

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/56/1 Part 1

Title: General Staff, Headquarters Imperial
Mounted Division

February-March 1917



AWM4-1/56/1PART1

WAR
DIARY

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION

GENERAL STAFF

VOLUME 1.

From 12th FEBRUARY 1917

TO

⁵
~~31st~~ MARCH 1917.

Appendices No ~~25~~ + 32
missing

Appendix No 23
not available

March 1917

SECRET.

A35

MAR 1917

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION.

WAR DIARY.

GENERAL STAFF.

VOLUME 1

from 12th February, 1917 to 31st March, 1917.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

#35/2

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Vol 1 Page 1

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Imperial Mounted Division.

MAR 1917

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices													
<p>12th Febry 1917 Ismailia.</p>	<p>Authority for formation of Imperial Mounted Division issued in F.F. Force Order No 31 dated 12 Febry, 1917</p> <p>Troops forming Division as follows:-</p> <p>3rd Australian Lt. Horse Bde * 4th " " " 5th Mtd Brigade 6th " " "</p> <p><u>Divisional Troops</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Headquarters J.M. Div.</td> <td>J.M. Div Field Sgdn *</td> <td rowspan="6">} 8th Austral. Mobile Vet Sect. 9th " " " " * 4/1st S. Mid. Vet. Section 3/1st " " " " No. 31 Sanitary Section.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hotts Battery RHA</td> <td>J.M. Div Sig. Sgdn *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berks Battery RHA</td> <td>3rd Light Horse Sqd Ambs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" Batty H.A.C.</td> <td>4th " " " " *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"B" Batty H.A.C.</td> <td>1/2 S. Mid. M. Bde 2nd a.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1/1st " " " " "</td> </tr> </table> <p>* In process of formation.</p>	Headquarters J.M. Div.	J.M. Div Field Sgdn *	} 8 th Austral. Mobile Vet Sect. 9 th " " " " * 4/1 st S. Mid. Vet. Section 3/1 st " " " " No. 31 Sanitary Section.	Hotts Battery RHA	J.M. Div Sig. Sgdn *	Berks Battery RHA	3 rd Light Horse Sqd Ambs.	"A" Batty H.A.C.	4 th " " " " *	"B" Batty H.A.C.	1/2 S. Mid. M. Bde 2 nd a.		1/1 st " " " " "	<p>Vol I Appendix 12.</p>
Headquarters J.M. Div.	J.M. Div Field Sgdn *	} 8 th Austral. Mobile Vet Sect. 9 th " " " " * 4/1 st S. Mid. Vet. Section 3/1 st " " " " No. 31 Sanitary Section.													
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	1/1 st " " " " "														
<p>12th Febry 1917 Ismailia.</p>	<p>Brigadier General H.W. Hodgson, CVO, C.B., appointed to Command Imperial mtd division with effect from 8/2/17, with temporary rank Major General while so employed.</p>	<p>Vol I Appendix 12.</p>													
<p>—</p>	<p>Imperial Mtd division is allotted on formation to Eastern Force.</p>	<p>Vol I Appendix 12.</p>													

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Imperial Mtd Div.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FERRY POST 19/2/17	Imperial Mtd Div. Order No 1 issued, giving organization and allotment of Imperial Mounted Division. Divisional Staff complete at Ferry Post. Distribution of units of Imp. Mtd Div on 19 th Attached	Vol I Appen 2 Wells
" 20/2/17	Dorset Yeomanry reached FERRY POST from SHALLUFA. Bucks Yeomanry left KUBRI for FERRY POST.	Vol I Appen 3 & 3a Wells
" 21/2/17 1220	BERKS Battery R.H.A. reached FERRY POST from KUBRI	Wells
" 23/2/17 0900 1000	G.O.C. inspected "A" Battery H.A.C. " " Dorset Yeomanry.	Wells
" 24/2/17 0900 1000 1500	G.O.C. inspected BERKS Battery R.H.A. G.O.C. inspected BUCKS Yeomanry. Imperial Mtd. Div. order No 2 issued; Hqrs. I.M.D. to move to EL ARISH, arriving on March 2 nd .	Vol I Appen A Wells
" 25/2/17 1000	G.O.C. left for SERAPEUM railhead where 11 th A.L.H. regt. was inspected	
" 26/2/17 0900 0930 1400	G.O.C. inspected 4 th A.L.H. regiment. Advanced party - Div. Hqrs. left for EL ARISH. Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 3 issued. Instructions for march of Berks ^{R.H.A.} and "A" battery H.A.C. and 6 th Mounted Bde to EL ARISH.	Vol I Appen A Vol I Appen 5 Wells

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Imperial Mtd Div

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
27/2/17 FERRY POST	0900 G.O.C. inspected 12 th A.L.H. Regiment 1400 Advanced party D.H.Q. arrived EL ARISH.	Vol I appen 4
28/2/17 "	Berks Batty R.H.A. and "A" battery H.A.L. arrived at KANTARA from ISMAILIA	Vol I appen 5
1/3/17 EL ARISH	0600 Div. Hqrs. closed at FERRY POST and reopened at EL ARISH. 2000 Instructions received from East force that 5 th Mounted Bde. at EL BURJ, 3 rd A.L.H. Bde. at MASAIID and Netts Batty R.H.A. at EL ARISH come under direct orders of Imperial Mtd. Div. from 2 nd inst. inclusive. Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from ISMAILIA to KANTARA.	Vol I appen 5
2/3/17 "	6 th Mtd. Bde (less Dorset and Bucks Yeo.) marched from ISMAILIA to KANTARA 1700 G.O.C. arrived at EL ARISH.	Vol I appen 5
3/3/17 "	Berks Batty R.H.A. and "A" batty. H.A.L. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol I appen 4 Vol I appen 5
4/3/17 "	Berks Batty R.H.A. and A batty. H.A.L. marched from GILBAN to PELUSIUM Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN	Vol I appen 5
5/3/17 "	0800 G.O.C. proceeded to EL BURJ and inspected 5 th Mtd. Bde. Berks Batty R.H.A. and "A" batty H.A.L. marched from PELUSIUM to ROMANI. Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from GILBAN to PELUSIUM. 6 th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol I appen 5 " "

W. J. Thegater Capt G.S.

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Imperial Mtd Div

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6/3/17 EL ARISH 0900	<p>G.O.C. proceeded to MASAIID and inspected 3rd A.L.H. Bde, Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty H.A.C. marched from ROMANI to KHIRBA.</p> <p>Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from PELLISIUM to ROMANI</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset and Bucks Yeo.) marched from GILBAN to PELLISIUM.</p> <p>2000 Orders received from Eastforce for Imperial Mtd. Div. (less 6th Mtd Bde. and Ath L.H. Bde, with Berks Batty R.H.A. and "A" batty H.A.C.) to move forward to EL BURJ on 9th instant.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 5</p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>
7/3/17 " 1200	<p>Imperial Mtd. Div. No 4 issued, giving instructions for move referred to above.</p> <p>Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty. H.A.C. marched from KHIRBA to ABD.</p> <p>Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from ROMANI to KHIRBA.</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo) marched from PELLISIUM to ROMANI.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 6</p> <p>Vol I appen 5</p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>
8/3/17 EL ARISH 0900	<p>G.O.C. inspected North Batty. R.H.A.</p> <p>Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty. H.A.C. marched from ABD to SALMANA.</p> <p>Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo. marched from KHIRBA to ABD.</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from ROMANI to KHIRBA.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 5</p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>

W. G. Urquhart Capt.
G.S.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
9/3/17 EL BURJ	<p>0800 Div. Hqrs. closed at EL ARISH and reopened at EL BURJ</p> <p>1230 Orders issued for 5th Mtd. Bde. to move forward to SHEIK ZOWAID on 10th instant.</p> <p>1400 G.O.C. arrived at D.H.Q. EL BURJ, after visiting G.O.C. Desert Column at SHEIK ZOWAID. He assumed command all troops at EL BURJ.</p> <p>1600 All moves ordered in Imperial Mtd. Div. order No 6 completed.</p> <p>2000 Instructions for daily patrols while at EL BURJ issued to 3rd A.L.H. Bde. Berks Batty. R.H.A. and A batty. H.A.C. marched from SALMANA to MAZAR. Dorset Yeo and Bucks Yeo. marched from ABD to SALMANA 6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from KHIRBA to ABD.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 6</p> <p>Vol I appen 7</p> <p>Vol I appen 6</p> <p>Vol I appen 8</p> <p>Vol I appen 5</p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>
10/3/17 "	<p>From to day inclusive Imperial Mtd. Div. comes under orders of Desert Column.</p> <p>5th Mtd. Bde marched from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID.</p> <p>Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty. H.A.C. marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL.</p> <p>Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo. marched from SALMANA to MAZAR</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from ABD to SALMANA.</p> <p>3rd L.H. Brigade instructed to furnish daily patrols along wire and litter roads running East from EL BURJ.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 7</p> <p>Vol I appen 5</p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>

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W.F. Hughes Lt. Col. G.S.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Imperial Mtd Divn

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
11/3/17 EL BURJ 0900	Orders received from Desert Column for Div. Hqrs. to move to SHEIK ZOWAID on 12 th instant. Berkes Batty. R.H.A. and A battery H.A.C. marched from BARDAWIL to EL ARISH.	wgl Vol I appen 5
1000	Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo. marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL 6 th Mtd. Bde (less Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo. marched from SALMANA to MAZAR	"
1000	Orders issued for "A" battery H.A.C. and Berkes Batty R.H.A. to halt one day at EL ARISH and proceed to EL BURJ on 13 th .	Vol I appen 9
1000	Orders issued for 6 th Mounted Brigade to halt one day at EL ARISH and proceed thence to EL BURJ - Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo. on 14 th - Hqrs. Bde. and Berkes Yeo. on 15 th	Vol I appen 10
2120	Orders issued for 3 rd L.H. Bde. to move from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID on 13 th .	Vol I appen 11
2128	Orders issued for 6 th Mtd. Bde. to move from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID on 16 th . D.W. Artillery to move similarly on 14 th instant. Patrol from 3 rd L.H. Bde. to the south reported sighting 5 camels making East in vicinity of point 285.	Vol I appen 12 a & 12 b
12/3/17 BIR ABU HAMTHALA 1200	Divisional H.Q. closed at EL BURJ and reopened at ABU HAMTHALA, G.O.C. relinquished command of EL BURJ.	Vol I appen 13
	Orders issued for 3 rd L.H. Bde. to remain only one day at BIR ABU HAMTHALA and to proceed on 17 th instant to BIR ABU SHUNNAR. Field Troop to move direct to ABU SHUNNAR to develop water supply.	

W. J. [Signature]
G.S.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
12/3/17 BIR ABU HAMTHALA (continued)	Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo. marched from BARDAWIL to EL ARISH. 6 th Mtd. Bde. (less Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo.) marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL	Vol I appen 5 " " <i>WJL</i>
13/3/17 "	3 rd L. H. Bde marched from BURJ to BIR ABU HAMTHALA. "A" batty H.A.C. and Berkes batty. R.H.A. marched from ARISH to BURJ 6 th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from BARDAWIL to EL ARISH.	Vol I appen 11 <i>WJL</i> Vol I appen 9 Vol I appen 5
14/3/17 "	Dorset's Yeo and Bucks Yeo. marched from EL ARISH to EL BURJ Divisional artillery marched from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID 3 rd L. H. Bde. marched from SHEIK ZOWAID to RAFA area. 2115 Report received from 4 th A.L.H. Bde. at FERRY POST, that Bde will be ready to move after 18 th instant. Order of battle of Imperial Mtd. Div issued.	Vol I appen 10 <i>WJL</i> Vol I appen 12b Vol I appen 13 Vol I appen 14
15. III. 17 "	Divisional Commander visited camps of Divisional Artillery. B. Battery H.A.C. were instructed to shoe their horses all round, at present all horses unshod. Notts Battery R.H.A. several horses feet very long and frogs badly contracted. Instructions issued for the draught bars previously used with enlarged teams to be discontinued. Several men were noticed at stables in shoes. Orders for all men at stables to wear boots.	

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Imperial Mtd Div

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

15/3/17 BIR ABU HAMTHALA

6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset Ye. and Bucks Ye.) marched from EL ARISH to BURJ.

Vol I Appen 10.

[14.3.17.

Outpost line for one brigade of the division selected by Gen. Staff Desert Column with G. S. Imp. Mtd. Div. at RAFA. This line to be occupied on orders being received for the move of one brigade to RAFA.]

16/3/17

"

1500

Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 5 issued, containing instructions for march of Division to RAFA on 21st instant. On arrival 6th Mtd Bde. will take up outpost line recommenced on 14th instant, prolonging the right of 53rd Division.

Vol I Appen 15

G.O.C. and G.S.O. 1 moved forward to RAFA and established advanced headquarters of the Division.

6th Mounted Bde. marched from BURJ to SHEIK ZAWAND.

Vol I Appen 12a.

1 regt. 3rd L.H Bde. carried out reconnaissance in KHAN YUNUS area. Enemy patrol of a few mounted men was encountered and shots exchanged.

Vol I appendix 12.5 C

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Imperial Mtd Divn (Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
17/3/17 ABU HAMTHALA 1000	<p>Imperial Mtd. Div. Order No 6 issued, amending Order No 5 with regard to position of Night Standing Patrols.</p> <p>Divisional Commander and G.O.C. 6th Mtd. Bde reconnoitred outpost line to be held at RAFA by 6th Mtd Bde.</p> <p>54th Divisional Train came under orders Imp. M. Div.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 16. <i>WFL</i></p> <p>Vol I appen 15</p> <p>Vol I appen 18</p>
18/3/17 " 1030	<p>Divisional Commander attended conference at Desert Column.</p> <p>Orders issued for D4Gms to move to RAFA on 20th instant instead of 21st as in I.M.D. Order No 5</p> <p>Orders issued for 3rd L.H. Bde. to carry out a reconnaissance in DEIR EL BELAH area on 19th, endeavouring to cut off enemy patrol. ^{5th L.H. Bde} <i>Operation order</i></p> <p>Letter containing suggestions for rendering troops mobile issued.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 17 <i>WFL</i></p> <p>Vol I appen 15</p> <p>Vol I appen 18</p> <p>Vol I " 18 B.</p> <p>Vol I appen 19</p>
2400	<p>Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 7 issued containing instructions for concentration of Div. at RAFA on March 21st</p>	<p>Vol I appen 20</p>

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MAR 1917

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
19/3/17 ABU HAMTHALA 0720	<p>3rd L.H. Bde. carried out reconnaissance to WADI GHUZZEE. At 0720 they reported 12 mounted Turks seen in WADI and shots exchanged. 4 Turk deserters and one pack pony carrying SAA were picked up at KHAN YUNUS. Enemy about 1 Regt strong holding position on E bank covering WADI GHUZZEE near EL BREIJ</p> <p>1600 Conference of Brigade Commanders and Div. staff held at advanced headquarters, when methods of rendering troops mobile for forthcoming operations were discussed.</p>	<p>Vol I Appen 18 <i>WJL</i></p> <p>Vol I appen 18 a.</p>
20/3/17 RAFA 1000	<p>Div. H.Q. closed at ABU HAMTHALA and reopened at RAFA. D.H.Q. Signal Sqm. & A.S.C., H.Q.M. Field Sqm. moved up to RAFA by march route</p> <p>2 squadrons Bucks Reg. left SHEIK ZOWAID and provided covering party on WADI GHUZZEE line for G.O.C. East force who was reconnoitering to the front.</p> <p>During the day the remainder of Bucks Reg. marched to RAFA, where regiment concentrated for the night to await arrival of remainder of Bde. on 21st inst</p> <p>Reconnaissance programme.</p>	<p>Vol I Appen 17 <i>WJL</i></p> <p>Vol I Appen 20 Vol I - 20 A</p>

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Imperial Mtd Divn

MAR 1917

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
20/3/17. RAFA	Summary of Reconnaissance Report of area NORTH The Sea West. The Frontier. SOUTH. a line drawn through EL ABREISA and TEL EL FARA. EAST The WADI GHUZZE.	Vol I. ^{Table} Appen. 21
22/3/17 Desert. Sumn 1500 1550	Conference of Commanding Officers Australian Brigades and Units. One OR 9 th LH Reg taken prisoner by patrol 25 Coy at point NE 130 square I2	Table
23/3/17. RAFA 01615 0830	Divisional Headquarters moved to IA-SEIRAT in connection with Operation Order NO 8.	Vol I appen 22
	WADI GHUZZE made good by covering slopes by 0830. 3 rd LH Bde right on TEL EL AHMAR through EL ADAR & its left on sea.	
	5 th MTD Bde left on SHEIKH. NUBHAN holding lower slopes of TEL EL AHMAR & SHEIKH ABBAS spurs.	
	Advanced guard of 3 rd Bde found small party enemy cavalry on E bank of Wadi who retired to GAZA. This Bde moved forward till advanced screen occupied line NW through EL SHALUF. Aeroplane reports no enemy movement W of Wadi GHUZZE	Vol. I appen 23
0945	3 rd LH Bde fired on by 4 enemy guns from ALI MUNTAR position. Further advance stopped by orders of SOC	Vol. I appen 26
	Considerable enemy activity on left of our line in sandhills where half Battalion seen entrenching.	Appen 27
1300	Right of line slightly withdrawn before threatened advance of 350 enemy infantry & 2 Squadrons enemy cavalry	Appen 28

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
23/3/17 RAFA 1500	Enemy advance from SE & E not pressed. Order given to withdraw, reconnaissance of Wadi having been completed. Withdrawal not followed up closely by enemy. Four shells fired by enemy. Advance and withdrawal of 5 th Brigade both unopposed.	Appen 29 Appen 30
1640	Aeroplane message dropped & received by 9 th AH Regt reported about 250 enemy infantry & miles SW GAZA.	Appen 31 Appen 32
2000	Reconnaissance. Instructions and Report of reconnaissance of WADI GHUZZE for water and crossings. Desert Column Order No 23.	Vol. 1 Appen 24. Vol. 1 Appen 25 Labb
24/3/17 1000	Conference Divisional Commanders at Desert Column Headquarters.	Vol. 1 Appen 26
1700	Imperial Intd Div Order No 9. Move to DEIR EL BELAH	Appen 27
1600	All 1 st Line Transport WHEELED vehicles of Div move to KHAN YUNUS via S ^W of Railway.	Appen 28.
1815	Desert Column Order No 24	Labb

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR EL BELAH 25-3-17	Reconnaissance carried out by Imperial Div Staff + A+NZ Div Division moved as per IMD order No 9 and arrived at DEIR EL BELAH	Appen 29
1645	DESERT COLUMN order No 25 re operations against GAZA	Appen 30
0915	IMPERIAL MTD DIVISION order No 10 re " " "	
1900	Conference at DEIR EL BELAH. Subject IMD operation No 10 Written instructions to Officers patrols issued 2000	Appen 31
2115	53 rd Div operation order No 27 and memorandum GSZ/48	Appen 32.
KHURBET RESEIMI 26 th	Division left DEIR EL BELAH and crossed WADI GHUZZE in rear of artillery of A+NZ DIVISION.	Leahy
0300	The morning was foggy & cleared 0900	
0930	Division reached EL MENDUR and passed thro ice Bde. Officers patrols sent out (A) towards ABU HAREIRA (B) TO TEL ESH SHERIA (C) TO KHURBET ZUHEILKA (D) TO Huj. All patrol to return & report by 1600.	
1000	2 Sgns 5 th Mtd Bde pushed out towards KHURBET EL BAHHA astride GAZA - SABHA Road. One Sgn towards Huj to gain touch with A+NZ Div.	
	This Regt was in action throughout the day One Troop captured 67 prisoners.	
1100	Batt (B ^B) attached 5 th Bde came into action against infantry on KHURBET EL JHINDY Ridge	
1200	Deserter gave valuable information re reinforcements ordered from JEMMANEH at 1000.	

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I.M.D.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KHURBET ER RESEIM	Report of considerable enemy activity on roads running N & E from TEL ESH SHERIA	
1310.		
1400	A9N2 Div ordered to assist infantry in attack on GAZA IMD to take over covering screen. ICC moved to left to support right of IMD. IMD came under orders of A9N2 Div's commander	appen 33
1430	Following post taken over from A9N2 Div 1 Troop watching HUS. 1 Sqn watching NEJED. 1 Sqn at DEIR SINEID. Supplied by 6 th MTD BDE	
BEIT DURDIS	3 rd LH Bde ordered to join A9N2 Div Div HQs moved to BEIT DURDIS.	
1500		
1445-1515	Reports of large columns enemy infantry advancing from HUS towards GAZA. Enemy's advance from JEMMANEH developed quickly & detachments of 6 th MTD BDE were in action to oppose this	
1715	Whole of 6 th Bde ordered up to check this advance	
1800	Up to this time touch could not be gained with 5 th Bde Gap occurred between left of 5 th & right of 6 th 10 th LH Regt withdrawn from 3 rd LH Bde to fill this.	
1830	Division ordered to hold its ground.	

Hour, Date and Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
<p>BEIT JURDIS</p> <p>27th</p> <p>2030 2330 0020</p> <p>0810</p> <p>0900-1000</p> <p>1630</p>	<p>AMMAN</p> <p>3rd LH Bde less 10th LH Regt sent by GOC A+NZ Div to operate on left of 6th Bde. This Bde covered the DEIR SINEID-GAZA Road with NOTT's Batt</p> <p>Division ordered to hold its ground</p> <p>Withdrawal ordered for 5th Bde</p> <p>A+NZ Div withdrawing. Concentration of 3rd and 6th Bde ordered</p> <p>6th & 3rd Bde came under long range artillery fire whilst crossing WADI CHUZZEE</p> <p>Div. intact at DEIR EL BELAH.</p> <p>Div. concentrated at DEMEITA and stood by ready to move.</p> <p>Outpost line ABASAN-EL-KEBIR to INSERAT reconnoitred. The right ^{left} half taken over by 3rd LH Bde, the left ^{right} by 5th MTD Bde connecting with the 5th Div on the right and the A+NZ Div on the left</p> <p>Div. HQs at point 330</p> <p>Orders to GOC 3rd LH Bde re outpost line</p>	<p>Cal D</p> <p>Appen. 33.</p> <p>Cal D.</p> <p>Appen 34 & 34A.</p>
<p>28th March.</p> <p>29th</p> <p>30th</p>	<p>Div HQs moved to DEIR EL BELAH. Orders to GOC 6th MTD Bde re outpost line</p> <p>Orders to 3rd LH Bde, CRA & 6th MTD Bde</p> <p>Orders for outpost duties</p> <p>Road from DEIR EL BELAH through the GOZ EL TAIRE ridge reconnoitred and constructed to TEL EL JEMMI crossing inclusive covering troops from A+NZ Div. 5th MTD Bde on outpost.</p>	<p>Cal D</p> <p>Appen 35</p> <p>Appen 36</p> <p>Appen 37</p> <p>Cal D</p>

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Vol 1 Page ~~15~~ 16

Imperial Mtd Divn

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
30 th DEIR EL BELAH	Report on Topography & water during operations on 26 th March	appen 38 balt
31 st March	Road DEIR EL BELAH to TEL EL JEMMI crossing completed and marked. one Regt 6 th Bde formed covering troops. One Sqn. 3 rd LH Bde escort to Topographical Survey NE TEL EL JEMMI. Orders for outpost duties and patrolling Telegraph line BELAH to KHAN YUNUS	balt Appen 37 39
1 st April	Reports on country GAZA, HAJ and HAFIRA 3 rd LH Bde on outposts. balt	Appen 40 40 balt
2 nd April	Reconnaissance of crossings over WADI GHULZE N of WADI SHARIA. Reconstruction of outpost line balt	Appen 40 41 balt

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appen 1 to ~~40~~ 39

H. C. S. and Lt Col
General Staff.

Imperial Mounted Division

4th April 1917.

SECRET.

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION.

WAR DIARY.

GENERAL STAFF.

VOLUME 1.

from 12th. February 1917 to 31st. March 1917.

Duplicate 1

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Imperial Mounted Division

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices														
<p>12th Febry 1917 Ismailia.</p>	<p>Authority for formation of Imperial Mounted Division issued in G.H.Q.^{E.E.} Force Order No 31 dated 12 Febry, 1917</p> <p>Troops forming Division as follows:-</p> <p>3rd Australian Lt. Horse Bde * 4th " " " 5th Mtd Brigade 6th " " "</p> <p><u>Divisional Troops.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Headquarters J.M. Div.</td> <td>J.M. Div Field Sqn *</td> <td rowspan="5">} 8th Ausd. Mobile Vet Sect. 9th " " " " * 4/1st S. Mid. Vet. Section 3/1st " " " " No. 31 Sanitary Section.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Notes Battery RHA</td> <td>J.M. Div Sig. Sqn *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Banks Battery RHA</td> <td>3rd Light Horse Bde Amkto.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" Batty H.A.C.</td> <td>4th " " " " *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"B" Batty H.A.C.</td> <td>1/2 S. Mid. M. Bde 2nd a.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1/1st " " " " "</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>* In process of formation.</p>	Headquarters J.M. Div.	J.M. Div Field Sqn *	} 8 th Ausd. Mobile Vet Sect. 9 th " " " " * 4/1 st S. Mid. Vet. Section 3/1 st " " " " No. 31 Sanitary Section.	Notes Battery RHA	J.M. Div Sig. Sqn *	Banks Battery RHA	3 rd Light Horse Bde Amkto.	"A" Batty H.A.C.	4 th " " " " *	"B" Batty H.A.C.	1/2 S. Mid. M. Bde 2 nd a.		1/1 st " " " " "		<p>Vol I Appendix 1A.</p>
Headquarters J.M. Div.	J.M. Div Field Sqn *	} 8 th Ausd. Mobile Vet Sect. 9 th " " " " * 4/1 st S. Mid. Vet. Section 3/1 st " " " " No. 31 Sanitary Section.														
Notes Battery RHA	J.M. Div Sig. Sqn *															
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"B" Batty H.A.C.	1/2 S. Mid. M. Bde 2 nd a.															
	1/1 st " " " " "															
<p>12th Febry, 1917 Ismailia.</p> <p>— — —</p>	<p>Brigadier General H.W. Hodgson, CVO, C.B., appointed to Command Imperial mtd division with effect from 8/2/17, with temporary rank Major General while so employed.</p> <p>Imperial Mtd Division is allotted on formation to Eastern Force.</p>	<p>Vol I Appendix 1A.</p> <p>Vol I Appendix 1B.</p>														

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Imperial Mtd Div.

Vol I Page 2.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FERRY POST 19/2/17	Imperial Mtd Div. Order No 1 issued, giving organization and allotment of Imperial Mounted Division. Divisional Staff complete at Ferry Post.	Vol I Appen 2 <i>WJL</i>
" 20/2/17	Distribution of units of Imp. Mtd Div on 19 th Attached Dorst Meomany reached FERRY POST from SHALLUFA. Bucks Meomany left KUBRI for FERRY POST.	Vol I Appen 3 & 3a <i>WJL</i>
" 21/2/17 1220	BERKS Battery R.H.A. reached FERRY POST from KUBRI	<i>WJL</i>
" 23/2/17 0900 1000	G.O.C. inspected A Battery H.A.C. " " Dorst Meomany.	<i>WJL</i>
" 24/2/17 0900 1000 1500	G.O.C. inspected BERKS Battery R.H.A. G.O.C. inspected BUCKS Meomany. Imperial Mtd. Div. order No 2 issued; Hqrs. I.M.D. to move to EL ARISH, arriving on March 2 ^d .	Vol I Appen A <i>WJL</i>
" 25/2/17 1000	G.O.C. left for SERAPEUM railhead where 11 th ALH Regt. was inspected	
" 26/2/17 0900 0930 1400	G.O.C. inspected 4 th A.L.H. Regiment. Advanced party - Div. Hqrs. left for EL ARISH. Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 3 issued. Instructions for march of Berks, ^{R.H.A.} and A battery H.A.C. and 6 th Mounted Bde to EL ARISH.	Vol I Appen A <i>WJL</i> Vol I Appen 5

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
27/2/17 FERRY POST 0900 1400	G.O.C. inspected 12 th A.L.H. Regiment Advanced party D.H.Q. arrived EL ARISH.	Vol I appen 4 <i>WJG</i>
28/2/17 " "	Burks Batty R.H.A. and "A" battery H.A.C. arrived at KANTARA from ISMAILIA	Vol I appen 5 <i>WJG</i>
1/3/17 EL ARISH 0600 2000	Dw. Hqs. closed at FERRY POST and reopened at EL ARISH. Instructions received from East force that 5 th Mounted Bde at EL BURU, 3 rd A.L.H. Bde. at MASAIID and Nettos Batty R.H.A. at EL ARISH come under direct orders of Imperial Mtch. Dw. from 2 nd inst. inclusive. Dorset and Burks Yeo. marched from ISMAILIA to KANTARA	<i>WJG</i> Vol I appen 5
2/3/17 " 1700	6 th Mtch. Bde (less Dorset and Burks Yeo.) marched from ISMAILIA to KANTARA G.O.C. arrived at EL ARISH.	Vol I appen 5 <i>WJG</i>
3/3/17 " "	Burks Batty R.H.A. and "A" battery H.A.C. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol I appen 9 Vol I appen 5 <i>WJG</i>
4/3/17 " "	Burks Batty R.H.A. and "A" battery H.A.C. marched from GILBAN to PELUSIUM Dorset and Burks Yeo. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN	Vol I appen 5 <i>WJG</i>
5/3/17 " 0900	G.O.C. proceeded to EL BURU and inspected 5 th Mtch. Bde. Burks Batty R.H.A. and "A" battery H.A.C. marched from PELUSIUM to ROMANI. Dorset and Burks Yeo. marched from GILBAN to PELUSIUM. 6 th Mtch. Bde. (less Dorset and Burks Yeo. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol I appen 5 <i>WJG</i> " " <i>W. J. G. 6.5.</i>

WAR DIARY

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION. GENERAL STAFF.

VOL.1. PAGE 3.

Hour	Date	Place	Summary of Events and Information.	Appendices.
	1/3/17.	EL ARISH	0600 2000 Div. HQrs. closed at FERRY POST and reopened at EL ARISH. Instructions received from East force that 5th Mounted Bde. at EL BURJ, 3rd A.L.H. Bde. at MASALIID and Notts Batty R.H.A. at EL ARISH come under direct orders of Imperial Mtd. Div. from 2nd inst. inclusive. Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from ISMAILIA to KANTARA.	Vol.1. Appx. 5.
	2/3/17.	"	1700 6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset and Bucks Yeo.) marched from ISMAILIA to KANTARA. G.O.C. arrived at EL ARISH.	Vol.1. Appx. 5. Vol.1. Appx. 4.
	3/3/17.	"	Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" Batty. H.A.C. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol. 1. Appx. 5.
	4/3/17.	"	Berks Batty. R.H.A. and A Batty. H.A.C. marched from GILBAN to PELUSIUM. Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol.1. Appx. 5.
	5/3/17.	"	0800 G.O.C. proceeded to EL BURJ and inspected 5th Mtd. Bde. Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" Batty. H.A.C. marched from PELUSIUM to ROMANI. Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from GILBAN to PELUSIUM. 6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorset and Bucks Yeo. marched from KANTARA to GILBAN.	Vol.1. Appx. 5. " "

(above is an extract from the February Original Diary)

WAR DIARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6/3/17 EL ARISH	<p>0900 G.O.C. proceeded to MASAIID and inspected 3rd SAL. H. Bde. Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty H.A.C. marched from ROMANI to KHIRBA.</p> <p>Dorst and Bucks Yeo. marched from PELLISIUM to ROMANI</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorst and Bucks Yeo.) marched from GILBAN to PELLISIUM.</p> <p>2000 Orders received from Eastforce for Imperial Mtd. Div. (less 6th Mtd Bde. and Ath L.H. Bde. with Berks Batty R.H.A. and A batty H.A.C.) to move forward to EL BURJ on 9th instant.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 5 <i>W. G.</i></p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>
7/3/17 "	<p>1200 Imperial Mtd. Div. NO 4 issued, giving instructions for move referred to above.</p> <p>Berks Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty. H.A.C. marched from KHIRBA to ABD.</p> <p>Dorst and Bucks Yeo. marched from ROMANI to KHIRBA.</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorst Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from PELLISIUM to ROMANI.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 6 <i>W. G.</i></p> <p>Vol I appen 5</p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>
8/3/17 EL ARISH	<p>0900 G.O.C. inspected North Batty. R.H.A.</p> <p>Berks Batty. R.H.A. and A batty. H.A.C. marched from ABD to SALMANA.</p> <p>Dorst Yeo. and Bucks Yeo. marched from KHIRBA to ABD.</p> <p>6th Mtd. Bde. (less Dorst Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from ROMANI to KHIRBA.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 5 <i>W. G.</i></p> <p>"</p> <p>"</p>

*W. G. Urquhart Capt
6.5.*

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
9/3/17 EL BURJ	Div. Hqrs. closed at EL ARISH and reopened at EL BURJ	Vol I appen 6
1230	Orders issued for 5 th Mtd. Bde. to move forward to SHEIK ZOWAID on 10 th instant.	Vol I appen 7
1400	G.O.C. arrived at D.H.Q. EL BURJ, after visiting G.O.C. Desert Column at SHEIK ZOWAID. He assumed command all troops at EL BURJ.	
1600	All moves ordered in Imperial Mtd. Div. order Nub completed.	Vol I appen 6
2000	Instructions for daily patrols while at EL BURJ issued to 3 rd L.H. Bde.	Vol I appen 8
	Bikes Batty. R.H.A. and A batty. H.A.C. marched from SALMANA to MAZAR.	Vol I appen 5
	Dorset Yeo and Bucks Yeo marched from ABD to SALMANA	"
	6 th Mtd. Bde (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from KHIBBA to ABD.	"
10/3/17 "	From to day inclusive Imperial Mtd. Div. comes under orders of Desert Column.	
	5 th Mtd. Bde marched from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID.	Vol I appen 7
	Bikes Batty. R.H.A. and "A" batty. H.A.C. marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL.	Vol I appen 5
	Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo. marched from SALMANA to MAZAR	"
	6 th Mtd. Bde (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from ABD to SALMANA.	"
	3 rd L.H. Brigade instructed to furnish daily patrols along wire and better roads running East from EL BURJ.	"

W. J. Unwin Capt. G.S.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
11/3/17 EL BURJ 0900	Orders received from Desert Column for Div. Hqrs. to move to SHEIK ZOWAID on 12 th instant. Berks Batty. R.H.A. and A Batty H.A.C. marched from BARDAWIL to EL ARISH.	Vol I Appen 5
1000	Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo. marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL 6 th Mtd. Bde (less Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo. marched from SALMANA to MAZAR	"
1000	Orders issued for A battery H.A.C. and Berks Batty R.H.A. to halt one day at EL ARISH and proceed to EL BURJ on 13 th .	Vol I Appen 9
1000	Orders issued for 6 th Mounted Brigade to halt one day at EL ARISH and proceed thence to EL BURJ - Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo. on 14 th - Hqrs. Bde. and Berks Yeo. on 15 th	Vol I Appen 10
2120	Orders issued for 3 rd L.H. Bde. to move from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID on 13 th .	Vol I Appen 11
2128	Orders issued for 6 th Mtd. Bde. to move from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID on 16 th . D.W. Artillery to move similarly on 14 th instant. Patrol from 3 rd L.H. Bde. to the south reported sighting 5 camels making East in vicinity of point 285.	Vol I Appen 12a & 12b
12/3/17 BIR ABU HAMTHALA 1200	Divisional H.Q. closed at EL BURJ and reopened at ABU HAMTHALA. G.O.C. relinquished command of EL BURJ. Orders issued for 3 rd L.H. Bde. to remain only one day at BIR ABU HAMTHALA and to proceed on 14 th instant to BIR ABU SHUNNAR. Field Troop to move direct to ABU SHUNNAR to develop water supply.	Vol I Appen 13

W. G. S.

W. G. S. Appen 13

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
12/2/17 BIR ABU HAMTHALA (continued)	Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo. marched from BARDAWIL to EL ARISH. 6 th Mtd Bde. (less Bucks Yeo. and Dorset Yeo.) marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL.	Vol I appen 5 " <i>WJL</i>
13/2/17 "	3 rd L. H. Bde marched from BURJ to BIR ABU HAMTHALA. "A" batty H.A.C. and Berkes batty. R.H.A. marched from ARISH to BURJ 6 th Mtd. Bde (less Dorset Yeo. and Bucks Yeo.) marched from BARDAWIL to EL ARISH.	Vol I appen 11 Vol I appen 9 Vol I appen 5 <i>WJL</i>
14/3/17 "	Dorset's Yeo and Bucks Yeo. marched from EL ARISH to EL BURJ Divisional artillery marched from EL BURJ to SHEIK ZOWAID 3 rd L. H. Bde. marched from SHEIK ZOWAID to RAFA area. 2115 Report received from 4 th A.L.H. Bde. at FERRY POST, that Bde will be ready to move after 18 th instant. Order of battle of Imperial Attd. Div issued.	Vol I appen 10 Vol I appen 12b Vol I appen 13 Vol I appen 14 <i>WJL</i>
15. III. 17 "	Divisional Commander visited camps of Divisional Artillery. B. Battery H. A. C. were instructed to shoe their horses all round, at present all horses unshod. Notts Battery R. H. A. several horses feet very long and frogs badly contracted. Instructions issued for the draught bars previously used with enlarged teams to be discontinued. Several men were noticed at stables in shoes. Orders for all men at stables to wear boots.	<i>WJL</i>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
15/3/17 BIR ABU HAMTHALA	<p>6th Mtd Bde (less Desert Yeos and Buebs Yeos) marched from EL ARISH to BURJ.</p> <p>[14317 Outpost line for one brigade of the division selected by Gen Staff Desert Column with G. S. Imp. Mtd. Div. at RAFA. This line to be occupied on orders being received for the move of one brigade to RAFA.]</p>	Vol I Appen 10.
16/3/17 "	<p>1500 Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 5 issued, containing instructions for march of Division to RAFA on 21st instant. On arrival 5th Mtd Bde. will take up outpost line recommenced on 14th instant, prolonging the right of 53rd Division.</p> <p>G.O.C. and G.S.O.1 moved forward to RAFA and established advanced headquarters of the Division.</p> <p>6th Mounted Bde. marched from BURJ to SHEIK ZUWAID.</p> <p>1 regt. 3rd L.H. Bde. carried out reconnaissance in KHAN YUNUS area. Enemy patrol of a few mounted men was encountered and shots exchanged.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Northern Canal Section Order No 16</p>	<p>Vol I Appen 15</p> <p>Vol I Appen 12a.</p> <p>Vol I appendix 12. 2 c</p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
17/3/17 ABU HAMTHALA 1000	<p>Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 6 issued, amending Order No 5 with reference to Night standing patrols</p> <p>Divisional Commander and G.O.C. 6th Mtd. Bde reconnoitred outpost line to be held at RAFA by 6th Mtd Bde.</p> <p>54th Divisional Train came under orders Imp. M. Div.</p>	<p>Vol I appen 16. <i>Wally</i></p> <p>Vol I appen 15</p>
18/3/17 " 1030	<p>Divisional Commander attended conference at Desert Column.</p> <p>Orders issued for D49m to move to RAFA on 20th instant instead of 21st as in I.A.S. D. Order No 5</p> <p>Orders issued for 3rd L.H. Bde. to carry out a reconnaissance in DEIR EL BELAH area on 19th, endeavouring to cut off enemy patrol. 3rd L.H. Bde operation order</p> <p>Letter containing suggestions for rendering troops mobile issued</p> <p>2400 Imp. Mtd. Div. Order No 7 issued containing instructions for concentration of Div. at RAFA on March 21st</p>	<p>Vol I appen 17 <i>Wally</i></p> <p>Vol I appen 15</p> <p>Vol I appen 18</p> <p>Vol I " 18 B</p> <p>Vol I appen 19</p> <p>Vol I appen 20 <i>to</i></p>

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
19/3/17 ABU HAMTHALA 0720	3 rd L.H. Bde. carried out reconnaissance to WADI GHUZZEE. At 0720 they reported 12 mounted Turks seen in WADI and shots exchanged. 4 Turk deserters and one pack pony carrying SAA were picked up at KARAN YUNUS. Enemy about 1 Regt strong holding position on E bank covering WADI GHUZZEE near EL BREIJ. 1600 Conference of Brigade Commanders and Div. staff held at advanced headquarters, where methods of rendering troops mobile for forthcoming operations were discussed.	Vol I Appen 18 <i>WJL</i> Vol I appen 18 a.
20/3/17 RAFA	1000 Div. H.Q. closed at ABU HAMTHALA and reopened at RAFA. D.H.Q. Signal Sqdn & A.S.C., H.Q.M. Field Sqdn. moved up to RAFA by march route. 2 squadrons Brests Yes. left SHEIK ZOWAID and provided covering party on WADI GHUZZEE line for G.O.C. East force who was reconnoitering to the front. During the day the remainder of Brests Yes. marched to RAFA, where regiment was entrenched for the night to await arrival of remainder of Bde. on 21 st unless Reconnaissance Program	Vol I Appen 17 <i>WJL</i> Vol I appen 20 Vol I. — 20A

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
20/3/17 RAFA.	Summary of Reconnaissance Report of area NORTH The Sea West. The Frontier. SOUTH. a line drawn through EL ABREISA and TEL EL FARA. EAST the WADI GHUZZE.	Vol I Appen 21
22/3/17 Desert. Column 1500	Conference of Commanding Officers Australian Brigades and Units. ONE OR 9 th LHK st taken prisoner by patrol 25 th Coy at point NE 130 square I2	Cable Cable
23/3/17 RAFA 01615	Divisional Headquarters moved to IL SEIRAT in connection with Operation Order NO 8.	Vol I appen 22
0830	WADI GHUZZE made good by covering troops by 0830. 3 rd LHK Bde right on TEL EL AHMAR through EL ADAR & its left on sea. 5 th MTD Bde left on SHEIKH. NUBHAN holding lower slopes of TEL EL AHMAR + SHEIKH ABBAS spurs.	
0945	Advanced guard of 3 rd Bde found small party enemy cavalry on E bank of Wadi who retired to GAZA. This Bde moved forward till advanced screen occupied line NW through EL SHALUF. Aeroplane reports no enemy movement W of Wadi GHUZZE 3 rd LHK Bde fired on by 4 enemy guns from ALI MUNTAR position. Further advance stopped by orders of EOC. Considerable enemy activity on left of our line in sandhills where half Battalion seen entrenching.	Vol I appen 23
1300	Right of line slightly withdrawn before threatened advance of 350 enemy infantry & 2 Squadrons enemy cavalry	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
23/3/17 RAFA 1500	Enemy advance from SE & E not pressed. Order given to withdraw, reconnaissance of Wadi having been completed. Withdrawal not followed up closely by enemy. Four shells fired by enemy. Advance and withdrawal of 5 th Brigade both unopposed.	
1640	Aeroplane message dropped & received by 9 th AH Regt reported about 250 enemy infantry 2 miles SW GAZA	
	Reconnaissance. Instructions and Report of reconnaissance of WADI GHUZZE for water and crossings.	Vol. 1 Appen 24.
2000	Desert Column Order No 23.	Vol. 1 Appen 25 Balt
24/3/17 1000	Conference Divisional Commanders at Desert Column Headquarters.	
1700	Imperial Intd Div Order No 9. Move to DEIR EL BELAH	Vol. 1 Appen 26
1600	All 1 st Line Transport WHEELED vehicles of Div move to KHAN YUNUS via S ^W of Railway.	Appen 27
1815	Desert Column Order No 24	Appen 28 Balt

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR EL BELAH 25-3-17	Reconnaissance carried out by Imperial Div Staff + A+NZ DIV	
1645	Division moved as per IMD order No 9 and arrived at DEIR EL BELAH	
0915	DESERT COLUMN order No 25 re operations against GAZA	Appen 29
1900	IMPERIAL MTD DIVISION order No 10 re " " "	Appen 30
	Conference at DEIR EL BELAH. Subject IMD operation No 10	
	Written instructions to officers patrols issued 2000	Appen 31
2115	53 rd Div operation order No 27 and memorandum GSZ/48	Appen 32.
KHURBET-RESEIM 26 th	0300 Division left DEIR EL BELAH and crossed WADI GHUZZE in rear of artillery of A+NZ DIVISION.	
	The morning was foggy & cleared 0900	
0930	Division reached EL MENDUR and passed thro ICC Bde.	
	Officers patrols sent out (A) towards ABU HAREIRA (B) TO TEL ESH SHERIA (C) TO KHURBET ZUHEILKA (D) TO Huj. All patrol to return & report by 1600.	
1000	2 Sgns 5 th Mtd Bde pushed out towards KHURBET EL BAHHA astride GAZA - SABA Road. One Sgn towards Huj to gain touch with A+NZ DIV.	
	Thus Regt was in action throughout the day one troop captured 67 prisoners.	
1100	Batt (B ^B) attached 5 th Bde came into action against infantry on KHURBET EL JHINDY Ridge	
1200	Deserter gave valuable information re reinforcements ordered from JEMMANEH at 1000	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>KHURBET ER RESEIM</p> <p>1310.</p>	<p>Report of considerable enemy activity on roads running N. E from TEL ESH SHERIA</p>	
<p>1400</p>	<p>A4N2 Div ordered to assist infantry in attack on GAZA IMD to take over covering screen. ICC moved to left to support right of IMD. IMD came under orders of A4N2 Divn commander</p>	
<p>1430</p>	<p>Following post taken over from A4N2 Div 1 Troop watching HUS. 1 Sqn watching NEJED. 1 Sqn at DEIR SINEID. Supplied by 6th MTD BDE 3rd LH Bde ordered to join A4N2 Div</p>	
<p>BEIT JURDIS</p> <p>1500</p>	<p>Div HQs moved to BEIT JURDIS.</p>	
<p>1445-1515</p>	<p>Reports of large columns enemy infantry advancing from HUS towards GAZA.</p>	
<p>1715</p>	<p>Enemy's advance from JEMMANEH developed quickly & detachments of 6th MTD BDE were in action to oppose this while of 6th Bde ordered up to check this advance</p>	
<p>1800</p>	<p>Up to this time touch could not be gained with 5th Bde Gap occurred between left of 5th & right of 6th 10th LH Regt withdrawn from 3rd LH Bde to fill this.</p>	
	<p>2030 Division ordered to hold its ground</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

BEIT JURDIS

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
27 th 2030 2330 0020	3 rd LH Bde less 10 th LH Regt sent by GOC AVNZ Div to operate on left side covered the DEIR SINEID-GAZA Road with NOTTS Batt Division ordered to hold its ground withdrawal ordered for 5 th Bde AVNZ Div withdrawing. Concentration of 3 rd and 6 th Bde ordered	Bell D
0810	6 th & 3 rd Bde came under long range artillery fire whilst crossing WADI CHUZZEE Div. intact at DEIR EL BELAH.	Appen. 33.
0900-1000	Div concentrated at DEMEITA and stood by ready to move.	
1630	Outpost line ABASAN-EL-KEBIR TO INSERAT reconnected. The left ^{left} half taken over by 3 rd LH Bde, the left ^{Right} Left by 5 th MTD Bde connecting with the 5 th Div on the right and the AVNZ Div on the left. Div HQs at point 330	Bell D
28 th March	Orders to GOC 3 rd LH Bde re outpost line Div HQs moved to DEIR EL BELAH. Orders to GOC 6 th MTD Bde re outpost line Orders to 3 rd LH Bde, CRA & 6 th MTD Bde	Appen 34 " 34A. Appen 35 Appen 36
29 th 30 th	Orders for outpost duties Road from DEIR EL BELAH through the GOZ EL TAIRE ridge to TEL EL JEMMI crossing inclusive covered troops from AVNZ Div. 5 th MTD Bde in outpost.	Appen 37 Bell D

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>30th DEIR EL BELAH</p>	<p>Report on Topography & Water during operations on 26th March</p>	<p>appen 38 Labb</p>
<p>31st March.</p>	<p>Road DEIR EL BELAH TO TEL EL JEMMI crossing completed and marked. one Regt 6th Bde formed covering troops. One Sqn 3rd LHBde escort to Topographical Survey NE TEL EL JEMMI. Orders for outpost duties and patrolling Telegraph line BELAH TO KHAN YUNUS</p>	<p>Appen 39</p>
<p>1st April</p>	<p>Reports on country GAZA - HUF and HAFIRA 3rd LHBde on outposts</p>	<p>Appen 40 38 40 Labb</p>
<p>2nd April</p>	<p>Reconnaissance of crossings over WADI GHULIE N of WADI SHARAH. Reconservation of outpost line</p>	<p>Appen 40 41</p>
<p>4 April, 1917</p>	<p>War Diary Vol 1 Pages 1 - 14 appen 1 - 39</p>	<p>Labb</p>
	<p>SdJ H.C.S. Ward General Staff, Imperial Mounted Division</p>	