

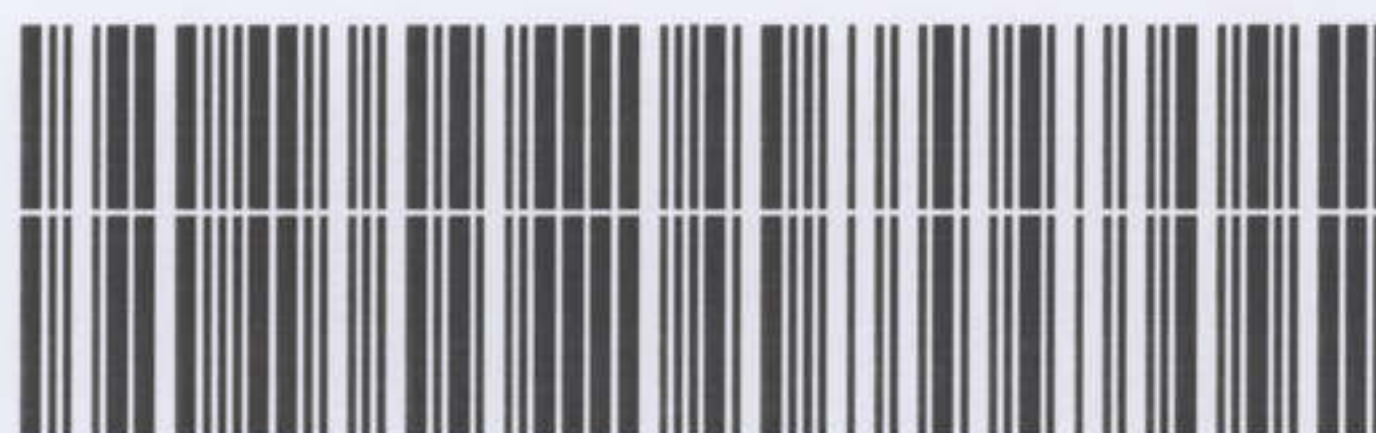
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/1/20

Title: Headquarters New Zealand Mounted
Rifles Brigade

December 1916



AWM4-35/1/20

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 626

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

N. Z. M. R 13 ^{1/2}

①

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MUSTAGIDDA	1/12/16	1030	All clear at 0600, 1200, 1800. Tring reported in direction of UM MITMAM by 3 rd Light Horse B ¹ . This did not develop into anything.	
	2/12/16	1430	All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. * Camel patrols returned from (a) BIR LAHFAN at 1200 (b) RIBAN ANEIZA at 1100. (c) GEBEL UM MAFROTH at 1030. Reports as above attached, marked <u>A</u> , <u>B</u> , and <u>C</u> respectively. Also report by Adj. I.C.C. No 2 Post at HILL 133 reported party of enemy in strong proceeding west, but when 1 1/2 miles off they turned NORTH and after reaching the sea shore retired hurriedly towards ABU FEALEIFISK NORTH where they had come. Coy. I.C.C. at HILL 133 detailed to act as escort to railway construction party. (copy of order attached marked <u>4</u>)	* Carried out by 3 rd Coy. I.C.C.
	3/12/16	1430 1435	All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. C-in-C visited railhead and V.C. Brigade ordered to meet him there. Hostile aeroplane dropped two bombs at MAZAN, damage slight. No 2 Plt. HQ Coy. I.C.C. marched in with HQ 10 Coy. I.C.C. and relieved No 1 Plt. HQ Coy. I.C.C., 12 Coy. I.C.C. and 1/2 HQ 8 Coy. I.C.C. No 3 Coy. from MUSTAGIDDA relieved HQ 12 Coy. I.C.C. at HILL 133.	arrangement first of C-in-C received with unit at place as per

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

N.Z.M.R. P. 2

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MUSAIBIDA	3/12/16		<p>No 1 Bde: Hd Qrs, 12 Coy, 1/2 No 6 Coy. I.C.C. on which marched back to BIR EL ABD via ABU TILLUL RLY STN.</p> <p>* One Squadron N.Z.M.R. BDE relieved 1 Squadron 1st Light Horse Bde at Zorabalia (orders attached marked Z)</p> <p>Special Patrol plan issued. (Copy attached marked M)</p> <p>All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800.</p> <p>1000 One Squadron N.Z.M.R. BDE relieved 1st Light Horse Bde at ARNUSSI (orders attached marked Z)</p> <p>0700 6 officers 12 N.C.Os 3rd Light Horse Brigade sent with guides from N.Z.M.R. BDE round front line: - ARNUSSI - GERERAT - HILL 130 - HILL 133 - MAZAR.</p> <p>1630 LT. HIBSON and 2 N.C.Os Warwick Yeomanry attached to Brigade Hd Qrs. Quarters for instruction in country to EAST.</p> <p>All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800.</p> <p>0900 Brigade Major, LT HIBSON, O.C. 2nd Bde Hd Qrs: I.C.C. visited HILL 133 to discuss situation of No 3 Coy I.C.C. (detached) with O.C. infantry railway construction escort.</p> <p>1145 Habi aeroplane bombed GERERAT, no damage.</p> <p>* 2 prisoners captured by Squadron at ARNUSSI. These were sent in to DIVN: Hd QRS.</p>	<p>* 1 Squadron C.M.R.</p> <p>1 Squadron C.M.R.</p> <p>1 Squadron C.M.R.</p> <p>1 Squadron C.M.R.</p> <p>X on initial inspection 1. Sgt - Turkish Army 20</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

N. Z. M. R. BDE.

3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MUSTABIDDA	6/12/16		<p>All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800.</p> <p>No 3 Coy. at HILL 133 handed over to G.O.C. 127th Brigade.</p> <p>Special orders concerning this issued (copy attached marked <u>Y</u>)</p> <p>Daily patrol to Railway construction and HILL 133 cancelled.</p> <p>Orders fr. O.C. N.Z.M.R. to confer with G.O.C. 1st Light Horse Bde. and G.O.C. 127th Infantry Bde. to consider a scheme of action in case of attack on railhead.</p>	
	7/12/16		<p>All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800</p> <p>O.C. N.Z.M.R. BDE. proceeded to EL MAAJAN for above mentioned conference.</p> <p>* Orders received and issued re well exploitation of camp of 1st Light Horse Regt. at point approx 3 1/2 miles E of EL MUSTABIDDA. Capacity to be increased to 1 Brigade (copy attached marked <u>X</u>)</p> <p>Bedouin agent came in and sent on to XXXX DIVISION (anzac)</p>	<p>* 5" Field Gun and 1 sq. machine daily kept detailed daily and completion of work.</p> <p>* 1st Lt. holding W.M. 2 reports submitted in 14 days</p>

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

N.Z.M.R. BDE.

4

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MUSTAGIDDA	8/10/16*	0600 and 1700	All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. Well exploitation party left Brigade BIVOUAC. Well exploitation party returned.	* Col Meldrum reported at EL MUSTAGIDDA Instructions received re Col Wright to return to 2.14 BDE.
	9/12/16	1134	Hostile aeroplane reported travelling S.E. and E. towards GERERAT. reported by ARNUSSI.	
			2nd L.H. BDE. office advised as to be attached for instruction in country to EAST.	
	10/12/16	1500	All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. Well exploitation completed and wells named PARAMAATA. Hostile aeroplane flew over in an Easterly direction.	
	11/12/16	1330	All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. Orders received re preparation for practice attack on an imaginary MASAID position, to take place on 13th inst. Hostile aeroplane flew over, no bombs dropped at MUSTAGIDDA.	
	12/12/16	0930	All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. Hostile aeroplane flew over in an EASTERLY direction, no bombs dropped. Bde Commander and Bde Major accompanied Lt. S.O. (i) Angus held Div on tour over ground for practice attack on imaginary MASAID position. Date of exercise postponed to 14th December.	

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Reverse heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

N.Z.M.F.A. BDE.

5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MUSTAGI DDA	13/12/16		All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800 Orders for exercise attack on imaginary MAHAI position issued. Copy attached marked <u>E</u> .	
	14/12/16		All clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800.	
		0600	Brigade (strength 1 Regt., Signal Troop, Machine Gun Squadron and details C.A.C. & N.Z.M.F.A.) left camp for ARNUSSI. B.D. joined later by skeleton Bty Pioneer Coy RHA.	A.M.A.I 18 of men 2600 RHA
		0650	Brigade as above arrived ARNUSSI.	
		0810	Brigade moved forward to point 3/4 mile N.E. of ARNUSSI WEATH.	
		0900	Brigade again moved forward to point 1/2 mile S.W. of GERERAT.	
		1130	Brigade moved to within 2000 yds of enemy's position at HILL 100 and prepared to support the right flank of the 42nd Infantry Div. when they came up.	W.M.R proceed at 0930 to MAZAR
			Signalling Communication maintained throughout the morning with 42nd Div. but touch never actually gained, owing to infantry operations ceased.	p. 100 p. 100 Remains Brigade proceed on 15/12/16
		1200	Operations ceased.	
		1500	Brigade returned to bivouac	
		1430	Hostile aeroplane flew over the Brigade bivouac & also over the Brigade returning to Camp. No bombs dropped near bivouac.	
		1900	advised that Desert Column Commande would visit Brigade bivouac on 15/12/16 and would require troop as escort to proceed to GERERAT.	

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

N.Z.M.R. BDE

6

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MUSTAGIBDA	15/12/16		<p>All clear reported at 0800, 1200, 1800.</p> <p>1st Light Horse Regt. moved bivouac from *PARAMATA WELLS to GHURFAN EL GIMAL.</p> <p>1000 Desert Column Commander visited Brigade bivouac and proceeded further EAST at 1030 with escort of 1 troop from Brigade.</p> <p>0715 Hostile aeroplane flew over in an EASTERLY direction. No bombs dropped.</p>	<p>* Wells at Point 3 miles on bearing of 281° N. GERRARD to be called PARAMATA W.M.R. found deep granitic sandstone through which water issues.</p>
	16/12/16	1500	<p>All clear reported at 0800, 1200, 1800.</p> <p>Hostile aeroplane flew over, no bombs dropped.</p> <p>Special instructions issued re action of Brigade in the event of an attack on rail head. (This cancelled all previous ones)</p> <p>* One officer & 2 N.C.O.'s arrived from 5th Mounted Brigade as relief officer and 2 N.C.O.'s at present attached.</p>	
	17/12/16	1515	<p>All clear reported at 0800, 1200, 1800.</p> <p>Hostile aeroplane flew over EASTWARDS having dropped 5 bombs on MAZAR. No damage.</p> <p>Wells at GHURFAN EL GIMAL officially named BIR SYMPHIE.</p> <p>FIRST LINE CAMELS returned to MUSTAGIBDA (514) and company camels allotted to Brigade as well.</p>	

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

N.2 M. R. A. D. E

7

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FL MUSTABIDDA	18/12/16	1045	<p>All clear reported at 0800, 1200, 1800. Hostile aeroplane flew over to the EAST passing over ZOARATIA when four bombs were dropped near N.2 Bivouac. No damage done. Signal Troop exercised in visual signalling. Arrival of Camel Brigade HQ Gns: (newly formed) advised from MAZAR.</p>	<p>* 1st AMR (C.Y.C.) LT MANON AMAR (handwritten name) Capt. (handwritten name) 1st AMR (handwritten name) 1st AMR (handwritten name)</p>
	19/12/16	0730	<p>All clear reported at 0800, 1200, 1800. Hostile aeroplane flew over towards MAZAR from the EAST and dropped four bombs on the Brigade bivouac (1 near Bde Hd Qrs, 1 machine gun Squadron, 1 A.M.R. 1 wire) Casualty 1 A.M.R.</p>	<p>* Top Rule A.M.R. w.r.a.</p>
		1630	<p>G.O.C. N.2 M.R. B.D.E. returned and took over brigade.</p>	
		2400	<p>Orders received by telegram to be prepared to move on 20/12/16.</p>	
		2400	<p>Written orders received from Amgac Intd. Division for Brigade to move to NEW ZEALAND VALLEY WELLS on 20/12/16 move to be completed by 1630. Brigade orders issued (copy attached marked G) together with special memo of supplies.</p>	<p>Adjutant Amgac Intd. Division Casualties recommended forward.</p>
	20/12/16	1330	<p>All clear reported at 0800, 1200. Brigade moved out to NEW ZEALAND VALLEY WELLS under Colonel Mackenzie. The G.O.C. went to conference at DIVN. HQ: GRS G.S. Officer.</p>	<p>1604 of 1600</p>
		1450	<p>Brigade arrived N.2. VALLEY WELLS. G.O.C. took over command. Brigade watered.</p>	<p>3074 animals</p>

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

N. Z. M. R. B. D. E

3

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ON THE MARCH	20/12/16	1610 1745	Brigade left N2 VALLEY WELLS for GAURFAN EL GIMAL. Arrived GAURFAN EL GIMAL. Brigade fed up and drew a further 24 hrs rations and forage and drinking water.	* Advanced Troop from 1st M.A. at 2100 hrs
		1010	* Brigade left GAURFAN EL GIMAL for BIR EL MASHMI on a bearing of 90° till 0200, when a halt was made at UMM ZUGHLA	* 2100 hrs lead, very accurate.
	21/12/16	0400 0600	Brigade left UMM ZUGHLA for BIR EL MASHMI on bearing of 45°. Brigade arrived BIR EL MASHMI and went into bivouac. 1. Troop sent out to HILL 260 on 24 hours tour of duty. Outpost line selected by G.O.C. (EL ARISH MAP 1/125000) from W side of WADI EL ARISH immediately North of <u>E</u> W <u>E</u> L to HILL 120. Our line joined up with I.C.C. at Wadi, they being responsible for WADI. Two day posts put out E and S of Bivouac. This troop sent to high ground S.W. of EL ARISH to form a cordon to prevent natives getting out. Hostile aeroplane flew over in north easterly direction. Bombs heard. All clear reported 0600, 1200. Brigade Commander visited HILL 260, returning at 1245. Conference at DIVINLI; HQ. QAB. for Brigades and Brigade majors. 1 Coy: N.Z.M.R. sent to BIR LAH ZAN to exploit water. (Orders attached marked H)	* This line found by C.M.R. and duty by duty Regt.
	22/12/16	0915 1430 1030		* 6 men 2 women 2 boys 2 children Captured in net in NE EL ARISH.
				* 0 out of queue A.M.R. 11 enemy prisoners came in at 0800

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

N.2.M.R. BDE

9

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
 * Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II
 and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
 will be prepared in manuscript.

Remarks and
 references to
 Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIA EL MARM	2/11/16	1700	Brigadier returned from Conference and orders issued for Brigade to move at 1300 (copy attached marked J.) for 25th Telegraph pole south of EL ARISH or EL ARISH - EL MARADHABA Telegraph line, where was DIVNL rendezvous. Brigade watered before leaving bivouac. Brigade moved DIVNL rendezvous and joined up in Brigade main facing SSE on the right of 3rd L.H. BDE. L.C.C. BDE on our right. Rations and forage and drinking water issued for 24 hrs.	* Arranged by staff we teleph for Div Brigade less 1400 AMR and Motor Sect
ON THE MARCH.	23/12/16	0115	left the rendezvous for EL MARADHABA. Order of march. <u>ADVANCE GUARD.</u> 1 Regt. 1st L.H. BDE <u>MAIN BODY.</u> DIVNL HQ QRI SIGNAL SQUADRON 1st L.H. BDE (less 1st Regt.) 2 Batteries R.H.A. N.2.M.R. BDE 3rd L.H. BDE 1 C.C. BDE	<u>Marching</u> <u>at</u> <u>1340</u> <u>1655 arrival</u>

WAR DIARY

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

N2 M.R.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIR EL MASHI	26/12/16		all clear reported at 0600, 1200, 1800. Bde Major went to DWNL HQ QRS. to select new camp site for Brigade near sea between EL ARISH and MASHI. orders for move issued (copy attached marked I)	
EL ARISH	27/12/16	1000	All clear reported at 0600. The Brigade left BIR EL MASHI for new bivouac on sea-beach. Brigade arrived at beach bivouac. Camp allotted.	Mentions in State 2 90 officers 1531 other ranks 1989 animals
	28/12/16		Aeroplane look-out arranged for. Plans to and outposts cancelled, also orders re lights out at 2000. Reville ordered for 0630. The C-in-C EASTERN FORCE visited the Brigade Head quarters of the Brigade, and met Commanding Officers.	
	29/12/16	1000	The Brigade paraded in Drill order (dismounted) with arms and was addressed by the Desert Column Commander, who congratulated them on the MASHI-HABA operations.	Parade State 73 officers 1196 other ranks 4 officers 73 other ranks
	30/12/16		A rifle range for testing new rifle sights selected. Water supply (drinking for troops) developed.	reported as arrived MOBILISED
	31/12/16		Circular memo re instructions, in case of attack by land or sea, received and circulated.	

IN THE FIELD

31/12/16

David Finlay
N2 M.R. 201

REPORT - BY CAPT. F.H. NAYLOR, NO. 3 COMPANY, I.C.C.

PATROL FROM EL MUSTAGIDDA to BIR LAHFAN, on 30th. Nov. 1916.

Strength. 1 Officer, 24 other ranks, with one Lewis Gun.

Capt. Goldenstedt, Adjutant 1st. Battalion, I.C.C., accompanied the party for purposes of special report.

Capt. Galloway also accompanied the patrol.

Route Taken. - 30/11/1916. Left EL MUSTAGIDDA (Palm-Tree Well) at 0845. Proceeded via HILL 160 (S.W. of BIR EL GERERAT).

Halted at 1340 till 1520, then moved on towards Hill marked "690", S.E. of EL UGDA, and camped for night about one and a half miles West of that point.

The course followed from HILL 160 varied from 97" to 100" compass bearing.

1/12/1916. Moved off at 0630m after taking observations. Proceeded alongside HILL 690 at its North-Western end, along a broad Wadi East of it, leading to Hill marked "840" - RAS EL AHMAR, thence direct to HILL 550 (about 1 mile West of BIR LAHFAN) shown on map West of "13".

Returned at 1300 by course a little South of West and camped at 1730 South of EL AABASH.

2/12/1916. Moved off 0600, returning via HILL 160 to EL MUSTAGIDDA, arriving there at 1215.

Nature of Country. Succession of sand dunes, trending generally East and West, all scrub-covered, with the exception of some of the highest dunes.

For mounted troops travelling by day the "going" can be made fairly easy, i.e., the country is similar to that around EL MUSTAGIDDA.

In the direction between HILL 690, S.W. of RAS EL AHMAR to POINT 840 of RAS EL AHMAR, the "going" is very good, and good also up to BIR LAHFAN.

Roads and Tracks. No well-defined tracks were noticed except the one leading past the Northern point of RAS EL AHMAR, shown on the map as joining the road South from BIR LAHFAN. (See also p.3).

Observation Points. From RAS EL AHMAR the mosque and buildings of EL ARISH is plainly visible, as also is the Wadi EL ARISH South of BIR LAHFAN. The telegraph line in the Wadi can be seen through the glasses. From HILL 500, close to BIR LAHFAN, near the figure "13" on the map, the rushes around the well at LAHFAN can be seen, and the surrounding country for miles in all directions. A slope in front shut out the well itself.

Signs of Enemy. At a point about one and a half miles S.E. of BIR LAHFAN, a bell tent, with camels close by and men walking in the vicinity was seen. A good many natives were seen walking up and down the Wadi, some herding stock.

A few natives were met with tending goats and ~~camels~~ camels etc., around RAS EL AHMAR and on the BIR LAHFAN.

At EL ARISH only the permanent buildings were noticeable in the distance. No sign of military occupation.

Water. From all we could gather, BIR LAHFAN is a permanent spring, supplying the people for miles around, and is good fresh water. No water was seen on the route passed over.

2.

Cover. The nature of the country affords ample cover for large bodies of troops.

PATROL to RASIN ANEIZA.

This party accompanied us to the point where we camped for the night on 30th. November/1st. Decr., and then struck South towards EL THAMILA.

A separate report on this RISAN ANEIZA patrol has been made by Lieut. Linfard.

(Sgd) F.H. NAYLOR,
Capt.,

O/C No. 3 Coy., I.C.C.

2nd. December, 1916.

P.S.:— The Wadi EL ARISH running South-East from BIR LAHFAN is very broad and flat, with a good road in it.

R E P O R T.

By Lieut. H.A.J. LINEARD, No. 3 COMPANY, I. C. C.

PATROL TO EL THAMILA (RISAN ANEIZA).

Strength of Patrol, - 1 Officer, 20 other ranks.

Left EL MUSTAGIDDA in company with Captain Naylor and party at 0730 on 30th November, 1916.

Arrived 3 miles S.E. of EL UGDA 1900 and camped.

Left this point at 0630 on 1/12/1916 and travelled South. Captain Naylor and party left us at this point and proceeded East.

I continued South as far as EL THAMILA, reconnoitring all ground en route.

Arrived EL THAMILA 1130 on 1/12/1916.

OBSERVATION.

From EL THAMILA, i.e., HILL 1219, we were able to see the whole of the surrounding country. From N.E. to S.E. is practically open country as far as the eye could see. The mosque of EL ARISH could be seen quite distinctly with the naked eye.

COUNTRY.

Ground covered between EL MUSTAGIDDA and EL UGDA corresponds with that/surrounding EL MUSTAGIDDA.

From EL THAMILA to the N.E. and S.E. is good travelling ground, being of a hard sandy nature and almost level.

COVER.

The cover throughout is good on account of the folds in the ground and the scrub with which it is covered.

TRACKS.

The only tracks encountered that were in any way definite are those shown on the map passing on the North of EL THAMILA and running generally East, towards the road marked "undefined". This, which leads to BIR LAHFAN, also appears to be a well-beaten camel pad. Any other isolated tracks would be obliterated owing to the number of camels, sheep and goats grazing in the vicinity.

WATER.

Was unable to see any trace of water.

GENERAL.

Among the hills surrounding EL THAMILA we came across several natives whom we brought in with the exception of two discovered on the slope of HILL 1219. The first of these was dressed in a grey overcoat with brass buttons and carried a double-barrelled gun, and who, when approached, threw the gun away. The second one, who was at the foot of the hill, was called on to stop, which he did, and Sergt. Hawe proceeded down the hill to fetch him in. When Sergt. Hawe approached, the native asked to be allowed to get his camel, to which consent was given. While leading his camel up the hill, accompanied by the Sergt., the native on the summit with me shouted something to him, at the same time seizing my rifle and endeavouring to wrench it from my hand, but which I prevented. The one with Sergt. Hawe then ran

2.

for cover with the camel, at the same time producing a rifle from the saddle bag.

Sergt. Howe called on him to stop, and as he did not do so, fired a shot in front of him. The native then took cover, loaded, and prepared to take aim at the Sergt., who then shot him. This native wore a khaki tunic of the English pattern bearing Imperial buttons. In the meantime, I succeeded in freeing the other native's grasp of my rifle, and, as he rushed at me a second time, I clubbed him on the head with the butt and knocked him unconscious.

(Sgd). H.A. J. LINFARD, 2/Lieut.

2nd December, 1916.

REPORT ON COUNTRY FROM EL MUSTAGIDDA TO EL MISTAN AND
UM MITMAN, Approximately bearing 143° true.

Reference Maps - 1/125,000 - SABKHET EL BARDAWIL.
1/125,000 - EL ARISH.

1. NATURE OF COUNTRY.

- (a) For 5 miles S.E. the "going" is fairly good. The gradients over the sand dunes being for the most part easy.
- (b) From 2 miles N.W. POINT 255 to KATIB EL SHAWAILL the "going" is very bad, the sand dunes running East and West, not as shown on the map. Sand dunes follow each other at very short intervals. It is necessary to lead camels over this distance.
- (c) From KATIB EL SHAWAILL to GEBEL UM MAFRUTH is an open plain, hard surface and scrub.
Pass runs N.W./S.E. on the South side of POINT 852 (GEBEL EL MAFRUTH) - beyond is again open plain.
- (d) GEBEL UM MAFRUTH - bare rock.
- (e) GEBEL EL MISTAN) Bare rugged rocks, the only
UM MITMAN) apparent places for crossing for
camels being at the two points
marked "Pass". Infantry can
cross in several places.

2. PASSES.

- (a) EASTERN. The approach to this Pass is over broken rocky ground; at intervals there seems to have been an attempt to construct a road to it. The gradient is fairly steep over rock rendered smooth by water in the rainy season. Width of pass at summit not more than 4 feet. Descent rather steep but camels use it. Numerous tracks lead from the Pass into the plain below, which appears to be very good grazing ground; numerous cow camels and young were seen there.
- (b) WESTERN. This Pass was held and I was unable to get within 300 yards of the summit. Its ascent seems to be easier - more width at the summit, and to be used much more freely than the Eastern Pass. Transport camels could ascend without difficulty.

The Passes are flanked on either side by rugged hills and from all appearances could be easily held, there being little cover in the approaches.

3. WATER.

Corpl. Evans, J.E. who has considerable experience in mineral boring is of opinion that there is no water near the surface, N. of KATIB EL SHAWAILL. He thinks that water might be found near GEBEL UM MAFRUTH and along the foot of EL MISTAN and UM MITMAN.

At a point half a mile South of 600 (GEBEL

2.

UM MAFRUTH) there is a hole, with numerous goat tracks leading to it, which appears to hold water after Rains.

There is a similar hole 1 mile N.W. of EL in KATIB EL SHAWAIIIL.

4. FUEL AND GRAZING. Plentiful.

5. ENEMY. When approaching the Western Pass we were fired on from the rocks to the West of the Pass. It was difficult to tell what was the strength of the post, but a quarter of an hour earlier (0745) we met 8 or 10 gazells coming hurriedly from ~~from~~ the Western Pass, which makes me think that they had been disturbed by men occupying the rocks.

From the sound of the firing modern rifles seem to have been used.

(Sgd). R. J. HOUGHTON. Lieut.

No. 6. Company I. C. C.

2nd December, 1916.

R E P O R T.

on

EL ARISH FLANK EMBODYING EL UGDA - RAS EL AHMAR - ABU LEHEIMEN +
BIR LAHFAN and WADI EL ARISH.

By

CAPT. P. GOLDENSTEDT - ADJUTANT 1st BATTALION, I. C. C.
-----Reference Maps - 1/125,000 - SABKHET EL BARDAWIL.
1/125,000 - EL ARISH.
-----TOPOGRAPHICAL.

- (1) Between HILL 160 and EL UGDA, the country is of the undulating scrub covered sand dune-kind with a general direction East and West and in places South-West and North-East.
- (2) The series of dunes generally appear to rise gradually to a higher series lying direct between 160 and EL AABASH, which latter series forms a natural barrier to observation from the North, except in the crossing of the higher isolated features.
- (3) Approaching HILLS 530 and 690, one and a half and two miles respectively S.E. of EL UGDA the country gradually rises and the dunes take a more northerly turn, necessitating the crossing of them diagonally and facilitating observation from the high knolls in the neighbourhood of the Turk position at EL SEBIL.
- (4) When finally at the foot of the 530, 690 and RES EL AHMAR country, the country develops into a broad shallow hollow with low undulating interruptions offering no obstacle to movement of troops of all arms (excepting guns and heavy wheeled vehicles).
- (5) From HILL 630 one mile S.S.W. of HILL 690 to the foot of the 840 feature of RAS EL AHMAR, there is a broad shallow Wadi with gradually sloping cultivated sides reaching down to a hard surface of an average width of 50 to 100 yards providing good "going" for all arms, and in places presenting a surface suitable for aeroplane landing grounds.
- (6) From RAS EL AHMAR approximately running down the line of the track marked on the map, leading to the MAGHARA - EL ARISH Road through BIR LAHFAN, there is a definite valley with low undulating sand dunes running parallel with its bed, gradually widening until it reaches the Wadi EL ARISH.
- (7) HILLS 530 the Southernmost 500 and ABU LEHEIMAN generally form a series overlooking this valley and are approached by crossing over high undulating dunes diagonally.
- (8) The horse-shoe shape embodying Southernmost 500 and 480 presents a favourable piece of ground for approaching BIR LAHFAN unobserved, from the N.W., although such approach might be observed from EL ARISH with a telescope.

2.

- (9) Most of the hill features of the region and generally of the RAS EL AHMAR are hard stone with easy climbing.
- (10) From RAS EL AHMAR the whole of the EL SEBIL position can be seen, back to and beyond EL ARISH towards RAFA and movement in the Wadi EL ARISH clearly observed to as far South as Hill 500, which shuts out of the view of the ground immediately below it.
- (11) The valley following the track marked as running North of RAS EL AHMAR is clearly visible and movement easily distinguishable.
- (12) The EL ARISH - EL KOSSAMA Road is visible up to where it disappears from view in the distance.

ROUTES.

A contemplated flank march would be governed by the following :-

- (1) Suitable routes for Mounted troops and cover from observation from the North.
 - (a) A route affording cover by day for a column of any length, exists from EL MUSTAGIDDA through a point one mile North of ARNUSSI - HILL 160 - one mile South of EL AABASH, half a mile South of EL UGDA to a point two miles West of HILL 690. At this point and up till the Wadi East of 630 and 690 is reached North of a long column would be possible.
 - (b) Observation from RAS EL AHMAR would be possible at any point within five miles West of it.
 - (c) Once the Wadi running to RAS EL AHMAR, East of 630 and 690 is reached, a long column would only be under view from the heights immediately above it on the Eastern side and from RAS EL AHMAR itself.
 - (d) Approach could not be observed from the WADI EL ARISH itself until the head of the column reached the Northern base of HILL 840. From here it would be visible as it moved the whole way down the valley to the EL ARISH - MAGHARA Road.
 - (e) ABU LEHEIMEN could observe the approach from anywhere within three miles West of it.
 - (f) From HILL 500 the column would be visible as it reached the high ground near 630 and 690, and thence the whole way as it moved from RAS EL AHMAR down the valley leading East.
- (2) The ability of horses to make a long and exhausting trek without water from BIR EL GERERAT to BIR LAHFAN.
 - (a) Generally the going is heavy and the prospect of horses doing the trek in the heat of the sun a doubtful one.
 - (b) If it were considered advisable to establish a water dump anywhere East of BIR EL GERERAT it could be done secretly, if carried out, with little delay. Suitable ground for dumps exists in many places up to within 8 to 10 miles S.E. of GERERAT along the route. The Wadis and hollows are broad and long affording cover from view.
- (3) The march containing all the elements of surprise

3.

- (a) Allowing for its not being observed from the North, news of it would rapidly spread by the Bedouins inhabiting the neighbourhood of RAS EL AHMAR.

TACTICAL.

- (1) The rear of the EL SEDEL position as far as could be seen, slopes away in a succession of sand dunes to the Mosque at EL ARISH.
- (2) No preparation appears to have been made for a possible turning movement vis BIR LAHFAN for the following reasons :-
- (a) No troops were visible in the EL ARISH WADI between EL ARISH and BIR LAHFAN.
- (b) The buildings on the Eastern side of the Wadi, apparently UM KHOZIGA and NEKHL ABU appeared deserted and discernment of movement with a telescope was possible since the shadows of the doors of these buildings were clearly distinguishable.
- (c) There were no signs of any camps in the vicinity of EL ARISH, but there is no saying what troops might have been concealed in the extensive palm grove North of it.
- (d) The traffic on the road from EL ARISH to BIR LAHFAN was practically nil, not suggestive of any large body of troops to the South. Only a few small parties of camels, two and three at a time were seen.
- (e) BIR LAHFAN itself is not held and no posts were encountered on the heights above it.
- (f) A party of about 50 camels barracked and a dozen or so men were seen on the road, one and a half miles S.E. of BIR LAHFAN. A tent was erected on the spot.
- (g) A significant fact was that Bedouins were seen driving their flocks to and from the well, suggesting that the well is not much used by troops.
- (3) Once in the Wadi EL ARISH Mounted troops would have a level featureless surface for rapid movement over a front averaging in width from one to one and a half miles.
- (4) No movement was visible along the direction of the EL ARISH - RAFA road. This district was under observation at odd times during a period of three hours.

INHABITANT.

The RAS EL AHMAR district is cultivated in places and is inhabited by Bedouins engaged in tilling the ground and grazing their sheep and goat flocks. There are also a big number of grazing cow camels. The natives are for the most part unarmed, or at least they were so when we saw them - they are ill clothed and generally wretched. They spoke of soldiers at BIR LAHFAN who sometimes interfered with their flocks, but generally they all spoke of the Turks as being mainly at EL ARISH and MAGHARA.

4.

SIGNAL STATIONS. Intercommunication could be maintained throughout via HILL 160 - the South 690 - RAS EL AHMAR - ABU LEHEIMEN and from RAS EL AHMAR to 500. All are prominent points. From RAS EL AHMAR, HILLS 133 and 130 are not easily distinguishable.

Signed P. GOLDENSTEDT, Capt. & Adjt.
1st. Battn. I.C.C.

2nd. December 1916.

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

GENERAL IDEA
for
PRACTICE ATTACK ON THE MASAI POSITION
on
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th.1916.

ENEMY POSITION. 1. A position has been selected resembling the Turkish position at MASAI, and marked with flags. It is located as follows -
From POINT 100, three quarters of a mile South of the Southern MAZAR - EL ARISH Road, to the small salt pan, one and a half miles South of S of EL SEBIKA, and thence Northwards to EL SEBIKA.

RAILHEAD. 2. Railhead will be at KILO 108. TILUL will represent MAADAN Station.

TROOPS. 3 The troops taking part in the practice will be -
Hd.Qtrs. Desert Column (Representatives)
A.&N.Z.Mtd.Divan., consisting of
Div. Hd.Qtrs.
1 Mounted Brigade
42nd.Division in three skeleton Brigades.
52nd.Division (less 1 Bde.F.A.)

DISMISSAL 4. The signal for the conclusion for the exercise when troops will return to Bivouac will be the 'dismiss' sounded from Headquarters, MAZAR Force.

INFORMATION.

(a) The enemy is in position from POINT 100, three quarters of a mile South of the Southern MAZAR - EL ARISH Road to the salt pan one and a half miles South of the S of EL SEBIKA, and thence Northwards to EL SEBIKA.

(b) Our Troops are located as in present camps.

INTENTION.

The G.O.C. MAZAR FORCE intends to attack the position on the 14th.inst., the Infantry Division pushing forward from position of assembly at 0730.

The following is the general scheme of attack

- (a) The MAZAR MOUNTED TROOPS to assemble at ARNUSSI at 0700 and move thence by BIR EL GERERAT and attack enemy's left flank at POINT 100 and cut his line of retreat, timing its advance by the 42nd. Division.
- (b) The 42nd.Division will assemble at a point one mile South West of MUSTAGIDDA at 0700 and will attack the part of the enemy's position facing South West, having its right directed on POINT 100 and left on the small salt pan, moving forward to the attack at 0730.
- (c) The 52nd.Division will assemble at point M of MAMLET

- 2 -

MEKHEIZIN by 0700, and will attack the hostile position from the small salt pan inclusive to EL SEBIKA, moving forward to the attack at 0750.

- (d) In reserve at TOMS ABU GILBAN one Brigade 52nd.Division and two Sections 60 Pounders, to be at that place by 0700.
- (e) Light Car Patrol will operate on the Northern flank under orders of the 52nd.Division.
- (f) During the attack Headquarters MAZAR FORCE report centre will be near KILO 110, North of the Railway. Visual Signal Station will be established by DESERT COLUMN Signal Company on the ridge immediately East of HILL 70 in the Southern MAZAR - EL ARISH Road as soon as Advanced Guards pass this point.
- (g) No.14 Squadron R.F.C. will supply one machine as Contact Patrol and one for Artillery Observation.

SPECIAL IDEA.
for
PRACTICE ATTACK ON THE MASAID POSITION.
on
THURSDAY DECEMBER 14th. 1916.
MAZAR MOUNTED TROOPS.

*****;*****

TROOPS.

The Troops of the A.&N.Z. Mounted Division taking part in the exercise will be :-
Headquarters A.&N.Z. Mounted Division.

3rd. Light Horse Brigade.
(as detailed).

(In all cases less those required for duty at MALHA and outlying Posts).

N. Z. M. R. Brigade
(as detailed).

(In all cases less those required for duty at MUSTAGIDDA and outlying Posts).

POSITION OF ASSEMBLY.

B.G's. C. 3rd. L.H. Brigade and N.Z.M.R. Brigade will have the Brigades (as in special instructions) assemble at ARNUSSI by 0630 and will report their arrival to Div. H'Qrs. Each Brigade will detail one Orderly Officer to report to D.H.Q. at 0645.

AMMUNITION.

The supply of ammunition will be carried out on paper, under arrangements made by the C.R.A.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The O.C. Signal Squadron will ensure that arrangements are made for keeping in communication with the MAZAR FORCE Headquarters and 42nd. Division Headquarters. He will also see that facilities for co-operation with aeroplanes are with the Division.

MEDICAL.

Medical arrangements will be carried out only as a practice under arrangements made by the A.D.M.S.

REPORTS CENTRE.

D.H.Q. will be first of all at the Trig point on the high sand hill, three quarters of a mile a little North of West of ARNUSSI.

Copy
No.

Copy No.7.

SPECIAL ORDERS

by

COLONEL C. E. R. MACKNSY - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Reference Maps:-

1/125,000 - SABKHET EL BARDWIL.
1/125,000 - EL ARISH.

13th. December, 1916.

MOVES.

With reference to General and Special Ideas attached, the N.Z.M.R. Brigade (as detailed below) will leave MUSTAGIDDA on the 14th. instant, and will move by route march to ARNUSSI Wells.

ORDER OF MARCH. As per margin.

Advance Guard:- Two
Troops, A. M. R.

THE HEAD OF THE MAIN BODY WILL BE AT A POINT 300 YARDS EAST OF THE BRIGADE WATER TROUGHS, AT 0600, FACING EAST.

Main Body:-
Brigade Headqrs.
Signal Troop
A. M. R. (less two
Squadrons).
Bde. Machine Gun
Squadron.
One Squadron, A. M. R.

Flank Guards:- O/C A. M. R. will detail One Troop as Right Flank Guard and One Troop as Left Flank Guard.

AMMUNITION.

200 rounds S.A.A. per man will be carried, 3500 rounds per Machine Gun, and 1000 rounds per Lewis Gun.

NO MAGAZINES WILL BE CHARGED, AND NO CARTRIDGES WILL BE PLACED IN THE BREECH.

ORDERLY OFFICER.

O/C W. M. R. will detail an Officer to act as Orderly Officer to report to Divisional Headquarters at ARNUSSI at 0645.

COMMUNICATIONS.

O/C Signal Troop will arrange for signal communication to be established and maintained within the Brigade, and with Divisional Headquarters. (See Special Idea).

REPORTS.

The Brigade Commander will march at the head of the Main Body, where all reports will be sent.

(Sgd) DAVID FINLAY, Major,

Copies to :-

- No. 1 Office Copy
- 2 A.M.R.
- 3 O/C Signal Troop
- 4 Machine Gun Squadron
- 5 W.M.R.
- 6 ANZAC Mounted Division
- 7)
- 8) War Diary
- 9)
- 10) File.

Brigade Major,
N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

AFTER ORDER TO
ORDER NO. 6

Copy No.

Appendix No. **F**

by
COLONEL C. E. R. MACKESY - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Reference Map -
1/125,000, SABKHET EL BARDAWIL.

2nd. December, 1916.

1/125,000, EL ARISH.

ESCORT TO RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION PARTY.

The Company I. C. C. at HILL 133 will act as direct
escort of the Railway Construction Party, acting as far as these
duties are concerned under the orders of the O/C Infantry Escort.

Sgd. DAVID FINLAY, Major.

Brigade Major,
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

Copies:--
1 Office
2 1st. Batta. I. C. C.
3 ANZAC Mtd. Divn.
4 }
5 } War Diary
6 }
7 } File.

APPENDIX F

6225

626

SECRET

ORDERS No. 1

Copy No.

by
BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. W. G. CHAYTON, C. B., T. D.,
COMMANDING H. W. G. BRIGADE.

Appendix No. G

20th. December, 1916.

Reference Maps:-

- 1/188,000 - SHEKET EL BARDAIL.
- 1/188,000 - EL ARISH.

1. MOVE.

The Brigade will leave MUSTAGIDDA on the 20th. instant and will move by route march to NEW ZEALAND VALLEY.

2. ORDER OF MARCH. Order of March - As per margin.

The head of the Main Body will be at a point 500 yards East of the Brigade Water Troughs at 1330.

Advance Guard.

- One Squadron, .
- A. M. R.
- Commander - Major W.A. Bennett.

Main Body:-

- Brigade Headquarters
- Signal Troop
- "D" Field Troop
- A. M. R. (less one Squadron)
- Machine Gun Squadron
- C. M. R. (less 2 Squadrons)
- W. M. R. (less one Squadron)
- No. 2 Mobile Vet. Sec.
- H. 2. Mtd. P. Amb.

Rear and Flank Guards.

O/C Wellington M. R. will detail one Troop to act as Rear, Right and Left Flank Guards, respectively.

3. SPECIAL ESCORTS.

(a) O/C Wellington M. R. will detail one Troop under an Officer to act as escort to the Camel Convey. Period of duty, one week. This escort will report to the Officer in charge of Camels at the Supply Dump at 1330.

(b) Units will detail an escort, as under, to proceed with their First Line Camels:-
Regiments - 1 H. C. C. and, 6 men.
Other Units - 2 Other Ranks.

(c) The O/C Duty Regiment will detail one Officer daily to report to the Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters quarter of an hour before the Brigade moves out of bivouac, to take charge of the First Line Camel Transport.

4. CAMELS.

(a) First Line Camels will move off from the Brigade wells at 1345.

(b) The Camel Convey will move off under the direction of the O/C A. M. R.

NOTE- See special instructions attached.

5. WATERING.

The Brigade will water before moving out.

6. WELL MATERIAL.

All Units will lift their own pumps (which they will find branded) and troughs, after watering this morning. One spear-point, socket, extension, and brass union per pump will be provided to each Regiment by "D" Field Troop.

All of the above will be carried to the wells.

APPENDIX G

Orders No. 1 - (2).

7. TRANSPORT.

All limbers will accompany the Unit, but will march in rear of the Mounted Field Ambulance.

8. BIVOUAC.

No tents will be pitched. Every effort will be made to make bivouacs as inconspicuous as possible.

On arrival at the new bivouac, each Unit will detail an officer to report to the Brigade Major to ascertain the place allotted for bivouac for his Unit.

9. OUTPOST COMMANDER.

Outpost Commander on duty (as per special roll) will report to Brigade Headquarters on arrival.

10. CRIBBLIES AND GALLOPERS.

Frog and including the MOTH. instant, and until further orders, arrangements as detailed re these will be carried out.

11. REPORTS.

All reports to Brigade Headquarters up to 1315, and after at the head of the main body, until arrival at destination.

Sgd. DAVID FINLAY, Major.
Brigade Major,
M. E. M. R. Brigade.

Copies to -

No. 1	Office Copy
2	A. M. R.
3	C. M. R.
4	E. M. R.
5	Signal Troop
6	Orderly Officer
7	Machine Gun Squadron
8	H. Z. A. S.C.
9	No. 2 Mobile Vet. Sec.
10	H. S. M. F. Amb.
11	O/C Camel Transport
12	ANZAC Mounted Division.
13)
14) War Diary.
15)
16) File

SECRET.Copy No.14.

AFTER ORDER
to
ORDERS No. 1
by
BRIGADIER-GENERAL E.W.C. CHAYTOR, C.B., t., d.,
COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

20th. December, 1916.

DATE AND SQUADRON.

The O/C Canterbury M.R.Regiment will arrange for the Squadron C.M.R. at ZOABATIA, and the Squadron C.M.R. at ARNUSSI, to leave these places, respectively, at such a time as to rejoin the Brigade in bivouac at NEW ZEALAND VALLEY at 1500 today, the 20th. instant.

The completion of these moves will be reported to Brigade Headquarters by O/C C.M.R.

(Sgd) DAVID FINLAY, Major,

Brigade Major,
N.Z.M.R.Brigade.

No. 1 Office Copy
2 A.M.R.
3 C.M.R.
Copies to - 4 W.M.R.
5 Signal Troop
6 Orderly Officer
7 M.G. Sqdn.
8 A.S.C.
9 No. 2 Mobile V.S.
10 N.Z.M.F.A.
11 O/C Camel Transport
12 ANZAC Mtd. Divn.
13)
14) War Diary
15)
16) File

626

APPENDIX G

EXTRACT from A.S.M.C. MTD. DIVN. MEMO. dated 19/10/1916. re SUPPLY AND WATER ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING OPERATIONS. *****

1. The A.S.M.C. Mounted Division will have at Supply, RAILHEAD,
 - (a) A place for watering horses.
 - (b) A place for watering (Convoy) Camels.
 - (c) A place for drafting supplies and forage.
 - (d) A place for filling fantasses.

2. The Divisional Artillery and Divisional Troops will be watered and fed from RAILHEAD before moving off. The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade, H.Z.M.R. Brigade and 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade will be rationed and supplied from RAILHEAD, but their horses and camels will be watered from the wells around GHERAT and GHURFAN EL GIMAL/

3. After leaving RAILHEAD the general principle on which this force will be watered and supplied will be as follows :-
 - (a) Each Brigade Group will have a convoy of 240 camels daily and 118 fantasses which will work from RAILHEAD to a point 16 miles from RAILHEAD.
 - (b) This will allow of three Brigade Groups being maintained at one day's march from RAILHEAD and enable Convoy Camels to be rested every third day.
 - (c) Once RAILHEAD is left all horses and First Line Transport Camels will depend on what they can find in the country for their water.

4. Each of the Brigade Groups' Convoys will carry the following :-

Troops	1 day's rations at 4 lbs. per head.
Natives	1 " " " 2 lbs. " "
Horses	1 " Forage " 15 lbs. " horse.
Camels	1 " " " 12 lbs. " camel.

 Troops and Natives - half a gallon of water per head.

5. Convoys and 1st. Line Camel Transport has been allotted as follows :-

	<u>First Line</u>	<u>General</u>
1st. A. L. H. Brigade	500 L Coy.	750 F Coy.
3rd. A. L. H. Brigade	500 L Coy.	750 G Coy.
H.Z.M.R. Brigade	500 A Coy.	750 C Coy.

6. (a) G.O.C. will fix the rendezvous of Camel Convoy. Convoys will be timed to reach this place by 1500 daily. G.O.C. Brigades will also send out to meet the convoy and guide it to the rendezvous.
- (b) Great care must be taken by Brigades to see that their empty fantasses are returned when drafting filled ones from the Convoy. On this will depend the water supply of the troops the following day.
- (c) Convoys should then reach RAILHEAD before dark each day. Unless convoys are back by the evening, supplies may not get out at all the following day.

All Convoy Camels will be under the orders of G.O.C. Divisional A.S.C.

7. (a) The only fantasses that will be taken on the march with Units will be 50 per cent of those allowed in the Provisional Establishment of a Mounted Division with Camel Transport.
This comes into force after leaving the next Bivouac.
Water Office's fantasses will be sent back to RAILHEAD

7. Continued.

out.

This comes into force on leaving the next Bivouac.

- (b) The Camels so released from carrying fannies will be used for no other purpose than carrying reserve rations for horses.
8. All second blankets for personnel and second horse blankets will be left under Brigade arrangements at KILO 128 for 1st. A. L. H. Brigade, and at MAZAR for 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade, and N. Z. M. R. Brigade.
This comes into force after leaving next Bivouac.
9. Units will notify Brigade Headquarters by 1600 daily the amount of ammunition expended.
10. An ANZAC Ordnance Dump will be located at KILO 128, to which all stores and equipment; including captured stores and equipment will be returned by Camel Conveys.

Signed DAVID FINLAY, Major?
Brigade Major.
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

20th. December 1916.

ORDERS NO. 2*

Copy No.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL E. W. G. CHAYTOR, C. B., D.S.O.,
COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Appendix No. H

22nd. December, 1916.

Reference Map:-
1/125,000 - EL ARISH.

1. MOVES. The O/C Auckland M. R. will detail one Squadron to leave the Brigade bivouac at 1030 today, the 22nd. instant, and to proceed to BIR LANFAN, to reconnoitre for water.

If water is found, this Squadron will remain at BIR LANFAN until further orders, finding its own protection by day and by night.

If water is not found, the Squadron will return to the Brigade bivouac on the evening of the 22nd. instant.

O/C "D" Troop, 1st. Field Squadron, will detail a party to accompany the Squadron to carry out the work, on completion of which the party will return independently to the Brigade bivouac should the Squadron remain at BIR LANFAN, water having been found.

2. SUPPLIES. O/C Squadron A. M. R. will, in the event of the Squadron remaining at BIR LANFAN, detail one half Section to return to the Brigade bivouac during the afternoon of the 22nd. instant, to act as guide for supply camels which will proceed on the evening of the 22nd. instant, with rations and forage.

The Quartermaster A. M. R. will make the necessary arrangements, the guides reporting to him on their arrival back at the Brigade bivouac.

3. COMMUNICATION. The O/C Brigade Signal Troop will arrange, in conjunction with the Signalling Officer A. M. R., for communication to be established.

4. REPORTS. Reports, "all clear" or otherwise, will be rendered to Brigade Office at 0600, 1200 and 1800, daily.

Sgd. DAVID FINLAY, Major.
Brigade Major,
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

Copies to:-

- No. 1 Office Copy
- 2 A. M. R.
- 3 "E" Field Troop
- 4 Signal Officer
- 5 ANZAC Mtd. Divn.
- 6 N. Z. A. S. C.
- 7)
- 8) War Diary
- 9)
- 10) File.

ORDERS NO. 4

Copy No.

by
BRIGADIER-GENERAL E. W. C. CHAYTOR, C. B., t.d.,
COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Appendix No. 1

Reference Map:-
1/125,000 - EL ARISH.

26th. December, 1916.

1. MOVES. The N. Z. M. R. Brigade will leave BIR EL HASMI on Wednesday the 27th. instant, and will move to a new bivouac which has been selected on the seashore West of EL ARISH.

2. ORDER OF MARCH. As per margin.

Advance Guard:-

Two Troops A.M.R.

The head of the Main Body will pass a point 300 yards East of the Auckland lines on the BIR EL HASMI - Wadi Road, at 1000.

Main Body:-

Bde. Head Qrs.

Signal Troop

A. M. R. (less 2 Troops).

Machine Gun Sqdr.

W. M. R. (less one Sqdn.).

C. M. R. (less one Troop).

N. Z. M. F. A.

No. 2 Mobile Vet. Sec.

Wireless Section.

Rear Guard:-

One Troop M. R.

O/C C. M. R. will detail one Troop to act as Rear Guard.

The rear guard commander will take the names of all stragglers, and will hand the list to the Brigade Major on arrival in the new bivouac.

3. WATERING. The Brigade will water before leaving BIR EL HASMI Bivouac. Watering to commence at 0800.

4. FIRST LINE CAMELS. The O/C First Line Camels will be ready to hand over to Units at 0800. Units will send guides and escorts to take delivery at this hour. All First Line Camels will parade East of A. M. R. Lines at 1015.
N. C. O's in charge of Escorts will report to Lieut. de Castro, A. M. R., who will command the Camel Column.

5. PUMPS. Pumps, spear-points and troughs will be lifted under arrangements to be notified later.

6. CAMP LINES. O's C. Units will inspect the camp lines before moving off, and will see that the ground has been left clean.

7. WITHDRAWAL OF POSTS. O/C A. M. R. will arrange for the withdrawal of the Day Outpost and the Post at HILL 200, so that they will arrive in Bivouac in time to move off with the column at 2000.

The line will be taken over by the I. C. C. Brigade.

Copies to:-

No. 1 Office Copy

2 A. M. R.

3 C. M. R.

4 W. M. R.

5 M. G. Sqdn.

6 Signal Troop

13 - File.

No. 7 M. F. A.

8 No. 2 M.V. Sec.

9 N. Z. A. S. C.

10 ANZAC Htd. Divn.

11)

12) War Diary.

Sgd. DAVID FINLAY, Major.

Brigade Major,

N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

626

34

Copy No.

ORDERS NO. 3.

by
BRIGADIER-GENERAL H. W. CHAYTOR, C. B., t. d.,
COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Appendix No. J

Reference Maps:-

- 1/125,000 - EL ARISH.
- 1/125,000 - KOSBAIMA.
- 1/125,000 - RAFA.

22nd. December, 1916.

MOVES. The Brigade, less one Squadron A. M. R., No. 2 Mobile Veterinary Section, and camp guards as detailed, will move East tonight.

ORDER OF MARCH. As per margin.

Advance Guard:-

The head of the column will be on the Road
One Squadron C.M.R. immediately East of the Auckland bivouac, facing East,
at 1800.

Main Body:-

- Brigade Headquarters
- Signal Troop
- "D" Field Troop
- C. M. R. (less one Squadron).
- Machine Gun Squadron.
- W. M. R.
- A. M. R. (less eight Troops).
- N.Z.M.F.A.

Rear Guard:-

One Troop A. M. R.

O/C A. M. R. will detail one Troop to act as Rear Guard.

Flank Guards:-

Two Troops A.M.R.

All names of stragglers will be taken.

O/J A. M. R. Will detail one Troop to act as Right Flank Guard and one Troop to act as Left Flank Guard.

SPECIAL ESCORT.

O/C A. M. R. will detail one Troop to march with the N. Z. Mounted Field Ambulance, to act as escort when the Tent Division becomes detached.

MAPS.

O's C. Units will arrange for maps 1/125,000 - RAFA, and 1/125,000 - KOSBAIMA (all issued) to be taken.

WELL MATERIAL AND TRANSPORT)

All pumps, spear-points and troughing will accompany the Brigade, in limbers.

Sgd. DAVID FINLAY, Major.
Brigade Major,
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

Copies to -

- No. 1 Office Copy
- 2 A. M. R.
- 3 C. M. R.
- 4 W. M. R.
- 5 N.Z.M.F.A.
- 6 "D" Field Troop
- 7 ANZAC Mtd. Divn.
- 8 No. 2 Mobile Vety. Sec.
- 9 Bde. Signal Officer
- 10 N. Z. A. S. C.
- 11)
- 12) War Diary
- 13 File.

REPORT BY G. O. C., N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE, ON OPERATIONS CARRIED
OUT AT MAGDHABA ON 23RD. DECEMBER, 1916.

Appendix No. **K**

The Force having arrived at a point four and a quarter miles North-West of MAGDHABA on the Telegraph Line, the G. O. C. Division took the Brigade Commanders to reconnoitre the position, and at 0922 special orders were issued for the attack.

- 0910.** N. Z. M. R. Brigade and 3rd. Light Horse Brigade were ordered to move round by the North and North-East of MAGDHABA, and to attack it from the East and South.
- N. Z. M. R. Brigade was moved forward under cover, to a point three quarters of a mile East of Divisional Headquarters, which had been established on the Telegraph Line, approximately, four miles North-East of MAGDHABA.
- 0925.** The Brigade Commander and O's C. Regiments N. Z. M. R. Brigade went forward to reconnoitre the position, the Brigade being ordered to follow en masse covered line about three quarters of a mile further to the North-East.
- On reaching a point approximately, three miles North of MAGDHABA, Brigade Headquarters were established, and from here the enemy were observed strongly holding scrubby ridge running from MAGDHABA Eastwards and covering the Road and the Wadi. Behind this ridge clouds of dust were seen, on which our aeroplane dropped several bombs. Parties of the enemy, camels, etc. were seen in the distance retiring behind HILL 345.
- 0955.** Our aeroplanes reported enemy retiring on ABU AWEIGILA, also that the two Redoubts on the East side of the Wadi at MAGDHABA were held, but that the three on the West side of the Wadi were not held.
- Canterbury Regiment was then directed on HILL 345, and Wellington Regiment against the ridge on Canterbury's right, both Regiments with orders to swing round towards MAGDHABA, Canterbury Regiment being responsible for the covering of our left flank and rear. This information was sent in to Divisional Headquarters and to the I. G. C. Brigade, which latter was attacking from the North-West.
- 1000.** 3rd. Light Horse Brigade were moved forward to a point one and a half miles South-East of N. Z. M. R. Brigade Headquarters, with orders to support the attack on MAGDHABA, or to further envelope enemy's right, if the situation at MAGDHABA had been cleared up.
- 1030.** The enemy in front of Canterbury and Wellington Regiments were found in considerable strength, and one Regiment 3rd. Light Horse Brigade was ordered forward to support Canterbury's left.
- 1100.** Progress on the left satisfactory.
- Clouds of dust prevented our observation of the field on the North-West of MAGDHABA, but from the little that could be seen, it appeared, that the attack there was held up, and therefore the 3rd. Light Horse Brigade, less one Regiment, was kept in hand in case need to attack MAGDHABA.
- 1145.** G. O. C. the Division came forward to look at the position.
- 1200.** 3rd. Light Horse Brigade, less one Regiment, ordered to carry out a sweeping movement, round from our left, towards MAGDHABA.
- 1230.** As the attack developed, a gap between Wellington Regiment and Canterbury Regiment was made, but this was filled about 1300 by the 3rd. Light Horse, less one Regiment.
- 1315.** It was realised that the Redoubts at MAGDHABA were much stronger than had been anticipated, and our left was ordered to swing round, and press the attack on MAGDHABA, as it was urgent that these Redoubts should be captured as soon as possible.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS, 23/12/1916. -2-

1400. The 10th. Regiment, 3rd. Light Horse Brigade, on the left, moved round and enveloped the enemy's right, via AULAD ALI and HILL 545, swinging round to the South of MAGDNABA. At the same time, the attack was being vigorously pushed along the ridge, and the enemy was being driven back towards MAGDNABA.

1550. Enemy's resistance collapsed.

NOTES.

(1) The enemy's trenches were very well constructed, and cleverly concealed, and their forward trenches were often difficult to locate, even within 80 yards.

(2) The enemy fought stubbornly throughout, and in one or two of the stronger positions, it was only when bayonet attack by our troops was imminent, that he surrendered.

(3) The two Batteries, R. M. A., under the C. R. A., came into action immediately North-West of Brigade Headquarters, and supported our attack, by firing on the enemy's Redoubts and gun positions.

The fire was well directed, and the enemy's guns were several times silenced.

(4) Enemy's casualties were estimated at 100 killed and 300 wounded (three hundred).

(5) All prisoners taken were driven to MAGDNABA, where they were taken over by a guard from the 3rd. Light Horse Brigade. Enemy battery of 4 guns, captured by the C. M. R., were left in the Redoubt.

(6) The fighting through the heat of the day, after a long night march, proved very trying for all ranks, added to which they only had their original water-bottle ration of water until after the fight was over, but they were in good spirits and very keen to get at the enemy.

(7) The horses of the Brigade, in spite of getting no water in the afternoon of the 22nd. instant until dawn of the 24th. instant, (except one Regiment, which watered at MAGDNABA late at night on the 23rd. instant), and the shortage of forage (march ration), are looking very well.

Total casualties - 3 horses killed, 7 horses sent to Mobile Veterinary Section.

(8) The Report from the G.O.C. 3rd. Light Horse Brigade is not attached, as he has been asked to send it in direct to Divisional Headquarters, at the same time sending a copy to me.

(9) Belle communication throughout the day was difficult, owing to haze and the large cloud of dust raised continuously.

(Signed) E. W. CHAYTOR

Brigadier-General.

G. O. C.,

N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

IN THE FIELD.

24th. December, 1916.

625
COPY.

To N. Z. M. R. Brigade
From C/O C. M. R.

re Captured guns at MAGDHARA.

Herewith please find report on guns captured
23rd. December, 1916, at MAGDHARA.

I respectfully request request that the above
guns be handed over to Canterbury Province, New Zealand, as
war trophies.

Signed. JOHN FINDLAY, Lt-Colonel.

Commanding Canterbury Mounted Rifles.

In the Field.

24th. Decr., 1916.

APPENDIX K

COPY.

To the Commanding Officer,
Canterbury Mounted Rifles.

Report on Capture of four Mountain Guns by Lieut. A. B. Johnston, 9th. Squadron, C.M.R.

After the surrender of the first batch of prisoners at MAGHABA, on the 23rd. December, 1916, Lieut. Johnston and 6 men pushed on to where a mountain battery was still firing. He attacked the position, and after firing a few rounds, the garrison, consisting of 2 officers and 15 men, surrendered. Lieut. Johnston then entered the emplacement, and took this party prisoners. The Battery consisted of 4 guns, 3 of which were out of action.

This matter was reported to me and to an Australian Staff Officer immediately afterwards.

(Sgd) R. BRUCE, Major,

O/C 8th. Squadron, C.M.R.

In the Field.
24th. Decr., 1916.

626

PLAN OF

MAGDHABA OPERATIONS

Appendix No. L

39



Scale 3 inches to 1.97 Miles

Note
 The line of attack of N.Z.M.R. BDE and
 3rd LHM BDEs, if anything a little
 further EAST.

Scale 1/125 000 (approx)

A + N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.
N.Z.M.R. Brigade

100
M

Appendix No. M



N.Z. Mounted
allowed to proceed
frontier E.M.T. from
this LINE

APPENDIX M

KEY	
	Route positions occupied by units of 1st or 2nd NZM.D.
	Route positions covered off by 1st Light Horse Brigade
	Route positions covered off by NZM.R. Brigade
	NZM.R. Brigade Positions
	1st ALH Brigade Positions
	3rd ALH Brigade Positions
	1 Company 3rd Cavalry

3/11/1916

625

SPECIAL ORDERS

Copy No. 1
Appendix No. T

by COLONEL G. L. I. BARKER - COMMANDING OFFICER, 1st. L. H. BDE.

7th. December, 1914.

Reference Maps:-

- 1/125,000 - SHEET EL BARDAYIL.
- 1/125,000 - EL ARISH.

1. INFORMATION.

It is intended to exploit the water supply at the spot ^{where} the 1st. Light Horse Regiment is now camped so as to make the supply sufficient to water one Brigade. The position of the 1st. Light Horse Regimental bivouac is approximately three miles East of EL MUSTAGHA.

2. WORKING PARTY.

From and including the 8th. instant, and until further orders, the duty Regiment will detail one Squadron to proceed to the abovementioned place, leaving camp at 0600 daily and returning to the Brigade bivouac on the completion of the day's work.

The "D" Field Troop will accompany this Squadron, and will be responsible for the carrying out of the work, the O/C getting any assistance he requires from the accompanying Squadron for the work generally.

The party will move off daily from a rendezvous 300 yards East of the Brigade Water Troughs, by the "D" Field Troop camp.

3. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

O/C "D" Field Troop will receive special instructions direct from the O/C Field Squadron, with regard to the work to be carried out, but he will in addition report progress daily to the Brigade Office on return to Camp.

Sgt. DAVID FINLAY, Major.
Brigade Major,
1. L. H. B. Brigade.

Copies to -

- No. 1 Office Copy
- 2 Auckland M. R.
- 3 Canterbury M. R.
- 4 Wellington M. R.
- 5 "D" Field Troop
- 6 ANZAC Mounted Divn.
- 7 1st. L. H. Bde.
- 8)
- 9) War Diary
- 10 File.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Appendix No. Y

by COLONEL G. E. R. HACKETT - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Reference Maps -

6th. December, 1918.

- 1/125,000 - SAHNET, EL BARDAWIL.
- 1/125,000 - EL ARISH.

1. CAMEL COMPANY.

No. 3 Company, I. C. C., at HILL 133 will now come under the orders of Brigadier-General CRIMBY, C. B., Commanding 127th. Infantry Brigade which is acting as escort to the Railway Construction Party.

2. AREAS. - INFORMATION.

Henceforth the G. O. C. 127th. Infantry Brigade is responsible for the country to the East from the Sea to the Southern EL ARISH--MAZAR Road, inclusive, having a post on that Road North of the EL in GHURFAL EL GAMAL.

The 1st. Light Horse Brigade is responsible for the country from the Southern EL ARISH--MAZAR Road, exclusive, to the East and South-East, and will arrange to connect with the N. Z. M. R. Brigade daily patrol to HILL 255.

N. Z. M. R. Brigade will patrol the country as already laid down, between HILL 255 and the 3rd. Light Horse Brigade at WALHA, along the line ARNUSSI - ZOABATIA - WALHA, connecting up with the 3rd. Light Horse Brigade at the latter place.

3. CAMEL TRANSPORT.

O/C 2nd. Battalion, I. C. C., will arrange for the correct quota of First Line Transport Camels to be handed over to the O/C 3rd. Company at HILL 133 during their attachment to the 127th. Infantry Brigade.

Sgd. DAVID FINLAY, Major.

Brigade Major,
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

Copies to:-

- No. 1 Office copy
- 2 O/C 2nd. Battn. I.C.C.
- 3 ANZAC Hqd. Divn.
- 4 1st. L. H. Bde.
- 5 3rd. L. H. Bde.
- 6 O/C G. M. R.
- 7 G.O.C. 127th. I/Bde.
- 8)
- 9) War Diary
- 10 File

ORDERS NO. 8

by
COLONEL G. R. R. HACKESY - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Reference Maps - 1/125,000 - SARKHET EL BARDAHIL
1/125,000 - EL AFISH.

2nd. December 1916.

1. MOVES. The following moves will take place :-

(a) December 3rd. 1916.

O.C. Canterbury M.R. will detail one Squadron to relieve the Squadron 1st. Light Horse Brigade at BIR EL ZOABATIA. Move to be completed by 1200, and a report by wire to this effect sent to Brigade Headquarters.

(b) December 4th. 1916.

O.C. Canterbury M.R. will detail one Squadron to occupy ARNUSSI on the 1st. Light Horse Brigade moving to BIR EL GENERAT.

This Squadron will complete the move by 1000 and a report by wire to this effect sent to Brigade Headquarters.

2. PATROLS.

On relieving the 1st. Light Horse Brigade the O.C. Squadrons, Canterbury M.R. will take over the following Patrols at BIR EL ZOABATIA and ARNUSSI.

(1) BIR EL ZOABATIA.

(a) Patrols (Strength 1 N.C.O. and 8 men) once by day and once by night to BIR ET MALHA.

(b) Patrols (Strength 1 N.C.O. and 8 men) once by day and once by night to ARNUSSI.

(2) ARNUSSI.

(a) Patrols (Strength 12 men under an Officer) to HILL 255. This patrol will leave bivouac daily at 0550 returning at 1730.

(b) Patrols (Strength 4 men under an N.C.O.) to HILL 160. This patrol will leave bivouac daily at 0530 returning at 1730.

NOTE. The 1st. Light Horse Brigade will carry out patrolling between BIR EL GENERAT and ARNUSSI.

3. COMMUNICATIONS. The Brigade Signalling Officer, N.Z.M.R. Brigade will arrange for the Signalling Officer, Canterbury M.R. to take over the existing Communications.

Signed DAVID FINLAY, Major.
Brigade Major.
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

- Copies to -
- No. 1 Office Copy
 - 2 O.C., C. M. R.
 - 3 ARZAC Mounted Division.
 - 4 1st. Light Horse Brigade.
 - 5 Brigade Signalling Officer.
 - 6 O.C., N. Z. A. S. C.
 - 7 O.C., A. M. R.
 - 8 O.C., W. M. R.
 - 9 3rd. Light Horse Brigade.
 - 10 O.C., I.G.C.
 - 11 & 12 War Diary
 - 13 & 14 File.