

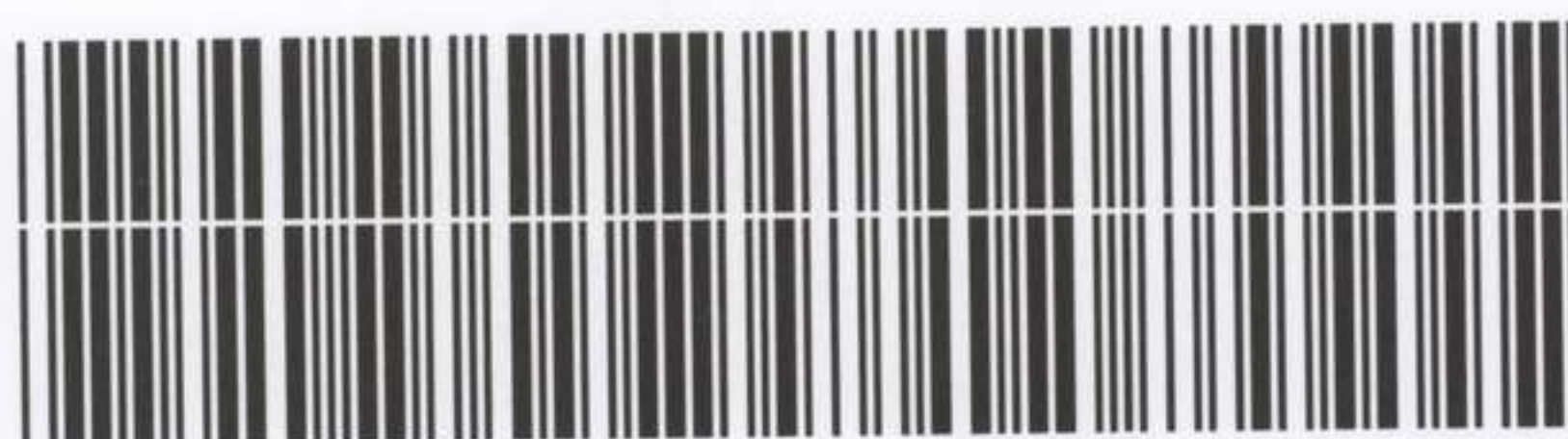
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/63/12

Title: Intelligence, Headquarters Desert
Mounted Corps

September 1918



AWM4-1/63/12

File

3 * SEP. 1918

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. *1918*

SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1830 - September 1st.

1. OPERATIONS.

Right Sector: A patrol from Aujah bridgehead reported all clear as far as O.4 and F.23, but were fired on at long range when in F.23.b.

Left Sector: 2200 (30/31st). 1 Offr, 6 O.Rs, left O.6/X.54.b.3.2. and proceeded due N. An easy road which would take troops in column of fours was found practically all the way to the plateau. Patrol advanced 300 yards over the plateau. Immediately to the front voices were heard occasionally at about 3/400 yds distant. To the right and slightly to the rear voices were also heard. At 2400 noise of stakes being driven commenced from N.E. Hills W. of THIN POST were found clear of enemy.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Right Sector: Wagons seen plying on road N. & S. behind LONDON HOUSE. Very little else.

Left Sector: Considerable movement throughout the day in the vicinity of UMM RSH SHERT - small parties of infantry, bathers. Usual horses grazing about U.27 - about one hundred - also 40 in U.32 and 33.

Automatic rifles fired on our patrols from somewhere about F.5.a.

3. IDENTIFICATIONS.

(i) Captures for 24 hours ending 1800 31/8/18

| P/W | Unit | Taken at | Taken by |
|-----|------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Attack Coy: Comp Divn. | 127.P.25 | Fourcav. |

(ii) Intelligent Sergeant of 23rd Regiment, who only came to this front two weeks ago, confirms position of his regiment, but can not say what units are on flanks. He passed TEL NIMRIN on his way to join and saw a German M.G. Coy. These are the only combatant German troops he has seen though he has seen a large number of technical troops. While at NABLUS he saw German lorry drivers giving the Turks lessons in driving.

(iii) Sergt-Major of Attack Coy, Composite Division, says he saw two Regts 47th Division at SALT a few days ago. He does not know the numbers, but the regiments were well equipped and appeared over strength. The prisoners brother, who is an officer, also of Attack Coy, confirms presence of 1 Regiment, 47th Division at SALT 2 weeks ago.

Summary

4. ENEMY DEFENCES. New communication trench reported yesterday at EL BAGHALAT now proves to be a sangar. A new one, 100 yards long, has been constructed on E. side of BAGHALAT. From day observation the enemy seems to be hurrying to close the gap in the wire about 127.F.4. and 5.

5. ARTILLERY.

Our 60-pounders fired 58 rounds on enemy battery in P.12.d. N. of BEL EL MUSEA. with air observation. 12 rounds were fired on BECCAN House by these guns.

Enemy 77mm guns fired on MUSALLABEH and into Wadi MELAHAN. Long range gun fired intermittently on to JERICOH, between 1530 and 1800 yesterday.

6. GENERAL.

The following description is given of Lieut-Colonel LUTFI Bey, Commanding the group astride the Jordan, consisting of the 24th and 3rd Cavalry Divisions: 40 years old, son of Marshal HUSNI Pasha; a gentleman, fearless and cool. Had had little Military education, and got to his present position through good luck, which has followed him everywhere. He was in charge of the force defending AMMAN. He is a man of considerable means.

A. B. Heat
Major,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

SECRET.



DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1830 - 2nd September, 18.

I.51/157

1. OPERATIONS.

Right Sector: 2310. Picquet W. of Jacob's House was attacked by enemy estimated 10 infantry and 25 cavalry. Enemy were driven off. Our casualties nil, but enemy believed to have suffered some casualties.

Left Sector: 2000. 1 Off: 8 O.Rs. left SAFE POST and proceeded S.E. to reconnoitre broken ground in F.7.c. and F.13.a. thence to the Jordan. From the listening post in B.8/F.7.c. the ground becomes increasingly precipitous culminating in two large wadis leading down to the Jordan. Patrol returned at 2300 reporting all clear.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Right Sector: 1700. No.2 subsector report:
W. of Red Hill 100 cavalry seen going S. disappearing in Jordan valley, not seen to return. 50 cavalry seen leaving F.2 early morning 31/8/18, where they had apparently been all night. 100 cavalry arrived at the same spot F.2, the same evening and have not been seen to leave it. Probably these are the same referred to above. In addition, many small parties seen moving N. throughout the day.

Left Sector: Very quiet.
50 cavalry seen going S. in V.16.b.

3. IDENTIFICATIONS.

Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 1/9/18

| P/W | Deserters | Unit | Taken at | Taken by |
|-----|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|----------|
| - | 1 | 8/23rd Regiment | E. of Jordan | Anzacs. |
| 1 | - | M.G.Coy: 68th Rgt. | O.23.a. | Fourcav. |
| - | 6 | Attack Coy: Comp Divn. | - | Fourcav. |

Includes 1 Officer.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Additional wire and work has been seen on works in P.7 & P.4.

5. ARTILLERY.

Our 60-pdrs fired 80 rounds on enemy gun located in V.35.a. with air observation.
Watering party in P.17.central was also fired on.
No.11 Mountain Battery fired 57 rounds in retaliation on W.27.
(E. of BAKR ridge).

Enemy 77 mm fired 100 rounds into W. MELAHAN doing no damage.
30 rounds were also fired on to ABU TELLUL.

SECRET.

1-21/17

DEPARTMENT MOUNTED CORPS
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1830 - 2nd September, 18.

1. OPERATIONS.

Right Sector: 2310. Picquet W. of Jacob's House was attacked by enemy estimated to infantry and 25 cavalry. Enemy were driven off. Our casualties nil, but enemy believed to have suffered some casualties.

Left Sector: 2300. 10th & 11th. 1st BATTALION and proceeded 2.2.

6. GENERAL.

Turkish
DELLI RAFET Bey (Mad RAFET), G.O.C., XXIInd Army Corps, is thus described:-

Native of Salonika, has been on this front since the beginning of the War. He is very insulting to his officers, but still very popular, as he knows how to win their hearts. He is considered to be the best Staff Officer Turkey has got.

Ames
Major,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

| Captures for 24 hours ending 1800 1/18 | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------|--------------|
| P/W | Deserters | Unit | Taken at |
| - | 1 | 2/12th Regiment | E. of Jordan |
| 1 | - | M.G. Coy. 2nd Bde. | O.S.S. 2. |
| - | 2 | Atter Coy. | - |
| - | - | Comp. Divn. | - |

Includes 1 Officer.

4. ENEMY DEATHS.

Additional wire and work has been seen on works in P.V. & P.4.

5. ARTILLERY.

Our 80-pdr. fired 80 rounds in enemy gun located in V.22.2. with air observation.
Retreating party in P.17.2. central was also fired on.
No. 11 Mountain Battery fired 37 rounds in retaliation on W.27.
(E. of DAKA ridge).

Enemy 77 mm fired 100 rounds into W.27.2. doing no damage.
30 rounds were also fired on to ABU TELUL.

SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. 1.51/158
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1630 - September 3rd 18.

1. OPERATIONS.

Right Sector: 2200 (1/9) Enemy patrol approached JACOB'S HOUSE but were driven off by our A.R. and rifle fire. Otherwise nothing of interest.

Left Sector: 2230 (1/2nd) 1 Offr, 6 O.Rs. left WICK POST and proceeded via X.35.a.4.2. to X.35.central. On reaching X.35.a.4.2. patrol found a deep wadi due E. with a narrow strip of ground 150 yds by 30 yds running into it. The sides of this strip were found to be very steep. No trace of enemy was found.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Right Sector: Usual minor movement throughout the day. 1640. Convoy of horsemen and wagons seen behind LONDON HOUSE. Vehicular traffic seen going N. at P.12.

Left Sector: Slight movement all day about T.10 (N. of W. AUJAH).

3. IDENTIFICATIONS.

(i) Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 2/9/18.

1 deserter taken by 5th A.L.R. Regt about B.6/F.21.a. Identifications unknown.

(ii) Very intelligent officer, 2/Lieut of Attack Company, SERRI Bey's Division (late Composite Division) and his brother S.M. of same Coy, give order of battle of Division N. to S. thus :- 152nd Regiment (containing 1 Battn only of 146th Regt), 68th Regt, Muhafaza Battn (in reserve behind 68th). Then Caucasus Cavalry Brigade and on left of these again Mule Mtd Infantry and some German infantry and machine guns. The Germans total about 400 in that region, but P/W did not know unit. These brothers are quite confident about 146th Regiment. Only 1 Battn is here. the other two being near MAAN. They are also quite clear about the Germans not having left, though they are aware of the rumours to the effect that they are leaving. 5 days ago the officer visited his brother in the 7th Cavalry Regt to arrange a joint desertion and he saw these Germans. He added that whenever Turkish soldiers see Germans (men or transport) going Eastwards, or in the direction of AMMAN, they surmise that they are going to entrain northwards.

(iii) Two deserters of Mule Mtd Infantry Battn say that 12th Regt arrived in reserve behind 68th Regiment a few days ago.

Officer P/W above mentioned also says that recently there were 2 Regts 47th Division at SALT, and one had gone S. in direction of KUTRANI.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Enemy M.G. emplacement seen in G.14.

Working party of 12 men seen digging on hill in F.2.c. and 17 digging in G.25.d.

5. ARTILLERY

Our 60-pdrs effectively engaged working party of 100 men on TEL BILBIL. Enemy fled. This morning these guns engaged battery in R.22.d. One OK 6 Y's, 132 Z's.

Enemy heavy gun registered at TEL BILBIL (in his own lines), and a battery

5. ARTILLERY. (contd)

from near HAUD registered P.10.c.
Otherwise enemy artillery inactive.

6. GENERAL.

Officer deserter mentioned above says he was an uncle, a Major on the Staff at IVth Army H.Q. who is scheming to desert when an opportunity occurs.

Same officer says the Composite Division is no longer so called, but is called SERRI BEY's Division, after its commander.
An air bomb fell on SERRI Bey's H.Q. a few days ago, destroying his personal effects, telephone &c., but he himself happened to be out of the tent at the time.

The following is a true record of the Shade Temperatures for week ending 31/8/18.

| CORPS HEADQUARTERS | | | JERICHO PLAIN. | |
|--------------------|------|------|----------------|-------|
| | Max: | Min: | Maximum | Mean. |
| August 25th..... | 99 | 72 | 98 | 84.88 |
| 26th..... | 94 | 73 | 97 | 84.25 |
| 27th..... | 91 | 68 | 98 | 86.13 |
| 28th..... | 95 | 70 | 100 | 87.00 |
| 29th..... | 96 | 70 | 100 | 87.00 |
| 30th..... | 95.5 | 69.5 | 100 | 86.50 |
| 31st..... | 94 | 68 | 100.5 | 85.75 |

Average mean 85.93

Almeida
Major,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.



SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1830 - September 4th.

I.51/159

1. OPERATIONS.

Right Sector: 2/9/18. Day patrols covered the country between the W. EL JORFE - S. of Ghoraniyeh road and W. ER RAMEH also both sides of the JORFE ABU EL ZIGHAN to R.23.central. The enemy camp reported at R.23.c.central does not now exist. No enemy seen.

Left Sector: 1830 2/3rd. Patrol left TEA POST and proceeded to about C.6/X.36.c.7.3. where fire was drawn from enemy trenches in X.36.c. and Z.6.b. This part of the plain is carefully watched by the enemy who is erecting wire here.

1930. Patrol from TART POST proceeded to SHARKS TOOTH thence 500 yds to C.6/X.21. Noise of hammering was heard away on the left. The ground is rather swampy but can be easily crossed by troops. Report all clear.

2000. 1 Off, 6 O.Rs. left SAFE POST proceeded N. keeping the broken ground on their right. At a distance of 1200 - 1300 yards four shallow trenches were seen. 3 large ones (25 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet 6 ins deep) and 1 small 8 ft. long 2 ft. wide and 2 ft. 6 in. deep. The trenches were 20 yards apart in a straight line and facing W. They were unoccupied and freshly dug. Continuous noise of working parties could be heard until 0100 when patrol withdrew.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Ground observers report usual movement of grazing and watering parties.

3. R.A.F.Reconnaissance Reports:

4/9/18: 0630-0930 Tactical area normal.
0550 0830. Strategical reconnaissance reports 1000 camels grazing E. of LEBAN station (3. of AMMAN on railway); and 1500 camels halted at grain dump here. In the BATANA area 400 cavalry on the march and 300 infantry halted were both machine gunned by our plane. Other areas unaltered and movement reported normal.

4. ENEMY DEFENCES.

B.7/G.13. Blasting 1 explosion.
2 suspected M.G. emplacements in cliff G.26.central facing N.W., N. & S.W. Party of 12 men apparently wiring in B.7/P.12.d. where wire appears to extend 200 yards N. & S. New traversed trench about G.11 facing N.W. and bending to S.W.; another about G.5. facing W.

E.7/G.28.d. to G.29.b. Trenches here now continuous and broad belt of wire 300 yds long in front. The enemy appears to be wiring also P.10.d. high stakes visible at P.5.d. Two new redoubts at G.28.b. and P.12.d. - road G.30.a. being repaired.

5. IDENTIFICATIONS.

Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 3/9/18

| Deserters | Unit | Where taken | Taken by |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | M.C. Coy: 1/58 Regt. | MUSALLABEH | Anzacs |
| 3 | 2/143 Regiment | SALT POST | |
| 2 | 3/143 Regiment | TEA POST | |
| 2 | M. M. I. | | Fourcav |
| 8 | 1/23rd Regt | | |
| 1 | 2/23rd Regt | | |
| 1 | 2/66th Regt | | |

(ii) N.C.O. deserter from M.M.I. Battalion states he heard from his O.C. that the 12th Regiment (47th Divn) had arrived about 10 - 15 days ago and at present they are resting with the 11th Cav Regt 2 - 300 yards behind the front held by the 7th Cavalry Regiment. The latter location he gives as approx R.38 - 30.

(iii) N.C.O. deserter from 1/23 Regt states he heard 10 - 15 days ago that the 12th Regiment had arrived at ES SALT and would be relieving either the 191st or 23rd Regiments.

(iv) Above deserter also states that there is a company of 50 or 60 Germans, at G.21.central, who work on extending the wire entanglements at G.21.a.4.1. to G.21.c.9.3. The parties change every three days, they come from the valley rear of the stone bridge on ES SALT road.

6. ARTILLERY.

Ours: 11th Mountain Battery was active on WADI BAKR, firing 78 rounds in retaliation. 77 mm's engaged several watering and wiring parties.

Enemy: Much below normal.

4.2 fired 12 rounds on MUSALLABEH. A few rounds from 77 mm on the same area complete the total activity for the period.

7. GENERAL.

1 Sergt, 1 Cpl, and 6 men from 1/23rd Regt who deserted to our lines on 3/9/18 state that generally the Regiments on right of Salt road get their supply of water from the Wadi NIMRIN, consequently, the regiments which are the farthest on the right, are experiencing great difficulty in getting an ample supply of water. The 1/23rd was left without water for 24 hours on the 21st August, due to the Battalion water carrier deserting to our lines.

Propaganda: The Sergt, 1 Corpl and 6 men all state that they deser because they had read our leaflets and fully believed statements made therein.

Boys
for Major,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.



SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1630 - September 5th.

1.51/160

I. OPERATIONS.

Right Sector: (3/9/18)

Usual patrols saw nothing unusual to report.

Left Sector: (3/4th)

1700. Patrol from TEA POST proceeded to C.6/X.35.b.5.0.
Observed enemy sentry in trench at X.35.a.9.6.

Patrol drew rifle and shell fire.

1830. Patrol to about X.29.a. heard working party,
apparently digging, some 300 yards ahead.

1900. Officers patrol from SCRAP POST to reconnoitre
ground in vicinity of B.6/Z.8.d. and b. and B.6/F.1.a & c. Sentry was
observed at Z.6.1.8.9. An attempt was made to locate his group, but
on a Very light being sent up our patrol was seen.
Patrol took cover in some broken ground. A M.G. opened fire on the
ground where patrol had been operating. Voices and the sound of stakes
being driven in, and wire being strained on the posts were clearly
heard. Enemy were found to be very alert.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

Ground observers report the usual movement of small parties.
1700/1735. 100 cavalry and 90 infantry were seen at foot of EL HAUD
moving in an E. direction.

3. R.A.F. RECONNAISSANCES

0730-0945. Tactical area normal.

4 bombs dropped on B.7/W.20.0. All O.Ks.

Parties of cavalry and infantry going N. between P.17.d.9.5. and P.12.
b.2.8. were fired on with good effect.

0900/1100. No unusual movement or concentration observed in Tactical
area.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS.

(i) Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 4/9/18

| Deserters | Unit | Taken by |
|-----------|------------------------|----------|
| 3 | 74th Regt - 25th Divn. | Anzacs. |
| 2 | Unknown | " |
| 4 | 58th Regiment | " |

(ii) Fairly intelligent Turk of 3rd Battalion, 143rd Regiment states he
saw 2nd Regiment cross the river to the E. bank 4 days ago, where
after a rest he heard it will relieve the squadron of cavalry at
present holding the line there.

(iii) Another deserter of 2nd Batta 143rd Regt who for a few nights had
been sleeping beside the signaller at the telephone, states that
he heard a message going through to the effect that the 2nd Regiment
would relieve the squadron on the E. of Jordan at an early date.
Before he came over he says he saw the 2nd Regiment cross. This man
further states he heard at the Signal Office that a Turkish Division
from the North was coming to relieve the 24th Division (less 2nd Rgt)
at an early date. On being relieved the 24th Division would go into
rest.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS.

(iv) Intelligent Corporal of 1/74th Regiment states that this Battn has been transferred as a whole to the 58th Regiment and is now known as the 1st Battalion, 58th Regiment. The three old battns have been merged into two and now form the 2nd and 3rd Battns. Before leaving ES SALT 7 days ago, the 1/74th was relieved by a battn new to this front. (Latter probably refers to part of 12th Regt which is in the ES SALT area).

5. ARTILLERY.

During the period from 0835 to 1750 our artillery fired on various moving targets and enemy posts with good results.

Enemy activity was much below normal.

Only a small number of 77 mm rounds fell on F.14, MUSALLABEH and W.35.a.

6. GENERAL.

Deserters of 143rd Regiment taken on night 1/2nd September, were in a very sick and exhausted condition. One man, on his way to Divisional H.Q. had to be sent to Field Ambulance and died on the night 3/4th. Most of the men in his Company, one deserter said, are too sick to do duty.

30 German Engineers are reported to be encamped near C.6/C.10.c. for maintenance of bridge, which is said to be built of wood, fit for all arms, and 2 horses abreast can pass.

Boyd
for Major,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1630 - September 7th.

1.51/161

1. OPERATIONS

Right Sector: 6/9/18.

At 0500 day outposts found enemy holding Ford at T.1.a. and KABR FENDI EL FAIZ. Enemy strength estimated two cavalry regiments, with 200 infantry in support; and 4 guns with one cavalry regiment in vicinity of TEL GHASSUL (T.14.b.). Guns were shelling our camp W. of HENU. One cavalry brigade moved out with the intention of enveloping enemy on both flanks. Two squadrons who were on outpost endeavoured to locate enemy flanks. One regiment A.L.H. and 2 machine guns moved out to attack from north, and two squadrons with 2 M.Gs. from south. Enemy vacated SHRINE in T.1.s. which was occupied by two squadrons who had pushed east on both sides of WADI ER RAMEH. Enemy began to retire on appearance of our mounted troops to north and south and by 0810 all enemy were clear of line N. and S. through R.34.central. Casualties inflicted on enemy estimated at least 30, 10 of whom were killed with lance. Our casualties light.

Left Sector: 6/9/18

1930. Patrol to GRANT HILL found enemy holding it from W.22.d.3.5. to extreme N. end of ridge at W.22.a.8.4. Sangars have been erected at either end of this line. There is no wire in front of posts. There are swarms of mosquitoes in this area.

0420. Special patrol of 1 M.C.O. and 4 ORs. proceeded to X.13. to report on nature of ground gave the following information:- Marsh in X.25. and 26 very swampy and impassable for any traffic. From X.31.a. and W.24. and X.13 bushy but splendid country for mounted troops. X.13. is bushy but not swampy, and passable for mounted troops.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT

Ground observers report usual movement during the day.

3. R.A.F. REPORTS.

6/9 1525-1725 } Tactical area reported normal.
7/9 0645-0830 }

0600-0730 Strategic reconnaissance:

No important change in count of tents and shelters.

Movement normal.

Ferry just north of JISR ED DAMIE is made of two boats lashed together.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS.

(1) Captures for 24 hours ending 5/9/18

| P/W | Deserters | Unit | Where taken | Taken by |
|-----|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| - | 3 | 23rd Regiment | S. of Jordan | Anzacs. |

4. IDENTIFICATIONS. (contd)

(ii) Captures for 24 hours ending 6/9/18

| P/W | Deserters | Unit | Taken at | Taken by |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | - | Attack Bn: 8th A.C. | B.7/T.1.a. | 10th Bde. |
| - | 2 | 1/23rd Regiment | B7/O.28. | 110th Mah- rattas. |

(iii) Turk deserter who was in AMMAN a few days ago states that he saw on left of station about 70 - 80 bivouacs and bell tents occupied by German infantry. He also saw one regiment of M.M.I. (about 500 strong) undergoing training at AMMAN.

(iv) Greek officer P/W, captured yesterday, belongs to Attack Bn 8th Army Corps. He has only been 5 days on this front. Knows nothing of order of battle. Says attack Battalion moved down from Corps H.Q. night 5/6 to take part in reconnaissance to ascertain our dispositions. Attack Battalion has 2 companies, total strength 120 rifles. He saw no Germans on left flank, but was only there night.

5. ARTILLERY.

i. Our guns fired on several targets afforded by enemy movement.
6.9 fired 11 rounds on W.16.c.1.1.

ii. Enemy batteries were quiet throughout the sector, except 77 mm which fired salvoes on HAJLA.

6. GENERAL.

Topographical: GRANT HILL is a low lying ridge running in a N.W. direction from W.29.a.1.1. - about W.22.a.5.5. The country to the E. of it is a flat plain covered with low scrub 3 ft. to 6 ft. high. East of this plain during rain would be marshy. There is a small shallow Wadi running roughly N.E. behind GRANT HILL at W.22.a.5.7. The N. end of GRANT HILL at W.22.a. is rocky and will afford shelter for a small party.

for Major,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

Note: No Intelligence Summary was issued yesterday

SECRET

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1630 - September 8th 18

I.51/162.

1. OPERATIONS.

Usual patrols in both sectors.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY.

In right sector a patrol to P.13.a. heavily fired on by rifle and M.G. from P.14.c. Enemy strength estimated at 50 infantry. 1 horse killed 1 horse wounded. Patrol from JACOBS HOUSE to P.26. fired on by M.Gs. and rifles from P.27.c. Later patrols to P.14.c., P.27.central, R.3.central, R.8.central report all clear.

3. ENEMY DEFENCES.

1 Offr 2 O.Rs. proceeded from W.32.a.0.5. to W.16.b.8.7. to ascertain position of wire and defences at BAGHALAT. Information: Enemy defences: There is a well constructed sangar heavily sandbagged at the 3. end BAGHALAT ridge. At the N.N.E. end of ridge there also appears to be a sangar. The top of the ridge is very rocky and would afford good cover for riflemen. At about W.10.c.5.3. there appears to be a small sangar used either as a bombing post or a M.G. emplacement. It is close to the wire and overlooking it. BAGHALAT appears to be a bean shaped ridge about 600 - 700 yards in length. All along the eastern slope there is a double row of wire and on the S. end of the ridge.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS.

(a) Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 7/9/18

| Deserters | Unit | Taken at | Taken by |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2 | 143rd Regiment | E.3/F.7.d.8 | 39th R.F. |
| 1 | Unknown | E.6/F.14.b. | 5th A.L.H.Rgt |

(b) Deserter late of 1/74th now of 1/58th Regiment taken by 1st B.W.I. says the 1/74th Regiment has been absorbed into the 59th and now forms the 1/58th. It arrived about 1/9 at about X.17. having moved down from ES SALT. It was then about 400 strong. This Battn (as 1/58th) is now in line here, with 2nd and 3/58th in reserve about 1000 yards in rear. While at SALT the 1/74th was employed holding the defences round the town. When it left it was relieved by the 1/81st which had arrived from the N. (Prisoner said from SIYRNA, but this is unlikely. The 81st it will be remembered was in the 27th Divn and formed the garrison of BEERSHEVA on the occasion of our attack last year. It was reported as absorbed in January this year).

(c) Same man saw "a good many" German Infantry at SALT. These appeared to be resting. He could give no idea as to their identity or destination.

5. ARTILLERY

Enemy artillery was very quiet.
Our 77 mm scattered enemy working parties during the day.

A reliable agent, who has returned from AMMAN says: On the 28/9/18 a 15 cm. Austrian gun was brought from Damascus. This gun was drawn by 32 buffaloes assisted by 50 men. This gun was placed in position West of SUWEILEH, on the summit of a hill (probably JEBEL HULAR, (AMMAN P.20). Barrel of gun 9 metres long. Was told this by several reliable Christians at AMMAN.

GENERAL.

Same reliable agent says: that he heard from a reliable source at AMMAN that the Turks are expecting an attack by us on the GALT front and that Djemal Pasha has warned the Circassians residing at WADI ES SIR to evacuate the town and move north within 15 days, as an attack by the British is expected. This order was issued on about 3/9/18. The Circassians have refused to move but no definite decision has been come to.

W. Burnaby Neale

Major,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Report for 24 hours ending 1900 W.A.M.

| Unit | Taken at | Taken by |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| 1st Division | 28/9/18 | 28/9/18 |
| 2nd Division | 28/9/18 | 28/9/18 |
| 3rd Division | 28/9/18 | 28/9/18 |
| 4th Division | 28/9/18 | 28/9/18 |
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| 99th Division | 28/9/18 | 28/9/18 |
| 100th Division | 28/9/18 | 28/9/18 |

13 SEP. 1918

SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.
Intelligence Summary
Up to 1630 - September 11th.

I.51/163

(No Intelligence Summary issued on 9th and 10th Sept).

1. OPERATIONS.

Left Sector: i. Special patrol left TURTLE POST to reconnoitre and locate enemy redoubt in X.14.c. & d., X.20. a & b. Unoccupied dugouts were found in X.20.b. and X.14.c.; also unoccupied trench in X.14.d., running E. and W. No wire was encountered. Party was heard at work in approx X.15.central. Traces of recent mounted patrol were observed in X.19.c.

ii. Special patrol to reconnoitre route to W.22.a. & c. proceeded from W.34.b. through W.34.c., W.28.a & c., and W.21.d. There are several small wadis in this area which would be difficult for mounted troops, but passable for infantry.

iii. Patrol to Z.6.b. & d. observed new wire about F.1.a. Ground is very flat in front of wire.

iv. Patrol left Z.5.a. to reconnoitre square X.35. and proceeded up branch of WADI MELLAAH to X.35.d. There rifle fire was drawn and bombs thrown from redoubt in X.35.b.

v. Day patrol of 1 officer and 32 O.Rs. from AUJAH bridgehead to F.10.c., 17.c., and 29.d. report a continuous line of barbed wire running from F.2.a. through F.3.4.5. 11.b. - Eastward. Redoubts also wired seen in F.3.central, 4.c., and 4.d. No unusual enemy movement observed.

Right Sector: Usual patrols saw nothing of interest to report.

2. ENEMY MOVEMENT. (Ground Observers reports).

Left Sector: 100 pack animals loaded moved W. from ruin F.8. to UMM ESH SHERT.
More than usual movement of small parties observed about MUSETTERAH and RISHAH.

Right Sector: Enemy blasting in P.10.c.; otherwise normal.

3. R.A.F. REPORTS.

0545-0745) Tactical reconnaissances report no unusual movement or
0800-1045) concentration observed.

0605-0900. Strategical reconnaissance:
Movement normal. Tents and shelters unchanged.

4. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

More sangars appear in G.7/G.14 - G.20.
Redoubt in G.27.a. is now wired to WADI ABU TURRA
Wire at P.5.central is now continuous, running from Wadi to Wadi.

SECRET

5. ARTILLERY.

Our batteries carried out programmes of harassing fire on enemy camps and positions.

Enemy activity was very slight. 77 mm. fired 5 rounds in WADI AUJAH.

6. TOPOGRAPHY.

The following is a patrol's report on the character of the marshy ground shown in C.6/X.14. 19, 20, and 25.

X.25.a. marshy ground at least 400 yards wide covered with scrub 6' to 8' high and matted with dead brushwood. At present dry and passable for cavalry and infantry. When wet impassable.

X.19.a.b.c. Solid ground covered with small stones. Passable for all arms.

X.19.d. Marsh with steep bank to north and very heavily timbered, bottom soft and muddy and impassable.

X.14.c.d. and X.20.a.b. Ground solid and passable for all arms.

Much noise is caused passing through brushwood. Passage of marshy ground running from X.20.b. through X.19.d. must be made by X.19.c.

Mosquitoes are bad in this swamp.

7. P/W and DESERTERS

(a) Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 9/8/18

| Deserters | Unit | Taken at | Taken by |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | M.G. Squadron, 11th Cav Regt. | KABR FENDI | 2nd Lancers |

(b) Captures for 24 hours ending 1900 10/8/18

• NIL •

Boyd

Lt.
for Major,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.