

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/63/2

Title: Intelligence, Headquarters Desert
Mounted Corps

November 1917



AWM4-1/63/2

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

G.S.

Intelligence Summary I.51/32

For 24 hours ending 1800, 2/11/17.

OPERATIONS

Mounted Ball

Today troops of A. & N.Z. Mounted Division pushed northwards from BEERSHEBA to a line KHIRBIT SALANTA - W. of W. EL SIMSIN on HEBRON Road - KHIRBIT TAT REIT TOWAL ABU JERIAL, making touch on their left with infantry of 20th Corps.

21st Corps - Attack this morning on GAZA front gained all first objectives. UMBRELLA Hill, EL ARISH Redoubt, BEACH Post and SEA post were captured and consolidated. Second and third objectives subsequently gained with the exception of YUNUS BELAH trenches where fighting continues. Total captures on 21st Corps front to date 18 officers, 280 O.R., 5 machine guns, and 1 trench mortar. Many rifles and S.A.A.

INTELLIGENCE

R.F.C. report between 0700 and 0800 today considerable enemy movement eastward, as under :-

- (1) From HAMEIRA to SHERIA and continuing East towards KHUNEILEH.
 - (2) Along GAZA - SHERIA Road towards SHERIA and continuing East.
 - (3) Behind KHAFUKA and RUSHDI systems also E.
- This general movement was shown by a later reconnaissance to have turned more northwards.

Prisoners captured this morning near LEKIYEH belong to H.Q. 3rd Cavalry Division. These state only troops now East of SHERIA are 3rd Cavalry Division, with H.Q. in hills 2 hours East of SHERIA.

Agents report a GERMAN H.Q. and 5000 infantry at HEBRON - this however is unconfirmed, but is corroborated by statement of prisoners of war.

Also there is a large supply depot at DHAHERIYEH.

Garrison of DHAHERIYEH stated yesterday to consist of 300 infantry, 25 cavalry, and 2 guns.

Aerial reconnaissance at midday today however reported the place appeared deserted.

Prisoners taken on 31st/1st show the garrison of BEERSHEBA defences to have consisted of elements of the undermentioned units :-

81st	79th	148th
67th	2nd	125th Regiments

with the 6th and 8th Cavalry and 13th Artillery Regts.

It does not seem to have been credited by the enemy that a serious attack from the east was possible.

The Headquarters of the 3rd Cavalry Division only left $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before our troops entered the town.

/ Information

Information given by prisoners led to a quantity of ammunition, also wireless plant and other material (which is still being unearthed) being found buried near the hospital.

It also appears that the German engineer officer who was in charge of the arrangements for demolitions of walls, &c., to be carried out in the event of evacuation of the town was away on leave at JERUSALEM at the time of our attack. This explains why so little demolition had been done.

There are strong indications that the Enemy have 5 armoured cars based on T. 8. 4. 5. 1.

Atkinson
Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary I. 51/33.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 3. 11. 17.

OPERATIONS.

The A. & N.Z. Mounted Division today held the enemy on the line BIR EL NAHL (E. of DHAHERIYEH Road) to about KHUWEILFEH.

On the right patrols of the 2nd L.H. Brigade worked round DHAHERIYEH to within 1500 yards of the HEBRON Road 2 miles North of DHAHERIYEH. Three lorries loaded with troops were seen entering the village.

The 53rd Division occupied AIN KOHLEH this afternoon.

INTELLIGENCE. R.F.C. reconnaissance @530 reported 1500 to 2000 cavalry moving East from SHEERIA along W. SHEERIA. Also very large scattered movement around siding at SHEERIA. DHAHERIYEH reported apparently unoccupied but large clouds of dust in direction of HEBRON.

Later reconnaissance reported 200 cavalry at DHAHERIYEH.

PRISONERS' STATEMENTS. Prisoner professing strong anti-Turk sentiments said that the 12th Depot Regiment from JERUSALEM has been moved to HEBRON some days back and that trenches had been prepared near DHAHERIYEH. He, however, opined that no serious opposition would be met between BEERSHEBA and JERUSALEM.

Another prisoner says that a well at KHUWEILFEH has 15 feet of good water.

General gossip among Turkish Officers was to the effect that a VIIth Army was to concentrate at HEBRON with FEVZI PASHA as G.O.C. and that FALKENHAYN was to establish his Headquarters at JERUSALEM.

During our attack on BEERSHEBA the 81st Regiment had 75% of its 1st Batta killed and wounded and the 79th had 40% in one of its Battalion's casualties, mainly from artillery fire.

TOPOGRAPHICAL. An unusually cultured Dedouin states that the Turkish Government has made a motor road from DHAHERIYEH to SHEERIA via KHUWEILFEH. He himself saw lorry tracks on this road about five days ago.

Wheate
Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS *S.S.*

Intelligence Summary I.51/34

For 24 hours ending 0800, 4/11/17.

OPERATIONS. Troops of the 2nd Light Horse and New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigades are holding the enemy on the line W. EL SIMSIN - RAS EL NAGEB - making touch with the 1st Battalion, I.C.C. Brigade, which is in turn in touch with the ~~Brigade~~ 180th Infantry Brigade near BIR EL BESTAN.

INTELLIGENCE. R.F.C. report early this morning 500-700 Infantry at KH UM BAGHLEH - about 1500 - 2000 around KH MURRAH scattered in bodies of about 300, and 500 N. of KH EL MUKAIMIN. Also 150 cavalry at KH UM AMEIDAT. All the above were halted. Later 300 men and about 150 horses were observed in DHAHERIYEH.

The Infantry probably belong to the 19th Division, elements of which are now engaged with our 53rd Division about KHUWEILFEH.

A long distance reconnaissance about mid-day reported no movement or concentration seen on HEBRON road right as far as JERUSALEM.

The movement and activity at KH UM AMEIDAT station is maintained, 18 rolling stock being seen there today.

This place is now probably being used as a railhead.

STATEMENTS of PRISONERS and others.

An intelligent Bedouin states that there are 3 enemy batteries at TEL KHUWEILFEH minus their guns.

These are probably the batteries whose guns were captured by the 4th L.H. Brigade at BEERSHEBA on 31st ult:

A Turkish officer in the prisoners collecting station at BEERSHEBA was overheard telling his men that if interrogated by us as to movements of troops, they were to say that strong reinforcements were being sent from the north.

There is a fairly persistent, but at present unconfirmed rumour that the 44th Division is coming to this front. This Division consists of the 139th, 140th and 159th Regiments and was last identified in CILICIA.

Turkish prisoners taken in BEERSHEBA on 31st ult: were generally despondent and much terrified by the Australian cavalry.

GENERAL

1. Technical units in RALEH are reported to have been ordered to pack up their equipment and stores and move them to DALASCUS. The arrival of a German Division has been long reported at this place but prisoners have heard this so often that they no longer credit it.

2. Although the time and nature of our attack at BEERSHEBA was a surprise to the enemy, they had been warned by Von KRESS that we should attack in November.

They were confident that they could repulse the attack.

P.T.O.

3.

SUPPLY DEPOTS. The following have been located by statements of P. of W.

AFULE	-	Large depot.
JULIS (16 miles N. of SAZA)	-	Large depot of rice and tinned food stuffs.
DEIR SINEIB	-	Much flour and wheat.
ARAK EL MENSHEH (8 miles W. of DEIR JIBRI)	-	Large depot.

4.

Information supplied by prisoners has led to wireless telegraphy gear, a quantity of ammunition and gelignite which had been buried by the enemy in BEERSHEBA being unearthed. Also, the detection of land-mines.

A. B. Neato

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

L. S.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary I.51/35

For 24 hours ending 1800, 5/11/17

OPERATIONS. The situation on our front has not changed.
On the GAZA sector yesterday two enemy attacks near APEX
LEFT were repulsed.

INTELLIGENCE. Air reconnaissances during the day report. -

Large camp of some 1000 - 1500 shelters - probably
Bedouin shelters - N. of DAHARIYEH between HEBRON and
YUTTA roads.

At DAHARIYEH about 300 cavalry in the town - but no
movement on roads behind (0800 hours).

Infantry extended on lower N.E. slopes of RAS EL MAGB.
Between Point 2070 and UM EL KUSAH 4 detachments
mounted troops, not more than one regiment. in all.

TEL MEJADEL strongly held by infantry on southern and
Eastern sides.

On flat ground between EL KERU and W. MEJADIL about
2 regiments mounted troops scattered in small formations
(1500 hours)

500 men (and horses) apparently entrenching on front
slopes of TEL KHUWEILFEH (0800 hours)

About 300 mechanical transport seen in parks of 20
extended over area 3 miles due east of ABEIDAT station.

The trenches running East from SHARIA station railway
to about U.22 were observed to be occupied at 1400 hours.
Estimated garrison 300 - 500.

IDENTIFICATIONS. The 77th Regiment, 19th Division, has been definitely
identified opposite our 53rd Division at KHUWEILFEH.
Prisoner says the 72nd is also in line, but no contact has
been yet made with this. Strength of this regiment is
stated to be only 900 rifles - but this is probably an
under-estimate. 77

GENERAL.

Turkish military postman states -

That ground is soft on sides of all wadis leading from a
line TEL EL SHARIA - KHUWEILFEH - DAHARIYEH and that
wheeled traffic can pass over with ease. Ground north of
DAHARIYEH is difficult with the exception of main road.

From DAHARIYEH north west the ground is easy towards
EL BIREH.

Discipline: Extracts from captured documents show that
the following system of dealing with supply and transport
officers who are lax in the performance of their duties,
holds good in certain formations.

GENERAL (contd)

(1) Rationing bad in a battalion; the officer i/c rationing does 3 days and nights on patrol in the front line.

(ii) If rations arrive irregularly; the transport and baggage officers with their clerk will be sent out as above.

(iii) Water supply bad; officers concerned will be punished in the same way.

3. Two reasons prompted the Turks to withdraw the mines from the wells at BEERSHEBA.

The arrival of the 24th Division made them feel they could hold the town in the event of attack.

Also the HALDAR PASHA explosion made them fear the mines might go off by accident (or otherwise) while they were still here.

4. Propaganda - Prisoners state that if leaflets are dropped from aeroplanes in large parcels they are taken at once to the officers and the troops do not get access to them. They should be dropped in as large a number as possible of small leaflets.

5. The Tanks were using oil shale as fuel for heating in BEERSHEBA. This was brought from near TERICHO.

A.C.B. Neate

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. *L.S.*

Intelligence Summary I.51/35.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 6/11/17

OPERATIONS. This morning the 53rd Division captured TEL EL KHUWEILFE, being engaged with elements of four enemy divisions. An enemy counter attack at 1600, was repulsed, and the ground gained remains in our hands.

The Yeomanry Mounted Division is now disposed between the left of the 53rd about AIN KOHLEH and the right of the 74th Division about UL EL EAKR.

Troops of the XXth Corps after capturing the works about U.19 - 22 occupied SHERIA about 1700 meeting little opposition and capturing one M.G.

On the GAZA SECTOR the bombardment was continued according to plan.

INTELLIGENCE. Prisoners were taken today by the 53rd Division about KHUWEILFEH from 67th, 79th and 81st Regiments (27th Divn), 125th Regiment and 16th R.F.A. (16th Divn) and 143rd Regiment (24th Divn).

Yesterday contact had been made in the same area with the 79th and 77th Regiments (19th Divn).

Elements of four divisions have thus been attracted to this area.

Later the 74th Division captured a prisoner from the 47th Regiment (18th Divn) about U.15, S.E. of SHERIA. This latter stated that the 26th Division (hitherto unlocated in these operations) are at SHERIA.

The prisoner of the 143rd Regiment stated that the 16th Divisional cavalry squadron was on his left and the 16th Divisional Assault Company on his right.

This all seems to indicate some not inconsiderable confusion amongst enemy units on this front, and a tendency to reinforce the KHUWEILFE sector and a corresponding thinning of the line E. of SHERIA.

R.F.C. RECONNAISSANCE. Reconnaissances during the day report DHAHERIYEH - no movement in town and road all clear at 1200 hrs. There seemed to be a considerable concentration of troops W. of WADI MEJADIL. At TOR EL SADAN detachments of some 50 enemy with machine guns.

In the triangle NEJILE - ZUBRALA - KHUWEILFEH about 1400 - 1600 horsemen scattered. Considerable quantity of rolling stock in AMEIDAT station - hospital train with steam up facing North. WATER was observed in WADI BARRAN. Enemy Headquarters at KH EL RIJN (square C.8) has been completely burnt.

STATEMENTS OF PRISONERS. The 52nd Regiment (19th Division) hitherto unlocated is stated to be 2 hours N. of KHUWEILFE. Other prisoners opine that it is at HEBRON.

The 48th Regiment (16th Divn) is stated to have been wiped out today in KAWUKA system.

The belief that the 44th Division is on its way seems to be general amongst prisoners. This may, however, be fostered by design. Others say two divisions are coming but do not know number of the other. Our attack today appears to have been expected by enemy.

Casualties seem to have been heavy in 16th Division.

A company of the 125th Regiment suffered 80 out of a rifle strength of 110. Prisoners have heard their officers say that the next line of defence is at JERUSALEM - and that there

STATEMENTS of PRISONERS (contd)

are no reinforcements available pending the arrival of the 2 divisions mentioned above.

R.F.A. officer prisoner said that only heavy guns have gas shells on this front.

GENERAL

1. The health and moral of the 24th Division appears to be very bad. It contracted cholera at ALEPPO and suffered much from desertion on the march southwards. Cases of amoebic dysentery and many of conjunctivitis were left in the hospital at SHERIA. The 2nd Regiment suffered at our hands on October 31st at BEESEBBA, and it is doubtful if the present rifle strength of this division is much over 3,000 (not allowing for losses incurred today).

2. Prisoners agree that no regimental rifle strength on this front is above 1500 - 1200 being a fair average. (Pre-war establishment 3,000).

3. The total prisoners captured since October 31st totalled 3,010 yesterday evening.

4. A trustworthy agent reports that the Railway Bridge E of IRGEX is mined. 2 of the four pillars are recessed for the reception of charges of 15 Dynamite cartridges. Wire lead from here to a hole near new well about 100' from the bridge.

Alkali

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS



Intelligence Summary No.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 17/11/17.

OPERATIONS

Our advance was continued yesterday northwards. The N.Z.M.R. Brigade entered JAFFA and found the city undamaged. Water supply unlimited but very few supplies found. Today patrols pushed on and reached the line of NARH EL AUJA. Patrols of the Yeomanry Division pushing N.E. found the enemy holding a line from KULEH in U.31 through YEHUDIYEH N.W. to a point N.E. of JAFFA. He appeared to be falling back in two directions - one along the railway, the other towards JERUSALEM.

R.F.C. RECONNAISSANCE.

R.F.C. report trenches facing S.E. from L.8 to L.3 (about YASUR). Also 6 short lengths facing S.E. from L.15 to L.21 (across JAFFA - RAILWAY Road). Large flocks of goats and cattle with Bedouin in charge seen moving N. about 0.3.

INTELLIGENCE.

Some 14 officers and 300 o.r. prisoners were taken at LUDD by the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division. These belonged to the undermentioned regiments: 2nd, 19th, 32nd, 47th, 48th, 57th, 74th, 78th, 79th, 104th and 135th. This assortment of units out of a batch of 300 prisoners gives an idea of the mix up which must exist in the enemy force. Officers said the enemy will hold the line covering HAIFA - AFULE.

The N.Z.M.R. Brigade report many wounded in AYUN KARA belonging to the 19th Division. These fought victoriously under HACKENSEN in ROULANIA last year and offered a substantial resistance to our 53rd Division at KHUVEILFEH 10 days ago. They are now very despondent, and said "You cannot beat the English unless you kill them - they won't run".

GENERAL

1. A trustworthy Jewish inhabitant of JERUSALEM who left the place on the 17th inst. says "There are now very few troops in JERUSALEM. The Turkish civil and military authorities have gone to NABLUS (This is confirmed from other sources). The German and Austrian Commanders called on their subjects and told them to remain without fear, as, if the British occupy the town they are gentlemen and will not hurt anyone". The Austrian commander had previously approached General Falkenhayn about the safety of his subjects and was informed that it was as much as the general could do to get his own personnel away. There have been no measures taken to organise a defence of JERUSALEM and the Turks seem resigned to the English occupying the place, but NABLUS will be defended to enable troops and material to get away to DALASCUS. The Germans are cursing the Turks saying that they give way and will not fight notwithstanding all Germany has done for them. The Turks say "To Hell with the Germans, who have brought us to our present state."

2. Within the last 5 weeks 14 hostile aircraft have been captured or destroyed - 13 of these are now in our lines.

3. The 22nd Independent Regiment has been identified on this front - it was apparently hurried up from CONSTANTINOPLE.

4. It is reported that a train in which DJEMAL PASHA (G.O.C. VIII A.C.) was travelling was blown up by bombs between DERAA and AMMAN. Amongst the killed was DJEMAL's A.D.C.

5. Topographical. The following information on the route LUDD - BERFILYA - BIREH - JERICHO has been received from a good source. The road passes via JIMZU - BERFILYA - EL BURJ - BEIT UR EL TAHTA - RAHMALLA - BIREH - DEIR DIWAN - AIN EL DUK - JERICHO. Except for first 6 miles from LUDD it is quite unfit for wheeled traffic till RAHMALLA is reached. From here to BIREH it is a good motor road. After BIREH, where the JERUSALEM SHECHEM road is crossed, it again becomes rocky and unfit for wheeled traffic till AIN EL DUK, where it becomes carriageable after the JORDAN valley is entered.

Water on Route - At JIMZU one well with windlass - fair supply. At BEIT UR EL TAHTA water in wadi below village. Good water at AIN EL JERUT (spring) but at POOL below BETUNIA very little. Large quantity of good water at RAHMALLA (wells and springs) and running water, practically unlimited, at BIREH. Running water (unlimited) at AIN EL DUK, at entrance to pass to JORDAN Valley. At JERICHO, running water used for irrigation - plentiful.

W. H. G.
 Captain,
 General Staff,
 DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary No.



For 24 hours ending 1800, 18.11.17.

OPERATIONS.

Australian Mounted Division reported enemy holding line LATRON - AMWAS this morning. Enemy appeared to have two or three Mountain Guns which command main road.

8th Mounted Brigade passed through ANNABEH at noon and patrols passed through JIMZU early this morning and reported all clear.

A hostile aeroplane flew over RAMLEH this evening at a height of 600 feet, firing at our troops with its Machine Gun. Casualties so far unknown.

INTELLIGENCE.

1. N.Z.M.R. Brigade report the stream NAHR EL AUJA is of considerable size - 35 yards wide and 10 feet deep - good clear water. There is a ford at the mouth in Y.18 - 3 feet deep with hard bottom. Crossing at MILL in Z.21 passable for dismounted troops in single file. Bridge at Z.18 passable for all traffic, and would take three men abreast. (This reconnaissance carried out under enemy's rifle fire).

2. N.Z.M.R. Brigade also reported enemy bivouacs consisting of 300 men, 40 vehicles, and 300 camels in Z.5 (near TEL EL NARIYEH) yesterday evening.

3. Inhabitants of EL BUREIJ report 80 mounted Turks left the village on 15th retiring East. Our patrols encountered 2 troops enemy cavalry E.S.E. of EL BUREIJ on same day. These carried their rifles slung in the same way as Australians do, and were hard to recognise.

The following statistics of enemy casualties are fairly accurate and may be of interest.

DIVISION.	CASUALTIES.	REMAINING EFFECTIVE STRENGTH.
3	2,600 rifles.	1,600 rifles.
7	1,300 ..	2,700 ..
16	3,000 ..	1,500 ..
19	1,500 ..	3,000 ..
20	200 ..	4,300 ..
24	1,600 ..	1,800 ..
26	2,000 ..	2,500 ..
27	2,200 ..	1,200 ..
53	2,300 ..	1,800 ..
54	1,300 ..	3,200 ..
3rd Cav.	300 sabres.	1,500 sabres.
Detached Regts.	500 rifles	1,000 rifles
..	-	200 ..
..	100 ..	1,400 ..
TOTALS	18,900	26,200 rifles. 1,500 sabres.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

JERUSALEM - NABLUS Road (information 4½ months old).

This road had been repaired and was then in very good condition and fit for Motor Transport. There were some bad patches between JERUSALEM, KH ERNYAH and ER RAM. From ER RAM on to NABLUS Road was in very good condition. If motor lorries are heavily laden difficulty is sometimes experienced on this hill.

The Northern route through SHILTA Eastwards to JERUSALEM is reported to be fit for motor traffic. This, however has been questioned and requires confirmation.

The following Turkish communique for 14.11.17 may be of interest "SINAI front - Artillery and Infantry battles still continue".

A. Meert
Captain.
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 51/39...

For 24 hours ending 1800, 19/11/17.

OPERATIONS - AMWAS and LATRON were occupied today without opposition by the 75th Division. Armoured cars were at the mouth of the derband on JERUSALEM Road in M. 18.c. Loud explosions were heard near this point, which may possibly be have been the mines reported here (BAB EL WAD) going off.

2nd L.H. Brigade reported RANTIEH all clear and 2 redoubts at NEBI TARI and 2 troops of enemy on high ground. N.Z.M.R. Brigade say enemy occupying trenches about 60 yards N. of bridge in Z.16 (over NAHR EL AUJA). Infantry and machine guns - strength uncertain. Also infantry and machine guns on the hill at KHIRBIT HADRA.

R.F.C. REPORTS - Reconnaissance at 1300 today reports 1000 cavalry about 2 miles W. of JERUSALEM on RAMLEH road. Also M.T. going N. on SHECHEM road near BIREH. Movement northwards of 4000 infantry and 200 H.T. seen between BETHELEHEM through JERUSALEM to a point 6 miles N. on the SCHECHEM Road. No defences seen, around BIREH. A considerable dump of forage seen at EL KENISEH, on the railway 4 miles N. of LUDD. Also a large dump at JIL JULIEH both sides of the line. The railway bridge over the Wadi $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. of LUDD has been destroyed but all others as far as JIL JULIEH appear intact. There are three large sheets of water in the NAHR EL FALIK, 15 miles N. of JAFFA, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Sea.

INTELLIGENCE - Engineer officer attached Headquarters XXth Corps who made the SIMSIM - BUREIR trench line says it was intended to hold this line, but the vigour of our pursuit swept the enemy past it. He was disappointed that this line, which was well prepared, was not used. He says that efforts will certainly be made to hold the line covering AFULE - HAIFA but if this is not possible PALESTINE will be abandoned and everything staked on holding the DAMASCUS - BEIRUT line. It is considered that by combining the HEJAZ and PALESTINE armies and reinforcing them by 2 German Divisions this should be possible. (This officer had been some time on H.Q. and seemed to be well informed). He further stated that during the retreat no one - corps, divisions, regiments - had any idea where anyone else was.

2. Officer of Pioneer Regiment 19th Division captured by Yomanry Division in SUFFIA says there is ~~were~~ now a German Division around JERUSALEM which will leave that area tomorrow (20th). (The presence of this Division is unlikely). There are however fairly persistent reports of 5,000 German troops seen at DAMASCUS destined for this front, and some may possibly have come south, and have given rise to the idea that a German Division ~~has~~ arrived. The Germans were reliably reported to be mainly technical men (telephonists, wireless &c

3. P. of W. say that the present garrison of HEBRON consists of the 24th Division (relics of), 12th Depot Regt. (about 400 rifles), Cavalry Detachment, Camel Corps Detachment, about 7 guns, (about 2,200 rifles in all).

4. An English sergeant-major who in company with an officer was captured by the Turks in October appears to have told them that we were going to attack at GAZA and SHERIA simultaneously. The officer declined to make a statement.

W. H. H. H.
Captain,
General Staff.
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

GS

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary No. 1. 1/40.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 20. 11. 17.

OPERATIONS.

75th Division occupied SARIS today at 1300, capturing 40 prisoners. Some opposition was encountered, but the enemy showed signs of retiring. The 8th Mounted Brigade had advanced this morning to a point 3 miles E. of BEIT UR EL TAHIA. This morning the 6th Mounted Brigade were pressing the enemy who was holding the high ground at BEITUNIA.

INTELLIGENCE

Refugees from JERUSALEM report that German troops were taken in lorries all over the country round - from NABLUS to LUDD - TULKERAM and JERUSALEM to give the Turks the idea that German reinforcements had arrived, to induce them to make a stand. Actually no Germans have arrived since our attack. They say that fortifications are now being constructed at AFULE in anticipation of our making a landing at HAIFA, of which the Turks are apprehensive.

Two weeks ago VON KRESS asked CONSTANTINOPLE for reinforcements, but no new troops arrived - but the last orders were to call up all males from 18 - 30 years of age.

Officer prisoner who surrendered to A. & N.Z. Mtd. Division, in plain clothes said he was M.O. (Syrian) of 79th Regiment, which he said had been destroyed.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

The following information was obtained from good local sources. Road KERKUR - AFULE. - Road passes by ARARA - MUSMUS - NERJ - IBN - AMIR, and is fit for motors throughout its length. There is no other direct carriageable route from TULKERAM to NABLUS.

Water on or near route KALAAT - RAS EL AIN (Station) large stream. KALKILI - 15 wells motor pump and hand wheel. MISKE - Many wells - mule wheels. AZZUN - 4 springs. TULKERAM (VIIIth Army H.Q.)? - motor and tank large well. KAKUN - 1 well 15 feet deep. No appliances. ZEITA - 3 springs. ARARA. One spring N. of the road and another South thereof. MUSMUS. One very strong spring. EL FULE - 2 wells - one with motor engine.

Other water springs in neighbourhood:
JEMMAIN - Many wells worked by mules. KIRE - 3 springs.
TILL - 6 springs. JINSAFAT - 4 wells worked by mules.
RAFIDIA (N. of NABLUS) - 1 spring, very strong. JENIN - A stream of good water.

Alma
Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

GS

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary No. I. 51/48.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 29th Novr. 1917.

OPERATIONS - During yesterday the enemy, who had apparently been considerably reinforced, displayed some activity against the 134th Division about ABU ZEITUN, FUKA and BEIT UR EL TAHTA, and against the 54th Division on their left. Our line had to be withdrawn at some points in this area.

A very successful raid was carried out last night by 1st Brigade on enemy post on NAHR EL AUJA at Z. 18.0. The enemy post consisted of 100 men of the 134th Regiment and the strength of our raiding party was 40. Eight prisoners and 2 M.Gs. captured and about 50 of the enemy killed. Our casualties TWO wounded.

R.F.C. REPORTS. - Air reconnaissance yesterday morning reports TABSÖR and TUL KERAM defenses seemed strongly held - about 750 enemy being seen at the former place.

Five aeroplanes were seen on the aerodrome at TUL KERAM.

Considerable movement on TULKERAM - JAFFA road - about 500 infantry and 20 M.T. going S.W.

INTELLIGENCE - (1) One deserter belonging to 48th Regiment, 1st Division surrendered to 54th Division today near WILHELMINA. Deserter is a Russian who was captured by the Austrians and forced to join Turkish Army. This deserter says 1 Bn. 22nd Divn. arrived S. of TUL KERAM yesterday. (This Division may possibly have been reformed - the original 22nd Division was destroyed in the Caucasus in 1916.) He further stated that the enemy believed our left flank from RAMLEH to the sea was held by only one or two battalions.

(2) Another deserter who surrendered to the Camel Brigade belongs to 62nd Regt. 20th Division. He says 61st and 62nd Regts arrived 3 days ago by march route from DAMASCUS, and were engaged on Tuesday W. of Railway. Before the attack the 20th Division were one hours march W. of Railway. Regiments in his Division have 3 battalions and average Coy. strength of 160.

(3) Other prisoners say that the demonstration against the 75th Divn. about BEIT SURIK (T. 16.) was carried out by Assault Coy. (Stöas Trupp) of 26th Division. Strength 150 - 200. Whole of 26th Division was (on 27th) at BIREH and whole 26th Divn. at BEIT IKSA - but no company strength in either of these more than 60 rifles. (Giving about 2000 rifles to a Division).

(4) A Jewish refugee - reliability unstated - who left MULEBBIS area 2 days ago reported that on 27th two German Divisions had begun to detrain at RAS EL AIN Station.

(5) Prisoners of 134th Regt. taken in Raid on enemy last night say their regiment arrived, 520 strong, at 1800 on 27th. It, and Divisional H.Q. are now one hours march N. of river. They confirm that 3rd Division is on right. The post represented a whole company, about 80 - 100 strong.

TOPOGRAPHICAL - The following names of hills have been allotted and will be taken into general use.

Hill in 085 15.0., S.W. of Pt. to be known as ONE TREE HILL.

Hill in 084 Z. 27 b., S.W. of JERISHEH, to be JERISHEH HILL.

/ GENERAL.

10
20/11

~~GENERAL~~ ~~REPORT~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~21st~~ ~~Infantry~~ ~~Division~~ ~~at~~ ~~JENIN~~
states that a considerable demonstration of the ~~21st~~ ~~Infantry~~ ~~Division~~ took place here - as many as 10,000 being estimated at and ~~by~~ the town. An order was received from DAMASCUS for a move to be made S. on SHECHEM. On arrival at SHECHEM a number of battalion commanders were taken away from their regiments to attend a court martial. It afterwards transpired that 114 officers had been put under arrest for retiring without orders. It was stated that some were hanged (but this is probably only hearsay).
The day before messenger left JENIN (21st Inst) many guns (about 100) arrived. They were entering the town the whole of one day - some drawn by 8 horses, some by 6. The gunners said they had come from DAMASCUS.

The messenger was in JENIN, Enver PASHA and some German officers visited the place in 6 motor cars. In a speech made by Enver he said the British advance was not really a victory, and that they, the British, would soon be driven back to the Canal!

METEOROLOGICAL - Taken at G.H.Q. - 28/11/17.

Description.		Reading.	Difference from previous day.
TEMPER- ATURE.	8 a.m. today.	57°	+1°
	Max. for prev. day.	71°	0.
	Min. for prev. night.	47°	0.
HUMIDITY.		91%	+8%
RAINFALL		NIL	

A. Neate.

Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

(No Summary issued yesterday)

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. *JS*

Intelligence Summary I.51/49.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 30.11.17.

OPERATIONS.

A party of 50 enemy attacked post of 162nd Infantry Brigade about near BEIT NABALA at 0445 this morning. They were driven off by our fire to the lower slopes of the hill. A small counter attack was then launched by us and the enemy bolted into our 4.5" barrage.

The I.C.C., Brigade carried out a raid at ONE TREE HILL (Pt. 265) last night after an hours bombardment. The trenches dug by the enemy on the hill itself were found unoccupied, but 15 Turks were in the trench on the East shoulder of the hill. These fled chased by our men with bombs etc. The whole raiding party returned safely. Our casualties 3 wounded but enemy's unknown. During the raid the enemy made a determined rush against ^{an} advanced outpost about 1,400 yards in front of our main line. After a bomb fight the post, taken in flank by Machine Gun fire withdrew to support position. Enemy then began digging in at 200 yards from our line. When day dawned it appeared that the position selected by the enemy was a very bad one, and he was quickly surrounded by the 7th L.H. Regiment. 2 Officers and 146 Other Ranks surrendered, also 4 Automatic rifles of a pattern not hitherto met with on our front.

INTELLIGENCE.

1. The above prisoners belonged to the 57th Regiment, now under orders of the 16th Division. The strength of the 57th Regiment is 1100 rifles. Von Kress, they say, visited the front yesterday and ordered the attack last night, but the O.C., 22nd Corps, Col. RAFET BEY wishes to attack down the Railway.
 2. Prisoner, who was taken today by the 7th Mounted Brigade near EL BURJ, belongs to the 154th Regiment, This Regiment belonging to the 49th Division was last located at SMYRNA. He says his Regiment left DAMASCUS one month ago and reached this front two days back, having come by march route.
 3. From contact identification and prisoners statements it appears that the enemy dispositions on our front are as follows :- (from West to East) 31st Regt. 138th Regt, (3rd Division), 134th Regiment (7th Division) from Sea to KHIRBET HADRA inclusive. Then a gap of three kilometres, with sentinels only. Then two Battns. 57th Regiment South of MULEBBIS, (with the 48th in the vicinity but not in the line) Then 62nd Regiment (20th Division) as far as the Railway. West of the Railway the 77th Regiment has been identified about BUDRUS, and the 154th (now arrival) about SUFFA but further identifications are required to build up the enemy line about LIDIEH. There are indications that the 72nd Regiment is here but this wants confirming. The Headquarters of the Cavalry Division (6th, 8th, and 27th Regiments) are said to be at DEIR EL JALY (in O.98.T.5.).
- 10 WWH*

R.F.C. REPORT.

A bombing expedition last night bombed TULKERAM aerodrome with effect - These reported very large enemy camps between FURDISTA and railway, and also North of NAHR EL FALIK, by the sheets of water there. There were also suitable dealt with. There is a considerable camp (about 200 bivouacs) at RAS EL AIN - the enemy is apparently using this place as a Railhead. About 300 Infantry were seen walking about here and a later reconnaissance reports about 200 Infantry at NALIN, and some 300 about Z.20.d. (in Wadi). A pontoon bridge over the NAHR EL AUJA has been constructed in Z.21.b.

A. Neate
Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.