

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/56/3 Part 4

Title: General Staff, Headquarters Imperial
Mounted Division

May 1917



AWM4-1/56/3PART4

REPORT ON WATER in area BIR EL ESANI -
 MAALAGA - KHALASA - BIR ASLUJ - EL
 AUJA - BIR EL ESANI.

- BIR EL ESANI. - Pools. Sufficient for one Brigade.
- MAALAGA. - Water holes. Uncertain supply.
- ABU GHALYUN. - 1 Stone lined well 20' deep. Sufficient for 100 camels.
- KHALASA. - 1 stone lined well 25' deep. Fair quality. Sufficient for 1,000 camels a day.
- EL RAHEIBA. - 10 - 15 cisterns.
 1 Stone lined well. 15' diameter. 400' deep.
 Water for 1,000 camels.
- ASLUJ. - 3 stone-lined wells. Water plentiful, but quality doubtful.
- 2½ miles S.W. of ASLUJ and ¼ mile East of bridge on road stone lined well 50' deep. Water for 1,000 animals.
- THAMILAT EL RASHID. - 1 stone lined well 5' deep. Water fresh and unlimited.
- EL AUJA. - Plentiful supply, unlimited.
- Area South of
KHALASA - ABU - Several wells but information scanty.
ZEIAT. 1 stone lined ~~well~~ 50' deep. Water for 1,000 camels.
- GOZ EL GELEIB. - Unlined well. 50' deep. Water for 1,000 camels.
- EL ASEGI. - Rain water cisterns, sometimes dry.
- UM GASUMA. - Well blocked. Cistern of rain water sometimes dry.
- IBN MUSEISRI. - Well blocked.
- ABU ZIRR. - Rain water cisterns. Often dry.
- SA'ADI. - 2 Rain water cisterns.
- Area East of line
KHALASA - ASLUJ.
- BIR TURKIA. - On railway 8 miles North of ASLUJ. Stone lined well 300' deep. Plentiful supply.
- W. MIRTABA. - Water lies in pools in winter and can be found in plenty by digging in summer.

15th May 1917.

SECRET

Library
appen 18: A 59
MAY 1917
48



- G.O.C.,
- 5th Mounted Brigade.
- 3rd Australian L.H. Brigade.---
- C.R.C.
- A.D.C.S.
- A.D.V.S.
- C.C., Field Squadron.
- C.S., Signal Squadron.
- C.C., A.R.C.
- S.P.O.
- A. & Q.

329

(1) On the 19th May the 74th Division will take over the new battle line which is to be dug East of the Vadi ~~SHAKH~~, and also the present line held by the Imperial and A. & N.Z. Mounted Divisions as a support line.

(2) The A. & N.Z. Mounted Division when relieved from the battle line are then assuming responsibility for the patrolling of the whole front from the direction of ~~SARAH~~ ~~KINCH~~ through ~~COH EL NASSI~~ and also that portion of the line now patrolled by the Imperial Mounted Division, from ~~COH EL NASSI~~ through ~~COH HANNI~~ to the West, at dawn on the 19th May.

(3) The Imperial Mounted Division will hand over to the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division the ~~EL SHAKH~~ group of works to No. 8 inclusive and also the ~~SHAKH~~ works from Z to Q all inclusive by noon on the 19th May.

(4) G.O.C., 5th Mounted Brigade, will hand over all trench stores, ammunition, reserve water tanks, and ~~plans~~ ^{plans} of works, to G.O.C. relieving Brigade, and will furnish a taking, and handing over receipt for the same.

(5) 5th Brigade together with attached troops 3rd Brigade, and Decks Battery R.E.A. will return to bivouac at ~~ANASSI EL KHIR~~. AS SOON AS THE HANDING over is completed, bivouac area for 5th Brigade will be allotted by A.A. & G.S.

(6) Supplies for 5th Brigade will be delivered at ~~ANASSI EL KHIR~~ on the 19th at 1300.

(7) 5th Brigade will water at ~~SAHI~~ on morning of 19th and at ~~ANASSI EL KHIR~~ on afternoon of 19th.

(8) ~~AUSCHLIEDEN~~.

H. E. S. Ward

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

19th May 1917.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message

Prefix 46 Code _____ m. Words _____ Charge _____
Office of Origin and Service Instructions. _____
This message is on a/c of: _____
Recd. at _____ m.
Date _____
From _____
By _____
(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { 6th Bde ADMS OC Sig Sqdn Asq.
3rd Bde ADYS OC ASE
CRA OC Fd Sqdn SSO

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
* Da 285 17 AAA

Ref GS 2/176 of 16th para
one for 19th read 17th
aaa para 3 handing over
with completed by 1700
17th aaa para 5 After handing
over units of that with
brnac on present sites for
night of 17/18 and with
return to ABASAN morning 18th
handing at ABASAN on morning
18th aaa para 6 supplies
for 18th for 6th Bde
with be delivered at ABASAN
at new brnac on 17th
to a guard to be
found by 6th Bde aaa
supplies for units details of 3rd Bde

From _____
Place _____

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

(in pads of 100).
No. of Message

Prefix 46 Code _____ m. Words _____ Charge _____
Office of Origin and Service Instructions. _____
This message is on a/c of: _____
Recd. at _____ m.
Date _____
From _____
By _____
(Signature of "Franking Officer")

TO { _____

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
* at Bde Bde brnac AAA

ABASAN aaa para 7 6th
Bde and at attached troops
with water at GAMLI before
returning to ABASAN

From 1030
Place _____
Time _____

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Alwanah Capt

76
1030

General Staff,
Desert Column.
O/370/22.

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81



Imperial Mounted Division.
A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
74th Division.
B.G.R.A.

In order adequately to cover the 74th Division in its advanced line East of the Wadi the artillery of that Division unaided is not sufficient and, at present, two batteries of the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division and one of the Imperial at EL SHA'UTH are employed.

In view of the altered roles of Divisions indicated in my No. O/370/20 of 16th it is undesirable that the outpost Division should have so many batteries locked up and not available to accompany it in its delaying action or offensive against the enemy's flank.

After 1900 tomorrow the outpost Division will provide one battery only for the support of this line namely the battery with the Brigade holding EL SHA'UTH and the adjoining works.

The Reserve Division will place one battery at the disposal of the C.R.A., 74th Division at 0900 tomorrow the 18th instant. This battery will relieve the A. & N.Z. battery in K.31 c 42.

The remaining batteries of the outpost Division will normally occupy selected positions about square M.7 prepared to cover the GAMLI crossing, but in readiness to accompany their Division when it moves against the enemy.

(sgd) V. M. Fergusson,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Desert Column.

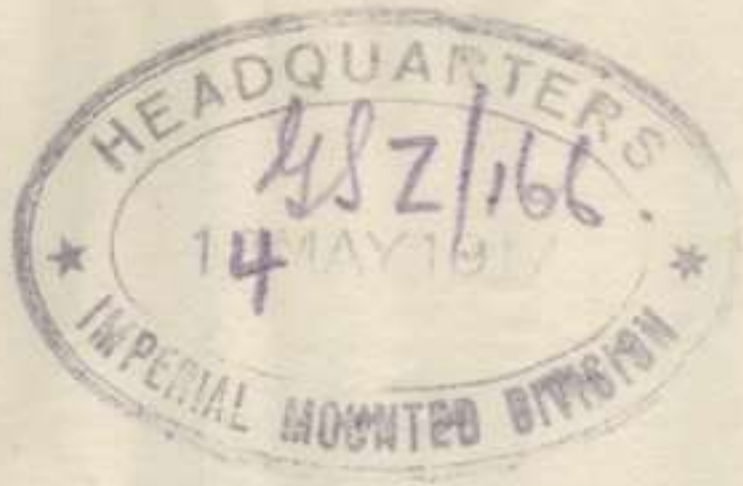
May 17th 1917.

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85

*War Diary
Appendix*

URGENT.

SECRET.



General Staff.
Desert Column.
O/432/2.

Anzac Mounted Division.
Imperial Mounted Division.
I.C. Brigade.
C.E.

In the near future it is intended to undertake railway demolition on a large scale against the line from about ASLUJ towards AUJA, with the idea of making operations, of any magnitude, against EL ARISH impossible without some months of repairing.

With this in view the Field Squadrons will be kept in a high state of efficiency in demolition work and the Chief Engineer will inspect them from time to time.

When the operation is undertaken the Camel Brigade Field Company will probably commence demolition from AUJA at the same time as the Field Squadrons ~~will~~ commence from ASLUJ; they should therefore be thoroughly trained in hasty demolition on the same lines as the Cavalry.

To make the operation a success as large a portion of the line will be destroyed as possible and the Chief Engineer will not only have earmarked for him sufficient explosive to destroy the maximum of rail in 6 hours, but also make calculations as to the number of pack animals additional to those on charge of Field Squadrons to carry this and the necessary technical tools.

(sgd) V. M. Fergusson,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

12th May 1917.



File operations

Location by G.O.C. Imperial Mounted Division.

1. The enemy are holding a line along the GAZA - SABHA road from GAZA through KHIRBET SIMAN and RIJM ELATAWINEH across the W. EL BAHHA facing South West. He is also entrenching the sausage shaped ridge on the Southern side of the W. EL BAHHA and is facing North West along that ridge. His position from this ridge apparently turns again along the black tracks from the B of BAHHA to KH. UM ADRAH and HAR EIRA.

During the morning of the 18th guns from this position have been engaged with our mounted troops in the neighbourhood of KH. ERK and hill 300.

In addition there has been considerable activity between the mounted troops ^{of the outpost line} and the enemy on the ridge South of BAHHA. The latter can be seen actively entrenching this ridge covered by skirmishers who prevent our observation posts from moving forward.

3. The attack of the Imperial Mounted Division will be made on a front of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a Northerly direction, the left taken by the 4th Brigade (2 Regts) from ASSEPERYEH to MUNKHEILEH, the centre and right by the 3rd and 5th Brigade from MUNKHEILEH to KH. ZUMMAR AH.

The line is ~~very~~ extensive for the number of troops engaged.

The direction of the attack will have

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right
the flanks exposed to direct enfilade
fire, if not actual attack from the
direction of the ridge South of the
WADI EL BAHHA.

4. To divert the attention of the enemy
on this ridge and prevent any active
operations against the right of the Lion
when launched to the attack, it is highly
desirable that at least 1 Brigade of the
A & NZ Division should be detailed to
operate actively on the right flanks
on the line KH. ZUMMARAH to BAIKET
EL SANA.

5. The actual manner of creating the
greatest impression and pinning the enemy
most strongly about ATAWINEH would appear
to be to advance as far as possible under
cover of darkness against the ATAWINEH

position and to entrench the line thus
gained. The left to push forward keeping
pace with the advance of the infantry, followed
by the remainder of the line as occasion
presented itself.

One Brigade of the A & NZ Division to
cooperate by demonstrating in a similar
manner against the Ridge ^{South of} WADI EL
BAHHA to the BAIKETEL SANA.

J.W. Hodgson,
Major General
Commanding Inf. Mtal Div.

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boundary

Appendix 120(a)

SECRET.

General Staff,
Desert Column.
O/432/7.
16th May 17.



Headquarters,
DESERT COLUMN.
16th May 1917.

Imperial Mounted Division.

Reference map 1/125,000.

The following is the approved scheme for the forthcoming raid on the enemy's railway between ASLUJ and AUJA. The actual date of the operation will be notified by wire.

1. General Plan.

To attack the railway simultaneously at three different places and demolish as much of the line as possible in 5 hours. The Mounted Divisional Field Squadrons to move from ESANI; the Camel Brigade Field Troop, with one Squadron Imperial Mounted Division as escort, from RAFA.

To cover the operation the Imperial Mounted Division (less 1 Regiment) to make a demonstration towards BIR SABA, while the Anzac Mounted Division moves to KHALASA in support of the raiding party, throwing out a strong flank towards BIR SABA.

2. Moves.

The following moves will therefore take place on the under-mentioned days:-

(a) I.C. Brigade.

(i) On W Day.

Camels of the I.C. Brigade to reach Brigade area from DEIR EL BELAH at dusk.

(ii) Night W/X.

The Camel Brigade to be relieved on the line and proceed to RAFA.

(iii) On X Day.

The I.C. Brigade to move by Battalions independently under Brigade arrangements so as to concentrate at EL HABU by 1800.

(iv) On Y Day.

The Brigade to move at 1800, with escort, so as to reach AUJA at 0400 on Z day.

(b) Anzac Mounted Division.

(i) Y Day.

One Brigade, Anzac Mounted Division, ~~less~~ R.H.A. Battery, with both demolition Squadrons will leave RAFA at 1500 and reach ESANI at 1800 and will move thence at 2000 for ASLUJ and TEMAIL RASHED, via KHALASA, so as to reach these points on the railway line by 0400 on Z day. (and 1 Section R.H.A.)

(ii) At 1900 the Anzac Mounted Division, less one Brigade, will move to KHALASA, via ESANI, so as to reach the aforementioned place at 0400 on Z day. Thence to throw out a strong flank on the general line GOZ SHEIHILI - UM AUJA to watch approaches from BIR SABA.

(c) Infantry Division.

The Divisional Commander will arrange to take over the EL SHA'UTH works from the Anzac Mounted Division with one Battalion Indian Infantry at 1400 on Y day.

(d) Imperial Mounted Division.

(i) On X Day one Squadron will proceed to RAFA as escort to the I.C. Brigade, under the orders of G.O.C. that Brigade, at EL HABU on Y day in time to move off with it at 1800.

→ This Squadron will join the I.C. BRIGADE,

/ (ii)

(ii) On X Day the demolition Squadron will report to G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division at 1600. 84

(iii) At 1900 on Y Day the Imperial Mounted Division (less one Regiment) will move from ABASAN to GAMLI, arriving at that place at 2400 and it will move off again at 0200 Z Day and move on to the line UM SIRI - UM AUJA early on Z Day to demonstrate against BIR SABA.

(iv) The 60-pdr Battery will move to GAMLI at dusk and will report to G.O.C. Imperial Mounted Division at GAMLI for orders at 2400. The Battery is placed under the orders of Imperial Mounted Division for this operation.

(v) One Squadron will ~~occupy~~ occupy EL GHABI and the works joining that place with EL GAMLI by 1600 on Y Day and will remain in defence of that place until completion of operations.

(vi) The remaining Squadron of that Regiment will be placed under the orders of G.O.C. Infantry Division at 1600 on Y day and, with the assistance of the Divisional Squadron, will carry out the usual patrolling from Point 510 ABU SHAWISH to SAUSAG Ridge.

(e) Motor Machine Guns.

L.A.M. Brigade (less 1 Battery) and No. 7 Light Car Patrol will report to Column Headquarters at EL GHABI on Z Day, leaving ABASAN at 0400.

3. Demolition.

(a) I.C. Brigade.

In the area allotted to this Brigade there are two culverts - each of 10 arches - and 6 miles of railway line. It should be possible between 0430 and 1000 to destroy both these culverts and the intervening line.

(b) Mounted Divisional Field Squadrons.

The Mounted Divisional Field Squadrons will make respectively for ASLUJ and a point 4 miles South-west of TEMAIL RASHED - a distance of 10 miles apart. From these places demolition will take place inwards.

The 12-arch culvert 1 mile S.W. of TEMAIL RASHED and that near ASLUJ will be destroyed.

4. Special parties, additional to the strength of the trained railway demolition squadrons, will be instructed in the demolition of arches and will undertake the destruction of the above mentioned culverts.

5. Withdrawal.

(a) Anzac Mounted Division.

(i) As soon as demolition has been completed or at 1000 at the latest, the demolition parties will commence to withdraw under orders of G.O.C. Escort Brigade and should reach KHALASA by 1230 at latest.

(ii) Should the situation so demand G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division will be responsible for ordering, and covering, the withdrawal of the demolition Squadrons by a route West of KHALASA.

(iii) By 1430 at the latest the men and horses should be ready to resume the march to ESANI. The Anzac Mounted Division will move off at this hour providing for the security of the Division on the move.

(iv) By 1730 Anzac Mounted Division should be at ESANI and, after two hours rest there, will return to FARA for the night Z/Z.1.

(b) Imperial Mounted Division.

As soon as Anzac Mounted Division is well on its way to ESANI the Column Commander will, if the situation permits, order the Imperial Mounted Division to fall back on GAMLI, where it will remain for the night Z/Z.1.

(c) I.C. Brigade.

(i) If circumstances permit the I.C. Brigade will complete the demolition of the rails and culverts in its area and

and will concentrate at AUJA, with its escort, and at 1600 will commence withdrawing to the North and will spend the night Z/Z.1. at some point about EL MAHDUD to be selected by G.O.C., I.C. Brigade

(ii) The Brigade will march to RAFA on Z.1. day and will return to its place on the line on the afternoon of Z.2. day.

(iii) The escort Squadron will rejoin its Brigade on the afternoon of Z.1. day.

6. Communications.

(i) Communications ~~between~~ will be established by Desert Column Signals with Headquarters Imperial Mounted Division at point 680 near T in GOZ LAKHLEILAT and the Headquarters of Anzac Mounted Division at point 820, 2 miles S.W. of ABU GHALYUN by cable helio and lamp.

(ii) G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division will be responsible for keeping up communication between his Headquarters and the demolition parties. He will also endeavour to get into touch, by helio, with Imperial Mounted Division Headquarters at Point 680 near T in GOZ LAKHLEILAT.

(iii) Communication with the Camel Brigade will be by wireless, by aeroplane, and, if the Turkish telegraph line has not been destroyed, by this means also. The G.O.C. the Brigade covering the Demolition squadrons will be responsible that this line is cut N.E. of ASLUJ or KHALASA, wherever this line may run, before it is used for communicating with the Camel Brigade.

(iv) In order to prove whether this line is intact or otherwise it will be tested from 0500 to 0550 on Z Day. In addition to this, efforts will be made to get into touch with helio from the neighbourhood of ASLUJ.

7. Supplies.

(i) Supplies will be required at RAFA for the Camel Brigade for X day, Z.2 Day, and to fill up three days supplies expended in the operations.

(ii) Supplies will be required for the escort for Y day and Z.2 Day.

(iii) In addition to this the Camel Brigade will carry three days supply for itself and two days for the escort.

(iv) The Mounted Divisions will carry one days food for man and horse and will find one days supply for them at GAMLI, on their return.

8. Artillery.

(i) The Batteries of the Anzac Mounted Division will move with pedrails - those of the Imperial Mounted Division will not require them.

(ii) B.C., R.A. will make arrangements by which the guns of the Anzac Mounted Division have increased teams for the operation.

(iii) Modified Ammunition Columns will accompany each Mounted Division.

9. No wheels will be taken South of KHALASA except fore parts of limbers for explosives, and 1 section R.H.A. Battery.

10. All information regarding water in the area is issued separately.

11. Column Headquarters will be established at point 510, S.E. of EL GHABI at 0400 on Z Day.

(sgd) V. M. Fergusson,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

Copies to:- Anzac Mounted Div.
Imperial Mounted Div.
74th Division.
I.C. Brigade.
L.A.M. Brigade.
No. 7 Light Car Patrol.
Eastern Force.
B.C.R.A.

C.E.
Q.
Signals.
R.F.C.S.

SECRET.

General Staff.
Desert Column.
O/432/9.
17 May 1917.

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London

Headquarters,

DESERT COLUMN.

May 17th 1917.

The following amendments are made to this office O/432/7 dated 16/5/17.

- Para 2 (b) i. Instead of words "Less R.H.A. battery" read "with 1 Section R.H.A. battery".
- 2 (b) ii. Instead of words "less one Brigade" read "less one Brigade and 1 section R.H.A. battery".
- Para 9. Add at end of para "and 1 section R.H.A. battery".
- Para 6. iii. Delete from "and if the Turkish telegraph line" (inclusive) to end of paragraph.
- Para 6. iv. Delete first two lines.

Reference above, the latest information received is that the SABA - AUJA telegraph line which used to run close to the railway has been almost entirely removed and that no communication exists between BIR SABA and any part of the SABA - ASLUJ - AUJA line or between any of these places.

Should however the line be found to exist the original orders in paras 6 (iii) and (iv) hold good.

(sgd) A. C. L. Tyrrell,
Major,
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

Copies to :- A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
Imperial Mounted Division.
74th Division.
I.C. Brigade.
L.A.M. Brigade.
No. 7 Light Car Patrol.
B.C.R.A.
C.E.
Q.
C. i/c Signals.
D.D.M.S.
5th Wing, R.F.C.
Major Barlow.

Wells



G.O.C.,
3rd Australian L.H. Brigade.
4th Australian L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
6th Mounted Brigade.

G.R.A.
G.R.E.
A & Q.

335

Information about water - Reference 1/250,000 Map.

- MAALAGA - Water holes. Uncertain supply.
 - ABU GHALYUN - 1 stone lined well 20' deep. Sufficient for 100 Camels.
 - KHALASA - 1 stone lined well 25' deep. Fair quality. sufficient for 1,000 camels a day.
 - EL RAHEIBA - 10 - 15 cisterns.
1 stone lined well. 15' diameter. 400' deep. Water for 1,000 camels.
 - ASLUJ - 3 stone lined wells. Water plentiful, but quality doubtful.
- 2½ miles S.W. of ASLUJ and ¼ mile East of bridge on road stone lined well 50' deep. Water for 1,000 animals.
- THAMILAT EL RASHID. 1 stone lined well 5' deep. Water fresh and unlimited.
- EL AUJA - Plentiful supply, unlimited.
- GOZ EL GELEIB. Unlined well. 50' deep. Water for 1,000 camels.

Amparbett

17th May, 1917.

Lieutenant, G.S.,
Imperial Mounted Division.

SECRET.

General Staff.
Desert Column.
O/432/9.
17 May 1917.

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MAY 1917
A59
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Headquarters,
DESERT COLUMN.

May 17th 1917.

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(sgd) A. C. L. Tyrrell,
Major,
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

Copies to :- A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
Imperial Mounted Division.
74th Division.
I.C. Brigade.
L.A.M. Brigade.
No. 7 Light Car Patrol.
B.G.R.A.
C.E.
Q.
O. i/c Signals.
D.D.M.S.
5th Wing, R.F.C.
Major Barlow.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

(in pads of 100)
No. of Message.....

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

TO { Impl. _____

Sender's Number. * S.O. 136. Day of Month. 17th In reply to Number. AAA

Reference	my	No.	S.O.134	and
370/20	of	yesterday	aaa	Owing
to	progress	made	by	54th
Division	during	night	Anzacs	will
now	hand	over	the	support
line	to	that	Division	at
1700	today	aaa	By	this
hour	the	EL	SHAUTH	and
adjoining	works	will	be	taken
over	by	Anzacs	from	Impls.
and	the	alteration	of	role
of	Divisions	will	come	into
operation	the	standing	patrol	on
whole	Desert	Column	front	being
formed	found	tonight	by	Anzac.
aaa	After	1700	in	case
of	attack	74th	Division	will

From _____ Place _____

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100)
No. of Message.....

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

TO { (2) _____

Sender's Number. * Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA

hold	new	line	aaa	Other
than	standing	patrols	mentioned	above
no	further	night	covering	parties
will	be	required	from	Anzac
aaa	74th	Division	will	be
responsible	for	its	own	security
aaa	Acknowledge.			

From DESERT COLUMN. Place 0900

2957
89

S E C R E T.

Wardening

General Staff,
Desert Column.
O/370/20.



A50
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MAY 1917

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED Division.
Imperial Mounted Division.
74th Division.

1. The 74th Division is advancing its line East of the Wadi tonight and is taking over the present line held by the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division as its support line.
2. In consequence the following alteration will be made in the roles allotted to the Mounted Divisions.
3. The Outpost mounted Division will be responsible, as at present, for patrolling of the Desert Column front from the direction of SAUSAGE Ridge to GOZ EL BASAL (both inclusive) and will in addition assume responsibility for that part of the line now patrolled by the Reserve Mounted Division namely from GOZ EL BASAL exclusive through GOZ MABRUK and to the West of that place.
4. It will also take over from the Reserve Mounted Division the EL SHAUTH group of works up to No. 6 inclusive and the works connecting EL GHABI and GAMLI and will hold these with one Brigade.
5. Standing patrols will be kept out at night as at present.
6. In case of attack from the East the Division (less 1 Brigade) will at once cross the Wadi and engage the enemy in a delaying action for as long as possible and as far East as possible.
It will, when forced to fall back, clear the front of the Infantry and, concentrating to a flank, prepare to undertake offensive operations against the flank of the enemy.
7. The Reserve Mounted Division will be kept intact in the neighbourhood of ABASAN EL KEBIR.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(sgd) V. M. Fergusson,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

16 th May 1917.

Copies to Eastern Force.
B.G.R.A.

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"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form O.2121

(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

Prefix	Code	nr	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.					Service.
<p style="font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.5; transform: rotate(-15deg); position: absolute; top: -50px; left: -100px;">Wadi</p>					Sent	
					At.....m.	By
					To.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO {

IMPL.			

Sender's Number. * S.O. 134.	Day of Month. 16th.	In reply to Number.	AAA
---------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-----

Reference	my	0/370/20	of	today's
date	aaa	In	case	of
our	line	being	attacked	before
dawn	on	the	19th	May
the	74th	Division	will	fall
back	on	the	battle	line
dropping	three	companies	at	the
three	crossings	and	present	orders
for	Anzac	to	hold	Wadi
hold	good	aaa	At	0400
19th	74th	will	take	over
support	line	from	Anzacs	aaa
After	this	hour	alterations	in
roles	of	mounted	Divisions.	indicated
in	above	quoted	letter	will
come	into	force	aaa Acknowledge.	

From DESERT COLUMN.

Place

S E C R E T.

74th Division.
A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.*
Imperial Mounted Division.



General Staff,
Desert Column.
O/370/21.

295
97

Reference my O/370/20 dated 16/5/17.

1. The A. & N.Z. Mounted Division, under arrangements to be made direct with Imperial Mounted Division, will assume responsibility for the additional patrolling mentioned in para. 3 at dawn on the ~~18th~~^{16th} May, and by noon on the same day will take over the EL SHA'UTH and adjoining works.
2. A handing over and taking over report will be furnished by Divisional Commanders concerned.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

16th May 1917.

(sgd) V. M. Fergusson,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
 (in pads of 100).
 No. of Message.....

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

TO {	Impl.			

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

Reference	in	number	0/370/21	of
todays	date	aaa	In	para
one	for	18th	read	19th
aaa	Acknowledge.			

From	DESERT COLUMN.			
Place				
Time	1735.			

War Diary

SECRET.



General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.
O/370/15.

299
93

A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
Imperial Mounted Division.
74th Division.

1. The new Battle Line on the East Bank of the Wadi GHUZZE will be commenced on the night 16th/17th instant under arrangements made by G.O.C., 74th Division, who has arranged for work to commence at 0915 on the 16th and cease at 0445 on 17th instant.
2. The 3 Companies 74th Division at present attached to A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will be placed at disposal of G.O.C., 74th Division to assist in the work.
3. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will arrange to supply covering parties, while the work is in progress, in direct communication with 74th Division.

(sgd) A.C.L. Tyrrell,
Major,
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

May 15th 1917.

Copies to :- Eastforce.
B.G.R.A.
C.E.
I.C. Brigade.

Army Form C.2121

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix *55* Code *m.* Charge *m.* Recd. at *m.*
 Office of Origin and Service Instructions. No. of Message *100*
 Sent *10/15/17* At *m.* Date *16/5/17*
 To *6th Brigade* By *[Signature]* From *[Signature]*
 (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
<i>0A 276</i>	<i>16th</i>		
<i>work on East</i>	<i>new bank</i>	<i>battle NADI</i>	<i>line GHUZZE</i>
<i>will commence</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>1915</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>and will</i>	<i>cease</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>0445</i>
<i>17th a.m.</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Down</i>	<i>will</i>
<i>carry out</i>	<i>work</i>	<i>as</i>	<i>A.N.Z.</i>
<i>Dial are</i>	<i>supplying</i>	<i>covering</i>	<i>parties</i>
<i>as Outpost</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>East</i>
<i>bank now</i>	<i>held</i>	<i>by</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Post can</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>reduced</i>	<i>to</i>
<i>sentry groups</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>various</i>
<i>worked as</i>	<i>Outposts</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>West</i>
<i>bank as</i>	<i>several</i>		

From *Moundw.* Place *1410* Time *1410*
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected.
 Censor. *(Z)* *(sgd) A.C.L. Tyrrell*
 Signature of Addresser or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 * This line should be erased if not required.

War Diary
Appendix W
SECRET.DESERT COLUMN ORDER No. 31

by

Major-General Sir H. G. Chauvel, K.C.M.G., C.B.,Commanding Desert Column.17th May 1917.

1. During the night 18th/19th May one Infantry Brigade (less 2 Battalions) 53rd Division will move from DORSET HOUSE reserve area to EL IZRAAIN and on arrival will come under orders of G.O.C., Desert Column.
2. This Brigade is placed under the orders of G.O.C. 74th Division and will replace the I.C. Brigade in the Desert Column Line on the 19th May.
3. The line will be taken over, under arrangements to be made by G.O.C. 74th Division, so as to ensure that the taking over is completed before 1730.
4. At 1900 the Camel Brigade, with 1 Section Hong Kong and Singapore Battery, will march to RAFA so as to reach that place by 0400 on the 20th.
5. Orders for this relief will be given by G.O.C. 74th Division to G.O.C. relieving Brigade at EL IZRAAIN as early as possible on the morning of the 19th.
6. The Hong Kong and Singapore Battery (less 1 Section) will remain covering the front of the Brigade 53rd Division.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(sgd) V.M. Fergusson,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
DESERT COLUMN.

Copy No. 1/3 Eastforce.

4 Anzac Mtd Divn.

5 Imperial Mounted Divn.

6 74th Division.

7 Signals.

8 B.G.R.A.

9 C.E.

10. D.D.M.S.

11. 53rd Division.

12. I.C.C. Brigade.

13. 'Q'.

14. File.

15/16. War Diary.

SECRET

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 21

Major-General R. H. Hodgson, C.V.O., C.E.,
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

Reference: 1:125,000 Map.

1. The Turkish railway between ASLUJ and AUJA is to be destroyed so far as is known at present there are no enemy troops, South of BIR SABA. The enemy holds the line HALISE, 730, 770, 810, 820 as a line of observation.

The destruction of the railway line is being carried out by:-
(a) The Camel Brigade escorted by one squadron Imp. Mt. Div. from AUJA to 6 miles North of that place.
(b) The Field Squadrons of both Divisions mounted Divisions from ASLUJ up to 12 miles South of that place.

3. The I.C.C. Brigade with an escort of one Squadron Imperial Mounted Division move via RAFA on AUJA, to arrive at the latter place on Z day.
The A. & N.Z. Division with both Field Squadrons move as follows
1 Brigade and demolition squadrons to ASLUJ by 0400 on Z day.
The rest of the Division via ESANI on KEALASA by 0400 on Z day whence it will throw out a protective line GOZ SHEHILI - UH AUJA to watch the approaches from BIR SABA.

4. The role of the Imperial Mounted Division is to attract the attention of the enemy at BIR SABA from the raid on the railway line.

5. (a) One Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade will proceed to RAFA on X day and will join the I.C.C. Brigade at a point called EL HABU, on the Turco-Egyptian boundary, 2 miles South of EL DEBEA on Y day, in time to leave that place at 1800 with the I.C.C. Brigade, to whom they will act as escort.

(b) One Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade will move to EL GAMLI on Y day and will take over the CHABI-GAMLI Outpost line from A. & N.Z. Division by 1600 on Y day.

(c) One Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade will report to C.O.C. Infantry Division at 1600 on Y day and will carry out the usual patrolling in conjunction with the Divisional Squadron from point 510' ABU SHAWISH to SAUSAGE RIDGE on Z day.

(d) The Field Squadron will report to C.O.C. A. & N.Z. Division at 1600 on X day, and will be prepared to accompany that Division and to be absent for 3 days.

6. To carry out its mission, the Division less one regiment 4th Brigade will advance against BIR SABA and will move at 1900 on day as follows:-

(a) Divisional Headquarters will be established at Hill 680 COZ LAKHLEILAT at 0400 on Z day.

(b) 6th Brigade via TEL EL FARA to make good the line 550', 2 miles East of GOZ EL BASAL, through INSIRI to BEIT ABU TAHA, East of KH. KHASIF by 0400 on Z day.

(c) 4th Brigade less one regiment via GAMLI to make good the line BEIT ABU TAHA exclusive - EL BUGGAR - Hill 680' near "u" of cultivation exclusive by 0400 on Z day.

(d) 3rd Brigade via COZ MADRUK to make good the line Hill 680' (above) to RASHID EKH both inclusive by 0400 on Z day.

(e) 5th Brigade will move via EL GAMLI to the S of OPEN one mile South of KH. KHASIF reaching that point at 0430 on Z day and will remain in reserve.

Batteries will accompany their Brigades.

A 60 pdr. Battery will be attached to the Division and will proceed via the TEL EL FARA - KARH Road to FARA at 0430 from FARA on Z day, and will act under instructions from the C.R.A. Imp. Mounted Division.

7. At 0415 the Division will advance against the line IMLIEH, 730, 770, 810, 820, EL HATHIRA, ABU YAHIA.

A5916a

~~At 0415 the Division will advance against the line IMLIEH, 730, 770, 810, 820, EL HATHIRA, ABU YAHIA.~~

6th and 4th Brigades North of FARA-SALA Road.
3rd Brigade South of that Road.

(a) C.O.C. 6th Brigade will detail special patrols to reconnoitre EL CIRKEIR, Hill 630 and vicinity which is reported occupied by the enemy.

(b) Brigades will operate as boldly as possible and every opportunity of utilizing their batteries should be made use of.

(c) Targets for the heavy battery should be communicated to the G.P.A. Imperial Mounted Division without delay.

(d) When this line has been made good, Brigades will halt and report their positions, special attention will be paid to the protection of the left flank and to the maintenance of touch between Brigades.

Orders for further advance will be issued by Divisional Headquarters.

8. The Division will be prepared to be absent from bivouacs for 48 hours.

The D.A.U. will move to FARA by 0500 on Z day and from thence, if necessary, will move to HARI under orders of G.P.A.

9. Visual communication will be established as early as possible between Brigades and Divisional Headquarters, also between (a) 6th Brigade and the daily Outpost Line to ABU SHA'ISH and (b) the 3rd Brigade and the left of the A. & N.Z. Division about UK AJUA.

Divisional Headquarters will endeavour to get visual communication with A. & N.Z. Division Headquarters, near Hill 820, 2 miles South East of ABU CHALIUF.

Desert Column is establishing cable and visual communication with Divisional Headquarters at 680 near T of COZ LAKHLEILAT.

11. A Dressing station will be established at CALI at 0500 on Z day. Mobile portions of Field Ambulances will accompany their Brigades.

12. Supplies will be required by the Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade acting as escort to I.C.C. Brigade at RAFA for Y day and Z1 day. One days food for horse and man will be taken by the Division. One days supplies will be dumped at CALI for the Division on its return.

13. Water will be arranged for for the Division at CALI on Z day. Brigades must endeavour to make full use of any water discovered during the operations. Information regarding water in the area to be operated over is circulated separately.

14. As soon as the demolition of the railway has been completed the Division will cover the withdrawal of the raiding parties and the A. & N.Z. Division. Should the operation be successful the Division may be able to withdraw about the evening of Z day on CALI. On receipt of orders to withdraw the Division will retire to CALI where it will remain for the night Z/Z1.

15. Brigades will report their positions at 0400 and thereafter hourly throughout the day.

H. C. Sward

Lieutenant Colonel,
General Staff,

Imperial Mounted Division.

17th May, 1917,
Issued at 2100

Copies to

1. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade
2. 4th A.L.H. Brigade
3. 5th Mounted Brigade
4. 6th Mounted Brigade
5. O.C.A.
6. O.C. Field Sqdn.
7. O.C. Sig. Sqdn.

8. A.D.H.C.
9. A.D.V.S.
10. C.O.C.
11. S.C.O.
12. A
13. Q.
14. O.C.

15. War Diary
16. War Diary.
17. File
18. Desert Column.
19. 74th Division.
20. I.C.C. Brigade
21. A. & N.Z. Mtd Div.
22. E.C.R.A. Des. Col.
23. Sen. Liason Off.

A59
66

*War Diary
Appen 125*

GSZ/185

SECRET

4th Australian L.H. Brigade.

372

Herewith copy of 74th Divisional Orders for
transmission to G.C. of the Squadron of 4th Brigade who will
carry out patrols as mentioned in para 3.

(sgd) A. KAVANAGH,

Captain,
General Staff,

19th May 1917. Imperial Mounted Division.

*War Diary
Appen 125*

SECRET



C. R. A.
G.O.C., 5th Mounted Brigade.
74th Division.
A. & Q.

- (1) From 0900 tomorrow 'B' Battery H.A.C. will be placed at the disposal of G.O.C., 74th Division until further orders.
 - (2) The Battery will move to SHELLAL and will relieve the Battery of the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division which is now occupying a position on the East bank of the Wadi CHUZZE and South of the SHELLAL crossing, (Square K 31 C on 1/40,000 EL SHELLAL map.) by 0900 tomorrow.
 - (3) One day's rations and forage will be taken. Supplies for 19th inst and subsequent days will be drawn through 74th Division.
- C.R.A. will wire numbers of men and horses to G.O.C., 74th Division forthwith.

(sgd) A. Kavanagh Capt
Lt Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

17th May 1917.

SECRET

Copy No. 20.

74th DIVISION OPERATION ORDER No. 24.

by
Major-General E. S. Girdwood,
Commanding 74th Division.

Ward

MAY 1917

A59
61

367

Headquarters,
74th Division.
18th May 1917.

1. (a) The 158th Infantry Brigade (less 2 Bns) will arrive at EL IZRAAIN on night 18/19th May and will replace the Imperial Camel Brigade in the left Sector Desert Column Line on 19th May.

(b) The line will be taken over, under arrangements to be made by B.G's.C. concerned so as to ensure that the taking over is completed by 1730.

(c) The Hong Kong & Singapore Battery (less 1 Section) will remain covering the front of the 158th Brigade.

(d) The Imperial Camel Brigade with 1 Section Hong Kong & Singapore Battery will march to RAFA at 1900 on 19th inst.

2. (a) The Battalion of Sikh Pioneers holding redoubts 7-8-9 & GOOCHBURY will be relieved by one Battalion of 101st Grenadiers on 20th inst. Hours to be arranged by B.G.C., 49th Indn Infantry Brigade.

(b) One Battalion 101st Grenadiers will take over the EL SHA'UTH works from 2nd Light Horse Brigade at 1400 on 21st inst. under arrangements to be made by B.G's.C. concerned.

(c) Two Battalions Sikh Pioneers will hold themselves in readiness to return to railway construction after 1900 on 20th inst.

3. On withdrawal of the Imperial Mounted Division on 21st inst., one Squadron of that Division will occupy from 1600 that day, EL GHABI and the works joining that place with EL GAMLI.

From 1600 21st inst. the patrolling in the Desert Column front will be carried out by 74th Divisional Squadron, and one Squadron to be detailed by Imperial Mounted Division. These two Squadrons will carry out the duties of patrolling as follows:-

74th Divnl Squadron. By day. - Towards SAUSAGE RIDGE and KHIRBET ERK.
By night.- Standing patrols from Pt. 280 to the 300 contour S.W. of EL DAMMATH inclusive.

Squadron, Imp.Mtd.Div. By day. - To pt. 410 on W. IMLIEH and to Pt. 510 ABU SHAWISH.
By night.- Standing patrols from 300 contour S.W. of EL DAMMATH exclusive to the intersection of the 400 contour with the GOZ MADRUK - GAMLI track.

(sgd) E. S. Allan,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
74th Division. E.E.F.

Issued at 1400.

Copies to:-

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. File. | 6. C.R.E. | 10. Div.Sqdn. | 14.D.A.D.O.S. | 20. I.M.D. |
| 2. War Diary. | 7. A.D.M.S. | 11. S.S.O. | 15/16 Desert Col | 21. " |
| 3. A. & Q. | 8. A.D.V.S. | 12. A.P.M. | 17. Div.Train. | 22. 158Bde |
| 4. 49th Ind.I. Bde | 9. Signal Coy. | 13. 263Bde R.F.A. | 18. I.C. Bde. | |
| 5. 230th Inf Bde | | | 19. Ammunition | |

SECRET

App. 126.

359

C.R.A.
G.O.C., 6th Mounted Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
A. & Q.
A.D.M.S.
O.C., Signals.
O.C., A.S.C.
S.S.O.
H.Q., Desert Column.
G.O.C., 74th Division.



1. Berks Battery R.H.A. will relieve "B" Battery H.A.C. at SHELLAL forthwith, and come under orders of G.O.C. 74th Division.
2. Arrangements for supplies will continue as before.
3. C.R.A. will inform 74th Division when relief takes place.
4. When relieved, "B" Battery will return to its bivouac area at ABASAN.

H. E. S. Ford

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,

19th May 1917.

Imperial Mounted Division.

30 Army
SECRET



310
102
O/370/24



ah

Anzac Mounted Division.
Imperial Mounted Division. ✓
74th Division.
I.C. Brigade.
Eastforce.
Q.
O. i/c Signals.
D.D.M.S.

Reference Map 1/125,000

1. Now that the infantry of the Desert Column is firmly established across the Wadi in a well wired position possessing some depth and an excellent field of fire, and which will shortly be furnished with a complete system of communication trenches, it should be able successfully to deal with any attack which the enemy can deliver against it from the East.

2. It will, therefore, be no longer necessary for any portion of the Mounted Divisions, other than the usual outposts and patrols etc., to act defensively so that all will be available for offensive action.

3. Should the enemy decide upon an attack on the Desert Column front he has the option of delivering it from the East, South-east, or South, or of adopting any combination of the three.

He has insufficient troops to allow him to press home an attack from the South and East simultaneously so it may be assumed that he would combine an attack from the East or South with a demonstration from the South or East since otherwise he places himself at an obvious disadvantage.

The course which would, if successful, lead to the most important results for him would be an attack from the South combined with a demonstration from the East. But against this is the fact that the element of surprise would be lacking since the distance to be covered - 22 miles from BIR SABA via ESANI - is more than could be accomplished during the present nine hours of darkness - so that some indication of the necessary

/ concentration

concentration would almost certainly be seen by aeroplane reconnaissance.

4. It is calculated that at the utmost the enemy in his present strength cannot put more than two divisions, or 12,000 rifles, into such an attack and it may be assumed that his cavalry, at the most 2,500, would operate on his left flank.

5. Immediately, therefore, that our patrols report indications of a hostile advance in any strength the G.O.C. Forward Mounted Division will send one Brigade through GOZ EL BASAL towards UM SIRI and EL BUGGAR and another Brigade Southwards towards ESANI. The rôle of these Brigades is to endeavour to ascertain the enemy's strength and to determine which is the true attack and ^{which} the false one.

Meanwhile the remainder of the Forward Division (less one Regiment which will continue to hold the line of Works EL GHABI - GAMLI) will move at once to JEZARIYE and take action immediately patrols reports clear the situation.

The Reserve Mounted Division will saddle up at once on receipt of orders and proceed to the road junctions one mile South of EL MELEK where it will receive instructions from Column Headquarters.

Column Headquarters will move at once to pt. 510 East of EL GHABI.

6. The action of the Mounted Troops in any such operation must be characterised by the greatest determination. The hostile cavalry must be severely dealt with whenever met.

It is of the utmost importance that the enemy should be engaged as far to the East, or South, as possible.

The possession by him of the UM SIRI - EL BUGGAR line is almost essential to the success of any operations he may undertake and every effort should be made to make it untenable.

7. The Column Commander wishes to emphasise the necessity for the most vigorous aggressive action and to remind all

/ commanders

315

313

103A

commanders that their horses enable them to get quickly on the flank of the enemy - which should be the sole object in any operations.

present strength cannot put more than two divisions on the left flank.

8. Immediately, therefore, that our patrols report hostile advance in any strength the G.C.C. Forward Mounted Division will send one Brigade through SOG EL BABAL

Lieutenant-Colonel, General Staff, DESERT COLUMN. The rôle of these Brigades is to endeavour to ascertain the enemy's strength and to determine which is the true attack and the false one.

19th May 1917.

Meanwhile the remainder of the Forward Division (less one Regiment which will continue to hold the line of works EL GHARI) will move at once to JERABIB and take action immediately.

The Reserve Mounted Division will saddle up at once on receipt of orders and proceed to the road junctions one mile south of EL MEREK where it will receive instructions from Column Headquarters.

Column Headquarters will move at once to pt. 810 East of EL GHARI.

6. The action of the Mounted troops in any such operation must be characterized by the greatest determination. The hostile cavalry must be severely dealt with whenever met.

If it is of the utmost importance that the enemy should be engaged as far to the East, or South, or South, as possible.

The possession by him of the UM SIRI - EL BUGGAR line is almost essential to the success of any operations he may undertake and every effort should be made to make it untenable.

7. The Column Commander wishes to emphasize the necessity for the most vigorous aggressive action and to remind all

commanders

1. The Battle Line runs East of the WADI GHUZZER. It is held by 1 Infantry Division of which 1 Bde and 1 Artillery Bde are in the front line.

It is divided into - (a) Firing Line, (b) Support Line.

The Firing Line runs 300 yards in front of the Support Line. It consists of 25 redoubts numbered 1 to 25, running from GAMLI on the South to a point North of HISEIA. Total distance 12,000 yards. Each redoubt is covered by a wire entanglement with a line of wire covering the intervening space with the exception of 50 to 100 yards on either side of each redoubt. The garrison of the redoubts except numbers 9, 11 and 13 will be 1 platoon, the garrison of these points 2 platoons.

Communication trenches run back to the Support Line.

This line is also called the Line of Resistance.

The Support Line is the line dug by the ANZAC Mtd Divn close along the East bank of the WADI GHUZZER running from HISEIA to PARA, and the works dug by the Imperial Mtd Divn ^{from} the right of those dug by the ANZAC Mtd Divn to EL GAMLI. Total length 11,000 yards. There is continuous wire entanglement with gaps on main roads and at other places.

2. Artillery.

The Artillery Bde is disposed in forward positions along the West bank of the WADI so as to sweep the ground in front of the Battle Line.

3. Mounted Troops.

(a) The ANZAC Mtd Divn is responsible for -

(i) By day, patrolling the whole Desert Column front from the direction of SAUSAGE RIDGE to GOZ EL BARAL and thence to GOZ MARRUK and West of the place.

(ii) By night, standing patrols watching important points in this line.

(iii) 1 Bde holding the EL SYHA'UTH group of works, nos 1 to 6 and the EL GHABI to EL GAMLI works inclusive.

(b) The Imperial Mtd Divn will be kept intact about ABASAN EL KEBIR.

4. The Reserve Line.

The old Battle Line West of the WADI GHUZZER will be held as a Reserve Line.

This will be held by 1 Infantry Bde.

5. Action of Infantry in Case of Attack.

The Line of Resistance will be held and each garrison reinforced from the Support Line by sufficient numbers to replace casualties.

If any redoubt is lost, it will at once be retaken, either by bombing attack or across the open.

6. Action of Mounted Troops in Case of Attack.

Immediately our patrols report indications of a hostile advance in any strength the S.O.G., ANZAC Mtd Divn will send one Bde through GOZ EL BARAL towards IM SIRI and EL BUGGAR and another Bde Southwards towards ESANI. The role of these Bdes is to endeavour to ascertain the enemy's strength and to determine which is the true attack and which the false one.

Meanwhile the remainder of the ANZAC Mtd Divn (less 1 Regt which will continue to hold the line of works EL SYHA'UTH - GAMLI) will move at once to JEZARIYE and take action immediately patrol's reports clear the situation.

The Imperial Mtd Divn will saddle up at once on receipt of orders and proceed to the Road junctions 1 mile South of EL MELIK where it will receive instructions from Column Hdqrs.

Column Hdqrs will move at once to Point 510 East of EL GHABI.

The action of the Mounted Troops in any such operation must be characterized by the greatest determination. The hostile cavalry must be severely dealt with whenever met.

in
advance
Mounted
Troops!

It is of the utmost importance that the enemy should be engaged as far to the East, or South as possible. *from JEZARIYE?*

The possession by him of the UM SIRI - EL BUOGAR line is almost essential to the success of any operation he may undertake and every effort should be made to make it untenable. *sitto?*

The Column Commander wishes to emphasise the necessity for the most vigorous aggressive action and to remind all commanders that their horses enable them to get quickly to the flank of the enemy - which should be the sole object in any operation.

Why go behind the Columna Comm and/or then?

P. G. Brown

Lieut Colonel,
General Staff,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

20th May 1917.

101
309

314
104

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message.....

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of: <i>1000 Camp</i> <i>1000 1000</i>	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Service.
			Sent			From.....
			At.....m.			By.....
			To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
			By.....			

TO {
 1st Brigade. A.D.M.S. C.G., Signal Squadron.
 C.G., A.S.G. A.D.V.S. C.G., Field Squadron.
 C.B.A. S.S.O. A. & C.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* 0.300.	10th		

1st	A.L.H.	Brigade	less	Motts
Battery	R.H.A.	will	move	to
TEL	EL	MARAKEB	tomorrow	morning
20th	May	owing	to	water
supply	difficulties	at	KHAN	YUNUS
aaa	All	arrangements	for	watering
the	Brigade	can	arrival	there
should	be	made	tonight	aaa
Brigade	will	arrive	at	TEL
EL	MARAKEB	by	0700	tomorrow
aaa	The	usual	procedure	as
to	ammunition	and	surplus	stores
will	be	carried	out	aaa
The	Brigade	will	camp	on
the	seashore	at	MARAKEB	South
of	the	4th	A.L.H.	Brigade
aaa	Rations	will	be	delivered

From	at	MARAKEB.
Place		
Time		MOONDIV.

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

(sgd) A.M. Carbett, Lt.
 Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 1st Lt. Col. C.S.

* This line should be erased if not required.

*War Diary
Appendix 24*

SECRET

G.O.C.,

4th Australian L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.



1. With reference to Divisional Order No. 21 para. 6, the 5th Brigade will not cross the Wadi at GAMLI and will ensure that all approaches to the crossings over the Wadi are unimpeded until 0130 on Z day.

The 4th Brigade will arrange to have completed their crossing of the Wadi and have cleared all the approaches thereto by the above mentioned hour.

2. The 5th Brigade will detail one Squadron less 2 troops, as escort to the 60 pdr. Battery. Escort will join the Battery at TEL EL FARA on the East bank of the Wadi at 0430 on Z day.

(sgd) Hesward

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

21st May 1917.

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SECRET

*Wardour
April 1920*



315

G.O.C.,
6th Mounted Brigade.
4th Australian L.H. Brigade.
3rd Australian L.H. Brigade.

Reference 1/125,000 map.

Reference para. 7 of Divisional Order No. 21.

The limits of the objectives of Brigades will be as follows :-

- (a) 6th Brigade Right on a line through the H inclusive midway between Hills 770 and 810.
- (b) 4th Brigade Left on Right of 6th Brigade right on Hill 820 inclusive.
- (c) 3rd Brigade Left on BEERSHEBA - FARA road inclusive.

(sgd) H.C. Sward

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,

Imperial Mounted Division.

21st May 1917.

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APP 121

H.Q., I.M.D.
G.S.Z/195.
21 May 1917.

161 MAY 1917

159
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Headquarters,
DESERT COLUMN.

I beg to draw attention to the very serious consequences which are already ensuing owing to the shortage of water at ABASAN EL KEBIR.

At present Headquarters, 2 Brigades, and Divisional Troops of the Imperial Mounted Division, and Headquarters Desert Column, are dependent for water on the ABASAN EL KEBIR supply, which force is calculated to require a total of 66,000 gallons per diem.

Two tests have been taken of the amount of water coming through the pipes with the following results :-

1st test. - 1,800 gallons per hour.

2nd test. - 2,520 gallons per hour, when all valves were open and the full flow of water coming through them.

Taking the average working day of the pumps at 20 hours, the best which can be expected is 50,400 gallons or 15,500 gallons short of the required quantity.

On the 22nd May it was hoped to water all four Brigades of the Division at ABASAN before proceeding on operations.

This however is impossible, and the 3rd and 4th Brigades will be ordered to water on the beach before marching off, arrangements being made to water both Brigades again at GAMLI on arrival there. This will put a considerable extra strain on all these horses, as they do not water well after dark, and no water is yet reported in the area in which the 3rd Brigade is operating during the 23rd.

In view moreover of the necessity for giving the men of the Division opportunity to wash and thereby reduce the tendency to septic sores, which has been depleting the ranks, I regret to report that it has been necessary to stop the men of the 5th and 6th Brigades and Divisional Troops washing for the last 4 days. They have had no opportunity of washing since the severe dust storm on the 19th/20th, consequently the rate of sickness is again on the increase.

Should these conditions remain as they are at present on our return from operations on the 23rd May, I request that arrangements may be made for a 3rd Brigade to be taken off the water supply at ABASAN.

As I do not consider it advisable to have more troops of the Division located on the beach, I would request that this Brigade might be utilized to relieve a Brigade of the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division near the Wadi GHUZZE, who could then possibly be given an opportunity of resting and cleaning by the sea.

(sgd) H. W. HODGSON,
Major-General,

21st May 1917.

Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

SECRET.

*was being
appx 132*



G.O.C.,
6th Mounted Brigade.
4th A.L.H. Brigade.
C.R.A.
A.D.M.S.
A.D.V.S.
S.S.O.
O.C., A.S.C.
O.C., Signals.
O.C., Field Squadron.
A. & Q.

1. On May 25th the following moves will take place :-
 - (a) 6th Mounted Brigade, less Battery, from ABASAN EL KEBIR to TEL EL MARAKEB.
 - (b) The 4th A.L.H. Brigade, less Battery, from TEL EL MARAKEB to ABASAN EL KEBIR to take over bivouac area of 6th Mounted Brigade.
2. The move will take place after the morning watering.
3. "A" Battery H.A.C. will remain in their present bivouac.
4. All transport/^{animals} and drivers will accompany 6th Mounted Brigade to TEL EL MARAKEB.

S.A.A. will be off-loaded and will be dumped together with such vehicles as G.O.C. 6th Brigade does not desire to take, at Divisional Headquarters, under a small guard.
5. Rations for 6th Mounted Brigade will be delivered at TEL EL MARAKEB, for 4th A.L.H. Brigade at ABASAN EL KEBIR.

Ration parties will be at bivouacs on May 25th to take over rations at a time to be notified later.

23rd May 1917.

(sgd) H. C. S. Ward,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

A59
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W. Henry

W. Henry
Appen 133

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WELLS and CISTERNS at KH. KHASIF.

(Beersheba Sq. B.6) 1/125,000.

No.	Position.	Description.	Estimate of water.
1.	At building South of Hill 550 near KH. KHASIF.	Round well diameter 5' Water from surface 10' Depth of water 10' Lifting appliances Nil.	1500 galls.
2.	Large cistern 200 yds W. of same building.	Diameter 15'. Water from surface 30'. Depth of water 50'. Lifting appliances Nil.	67000 galls.
3.	300 yds N.E. of building, situated 500 yds N. of Southern Hill 550.	Large cistern. Diameter at top 27' cut under. Depth to water 26' Depth of water 6'. Lifting appliances Nil. Dead animals floating on surface.	32000 galls.
4.	400 N. of same building.	Large cistern. Diameter 18' by 18'. Water from surface 25'. Very much undercut and impossible to estimate. Impossible to draw water with ropes unless a man is lowered into the well to guide buckets.	
5.	1 mile N. of same building.	Large cistern. Diameter 30' by 30' Water from surface 30'. Depth of water 9'. Lifting appliances Nil.	48000 galls.

T O T A l..... 148,000 galls.

24-5-17

WELLS & CISTERNS AT KH. KHASIF.

(Bearsheba Sq. B6)

1/12500

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No.	Position.	Description.	Estimate of water.
1.	At Building South of Hill 550 near KH. KHASIF.	Round well diametre 5' Water from surface 10' Depth of water 10' Lifting appliances Nil.	1500 galls.
2.	Large cistern 200 yds W. of same building.	Diametre 15'. Water from surface 30'. Depth of water 50'. Lifting appliances Nil.	67,000 galls.
3.	300 yards N.E. of building, situated 300 yards N. of Southern Hill 550	Large cistern. Diametre at top 27' cut under. Depth to water 26 ft. Depth of water 6' Lifting appliances Nil. Dead animals floating on surface.	32,000 galls.
4.	400 N. of same building.	Large cistern Diametre 13' by 13' Water from surface 25' Very much undercut and impossible to estimate. Impossible to draw water with ropes unless a man is lowered into the well. to guide buckets.	
5.	1 Mile N. of same building.	Large cistern. Diametre 30' x 30' Water from surface 30' Depth of water 9' Lifting appliances Nil.	48,000 galls.

Total galls. 148,000 ga