

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/58/2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters
Australian Mounted Division

August 1917



AWM4-1/58/2

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 079

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

of General Staff - Australian Mounted Division -
for the month of August 1917 -
Vol. II - Page 32 -

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL MARAKEB -	11/8/17		Lieut. A.M. Garbett left on 10 days leave to CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.	
	3 & 4/8/17		Actg. G.O.C. and Staff proceeded to neighbourhood of BENI SELA in connection with Tactical Exercise to be carried out by Officers of 3 rd and 5 th Bdes.	
	1 to 4/8/17		Musketry, Hotchkiss + Machine-Gun training continued by Brigades.	
	7/8/17	1000	Desert Column Order (No. 44) received giving reorganization of Eastern Force - as from 2 nd Aug. 1917. The Eastern Force will consist of - 20 th Corps, 21 st Corps, + Desert Mounted Corps - the latter comprising (1) Austr. and N.Z. Mt ^d Div - (2) Austr. Mt ^d Div - (3) Germany Mt ^d Div. General H ^q Div will be established at RAFA at 1200. 12/8/17, G.O.C.-in-C. assuming direct command.	
	10/8/17	1600	Div. Order No. 8 re move of Division into Support line, to relieve Ger. Mt ^d Div. issued and appended.	Appen. 105:
	5/9/17		Musketry, Hotchkiss, + machine-gun training continued by Brigades.	Sgt.
	11/8/17	1600	Lt-Col P.V. KELLY C.M.G., D.S.O. left on 7 days leave to CAIRO.	
	12/8/17	0830	Major General H.W. HODGSON C.M.G., C.B. returned from hospital.	Amf
	14/8/17	1000 To 1500	Corps Commander Lt-General H.G. CHAUVEL C.M.G., C.B. inspected the 4 th Bde and was accompanied by Divisional Commander.	Amf
	14/8/17	1400	The 5 th Mt ^d Bde left the Division temporarily and marched out en route to EL ARISH accompanied by the Bde Field Ambulance.	Amf Sgt.

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

of General Staff - Australian Mounted Division -
for the month of August 1917.

Vol - 2 - page 33

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KETBIR	18/8/17	1100	The relief of the Yeomanry Mounted Division, in the support line, by the Australian Mounted Division, less 5 th Mt Bde, as laid down in Dir. order No 8 of the 10 th inst. accomplished. Dir. H.Q. at pt. 27 1/2 mile N.E. of Desert Mt Corps Battle Head Quarters - 3 rd Bde. in bivouac area at KAZAR - 4 th Bde S. of FUKHARI - Dir. H.Q. closed at MARAKET and opened at ABASAN at 1100.	Grk.
	19/8/17	1200	Instructions re units being prepared to turn out at short notice - also Practice Tests, issued & appended.	Appen. 109
	21/8/17	0430 to 1100	A practice turn out of the whole division was carried out - point of assembly being in the vicinity of the FUKHARI rifle range - The Gen. considered that there was too great a delay by all units in turning out - also that the general appearance of the parade was lacking in smartness - this would require to be remedied by further training and additional practice.	Grk. Appen. 110
	22/8/17	1000	Conference held at Dir. H.Q. on the "turn-out" of the 21 st inst. - attended by Dir. Staffs, Bde. Commanders & Staffs, & Div. units Commanders.	
	21/8/17	1200	Orders issued for the 3 rd and 4 th Bdes. with "A" and "B" Batteries H.A.C. to be temporarily attached ^{attached} to Yeomanry Mt Div. while covering a reconnaissance by the ^{the} Corps Commander on the 24 th inst. - appended.	Appen 111
	22/8/17	1800	Precis of Intelligence Summaries from 14/8/17 to 20/8/17 appended.	Appen 112
	22/8/17	1800	Notes on roads in the ESANI area - issued & appended.	Appen 113
	23/8/17	0900	Operation Order No 25 by Br. Gen. J.B. Meredith D.S.O. commanding composite force of 3 rd & 4 th Bdes. attached to Yeomanry Mt Div. for the reconnaissance on the 23 rd and 24 th insts. - appended.	Appen 114
	24/8/17	1800	Precis of Intelligence Summaries 20/8/17 to 23/8/17 appended.	Appen 115

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. *C29*

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

of General Staff - Australian Mounted Division
for the month of August 1917 - VOL. 2 - page 34

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIR	23/8/17	1200	The Australian Mounted Divisional Train, A.A.S.C., having marched in, is taken on the strength of the Division accordingly from this date.	S.V.H.
	23/8/17	1300	3 rd Bde. left ABASAN and marched to UM'URGAN where it bivouacked for the night 23/24, being joined at latter place by 4 th Bde.	
	24/8/17	0400	3 rd Bde with 12 th A.L.H. Regt. clear of the wire on E. of Wadi GUZZEE - and took up the line TWO TREE FARM to HATHIRA (exclusive), with a frontage of 14 miles - communication being made with Yeo. Div. on the right flank.	
			Little of note occurred during the day - some 15 to 20 bombs were dropped in the Bde. area, with no result. These bombs appeared to explode before reaching the ground and had a spread of over 100 yds. - All horses watered from cisterns during the day.	
		2200	The force watered at UM'URGAN - arrangements for watering being excellent. The force bivouacked for the night 24/25 in previous night's bivouac area.	Appen. 116
	25/8/17	0645	Bdes. arrived in Camp at ABASAN - report appended.	S.V.H.
	25/8/17	0900	Notes on roads into BEER SHEBA and intervening country for Armoured Cars, received + appended.	S.V.H. Appen. 117
	27/8/17	1800	Precis of Intelligence Summaries 24/8/17 to 26/8/17. appended.	S.V.H. Appen. 118
	28/8/17	0700 to 1200	tactical ride by officers of 3 rd & 4 th Bdes. under supervision of G.O.C. & Staff.	S.V.H.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

of General Staff - Australian Mounted Division -
for the month of August 1917 -
VOL. 2 - page 35.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARASAM EL KEBIR	29/8/17	1100	The 7 th Mounted Bde - under the command of Br Gen. J.T. Wigan D.S.O. - consisting of the Sherwood Rangers (Nottinghamshire Yeo.) and the South Wales Hussars Yeo. - marched in to camp at FUKHARI, being temporarily attached to the Division - <u>Note</u> - The Derbyshire Yeo. (the 2 nd Regt. of this Bde) was left behind in Salonica -	S.H.
	30/8/17	0600 to 1300	Tactical scheme carried out by the 4 th Bde - over the ground covered by the tactical rite of the 29/8/17 - enemy represented by flags carried by a party from 3 rd Bde -	S.H.
		1200	Orders issued for 3 rd + 4 th Bdes and 19 th Bde. R.H.A. ^{each} to detail 2 officers to carry out a reconnaissance ^{on 1st Sept.} under the title of Br Gen. A. d'A. King C.B. D.S.O. to find a practicable route for mounted troops & guns from ESAMI to the KHURRUB - KHASIM ZANA road in the vicinity of THAFFA - (SQ. F.10 - BEERSHEBA 1/125000 map) - appended -	Appendix 119.
	31/8/17	1200	Orders issued & appended for 4 th Bde - to proceed to EL GAMLI by 0630, changed by wire to 0830, to support if necessary Yeo. Div. troops covering reconnaissance - Bde. field troop, modified field ambulance, and "A" echelon to accompany Bde -	Appendix 120
	26/8/17 to 31/8/17		Training of Brigades carried out when not employed otherwise - mounted range practice & mounted training -	S.H.
			Total strength of all ranks in the Division. Aug. 1 st - 5703. do. do. Aug. 31 st - 5770 -	P. I. [Signature] Lieut. Col. Australian Mounted Division S.S.

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SECRET

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 9

by

Brigadier General P.D. FITZGERALD, D.S.O.
for G.O.C., Australian Mounted Division.

Copy No. 16

In the Field,
10th August, 1917.

1. (a) On August 18th the Division will move in to the FURHARI-ABASAM area, and replace the Yeomanry Mounted Division as Support Division.
- (b) The A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will, on relief by the Yeomanry Mounted Division, move on to the Beach and take over the bivouac areas now occupied by the Division.
2. (a) The Divisional Troops except R.H.A., 3rd and 4th Brigades, will take over the bivouac areas vacated by them on moving to MARAKEB. These sites are at present occupied by Yeomanry Divisional Troops, 5th Mounted Brigade, and 8th Mounted Brigade respectively.
- (b) The 5th Mounted Brigade will take over the bivouac area now occupied by the 22nd Mounted Brigade.
- (c) The present bivouac site of the Yeomanry Mounted Division R.H.A. will not be occupied, and a new site will be chosen for the R.H.A. near FURHARI by the A.A. & Q.M.G.
3. Units will move by the routes laid down in letter GSZ/376 of 21. 7. 17, but in all cases when passing Desert Column Headquarters troops will keep to the Southern and Western sides of that area.
4. Units will take over their new bivouac areas by the following hours:-

3rd Brigade	0900
4th Brigade	0800
5th Brigade	0700
Divisional Troops	1000
- All troops will be established in the new area by 1100.
5. All unnecessary concentration of troops will be avoided in view of possible attack by hostile aircraft.
6. Existing telegraph and telephone wires and cables will be handed over, any necessary adjustment being made by the G.C. Signal Squadrons concerned.
7. The usual certificates as to the cleanliness of their vacated camps will be rendered by units to the A.D.I.S.

-/ 8

-Sheet 2-

8. Receipts will be given and taken for all area stores taken and handed over.
9. Units will report by wire as soon as they are established in the new area.
10. Horses will be watered on the beach before moving. Times for watering at ABASAH will be issued later.
11. Divisional H.Q. will close at the present site at 1100 and re-open at the same hour at ABASAH.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. V. Blakey

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

Issued at 1600

Copies issued:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| No. 1. 3rd A.L.H. Edo. | 14. "A" |
| 2. 4th A.L.H. Edo. | 15. "Q" |
| 3. 5th Mounted Edo. | 16. War Diary |
| 4. O.C. 19th Bde. R.H.A. | 17. " " |
| 5. O.C. Field Squadron, A.M.D. | 18. File |
| 6. O.C. Signal Squadron, A.M.D. | 19. H.Q., Desert Column |
| 7. A.P.H. | 20. G.O.C. Yockenny Divn. |
| 8. A.D.H.S. | 21. G.O.C. A. & M.Z. Divn. |
| 9. A.D.V.S. | 22. O.C. Details, RAFA |
| 10. D.A.D.O.S. | 23. D.A.D.A.P.S. Desert Col. |
| 11. O.C. A.S.C. | 24. D.H.2., F.P.O. |
| 12. S.S.O. | 25. Divisional Water Offr. |
| 13. Camp Commandant. | |

G. O. C.,
 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.
 4th A. L. H. Brigade.
 O. C., 19th Brigade R. H. A.
 O. C., Field Squadron.
 O. C., Signal Squadron.
 A. D. M. S.
 A. D. V. S.
 Camp Commandant.
 "A"
 "Q"

G. M. 20.

-
1. Now that the Division is the Supporting Mounted Division, all units must be prepared to be called out at short notice.
 2. All arrangements for the distribution of supplies, packing of wagons etc., as necessitated by GX.188 must be completed at once.
 3. Arrangements must be made to enable water-bottles to be filled in the event of an alarm.
 4. If the G. O. C. decides to have a practice turn out the orders for it will be prefaced by the words "PRACTICE TEST". In this event, camps and bivouacs will be left standing; signal offices will remain open; water troughs will not be dismantled, and all unnecessary disturbance of the routine will be avoided.
 5. In the event of an alarm, whether real or practice a parade state showing the fighting strength will be invariably required.

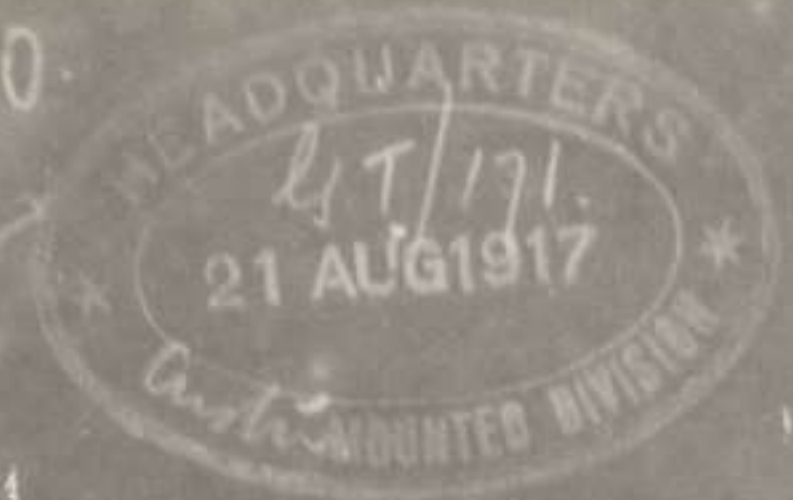
(Sgd). P. V. Kelly.
 Lieutenant-Colonel,
 General Staff.
 Australian Mounted Division.

19th August 1917.

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Appendix 110

Wear Diary
Appen. 110.



General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

The whole Division was turned out today and concentrated in the vicinity of the Rifle range. Attached is a copy of the telegram sent to units ordering the concentration.

Unit.	Time of receipt of order.	Time unit left lines.	Time of arrival at rendezvous.	"B" Echelon paraded at 1st Section. 2nd Sectn.	
D.H.Q.	0430	0520-0545	0720	0815	0815
R.H.A.	0450	"B" Batt. 0610	0640	0715	0715
		"A" Batt. 0620	0700	0715	0715
Fd. Sqdn.	0445	0542		0700	0700
Sig. Sqdn.	0500	0605	0725	0700	0700
3rd Bde.	0450	0620	0700	0900	0730
4th Bde.	0500	0625	0700	0715	0715

The time taken to turn out as per Schedule was considerable. This may be accounted for :-

- (a) Owing to the fact that the order to turn out was communicated to units before reveille in most cases.
- (b) Special rations and forage had to be issued and loaded.

A lack of general smartness was very noticeable. The damp climate on the beach had caused steel work to rust, and saddlery had got into a bad state.

"B" ECHELON.

Units took far too long in loading up and there appeared to be a want of system. Further training is required.

ANIMALS.

A loss of condition was noticeable, probably due to :-

- (a) Bad hay. This matter has already been pointed out.
- (b) The Indian gram issued is not properly crushed.
- (c) A change of water on the beach resulted in many of the horses not drinking sufficiently for the first week or so.

A conference will be held tomorrow to discuss mistakes, etc.

[Signature]

Major-General,

21st August 1917.

Commanding Australian Mtd Division.

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APPENDIX 110

"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

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

TO { 3rd Bde
4th Bde
R.H.A. }

Fd Squadron A.D.V.S. APM.
Sig Squadron A.Q.
A.D.M.S. Camp Commandant.

Sender's Number. * OA/514
Day of Month. 21
In reply to Number. AAA

Practice	Test	the	division	will
concentrate	for	operations	just	south
of	rifle	range	at	once
AAA	3rd	Bde	will	use
Kilo	14	crossing	AAA	representa-
tives	from	units	will	meet
GSO	on	rifle	butts	at
0515	AAA	A	echelon	will
parade	behind	units	AAA	B
echelon	will	concentrate	at	0630
one	mile	south	west	of
ABASAN	AAA	Reports	of	time
of	departure	from	camp	to
be	wired	AAA	DHQ	will
be	at	rifle	butts	at
0530	AAA	Addressed	3rd	and
4th	Bde	RHA	Signals	Field
Squadron	ADMS	ADVS	and	CC

From and Place and Time

Squadron ADMS and APM acknowledge

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) Sgt. A. Karanap

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

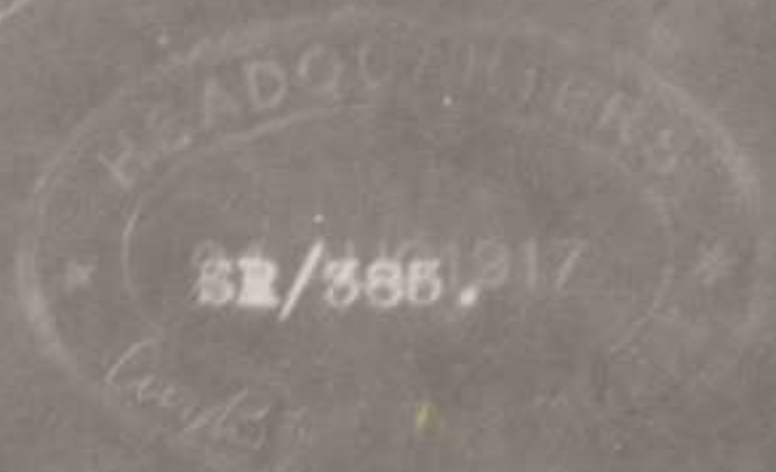
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War Diary
Appendix III

SECRET.

G.O.C., 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
G.O.C., 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
O.C., 19th Brigade R.H.A.



1. The Yeomanry Mounted Division are covering a reconnaissance by the Corps Commander on August 24th.
2. The line to be made good is the line Point 510 ABU SHAWISH by 550 - 630 - 730 - 770 - the TAMEIL EL HABARI Ridge - ~~510~~ 970 - 960 West of cross roads at BURSH GEBEL EL NAAM and ITWAIL EL SEMIN.
3. For this purpose the 3rd and 4th Brigades A.L.H. will be placed under the orders of G.O.C. Yeomanry Division, and probably two Batteries as well.
4. These Brigades will leave bivouacs on August 23rd, returning on August 25th. Full orders will be issued when received.
5. B.G.R.A. Desert Corps will issue instructions to R.H.A. Officers to carry out reconnaissances. O.C. 19th Bde. R.H.A. will comply.
6. In addition to the current day's ration, one emergency ration for man and horse will be carried.

On 24th instant "B" Echelon, 1st Section will proceed to a rendezvous which will be notified later, with supplies for breakfast and mid-day meal, less fresh meat, on 25th instant.

(sd.) A. KAVANAGH, Captain,
G.S.
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

21st August 1917.

G. O. C. , 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.
 4th A. L. H. Brigade.
 5th Mtd. Brigade.
 O. C. , 19th Brigade R. H. A.

G I/200.

Precis of Intelligence Summaries from 14/8/17 to 20/8/17.

14/8/17.

- (1) GAZA and HAREIRA sectors normal.
- (2) SYRIA - L of C.
 It is reported from various sources that ALEPPO is being turned into a large L. of C. Camp. Several thousand troops including Germans and Austrians, are being concentrated there together with War material and supplies.
- (3) A large fixed wireless station has been constructed at DAMASCUS.

15/8/17.

- (1) GAZA and HAREIRA sectors normal.
 Trenches at BEERSHEBA have been improved and camps in this sector are estimated at 1,050 tents and shelters.
- (2) ARABIA - HE-JAZ.
 The powerful mountain guns which have been reported as ready to leave DAMASCUS for the HEJAZ, have not yet arrived at their destination.
 G. O. C. VIIIth A. C. has asked that they may be forwarded as early as possible.

16/8/17.

- (1) GAZA and HAREIRA Sectors normal.
- (2) An estimate, which is based on a large number of prisoners statements gives a total of 330 M.G's for the front line and reserve. Is the enemy's present intention of increasing his establishments in this arm is eventually realised, the total with the same formations would be raised to 444.
- (3) MESOPOTAMIA.
 (a) An officer at TEKRIT who applied (presumably) for leave, was informed that owing to an offensive being imminent his application could not be forwarded.
 (b) At RAMADI the Turks have strengthened and extended their defences.

18/8/17.

- (1) GAZA and HAREIRA sectors normal.
- (2) It is reported that enemy forces on the PALESTINE front are now organised in three groups as shown below:-
 (i) GAZA group - G. O. C. PAFET BEY.
 3rd Division (less 32nd Regiment)
 7th Division.
 53rd Division.
 (ii) SHERIA group - G. O. C. ?
 16th Division.
 54th Division.
 (iii) BIR SABA group - G. O. C. ESSAD BEY.
 27th Division.
 32nd Infantry Regiment.
 3rd Cavalry Division. (less 7th Cav. Regt.)
- (3) Floods in the WADI GHUZZE.
 1st flood usually occurs about the middle of November, and from then until the end of February there are normally two or three heavy storms per month. These storms may last one to four days, and the water sometimes rises in the Wadi to a height of 25 feet. In March, as a rule, only light rains occur, but heavy storms have been known.

(4)

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- (4) 81st. Regiment holds line before SABA, N. of WADI SABA:
 67th. Regiment is S. of the Wadi: 63rd. or 163rd. Regiment is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile N. of SABA and E. of Railway. 5
 or 6 days ago it came from GAZA and replaced one Regiment 3rd. Division. 3rd. Coy. 81st. Regiment on outpost near IRGEIG. One company sent here every week and is relieved on Sunday or (?) Monday. Each Battalion of 81st. Regiment sends out one section to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in front of trenches every night. No inhabitants remain at SABA.

19/8/17.

GAZA and HAREIRA sectors normal.
 Outpost Division report very quiet day.

20/8/17.

Outpost Division report 40 enemy cavalry at ESANI at 0645 which retired rapidly East.
 GAZA and HAREIRA sectors normal.

(Sgd) A.M. Garbett.
 Lieut. G.S.
 for Lieutenant-Colonel.
 General Staff.
 Australian Mounted Division.

22nd. August, 1917.

NOTES ON ROADS IN THE ESANI AREA.

-----oOo-----

All the tracks as marked on the 1/125,000 map exist and are quite good, fit in most cases for all traffic except heavy motor Lorries, the exception being where certain portions have been covered by sand and are very heavy.

Taking the roads in their order (as marked on the 1/125,000 Map) round the compass starting from the Wadi:-

No.1 GAMLI - ESANI. This starts at FARA really and joins the marked road which comes out from GAMLI. This is a good road and fit for all wheels. It continues at ESANI and joins No.2.

No.2 GAZA - ESANI. Running through EL GA'A. Good all the way. The continuation of it just S. of ESANI now runs as follows:- When it reaches the track from TEL ITWEIL it follows it up to 690 then runs S. and meets the original road. The intermediate original piece is very different, being washed away and broken up.

No.3 KHASIF - ESANI. A good road fit for all wheels.

No.4 KHOR EL AJRAM road. Good road.

No.5. KHOURINA - ESANI. Good. Stops when it meets the FARA - 960 road.

No.6 TEL ITWEIL - YAHIA road. Not reconnoitred but probably good as it is in good surfaced country.

No.7 RASHID BEK Road. Good. Stops when it reaches the ABU SHAWISH road. There is a crossing at RASHID BEK over the WADI SABA.

No.8. ESANI - IBN SAIID road. Not marked on map. From IBN SAIID it follows the track marked going nearly E. until it meets the KHALASA road, then continues just North of W. of KHAZALI through the letters of W. EL ISSAD until it meets the fork roads marked just E. of BROKEN EARTH. Road is somewhat sandy.

No.9 ESANI - KHALASA. A good road. Better than most in the district. Described under No.2.

No.10 DARD EL ZOL. Not very good as the country is so sandy. Possible for wheels.

The other tracks W. of the Wadi are not good.

There is a road running from MAALAGA up the short track which continues in a kind of semi-circle until it meets ~~WADI~~ the track marked running S.E. below the first A of AJUA.

The ABU SHAWISH road is very good N. of the WADI SABA, but is sandy to the south and would be fairly heavy going for wheels.

A good alternative road to RASHID BEK from FARA and GAMLI runs as follows:-

Fork road E. of GAMLI to first A of EL GA'A along GAZA - ESANI road for half a mile then N. to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. of 680 (N. of KHOR). Then S. until it meets the ESANI - EL BUGGAR or KHOR EL AJRAM road and continues to 690 RASHID BEK.

This is good for all wheels and saves crossing the Wadi at ESANI.

OPERATION ORDER No. 25.

by
Brigadier-General J.B. MEREDITH, D.S.O.

1. A reconnaissance covered by the Yeomanry Mtd. Divn. with the 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Brigades of the country south and west of BEER-SHEBA will be carried out by the General Officer Commanding DESERT MOUNTED CORPS on Friday, August 24th 1917.
2. The Yeomanry Mtd. Divn. are making good the line G ITWAIL EL SEMIN - G EL NA'AM - Point 960 (West of cross roads at BURSH) - EL HATHIRA (incl) by 0800 on 24th August.
3. The 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Bdes. forming Composite Force will be under the command of Brigadier-General J.B. MEREDITH, D.S.O.
4. MOVES THURSDAY 23RD. x The 3rd L.H. Bde will leave bivouac at 1300 on 23rd, will move to EL SHELLAL and bivouac just west of the old 3rd L.H. Bde Bivouac Site for the night 23/24th August. 4th L.H. Bde. will leave bivouac at 1400 on 23rd, will move to TEL EL FARA and bivouac west of the railway line for the night 23/24th August. Headquarters Composite Force will be established at present Yeomanry Mtd. Divn. Headquarters by 1700 on 23rd.
5. MOVES 24th AUGUST. The 3rd L.H. Bde and the 12th L.H. Regt. will make good the line EL HATHIRA (excl) - 820 - 810 - 770 - 730 - 630 - 550 - 510 as follows:-
12th L.H. Regt. will be east of the front line wire by 0400 moving via TEL EL FARA and will make good the line EL HATHIRA (excl) - 820 - 810 (incl) by 0800 on 24th., connecting up with the 22nd Mtd. Bde. on the right at EL HATHIRA.
The 3rd L.H. Bde. will be east of the front line wire by 0400 moving via SHELLAL, and will make good the line 810 (excl) - 770 - 730 - 630 - 550 - 510 ABU SHAWISH by 0800.
At 0800 the whole of the outpost line from EL HATHIRA to 510 will be under the command of the G.O.C. 3rd L.H. Bde.
The G.O. 12th L.H. Regt. will ~~move from EL HATHIRA~~ at 0800 be in communication with Headquarters 3rd L.H. Bde.
4th L.H. Bde. less 12th L.H. Regt., will move from bivouac TEL EL FARA at 0400 on the 24th, and will move via TEL EL FARA to EL BUGGAR by 0700, where it will remain in reserve.
Composite Force Headquarters will be established on ridge 1 mile south of EL BUGGAR by 0700.
6. Communications will be at first by visual. A cable will be laid from Composite Force Headquarters to the 3rd L.H. Bde. as soon as possible. O.C. Signal Squadron will detail a cable detachment and wireless pack station to report at Composite Force Headquarters at 1700 on 23rd August.
7. "A" Battery will be attached to 4th L.H. Bde. and "B" Battery to 3rd L.H. Bde.
A representative from each Battery will report to Bdes. for orders at 1000 on 23rd.
8. 3rd and 4th Field Troops will move to SHELLAL and TEL EL FARA on the 23rd and arrange for watering of both Bdes. on the evening of the 23rd. On the 24th Field Troops will accompany their respective Bdes.

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9. RATIONS. Units will take unexpended portion of days ration and 1 days special ration and forage on the man and horse for 24th August. The ration issued by Supply Officers on 23rd inst. will be a mobile ration; this will replace the special ration consumed on the 24th inst. On August 24th "B" Echelon, No. 1 Section of the units concerned loaded with rations and forage for one meal and feed will parade at the crossing at Kilo. 14 at 1200 in charge of Senior Transport Officer, and proceed to WELI SHEIKH NURAN under orders of Australian Mtd. Divn.
 10. Divisional Collecting Stations will be established at RASHID BEK and KARM.
Modified Field Ambulances will accompany Brigades.
 11. On the withdrawal being ordered 3rd and 4th Bdes. will withdraw to water at SHELLAL and FARA respectively, and will bivouac on the sites occupied on the night 23/24th.
 12. "A" Echelon will accompany Brigades.
 13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) E.A. MCKENZIE.

Major,
Brigade Major,
4th A.L.H. Brigade.

22nd August 1917.

Time Issued 2300.

Copies to

- 1 Yeomanry Mtd. Divn.
- 2 Aust. Mtd. Divn.
- 3 G.O.C. 3rd L.H.Bde.
- 4 19th R.H.A.Bde.
- 5 4th A.L.H.Regt.
- 6 11th A.L.H.Regt.
- 7 12th A.L.H.Regt.
- 8 4th M.G.Squadron.
- 9 4th A.L.H.Bde. Headquarters.
- 10 4th Signal Troop.
- 11 O.C. Field Squadron, Aust. Mtd. Divn.
- 12 O.C. Signal Squadron, " " "
- 13 4th A.L.H. Field Ambulance.
- 14 File.
- 15 War Diary.
- 16 " "

S E C R E T.

G. I. 207.

G. O. C. , 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.
 4th A. L. H. Brigade.
 5th Mtd. Brigade.
 O. C. , 19th Brigade P. H. A.

Precis of Intelligence Summaries 20/8/17 to 23/8/17.20/8/17.

BIR SABA - IRGEIG Sector. Normal,
IRGEIG - HAIRPIN Sector. Normal.

GAZA Sector. Raid by 52nd Division near OLD BRITISH TRENCHES.
 The party was fired on by M.G's. Left assaulting party
 counted 12 Turkish dead. - no prisoners were taken.

21/8/17.

BIR SABA - IRGEIG Sector. Several parties of enemy cavalry
 driven Eastwards during the day by troops of Outpost Mounted
 Division, - no casualties.

Other Sectors. Normal.

22/8/17.

BIR SABA - IRGEIG Sector. Normal.

IRGEIG - BAHA Sector. Turkish cavalry patrol of 6 men met by
 2 advanced men of one of our patrols (Lincoln Yeomanry) near
 point 720. These two men dismounted and fired on enemy. Two
 Turks detached from the six, met two other men of Lincoln's
 patrol who galloped them - one of the Lincoln's caught up to
 one Turk and captured him mounted.

23/8/17.

0700. Six Turks captured near KARM by 8th Mounted Brigade.

GAZA Sector. Enemy guns shelled kite observation balloon
 without result.

Morale. Prisoners taken on 19th instant state that numbers of
 desertions continue. Papers dropped from an aeroplane on
 the 48th Regiment caused seven to declare their intention
 of deserting.

19/8/17.

SYRIA L. of C. On the 17/8/17 four aeroplanes bombarded BEIRUT
 There were a few casualties. Troops on duty at the forward-
 ing station where one bomb fell left their posts and fled.

ARABIA - HEJAZ. On the 4th inst. the six Infantry Battalions of
 the 50th Division had a total strength and composition as
 below:-

Ration strength. 3831.
 Fighting strength. 2966.
 Of the above 76% were Turks, 18% Arabs, and 6% Kurds.

ASIA MINOR.

Movements. (a) Reported that on August 1st FALKENHAYN was
 joined in CONSTANTINOPLÉ by 70 members of his staff - ,
 quarters engaged for one month.

(b) Reported that on August 8th forty military
 cars and forty-five motor lorries, all new and containing
 Germans were en route from Europe to CONSTANTINOPLÉ.

/20/8/17.

APPENDIX. 115

- 2 -

20/8/17.WESTERN DESERT.

A hostile Turkish Force reported at GEDABIA under MUSA PASHA has been satisfactorily dealt with by MOHAMMED IDRIS. The latter sent word to MUSA that he must return forthwith to NURI and would be allowed to pass through his own (IDRIS) territory. Simultaneously IDRIS warned his own patrols to arrest all who passed with the result that he apparently succeeded in capturing 148 individuals including 41 Officers. He also captured arms, ammunition, and Russian Machine Guns.

J. V. Hawkey Lieut. G.S.

for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

24th August 1917.

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Appendix 116 18

War Diary

Appendix

3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

3rd L.H. Bde.
G.478.

REPORT on Operations 23/24 August 1917.

According to instructions the Brigade left ABASAN at 1300 on the 23rd inst. to bivouac the night 23/24 at UM'URGAN moving across the Wadi at 0300 on the 24th inst, being clear of the wire by 0400.

The Brigade plus 12th A.L.H. Regiment, which came under the orders of the 3rd Brigade on taking up its allotted position, was responsible for the line :- 2 Tree Farm - 510 (ABU SHAWISH) - 550 - 630 - 730 - 770 - 810 - EL HATHIRA (exclusive) being a frontage of 14 miles.

The above line was taken up without opposition, a few snipers being all that was encountered.

The only enemy movement of any note was the advance of 1,000 - 1,500 Infantry with a few Cavalry, which moved from the direction of the second A in THIAHA across the road into the Wadi SUFI, the greater number of these retired later in the day.

A Patrol reported a movement of 900 cavalry 1 1/2 miles S.E. of IRGEIG. 200 Cavalry were also seen towards dusk 2 1/2 miles N.E. from 2 Tree Farm.

Numerous parties of the enemy were seen between the Railway and W. IMLEIH but all appeared little concerned about our movements.

Some 20 - 30 rounds were fired at the rear parties during the retirement which commenced at 1800.

During the day aeroplanes dropped 15 - 20 bombs in the Brigade area, with no result. The bombs used on this occasion had not been encountered before, they appeared to explode before hitting the ground and had a spread of over 100 yards.

All horses were watered during the day, by the aid of buckets a number of cisterns having from 18" to 4' of water in them.

Watering arrangements at UM'URGAN for the 2200 watering were excellent.

The Brigade camped for the night 24/25 on the same ground as 23/24, returning to ABASAN by 0645 on the 25th inst.

Casualties - NIL.

Captures :- 1 Infantryman found at 0630 unarmed and wandering aimlessly about.

"A" Echelon kept up well with the Brigade.

"B" Echelon was returned from WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

(sd) W. GRANT,

Brigadier-General,

August 25th 1917.

Commanding 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

W.A.36.

Reference map: BEERSHEBA 1/125,000.

Notes on ROADS RUNNING INTO BEERSHEBA AND INTERVENING COUNTRY
FOR ARMoured CARS.

Road from RASHID BEK - KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road through W. EL ISSAD Valley.

This is now very heavy going and not practicable for Armoured Cars in its present state.

KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road is good from a point about 3 miles N.E. of KHALASA; from KHALASA to this point is very sandy in places. I have examined the ground between a point just S.E. of point 960 on the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road and point 1110 on the ASLUJ - BEERSHEBA road. The going is mostly hard but intersected by numerous Wadis.

Cars can be moved over this area but would require great care in handling, and progress therefore be slow.

It is not suitable country for cars to fight in.

The following notes are supplied by 2nd/Lieutenant J.D. Lawrence, M.C., 11th Battery.

RASHID BEK - KHALASA.

Going sandy and heavy, with occasional patches of good going. Not suitable for armoured cars.

KHALASA - ASLUJ.

Good road for cars until the road meets the Wadi $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.W. ASLUJ. The road in the Wadi is soft and not practicable for our cars, nor is there an alternate route.

ASLUJ - BEERSHEBA road.

The road is wide and good for the first 2 miles, after that it becomes very narrow and is crossed by numerous small Wadis. 6 crossings were met with where the road crosses the railway, and all were difficult for heavy cars. The road is hard and stony. It is necessary to keep to it as the ground on either side is heavy sand.

About 7 miles from ASLUJ the road has been blown up where it crosses a small wadi, making a gap about 6 feet wide.

CONCLUSIONS - From the various reconnaissances made it would appear

- I. The area South and S.W. of BEERSHEBA is not suitable for Armoured Car work.
- II. The area from KHASIF to Point 840 is very suitable. From Point 840 to BEERSHEBA the road and surrounding country appears suitable from observation through glasses.

(sd) W. A. ARMITAGE, Major,
Comdg. A.L.A.M. Brigade.
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

25/8/17.

PPECIS OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES.24/8/17 to 26/8/17.24/8/17. DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Tactical reconnaissance carried out by Yeomanry Mounted Division in conjunction with 3rd and 4th Australian Light Horse Brigades, the latter force being commanded by Brigadier-General J.B. MERRIDITH, D.S.O. Enemy aeroplanes were active and dropped a fair number of bombs, but there were not many casualties. There was heavy shelling by enemy guns between 1500 and 1700 from a point near G. EL NA'AM

R.F.C. report.

No movement in tactical area.

Our planes dropped 36 bombs on BIR SABA camp with good effect.

25/8/17. OUTPOST DIVISION.

One dismounted prisoner captured near Point 510.

Very quiet day.

Considerable movement, causing much dust, observed at terminus of enemy Light Railway S. of ABU HAREIRA.

R.F.C. report.

At BIR SABA 4 buildings at Railway Station have been removed.

Wire seen in front of trenches from Railway to FARA Road.

General.

From reports of Deserters and Prisoners of War, the enemy appear to be contemplating an offensive on the CAUCASUS front.

26/8/17. BIR SABA Sector.

Very quiet day. No enemy sniping or shelling.

HAREIRA Sector.

Much movement and dust on GAZA - BIR SABA Road, moving both N. and S.

ARABIA - HEJAZ.

On August 16th Arabs cut the wire between Kilo 732 and WADI ATHIL, and attacked Turkish patrols, who lost 1 man killed, 3 wounded, and 1 Officer and 17 O.R's. taken prisoners.

General. AVIATION.

The Headquarters 4th French Army reported on August 8th that on statement of a German Aviation Officer (probationer), 3 Bavarian and 3 Prussian Flying Squadrons had recently been raised and sent to PALESTINE. (sic).

NOTE. A German Flying Detachment (Standard Unit) is composed of 6 machines and 1 spare, with an establishment of 7 Officers 150 O.R's.

(Sgd). G. V. Hawtrey. Lieut.
for/Lieut. Col. Gen. Staff.
Australian Mtd. Division.

G. O. C., 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.
4th A. L. H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
7th Mounted Brigade.
O. C., 19th Bde. R. H. A.

For your information.

27/8/17.

S.R/389.

G. O. C. , 3rd A. L. H. Bde.
 4th A. L. H. Bde.
 O. C. , 19th Bde. R. H. A.

Reference Map: 1/125,000.

1. On Saturday the 1st September a reconnaissance will be conducted to find a practicable route for mounted men and guns from ESANI to the KUNNUB -KHASHIM ZANNA road in the vicinity of THAFFHA, Square F.10.
2. To cover this reconnaissance the G. O. C. Yeomanry Mounted Division has been asked to tell off a Regiment, which will itself be supported by a Mounted Brigade which will be employed in a minor enterprise about KHALASA,
3. The hour at which a move will be made from ESANI will be notified later.
4. The following officers will conduct the reconnaissance under orders of Brigadier-General A. D'A. King, C. B. , D. S. O. , who will be required to furnish a report on its conclusion.

From each of the) 4 selected Staff or Regimental
 Anzac and Australian) Officers and 2 R. H. A. Officers who
 Mounted Divisions.) will be capable of leading troops by
 the route selected. in the dark.

5. The 3rd and 4th Bdes. and O. C. 19th Bde. ^{R. H. A.} will each detail 2 officers as directed in Para. 4; names to be wired to this office.
6. Further instructions will be issued later.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd). P. V. Kelly.
 Lieutenant-Colonel.
 General Staff.
 Australian Mounted Division.

30th August, 1917.

S E C R E T.

G.O.C., 3rd A.L.H. Bde.
 4th A.L.H. Bde.
 O.C., 19th Bde. R.H.A.
 O.C., Field Squadron.
 O.C., Signal Squadron.
 "A" and "Q".
 A.M.S.
 H.Q., Yeomanry Mtd. Div.
 H.Q., Desert Mtd. Corps.

1. The tactical scheme detailed to take place to-morrow is cancelled.
2. The 4th A.L.H. Bde., will move to EL GAMLI so as to arrive there by 0630 to-morrow, in order to move out, if necessary, as a support to the Yeomanry Division which will be covering a reconnaissance in the neighbourhood of KHALASA.
3. O.C. Field Squadron will detail a Field Troop to accompany the 4th Brigade to make necessary arrangements for water,
4. Until the 4th Brigade is ordered to move out from GAMLI, it will be under the orders of the G.O.C., A.M.D. and O.C. Signal Squadron will arrange for communication between D.H.Q. and the 4th Brigade at GAMLI.
5. "A" Echelon will accompany the Brigade. "B" Echelon will remain in Camp. Only rations and forage for to-morrow will be taken; "special" rations and forage being left in Camp.
6. Modified Field Ambulance will accompany the Brigade.
7. The Brigade will probably return to Camp to-morrow evening.
8. The 3rd Brigade with Field Troop and Field Ambulance will be ready to move out at short notice from to-morrow until orders are received that it is not required.
9. Aeroplane formation - As aeroplanes have been more than usually active lately, special attention will be paid to avoiding close formations.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd). P.V. Kelly.
 Lieutenant.-Colonel,
 General Staff.
 Australian Mounted Division.

31st August, 1917.