

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/63/3

Title: Intelligence, Headquarters Desert
Mounted Corps

December 1917



AWM4-1/63/3

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. *GS*

Intelligence Summary I. 51/50

For 24 hours ending 1800, 1/12/1917.

OPERATIONS About 0120 this morning the enemy estimated at 1000 strong attacked from the direction of SHILTA the right of the 8th Light Horse Regiment (3rd L.H. Brigade) holding the line from J.27.a. - J.20.a.

After very heavy fighting against greatly superior numbers our right hand post was compelled to withdraw about 200 yards.

At 0400 the enemy renewed the attack, entirely unsuccessfully, and he then kept up a brisk rifle and machine gun fire until dawn.

At 0600 the 8th Light Horse Regiment successfully re-occupied the post in J.27.a. from which they had withdrawn during the night, and took 200 prisoners.

On the remainder of our front nothing of importance.

AIR REPORT. R.F.C. reconnaissances today report no movement of importance on our front. The large camp reported at RAS EL AIN has not increased.

It consists of about 200 bivouacs and some transport. About 1500 infantry and 400 cavalry were seen about LULEBBIS.

INTELLIGENCE. (1) Two deserters of the 2nd Battalion, 77th Regiment surrendered yesterday to the 54th Division.

They deserted from MIDIEH and state the whole 19th Division has been in that region for the last 5 days. The 77th Regiment is approximately 1,000 strong. It was the 1st Battalion, 72nd Regiment which captured SHILTA on night 27th/28th.

Although the whole 19th Division is stated by the prisoners to be here, there is good evidence to show that the 57th Regiment is now under orders of 16th Division on the NAHR EL AUJA (vide Intelligence Summary of yesterday).

They state that their battalion was advancing S. about 4 weeks ago when they met the Army retreating from SHERIA. They then retired as far as JERUSALEM. They remained there one day and returned South to MIDIEH district. The 2nd Battalion has not been previously in action on this front.

(2) Very intelligent N.C.O. prisoner of the 57th Regiment captured on 30th ultimo near ONE TREE HILL says that he saw the 47th Regiment (16th Division) and the 20th (7th Divn) in reserve about 4 hours from where he was captured. He did not however know any local names of places.

(3) Prisoners say the personnel of "assault companies" wear German uniform and steel helmets and might easily be mistaken for Germans.

(4) SYRIA. A reliable agent reports that about mid-November 5000 German troops were on route to the coast at and between BEIRUT and TRIPOLI, where it is thought they were to take over the defences from the Arab and Turkish troops. From the same source it is reported that BEIRUT is to be evacuated next month.

(5) The following item of information obtained from an old resident of this area may be of interest:-

To the north east of JAHODIE, just two-thirds of the way along the road leading to MOULEBBIS, there is hill which does not appear to be of any importance. From the top of this hill - which is the most extraordinarily good observation post that one could

Imagine - one can see over all the country from the mountains by JERUSALEM to the foot of GARLIL. This is a curious fact and most people are ignorant of it. The name of the hill is DAHRET ABOU LAWI.

(6) It is reported this evening on very good authority that there are now no Turks in HEJRON or BETHLEHEM.

*⊗ This seems to be the hill in O.85. O.9D, NE.0
Pr. 265.*

A.P.B. Neate

Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

gs

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary I.51/51

For 24 hours ending 1800, 2/12/17.

OPERATIONS. 1 officer and 28 other ranks surrendered today in the neighbourhood of ONE TREE HILL. Three came in to start with and one of their number guided a party of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade out for a mile in front of our line, to the rendezvous of the would-be deserters, who were afraid to come in on account of the fire of their own people. The whole party then returned safely to our lines.

Of the above prisoners 1 officer and 27 other ranks belonged to the Entrenching Company, 57th Regiment (now 16th Division) and one other rank belonged 20th Regiment (7th Division).

INTELLIGENCE. (1) A comparatively reliable native informer says the bulk of the Turkish artillery is now at SHECHEM (This corroborates the statement of an agent who was in SHECHEM on 21st ultimo and saw artillery entering the town all one day).

(2) The following figures showing the proportion of rifles to employed men in a Turkish unit may be of interest.

(Example 5th Company, 2nd Battn, 136th Regiment)
(Ration strength - 118)

<u>Rifles.</u>	<u>Employed.</u>
1 Captain	1 cobbler
2 subalterns	1 tailor
1 S.M.	2 cooks
12 Sergeants	3 batmen
12 corporals	10 transport
60 privates	2 carriers
	5 Redcross
	5 runners
<u>89</u>	<u>29</u>

AIR REPORTS:

Reconnaissance today reports some new work on the trenches running from MURBEBIS to NEHI TARI. About 600- 800 men in cactus gardens in N.W. corner of KULEH village.
RAMIN - MIDIEH area no movement or troops seen.
Some 200 infantry seen on ridge in W.24.b. also some rudimentary trench work. Strategic reconnaissance to the north of the coastal plain - about NAHR EL FALIK a considerable scattered movement of troops. A new aerodrome has been formed at RAMIN.

TOPOGRAPHICAL

New Name.
Reference Intelligence Summary No.48 of 28th ult; A closer reconnaissance of the terrain discloses that the feature which has been named ONE TREE HILL is actually Pt.265, and its co-ordinate should therefore be amended to read 0.85 0.15.E.

The hill 900 yards N. by E. of ONE TREE HILL in 0.9.d. 10.0. has been named BALD HILL. This name is being taken into general use. (The native name of this feature is DABKET ABOU LAWI).

NOTE: Reference I.S.49 of 30th ult: para 2 -
"Raid on ONE TREE HILL" should now read "Raid at BALD HILL 900 yards N. by E. of ONE TREE HILL (Pt.265)."

(2) same paragraph, line 4 "15 Turks" should read "50 Turks"
Further the advanced post should have been described as "in front of another part of our main line".

W. H. H. H.
Captain,
G.S., DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

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Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary No. I.51/52

For 24 hours ending 1800, 3rd Dec. 1917

OPERATIONS. A raid was carried out last night by the 101st Brigade near the mouth of NAIR EL AUJA.

Only 6 Turks appeared to be south of the river, and these were all killed. The raiding party returned safely with a loss of three casualties.

Otherwise the day passed quietly on our front.

AIR REPORTS Air reconnaissances today report no concentration or movement of importance on our front. The camp at RAS EL AIN has been increased by about 12 - 20 tents. The trench system from RANTIEH N.W. has been consolidated and now runs almost continuously as far as LULEBBIS.

INTELLIGENCE. 1. A good Armenian officer prisoner who was in ALEPPO 18 days ago says he saw a Bulgarian regiment there.

He claimed to know Bulgar troops when he saw them, as he had been with the 19th Division in GALICIA.

(NOTE: A Bulgar regiment at war strength consists of 16 companies of 250 men each.)

2. He also saw about 10,000 German troops at the first station out of ALEPPO on the ALEPPO - MOSUL railway.

(This fact of the Germans being outside the town may account for other reliable informers maintaining that there are no Germans in ALEPPO).

3. Prisoner who came south a few days ago saw 20 aeroplanes at SAMAKH, S. of the lake of TIBERIAS. These, had the appearance of having only just arrived.

4. Prisoners say the Turks have general orders to take cover on the approach of our aeroplanes. This may account for aviators reporting no troops at places which our front line troops say appear occupied.

GENERAL. The following German communique was issued for 29th:-

SINAI FRONT. Quiet prevailed on the front generally. The left wing of our central sector about BEIT UR EL FOKA was strongly attacked by the enemy who succeeded in gaining temporary possession of the village and of portions of our position.

These were however quickly regained. West of JERUSALEM only artillery activity.

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110
10/11/17

A.M. N. 10/12
Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

GS

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary I.51/54

For 24 hours ending 1800, 4/12/17

OPERATIONS. Two raids were carried out last night. One by the I.C.C. Brigade at BALD HILL yielded 3 prisoners of the 57th Regiment and one of the 62nd Regiment. In the other, which was carried out by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade further to our left 20 of the enemy were bayoneted, and 5 prisoners of the 57th Regiment were brought in. In both cases considerable enemy opposition was encountered. Otherwise the day passed quietly on our front.

AIR REPORTS. Air reconnaissances today shew no new concentration or movements of importance. About 1000 men were estimated about KULEH - square U.31. A - B. Previously the garrison of this place was estimated at 600. The trenches running West of RANTIEH appear deserted but those going N.E. have been further improved. Strategic reconnaissance reports about 500 cavalry at SHECHEM also a small mechanical transport park, and many dumps.

INTELLIGENCE. Of prisoners taken last night at ONE TREE HILL, 3 were of the 57th Regiment, and one from party of the 62nd which had moved up to support. Prisoners say the post we attacked is the left hand post but one of the 57th Regiment and that the 62nd Regiment is on their left. They also state that Ali Bey, commanding 2/57th Regiment was killed by a rifle bullet last night.

2. Very reliable information has been received that on the 30th instant there were no Turkish troops in HEBRON save a medical officer and 19 wounded who had been left (without rations) by the retiring army. On this day there was however a considerable number of infantry at KHUDR - about 4 battalions.

A squadron of cavalry was ^{also} reported between BEIT JALA and HAUSAN.

3. Reference the aeroplanes reported in yestordays summary as being at SAMAKH, E. of the sea of GALILEE, a Jewish ex Turk officer now living in JAFFA says that a large aerodrome was built recently at DGANIA, a Jewish colony near SAMAKH.

4. Same individual says that there is a large dump of munitions E. of TUL KERAM station covered with Bedouin tenting.

5. Meteorological - taken at G.H.Q. 0800 - 3/12/17

Description		Reading	Difference from previous day.
Temperature.	8 a.m. today.	64°	+ 12°
	Max for prev day.	77°	+ 4°
	Min for prev night	51°	+ 9°
Humidity		27%	- 34%

A. Neate. Captain,
G.S., Desert Mtd Corps.

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Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary No. I.51/55

For 24 hours ending 1800, December 5th /117

OPERATIONS. The day passed quietly on our front. SHILTA was re-occupied last night, by 5th Mounted Brigade.

AIR REPORTS. Reconnaissances today report some new work on defences about NEBI TARI in squares P.9, 10, and 14 - also on TABSOR defences. About 120 cavalry seen camped at ET TIREH. No other movement of importance on front.

INTELLIGENCE. 1. Acting officer prisoner 2nd Regiment states that pm on the morning of the 3rd instant the forward defences of BEIT UR EL FOKA were held by 120 men with 8 machine guns, as the remainder of the garrison, when attacked, had retired on reserves of about 1000 men in rear of this position. The late garrison and reserves then retired in a north-easterly direction. This prisoner further states that the 24th Division has two batteries, about 550 yards apart, between BEIT UR EL FOKA and BEIT UMIA, and a third battery near JERUSALEM.

2. A British agent who crossed our lines on the first instant and travelled via BEIT NEBALA, DEIR TUREIF, MEJDEL YABA, KALKILI to TULKERAM gives the following information :-

BEIT NEBALA. About one company of Turkish troops on hill N.E. of NEBALA. There were no trenches there - only rifle pits about 15 inches deep.

DEIR TUREIF. An Arab soldier in the village told agent that there were 2 companies on hill E. of the village. On this hill he saw 2 small (mountain ?) guns between two rocks on the top. Those command the BEIT NEBALA plain.

In different positions not near the real guns he saw six dummy guns painted black and made of wood. He saw these when he was brought in front of the C.O. to be searched.

MEJDEL YABA. Saw between BEIT TUREIF and this place about 10/12 outposts each from 6 to 10 men. There are two machine guns in pits, one on each side of the village. There is a quick firing gun at the foot of the hill N.W. of the village. No earthworks were seen here.

KALKILI. Three outposts between here and MEJDEL SADIK. West of the station 10 minutes walk from the line, behind an orange grove trenches are being dug. 150 civilians and 50 troops are employed on this work. The 1/179th Regiment is quartered here. This spot is north of the Wadi, East of KALKILI, in a tent there are two machine guns with ammunition. Five minutes distance south in a ruined house there are 50 or 30 mules for the machine gun and ammunition transport. There are no other trenches near this village.

TUL KERAM. From the last place to here he kept to the main road which is metalled and in good condition. From the West side of this road commencing at the railway station three lines of trenches have been dug for a distance of 4/5 kilometres, as far as the hill due west of the station. There is barbed wire in front of these trenches, also communication trenches. They are five feet deep with a step. The wire is five metres from the trenches supported by wooden stakes. There are 2 Battalions here, part camped near W. of the station, and part on the hill north of the station. On the same hill there are three guns,

/ quick firing

10/5

quick firing, in pits. These guns command TUL KERAM. The hill is about a kilometre distant. There are four M.G. at the station, not in position. TUL KERAM has been evacuated. Heard there that the Austro-German troops are expected to arrive at Damascus. Saw six aeroplanes on the ground. Civilians are being robbed by troops on the main road TUL KERAM - NABLUS - and JENIN. The last house north of the station, a building about 50 by 25 feet, red tiled roof, flying the red crescent hospital flag (the only one in the place) contains ammunition, stacked as high as the ceiling. The door is sealed with red wax and was guarded by an Arab sentry with whom he spoke and gave him this information. Agent was afraid to question about numbers of battalions or regiments as he would at once be suspected.

A. A. A.

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

Desert Mounted Corps *89*

Intelligence Summary I.51/58

For 24 hours ending 1800, 7/12/17
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INTELLIGENCE. (a) Prisoner captured yesterday near JERISHEH belonged to the 1/20th Regiment, 7th Division. This prisoner said that the 21st Regiment no longer exists, but has been drafted into the 20th and 134th Regiments. Prisoners battalion was 180 rifles strong.

(b) Prisoner of 2nd Company, 2/57th Regiment, 19th Division captured on MAHR EL AUJA states his company strength on leaving CONSTANTINOPLE was 300 rifles.

(This sounds like an exaggeration). When the Company first went into action here the strength had fallen to 150, and at the time prisoners were captured the strength was only 40 rifles.

(c) From statements of recently captured prisoners the following seem to be the enemy dispositions Eastwards of MALIN :-

BEIT IKSA - EL JIB	1/2nd Regiment) 1/143rd ") 1/58th ")
near FOKA	3rd/57th "
In reserve behind FOKA	143rd Regiment (?)
East of Foka	3rd/58th Regiment.
W. of FOKA.	2/2nd and 3/2nd Regiments.
3th and 8th Cavalry Regts and another (27th (?)) covering gap.	
E. of MALIN	1/77th, 3rd/77th regiments.
About MALIN.	2/77th and 2/72nd.

Giving a total from MALIN to BEIT IKSA of 13 battalions + 3 cavalry regiments - i.e., a probable strength of about 3,000 infantry and possibly 1500 cavalry

(d) According to information received through the War Office the German troops at present in Turkey, most probably consist of 1 Division and 4,000 Technical troops, the former at ALEPPO, and the latter distributed over the various theatres of operations.

(e) The following Headquarters have been identified from prisoners statements :-

24th Division	- American Mission School, EIRE.
III A.C.	- Field S. of road, half way between EIRE and MAHR ALLA.
VII A.C.	- FULKERAN.

(f) An Arab who was at one time in the 79th Regiment and left JERUSALEM about the 26th ulto, states that although it has been persistently rumoured that the JORDAN bridge near JERICHO has been destroyed, this is not the case. This JERICHO road is much used for evacuating sick and wounded, and he has seen motor lorries going East laden and returning empty.

(No Summary issued yesterday).

A.C.B. Neate
Captain,

G.S.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary I.51/57

For 24 hours ending 1800, 8/12/1917

OPERATIONS. Last night the advanced battalions of the 53rd Division moving northwards had cleared the branch road BURAK EL KHUDR and were in touch on their left with mounted troops connecting with the 60th Division.

The 60th and 74th Divisions attacked this morning, and captured the enemy works between D.36 and Y.25 (near LIFTA) and the works covering BEIT IKSA. The 74th had taken a hundred prisoners.

INTELLIGENCE.

(1) Attack Battalion. The following notes on the attack battalion of the XVth Army Corps, which attacked our 3rd Light Horse Brigade on November 30th at EL BUJ may be of interest.

The battalion was formed in GALICIA from picked men of the 19th and 20th Divisions, and was trained by Germans.

Here (Palestine) it was attached to the 19th Division.

Composition was as follows :-

1st and 2nd Coys. Infantry	150 rifles and 4 automatic rifles each.
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3rd Coy. Engineers	120 effectives.
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4th Machine Gun Company	6 machine guns.
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T. M. Battery	4 Trench Mortar's.
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This battalion attacked twice. The first time it lost 105 killed and wounded and its M.G. Company. The second time it was wiped out.

It had good personnel and was well officered.

(2) Organization. It seems that the III A.C. with Headquarters at BIREH now consists of the 19th, and 24th Divisions and 158th Regiment. This latter is the only unit of the 50th Division so far identified on this front, though the arrival of the whole division has often been reported on hearsay evidence.

(3) Moral. Officers have been circulating a photograph IDRIS OHAUSH (Sergeant IDRIS) a prisoner who escaped from our hands
(a) as he escaped from the British - a sort of living skeleton.

(b) After returning to the Turkish army - a sort of DANIEL LAWBERT (who died weighing 46 stone).

(4) Medical. A M.O. states that the Germans have produced a new variety of quinine known as URTHAN QUININE. It is used for malaria, and is injected into the calf of the leg, doses being repeated daily until the fever abates. It is considered good as a cure, but not as a proventative, for malaria.

(5) A sentinel on duty at an Observation Post S. of JERISHEH, in Z.28.d. 7.6. on the 4th instant reports that he saw a Bedouin walk from the white hut about 2000 yards N. of the O.P. to the cactus grove about 3500 yards N. by W. of the O.P. Here the alleged Bedouin discarded his white garment and was seen to be wearing black trousers and a coat. He then ran up the gully and vanished.

This incident would seem to indicate that the recognized white garb of the bedouin may be used as a protection by unauthorized persons when crossing ground swept by artillery fire.

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n. R. Bone

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DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary I.51/58.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 9/12/17.

OPERATIONS - The 53rd Division today had reached EL ELIAS (K.10. central) about 3 miles S. of JERUSALEM at 0900. The 60th and 74th Divisions resumed the attack, and at 1000 some troops were reported N. of JERUSALEM.

A parlementaire from JERUSALEM arrived in the lines of the 60th Division to surrender up the city. The enemy were seen to be in retreat to the N. and E.

INTELLIGENCE - (1) An intelligent native who left BULEBBIS on the 5th inst. reports that the three following bridges over the River AUJA have been destroyed and that supplies for BULEBBIS have to come via RAS EL AIN. Bridges EL IRR O.84.G.9.a.12, Mill 084 F.6.a.7.3. and south of KHURBET HADRAH at 070. Z.17.D.9.9. Wadi between RAS EL AIN and BULEBBIS reported fordable.

Supply (2) (a) An officer prisoner says that the bringing up of supplies via the JORDAN Bridge near JERIOHO from AMMAN involves enormous difficulties.

(b) Supplies for the BIREH - JERUSALEM area are brought from railhead near SHECHEL by motor lorries along the JERUSALEM road. Divisional dumps are formed, and battalions draw direct from these with their own transport, which consists as a rule of 5 wagons (2 mules to each) and 30 to 50 camels.

Man Power (3) An intelligent prisoner of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Regiment, a Greek from European Turkey, says it is proposed to absorb the 20th and 134th Regiments into the 19th Division. Officers of the 19th Division came to the 20th and 134th Regiments and took notes regarding strengths, etc. If this is true the 7th Division will cease to exist - the 21st Regt. having been already absorbed.

Prisoner added: "The fact that I, a Greek, was sent out with an advanced patrol is sufficient proof of the shortage of men in the Turkish Army".

GENERAL

Turkish newspapers say that as a result of the Russian peace, 40,000 Turkish and Bulgarian troops are hurrying to this front.

A.C. Neate

Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

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DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary I.51/59

For 24 hours ending 1800, 10/12/17

OPERATIONS - JERUSALEM area

1 Brigade, 53rd Division was reported last night just south of JERUSALEM with 2 battalions in touch with enemy, who was holding Mount of Olives and BETHANY (AZARIYEH).

By 0600 this morning the Mount of Olives was clear of enemy who were retiring E. & N.

The 60th Division had made good the line TEL EL FUL (Z.12) to BEIT HANINA and the 74th the line from thence via NEBY SAMWIL to BEIT IZZA.

The Turkish authorities who surrendered the city said that there were some 1,000 enemy wounded in the town. By 1800 yesterday we had made some 280 prisoners.

R.F.C. reported JEBA and ANATA apparently unoccupied this morning.

COASTAL Sector.

A Turkish patrol approached WILHELMNA station about 1831 yesterday evening and were instantly charged by our patrol who were lying in wait in front of the station. Nine Turks were bayoneted and the remainder fled.

INTELLIGENCE. 1. Australian Mounted Division report that the enemy have constructed a series of works consisting of shallow trenches and sangars from Z.29.b. to Z.28.a. (East of NALIN - south of KUDDIS).

2. Prisoner taken today by 52nd Division on coastal sector belonged 62nd Regiment, 20th Division. This division which consists of the 61st, 62nd and the 158th Regiments seems to have suffered less than any other on this front.

The 62nd Regiment left Constantinople in September, and after a months pause at KATMA reached the front here via RAYAK and DALASCUS about November 20th.

3. Moral. An Albanian prisoner states that the Albanians and Greeks in 3rd Battalion, 143rd Regiment, refused to fight when attacked at BEIT UR EL FOKA on 30/11/17. O.C., 3/143rd bolted and many men surrendered without firing a shot.

4. It seems that the 7th Cavalry Regiment (part of the 3rd Cavalry Division) which has been in the HA'AN area has returned to this front. It was reported about BEIT JALA on December 2nd and is about 800 strong.

AIR REPORTS. This morning reconnaissance reports a very large movement of transport northwards on the JERUSALEM - SHECHEM road. About 2,000 Infantry going East on JERICHO road round F.18 (i.e. about half-way to JERICHO).

In SHECHEM itself little, if any movement.

TOPOGRAPHICAL. Patrols of the Australian Mounted Division reconnoitring towards JERDAH and KHIRBETHA - IBN HARITH report the approaches to these villages are bad and practically impassable for wheeled traffic. The beds of the Wadi's are steep, and the country very rough making any progress slow.

(ii) The course of the metalled JERUSALEM - SHECHEM road, which is not very clearly indicated on the XIV Sheet (1" to a mile) is as follows:- To BIREH as shown in red on Sheet 17. Road then branches left handed and ascends gradually, and passing a small marsh on a bare plateau about EL BALBA, descends into a beautiful

/ valley

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 Intelligence Summary 1.1.17
 For 24 hours ending 1800, 10/12/17

valley. Passes JUTNA, and through fertile gardens to AINSINYA - and then past YSEUD up a gradual ascent to SINJIL. From here the route descends somewhat abruptly by zig-zag winding to KHUJIAN and follows an open valley, ascending again to ES SA'ISH.

From here a striking view is obtained to the north over the plains of SHECHEM and the mountains of SAMARIA, the whole landscape being crowned by the summit of Mount HERMON itself. Descending into the plain the road passes via KAWARA over open country (past BIR YAKUB (Jacobs Well) to SHECHEM.

This road is carriageable through-out, and is used now by the Turks for supply lorries from their railhead near RAMIN.

METEOROLOGICAL. Taken at G.H.Q. at 0800 - 8/12/17.

Description	Reading	Difference from previous day.
Temperature	8 a.m. today. 49°	- 3°
	Max for prev day. 62°	- 8°
	Min for prev night 46°	- 2°
Humidity	88%	- 30%
Rainfall	1.1 inches	+ 1.1 inch.

Approved
 Captain,
 General Staff,
 Desert Mounted Corps.

... AN ALBANIAN PRISONER STATES THAT THE ...
 ... THE 3RD CAVALRY DIVISION ...
 ... THIS MORNING RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTS A VERY ...
 ... IN ...
 ... THE COURSE OF THE METALLED ...
 ... WHICH IS NOT VERY ...
 ... TO ...
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DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. *GS*

Intelligence Summary I.51/60

For 24 hours ending 1800, 11/12/17

OPERATIONS. On the JERUSALEM sector the situation is unchanged.

XXIst Corps. Our troops occupied MIDIEH this morning without opposition. Our patrols are now in KH ZEBDAH and close to BUDAUS. After a bombardment the enemy attacked hill at KH ZEIFIZFIYEH, but a counter attack drove him off.

INTELLIGENCE. Australian Mounted Division report considerable enemy movement about KUDDIS on the morning of the 9th which seemed to indicate that perhaps the line KHUR BETHA - IBN - HAITH was being inspected by a superior officer.

2. Officer prisoner of the 1st Battalion, 59th Regiment captured before JERUSALEM states that the 26th Divn. has retired eastwards to JERICHO, and the 53rd northwards on SHECHEM. He states further that the 150th Regiment and the attack company of the 48th Division had arrived from AMMAN, but was in reserve between EL BURJ and NEBI SAMWIL and had not yet been in action. Strength of the 150th - 1200. The remainder of the division has not yet arrived.

This Division, consisting of the 150th, 151st and 152nd Regiments has been scattered over the SYRIA L. of C. The Headquarters of the Division were at RAYAK before the present operations. The 151st Regiment at DERRAA, and the 3rd Battalion, 15th at AMMAN, and the remainder of the division on L. of C. duties between DAMASCUS and HOMS.

3. In corroboration of the reported arrival of the 150th Regiment, two deserters of the newly arrived 7th Cavalry Regiment say that when they were en route from AMMAN on the 1st instant they overtook, west of JORDAN about 3,000 Infantry moving on JERUSALEM.

AIR REPORTS Air reconnaissance 0900 this morning of area JERUSALEM to JORDAN reports 300 cavalry and 200 infantry on high ground in F.10 and 11. Also some 200 cavalry halted on JERICHO road in F.23. 500 cavalry about square K.1 and G.4 (3 miles W. of JERICHO) A camp of 90 tents about JORDAN bridge (EL GHORANIE) also 6 dumps and 100 cavalry round this camp.

At RIJL EL BAHR at estuary of JORDAN on shores of Dead Sea, 9 large E.P. tents, 39 ordinary tents, 7 motor boats and about 15 dumps.

Very little movement seen from JERICHO road northwards to ATTARA but considerable motor transport and horse transport seen moving northwards from ATTARA on SHECHEM road.

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Mean
Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

SS

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary I.51/60

For 24 hours ending 1800, 12/12/17

OPERATIONS. On JERUSALEM sector 53rd Division have now reached a line S.E. and E. of JERUSALEM from about IH ER RAGHABNEH in J.36.a. - across Jericho road about 600 yards S. of AZARIYEH (Bethany) - J.9.d.

A patrol of 10th Division entered BSIT UR EL FOKA this morning and reported all clear.

A patrol to HALIN confirms that this place is also evacuated by the enemy.

INTELLIGENCE. 1. Officer prisoner of 62nd Regiment captured S. of MULEBBIS on 10th says that the 20th, 57th and 62nd Regiments now form a Division with 16 105-mm. and 4 75-mm. guns.

2. Another officer prisoner of 59th Regiment says the 3rd Battalion, 150th Regiment, 48th Division had arrived from AMMAN. It had not been engaged on 9/12/17. Strength with 48th Division attack battalion attached - 1200.

3. Sergeant belonging 133rd attack Company 41st Division states. 41st Division strength 1200. 131st, 132nd and 133rd Regiments have 2 battalions. 3rd Battalions consist of M.G. Coy 6 guns and attack Company. Division arrived from JERICHO 2 days ago and sent to reinforce EL JIL. They lost 3 M.G. Division has retired on JERICHO.

4. The GHORANIYEH bridge on R. JORDAN (127 Q.2.c.) is reported at ED DARIYEH (112.N.12.d.).

ENEMY WIRELESS. 10/12/17.

"In the battles renewed yesterday West of Jerusalem, the enemy succeeded in pushing home his attacks. Thereupon we removed our troops which were located West and South of the city to the East thereof."

PRISONERS. The total prisoners captured by Desert Mounted Corps since 31/10/17 are :-

	Officers.	O.R.
Turks.....	249	5,464
Germans	1	6
60 guns.		50 machine guns.

METEOROLOGICAL. Taken at G.H.Q. at 0800 - 11:12:17

Description	Reading	Difference from previous day.
X Temperature.	8 a.m. today.	44° - 8°
	Max for prev day.	62° - 2°
	Min for prev night.	38° - 10°
Humidity	74%	-18%
Rainfall	Nil	- 0.53 in.

1.0

A Nestor.

Captain,

DESSERT MOUNTED CORPS. *JSJ*

Intelligence Summary I.51/62

For 24 hours ending 1800, 14/12/17

OPERATIONS. The day passed uneventfully on our front.
The 53rd Division line E. of JERUSALEM now includes "OAVES"
in J.10.a., 2 miles E. of the city.

INTELLIGENCE. (1) It is reported on good authority that the following
enemy units passed through AZARIYEH (BETHANY) and ABUDIS
going East on JERICHO road on 9th and 10th instant :-

3/33rd, 3/67th, 2/81st, 4/81st, 3/163rd, 2/168th. (this last is very
doubtful).

Rifle strength of all these units was estimated at
about 1700 - 1900 rifles.

One gun drawn by 12 horses and 12 to 16 drawn by 6 horses
each.

Also 4 squadrons of the 7th Cavalry Regiment accompanied
by two mountain guns, and the Headquarters staff and baggage of the
26th and 27th Divisions, conveyed in 30 motor cars.

An order from O.C., 27th Division directed all transport
to go to JERICHO.

Inhabitants reported that the transports of the 26th,
27th and 25th Divisions passed through AZARIYEH on 9th and 10th.

The O.C. 27th Division himself went to JERICHO, while
ALI FUAD PASHA, G.O.C. 20th Corps proceeded to SHECHEM.

(2) According to a later report from the same source
as above, large forces of Turks (estimated at 1000 tents) were en-camped
on East bank of R. JORDAN beyond JERICHO. Also many troops (infantry and
cavalry and guns) in JERICHO.

Many guns were transported from JERICHO to JORDAN bridge
during those 2 days.

(3) Australian Mounted Division report that the enemy
have extended their sangars on the hill E. of NALIN at Z.28.b.13.

A green light was seen near MIDIEH at 1900 on 11th
and a light, thought to be a signal at RAS KERKER at 0300 on 12th.

(4) Enemy have been seen in front of the Australian
Mounted Division wearing khaki jackets or overcoats - also khaki hats
or helmets.

(5) ENEMY RATION STRENGTH

The following is complete ration strength of 20th
Turkish Corps on 6/12/17 taken from a note book belonging to the
Director of Supplies 20th Army Corps, at present in charge of the
Military Governor in JERUSALEM.

<u>53rd Division</u>	3500 men 1260 animals
<u>26th Division</u>	4400 men 2110 animals
<u>27th Division</u>	1160 men 776 animals

P.T.O.

110

ENEMY RATION STRENGTH (continued)

20th Army Corps H.Q.:-

8th Regt. Artillery 1 Bn.	265 men 273 animals
45th Heavy Battery	119 men 60 animals
44th Heavy Battery	304 men 150 animals
1 telephone Coy.	82 men
1 Trench Labour Coy.	178 men.
7th Cavalry Regiment	1034 men 1114 animals
72nd Regiment	1260 men 260 animals.

3rd Army Corps ration strength is stated to be 2,000 weaker than the 20th Army Corps.

(6) Reinforcements. Prisoners have been taken on the JERUSALEM sector from the 131st, 132nd and 133rd Regiments, 41st Division, and from the 69th Regiment, 23rd Division.

Both the 41st and 23rd Divisions were in the neighbourhood of ALEPPO - ALEXANDRETTA before the present operation. Both were then very weak - the 41st having been reported "Destroyed" in MESOPOTAMIA.

(7) A one legged prisoner ("P.B." man) of the 75th Regiment, 23rd Division was also taken at JERUSALEM.

The Depots of this Division are at JERUSALEM, SHECHEM and HAIFA. This may explain the presence of occasional men of the Division here, and also the statement of inhabitants regarding their transport going through BETHANY (vide Para 1.)

TOPOGRAPHICAL. FERREZIEH Bridge to JELAMEH (via BIR ADAS, KEFR SABA, MISKEH, EL TIREH, KULUNSAWEH, KAKON.)

(From a Native Cab Driver)

Good going and passable in winter for wheels as far as one mile south of KULUNSAWEH, where sandy soil changes to black cotton.

From this point, as far as KAKON, utterly impassable in winter for wheels. Infantry could move with difficulty in the dry intervals between rainy periods.

From KAKON to JELAMEH road is always passable for wheels.

NOTE: Reference Intelligence Summary of 12th, the number of prisoners therein shown were taken up to 18th ult; The total to 2nd instant is :-

Turks	261 officers	5743 O.R.
Austro - Germans	1 "	6 "
Total	262 "	5749 "

GRAND TOTAL.... 6011

(No Summary issued yesterday).

A. B. Steate.
Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

GS

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary No. I.51/63

For 24 hours ending 1800, 15/12/1917.

OPERATIONS. Jerusalem Sector - Early morning patrol along JERICHO road reported all clear for 300 yards beyond our line Point 2480 (W.27) and BIR NEBALA also reported clear. Enemy seen at Pt. 2545 (R.17.d.)

XXIst Corps. The 75th and 54th Divisions attacked this morning against the enemy holding the line KH IBANNEH - KH EL BURNAT - ET TIREH. By 0930 all objectives, except ET TIREH, had been gained, and 2 officers, 13 other ranks and 2 machine guns captured.

INTELLIGENCE. 1. The following units have been definitely located by actual contact or other reliable evidence in the last 4 days:

JERUSALEM Area

<u>7th Division</u>	<u>23rd Division</u>	<u>26th Division</u>	<u>41st Division</u>
20th Regiment	67th Regt.	59th Regt.	131st Regt. 132nd " 133rd "
<u>19th Division</u>	<u>24th Division</u>	* Also 56th Regt, 15th Divn. (requires confirming).	
72nd Regt.	58th Regt.		

Retiring on JERICHO (9th and 10th) inst)

<u>27th Division</u>	<u>53rd Division</u>
67th Regt.	163rd Regiment
80th Regt.	3/32nd "
81st Regt.	
<u>53rd Division</u>	<u>ANATA - HIZMEH</u>
136th Regt.	
<u>54th Division</u>	
10th Regt.	In reserve on coastal sector
104th "	KIBBIAH
105th "	N. of BEIT NEBALA.
<u>50th Division</u>	
178th (attd 20th) Regt.	BEITUNIA
<u>48th Division</u>	<u>24th Division</u>
1/150th Regt.	1/2nd Regt.
	6th Cav. Near BEIT HANNINA.

2. A man connected with the Armenian Patriarchate in JERUSALEM states that Ali Fuad Pasha, G.O.C., XXth Army Corps informed CONSTANTINOPLE that it was his intention to defend JERUSALEM at all costs. The reply to this was that while thanking him for his courage and patriotism he was ordered to retire. It was previously reported that he had issued a proclamation stating he was going to defend JERUSALEM the second important Moslem religious city.

3. Intelligent Arab, who was in GALILIA with the 20th Division artillery states that on their return to CONSTANTINOPLE they left all their guns there for repairs and were supplied with 8 new German 12 centimetre guns. These are the only guns this division brought with them.

INTELLIGENCE (continued)

4. It is reported on reliable authority that there are 4 battalions in the EL KERAK - KUTRANI (AMMAN railway) area. (These may be some of the 48th Division which has not been identified in its entirety on this front, but elements of which (e.g. 3/150th and 131st) were E. of JORDAN).

Two of these battalions were attacked recently by Arabs at KUTRANI and had considerable losses.

Turks East of JORDAN are apprehensive of further molestation by Arabs.

5. Turkish, Greek and Armenian officer prisoners state that aeroplane bombing has a more demoralising effect on the troops than any other weapons. This is confirmed by a Greek and an Armenian doctor, both intelligent men, who have had opportunities of witnessing the effects. It also affords intending deserters a good opportunity of getting away.

TOPOGRAPHICAL. The following reports on roads East of JERICHO and beyond JORDAN have been taken from native drivers of the district, and may be taken as generally accurate.

The only good in the area is the JERUSALEM - JERICHO - SALT - AMMAN road. The road running East, approaching JERICHO has been neglected owing to the gradient, and the road south to NEBI MUSA and then north to JERICHO is now used for wheeled traffic. JERICHO to SALT is very steep, the journey there taking 8 hours and the return only 4½.

A good path branches off this road SHUNET NIMRIN to AMMAN passing AIN JERIA and WADI SIR. suitable for horses and camels.

From NEBI MUSA there is a good carriage road to the port on the DEAD SEA, on the east side of the River Jordan, about 2 miles distant. This road continues in a north easterly direction passing MELLAH ET RUSHEIDIYE to the ford across the JORDAN near MUKHABET. From AIN JEHBIYIR to the ford is a plain and difficult after rain.

JERICHO - BIRE. A good horse path, passing south of KURUNDUL and near DEIR DEIRAN. Is a little rocky for about 600 metres near the latter and for about 1000 metres near the former place. This is a better path than the old caravan route, south of this, marked double dotted on 1" map.

MADEBA EL KASTEL station (Amman line) a good carriage road.

SALT - ER RUMMAN a good track. ER RUMMAN - AMMAN station carriage road.

JERICHO - BEISAN - LAKE TIBERIAS. Passes by EL BAGHALAT - KR FUSAIL - EL MAKHRUK - RAM EL JIBSIN. This road was neglected, but some time ago a battalion was sent to repair it and it is now most likely in good repair.

JERICHO - EL AUJA carriage road.

A. Neate
Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

GS

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary I.51/64

For 24 hours ending 1800, 16/12/17

OPERATIONS. The day passed uneventfully on our front. Patrols of 54th Division reported ET TIREH clear of enemy this morning.

INTELLIGENCE (1) 74th Division report enemy infantry estimated at the equivalent of a Brigade halted at RAHM ALLAH from 0640 to 0720 this morning. They then moved off East. A considerable movement Eastwards through RAHM ALLAH observed during the day of troops, loaded mules and camels and wheeled transport.

(2) Deserter who surrendered yesterday to the Australian Division says that the enemy strength in the KUDDIS area (Z.28) is 280 with 4 machine guns and 3 automatic rifles. Our artillery, they say, has caused many casualties and has destroyed 2 machine guns with direct hits.

(3) Arab from 12th Depot Regiment, HEBRON states there were 12 battalions, of about 250 men each composed entirely of Arabs. The instructors were Turks. Some of these troops went into action near DHAHERIYEH. The country is full of deserters from this depot and it is estimated that very few retired to NABLUS. One estimation is about 10% and these are Arabs whose homes are north of the conquered area.

(4) TURKEY'S Supplies. # The clerk of the contractor at the Port of RUJM EL BAHR near the mouth of the River Jordan states as follows:-

There are jetties about 2 miles West of the Jordan. There were 25 large and small sailing craft in Port when he left, some loaded with grain. Four motor boats in the water and two hauled on shore. These tow the boats at a very slow pace, four at a time, to and from the KERAK Port, SHAI EL HADITE. The boats carrying capacity varies from 6 to 30 tons. On an average 60 to 70 tons of grain are discharged daily. The grain is transported to the Jordan by motor lorry, cart and camels, and by small boats towed up the river by motor boats. From the bridge it is transported to SALT and AMMAN and informant does not know whether it goes North or South. Transport of grain was stopped lately. An officer with a large sum of money arrived at the DEAD SEA en route for KERAK to arrange matters.

There is a good carriage road from Port to NEBI MUSA (JERICHO road).

Water is brought from the hills by a pipe line. There are two fountains for men and a horse trough 20 feet in diameter.

One N.C.O. and 12 men at Port.

were A carter states that 36 boats for transport and three rowing boats/brought from JAFFA to the DEAD SEA.

(5) Confirmation has been received of the report that German troops are now S. of DALASCUS, moving toward TULKERAM.

(6) Moral. The diary of an artillery officer contains the following entry:-

31/5/17. In a Divisional order regret was expressed that the O.C.'s of the 6th and 7th Companies, and the A.D.C. of a Regiment had deserted.

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D. T. O.

22

Desert Mounted Corps

AIR REPORTS. Reconnaissance today reports the Cavalry camp seen near JERICHO (K.30) yesterday has been moved. About 1200 infantry and 600 cavalry on or near road between G.10 and JERICHO, otherwise no movement or concentration of importance.

TOPOGRAPHICAL. Rivers. River Jordan, E. of JERICHO - floods which are usually not violent or of long duration may be caused by sudden heavy rains in AJLUN, Palestine or Southern Hermon and may cause a rise of 1 to 4 feet in the level of the river. The old wooden bridge across the Jordan has withstood the effects of floods for many years. The floods may occur quite independently of rain in the Jerusalem area and may be expected at any time during the next three months. In the spring, the melting snows in the Hermon area may cause a rise of about 2 ft. but any such rise will not come suddenly.

Banks and River Bed. After rain these, being of Marly clay, become very slippery; normally, however, the surface is fit for men but difficult for wheeled traffic and if the latter were continuous would become impossible.

Depth - This is normally 4 - 8 feet. At present, unless there has been continuous heavy rain in the Eastern Hills, the average depth should be 6 - 7 feet.

Breadth - Owing to steep clay banks, 12 - 20 feet high, the breadth does not as a rule vary and is about 100 feet.

Volume - In mean river the average volume is believed to be about 95 cubic metres per second.

ACB Steate

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

G.S.

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary No. I.51/65

For 24 hours ending 1800, 17/12/1917

OPERATIONS. 53rd Division siezed the high ground E. of ABU DIS last night and captured one M.G. and 63 prisoners. We had but few casualties. Otherwise the day passed quietly on our front.

INTELLIGENCE LIGHTS. Australian Division report enemy are seen to use flares and Very lights frequently.

An enemy aeroplane made a careful reconnaissance of our front about SHILTA and SUFFA yesterday at a low altitude.

The 5 deserters who surrendered yesterday from KUDDIS belong to 77th Regiment, 19th Division.

(1) An apparently intelligent native who left ES SALT on 10th instant reports there were 2 battalions there then, with a total strength of about 1700. He could not give identifications.

On the road between JERICHO and SALT he saw 300 cavalry and 2 guns drawn by 6 horses moving E.

At GHUBEE 2 miles E. of JORDAN he saw 900 troops camping and on the east bank of the river some 1700 - Also much transport and 2 A.A. guns on a small hill 200 metres from the bridge.

On the road between JERICHO and JORDAN he also met much transport eastward bound. He passed JERICHO, and estimated in and around town 2000 troops, 45 M.T. and 5 automobiles.

At KHAN HATHURUA N, of main road he saw some 1500 men and much transport.

(2) On receipt of this report an agent was sent out, leaving ABU DIS on 13th instant, and proceeding via NEBI USA to JERICHO. Agent reports that on 14th no troops in JERICHO.

He was told in JERICHO that the troops in the town had gone west on the 10th instant and on the 14th he himself saw near KH HATHURUA on main road what he estimated at 2500/3000 troops, also much movement of transport between this latter place and JERICHO (to and fro).

Here there is also a considerable amount of ammunition in the open, and one of the A.A. guns from near JORDAN bridge has been brought to KH HATHURUA (vide para 1), and is located in a ruined castle 300 n. N. of the large building.

In this ruined castle the O.C. 27th Division (OSMAN BEY) has his H.Q.

Some 100 - 150 men were engaged in entrenching near by. About 100 horse and ox wagons were seen, conveying ~~s-number~~ ammunition westwards to the lines facing Jerusalem.

(It may be noted that this movement westwards from Jericho is not substantiated by R.F.C. reports - though it may have taken place under cover of darkness).

(3) Very reliable commercial man who left DAMASCUS on 24th ultimo and reached Jerusalem on 7th instant reports that there were when he left 10 Turkish battalions in Damascus about 700/800 strong each (This is probably an over estimate).

There were also 500 German cavalry and 4 8.2" guns, each drawn by a caterpillar. Two German Divisions were expected at DAMASCUS - were then reported to be at RAYAK.

The railway authorities had been instructed that provisions were to be consigned to AFULE and ammunition to MESSOUDIYEH (RAMIN).

He was informed (hearsay) that trenches were being constructed between NAZARETH and HAIFA.

1-0 B

He himself saw trenches and troops between MESSERIB and TELESHE SHEBA, but he could not estimate numbers or quality of trenches as it was night when he passed.

At SELAKE (S. of sea of GALILEE) he saw 20 air planes (This is confirmatory).

The bridge at JISR MEJALIEH over JORDAN is guarded by 10 men and some 500 are camped near.

The train by which he travelled to AFULE was bringing ammunition (mainly shrapnel) and observed benzine. The ammunition trucks were marked by a German officer "MESSUDIEH Station".

At AFULE there is an Austrian battery "U.6" (He got this information from a gunner on the train).

At NABLUS he saw General Falkenheim and Von Kress. The G.H.Q. is situated in a house N.W. of the town, near Hotel Samaria, on the main road NABLUS - JERUSALEM, near the outskirts of the town.

Hotel Samaria is the German Military Information Bureau. It is stated that there are always ready 20 motors to move G.H.Q. Turks collected large number of civilians to build a road from NABLUS to BEISAN. The construction is being carried out very rapidly, owing it is reported to the Turks fear of being cut off if MESOUDIEH falls.

TOPOGRAPHICAL. The following was obtained from an Officer P. of W.

(a) JERUSALEM - JERICHO road. Infantry follow the direct road to JERICHO (27 k.m.) wheels follow the deviation via NEBI MUSA which is about 8 km. longer. The road is either on rocky soil, or else metalled, generally the latter, and of the same width as the LATRUN - JERUSALEM road. steepest gradients half way to NEBI MUSA and below NEBI MUSA. The road is not liable to flood between JERUSALEM and JERICHO.

(b) JERICHO - JORDAN BRIDGE. A little metal outside JERICHO, then crath road to bridge. Road goes through a belt of sandhills east of JERICHO. Bridge - length over water about 56 paces, total length 100 paces. Easy gradients not exceeding 3 in 100 below JERICHO to JORDAN. The bridge is of wood. It was rebuilt this spring by an Engineer battalion. There are "some" stone arches in the centre.

Alpworth
Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

GS

Desert Mounted Corps.

Intelligence Summary I.51/66

For 24 hours ending 1800, 18/12/17

OPERATIONS (1) Further details of the capture by the 53rd Division of the high ground E. of ABU DIS show that 5 officers and 112 other ranks were captured.

We counted 40 enemy dead on the captured position. We also captured 2 machine guns. Our casualties were 26.

(2) This morning, while taking up an outpost position to cover a reconnaissance the 80th Division took 2 officers and 20 O.R. prisoners.

A patrol of the 54th Division to ET TIREH today met an enemy patrol, and captured 1 officer and 7 other ranks.

INTELLIGENCE. (1) 74th Division report large motor lorries and several small cars leaving RAM ALLAH in an easterly direction. Considerable easterly movement of troops also seen, and a number of loaded mules. This might be 3rd Corps shifting its Headquarters, as a man *carrying a flag* was noticed. (Prisoners have also reported that Turks are removing communication from RAHM ALLAH and taking it to SHECHEM.

(2) The following information was obtained from the Sheikh of ABU DIS whose family is now fighting against the Turks in the HEJAZ.

7th Cavalry Regiment were on 16th in WADI RIJAN (113 G.20.a.) strength now 750, was previously 1200. Knows O.C. personally.

27th Division (O.C., Kaimakam Osman Bey) at JERICHO. Strength not more than 2,000. This he knows as O.C. asked him the way.

48th Division went towards RAM ALLAH, but O.C. 7th Cavalry Regiment told him it was very weak.

About 5,000 troops in all went to JERICHO. Infantry have remained at JERICHO, but animals and heavy transport have moved to ES SALT.

Ten days ago the late Mayor of JERUSALEM told him in the presence of FUAD ALI, G.O.C. 20th Corps, that they had men, but nothing to feed them with.

O.C. 7th Cavalry Regt told him that if we take KHAN HAIHRUR (113 G.13.) they will retire to ES SALT.

(3) It is reported that the BIRAH SHECHEM road has been blown up in places.

(4) A native who was in JERICHO on 12th instant says that all the suitable buildings in the place were used as hospitals, and that they are full. A number of wounded came from East of JORDAN (Compare report in Intelligence Summary of 15/12/17, para 4, of attack on two Turkish battalions by Arabs about KUPRAM).

Light cases also came from JERUSALEM.

(5) An Arab officer prisoner states that the Turks do not intend to attack; and that the whole of the resistance that they are offering on the present line is in order to gain time to strengthen the TUL KERAM- NALLUS line. He gives in support of this statement the fact that several battalions in the front line have had their picks and shovels taken away and sent back to the TUL KERAM line.

TOPOGRAPHICAL. Roads: It is reliably reported that it is possible in fine weather to motor from AMMAN to DERA. Only light cars (Ford pattern) would be suitable, however, for the country to be traversed and several

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detours would have to be made from the roads as shown on the official maps. From AMMAN south to KUTRANI the Pilgrim route could be used for motor traffic after some inconsiderable work had been done on it.

METEOROLOGICAL Taken at G.H.Q. 0800 - 17/12/17

Description		Reading	Difference from previous day.
Temper- ature.	8 a.m. today.	51°	+ 1°
	Max for prev day	65°	- 6°
	Min for prev night.	45°	+ 3°
Humidity		74%	+ 9%
Rainfall		Nil	

Ameeh
 Captain,
 General Staff,
 Desert Mounted Corps.

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary I.51/67

For 24 hours ending 1800, 20/12/17.

OPERATIONS. Patrol of 75th Division yesterday went to a point half way between NALIN and KUDDIS and reported no enemy in sight.

Our artillery carried out a slow bombardment of DAM BRIDGE over R. AUJA from 1645 to 1900 today. Otherwise the day passed uneventfully on the front.

INTELLIGENCE. (1) An agent reports that the H.Q., 3rd Cavalry Division are now at ABUD. The moral in this division is said to be good - officers are efficient and desertion is rare. Forage is short, but the horses are well looked after.

(2) The following information has been given by a deserter from the 3/76th Regiment, 26th Division - He states that the whole of his Division is situated in the vicinity of ANATA. On their left is the 163rd Regiment. Deserter states that two days ago reinforcements were brought up to the 76th and 163rd Regiments, both of which now number 800 men each. A great many of these reinforcements are ill and broken down. Our artillery had been doing great damage and has had a very demoralising effect. He states that on the road to JERICHO the Turks have placed about 10 guns on either side of the road, distributed in depth. The guns are chiefly of small calibre. He heard that one German Army Corps is expected in 10 days time from the Russian front. The Turks have been told that Russia has signed peace.

(3) Prisoners say that the Headquarters XXth Corps (53rd, 26th and 27th Divisions) are now at ES SALT and that the Headquarters, 48th Division are at AMMAN.

(4) It is reported that the R. AUJA has risen 5 feet near the mouth consequent on the recent rains.

(5) POLITICAL. The Governor of BETHLEHEM reports that local Bedouins are now quite favourable to us. This is attributed to Turkish oppression of the SAWAHIRA Arabs near MUNTAR and also to our fair treatment. MOHAMED EL ZIR, an Arab Chief, has called on the Governor, SULEIMAN ISMAIL, a Bedouin Chief has also called. (XXth Corps).

A. C. B. Neate.

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

(No Summary issued yesterday).

10/16

GS

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary No. I.51/69

For 24 hours ending 1800, 22/12/1917
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OPERATIONS.

(a) XXIst Corps: 52nd and 54th Divisions carried out a successful attack against the enemy on the line ET TIREH - TEL EL REKKEIT. The enemy offered little opposition and by 1230 we were finally established on the line ET TIREH - RANTIEH - FEJJAH - MULEBBIS - TEL EN ~~KANXXXX~~ NURIMEH - JELIL.

XXIst Corps report a general enemy movement northwards about 0730. Naval guns cooperated shelling JELIL and HARAM (070 V.27)

(b) XXth Corps: (1) As a result of yesterday's fighting in the Jerusalem sector, 53rd Division line has been advanced to J.22.b. - J.5.a. - RAS EL SAMBY. Further details show that 3 machine guns were captured. 50 enemy dead were counted

(2) A party of 400 Turks attempted to rush the 60th Division post in Y.3.b. during the night, but was repulsed.

(3) During the night 74th Division advanced their line to include FOKA.

(c) Australian Mounted Division: There has been much movement of small enemy parties between KUDDIS and NALIN during the last two days. To stop this a small party with 2 Hotchkiss guns took up position in J.8.b. At 1100 one small enemy party of 5 men and a pack animal was fired on. Two men and the pack animal were apparently wounded.

AIR REPORTS: (1) About 2000 infantry with 100 M.T. were seen moving N. on the FALKILI - TUL KERAM road (vide 1 (a)).

(2) There is a decrease in tents and shelters throughout the whole coastal area.

Most A.A. guns have been removed.

(3) The enemy front line on this flank appears to be JILJULIEH - BIR ADAS - TABSOR - to coast.

(4) There is a trench line about 1½ miles long, and well made running E. and W. in 098 V.16 and 17.

MAN POWER. There are indications that units have arrived at the stage where their own and proper reserves - The Depot Regiments - have become exhausted, and reinforcements can only be obtained by drawing on other formations. Under these conditions it is probable that the formations from which these reinforcements are drawn will become so depleted that they will cease to exist as fighting units.

IDENTIFICATIONS. The prisoners captured by 52nd Division last night are from the 20th, 31st, 138th and 161st Regiments.

TOPOGRAPHICAL (a) An officer deserter states that at present the lower reaches of the River Jordan are unfordable. (20th Corps 19/12/17).

(b) The village of MULEBBIS is shown by aeroplane photographs to no longer exist. The largest Jewish Colony in Judea called "PETAH TIKWCH" is shown, however, to be about 1,500 yards S. of the old site of MULEBBIS. The Turks always refer to this Jewish colony as MULEBBIS.

106
For. Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

Desert Mounted Corps *GS*

Intelligence Summary I.51/70.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 23/12/17.

OPERATIONS - XXIst Corps : On the 22nd, 52nd Division continuing their advance occupied EL HARAM. 75th Division brought up their right to include KH EL PEIDAH and KH EL BIREH. On the 23rd, 54th Division reported KULEH - EZEIRAH - RAS EL AIN and EL IRR clear of enemy. A patrol to EJDEL YABA was fired on by 3 enemy machine guns.

Our artillery engaged EJDEL YABA, but no enemy movement was seen. The enemy is reported to be holding a line running N.E. and S.W. through KH EL HAIYEH, with an advanced post at C.11.d.9.5.

- AIR REPORTS.
- (1) There are only 30 TS remaining around KALKILI village.
 - (2) At KEFR SABA there is still a camp of 50 TS. All other camps in squares 084 A and B have been removed.
 - (3) The TALSOR defences appear to be held all along the line.
 - (4) The KALKILI anti-aircraft guns have not yet been removed.

AVIATION. (From Sgt. Major ALI RAIK 3/72nd Regt., formerly 3rd Aeroplane Company).

(a) 3rd Aeroplane Company.

Headquarters - DAMASCUS
Depot - Near KADEM Station, DAMASCUS, Three large hangars here, but aerodrome is some distance away.

LEDINA Detachment - 4 Albatross 2-seaters (NOTE: only 1 left).
MAAN - 2 " " " "
1 Rumpier.
AMMAN - 3 hangars recently set up near station, but no aeroplanes yet sent there. (Hearsay - 26th Nov.)
DAMASCUS - 2 Albatross 2-seaters.
2 " " " (at depot)

(b) PERSONNEL

MAAN - 3 pilots, 1 observer, 2 German and 2 Turkish mechanics.
AMMAN - 1 pilot, 1 observer, 2 German and 1 Turkish mechanic.
DAMASCUS - 1 German officer i/c repairs.
2 " and 8 Turkish mechanics.

Prisoner heard that SUTCH Bey, a German, was coming from MESOPOTAMIA to take command of AMMAN detachment.

- (c) TRAINING. Every Turkish pilot, observer or mechanic is first sent to Germany to take a technical course lasting up to 6 months. They then return to SAN STEFANO where pilots learn to fly.

1.0

(d) RAIDS. British aeroplane dropped 10-15 bombs on MAAN Station (does not recollect date).

Two engines and a house, Headquarters of JEMAL PASHA No.3, were destroyed. 110 men killed and wounded. Prisoner states that there were 4 A.A. guns there, but as our aeroplanes flew so low they thought they were Turkish and did not fire.

(e) CONSTANTINOPLE (June 1917).

1 bomb on ship full of troops and ammunition lying off BEBEK; sank it.

SUPPLIES: The following supplies were in the depots at JERICHO and JEHEIXIR (114 V.10.c.) on the 20/11/17.

Nature	JERICHO	JEHEIXIR
Wheat	48,000 kilos.	154,000 kilos.
Maize	-	33,708 "
Barley	30,513 "	13,600 "
Straw	-	24,600 "
Olive Oil	1,900 "	-
Bulgur	1,000 "	-
Salt	3,509 "	171,159 "
Sugar	40 "	-
Butter	-	190 "
Petroleum	80 "	-
Tobacco	23 "	-
Kids	75 "	-

ORGANIZATION. Strengths :- In list below are given the ration strengths of certain formations and units of the XXth A.C. on the 20th November 1917.

	Men	Animals.
20th A.C. Headquarters	390	352
26th Division	4180	3500
53rd Division	4177	1017
72nd Regt. M.G. Coy.		
Attack Coy, Eng. Coy.	200	90
2nd Bn. 8th F.A. Rgt.	203	280
45th Hy. Art. Bn.	130	200
44th " " "	517	268
2nd Composite Bn.	963	132
20th A.C. Eng. Coy.	140	51
20th A.C. Telegraph Coy.	70	52

For
 Captain,
 General Staff,
 DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS. *JS*

Intelligence Summary I. 51/71.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 24.12.17.

1. OPERATIONS. (a). 21st Corps. : In their retreat from the HADRAH line, the enemy abandoned a large camp and some vehicles at RAS EL AIN. These were visited on the night 23rd/24th. Four wagons and one limber were salvaged, 13 boxes of 17 mm. ammunition have also been salvaged from the banks of the NAHR EL AUJA.
- A patrol to a point $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.W. of SHUKBAH (085.x.34.c.) report no movement in that place or its vicinity.
- As a result of operations on 22.12.17, 50 Turks were buried on BALD HILL and in addition 3 Officers and 46 Other Ranks were captured.
- (b). 20th Corps. An enemy Battery at F.16.d. was engaged by one of our heavy batteries, a direct hit being obtained on one gun.
- On the night 23rd/24th 53rd Division occupied Z.28.b. Central without opposition.
- An enemy patrol attacked our post at SHEIKH HASAN (R.13.a.) but was driven off. The enemy attacked our listening post at 099.z.28.c. at 0700 but was repulsed.
- On 23.12.17 a patrol proceeded along the WADI EN NAR (Sq.114 B. and E.) as far as T.11.a. No enemy other than the normal post at MUNTAR (Q.12.a.) were seen.
2. AIR REPORTS. (a). The main JERUSALEM - BIREH road has a stone wall built across it at D99.W.29.d.
- (b). On 22.12.17 the R.F.C. carried out 10 bombing raids and dropped more than 250 bombs. They obtained 62 direct hits on troops and transport, the majority of the remainder falling near enough to cause casualties. 5,000 rounds were also fired by machine guns on the retiring troops. One escort machine forced down an enemy aeroplane by destroying its engine.
3. IDENTIFICATIONS.
- (a). Turkish Units.
- (i). Prisoners taken by 53rd Division in the vicinity of RAS EZ ZAMBY on 20.12.17 are from the 78th and 76th Regiments (26th Division). The 59th Regiment are stated to be in reserve the 76th and 78th Regiments being in the line.
- (ii). Prisoners taken by 52nd Division from the 31st, 138th and 161st Regiments state that 161st Regiment now forms part of the 3rd Division. The 138th Regiment lost heavily at UMBRELLA HILL and during the retreat was telescoped into one Battalion, which became the 3/161st Regiment. The new 138th Regiment is composed of the former 231st Regiment and 3/161st Regiment. All three Regiments are now only two Battalions strong. The Battle Order of this Division on the night 20th/21st December was as follows :- (From right to left) 161st Regiment, 31st Regiment, 138th Regiment, with the 20th Regiment (7th Division) on the left of 138th Regiment.
- (b). German and Austrian Units.
- (i). An enemy cavalryman killed by XXIst Corps patrols on the night of the 23rd is believed to be Austrian.
- (ii). 60th German Foot Artillery Battalion is reported to have been handed over to the Turks.

12

(iii). A division of German cavalry was reported at MESSOUDIYEH (Junction of the NABLUS Branch line) about 14th December, with some Officers in TUL KERAM, in advance. (A Staff Officer of the 22nd Army Corps told this to a Sergeant-Major Prisoner of War.

(iv). One Infantry Battalion was seen at MESSOUDIYEH about December 8th by convalescents from Hospital.

4. INTELLIGENCE. (a). Prisoners state that the enemy do not intend to hold on to their present line. They will fall back on a line just South of TUL KERAM, which has been wired.

(b). It is reported that the enemy are digging a single line of trenches North and South of the ES SALT Road about two miles East of the River JORDAN. Troops, which have arrived from AMMAM (? 48th Division) are working on these trenches, which, by the 16th December extended over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on both sides of the river. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile East of the trenches are shelters covered with brushwood.

5. ORGANISATION. - Supplies. There appears to be much shortage of supplies in the enemy lines. A native from ANATA states that the spirit of the Turks about HIZMEH is very low and that he has heard Officers say that if supplies do not improve they and their men will surrender to the British.

for McAwan Lt.

for Captain.

General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

EF

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary I. 51/72.

For 24 hours ending 1800, 25.12.17.

1. OPERATIONS

(a) XXIst Corps. Patrols reported KH. AZZAH (085.W17.a) entirely evacuated by enemy. Slight rifle fire was experienced from Hill N. of MEJDEL YABA. 52nd Division report small bodies of enemy cavalry seen on their right sector. Patrols to RAS EL AIN report that place clear of enemy. No movement was seen in NALIN. An enemy mounted post was seen S.W. of KH. HAIYEH in C.17.c. One Turk from this post was taken prisoner.

(b) XXth Corps. A patrol from 53rd Division sent out at 0500 on 25.12.17 reports 100 Turks with camels moving towards KH. KAKUL (W. of ANATA).

2. INTELLIGENCE.

(i) Prisoners taken by XXth Corps between 10.12.17 and 22.12.17 total 21 officers and 808 other ranks.

(ii) There were 12 field guns and 6 large guns at MULEBBIS.

(iii) A number of empty cartridge cases made of steel were found near enemy 4.2" position.

(iv) 12 gun emplacements with 200 rounds ammunition were found abandoned at KULEH.

(v) A regimental telephonist (N.J.O.) states that the XXIInd Corps commander (Col. RAFET BEY) was ordered by the Turkish Minister of War to retire on DAMASCUS three days before our attack. He refused and ordered his troops to resist our attack.

(vi) Prisoners report 1 Battalion of CIRCASSIANS at TABSOR.

3. RAILWAYS.

(a) AFULE - NABLUS Line.

An inhabitant of DEIRAN (reliability unknown) states that in the rainy season traffic is frequently held up N. of SILET ABU DAHR (098 B.36.a.). A tunnel about 800 yards long exists just N. of SILET. There are deep cuttings at both ends of this tunnel where landslides occur during heavy rains. During such times supplies are unloaded and taken in transport wagons to a point on the railway S. of SILET, whence a second train carries stores southwards.

(b) KANTARA Line (17.12.17).

Main Line extension : Earthwork complete to Kilo 282.850.
Trackwork " " " 275.750.

Following stations have been completed and brought into use :

MEJDEL Station	Kilo 260.2
ABU HERAZEH	Kilo 267.0.
ESDUD	Kilo 272.6

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4. PERSONALITIES

G.O.C. 3rd Division - NUREDDIN Bey; he is at present sick and the G.O.C. 7th Division (KIAZIM Bey) is commanding both Divisions.

O.C. 138th Regiment - HOUSNI Bey, vice ZIA Bey (killed 15.11.17).

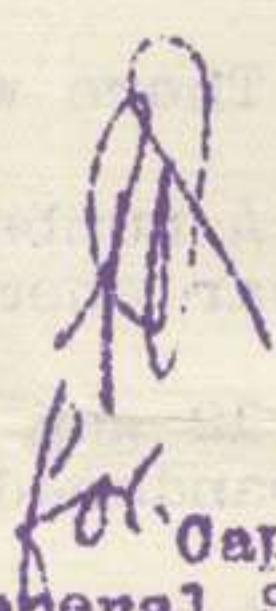
O.C. 2nd Bn. 161st Regt. - NOURI Effendi.

O.C. 1st Bn. 31st Regt. - SABRI TEWFICK (captured 20/21st inst.)

O.C. 2nd Bn. 138th Regt. - TALAT Effendi (captured ")

5. GENERAL

HEJAZ. Information from Arab sources shows that on December 12th a train containing supplies for IBN RASHID and £24,000 in gold, was attacked near AKHDHAR. SULEIMAN RIFADA PASHA, the last important Arab chief (with the exception of IBN RASHID) in north-west ARABIA to remain TURKOPHILE, was killed, as were 11 Turkish soldiers; several Turks were wounded. IBN RASHID's supplies were pillaged and the £24,000 gold carried off by the raiders.

for  *awan Lt.*
Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

SECRET.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary I. 51/73.

for 24 hours ending 1800, 26.12.17.

1. OPERATIONS. Australian Mounted Division A few shells were fired at Ops. about Z.28 in order to cover a reconnaissance towards Z.28.b. during the morning.

One patrol reconnoitred Z.27.d. and J.3. Country is impassable for transport of any kind. Patrol reached Z.28.o.s.2. about 800 yards from enemy sangarsin Z.28.b. Central where only one man was observed.

A second patrol reached to within 600 yards South of NALIN with an advanced point 300 yards South of the village. No enemy met with.

2 wells were located at J.3. Central -

(i). 10 ft. in diameter, 30 feet deep, with 15 ft. of water.

(ii). 15 ft. in diameter, 25 ft. deep, with 15 feet of water.

These wells are of solid rock with drains running into them.

2. AIR REPORTS. On a line TABSOR - JILJULIEH and behind the trench system, 500 Infantry scattered among shelters, which number 200.

There appears to be fresh work done on above trench system.

3. PRISONERS' STATEMENTS. A prisoner from 2/153rd Regiment taken at BEIT IZZA states that his Company strength is about 80. 2nd and 3rd Bns. in the line W. and S.W. of RAFAT, 1st Bn. in reserve at BIREH. H.Q. 24th Division in BIREH.

A sergeant who belonged to 20th Div. Artillery taken at 099 W.33 stated that 61st and 62nd Regiments are at BIREH and had moved there from DAMASCUS 20 days ago with 20th Divisional Artillery, 16 guns all of 10 cm, which are in position W. of NABLUS Road but have not been in action.

Two prisoners from 76th Regiment state :- 76th Regiment was relieved by 59th Regiment and has gone back to rest at ERIHA (JERICHO).

Prisoner recently drafted from 3/69th Regiment states his whole Battalion came to this front 400 strong. Half went to 76th Regiment and half to 78th Regiment.

Prisoners from 59th Regiment state that a draft of 600 came from 68th Regiment. 200 were sent to each Battalion of 59th Regiment.

(XXth Corps 25.12.17.)

4. IDENTIFICATIONS.

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Position or</u> <u>MOVE.</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
H.Q. 20th A.C.	23/12	HOTEL SHENALI JERICHO.	Agent.	First building on left on arriving JERICHO from JERUSALEM.

IDENTIFICATIONS (Contd.)

<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Date.</u>	<u>Position or move.</u>	<u>Source.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
20th Regt.	22/12	TEL EL MUKHMAR (004 C.36)	Prisoners from Unit.	
134th H.Q. 8th Army.	20/12	TUL KERAM to NABLUS	Officer prisoners statement.	
H.Q. 22nd A.O.	..	JELIL to TUL KERAM.	..	

5. REPORTS FROM AGENTS.

KADR EL MAJALI and HATHAL powerful Arab chiefs have been killed by the Turks. Their tribesmen have now revolted and are besieging the Turks in KERAK.

Owing to frequent visits from our aeroplanes Turks have covered all stores and ammunition dumps near JORDAN bridge with timber and branches.

Storehouses formerly at RUJM EL BAHR (N. shore of DEAD SEA) have now all been moved to the East side of JORDAN.

6. TOPOGRAPHICAL. (a). It is reported that on the 19th inst there were 60 German Engineers building a new bridge over the river JORDAN about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile South of old bridge (approx. position of new bridge reported 127QSD).

(b). It is reported that stone bridge has been constructed over the WADI NIURIM (E. of the JORDAN) between two hills which are believed to be 346 (127.G.30.b.) and 1100 (127J 10.a.)

G. Lloyd Jones.

Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

ENEMY STRENGTHS 26/12/17

WTHB

<u>Division.</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Strengths</u> <u>Regimental.</u>	<u>Strengths</u> <u>Divisional</u>
1	70	1500 ?	
	71	1500 ?	3000 ?
3	31	1000	
	138	1000	
	161	1000	3000
7	20	600	
	134	500	
16	47	750	
	48	750	
	125	750	2250
19	61	600	
	72	800	
	77	600	
	158	600	2600
24	2	450	
	58	400	
	143	500	1350
26	76	600	
	78	600	
	59 (1 Bn)	400	1600
27	67	800	
	81	1400	2200
53	32	250	
	136	1500	
	163	700	2450
54	19	1200	
	164	500	
	165	600	
	59 (2 Bns)	800	3200
.....			
<u>UNALLOTTED</u>			
	57	900	
	62	1200 ?	
	157	1500 ?	
	3/151	500 ?	
5 Cav.		1200 ?	
	7th Cav Rgt.	800 ?	
	2 Caucasus		
	Cav Bds.	1200 ?	
12 Divl. Cav. Sqn	150	1300 ?	
German battalion		800 ?	

TOTAL 32,550
rifles and sabros.

1.0

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 28/11/50

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
 IN REPLY TO THE MEMORANDUM DATED 28/11/50
 FROM THE MEMORANDUM
 AND THE MEMORANDUM
 DATED 28/11/50
 AND THE MEMORANDUM
 DATED 28/11/50

MEMORANDUM

28	28 (1 DAY)	800	800
	29	800	
	30	800	
29	31	1600	
	1st	800	800
	2nd	800	800
30	3rd	1600	
	4th	800	
	5th	800	
31	6th	1600	
	7th	800	
	8th	800	
1	9th	1600	
	10th	800	
	11th	800	
2	12th	1600	
	13th	800	
	14th	800	
3	15th	1600	
	16th	800	
	17th	800	
4	18th	1600	
	19th	800	
	20th	800	
5	21st	1600	
	22nd	800	
	23rd	800	
6	24th	1600	
	25th	800	
	26th	800	
7	27th	1600	
	28th	800	
	29th	800	
8	30th	1600	
	31st	800	

M. LHR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
 DATE: 28/11/50
 FROM THE MEMORANDUM
 AND THE MEMORANDUM
 DATED 28/11/50

58

Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary I. 51/74.

for 24 hours ending 1800, 27.12.1917.

1. OPERATIONS. XXth Corps Front. Enemy attacked 60th Division posts on hill in W.33.d. and RAS ET TAWIL (Z.7) during night 26th/27th; these attacks were repulsed. Posts at these two places were slightly withdrawn to the reverse slopes, the crest of the hill being denied to the enemy by our artillery fire.

Enemy also attacked 53rd Division on WHITE HILL in J.11.a. during the night, but were driven off.

At 0600 60th Division reported that attack appeared to be developing along the whole of their front.

At 0600 10th Division attacked with the 3rd and 7th Light Horse Brigades on their left, and by 1030 their line had been advanced to R.3.d. & b. - C.36.a. - DEIR IBZIA - O.9.a. - J.8, in touch with 75th Division on their left.

1100. Enemy attacked RAS EZ ZAWBY in J.4.b., and were repulsed.

At 1330 60th Division front was quieter.

1230. One platoon of 75th Division moved to ridge S.E. of NALIN and were in touch with 4th Light Horse Brigade on their right.

2. AIR REPORTS. 1445 on 27/12. JERICHO Road (113.G.11). About 500 cavalry and 30 horse transport halted on road. 8 horse transport moving West from JERICHO. BIREH and RAM ALLAH. 500 bivouac shelters in villages and about 500 infantry in BIREH. Slight movement in RAM ALLAH. 7 motor transport moving North from ER RAM. Station at JIL JULIE. 90 rolling stock, 1 engine, 38 motor transport halted on road to south of station at various dumps. 200 infantry scattered round station. There appears to be a large amount of rolling stock at TUL KERAM - approximately 50 - 80.

3. MESOPOTAMIA. A deserter, who left BOZANTI on the 14/10/17 and arrived on the Tigris Front on 21/12/17 states that the rail-head had reached TEL HELIF (37 miles E. of RAS EL AIN) by Nov 13th. (I.E.F. "D" 24/12/17).

4. ORGANISATION. Battalions now seldom have more than 6 or 7 officers: a Major or Captain is in command and has an A.D.C., Lieutenants command the Companies and Sergeant Majors the platoons. (XXIst Corps)

5. PERSONALITIES.

O.C. 20th Division - YASSIN HILMI Bey.
 O.C. 62nd Regt. - TAHAR Bey.
 3rd and 7th Divisions are at present under one
 Commandor.

(XXIst Corps)

6. IDENTIFICATIONS

(a)	Unit.	Date	Position on move.	Source.	Remarks.
	70th Regt 1st Div.	24/12	Vicinity of BIRE.	Deserter from unit.	Deserter states that remainder of Div. is in the same area.
	72nd Fld Arty Rgt (German)	Dec	From France to Palestine.	French report per W.O.	This unit was last identified in Champagne.
	78th Regt.	24/12	JERICHO	P. of W. from 76th Regt.	States that 78th Rgt was relieved in the line by 59th. (G.H.Q. "I")

IDENTIFICATIONS

(b) 3rd Div. 132th Regt. Consists of 2 Btns. only
(Confirmatory).
7th Div. 20th Regt. Only temporarily lent to 20th Div.
Was between MULEBBIS and River AUJA.
21st Regt. Was being reformed at JILJULIEH..
134th Regt. retired on TUL KERAM.
16th Div. 47th Regt. Not located.
48th Regt. } Each had two battalions in line
125th Regt. } and one in support; were East and
W at of Railway line.
20th Div. 57th Regt. Two Btns. (1st & 2nd) with 20th
Divn.
61st Regt. Went to 19th Divn. in place of
57th Regt.
62nd Regt. All three Battns. were in line.
3 Coys. per Battn.
63rd Regt. General opinion that it went
direct from NABLUS on arrival
to JERUSALEM. One or two prisoners
mention it as having arrived on this
front.
20th F.A. Regt. Attached 20th Div. Has 16 guns
77 mm. and 4 Hows. 10.5 cm. -
latter were in action at RAS EL
AIN.
H.Q. 20th Div. and of 62nd Regt. were at MULEBBIS.

(XXIst Corps).

7. GENERAL.

(a) Since yesterday the 52nd Division have taken 10 German prisoners of 701st Regiment. These state that they only arrived from CONSTANTINOPLE 3 days ago and that remainder of Brigade are on their way down.

(b) One prisoner states he saw about 8 Coys of GERMANS with red cap bands at TUL KERAM. Another (W.O.) saw a Btn. of Germans and one of Austrian (?) Infantry at DAMASCUS about the middle of this month, said to be going to JERUSALEM.

Mod. Officer (attached 20th Division) stated some Gorman Machine Gunners were in line at MULEBBIS but retired the night before our attack. (?)

(XXIst Corps)

(c) Mod. Officer says Von KRESS was court martialled a month ago and now has no command here: DJEVAD PASHA replaced him.

(XXIst Corps).

L. H. Taylor
Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Remarks	Source	Date	Location
Desert Mounted Corps from unit in the area.	Desert Mounted Corps from unit in the area.		
This unit was last observed in the area.	Desert Mounted Corps from unit in the area.		
Desert Mounted Corps from unit in the area.	Desert Mounted Corps from unit in the area.		

DESSERT MOUNTED CORPS

Intelligence Summary No. I.51/75

For 24 hours ending 1800, 28/12/1917.

OPERATIONS.

XXth Corps. White Hill J.11.a. re-occupied by us during night.

0840. Australian Mounted Division patrol to HARITH reported it clear of enemy. Enemy patrol of 8 men observed 1½ miles NE of HARITH.
0920. Australian Mounted Division patrol to SHEIKH AEDALLAH met Omdah of KUDDIS who reported that enemy had evacuated KUDDIS.
1030. 53rd Division report large bodies enemy cavalry retiring N.E. from OBEID, L.23.
1130. 60th Division in EL JIB at 1130 and BIR NABALA by 1150.
1340. 60th Division were attacking enemy in Y.6 central and KH ADASAH.
1340. 74th Division advancing to line Pt.2435. R.6.3 - ridge running south of it to about R.12.A - KH EL LATTATIN.
1340. 10th Division advancing to secure BEITUNIA, P.35 central - EL MUNTAR - P.29 central - ABU EL AINEN.

AIR REPORTS. Reconnaissance 0630 - 0940 reports :-

- JERICHO - 450 horses on lines in Plantation. TS in and round Town approximately 200. Camp at bridge over Jordan now 10 TS, 1 large shed 12 dumps.
- TALAT EL DUMM. 113.G.13.a. TS about 400. 300 - 400 cavalry camped in vicinity in small camps. 40 HT halted on road in O13 and G.10.
- BIREH - RAM ALLAH. Very slight movement. TS about 200 - 250 mostly sholtors.
- LUBBAN. 099.H.12.b. 100 horses on 5 lines on E. side of road. TS.150. 10 MT stationary.
- NABLUS. 34 HT and 15 MT parked in town. 2 MT moving N.W. into town. 3 HT moving S.E. from town. Only slight movement observed in town. TS normal.
- DEIR SHERAF to NABLUS. 2 MT, 20 MT, 40 cavalry moving E. Station JIL JULIEH 50 RS, 1 engine, 48 MT at dumps on road from station to RAMIN - NABLUS road.

SYRIA L. of G. It is reported that by December 20th some Germans who were at APULE (previously reported to be a German Headquarters) had been withdrawn to the North.

SUPPLIES. (a) It is reported that there is a large storehouse at RUJM EL BAHR.

(b) It is reported that supplies to the east from KERAK are sent to KUTRANI station on the HEJAZ railway to which place there is a road suitable for wheel traffic.

P.T.O.

1.0
[Handwritten signature]

STRENGTHS.

62nd Regiment. Btms. were 500 strong on arrival but are now only 300 - 400 strong.

- 3/62. = 450 rifles
- 1/20 = 240 rifles
- 2/20 = 300 rations
- 1/57 = 300 rations
- 2/57 = 200 rifles
- 1/48 = 350 rations
- 3/48 = 200 rifles

} One prisoner says
} only 1 Bn. 48th Regt
} remains.

(21st Corps).

REINFORCEMENTS.

(a) 1st Division. Variously reported to be near LAKE TIBERIAS and at TUL KERAM.

42nd Division - Men from this Division were seen at CONSTANTINOPLE 2 months ago (P. of W. 62nd Regt). They had just arrived and it was said this Division would follow the 20th.

Two Turkish Cavalry Regiments variously reported to have been expected and to have arrived in the MULEBBI area about the 20th instant.

One Cavalry Regiment from the CAUCASUS was seen passing south through NAZARETH early this month; about a week ago a cavalry Regiment containing many Circassian recruits was being formed at TUL KERAM.

(21st Corps).

PRISONERS STATEMENT.

Linesman belonging to 19th Division captured night of 25th instant in WADI ED DUMM by 2/13th London Regiment states that 70th Regt is at AIN ARIK having relieved 77th Regiment which is now at ER RAM. strength about 2,000 rifles. Divisional Artillery consists of 3 batteries as follows :- 4 guns 5.9"; 6 guns 4.2", and 4 guns 77mm. Guns are in position about W.4.b. and 5.a. two batteries East of road and one Battery West of road.

(XXIth Corps).

The following is from interrogation of N.C.Os and men of the 2/152nd Regiment, 40th Division captured at DHAT EL HAJ early in December 1917.

The 40th Division consists of Regiments 150, 151 and 152. Each Regiment consists of 3 Bns each of an average strength of 500. Regiments 150 and 151 were last seen by above prisoner at DERAA towards the end of November, the 152nd during November and December was located as follows -

- H.Q. KERAK
- 1st Bn. KERAK and KATRANE (November)
- 2nd Bn. DHAT EL HAJ (December)
- 3rd Bn. KERAK and KATRANE (November).

Regiment 152 had a machine gun Company of 15 guns and 2nd Bn a machine gun with it at DHAT EL HAJ.

(XXIst Corps).

G. Lloyd Jones
Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

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Desert Mounted Corps

Intelligence Summary I.51/76,
for 24 hours ending 1800, 29/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS.

53rd Division captured RAS ARKULUS SUFFA Z30.a. during the night and extended their line to X.32.b. and X.25.d. 1300. 53rd Division occupied HIZMEH and JELA and are advancing on BURKAH.

60th Division occupied TEL EN NASLEH, W.4.

74th Division occupied RAM ALLAH and were advancing to high ground North of it.

10th Division on ridge in U.19. Little opposition to advance.

Australian Mounted Division occupied line O.3.b. - F.25.b. - Z.30.a. - JURDEH - Z.23.contral - Z.22.a.

2. INTELLIGENCE.

The following estimate of the distribution of enemy troops has been obtained from statements of Prisoners of War, chiefly from a deserter who had been with 7th Division Headquarters.

The TALSOR line is held as follows :-

Next the Sea. Cavalry.

On their left 3rd Division (all regts. in the line).

On the left of 3rd Division 134th Regiment.

On left of 134th A German Battalion (probably a
near KEFR SALA. Battn. of 701st
Rgt.)

From left of German Battn. 67th & 57th (2 Bns.) Regts.
to KALKILIEH. with 126th Rgt on their left.

In reserve 20th & 21st Rgt, each 2 Bns. strong,
at MISKEH.

7th & probably 3rd Divn. H.Q. 1000 yards East of MISKEH.
XXIInd Corps H.Q. 1000 yards North of MISKEH.

There are 3 Turkish Cavalry Regts., recently arrived from the CAUCASUS, attached to the 7th Division; and the 3rd & 52nd Division Squadrons are with the 3rd & 7th Division Group. (XXIst Corps).

3. AIR REPORTS.

1300 - 29/12/17. At 113. G.13 to G.17 12 horse lines of 25 horses each. 300 horses on lines. 300 cavalry scattered in G.20, 21, 22.

300 TS from F.18 to G.10. NEBY MURA, 100 cavalry halted; in U.16 150 cavalry halted.

JORDAN BRIDGE. On East side 3 horse lines, 100 horses. 40 TS.

4. IDENTIFICATIONS.

Unit	Date	Position or move.	Source	Remarks
701st Cav. Troop.	Night 21/22 Doer.	Coastal Sector.	Casualty from unit.	Lance pennant is half black, half white. (Prussian).
7Ln. 57th Rgt.	26/12	"	Prisoner from Unit.	Ps. from this rgt also taken in vicinity of RAS ET TAWIL in which area the 19th Div. including greater part of 57th Rgt is located. (G.H.Q. "I")

5. SYRIA L. of C.

A large number of GERMAN troops are reported to be at JENIN
(XXIst Corps)

An agent states that there are about 8 battalions - totalling about 1800 men - in the MOUNT CARMEL area preparing to oppose an anticipated landing at HAIFA.

6. ASIR MINOR

GERMAN activity is reported in the SOKIA region and other parts of the ASIR MINOR coast, where efforts are apparently being made to make up for the shortage of men by increasing the artillery.

7. PRISONERS STATEMENTS.

Prisoner from 1/59th Regt taken 28/12/17 at SUFFA 119.Z.30. states Ln rifle strength 104: Regt strength 400. 59th Regt sent considerable reinforcements to 53rd Division on 27/12/17.

Albanian 3/58th Regt captured Pt. 1910 R.13 states: he saw 20 German personnel with 7 machine guns R.14. 27/12/17. They did not come into action.

Prisoner from 2/61st Regt states 62nd and 63rd Regts are on the JAFFA front. Strength 61st Regt, 2400 with 16 machine guns. One attack battalion is attached to 61st Regt, 80 strong. One prisoner is an Albanian, but was forced by the Austrians to join the Turkish Army. He states that the Turks facing us are in a lamentable state and that food is very short. Before the attack orders were issued that our line must be taken at all costs, because if they failed, all hope of regaining JERUSALEM would be lost and their present position become untenable.

(Note. The statements of the prisoner from 2/61st Regt regarding 61st Regt. strength is obviously incorrect as is probably that regarding 63rd Regt.)

Armenian prisoner captured 28/12/17 at KH NEDA 099.R.35.a. states: He belongs to 3/143rd Regt. The Regt. received orders at midnight 27/28th to retire to IREH. The retirement began at 0100. He states: this was a Divisional Order and that all three Regts have gone. A Turkish sergeant of 1/58th Regt captured Pt. 1610 confirms this as far as the 58th Regt is concerned.

Sergeant (Turkish) 1/58th Regt had heard that the enemy intended to retire and that all dumps were being removed from IREH to NAILUS. A few days ago reinforcements from the 4th Army Corps (CAUCASUS Front) (Units unknown) were reported to be arriving at once and dumps were being reformed at IREH with the object of an attack to regain JERUSALEM. (XX CORPS)

G. Lloyd Jones

Captain,
General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

G.S.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary I.51/77

For 24 hours ending 1800, 30/12/17.
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OPERATIONS. XXth Corps Front:

53rd Division: Yesterday evening reported that their line ran from SUFFA Z.30 - KH ALEIT Z.10 - East of HISMEH - N.E. of JEBA - X.8 central - U.31 central in touch with 60th Division.

60th Division at 1615 yesterday took RAS EL TABONIEH U.22.c. after stubborn resistance.

74th Division yesterday evening were on line Pt.2879, U.27.a. - KH EL TIREH to junction with 10th Division at WADI EL KELB, P.17.c.

The XXth Corps advance during afternoon of 29th was delayed owing by enemy M.G. fire and difficult country.

60th Division last night occupied line BEITIN EL BALUA - KH EL BURJ.

10th Division line now includes SHEIKH MUSA and RAS KERKER.

0800 - Armoured Car patrol proceeded along HADLOUS road as far as M.28 central and were fired on by Turk post at ARMUTIEH, M.22.d.

IDENTIFICATIONS. The 702nd Cavalry Troop (German) is now attached to 3rd Cavalry Division H.Q. near ABUD.

STRENGTHS: 23rd Division. P. of W. No.5 stated that up to July 24th 1917 battalion rifle strength of 69th Regt was about 1000 (4 Coys per battalion) nearly 90% being Arabs and the balance Turks.

On July 24th all Arabs except N.C.Os. were drafted out and sent to CONSTANTINOPLE leaving each battalion with a rifle strength of about 130 Turks. The 4th Coys were then abolished, their personnel being absorbed by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Coys. in each battalion.

On August 4th 100 Turkish recruits were given to each battalion. These came from the Depot Regt at AINTAB.

On September 1st all fit Turks were drafted out for units on the Palestine front leaving the regiment a mere skeleton.

On October 1st each battalion received a draft of 130 recruits from the ADANA Depot Regiment.

On Nov. 26th all men were drafted out of the regiment for service on the Palestine front leaving only officers, Arab N.C.Os and batmen at WERSINA etc.

At present therefore, this regiment is reduced to a weak training unit and it appears probable that the 23rd Division has been reduced to a mere depot.

1st Division - Prisoner from 1/70th taken last night R.3.d. states.

1st Division is largely made up of deserters and men from hospital. Average Battalion strength 100. 70th, 71st, and 124th Regts. all present. He had had no rations since going into the line.

(XXth Corps).

10/17

STRENGTHS (contd) 1st Division.

Captain Ahmed Naji, O.C. M.C. Company, 70th Regt captured ZEITOUN ridge states: All machine guns were safely removed before he was taken. He had the 57th Machine Gun Company put under his command pro. tem. (This may account for the presence of P. of W. of this unit in the vicinity). The 70th Regiment came as an advanced unit of the 1st Division, leaving it at NABLUS. The Division was there as a whole, but he know of no German unit attached. G.O.C. Division is a German, Colonel Kur, (?), The O.C., 70th Regiment is Major NEJMI BEY.

(XXth Corps).

RECRUITING. Men over 45 and such boys of the 17 - 18 year old classes as have not been called out already are being recruited. Prisoners undergoing sentences for crimes of violence have been drafted into the army. This jail delivery seems to have been very general.

HOSTILE MOVES. KEFR SABA - 60 tents around village in plantations.

BIREH to NABLUS road (099.M.8) 200 cavalry and 20 HT moving North. 099.K.30, 600 infantry stationary (believed moving North). Approx: 30 mixed transport moving south from NABLUS.

ENEMY DEFENCES. Work done in the JABSOR JILJULIEH defences. Approx: 200 TS behind the trench system.

Most northern piece of trench in the TABSOR line is in 004.S.30.

No trench work observed between a line running N. & S. through TABSOR and the sea.

G. Hays Jones

Captain,
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.

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(XXth Corps)

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STATIONERY
BANK DIVISION
BANK DIVISION
LOCAL BANKING

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Intelligence Summary I.51/78

For 24 hours ending 1800, 31/12/1917

1. OPERATIONS

XXth Corps:

60th Division Have now advanced their line to include 099 V.8 central - V.7.b. - Point 2930 - U.5 central, thence S.W. to KH EL BURJ.

2. ENEMY DEFENCES.

(a) XXth Corps Front.

A small party of Turks was seen digging at 113 C.15.d.
A patrol to 099 G.27.c. saw no enemy.
Sniping was reported today from 099 P.5.

(b) XXIst Corps Front

Flying Corps report a considerable amount of new trench work to the west and south of TULKERAM.

3. ENEMY TROOPS.

TALAAT ED DUMM - 250 Infantry on roadside.
JERICHO - 100 cavalry and 200 Infantry in town.
AMMAN - 200 cavalry. 1000 Infantry. (Flying Corps Report 31/12/17)

4. ENEMY CAMPS Etc.

TALAAT ED DUMM East to JERICHO - 150 bell tents and 200 shelters
JERICHO Camp of 60 bell tents and 40 shelters.
AMMAN 60 bell tents and 40 shelters. A large engine shed and 8 large buildings with a large number of small dumps at railway station. Appears to be an important centre.

In the LUBBAN - SINJIL - APTARA area shelters have decreased by 50% (31/12/17)

5. IDENTIFICATIONS.

	Date.	Position.
<u>27th Division.</u>		
3/81st Regiment	December 13th.	CAVEHILL. 100 J.2.b.
<u>54th Division</u>		
164th Regiment.	December 14th.	E. of KIBEIAH
165th Regiment	" 14th.	W. of "
<u>1st Division.</u>		
70th Regiment	" 28th	099.R.3.d. (W. of BEITUNIA)
71st Regiment	" 28th	099.R.3.d.
124th Regiment	" 28th	AIN ARIK (099. P.26.B)

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0. STRENGTHS.

27th Division.

3/81st Regiment Rifles 68 170 December 17th.

54th Division.

164th Regiment " 255 " 14th.

7. PRISONERS STATEMENTS.

1st Division.

A medical officer from 3/124th Regiment captured at ER RAM states :-
The artillery of 1st Division had not arrived from DAMASCUS.
In the attack on 27/12/17, the 158th Regiment lost 500/600 men. The 1st Division lost 300 but only the 70th Regiment took part.
1st Division have no gas masks.
He saw 15/20 German aeroplanes between DAMASCUS and NABBUS.
He heard that 2nd and 3rd Armies, together with German units will reinforce this front.

19th Division:

Prisoner from 3/72nd Regt. taken at WHITE HILL, stated that his Regt came into line 6 days ago from JERICHO. The 2nd Bn. was detached near BIREH. He states that the 81st Regiment is disbanded.

(XXth Corps).

8. TOPOGRAPHICAL. Aerial reconnaissance on the 29th reports:-

ABUD - LUBBAN (085 V.33.d) road, apparently merely a track fit only for pack transport.

ABUD - DEIR ENNIDHAM (099 O.23.b.), apparently fit only for light wheeled transport.

Roads leading N.E. from ABUD - merely tracks fit only for pack transport.

9. GENERAL. Prisoners captured by XXth Corps on 27th, 28th and 29th December up to 1800 total 32 officers and 526 other ranks. In addition 26 machine guns and 2 automatic rifles have been captured.

M. Awan Lt.
Lt.
General Staff,
Desert Mounted Corps.