machine gun positions which make it inadvisable to develop general attack without extensive artillery preparation. Pending the arrival of ammunition, Arabs are entrenching in first position gained which commands town and

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- railway. Their loss about 250. (754 cipher).
1045. Wired XX Corps, requesting report on possibility of suspension bridge over JORDAN being constructed to take three-tin lorries. (O.A.M.392).
1753. Wire from XXI Corps. Situation unchanged. BERUKIN shelled for half an hour this morning. No prisoners or deserters. (G.923).
1850. Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Operations, Northern Hejaz. As a result of operations outer defences MAAN April 15th, 16th, 17th, 70 prisoners and 2 machine guns were captured. (Note :- The remainder of wire repeats information contained in wire from Commandant, AKABA). (G.H.380 cipher)
1904. Wire from XX Corps. Situation. 5th L.H. Regt. held up West of KABR MUJAHID 127.W.19. by frontal and enfilade gun-fire. On this flank the enemy occupy trenches summit of ~~ka~~ hill at KABR MUJAHID. Sangars on crest of foot-hills S.E. of MUJAHID also strongly held. Our patrol at 127.T.12.a. came under rifle fire from KABR SAID 127.Y.1.d. We shelled enemy cavalry regiment in 127.W.28.d. Enemy holding foot-hills E. of KABR MUJAHID estimated at 1000. On left 3rd L.H. Regt. captured hill 2000 yards N. of ARSENIYET road but could make no further advance. Orders for withdrawal have been issued. (G.535).
1951. Wire from XX Corps. With regard to the construction of suspension bridge across JORDAN Chief Engineer considers it impossible to make existing bridge to take motor lorries. (G.538).
2130. Wired Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening Report, also report on operations in the Hedjaz regarding Arab attacks on MAAN on 15th, 16th and 17th April. (F.A.1120 cipher)

Wrote to G.O.C. XXI Corps, regarding the failure in action of the 98th Indian Infantry attached to 58th Rifles, and future training. (G.S. B/16102).

Wrote to 3 Corps, regarding information given to the enemy by prisoners taken by them, and suggests steps should be taken to explain to all ranks how such conduct endangers the success of operations. (G.S.1103).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0400. Wire from Troopers, regarding preliminary training of Yeo. Regiments - M.G. Battalions, awaiting embarkation for France. (56716 cipher).
0400. Wire from Troopers. Approval granted for establishment Field Remount Section. (56647 cipher).
0900. Wire from Troopers. New formation to be called 1st Mounted Division. (56674 cipher).
0938. Wire from Chief, SIMLA. Requests report of work done by Calcutta Motor Machine Gun Battery and method of disposal of equipment. (30539 code)

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1715. Wire from Chief, SIMLA. Correction notified respecting wire of 18th inst. 1st/56th Rifles instead of 55th Rifles for number 17 Battalion. (30731 cipher).

0940) Daily wires relating to Corps movements.
1045) (O.A.M.391, O.A.M.393).

Apr. 20th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0736. Wire from XXI Corps. Situation normal. 1640 enemy shelled KAUWASH. 1700 to 1730 our artillery dispersed enemy parties in N.20.a. and M.10.d. (G.930).

0810. Wire from XX Corps. Situation report. Anzac Divn. completed withdrawal during the night and are continuing to keep in touch with enemy by patrols. (G.543).

1803. Wire from XXI Corps. Situation unchanged. Slight shelling reported on 75th Div. front. No prisoners or deserters. (G.940).

1815. Wire from Hedghog, Cairo. Northern Hedjaz Operations. For 24 hours ending 1730 to-day nothing to report. (G.H.390 cipher).

1910. Wire from XX Corps. Anzacs report enemy holding foothills about SHUNET NIMRIN this morning, and to have reinforced their right flank about 127.G.13.d. L.A.M. Battery dispersed 80 cavalry inflicting 5 casualties. (G.552).

1940. Wire from XXI Corps. On night 21/22 April left of 75th Division will withdraw from line north of WADI LEHHAM to positions south thereof and line will run approximately North of RAFAT, V.3.B.D.C. - V.2.D & C. - V.1.D. & C. - U.6. central - KH. UMM EL IKBA. The portion between N.26.d. and THREE BUSHES (exclusive) has already been withdrawn to V.1. and 2. (G.944).

1950. Wire to Troopers, repeated as usual. Evening report. (E.A.1123, cipher).

2255. Wire from Troopers. Information required regarding reported armistice with Turks for burial of British dead. (56766. cipher. M.O.2.)

Force Order No. 63 (Copy No. 19).

Wrote Desert Mounted Corps, giving instructions regarding proposed operations in the country between the JORDAN and the line MADEBA, ES SALT, etc. (Z./85/11.)

Wrote Desert Mounted Corps, containing further instructions for operations East of the JORDAN. (Z./85/12.)

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0915. Wire from India, relating to the formation of further Indian Infantry units. (30613. cipher).

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1100. Wire from India, regarding method of organizing new Indian units for field service in EGYPT and INDIA. (30612. cipher).

Daily wires relating to Corps movements. (O.A.M.397/8/9).

Wrote G.O.C. Force in Egypt. Decision will be notified later on the question of the organisation of Light Armoured Cars Batteries and Light Car Patrols. (G.S. 231).

Letter to War Office, London. Forwards proposed establishment regarding the formation of an Economic Intelligence Section. (G.S.721/3).

Letter to all Corps concerned regarding allotment of Indian battalions to divisions and future moves. (Z/81).

Apr. 21st. 1. OPERATIONS.

0745. Wire from XXI Corps. Patrol to 098, A.8.a.7.8. brought in 4 M.G. spare barrels, 1 A.R. spare barrel, 2000 rounds S.A.A. and found 15 enemy dead. 1610 to 1730 enemy parties in 084, M.10, M.18, M.24, dispersed by our artillery. (G.950).

0804. Wire from XX Corps. Situation. Anzac Division no change. 53rd Division sniping active in night until moonset. 10th Division no change. (G.564).

0812. Wire from XX Corps, reports on operations ~~of~~ by Anzac Mounted Divn. on 19th instant in the region of KABR MUJAHID, SHUNET NIMRIN, TELIL MUSLIM. The result of the day's operations was to locate the enemy's position on line 127.G.13 - P.3. - P.10 - P.22. - P.33. - R.17. - W.19. - W.32.b. - W.32.d. - Y.1. - Y.7. The position was escheloned back on flanks with considerable depth throughout. Our casualties 19 other ranks and 68 horses. (G.563).

1915. Wire from XX Corps. Situation. AUJAH Sector patrols towards UMM ES SHERT met with slight rifle fire from Ford. GORANIYEH Sector patrols came under slight artillery fire from 127.R.5.central and rifle fire from 127.G.13.d. 53rd Division report slight shelling during day by heavy guns of back areas near NABLUS ROAD.

2204. Wire from Wingate, Cairo. Operations Southern Hejaz. 700 rails and 2 culverts have been destroyed by an Arab Detachment under Sherif SHARAF between DAR EL HAMRA and MATAILLI also 3 culverts and some rails between MATAILLI and ABU TAKA. One prisoner was taken, and 8 Turks killed. (G.H.396. cipher).

2000. Wire to XXI Corps. Requests report on circumstances which led to the collection of both our and enemy dead and wounded under cover of Red Cross flag during recent fighting on 75th Division front. (O.A.M. 403).

2120. Wire to Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening report. (F.A.1128. cipher).

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Operation Order No. 14, received from Desert Mounted Corps. (Copy No. 3).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0400. Wire from Britforce, Salonika, regarding embarkation of 61st H.A. Group, H.Q. with batteries and signal equipment. (Q.A.2041.cipher).
1030. Wire from Chief, Simla, regarding return to INDIA of British officers, Indian Cavalry. (31104).
0930. Wired Troopers, London, regarding new Indian Infantry Battalions. (F.A.1124).
1130. Wired Troopers, London, regarding scale of equipment and transport British Infantry Battalions for France. (F.A.1125).
1240. Wired Troopers, London. Additions and alterations April Order of Battle. (F.A.1126).
1300. Wire to 3 Corps. Moves, 9th Mountain Artillery Brigade. (O.A.M.400).

Wrote to G.O.C., XX Corps. No further Sound Ranging Sections are available at the present time. (G.S.663).

Wrote to G.O.C., XXI Corps, and Zeitoun School, regarding squadrons of Herts Yeomanry at Zeitoun and with the XXI Corps Cavalry Regiment, relieving each other. (G.S.247/2).

Wrote all Corps with respect to the formation of new Indian Battalions. (Z/81).

Letter to War Office, explaining the reason for the increase in establishment of cars now asked for in Palestine, and at G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon. (G.S. 721).

Apr. 22nd.

I. OPERATIONS.

0747. XXI Corps wire. Withdrawal to new line South of WADI LEHHAM completed. Small enemy party approached our lines E. of RAFAT but retired rapidly when fired on. Patrol to A.8.a.7.8. (BIDIEH Sheet) brought in more material. (G.957).
0803. Patrols from GORANIYEH report strong enemy post with machine gun at 127.B.21 and enemy gun located about P.36. (G. 576).
1115. Commandant, AKABA wire. British units with F.C.C. attacked railway in section -?- TOTEL SHAN IM at dawn on April 14th. By noon we had captured all Turkish posts between those stations and demolished the telegraph wires and the 3 principal bridges respectively 12, 16, and 3 arches ?. In the afternoon further demolition carried out South of SHANIM. At 1600 attack on SHANIM Station was commenced with aeroplane co-operation and station surrendered at 1650. 52 prisoners including 1 officer, all from 1/130th Regiment were taken during the day. Booty captured in station

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included about 280,000 rounds of S.A.A. and more than 450? case bomb and considerable quantities of flour and other food stuffs. Operations continuing. Casualties 1 Egyptian wounded, 1 Arab killed.
(761).

1708.XX Corps wire. Ausdiv.H.Q. now at 099.T.25.c.5.4.
4th L.H. Bde.H.Q. at BEIT NAKUBA. (G. 584).

1750.XXI Corps wire. Enemy working parties in N.22.a, N.21.b (BIDIEH sheet) dispersed by artillery fire. 3 deserters, one of 1/57th Regt., two of 65th Regt.
(G. 970).

1850.XX Corps wire. Patrol to UMM ES SHERT reported considerable movement of enemy transport east of ford moving S.E. also strong enemy M.G.posts at 113.X.23. 200 enemy seen moving N. from 113.W.25.b.
(G. 589).

2300.Wired Troopers, London repeated as usual. Evening Report. (E.A.1134).

2155.Wired Troopers, London. Changes in dispositions. (E.A.1133).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- / 31462, E.A.1129, E.A.1130.

Troopers, London cabled. Reference additional reinforcements to be sent to France. (56858).

2130.Wired Troopers, London. At an early date the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade will be at full strength of three Regiments, and has no Mobile Veterinary Section. It is considered necessary to provide one on the same establishment as for other Indian Cavalry Brigades. Owing to break up of Yeomanry Mobile Sections, officers and European personnel is available. Native personnel can be provided as in other Indian Brigades. Will you approve, please. (E.A.1132).

Wrote Desert Mounted Corps, Force in Egypt and Inspector Palestine L. of C. In order that the Yeomanry Division may be completed as early as possible, the 20th Deccan Horse and 34th Poona Horse, with the Combined Field Ambulance and Mobile Veterinary Section formerly belonging to the Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade, will join the 6th Mounted Brigade instead of the 7th Mounted Brigade. The troops formerly belonging to the Mhow Cavalry Brigade will join the 7th Mounted Brigade on arrival at BELAH. (G.S. 1024).

Wrote XX and XXI Corps. Staff officers allotted to G.H.Q. and Corps with reference to formation of Machine Gun Battalions. (G.S. 1041.)

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I. OPERATIONS.

- 0809.XXI Corps wire. Situation normal. Patrol to A.8.a.7.8 brought in remainder of material. (G. 978).
- 1105.XX Corps wire. 14 envoys from the Sherif have arrived at GHORANIYEH Bridgehead this morning. They state Arab army of 20,000 advancing north has surrounded MADEBA. Vanguard has reached road junction near HISBAN (142.C.28 - AMMAN sheet). Arrangements being made to send envoys to G.H.Q. as soon as possible. (G. 599).
- 1805.XXI Corps wire. Situation unchanged. Some slight shelling in 75th Div. Sector. (G.984).
- 1914.XX Corps wire. Anzacs report movement of scattered mounted men and pack horses round EL HAUD 127.G.30. Enemy gun located at 127.C.13. Two prisoners to Anzacs one deserter to 53rd Divn. (G.607).
- 1919.XX Corps wire. Ausdiv. H.Q. now at 113.G.12.central. (G. 608).
- 2310.Wingate, Cairo wire. 560 rails were destroyed by Arab demolition party between MESHUD and BEDAI. 7 Turks killed and 6 mules captured. Sherif ALI reports Sherif SHAKIR attacked railway between RAFIRA and BUWAT destroying a bridge and 200 rails. No dates are stated. (G.H.416).
- 2245.Wired XX and Secorps. Move one brigade group Ausdiv. tomorrow 24th instant to JERICHO VALLEY clear of TALAT ED DUMM. (O.A.M. 413).
- 2245.Wired Troopers, London repeated as ~~usual~~ usual Report. Nothing to report. (E.A.1136).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

- Wrote Force in Egypt with reference to a temporary establishment for the reception camp for Indian units at TEL EL KEBIR. (G.S.1111).
- Wrote Secretary, War Office forwarding proposed establishments for (a) General Headquarters, Intelligence (E")Section. (b) No. 2 General Headquarters, Wireless Observation Group. (G.S.411).
- 0600.Troopers, London wire re whereabouts of No. 5 Topographical Section R.E. and No. 10 Pack Wireless Section R.E. and Meteorological Section R.E. (56897).
- 0700.Chief India wire re repatriation of Transfrontier Pathans. (31471).
- 0845.Troopers, London wire. Indian units will have to be equipped in Egypt as described in India's 'wire 30613 April 18th. (56929).
- 1820.Wired Communs RAMLEH and DESCORPS. Imperial ~~Saxixx~~ Service Cavalry Brigade, less 1/101st and 2/101st Grenadiers will come under orders of Descorps from 1800 25th instant. (O.A.M.409).

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1930. Wired Troopers, London for names of
(a) 30 battalions to remain with this Force;
(b) 14 battalions to be despatched to France intact;
(c) 10 battalions to be broken up. (E.A.1135).

Wrote to A.D.A.P. & S.S. Alexandria. Changes in the
E.F.F. (G.S. 439).

~~Apr. 24th~~

Apr. 24th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0822. XXI Corps wire. Situation unchanged. Two platoons
from 7th Indian Division encountered Turks in
Cactus Gardens A.32.C.38. (G. 987).

0840. XX Corps wire. 1900 yesterday enemy drove our day post
from B.23.a. It was re-occupied by our night post
without opposition. In Eastern Sector our patrols
report no enemy posts west of foothills as far ~~south~~
north as 127.G.20.c. and by rifles in 127.F.18.c.
and G.13.d. At 2110 enemy fired salvoes for 2 minutes
at MUSALLABEH (113.W.35) from two 77 mm. batteries and
machine gun fire on 113.Z.11. till 2200. No
casualties. At 0300 our night standing patrol east
of GHORANIYEH was attacked by enemy patrol 60 strong;
our patrol withdrew, but afterwards re-occupied old
line. (G. 615).

1530. Commandant, AKABA wire. Up to 23/4/18 situation at
MAAN was that Arab regulars were entrenched N. and W.
of MAAN which is being intermittently bombarded.
HOWEITAT with artillery support hold the first three
stations south of MAAN and are advancing on FASOOA
which was rumoured to have been taken last night.
(775).

1739. XX Corps wire. Ausdiv.H.Q. 113.G.12.central. 3rd L.H.
Bde. 113.K.4. 4th L.H.Bde. KH. EL MESHARAB (113.K.11.a.)
(G. 624).

2000. XX Corps wire. GHORANIYEH Sector. Enemy posts located
127.P.21.a. Enemy gun in action from vicinity UMM ES
SHERT against our patrols. 2 enemy guns located
127.U.32.c.5.8., and 3 mountain guns 127.U.32.c.
800 cavalry camped near MUJAHID, 127.W.21.a.
AUJAH Sector. 300 cavalry scattered in 113.W.4.
UMM ES SHERT Patrol reports enemy position there consists
of rifle pits, short trenches, and 2 M.G. positions
in low chalk hills 500 yards N.E. and N.N.E. of ford.
(G. 627).

1130. Wired Troopers, London. Please read our E.A.1134 as
follows:- "RAFAT to 085.U.3.central to 084.M.27.central
to RAS EL AIN" instead of as previously sent.
(E.A.1137).

1155. Wired Troopers, London re 56408 cipher M.O.2. of 15th
instant. Demolition of track was carried out by the
following methods. Special demolition parties were
trained to effect continuous destruction of line by
blowing in centre of each rail with slabs of gun cotton.
It was discovered that destruction of one side of track
could be carried out by these parties at the rate of

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2½ miles per hour. Colverts were destroyed by blowing down with 14 slabs of gun cotton after clearing away ballast from crown to arch. (E.A.1136).

2150. Rescorps wire. Operation Order No. 15 issued to-night para.1 (A) opposite 60th Division insert 2400 April 26th. Erase para. 2 (B). Para 4 (A) (ii) erase words "and one regiment". March table opposite 6th Mtd. Bde. in column of April 28th first time should read 1800. (G.A.912).

Desert Mounted Corps - Operation Order No. 15. (Copy No. 3).

Wrote 3 Corps and Palestine Brigade R.A.F. enclosing copy of Minutes of the C-in-C's Conference held at G.H.Q. on 24/4/18. (Z/85/015).

Wrote Secretary, War Office, enclosing proposed new establishment Divisional Ammunition Column, Egypt. (G.S. 606/1).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- G.A.901, O.A.M.415, E.A.1141, O.A.M.416, Letter to Force in Egypt. (G.S.1113).

Wrote 3rd Indian Division. Changes in organisation and alterations in establishments part XVIII (MESOPOTAMIA). (G.S. 1034/1).

1540. Wired Troopers, London. Please allot number to third Field Artillery Brigade to be formed for 3rd (Indian) Division. (E.A.1140).

Apr. 25th. 1. OPERATIONS.

1233. Descorps wire. Corps H.Q. opened 113.G.17.d. 1200. (G.A.924).

1227. Descorps wire. Report centre closed KHURBET DEIRAN. Advanced report centre opened. (A.C.R.2).

1400. Commandant, AKABA wire. Operations report. (781).

1740. XXI Corps wire. Some enemy shelling in DEIR BALLUT area. (G.5.)

1800. Commandant, AKABA wire. Arabs now occupy whole section of railway from MAAN to MUDOWARA (both exclusive). They have captured FASOOA and GHTL. (784).

1900. Hedghog, Cairo wire. Sherif FEISAL reports capture of following stations:- GHADIR EL HAJ - SHEDIA - BATN EL GHUL - AKABAT EL HEJAZIA - FACOA - SHAHIM RAMLEH WADI - RETHEN. Capture of 140 kilometres of line, 3 officers and 30 other ranks at SHE....? also reported by him. Distance of line appears to be an exaggeration. (G.H.430).

1927. XX Corps wire. Intermittent shelling throughout day on 10th Division front. Deserters one. (G.638).

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2155. Descorps wire. Patrol to UMM ES SHERT reports ford held as usual. Patrol to TEL EL MESELHA fired on by about 12 rifles from 127.W.13.d. (G.A.934).
2229. XX Corps wire. Patrol to 127.F.11.d. was fired on by M.G. and rifles from 127.F.18.d. and by artillery from direction of UMM ESH SHERT. An enemy cavalry post was observed about 127.Y.19. (G.640).
2305. Descorps wire. Two deserters taken 127.F.29.d. from 11th Cavalry Regiment. One sergeant - intelligence - states his regiment and part of 9th Cavalry Regiment total 540 sabres crossed JISR ED DAMIE four days ago, now camped about 127.C.central. (G.A.941.)
2344. XX Corps wire. G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps assumed command of Right Flank of the Force at 1800 to-day. (G.641).
1215. Wired Troopers, London. No truth in statement re armistice. (F.A.1143).
2230. Wired Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening Report. (F.A.1147).
2230. Wired Troopers, London. Work of the Political Intelligence Section. (F.A.1146).
- Wrote Desert Mounted Corps. Result of deputation of Arabs from the BENI SAKHR. (Z/85/14).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

- Wrote Commander-in-Chief, India. Suggesting closer assimilation of the establishments of both the I.S. Cavalry and Infantry to those of the regular Indian Army. (G.S.649).
1857. Nilebos wired. Your O.B.85 of 24th. Party of from 46th Punjabis proceeding 27th inst. 21st Punjabis not out of quarantine till May 10th. (F.G.354).
- Wrote Desert Mounted Corps and XX Corps. Additional troops temporarily placed at the disposal of the Desert Mounted Corps. (Z/85/13).

Apr. 26th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0141. XXI Corps wire. 7th Division report enemy active on Telegraph Hill P.T.236.A.32.c. about 2100. At 1630 enemy parties in S.25.c. and N.24.d. dispersed by artillery fire. (G.11).
0753. XX Corps wire. Small attack at 0330 on ridge in L.5.d. repulsed. (G.643).
1250. Troopers, London wire. Re additional Indian Army officers for E.E.F. (57142).
1507. XX Corps wire. 53rd Division reports at 0300 enemy attacked post in L.5.d. but were repulsed. At 0430 left post on IDLE HILL L.12.b.26 was attacked and garrison had to fall back to reverse slopes. Right

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post at L.12.d.49 held on till 0845 and then withdrew to reverse slopes. Few Turks penetrated FELAH Q.7.d. at 0520 but were driven out. Local counter-attack has regained post L.12.d.49. Our guns getting good targets at movement on hills behind enemy.
(G.647).

1820.Hedghog, Cairo wire. No report of Northern Hejaz operations has been received. (G.H.442).

2003.XX Corps wire. 1540. About 60 enemy and 1 M.G. in dead ground on N. slope of Hill Q.7.d. IDLE HILL (L.12.b.) enemy have withdrawn, but still parties of Turks in trees to N.E. 15 enemy with 1 M.G. on N. slope of ridge L.5.d. 300 yards in front of our sangars. Prisoners to 53rd Division three. One deserter to 10th Division. (G.650).

2007.Descorps wire. Withdrawal of troops which proceeded to MAIIN 8 miles S.W. of MADEBA completed. Casualties 3 O.R. wounded, 4 horses killed, 2 wounded. 12 of enemy who endeavoured to cut off troops here killed. Deserters 5. (G.A.950).

2230.Wired Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening Report. (E.A.1149).

Desert Mounted Corps - Amendment to Operation Order No. 15. (G.O.37).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

0400.Troopers, London wire. One cavalry M.G. platoon, one 65 mm. Mountain Battery and one "Section Mixte Munitions" offered by French Government. (57099. D.M.O.)

0645.Troopers, London wire. Is increase to P.L. of C. Company still required. (57115).

2015.Daily wires relating to Corps movements :- O.A.M.425.

Wrote Assistant Local Auditor, Cairo on the subject of the status of the Arab scouts. (G.S.661).

Wrote Secretary, War Office re The Field Survey Coy. R.E. (G.S. Z/25).

Apr. 27th. 1. OPERATIONS.

0752.XX Corps wire. 53rd Division. Enemy posts in front of hills in Q.7.d. and L.5.d. have been driven off. 2 prisoners captured. (G.654).

0810.XXI Corps wire. At 0245 enemy attempted to raid RAFAT but were completely repelled by 0320. Our casualties 25. Enemy casualties not yet estimated. (G.17).

0841.XXI Corps wire. ISHKAR Bridge has been salved and post which was guarding bridge has been withdrawn. (G.21).

1845.Descorps wire. 15 shells fired on patrol on reaching 113.Y.2. O.P. observed in W.35.d.5.7. About 30 77 mm. shells fired on patrol in 113.T.14. One deserter taken on AUJA front. (G.A.975).

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- 1850.XXI Corps wire. 7th Division. Enemy party estimated 40 attacked No. 12 post C.15.b.4.4. at 0030 last night. Our casualties 2 O.R. killed, 6 O.R. wounded. (G.20).
- 1911.XX Corps wire. 10th Division. 7 men on Hill N.23.a. attacked at 1439 by 20/30 Turks. Our post retired but re-occupied hill after our artillery had shelled it. Enemy still shelling this point. Patrol to B.20.c. this morning took 3 prisoners and inflicted 6 other casualties in hand to hand fighting. Our casualties 1 officer and 1 O.R. wounded. (G.657).
- 1930.XX Corps wire. 53rd Division. Following estimated enemy casualties on 26th. Q.7.c. and Q.13.a. - 30. IDE HILL - 60 including 1 German and 2 Turkish officers killed. L.5.d. - 40. Actual dead so far seen 3 Officers and 8 O.R. Prisoners 7, wounded and unwounded. Our casualties 17 O.R. killed, 2 officers, 59 O.R. wounded. (G.659).
- 2200.XXI Corps wire. 54th Division. 1810 five parties enemy cavalry, each approximately 50 strong, entered JILJULIEH, and have not been seen to leave. (G.27).
- 2246.XXI Corps wire. 75th Divn. H.Q. now at X.5.d.5.6. 1/40,000. (G.28).
- 1200.Wired XX and XXI Corps. Please furnish as soon as possible a tracing showing your defensive line on the 1/40,000 scale. (O.A.M.428).
- 2235.Wired Troopers, London, repeated as usual. Evening Report. (E.A.1152).
- Desert Mounted Corps - Operation Order No. 16 (Copy No. 3).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

- 1150.Troopers, London wired:
A. Battalions to remain in E.E.F.
B. " to go to France.
C. " to be disbanded. (57176 cipher, 435 A.G.2.A).
- 0200.Chief, India wire. Formation of No. 110 Indian Field Ambulance approved. (32788).
- 0720.Troopers, London wire. No additional Sound Ranging Sections or Observation Groups can be sent from France for the present. (57190).
- 1140.Wired Troopers, London. SINAI and SOUTH PALESTINE L. of C. Signal Companies now only required. With the exception of construction sub-section (which should be added to SOUTH PALESTINE Company), NORTH PALESTINE company is not now required. (E.A.1150).
- 1930.Wired Troopers, London. Request general sanction for formation of trains for the I.S.Cavalry Brigade and 20th Indian Infantry Brigade. (E.A.1151).

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2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- O.B.90.

Wrote Secretary, War Office enclosing list of British Signal Service units in E.E.F. (G.S.1101).

Wrote G.O.C. Training Centre, Cairo, enclosing extracts from a letter re 1st Cape Corps. (G.S.918).

Apr. 28th. 1. OPERATIONS.

1827.XXI Corps wire. WADI BALLUT, BENAT BURRY and EL KEFR shelled during afternoon. (G.33).

1257.Descorps wire. HAJLA bridge completed 0600 this morning and bridgehead held. (G.A.988).

1945.Descorps wire. KABR MUJAHID occupied by enemy cavalry. 2nd L.H. Bde. informed by three different Bedouins that Turkish infantry have moved to SHUNET NIMRIN and that from 500 to 800 German and Turk Cavalry holding KABR MUJAHID and that four guns are behind KABR MUJAHID. (G.A.998).

0400.Commandant, AKABA wire. Estimate duration of operations against MAAN probably be about 3 weeks. (A.D.10).

2000.Wired Troopers, London repeated as usual. Evening Report. Nothing to report. (E.A.1157).

1500.Wired NILEBOS. Base of Mobile Column may be transferred to SOLLUM. (E.A.1155).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

Daily wires relating to Corps movements :- 33138, G.31, O.A.M. 435, E.A.1154, 57236, E.A.1156.

1245.Wired Troopers, London requesting sanction for 2 command depots. (E.A.1155).

Apr. 29th. 1. OPERATIONS.

1900.XX Corps wire. Our artillery bombarded enemy works on EL BURJ, AIN EL AUF GHURABEH ridge H.24, H.23, H.22, KH AMUREIH and L.6 and carried out wire cutting at points opposite these works. (G.671).

2230.Wingate Cairo wire. Sherif ABDULLA reports that a French detachment with SHERARAT destroyed 1209 rails on night of 22nd near TOWEIRA, without enemy molestation. Also demolished 3 culverts, one of 7 arches. (G.H.478).

1845.Descorps wire. O.P. in 113.W.34.D.89 reports 4 heavy guns observed bearing 1 Degree Mag distance 12000 yards with 200 men drilling in vicinity. One Armenian officer deserter surrendered this morning. (G.A.22).

1880.Hedghog, Cairo wire. Situation at MAAN unchanged. Further demolitions carried out. (G.H.476).

1753.XXI Corps wire. 161st Bde. H.Q. moved to U.7.d.22 (Ref.

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FELJA sheet).

(G.39).

0805.XXI Corps wire. All quiet on front.
(G.A.1009).

1135.Wired Descorps and Communs. Maintenance and construction of roads and provision of water supply as far east as the River Jordan in Descorps area will be undertaken by COMMUNS from the 30th instant inclusive.
(O.A.M.438).

2145.Wired Troopers, London repeated as usual. Evening report. Nothing to report.
(E.A.1160).

Wrote Desert Mounted Corps. Operations east of the JORDAN.
(Z/85/15).

Letter from Desert Mounted Corps. Operations - JORDAN.
(S.G./658/4).

2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.

2215.Wired Troopers, London. Changes in dispositions.
(E.A.1159).

Wrote all Corps, Force in Egypt, Palestine L. of C., I.S.I Zeitoun, S.O.S. HELIOPOLIS, B.S.I. EL ARISH, A. & N.Z. T.C. MOASCAR, re appointment of a Brigadier-General (Training).
(G.S.997).

Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- G.520, 57309, E.A.1158.

Letter to 1st Mounted Division and Palestine L. of C.
(G.S.1024/A).

Wrote Palestine L. of C. Cape Corps Battalion to be trained at EL ARISH.
(G.S.918).

Apr. 30th.

1. OPERATIONS.

0823.Adv.Descorps wire. Advanced troops of Ausdiv. have reached WADI ES SIDR about A.11.d. and have pushed along UMM ESH SHERT - ES SALT road to about 127.d.28.b.
(G.A.32).

0744.XXI Corps wire. WILHELMA station shelled probably by 4.2-in. shells. Balloonatics report considerable movement horses and men eastwards at 0525 in WADI LEVI south of KALKILIEH H.31.
(G.41).

0400.Navinet S.S. wire. CASTELLORITZO reports sighting Zeppelin 1900 April 25th proceeding towards ADALIA. Malta, Admiralty and Alexandria informed.
(2356).

1007.Adv. Descorps wire. Advanced troops pushing on north of W. ES SIDR and along route 13. 180th Brigade advancing on general line JOFET DERBASI W.JERIA. Left Battn. has captured BILEBIL. Counter-attacks on right and left flanks 179th Brigade beaten off. Southern force captured KABR MUJAHID but forced to withdraw owing to heavy shelling.
(G.A.33).

2212.XX Corps wire. It is proposed to hold positions occupied to-day on MEZRAH ridge for another 24 hours. All quiet.
(G677)

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- 2039.XXI Corps wire. 10 new 15 cm. Howitzers located active in coastal sector during day shelling C.15.SH EL BALUTAH and V.15.b. At 1830 enemy estimated 300 attacked our line on ridge N.E. of RAFAT but were stopped by artillery and m.g. fire. (G.48).
- 2036.XXI Corps wire. 54th Division report 1945 heavy enemy shelling of their line but no sign of any attack on their front. (G.49).
- 2312.XXI Corps wire. Attack on RAFAT not pushed with any determination and was evidently demonstration. All quiet. (G.54).
- 1446.Adv.Descorps wire. Ausdiv. will make every effort to capture ES SALT to-night, and to close all avenues of retreat to the enemy, especially the MAIN Road. (G.A.44).
- 0533.Adv.Descorps.wire. Right detachment occupied KABR SAID at 0400, and advancing on KABR MUSAHID with little opposition. 120 prisoners so far. Camels no opposition so far, have occupied UMM ESH SHERT and are pushing northwards. (G.A.30).
- 1127.Adv. Descorps wire. Result of aeroplane reconnaissance: Approximately 300 our cavalry in Wadi, running east from 127.B.2. Cavalry and camels seen moving east along the ED DAMIE - ES SALT road in 127.B.2. and B.9. (G.A.37).
- 1233.Descorps wire. So far 14 officers, 248 other ranks captured up to 1200 in to-day's operations. (G.I.602).
- 1315.Adv. Descorps wire. Contact patrol reports our cavalry nearing ES SALT about H.28 central. This report confirmed by observation from West of Jordan. (G.A.42).
- 0312.Adv. Descorps wire. Advanced H.Q. established at 113.L. 16.a. at 0300. (G.A.27).
- 0323.Adv. Descorps wire. Positions of deployment reached without opposition. Contact obtained at 0250 on 60th Division front. (G.A.29).
- 0424)Adv. Descorps wire. Line X.33a. - X.32.a - X.31.b reached by left company Camel Brigade without opposition at 0215. (G.A.29).
- 2150.Adv. Descorps wire. Situation 1700. Patiala Infantry KABR SAID being withdrawn after dusk to Bridgehead. N.Z.M.R.Brigade being withdrawn after dusk except one regiment to BUTMET HALLUL. Enemy still in strength opposite 60th Division. Indications of his moving North and East on West bank of Jordan possibly with view of crossing at JISR ED DAMIE. (G.A.84).
- 1842.XX Corps wire. 53rd Division Artillery shelled bivouacs in Q.9.a., J.35.a., J.15 and working party in Q.8.b. 10th Division Artillery carried out destructive shoots on enemy works in H.24.c. to H.21, H.15, H.14, and

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FURKHAH ridge as far west as N. and S. line through H.10.central. 3 prisoners and 1 deserter to 10th Division.

- 1810.Hedghog wire. Artillery set fire to enemy store shed at MAAN. Sherif ZEID continues demolitions to north of MAAN, taking 3 prisoners yesterday. More than 550 prisoners have been taken in present operations.
(G.H.487).
- 1822.XXI Corps wire. Considerable movement observed at cross roads in M.11.b. (BIDIEH 1/40,000). Mounted men and transport going east and west all day. V.15.b. (FELJA, 1/40,000) shelled by all calibres intermittently throughout the day. 2 deserters.
(G.46).
- 0812.XX Corps wire. Hill in B.20.c., B.21.c. and MEZRAH occupied by 10th Division this morning. Opposition reported slight.
(G.671).
- 1605.Adv. Descorps wire. Ausdiv. are holding eastern edge of broken ground astride DAMIE - ES SALT road on east of river Jordan. One regiment holding north bank of NAHR ZERKA from foothills to junction with river JORDAN. Patrols have penetrated 2 miles North of ZERKA. On right our troops hold line from point 792 to JOFET DERBAS.
(G.A.48).
- 2353.XXI Corps wire. 50 picked men with one M.G. and 1 automatic rifle will raid 54th Division post opposite BUREID about midnight to-night. Germans with T.M. still on hill ∇ 500 yards N. of BUREID.
(G.255).
- 1834.XXI Corps wire. Corps Heavy Artillery are carrying out 10 minutes shoot on BIDIEH at 0230 night 30/1 in retaliation for 4.1 inch shelling of WILHELMA.
(G.45).
- 2310.Wired Troopers, London repeated as usual. Evening Report.
(E.A.1163).
2. MOVES AND ORGANISATION.
- Daily wires relating to Corps movements:- O.A.M.444, O.A.M.443.
- 2310.Troopers London, wire. Approves formation of trains for I.S. Cavalry Brigade and 20th Indian Infantry Brigade. Presume all requirements can be met locally and that fullest use will be made of Indian personnel.
(57408).

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