

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/62/1

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters Desert  
Mounted Corps

April 1918



AWM4-1/62/1

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W A R      D I A R Y  
of

GENERAL STAFF, DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.  
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APRIL, 1918  
-----

( Vol.      )



# 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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 1		<p>Australian Mounted Division moved from BELAH to GAZA en route for SELMEH.</p> <p>Yeomanry Mounted Division moved from SUKERIER to DEIR SENEID en route for BELAH.</p> <p>Instructions issued for Stafford Yeomanry (less Escort Squadron) now en route for BELAH to return to DEIRAN.</p>	<p><i>act.</i></p>



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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 2		<p>S.G.640 issued.</p> <p>Instructions issued for the nine regiments mentioned in S.G.640 to move from BELAH to ALEXANDRIA on 7th &amp; 8th under railway arrangements made by D.Q.M.G., G.H.Q. G.A.709.</p> <p>Australian Mounted Division moved from GAZA to MEJDEL en route for SELMEH. 1700.</p> <p>Yeomanry Mounted Division moved from DEIR SENEID to DEIR EL BELAH arriving 1430.</p> <p>7th Mounted Brigade moved from GAZA to DEIR EL BELAH and came under orders of Yeomanry Mounted Division.</p> <p>3rd County of London Yeomanry arrived at LATRON and came again under orders of Descorps.</p> <p>1 Squadron 3rd County of London Yeomanry employed as Escort Squadron Corps H.Qs. re-joined Regiment at LATRON. Squadron of Stafford Yeomanry took over duties of Escort Squadron Corps H.Qs.</p>	<p>Appx 1</p> <p>Appx 2</p> <p><i>all</i></p>



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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Apl 3		<p>3rd County of London Yeomanry moved from LATRON to near JULIS.</p> <p>2nd County of London Yeomanry (XXth Corps Cavalry) arrived at LATRON and came under orders of Descorps.</p> <p>Australian Mounted Division moved from MEJDEL to SUKERIER.</p>	<p><i>ack.</i></p>



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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr	4	<p>Stafford Yeomanry (less 1 Squadron) moved to KH DEIRAN coming under orders of Corps H.Qs.</p> <p>Australian Mounted Division moved from SUKERIER to DEIRAN.</p> <p>3rd County of London Yeomanry moved from near JULIS to DEIR SENEID.</p> <p>2nd County of London Yeomanry moved from LATRON to near JULIS.</p> <p>D Troop (bridging train) ordered from XXth Corps to rejoin Descorps on the 6th inst.</p>	ack.
		5	<p>Move of Australian Mounted Division completed at SELMEH. Divisional H.Q. opened at AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL 071.L.1.</p> <p>Orders issued for No 7 L.C.P. to be attached to Australian Mounted Division from Apr 7th</p> <p>3rd County of London Yeomanry arrived at BELAH at 1900.</p> <p>Operation Order No 13 issued.</p>	ack.  Appx 3.



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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 6		<p>2nd County of London Yeomanry arrived at BELAH and came under orders of Yeomanry Mounted Division.</p> <p>D. Troop returned to DEIRAN from work with XXth Corps.</p>	<p><i>act.</i></p>



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## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 8		Staffordshire Yeomanry (less one Squadron) ordered to be placed at the disposal of 75th Division and to report at WILHELMA on the 14th inst. G.H.Q., O.A.M. 340 Descorps Bridging Train to come under orders of 7th Indian Division on arrival at JERISHEH. 072.Z.21. on 12th inst.	Appx 4 <i>ack.</i>
		9	Owing to suspected case of small pox, Squadron 4th L.H. Brigade will continue to remain at BELAH until 25th inst.	<i>ack.</i>



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## ~~or~~ ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
	Apr 1, 12		C. Squadron 4th L.H. Regiment moved from BELAH to SELMEH.	<i>ack.</i>
	13		O.A. Cable Section to proceed to DEIRAN leaving BELAH April 15th.	<i>ack.</i>



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## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 14		<p>Worcester Yeomanry ordered by G.H.Q. to be transferred to XXth Corps as Corps Cavalry and on arrival at LATRON to come under XXth Corps orders.</p> <p>6th Cavalry, 19th Lancers, Sialkote Brigade Field Ambulance and Sialkote Brigade Mobile Veterinary Section by march route from TEL EL KEBIR to KANTARA to entrain for BELAH; on arrival at BELAH to come under orders of Desert Mounted Corps.</p>	<p><i>all</i></p>



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## ====<sup>or</sup>==== INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Mch 15		A.O.Cable Section moved from BELAH to DEIRAN <del>          </del>	ack
	16		29th Lancers, 36th Jacobs Horse, Lucknow C.F.A. and Mobile Veterinary Section by-march route moved from TEL EL KEBIR to KANTARA by road. 9th Horse and 18th Lancers proceeded by road to KANTARA to arrive there on the 22nd.	ack



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Apl 17		<p>Advance party Sialkote Brigade leave KANTARA by rail for BELAH.</p> <p>All Indian Cavalry Regiments detraining at BELAH come under orders of G.O.C. Yeomanry Mounted Division.</p> <p>9th Horse and 18th Lancers Amballa C.F.A. and Amballa M.V.S. left TEL EL KEBIR by road for KANTARA.</p> <p>No 7 L.C.P. ordered to return to KH DEIRAN.</p> <p>One Brigade Australian Mounted Division ordered to move from SELMEH to arrive TALAT ED DUMM on 22nd remainder of Australian Mounted Division to arrive TALAT ED DUMM on 23rd to come under orders of XXth Corps on arrival at LATRON. G.O.33 issued.</p> <p>5th Mounted Brigade Group less H A Battery plus 1/1 Sherwood Rangers not to accompany remainder of Division on April 20th</p> <p>H.A.Battery affiliated to 5th Mounted Brigade to move with remainder of Division.</p> <p>1/1 Stafford Yeomanry and D Troop Australian Mounted Engineers to remain at KH DEIRAN as Corps Troops.</p> <p>Yeomanry Mounted Division to be prepared to move into forward area as soon as the Indian units detailed to each Brigade have arrived.</p>	<p>Appx 5</p> <p>act</p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A 000) Wt. W. 171/M203: 750/00 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms C2. 0/14



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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 18		<p>Worcester Yeomanry moved <del>from</del> from SELMEH to LATRON coming under orders of XXth Corps.</p> <p>6th Cavalry &amp; 19th Lancers, Sialkote Brigade Field Ambulance and Sialkote Brigade Mobile Veterinary Section moved by rail from KANTARA to BELAH.</p> <p>No 7 L.C.P. arrived at KH DEIRAN. Amendments to G.O. 33 issued (G.O. 34)</p> <p>Instructions received for 9th Hudsons Horse and 18th Lancers, Amballa Brigade Field Ambulance and Mobile Brigade Veterinary Section to commence to entrain at KANTARA for LUDD on 23rd inst/and on arrival at LUDD they will come under orders of Descorps. Australian Mounted Division advised accordingly.</p>	<p>Appx 6</p> <p><i>ack.</i></p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Apr 19		<p>On instructions from G.H.Q., 5th Mounted Brigade to move to area about AYUN KARA where it will be reorganized. On completion of reorganisation Brigade to rejoin Australian Mounted Division.</p> <p>7th Mounted Brigade Group to be reorganised at BELAH: when reorganised to be concentrated in the Selmeh area and to come under orders of 21st Corps.</p> <p>5th Mounted Brigade will occupy Camp of 5th L.H. Brigade at RICHON.</p> <p>Corps Commander visited the Camps of Indian Cavalry Regts Sialkote Brigade at BELAH.</p>	<p>AM.</p>
	20		<p>29th Lancers, 36th Jacobs Horse, Lucknow C.F.A. and Lucknow Mob Vet Section moved by rail from KANTARA to BELAH.</p> <p>3rd A.L.H. Brigade arrived DEIRAN V.25. at 1315.</p> <p>5th Mounted Brigade moved to area about AYUN KARA . G.A.868.</p> <p>Australian Mounted Division (less 3rd &amp; 5th Brigade Groups) arrived DEIRAN 1400. D.H.Q.</p> <p>V.34.b. 3rd Brigade Group arrived LATRON 1400.</p>	<p>Act.</p> <p>Appx 7</p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms C2118/14



WAR DIARY

13  
Army Form C. 2118.

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==or==  
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 21		<p>Corps Commander inspected D Troop Australian Engineers at 1100.</p> <p>9th Mountain Artillery Brigade placed at disposal of D.M.C.</p> <p>Det London Pack W/T Section ordered to rejoin D.M.C. at TALAT ED DUMM on 25th inst.</p> <p>Australian Mounted Division (less 3rd &amp; 5th Brigade Groups arrived LATRON 1445.</p> <p>3rd Brigade Group arrived bivouac Square 099 T 25.d.5.4. at 1200.</p> <p><del>Operation No 14 issued.</del></p> <p><i>Force Order No 63 dated 20<sup>th</sup> April received</i></p> <p><i>Operation Order No 14 issued</i></p>	<p><i>ack.</i></p> <p><del>DDX 7(a)</del></p> <p><i>Appx 7(a)</i></p> <p><i>Appx 7(b)</i></p>



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<sup>or</sup>  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 22		<p>9th Horse and 18th Lancers Amballa Brigade Field Ambulance and Amballa Brigade Veterinary Section due to arrive KANTARA from TEL EL KEBIR.</p> <p>2nd Lancers and 38th C.I. Horse Mhow C.F.A. and Mhow M.U.S. marched to KANTARA.</p> <p>Jodhpur Lancers, Jodhpur C.F.A. move to KANTARA to arrive on 27th. Entrain for BELAH on 28th to come under orders of Descorps on arrival.</p> <p>Australian Division (less 3rd &amp; 5th Brigade Groups) arrived <del>BEIT-NAKUBA-1600</del> TALAT ED DUMM 1600.</p> <p>29th Lancers Lucknow C.F.A. arrived BELAH and joined 1st Mounted Division.</p> <p>3rd Brigade Group arrived TALAT ED DUMM 1520</p>	<p>act.</p>



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~~==or==~~  
~~===INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY===~~  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Apr 23		<p>19th Brigade R.H.A. arrived at TALAT ED DUMM 1510 and was placed at disposal of G.O.C. A &amp; B Division.</p> <p>Moves as enumerated in G.A. 901 to take place on 24th inst to be completed by 1800.</p> <p>Order No G035 issued. <i>(under instructions from G.H.Q. title of Leo Mtd. Divn changed to 1st Mounted Division)</i></p> <p>Order No G C 36 issued.</p> <p>G.O.36 cancelled by wire G.A.904.</p>	<p>Appx 8</p> <p>Appx 9</p> <p>Appx 10</p> <p>Appx 11</p> <p><i>Act.</i></p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 24		5th & 6th Mounted Brigades less Indian Troops moved in accordance with G.A.901.  Operation Order No 15 issued.	<del>Appx 12</del> Appx 12 <i>det.</i>
	25		Det London Pack W/T Section arrived TALAT ED DUMM coming under orders of D.M.C.  I.S.Cavalry Brigade (less Aydrabad Lancers) arrived JUNCTION STATION ar 1800 and came under orders of Descorps.  At 1200 Descorps report Centre closed at KHURBET DIERAN and open at 113.G.17.d. at the same hour.  At 1800 G.O.C.Descorps assumed command of the right flank of the force.	<i>det.</i>



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Apr 26		60th Division (less one Brigade Group) came under orders of Descorps at 2400.  G.O.37 issued.	Appx. <i>ack.</i>
	27		0600 I.C. Brigade came under orders of Descorps.  O.O. No.16 issued.  G.O.38 issued.	Appx. Appx. <i>ack.</i>
	28.		G.O.39 issued.	Appx. <i>ack.</i>

*A. Humphreys.*  
Major (Lt.)  
General Staff  
Desert Mounted Corps.



Appx 1

SUBJECT:- MACHINE GUN BATTALIONS.

S E C R E T,

S.G.640

YEOMANRY MOUNTED DIVISION.

1. The following Machine Gun Battalions will be formed from Yeomanry Regiments:-

"A" M.G. Battalion from 1/1st Warwick & 1/1st S. Notts Hussars.  
"B" M.G. " " 1/1st Bucks & 1/1st Berks Yeomanry.  
"C" M.G. " " 1/1st City of London & 1/3rd Co of Lon: Yeo:  
"D" M.G. " " 1/1st Lincolnshire & 1/1st East Riding Yeo:

2. Detailed Establishments are forwarded herewith:-

30 to Yeodiv  
9 to D.A. & Q.M.G.  
remainder 1 each.

Machine Gun Battalions will be accompanied by 10% reinforcements.

3. The identity of units will be retained. Correct designatory numbers will be notified later.

4. This reorganisation will be carried out in this Country if time permits.

5. The 1/1st County of London Yeomanry will accompany the four Machine Gun Battalions overseas and will form the nucleus of another Machine Gun Battalion.

They will proceed on War Establishment No. 690/35 plus 10% reinforcements.

6. Training will take place on arrival overseas.

7. Vickers Machine Guns, animals, transport ~~and~~ harness and other Machine Gun Equipment will be issued on arrival at destination.

8. D.A. & Q.M.G. will issue instructions regarding quota to be found by each Regiment, rendering of states etc.

9. ~~Further~~ Further instructions will be issued.

(Sgd.) N.H.C. RUSSELL. Major. GS.  
for Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

1.4.18.

Copies to:- Australian Mounted Division.  
D.A. & Q.M.G.  
D.D.M.S.  
D.D.V.S.  
C.R.E.  
A.D.S.T.  
C.M.G.O.  
D.A.D.R.  
A.D.O.S.  
3rd Echelon.  
2nd Co. of London Yeomanry.



**"A" Form**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 2131  
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message **2**

Prefix.....	Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is an a/c of <i>Copy</i>	Recd. at.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent			Date.....
		At.....m.			From.....
		To.....			By.....
		By.....			(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { *Yerdiv DDMs AOST Ados*  
*Ausdiv DDVS CMBO*  
*DA+DMB BRE DADR*

Sender's Number. * <i>GA 709</i>	Day of Month. <i>2/4K</i>	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
-------------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------	------------

*Reference this office SG brio of 2/4/18 the nine yeomanry Regts mentioned therein will move from BELAH to ALEXANDRIA on 7th and 8th under arrangements to be made by DDMG GHQ aas Adosd Yerdiv repla Ausdiv DA+DMB DDMs DDVS BRE AOST CMBO DADR Ados*

From *Descorps*  
 Place  
 Time *2225*

*(sa) A Neate*  
*Major SS*

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(2981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187



**SECRET**

*Apr 3*

Copy No. *32*

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS ORDER No. 13

5th April 1918.

Under Force Order No. 62, dated 3rd April 1918.

1. With effect from 1200 on the 8th April, 1918, the sub-command, DELTA FORCE, will cease to exist.
2. The General Officer Commanding, Force in EGYPT, will command and administer all troops previously allotted to DELTA Force.
3. The General Officer Commanding, Force in EGYPT, is allotted a Staff as under :-
  - A.D.C.
  - G.S.O. 1.
  - 2 G.S.Os. 3.
  - A.A. & Q.M.G.
  - 2 D.A.A.Gs.
  - 2 D.A.Q.M.Gs.
  - 2 Staff Captains
  - Officer Clerk
  - Compensation Officer.
4. All representatives of Services and Departments now serving with DELTA Force will be transferred to Force in EGYPT, with effect from the time of the abolition of DELTA Force.
5. The sub-command of DELTA Force, known as the Southern Section, will be embodied in the command of the Force in EGYPT without alteration in Staff.
6. The Senior Battalion Commander in CAIRO will exercise the functions of O.C. Troops CAIRO, and will be allotted one Staff Captain as Staff Officer by the General Officer Commanding, Force in EGYPT.
7. On no account will this Order be communicated beyond Divisional Headquarters or Heads of Departments.

*Am/arbitt*

*Capt J.S.*

*for* Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Operation Order Distribution.

Less : 3, 4, 5, 13, 19, 27, 28,  
29, 30.



Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions				
Cp 1	Sent		Cp 1	Service Date.....
	At.....m.			
	To.....			From.....
	By.....			By.....
		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		

TO

Sender's Number. * 0211 340	Day of Month. 8	In reply to Number. /	AAA
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Reference this Office 3/857 of  
6<sup>th</sup> Stafford Grenadier less  
one Squadron will be placed  
at disposal of 73<sup>rd</sup> Division and  
Regt should report at WILHELMIA  
on 14<sup>th</sup> Added descripts  
reptd 21<sup>st</sup> Corps with ref their  
G 725

From

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

*Censor.*

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187



**SECRET**

*Appt 5*

Subject : OPERATIONS - JORDAN.

G.O. 33

1. Australian Mounted Division will move as follows.

	<u>1 Brigade Group.</u>	<u>Division (less 1 Bde. Group)</u>
April 19th	KHURBET DEIRAN	-
April 20th	LATRON	KHURBET DEIRAN
April 21st	JERUSALEM Area	LATRON
April 22nd	TALAT ED DUMM Area	JERUSALEM area.
April 23rd	-	TALAT ED DUMM area

2. (a) The marches from SELMEH to KHURBET DEIRAN and KHURBET DEIRAN to LATRON will be complete by 1500.  
(b) The remainder of the marches will be conducted under the orders of G.O.C., XXth Corps.  
(c) Completion of all moves will be reported to this office.
3. (a) 1/1st Sherwood Rangers will remain for the present under the orders of G.O.C., Australian Mounted Division.  
(b) 1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry (less 1 Squadron) and "D" Troop Australian Engineers (less a detachment to be retained by C.R.E.) will come under the orders of G.O.C., Australian Mounted Division from 1500 April 20th, and will march from KHURBET DEIRAN with the Division.
4. Instructions will be issued later regarding  
(a) Yeomanry Mounted Division (less Staffordshire Yeomanry), who will be prepared to move into the forward area by brigade groups as soon as the Indian units detailed to each brigade have arrived.  
(b) 7th Mounted Brigade (less Sherwood Rangers).  
(c) 9th Hodson's Horse and 18th Lancers.

5. Acknowledge.

*R. Howard Myre*

17th April 1918.

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Operation Order Distribution  
plus : XXth Corps, XXIst Corps, & Staffordshire Yeomanry.



SECRET



G.O.34.

*Appx 6*

With reference to this Office G.O.33 of April 17th

1. The Brigade Group to move on April 19th will be a Light Horse Brigade.
2. 5th Mounted Brigade Group (less the H.A. Battery plus 1/1st Sherwood Rangers) will not accompany the remainder of the Division on April 20th but will move on the same date to a destination which will be notified by D.A. & Q.M.G., and will come under direct orders of Corps Headquarters. The H.A. Battery affiliated to 5th Mounted Brigade will move with the remainder of the Division on April 20th and succeeding days.
3. Para. 3(b) is cancelled. 1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry and "D" Troop, Australian Engineers will remain for the present at KHURBET DEIRAN as Corps Troops.

*R. H. H. H. H.*

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

April 18th 1918.

NORMAL OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION

plus XXth Corps, XXIst Corps and Staffordshire Yeomanry.



**"A" Form**  
**MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.**

Army Form C. 2121  
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:  <i>Copy</i>  (Signature of "Ranking Officer.")	Recd. at.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions			Sent			Date.....
			At.....			From.....
			To.....			By.....
			By.....			

TO {	<i>Ausdiv</i>	<i>Appendix 7</i>
	<i>Geodiv</i>	

Sender's Number. <b>*GA868</b>	Day of Month. <b>20/4</b>	In reply to Number.	<b>AAA</b>
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Following move from EHQ begins and  
CATH 393 19th. and 5th MIA Bde  
will move to area about AYUN KARA  
where it will be reorganised and on  
completion of reorganisation Brigade  
will rejoin Ausdiv and 7th MIA Bde  
group will be reorganised at BELAH  
after which Brigade will concentrate in  
the SELMEH area and will come  
under orders of 2nd Corps and end.  
Please report completion of reorganisation  
to this office and addres Ausdiv  
and Geodiv

From <i>2nd Corps</i>	
Place	
Time	(sd) <i>Al Campbell</i>
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)	
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.  
(7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187



SECRET

Copy No 16

F O R C E    O R D E R    No 63.

by  
GENERAL SIR EDMUND ALLENBY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Commander in Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force

General Headquarters,  
20th April 1918.

1. Desert Mounted Corps will take over the command of the right flank of the Force.

Dividing line between XXth Corps and Desert Mounted Corps will be:-

KURN SURTEBEH (112.N.17) - Point 830 (113.R.11.d) - EL KUSH (113.B.1.a) - RAD ET TAWIL (113.O.14) - Point (100 J.20.a.9.9) (EL AZIRIYEH to Desert Mounted Corps) thence to mouth of WADI EN NAR (114.Y.16.c)

2. Headquarters Desert Mounted Corps will be established in the neighbourhood of KH EL MESHRAB (113.G.11)

3. Desert Mounted Corps will be responsible for the front West of the JORDAN from the right of the XXth Corps and for the whole of the front East of the JORDAN and DEAD SEA.

4. The following units are allotted to Desert Mounted Corps:-

Mounted Division  
Australian Mounted Division  
Anzac Mounted Division  
Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade  
20th Indian Infantry Brigade  
Imperial Camel Brigade  
Dead Sea Flotilla  
10th Heavy Battery R.G.A.  
383rd Siege Battery R.G.A.

5. 7th Mounted Brigade is allotted to XXist Corps and will be concentrated in the SELMEH area after reorganisation.

6. Date of taking over command and relief of units of XXth Corps will be arranged between the Corps Commanders concerned and reported to General Headquarters.

7. Instructions for future operations will be issued separately.

(Sd) L.J.BOLS  
Major General,  
Chief of the General Staff,  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Issued to:-

Copy No

1. C-in-C	11 D.S.T.
2. C.G.S.	12 D.M.S.
3. B.G.G.S.	13 P.M.
4. "O".	14 G.O.C. XXTH CORPS
5. "I".	15 " XXist "
6. D.A.G.	16 " D.M.C.
7. D.Q.M.G.	17 Insp Pales L of C
8. M.G.R.A.	18 G.O.C. Pales L-of-C. Bde R.A.F.
9. E-in-C	19 W.D.
10. D.A.S.	



SECRET

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

OPERATION ORDER No. 14.

Copy No. *32*

Reference map : 1" = 1 mile.

21st April 1918.

1. Desert Mounted Corps will take over command of the right flank of the Force.

2. Desert Mounted Corps will be responsible for the front West of the JORDAN from the right of the XXth Corps, and for the whole of the front East of the JORDAN and DEAD SEA.

Dividing line between XXth Corps and Desert Mounted Corps will be KURN SURTUBEH (113.M.17) - Point 850 (113.R.11.d.) - EL KUSE (113.B.1.a.) - RAS ET TAWIL (113.C.14.) to Point (100.J.20.a.9.9) - (EL AZIRIYEH, to Desert Mounted Corps), thence to mouth of WADI EN NAR (114.Y.16.c.)

3. The following units will be allotted to Desert Mounted Corps :

Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.  
20th Indian Infantry Brigade.  
Imperial Camel Brigade.  
Dead Sea Flotilla.  
10th Heavy Battery, R.G.A.  
383rd Siege Battery, R.G.A.

Instructions regarding the allotment of

- (a) Certain other artillery units
- (b) Corps R.E.
- (c) R.A.F.

will be issued later.

4. 7th Mounted Brigade will eventually be allotted to XXIst Corps and will be concentrated in the SELMEH area after reorganisation.

5. Desert Mounted Corps will take over command from XXth Corps at 1800 on 25th April.

G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will remain responsible for the defence of the whole front until further orders.

6. Report Centre will close at KHIRBET DEIRAN at 1200 on April 25th and open at the same time at TALAT ED DUMM.

7. Acknowledge.

Issued at 2315

*for* *Ampleforth* *may*  
Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION

plus : XXth Corps. XXIst Corps.



"A" Form.

Army Form C. 3121.  
(In pads of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....m	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of: <i>[Signature]</i> Service. (Sig. of "Franking Officer.")	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Sent			Date.....
		At.....m.			From.....
		To.....			By.....

TO {

Sender's Number

Day of Month

In reply to Number

AAA

\* 9A 901

23/4

Following moves will take place 24<sup>th</sup> inst  
to be completed by 1800, and 6<sup>th</sup> Mid Bde  
framp with 11<sup>th</sup> Co London Reg attached to  
GAZA and 5<sup>th</sup> Mid Bde framp less Indian  
units plus 11<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Rangers 11<sup>th</sup> Staff  
Reg (less one sqdn) to LATRON to come under  
orders of XX<sup>th</sup> Corps en route for FNAB and  
D<sup>th</sup> Troop Australian Engineers to LATRON  
under orders to be issued by 5<sup>th</sup> Mid Bde  
and Indian units. 5<sup>th</sup> Mid Bde will come  
under orders Inspc Poles L of C and  
Acknowledge and Address Indian Units.  
5<sup>th</sup> Mid Bde 11<sup>th</sup> Staff Reg CRE report  
GHO Major Russell L of C M of C for a ABST  
APM L of C ABST and L of C ABST

From Descorps

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Sig. of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

\* This line should be erased if not required.

(27964) Wt. W492/M1647. [E 1187]. 130,000 Pads-5/17. M.R.Co., Ltd. Forms/C.3121.



SECRET.

G.O. 35  
=====

Appx 9.

1. Yeomanry Mounted Division will in future be known as 1st Mounted Division.
2. The Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, H.Q. at HERBIEH, comes under orders of G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps on April 25th.
3. JODHPUR LANCERS, eventually destined for Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, will come temporarily under orders of G.O.C. 1st Mounted Division on detraining at BELAH on or about April 29th.
4. As soon as the JODHPUR LANCERS are re-equipped they will move to HERBIEH and come under the orders of G.O.C., Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.  
Arrangements will be made direct between G.Os.C. formations concerned, and notified to this office.
5. Acknowledge.

*R. Howard Pope*

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

23rd April 1918.

OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION.

plus : Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.  
Palestine L. of C.



G.O. 36

1. From 1200 on 25th April 1/1st STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY (less 1 squadron) at KHELBET DEIRAN will come under orders of G.O.C., 5th Mounted Brigade until further orders.

2. "D" Troop, Australian Engineers (Bridging Train) will move with Desert Mounted Corps H.Q. on 25th April to Point 463 (113.G.17.d.)

### 3. Acknowledge.

23rd April 1918.

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION

Plus : XXIst Corps  
XXth Corps.  
1/1st Staffs. Yeomanry.  
5th Mounted Brigade.  
O.C. "D" Troop, Australian Engineers.

[illegible]



SECRET

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

COPY NO.....

OPERATION ORDER NO.15.

Reference Map.: 1" = 1 mile.

24th April 1918.

1. (a). Troops, in addition to those mentioned in para.3 of Operation Order No.14, come under the orders of G.O.C., Desert Mounted Corps as under :-

<u>Formation.</u>	<u>Date &amp; Time.</u>	<u>Location.</u>
60th Division (less one Brigade Group).		JERUSALEM.
1/1st Worcester Yeo.	2400 April 24th.	LATRON (Come under orders of G.O.C. 5th Mounted Brigade).
9th Mountain Artillery Brigade.	2400 April 25th	MAR ELIAS 100.K.10.
Nos.11 & 12 L.A.M.Bttys.	1800 April 25th	JERICHO.

- (b). All troops of Desert Mounted Corps at BELAH, are placed under the orders of G.O.C., 1st Mounted Division, and will move thence under instructions which will be issued by Inspector Palestine Lines of Communication.

- (c). Indian Units allotted to 5th Mounted Brigade have been placed temporarily under the orders of Inspector Palestine Lines of Communication.

Moves. 2. (a). Moves will take place in accordance with the attached table.

- (b). Orders will be issued later regarding the moves of 60th Division and 9th Mountain Artillery Brigade.

- (c). Mounted troops marching on the LATRON - JERICHO and BETHLEHEM - JERUSALEM roads will move in half sections, with 200 yards between squadrons and transport formations of similar size. All troops will move to JERICHO from TALAT ED DUM by the old road.

- (d). Completion of all moves will be notified to Corps Headquarters by the quickest possible means.

Bivouac Areas. 3. Dividing line between bivouac areas will be as follows :-

- (a). Between A.& N.Z. and Australian Mounted Divisions

The WADY KELT as far as ERIHA, thence ERIHA - EL GHORANIYEH road.

The EL GHORANIYE bridgehead is in the area of A.& N.Z.Mtd.Divn.

- (b). Between Australian Mounted Division and I.C.C.Brigade.

An East and West line through KH.ES SUMRAH, 113.J.14.

- (c). Instructions will be issued later regarding the parts of the above areas to be allotted to Corps Troops and to 60th Division.



(2).

Organisation  
of Command.

4. (a). The following distribution of troops, in accordance with the bivouac areas laid down above, will be completed by 1200 April 28th. Arrangements will be made between G.O.C. Formations direct.

(i). Major-General Sir F.W.C. Chaytor. K.C.M.G., C.B.

A. N.Z. Mounted Division (less 1st A.L.H. Brigade, but including all R.H.A. Batteries.)  
Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (less Jodpur Lancers).  
Corps Bridging Train.  
20th Indian Infantry Brigade.  
No. 11 L.A.M. Battery.

(ii). Major-General H.W. Hodgson. C.V.O., C.B.

Australian Mounted Division (less Indian Units and one Regiment).

1st A.L.H. Brigade.  
1/1st Sherwood Rangers.  
1/1st Worcestershire Yeomanry.  
No. 12 L.A.M. Battery.

(iii). Brigadier-General C.L. Smith V.C., M.C.

I.C.G., Brigade.  
1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry (less 1 Squadron)

- (v). Troops under Brigadier-General Smith will come under the direct orders of Corps Headquarters at 1200 on April 28th.

Artillery.

5. Instructions regarding moves and allotment of artillery will be issued by G.O.C., R.A.

Bridge-  
head.

6. G.O.C., A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will, by dawn on April 28th, have thrown a bridge at MAKHADET HAJLA, and will occupy a Bridgehead with one Mounted Brigade and a Battalion of Infantry. The Bridgehead will be strongly held and the ground in front of it energetically patrolled by night and day.

7. *Acknowledge*

*R. G. Howard-Hoe*

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION.

plus XXth Corps.  
XXIst Corps.  
60th Division.  
5th Mtd. Bde.  
6th Mtd. Bde.  
Imperial Service Cavalry Bde.



FORMATION.	DESTINATION.						REMARKS.
	April 24	Apl 25th	Apl.26th	Apl. 27th	Apl.28th	Apl.29th	
3rd A.L.H.Bde.	JERICHO	-	-	-	-	-	
Australian Mtd.Divn.(less 3rd A.L.H. & 5th Mtd. Bdes.)	-	-	JERICHO. not start- ing before 1900.	-	-	-	
5th Mtd.Bde. 1/1st Sherwood Engrs. 1/1st Staffs.Yeo.(less 1 Sqn. 1/1st Worcester Yeo. "D" Troop A.E.	LATRON.	ENAB.	(a). TALAT ED DUMM starting not before 1800.	(b). JERICHO. clearing TALAT ED DUMM not later than 1400.			(a). Come under orders of GOC. Aust.Mtd.Divn. on leaving ENAB on 28th. (b). "D" Troop (less Bridging Train) remain at TALAT ED DUMM under orders of C.R.E.Bridging Train comes under orders of G.O.C., A. & NZ.Mtd.Div. on reaching JERICHO.
Imperial Serv.Cav.Bde. (less Jodhpur & Hyderabad Lancers.)	NEW BEIT DURAS	(c) JUNCTION STATION	ZAKARIYA	BETHLEHEM	(d). JERICHO starting at 1800 & clearing JERUSALEM by 2100		(c). Come under orders of GOC. Des.Mtd.Corps on arrival at JUNCTION STATION on 25th. (d). Come under orders of G.O.C. A&NZ.Mtd.Divn. on arrival at JERICHO on 29th.
60th Division. less 1 Inf.Bde.Group and one F.A.Group already at JERICHO.	-	-	-	TALAT ED DUMM, which will not be reached before 1400	JERICHO starting at 1600	-	
6th Mtd.Bde. 1/1st Co.of Lon.Yeo. 20th A.N.A.Bde. and Amman Column.	GAZA	MEJDEL	(e). JUNCTION STATION	ENAB.	TALAT ED DUMM start -ing not before 800 and not entering JERUSALEM before 2100	JERICHO starting not before 1900	(e). Come under direct orders of GOC., Des.Mtd.Corps. on leaving MEJDEL on 26th.

*ack*



Appx 13

SECRET

G.O. 37

1. With reference to Operation Order No. 15, para. 6, in addition to one Mounted Brigade and one Battalion Infantry, G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will detail one Squadron HYDERABAD LANCERS to the garrison of the bridgehead at LAKHADET RAJLA.
2. Command of the front now held by G.O.C., A. & N.Z. Mounted Division, together with all troops mentioned in para. 4 (a) (i) of Operation Order No. 15, will pass to G.O.C. 60th Division at 1800 on April 28th.
3. 60th Division, less Artillery, will cross the JORDAN at EL GHORANIYE on the night of April 28th/29th.
4. Para. 5. Moves and allotment of artillery are shown in attached table.
5. Acknowledge.

26th April 1918.

*A. Campbell Ross*  
for Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION

Plus XXth Corps.  
XXIst Corps.  
60th Division.  
5th Mounted Bde.  
6th Mounted Bde.  
Imperial Service Cavalry Bde.



MOVES OF ARTILLERY

Unit	Date	From	To	Remarks
Horses & Wagons 1 Secn. 91st Heavy Battery RGA	Night Apl.27/28	JERUSALEM	W.bank of JORDAN	(a) Move under orders of GOC 60th Division and under cover of darkness. (b) Join Battery on arrival under GOC A.& N.Z. Mounted Division.
9th Mountain Artillery Brigade, R.G.A.	Night Apl.27/28	MAR ELIAS 100.K.10.	JERICHO	(a) Move under orders of GOC 60th Division, and under cover of darkness. (b) One 3.7 Battery reports to GOC Australian Mounted Division on arrival, time of which will be notified to Australian Mtd. Divn.
Sections of 10th & 53rd D. A. C.	Night Apl.28/29	JERUSALEM  to be cleared by 1800.	JERICHO	(a) move ordered by XXth Corps. (b) Come under orders of GOC 60th Division on arrival.
91st Heavy Battery R.G.A.	Night Apl.28/29	W.bank of JORDAN.	E.bank of JORDAN	Come under orders of GOC 60th Division at 1800 April 28th.
H.A. & S. Battery	April 29th	I.C.C. Brigade.	Join Australian Mtd. Divn.	Under arrangements to be made direct between commanders concerned.

*act.*



SECRET

Appx 14

No written orders or instructions as a result of  
these orders are to be issued before 1300, April 28th.

*W. H. B. L. L. L.*

27th April 1918

*for*  
Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.



SECRET

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

OPERATION ORDER No. 16

Copy No. 48

Reference Map: 1" = 1 mile.

27th April 1918

Information

1. Information about the enemy will be issued separately.

Intention.

2. The Corps Commander intends to envelop the right of the enemy's main forces about SHUNET NIMRIN, capture ES SALT, and advance to the line KUSR, 142.T.9, - Pt.2900, 142.O.35.

Orders to Troops.

3. In consequence, the following moves will take place on April 30th.

- (a) Major-General J.S.M. Shea, CB., CMG., DSO. will attack about one hour before dawn. He will

Major-General J.S.M. Shea,  
CB., CMG., DSO.  
A.&N.Z. Mounted Division  
(less 1st ALH & 18th RHA  
Brigades)  
60th Division (less 1 Bde.  
Group).  
20th RHA Bde. (less 1 Bty.)  
91st Heavy Battery RGA.  
9th Mountain Artillery Bde.  
(less 1 Battery)  
No. 11 L.A.C. Battery.  
1 Squadron Hyderabad Lncrs.  
Patiala Infantry Battalion.

- (i) Employ 1 Mounted Regiment, 1 Squadron Hyderabad Lancers, and 1 Battalion Patiala Infantry to seize the enemy's advanced works near the KABR SAID and KABR MUJAHID tracks (Nos. 2 & 3).

- (ii) Occupy the line MAKKAR ED DERBASI - TEL EL MUSTA - EL HAUD.

- (iii) Direct A. & N.Z. Mounted Division to advance to the line KUSR, 142.T.9, - ES SALT.

A. & N.Z. Mounted Division, when clear of the infantry, will come under direct orders of Corps Headquarters.

Major-General H.W. Hodgson,  
CB., CVO.  
Australian Mounted Division.  
1st A.L.H. Brigade.  
Hong Kong & Singapore Bty.  
1 Battery 9th Mountain  
Artillery Brigade.  
No. 12 L.A.C. Battery.

- (b) Major-General H.W. Hodgson, CB., CVO will advance rapidly Northwards East of the JORDAN not later than 0400. He will place one mounted brigade, supported by at least two R.H.A. Batteries, facing North West astride the UMM ESH SHERT - JISR ED DAMIE and ES SALT - JISR ED DAMIE tracks.

With the remainder of his force he will move on ES SALT from West and North West.

When ES SALT is occupied dispositions will be made to protect it on the North, one brigade will advance to Pt. 2900, 142.O.35, and a detachment will move towards SHUNET NIMRIN with the object of capturing the enemy retiring from in front of Major-General Shea.

Corps Headquarters will be prepared to assume direct command of the brigade facing JISR ED DAMIE, when Major-General Hodgson considers it more convenient.

- (c) The dividing line between A. & N.Z. and Australian Mounted Divisions East of ES SALT will be a line from ES SALT to Pt. 2900, 142.O.35, inclusive to Australian Mounted Division.

The WADY ARSENIYET track (No. 6) is allotted to Major-General Shea, east of the spring in 127.O.6., exclusive.

(d)



2.

Brigadier-General C.L. Smith,  
VC., MC.

I.C.C. Brigade.  
1/1st Staffordshire Yeomanry  
(less 1 squadron)  
18th R.H.A. Brigade.  
383rd Siege Battery R.G.A.  
-----

(d) Brigadier-General C.L. Smith, VC., MC., will, by 0400, have thrown forward his right to about 113.X.23.a., and have established a post of at least one section in a position to command the right bank of the JORDAN near the bend in 113.X.17.d.

(e) 20th Indian Infantry Brigade, (less Patiala Infantry and detachments) will be employed, from 0500 onwards, in improving the approaches to the GHORANIYE crossings, instructions as to which will be issued by C.R.E.

They will be prepared, at one hour's notice, to occupy the GHORANIYE bridgehead. Two sections, total not less than 25 men, will be permanently stationed at the bridges from 1800 on April 29th onwards, to render assistance in case of a block: they may however be withdrawn in the event of the brigade being required to occupy the bridgehead.

(f) 6th Mounted Brigade including 1 R.H.A. Battery, and Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (less 1 Squadron and detachments) will, by 0900, be assembled in Corps Reserve, about two miles West of EL GHORANIYE, and North and South respectively of the road. They will reconnoitre routes towards EMM ESH SHERT East of the JORDAN and towards EL MUSALLABEH, 113.W.34.

Approach March

4. The approach march in connection with the above will be conducted as follows :-

(a) 20th R.H.A. Brigade (less 1 Battery) will come under the orders of Major-General Shea on arrival at TALAT ED DUMM on the morning of April 29th. On the night April 29th/30th as much of the march as possible will be conducted in darkness.

(b) The GHORANIYE crossings are allotted to Major-General Hodgson from 2200 to 0230, during which period Major-General Shea will have no troops on the approaches. Major-General Hodgson will emerge from the bridgehead by No.6 road only.

Communication  
with Artillery.

5. A.& N.Z. Mounted Division will use red and yellow flags, the remainder of the Corps red flares, to indicate the position of the most advanced troops to the artillery.

Ammunition  
Supply.

6. (a) An ammunition dump has been formed West of GHORANIYE Bridge 113.L.12.b. A second will be formed at SHUNET NIMRIN as early as possible.

(b) G.O.C., R.A. will assume control of ammunition columns as under:-

(i) Of Major-General Shea's Force and A.& N.Z. Mounted Division on occupation of the line  
TEL EL MUSTA - EL HAUD.

(ii) Of Major-General Hodgson's Force, on reaching  
ES SALT.



Aeroplane  
Cooperation.

7. The following have been arranged.

- (a) Aeroplane contact patrols of the area of operations from 0530 to 0700, 1100 to 1230, and 1530 to 1700.
- (b) Tactical reconnaissance of the area of operations, not going more than 10,000 yards beyond our front line, from 0900 to 1030, 1300 to 1430, and 1500 to 1630.
- (c) Strategical reconnaissance of the NABLUS - JISR ED DAMIE - ES SALT and AMMAN - ES SALT roads at about 1200 and 1600.
- (d) Artillery observation (one machine) throughout the day.

Messages from (a) and (b) will be dropped on A. & N.Z. and Australian Divisional as well as on Corps Headquarters. Those from (c) on Corps Headquarters only.

Medical.

8. Receiving Stations will be established on the East bank of the JORDAN near the bridge.

Prisoners.

9. Prisoners' Collecting Station will be established at the entrance to the GHORANIYE Bridgehead on No.5 road. G.O.C. Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade will detail two troops to report to Corps A.P.M. there at 0400.

Traffic  
Control.

10. Corps A.P.M. will issue instructions as to traffic control, paying particular attention to the GHORANIYE crossings.

Relay Posts.

11. O.C. Escort Squadron will detail one troop to establish a chain of relay posts from Advanced Corps Headquarters behind Australian Mounted Division, to connect with the brigade of that division facing JISR ED DAMIE. To be in position by 0500 and to remain until withdrawn by Corps Headquarters.

Documents.

12. All ranks will be searched for documents before going into action.

Galloppers.

13. A. & N.Z. and Australian Mounted Divisions will each detail an officer gallopper to be at Advanced Corps Headquarters at 0400: 6th Mounted and Imperial Service Cavalry Brigades will each detail an officer gallopper to be at Advanced Corps Headquarters at 0900.

Reports.

14. Advanced Corps Headquarters will be established at 0300 at 113.L.12.a.2.1. Telegraphic address - Advanced Descorps.

15. Acknowledge.

*R. G. Howard-Wyke*

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Issued at 1545.

OPERATION ORDER DISTRIBUTION

plus : XXth Corps Imperial Service Cavalry Bde.  
60th Division. 20th Indian Infantry Bde.  
6th Mounted Bde. R.A.F. Liaison Officer.



Appx 15

SECRET

G.O. 38

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Special Instructions issued with Operation Order No.16.

G.O.C., 60th Division.

1. The attack ordered in Operation Order No.16 para. 3 (a) (i) is intended as a demonstration only. You will use your own discretion as to the objectives you allot, and as to the artillery which you assign to this attack.

You will arrange for the regiment of A. & N.Z. Mounted Division to rejoin its division as soon as possible after you have directed Major-General Chaytor to advance on AIN ES SIR and ES SALT. Patiala Infantry and one Squadron Hyderabad Lancers will remain under your direct command.

2. The bridge at MAKHADET HAJLA will probably be dismantled during the day of April 30th and re-established nearer to the GHORANIYE crossings.

3. The exact time at which A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will come under direct orders of these Headquarters will be matter for verbal arrangement between these Headquarters and you.

4. When you have occupied the line MAKKAR ED DERBASI - TEL EL MUSTA - EL HADD you will immediately organise it as a support line for the mounted troops. Your infantry will not go beyond that line, and you will withdraw as many as you can into reserve, with the object of placing two battalions at the disposal of the Corps Commander at SHUNET NIMRIN as early as possible on May 1st.

5. You should send forward with A. & N.Z. Mounted Division the following artillery.

- 8 - 4.5" Howitzers.
- 6 - 18-pounders.
- 4 - 3.7" Howitzers.
- 4 - 2.75" guns.

6. Please acknowledge.

R. G. Howard

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Copy to G.H.Q.  
XXth Corps.  
A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.  
G.O.C., R.A.  
XXI<sup>st</sup> Corps.



Appx 16

SECRET.

G.O. 39.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.  
-----

Reference Operation Order No 16 para 3 (c).

G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division will not use the  
WADY ARSENIYET track anywhere North or East of 127.0. Central.

(sd) A. CAMPBELL ROSS  
Major

for

Brigadier-General,  
General Staff,

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

28th April 1918.

Copy to:-

60th Division  
A&N Z MOUNTED DIVISION  
D.A. & Q.M.G.  
G.O.C.R.A.



# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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GENERAL STAFF  
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. APRIL 1918

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KH DEIRAN	1918 Apr. 1		Bodies of troops totalling 300 cavalry and 250 infantry were observed <del>ne</del> by R.A.F. North of ES SALT, in 127.J.6., H.9., 126.Y.28. Cavalry, estimated at 2,000 were observed by R.A.F. immediately west of AMMAN station. The damaged bridge N. of AMMAN station has not been repaired. Deserter from 184th Regiment, 59th Division, reported that the whole Regiment has arrived on this front.	
	2		Prisoners of War from the 703rd German Infantry Battalion state that the ERSATZ ABTEILUNG of Pasha II had arrived at HAIDAR PASHA (Constantinople) during January (definite date not given) It consists of three infantry companies and a machine gun company each with strength of about 200 rations. During January it drafted out some 300 men for units of Pasha II in Palestine. <u>Identifications:</u> 713 German Battalion - SYRIA (?). Information from captured postcard addressed c/o Field Post Office 511. 145th and 191st Regts of 46th Division reported by Prisoner of War North of ES SALT and AMMAN areas. Regt. is 1500 rifles strong and has 12 machine guns. 143rd Regt. 24th Divn. reported by Prisoner of War North of ES SALT - strength about 300 rifles.	
	3		Two refugees from KEFR SABA gave the following information: 701st, 702nd, 703rd German Bns. strength 900, are now in BIDIEH and BERUKIN. They periodically change their titles and badges to mislead the Turks and ourselves. Orders issued three weeks ago to the effect that on our attacking enemy were to retire to the line TUL KERAM, KAKON, ZELEFEH and thence to the sea. Last week they received orders that they were to resist at all costs owing to being reinforced by Germans and Austrians. Germans are spreading a report that they have captured 75,000 men and 1200 guns in their recent offensive in France. Also reported that many Turks holding the trenches from 084.D.1.cent. to D.2.cent., and they are expecting us to attack their line from Brown Hill to FIR HILL from the direction of BOSCHE and HAIYEM WOODS. <u>Identifications.</u> 1st Bn. 146th Regt., ex 46th Division, 1st Bn. 126th Regt, 11th Divn and portion of 4th Railway Bn. reported in AMMAN - ES SALT area, by prisoners of war.	



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KE DEIRAN	Apl. 5		<u>Identifications.</u> Captured document states as follows. 146th Regt on 23rd January was in Turkey en route for Palestine. R.A.F. report on 3rd that trains are running on the line North of AMMAN. N.B. Either the small bridge that was destroyed in recent operations has been repaired, or trains are changed at this point.	
		6	Extract from Turkish N.C.Os diary reads :- "Officers and men are wanted who will go into the enemy lines and spy out their positions - rewards are promised". Extract from the diary of a man of the 703rd German Battalion:- "On Dec. 2nd 1917 a fire broke out in the station at RAYAK. The large sheds were entirely consumed and with them many millions marks worth of goods were destroyed. The spreading of the fire was prevented by the smart work of the Pasha formation". <u>German Tanks.</u> An engineer deserter whom left CREFIELD steel works on 22/2/18 gives the following information. It is torpedoed shaped and resembles the British Tank except for 'movement construction'. It is 8 metres long by 3 broad by 3½ high and has a maximum speed of 15 km. per hour. The engine has 8 cylinders and develops 250 hp. The total weight of the tank is 10 tons. The armament consists of a 10.5 cm. Q.F. gun on a pivot mounting with an angle of fire of 60°. 4 M.Gs, one on each side, one in front and one in rear. These have a traverse 400 yards wide at 400 yards range. The Q.F. gun can also fire gas shells and in case of stubborn resistance fire projectors can be used instead of the machine guns. The personnel is trained to be interchangeable and includes 2 drivers, 2 gunners for Q.F. gun 4 machine gunners and 2 reserves. All wear asbestos clothing on account of the great heat. R.A.F. reports a train of 7 rolling stock stationary facing south was seen near LIBBEN in 142.L.15. Just south of this a gang of 100 men were at work on the line.	
	7		A trolley was seen moving on the line between JELAMEH (083.M.18.a.) and KAKON (084.U.4.d.). This is the first evidence of rails north of KAKON. 20 new German aeroplanes (possibly FLEIGER ABTEILUNG, PASHA II) arrived at KERAK at end of February: 2 of these were sent to MESOPOTAMIA, 2 to BEITUT, and 8 to DAMASCUS. Personnel consisted of 20 officers and 100 O.Rs (Germans).	



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	1918 Apr. 7		<p><u>Identifications.</u> 1/151 Regt at KEMAKH. 152 Regt EL KUTRANI. 2/150 Regt 7th Coy. KIRB ES SAMRA. 6th Coy. JISR SAID. 5th Coy. MAFRAK. 46th Divn (Regts 145 &amp;, or, 146) TUL KERAM. 46th Divn. (Regts. 153. 154. 155) TUL KERAM.</p>	
	8		<p>Two Jewish refugees who came into our lines near EL MIRR (084.G.9.c.) on 30/3/18 state that rumours of large German reinforcements have not materialised but during the previous two weeks each train arriving from DAMASCUS at TUL KERAM (about 3 trains daily) brought 200 - 300 Turkish troops.</p> <p>Two other Jewish refugees who have been in hiding in SABIEH for the last 3 months, both thought to be thoroughly trustworthy report: Up to 3 weeks ago the order was for all troops to fall back on AFULEH without resistance. But on 25/3 new orders came to put up a strong resistance, as the allies were beaten on the Western front. Turks expect British attack from S.W. of SABIEH. On 15/3 all the Turkish batteries were registering our first line positions for barrage.</p> <p>Prisoners from 63rd Regiment taken in WADI ASHGAR (084.D.26) on the night of the 1st/2nd instant stated that their rations had improved lately and that they get meat three times a week.</p>	
	9		<p>2nd Caucasus Cavalry Brigade now consists of 9th and 11th Caucasus Cavalry Regiments, both east of JORDAN. 12th Division passed AMMAN for KUTRANI. 2/7th Artillery Regt (? attd. 8th Division) AMMAN area.</p>	
	10		<p>One Bn. 8th Divn at AMMAN, reported by officer prisoner of 146th Regt. 46th Division, (possibly less 145th and 191st Rgts.) relieved 3rd Cavalry Division at FURKHAH on 6th March.</p> <p>1/4 and 2/6 Bns. Von Marno's Austrian Mtn. How Div reported to be at TUL KERAM by deserter who acted as Interpreter for Austrians in Damascus.</p> <p>R.A.F. report 1200 cavalry moving S. from 113.W.4 and 600 infantry in 113.X.26.</p> <p>An agent reports that TALAAT PASEA has had a violent quarrel with BERLIN and particularly with Von Kuhlmann. He openly accused Germany of having deserted her allies. He returned from BERLIN without any promise of the 300,000 German reinforcements he had hoped for.</p>	

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	Apr. 11		Considerable amount of ammunition which was stored at KILISMAN (15 miles W.S.W. of SMYRNA) has lately been brought to VURLA (22 miles W.S.W. of SMYRNA).	
	12.		<p>ESSAD PASHA, presumably the G.O.C. 1st Army, is reported to have replaced General Liman V. Sanders, as G.O.C. 5th Army.</p> <p>Several prisoners have reported the 8th Division to be south of DAMASCUS, en route for Palestine. This division was definitely identified in the Caucasus in October 1917. 1 Bn. was reported at AMMAN on 31/3/18 and it is probable that the whole Division has arrived and is now on this front.</p> <p>2nd Caucasus Cavalry Brigade now reported to consist of 5th Cavalry Regiment 9th and 11th Caucasus Cavalry Regiments.</p> <p>5th Division reported coming from the Caucasus.</p> <p>146th German Infantry Regt. reported in the middle of March at Rayak from Macedonia.</p> <p>15th Jaeger Bn. reported on Feb. 26 at DE RINJE 15 miles E. of HAIDAR PASHA near ISMIDT. Reported en route for this front.</p> <p>12th Division reported on 9/4 in TULKERAM area - hearsay.</p> <p>During January February and March 300 cases of Typhus, 100 relapsing fever, and over 1000 cases of dysentery passed through the ES SALT Hospital. About 25 deaths per day were recorded in January. Typhus decreased during March. An officer (doctor) prisoner of war states April to October is worst period in Syria for cholera, typhus rages more particularly in winter months. A broad gauge railway is reported in course of construction between RAYAK and AFULEH.</p>	
	13		<p>Prisoner of war now states that the 2nd Caucasus Cav. Bde. is composed of 1st, 9th and 11th Cavalry Regts, the 5th Lancers and 7th Ashiret Cavalry Regt.</p> <p>A prisoner from 11th Divisional cavalry states. 2nd Caucasus Cav. Bde. consists of 8th, 9th and 11th Regts. The 11th Divisional Cavalry squadron is attached to the 8th Regiment.</p>	



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	Apr. 15		<p>23rd Regt. 8th Div. on 11th April reported EAST of EL GHORANIYEH.</p> <p>202nd German Artillery Battery consisting of 5 10.5 cm. Howitzers at SHUNET NIMRIN.</p> <p>59th Division now reported to be absorbed in 11th Division.</p> <p>Prisoner taken E. of EL GHORANIYEH states that there were 2 German Battalions in reserve.</p> <p>Prisoners of the 24th Regiment of the 8th Division state that the Division left the CAUCASUS early in March. The 23rd and 24th Regts arrived at AMMAN on 1st April. The 17th did not come and was last seen at DIABEK in CAUCASUS on 15th March.</p> <p>The 24th Regiment was to reinforce the 48th Division, but appears to be still intact.</p> <p>Jewish refugees from SABIEH (084.B.31.d.) state that stores of wheat, durah and barley have run out and that horses are feeding on grass only or in many cases on raisins. The harvest for barley will be 2 or 3 weeks hence and for wheat 4 to 5 weeks hence..</p> <p>A German officer aviator prisoner states that the feeling against the Germans is acute and that German officers on this front are not allowed to move about alone, several having recently disappeared.</p> <p>Prisoner of War states 1,000 Germans at HOMS, and 7,000 Germans at RAYAK on 10th instant.</p>	
	17		<p>2/152 Regiment on 13/4 reported to be North of SHUNET NIMRIN.</p> <p>143rd Regt East of EL GHORANIYEH, together with 3 Bns 148th Regt, 47th Division.</p> <p>7th Cavalry Regiment is reported to consist of 4 squadrons each with a ration strength of about 120 per squadron. It has a transport Company of about 60, 6 machine guns in two companies with ration strength of 175, and a battery of 4 7.5 cm. mountain guns - ration strength 150.</p>	
	18		Nil.	
	19		Nil.	
	20		<p>146 Regiment (German) which is now E. of the JORDAN was reformed at NISH (Serbia). All unfit men were replaced by volunteers from German units, on the Macedonian front. The advance guard arrived at CONSTANTINOPLE on February 23rd. It consists of 3 Bns. 1800 rifles - 3,000 rations approximate. Each Bn. has 8 M.Gs and 21 automatic rifles.</p>	



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	Apl. 20		<p>44th Artillery Regiment, 7th Battery (Mountain Guns) are reported by prisoner in SHUNET NIMRIN area.</p> <p>2 7.5 cm. guns used as A.A. guns are reported near a railway bridge 1 mile N. of AMMAN, and there are 4 A.A. guns at DERA.</p> <p>Prisoner of War reports the railway between BOZANTE and GELEBEK is entirely in German hands. The engine drivers are Germans. Compressed air engines are being used.</p> <p>Reported that the Germans are to take over all Turkish railways and the supplying of the Turkish army in Syria - preparatory to an attack next Autumn.</p> <p>The enemy is still conveying wheat from MADEBA to ES SALT by means of camels.</p>	
	21		<p><u>Railway Companies.</u> The men of these units are trained as Infantry and are usually armed with grenades as well as rifles. The protection and maintenance of the permanent way are their chief duties. In case of attack on any station, railway troops act as ordinary Infantry.</p> <p>It is reported that a deposit of asphalt and other material capable of being used as locomotive fuel have been discovered close to DAMASCUS.</p> <p>Several agents report that the growing crops in BIDIEH, MESTTA, ZAWIEH, AZZUN areas, are promising but are being ruined by Turkish horses grazing on them.</p>	
	22		No Intelligence Summary issued.	
	23		<p>145th Regiment reported West of the JORDAN. 143rd Regiment reported by deserter to be East of EL GHORANIYEH.</p> <p>It is reported from CONSTANTINOPLE that part of 146th German Regiment was still there at the beginning of April. One company was expected to leave shortly.</p> <p>A special engineer unit has lately been formed to build defences round DAMASCUS. These lines begin at KISWE and reach HURYILLE. These places are both 10 miles S. of DAMASCUS. Native workmen are employed and paid wages.</p> <p>It is reported that an aviation school has been started at HAIDAR PASHA under the control of German officers.</p>	



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	Apr. 24		8th Cavalry Regt was reported by a deserter from 612th M.G. Company on 19/4/18 to be about Wadi FUSAIL. 113.U.36. 4 German heavy and 6 German field guns at RAYAK 23rd March. 4 10.5 cm. and 8 7.5 cm guns at AMMAN April 19th. 6 7.5 cm. guns belonging to 8th Artillery Regiment at SHUNET NIMRIN.	
	25		No Intelligence Summary issued.	
	26			
	27		Deserter from 11th Cavalry Regt (1 Sergeant) states his regiment is part of 9th Cav Regt. Total 540 sabres crossed JISR ED DAMIE about the 21st and camped East of the JORDAN about 127.C.central. Deserter from 146th Regiment states only his battalion is on this front, the remainder of the regiment being in the MAAN area. On 3rd March 300 Turkish troops were despatched from ALEPPO to RAS EL AIN to quell disturbances caused by the sons of a Kurdish Sheikh and the inhabitants of the SINJAR district (75 miles W. of MOSUL).	
	28		An increase of 440 tents and shelters is noted in the whole of the enemy area, between the 17th and 25th. This does not include the tactical area from Jordan to FURKAH (099.B.9.). No recent record having been received of this area.. Assuming the last count for this area (327) though certainly incomplete, to have remained the same this indicates a total increase of between 700 and 800 in the whole area.	
	29		Prisoner from 3/191st Bn. states that on April 12th North of KABR MUJAHID the trenches are about 3½ feet deep and 2 feet wide. He states 2/152nd Regt are in the SHUNET NIMRIN area. 1/146th Regt 2 Coys in SHUNET NIMRIN area. 3rd Coy remained at MAAN. Prisoner from 2/24th states 2/24, 23, 148 and or 191st Regts 7th Cav Regt. in the above order from N to S near KABR MUJAHID.	



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	Apr. 29.		<p>An Armenian officer deserter belonging to Mule Mounted Infantry came into our lines this morning. He was in charge of a patrol of 15 OR sent to ambush any of our patrols about KABR MUJAHID. He left his patrol and rode into our lines. He states strength of his battalion about 400 rations encamped in 127.W.4.a. and they are in reserve.</p> <p>7th Cavalry Regt in position in JOFET EL GHAZLANIYE in 127.W. In front of 7th Cav Regt position is a series of posts practically running along the edge of the road running N &amp; S between EL KEFREIN and SHUNET NIMRIN - each post about 20 men. Our reconnaissance troops to MAAIN appears to have had the effect of making them think that we intend to attack round that flank and they have no suspicion of any attack coming from JISR ED DAMIE area as the country is too rough and broken. They now patrol the country between KABR MUJAHID and MADEBA. They are also afraid of the Sherifian troops attacking from the south and have made arrangements with Sheikh Sultan of ADWAN tribe (who they are very dubious about) to deal with the Sherifian arabs should they attack.</p> <p>German Bn. is camped beside the WADI 3 miles behind SHUNET NIMRIN.</p> <p>7 7.5 mountain guns are in the valley near KABR MUJAHID. All animals are living on grazing. They have plenty of bread and other rations but they buy meat from the inhabitants.</p> <p>Ration strength of force East of JORDAN 9000.</p> <p>There is talk of Turkish general attack on our front in 4 days time and the troops E. of JORDAN have to make a big demonstration to hold us in our present positions.</p> <p>He estimates there are 27 guns on SHUNET NIMRIN - KABR MUJAHID area.</p> <p>One 5.9 gun came down from ES SALT 2 days ago and is behind SHUNET NIMRIN. With this gun they intend to bombard JERICHO, but will not start till they get good supplies of ammunition.</p>	
	30		Nil.	

*Handwritten signature: R. J. Lawrence*  
*Handwritten text: G.S.W. Desert Mounted Corps*