

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

Formation Headquarters

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**Title:** Intelligence, Headquarters, 1st  
ANZAC Corps

March 1916



AWM4-1/30/2



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.

WAR DIARY

1st to 7th Feb., 1916.

Army Form C. 2118.

# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

*Intelligence*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ismailia	1/3/16.	-	<p>Front reported all clear.</p> <p>An agent who was at <u>BEERSHEBA</u> on the 23rd Feby. reports that the number of troops encamped there is now about 15,000, the commandant is called Baghat Pasha, there are three aeroplane sheds, the bridge is finished over the wadi SABA and open to traffic. Both the main gauge railway and the Decauville cross the bridge.</p> <p>The <u>KHABRET HAMMA</u> well is reported dry. (? If this is so, has the Turkish post been removed?)</p> <p>In <u>BIR EL GIDDI</u> there is water for 40 camels (400 gallons daily). Several wells in <u>MUKSHEIB</u> reported to contain water (<del>vide special analysis</del>).</p> <p>Air reconnaissance reports reservoir at <u>HASSANA</u> empty. Otherwise no change.</p>	
	2/3/16	-	<p>Front reported all clear.</p> <p>An agent (not reliable) who was at <u>AUJA</u> on the 27th Feby., reports the strength of the garrison as only 200 with 2 German Officers and a great quantity of stores. <u>AIN SUDR</u> 1 officer and 60 soldiers, 10 armed arabs. There is an armed arab post to watch progress of railway at <u>ABOU GARAD</u>.</p> <p>An agent who was at <u>NEKHL</u> on the 22nd Feby. reports the garrison there as 1000, <u>Kamal Bey</u> (O.C., 64th Regiment) is in command and he saw the number 684 on one man's collar.</p> <p>The bombs which were dropped had killed four men.</p> <p><u>Baghat Pasha</u> is to arrive at <u>HASSANA</u> on March 5th.</p> <p><u>KHABRET HAMMA</u> is reported as dry. <u>BIR EL MAGEIBRA</u> contains only three wells.</p>	
	3/3/16	-	<p>Front reported all clear.</p> <p><u>BEERSHEBA</u>. An agent who was there on the 26th Feby. estimates troops at 8000. He saw about 3000 transport camels and 700 mules. He saw 4 mountain guns west of town. <u>Baghat Pasha</u> and <u>Nasr Elain</u> are there.</p> <p><u>TOR</u>. A patrol from <u>TOR</u> reached <u>GINEH</u> on the 19th Feby. and found it abandoned.</p>	
	4/3/16	-	<p>An agent who travelled from <u>KANTARA</u> to <u>EL ARISH</u>, <u>KHAN YUNUS</u>, <u>EL SHELLAL</u>, <u>BIR SABA</u>, and returned via <u>EL AUJA</u>, <u>WADI EL ARISH</u> and the north road reports well digging still continues at <u>BIR MAZAR</u>, <u>BIR AFFIN</u>, <u>EL HOWEITIR</u>, <u>BAYUD</u>, <u>MAGEIBRA</u>.</p> <p><u>EL ARISH</u>. Present garrison 6000, between 10 and 20 guns with each "Tabour" of 1000. He saw large guns about 4' to 5' long, very heavy with a bore of about 11" - drawn by teams of 6 to 8 horses. Innumerable <del>xx</del> camels bringing stores from <u>Khan YOUNIS</u>.</p> <p><u>AUJA</u>, 2 "Tabours", very fine troops, fair and strong looking.</p> <p>Front reported all clear.</p>	

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.



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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ismailia	5/3/16.	-	<p>Front reported all clear.</p> <p>A small post was located at BIR EL MAGHARA on 29th February about 12 soldiers and 15 armed arabs. The camp at EL SIRR is reported (1st March) to contain about 150 soldiers, and three stone walled stores. There are 16 soldiers at JIFJAFa (28th Feby.) and a new well giving water. No work has been done for a long time on the HASSANA - RODH SALEM road. The garrison in HASSANA (29th Feby.) is reported to be about 2800. Agent confirms that the reservoir was badly damaged by the bomb dropped from aeroplane. BIR EL MURRA. 4 wells giving good water - 3000 gallons daily.</p>	
	6/3/16	-	Front reported all clear.	
	7/3/16	-	<p>Reports continue to come in of constant Turkish patrols between MUKSHEIB, JIFJAFa and TASSA. An arab informed our agent that there were 40 Syrain soldiers at AIN SUDR. Food is reported as very scarce at NEKHL. From Syria come reports of very good crops.</p> <p>EL ARISH. An agent who was in this place on 1st March reports the number of troops to be about 3000. He saw the figures 69 on the collars and one or two with 78, (i.e., Regiments supposed to belong to 23rd and 26th Divisions respectively), they were Syrians. Rumour has it that a big review is to take place shortly at HASSANA.</p> <p>Front reported all clear.</p>	



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Ismailia	8/3/16	-	<p>The big reservoir at NEKHL is reported by aeroplane on the 6th instant to be full of water. It has a capacity of 388,080 gallons. Posts are reported at HENAIK in the wadi el THAMAR (a tributary of the wadi WARDAN from the south) at <del>XXX</del> BABA near GEBEL RAKINA not far from ABU ZENIMA.</p> <p>At AIN SUDR the soldiers are stated to be short of food.</p> <p>Front reported all clear.</p>	
	9/3/16	-	<p>Considerable amount of traffic reported on the motor road to EL ARISH. The observation was made at EL RUAFI on 1st March, 1916. An <del>observer</del> <sup>agent</sup> who was at WADI ASLUJ on 2nd March, 1916 reports that the railway has not advanced any further. Provisions and forage were being unloaded at railhead and sent on to AUJA by camel. About 800 soldiers were met in the wadi MISTABA marching to AUJA (2nd March 1916) and later the same agent saw 2 detachments of 300 men each, marching out of BEERSHEBA southwards, as well as three guns each about 2 metres long. At BEERSHEBA agent reports (3rd March, 1916) 13,000 Turkish and Syrian and 1500 German soldiers as well as the presence of Baghat Pashaa, Sami Bey, and a very senior German Officer with Condos Bey on his Staff.</p> <p>The Smyrna Army Corps was expected, according to rumour, to arrive at <del>Smyrna</del> <sup>SABA</sup> on the 12th March. It is also stated that an attack on the Canal will be made on the 31st March.</p> <p>At Saba the numbers 78, 64, and 25 were seen on mens collars. N.B. The 78th Regiment belongs to the 26th Division, the 64th to the 41st or 42nd and the 25th to the 9th.</p> <p>The same agent reports a train load of 13 trucks carrying provisions as passing through SABA to ASLUJ.</p> <p>An agent who was at NEKHL on the 3rd March estimates the garrison at over 1000. He saw eight guns and the number 819 on a soldiers collar (this may mean 9th company of 81st regiment which belongs to 27th Division.)</p>	
	10/3/16	-	<p>An agent who was at wadi LETHEILI on 5th March reports that the road between MENEIDRET ABU GURUN and WADI LETHEILI is only finished in places leaving gaps unmetalled. From LETHEILI to HASSANA it is metalled and complete throughout. Agent was unable to enter HASSANA which is surrounded by a cordon of sentries. He estimates the garrison at 2000 and saw 6 guns west of KOSSAIMA road.</p> <p>Front reported all clear.</p>	
	11/3/16	-	<p><u>AERIAL RECONNAISSANCES.</u> A series of reconnaissances undertaken by R.N.A.S. on March 7th and subsequent days appear to indicate :-</p> <p>(i) Little change at AUJA and KOSSAIMA.</p>	



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Ismailia	11/3/16	-	<p>(ii) Camps and concentrations at BIR SABA considerably smaller than they were a month ago.</p> <p>(iii) No important concentrations in Syria.</p> <p>(iv) Considerable activity on railway right down to railhead.</p> <p>Agents also report an increase of EL ARISH garrison.</p> <p>R.F.C. reconnaissances report a movement of the enemy in the EL KATIA district, also construction of new wells.</p> <p>An agent who must have been at SABA about the 4th, reports that ENVER arrived there on the 2nd or 3rd instant bringing with him three aeroplanes. He reports (EL ARISH about the 6th) that two Taburs are expected there on 20th inst. with 6 guns. These forces are expected to push on to KATIA.</p> <p>All Sheikhs of northern Bedouin tribes have received orders to provide 20 baggage camels, and 20 riding camels.</p> <p>A store is being built at BIR EL ABD. There are four German Officers at BIR EL ABD supervising labour.</p> <p>Report from another agent confirms presence of senior German Officer at SABA and states that there are 30 aeroplanes there of which 5 are being sent on to EL ARISH. Same agent confirms presence of ENVER at SABA. He denied strengthening of posts on northern route. Bedouin posts are reported at TOWAL, MANHALIA, SEIL EL ISHARI, UM MUKHSHEIB.</p>	
	12/3/16	-	<p>Front reported all clear.</p> <p>A Bikanir reconnaissance carried out to search for the <del>lost</del> <sup>lost</sup> aeroplane left at point 5 miles east of KATIB EL HABASHI and <del>proceeded</del> <sup>pushed</sup> on to GEBEL UM MAKHASSA, thence south to GEBEL UM MUKHSHEIB and MOIYA HARAB. They located an enemy work about 2 miles south of GEBEL UM MAKHASSA. MOYA HARAB camp had apparently been deserted; They went south to EL KASIF and thence west round south of EL TEILA. They report "It is quite certain that there have been no enemy patrols or movements of recent date over any of this area".</p>	
	13/3/16	-	<p>R.F.C. reconnaissances carried out on 10th March over KATIA district seemed to indicate an increase in the number of men encamped at different spots. Agents report <del>that</del> the garrison at AUJA to be about 5000 of whom 3000 are Syrians and the remainder Northerners, fair and bearded.</p> <p>15 bedouins were observed 9 miles East of a point 14 V 3 a/c (map 1/20000 Sh. 14). Patrol went out to track them. Small fire seen by 1st Division 10 miles out, east of KATIB EL KHEIL.</p>	

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.



# WAR DIARY

1st

NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS

Period 13th to 14th March, 1916.

Arm. Form C. 2118.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Instructions regarding War Diaries 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
Ismailia	14/3/16.	-	<p>The Turkish Officer in command of GINNEH has withdrawn to NAGB EL EMREIKABAN. One of the cisterns at MOIYA HARAB is reported to contain 40,000 gallons. EL KASIF 24000, MISIC EL HUSAN 12,000, BIR EL GIDDI 3,600 daily, BIR EL TOWAL 1200 gallons daily.</p> <p>A certain quantity of water is also reported in holes in the wadi el GEBAB on the HAJ road (about 1200 gallons daily).</p> <p>New wells are also reported along the north road.</p> <p>GAZA garrison about 5-600 Turks.</p> <p>KHAN YUNUS not more than 200 soldiers (9th March, 1916.)</p> <p>The inhabitants have been removed from EL ARISH and camped on the sand dunes to the southwest. Troops estimated at 1400 only and 50 German soldiers. Agent saw 5 guns near the camp and 5 more near the wadi. Grain and flour is coming thither by sailing ships. Camels were bringing grain from GAZA. Large reinforcements were said to be coming through of whom 1st 400 reached ARISH on 7th March. Troops are also said to be moving south through SABA to AUJA, EL ARISH and also NEKHL. There is also a rumour that troops are being sent to AKABA.</p> <p>Air reconnaissance (14th March, 1916) states that tank at HASSANA is still empty.</p> <p>Royal Naval Air reconnaissances in Syria show that there are no troops in Samaria, only half a battalion in NABLUS, RAMLEH say 2000 men (200 tents). They shew the bridge at BEERSHEBA incomplete. A much reduced garrison at BEERSHEBA (7000 men), a large aerodrome being constructed - and absence of troops from GEBEL LIBNI and EL SIRR.</p> <p>Front reported clear.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ismailia	15/3/16.	-	An agent who was at NEKHL on 10th March, 1916, estimates the garrison at 1000. He observed the number 68 on the collars of the soldiers and confirms the statement that Kamel Bey is Commandant. Air photograph taken of HASSANA on 14/3/16 shows that the reservoir has been roofed over. Front reported clear.	
	16/3/16		Reports from HASSANA put the garrison at 300 soldiers (Germans, Turks and Syrians) and 600 armed Arabs, NEKHL 200 only. The more hardy of the soldiers at HASSANA are said to be in the course of being withdrawn to the Russian front. An air reconnaissance of NEKHL (between 6th and 13th) established that there were no tents there. Front reported all clear.	
	17/3/16		A market for Bedouin Arabs was opened today at DA'EEG. It was attended by about 60 persons including women and children. All the maize, tobacco and coffee and cloth brought out was sold. Bedouins paid in English gold. Agent who was at SABA on the 9th reports the garrison to consist of 500 Turkish troops and armed arabs, AUJA 300 Turkish soldiers. Front reported all clear.	
	18/3/16		Front reported all clear. Agent <del>s</del> along the North road (12th to 14th) reports strong camel patrols at BIR EL ABD, KATIA and BIR EL MAZAR. Large quantities of brushwood being collected at BIR EL ABD for Turkish army. An agent who was in the wadi el GIDDI saw enemy patrols, between wadi ABU ROMANA and BIR EL GIDDI (14th), at ABU ROMANA (14th), and between GIDDI and TOWAL a patrol consisting of 4 Germans and 26 arabs.	
	19/3/16		No changes of any importance reported. Both agents and the Bedouin market report withdrawal of troops from BEERSHEBA. No reinforcements are reported at EL ARISH, but the enemy still appears to be well digging and to have a considerable number of patrols along the North road. Firewood is being collected there.	
	20/3/16		Front reported all clear.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ismailia	21/3/16		<p>Morning air reconnaissance reported 20 men and animals 10 miles southeast of BIR MADKUR. Direction of their movement not stated, but marks of fire and strong tracks from the northeast.</p> <p>Agent reports tracks of 140 camels and 4 horsemen near JIFJAFFA from east towards BIR EL GIDDI.</p> <p>On the 15th 200 infantry, 70 camelmen and 20 Germans in WADI KHAMARA going towards HASSANA. Was told they were taking back the wrecked aeroplane. At HASSANA there were 1500 Turks and Syrians. He saw the number 132 on a Syrian soldier's collar. The black heap at HASSANA is charcoal gathered from all over Sinai. It is paid for by Turks and sent to BIR ES SABA. The reservoir wall has been repaired and it now contains water.</p> <p>Agent heard from Arabs at HASSANA that 1000 troops had been withdrawn to BEERSHEBA as English had landed elsewhere. Anis Effendi had replaced Anim Effendi as Commandant, the latter being tried by courtmartial for not allowing anti-aircraft gun to fire on aeroplane. A German Officer, Fusad Bey and 50 Germans were summoned from AUJA to bring in the wrecked aeroplane from GIDDI.</p>	



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R LIA for the 22nd , 1918. Form C. 2118.  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ismailia	22/3/16.		<p>Aeroplane reconnaissance yesterday reports 3 Arab <sup>huts</sup> tents and a small outhouse 3 miles due South-east of the final "A" in G. UM MAKHASSA near point 470. 5 arabs also seen.</p> <p>At 1715 sighted our column at point Y on BIR MURR MOIYA HARAB road. (1/250000).</p> <p>Agent from Ismailia reports 1 German officer, 10 soldiers and 30 arab camelmén in the wadi el LETHEILI on the 14th going west to find the wrecked aeroplane. Confirms last agents statement that there were 1500 troops and 50 camels at HASSANA. He adds that soldiers are digging trenches to the south of the town, and that there are 4 guns to the north and four to the south of the town covered with tarpaulins.</p> <p>At EL KOSSAIMA some 250 soldiers and 250 camelmén on 16th. At pipehead 100 yards west of WADI EL ARISH are 2 cement tanks 8 x 5 x 1½ metres, full of water.</p> <p>Road between Gebels HELAL and DHALFA levelled but not metalled.</p> <p>Air reconnaissance this morning sighted our column 0601 in WADI MUKSHEIB 3 miles south of EL ASHUBI.</p>	
	23/3/16		<p>Front reported all clear.</p> <p>Morning air reconnaissance reports our column 2 miles due north of "B" in BIR EL MURRA-MOIYA HARAB ROAD (1/100,000 sheet). Four fresh tracks from Northeast stopping just to north of column's track on top of a steep sand dune goes to indicate column was watched.</p> <p>Agent, who was at BIR SABA at the time, states Enver and Djemal Pashas arrived there on the 3rd. On the next day they left for Jerusalem to go to Medina and Mecca. As a result of this visit all troops were hurried north, and only a thousand are now left at BIR SABA. Troops were suffering from cold and pneumonia. Telephone office has been removed from DEBABIS to BIR EL ABD, where market is held every Wednesday. Square stack at HASSANA is wood cut into square blocks, and very black.</p> <p>From Arab sources. Telegraph poles are being removed from SUDR EL HEITAN, to be used for a branch line from G. HISEN to AIN SUDR. Near junction wadis GEBAB and TOWAL enemy claim to have captured a patrol of ours, 5 men and one mule. Informant corroborates that Suleiman Abu Faris was killed by an aeroplane bomb.</p> <p>Agent who was at AUJA on 16th reports NUR BEY Commandant; and a garrison of 3000, some wearing dark green astrakan tarbushes. He saw some mountain guns and an anti-aircraft gun to east of village. The motor road east of the wadi near RUAFa is metalled, but shows no signs of wear.</p> <p>Agent who left NEKHL on the 11th and had been there ten days, reports a garrison of 160 Syrian Arabs under a Commandant. There is also a Khaimakam there, who is the civil judge. There are picquets of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men on three of the roads leading to the town. Fortifications are old and out of repair, there is no wire. Rations are brought from HASSANA by a detachment of 30 camels under an N.C.O.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mailia	24/3/16	-	News from AUJA and NEKHL indicates withdrawals of troops northward. Front reported all clear.	
	25/3/16	-	A raid on HASSANA was carried out on 24th instant by aeroplanes. About 40 bombs were dropped and one of the machines engaged the enemy with its machine gun. Agents report slight reinforcements of the posts on the northern road, withdrawals of troops from BEERSHEBA, a great reduction in the EL ARISH garrison which is now reported at 100 only, and the outbreak of an epidemic called "Korriri" at BEERSHEBA which is carrying off from 60 to 80 men per diem. The HASSANA garrison is estimated at 900. A cavalry reconnaissance which was carried out on the 21st and 22nd inst. discovered about 133000 gallons in the MOIYA HARAB cisterns and 43000 in the cistern at HASSAN MEHSIN.	
	26/3/16	-	Telephonic communication is reported to have been established between NEKHL and <del>XXX</del> AIN SUDR.	
	27/3/16	-	Front reported all clear.	



~~WAR DIARY~~

28th to 31st March, 1916.

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ailia	28/3/16	-	Front reported all clear. An agent who was at SABA on the 21st estimates the garrison at 7000 of whom 1400 were Germans. The Smyrna Army Corps had been at SABA but had been withdrawn Northwards. The same agent reports that railhead has nearly reached AUJA.	
	29/3/16	-	Front reported all clear. Troops reported moving north from BEERSHEBA towards RAMLEH. Report of general withdrawal of troops from all garrisons in Peninsula. A certain activity of patrols is reported in the direction of BIR EL GIDDI and TOWAL.	
	30/3/16.	-	Front reported all clear. No intelligence of any interest reported to day.	
	31/3/16.	-	The chief items of to days intelligence are the following:- (i) The road has been completed from KOSSAIMA to EL ARISH. It is only metalled in places. (ii) A good motor road has been made from GAZA to KHAN YOUNIS. (iii) A soldier of 31st Regt. (3rd Division) was seen at KHAN YOUNIS. (iv) The Turkish troops at EL ARISH have been warned that Turkish aeroplanes may be coming over there and that they are not to fire on them. (v) Withdrawal of the army which had reached SABA is confirmed. Front reported all clear.	